



New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests

**Ferris Lake Wild Forest
Draft Unit Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Towns of Stratford, Caroga, Oppenheim and Ephratah in Fulton County
Towns of Morehouse and Arietta in Hamilton County
Towns of Salisbury and Ohio in Herkimer County

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FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

Draft Unit Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ferris Lake Wild Forest (FLWF) is a 147,454 acre management unit located on the southwestern edge of the Adirondacks in the Towns of Salisbury and Ohio in Herkimer County; Morehouse and Arietta in Hamilton County; and Stratford, Caroga, Oppenheim, and Ephratah in Fulton County. The unit is roughly bounded on the north and west by Route 8, on the east by Route 10, and on the south by the Adirondack Park "Blue Line." Surrounding nearby state lands include the Black River Wild Forest and West Canada Lake Wilderness to the north, and Shaker Mountain Wild Forest and Silver Lake Wilderness to the east. The Hinckley Day Use Area, Point Comfort Campground, Little Sand Point Campground, and Poplar Point Campground are Intensive Use Areas and are not included in the FLWF.

The attractiveness of this area lies in its numerous ponds, lakes, and streams which attract sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year. The unit's most distinguishing characteristic is its old growth spruce. Old growth spruce stands still exist and can be found along the Powley-Piseco Road, the north side of Alderbed Stream, around Blind Man's Vly, and on the slopes of Big and Little Alderbed Mountains.

The FLWF is readily accessible by car, lying approximately 20 miles north of the Mohawk Valley. One of the last old Adirondack dirt roads, extending about 17 miles from Route 10 near Piseco Lake to Stratford, cuts through the approximate center of this large, diverse, and interesting piece of forest preserve land. It provides the public with motor vehicle access to recreational programs through otherwise practically unbroken forest, quite comparable to some wilderness areas. A unit management plan (UMP) for this area has never previously been written.

There are several key issues related to the management of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. They include:

The Development of more foot trails and associated facilities. The FLWF has many hiking opportunities, but very few "official" foot trails. There is an extensive network of unmarked footpaths and hunting and fishing trails which, by simply clearing, signing, and marking would become more accessible for hikers. Proposed management actions include designating and improving some of the existing unmarked foot trails and the development of some new trails. Facilities associated with trail development include parking areas, signs, and trailheads with register boxes and/or information kiosks.

Snowmobile trail safety and improvements. Snowmobiling is very popular within the FLWF. The current trail system is primarily a network of snowmobile trails that are used by other user groups during the summer months. Trail width and safety are the two biggest concerns of the snowmobiling community. Proposed management actions include closing approximately 16.7 miles of trail and the maintenance of trails and bridges in compliance with Department standards and policies, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), and the 2003 DEC/APA Memorandum of Understanding.

Accessibility for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that people with disabilities receive the opportunity for full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, privileges, and advantages of any place of public accommodation. The requirement to provide access depends on whether the facilities are being newly constructed, altered, or not changed at all. Proposed management actions include, but are not limited to, providing improved access for people with disabilities to G Lake and Sand Lake. The G Lake Trail is approximately ½ mile long and will be made accessible by wheelchair. This will require minor grading and resurfacing. The Sand Lake Trail is also approximately ½ mile long and will be made barrier-free. This will require minor grading and a reroute of the section of trail in a wetland area. An accessible canoe access site will be constructed at both locations and at least one existing campsite at

each location will be upgraded to current accessibility standards. This includes constructing accessible pit privies and fire rings.

Motorized access and ATV use. Motor vehicle access and use in the FLWF is a major issue and topic of discussion. The unit's relatively flat topography and existing network of old haul roads lend themselves to this type of use. The current snowmobile trail network is mostly multiple-use and illegal ATV use is high on some trails. A road inventory that identifies the open roads and mileages with a general description of each has been completed. Proposed management actions include posting a significant number of roads against motor vehicle use, the posting of open roads for continued motor vehicle use, temporarily closing one road to public motor vehicle use until it is rehabilitated, and the closing of one road to public motor vehicle traffic unless evidence is found which indicates that the road is the legal means of access for adjacent private landowners or is a public thoroughfare. There are no proposals to construct any new motor vehicle roads or proposals to open any closed motor vehicle roads.

Spy Lake access. Spy Lake is a 376-acre lake which is mostly divided between private ownership and the Silver Lake Wilderness. However, a small parcel of wild forest land on the north shore dictates that the lake be included as part of the inventory of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Public access to the lake is discussed in the Silver Lake UMP because one of the alternatives is a new foot trail through the wilderness. Interest in gaining access to the lake is mainly for the purpose of fishing. The access alternatives in their preferred order include: 1. Reestablish historic access via the Spy Lake Road. 2. Boat access via the Piseco Outlet. 3. Foot access via a new trail through the Silver Lake Wilderness. The Silver Lake UMP recommends exploring the possibility of obtaining public access to the lake through one of the mentioned alternatives.

West Lake Boat Launch. The West Lake boat launching site is located on West Lake Road north of Canada Lake. The launch site provides the public with recreational access to West Lake, Canada Lake, Lily Lake and Green Lake. The site was suggested as an area for improving access for people with disabilities and was incorporated into the Galusha ADA Consent Decree signed by the DEC and APA in July of 2001. The APSLMP does not identify West Lake under the boat launching site list; however, the launch did exist prior to the Master Plan's adoption in 1972.

The West Lake boat launch site does not currently comply with the APSLMP because trailered boat launches are not allowed in wild forest classified lands. The interconnecting lake system accessed from this site is around 1,000 acres, enabling it to be added to the APSLMP list. A proposal to recommend reclassification to intensive use is appropriate because the lake system complies with the MP lake size guideline, not to mention it will be the only public launch on the lake after the Stewart Landing Dam site is closed to trailered launching.

Over the last few years the number of vehicles bringing boats to the launch and parking at the site has greatly increased, causing several problems. Parking in the road and congestion caused from backing and maneuvering trailers has blocked residents' access to and from their camps. Many users often park their vehicles beyond the launching site parking area and use private drives to turn around, sometimes causing damage. Other use concerns include increased noise, trash and litter along the road, and people sleeping overnight in vehicles. Proposed management actions include designating parking spaces for launch users; designating or constructing a turn around area at the far end of the parking area that will be posted against parking.

Stewart Landing Dam. The Stewart Landing Dam regulates the water levels of Canada Lake, West Lake, and Lily Lake. The dam is owned by the State and DEC is the agency responsible for maintaining and regulating the water level. A 1986 agreement between DEC, Stewart Landing Association, and the Canada Lake Protective Association provides the framework for regulating the water level of Canada Lake. DEC currently spends an enormous amount of time trying to maintain the correct water level of the lake throughout the year.

The dam is also a very popular spot during the summer months. The public utilizes the site for swimming opportunities, car top boat access, and an occasional late night party. The local residents use the site as a “boat launch” even though it is simply a shallow place to access the water without any formal improvements. The launching of trailered boats appears to be causing some erosion along the shoreline and on the earthen part of the dam. There are four designated drive-to campsites in the area that provide overnight camping opportunities. The two most common complaints by local residents are about the loud noise and increased traffic near the dam area. Proposed management actions include placing a stone barrier along the Stewart Landing Road to prevent trailers from backing into the water; installing remote monitoring devices with automatic gate controls on the dam to help reduce the number of work hours needed to effectively regulate the water level; and posting the dam with “keep off” and/or “no trespassing” signs to keep swimmers from climbing the dam and jumping off. The plan proposes to adopt new regulations to apply to the part of FLWF within 500 feet of the Stewart Landing Dam to: allow parking only in designated areas, allow camping only in designated sites, allow fires only in fire rings at designated campsites, prohibit swimming, and prohibit the launching of trailered boats.

Acid rain and lake acidification. This is a Park wide problem, but has significant implications in this unit. The FLWF is somewhat more susceptible to acid deposition than other units because of its geographic location. Most of the acid rain pollution comes from the Midwest and South, thus hitting this region before reaching other regions of the Adirondacks. As a result, most of the unit’s waters have low pH’s and a severely impacted fisheries resource. Proposed management actions include re-establishing historic trout populations and maintaining existing trout populations through stocking, reclamation, and liming activities.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTION CHOSEN FOR ANALYSIS

Public motor vehicle access and ATV use was identified as having the potential for at least one significant adverse environmental impact, thus required further analysis. Motor vehicle use in and of itself is not a program offered by DEC in Wild Forest units. Instead, motor vehicle use is a means by which the public can access programmatic destinations such as fishing sites, hiking trails, hunting and trapping areas, and boat launch sites. The APSLMP does distinguish between the different types of motor vehicles and their use. It includes a definition of “All Terrain Vehicle” which typifies ATVs as a subset of motor vehicles. However, such a distinction is important from a management perspective because the environmental and social impacts associated with each different type of motor vehicle use can vary greatly. The APSLMP also includes wild forest guidelines specific to ATV use.

The following three management alternatives were identified for the motorized access/ATV issue:

Alternative 1. Allow ATV use synonymous with other motor vehicle use. This would allow ATVs to travel on all DEC roads within the unit that are open to public motor vehicle traffic. Upon analysis, this alternative has several problems, the first being that many of the open roads within the unit are short and dead end at either State or private land. Allowing ATVs to travel down these roads could encourage illegal use on these lands and subsequent resource degradation. A second problem with this alternative is that most town roads within the unit are not open to ATV use. The Town of Stratford and Town of Salisbury are the only towns that have roads posted for ATV use. The posting of all DEC roads for ATV use would create a fragmented opportunity with very limited additional program access opportunities since other motor vehicles could be used to access these roads instead of ATVs. A third problem with this alternative is the Vehicle and Traffic Law (V&TL) §2405(1), which states that a road or portion thereof may be posted for use by ATVs when it is otherwise impossible for ATVs to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway. There are no such adjacent areas or trails in the FLWF. Considering these factors, this is not an appropriate or recommended management action.

Alternative 2. Allow ATV use only on some roads that are open to motor vehicles. As mentioned above, the Town of Stratford and Town of Salisbury are the only towns within the unit that have roads posted as being open for ATV use. It would make sense then that if any ATV opportunities were to exist, they would

somehow incorporate the open roads in these towns. The Hawes Road Extension was identified as a good candidate for allowing ATV use. This road has a suitable surface for ATV travel; provides access to other program areas such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and wildlife observation and photography; and does not provide the opportunity for ATVs to access trails. At this point in time however, the road does not appear to be legally open to the public. Given the APSLMP guideline that “public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged” it is inappropriate to open this road to ATV travel, and further it should be posted as closed to public motor vehicle traffic. APA staff have also indicated that the APSLMP implies that a road which is not open to the public for travel by automobiles may not be open to the public for travel by other types of motor vehicles. Reasonable restrictions on the type of vehicle or season of use may be imposed for environmental protection, but as a general rule, the APSLMP does not intend for a road to be open for the public use of ATVs unless the road is simultaneously open for the public use of automobiles. Considering these factors, this is also not an appropriate or recommended management action.

Alternative 3. No ATV use at all at the present time, but explore the possibility of designating certain old roads as open to ATV use by people with mobility impairments who possess a valid CP-3 permit.

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) has important implications for the management of Forest Preserve lands. The ADA requires, in part, that each service, program and activity offered by state agencies be made accessible to and useable by people with disabilities, unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service, program or activity or undue financial and administrative burdens. Allowing ATV use would provide improved access for people with disabilities to activities such as camping, bird watching, hunting and fishing. Accordingly, roads which are otherwise closed to public motor vehicle use may be opened to motor vehicle and/or ATV use for persons with qualifying disabilities on a permit basis under Commissioner Policy 3 through the UMP process. Therefore, this option is the preferred alternative in this UMP.

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The development of this plan is part of the Governor's initiative to complete all remaining Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Opportunities for public involvement were provided through a mailing requesting written comments on planning issues followed by an information meeting. Some of the individuals and organizations that actively participated in the planning process are listed below. It should be noted that the listing of a named contributor does not imply that the individual or organization supports the management recommendations in the plan.

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PREFACE

The Forest Preserve was created in 1885 and was one of the earliest attempts at land preservation in the United States. The 1885 legislation directed that the Forest Preserve “be forever kept as wild forest lands.” Early concerns that led to the creation of Preserve lands centered around providing recreational opportunities, watershed protection, and a future timber supply. In 1892, most of the Adirondack Forest Preserve lands were included in the newly established Adirondack Park; the “blue line” created at that time did not encompass all of the state lands in Forest Preserve counties, nor does the current blue line. An amendment to the New York State Constitution in 1894 gave constitutional direction that Forest Preserve lands be forever kept as wild forest lands, and also directed that such lands “shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.” This mandate, now Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution, applies to both the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve and is applicable to approximately 3 million acres of public lands. New York is the only state where citizens have agreed to give such constitutional protection to their park lands.

Over time, use and interest by the public steadily increased to a point which threatened the very values for which the Forest Preserve was established. During the 1950's and 1960's, many studies were made to identify detrimental threats to the Forest Preserve and to offer solutions for the future of these lands. Notable among these studies was the work of the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks, which was formed in 1968. The Commission was charged with making recommendations for the future use of both State and private lands within the Adirondack Park. Among its important recommendations were the creation of an Adirondack Park Agency; and the preparation of a master plan for State lands. These recommendations were eventually adopted in the 1971 legislation known as the Adirondack Park Agency Act, Article 27 of the Executive Law.

The first Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) was completed in 1972 by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The development of this document affects State land management within the Adirondack Park in two key ways:

- Lands are classified according to their characteristics and/or capacity to withstand use. The following land classifications were established:
 - Wilderness
 - Primitive
 - Canoe
 - Wild Forest
 - Intensive Use
 - Historic
 - Travel Corridor
 - State Administrative
 - Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers
- It provides general guidelines and standards for the management and use of lands within each classification.

Article 27, §816 of the Executive Law mandates the DEC to develop, in consultation with the APA, individual unit management plans for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the APSLMP. The APSLMP classifies the Ferris Lake unit as a wild forest area. A wild forest area is defined by the APSLMP as “an area where the resources permit a somewhat higher degree of human use than in wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, while still retaining an essentially wild character.” It is further defined as “an area that frequently lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness, primitive or canoe areas and that permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation.” Basic Guideline 1 in the Wild Forest section of the APSLMP provides that “The primary wild forest management guideline will be to protect the natural wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the wild forest atmosphere.”

This Unit Management Plan has been prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, with the APSLMP setting the parameters

and local citizens providing additional input and review. The plan contains sufficient information to comply with all APSLMP requirements. It is as specific as possible in order to eliminate the need for further public or Departmental policy reviews at the project plan stage. This plan will direct management activities within the unit for a period of five years. The plan may be amended if necessary and will be reevaluated and updated at five year intervals.

PLANNING PROCESS DESCRIPTION

The Division of Lands and Forests has the lead role in and is responsible for developing Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for all lands designated as Forest Preserve. The appointment of a UMP team by the appropriate Regional Director initiates the UMP process. The team includes DEC staff from Fisheries, Wildlife, Forest Rangers, Forestry, Operations, and in the case of UMPs written for units in the Adirondacks, staff from the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). The Department announces the plan's inception via a press release and a letter to the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee, known interest groups, local governments, planning boards, and individuals known to have a specific interest in the property. The press release and the letter request public comment regarding the management of the unit. A public information meeting is held to provide members of the public the opportunity to express their concerns and ideas to the UMP team in person. Written comments are also accepted throughout the UMP process.

Concurrent with the public participation process, an inventory of the property's existing facilities is conducted. Data is compiled regarding current use of the property, its physical and biological resources, past management activities, and the relationship of the unit to surrounding lands and communities. The inventory data and the input received from the public are then used by the UMP team to develop goals and objectives for the management of the land. Specific management actions are formulated to achieve the stated goals and objectives, and a schedule for their implementation is developed. Depending on the size of the unit and the issues involved, the writing of goals, objectives, and management actions may require additional public input.

As required by the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process, a range of alternatives were formulated to evaluate possible management approaches for dealing with certain issues or problem locations. Department staff considered the no-action and other reasonable alternatives, whenever possible. Potential environmental impacts, resource protection, visitor safety, visitor use and enjoyment of natural resources, user conflicts, interests of local communities and groups, and short and long-term cost-effectiveness were important considerations in the selection of proposed actions. Efforts were made to justify reasons for the proposals throughout the body of the UMP so the public can clearly understand the issues and the rationale for Department decision making. Due to the significance of potential environmental and/or social impacts, a positive declaration was determined to be necessary. A Positive Declaration will be declared through a press release/Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. This UMP constitutes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The initial draft UMP is reviewed internally by DEC and APA staff, and any necessary changes are made prior to distribution for public review. At this time, a press release is issued and a public meeting scheduled to receive public comments on the draft plan/draft EIS. A notice stating that the draft plan/draft EIS is adequate for public review is published in the Environmental News Bulletin (ENB) and local newspapers, and a public meeting is held to comply with SEQR requirements.

A minimum 30-day public comment period follows the ENB notice, during which time written comments may be submitted regarding the draft plan/draft EIS. At the end of the public comment period, all comment received on the draft plan/draft EIS is assessed, and appropriate changes are made to the plan. A notice of Completion of the final EIS for the draft plan is published in the ENB. The proposed final UMP/final EIS is then reviewed by the APA staff and Commissioners to determine its consistency with the Adirondack Park

State Land Master Plan. Subsequently, the proposed final UMP/final EIS and SEQR findings are approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, printed and distributed.

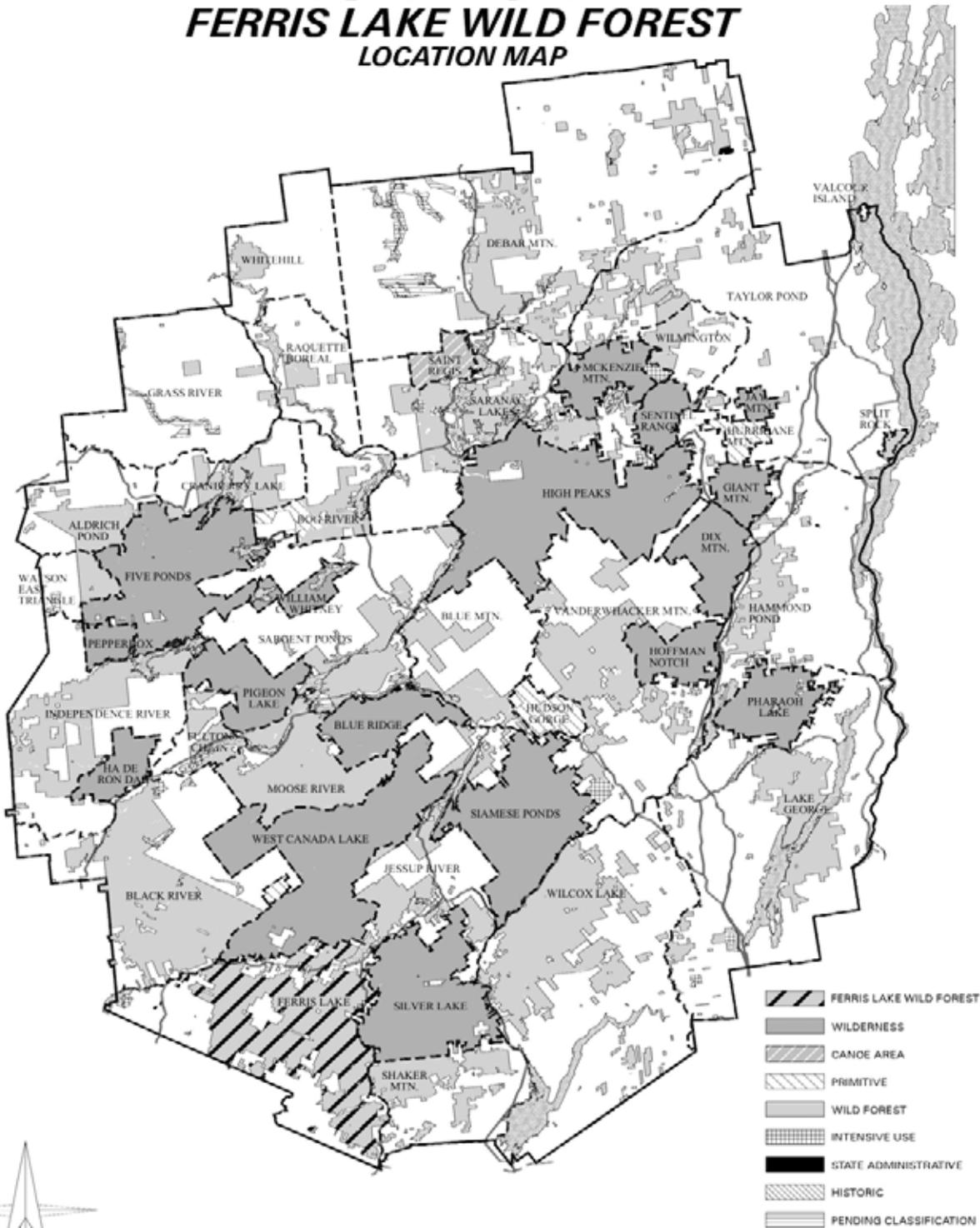
No Action Alternative or Need for a Plan

From a legal perspective, the No Action alternative of not writing a UMP is not an option. DEC is required to prepare a management plan for the SMWF pursuant to the APSLMP and Executive Law § 816. In addition a UMP serves as a mechanism for the Department to study and identify potential areas for providing access to the FLWF for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA of 1990). The UMP also serves as an administrative vehicle for the identification and removal of nonconforming structures as required by the APSLMP.

From an administrative perspective, the “No Action” alternative is not an option. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has the statutory responsibility under Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) §§3-0301(1)(d) and 9-0105(1), to provide for the care, custody, and control of these public lands. The UMP will provide the guidance necessary for staff to manage the area in a manner that protects the environment while at the same time providing for suitable outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Without the development and future implementation of the UMP, sensitive environmental resources of the unit could be impacted negatively and it is highly likely that the public enjoyment of such resources would decrease. Public use problems would continue to occur.

Management of the FLWF via a UMP will allow the Department to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent over use of the resource (e.g., through trail designations, access restrictions, placement of campsites away from sensitive resources, etc.). Management Alternatives were developed for the UMP proposals that may: (1) have significant environmental impacts, (2) involve facility closures, or (3) involve controversial actions changing existing public use, can be found in Section V and VII of this document.

ADIRONDACK PARK FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST LOCATION MAP



Map developed By NYS DEC
Region 5 Lands and Forests
Cartographic/GIS Unit August 2000

10 0 10 20 30 MILES

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

AREA OVERVIEW

General Location

The Ferris Lake Wild Forest (FLWF) is a management unit located in the southwestern portion of the Adirondack Park, north of the village of Stratford. The unit is roughly bordered on the north and west by Route 8, on the east by Route 10, and on the south by the Adirondack Park “Blue Line.” The unit boundary lines are marked with yellow painted tree blazes and are identified with Forest Preserve signs along primary access roads. Surrounding nearby state lands include the Black River Wild Forest and West Canada Lake Wilderness to the north, and the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest and Silver Lake Wilderness to the east.

The Hinckley Day Use Area, Point Comfort Campground, Little Sand Point Campground, and Poplar Point Campground are Intensive Use Areas and are not included in the FLWF.

Size/Acreage

There are approximately 147,454 acres of public land in the management unit with 35,168 acres in Herkimer County, 71,731 acres in Hamilton County and 40,555 acres in Fulton County.

Geographic Information

The unit is made up of Forest Preserve lands in the Towns of Salisbury and Ohio in Herkimer County; Morehouse and Arietta in Hamilton County; and Stratford, Caroga, Oppenheim, and Ephratah in Fulton County. These lands are part of the Jerseyfield Patent; Glen Bleeker & Lansing Patent; Lott & Low’s Patent; Lawrence Patent; Caldwell Tract; Vrooman’s Patent; Oxbow Tract; Arthurboro Patent; Bethune Tract/Ayers Survey; Maxwell Tract/ Sheldon Survey; Morehouse Tract/Thompson’s Survey; JG Tefft Tract; and very small portions of the Nobleboro Patent and Benson Tract. There are several detached Forest Preserve parcels and some private land inholdings within the unit boundaries.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps that cover the area include the Middleville, Salisbury, Stratford, Canada Lake, Oppenheim, Lassellsville and Caroga Lake 7.5 minute series quadrangles; and the Ohio, Morehouse Mountain, Piseco Lake and Morehouseville 7.5x15 minute series quadrangles.

GENERAL ACCESS

The unit is readily accessible by car, lying approximately 20 miles north of the Mohawk Valley. Access to the periphery can be gained via NYS Routes 8 and 10. The interior can be reached via the Jerseyfield Road, Powley-Piseco Road and NYS Route 29A. Jerseyfield Road enters the unit north of Salisbury Center and ends at a private holding surrounding Jerseyfield Lake. The Powley-Piseco Road provides some of the best access by traversing the unit from the hamlet of Stratford to NYS Route 10, just south of the bridge over the Big Bay of Piseco Lake. An extensive network of interior trails is designated for snowmobile use, but also provides access to skiers, hikers, hunters, fisherman, bikers, and horseback riders.

Seasonal water access can be gained via West Canada Creek and the South Branch of West Canada Creek along Route 8, the East Canada Creek along the Powley-Piseco Road, the Piseco Outlet and the West Branch of the Sacandaga River along Route 10.

HISTORY OF THE AREA

Barbara McMartin’s “Discover the Adirondacks” series and The Great Forest of the Adirondacks are among the literature giving a good historical background of the area. A short compilation of the area’s more significant historical people and places is included below. Consult the Bibliography for a listing of some of the many other excellent sources of historical information.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century many of the forests of the FLWF were logged for the prospering lumber and tanning industries. Temporary logging and mining settlements dotted the landscape, while logging roads provided access to the interior. The only documented iron mine was located just south of the unit near Salisbury Center (see below). Most of the area was unsuitable for farming, with the rich, fertile valley of the Mohawk to the south, and land to the west offering much better soil to grow crops. By the late 1800's, the soggy, rocky, logged-over forests had lost most of their commercial value and the state acquired much of what is now the Ferris Lake Wild Forest Area.

Broom Stick Lake. In 1936, Broom Stick Lake was the site of the original filming of the *Last of the Mohicans*. The movie was one of the most popular silent films of its day, and was revised and released again in 1992. The 1936 movie's stockade was built on the relatively flat east shore among the tall hemlocks.

Iron Mine. Iron production was the dominant industry in the Adirondacks during the middle and late nineteenth century (it was not until the end of the century that logging became the dominant economic industry). Most of the mining sites were located in the northeastern Adirondacks, with only one mine being documented in the southwestern Adirondacks. Although the site lies just south of the unit, it played an important role in shaping the history of the area.

In 1839, a bed of magnetic oxide was discovered north of Salisbury Center. Within a few decades, magnetic ore was extracted there and shipped to Port Leyden for smelting, since there were no iron-processing facilities nearby. During the first years of the twentieth century, Captain William H. Switzer organized the Salisbury Iron and Steel Company, incorporating the company with a million dollars' capital. A mile long railroad was built from the northwest to bring the ore to processing facilities in Irondale, on Irondale Road north of Salisbury Center. In 1909, the railroad went into full scale operation with the completion of a spur connecting Irondale and Salisbury Center to the Dolgeville and Little Falls Railroad.

The Jerseyfield Lumber Company soon extended the railroad from Salisbury Center north through a small crossroads known as Curtis. With no waterways or highways to transport logs to the market, extending the railroad was the least expensive way to reach the rich forests to the north. The railroad headed northeast toward Trammel Creek, then northwest toward the present Jerseyfield Road. Branches headed west from here as well as northeast along the upper reaches of Trammel and Black Creeks.

In 1913, Captain Switzer died and the operation could not compete in cost with those of the Midwest. The mine eventually closed and the state took over the property before the end of the decade. All the works were dismantled and removed, but the region still reveals clues from its iron mining past.

Tannery. In 1865, the Wheeler Claflin Company bought 20,000 acres in the town of Caroga. It was two-thirds of the entire township and is almost exactly the proportion that is now Forest Preserve land. William Claflin, owner of numerous shoe factories near Boston, Massachusetts, needed the forest to harvest hemlock bark for tannin, necessary to turn cowhides into leather. It was easier to ship the cowhides to the forest for curing than to ship hemlock bark or the tanning liquor to the factory sites.

Between 1850 and 1890, there were around one hundred and thirty different tanneries in the Adirondacks. One of the largest was at Wheelerville on the inlet of Canada Lake. It boasted some of the largest leaching and drying sheds in the Adirondacks. The tannery employed as many as 300 men during the two decades after 1865 and a small community developed around it.

Along with the tannery, the company built a large sawmill at Pine Lake. A plank road running north connected Wheelerville to the sawmill, while one running south connected Wheelerville to Newkirks. In 1849, a road had been built from the railroad at Fonda to Newkirks.

In 1866, Claflin constructed a huge frame hotel, one of the Adirondacks' first resort hotels, on the northeast shore of Canada Lake. The Canada Lake House was five stories high with wide porches overlooking the water. Canada Lake had become the first planned community in the Adirondacks. While Claflin himself spent scarcely any time at Canada Lake (a very wealthy man, he later became governor of Massachusetts) his vision began Canada Lake's long history as a resort area, which has spread to encompass the shores of several nearby lakes.

A small stone dam was built on the outlet of the lake to float logs to mills closer to Dolgeville and factories to the west. The dam created a 4.5 mile long outlet stream that was navigable. Vacationers were taken along the seven mile stretch of the lake and outlet by a small fleet of steamers, which provided a most elegant wilderness trip.

Two later hotels, the Auskerada, built in 1887 to replace the Canada Lake House, which burned in 1883, and the Fulton House, which was erected on the south shore in 1888, continued to attract guests to the southern Adirondacks through the first two decades of the twentieth century. Because travel to the lake was by horse and cart, most early visitors came from the surrounding communities. By 1890, visitors from New York City had discovered the resort, and a colony of artists and writers grew around the shores of the lake. Both hotels have since burned, but the area continues as the hub of one of the prettiest resort areas in the Southern Adirondacks

Sheriff Lake. Sheriff Lake is a private holding in the northern portion of the unit. In 1990, plans to build a 250-Lot subdivision and golf course were announced, but then put on hold perhaps by the weak economy and the downward trend in the demand for summer homes.

Blowdown. On November 25, 1950, the biggest 'wind' of all hit the Adirondacks, leveling trees in scattered locations of the Park from Franklin County to Fulton County. David H. Beetle, writing for the Utica Observer Dispatch of January 22, 1951 illustrated salvage estimates (1,740,000 cords) as "a four foot deep, four foot high pile of pulp logs that would stretch without a break from New York to Los Angeles plus a few miles out into the Pacific." In addition to this, the Department estimated that some 124 million board feet of maple, birch and beech were down. Sixty percent of this volume was located on state land and a portion of this occurred on the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Larger areas damaged include the lands west of the Jerseyfield Lake area and lands northwest of Canada Lake.

Old Growth. Recent research indicates that some of the forests within the unit were never logged. As mentioned earlier, the lack of transportation limited the early development of lumbering in the area. Rivers were the only means of transportation, and pine logs were the most sought after since they would float and were easy to mill. With the depletion of accessible pine during the 1830's, loggers turned their attention to spruce. Spruce trees seldom reached a large diameter. The first spruce cut were usually the largest and most accessible trees.

During the early 1900's, the railroad from Little Falls through Dolgeville facilitated logging in the area. Fortunately, some spruce stands were never cut. Some of the stands were either too inaccessible or far from navigable streams, while others were sold to the state by an aging lumberman, and still others were acquired by the state for non-payment of taxes.

Today, some of these old growth spruce stands still exist and can be found along the Powley-Piseco Road, the north side of Alderbed Stream, around Blind Man's Vly, and on the slopes of Big and Little Alderbed Mountains (McMartin 1994).

Avery's Hotel. Located on a large piece of private land bordering the unit is Avery's Hotel, a typical old Adirondack hotel and hunting lodge. During the late 1800's and early 1900's, the development of railroads in

the Park opened up the interior and provided new recreational opportunities for vacationers. Areas that were once only accessible to people who could afford to travel by coach or guide boat, were now accessible to people of lesser means. The Adirondacks soon became known for their many hotels deep in the woods.

Avery's was not one of the larger or more popular hotels in the Adirondacks. Its claim to fame was a private lake full of trout and a game farm. The lake was named Kennels Pond after Eli Kennell, originally Quesnell, a Canadian who owned 2,200 acres between Avery's and the Shaker Place. Legend is that he was the only man who would ride logs through the rapids below the Shaker Place dam on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River.

The hotel and game farm have since closed due to the decline in visitors.

Jerseyfield Preserve. Jerseyfield is a relatively small (29,000 acres) tract that lies completely within the unit. It was originally owned by Alfred Dolge of Dolgeville and first lumbered to produce veneers and sounding boards for his piano factory. In 1898, he offered the tract to the State in connection with the State's plans for a demonstration site for the Cornell University College of Forestry. Dolge claimed to have practiced forestry on the lands since he took ownership in 1876. A survey of the property by a German forester hired by Dolge indicated that only softwoods larger than 12 inches had been cut and almost no hardwoods. Unfortunately, the State refused Dolge's offer for reasons unknown.

In 1939, during a logging operation by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co., the tract was described as containing one of the finest virgin spruce stands in the Adirondacks. Over the years, portions of the tract were sold. Julius Breckwold acquired the Dolge factory and retained the 5,000 acre core of the tract, which is still privately owned. Today, approximately half the original 29,000 acre tract is Forest Preserve.

II. BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES

GEOLOGY

Geologically, the Adirondacks are part of the Canadian Shield, a vast terrain of ancient Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rock that underlies about half of Canada and constitutes the nucleus of the North American continent. In the U.S. the Shield bedrock is mostly concealed under younger Paleozoic sedimentary rock strata, but is well exposed in a few regions of the Adirondacks. The upward doming of the Adirondack mass during the past few million years (a process that is still going on) is responsible for the erosional stripping of the younger rock cover and exposure of the ancient bedrock (Cressey 1966). The rocks are mainly gneisses of a wide range of composition. One of the more interesting rocks is the enormous anorthosite mass that makes up nearly all of the High Peaks region. The nearly monomineralic rock composed of plagioclase feldspar is almost identical to some of the rock brought back from the moon.

The present landscape is geologically young, a product of erosion initiated by the ongoing doming. The stream-carved topography has been extensively modified by the sculpturing of glaciers during the last Ice Age. As the ice retreated northward, it left behind an irregular cover of rock rubble. Sand and stone settled out and formed natural dams which, when filled with melt water, created lakes and ponds. Since this early structuring of the Adirondacks, vegetation has gradually reclaimed the land and has helped evolve the present forest ecosystems, including the contribution of humus to today's soil structures.

SOILS

The soils in the unit are mostly derived from glacial deposits that were deposited as glaciers advanced and retreated. Soil characteristics are variable and can fluctuate widely from location to location. The soil types can be classified into three broad categories: glacial till, glacial outwash, and organically derived.

Glacial till soils are a mixture of clay, silt, sand, and stone. These soils are nutrient rich and dominate the upland areas. Glacial outwash soils are stratified soils deposited as eskers and moraines in areas subject to periods of flash-flooding during the glacial retreat. These soils are low in nutrient-bearing silts and clays. Organically derived soils are rich in vegetative matter in various states of decay. These soils occur in low lying wetland areas where impeded drainage created saturated soils on top of glacial outwash or bedrock and where upland plants could not survive.

Soil characteristics need to be considered in the management and use of this unit. Some of the characteristics of soils found in the unit are listed below. These characteristics when combined with topographic features (i.e. slope, landscape position, etc.) can place moderate to severe limitations on recreational use.

- The soils are usually moist, retain water well, yet drain freely.
- The soils contain a layer enriched in iron and humus that is strongly acidic.
- A majority of the acreage is very stony and bouldery.
- The dominant soils have slowly permeable fragipan layers that form a barrier to roots and water.
- Some soils exhibit a seasonal high water table during wet times of the year.

TERRAIN

The unit's topography can be best described as non-mountainous with gently rolling or relatively level terrain. The topography generally rises from west to east and from south to north. Natural features include a variety of rock ridges, streams, swamps, meadows, lakes and ponds. The most outstanding topographic features are the cliffs on Good Luck Mountain, Rooster Hill, and Panther Mountain. These cliffs provide some of the best vistas in the southern Adirondacks and are popular day hike destinations.

The maximum relief (change in elevation) across the unit is approximately 1,800 feet. Elevations rise from 1,200 feet in the southern portion near Middle Sprite, to elevations which do not exceed 3,000 feet in the

northeast portion near G Lake. This increase in total elevation occurs as gradual, rolling, gentle topography. Overall, the combination of natural features and the variety of interspersed ecosystems provides for a very interesting and diverse unit.

WATER

Water resources are an abundant and important component of the natural ecosystem within the FLWF unit. They provide a wide range of aquatic environments along with opportunities for public recreation. The waters in the unit occur in two distinct watersheds, the Hudson and the Mohawk-Hudson. The boundary between the two watersheds runs north and south along a ridge connecting West Hill on the Fulton County/Hamilton County line and extending north to G Lake and beyond into the West Canada Lake Wilderness. Waters that flow into the Mohawk River generally flow to Sprite Creek, East Canada Creek, West Canada Creek or Canada Lake and then to the Mohawk. Ponds that drain to the Hudson River flow via the West Branch of the Sacandaga River to Great Sacandaga Lake which outlets to the Hudson.

There are more than 115 ponds and lakes within the unit, of which 78 are named on USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps. Most of these waters have all or a majority of their shoreline within the unit boundary. Exceptions include Canada Lake, Lily Lake, West Lake, Piseco Lake, West Caroga Lake, Spy Lake, North Branch Lake and Long Lake (MH-P 823), which all have sections of their shoreline in private ownership. The waters range in size from unnamed ponds less than 1 acre to 2,842 acre Piseco Lake. Piseco Lake, Canada Lake and West Caroga Lake are relatively large and accessible by public boat-launching facilities. Both Piseco Lake and West Caroga Lake have public campgrounds. The management of Hinkley Reservoir will not be addressed in this plan.

Appendix E lists the major ponded waters in and bordering the FLWF with a brief narrative statement pertaining to their important features, including past and current management, accessibility, size, water chemistry, and fish species composition. In Appendix E, tables give additional biological/chemical data and statistical information, including watershed, fisheries management classification, and depth. (See 11" x 17" hydrology map in the Appendix)

The unit also contains many miles of small, coldwater and warmwater streams. Of these, forty are named on 7½ minute quadrangle maps. Best known of these streams is South Branch of West Canada Creek, which was famous for its fishing opportunities in the late 1800's. It is less popular today, but the upper stretches still produce good brook trout fishing and the lower reaches (below Wilmurt Falls) are stocked with brown trout. East Canada Creek was less well known and by the 1930's was known to be prone to problems with warm temperatures.

Acid Precipitation

Recently acidic deposition has impacted the aquatic resources of the Adirondacks. The ALSC surveyed 1,469 Adirondack waters, 24 percent of which had pH levels less than 5.0 (Kretser et al. 1989). Historic data and water chemistry analysis demonstrate that many of those waters were historically circumneutral and able to support fishes. Although less well studied, streams have also been impacted by acidification (Colquhoun 1984).

While acid deposition has affected all areas of the Adirondack Park, the available data indicates that it has had a substantial impact on the fisheries resources in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Many waters that formerly contained fish populations are now devoid of fish life and the units overall diversity of native species has been reduced. Individual pond narratives and a summary of the most recent biological/chemical data are included in Appendix E.

Bti Program

The Townships of Arietta, Morehouse, Stratford, and Caroga currently use the biological pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis* (Bti) to control black fly larvae populations in water; the Towns of Salisbury, Ohio, Oppenheim and Ephratah do not. Bt is a naturally occurring bacteria that has been used for years in the control of various garden pests. The variety *israelensis* is very specific and found to be extremely selective, killing only the larvae of black flies, mosquitoes, and a few non-biting flies. Several field and laboratory studies have indicated that the bacteria is non-toxic to most other organisms and does not persist in the environment.

Since the application is made directly to water, it falls within the scope of Article 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law and an aquatic pesticide application permit is required under 6 NYCRR Part 329. In cases where the program involves the treatment of streams at points within state owned land, a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) under 6 NYCRR § 190.9(a) is required in addition to the Part 329 permit. No treatments are made directly into wetlands. However, Article 24 (Freshwater Wetlands Act) has also been determined jurisdictional under the following circumstances: introduction of Bti upstream of the adjacent area of a wetland, if the Department is able to demonstrate that the pesticide will be transported into the wetland and will adversely affect the wetland. All treatments are made by applicators who have successfully completed a DEC approved training course specifically in the use of Bti.

The data shows the following Bti treatment information:

Bti Use - FLWF Townships			
Township (data is representative of entire Township)	Treatment Area (sq miles) Approximate	Stream Length (miles) Approximate	Amount of Product Used (gal) Approximate
Arietta (Piseco Lake)	40	130	36.4
Morehouse (Hoffmeister)	34	135	65.0
Stratford	36	37	9.6
Caroga (Caroga Lake)	50	120	100.0

2005 data except Town of Morehouse

WETLANDS

Approximately 8.1% (12,047 acres) of the unit is wetland based on federal and APA regulated wetland maps. These wetlands are of various shapes and sizes and occur mostly in low-lying areas. They range from less than one acre to more than 500 acres in size. Wetland areas possess great ecological, aesthetic, recreational and educational values. Their capacity to receive, store, and slowly release rainwater and snowmelt, helps them protect water resources by stabilizing water flow and minimizing soil erosion and sedimentation. Wetlands also act as “natural sinks” by removing pollutants from water entering these areas. Wetlands are one of the most productive habitats for fish and wildlife, and provide numerous opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife observation and photography.

All Adirondack Park wetlands that are one acre in size and larger, or any size wetlands adjacent to open water are protected under the 1975 New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act by the Adirondack Park Agency. The largest and most significant wetlands in the unit are found along Alder Brook, Vly Brook, Black Cat Outlet, Brayhouse Brook, Hart Vly Stream, Fourmile Brook, Mill Creek, Big Alderbed, East Canada Creek (near Powley Place), Sheriff Lake, Black Creek, Middle Sprite Creek, Good Luck Lake and Canada Lake drainages.

WETLAND COVER TYPES	ACRES	% TOTAL AREA
Persistent emergent	2,190	18
Forested, broad-leaved deciduous	529	4
Forested, evergreen	5,548	46
Forested, dead	125	1
Open water	223	2
Broad-leaved deciduous scrub/shrub	2,667	22
Broad-leaved evergreen scrub/shrub	288	2
Needle-leaved evergreen scrub/shrub	271	2
Unconsolidated bottom cobble/gravel	204	2
Unconsolidated Shore cobble/gravel	2	0
TOTAL	12,047	

CLIMATE

The area's climate can be best described as cool and moist. Seasonal conditions may vary slightly throughout the unit due to such factors as latitude, altitude or elevation, distance and direction from large bodies of water, and normal storm patterns.

Summers tend to be warm with cool nights. Maximum day-time temperatures seldom exceed 90 degrees. Date of first killing frost in the fall is usually around late September. The growing season ranges from 135 days to 120 days. Winter temperatures can get as low as -20 to -30 degrees, with temperatures near zero common. Mean annual precipitation in water equivalent is between 40 and 50 inches per year; snowfall ranges from 80 to 120 inches per year.

Prevailing winds are westerly, generally shifting toward the north in winter and toward the south in summer. The prevailing direction may be modified in some areas by topographic features. Extensive damaging winds are rare, but can occur when coastal storms move inland and when strong storm fronts move in from the west. Climate influence on local flora and fauna is minimal.

AIR QUALITY

The effects of various activities on the unit's air quality have not been sufficiently measured or determined. Air quality and visibility in the unit appears to be good to excellent, rated Class II (moderately well controlled) by federal and state standards. However, acid deposition has been a topic of controversy and concern. Air quality may be more affected by particulate matter blown from outside sources rather than from activities within the unit. Currently, efforts are being made nationwide to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

Air Resources and Atmospheric Deposition

The adverse effects of atmospheric deposition on the Adirondack environment has been documented by many researchers over the last two decades. While permanent monitoring sites have not been established in the

FLWF general observations of the effects of acidic deposition on the regional ecosystem are numerous and well documented.

Effects of Acidic Deposition on Forest Systems

At present, the mortality and decline of red spruce at high elevations in the Northeast and observed reductions in red spruce growth rates in the southern Appalachians are the only cases of significant forest damage in the United States for which there is strong scientific evidence that acid deposition is a primary cause (National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, 1998). The following findings of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (1998) provide a broad overview of the effects of acidic deposition on the forests of the Adirondacks.

The interaction of acid deposition with natural stress factors has adverse effects on certain forest ecosystems. These effects include:

- Increased mortality of red spruce in the mountains of the Northeast. This mortality is due in part to exposure to acid cloud water, which has reduced the cold tolerance of these red spruce, resulting in frequent winter injury and loss of foliage.
- Reduced growth and/or vitality of red spruce across the high-elevation portion of its range.
- Decrease supplies of certain nutrients in soils to levels at or below those required for healthy growth.

Nitrogen deposition is now recognized with sulfur as an important contributor to effects on forest in some ecosystems, which occurs through direct impacts via increased foliar susceptibility to winter damage, foliar leaching, leaching of soil nutrients, elevation of soil aluminum levels, and/or creation of nutrient imbalances. Excessive amounts of nitrogen cause negative impacts on soil chemistry similar to those caused by sulfur deposition in certain sensitive high-elevation ecosystems. It is also a potential contributor to adverse impacts in some low-elevation forests.

Sensitive Receptors

High-elevation spruce-fir ecosystems in the eastern United States epitomize sensitive soil systems. Base cation stores are generally very low, and soils are near or past their capacity to retain more sulfur or nitrogen. Deposited sulfur and nitrogen, therefore, pass directly into soil water, which leaches soil aluminum and minimal amounts of calcium, magnesium, and other base cations out of the root zone. The low availability of these base cation nutrients, coupled with the high levels of aluminum that interfere with roots taking up these nutrients can result in plants not having sufficient nutrients to maintain good growth and health.

Sugar maple decline has been studied in the eastern United States since the 1950s. Recently, studies suggest that the loss of crown vigor and incidence of tree death is related to the low supply of calcium and magnesium to soil and foliage.

Exposure to acidic clouds and acid deposition has reduced the cold tolerance of red spruce in the Northeast, resulting in frequent winter injury of current-year foliage during the period 1960-1985. Repeated loss of foliage due to winter injury and other related stresses has caused crown deterioration and contributed to high levels of red spruce mortality in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Acid deposition has contributed to a regional decline in the availability of soil calcium and other base cations in high-elevation and mid-elevation spruce-fir forests of New York, New England and the southern Appalachians. The high-elevation spruce-fir forest of the Adirondacks and Northern New England are identified as one of four areas nationwide with a sensitive ecosystem subject to high deposition rates.

Effects of Acidic Deposition on Hydrologic Systems

New York's Adirondack Park is one of the most sensitive areas in the United States affected by acidic deposition. The Park consists of six million acres of forest, lakes, streams and mountains interspersed with dozens of small communities, and a large seasonal population fluctuation. However, due to its geography and geology, it is one of the most sensitive regions in the United States to acidic deposition and has been impacted to such an extent that significant native fish populations have been lost and signature high elevation forests have been damaged.

There are two types of acidification which affect lakes and streams. One is a year-round condition when a lake is acidic all year long, referred to as chronically or critically acidic. The other is seasonal or episodic acidification associated with spring melt and/or rain storm events. A lake is considered insensitive when it is not acidified during any time of the year. Lakes with acid-neutralizing capability (ANC) values below 0 $\mu\text{eq/L}$ are considered to be chronically acidic. Lakes with ANC values between 0 and 50 $\mu\text{eq/L}$ are considered susceptible to episodic acidification. Watersheds which experience episodic acidification are very common in the Adirondack region. A 1995 EPA Report to Congress estimated that 70% of the target population lakes are at risk of episodic acidification at least once during the year.

Recent results of lake chemistry monitoring by DEC from 1992 through 1999, indicates that sulfates declined in a majority of lakes selected by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation, but nitrate patterns were less clear with a few lakes improving and most lakes not changing. The decrease in sulfates is consistent with decreases in sulfur emissions and deposition, but the nitrate pattern is not explained by the unchanged levels of nitrogen emissions and deposition of recent decades.

In addition to sensitive lakes, the Adirondack region includes thousands of miles of streams and rivers which are also sensitive to acidic deposition. While it is difficult to quantify the impact, it is certain that there are large numbers of Adirondack brooks that will not support native Adirondack brook trout. Over half of these Adirondack streams and rivers may be acidic during spring snowmelt, when high aluminum concentrations and toxic water conditions adversely impact aquatic life. This adverse effect will continue unless further limits are placed on emissions of acid rain precursors.

Permanent Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) Sites

In 1987, as part of an Adirondack Park extensive survey, the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) surveyed a total of 16 waters in this unit. Summaries of those data can be found in Appendix E and at <http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org>. Since 1992 the Adirondack Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) Program managed by the ALSC has been sampling water chemistry in 52 lakes across the Park on a monthly basis. Two of these waters are located directly within the boundaries of the FLWF. These waters include Jockybush Lake and G Lake. Annual summaries of the 22 chemical parameters collected are downloadable from the ALSC website.

OPEN SPACE

The natural landscape of the FLWF is an important element in the quality and character of the lives of many people in New York State. More than 100 years ago the people of New York led the country in understanding the significance of open land and the wisdom of setting aside certain areas to meet the public's needs. Early generations had the foresight to protect large tracts of the Adirondacks and Catskills through the creation of the Forest Preserve and what is now Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. Today, these same public lands provide a wide variety of economic, social, and environmental benefits to a multitude of people.

The FLWF provides us a place away from our normal routine where we can regain our perspective and creativity. It provides a place for recreation and relaxation, a place for enjoyment and study, and most

importantly, a place for interacting with the natural world around us. A simple drive down the Powley-Piseco Road is testament to this area's many benefits.

VEGETATION

The FLWF contains a wide array of plant communities which are determined in part by local variations in soil type, moisture and topography. These communities intergrade spatially and temporally to form a complex mosaic in the landscape that changes through time. Past events such as fire, wind, and logging may have also contributed to shaping the present day community structure.

Vegetative Cover Types

The plant community types listed below are known to exist within the unit. The communities are distinguished by physiognomy, composition of resident organisms, and ecological processes. All plants on State land are protected by General State Land Use Regulations (6 NYCRR §190.8). The accompanying species lists and associations are presented as a representative sample.

Beech-Maple Mesic Forest - A hardwood forest with sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) codominant. These forests occur on moist, well-drained, usually acid soils. Common associates are basswood (*Tilia americana*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), Eastern hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). There are relatively few shrubs and herbs. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and red spruce (*Picea rubens*) may also be present at low densities. Example(s) - areas adjacent to West Canada Lake Wilderness.

Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest - A mixed forest that typically occurs on middle to lower slopes of ravines, on cool, mid-elevation slopes, and on moist, well-drained sites at the margins of swamps. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is codominant with any one to three of the following: American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*). The dominant ground cover is witch-hobble (*Viburnum alnifolium*), with other various ferns, grasses and wild flowers present. On recently disturbed sites, aspen, birch and fire (pin) cherry tend to dominate. Example(s) - widespread throughout unit.

Spruce-Northern Hardwood Forest - A mixed forest that occurs on lower mountain slopes and upper margins of flats on glacial till. Codominant trees are red spruce (*Picea rubens*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*), with scattered balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). Striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) and mountain maple (*A. spicatum*) are common subcanopy trees. Characteristic shrubs are witch-hobble (*Viburnum alnifolium*) and American fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*). Example(s) - area around Blind Man's Vly, and the slopes of Big and Little Alderbed Mountains.

Spruce Flats - A mixed forest that occurs on moist sites along the borders of swamps and in low flats along lakes and streams. The dominant trees are red spruce (*Picea rubens*) or black spruce (*Picea mariana*), mixed with smaller numbers of yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). The shrub layer is sparse or patchy. Characteristic shrubs are Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.). Example(s) - widespread throughout unit.

Balsam Flats - A conifer forest that occurs on moist, well-drained soils of low flats adjoining swamps, gentle ridges, and knolls within swamps. The dominant tree is balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), which occurs either in pure stands or in mixed stands with red spruce (*Picea rubens*) or black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and possibly a few yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*).

The shrub layer is patchy and sparse; characteristic tall shrubs include witch-hobble (*Viburnum alnifolium*) and wild raisin (*V. cassinoides*). Example(s) - widespread throughout unit.

Sedge Meadow - This is a wet meadow community that has organic soils (muck or fibrous peat). Soils are permanently saturated and seasonally flooded. The dominant species is tussock-sedge (*Carex stricta*), usually with at least 50% cover. Other characteristic herbs include sedges (*Carex* spp.), bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), sweetflag (*Acorus americanus*), spotted joe-pyeweed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), tall meadow-rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*), purple-stem angelica (*Angelica purpurea*), and bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.). Example(s) - along West Branch Sacandaga River between Chub Lake and Shaker Place.

Shrub Swamp - This is an inland wetland dominated by shrubs that occurs along the shore of a lake or river, in a wet depression or valley not associated with lakes, or as a transition zone between marsh, fen, or bog and a swamp or upland community. Shrub swamps are very common and quite variable. They are dominated by alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*); and sometimes called an alder thicket. Common associates may include meadow-sweet (*Spiraea latifolia*), gray dogwood (*Cornus foemina* ssp. *racemosa*), swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*), willow (*Salix* spp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*). Example(s) - along West Branch Sacandaga River between Good Luck Lake and Shaker Place.

Unique/Rare Plants

A review of the Natural Heritage Program database for rare plant species indicated that rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*) may occur within the unit or adjacent areas in the appropriate habitat. Other species that are not listed as rare, but are identified as “exploitably vulnerable” because of their beauty or economic value and tendency to be picked include: pinkster azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), the orchid family, nearly all the ferns, and many species in the lily family.

Rhodora - Rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*) is classified as rare in New York State. Unlike other azaleas, the flowers of this species have a very short tube. Nevertheless, they are still prized for their beautiful clusters of large and colorful blossoms. Preferred habitats include bogs and wet woods. Management efforts will concentrate on protecting this species by maintaining at least a 100 foot buffer zone between structures and improvements and known rare plant sites.

All plant species that are classified as rare, endangered, threatened, or exploitably vulnerable are protected by the New York Protected Native Plants Regulations (6 NYCRR §193.3) and the Environmental Conservation Law (Section 9-1503). Any facilities or improvements that have the potential to directly impact a protected plant species will be closed or relocated immediately.

Forest Health

A combination of many factors can influence the health of a plant community. Physical factors tend to be weather related with notable examples being lightning fires, ice damage, severe winds, and flooding. A few areas in the FLWF were impacted by the "Blowdown of 1950." More recently the effects of drought during 2001 and 2002 impacted some tree species, ranging from slowed growth to weakened resistance to secondary pests. The harsh winter of 2003 resulted in the use of more road deicing agents than usual on area roads. Roadside conifers, especially Eastern white pines, may exhibit evidence of salt damage from this activity.

Biological factors are variable and include the effects of disease, insects, and wildlife (beaver impoundments and deer wintering areas) on the forest environment. Three major forest insects and one major disease described below have had an effect on this area (DEC-Forest Health Reports, NYS Forest Health: Summary Report of Conditions for 2003). The effects of acidic deposition were discussed previously.

Beech Bark Disease - Beech bark disease is an important insect-fungus complex that has caused extensive mortality of American beech throughout portions of the Adirondacks. The primary vector, a scale insect, *Cryptococcus fagi*, attacks the tree creating entry sites for the fungus, *Nectria coccinea var. faginata*. Changes in the percent of beech in the cover type can stimulate shifts in animal populations that utilize beech mast extensively as a food source. On the other hand, dead and/or dying beech trees may benefit other wildlife species by providing abundant nesting, feeding, and potential den locations.

Eastern Spruce Budworm - The Eastern spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) is considered to be one of the most destructive conifer defoliators in North America. Host species include balsam fir in addition to red, white, and black spruce. The last significant incidence of this pest within the Adirondack Park occurred in the mid 1970's. Populations of this insect, while currently not a problem, are being monitored throughout the northeast.

Forest Tent Caterpillar - The forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) a native insect, may be found wherever hardwoods grow. Outbreaks have occurred at 10 to 15 year intervals with the last widespread outbreak in the late 1970's. Portions of St. Lawrence County were moderately to severely defoliated in 2003 through 2005, with additional outbreaks reported in northeast Jefferson, northern Lewis and other locations in Central New York. But no widespread outbreaks were reported for Herkimer, Fulton or Hamilton Counties. Favored hosts are sugar maple and aspen with birch, cherry, and ash also being utilized.

Balsam Woolly Adelgid - The balsam woolly adelgid (*Adelgaes piceae*), a pest of true firs, was introduced into the United States from Europe or Asia around the turn of the century. Since that time it has spread throughout the United States and Canada.

In addition to the major insect and disease problems listed above, Eastern spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus piceaperda*), Eastern larch beetle (*Dendroctonus simplex*), along with various forest declines, have impacted the vegetation within the unit and the surrounding areas. More recently in 2003, Pine shoot beetles (*Tomicus piniperda*) have been trapped in Hamilton County. This insect is a pest of many pine species but Scots pine is preferred. Serious damage and mortality from this insect has been reported from Halifax, but in New York and neighboring New England states, damage has been less. Federal quarantines restrict the movement of pine products from infested to non-infested counties.

To provide a factual basis for public policy and private ownership decisions, permanent forest inventory and analysis plots have been established by the U.S. Forest Service statewide, including forest preserve and private lands within the Adirondacks. These plots and the evaluation of the data collected at them, document and provide information on forest changes that might be caused by atmospheric deposition, soil nutrient loss, global warming, and/or various insect and disease factors. From 1985 to the present, significant research efforts have been underway to study the effects of atmospheric deposition on forest species, with support from federal and state agencies, forest industry, and other institutions. Data are still being evaluated to determine the link between air pollution and forest health.

Invasive/Exotic Plants

Nonnative, invasive species directly threaten biological diversity and the high quality natural areas in the Adirondack Park. Invasive plant species can alter native plant assemblages, often forming monospecific stands of very low quality forage for native wildlife, and drastically impacting the ecological functions and services of natural systems. Not yet predominant across the Park, invasive plants have the potential to spread - undermining the ecological, recreational, and economic value of the Park's natural resources.

Because of the Adirondack Park's continuous forested nature and isolation from the normal "commerce" found in other parts of the State, its systems are largely functionally intact. In fact, there is no better

opportunity in the global temperate forested ecosystem to forestall and possibly prevent the alteration of natural habitats by invasive plant species.

Prevention of nonnative plant invasions, Early Detection/Rapid Response (ED/RR) of existing infestations, and monitoring are primary objectives in a national strategy for invasive plant management and necessitates a well-coordinated, area-wide approach. A unique opportunity exists in the Adirondacks to work proactively and collaboratively to detect, contain, or eradicate infestations of invasive plants before they become well established, and to prevent further importation and distribution of invasive species, thus maintaining a high quality natural landscape. The Department shares an inherent obligation to minimize or abate existing threats in order to prevent widespread and costly infestations.

The Department has entered into a partnership agreement with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). The mission of APIPP is to document invasive plant distributions and to advance measures to protect and restore native ecosystems in the Park through partnerships with Adirondack residents and institutions. Partner organizations operating under a Memorandum of Understanding are the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Park Agency, Department of Transportation, and Invasive Plant Council of NYS. The APIPP summarizes known distributions of invasive plants in the Adirondack Park and provides this information to residents and professionals alike. Specific products include a geographic database for invasive plant species distribution; a central internet website for invasive plant species information and distribution maps; a list-serve discussion group to promote community organization and communication regarding invasive species issues; and a compendium of educational materials and best management practices for management. For more information refer to the following website: <http://www.adkinvasives.com>.

Terrestrial Invasive Plants - In 1998 the Adirondack Nature Conservancy's Invasive Plant Project initiated Early Detection/Rapid Response (ED/RR) surveys along Adirondack Park roadsides. Expert and trained volunteers reported 412 observations of 10 plant species throughout the area surveyed, namely NYS DOT Right-of-Ways (ROW). In 1999 the Invasive Plant Project was expanded to include surveying back roads and the "backcountry" (undeveloped areas away from roads) to identify the presence or absence of 15 invasive plant species. Both surveys were conducted under the auspices of the Invasive Plant Council of New York "Top Twenty List" of non-native plants likely to become invasive within New York State. A continuum of ED/RR surveys now exists under the guidance of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).

Assessments from these initial ED/RR surveys determined that four terrestrial plant species would be targeted for control and management based upon specific criteria such as geophysical setting, abundance and distribution, multiple transport vectors and the likelihood of human-influenced disturbance. The four priority terrestrial invasive plants species are Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

The Adirondack Park is susceptible to further infestation by invasive plant species intentionally or accidentally introduced to this ecoregion. While many of these species are not currently designated a priority species by APIPP, they may become established within or in proximity to a unit and require resources to manage, monitor, and restore the site. Infestations located within and in proximity to a unit may expand and spread to uninfected areas and threaten natural resources within a unit; therefore it is critical to identify infestations located both within and in proximity to a unit and then assess high risk areas and prioritize Early Detection Rapid Response (ED/RR) and management efforts.

Terrestrial Invasive Plant Locations - Terrestrial invasive plant species documented in, or within proximity to, Ferris Lake Wild Forest include the following: Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Terrestrial invasive plant infestations within DOT State Route ROW are referenced by the green Reference Markers (RM) positioned every 0.2 mile along State Routes within the Park. Example: State Route RM 86-1202-1172. Terrestrial infestations beyond NYS DOT ROW, along County, Town or back roads, or within backcountry settings are geo-referenced via a hand-held GPS unit utilizing NAD 83 Program for Zone 18. Example: 4911698North (N) 590545East (E). Infestations noted as High Priority should be strongly considered for containment and/or eradication controls. These infestations have multiple vectors or threaten sensitive communities within or adjacent to the infestation.

There is one (1) Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) infestation affecting this unit.

- At 4802224 N 520357 E a small Purple loosestrife infestation occurs within the fringe of private property and French Road right-of-way, Town of Morehouse.

There are seven (7) Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) infestations affecting this unit. All occur within the road right-of-way with the exception of the West Lake infestation.

- At State Route RM 10-2205-14 multiple, significant Common reed infestations occur within, and around the periphery of, the NYS DOT Arietta Stockpile facility. The geophysical location of the infestations, coupled with the shared jurisdictional usage of the facility, make it an imminent threat to the Ferris Lake, Shaker Mountain and Silver Lake units. Materials stockpiled, borrowed or extracted from this facility and utilized for road infrastructure, right-of-way or drainage improvement projects on State, County or Town roads within or in proximity to the three units will likely contain Common reed rhizome, plant parts and/or seed. APIPP is working with NYS DOT to mitigate these infestations.
- At State Route RM 10-2205-1129 Common reed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At State Route RM 8-2209-1049 Common reed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At State Route RM 8-2209-1081 Common reed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At State Route RM 8-2209-1027 Common reed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At 4803274 N 527384 E along Alder Brook Road ROW, Town of Morehouse.
- At 4779728 N 538304 E a significant Common reed infestation appears to occur within Forest Preserve fringe. The infestation is within 75 feet of the West Lake shoreline around the Canada Lake Protective Association's (CLPA) shared boathouse off of Point Breeze Road from State Route 29A. An ancillary and expanding infestation occurs just to the rear/east of the CLPA boathouse parking area and appears to be encroaching Forest Preserve. In order to determine ownership the Department will inspect the site and survey Forest Preserve boundary as it relates to this expanding infestation of Common reed.

There are eight (8) Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) infestations affecting the unit. All occur within either State Route or County and Town ROWs.

- At State Route RM 10-2205-1010 Japanese knotweed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At State Route RM 10-2205-1008 Japanese knotweed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At State Route RM 8-2209-1050 Japanese knotweed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At State Route RM 8-2209-1067 Japanese knotweed occurs within DOT Right-of-Way.
- At 4805466 N 521402 E along Mountain Home Road, Town of Morehouse.
- At 4805191 N 536574 E along South Shore Road, Town of Arietta.
- At 4805612 N 537542 E along Higgins Bay Road, Town of Arietta.
- At 4807472 N 536387 E along Old Piseco Road, Town of Arietta.

A map showing the terrestrial invasive plant species distribution is included in the Appendix H.

Aquatic Invasive Plants - A variety of monitoring programs collect information directly or indirectly about the distribution of aquatic invasive plants in the Adirondack Park including the NYS DEC, Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Paul Smiths College Watershed Institute, lake associations, and lake managers. In 2001, the

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) compiled existing information about the distribution of aquatic invasive plant species in the Adirondack Park and instituted a regional long-term volunteer monitoring program. APIPP trained volunteers in plant identification and reporting techniques to monitor Adirondack waters for the presence of aquatic invasive plant species. APIPP coordinates information exchange among all of the monitoring programs and maintains a database on the current documented distribution of aquatic invasive plants in the Adirondack Park.

Aquatic invasive plant species documented in the Adirondack Park are Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), Curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), European frog-bit (*Hydrocharus morsus-ranae*), and Yellow floating-heart (*Nymphoides peltata*). Species located in the Park that are monitored for potential invasibility include Variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), Southern Naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), and Brittle Naiad (*Najas minor*). Additional species of concern in New York State but not yet detected in the Park are Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), and Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*). For species specific information regarding natural history, ecology, and reproduction, refer to the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England program website at <http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/search.cfm>.

Infestations located within and in proximity to a unit may expand and spread to uninfected areas and threaten natural resources within a unit; therefore it is critical to identify infestations located both within and in proximity to a unit to identify high risk areas and prioritize Early Detection Rapid Response (ED/RR) and management efforts.

The Ferris Lake Wild Forest has an assemblage of lakes and ponds with public access. Access points range from hard surface to hand launches. Aquatic invasive plants are primarily spread via human activities, therefore lakes with public access, and those connected to lakes with public access, are at higher risk of invasion. While a comprehensive survey for the presence of aquatic invasive plant species has not been completed at present, APIPP volunteers monitored Spy Lake and West Caroga Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil was detected in West Caroga Lake, but no other aquatic invasive plant infestations are documented in the unit to-date. The APIPP Park-wide volunteer monitoring program aims to maintain a long-term monitoring program on this and other lakes. All aquatic invasive species pose a risk of spreading via transport mechanisms which may include seaplanes, motorized and non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, jet skis, motor boats etc.) and associated gear and accessories.

Aquatic Invasive Plant Locations - Longitude and latitude coordinates are used to indicate a lake with a documented infestation. Infestations may range from an isolated population to a lake-wide invasion. Knowledge of locations and coordinates of specific infestations within the lake is limited and variable and will be provided as available.

Initial surveys detected occurrences of aquatic invasive plants both within and adjacent to the unit.

- Eurasian watermilfoil is confirmed in the following lake within the Ferris Lake Wild Forest:

West Caroga Lake	430813N 742945W
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- Eurasian watermilfoil is confirmed in the following lake adjacent to the unit boundary:

East Caroga Lake	430741N 742852W
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A map showing the aquatic invasive plant species distribution is included in the Appendix H.

WILDLIFE

Field inventories of wildlife species have been conducted by DEC and other individuals on a broad ecosystem type basis and have included the FLWF in their scope. The species included in Appendix D were compiled

from various surveys and publications. These species are common to the Adirondack's and their populations within the unit are presumably at levels consistent with other areas of the Park.

Birds

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas compiled by DEC and the Federation of NYS Bird clubs lists 145 bird species as occurring in Breeding Bird Atlas blocks that lie wholly or partially within FLWF; 17 possible breeders, 18 probable breeders, and 110 confirmed breeders. The Atlas deals with those species actually breeding and nesting. Species thought to occur occasionally, i.e. during periods of migration, are not shown in the Breeding Bird Atlas data. Breeding Bird Atlas data is found in Appendix D.

Birds associated with marshes, ponds, lakes and streams are numerous and include the common loon, American woodcock, great blue heron, green heron, Canada goose, and a variety of ducks. The most common ducks include the mallard, black duck, wood duck, common merganser, and hooded merganser. Birds of prey common to the unit include the barred owl, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, broad-winged hawk, and Northern Goshawk. Songbirds present include various species of woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks, and sparrows. Common upland game species include the wild turkey and ruffed grouse.

Mammals

The FLWF is home to a variety of large and small sized mammals. Some of the larger sized mammals include the white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, river otter, beaver, mink, varying hare, striped skunk, gray squirrel, porcupine, red fox, gray fox, muskrat, fisher, and marten. The smaller sized mammals include a variety of bats, shrews, moles, and mice, along with the ermine, long-tailed weasel, eastern chipmunk, and red squirrel.

Most species are distributed relatively evenly throughout the unit, although the populations of weasel, mink, muskrat, river otter, and beaver are concentrated near water, and the varying hare and red squirrel are mostly confined to spruce and fir stands. White-tailed deer populations tend to be highest in areas near recent disturbances with wintering areas occurring in lowland coniferous areas. A complete list of mammals believed to inhabit the FLWF is found in Appendix D.

Reptiles and Amphibians

The relatively short summers and long cold winters limit the number of species of reptiles and amphibians within the FLWF. Four species of turtles, eight species of snakes, seven species of salamanders, one species of toad, and eight species of frogs have been documented in the unit. Species found in marshes or ponds and along wooded streams include the following: turtles-snapping, painted, Blanding's; snakes-northern water, northern redbelly, eastern garter, northern brown; toads-American; salamanders-spotted, Jefferson, red-spotted newt, spring, two-lined, northern dusky; frogs-bullfrog, pickerel, green, wood, mink, northern leopard, gray treefrog, and spring peepers.

A few species can be found under logs and leaf litter on the forest floor or in forest openings. The species listed below do not require moist surroundings to survive: snakes-ringneck, milk, smooth green, black rat, eastern garter; salamanders-redback. A list of reptiles and amphibians believed to inhabit the FLWF can be found in Appendix D.

Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern

The Indiana bat is the only species listed on the New York State endangered species list that may be found in the FLWF. The only threatened species known to inhabit the unit is the northern harrier. Several other species that are listed as special concern which may be present in the unit include: American bittern, common loon, Cooper's hawk, northern goshawk, osprey, red-headed woodpecker, red-shouldered hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, vesper sparrow, eastern bluebird, whip-poor-will, small-footed bat, spotted salamander, and

the Jefferson salamander. Although not listed in the Breeding Bird Atlas data, recent bald eagle sightings in certain portions of the unit may indicate a possible nesting site.

Indiana Bat (myotis) - The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is classified endangered in New York State. It's presence has not been documented in the unit, but species distribution maps indicate that it may exist in the Adirondack's wherever there are suitable conditions. Preferred habitats include caves in winter, man-made structures and possibly hollow trees in summer. Because bats hibernate in caves and mines, they are subject to flooding or ceiling collapses. The most serious problem for hibernating bats is believed to be disturbance by people exploring caves. Bats are sensitive to noise and light and can be aroused from their motionless state by passing cavers. If too many disturbances occur, the animals will not survive until spring. Outside of the hibernating season, factors which may be contributing to declines in the population probably vary. For instance, pesticide poisoning is believed to be contributing to the decline of some bat species.

Since the most vulnerable period in the life-cycle of the Indiana bat is during winter hibernation, management efforts will be concentrated on protecting bat wintering sites. If a bat hibernacula is discovered, a 100–300 meter buffer may be established around the area if necessary. This buffer zone may or may not be posted. A determination will be based on attracting the least amount of attention to the area while providing protection to the bats.

Bald Eagle - The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is classified as threatened in New York State. They generally prefer undeveloped waterways with a good fishery and abundant large trees for nesting. Fish makes up a significant portion of an eagles diet. White pines are commonly chosen as nesting trees in the northeast, with eagles typically choosing the tallest in the area and locating the nest several feet down into the tree's branches, but with an excellent vantage from the nest. Bald eagle activity has been observed in the area in recent years, but a nesting site has not been confirmed. Management efforts will concentrate on protecting eagle nesting sites. When nests are discovered, a 100–300 meter buffer may be established around the nest if necessary. This buffer zone may or may not be posted. A determination will be based on attracting the least amount of attention to the nest while providing protection to the eagles.

Northern Harrier - The northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is classified as threatened in New York State. This species has been confirmed nesting in the unit. Preferred habitats include generally open areas: tundra, grasslands and wetlands. Open wetland cover types are present within the unit. The same management efforts will apply to this species as with the bald eagle.

Common Loon - The common loon (*Gavia immer*) is a species of special concern in New York State. The characteristics of being a long-lived species and a predator at the top of the food chain make loons more susceptible to the accumulation of environmental toxins. Thus, this species is often used by scientists as an ecological indicator of the health of the environment and water quality. In addition, the loon has great public appeal, signifying remote, wild areas to people.

Numerous natural and anthropogenic (human) factors can impact the breeding population of loons. Natural predation of eggs and chicks is common and has been observed and documented on several different occasions within the Park. Airborne contaminants, including "acid rain", can cause the bioaccumulation of mercury, a neurotoxin, and a decreased food supply, which can potentially lead to decreased reproductive success. In addition, human disturbance (including paddling activity) can result in nest abandonment or direct injury to adult or juvenile birds. Shoreline use by campers, particularly on islands, has the potential to lead to the loss of nest site availability. The death of adult loons due to lead toxicity from the ingestion of lead fishing tackle accidentally lost by anglers is a concern and has recently been documented in New York State. This concern has prompted the development of a voluntary sinker exchange program and new regulations banning the future sale of certain size lead sinkers in New York State. The effects of direct human impacts, such as disturbance or shoreline use, on breeding loons within this unit has not been

determined, but is presumed to be low due to the minimal number of improvements and facilities. Management efforts will concentrate on protecting loon nesting areas and habitat.

Northern Goshawk - The northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is a species of special concern in New York State. Goshawks generally prefer coniferous forests, but can also be found around farmland, woodland edges, and open country in the winter. It is an uncommon visitor from the North, remaining mostly in the northern coniferous forests unless forced to move south by a periodic decline in the populations of the grouse that are a staple of its diet. They are fearless in defense of their nest and will boldly attack anyone who ventures too close. Goshawk populations seem to be directly influenced by prey abundance, i.e. grouse populations. Since there are no specific provisions for wildlife management on Forest Preserve lands, vegetation manipulation for grouse propagation is not permissible. Therefore, management efforts will primarily concentrate on using the same techniques as with the bald eagle to protect identified nesting sites whenever possible.

Osprey - The osprey (*Panion haliaetus*) is a species of special concern in New York State. Ospreys have been observed in the unit, but no known nests have been found to date. If a nesting site is discovered within the unit, the same management efforts will apply to this species as with the bald eagle.

Small-footed Bat - The small-footed bat (*Myotis subulatus*) is a species of special concern in New York State. Preferred habitats include caves, mine tunnels, crevices in rocks, and buildings in or near forested areas. Like most bats, the small-footed bat's most serious problem is believed to be human disturbance during hibernation. Too many disturbances and the animals will not survive until spring. The same management efforts will apply to this species as with the Indiana bat.

Spotted Salamander - The spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) is a species of special concern in New York State. These amphibians stay underground for most of their lives. They can occasionally be found (from spring to autumn) beneath stones or boards in moist environments or during wet weather. The spotted salamander is an early spring breeder that, under stimulus of warm rains, sometimes makes mass migrations to woodland ponds. Management efforts related to this species will focus primarily on protecting unit waters and water quality.

Jefferson Salamander - The Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) is a species of special concern in New York State. Like the spotted salamander, the Jefferson salamander stays underground most of its life. These salamanders congregate in numbers in temporary pools and ponds after early spring rains to breed. Finding specimens before or after breeding season is likely a matter of chance. Individuals may wander on rainy nights, but they take shelter before morning beneath boards, logs, stones, etc. The same management efforts will apply to this species as with the spotted salamander.

Extirpated Species

The elk, timber wolf (or red wolf), cougar, and wolverine are all animals that once inhabited the FLWF but have since disappeared from the Adirondacks and New York State. The mammals' disappearances were mostly attributed to unregulated harvest and habitat destruction in the nineteenth century; while the more recent bird disappearances (i.e. eagles and loons) can be attributed to pesticide abuse. The once extirpated moose population has started to reestablish itself through natural migration and projects have been conducted to reestablish the bald eagle and peregrine falcon.

Public Health Concerns

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in White-tailed Deer - CWD is a rare, fatal, neurological disease found in members of the deer family (cervids). It is a transmissible disease that slowly attacks the brain of infected deer and elk, causing the animals to progressively become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, and invariably results in the death of the infected animal. Chronic Wasting Disease has been known to occur in

wild deer and elk in the western U.S. for decades and its discovery in wild deer in Wisconsin in 2002 generated unprecedented attention from wildlife managers, hunters, and others interested in deer. Chronic Wasting Disease poses a significant threat to the deer and elk of North America and, if unchecked, could dramatically alter the future management of wild deer and elk. However, there is no evidence that CWD is linked to disease in humans or domestic livestock other than deer and elk.

Giardiasis - This intestinal illness sometimes called “beaver fever” is caused by a microscopic parasite called *Giardia lamblia*. Even though many animals other than man can act as hosts, including the beaver, improper disposal of human excrement is one of the primary reasons for the increased numbers of this parasite in the interior.

Lyme Disease - This infection is caused by the bite of a deer tick carrying a bacterium, that often infects deer, field mice, humans and household pets.

West Nile Virus - This is a relatively new viral disease that is carried by birds and can be transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. It is often fatal to some species of birds, such as crows, but in most species it is not fatal. It can be fatal in humans, especially in those with compromised immune systems. The use of insect repellent can help reduce exposure to the virus by warding off potentially infected mosquitoes.

Rabies - Rabies is a viral infection that affects the nervous system of all mammals, including humans. It is usually transmitted by the bite of an infected animal to another. Like other viral infections, it does not respond to antibiotics and is almost always fatal once the symptoms appear. Major carriers of rabies include raccoons, skunks, bats and fox species, but all mammals can be potential carriers. Fortunately, no cases of rabies were confirmed in Hamilton County in either 2000 or 2001.

FISHERIES

The aquatic communities of the Adirondacks are a result of geological and human influences. Prior to human influence relatively simple fish communities were common. Human-caused changes in habitat and introduction of other fish species have altered those natural communities. Nonnative fishes are now widespread and many native species are now more widely distributed than they historically were; sometimes at the expense of other species. A few native species, notably brook trout and round whitefish, have declined. (See Individual Pond Descriptions and definitions of fisheries management classifications in Appendix E.)

Geological History

The Fishes of the Adirondack Park, a DEC publication (August 1980) by Dr. Carl George of Union College, provides a summary of geological events which influenced the colonization of the Adirondack ecological zone by fishes. A limited number of cold tolerant, vagile, lacustrine species closely followed the retreat of the glaciers. Such species presumably had access to most Adirondack waters. About 13,000 B.P. (Before Present), glacial retreat exposed much of the southern Adirondacks. Formation of glacial Lake Albany and inundation of the great falls at Cohoes, Glens Falls, Hudson Falls and other barriers resulted in re-colonization of the Upper Hudson watershed by cold-tolerant Atlantic and eastern Boreal fishes. Around 12,300 B.P. further retreat of the glacier allowed drainage eastwards through the Mohawk Valley or “Rome Outlet,” but this corridor provided little or no access to the Adirondack upland because glacial Lake Albany had already drained by this time and Lake George was isolated from Lake Champlain by a series of cascades and falls. “Regardless, some species were probably added to the Hudson-Mohawk ichthyofauna at this time, but they are poorly defined.” (George, 1980) Around 12,000 B.P. the St. Lawrence Valley and the Laurentian Corridor opened for re-colonization of the Adirondacks via the Raquette River. Barriers and high gradient streams kept some lowland boreal species, such as northern pike, lake whitefish and burbot from colonizing the area. In general, waters low in the watersheds had the most diverse communities. The number of species present decreased progressing towards headwater, higher elevation sections. Chance and

variability in habitat complicated the trends. Consequently, a diversity of fish communities, from no fish to monocultures to numerous species, occurred in various waters.

Human Influences

Detailed documentation of the historic fish communities in the FLWF is not available. Extensive fishery survey data was first collected in the 1930's, decades after the massive stockings and introductions of the late 1800's. Reviewing work by Mather (1884) and others from the late 1800's, George (1980) has summarized what is known. Appendix E presents information on species known to be native, native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI), and nonnative.

Brook trout, however, were particularly successful at colonizing and thrived in the relative absence of competing and predacious fishes. George (1980) states:

“Under primeval conditions, the brook trout was nearly ubiquitous in the Adirondacks. Its agility, great range in size and facility in rapidly flowing water allowed it to spread widely, perhaps even concurrently with the demise of the glaciers, thus explaining its presence in unstocked waters above currently impassible waterfalls.”

Further evidence that brook trout were generally widespread in the unit can be garnered directly from Mather (1884). In his paper Adirondack Fishes with Descriptions of New Species, from Researches made in 1882, Mather published some information about the distribution of fishes obtained by making public inquiries. These inquiries were in the form of 15 questions that were published in Forest and Stream and also sent to various persons known to be familiar with Adirondack locales. The first question he posed was “What waters in the Adirondacks do not contain brook trout?” In response, Mr. C.P. Williams, President of Albany National Exchange Bank wrote the following: “I gladly reply to your list of numbered inquiries, and in doing so will confine myself to the waters of Jerseyfield Lake on the border of Hamilton and Herkimer Counties, and its neighboring streams and smaller lakes from three or four miles distant, unless otherwise stated. 1. I know of none which certainly do not contain the brook trout.” [Over 24 lakes and ponds in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest are within a three mile radius of Jerseyfield Lake.] Two other respondents whose replies demonstrate their familiarity with the Ferris Lake area are Captain L.A. Beardsley and Watts T. Loomis, both of Little Falls, NY. Both men mention only Dexter and Spectacle Lakes as not containing brook trout, and only then because of the unwise introduction of chain pickerel. Considering the responses of these three men to the questions posed, it appears that virtually all the waters of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest contained brook trout prior to modern perturbations of man.

Another early source that demonstrates the ubiquitous presence of brook trout prior to the influence of man is Wallace's Guide to the Adirondacks, by Edwin R. Wallace (1884). In his colorful description of attractions in the Wilmurt Lake and West Canada Lake area (private and public lands which border the Ferris Lake unit), and the Ferris Lake area itself, he states the following, “From Wilmurt Lake it is 1½ E. (trail) to Big Rock Lake (1½ X ¾) which affords beautiful scenery, fair trout-fishing and good deer-hunting. Thence it is 2 ½ m. N.E. by blind trail over a mountain to Metcalf Lake (2 X 1/3), discovered half a century ago by Col. Metcalf, the chum of Nat. Foster and Jock Wright. As an exception to the general rule, this lake contains no speckled trout.”

Acid Precipitation

Acid precipitation is a serious threat to the aquatic communities in certain areas of the Adirondacks. The FLWF is one area that has been severely impacted. Fish species that are native to the unit are largely those typically associated with the Adirondack upland; however, area waters have been severely impacted by acid precipitation. Many waters that formerly contained fish populations are now devoid of fish life and the diversity of native species has been reduced.

Many brook trout fisheries in the Adirondacks have succumbed to the phenomenon of acid precipitation. The earliest survey data from the FLWF suggests that the problem may date back to the 1930's and earlier. Of the 85 lakes and ponds in the unit for which water chemistry information is available, 25% have pH values of less than 5.0. Only 15% have pH values of 6.0 or above. To illustrate the significance of these numbers, brook trout can survive pH levels ranging from about 4.0 to 9.5 and distilled water has a pH of 7.0. Because many of the unit's ponds have only sparse historical fisheries data, it is difficult to document the fish community changes associated with acidification. An indication of the devastation that acid deposition has wrought on the FLWF can be deduced from the early work of Mather (1884). As described above, there is evidence that virtually all of the approximately 24 lakes and ponds within a 3-mile radius of Jerseyfield Lake were known to contain brook trout at that time. Presently, eight of those lakes are known to be fishless, and several others for which data is lacking are likely fishless as well. Four of the other ponds which are lacking in fish community data have pH values of 5.0 or less. Only two of the 24 lakes are known to have pH values which exceed 5.5. Redlouse Lake, Boyer Lake and Black Creek Lake are other unit waters which best demonstrate a documented example of species decline.

Many species of minnows, most notably redbelly dace and blacknose dace, are intolerant of acid conditions (Gallagher and Baker, 1990). The dearth of minnows collected in FLWF waters during the early surveys of the 1930's may also indicate that acidification had already impacted much of the unit by that time.

Brook Trout Distribution

Eleven ponds currently support brook trout fisheries: Third Lake, Alder Brook Lake, G Lake, House Pond, Redlouse Lake, Franks Pond, Mud Lake (MH-P 816), Christian Lake, Jockeybush Pond, Iron Lake and North Branch Lake. Of these only House Pond, Alder Brook Lake and Mud Lake are believed to have populations which are sustained by natural reproduction. Survey analysis indicates that a few more waters may be capable of supporting brook trout as detailed in the individual pond narrative section in Appendix E.

Only four streams in the unit are currently stocked. These include East Canada Creek, Middle Sprite Creek, West Canada Creek and South Branch West Canada Creek.

Fish Distribution (other than brook trout)

One of the more common species in the unit is the chain pickerel. This species is reported by George (1980) to be introduced from the lowlands. Records indicate introductions to the area in 1842. The species was widespread in the unit when early survey work was done in the 1930's. Chain pickerel are less widespread in the unit now than 60 years ago due to pond reclamation with rotenone and acidification.

A very interesting member of the FLWF fish fauna is the creek chubsucker. During the New York State Biological Survey, conducted in the 1920's and 1930's, creek chubsuckers were collected from several waters in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest and the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest, which is adjacent and to the east. FLWF waters that were found to contain creek chubsuckers include Canada Lake, West Lake, Third Lake and Fourth Lake.

In the Adirondacks, creek chubsuckers were not collected from any of the other major river drainages, including the Hudson, during the intensive sampling effort of the New York State Biological Survey. This species continues to have a limited range in the Adirondacks of New York State and was found by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corp (ALSC) from only 17 of 1123 waters surveyed during the period 1984-1987, although ALSC did find populations in the Hudson and Black River drainages as well as the Mohawk Hudson. The restricted range of creek chubsuckers in the early 1900's suggests the Mohawk Valley or Rome Outlet avenue of introduction that George (1980) referred to.

Extirpated Species

There are no known extirpated fish species that were indigenous to area waters.

SIGNIFICANT HABITATS

Several areas within the unit which have been identified as important wildlife habitats include:

- **Deer Wintering Areas** - Six deer wintering areas have been identified: Fourmile Brook - Hurrell Vly, South Branch West Canada Creek, Morehouse Lake - Goldmine Stream, Northern Powley-Piseco Road, Jockeybush Lake, and Middle Sprite Creek.
- **Common Loon** - Nine Corner Lake, Spectacle Lake, G Lake, Sand Lake, Ferris Lake, Spy Lake, Diamond Lake, and Long Lake along with privately owned Kennels Pond (nesting), Pine Lake, and Sheriff Lake.
- **Historic Peregrine Falcon Nesting Sites** - T Lake Falls/nearby mountains (This nesting site may lie within the West Canada Lake Wilderness).
- **Great Blue Heron Rookery** - Big Marsh Mountain.

Bird Conservation Areas

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) represent the most important habitats for the survival of birds and the conservation of bird species. They can be important only in their home state or province, or can be of national and even global significance. IBAs have to have a high level of bird use, such as a large number of individuals or a high diversity of species, or they must be home to species of high conservation priority.

Audubon inaugurated the IBA Program in New York State in 1996. The IBA Program was formally adopted as one of a triad of habitat conservation strategies that make up the Partners in Flight (a loose coalition of conservation organizations, wildlife agencies, and other groups cooperating to further the aims of bird conservation in the United States and Canada) Bird Conservation Strategy, or "Flight Plan." In New York State, Audubon has collaborated with Partners in Flight state and regional coordinators to fit the IBA Program into the larger context of the Flight Plan, which includes developing physiographic area conservation plans, habitat goals for species and habitat types, and management recommendations for large landscape-level units.

In 1997, New York State created a model Bird Conservation Area (BCA) program based on Audubon's IBA program under §11-2001 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York. The program is designed to safeguard and enhance bird populations and their habitats on selected state lands and waters. In November of 2001, New York designated the Adirondack mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Essex, Franklin, and Hamilton counties as the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA). The site was nominated because of its diverse species concentration, individual species concentration and its importance to species at risk, in particular the Bicknell's Thrush (special concern). The portion of the FLWF within Hamilton County does not exceed 2,800 feet in elevation, therefore no part of the wild forest is part of the BCA.

Deer Wintering Areas

A deer wintering area or deer yard is any piece of landscape where deer tend to concentrate during winter. Deer wintering areas typically have features which provide thermal benefits and/or mobility advantages during periods of cold and deep snow. In the Adirondacks, deer wintering areas are often associated with dense conifer cover which helps reduce rapid snow accumulation, provides shelter from winds, and limits radiational cooling during the evening. South-facing slopes are also used by wintering deer, where lower snow accumulation and favorable sun exposure provide similar benefits. Better quality deer wintering areas also have adjacent regenerating hardwood components which provide available woody browse during milder conditions.

Information provided by regional wildlife staff identified several historic deer wintering areas that are wholly or partially contained within the unit (see above significant habitats). Deer use the same areas annually, although the precise boundaries of these areas can change over time depending on winter weather and vegetative succession, so some of these areas may not hold deer every winter, and other areas may not have been identified.

Potential Deer Wintering and Spruce Grouse Habitat (See maps in the Appendix)

A GIS model of potential deer wintering habitats based on forest type, elevation, and slope was recently developed for the Adirondack (J. Gagnon and S. McNulty, Adirondack Ecological Center, 2005). The GIS potential deer wintering area habitat model was applied to the FLWF and surrounding areas. Initial results suggest that most of the potential deer wintering habitat lies outside historical area boundaries, primarily on nearby private land. Deer selection of wintering areas is not completely understood. However, the identification of areas of potential wintering habitat in the unit, combined with the recent findings of Hurst (2004), suggest that the current sizes and locations of deer yards within the unit may not reflect historical deer wintering area boundaries delineated by the Department in the 1960s and 1970s. Therefore, planning for the protection of deer wintering areas relative to recreational activities in the unit should consider the dynamic nature of these rather than the static representation of historical boundaries, and seek to update our understanding of wintering areas currently used by deer. The model was developed for the central Adirondacks and may be inaccurate along the periphery of the Park.

In addition to deer wintering habitat, GIS models were also developed for potential spruce grouse habitat (APA/Sun Plattsburg, 2004). Although potential spruce grouse habitat was identified within the FLWF, no spruce grouse have actually been observed within the FLWF based upon BBA data. The spruce grouse model is important not only for this species, but theoretically the whole suite of boreal forest birds and other wildlife that use lowland spruce-fir habitats.

Guidelines for Protection of Deer Wintering Areas

The maintenance and protection of deer wintering areas are important in maintaining deer in the northern portions of their range. Activities which substantially diminish the quality or characteristics of the site should be avoided, but this does not mean human use is always detrimental. Forest stewardship activities (including softwood harvest), pass through trails, and other uses can be compatible with deer yards if they are carefully considered.

The most important characteristic of an Adirondack deer wintering area is the habitat configuration making up a “core” and travel corridors to and from the core. The core is typically an area, or areas, of dense conifer cover used by deer in severe conditions. Travel corridors are dense but narrow components which allow access to food resources in milder conditions. Forest management conditions which afford protection of core sections and avoid fragmenting travel corridors are acceptable in many situations. Certain types of recreation trails, such as ski trails or snowmobile trails, particularly if the traffic is not prone to stopping or off-trail excursions, are not considered to have significant negative impacts on deer yards. These types of trails in or adjacent to deer wintering areas can provide firm, packed surfaces readily used by deer for travel during periods of deep snow. They can, however, also create access for free-roaming dogs if the location is close to human habitation; thus, trails should avoid deer yards in these situations. High levels of snowmobile or cross-country ski use can disturb deer and may cause them to run, placing higher energy demands on deer already stressed by winter. The following are some general guidelines to follow for protecting deer wintering areas.

- Maintain a minimum 100 foot forested buffer on either side of streams to protect winter habitat and travel corridors between core yard components.
- Avoid placement of heavily used ski trails through core segments of deer yards to reduce disturbance associated with skiers stopping to observe deer.

- Trails should not traverse core segments of deer yards in densely populated areas such as hamlets, villages, or along roadsides developed with human habitation because they provide access to free roaming dogs.

VISUAL/SCENIC RESOURCES

The FLWF is a very large, diverse, and interesting unit. Its many streams and scattered lakes are attractive and aesthetically pleasing. The most notable and well known water features are the “potholers” along the East Canada Creek and a series of small waterfalls along Goldmine Stream. There are also sections of several rivers that have been designated in ECL§15-2711 and classified under the APSLMP as wild, scenic or recreational (see below).

Another visually distinguishing characteristic is the unit’s old growth spruce. Old growth spruce stands still exist and can be found along the Powley-Piseco Road, the north side of Alderbed Stream, around Blind Man’s Vly, and on the slopes of Big and Little Alderbed Mountains. These “forest giants” are truly a spectacular sight.

Other special interest areas include the cliffs on Good Luck Mountain, Rooster Hill, and Panther Mountain. These cliffs provide excellent vistas with panoramic views of rolling hills dotted with lakes, ponds, swamps and vlys. The greatest period of aesthetic delight is probably during the fall coloration period, when the red maple blaze contrasts the drabness of the spruce and hemlock. The vista atop Tomany Mountain is no longer available since the removal of the fire tower.

TRAVEL CORRIDORS

Several sections of highway that pass through the unit are classified as travel corridors. A travel corridor is defined by the APSLMP as “that strip of land constituting the roadbed and right-of-way for state and interstate highways in the Adirondack Park...and those state lands immediately adjacent to and visible from these facilities.”

The importance of major travel corridors to the character of a unit cannot be over-emphasized. The lands adjacent to these highways are most visible to the traveling public and often have an impact on the public’s attitude and feelings toward a specific area. The following sections of state highway are classified as travel corridors and will be managed consistent with their classification:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Terminal</u>	<u>Approx. Mileage</u>
8	Southwest Park Boundary to unit boundary near Higgins Bay.	35
10	Southern Park Boundary to Route 8.	27
29A	Southwest Park Boundary to the Route 10 split near Caroga Lake.	13 (a)

(a) includes 4.50 miles dually designated as Route 10.

WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

Several sections of river that flow through the unit are classified under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act (ECL Article 15, Title 27). The following sections are classified and will be managed consistent with their classification:

Wild Rivers

South Branch of West Canada Creek - approximately 3 miles of river from the West Canada Lake Wilderness boundary located just south of the confluence with Beaudry Brook to a footbridge crossing located approximately one mile up stream of The Floe (ECL §15-2714(1)(g)).

Scenic Rivers

East Canada Creek - approximately 20.9 miles of river from Powley Place to a point at which the creek intersects the Adirondack Park boundary near Sprite Creek at the southwest corner of lot 45, town of Oppenheim, Lott and Low's Patent (ECL §15-2714(2)(i)).

Recreational Rivers

South Branch of West Canada Creek - approximately 9.7 miles of river from the footbridge crossing one mile upstream of The Floe to the confluence with the Main Branch of West Canada Creek (ECL §15-2714(3)(bb)).

West Branch of the Sacandaga River - approximately 1.5 miles of river from the Silver Lake Wilderness boundary near the most downstream Route 10 bridge crossing to the most upstream Route 10 bridge crossing near Good Luck Lake (ECL §15-2714(3)(w)).

Pursuant to 6 NYCRR §666.6(f), upon the designation of a river in this system and until final boundaries are established, the provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 666 (the regulations implementing the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers program) are applicable within one-half mile of each bank of the river. None of these rivers are known to have a current use which is in conflict with either the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act (ECL Article 15, Title 27) or the implementing regulations.

III. MAN-MADE FACILITIES AND PUBLIC USE

The FLWF receives relatively little use when compared to some other areas of the Adirondack Park. The existing trail network is telltale evidence of past logging activity and land use patterns in the area. Remnant old haul roads now serve as multiple-use trails that provide interior access to many different user groups. The following is a facilities inventory list for the unit.

Non-conforming Facilities Inventory (excepting occupancies) - The following is a list of known non-conforming facilities in the FLWF: Old buildings and building remains at Hillabrandt Vly and Tamarack Vly, scheduled for removal. G-Lake road dump, scheduled for removal. Some primitive tent sites are non-conforming due to APSLMP 1/4 mile spacing guidelines. Fort Noble Trail steel suspension bridge remains. The launch site at West Lake is not listed as one of the waters eligible for a boat launching site in the APSLMP; however, the launch did exist prior to the Master Plan's adoption in 1972.

TRAILS AND ROADS **MOTOR VEHICLE ROADS**

The following road information was collected from regional DEC staff and various other sources. It was compiled solely for the development of this plan and is not intended to establish the benchmark mileage open in 1972 under the APSLMP. These roads are currently being used by motor vehicles and many are being used illegally by ATVs. Any road not appearing on the list below is closed to the public for motor vehicle travel. See the Proposed Management Actions section for the specific type of motor vehicle use allowed on each of the roads listed below.

Roads with Motor Vehicle Use in the FLWF

Road Name	Description	Currently Open to Public Motor Vehicle Use	Used for Private Motor Vehicle Use	Mileage on Forest Preserve
Mountain Home Road Extension	End of Mountain Home Road to Pine Lake Property.	X	X	2.5
Ferris Lake Road	Powley-Piseco Road to private inholding on Ferris Lake.	X	X	0.4
California Road	State land boundary east of California Clearing to private lands.	X	X	3.0
Gore Road ¹	Portion of road crossing state land from Brayhouse Gore to private land in Lot 88.		X	0.5
Brayhouse Road ¹	Portion of road crossing corner of state land in Brayhouse Gore.		X	0.1
Mounts Creek Road ¹	Portion of road crossing corner of state land in Lot 53.		X	0.3
Partridge Lane	Portion of road crossing state land off Teacup St.	X	X	0.15

Roads with Motor Vehicle Use in the FLWF

Cranberry-Mud Lake Road ²	Billy Hamlin Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet. (Includes Utica Water parcel)	X		5.0
Rotasch Road ¹	State land boundary to private property at Thayer Access Road.		X	1.7
North Branch Lake Road ¹	Road across state land to private land on North Branch Lake.		X	0.4
Pipe Line Road	Stewart Landing to private boundary.	X	X	0.3
Thayer Access Road ¹	Portion of road crossing state land, south of Atwood Lake.		X	0.1

TOTALS 11.35 9.45 14.45

¹ These roads (total distance of 3.1 miles) are not accessible for motor vehicle use by the public and can only be accessed by crossing over private lands. The legal status of the roads in the table which are used for private motor vehicle use but are not open to public motor vehicle use has not yet been determined.

² In 1972, 1.25 miles of the Cranberry-Mud Lake Road were on City of Utica Water Department property and 3.75 miles were on Forest Preserve. The City of Utica Water parcel was acquired in 1988 and both sections remained open.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

The FLWF offers many opportunities for snowmobiling. The following snowmobile trail data was collected from various sources in 2000. The mileage figures shown are for portions of designated trail located on State land and the total trail length. Trails that use seasonal highways (i.e. Powley-Piseco Road) or parts thereof are not included in the data. The represented mileages are approximate.

Snowmobile Trails in the FLWF

Trail Name	Description	Class ¹	Groomed ² Y/N	Ave. Width (ft)	Miles State/Tot
Mounts Creek Trail	Bull Hill Road access - trail heads northeast crossing between private and state lands, past Mounts Creek Lake to Hamilton County line.	Corridor (C4 & C4C)	Y	8	3.2/4.5
Hurrell Vly Trail	Northern portion of Mounts Creek Trail. French Road access - trail heads southwest past Bochen Lake outlet and Hurrell Vly to Herkimer County line.	Corridor (C4C)	Y	8	5.9/6.2

Snowmobile Trails in the FLWF

Trail Name	Description	Class ¹	Groomed ² Y/N	Ave. Width (ft)	Miles State/Tot
Fourmile Brook Trail	French Road access - trail heads north to Parker Vly trail.	Corridor (C4C)	Y	8	0.6/1.0
Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail	Jerseyfield Road access - trail heads northwest past Mud Lake and Cranberry Lake to Billy Hamlin Road.	Corridor (C4)	Y	varies*	6.2/6.3
* The section of trail from Jerseyfield Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet is <8' wide, the section of trail from Jerseyfield Lake Outlet to Billy Hamlin Road is an open motor vehicle road which is >8' wide.					
Big Alderbed Trail	Powley-Piseco Road access - trail heads northwest to Big Alderbed Lake.	Local	N	<8	2.6/2.6
SwitchBack Trail (Jerseyfield Rail Bed)	Jerseyfield Road access - trail heads southeast following old railroad grade near Trammel Creek to Park "blue-line".	Secondary (S45)	Y	<8	5.8/6.7
Murphy Brook Trail	James Road access - trail heads southwest to Park "blue- line"and joins Jerseyfield Railroad Bed outside Park.	Local	N	<8	0.8/0.8
Sheriff Lake Trail	Powley-Piseco Rd. access - trail heads north over state and private lands passing Sheriff Lake to Jones Lake Trail.	Local	Y	<8	0.9/3.0
Meco Lake Trail	Powley-Piseco Rd. access - trail heads northwest past Meco Lake to Sheriff Lake Trail.	Local	Y	<8	1.4/1.6
Wagoners Loop	Powley-Piseco Rd. access - trail heads southwest to Clockmill Corners Trail.	Secondary (S81)	Y	<8	6.1/6.1
Clockmill Corners Trail	Powley-Piseco Rd. access - trail heads southeast passing Kennels Pond to Avery's Hotel.	Corridor (C8)	Y	<8	3.4/4.7

Snowmobile Trails in the FLWF

Trail Name	Description	Class ¹	Groomed ² Y/N	Ave. Width (ft)	Miles State/Tot
Seeley Trail	Avery's Hotel access - trail heads south paralleling NY 10 to Dexter Lake Trail.	Corridor (C8)	Y	<8	4.1/4.1
Jockeybush Lake Trail	NY 10 access - trail heads northwest to Jockeybush Lake.	Local	N	<8	1.2/1.2
Phantom Trail	NY 8 access (Nobleboro) - trail heads east paralleling NY 8 to Jones Road then connects to Parker Vly Trail.	Secondary (S46A)	Y	<8	1.5/1.6
Parker Vly Trail	Jones Road access - trail heads east paralleling NY 8 crossing French Road and NY 8 then connects to Alderbrook Trail.	Corridor (C4)	Y	<8	3.3/7.9
Alderbrook Trail	NY 8 access - trail heads east paralleling NY 8 to Piseco Lake.	Corridor (C4 & C4A)	Y	<8	5.2/7.3
Bear Path Spur	Alderbrook Trail access - trails heads south to Bear Path Inn.	Local	Y	8	0.1/0.1
Jones Lake Trail	Alderbrook Trail access - trail heads south across NY 8 past Jones Lake to Piseco Lake.	Corridor (C4)	Y	8	2.9/4.7
Edick Road Extension Trail	Trail heads northeast from end of Edick Road to Powley-Piseco Road.	Corridor (C8A)	Y	<8	1.8/1.8
Hawes Road Extension Trail	Trail heads northwest from end of Hawes Road to Edick Road.	Corridor (C8A)	Y	>8	0.4/0.4
Hawes Road Crossover Trail	Hawes Road access - trail heads east crossing the Powley-Piseco and Seeley Road to Dexter Lake Trail.	Corridor (C8A)	Y	8	0.8/2.9

Snowmobile Trails in the FLWF

Trail Name	Description	Class ¹	Groomed ² Y/N	Ave. Width (ft)	Miles State/Tot
Dexter Lake Trail (NY 10 to Potters Homestead)	Hall Road access - trail heads northeast passing Dexter and Dry Lakes to NY 10.	Secondary (S81 & S83)	Y	8	7.0/7.0
Waters Millpond Trail	Hall Road access - trail heads northeast over private and state lands passing Waters Millpond to Dexter Lake Trail.	Corridor (C8A)/ Local	Y	<8	2.5/2.9
Avery Road Trail	Avery Road access - trail heads northeast to Waters Millpond Trail.	Local	?	<8	2.5/2.5
Marina Trail (also known as West Lake Trail)	NY 29A access - trail heads south to West Lake Boat Launch.	Secondary (S82)	Y	8	1.5/1.5
Burnt Vly Trail	NY 29A access - trail heads north passing Third, Fourth and Spectacle Lakes to Dexter Lake Trail.	Local/ Secondary (S82)/ Corridor (C8)	Y	<8	6.5/6.5
Long Lake Trail	NY 29A access - trail heads north passing Long Lake to Burnt Vly Trail.	Local/ Corridor (C8 & C8A)	Y	8	4.5/4.5
East Shore Road Spur	East Shore Road access - trail heads northeast to Long Lake Trail.	Corridor (C8 & C8A)	Y	8	0.3/0.3
Ayers Lake Trail	Trail heads southeast from Avery Road Trail past Ayers Lake to Long Lake Trail.	Local/ Corridor (C8A)	Y	8	0.8/1.6
Long Lake Crossover	Trail heads east from Long Lake Trail to Burnt Vly Trail.	Corridor (C8)/ Secondary (S82)	Y	8	0.7/0.7
Nine Corner Lake Trail	NY 29A access - trail heads northwest to Nine Corner Lake then on to Burnt Vly Trail.	Secondary (S82)	Y	8	3.0/3.0

Snowmobile Trails in the FLWF

Trail Name	Description	Class ¹	Groomed ² Y/N	Ave. Width (ft)	Miles State/Tot
Spectacle Lake Trail	Trail heads southwest from West Stoner Lake Trail near Good Luck Lake to Spectacle Lake.	Secondary (S82B)	Y	8	1.0/1.0
West Stoner Lake Trail	North Shore Road access - trail heads north past Good Luck Lake to Dexter Lake Trail.	Local/Corridor (C8)	Y	8	2.4/2.4
Arietta Inn Trail	Arietta Inn access - trail heads southwest to West Stoner Lake Trail.	Local	Y	8	1.4/1.4
Third Lake Trail	Trail heads southwest from West Stoner Lake Trail past Third and Fourth Lakes to Burnt Vly Trail.	Corridor (C8)	Y	8	2.4/2.4
Route 10 Spur	NY 10 access - trail heads west to Third Lake Trail.	Local	N	<8	0.2/0.2
East Canada Trail	Hawes Road access - trail heads south to Dugway Road.	Corridor (C4A)	Y	8	0.5/1.5
Stewart Landing Trail	NY 29A access - trail heads south to Stewart Landing Road.	Corridor (C8 & C8A)	Y	8	4.0/4.0
Pleasant Lake Trail	NY 29A access - trail heads south to join Stewart Landing Trail.	Local	N	8	1.8/1.8
Pleasant Lake Inn Trail	Pleasant Lake Inn access - trail heads east paralleling NY 29A to Stewart Landing Trail.	Corridor (C8 & C8A)	Y	8	0.3/0.3
Crystal Lake Trail	Stewart Landing Road access - trail heads south to County Route 119 near Crystal Lake.	Corridor (C8 & C8A)	Y	8	2.9/3.0
Morey Road	Morey Road access - trail heads west to Crystal Lake Trail.	Corridor (C8)	Y	8	4.7/5.3

Snowmobile Trails in the FLWF

Trail Name	Description	Class ¹	Groomed ² Y/N	Ave. Width (ft)	Miles State/Tot
East Road Trail	East Road access - trail heads northeast to Glasgow Mills.	Local	Y	8	1.4/1.5
Glasgow Trail	Glasgow Road access - trail heads west past Glasgow Mills and Hillabrandt Vly to join Crystal Lake Trail.	Local	Y	8	4.6/4.6
Dingman Hill Trail	County Route 119 access - trail heads northeast to East Road Trail.	Local	N	8	2.6/2.6
			State Mileage	Total Mileage	
			117.7	138.0	

¹ corridor and secondary trails are designated by OPRHP.

² as indicated by adopt-a-natural resource agreements or field observations. All snowmobile trails, with the exception of the Cranberry-Mud Lake Road, are groomed with a snowmobile pulling a small drag. The Cranberry-Mud Lake Road (DEC Open Motor Vehicle Road), from Billy Hamlin Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet, is groomed with a large track groomer.

Note: State/Tot represents the portion of the trail over FLWF or total mileage over State and private lands.

FOOT TRAILS

There are many different hiking opportunities within the unit, but very few designated foot trails. There is an extensive network of unmarked footpaths and hunting and fishing trails which, by simply clearing, signing, and marking would become more accessible for hikers. The need for more designated foot trails and trail loops is acknowledged.

Class I Unmarked Trails (no mileages are given due to the trails' undefined nature)

- House Pond Trail
- Potholers Trail
- Mud Pond Trail
- Sand Lake Trail
- Christian Lake Trail
- Clockmill Pond Trail
- Tomany Mountain Trail
- Stony Brook Lake Trail
- DeBraine Lake-Trout Lake Trail

Class II Path

- G Lake Trail - approx. 0.5 miles
- South Branch Trail - approx. 2.7 miles
- Fort Noble Trail - approx 0.6 miles

Class III Primitive Trail

- Goldmine Stream Trail - approx. 1.3 miles
- Good Luck Cliffs Trail - approx. 1.0 miles

Class V Primary Trails

Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff Trail - approx 0.8 miles

NORDIC SKI TRAILS

Currently there is one officially designated ski trail within the unit although plenty of skiing opportunities do exist on the existing snowmobile trail network. Some of the more popular snowmobile trails that are skied have been marked by snowmobile clubs or private individuals.

Class VIII Ski Trails

Broomstick Lake Trail - approx. 0.7 miles

There are also a few miles of old ski trail in the southeast corner of the unit, near Royal Mountain. The trails are not well marked or maintained and the exact mileage is unknown. Access can be gained from the Glasgow Road.

HORSE TRAILS

There are currently no designated horse trails, though horse riding is permitted anywhere on State lands, with the exception of designated foot trails and snowmobile trails when covered with ice or snow, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §190.8(n).

ALL-TERRAIN BICYCLE TRAILS

There are currently no designated all-terrain bicycle (mountain bike) trails, though the operation of bicycles is permitted on all roads and trails within the unit unless posted as closed to such use (6 NYCRR §196.7(e)).

OTHER FACILITIES

TRAILHEAD PARKING AREAS (13 total)

Glasgow Road - unpaved, end of town road, can accommodate 4 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff - unpaved, CO ROW, can 5 accommodate vehicles, maintained during winter.
Nine Corner Lake Trail - paved, DOT ROW, can accommodate 10 vehicles, maintained during winter.
G Lake - unpaved, end of town road, can accommodate 4 vehicles, not maintained during winter.
Stewarts Landing - unpaved, along town road, can accommodate 5 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Marina Trial or West Lake Trail - paved, DOT ROW, can accommodate 10 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Broomstick Lake - unpaved, can accommodate 3 vehicles, not maintained during winter.
Good Luck Lake - paved, DOT ROW, can accommodate 5-7 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Jockeybush Lake - paved, DOT ROW, can accommodate 5 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Burnt Vly Trail - paved, DOT ROW, can accommodate 5-7 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail - unpaved, along town road, can accommodate 3 vehicles, not maintained during winter.
Powley-Piseco Road - unpaved, along town road, can accommodate 5 vehicles, maintained during winter.
Rt.10, Arietta/Wagoners Loop - paved, DOT ROW, can accommodate 5 vehicles, maintained during winter.

FISHING AND WATERWAY ACCESS SITES (1 total)

Big Bay - unpaved, along east side of NYS 10 (DOT ROW), can accommodate 5-7 vehicles, not maintained during winter.

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES (1 total)

West Lake - paved boat ramp with unpaved parking along town road, 5-7 vehicles w/trailers, maintained during winter.

BOAT DOCKS (1 total)

Stoner Island, Canada Lake

3'x24' (2 sections 3'x12' ea.)- treated deck and 2x6 stringers

DESIGNATED PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES (97 total)

West Lake (1)

Sand Lake (1)

Spy Lake (1)

Mud Lake (1)

East Canada Creek - north of potholers (1)

Piseco Lake - Irondequoit Bay (1)

Long Lake (2)

Broomstick Lake (2)

Third Lake (2)

Lily Lake (4)

Edick Road (2)

Waters Millpond (2)

Jerseyfield Road (2)

Big Bay (3)

Jockeybush Lake (3)

Stewart Landing Road (4)

Spectacle Lake (5)

G Lake (4)

G Lake Road (5)

Mountain Home Road Extension (6)

Good Luck Lake (13)

Nine Corner Lake (10)

Powley-Piseco Road - northern district (12)

Powley-Piseco Road - southern district (10)

REGISTRATION BOOTHS (10 total)¹ small kiosk w/map

Jockeybush Lake Trail

Hurrell Vly Trail¹

Bearpath-Trunk Trail

Nine Corner Lake

Good Luck Lake/Cliffs

Third Lake

Long Lake

West Lake Boat Launch

South Branch Trail

Clockmill Corners Trail¹ (Indian Grounds - juncture of Clockmill Corners Trail and Wagoners Loop)**LEAN-TOS**

None

SURPLUS BUILDINGS (2 total)

1 old camp near Hillabrandt Vly (known as the Skakel Camp)

1 illegal camp near Tamarack Vly (camp has been destroyed but debris remains)

The two structures that once stood along Lily Lake have deteriorated to a point where their remains are hard to find and no longer need removal.

BOUNDARY LINES

Approximately 260 miles.

SIGNS

A sign inventory is currently not available.

PIT PRIVIES (2 total)

Nine Corner Lake (1) - burned in 2000

West Lake Boat Launch (1 accessible toilet)

FOOT TRAIL BRIDGES (incomplete data)

Gold Mine Stream Trail

(1) size unknown - split log type

South Branch Trail

(1) size unknown - treated deck and stringers

Fort Noble Trail

(1) size unknown- steel suspension w/planks removed

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL BRIDGES (incomplete data; measurements are length x width)

Nine Corner Lake Trail

- (1) 20'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 34'x8' w/one 12' & one 7' ramp - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 15'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 20'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 240'x4' drytread - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 20'x6' w/two 10' ramps - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 10'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 4'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 18'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 25'x8' - treated deck with pole stringers

Seeley Trail

- (1) 20'x6' w/two 8' ramps - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 8'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 39'x8' w/one 2' & one 4' ramp - rough sawn deck with pole stringers

Glasgow Trail

- (1) 32'x6' w/one 4' & one 8' ramp - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 20'x6' - rough sawn deck with pole stringers; on town road
- (1) 49'x6' w/two 9' ramps - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 25'x6' w/one 16' & one 7' ramp - treated deck with pole stringers

Edick Road

- (1) 14'x6' - treated & rough sawn deck with pole stringers
- (1) 18'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers
- (1) 13'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers

Crystal Lake Trail

- (1) 50'x3' drytread - treated deck and stringers

Stewart Landing Trail

- (1) 9'x7' corduroy - sawn logs
- (1) 4'x4' - rough sawn; pallet type
- (1) 14'x6' - treated deck with pole stringers

Alderbrook Trail

- (1) 16'x8' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 34'x8' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 30'x6' w/one 3' & one 6' ramp - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 8'x6' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (3) 20'x6' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 14'x8' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 22'x8' - rough sawn deck with pole stringers

Hurrell Vly Trail

- (1) 20'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 14'x8' w/one 4' ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 12'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (3) 20'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 30'x8' w/two 8' ramps - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 12'x8' w/one 4' ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 20'x8' w/one 4' & one 3' ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 24'x8' w/one 8' & one 3' ramp - treated deck and stringers

West Stoner Lake Trail

- (1) 4'x6' - rough sawn deck with pole stringers; pallet type
- (1) 25'x6' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 7'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 16'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 6'x6' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 14'x8' w/one 2' ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 20'x8' w/one 4' ramp - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 30'x6' w/one 16' & one 25' ramp - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 10'x6' w/one 16' & one 6' ramp - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 8'x6' - rough sawn deck and pole stringers
- (1) 6'x6' - treated deck and pole stringers

Cranberry-Mud Lake Road

- (1) 50'x6' - treated deck and stringers set on gabions

Clockmill Corners Trail

- (1) 32'x4' drytread - rough sawn deck with pole stringers
- (1) 8'x6' drytread - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 16'x8' w/one 4' ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 83'x4' drytread - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 6'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 43'x4' drytread - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 16'x8' - treated deck and pole stringers
- (1) 7'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (2) 8'x8' - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 20'x8' w/two 8' ramps - treated deck and stringers

- (2) 16'x8' w/two 8' ramps - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 35'x8' w/one 12'ramp - treated deck with poles
- (1) 20'x8' - treated deck and poles
- (1) 10'x8' w/one 6'ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 20'x8' w/one 4' ramp - treated deck and stringers
- (1) 18'x8' - treated deck with poles
- (1) 20'x8' - rough sawn deck with pole stringers; on private land
- (1) 10'x10' - rough sawn deck with pole stringers; on private land

CULVERT PIPES (incomplete data; measurements are length x diameter)

Hurrell Vly Trail

- (2) 10'x15" plastic
- (10) 10'x12" plastic
- (2) 10'x18" plastic
- (1) 10'x18" aluminum

FIRE TOWERS/OBSERVATION PLATFORMS

None. (Note: remnants of an old fire tower still exist on Tomany Mountain.)

DAMS (3 total)

Stewart Landing
 Big Alderbed Pond (remnants of old dam, not maintained)
 Piseco Outlet Dam (private ownership)

STOP BARRIERS

Pipe Gates (18 total)

Hurrell Vly Trail, off French Road
 Nine Corner Lake Trail, north side NY 29A
 Dexter Lake Trail, NY 10 side near Good Luck Lake
 East Shore Road, Pleasant Lake
 Pleasant Lake, south side NY29A
 Glasgow Trail, end of Glasgow Road
 Edick Road Extension (north end), off Powley-Piseco Road
 Edick Road Extension (south end), off Edick Road
 Cranberry-Mud Lake Road, off Billy Hamlin Road
 Morey Road Trail, West Caroga Lake
 East Road Trail, end of East Road
 Stewart Landing, Sprite Creek Bridge
 Dingman Hill Trail - County Highway 119, north side, Ephratah/Stratford Town line
 Clockmill Corners Trail, off Powley-Piseco Road
 Sheriff Lake Trail, off Powley-Piseco Road near Clockmill Corners
 Fayle Road, Morehouseville
 South Branch Trail, off Mountain Home Road Extension
 Mounts Creek Trail

Boulder w/boat access (1 total)

G Lake Road

CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Many places within the FLWF have interesting historical backgrounds. The unique cultural qualities of early settlers along with past land use patterns have helped shape the character of the land we know today. However, documentation of these cultural and historic resources has not been extensive.

The term “cultural resources” encompasses a number of categories of human-created resources including structures, archaeological sites and related resources. The Department is required by the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - PRHPL Article 14) and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA - ECL Article 8) to include such resources in the range of environmental values that are managed on public lands. The Adirondack Forest Preserve was listed as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 1963. This designation also results in automatic listing of the Forest Preserve in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Within the Forest Preserve, the number of standing structures is, in general, limited due to the requirements of the APSLMP. Often those that remain are structures that relate to the Department’s land management activities such as fire towers, ranger cabins and related resources. Fire towers as a class of resources, have been the subject of considerable public interest over the last decade. The majority of surviving fire towers have been found eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places and a number of towers were formally listed in the Registers in 2001. For state agencies, Register listing or eligibility are effectively the same; obligating the Department to treat these resources appropriately and requiring that special procedures be followed should it be necessary to remove or otherwise affect these resources. This formal listing is in addition to the SHPA Memorandum of Agreement relating to fire towers that the Department signed with OPRHP in 1994. This agreement was designed to accommodate the requirements of the APSLMP and the SHPA. No fire towers are present within the FLWF although the site of a former fire tower exists on Tomany Mountain. None of the known structures within the unit meet the criteria for listing in the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

Archaeological sites are, simply put, any location where materials (artifacts, ecofacts) or modifications to the landscape reveal evidence of past human activity. This includes a wide range of resources ranging from pre-contact Native American camps and villages to Euro-american homesteads and industrial sites. Such sites can be entirely subsurface or can contain above ground remains such as foundation walls or earthwork features.

As a part of the inventory effort associated with the development of this plan the Department arranged for the archaeological site inventories maintained by the New York State Museum and OPRHP to be searched in order to identify known archaeological resources that might be located within or near the unit. The two inventories overlap to an extent but do not entirely duplicate one another. The purpose of this effort was to identify any known sites that might be affected by actions proposed within the unit and to assist in understanding and characterizing past human use and occupation of the unit.

The quality of the site inventory information varies a great deal in all respects. Very little systematic archaeological survey has been undertaken in New York State and especially in the Adirondack region. Therefore all current inventories must be considered incomplete. Even fewer sites have been investigated to any degree that would permit their significance to be evaluated. Many reported site locations result from 19th century antiquarian information, artifact collector reports that have not been field verified. Often very little is known about the age, function or size of these sites. This means that reported site locations can be unreliable or be polygons that encompass a large area. Should systematic archaeological inventory be undertaken at some point in the future it is very likely that additional resources will be identified. The results of these site file checks are presented in the following table:

Known Archaeological Resources within or in close proximity to the Ferris Lake Wild Forest

Quadrangle	OPRHP# or NYSM#	Site Name	Description: age, cultural affiliation, etc.
Canada Lake	A035.03.000001 and NYSM 3313	HAA 18-1 FUTN- 3	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known
Canada Lake	A035.03.000003 and NYSM 5626	Point Breeze	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known
Salisbury	A043.14.000005	Abandoned Railroad	Jerseyfield Railroad.
Tomany Mt.	A041.01.000004	Averys Place Inn	No other information provided.
Tomany Mt.	A041.01.000003	Shaker Place Settlement	Early Shaker settlement Modifications: disturbed due to gravel pit No other information provided.
Tomany Mt.	A041.01.000002	Eli Quesnell's Clockmill	Between 1860 and 1880 a Canadian named Eli Quesnell bought 2200 acres with frontage along NY Rt 10. He changed his name to Kennell and erected a sawmill and shingle mill; each operated by water power by separate ponds. He lumbered for years on large-scale. He moved to Gloversville and died in 1900. Construction/ occupation: c.1860-1900
Piseco Lake	NYSM 6110	Little Sand Point	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known Materials found: biface and debitage scattered on erosioal surface.
Piseco Lake	NYSM 7516	No name provided	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known One of two locations where are ' a dozen places early relics found'
Piseco Lake	NYSM 7513	No name provided	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known
Piseco Lake	NYSM 7518	No name provided	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known - possible petroglyph.
Piseco Lake	NYSM 3407	No name provided	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known
Caroga Lake	A035.03.000004 and NYSM 3312	HAA 19-1	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known
Piseco Lake	NYSM 7514	No name provided	Precontact Site, no age or cultural affiliation known 3 camps on Parker's map. Identified by AC Parker.

OPRHP = Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation NYSM = New York State Museum

The archaeological inventory of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest reflects the known general characteristics of the area's history. A number of precontact Native American sites have been identified in the vicinity of Canada and Piseco Lakes. Euro-american sites within the unit reflect land use prior to state acquisition. These include a number of farmstead sites and the remains of mining and logging operations.

A search of the Natural Heritage Program database has indicated several sites of interest, but detailed information is not available. Other sources have indicated the following sites, which may or may not be duplicative of or related to the above-listed sites:

- **Old Iron Mine:** former iron mining site with remnants of mines and building foundations. The only documented iron mining site in the Southwestern Adirondacks.
- **Wheelerville:** old tannery site with remains of the largest tanning buildings in the Adirondacks.
- **Irwine Monument:** grave and resting place of John Irwine; died 1814.
- **Baby Tiftt Monument:** grave and resting place of George H. Tiftt. Headstone reads: George H. son of Jonathan G. and Caroline M. Tiftt, died Dec. 13 1844 aged 11 days.
- **G Lake Dump:** old dump site along G Lake road.
- **Glasgow Mills:** early 1800's site of an old sawmill and clothespin factory.
- **Nine Corner Lake:** early lumber peeling camp site and dam.
- **Broomstick Lake:** site of the original filming of the *Last of the Mohicans*.
- **Tomany Mountain:** former fire tower location.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND

Section 532A of the Real Property Tax Law provides that “all wild or forest lands owned by the state within the Forest Preserve” are subject to taxation for all purposes. If the land were privately held and “improved,” property taxes on this land would increase, adding to the tax base. However, unimproved State land does not generate the public service demands (e.g. public schools, water and sewer, and road maintenance) that improved private land does.

The New York Office of Real Property (formerly Equalization and Assessment) has provided the following projected tax liability on taxable State land within the townships of this unit for 2004. Please note that the data shows the total amount of taxes paid by the State in each of these townships. Since some of the land of these towns is located outside of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest in adjacent Forest Preserve units, the taxes in the table include some taxes paid on Forest Preserve lands which are not within the Ferris Lake Wild Forest.

FLWF Projected Tax Liability for 2004						
	Herkimer County		Hamilton County		Fulton County	
Town of:	Salisbury	\$373,802	Morehouse	\$1,298,881	Caroga	\$565,085
	Ohio	\$1,791,737	Arietta	\$3,045,957	Stratford	\$652,607
					Oppenheim	\$36,721
					Ephratah	\$32,599
	Totals:	\$2,165,539		\$4,344,838		\$1,287,012
						Grand Total: \$7,797,389

Adjacent public lands include the Black River Wild Forest and West Canada Lake Wilderness Area to the north, and the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest and Silver Lake Wilderness Area to the east. The Hamlets of Stratford and Caroga Lake lie on the perimeter of the FLWF and their economy depends, to some extent, on these undeveloped lands. The importance of snowmobiling, cross country skiing, hiking, fishing, and big and small game hunting should not be overlooked in this area. Many individuals from outside the region use these State lands for these activities and contribute to the economy through local purchases as well as sales and property taxes paid. If not for the presence of Forest Preserve lands, the areas attractiveness to vacationers and camp owners would likely be significantly diminished.

Private holdings generally produce a slight economic impact on adjacent State lands. Boundary line painting and/or signing and law enforcement costs to combat trespasses which originate on private lands and access trails are necessary. Also, in some instances, public easements are desirable to secure access across private lands to certain waters. The trails leading to Long Lake (MH-P 823), Spy Lake, Rock Lake, Black Cat Lake and others may involve crossing private land. Access to Spy Lake, a water largely in the Silver Lake Wilderness Area, is very limited. Although these types of impacts are basically true for all State lands, they are especially relevant when applied to this large, irregularly shaped unit with its numerous inholdings.

PUBLIC USE OF LAND UNIT

The attractiveness of this unit lies in its numerous ponds, lakes and streams which attract fishermen throughout the season. It is also popular with big game hunters and many of the ponds and lakes are connected by an extensive snowmobile trail system following old haul roads. While there are few “official” hiking trails these old haul roads make easy walking routes and good cross country ski trails.

The Powley-Piseco Road is an old Adirondack dirt road that cuts through the approximate center of the unit. This road provides the public with motor vehicle access through otherwise practically unbroken forest, quite comparable to some wilderness areas. Many motorists take advantage of the attractive drive and camping opportunities along this old winding dirt road.

Land Resource

The amount of public use within the unit can best be estimated by trail register reports and permit statistics. Overall use is not known partly because many of the entry points do not have register boxes. The available trailhead register figures must be considered to be on the low side due to failure of users to take the time to register; this is especially true for snowmobilers, trappers and day users. These figures should be used as a general indicator of the amount of public use on the unit and also serve as a guide to the locations of areas of high impact. The most up-to-date interior trail register reports indicate the following visitor use information:

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Register Data 2001 - 2004

Register	2001	2001	2002	2002	2003	2004
	Entries	People	Entries	People	People	People
Good Luck Lake/Cliffs	921	2600	752	1971	1733	2065
Nine Corner Lake	1036*	2942*	1223	3404	3200	3685
Third Lake	249	824	143	433	-	-
Burnt Vly ¹	251	658	149	310	330	280
West Lake Boat	389	998	340	870	-	-
Jockeybush Lake	92*	179*	272	725	932*	799
Hurrell Vly	207	647	127	329	283	368
Bearpath-Trunk	565	1630	202	506	987	1048
Clockmill Corners	257	794	59*	171*	576	582

* missing some register sheets

¹ formerly the Long Lake register

An assessment of the available figures indicates that the highest use in the unit occurs from the Nine Corner Lake trailhead, which has an average of approximately 3,430 people/yr. The Good Luck Lake/Cliffs trailhead comes in second with an average of approximately 2,092 people/yr, while the Bearpath-Trunk finishes in third with approximately 1043 people/yr. The remaining trailheads are listed in descending order by use: West Lake Boat Launch approximately 934 people/yr, Jockeybush Lake approximately 762 people/yr, Clockmill Corners approximately 651 people/yr, Third Lake approximately 629 people/yr, Hurrell Vly approximately 407 people/yr, and Burnt Vly approximately 395 people/yr. It should also be noted that the restoration and development of the West Lake Boat Launch has resulted in a noticeable increase in the amount of boat use on Sawdust Creek, West Lake, Canada Lake, and Lily Lake.

Camping permits are required for groups of ten or more and for groups of any size staying three or more nights in the same location. Most people who camp in the unit only stay for one or two nights, thus the camping permits issued do not reflect the total camper usage. Most of the permits issued are for either small groups or hunting camps during the big game season. Available camping permits indicate the following group size and length of stay information:

Group Size and Length of Stay from Camping Permits in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest

Time Period	Group Size	Length of Stay (days)	Maximum Group Size
1/1/01 to 12/31/01	< 10: 3 > 19: 1 Total: 4	3 to 7: 2 8 to 14: 1 > 21: 1	27
1/1/02 to 12/31/02	< 10: 6 10 to 14: 1 Total: 7	3 to 7: 1 8 to 14: 2 >21: 4	11
1/1/03 to 12/31/03	< 10: 15 10 to 14: 7 > 19: 1 Total: 23	< 3: 5 3 to 7: 5 8 to 14: 4 > 21: 9	22
1/1/04 to 12/31/04	< 10: 15 10 to 14: 6 Total: 21	< 3: 6 3 to 7: 4 8 to 14: 5 > 21: 6	12

The permit data indicates that the highest use is concentrated around the Powley-Piseco Road and Good Luck Lake area. On average about ten permits are issued annually for the big game hunting season. Permits are also sometimes issued for large family reunions near Powley Place along the Powley-Piseco Road.

Wildlife Resource

Big and small game hunting and trapping use estimates are currently not available for the unit. However, it is known that big game hunting is among the more popular sports in the unit during the fall season. To protect wildlife populations and prevent over-harvesting, hunting and trapping regulations are set by DEC. The Bureau of Wildlife monitors the populations of game species by collecting, compiling, and analyzing annual harvest data. Harvest data is available for big game (deer and bear) and selected small game and furbearer species. This information is currently compiled by township, county, and Wildlife Management Unit (WMU).

A majority of the big game hunting use occurs along the Powley-Piseco and Jerseyfield Roads. These two areas are popular because they: (1) provide good roadside and trail access to relatively large unbroken tracts of land; (2) have drive-to campsites; (3) contain a number of seasonal hunting camps on private lands.

The FLWF occurs within WMU's 5H and 5J. Consult the appropriate [NYS Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide](#) for season dates and bag limits. See Appendix D for harvest data by township for selected species.

Fisheries Resource

Quantitative angler use estimates for the Ferris Lake Wild Forest are not currently available. However, it is known that fishing ranks as a popular activity in the few remaining brook trout ponds. Fishing is also a very popular activity in West Caroga Lake and Piseco Lake. Fishing activity would undoubtedly be far greater if not for the high incidence of acid impacted waters in the unit. The scope of stream fishing activity is not known, but is thought to be rather light with the exception of East and West Canada Creeks and the South Branch of the West Canada.

In ponds where trout and other coldwater fish are the primary game species, fishing begins around April 1 when the trout season opens, and peaks in May when trout can still be found in the cool water near the surface of the ponds. Fishing activity declines from late spring through the summer due to formation of a thermocline which causes fish to move to deeper water.

The decline of fishing activity which occurs as the summer progresses coincides with an increase in pond use by hikers and campers. Angling on brook trout ponds ceases altogether after the trout season closes on October 15. Warmwater angling on Canada Lake, Lily Lake, and Piseco Lake peaks in July-August. Ice fishing is a popular activity in Piseco Lake, West Caroga Lake, Rock Lake, Canada Lake, Waters Mill Pond, Spectacle Lake, Spy Lake and Dexter Lake. These waters provide fishing opportunities for warm water species including yellow perch, pumpkinseeds and pickerel. Piseco Lake offers ice fishing for lake trout and whitefish. Special regulations are in effect for Canada Lake which allow ice fishing for brown trout and lake trout, while West Caroga Lake offers good ice fishing for splake and smelt as well as some whitefish.

CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE

The New York State Constitution, the APSLMP and other laws, regulations and policies provide general direction for the management of the FLWF by specifically prohibiting certain structures, improvements and uses and establishing general goals and guidelines for protecting natural resources and managing the types of facilities and uses that are permitted. The managers of the FLWF must apply these general guidelines and determine through the UMP process which structures and improvements will be constructed, retained or removed within the unit, and how much impact to the unit's natural resources and recreational environment will be tolerated.

The capacity of the FLWF to withstand public recreational use and other types of human influence is not a quality inherent in the unit that may be determined simply through an objective assessment of its physical and biological features and recreational conditions. While the levels of various types of impacts can be measured, the levels that are acceptable within the unit generally or at particular locations within it can only be determined through the development of goals and objectives reflecting desired conditions. This process should include the consideration of the management guidelines for wild forest areas and the natural resource and recreational characteristics of the unit in the landscape contexts of New York State and the Adirondack Park, and should be shaped by public participation in the planning process. The LAC process should be applied to specific issues for which the establishment of measurable standards is considered necessary to refine the application of management objectives.

Physical inspections of trails and campsites in the unit coupled with Ranger and user feedback provide the following baseline information about public use and related resource impacts:

- Summer weekends and holidays see the greatest number of users. The summer holiday weekends see use levels in some portions of the unit that may reduce the level of solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation that might be acceptable in a wild forest setting. However, on the majority of non-holiday periods the level of use in the FLWF remains such that wild forest solitude can easily be experienced.
- The majority of primitive tent sites in the unit appear to be long established. Most appear to be fairly well self contained, however several camping sites tend to be clustered where there is easy motor vehicle access.
- Recreational angling in the FLWF appears to be light and fishery inventories indicate that existing State fishing regulations are adequately protecting the fishery resource. Fishery managers are proposing management action which will maintain native populations, and possibly reintroduce

native endangered species where appropriate and consistent with Department policy and the APSLMP guidelines.

- Likewise, hunting pressure in the unit appears stable. Hunting is not expected to impact overall numbers of any species population. Management action has been taken to protect critical habitats and species that are of special concern, with the result that populations remain stable. Should protected species exhibit a significant decline in numbers appropriate action will be taken consistent with Department policies and APSLMP guidelines.

Carrying Capacity Concepts

The FLWF cannot withstand ever-increasing, unlimited visitor use levels without suffering the eventual loss of wild forest character. The challenge for managers is to determine how much use and what type of use the area, or particular sites within it, can withstand before the impacts of use cause serious degradation of the wild forest resource. A manager's most important responsibility is to work to ensure that a natural area's "carrying capacity" is not exceeded while providing for visitor use and benefit.

The term carrying capacity has its roots in range and wildlife sciences. As defined in the range sciences, carrying capacity means "the maximum number of animals that can be grazed on a land unit for a specific period of time without inducing damage to the vegetation or related resources" (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, 2000). This concept, in decades past, was modified to address recreational uses as well, although in its application to recreational use it has been shown to be significantly flawed when the outcome sought has been the maximum number of people who should be allowed to visit an area such as the FLWF. Much research had shown that the derivation of such a number is not useful, because the relationship between the amount of use and the resultant amount of impact is not linear (Krumpe and Stokes, 1993). For many types of activities, low levels of use can cause observable impacts. For example, in sensitive areas the elimination of ground vegetation at a campsite can become significant after only a few camping parties have occupied it. Once moderate use levels have removed nearly all the vegetation, large increases in use cause relatively little additional impact. It has been discovered that such factors as visitor behavior, site resistance and resiliency and type of use may actually be more important in determining the degree of impact than the amount of use, although the total amount of use contributes to a significant extent (Hammit and Cole, 1987).

The shortcomings of a simple carrying capacity approach have become so apparent that the basic question has changed from the old one, "How many is too many?" to the new, more realistic one: "How much change is acceptable?" Because of the complex relationship between use and use impacts, the manager's job is much more involved than simply counting, redirecting, or restricting the number of visitors in an area. Professionally-informed judgements must be made so that carrying capacity is defined in terms of acceptable resource and social conditions. These conditions must be compared to real conditions, projections must be made, and management policies and actions must be drafted and enacted to maintain or restore the desired conditions. Influencing visitor behavior can require a well-planned, multi-faceted educational program. Determining site resistance and resiliency always requires research, often involving much time, legwork and experimentation. Shaping the types of use impacting an area can call not only for education, research and development of facilities, but also the formulation and enforcement of a set of regulations which some users are likely to regard as objectionable. The Department embraces this new approach, recognizing the ambitious scope of the work required to adopt it and subsequently implement needed management.

The shift in the focus of managers, from trying to determine how many visitors an area can accommodate to trying to determine what changes are occurring in the area and whether or not they are acceptable, will be more effective in assuring that all areas of the Forest Preserve will, as required by the New York State Constitution, be "forever kept as wild forest lands," and that in the FLWF, the wild character inherent in the APSLMP definition of wild forest will be retained. A central goal of this plan is to lay out a strategy for

achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use in the FLWF. This strategy reflects legal requirements, policy guidelines and established management principles and has directed the development of goals, objectives, and ultimately the management proposals which are detailed in Section V.

The Goal-Achievement Framework

In wild forest areas, the Department is mandated by law to implement actions designed to realize the intent of the wild forest guidelines of the APSLMP. The goal-achievement framework will be used to organize this management plan to direct the process of determining appropriate management actions through the careful development of goals and objectives. Goals are general descriptions of management direction reflecting legal mandates and general conditions to be achieved or maintained in the wild forest area. Once articulated, the goals for the management of the FLWF will shape management objectives, which are statements of more specific conditions whose achievement will be necessary to assure progress toward the attainment of the established goals. Objectives in turn will serve as criteria for deciding what management actions are needed.

General goals proposing a long-term direction for the management of the FLWF are given in Section IV. In each category of management activity included in Section V, the current management situation is assessed and assumptions about future trends and conditions are discussed. Proposed objectives describing conditions to be achieved on the way toward meeting long-term management goals are presented and individual actions to meet the objectives are proposed.

The goal-achievement framework provides an organized approach to planning that is effective in addressing the full range of issues affecting a wild forest area. However, the objectives developed in this approach usually do not identify specific thresholds of unacceptable impact on particular resources or give managers or the public clear guidance as to whether a restrictive management action is warranted in a particular situation. For significant management issues that require the resolution of conflicting goals, that involve activities that have the potential to lead to unacceptable change, and lend themselves to the development of measurable and attainable standards, the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process will be used.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Process

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process employs carrying capacity concepts to prescribe the desired resource and social conditions that should be maintained regardless of use. It does not prescribe the total number of people who can visit an area. Establishing and maintaining acceptable conditions depends on explicit management objectives which draw on managerial experience, research, inventory data, assessments, projections and public input. When devised in this manner, objectives founded in the LAC process dictate how much change will be allowed, as well as how management will respond to change. Indicators - measurable variables that reflect conditions - are chosen and standards, representing the bounds of acceptable conditions, are set, so management efforts can address unacceptable change. A particular standard may be chosen to act as a boundary which allows for management action before conditions deteriorate to the point of unacceptability. The monitoring of resource and social conditions is critical. The LAC process relies on monitoring to provide systematic and periodic feedback to managers concerning specific conditions related to a range of impact sources, from visitor use to the atmospheric deposition of pollutants.

Though the LAC process is ideally suited to solving many management problems, it does not work in every situation. LAC is designed to help managers decide how best to address competing goals where there are concerns about the potential for unacceptable change. For instance, two goals of wild forest management are protecting natural conditions and providing public recreational access. Yet the promotion of recreational use could have unacceptable impacts to natural resources, such as the soils and vegetation in a popular camping area. The LAC process could be used to determine the thresholds of acceptable soil and vegetation impacts and what management actions would be taken to protect resources from camping use. Issues that do not involve potential trade-offs do not lend themselves to LAC treatment. For example, managers do not need a process to help them determine if a boat launching site is acceptable in wild forest. Because existing wild

forest guidelines and regulations explicitly prohibit boat launching sites in wild forest, it is clear that no boat launching sites are acceptable.

The Department will identify all significant management issues affecting the FLWF and prioritize them. Issues suitable for the application of the LAC process will be selected. For these issues, the Department will implement the four major components of the LAC process:

1. The identification of acceptable resource and social conditions represented by measurable indicators;
2. An analysis of the relationship between existing conditions and those desired;
3. Determinations of the management actions needed to achieve and preserve desired conditions; and,
4. A monitoring program to determine whether objectives continue to be met over time.

The process involves 10 steps:

- Step 1: Define Goals and Desired Conditions
- Step 2: Identify Issues, Concerns and Threats
- Step 3: Define and Describe Acceptable Conditions
- Step 4: Select Indicators for Resource and Social Conditions
- Step 5: Inventory Existing Resource and Social Conditions
- Step 6: Specify Standards for Resource and Social Indicators for Each Opportunity Class
- Step 7: Identify Alternative Opportunity Class Allocations
- Step 8: Identify Management Actions for Each Alternative
- Step 9: Evaluate and Select a Preferred Alternative
- Step 10: Implement Actions and Monitor Conditions

Though generally the levels of human impact within the FLWF are relatively low to moderate, a number of management issues could develop within the area that could be addressed by the LAC process. Such issues may be categorized as conflicts between public use and resource protection, conflicts between users, and conflicts between outside influences and the objectives for natural resource or social conditions within the unit. The capacity of the area to withstand use can be divided into three categories for which impact indicators can be chosen:

Physical capacity - May include indicators that measure visitor impacts to physical resources (e.g., soil erosion on trails, campsites and access sites) and changes to environmental conditions (e.g., air and water quality).

Biological capacity - May include indicators that measure visitor impacts to biological resources (e.g., vegetation loss at campsites or waterfront access sites) and changes in the ecosystem (e.g., diversity and distribution of plant and animal species).

Social capacity - May include indicators that measure visitor impacts on other visitors (e.g., conflicts between user groups), the effectiveness of managerial conditions (e.g., noncompliant visitor behavior), and interactions with the area's physical or biological capacity (e.g., the impacts of the sight of significant erosion on trails on the recreational experience of visitors).

The following list gives examples of indicators that could be used in assessing and monitoring conditions in the FLWF.

Physical capacity

- Extent of soil erosion on trails and at campsites

- Extent of air and water quality degradation caused by fossil fuel combustion¹

Biological capacity

- Extent of unvegetated soil in camping areas and riparian areas near lakes and streams
- Diversity and distribution of plant and animal species

Social capacity

- Noise volume and frequency of aircraft overflights¹
- Incidence and volume of late night noise at campsites
- Extent of illegal tree cutting for firewood near campsites
- Number of encounters with large groups on trails

The application of the LAC process will require a substantial commitment of staff time and public involvement. Because each Department office is responsible for several Forest Preserve management units, the full implementation of LAC for each unit will occur over a period of years. It will be important to prioritize the issues within each unit and focus management attention on the most significant issues first. Of the 10 steps of the LAC process, this plan implements steps 1, 2 and 3, which apply to all the resources and conditions of the unit. The application of steps 4, 5 and 6 to selected land resource issues is proposed for the next five years.

Though LAC will not be fully implemented during the five-year scope of this plan, the plan is complete, organized according to the goal-achievement framework. It provides substantial resource inventory information, sets goals founded on law, policy and the characteristics of the area, identifies management issues, and lays out an extensive system of proposed objectives and actions designed to meet management goals. Once it is fully implemented, LAC will provide more detailed guidance to managers and the public in the management of important issues. Ultimately a monitoring system will be put in place, and management actions will be revised and refined over time in response to the results of periodic evaluation to assure that desired conditions will be attained or maintained. LAC will be incorporated into the management of the FLWF as a fully-developed, science-based approach to protecting and managing the area's physical, biological and social resources.

EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION AND RESEARCH

Education, interpretation or research projects on state owned lands require a temporary revocable permit (TRP) pursuant to ECL §9-0105(15), unless the project is carried out by the DEC. Each request or application for such a permit is considered separately giving consideration to the limitations of the area and consistency with the management goals and objectives for the lands involved. Permits will not be issued for any project or purpose that is inconsistent with Article XIV, Section 1, any statute or rules and regulations, or the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan guidelines which are applicable for wilderness or primitive areas. Such permits may be denied, revoked, or suspended by the Department at any time.

Research activities that are occurring in or adjacent to the FLWF include:

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) - The mission of this program is to document invasive plant distributions and to advance measures to protect and restore native ecosystems in the Park through partnerships with Adirondack residents and institutions. Partner organizations operating under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Park Agency, Department of Transportation, and Invasive Plant

¹Though LAC could be useful in addressing this issue, it is beyond the scope of a UMP.

Council of NYS. The APIPP summarizes known distributions of invasive plants in the Adirondack Park and provides this information to residents and professionals alike.

USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis Program - This program is the Nation's forest census. It reports on status and trends in forest area and location; in the species, size, and health of trees; in total tree growth, mortality, and removals by harvest (private land); in wood production and utilization rates by various products; and in forest land ownership. The program includes information relating to tree crown condition, lichen community composition, soils, ozone indicator plants, complete vegetative diversity, and coarse woody debris. Additional information on the program can be found at <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>.

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Water Quality Monitoring Program - The purpose of this program is to collect water quality data over a long period of time and keep a watchful eye out for any changes. This is often referred to as baseline data collection. The program takes into account chemical, physical and biological parameters of select lakes in Hamilton County. The core parameters sampled include: water transparency, pH, alkalinity, total phosphorous, nitrates, temperature, dissolved oxygen, aluminum, calcium, conductivity, and chlorophyll *a*. Three waters monitored in this program are located within the boundaries of the FLWF. These waters include Piseco Lake, Spy Lake and Morehouse Lake. Additional information on the program can be found at <http://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com>.

Adirondack Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) Program - Since 1992 the Adirondack LTM Program managed by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) has been sampling water chemistry in 52 lakes across the Park on a monthly basis. Two of these waters are located directly within the boundaries of the FLWF. These waters include Jockybush Lake and G Lake. Annual summaries of the 22 chemical parameters collected are downloadable from the ALSC website at <http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org>.

EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Easements and rights-of-way (ROWs) provide a means of access to property. An easement is a right or ownership interest in the land owned by another person, granting the use of the land for a particular purpose only and does not grant the right to possess or control the land. Within the unit the following types of easements exist:

Conservation Easements

Lots 87, 88, 93, 94 & 99, Arthurboro Patent

DEC currently owns a Conservation Easement on the development and timber rights of Lots 87, 88, 93, 94, and 99 of the Arthurboro Patent, also known as the Vaccaro property. The deed description and agreements are recorded in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office, Book 206 of Deeds, Pages 691-711. Note: the general public has no right to access this property.

International Paper Company/Lyme Easement - Future Acquisition (Oxbow Tract, Town of Arietta)

As a part of a large acquisition project between IP and DEC, a portion of private land in the vicinity of Shaker Place will be subject to a Conservation Easement. The Department will propose to construct a waterway access site and parking area at Shaker Place to allow for non-motorized public access to the West Branch of the Sacandaga River. While the scale and timing of this proposal is still being decided, it was important to identify this future easement. Future public recreational use will be determined by the Interim and future Recreation Management Plan to be developed in cooperation with the landowner.

Administrative Easements

Lots 87, 88, 93, 94 & 99, Arthurboro Patent

DEC has administrative access over Lots 87, 88, 93, 94, and 99 of the Arthurboro Patent to inspect and/or enforce the conservation easements.

In addition, the Department has administrative access over private lands as specified in the deeds where the previous owner had a legal right of way. This easement is limited to Department staff use and does not provide the public with access across private lands to adjacent State lands. There are several roads across private lands that cross into or through Forest Preserve where it is unclear whether the state owns public rights to use these roads, whether for motorized or non-motorized use. They are Partridge Lane, Mounts Creek Trail, Thayer Access Road, Rotasch Road, Brayhouse Road, Gore Road and California Road. On most of these roads the rights of the private landowner may not be clear either, so research is needed to clarify the situation for each of these roads.

Private Easements and/or Uses

Within the unit there is one deeded flooding reservation and a few private rights-of-way. Sometimes private land owners and/or lessee's utilize roads for access, but may not have a legal right-of-way across State lands. In some cases, a right-of-way has been substantiated while in other cases rights of ingress and egress have not been documented. The status and identification of these State land crossings are as follows:

Fayle Road to S½ Lot 18, Bethune Tract, Arthurboro Patent

Fayette Hunting Club Access Road - upon legal review it appears that the club may have a way of necessity across Lot 3, Maxwell Tract, Town of Morehouse, Hamilton County. It should be noted that this is not a "legal" ROW since no court determination has been made.

Lot 193, Oxbow Tract

Piseco Lake Exception - private ROW (to Winsey, reputed owners) over newly acquired State lands in Lot 193, Oxbow Tract. Said easement being 33 feet in width and 733 feet in length from NYS Route 8 ending at the northeasterly private property line. The deed is recorded in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office, Book 190 of deeds, Pages 346-349.

Lots 37, 56 & 57, Jerseyfield Patent and Lots 54, 55, 70, 71 & 72, Jerseyfield Patent

In 1988, the State acquired in fee two parcels from the City of Utica. The acquisition totaled 1,828± acres and included a Timber Reservation and Flooding Agreement with the City. The Timber Reservation gave the City the right to cut and remove timber on the lands until September 1, 1990. The Flooding Agreement is irrevocable and gives the City the right to flood and flow the lands as necessary for compensating storage reservoirs. The deed description and agreements are recorded in the Herkimer County Clerk's Office, Book 748 of Deeds, Pages 90-103.

Private Land Access that needs clarification:

Brayhouse Road, from Powley-Piseco Road across corner of state land to private lands in Brayhouse Gore.

Gore Road, from private lands in Brayhouse Gore across state land to private land in Lot 88.

California Road, from California Clearing east to two private inholdings.

Rotasch Road, from Gray-Wilmurt Road across private and state land to multiple private inholdings.

Thayer Access Road, from Atwood Lake Road across private and state land to multiple private inholdings.

Dingman Hill Trail, from County Route 119 to private land in Lot 17, sub 4.

Mounts Creek Road, portion of road crossing corner of state land in Lot 53.

Partridge Lane, from Teacup Street across state land to private land.

North Branch Lake Road, from Jerseyfield Preserve across state land to a private lot on North Branch Lake.

Smith Road, from Rockwood to private land near Royal Mountain.

Ferris Lake Road, from Powley-Piseco Road to private land on Ferris Lake.

Pipe Line Road, from Stewart Landing Road southwest to private boundary.

Public Easements

There are a total of 4.52 miles of Public Fishing Rights (PFR) Easements within the unit. These are permanent easements along game fish streams that allow the public to wade and walk along the streambed and banks for the purpose of fishing, and for no other activity. The easements usually consist of a 33-foot strip of land along each bank, or along one bank if that is all the landowner owns. Footpath right-of-ways may also be included if the purchase of a parking area is also made.

Public fishing rights easements occur along sections of the following waters:

County	Stream	Equivalent Miles*
Herkimer	East Canada Creek	.3
	Trammel Creek	.45
Fulton	East Canada Creek	3.50
	Sprite Creek	.27

* Mileage is calculated based upon easements held on each bank.

Public Access Agreements

Access to State land over private property is allowed on some area trails by permission or written agreements. This use is subject to the owner's discretion and is not guaranteed. Formal agreements with private land owners are often for a specific activity (i.e. snowmobiling or hiking) and usually last no longer than one year before requiring renewal.

Several trails within the unit originate on and/or cross private lands. None of these trails are secured with easements but are allowed with the permission of the various landowners. The following snowmobile trails are known to utilize portions of private land: Mounts Creek Trail, Hurrell Vly Trail, Sheriff Lake Trail, Meco Lake Trail, Clockmill Corners Trail, Morey Road, Parker Vly Trail, Alderbrook Trail and Waters Millpond Trail.

IV. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY OVERVIEW

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the FLWF is shared by two different Regions and several programs in DEC. Within the context of the FLWF, the Region 5 Northville Office is responsible for Hamilton and Fulton Counties while the Region 6 Herkimer Office is responsible for Herkimer County. The following DEC programs perform the indicated functions:

The Division of Lands and Forests acquires and maintains land for public use, manages the Forest Preserve lands, promotes responsible use of public lands and provides educational information regarding the use of the Forest Preserve.

The Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources protects and manages fish and wildlife species, provides for public use and enjoyment of natural resources, stocks freshwater fish, licences fishing, hunting and trapping, protects and restores habitat, and provides public fishing, hunting and trapping access.

The Natural Heritage Program enables and enhances conservation of New York's rare animals, rare plants, and significant ecosystems. Field inventories, scientific analyses, expert interpretation, result in the most comprehensive database on New York's distinctive biodiversity which provides quality information for natural resources planning, protection, and management.

The Division of Water protects water quality in lakes and rivers by monitoring water bodies and controlling surface runoff.

The Division of Air Resources regulates, permits and monitors sources of air pollution, forecasts ozone and stagnation events, educates the public about reducing air pollution and researches atmospheric dynamics, pollution and emission sources. The ALSC is part of the Division of Air.

The Division of Operations designs, builds and maintains Department facilities and infrastructure, operates Department Campgrounds and day-use facilities and maintains trails and lean-tos.

The Division of Public Affairs and Education is the public communication wing of the Department. The Division communicates with the public, promotes citizen participation in the UMP process, produces, edits and designs Department publications.

The Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for enforcing all of New York's Environmental Conservation Laws relating to hunting, fishing, trapping, licence requirements, endangered species, possession, transportation and sale of fish and wildlife, trespass, and damage to property by hunters and fishermen.

The Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management is responsible for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the State's forest resources, and the safety and well-being of the public using those resources. Forest Rangers are the stewards of the Forest Preserve and are the primary public contact for the FLWF and responsible for fire control and search and rescue functions. In 1980, state law designated Forest Rangers as Peace Officers with all powers to enforce all state laws and regulations with emphasis on the Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Part 190 of the Department's Regulations.

PAST MANAGEMENT

Land Resource

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) §§3-0301(1)(d) and 9-0105(1) provide that the Department has the duty and authority to exercise care, custody and control of the State Forest Preserve lands constituting the

Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Since the turn of the 20th century, management of these lands has consisted primarily of fire protection, forest insect and disease control, law enforcement, and administrative decision-making in response to current recreation needs instead of long term planning. Early administration of the Forest Preserve related mainly to the solving of on-the-ground problems, to the issuance of various permits, to the upholding of the integrity of constitutional provisions, laws or policies, or to reactions to projects necessitated by facilities needs.

In the 1950's, money to fund outdoor recreation became available and recreational management was booming in the form of widespread trail and facilities construction and maintenance. Throughout the 1960's, funding for interior construction and maintenance was sufficient to maintain any existing structures. More recently, shrinking budgets have limited DEC maintenance efforts in the unit, although volunteer and local government assistance have helped with the maintenance of area snowmobile trails.

Master Plan guidelines assure that Forest Preserve lands are managed to minimize the environmental impacts of public recreational use and that resource damage is addressed. Within the last several years, DEC staff observed that signs of ATV and other motor vehicle access had increased on the portions of the Glasgow Road, East Road, and Crystal Lake Road within the FLWF. None of the roads within the FLWF were maintained by the towns and the Fulton County highway map indicates that these sections of road were beyond the identified ends of all three town highways. In 2001, an article in a local newspaper described problems related to public use at Glasgow Pond. Some members of the public later visited the area, observed damage caused by motor vehicle use and recommended that the State take action. During summer and fall, 2002 Forest Rangers and ECOs conducted educational and enforcement efforts in the area.

The need to prevent further damage and environmental impact to Forest Preserve lands triggered the decision to install three gates in 2003, at the point where each of three roads enters FLWF lands, even before the UMP for the area had been developed. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan permits the erection of barriers without a UMP. The APA/DEC MOU, revised March 2003, provides for the erection of new barriers on existing lands to control motorized vehicle use without a UMP or consultation with APA.

Work plans for rehabilitation of damage beyond the gates will be prepared, and work will be conducted after cessation of illegal motor vehicle use has been assured. The need for parking areas for public access, mostly during the big game hunting season, are identified in this UMP to help prevent negative impacts to adjacent private property.

In 2004, approximately 1,500 acres of the FLWF were reclassified and made part of the Silver Lake Wilderness. The area reclassified is a 1/4 mile wide corridor along the Piseco Outlet and West Branch of the Sacandaga River. The reclassification of these lands was part of a larger package that included the reclassification of approximately 145 acres of wilderness behind the Piseco School to the Jessup River Wild Forest. This reclassification was necessary in order to remove a statutorily defined Critical Environmental Area (in this instance, lands within one-eighth mile of a wilderness) in a community which has an approved land use program in place and to accommodate an approximately 1.2 mile snowmobile trail relocation around private land. The reclassification of 1,500 acres of the FLWF were made part of the package in an effort to mitigate and properly balance the seldom taken measure of reclassifying wilderness lands.

Stewardship Agreements

Under the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Policy, DEC enters into stewardship agreements with organizations and individuals. Such agreements are authorized by Section 9-0113 of the Environmental Conservation Law for the purpose of preserving, maintaining or enhancing a State-owned natural resource or portion thereof in accordance with the policies of the Department. A stewardship agreement is for a period of up to five years.

Under an existing Adopt-A-Natural Resource (AANR) stewardship agreement, a few snowmobile groups perform maintenance on selected trails in the unit. In addition, the Canada Lake Protective Association has

an AANR for Nick Stoner Island and the Lily Lake campsites to remove garbage. Area snowmobile trails are also groomed by the Town of Arietta and Morehouse under TRP.

Wildlife Resource

Past wildlife management on the unit has not been specific to the area, but it has been within the general framework of Statewide regulations for setting season lengths, opening dates and bag limits. Surveys have been periodically conducted throughout the Adirondacks to document the population status of various wildlife species and their habitats. Examples are: nest sites for loons, eagles and osprey as well as other significant habitats (i.e. spruce grouse). Furbearer population data are obtained through pelt tagging. The Breeding Bird Atlas documented the status of all nesting birds throughout New York State.

Throughout history a number of natural disturbances have opened up the forest and allowed sunlight to reach the forest floor, resulting in a proliferation of vegetative growth within the reach of various wildlife species. - In 1954 a special hunt allowed the taking of deer of either sex in certain areas of the Adirondacks. The Party Permit system was in effect from 1957-1970 and attempted to balance the deer population with the carrying capacity of the winter range. Record buck takes were established until three severe winters (1968-1969, 1969-1970 and 1970-1971) caused massive mortality resulting in a significant decrease in deer numbers. Sportsmen perceived that "doe permits" had caused the crash and legislation was passed in 1970 to prohibit the issuance of antlerless or Deer Management Permits (DMPs) in the northern zone. ECL §11-0913 was amended in 1997 to allow the issuance of antlerless permits in certain parts of the northern zone experiencing high deer populations. No part of the FLWF lies within those portions of the northern zone where antlerless permits may be issued, however, antlerless deer may be taken by bow and muzzleloader.

Fisheries Resource

Fish management in the FLWF has emphasized brook trout restoration through reclamation and stocking programs. Future management will continue to concentrate on brook trout, but may focus on pond liming to offset the effects of acidification on those ponds that meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for liming candidates.

To date, Nine Corner Lake is the only pond in the FLWF that has been limed. In preparation for this plan several ponds were evaluated for their suitability as liming candidates. Unfortunately Bowen Ponds, Black Creek Lake, Broomstick Lake, Hart Vly Lake and Morley Lake were all found to have an estimated flushing rate greater than 2.0 times per year, a value which precludes their inclusion in the Division of Fish and Wildlife's pond liming program. Existing data from the Adirondack Lake Survey database show six additional waters to have flushing rates greater than 2.0 times per year. These include Boyer Lake, Deer Lake, Feullard Lake, Mud Pond, Trout Lake and West Creek Lake. All Ferris Lake Wild Forest waters are subject to general angling regulations of the state and certain waters are subject to additional special regulations.

The use of fish as bait has been prohibited in some area trout ponds to minimize the likelihood of bait pail introductions of competing and/or exotic fish species. Nine Corner Lake, Long Lake (MH-P 763), Third Lake, Fourth Lake, Goose Egg Lake, G Lake, Christian Lake, and Jockeybush Lake have been reclaimed to eliminate brook trout competitors. Only four of these lakes currently have brook trout populations due to acidity problems and the difficulty in providing suitable fish barrier dams.

While future management will include pond liming to restore favorable conditions, reclamations will be conducted as necessary to remove introduced competitors. Twenty-two ponds in the unit were surveyed by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation in 1987. DEC has gathered additional data on 30 waters in the unit since that time. Thirty-two waters were sampled for pH, ANC and conductivity during ALSC 1995 synoptic surveys. Jockeybush Pond is an ALSC long-term monitoring water. Historical data (circa 1934) is available

for 10 ponded waters in the unit. See Appendix E for pond-specific survey and management data for all FLWF waters.

Very little active fishery management has been undertaken on streams within the unit other than historic stocking of the headwater streams of West Canada Creek. These stockings were eliminated many years ago. Few streams in the unit have received biological surveys.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The basic management issues within this unit are typical of those associated with most other Wild Forest areas. Issues mainly involve and focus on the degree and location of specific projects to allow additional public recreational opportunities. A list of the public comments and issues can be found in Appendix A. Specific issues that need to be considered and addressed will be treated in detail in the Proposed Management Actions section under the appropriate subject heading.

Land Resource

The land management issues for this unit can be broken down into two different categories: providing public access and facilities maintenance. Providing public access and new recreational opportunities are key issues. The current trail network is mostly designated for multiple-use and illegal ATV use is high in some areas. The prevention of illegal ATV use needs to be addressed as well as the designation of more trails for different user groups. Snowmobiler safety is also an issue and selected trails and bridges need to be brought up to the current Department policy standards. Lastly, all laws, rules, and regulations need to be strictly enforced to ensure the safety of the user and protection of the resource.

There are several roads across private lands that cross into or through Forest Preserve where it is unclear whether the state owns public rights to use these roads, whether for motorized or non-motorized use. They are Partridge Lane, Mounts Creek Road, Thayer Access Road, Rotasch Road, Brayhouse Road, Gore Road and California Road. On most of these roads the rights of the private landowner may not be clear either, so research is needed to clarify the situation for each of these roads.

All unit facilities need to be kept at the best possible level of maintenance. Adequate trailhead parking and signing should be provided with appropriate maintenance from the operations unit. Active educational programs that teach low-impact camping techniques and stress the carry in, carry out concept are also needed. The completion of the Maintenance Management System (MMS) database is necessary for a comprehensive man-made facilities inventory and the proper management of these resources.

Wildlife Resource

Wildlife management activities in the unit are generally passive in nature (with the exception of hunting) due to the fact that there are no special strategies for wildlife management on Forest Preserve lands. Deer habitat improvements, such as food plot management, are not permissible. Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution precludes doing any wildlife habitat management or manipulation of vegetation involving the cutting of trees. This constitutional provision along with improvements in forest fire suppression have resulted in a maturing climax forest. Unless there is another large-scale disturbance, Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondacks will be limited to climax forest species and wildlife management activities will be limited to monitoring various species and populations.

Fisheries Resource

House Pond, Long Pond, Third Lake, Goose Egg Lake and Fourth Lake in Fulton County are currently posted against the use of fish as bait. Additionally, the use of fish as bait is prohibited in Christian Lake, Redlouse Lake, Iron Lake, Jockeybush Lake and G Lake in Hamilton County which are so listed in the special regulations of the annual fishing guide. As other trout waters are restored through liming and/or

reclamation, they will need to be added to the list of waters in which the use of fish as bait is prohibited and will also need to be posted as deemed appropriate.

As described earlier, the phenomenon of acid ion deposition, popularly known as “acid rain” is the greatest single fisheries issue in this unit. There is some preliminary evidence that conditions have stabilized in recent years, and the water chemistry of a few waters may actually be improving. Fishing on many of the ponds is of less than average quality when compared to other Adirondack Lakes due to the problems associated with acidification. Native fish populations are not threatened by over-exploitation from sportsmen, rather, they are endangered by the presence of nonnative and native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI) competing species and continued acid ion inputs.

Conservation law enforcement is critical to the successful implementation of fish and wildlife regulations. Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers should routinely patrol area waters, particularly waters with recent management actions. Enforcement officials should be kept abreast of management actions and be fully informed of the ecological/social reasons for such actions and for the regulations they enforce.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

This unit management plan has been developed within the guidelines set forth by Article XIV of the State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Parts 190-199 of Title 6 NYCRR of the State of New York, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), and established Department policy.

The lands of the FLWF are Forest Preserve lands protected by Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. This Constitutional provision, which became effective on January 1, 1895, provides in relevant part:

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

The APSLMP provides guidance for the use and management of lands which it classifies as “Wild Forest” by establishing basic guidelines. Guidelines are set forth for such matters as: structures and improvements; the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft; roads, jeep trails and state truck trails; flora and fauna; recreation use and overuse; boundary structures and improvements and boundary markings. Actions by the State on lands covered by the APSLMP must be consistent with the provisions of the APSLMP.

DEC policy has been developed for the public use and administration of Forest Preserve lands. Select policies relevant to the management of this unit include:

- Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve (CP-17)
- Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-91-2; NR-95-1)
- Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Land (O&D #84-06)
- Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve (LF-91-2)
- The Administration of Conservation Easements (NR-90-1)
- Acquisition of Conservation Easements (NR-86-3)
- Division Regulatory Policy (LF-90-2)
- Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ONR-1)
- Policies and Procedures Manual Title 8400 - Public Land Management
- Forest Preserve Roads (CP-38)

The Department also maintains policy to provide guidelines for the design, location, siting, size, classification, construction, maintenance, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of dams, fireplaces, fire rings, foot bridges, foot trails, primitive camping sites, road barriers, sanitary facilities and trailheads. Other guidelines used in the administration of Forest Preserve lands are provided through Attorney General Opinions, Department policy memos, and Regional operating procedures.

The recommendations presented in this unit management plan are subject to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality and Review Act of 1975. All proposed management activities will be reviewed and significant environmental impacts and alternatives will be assessed.

Guidance and Clarification Documents:

- ▶ Interim Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Construction and Maintenance - 11/1/2000
- ▶ Clarification of Practice Regarding Motor Vehicle Use for Snowmobile Trail Grooming, Maintenance and Construction - 11/1/2000
- ▶ Guidelines for Motor Vehicle Use Proposals in Wild Forest UMPs Memorandum - 7/25/2001

Application of Guidelines and Standards

All trail construction and relocation projects will be developed in accordance with the APSLMP, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Wherever possible, lay out trails on existing old roads or clear or partially cleared areas;
- Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Locating trails to minimize grade;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
- Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist;
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

All bridge construction and relocation projects will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Minimizing channel changes and the amount of cut or fill needed;
- Limiting construction activities in the water to periods of low or normal flow;
- Minimizing the use of equipment in the stream;
- Installing bridges at right angles to the stream channel;
- Constructing bridges to blend into the natural surroundings;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Stabilizing bridge approaches with aggregate or other suitable material;
- Using soil stabilization practices on exposed soil around bridges immediately after construction;
- Designing, constructing and maintaining bridges to avoid disrupting the migration or movement of fish and other aquatic life;
- Consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency in cases where existing bridge abutments must be replaced.

All lean-to construction and relocation projects will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

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

All parking lot construction and relocation projects will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

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

All fish stocking projects will be in compliance with the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife*, June 1980.

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

All pond reclamation projects will be in compliance with the “*Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation*”, Division of Fish and Wildlife, June 1980 and the “*Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Undesirable Fish Removal by the Use of Pesticides Under Permit Issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Pesticide Management*”, March 1981. The construction of fish barrier dams will be in compliance with the “*Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Habitat Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife*”, December 1979.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The development of a unit management plan and long-term strategy for managing the FLWF uses a combination of two generally accepted wilderness planning methods: (1) the goal-achievement framework; and (2) the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) model employed by the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies. Given the distinctly different, yet important purposes of these methods, there are clear benefits offered by employing a blend of these two approaches.

APPLICATION OF LAC PROCESS

The impacts of public use on the land resources of the FLWF are relatively low to moderate with a few exceptions. Other units sustaining more severe impacts will take priority in the application of the LAC process. In the FLWF, work during the next five years will concentrate on the development of a list of indicators and an inventory of trail and campsite conditions to establish a baseline for monitoring, and the

selection of standards to quantify management goals and objectives. The inventory will involve an initial measurement of indicators such as:

Trail Condition Indicators

- Depth of trail tread compared to surrounding grade at fixed locations every 500 feet along trail.
- Width of trail tread at fixed locations every 500 feet along trail.
- Number and development of user-created trails.
- Number of locations, and at each location, distance of trail where drainage is not controlled and erosion is active.
- Number of locations, and at each location, distance along trail and width of disturbance where standing water/wetlands requires hikers to walk around.

Campsite Condition Indicators

- General inventory indicating the number of campsites too close to water, trails, roads and each other.
- Frissell campsite condition class (one of five classes related to the degree of disturbance to vegetation and soils).
- Area of barren core.
- Distance of down firewood from fire ring.

Social Condition Indicators

- Average number of trail register entries per day by season.
- Average size of party signing in to trail registers.
- Number of parties per week larger than 10 signing in to trail registers by season.
- Number of other groups camping within sight and sound.
- Number of pieces of litter at campsites.

LAC standards for the indicators, once selected, will be the targets against which the results of periodic monitoring will be compared. Future effort will focus on the development of management prescriptions to prevent standards from being exceeded.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA applies to the Department and requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to its services and programs, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden to the Department. Since recreation is an acknowledged public accommodation program of the Department, and there are services and activities associated with that program, the Department has the mandated obligation to comply with the ADA, Title II and ADA Accessibility Guidelines, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA requires a public entity to thoroughly examine each of its programs and services to determine the level of accessibility provided. The examination involves the identification of all existing programs and services and an assessment to determine the degree of accessibility provided to each. The assessment includes the use of the standards established by Federal Department of Justice Rule as delineated by the

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG, either adopted or proposed) and/or the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, as appropriate. The development of an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit was conducted during the UMP process. The assessment established the need for new or upgraded facilities or assets necessary to meet ADA mandates, in compliance with the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Master Plan. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible. New facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the “Proposed Management Actions” section.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

The ADA requires public agencies to employ specific guidelines which ensure that buildings, facilities, programs and vehicles as addressed by the ADA are accessible in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has issued the ADAAG for this purpose. The Department of Justice Rule provides authority to these guidelines.

Currently adopted ADAAG address the built environment: buildings, ramps, sidewalks, rooms within buildings, etc. The Access Board has proposed guidelines to expand ADAAG to cover outdoor developed facilities: trails, camp grounds, picnic areas and beaches. The proposed ADAAG is contained in the September, 1999 Final Report of the Regulatory Negotiation Committee for Outdoor Developed Areas.

ADAAG apply to newly constructed structures and facilities and alterations to existing structures and facilities. Further, it applies to fixed structures or facilities, i.e. those that are attached to the earth or another structure that is attached to the earth. Therefore, when the Department is planning the construction of new recreational facilities, assets that support recreational facilities, or is considering an alteration of existing recreational facilities or the assets supporting them, it must also consider providing access to the facilities or elements for people with disabilities. The standards which exist in ADAAG or are contained in the proposed ADAAG also provide guidance to achieve modifications to trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, campsites and beaches in order to obtain programmatic compliance with the ADA.

ADAAG Application

Current and proposed ADAAG will be used in assessing existing facilities or assets to determine compliance to accessibility standards. ADAAG is not intended or designed for this purpose, but using it to establish accessibility levels lends credibility to the assessment result. Management actions in each UMP will be proposed in accordance with the ADAAG for the built environment, the proposed ADAAG for outdoor developed areas, the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, and other appropriate guiding documents. Until such time as the proposed ADAAG becomes an adopted rule of the Department of Justice, the Department is required to use the best information available to comply with the ADA; this information includes, among other things, the proposed guidelines.

HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PROTECTION

The historic and archaeological sites located within the Ferris Lake Wild Forest as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6 NYCRR § 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of the Education Law. No actions that would impact these resources are proposed in this Unit Management Plan. Should any such actions be proposed in the future they will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of the ECL and Section 233 of the Education Law. In some cases additional protection may be afforded these resources by the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

The archaeological sites located on this land unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property may be made available for appropriate research. Any future archaeological research to be conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after approval by the New York State Museum and consultation with OPRHP and APA. Extensive excavations are not contemplated as part of any research program in order to assure that the sites are available to future researchers who are likely to have more advanced tools and techniques as well as more fully developed research questions.

V. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This section provides an overview of the current situation and describes the specific management objectives and proposed management actions for administering the area as related to a specific resource. The management objectives apply the plan's goals to a particular issue as identified by the public or DEC staff. The management actions are the means that will be employed to reach the management objectives. All management proposals are pursuant and subject to all laws, rules, regulations and policies set forth by the Department, the New York State Constitution, the APSLMP, and the Environmental Conservation Law.

ADMINISTRATION

Current Situation

All DEC programs within the unit are funded by the State's general fund, Environmental Protection Fund, and Bond Acts. Fish and Wildlife functions are also supported by the Conservation Fund, a dedicated fund generated by the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses.

Historically, the management of Forest Preserve lands by DEC has been divided along the lines separating program divisions. In addition, the jurisdiction of the staff within each division has been delineated generally by county lines rather than the boundaries of Forest Preserve management units. Making the Forest Preserve unit the focus of management and improving coordination among program divisions would benefit the public by giving them a single contact for information about the unit and making the unit more identifiable as an entity with a consistent recreational atmosphere.

Objective(s):

- To provide better coordination and communication between DEC Divisions, volunteers and local municipalities for the maintenance of existing trails and improvements.
- To maintain adequate funding levels to assure proper maintenance of area facilities.
- To encourage and maintain cooperative efforts between DEC and volunteer trail programs.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Designate a unit manager for the FLWF who would coordinate all management activities to make the management of the unit as efficient and consistent as possible, and to facilitate communication with the public about the management of the unit. The unit manager would be appointed by the appropriate regional director and typically would be the supervising forester or their designee. Staff from all DEC program divisions would keep the unit manager informed about planned activities, natural resource conditions, and anything else that would have a bearing on Forest Preserve management or public communication. For each unit under his or her jurisdiction, the unit manager would be responsible for:
 - Overseeing the preparation, periodic update and revision, amendment, and implementation of unit management plans;
 - Coordinating the preparation of budget requests;
 - Assuring that the management activities of all DEC divisions comply with applicable laws, regulations, policies, the APSLMP and unit management plans;
 - Coordinating trailhead management and all department signage within the unit; and
 - Fostering communication about management activities within DEC, between DEC and APA, and between DEC and the public.
- Appoint a management team as another measure to advance the cause of coordinating the management of the FLWF. The management team would be appointed by the regional director. The activities of the team would be overseen by the unit manager. For each unit, the unit management team typically would be composed of:

- The unit manager;
- One forester;
- Staff from the Office of Public Protection to include at least one forest ranger, and if appropriate, an environmental conservation officer;
- One fisheries biologist and one wildlife biologist;
- One operations supervisor; and
- One representative of the Bureau of Real Property.

The unit management team roster might vary, depending on the character or management history of the unit. The unit management team will be responsible for:

- Preparing, periodically updating and revising, amending, and implementing the UMP;
 - Monitoring resource conditions and public use and assessing the effectiveness of the unit management plan in addressing resource and public use needs;
 - Preparing budget requests for the unit; and
 - Communicating regularly with each other, their program divisions, the unit manager, and the public
- Develop AANR agreements, reach out to organizations and volunteer groups.

OPEN SPACE/LAND ACQUISITION

Current Situation

The overall framework for land protection in New York State is identified in the State Open Space Conservation Plan (Open Space Plan). The plan is built from the bottom up from the work of nine regional committees, representing the spectrum of open space advocates, natural resource and recreation professionals, local government, and concerned citizens. This plan ensures that the State of New York conserves its cherished open space resources as a critical part of efforts to improve the economy and the quality of life in New York communities.

Objective(s):

- To minimize adverse impacts of public land acquisition on private landowners and local municipalities.
- To consolidate public lands with private in-holdings that are available from willing sellers.
- To improve access to State lands.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Continue to identify and evaluate land protection opportunities as they arise.
- Pursue conservation or public recreational easements as alternatives to land acquisition.

LAND PROTECTION

Current Situation

The issue of access roads across Forest Preserve to private lands is a big problem that needs to be addressed. There are several instances around Canada Lake along Kasson Drive and South Shore Road where non-designated roads cross Forest Preserve lands providing ingress and egress to private land. Information is needed from these private land owners about their legal right to use roads across Forest Preserve for access to their property, and access should only be granted to landowners that have a proven legal right. Those inholdings with legal deeded rights should be documented and included in the revision of this unit management plan.

Objective(s):

- To identify and address all access, land title, and trespass issues.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Remove the following surplus buildings: one camp near Hillabrandt Vly (Skakel Camp), and one illegal camp near Tamarack Vly (camp destroyed, debris remains).
- Determine the status of non-designated roads which provide access to private property and resolve any illegal occupancies.

PUBLIC USE AND ACCESS**Current Situation**

Public access to the FLWF is free and relatively unregulated. It is difficult to obtain accurate use figures due to the unit's large physical size, multiple access points, and failure of visitors to register at trailheads. Based on the available trail register reports and current field observations, there does not appear to be any significant overuse of the unit. Most of the unit appears to receive light total use, with moderate use concentrated in a few popular areas. The potential for overuse and subsequent degradation does exist for some of the more popular areas.

Public use of the resource is permitted to the extent that it does not degrade the natural character of the area. A wider range and higher level of recreational opportunities are provided in wild forest areas than in wilderness. The "minimum tool" concept is used to manage public use and achieve management objectives, using indirect methods when possible (i.e. limiting parking), and direct methods when necessary (promulgating regulations).

The public has expressed an interest in gaining access to Spy Lake mainly for the purpose of fishing. Public boat access was once available from private land along the Spy Lake Road, but has been closed due to use-related problems such as late night parties, garbage, etc. The three possible access alternatives for this issue in their preferred order include: 1. Reestablish historic access via the Spy Lake Road. 2. Boat access via the Piseco Outlet. 3. Foot access via a new trail through the Silver Lake Wilderness. See the Management Issues section for a more complete discussion of the issue and alternatives.

Most visitors lack a basic understanding of DEC rules and regulations and are unaware of the effects their activities have on the resource. Many of the resource impacts that result from recreational use can be mitigated through an active visitor education and information program. Visitors need to be informed of the proper use of state land and all special rules and regulations that apply before they enter the unit. A well developed education and information program can help reduce any user related impacts while improving the visitor experience. The Department will pursue the development of a comprehensive education strategy outside the UMP initiative.

Objective(s):

- To reduce visitor impacts on natural resources through proper education and information.
- To promote new interest in and increase the public's knowledge of the FLWF and all applicable rules and regulations.
- To improve the managers' ability to accurately assess visitor impacts upon the resources.
- To improve the managers' ability to accurately assess the type and extent of visitor use in the area.
- To effectively enforce existing laws, regulations, and polices.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Promote “Leave-No-Trace” ethics and techniques with all users, particularly with hikers, snowmobilers and rock climbers.
- Sign all trailheads and major access points with the appropriate signage so the public knows where they are.
- Explore the possibility of obtaining public access to Spy Lake.
- Continue to assess conditions of key resources and regularly monitor changes, with a focus on the most heavily used or impacted resources, such as designated campsites and foot trails. At a minimum, continue to collect the following type of baseline information:
 - Measurements of soil erosion from foot trails and ground cover loss at all designated campsites.
 - Public use data from trail registers and surveys to determine average number of yearly users and group sizes.
- Develop a brochure and map on the Ferris Lake Wild Forest that focuses on the unit’s history, natural resource values, recreational opportunities, use guidelines, and linkages with local communities.
- Employ infrared trail counters on select snowmobile trails to assist in determining the amount of snowmobile use within the unit.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**Current Situation**

People with disabilities comprise one of the nation’s largest minority groups. As the population ages, approximately 40 percent of people over the age of 65 will likely have disabilities. According to recent Census Bureau data, there are at least 54 million Americans with disabilities and it is estimated that more than 20.3 million families in the U.S. have at least one member with a disability.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that people with disabilities receive the opportunity for full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, privileges and advantages of any place of public accommodation. In providing such access, states are required to make all possible changes unless to do so would alter the fundamental nature of the programs which they offer to the public. Accessibility is to be considered for all newly constructed and altered facilities. Providing people with disabilities access does not always have to be expensive or require sophisticated equipment, but it does require a thorough understanding of the individual’s specific needs.

How to provide and improve accessibility for people with disabilities is a complex issue. There are varying types and degrees of disability which must be accommodated, and there is disagreement within the disabled community about how best to make an outdoor experience accessible. There is consensus, however, about the need to improve access and about some of the access methods and locations.

Canoe Routes

Water provides one way to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Accessible canoe landing facilities would get people on the water, and accessible shelters near waterways would provide overnight camping opportunities. Some of the factors that were considered and used in determining suitable canoe routes include access to the water (unevenness of ground, steepness of banks and distance from road), portages around obstacles (beaver dams, waterfalls, etc.) and meal/overnight/rest stops. These considerations

may vary depending upon the type and the degree of disability. The following areas have been identified within the unit as potential canoe routes for people with disabilities.

Flatwater Trip(s):

1. West Branch of Sacandaga River - Put in at either bridge on NY 10 near Arietta. Take out near Shaker Place on private lands, subject to a future Conservation Easement. Total distance in excess of 10 miles.
2. Canada Lake Outlet - Put in at Stewart Landing Road above the dam. Take out at West Lake Boat launch. Total distance approximately 6 miles.

Whitewater Trip(s):

1. East Canada Creek, Stratford to Dolgeville - Put in on the left bank just upstream of the NY 29A bridge. Take out on the left bank just above the dam in Dolgeville, accessible by a road just east of NY 29 bridge. Class II and III rapids throughout. Total distance approximately 8.9 miles.

Fishing

Recreational fishing is an activity with high demand among people with disabilities. Designs for accessible fishing facilities are well established and can easily be implemented in areas deemed suitable. Some of the factors that were considered and used in determining suitable fishing access sites include distance from a road, trail characteristics (length, width, grade, cross slope, surface, rest areas and passing space), the fishery resource and water body characteristics (size, depth and substrate). G Lake and Sand Lake have been identified as potential fishing access sites within the unit for people with disabilities.

Trails

The FLWF is an area that can provide some excellent trail access for people with disabilities. The already existing road and trail network lends itself nicely to the future development of accessible facilities. Some of the factors that are considered and used in determining suitable trails include trail length, width, grade, cross slope, rest areas, passing space and condition of trail surface. Several trails were identified as possible candidates for providing improved access and will require further assessment (see below).

Identifying specific areas for access and how to provide a quality experience are major issues facing planning staff. Training provided by the National Center on Accessibility has helped staff better understand the characteristics and needs of the disabled community and how to address these needs in the unit management planning process.

Objective(s):

- To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) by improving access and creating recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Incorporate the principles of universal design into new construction projects.
- Involve a knowledgeable representative from the community of people with disabilities, such as the NYS Independent Living Center Council, Inc. or other similar organizations, in all subsequent projects and proposals, including the design and construction of any accessible facilities proposed in this plan.

- Conduct an accessibility assessment of the three potential canoe routes mentioned above to determine the feasibility for making each accessible.
- Conduct an accessibility assessment of the following trails to identify the possibility and level of difficulty for making each accessible:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Jerseyfield Railroad Bed or Switch-Back Trail	7.7 miles
Spectacle Lake Trail (NY 10 to Spectacle Lake)	2.8 miles
Burnt Vly Trail (NY 29A to Third Lake)	3.2 miles
Long Lake Trail (East Shore Road to Long Lake)	2.9 miles
Glasgow Trail (State land to Hillabrandt Lake)	2.3 miles
East Road Trail (State land to Glasgow Mills)	1.4 miles
Marina Trail (NY 29A to West Lake boat launch)	1.1 miles
Crystal Lake Trail (Stewart Landing south to Crystal Lake)	3.4 miles
Cranberry-Mud Lake Road (Billy Hamlin Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet)	5.5 miles

- Improve access for people with disabilities to hunting, fishing, and canoeing opportunities at G lake and Sand Lake. G Lake will be made accessible by wheelchair and Sand Lake will be barrier-free. Add at least one accessible parking spot and construct accessible kiosks at each of the parking lots associated with these areas. Construct an accessible canoe access site at both locations and upgrade at least one existing campsite at each location to current accessibility standards. This includes constructing accessible pit privies and fire rings.

BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES

SOILS

Current Situation

Detailed soil survey maps for the FLWF are not available. Broad soil types, accurate to an area about 40 acres in size, are delineated on aerial photographs. Soil type interpretations are general and have not been completed. Little information has been documented within the unit on widespread soil loss and degradation, except that there are a few sites where soil disturbances on trails and campsites require rehabilitative actions. Trail widening, trail use during wet weather, camping too close to riparian areas, and poor trail design are all contributing factors. Resources for trail rehabilitation, relocation, and erosion control are needed.

Objective(s):

- To keep soil erosion caused by recreation use within acceptable limits that closely resembles the natural erosion process.
- To minimize the amount of soil compaction from human activity on undeveloped areas where the natural plant community exists.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Develop LAC indicators and standards for soil erosion on trails.
- Monitor all soil conditions within the unit affected by recreation use. Take action when LAC standards are exceeded, correct undesirable conditions by rehabilitating the area using the most current soil conservation practices or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Target trail maintenance to heavily eroded trails and develop a priority list based on resource need rather than user convenience.

- Design, locate, and construct all new structures and improvements in ways that will minimize the potential for soil erosion. All new construction projects will be developed in accordance with the APSLMP, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the Management Guidelines section of this plan.

WATER

Current Situation

The Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) has conducted water quality studies researching the effects of acid deposition on aquatic ecosystems across the Park. Jockeybush Lake and G Lake are the only two waters in the unit that are part of ALSC's Adirondack Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) Program. The Department's Bureau of Fisheries routinely conducts biological surveys to assess and monitor the fish populations in area waters. No studies have specifically focused on the effects of recreational use on water quality.

Being major attractions, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands are on the receiving end of high levels of human disturbance. With continued use, the potential for further deterioration of water quality must be anticipated. At a minimum, visitors must be educated about the impacts of recreational use on water quality and their role in protecting it.

Objective(s):

- To maintain or improve all aquatic riparian habitats.
- To stabilize current water conditions and improve long-term water quality.
- To allow lakes with existing dams to remain at agreed upon water levels.
- To reduce the risk of pathogenic contamination and any other potential impacts on water quality.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Continue to monitor the effects of acid precipitation on area waters.
- Monitor vegetation in riparian areas near lakes and streams. Correct undesirable conditions by rehabilitating the area or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Relocate all non-designated campsites and pit privies away from water. The APSLMP requires that any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos or primitive tent sites planned for shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams be located so as to be reasonably screened from view from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof, and that any such lean-tos will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, stream, or river; the minimum setback for pit-privies is 150 feet.
- Rehabilitate lake shore and streamside areas that have been impacted by bank erosion caused by recreational use.
- Incorporate all biological survey work done by DEC, ALSC or other institutions into any future water-related planning activities.
- Inspect all functional water control dams regularly and repair when necessary.
- Install an effective system for monitoring and controlling water levels affected by the Stewart Landing Dam (see Special Area Plan section).

- Support and encourage research to determine the effects of recreational use on water quality.
- Educate the public about the effects and impacts of recreation use on water quality and their role in preserving water quality.

WETLANDS

Current Situation

APA regulates all wetlands within the Park under the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act (1975) and the Adirondack Park Agency Act (1971). All wetlands that are one acre in size and larger, or any size wetlands adjacent to open water are regulated. Wetland inventories and maps for the entire Park are incomplete and only partial information is available for the FLWF. Official maps are available for portions of the unit in Hamilton County in the following quadrangles: Canada Lake, Jerseyfield Lake, Morehouse Lake, Sherman Mountain, Piseco Lake, Hoffmeister, and Morehouseville. Wetland information for Herkimer and Fulton Counties is incomplete. A comprehensive wetland inventory and additional mapping is needed.

Objective(s):

- To minimize the amount of wetland disturbances and impacts caused by the construction and maintenance of structures and improvements and human recreation use.
- To preserve and protect wetland community vegetation and associated plant species.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Assist in developing a system that makes wetland information more readily available to resource managers and the general public.
- Relocate any trails or facilities when necessary to reduce the impacts on wetlands or associated vegetation.
- Minimize the impacts of construction and maintenance activities on wetlands. Coordinate all future construction and maintenance activities that may affect wetlands with the APA to determine wetland boundaries and the need for wetlands permits. DEC will acquire APA wetlands permits as necessary for all proposed management activities and such permits will condition proposed actions to avoid or mitigate any potential impacts to wetlands.

AIR QUALITY

Current Situation

One of the most important features of the Adirondacks is clean air. Federal Clean Air Act Standards rate Adirondack air as Class II (Class I being the cleanest). Research indicates that air quality problems tend to originate outside the Park boundaries and are transported long distances. There are no known air pollution activities within the Adirondacks that have negatively affected sight visibility, water quality, or open space in general. More research needs to be conducted to determine whether the air quality of the area is static, improving, or deteriorating.

Objective(s):

- To achieve Federal Class I air standards.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Cooperate with other agencies and scientific researchers in developing baseline data to identify the effects of potential air pollutants on natural resources within the unit.
- Support and encourage research to determine the effects and impacts of the recreational use of motor vehicles on air quality.

- Monitor air quality at various locations within the Adirondack Park.

VEGETATION

Current Situation

Most of the FLWF vegetative cover has been altered at one time or another by early logging, wind, fire, insects and disease, or recreational use. Despite these influences, the unit has managed to retain a natural character and some unique ecosystems. Notable are the numerous wetland communities and the old growth forests. Old growth spruce stands still exist and can be found along the Powley-Piseco Road, the north side of Alderbed Stream, around Blind Man's Vly, and on the slopes of Big and Little Alderbed Mountains.

The vegetative impacts caused by recreation use is a problem in some of the more heavily used areas, but is not a widespread problem. Ground cover loss and the illegal cutting of standing live and dead trees can be found around Nine Corner Lake and Good Luck Lake. Tree damage in some instances appears to be more an act of vandalism than a resource related issue since sufficient dead and down material is still readily available for campfire purposes in the vicinity of most traditionally used campsites.

Because of the intermingled nature of private and public lands and embedded transport vectors, state lands are, and are likely to be, affected by infestations of invasive species and subsequent degradation of natural system function. Facilities and designated (and passive) activities within the unit may influence invasive plant species introduction, establishment, and distribution throughout and beyond the unit boundaries. The lack of control of ingress/egress, whether motorized or non-motorized traffic, of frequently utilized facilities warrants an elevated response to ED/RR inventory for invasive species. These facilities and activities are likely to serve as "hosts" for invasive plant establishment.

A complete inventory of the unit is necessary to identify aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant threats facing the unit. The inventory should be based on existing inventories, formal or informal inventories during routine operations, and by soliciting help from volunteers to actively study the unit and report on invasive species presence, location, and condition.

Objective(s):

- To allow natural processes to continue their role in the succession of plant communities.
- To preserve and protect any threatened and endangered plant species or communities.
- To comply with the constitutional directive of forever keeping the lands as "wild forest lands."
- To monitor for the location and extent of terrestrial invasive plant species found within the unit.
- To reduce or eliminate terrestrial invasive plant species found within the unit and protect the area from the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species.
- To continue and expand programs that identify and map ecological communities and sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered plant species or communities.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Maintain existing plant databases and support efforts to inventory plant communities, with an emphasis on sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species or communities.
- Use native trees, shrubs, and grasses to restore areas to natural conditions. Non-native species may be used if necessary to provide temporary cover until native species can become established.

- Monitor vegetation in campsites on a continual basis to detect any changes before unacceptable conditions arise. Take action when LAC standards are exceeded, correct undesirable conditions by rehabilitating the area or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Enforce the Lands and Forests general rules and regulations regarding tree cutting on State land. 6 NYCRR §190.8(g) provides that “No person shall deface, remove, destroy, or otherwise injure in any manner whatsoever any tree, flower, shrub, fern, moss or other plant, rock, fossil or mineral found or growing on State land.” 6 NYCRR §190.1(c) further provides that “No wood, except from dead and down trees or from supplies furnished by the department, shall be used for fuel.”
- Educate the public on their role in protecting and sustaining natural plant communities and the vegetative impacts associated with various recreational activities.
- Train DEC staff working within the unit to identify and document the location of key invasive plant species.
- Work towards a complete comprehensive inventory of the presence and extent of invasive plants within the unit.
- Continue periodic monitoring and further management of identified invasive plant populations.
- Eliminate any identified populations of invasive plant species that are discovered in the unit. These actions may be carried out by DEC personnel or by members of APIPP or other volunteers under supervision of DEC through an Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement.
- Relocate any trails, trailheads, designated campsites, or other improvements that have the potential to directly impact any rare, threatened, endangered, or unique plant species or communities. The Potholers Trail will be marked to avoid the purple fringed orchids.
- Encourage and support any research to determine the long-term effects of acid deposition on native plant species and communities. The apparent decline of old growth red spruce has been in question and may not be completely explained by historically accepted causes. A recent hypothesis includes the effect of long-term climate change and exposure to chronic or acute episodes of air pollution as possible causes of decline.

WILDLIFE

Current Situation

A number of changes have occurred through time that have impacted a variety of wildlife species. Habitat changes that have resulted from early logging, acid precipitation, recreational use, natural plant community succession, and protection of the forest and wildlife through new legislation are just a few things that have helped shape today’s wildlife populations.

Most wildlife management activities in the FLWF are passive in nature (i.e. monitoring various species and populations) due to the fact that there are no special strategies for wildlife management on Forest Preserve lands. Indirect management of game species populations can be effected by review and revision of existing hunting and fishing regulations. Vegetation manipulation is not permissible on Forest Preserve lands, and is therefore not a means available to the Department for wildlife management.

Activities such as hunting and trapping continue to be important in the FLWF, but participation has slowly declined during the last decade. The general trend in wildlife seems to be leaning more towards non-consumptive uses. Birding and wildlife photography are two activities that have become increasingly popular among outdoor enthusiasts. No part of the FLWF is included in the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area Program.

In 2005, DEC received confirmation of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from two captive white-tailed deer herds in Oneida County and subsequently detected the disease in two wild deer from this area. Twenty-five deer from the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County were also tested but were negative. Until recently, New York was the only state in the northeast with a confirmed CWD case in wild deer. However, CWD was recently detected in wild deer in West Virginia.

In response to the finding, DEC established a containment area around the CWD-positive samples and will continue to monitor the wild deer herd in New York State. More information on CWD, New York's response to this disease, the latest results from ongoing sampling efforts, and current CWD regulations are available on the DEC website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/currentcwd.html>.

Objective(s):

- To encourage the current level of species diversity and promote the presence of species that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern where these species' ranges include the FLWF.
- To maintain and perpetuate hunting and trapping as legitimate uses of, and tools for the management of, the wildlife resource that are compatible with other recreation uses.
- To provide information and assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, and other agencies interested in wildlife whose activities or actions may affect, or are affected by, the wildlife resources or users of wildlife.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Continue to inventory wildlife species, including endangered, threatened, and special concern wildlife species.
- Continue to inventory significant wildlife habitats, such as deer winter yards and wetland nesting areas.
- Determine the presence and numbers of moose in the unit through visual observations, reports from the public, and by radio collaring moose whenever the opportunity arises.
- Continue pelt sealing furbearers to determine levels of harvest and to prevent the over harvest of vulnerable species (marten and fisher).
- Advise visitors that the potential for user/wildlife conflicts exists and suggest means of avoiding these conflicts. Black bears are common throughout the unit and conflicts could become an issue if visitor use increases dramatically.

FISHERIES

Current Situation

Inventory data for the FLWF indicates that nonnative species, particularly chain pickerel, yellow perch and golden shiners were widespread throughout the unit by the time of the biological surveys of the 1930's. It is quite likely that this had already led to a loss of brook trout and other native species. Native species have continued to decline, largely due to the impacts of acid rain.

Pond liming is currently the only available technique to mitigate the deleterious effects of acidification. Therefore, the liming of suitable candidate lakes is critical to maintain and/or restore brook trout populations. The pH of House Pond, Iron Lake, and Jockeybush Pond should continue to be monitored and limed as necessary to maintain trout survival. Long Lake (MH-P 823) and Redlouse Lake should be evaluated to determine their suitability as liming candidates, and if found to be acceptable, should be limed and placed in the limed waters program. Nine Corner Lake has been determined to be a suitable liming candidate and should also be limed and stocked with trout. Waters in the liming program are monitored annually and are re-limed when their pH drops below 6.0 or their acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) drops below 25 ueq/l.

Several ponds have been previously reclaimed to eliminate competitors of brook trout. These waters include Nine Corner Lake, Long Pond, Third Lake, Fourth Lake, Goose Egg Lake, G Lake, Christian Lake, and Jockeybush Lake. The trout populations (and potential trout populations) in these ponds are vulnerable if nonnative or native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI) species become established.

Iron Lake, Jockeybush Lake, and Redlouse Lake currently support brook trout monocultures and have been shown to be good reclamation candidates if the need should arise. Christian Lake supports a moderate brook trout population in the presence of NBWI pumpkinseeds and has the physical attributes for reclamation. Third Lake continues to support a good brook trout fishery in the presence of creek chubsuckers and nonnative golden shiners and also has the potential to be reclaimed. Currently, reclamation of these waters is not required; however, if future survey work documents the establishment of nonnative or NBWI species, or increased competitive pressure from those species already established, they will be reclaimed. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. As previously mentioned, the use of bait fish for angling is prohibited on all of these waters, as well as others, to prevent the introduction of invasive fish species.

Several Ponds did not show up on FLWF inventories used to plan surveys in preparation for this plan. These waters include Spy Lake and Salmon Lake. Surveys will be conducted on these ponds which will direct future management actions.

Objective(s):

- To maintain and enhance the diversity of both the warmwater and coldwater fish populations in compliance with the Division of Fish & Wildlife and Marine Resources fish stocking policy (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, 1980).
- To maintain a comprehensive biological and chemical resource inventory for the ponds, lakes, and streams within the unit.
- To provide the public with a quality fishery resource and the optimum opportunity for enjoyment.
- To maintain satisfactory pH levels in selected waters in compliance with the Division of Fish & Wildlife and Marine Resources liming policy and pond liming EIS (Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters, 1990).
- To impose the necessary creel limits and regulations using biological monitoring and the application of sound management decisions.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Maintain the populations of lake trout in Canada Lake and Piseco Lake and the population of splake in West Caroga Lake.

- Maintain the populations of trout in Alder Brook Lake, Black Cat Lake, Bochen Lake, Christian Lake, Conglin Lakes, Debraine Lake, Frank's Pond, House Pond, Iron Lake, Jockeybush Lake, Knapps Long Lake, Long Pond (MH-P 755), North Branch Lake, Redlouse Lake, Sand Lake, and Third Lake. If additional fish species that negatively impact these trout populations become established, the APA will be notified and the impacted waters will be reclaimed.
- Continue to clarify the water chemistry conditions necessary to support trout in critically acidified ponds and identify new waters to experimentally stock.
- Evaluate Long Lake (MH-P 823) and Redlouse Lake for their suitability as liming candidates. If these ponds are found to meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for inclusion in the limed water program, including having a flushing rate of 2.0 times per year or less, they will be limed and stocked with trout.
- Monitor the pH of Iron Lake and Jockeybush Lake. These lakes currently support brook trout populations and both meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for inclusion in the limed waters program. Should their pH fall below suitable conditions for brook trout survival, the APA will be notified and they will be limed.
- Monitor the pH of House Pond. This pond currently supports a self-sustaining population of brook trout which may be a heritage strain. While the lake's flushing rate narrowly exceeds the current Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for inclusion in the limed waters program, it will be included in the program as an exception because of the possibility of a heritage strain. If the pH declines and it is determined that liming is required for continued survival of this trout population, the APA will be notified and the pond limed.
- Re-survey Mud Lake (MH-P 816) to confirm the spawning status of an apparent self-sustaining population of brook trout.
- Lime Nine Corner Lake and stock with trout. This lake has a history of liming and meets the current Division of Fish and Wildlife's liming criteria.
- Reclaim G Lake. This lake has a limited brook trout fishery threatened by nonnative fish species.
- Investigate Unnamed Pond (MH-P 830A). If fish species that negatively impact trout populations are present, it will be reclaimed.
- Survey Spy Lake and Salmon Lake for biological and chemical data.
- Encourage and promote angler use of area waters through public outreach including fishing hotlines, correspondence, and contact with the public by Department staff.

MAN-MADE FACILITIES

Many different types of structures are found on FLWF lands, such as pit privies, foot and snowmobile bridges, trail register boxes and bulletin board/kiosks. To create a "Forest Preserve" look when installing new structures or rehabilitating old ones, it is useful and desirable to have consistent design standards for all Forest Preserve facilities. Since no formal Forest Preserve design standards exist at this time, existing DEC documents such as the "*Interior Use Manual*," "*Draft ADA Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Recreational Facilities*" and the "Adirondack lean-to plan," will be used when designing new structures or

rehabilitating old ones. If no specific guidance is available for a structure, it will be designed to incorporate the use of natural materials such as round wood, wood shingles and native stone. The appearance of Forest Preserve structures will be made to conform to the natural environment through the use of colors such as subdued greens, browns and other "earthtones."

Objective(s) (common to all facilities):

- To maintain existing structures and improvements in a safe, usable condition. Facilities will be either replaced or removed before they deteriorate to the point of becoming unsafe.
- To comply with APSLMP guidelines and Forest Preserve policy.
- To remove nonconforming, illegal structures and improvements.
- To design or modify facilities to blend with the surrounding environment and require only minimal maintenance.
- To comply with Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve policy (CP-17).
- To accommodate public use compatible with capacity to withstand use using best management practices.
- To insure timely consultation with APA staff and scheduling of wetland field determinations and permits and additional SEQR compliance, if necessary.
- To correct undesirable environmental impacts by addressing trail/facility problem locations.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Substandard facilities will be brought up to acceptable condition standards. For example, within the FLWF, new sections of trail will be constructed to replace trail sections which are poorly designed, eroded, or located in sensitive areas.
- Develop project work plans. Major facility, relocation, or reconstruction activities will not be undertaken in the absence of an approved project plan. The Adirondack Park Agency will be consulted about management activities proposed in wetlands and in areas adjacent to wetlands to determine if an Agency wetlands permit is required.
- Use motor vehicles for construction and maintenance only when necessary.

BOUNDARY LINE MANAGEMENT

Current Situation

Aside from public roads and riparian boundaries, the FLWF has approximately 260 miles of boundary lines that must be maintained on a regular basis. The proper maintenance of these lines is important to help reduce trespass, eliminate the need for resurvey work, familiarize field staff with an area, reduce the cost of regular inspections, and facilitate public use of the area. Boundary line maintenance needs to be given a high priority when annual work plans are developed and funding requests are made.

Objective(s):

- To locate, post, and maintain all unit boundary lines.
- To physically identify APSLMP unit designations on the ground for administrative and public use.
- To identify Forest Preserve parcels where reclassification would better define the unit and where those parcels would be expected to conform to the Guidelines and Criteria for Wilderness Areas specified in the APSLMP.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Physically inspect all boundary lines to determine maintenance needs and assign a priority to each identified need. Undertake maintenance activity to ensure all boundaries are identified and marked within the five-year implementation of this plan. Brush, paint, and sign all boundary lines at least once every seven years as per DEC Boundary Line Maintenance Policy NR-95-1. Mark boundaries where they cross any trail, road, or stream. Monitor boundaries and pursue strict enforcement for unauthorized activities, such as illegal motor vehicle and timber trespass.
- Sign unit boundaries with boundary signs identifying the land classification of the Unit. Sign trailheads, trails and other entrances to the FLWF with specific signage identifying the unit's designation, so that both DEC personnel and the public know individual unit designations.
- The Department recommends that the APA consider reclassification of the following state land parcels:

Ferris Lake Wild Forest to Silver Lake Wilderness - Approximately 369 acres of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest to the SLW. The area recommended for reclassification lies east of NYS Route 10 and west of the West Branch of the Sacandaga River extending north from the old Avery Game Farm. No facilities exist on these lands that would be inconsistent with wilderness classification.

Ferris Lake Wild Forest to Intensive Use - The area recommended for reclassification is the West Lake Boat Launching Site. The individual lakes serviced by the launch are each less than 1,000 acres in size, but an assessment by the Department cartographer indicates that the combined acreage of these lakes exceeds 1,000 acres, thus making them eligible for a launching site.

- Survey the following boundary lines:
 - Northwest corner of Lot 85, Jerseyfield Patent (North Branch Lake Club parcel).
 - Southwest corner of Lot 80, Jerseyfield Patent (seven acre parcel off Figert Road).
- Remove the following surplus buildings: one camp near Hillabrandt Vly (Skakel Camp), and one illegal camp near Tamarack Vly (camp destroyed, debris remains).

TRAILHEADS

Current Situation

A trailhead can be defined as the starting or ending point of a designated trail at a point of entrance to state land and may contain one or all of the following: trail signs, informational kiosk, pit privy, vehicle parking, and registration structure. Most trailheads in the FLWF consist of a trail sign stating a destination and distance with vehicle parking restricted to a small pull-off along the side of a main road. In most instances, a small 50'x20' parking area is sufficient enough to provide public access without significantly impacting the resource or creating a public safety issue. In more popular areas, where small parking lots do exist, parking can be a problem during certain times of the year, particularly on weekends and holidays. When these parking lots reach their capacity, visitors often take to the roadsides creating unsafe road conditions for passing motorists. Examples are the parking lot at the southern end of the Powley-Piseco Road during the snowmobile season and G Lake.

Vandalism and litter is another concern and can be a problem in some areas. Stealing register books and trail signs and destroying register boxes and pipe gates are the most common types of vandalism. These acts can

be frequent and usually occur at the more popular sites. Litter is picked up by volunteers and DEC personnel. Other facilities, such as pit privies, informational kiosks, and signs need to be provided at the more popular sites.

Objective(s):

- To ensure adequate public access to state owned lands.
- To provide and manage adequate trailhead facilities that accommodate visitor needs and protect resource values.
- To provide adequate parking and mitigate any parking problems with affected parties.
- To reduce the amount of litter and vandalism occurring at trailheads.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Develop a routine maintenance schedule for trailhead facilities and litter removal.
- Incorporate the unit's man-made facility inventory into the Maintenance Management System (MMS).
- Encourage partnerships with local governments and volunteers to maintain and snowplow roadside trailhead parking facilities (i.e. Adopt-a-Natural Resource Program).
- Construct four new three car parking areas. The new parking areas will be at the following locations: Sand Lake Trail, end of Hall Road, end of East Road, and the end of Avery Road. These parking areas will be made accessible according to the proposed and adopted ADAAG. Detailed information on the construction of each area will be specified in the individual project plans.
- Construct three new five car parking areas. The new parking areas will be at the following locations: West Stoner Lake Trail (North Shore West Stoner Lake Road), Goldmine Stream Trail, and the end of Edick Road. These parking areas will be made accessible according to the proposed and adopted ADAAG. Detailed information on the construction of each area will be specified in the individual project plans.
- Improve by expanding the existing parking areas at the following locations: Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail, G Lake Trail, and Powley-Piseco Road near bridge over East Canada Creek. The Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail and G Lake Trail parking areas need to be enlarged to accommodate 8 cars and the Powley-Piseco Road lot needs to be enlarged to accommodate 10 cars w/trailers. It should be noted that the Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail parking area will also serve the proposed Boyer Lake Trail to the east. These parking areas will be made accessible according to the proposed and adopted ADAAG. Detailed information on the expansion of each area will be specified in the individual project plans.
- Improve the West Lake Boat Launch parking area as identified in the Galusha ADA Consent Decree. See the Special Area Plan section for more details.
- Identify and document any trailheads that are on private land and seek alternate routes or deeded easements where necessary to ensure secure, long-term public access.
- Provide information about recreational opportunities and rules and regulations at trailheads, with the goal of minimizing the number of interior signs.

- Place standard trail registers at the following locations: the end of Hall Road, the end of Avery Road, Good Luck Lake Trail, Big Alderbed Trail, and West Stoner Lake Trail.
- Place new level-two kiosks which incorporate a trail register box, sign-in book, area map, and informational signs at the following locations: Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff Trail, G Lake Trail, Sand Lake Trail, Goldmine Stream Trail, and at the proposed canoe access site along the West Branch of the Sacandaga River, near Good Luck Lake.

TRAILS

Current Situation

The current trail system is primarily a network of designated snowmobile trails that provide access for many different user groups such as hikers, bikers and horseback riders. The need for more trails for different user groups is apparent. Illegal ATV use is high in some areas. Individual trail information was hard to compile due to the fact that an “official” trail inventory has never been completed. In addition, local clubs and organizations were sometimes responsible for trail maintenance and would often take on projects without Department approval. This combined with an incomplete centralized data management system created numerous information gaps.

Trails are not self-sustaining and once developed, must receive a degree of maintenance. Improperly maintained trails can deteriorate quickly and cause other resource problems. Several sections of hiking trail within the unit are poorly located and have some minor problems. These sections will need to be fixed or moved to avoid the risk of any further damage to the resource. Most of these trails are not “official” DEC trails, but have been historically used. Trail grades steeper than acceptable design standards and “wet holes” are the two most common undesirable conditions encountered.

The DEC system of snowmobile trails has been used by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to identify a snowmobile trail corridor system within the unit as part of OPRHP’s statewide snowmobile trail network. OPRHP’s snowmobile trail classification plays a major role in the amount of funding available for grooming and trail maintenance. DEC’s Forest Preserve Snowmobile Trail Policy ONR-2 utilizes a different trail classification system and standards than that of OPRHP’s Statewide Snowmobile Trail Plan. DEC is currently working with OPRHP and the Adirondack Park Agency to develop a “Comprehensive Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park.” A briefing document stating the vision and goals of this plan, a list of the communities where snowmobile trail linkages are important and suggested “community connector trails” can be found in Appendix F.

The following trails or portions thereof are designated by OPRHP as snowmobile “corridor” trails and are eligible for OPRHP funding to support maintenance and grooming. All snowmobile trail maintenance activities, including grooming, are covered under Adopt-A-Natural Resource (AANR) stewardship agreements. All snowmobile trails, with the exception of the Cranberry-Mud Lake Road, are groomed with a snowmobile pulling a small drag. The Cranberry-Mud Lake Road (DEC Open Motor Vehicle Road), from Billy Hamlin Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet, is groomed with a large track groomer.

Corridor Trail #8 - Morey Road, Long Lake Trail, Long Lake Crossover, Third Lake Trail, West Stoner Lake Trail, Clockmill Corners Trail, and Seeley Trail.

Corridor Trail #8A - Crystal Lake Trail, Stewart Landing Trail, Long Lake Trail, Waters Millpond Trail, Hawes Road Extension, and Edick Road Extension.

Corridor Trail #4 - Cranberry-Mud Lake Road, Mounts Creek Trail, Phantom Trail, Parker Vly Trail, Alderbrook Trail, Sheriff Lake Trail, and Sheriff Lake Connector Trail.

Corridor Trail #4C - Mounts Creek Trail and Hurrell Vly Trail.

Some interior snowmobile trails are in close proximity to FLWF lakes and ponds. These waters are often used by snowmobiles to bypass existing sections of trail. For example, Third Lake and Nine Corner Lake. For safety reasons, the Department is attempting to provide a land based trail network that does not utilize lake crossings. Illegal spur trails onto lakes and ponds need to be addressed.

A comparison of the pre-1972 and current snowmobile trail mileages in the FLWF can be found in Appendix J. Any new trail construction, reconstruction, or relocation activities must have an approved work plan, and must comply with ADAAG, the APSLMP, and DEC rules, policies and regulations. No activities will be undertaken in the absence of an approved plan. Temporary Revocable Permits (TRPs) are valid for no more than one year, AANR agreements are valid for up to five years. All trail construction and relocation projects must also incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the Management Guidelines section of this plan.

Objective(s):

- To provide a trail system that offers a variety of recreational opportunities in a manner that keeps the physical, biological, and social impacts to a minimum.
- To provide people the opportunity to experience and enjoy the natural beauty of the Adirondacks and the Forest Preserve.
- To maintain and reconstruct trails to the current Department policy standards and other interim guidelines consistent with APSLMP provisions.
- To identify and eventually meet the need for trail relocations and/or the need for new trails.
- To identify secondary snowmobile trails/trail segments and potential community connector trails/trail segments.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Formally adopt, as a matter of Department policy, the trail classification system and marking standards contained in Appendix G for all trail management activities. Under this system, all developed trails will be maintained, relocated or reconstructed to specified standards. Trail maintenance will emphasize resource protection and visitor safety rather than user convenience or comfort.
- Monitor all marked and unmarked trails on an annual basis to ensure that there are no significant signs of deterioration. Correct undesirable conditions by rehabilitating the area or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Develop LAC indicators and standards for extent of soil erosion on trails.
- Maintain all snowmobile trails pursuant to DEC Forest Preserve Snowmobile Trail Policy or other interim guidelines. The Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail and Mounts Creek Trail need to be brought up to current Department standards and are priorities.
- Reroute the following section of snowmobile trail: Switchback Trail - approximately 1.2 miles of trail to avoid a wetland near the Jerseyfield Road. The trail currently follows an old railroad bed with the exception of the last 2000 feet near the Jerseyfield Road which crosses a wetland. This wetland area is a poor location for a snowmobile trail because it does not freeze adequately and the snow surface gets quickly eroded away. When the winter is not uniformly cold and snowy, waterholes develop in the trail and snowmobiles frequently get stuck. The proposed reroute would eliminate the section of trail in the wetland by continuing along the old railroad bed to an old road then out to the Jerseyfield Road. A majority of the old railroad bed is wide open, with only a small amount of tree cutting needed. The last section of trail that would follow approximately 1000 feet of old road is overgrown with a

fair number of smaller trees (mostly 3 to 5 inches in diameter). These trees would need to be cut in order to make a suitable trail.

- Consider routing the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) through the FLWF. Should the upcoming assessment of proposed routes for the NCNST determine that the most environmentally sound route for the trail pass through the FLWF, then the UMP will be amended to reflect the trail construction project. The NCNST assessment will not be done as part of this plan; it will be a separate project (see Special Area Plan section).
- Designate and mark the following herd paths as foot trails: Goldmine Stream Trail, Good Luck Cliffs Trail, House Pond Trail, Potholers Trail (avoiding the purple fringed orchids), Christian Lake Trail, DeBraine Lake-Trout Lake Trail, Stony Brook Lake Trail, and Clockmill Pond Trail. Herd paths are often not in the best locations, therefore segments of these trails may be relocated to protect wetlands and minimize soil erosion. Segments that are relocated will be brushed in to discourage continued use and, if necessary, re-vegetated to rehabilitate the area.
- Abandon the following snowmobile trails: Big Alderbed Trail, Jockeybush Lake Trail, Dingman Hill Trail, Route 10 Spur, Spectacle Lake Trail, Wagoners Loop, Sheriff Lake Trail, East Shore Road Spur and Pleasant Lake Trail. These nine trails total approximately 16.7 miles and will be closed for various reasons including use patterns and environmental or maintenance considerations. Abandoned trails will be posted as closed, brushed in to discourage snowmobiling, and re-vegetated if necessary to rehabilitate the area. Some of these trails will be designated as cross country ski or foot trails.
- Designate and mark the Jockeybush Lake Trail and Wagoners Loop as a nordic ski trail. The Broomstick Lake Trail is already marked as a ski trail, but the trailhead needs to be maintained during winter to provide access. The few miles of old ski trail in the southeast corner of the unit, near Royal Mountain, will not be reopened or maintained because there is no longer a need for ski trails in this area.
- Rehabilitate the Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff foot trail. This is a relatively short (approximately 0.8 miles) trail leading from the West Shore Road in Piseco to cliffs on the side of Panther Mountain. The trail receives little maintenance and is heavily eroded from visitor use and water running down the center. The cliffs are a popular hiking destination for visitors staying at the three DEC public campgrounds along West Shore Road.
- Construct and mark the following new foot trails: a loop that connects the Good Luck Cliffs to the Dexter Lake Trail; a trail from the Jerseyfield Road to Boyer Lake and beyond to Black Creek Lake, Long Lake, and Big Alderbed; and a trail from the Powley-Piseco Road to Redlouse Lake. These trails will be marked in the best locations to protect wetlands and minimize soil erosion.
- Make the G Lake Trail and Sand Lake Trail accessible to people with disabilities. The G Lake Trail is approximately ½ mile long and will be made accessible by wheelchair. This will require minor grading and resurfacing. The Sand Lake Trail is also approximately ½ mile long and will be made barrier-free. This will require minor grading and a reroute of the section of trail in a wetland area.

- Post all designated foot trails as closed to all terrain bicycle (mountain bike) use. There are only a limited number of foot trails and the continued use of bicycles on all open roads, closed roads and snowmobile trails will provide sufficient biking opportunities.
- Correct any undesirable wet conditions on trails by relocating use to a more appropriate area or by installing bridges, culverts, stepping stones, or bog bridging. Try to relocate use first, and improve crossings as a second alternative. The original locations of trails that have been relocated will be brushed in to discourage continued use, and if necessary re-vegetated to rehabilitate the area.
- Close illegal snowmobile trail spurs leading to lakes and ponds, by brushing or other means.
- Designate the Spectacle Lake Trail and Big Alderbed Trail as foot trails. These are existing snowmobile trails are proposed to be closed to snowmobiling.

MOTOR VEHICLE ROADS

Current Situation

Motor vehicle access and use in the FLWF is a major issue and topic of controversy. The unit's relatively flat topography and existing network of old log hauling roads are attractive to this type of use. Arguments have been made on both sides regarding whether or not motor vehicle access should be provided, to what extent, and where.

Motor vehicle use in and of itself, except for snowmobiling, is not a program offered by the Department. However, use of motor vehicles by the public is authorized on designated roads to provide access for hunting, trapping, fishing, camping, or other allowed recreational purposes.

The APSLMP contains several specific provisions on the public use of motor vehicles and all-terrain vehicles in units classified as Wild Forest. The APSLMP also provides, in guideline 2 under the heading "Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft" on page 35, that in Wild Forest areas motor vehicle use by the general public is limited to existing public roads and Department roads that are designated by the Department as being open to the general public. Guideline 4 under the heading "Basic guidelines" for Wild Forest Areas, on page 33 of the APSLMP, indicates that public use of motor vehicles "will not be encouraged" and there will not be any "*material increase in the mileage of roads and snowmobile trails open to motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the master plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972.*" Future proposals that would increase the mileage of roads open to public motor vehicle use have to be considered in light of this provision.

Pursuant to 6 NYCRR §196.1(b)(3), public motor vehicle use in the forest preserve is only permitted on roads that are specifically designated by the Department for motorized use. Currently there are approximately 14.45 miles of road open to motor vehicle use in this unit. These roads provide access to both public and private lands.

ATV Use - The DEC is committed to taking actions to address the issue of All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use on public lands under the Department's jurisdiction, including Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park. These actions are to ensure that all ATV access on Forest Preserve lands will be in compliance with existing law, including but not limited to the APSLMP, the Vehicle and Traffic Law (V&TL), specifically V&TL §2405, 6 NYCRR §196.1, and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

By providing that a road must be designed for travel by automobiles and may also be used by other types of motor vehicles. APA staff have indicated that the APSLMP implies that a road which is not designed for public travel by automobiles may not be open to the public for travel by other types of motor vehicles.

Reasonable restrictions on the type of vehicle or season of use may be imposed for environmental protection, but as a general rule, the APSLMP does not intend for a road to be open for the public use of ATVs unless the road is designed for the public use of automobiles.

None of the roads specifically designated by the Department for motorized use are posted as open for ATV access. An analysis of motor vehicle use within the unit is provided in Section VII.

Objective(s):

- To provide motorized use of selected roads to improve and enhance access to recreational opportunities consistent with APSLMP requirements.
- To provide motorized access and use in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and is compatible with the character of wild forest lands.
- To reduce illegal motor vehicle use on closed roads.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Develop a comprehensive MMS road inventory with maintenance needs and priorities.
- Monitor all open roads on a regular basis and address any negative environmental impacts immediately.
- Post the following roads as open to public motor vehicle use: Mountain Home Road Extension and Cranberry-Mud Lake Road. These roads total approximately 7.5 miles and provide significant public access to DEC program areas such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. Public ATV or dirt bike use will not be allowed on these roads. See the motor vehicle inventory section for descriptions of the open sections and mileages.
- Post the following roads as closed to public motor vehicle use: Ferris Lake Road, Mounts Creek Road, California Road, Rotasch Road, Thayer Access Road, Partridge Lane, Hawes Road Extension, Gore Road, Brayhouse Road, Pipe Line Road and North Branch Lake Road. These roads total approximately 7.35 miles and provide access primarily to private lands. The use of these roads for access to private lands will be allowed to continue pending clarification of private rights. Motor vehicle use by the general public will be prohibited and the roads gated as necessary. This action will result in closing approximately 3.85 miles of road to public motor vehicle use. See the motor vehicle road inventory section for descriptions of the open sections and mileage.

Ferris Lake Road - This road primarily provides access to a private inholding surrounded by state land. The route is short (approximately 0.4 miles) and is being traveled mainly by two-wheel drive vehicles. The road does not provide the public with significant access to DEC program areas that are not already accessible from the Powley-Piseco Road. As a result, the road will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status of this road as a ROW to private lands needs further research and clarification.

Mounts Creek Road - This road is on a small parcel of state land that is surrounded by private lands. The route is short (approximately 0.3 miles) and is being traveled mainly by two-wheel drive vehicles. The road crosses private lands to reach state lands, has not been open to the public for motor vehicle travel and does not provide the public with significant access to DEC program areas. As a result, the road will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. There is a legal question about the

right of public access by foot or other means across the private lands between the end of the town road (Billy Hamlin Road) and this Forest Preserve parcel since it cannot likely be landlocked, so research and clarification of the legal access to this parcel must be pursued.

California Road - This road is no longer used by the public for motor vehicle travel because the bridge over Black Creek washed out a couple decades ago and was never replaced. As a result, the road became inaccessible to the public and essentially reverted back to a four foot wide trail that is no longer suitable for motor vehicle use. The road is, however, still used for access to two private inholdings. The route is fairly long (approximately 3.0 miles) and is being traveled by ATVs. There is also some occasional illegal ATV use along this route. Since the character of the road has significantly changed over the years, it will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status of this road as a ROW to private lands as well as the legal status of public rights to access the forest preserve lands across the intervening private lands needs further research and clarification.

Rotasch Road and Thayer Access Road - These roads (approximately 1.7 miles and approximately 0.1 miles respectively) primarily provide access to private inholdings surrounded by state land. Both routes begin on private lands and are traveled by either four-wheel drive vehicles and/or ATVs. These routes are not accessible to the public for motor vehicle travel and do not provide the public with significant access to DEC program areas that are not accessible from the Gray-Wilmurt Road. As a result, these roads will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status of these roads as a ROW to private lands as well as the legal status of public rights to access the forest preserve lands across the intervening private lands needs further research and clarification.

Partridge Lane - This road primarily provides access to private lands. The route is short (approximately 0.15 miles) and is being traveled mainly by two-wheel drive vehicles. The road does not provide the public with significant access to DEC program areas that are not already accessible from Teacup Street. As a result, the road will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status of this road as a ROW to private lands needs further research and clarification.

Gore Road and Brayhouse Road - These roads (approximately 0.5 miles and approximately 0.1 miles respectively) primarily provide access to private inholdings surrounded by state land. Both routes begin on private lands and are traveled by either four-wheel drive vehicles and/or ATVs. These routes are not accessible to the public for motor vehicle travel and do not provide the public with significant access to DEC program areas that are not accessible from the Powley-Piseco Road. As a result, these roads will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status of these roads as a ROW to private lands as well as the legal status of public rights to access the forest preserve lands across the intervening private lands needs further research and clarification.

North Branch Lake Road - This road provides access to private lands that share a common corner with the Jerseyfield Preserve on the bed of North Branch Lake. The route is short (approximately 0.4 miles) and only accessible through lands of the Jerseyfield Preserve. Travel along this route is mostly by ATVs. The road is not accessible to the public for motor vehicle travel. As a result, the road will be posted

as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status and rights along this road need further research and clarification.

Hawes Road Extension - (approximately 0.4 miles) Post this road as closed to public motor vehicle use. The Town of Stratford has indicated that it desires to re-establish its right-of-way along the Hawes Road. To date, the DEC has not received any evidence from the town of past road dedication or any records of historic use or documented maintenance records for that section of the road which crosses Forest Preserve land. Available information appears to suggest that the legal means of access for the private landowners who use the Hawes Road is from the Powley-Piseco Road, on the 0.88 mile section that is currently identified as a town road, and not along that section of the road that crosses Forest Preserve. If evidence to the contrary is discovered, the road may be re-opened to public traffic, or opened to the previously mentioned private landowners to access their property.

Pipe Line Road - (approximately 0.3 miles) This road primarily provides access to private lands. The road does not provide the public with significant access to DEC program areas that are not already accessible from the Stewart Landing Road. As a result, the road will be posted as closed to public motor vehicle use. The legal status of this road as a ROW to private lands needs further research and clarification.

- Post the following routes as closed to all types of public motor vehicle use, except snowmobile use if they are posted as snowmobile trails: Nine Corner Lake Trail, Broomstick Lake Trail, Dexter Lake Trail, Waters Millpond Trail, Knapps Long Lake Trail, Long Lake Trail, Avery Road Trail, Burnt Vly Trail, Crystal Lake Trail, East Road Trail, Dingman Hill Trail, Glasgow Trail, Edick Road Extension, Morey Trail, Clockmill Corners Trail, Jockeybush Lake Trail, Big Alderbed Trail, Good Luck Lake Trail, Mounts Creek Trail, Richard's Vly Trail, Hurrell Vly Trail, and a section of Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail. These routes total approximately 56.15 miles and will be gated as necessary. They will also continue to remain open to mountain bike use unless in the future such use is deemed no longer appropriate. See Appendix B for descriptions and individual mileages.
- Temporarily close the Cranberry-Mud Lake Road from the end of Billy Hamlin Road to the snowmobile bridge across Jerseyfield Lake Outlet to all motor vehicles, except snowmobiles. This section of road is approximately 5.0 miles long. The road will remain closed until the first 2.5 miles from the end of Billy Hamlin Road are upgraded to provide access by two-wheel drive vehicles. At that point, the remaining 2.5 miles of road will be abandoned to all motor vehicle traffic, except snowmobiles. Upgrading the road will eventually involve realignment, grading, surfacing, drainage control, and a new parking area at the end. An appropriate stop barrier will be placed at the end of Billy Hamlin Road until all road work is completed. Once the work is completed, the barrier will then be removed and placed at the new parking area to limit vehicles from attempting to travel down the snowmobile trail.
- Assess all motor vehicle roads on the unit for feasibility of designating selected roads as open to motor vehicle use by people with mobility impairments to access Department programs. Access would be managed through the CP-3 permit process.
- Enforce against illegal motor vehicle use.

CAMPSITES

Current Situation

The FLWF provides a variety of different camping opportunities. The interior portion of the unit contains numerous primitive tent sites that are located along the shores of the more popular lakes. These sites are designated with a yellow camping disk and often contain a fire ring. There are also a number of car accessible sites located along secondary access roads, such as the Powley-Piseco Road, G Lake Road, Mountain Home Road Extension and Edick Road. Most of these sites can accommodate small camper trailers. There are no lean-tos within the unit.

Most of the designated campsites are sites that have been historically used. In some instances, the sites are located too close to water and many lack the appropriate facilities. Adequate fire rings and pit privies are the two facilities most commonly lacking. Ground cover loss and the illegal cutting of trees is a problem in some of the more heavily used areas, but is not a widespread problem. There is no apparent sign that campsite demand exceeds site availability. See Appendix C for maps showing the general locations of the designated campsites.

Large groups of people (10 or more individuals) do utilize portions of the FLWF for camping. Much of this use is associated with hunting camps, local youth camps, and college outings. The majority of large group camping occurs on Good Luck Lake, Spectacle Lake, Big Alderbed, Jockeybush Lake, Big Bay, and along the Powley-Piseco Road. While no formal group campsites are currently designated within the unit, group campsites will be designated at suitable locations when and where a demand by large groups is occurring or is reasonably anticipated in the near future.

Objective(s):

- To reduce, eliminate, or mitigate the adverse effects on the natural environment that result from improperly located campsites.
- To provide a wide variety of camping opportunities and experiences with adequate facilities.
- To assure that campsite and privy locations comply with the SLMP guidelines.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Complete a campsite impact assessment for all campsites within the unit according to the campsite impact assessment and monitoring manual in Appendix I. This assessment will be used to identify and designate campsites that comply with APSLMP guidelines by YEAR THREE of this plan. Campsites will be selected on physical criteria and the sight and sound criteria of the APSLMP. Actions to address inappropriate motor vehicle access to roadside campsites will be implemented at the completion of the campsite assessment. Such actions may include road closure with barricades, the designation of an off-highway parking area and the closure of related campsites, or the redesign of campsites to separate camping from parking.
- Develop LAC indicators and standards for condition of vegetation in camping areas.
- Monitor all designated and non-designated campsites, especially roadside campsites with motor vehicle access, on an annual basis to ensure that there are no significant signs of deterioration. Correct undesirable conditions by rehabilitating the area or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Close, or relocate where feasible, all designated and non-designated campsites that fail to meet the Master Plan separation guidelines. Close all non-designated campsites that fail to meet the required minimum set back distance of 150 feet from any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water.

- Incorporate and emphasize campsite maintenance and rehabilitation in annual work plans.
- Designate two primitive campsites at Glasgow Pond and Hillabrandt Vly.
- Construct an accessible pit privy at campsite #13 along the Powley-Piseco Road.
- Close campsite #6 at the junction of Brayhouse Brook and East Canada Creek, just south of the potholders. This site is heavily impacted with excessive stream bank erosion.
- Close campsite #'s 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 13 on Good Luck Lake and promulgate regulations to restrict camping around the lake to designated sites only (see Special Area Plan section). These sites need to be closed to meet the APSLMP separation guidelines.
- Designate the following existing campsites as group campsites: Big Bay site #2, Good Luck Lake site # 11, Spectacle Lake site #1, Jockeybush Lake site #1, and along the Powley-Piseco Road site #'s 3 and 13. Signage will be placed at group sites stating: "Group Camping by Permit Only." All large groups will be required to camp at a designated group campsite and acquire a camping permit from the local forest ranger prior to camping.
- Designate one (1) new group campsite on Big Alderbed.
- Restore all closed campsites to their natural state by removing all evident camping sign and rehabilitating the area as necessary, using the following techniques where appropriate: cultivation of devegetated areas to promote root growth, seeding or planting appropriate vegetation, posting the area as closed to camping.
- Construct accessible lean-tos with accessible pit privies at the following locations: on Spectacle Lake at campsite #3; on Third Lake at campsite #2; and on Boyer Lake along the southeast side of the lake. Lean-tos were chosen over campsites at these locations for the following reasons: there are currently no lean-to camping opportunities within the unit; they will encourage public use of the area; lean-tos are acceptable structures in a wild forest setting and part of the Adirondack experience; and they will provide opportunities for people with disabilities. As required by the APSLMP, all lean-tos will be located at least 100 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or major stream. Lean-to construction holds the potential to create significant impacts such as erosion and sedimentation, vegetation clearing, and increased visual and noise disturbances. In order to minimize such impacts, all lean-to construction projects will incorporate the use of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the Management Guidelines section of this plan.
- Upgrade at least one existing campsite at G Lake and Sand Lake to current accessibility standards. This includes constructing accessible pit privies and fire rings.

SIGNS

Current Situation

Signs are used to welcome users, mark trails, and provide regulatory, interpretive and safety information. Proper signing can educate users and help minimize user impacts on the resource. In wild forest areas, signs may be erected at trail junctures that show directions with arrows and use the minimal necessary wording. A sign inventory for the FLWF is not available. The Division of Lands and Forests, Operations, and Fish and Wildlife all use signs within the unit. Department signing is kept to a minimum within the interior to avoid interfering with wild forest values and guidelines. However, interior directional signing erected by local

snowmobile clubs is often excessive due to the fact that signs are usually scattered around at intersections. Sign theft and vandalism is a problem in a few of the more popular areas.

The primary access points of the FLWF are not properly identified and the need for signs, area maps, and register boxes at these locations is apparent. A new level-two trailhead information kiosk has been developed and will be installed at trailheads where conveying messages about recreational opportunities and visitor guidelines and regulations is considered especially important. The new kiosk incorporates a trail register box with a sign-in book on one side with room for an area map and informational signs on the other. The standard or traditional trail register box provides a sign-in book, but is smaller and less informative than the new level-two style. Efforts are underway to coordinate trailhead signing to be consistent and relevant to resource and user needs.

Objective(s):

- To develop a Maintenance Management System (MMS) sign inventory.
- To provide the minimal amount of signing necessary to manage and protect the resource.
- To adequately identify the unit, major access points, and resources.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Develop a comprehensive sign inventory that is maintained and updated annually.
- Place all directional signs at trail junctions in one central location to reduce the number of signs necessary to direct users.
- Coordinate all signs from different program areas through a single area manager and post signing that is consistent and relevant to both the resource and user needs.
- Sign all trailheads and major access points with the appropriate signage so the public knows where they are.
- Sign unit boundaries with boundary signs identifying the land classification of the Unit. Sign trailheads, trails and other entrances to the FLWF with specific signage identifying the unit's designation, so that both DEC personnel and the public know individual unit designations.

BRIDGES

Current Situation

The FLWF has many bridges, but an accurate inventory is not available. Most of the bridges are built on snowmobile trails that are maintained by local clubs. Bridge construction is primarily the standard wood stringer type with wooden planking. Maintenance is a continual process and many are often repaired when needed by local clubs without prior Department knowledge. Efforts are currently under way by the Department to gather inventory and maintenance information on all bridges within the unit.

In June 2006, as the result of a major rain event, the abutments of a large snowmobile trail bridge over Sprite Creek were severely damaged by high streamflows. The Sprite Creek Bridge is currently unsafe for snowmobiling or other public uses. The existing bridge, which is less than six feet wide, was constructed on substantial pre-existing abutments of laid-up stone and can not be repaired. It must be replaced with a new 8-foot wide bridge with railings. The Sprite Creek Bridge, on the Crystal Lake Trail is a critical link in snowmobile corridor trail 8. Emergency repairs are necessary to enable a land based connecting link to the Caroga Lake area and other trails in southern Fulton County. A design conforming with recently-established standards has been approved by Department engineers. The bridge project will be coordinated with a private landowner who owns one-quarter of the land on which the bridge is situated.

Objective(s):

- To adopt a bridge design system that meets the user's needs, provides resource protection and requires minimal future maintenance.
- To ensure all bridges are properly maintained and safe for travel.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Develop a comprehensive MMS type bridge inventory with location maps, design sketches, and material construction details.
- Conduct regular safety inspections of all bridges to identify maintenance needs and develop a priority list.
- Incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the Management Guidelines section of this plan in all new bridge construction and relocation projects.
- Assess bridge replacement needs in coordination with all DEC program units and volunteer organizations and replace existing bridges when necessary in accordance with the BMPs for bridge construction.
- Widen all snowmobile trail bridges according to DEC Policy or other interim guidelines. It is not anticipated that any Wild, Scenic or Recreational River (WSRR) permits will be required under 6 NYCRR Part 666. Bridges on the Stewart Landing Trail, across Sprite Creek; Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail, across Jerseyfield Lake outlet; Avery's Trail, across State Brook; Third Lake Trail, across Fourth Lake outlet; and Marina Trail, across Pine Lake outlet are priorities for widening to current standards.
- Construct about a 40-foot long bridge over a section of wetland on the Stewart Landing Trail. This is an OPRHP snowmobile corridor trail and a field investigation indicates that a reroute around this area is not possible. A wetlands permit will be obtained from APA before implementation of this project. Prior to construction, a work plan will be completed, including a tally of all trees to be cut.
- Incorporate the principles of universal design into all new bridge construction projects and maintenance work.
- Remove any building scrap from new bridge construction and/or old bridge maintenance or removal and dispose of properly.
- Address non-conforming steel suspension bridge remains on Fort Noble Trail. The need for a bridge for access into the adjacent West Canada Lakes Wilderness will be addressed in the UMP for the wilderness area.
- Replace Sprite Creek Bridge on an emergency basis.

DAMS**Current Situation**

The FLWF has one maintained dam located at Stewart Landing which regulates the water levels of West Lake, Lily Lake, and Canada Lake. The DEC is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the water level at this structure. Due to the unique situation surrounding this area, this dam will be discussed further in the Special Area Plans section below. There is also an old crib style dam on Big Alderbed Pond. This dam has

not been maintained and most of the original structure has eroded and flooded away. It was decided to let this area revert back to its natural state.

Objective(s):

- To establish and maintain fish barrier dams where needed to protect or restore indigenous fish populations.
- To maintain all existing dams in a safe working condition.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Conduct annual visual inspections of all dams by the Division of Operations supplemented by formal inspections if warranted by the Dam Safety Unit.
- Continue to operate the Stewart Landing dam under the current agreement.
- Acquire and install electronic lake level monitoring and control mechanisms to improve the maintenance of water levels on Canada, West, and Lily Lakes.

PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Current Situation

Several of the management proposals outlined in this section require the promulgation of new rules and regulations in accordance with DEC policies and procedures, the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the APSLMP. Statutory authority for regulatory change is found in ECL §9-0105(3) and Executive Law §816(3), which directs and authorizes DEC to develop rules and regulations necessary to implement the APSLMP. Existing regulations relating to public use of State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department are found in 6 NYCRR Part 190. The regulations proposed herein constitute the minimum level of direct regulation necessary to assure APSLMP compliance and directly influence visitor behavior to protect resources and the experiences of visitors.

A few locations within the FLWF, mostly snowmobile trails or old roads, show evidence of illegal All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use, that has impacted the condition of trails and roads, natural resources such as wetland areas, and created undesirable conditions for other trail users. Evidence of additional ATV use has been observed along the shoreline of some planning area waters such as Hildebrandt Vly.

Impacts from ATV use include soil compaction, vegetation damage, rutting of trails, and creation of large wet areas. While barriers are generally effective at stopping conventional motorized vehicles they can be ineffective at stopping ATV use. Barriers will be installed where necessary since the presence of a barrier does help with enforcement cases against illegal ATV use by making it obvious that motorized use is not allowed beyond the barrier. Catching an illegal ATV user on the Forest Preserve can be difficult, having to be at the precise location and time the ATV use is actually occurring. When caught ATV users have the potential to be ticketed for a number of violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Environmental Conservation Law including trespass, lack of registration (all ATVs must have visible license plates), lack of insurance, lack of helmets, in addition to unauthorized entry onto public lands. See:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/index.html>

Objective(s):

- To adopt new regulations or strengthen existing regulations to accomplish management goals.
- To control adverse and illegal uses through law enforcement, when education is unsuccessful.

- To coordinate with towns to insure that any ATV riding associated with “officially designated” town roads legally complies with Vehicle and Traffic Law and ATV use does not spill over into adjacent FLWF lands.

Proposed Management Actions:

Promulgate regulations to:

- Prohibit glass containers in the Nine Corner Lake and Good Luck Lake areas.
- Prohibit overnight camping along the West Branch of the Sacandaga River, near the NY 10 bridge.
- Restrict camping within 500 feet of Good Luck Lake to designated sites only.
- Restrict camping at group sites to groups with permits.
- Increase patrols at problem areas where ATV use is occurring, especially areas susceptible to environmental damage.
- Adopt new regulations to apply to the part of FLWF within 500 feet of the Stewart Landing Dam to:
 - Allow parking only in designated areas.
 - Allow camping only in designated sites.
 - Allow fires only in fire rings at designated campsites.
 - Prohibit swimming.
 - Prohibit the launching of trailered boats.
- Investigate the need for stronger ATV regulations. Enforcement of the existing laws pertaining to illegal ATV use is a crucial part of any successful program. Stiffer penalties or a change in the law allowing impounding of ATVs may be needed to discourage illegal ATV activity.

SPECIAL AREA PLANS

NINE CORNER LAKE

Current Situation

This area gets a lot of use from day hikers and swimmers in the summer and snowmobilers in the winter. A trail heads north from NY 29A following an old road for about one mile to the lake. At the trailhead there are two parking lots, one on either side of the road, each with a parking capacity of approximately 10 vehicles. It is common on weekends and holidays to see both lots full the entire day.

There are currently 10 campsites that are mostly concentrated around the southern end of the lake. These sites are close to the water but are reasonably spaced with good vegetative buffers between them. A few of the sites have suffered some physical impacts from users. The pit privy that was located along the trail where it splits to head along the east and west shores of the lake was burned in 2000. Littering is a problem throughout summer and trail register vandalism is a common occurrence. Broken glass is a litter problem as well as a safety issue, especially in the Nine Corner Lake area. Glass fragments can frequently be found along trails, in fire rings and campsites, on shorelines, and in the water around the lake.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Promulgate regulations to prohibit glass containers in the Nine Corner Lake area.
- Clearly post all rules and regulations at the trailhead and enforce accordingly.

- Continue to monitor all existing campsites for impacts. Use appropriate signs to disperse visitor use from heavily used sites near the outlet to less used sites around the lake.
- Construct two more privies, one on each side of the lake. New privies should be placed in areas that will service multiple campsites, if possible, and will be placed at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark, pursuant to the APSLMP.
- Lime and restock Nine Corner Lake with trout.

GOOD LUCK LAKE/CLIFFS

Current Situation

This area is very popular with day users and weekend campers. Both the lake and cliffs are easily accessible from NY 10. The current trail register data is not an accurate indicator of use in this area. The data is primarily representative of visitors going to the cliffs, missing all canoe traffic and the majority of foot traffic to the lake. More trail registers are needed to effectively monitor use of the lake.

The trail to the cliffs is not officially marked, but is well used. The trail follows many paths up the mountain, some leading through undesirable conditions along the way. A single trail needs to be marked on the uphill side keeping the main flow of traffic away from the gorge below. Once at the top, the cliffs provide a panoramic view of Spectacle Lake and Third and Fourth lakes. There is also evidence of rock climbing activity, such as cam-locks and permanent bolt anchors, on the face of the cliffs.

Access to the lake can be gained by either foot or canoe. By foot the hike is a mere 0.5 miles to the lake's north shore where eight campsites are located. Boat travel is probably the more preferred route and requires paddling up the narrow, but navigable, outlet. Depending on water levels and recent beaver activity, it may be necessary to climb over an old beaver dam or two along the way. There are currently 13 designated campsites around the lake and no pit privies. Broken glass is a litter and safety problem and can frequently be found along trails and in fire rings and campsites.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Designate a canoe access site along the West Branch of the Sacandaga River near the NY 10 bridge. Place a new level-two information kiosk at this location. This site will also serve as an access point into the adjacent Silver Lake Wilderness Area.
- Develop a canoe access site at Shaker Place. This site was once open to the public, but was closed due to use related problems. An easement will be acquired in the future at this site from International Paper/Lyme Timber that will allow it to again be used by the public.
- Promulgate regulations to prohibit glass containers in the Good Luck Lake area. Clearly post all rules and regulations at the trail access point and enforce accordingly.
- Promulgate regulations to prohibit overnight camping along the West Branch of the Sacandaga River, near the NY 10 bridge.
- Place a standard trail register along the trail to Good Luck Lake. The existing register in this area primarily monitors traffic to the cliffs only.
- Construct three pit privies around the lake, two on the north shore and one on the south. These should be placed in areas that will service more than one campsite, if possible, and will be placed at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark, pursuant to the APSLMP.

- Close campsites #'s 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 13 on Good Luck Lake and promulgate regulations to restrict camping around the lake to designated sites only. These sites need to be closed because they are not in compliance with the APSLMP separation and sight and sound criteria. It will also be necessary to monitor the remaining sites for compliance with this criteria and address any other non-conforming sites by the end of the third year following the adoption of this UMP.
- Designate one (1) group camping site on Good Luck Lake.
- Designate and mark one trail to Good Luck Cliffs. The current trail has many routes, the preferred being one uphill from the ravine. Also, designate and mark a trail over the top of the cliffs that connects to the Dexter Lake Trail to create a loop. Both trails will be located to minimize long-term erosion potential and maintenance needs.

G LAKE

Current Situation

G Lake is an 85 acre lake located in the northern portion of the unit near the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area. It is one of the more recent acquisitions and little is known about the amount of use in the area. Current field observations indicate that the overall use is relatively low. This may be related to many factors including the location of G Lake Road, which can be easily missed by motorists.

Except for a network of old roads around the lake and a spur to Big Marsh Mountain, the G Lake area is essentially trail-less. There are five campsites located along the main access road and four around the lake. A small parking lot provides room for 3-4 cars and a rock barrier allows enough space for canoes and small car top boats to be carried in. The physical characteristics of the area are desirable for providing access for people with disabilities, however, the existing facilities will need to be upgraded. A small dump along the G Lake Road needs to be cleaned up in order to discourage any additional dumping.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Make the area accessible for people with disabilities. Improvements needed would include: enlarging the existing parking lot to accommodate up to 10 cars with at least one accessible parking spot; designating, marking, and hardening the G Lake trail to make it wheelchair accessible; providing canoe access, and making one lakeside campsites accessible, including an accessible pit-privy and fire ring. Motor vehicle access in this area is not recommended and will not be allowed.
- Clean up the old dump along the G lake Road. Remove only those materials that are present on the soil surface.
- Place an accessible level-two trail register and information kiosk at the G Lake parking lot. Visitor use data needs to be collected for this area.

STEWART LANDING

Current Situation

The Stewart Landing Dam regulates the water levels of Canada Lake, West Lake, Lily Lake and Green Lake. The dam is owned by the State and DEC is the agency responsible for maintaining and regulating the water level. However, there is some question as to whether or not the State acquired the actual flooding rights along with the dam. This is something that needs further research and possibly a legal determination.

In the mean time, a 1986 agreement between the DEC, Stewart Landing Association, and the Canada Lake Protective Association provides the framework for regulating the water level of Canada Lake. The agreement

states that the summer water level of the dam will be 1543.1 feet above sea level. This level will be maintained throughout the summer until fall draw down on November 15. On this date, the water level will be drawn down to the winter level of 1536.41 feet above sea level. This level will be maintained throughout the winter until the gates are closed at ice-out or May 15, whichever is sooner. The DEC currently spends an enormous amount of time trying to maintain these water levels throughout the year.

The dam is also a very popular “party spot” during the summer months. The launching of trailered boats over the bank is common and appears to be causing erosion problems; jumping off of and swimming near the dam are also favorite pastimes. There are four designated drive-to campsites in the area that provide overnight camping opportunities. The two most common complaints by local residents are about the loud noise and increased traffic near the dam area.

A visual inspection of the dam was last completed on November 29, 2000 by the DEC, Bureau of Flood Protection, Dam Safety Section. During that inspection the following conditions were noted on the right (looking downstream) earthen non-overflow section of the dam:

1. Both the upstream and downstream slopes are quite steep and have experienced some sliding. The downstream slope has evidence of old sliding and the upstream slope appears to have several small slides in progress.
2. The top width of the berm was estimated to be about eight feet. DEC’s “Guidelines for Design of Dams” recommends a crest width for earthen dams of 10 ft. or 7 ft. + 0.2H where H is the height of the embankment, whichever is greater.
3. The earthen portion of the dam was estimated by eye to be slightly lower than the concrete non-overflow section. These sections should be at the same elevation so that flow will be as even as possible in case of overtopping.
4. There are a few 6-inch diameter trees on or very close to the downstream slope. These trees should be removed.

Proposed Management Actions (proposed new regulations discussed previously):

- Determine who owns the flooding rights to the dam.
- Eliminate the launching of trailered boats at this site by placing a barrier along the road to prevent trailers from backing into the water, and post signs directing trailer boaters to the West Lake public boat launch.
- Install new alternative design options and technologies to aid in regulating the water level. Simple design modifications and/or remote monitoring devices with automatic gate controls will help reduce the number of work hours needed to effectively regulate the water level.
- Post the dam with “keep off” and/or “no trespassing” signs and strictly enforce. It is a potentially dangerous situation when swimmers climb the dam and jump off. To discourage this use, fencing will be extended on the road side and new fencing will be added to the far side.
- Install a rope or cable boom with floats in front of the dam for public safety reasons.
- Have the dam evaluated by a qualified professional engineer for the above-noted conditions as recommended by the Bureau of Flood Protection, Dam Safety Section.

- Stabilize slope areas on the earthen portion of the dam that show evidence of slides.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (NCNST)

Current Situation

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) was originally conceived in the mid 1960's as a trail to connect through eight northern states, from the Lewis & Clark Trail on the Missouri River in South Dakota to the Appalachian Trail in the Green Mountains of Vermont. In 1980, Federal legislation authorized the establishment of the entire length of the NCNST from South Dakota through New York as a component of the National Trails System. It is one of only eight trails authorized by Congress to be National Scenic Trails.

The portion of the NCNST through western New York has been designated and generally follows the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT). The completion of the trail through eastern New York (the Adirondacks) has been an issue from the start. Several problems were perceived with the original concept for the trail route through the already heavily impacted High Peaks Region. For a variety of reasons, local trail groups opposed this route and have been reluctant to actively adopt the NCNST as a cause, and without the critical elements of local support and advocacy, the trail has literally gone nowhere.

One issue that there is general agreement on is that the trail should pass through the southern Adirondacks, outside the High Peaks Region. With this in mind, several new alternative routes were developed. One of the alternatives recommends that the trail pass through the FLWF with a couple different options within the unit. However, it is impractical at this point to consider a specific location until the APA and DEC decide on a general route and how to handle a trail of this nature within the framework of the UMP process. It is believed that the FLWF would be able to support this type of trail system, and is thus a potential candidate for selection. The criteria for this assessment are based on the National Scenic Trail standards, the APSLMP, DEC policy, and comment from the New York State Trails Council and the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee. The resulting recommendations for the most appropriate route will be the major consideration in deciding the final approved route.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Should the upcoming assessment of proposed routes for the NCNST determine that the most environmentally sound route for the trail is to pass through the FLWF, amend the UMP to provide for the location and, where necessary, the construction of the trail through FLWF.

WEST LAKE BOAT LAUNCHING SITE

Current Situation

The West Lake Boat Launch is the only significant public boating access site serving the Canada Lake system and therefore provides access to West Lake, Canada Lake, Lily Lake and Green Lake. The site was included in the Galusha ADA Consent Decree as a facility to be improved for Americans with disabilities. Such improvements were made to the site during the fall of 2006. These improvements included installation of an accessible toilet, a pathway to the top of the boat ramp, and reserved parking. The Adirondack Park Agency and the DEC consulted during the design phase of these improvements.

Even though the Canada Lake system together comprises 1,000 or more acres in surface area, the waterway is not on the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan listing of waters 1,000 acres or more in size that are eligible for analysis to determine their suitability for initial or additional boat ramp construction. However, because the West Lake Boat Launch predates the Adirondack Park Agency act, it is eligible to be retained, but its status must be periodically reviewed to determine if its eventual conversion to a fishing access site is appropriate. The FLWF Unit Management Plan is the suitable format for such a review.

Because the West Lake Boat Launch is the only significant public launch on a moderately large waterway with historic and current motor boat use, its current status as a boat launching facility is justified. West

Lake, Canada Lake, and Green Lake all have private camps, many of which rely on the West Lake facility for the seasonal launching of boats. The Canada Lake system includes a large amount of state owned shoreline. The general boating public uses the West Lake Boat Launch to access this public shoreline and waterway. Because there is no alternative boat launching site, a conversion to a fishing access site (without a boat ramp) is not justified at this time.

The West Lake Boat Launch site does not currently comply with the APSLMP because trailered boat launches are not allowed in wild forest classified lands. The interconnecting lake system accessed from this site is around 1,000 acres, enabling it to be added to the APSLMP list. A proposal to recommend reclassification to intensive use is appropriate because the lake system complies with the MP lake size guideline, not to mention it will be the only public launch on the lake after the Stewart Landing Dam site is closed to trailered launching.

Over the last few years the number of vehicles bringing boats to the launch and parking at the site has greatly increased, causing several problems. Parking in the road and congestion caused from backing and maneuvering trailers has blocked residents' access to and from their camps. Many users often park their vehicles beyond the launching site parking area and use private drives to turn around, sometimes causing damage. Other concerns include increased noise, trash and litter along the road, and people sleeping overnight in vehicles. In the summer of 2006, as the result of a major rain event, the town road flooded and one of the bulkheads at the West Lake launch was damaged. Repairs to the bulkhead are still needed.

Proposed Management Actions:

- Repair flooding damage to West Lake boat launch.
- Limit use by designating parking spaces for launch users and work in conjunction with the town to place no parking signs along West Lake Road where appropriate. Parking restrictions will be enforced and violators ticketed as necessary.
- Designate or construct a turn around area at the far end of the parking area. This area will be posted against parking and state that there is no turn around beyond this point.
- The Department recommends that APA consider reclassification of the launch site to an Intensive Use Area.
- Clearly post signs stating that there is no littering and urge users to carry out what they carry in.
- Post the far end of the launching site urging users to respect local camp owners rights and privacy.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE/BUDGET

The following tables outline a schedule for implementation derived from management recommendations made in Section V. Projected Management Actions , as well as their estimated costs. Accomplishments are contingent upon sufficient staffing levels and available funding. The estimated costs of implementing these projects is based on historical costs incurred by the Department for similar projects. Values for some projects are based on projected costs for service contracting. These cost estimates do not include capital expenditures for items such as equipment, nor do they include the value of program staff salaries. Cited costs for YEAR I are estimates based on 2005 figures. Successive years have been prorated to reflect price increases, but still may need to be adjusted accordingly.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>COST</u>
ANNUALLY	
1. Routine maintenance of trails and associated facilities.	\$25,000
2. Maintenance and cleanup of campsites and associated facilities.	\$5,000
3. Boundary line maintenance (37 miles/year @ \$400/mile).	\$15,000
4. Monitor public use and visitor impacts on natural resources and related facilities for compliance with adopted LAC standards.	15 person days
5. Stock fish in unit waters consistent with Bureau of Fisheries policies and the <u>Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation</u> (1980).	5 person days
6. Promote an active comprehensive educational program stressing the proper use of public lands.	\$5,000
7. Inspect and maintain the Stewart Landing Dam as needed. Monitor and control the water level in accordance to the agreed upon schedule.	\$10,000
8. Monitor wildlife populations through the analysis of harvest data and field observations. Inventory non-game, endangered, threatened and special concern species as well as significant habitats.	5 person days
9. Maintain an active acquisition program pursuant to the Open Space Plan to acquire desirable parcels as availability and funding permit.	1 person days
10. Conduct biological, chemical and physical surveys of selected waters to assess management needs and to determine progress towards the objectives stated in this plan.	10 person days
11. Inventory and monitor unit for occurrences of invasive plants, and control such as found.	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$65,000
YEAR I	
1. Emergency Sprite Creek Bridge repairs. Replace the snowmobile bridge across Sprite Creek, below Stewart Landing Dam to current standards.	\$40,000
2. Mark all the identified herd paths as foot trails, re-locating necessary sections.	\$10,000

3.	Mark all designated foot trails against all terrain bicycle (mountain bike) use.	\$5,000
4.	Mark all the identified road and trail closures.	\$5,000
5.	Install standard trail registers at the end of Hall Road, the end of Avery Road, Good Luck Lake Trail, Big Alderbed Trail, and West Stoner Lake Trail.	\$1,000
6.	Install stone barrier along road and rope or cable boom with floats in front of dam at Stewart Landing.	\$4,500
7.	Rehabilitate the Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff Trail.	\$7,500
8.	Repair West Lake Boat Launch Site bulkhead.	\$8,000
9.	Conduct a baseline inventory of all established campsites.	\$5,000
10.	Conduct a unit-wide detailed inventory of road conditions and facilities including culverts, bridges, signs, etc.	\$10,000
11.	Promulgate rules and regulations as identified.	5 person days
12.	Conduct comprehensive sign inventory	5 person days
13.	Develop unit brochure and map	\$3,000
14.	Abandon the following snowmobile trails: Big Alderbed Trail, Jockeybush Lake Trail, Dingman Hill Trail, Route 10 Spur, Spectacle Lake Trail, Wagoners Loop, Sheriff Lake Trail, East Shore Road Spur and Pleasant Lake Trail.	\$1,000
	TOTAL	\$100,000

YEAR II

1.	Widen the snowmobile bridge on the Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail across the Jerseyfield Lake outlet to current standards.	\$6,000
2.	Assess identified areas for potential accessibility projects within the unit.	\$5,000
3.	Lime and stock Nine Corner Lake.	\$5,000
4.	Construct pit-privies on Good Luck Lake, Nine Corner Lake, and along the Powley-Piseco Road as identified.	\$3,000
5.	Construct a new parking area for the Goldmine Stream Trail.	\$15,000
6.	Develop the canoe access site along the West Branch Sacandaga River, near Good Luck Lake.	\$3,000
7.	Construct and mark all the identified new foot trails.	\$20,000
8.	Install level-two kiosks at Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff Trail and Goldmine Stream Trail.	\$500
9.	Designate campsites on Glasgow Pond and Hillabrandt Vly.,	2 person days
10.	Conduct comprehensive MMS inventory of facilities	30 person days

11. Construct an accessible pit privy at campsite #13 along the Powley-Piseco Road.	\$2,500
12. Close campsite #6 at the junction of Brayhouse Brook and East Canada Creek, just south of the potholers.	\$1,000
13. Close campsite #'s 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 13 on Good Luck Lake and promulgate regulations to restrict camping around the lake to designated sites only.	5 person days
14. Designate group campsites at: Big Alderbed, Big Bay site #2, Good Luck Lake site # 11, Spectacle Lake site #1, Jockeybush Lake site #1, and along the Powley-Piseco Road site #'s 3 and 13.	3 person days
15. Address non-conforming steel suspension bridge remains on Fort Noble Trail.	\$5,000
16. Acquire and install electronic lake level monitoring and control mechanisms to improve the maintenance of water levels on Canada, West, and Lily Lakes.	\$75,000
TOTAL	\$141,000

YEAR III

1. Mark the Jockeybush Lake Trail and Wagoners Loop as nordic ski trails.	\$2,250
2. Make the G Lake area accessible to people with disabilities: install accessible level-two kiosk at parking area; designate and create accessible parking space at parking area; harden one existing campsite and foot trail; install accessible pit privy at campsite; create an accessible canoe access site.	\$30,000
3. Improve the existing parking area at the southern end of Powley-Piseco Road near bridge over East Canada Creek.	\$15,000
4. Widen the snowmobile bridge on Seeley Trail across State Brook to current standards.	\$2,000
5. Develop LAC guidelines and standards to monitor environmental and sociological conditions.	30 person days
6. Construct a new bridge over the wetland on the Stewart Landing Trail.	\$2,000
7. Enlarge the Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail parking area along the Jerseyfield Road.	\$15,000
8. Rehabilitate 2.5 miles of the Cranberry-Mud Lake Road.	\$75,000
9. Explore the possibility of obtaining public access to Spy Lake.	5 person days
TOTAL	\$141,250

YEAR IV

1. Make the Sand Lake area accessible to people with disabilities: designate and create accessible parking space at parking lot and install a level-two accessible kiosk; make the trail barrier-free; install accessible pit privy and fire ring at campsite; create accessible canoe access site.	\$30,000
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2.	Construct new parking areas at the end of Avery Road and end of East Road.	\$15,000
3.	Construct accessible lean-tos on Spectacle Lake and Boyer Lake.	\$13,000
4.	Widen the snowmobile bridge on the Third Lake Trail between Third and Fourth Lakes to current standards.	\$1,500
5.	Rehabilitate the Mounts Creek Trail.	\$5,000
6.	Remove the debris from the illegal camp near Tamarack Vly.	\$3,500
	TOTAL	\$68,000

YEAR V

1.	Remove the surplus building near Hillbrandt Vly (Skakel Camp).	\$7,000
2.	Construct a new parking area for West Stoner Lake Trail.	\$18,000
3.	Widen the snowmobile bridge on the Marina Trail that crosses a tributary to Pine Lake.	\$1,500
4.	Construct a lean-to on Third Lake.	\$6,500
5.	Clean up the dump along G Lake Road.	\$2,000
6.	Reclaim and stock G Lake.	\$5,000
7.	Construct new parking areas at the end of Hall Road and end of Edick Road.	\$15,000
8.	Survey the Northwest corner of Lot 85, Jerseyfield Patent and the Southwest corner of Lot 80, Jerseyfield Patent.	\$10,000
9.	Clarify all the identified private property access and ROW questions.	\$15,000
10.	Reroute the Switchback Trail.	\$5,000
	TOTAL	\$85,000

VII. ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES PROPOSED WITHIN THE UMP

When considering the best way to manage a resource, it is useful to envision all of the possible activities and purposes for which the resource could be used. The following proposed management action was identified as having the potential for at least one significant adverse environmental impact, thus required further analysis.

PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS AND ATV USE

Public motor vehicle access and use in the Forest Preserve is a major issue and topic of discussion. Arguments have been made on both sides regarding whether or not such use is appropriate and where. The main focus of the motor vehicle issue is a social conflict between people who want to use motor vehicles to enjoy the wild forest, and those who don't want any public motor vehicle use at all.

Management decisions regarding the future use of motor vehicles on any road have been made based on the following considerations:

Legal Considerations

There are some key legal considerations regarding the appropriateness of opening roads to public motor vehicle use, including ATVs. The APSLMP and the Vehicle & Traffic Law, as well as the Highway Law, describe when roads can be designated as being open to ATVs.

Compliance with the APSLMP. The APSLMP, on page 33 "Basic guideline" #4 states "Public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will not be any material increase in the mileage of roads and snowmobile trails open to public motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the APSLMP at the time of its original adoption in 1972." This basically limits the extent to which vehicles can be used in wild forest.

On page 35 of the APSLMP under "Motor Vehicles, Motorized Equipment and Aircraft", guideline 2(d) authorizes the public use of ATVs "only on existing public roads or Department of Environmental Conservation roads open to such vehicles, as specified in (b) above." (guideline 2-b). Guideline 2-b specifies that this will be only on "existing public roads", on Department roads "now or hereafter designated as open for public use by motor vehicles", or "on rivers, lakes and ponds now and hereafter designated as suitable for such motorized use." Both of these guidelines are subject to "Basic guideline" #4, quoted in the previous paragraph. The definition of "road" in the APSLMP is "an improved way or partially improved way designed for travel by automobiles and which may also be used by other types of motor vehicles ..." These three sections of the APSLMP limit ATV use to existing public roads, rather than to a new network of routes on old roads or trails.

Recent APA UMP approvals have indicated that the Master Plan implies that a road which is not open to the public for travel by automobile may not be open to the public for travel by other types of motor vehicles. Reasonable restrictions on type of vehicle or season of use may be imposed for environmental protection, but as a general rule, the Master Plan does not intend for a road to be open for the public use of ATVs unless the road is simultaneously open for the public use of automobiles.

Further, the APSLMP provides that "nothing in the guidelines for lands falling within each major classification shall be deemed to prevent the Department of Environmental Conservation, or any other state agency administering such lands, from providing for more restrictive management where necessary to comply with constitutional requirements or to protect the natural resources of such lands."

Compliance with the Vehicle and Traffic Law and Public Highway Law. Vehicle and Traffic Law §2405(1) authorizes the Department, by rule or regulation, to post public highways as being open for travel by ATVs upon a Department determination that "it is otherwise impossible for ATVs to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway." Public highway is defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law §134 to essentially be any

“public way”, thus it appears to include any DEC road open to public motor vehicle use, even if open to just ATV use. Therefore, opening “public highways” to provide public ATV riding opportunities can only occur if the road provides access to areas or trails that are open to ATV use and cannot otherwise be accessed by ATVs.

In summary, the APSLMP and V&T law together yield the following direction and guidance:

- There is very limited opportunity for continued public motor vehicle use on forest preserve lands, only on existing roads.
- The APSLMP prohibits the Department from opening “areas and trails” in Wild Forest units to ATVs, while the V&TL §2405(1) authorizes the Department to open public highways to ATV use only if the purpose of such opening is to provide ATVs with access to legal areas and trails. Since the APSLMP does not provide for use of ATV’s on trails or areas and the V&TL §2405(1) does not allow ATV use on public highways except to provide access to areas or trails open to ATV use, then they collectively prohibit the Department from allowing the public use of ATVs in Wild Forest Areas. However, situations may arise where roads could be legally opened to ATVs in Wild Forest Areas. For example, a forest preserve road open to public motor vehicle use that adjoins two areas (such as easement lands) that are open to ATV use could legally be opened to public ATV use.

Natural Resource Protection

The APSLMP provides that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Further, that human use and enjoyment of these lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context are not degraded. With respect to the use of motor vehicles, if the natural resources cannot sustain continued motor vehicle use, as evidenced by: soil erosion within the road bed or into streams, wetlands or water bodies; impacts or vehicle traffic outside the road corridor; or other inappropriate conditions; the road will be closed temporarily to such use until the impacts can be mitigated, or closed permanently if appropriate.

Provides access to Program

In order for a public motor vehicle road to be opened for access by ATVs (based on the considerations outlined above), it must also provide access to a recognized recreational program such as hunting, fishing, camping or wildlife observation.

Other factors relating to the suitability of the Road to sustain use by motor vehicles

Public Safety. The road surface must be passable to passenger vehicles in order to be open to the public for motor vehicle travel and the Department must demonstrate that there are sufficient funds to support maintenance of this road for this purpose.

Trespass on Adjacent or Adjoining lands. It must be demonstrated that illegal ATV use off of the road has not or will not occur. In addition, with respect to ATV access on easement lands, it must be demonstrated that the road does not end at (1) a public or private road not open for ATV access, or (2) public or private land where ATV access is not permitted.

Education and Enforcement. Management actions involving the use of motor vehicles on this unit must also address the needs for monitoring, education and enforcement. All motor vehicle routes, whether remaining open or being closed, must be monitored on a periodic basis for compliance with the management action. Monitoring efforts should show a higher rate of compliance over time. If unacceptable conditions continue to exist, alternative management actions need to be developed and implemented. Efforts need to be made to

inform users of where legal opportunities exist. This will be accomplished through providing adequate signage, unit brochures and maps, and increased enforcement patrols.

IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS AND ATV USE

The following environmental, social and economic impacts were identified for the motor vehicle use issue:

- *Pollution of surface waters related to road maintenance activities and motor vehicle use.* Road maintenance activities and increased motor vehicle and ATV use could cause sediment to be deposited in streams, ponds and wetlands. The threat of surface water sedimentation related to construction and maintenance activities can be minimized through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. These practices include the installation of sediment control measures such as filter fabric, hay bales, and silt fences. Oils, gasoline, and other petroleum based products could also enter surface and groundwater and could affect the health and safety of visitors and fish and wildlife.
- *Negative effects on fish and wildlife populations related to road maintenance activities and motor vehicle use.* Sedimentation related to road run-off could reduce the quality of fish spawning habitat. To minimize these impacts, sedimentation will be contained and work in sensitive areas will be scheduled so as not to coincide with spawning seasons. Wildlife populations will not be significantly affected by the physical existence of roads, but the passage of users could disturb the breeding activity of certain birds. It is believed that the noise of motorized vehicles will have a relatively minor impact because wildlife tend to grow accustomed to the repetition of innocuous sounds. Visual contact with people would be more likely to cause a disturbance to wildlife.

The operation of motor vehicles and ATVs on open roads may lead to instances of collision with wildlife. However, because of the limited number of open roads, relatively low frequency of use, and low speeds at which they would be traveling, wildlife mortality due to motor vehicle collisions will be very rare.

- *The removal of vegetation related to road maintenance activities and motor vehicle use.* Routine road maintenance will require that woody and herbaceous vegetation be removed from within the width of the existing road. Chainsaws and other mechanized hand held equipment may be used; the use of herbicides is not anticipated. Wetland plants could be affected by vegetation management activities. However, mitigation measures will minimize the impacts of vegetation management on protected native plants.
- *An increase in the need for law enforcement, fire protection, and search and rescue services.* Providing motor vehicle and ATV access could lead to moderate increases in problems of trespass across private lands, fires and lost persons, which might lead to increased demands on State and local services. The incidence of these potential problems could be kept within reasonable limits through proper signing, education, and identification of boundary lines.
- *An increase in the visual impacts related to road improvements and motor vehicle use.* Visual impacts will result from the use of motor vehicles and ATVs. The clearing of vegetation from within the width of roads will be necessary. Increased use and the concentrations of visitors on certain roads could cause damage to the physical resource, especially if not properly maintained. Vegetation will be retained when possible and will only be removed to the minimum width necessary to protect the natural character of the area, provide adequate sight distances on curves, and to maintain drainage structures.

- *The creation of safety hazards.* Allowing public motor vehicle and ATV use could lead to a number of safety hazards for different user groups. Some danger of motor vehicle collisions will exist wherever trails cross open roads. At places where trails cross roads, vegetation will be kept back to provide an unobstructed view, and signs will be placed when necessary to warn on-coming motor vehicle traffic of pedestrians and/or snowmobiles crossing. The risk of conflict between different user groups will be reduced by properly identifying all roads and their designated uses. Stop barriers will be used when necessary to limit motor vehicles and ATVs from illegally accessing trails and to prohibit them from illegally crossing snowmobile bridges.
- *An increase in noise levels in areas surrounding open roads and related facilities.* The use of motor vehicles and ATVs will cause increases in noise levels in the lands adjacent to open roads. Although the level of sound emitted by an individual motor vehicle constructed to meet modern noise emission standards is relatively low, the frequency at which these vehicles will pass a given point could be relatively high. The sound of vehicles on open roads will affect the sense of solitude available to visitors in the lands surrounding those roads. However, because motor vehicle use will occur on a limited number of open roads and traffic is anticipated to be highest during the fall hunting season, when other uses start to decline, it is believed that relatively few people will be present to be affected by the noise. In addition, the policy of removing the minimum amount of vegetation necessary will also help confine motor vehicle noise.

Alternative #1

The first management alternative to the motorized access/ATV issue is to allow ATV use synonymous with other motor vehicle use. This would allow ATVs to travel on all DEC roads within the unit that are open to public motor vehicle traffic. Upon analysis, this alternative has several problems, the first being that many of the open roads within the unit are short and dead end at either State or private land. Allowing ATVs to travel down these roads could encourage illegal use on these lands and subsequent resource degradation. A second problem with this alternative is that most town roads within the unit are not open to ATV use. The Town of Stratford and Town of Salisbury are the only towns that have roads posted for ATV use. The posting of all DEC roads for ATV use would create a fragmented opportunity with very limited additional program access opportunities since other motor vehicles could be used to access these roads instead of ATVs. A third problem with this alternative is the Vehicle and Traffic Law (V&TL) §2405(1), which states that a road or portion thereof may be posted for use by ATVs when it is otherwise impossible for ATVs to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway. There are no such adjacent areas or trails in the FLWF. Considering these factors, this is not an appropriate or recommended management action.

Alternative #2

The second management alternative is to allow ATV use only on some roads that are open to motor vehicles. As mentioned above, the Town of Stratford and Town of Salisbury are the only towns within the unit that have roads posted as being open for ATV use. It would make sense then that if any ATV opportunities were to exist, they would somehow incorporate the open roads in these towns. The Hawes Road Extension was identified as a good candidate for allowing ATV use. This road has a suitable surface for ATV travel; provides access to other program areas such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and wildlife observation and photography; and does not provide the opportunity for ATVs to access trails. At this point in time however, the road does not appear to be legally open to the public. Given the APSLMP guideline that “public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged” it is inappropriate to open this road to ATV travel, and further it should be posted as closed to public motor vehicle traffic. APA staff have also indicated that the APSLMP implies that a road which is not open to the public for travel by automobiles may not be open to the public for travel by other types of motor vehicles. Reasonable restrictions on the type of vehicle or season of use may be imposed for environmental protection, but as a general rule, the APSLMP does not intend for a

road to be open for the public use of ATVs unless the road is simultaneously open for the public use of automobiles. Considering these factors, this is also not an appropriate or recommended management action.

Alternative #3

The last management alternative is to allow no ATV use at all at the present time, but explore the possibility of designating certain old roads that are not currently open to public motor vehicle traffic as open to ATV use by people with mobility impairments who possess a valid CP-3 permit. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) has important implications for the management of Forest Preserve lands. The ADA requires, in part, that each service, program and activity offered by state agencies be made accessible to and useable by people with disabilities, unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service, program or activity or cause undue financial and administrative burdens. Allowing ATV use would provide improved access for people with disabilities to activities such as camping, bird watching, hunting and fishing. Accordingly, roads which are otherwise closed to public motor vehicle use may be opened to motor vehicle and/or ATV use for persons with qualifying disabilities on a permit basis under Commissioner Policy 3 through the UMP process. Therefore, this option will be supported by this UMP.

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ACRONYMS

ADA	American with Disabilities Act
ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
ADK	Adirondack Mountain Club
AFR	Assistant Forest Ranger
ALSC	Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation
ANC	Acid neutralizing capacity
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
APLUDP	Adirondack Park Land Use Development Plan
APSLMP	Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
ARTC	Adirondack Regional Tourism Council
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
ATIS	Adirondack Trail Improvement Society
BBA	Breeding Bird Atlas
CAC	Citizens' Advisory Committee
DEC	Department of Environmental Conservation
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DMU	Deer Management Unit
DOT	Department of Transportation
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ENB	Environmental Notice Bulletin
EPA	Environmental Protection Act of 1993
EQBA	Environmental Quality Bond Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FLWF	Ferris Lake Wild Forest
FPAC	Forest Preserve Advisory Committee
FR	Forest Ranger
IP	International Paper
LAC	Limits of Acceptable Change
NBWI	Native-But-Widely-Introduced
NPS	National Park Service
NYCRR	New York Code of Rules and Regulations
NYS	New York State
NYSM	New York State Museum
OPRHP	Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
OSP	Open Space Plan
PPM	Bureau of Forest Preserve, Protection, and Management
ROW	Right-of-Way
SEQR	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SUNY	State University of New York
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UMP	Unit Management Plan
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VERP	Visitor Experience and Resource Protection
V&T	Vehicle and Traffic Law
WMU	Wildlife Management Unit

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS/ISSUES

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Summary of Initial Public Comments/Issues

The following is a summary of the all the public comments that were made throughout the planning process up until a public draft was released. Included are comments from the initial public open house meeting, phone calls, letters, e-mails, personal contacts, and the statewide UMP meetings.

Snowmobiling

- Trail safety - widen & straighten trails, remove boulders, and bring all trails to current 8' standard.
- Widen the bridge below Stewart Landing Dam.
- Reroute trails off lakes.
- More funding for trail grooming and signs.
- No changes to existing trail system (i.e. loss of any trails).
- Reroute the following trail: 3rd Lake to the sign in box at the intersection of Avery's Trail & trail to Arietta Hotel.

Public Access

- Need designated hiking trails to: Spy Lake via state land, G Lake, Ferris Lake, trail in the vicinity of Jones, Fourmile, and Twomile Creeks, trail to Boyer Lake and beyond, House Pond, and Christian Lake.
- Mark & improve trails: Big Alder Bed trail, Goldmine Stream Falls trail, Clockmill Corners/Kennel Pond trail to Clockmill Pond & Black Cat Lake, Sand Lake trail, Nine Corner Lake trail, Good Luck Cliff's trail, DeBraine-Trout Lake trail.
- Leave some trails as bushwhacks.
- Identify scenic vistas.
- Groom cross country ski trails.
- Create horse trails
- More canoe access/routes in unit - Sacandaga from Rt 10; Good Luck Lake, Spectacle, Dexter, Long.
- Relocate hiking trails away from snowmobile trails.
- Nine Corner Lake campsites are too close to water.
- Create more camping sites & better maintenance of existing sites along the Powley-Piseco Road.
- Create trail head parking areas for summer & winter use (Morehouse area).
- Limit PWCs on Canada Lake.
- Link Management Units with longer distance trails - North Country Scenic Trail.
- Piseco Lake Outlet access.
- More public boat launches.
- Pursue any opportunities to acquire new public access (like Shaker Place).
- Create cross country ski trails.
- Close the small section of Farm Road east of the small bridge over the DeBraine Lake outlet to motorized traffic.
- Disabled access to G Lake via existing maintained road.
- Restrict boat motor size on Sawdust Creek.

ATVs

- Open certain snowmobile trails to off season ATV use - petition from citizens of Stratford.
- Create ATV only trails and/or limited use on specific trails.
- Open motorized roads for use.

Fish & Wildlife

- Coyote control program - they are responsible for the low deer population!
- Resume liming and increase stocking.
- Deer habitat improvement - food plot management.
- Stock walleye in Canada Lake.

- Conglin Lake stocking policy - pickerel present, why stock trout?

Public Protection

- Increase patrolling and law enforcement on trails.
- ATV problem on Nine Corner Lake trail and Hildebrant trail.
- Forest fire policy - should allow wildfires to burn.

Education

- Better signing of rules and regulations.
- Create an interpretative center for southern Adirondacks.
- More and better kiosk information at trailheads.
- Create an Adopt-a-Trail Program to help keep trails clean.

Public Participation

- Get Forest Rangers to public scoping sessions/meetings.
- Use Conservationist Magazine to get the word out about the planning process.
- Notify scoping session attendees of draft plan.

APPENDIX B
MOTOR VEHICLE ROUTES

Routes to be Posted as Closed to Non-Winter Motorized Use

The following routes were identified through the planning process as being closed to public motor vehicle use and needing to be posted to indicate that they are closed. Illegal motor vehicle use may have been allowed to occur on some of these routes because of the uncertainty of their status. Even if some of these routes were once public highways, they have long since been abandoned as a matter of law under the Highway Law through lack of use/maintenance for six years or more. All of these route , with the exception of the Hawes Road Extension, are not suitable for public motor vehicle use due to environmental and/or social impacts related to such use. The Hawes Road Extension is the only route that has been improved and is currently being used for motor vehicle travel.

Routes to be Posted as Closed to Non-Winter Motorized Use ¹

Name	Description	Mileage	County
Nine Corner Lake Trail	NY 29A near Pine Lake to Nine Corner Lake.	1.1	Fulton
Broomstick Lake Trail	NY 10 westerly to Broomstick Lake.	0.9	Fulton
Dexter Lake Trail	Northern branch of Hall Road headed northeast towards Dexter Lake.	2.8	Fulton
Waters Millpond Trail	Southern branch of Hall Road headed northeast towards Waters Millpond.	.75	Fulton
Knapps Long Lake Trail	Old town road north of Knappville headed easterly towards Knapps Long Lake.	3.7	Fulton
Long Lake Trail	NY 29A near Lake Pleasant northward past Long Lake to Burnt Vly Trail	2.4	Fulton
Avery Road Trail	Avery Road northward towards Waters Millpond.	2.4	Fulton
Burnt Vly Trail	NY 29A northward to Fourth Lake, Third Lake, and on to Spectacle Lake in two branches.	7.3	Fulton
Crystal Lake Trail	Stewart Landing to County Route 119 near Crystal Lake.	2.0	Fulton
East Road Trail	End of East Road to Glasgow Mills.	1.4	Fulton
Dingman Hill Trail	County Route 119 to East Road Trail.	1.5	Fulton
Glasgow Trail	Glasgow Road past Glasgow Mills and Hillabrandt Vly to join Crystal Lake Trail.	5.2	Fulton
Edick Road Extension Trail	End of Edick Road to Powley-Piseco Road.	1.6	Fulton
Morey Trail	Morey Road to Crystal Lake Trail.	5.0	Fulton
Hawes Road Extension Trail ²	End of Hawes Road to Edick Road	0.4	Ham.
Clockmill Corners Trail	From Clockmill Corners on the Powley Road, southeast to Clockmill Pond.	1.5	Ham.

Routes to be Posted as Closed to Non-Winter Motorized Use ¹

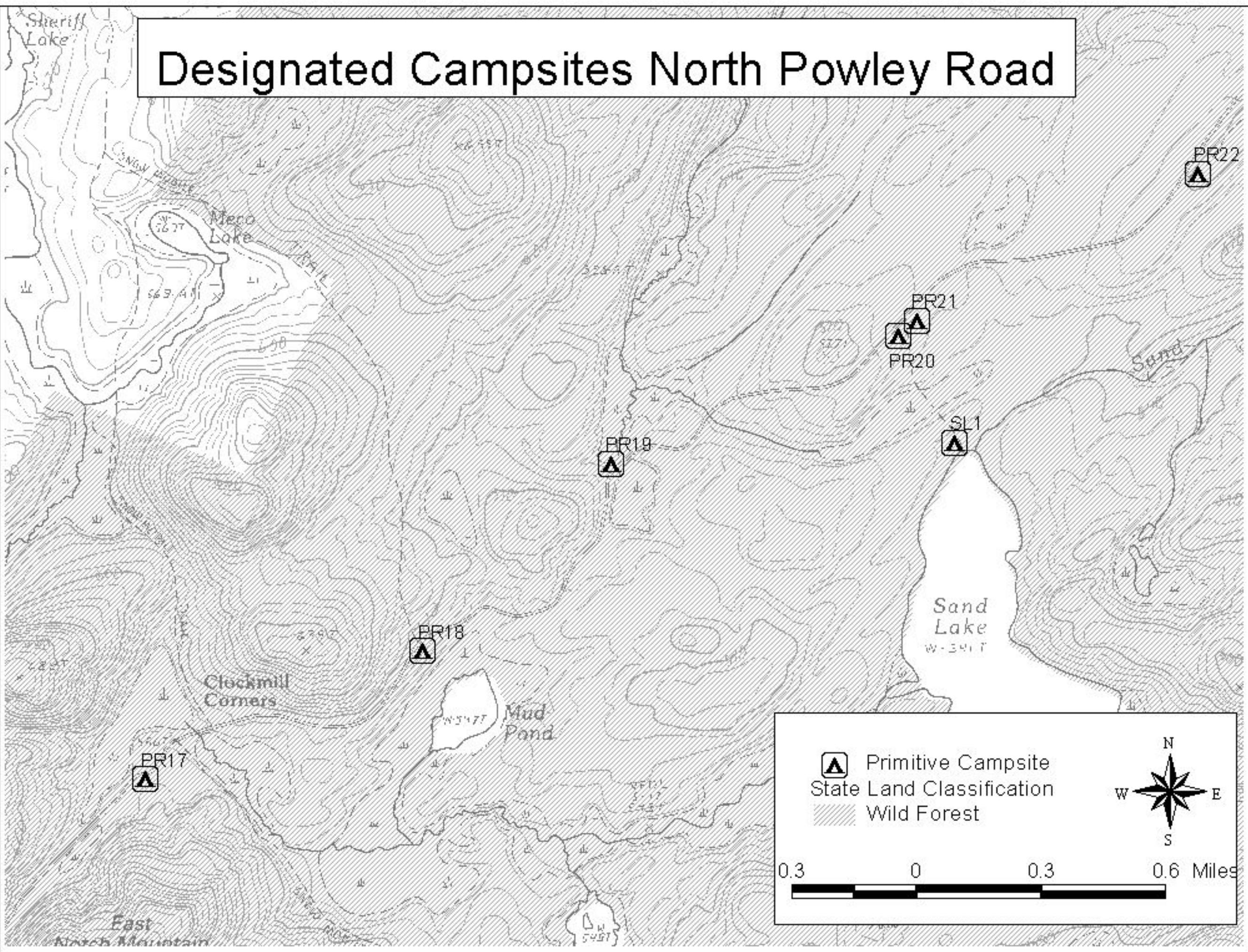
Name	Description	Mileage	County
Jockeybush Lake Trail	NY 10 northwest to Jockeybush Lake.	1.2	Ham.
Big Alderbed Trail	From Powley Place on the Powley Road, westerly towards Big Alderbed Pond.	1.2	Ham.
Good Luck Lake Trail	From highway north of Good Luck southwest to dead end.	0.5	Ham.
Mounts Creek Trail	State land boundary to Mounts Creek Lake.	3.4	Herk.
Richard's Vly Trail	State land boundary into Hamilton County.	0.3	Herk.
Hurrell Vly Trail	French Road south past Hurrell Vly to Mounts Creek Lake	8.7	Ham.
Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail	From Jerseyfield Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet.	0.9	Herk.
		Total Mileage	56.15

¹ does not include snowmobile use.

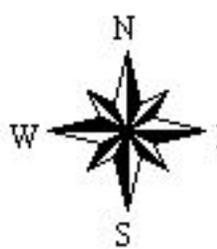
² currently being used for motor vehicle access to private lands

APPENDIX C
CAMPSITE LOCATION MAPS

Designated Campsites North Powley Road

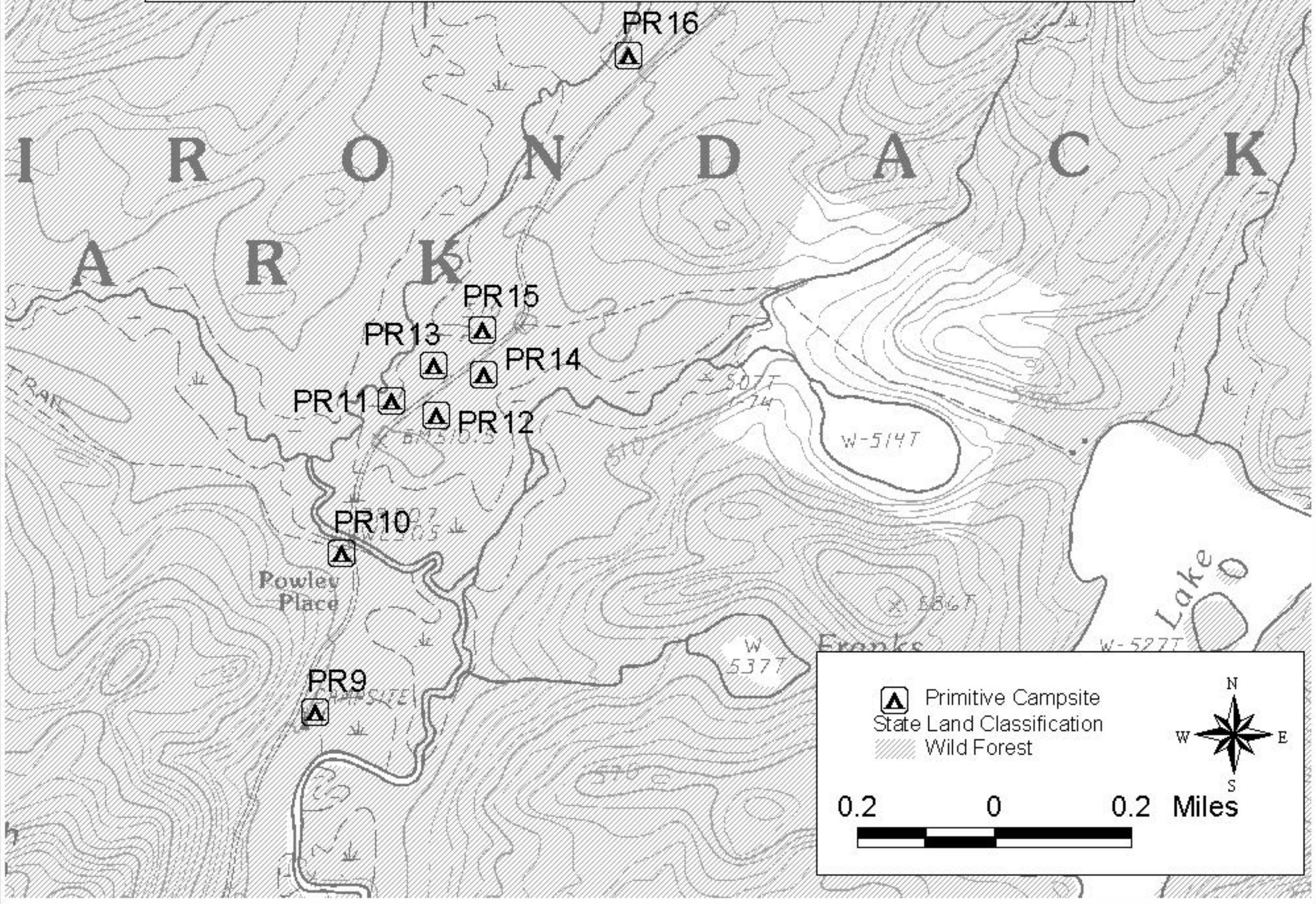


 Primitive Campsite
 State Land Classification
 Wild Forest

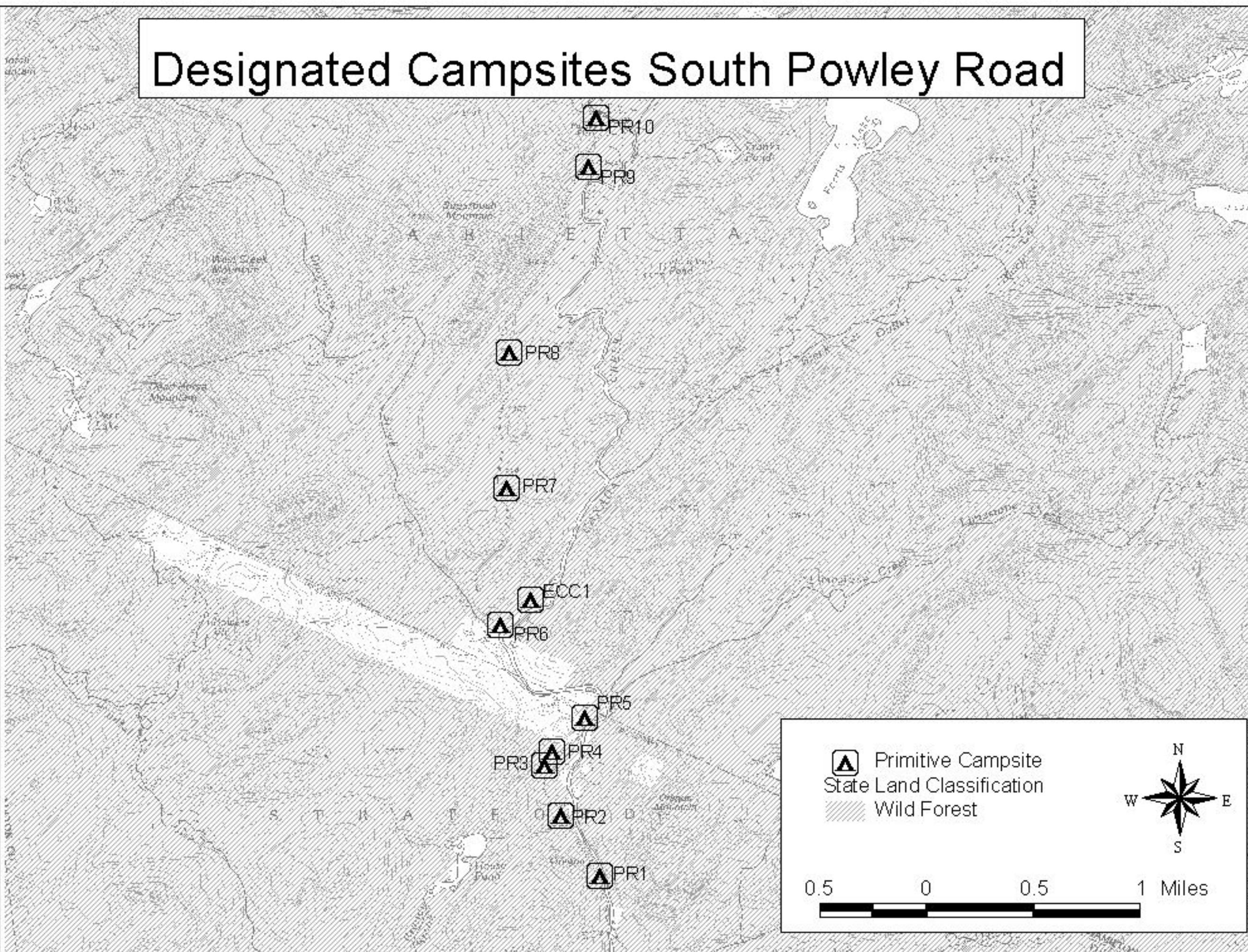


 0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles

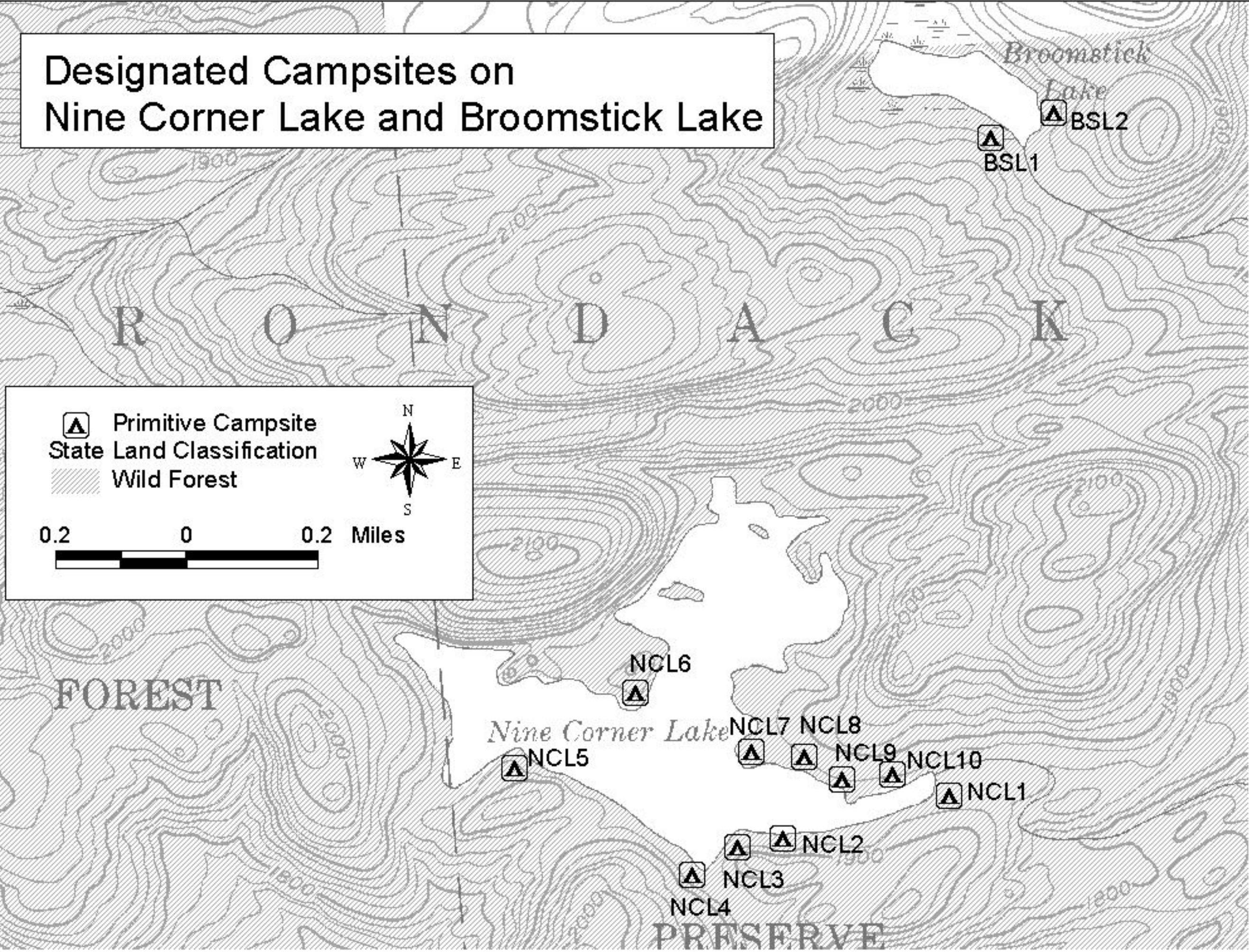
Designated Campsites near Powley Place



Designated Campsites South Powley Road



Designated Campsites on Nine Corner Lake and Broomstick Lake

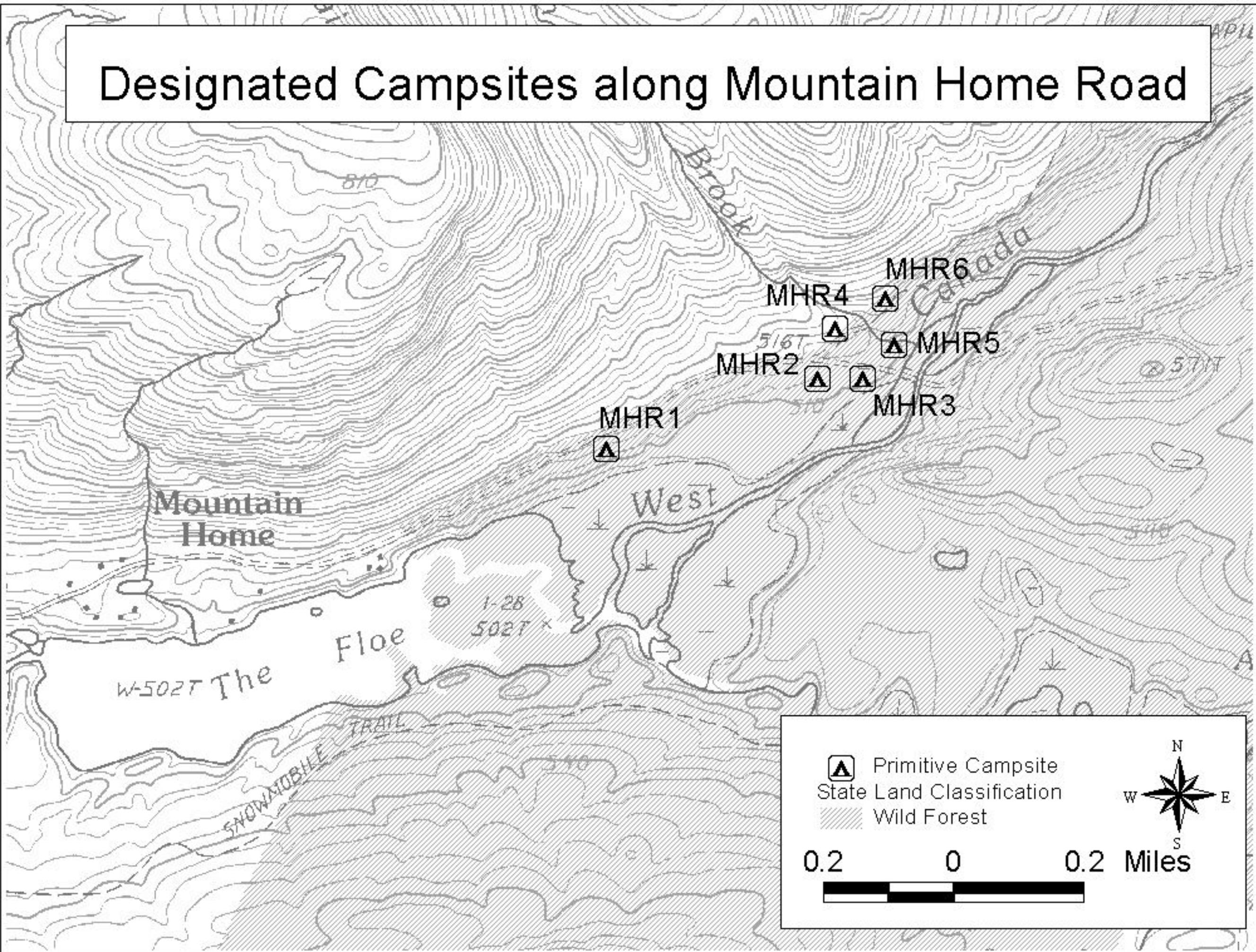


- Primitive Campsite
- State Land Classification
- Wild Forest

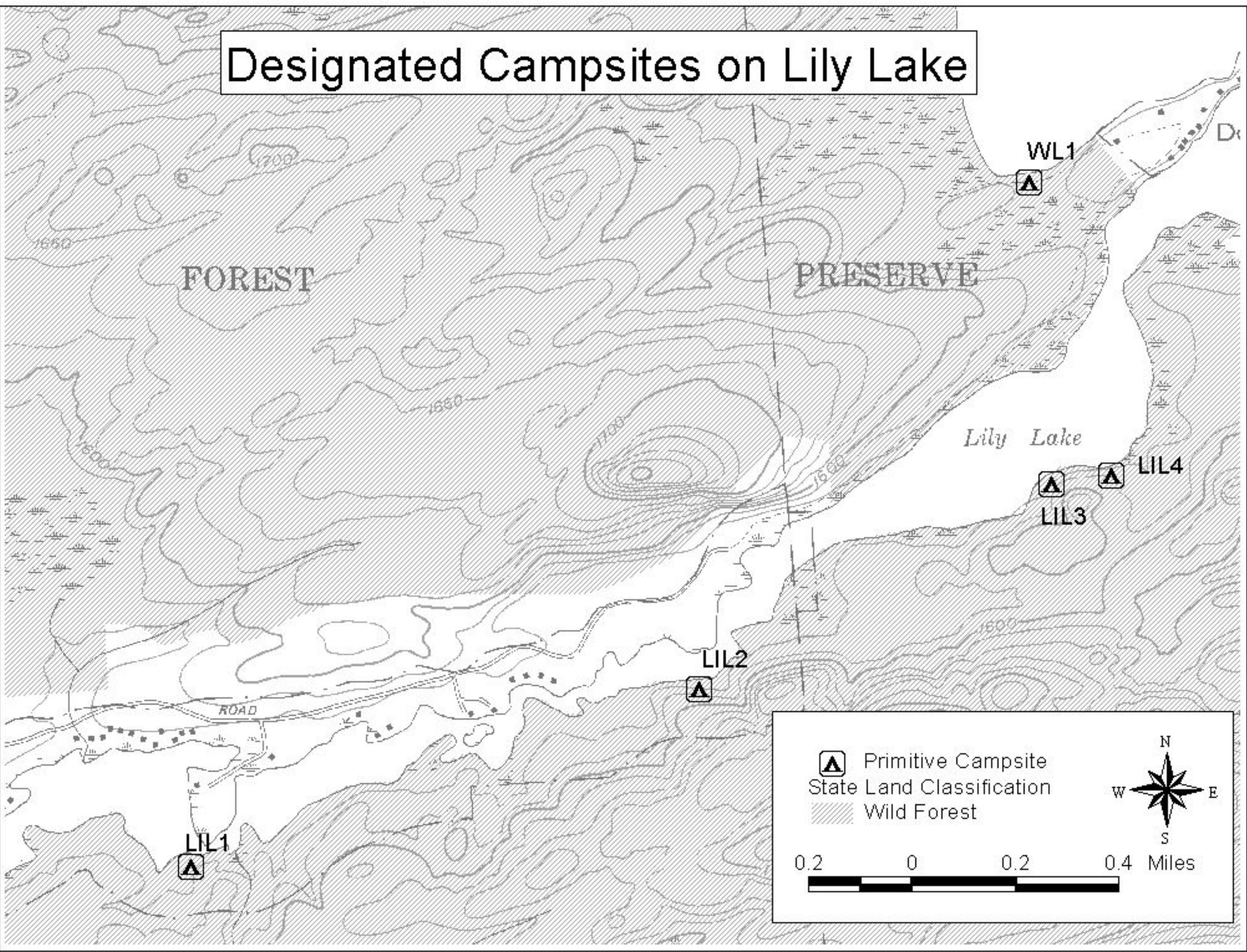


0.2 0 0.2 Miles

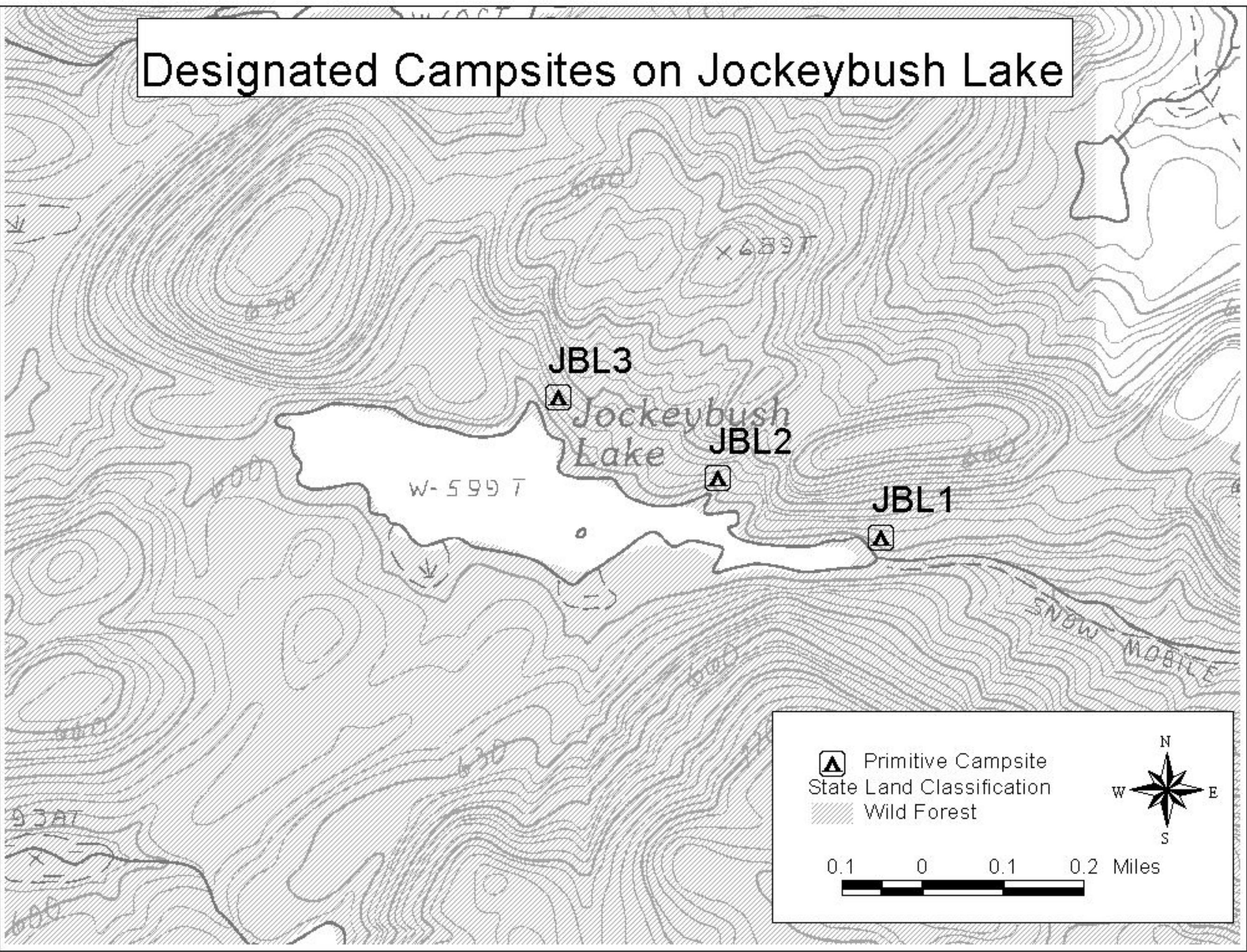
Designated Campsites along Mountain Home Road



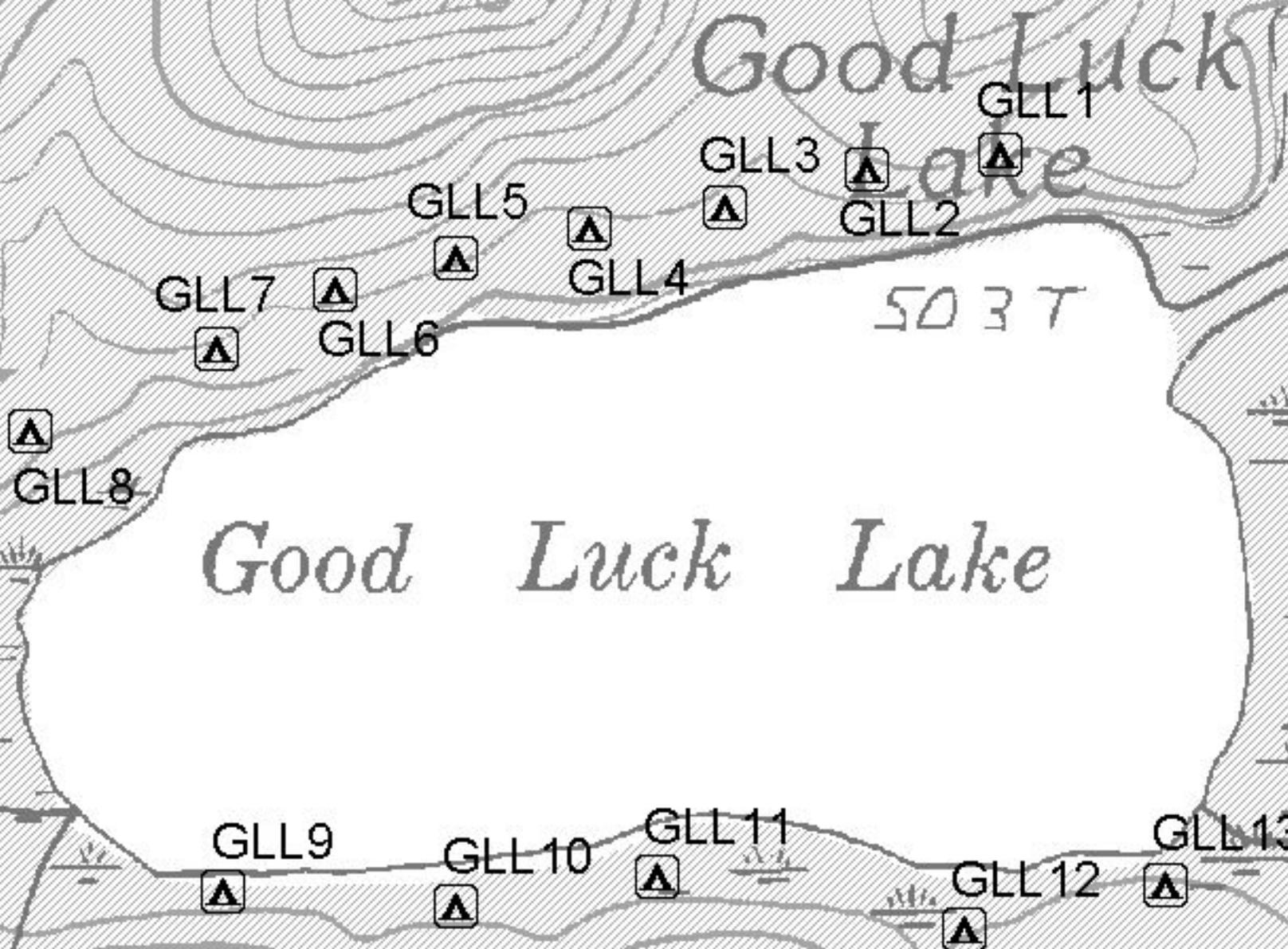
Designated Campsites on Lily Lake



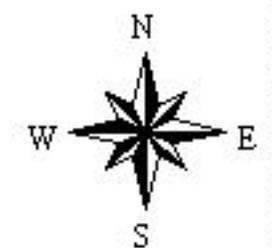
Designated Campsites on Jockeybush Lake



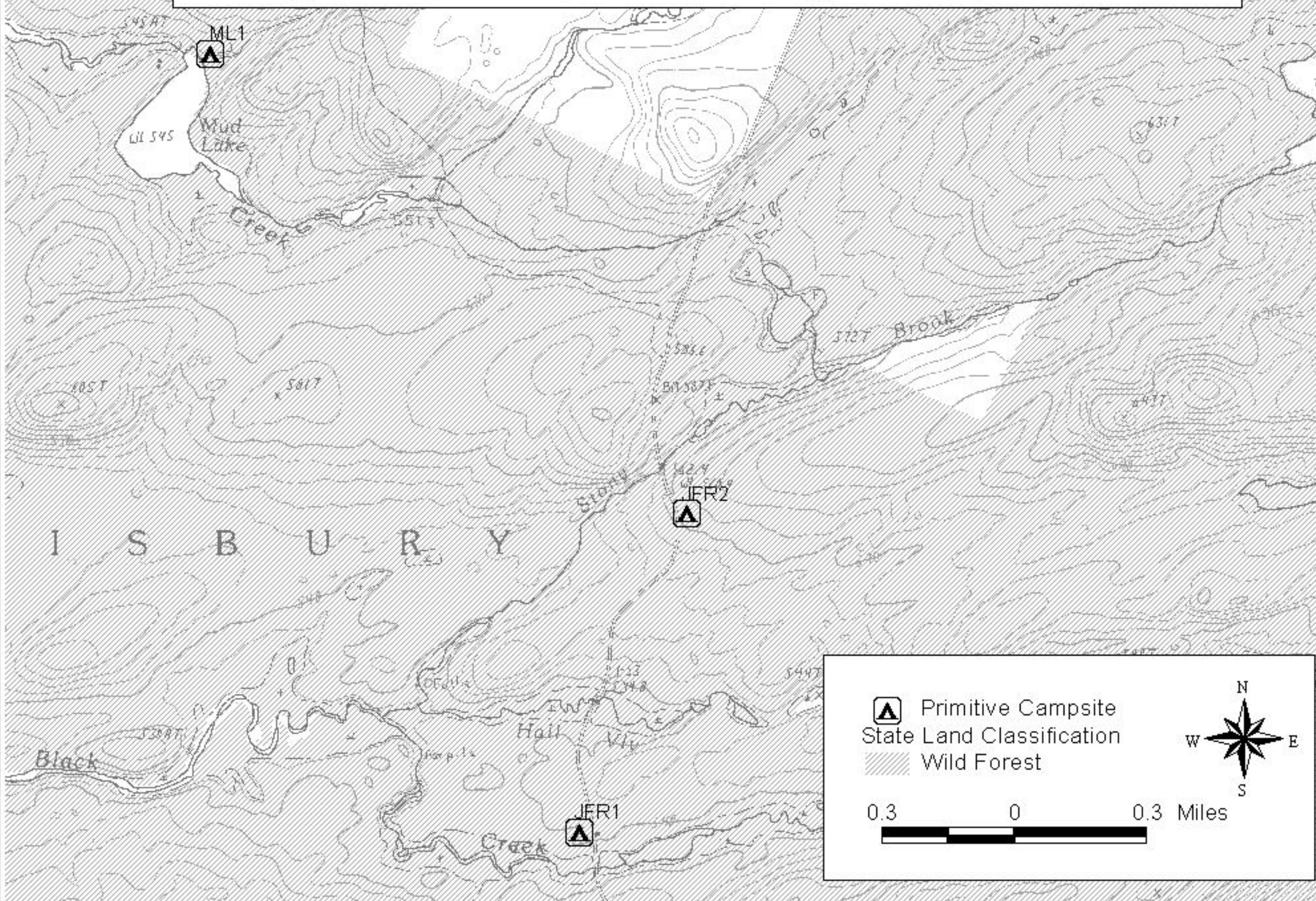
Designated Campsites on Good Luck Lake



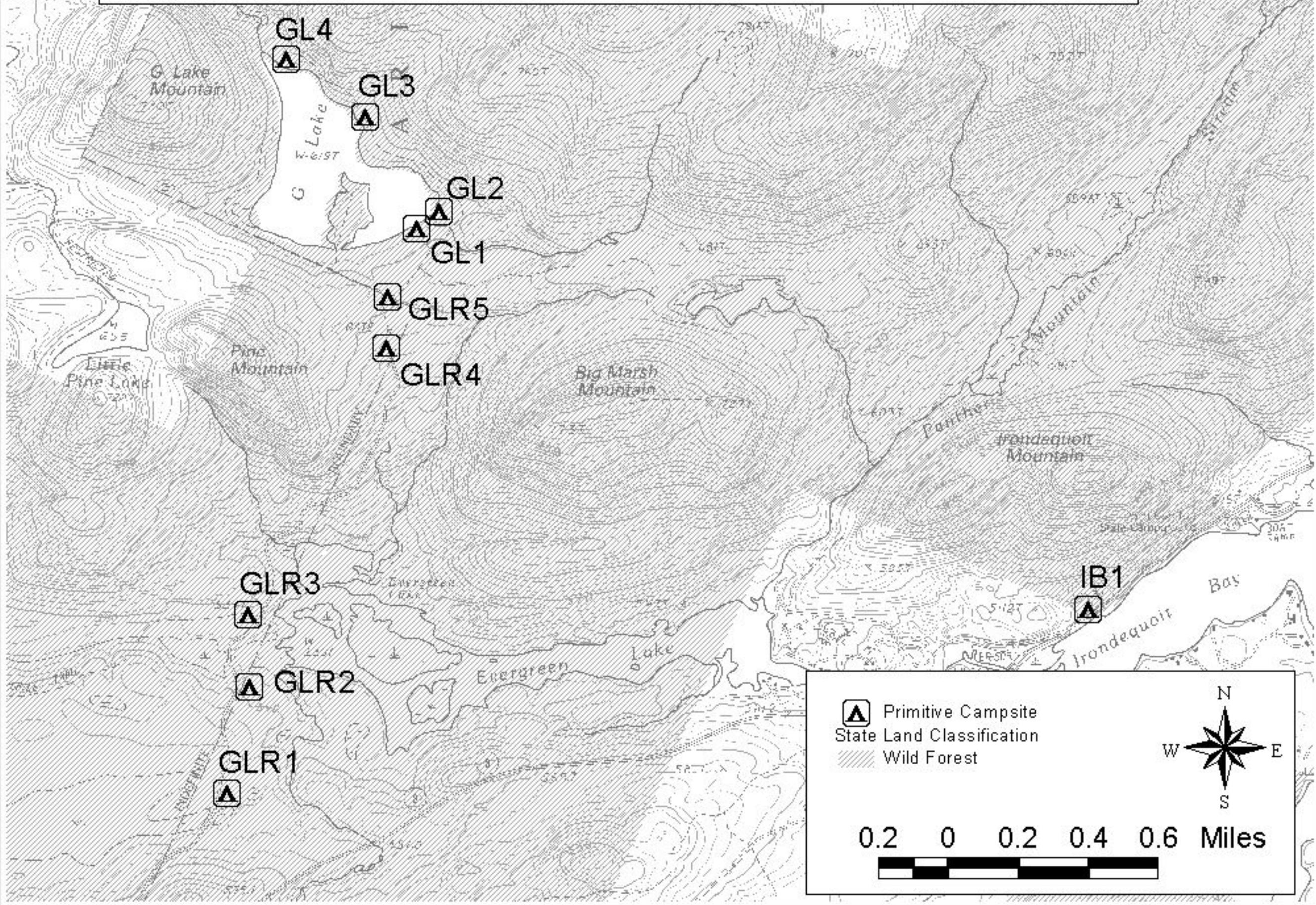
-  Primitive Campsite
-  State Land Classification
-  Wild Forest



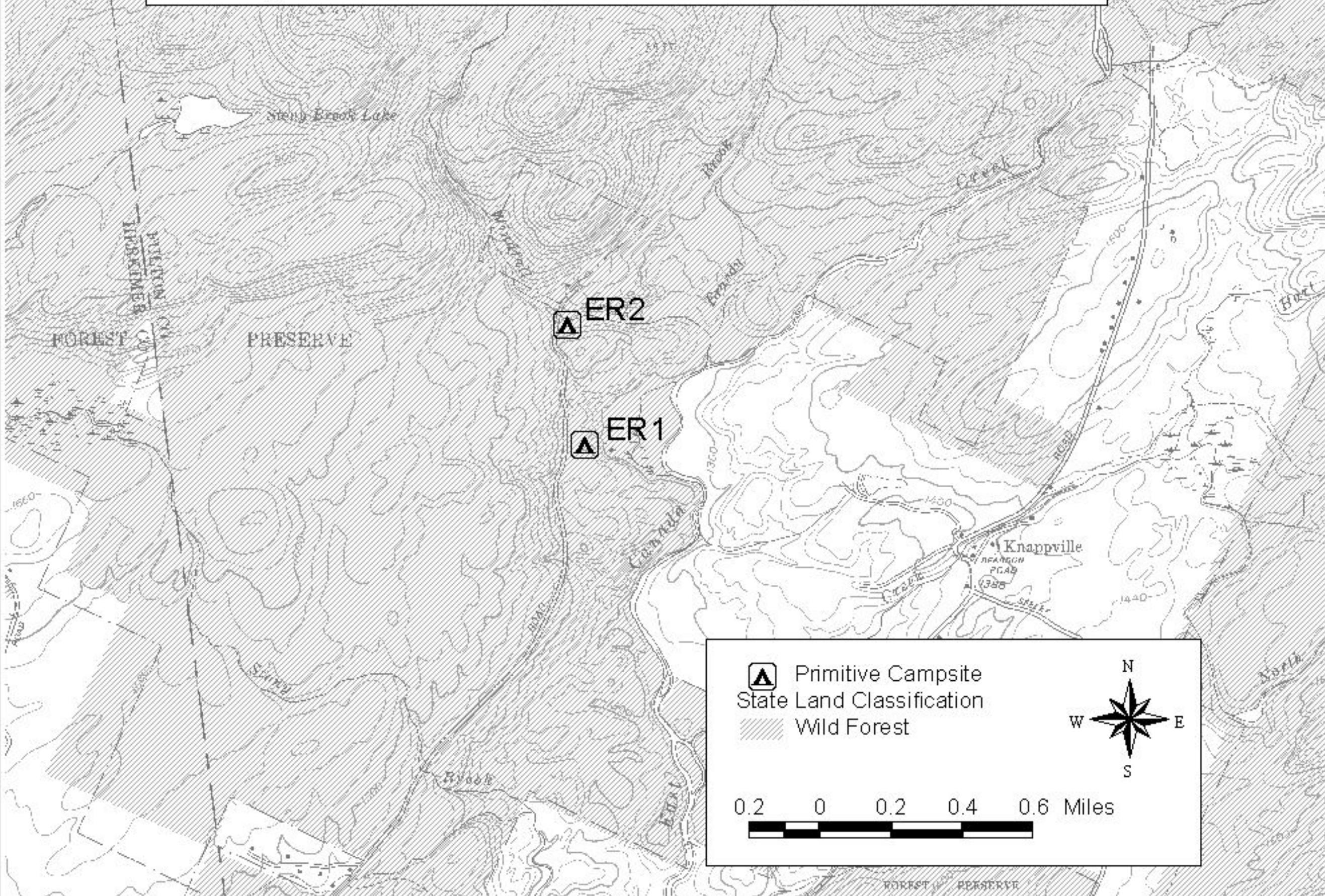
Designated Campsites along Jerseyfield Road



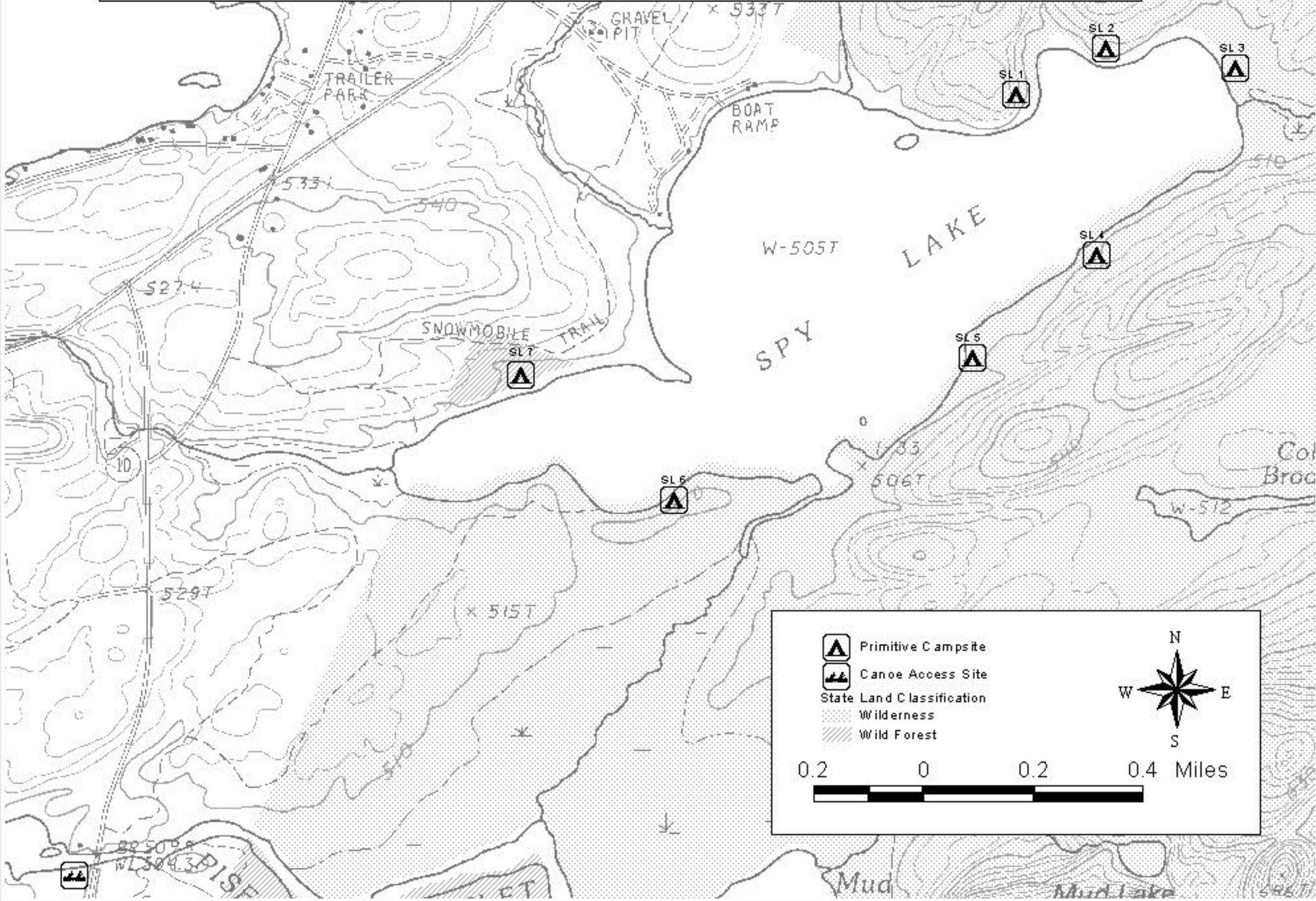
Designated Campsites in the G Lake Area



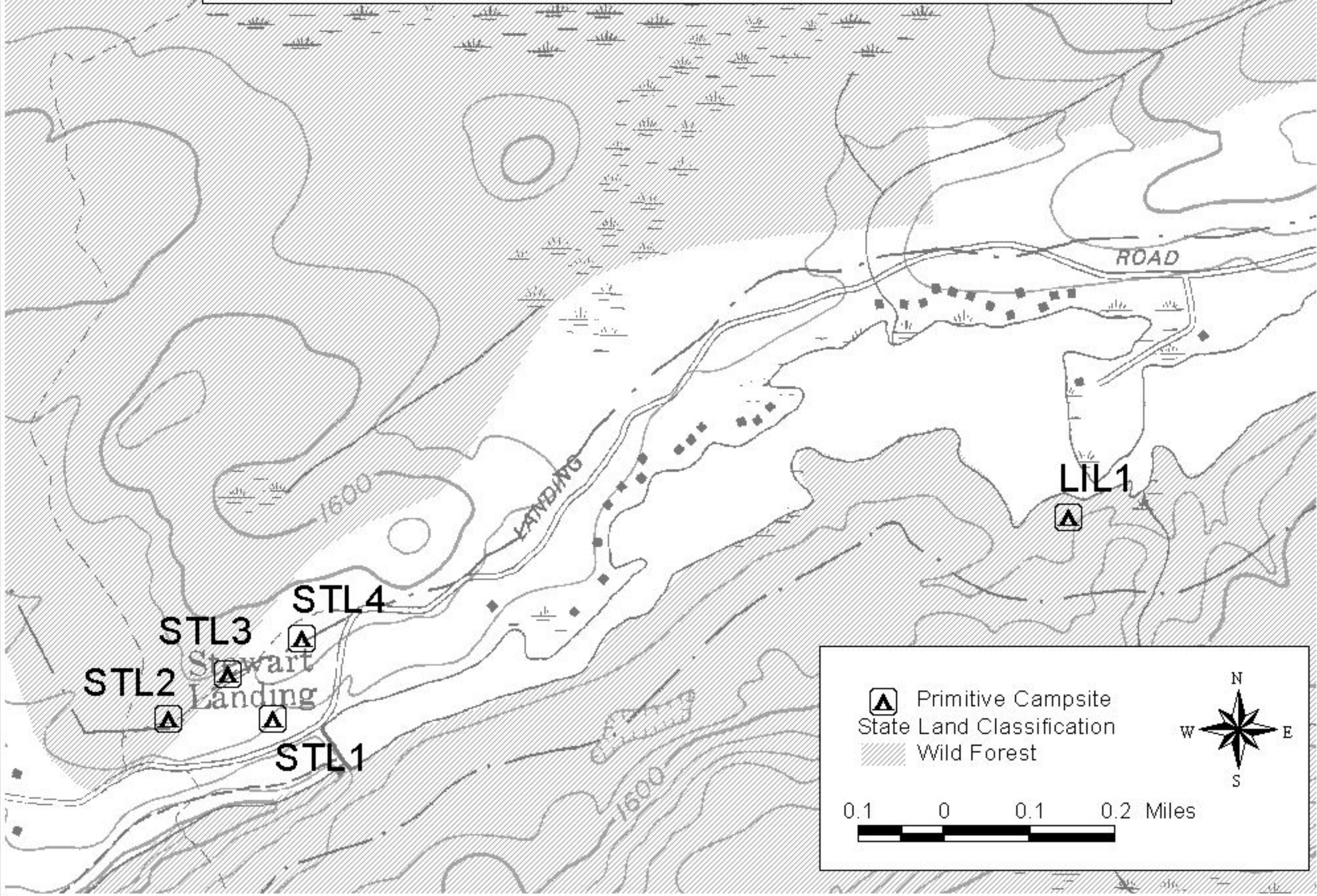
Designated Campsites along Edick Road



Designated Campsites in the Spy Lake Area

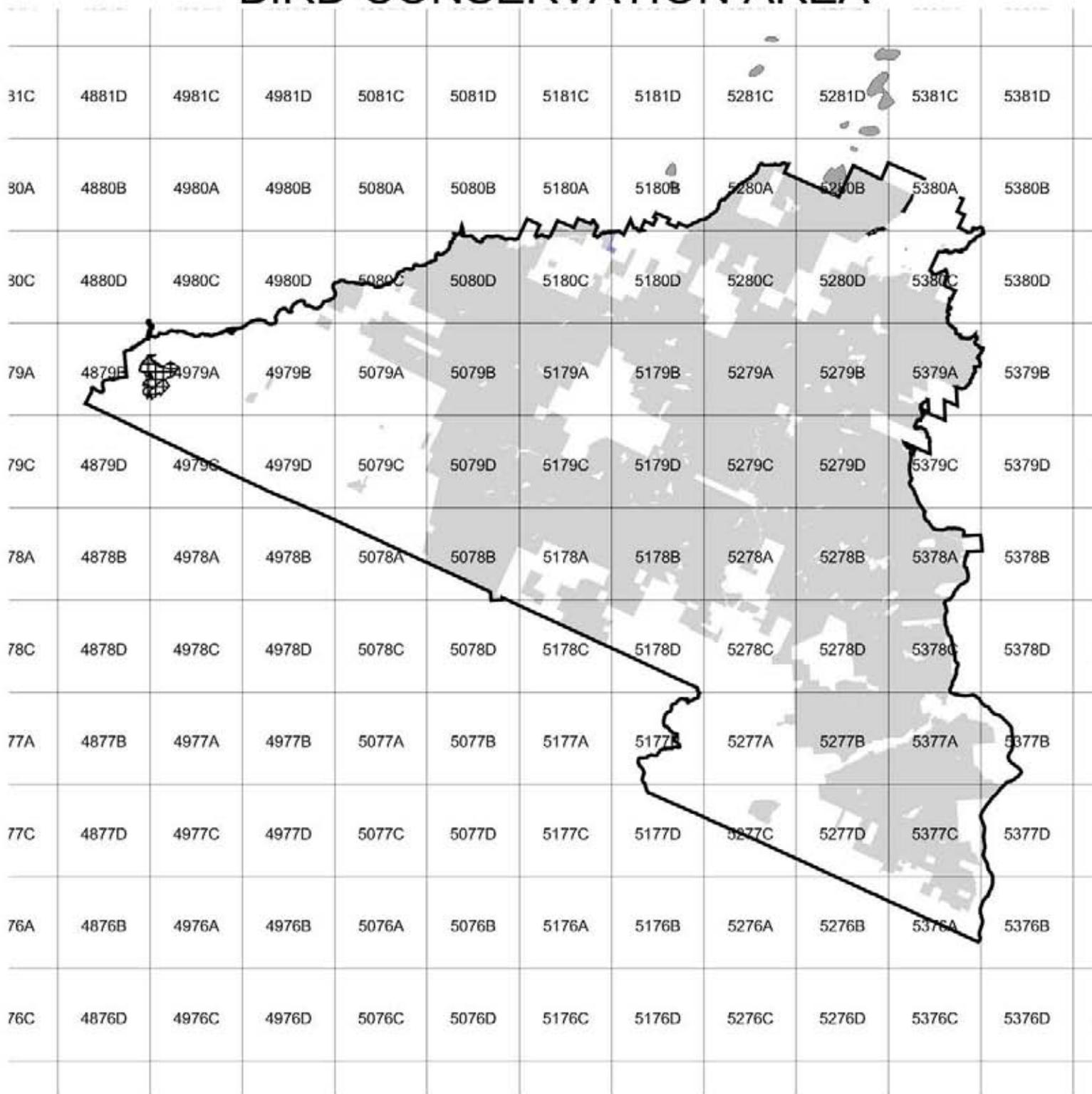


Designated Campsites at Stewart Landing



APPENDIX D
WILDLIFE

FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST BREEDING BIRD ATLAS BIRD CONSERVATION AREA



- Wild Forest
- Intensive Use
- Management Complex Unit Boundary
- Breeding Bird Atlas Block
- Bird Conservation Area



BREEDING BIRD SPECIES OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*
NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS DATA 1980 - 1985

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Possible	Special Concern	S4
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S4
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S5
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S5
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S2
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S3
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Probable	Protected	S3
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5

BREEDING BIRD SPECIES OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*
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<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Possible	Game Species	S5
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Possible	Game Species	S5
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Confirmed	Special Concern	S3S4
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S5
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S4
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Probable	Game Species	S5
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Probable	Special Concern	S4
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5

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<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Confirmed	Special Concern	S5
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Possible	Protected	S5
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Eastern Screech Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	Possible	Protected	S5
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Confirmed	Unprotected	SE
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Possible	Protected	S5
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S4
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	SE
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Confirmed	Unprotected	SE
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5

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<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S4
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Possible	Protected	S3
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Possible	Protected	S5
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S5
Mallard x Am Black Duck Hybrid	<i>Anas platyrhynchos x A. rubripes</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	NR
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Confirmed	Special Concern	S4
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Confirmed	Threatened	S3
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S3S4
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Possible	Protected	S3
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Confirmed	Special Concern	S4
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S3

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<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Probable	Special Concern	S4
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Probable	Special Concern	S4
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Possible	Game Species	SE
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Probable	Protected	S3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S5
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S3
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Confirmed	Special Concern	S4
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Probable	Game Species	S4
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5

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<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	Possible	Protected	S2
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Probable	Protected	S5
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Possible	Protected	S4
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Confirmed	Special Concern	S5
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Probable	Game Species	S5
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Possible	Protected	S5
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Probable	Special Concern	S4
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S2S3
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Possible	Game Species	S5
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Confirmed	Game Species	S5
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Possible	Protected	S3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Possible	Protected	S5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Confirmed	Protected	S5

BREEDING BIRD SPECIES OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*
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<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>BREEDING STATUS</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK</u>
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	Possible	Protected	S1
Total Species: 145				

*Data includes all BBA blocks wholly or partially within the unit.

Natural Heritage Program State Ranks:

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- S2=Typically 6 to 20 occurrences, few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or very vulnerable to extirpation for other reasons.
- S3=Typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream.
- S4=Apparently secure.
- S5=Demonstrably secure.
- SH=No extant sites known, but it may still exist.
- SU=Status unknown.
- SE=Exotic, not native.
- NR=Not Ranked.

MAMMALS OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>HABITAT TYPES</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANK</u>
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	MF, adjacent to water	Game Species	S5
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Wooded, semi-wooded areas	Unprotected	S5
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	DF, CF, MF	Game Species	S5
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	DF, MF, CF	Game Species	S4
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	All habitats	Game Species	S5
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	DF, CF, MF, open areas	Unprotected	S5
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	DF, MF, hedgerows	Unprotected	S5
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Fields, bogs, brushy areas	Game Species	S5
Eastern Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus subflavusl</i>	Open areas, woodland edges	Unprotected	S5
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	DF, MF, CF, old fields	Game Species	S5
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	DF, MF, CF	Game Species	S3
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Lightly wooded, brushy areas	Game Species	S5
Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Mature DF, villages, towns	Game Species	S5
Hairy Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	DF, MF	Unprotected	S4
Hairy-tailed Mole	<i>Parascalops breweri</i>	DF	Unprotected	S5
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Buildings	Unprotected	SE
Indiana Bat (Myotis)	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Caves-winter, unk-summer	Endangered	S1
Keenes Myotis	<i>Myotis kees</i>	Woodlands, buildings	Protected	S5
Little Brown Bat (Myotis)	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Buildings, caves	Unprotected	S5
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Old fields, DF	Game Species	S5
Longtailed or Rock Shrew	<i>Sorex dispar</i>	Talus slopes	Unprotected	S4
Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	DF, MF, CF	Game Species	S3
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	All w/ground cover	Unprotected	S5
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Open & brush areas in swamps	Unprotected	S5

MAMMALS OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>HABITAT TYPES</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANK</u>
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Old fields, bogs, marshes	Unprotected	S5
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Forested wetlands	Game Species	S5
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	DF, MF, CF, wetlands	Game Species	S1
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Marshes, rivers w/cattail	Game Species	S5
New England Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>	Forests edges, brushy areas	Game Species	S3
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	CF, MF	Unprotected	S5
Northern Short Tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	All habitats	Unprotected	S5
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Buildings	Unprotected	SE
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	DF, MF, CF	Unprotected	S5
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Woodland edges	Unprotected	S4
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	DF, MF, CF, adjacent to water	Game Species	S5
Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	All, forested areas	Unprotected	S5
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Woodland edges, DF, open areas	Game Species	S5
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	CF, MF	Unprotected	S5
River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Lake, ponds, streams	Game Species	S5
Rock Vole	<i>Microtus chrotorrhinus</i>	Moist talus slopes	Unprotected	S4
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasioncteris noctivagans</i>	Forests adj. lakes, ponds	Unprotected	S4
Small-footed Bat (Myotis)	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Unknown/caves	Special Concern	S1
Smokey Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	DF, MF	Unprotected	S5
Southern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	DF, bogs	Unprotected	S4
Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	DF, MF	Unprotected	S5
Southern Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	DF, CF, Boreal Forest	Unprotected	S5
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>	DF, Wetlands	Unprotected	S5
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Open forests, fields, villages	Game Species	S5

MAMMALS OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>HABITAT TYPES</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANK</u>
Varying Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	CF, MF, alder swamps	Game Species	S5
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginian</i>	Villages, roadsides	Game Species	S5
Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	High elevations, woodland	Unprotected	S4
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	Woodland edges, DF, CF, MF	Unprotected	S5
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	DF, MF, CF	Game Species	S5
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Open areas, DF, roadsides	Unprotected	S5
Woodland Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	DF, Meadows	Unprotected	S5

*Based on NYSDEC Vertebrate Abstract Data Sources; Significant Habitat Unit, Delmar, NY.

Habitat Types:

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- CF=Coniferous Forests
- MF=Mixed Forests

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- SU=Status unknown.
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AMPHIBIANS OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>HABITAT TYPES</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANK</u>
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Swamps, lakes, ponds, pools	Game Species	S5
Eastern American Toad	<i>Bufo a. americanus</i>	All areas	Unprotected	S5
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Forests near streams, pools	Unprotected	S5
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans melanota</i>	Swamps, lakes, ponds, pools	Game Species	S5
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	DF, MF, pools	Special Concern	S4
Mink Frog	<i>Rana septentrionalis</i>	Lakes, ponds, pools, bogs	Game Species	S5
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Meadows, lakes, ponds, streams	Game Species	S5
Northern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus f. fuscus</i>	Streams	Unprotected	S5
Pickerel Frog	<i>Rana palustris</i>	Lakes, ponds, streams, bogs	Game Species	S5
Red-Spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	DF, MF, lakes, ponds	Unprotected	S5
Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	All woods	Unprotected	S5
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	DF, MF, pools	Special Concern	S4
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris c. crucifer</i>	Forests near ponds, swamps	Unprotected	S5
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porhyriticus</i>	Streams, wetlands	Unprotected	S5
Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	Streams	Unprotected	S5
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	DF, CF, swamps, bogs	Game Species	S5

*Based on NYSDEC Vertebrate Abstract Data Sources; Significant Habitat Unit, Delmar, NY.

Habitat Types:

DF=Deciduous Forests
 CF=Coniferous Forests
 MF=Mixed Forests
 Pools=Vernal pools or quiet water needed for breeding
 Streams =Lives in, or adjacent to streams, springs, or wetlands.

Natural Heritage Program State Rank:

S4=Apparently secure.
 S5=Demonstrably secure.

REPTILES OF THE FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST*

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>HABITAT TYPES</u>	<u>NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS</u>	<u>NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANK</u>
Black Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe o. obsoleta</i>	DF, CF, MF, brush	Unprotected	S5
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingi</i>	Marshes, rivers, bogs, lakes	Unprotected	S5
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>	Marshes, rivers, bogs, lakes	Unprotected	S5
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</i>	All	Unprotected	S5
Eastern Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys p. picta</i>	Marshes, rivers, bogs, lakes	Unprotected	S5
Midland Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Marshes, rivers, bogs, lakes	Unprotected	S5
Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	DF, CF, MF, brush	Unprotected	S5
Northern Water Snake	<i>Nerodia s. sipedon</i>	Lakes, ponds, rivers, bogs	Unprotected	S5
Northern Brown Snake	<i>Storeria d. dekayi</i>	All, esp old growth forests	Unprotected	S5
Northern Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	Moist woodlands, bogs	Unprotected	S5
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Moist Woodlands	Unprotected	S5
Smooth Green Snake	<i>Liochlorophis vernalis</i>	Meadows, grassy marshes	Unprotected	S5

*Based on NYSDEC Vertebrate Abstract Data Sources; Significant Habitat Unit, Delmar, NY.

Habitat Types:

DF=Deciduous Forests

CF=Coniferous Forests

MF=Mixed Forests

Brush=Brushy areas, usually abandon farmlands

Natural Heritage Program State Rank:

S5=Demonstrably secure.

BLACK BEAR HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST
(calculated take by township and season)

2003	Early	Archery	Muzzleloader	Regular	TOTAL
Arietta	1	1	1	13	16
Caroga	1	0	3	7	11
Ephratah	2	0	0	3	5
Morehouse	5	1	1	6	13
Ohio	45	1	0	15	61
Oppenheim	10	0	0	5	15
Salisbury	25	0	1	12	38
Stratford	9	0	8	13	30
2002	Early	Archery	Muzzleloader	Regular	TOTAL
Arietta	0	0	0	11	11
Caroga	0	0	0	0	0
Ephratah	0	0	0	0	0
Morehouse	0	0	2	3	5
Ohio	15	0	0	4	19
Oppenheim	0	0	0	0	0
Salisbury	3	0	0	6	9
Stratford	1	0	0	2	3
2001	Early	Archery	Muzzleloader	Regular	TOTAL
Arietta	0	0	0	0	0
Caroga	0	0	0	3	3
Ephratah	0	0	2	0	2
Morehouse	4	0	0	0	4
Ohio	13	0	1	2	16
Oppenheim	1	1	0	2	4
Salisbury	3	2	0	2	7

BLACK BEAR HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST
(calculated take by township and season)

Stratford	3	0	0	3	6
2000					
	Early	Archery	Muzzleloader	Regular	TOTAL
Arietta	0	1	0	11	12
Caroga	0	0	0	0	0
Ephratah	0	0	0	0	0
Morehouse	2	0	0	12	14
Ohio	16	0	0	10	26
Oppenheim	0	2	0	5	7
Salisbury	1	0	2	6	9
Stratford	2	0	0	5	7
1999					
	Early	Archery	Muzzleloader	Regular	TOTAL
Arietta	0	0	0	4	4
Caroga	0	2	0	1	3
Ephratah	0	0	0	0	0
Morehouse	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	24	0	0	1	25
Oppenheim	5	1	0	6	12
Salisbury	5	1	1	2	9
Stratford	3	0	2	4	9

DEER HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

(calculated take by township - bucks/total)

TOWN	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5 YEAR AVE.
Arietta	57/68	105/116	64/72	126/132	72/77	85/93
Caroga	53/62	67/79	32/42	32/43	32/32	43/52
Ephratah	44/74	52/99	46/77	58/102	60/103	52/91
Morehouse	33/36	39/45	28/30	64/69	35/35	40/43
Ohio	128/141	115/128	115/127	112/124	157/165	125/137
Oppenheim	86/145	109/152	114/165	106/173	68/100	97/147
Salisbury	94/115	85/101	75/90	79/103	116/124	90/107
Stratford	49/55	43/47	51/56	67/84	46/49	51/58

TURKEY HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

(calculated take by county and season)

SPRING SEASON						
COUNTY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5 YEAR AVE.
Hamilton	86	80	133	110	40	90
Herkimer	1351	774	1108	857	737	965
Fulton	128	245	338	233	168	222
FALL SEASON						
COUNTY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5 YEAR AVE.
Hamilton	125	12	40	2	24	41
Herkimer	615	202	513	263	368	392
Fulton	184	57	111	60	56	94

FURBEARER HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

(calculated by township)

BEAVER	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	AVE. 1996-2002
Arietta	63	80	102	53	58	44	61	23	66
Caroga	14	27	32	11	14	1	5	7	15
Ephratah	18	27	89	20	41	21	34	24	36
Morehouse	7	19	44	12	63	7	20	16	25
Ohio	73	166	162	186	95	96	163	83	134
Oppenheim	19	46	12	26	31	15	19	8	24
Salisbury	71	70	22	60	39	11	50	27	46
Stratford	31	68	61	32	48	34	28	33	43
FISHER									
FISHER	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	AVE. 1996-2002
Arietta	14	7	29	5	7	7	27	5	14
Caroga	22	7	11	7	9	10	7	2	10
Ephratah	8	6	5	8	1	1	12	4	6
Morehouse	1	23	25	13	11	4	18	8	14
Ohio	9	22	35	12	29	11	65	26	26
Oppenheim	7	-	2	4	-	1	5	3	3
Salisbury	38	13	20	4	16	-	38	4	18
Stratford	20	3	20	15	6	6	15	4	12
OTTER									
OTTER	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	AVE. 1996-2002
Arietta	5	4	3	6	4	5	12	9	6
Caroga	3	1	-	3	3	1	1	-	2
Ephratah	-	5	-	-	4	4	2	3	2
Morehouse	4	15	6	1	5	-	2	3	5
Ohio	9	29	11	15	2	8	4	9	11
Oppenheim	-	4	-	-	1	-	2	3	1
Salisbury	4	3	1	3	-	2	2	-	2

FURBEARER HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST
(calculated by township)

Stratford	2	1	4	3	4	2	-	7	2
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BOBCAT	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	AVE. 1996-2002
Arietta	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Caroga	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0
Ephratah	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	0
Morehouse	1	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	1
Ohio	-	2	1	1	3	-	-	-	1
Oppenheim	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0
Salisbury	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0
Stratford	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0

COYOTE	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	AVE. 1996-2002
Arietta	1	2	2	1	-	1	9	1	2
Caroga	1	1	-	6	3	2	5	-	3
Ephratah	32	22	3	-	6	8	4	7	11
Morehouse	5	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	2
Ohio	3	8	12	10	14	6	5	3	8
Oppenheim	8	7	-	5	5	-	4	3	4
Salisbury	3	4	5	4	6	-	-	8	3
Stratford	3	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	1

MARTEN	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	AVE. 1996-2002
Arietta	-	2	4	2	-	1	12	-	3
Caroga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ephratah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	-	1	9	-	2	-	7	-	3
Ohio	-	-	6	-	3	-	6	-	2

FURBEARER HARVEST - FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST
(calculated by township)

Oppenheim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salisbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	0
Stratford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX E
FISHERIES

CLASSIFICATION OF COMMON ADIRONDACK UPLAND FISH FAUNA INTO
NATIVE, NONNATIVE, AND NATIVE BUT WIDELY INTRODUCED

Adapted from George, 1980

NATIVE TO ADIRONDACK UPLAND

Blacknose dace	Redbreast sunfish	Common Shiner
White sucker	Finescale dace	Lake chub
Longnose sucker	Creek chubsucker	Slimy sculpin
Northern redbelly dace	Longnose dace	Round whitefish

NATIVE SPECIES WIDELY INTRODUCED WITHIN THE ADIRONDACK UPLAND¹

Brook trout	Cisco	Brown bullhead
Lake trout	Pumpkinseed	Creekchub

NONNATIVE TO ADIRONDACK UPLAND

Golden shiner	Northern pike	Chain pickerel
Rock bass	Bluntnose minnow ²	Smallmouth bass
Largemouth bass	Yellow perch	Johnny darter
Fathead minnow ³	Brown trout	Rainbow trout
Splake	Atlantic salmon	Lake whitefish
Banded killifish ⁴	Rainbow smelt	Fallfish ⁵
Bluegill	Walleye	Pearl dace
Central mudminnow	Redhorse suckers (spp.)	Black crappie

¹These native fishes are known to have been widely distributed throughout Adirondack uplands by DEC, bait bucket introduction, and unauthorized stocking. This means that their presence does not necessarily indicate endemicity. Other native species listed above also may have been moved from water to water in the Adirondack Upland, but the historical record is less distinct.

²Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, widely used as bait.

³Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, minor element southern Adirondack Uplands (Greeley 1930-1935).

⁴Early collections strongly suggest dispersal as a bait form.

⁵Adventive through stocking.

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Ponded Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Alder Brook Lake	853	MH	07/14/97	DEC	4.66	5.58	14.9	1997	DEC	brook trout-10, brown bullheads-33
Basin Pond	792	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Big Alderbed Pond	790	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	22.9	5.95	15.0	1967	DEC	brook trout-11, brown bullheads-32
Big Marsh Pond	239	UH	07/20/95	ALSC	205.3	7.56	54.5	-	DEC	pickerel reported
Bills Pond	776	MH	7/20/95	ALSC	-35.2	4.39	36.6	-	-	-
Black Cat Lake	780	MH	07/16/96	DEC	8.5	6.12	17.6	1996	DEC	brown bullheads-11, pumpkinseeds-37, golden shiners-61, yellow perch-11
Black Creel Lake	832	MH	07/15/97	DEC	-3.3	4.96	16.9	1997	DEC	No fish captured
Blind Man's Vly	794	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	-1.0	5.00	25.1	-	-	-
Bochen Lake	844	MH	07/21/97	DEC	27.16	6.41	19.5	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-6, creek chubs-95, golden shiners-326
Bowen Ponds	774	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bowen Ponds	775	MH	07/21/97	DEC	2.70	4.80	19.7	1997	DEC	No fish captured
Boyer Lake	829	MH	08/05/87	ALSC	-14.2	4.73	18.0	1987	ALSC	No fish captured
Broomstick Lake	720	MH	07/21/95	ALSC	-3.1	5.01	20.9	1956	DEC	No fish captured
Canada Lake	717	MH	07/13/76	DEC	-	5.81	-	1976	DEC	yellow perch-423, brown bullheads-93, chain pickerel-11, black crappie-3, pumpkinseed-31, creek chubsuckers-11, rock bass-5, golden shiners-82, lake trout-1, white sucker-1

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Ponded Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Christian Lake	784	MH	07/14/97	DEC	23.55	6.55	16.9	1997	DEC	brook trout-8, pumpkinseeds-30
Clockmill Pond	228	UH	07/16/97	DEC	-5.74	4.97	15.0	1932	DEC	brown bullheads-2, chain pickerel-2, pumpki nseed-1
Comstock Vly	5313	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cloon Vly	785	MH	-	-	-	-	-	1934	DEC	brook trout reported
Cranberry Lake	815	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debraine Lake	846	MH	07/16/97	DEC	-1.87	-	5.18	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-19
Deer Lake	824	MH	08/06/87	ALSC	-41.1	4.45	27.4	1987	ALSC	No fish captured
Dexter Lake	759	MH	08/04/97	DEC	7.47	5.87	15.6	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-18, yellow perch-28, chain pickerel-1, pumpkinseed-7
Dry Lake	761	MH	07/13/95	ALSC	-8.9	4.76	21.57	-	-	-
Felluard Lake	845	MH	09/10/87	ALSC	-18.4	4.70	20.5	1987	ALSC	No fish captured
Ferris Lake	777	MH	07/16/97	DEC	7.76	5.86	15.9	1987	ALSC	pumpkinseed-64, yellow perch-78, golden shiners-3, creek chubs-20, brown bullheads-126
Ferris Vly	778	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	39.5	6.56	23.0	-	-	-
Fourth Lake	765	MH	08/06/97	DEC	-5.12	4.94	17.6	1997	DEC	No fish captured
Frank's Pond	782	MH	09/02/87	ALSC	14.4	5.61	13.6	1987	ALSC	No fish captured
G Lake	859	MH	07/02/81	DEC	-	5.0	17.0	1981	DEC	brook trout-23, golden shiners-360, creek chub-1

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Ponded Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Glasgow Pond	695	MH	07/05/62	DEC	120	6.0	-	1962	DEC	brown bullhead-5, brook trout-reported, longnose dace-observed
Good Luck Lake	265	UH	07/29/96	DEC	17.7	5.76	18.9	1996	DEC	brown bullhead-6, golden shiners-17, chain pickerel-7, yellow perch-18, white suckers-15, pumpkinseeds-5
Goose Egg Lake	766	MH	08/06/97	DEC	-36.92	4.40	27.4	1997	DEC	No fish captured
Hart Vly Lake	752	MH	07/15/97	DEC	-10.7	4.76	18.7	1997	DEC	No fish captured
Hiltabrandt Vly	713	MH	07/13/95	ALSC	-6.5	4.84	22.7	-	-	-
House Pond	770	MH	06/18/98	DEC	22.6	6.00	18.4	1989	DEC	brook trout-16
Iron Lake	779	MH	07/17/96	DEC	-4.2	5.01	17.0	1996	DEC	brook trout-19
Jockeybush Pond	259	UH	09/03/96	ALSC	4.3	5.51	16.5	1996	DEC	brook trout-19
Knapps Long Lake	753	MH	08/05/97	DEC	8.42	5.77	14.7	1997	DEC	golden shiners-71, brown bullheads-85, pumpkinseeds-15
Lily Lake	716	MH	09/10/87	ALSC	43.7	6.34	32.2	1987	ALSC	northern pike-6, golden shiners-27, largemouth bass-2, rock bass-1, fallfish-2, yellow perch-36, brown bullheads-62, creek chubsuckers-10, pumpkinseeds-8
Little Chub Lake	751	MH	-	-	-	-	-	1932	DEC	brown bullheads, chain pickerel, yellow perch reported
Little Metcalf Lake	766	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	-9.3	4.95	19.9	1987	ALSC	No fish captured

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Ponded Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Long Lake	763	MH	08/05/97	DEC	13.23	5.96	16.6	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-9,creek chubsuckers-1, golden shiners-4, chain pickerel-obs
Long Lake	823	MH	07/22/97	DEC	-6.5	4.94	19.3	1976	DEC	No fish captured
Long Pond	755	MH	07/22/97	DEC	5.19	5.14	15.7	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-105
Low. Conglin Lake	756	MH	07/22/97	DEC	10.76	5.85	17.9	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-2
Mid. Conglin Lake	757	MH	08/06/97	DEC	21.33	6.38	17.7	1997	DEC	No fish captured
Morley Lake	778A	MH	07/17/96	DEC	-7.6	4.97	18.2	1996	DEC	No fish captured
Mountain Pond	781	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mounts Creek Lake	814	MH	08/06/87	ALSC	-1.1	4.89	20.6	1987	ALSC	brown bullheads-104
Mud Lake	714	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mud Lake	816	MH	08/07/01	DEC	29.9	6.4	-	2001	DEC	brook trout-10, brown bullheads-13, golden shiners-3, white suckers-1
Mud Pond	226	UH	-	-	-	-	-	1932	DEC	pickerel reported
Mud Pond	712	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	chain pickerel, brown bullheads reported
Mud Pond	767	MH	08/05/87	ALSC	-3.7	4.88	21.0	1987	ALSC	No fish captured
Negro Lake	738	MH	07/13/95	ALSC	16.0	5.54	16.5	-	-	-
Nine Corner Lake	719	MH	09/29/87	ALSC	-3.6	5.13	20.4	1987	ALSC	yellow perch-29, brown bullheads-133, brook trout-1
North Branch Lake	825	MH	08/07/01	DEC	13.1	5.6	16.1	2001	DEC	brook trout-6, brown bullheads-18

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Ponded Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Piseco Lake	234	UH	08/13/84	DEC	71.0	6.87	27.0	1984	DEC	lake whitefish-283, lake trout-165, white sucker-53, rock bass-23, yellow perch-12, rainbow smelt-3, smallmouth bass-2, longnose sucker-1, brown bullhead-1
Punkhole	831	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redlouse Lake	771	MH	07/16/97	DEC	1.29	5.27	17.4	1997	DEC	brook trout-8, brown bullheads-100
Rock Lake	229	UH	08/04/87	ALSC	-5.7	5.07	19.4	1987	ALSC	brown bullhead-17, chain pickerel-2, pumpkinseeds-3
Sand Lake	225	UH	07/22/97	DEC	3.6	5.54	16.0	1932	DEC	yellow perch-11, white suckers-1, chain pickerel-1, fallfish-2, pumpkinseeds-3, golden shiners-1
Spectacle Lake	760	MH	08/04/97	DEC	7.13	5.85	14.2	1987	ALSC	brown bullheads-130, chain pickerel-16, yellow perch-79, pumpkinseeds-54
Spy Lake	232	UH	10/06/67	ALSC	68.6	6.64	30.5	1987	ALSC	chain pickerel-13, fallfish-70, white sucker-11, creek chubsucker-10, brown bullheads-23, rockbass-25, pumpkinseeds-7, smallmouth bass-9, yellow perch-7, lake whitefish-1
Stony Brook Pond	749	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	2.1	5.21	19.1	-	-	-
The Flow	850A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Third Lake	764	MH	08/04/97	DEC	5.11	5.54	14.9	1997	DEC	brook trout-44, creek chubsuckers-1, golden shiners-2

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Trammel Creek Lake	748A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trout Lake	793	MH	10/07/87	ALSC	-18.2	4.83	20.1	1987	ALSC	No fish captured
Unnamed Pond	223	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	224	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	227	UH	-	-	-	-	-	1932	DEC	pickerel reported
Unnamed Pond	230	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5325	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	707	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	715A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	737	MH	-	-	-	-	-	1932	DEC	Pond out. Probably a transient beaver marsh.
Unnamed Pond	747	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	752A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	754	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	762A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	772A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	791	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	791A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	822A	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	-9.3	4.82	23.5	-	-	-

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Unnamed Pond	830	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	830A	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	5.3	5.67	14.9	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	843B	MH	07/20/95	ALSC	33.9	6.26	21.5	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	843D	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	843E	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5321	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5323	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	827A	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5305	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5306	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5308	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5309	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5310	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5311	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5314	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5315	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5317	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5318	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5319	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/1)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Upp. Conglin Lake	758	MH	08/06/97	DEC	34.61	6.62	17.5	1997	DEC	brown bullheads-14.
Waters Millpond	762	MH	07/23/97	DEC	7.37	5.64	16.4	1958	DEC	brown bullheads-10, chain pickerel-5, yellow perch-40, creek chubsuckers-15.
West Caroga Lake	698	MH	05/30/89	DEC	172.4	7.27	66.0	1989	DEC	rock bass-33, yellow perch-135, splake-204, lake whitefish-58, white suckers-13, golden shiners-11, chain pickerel-10, brown bullheads-19, yellow bullheads-6, pumpkinseeds-18, smallmouth bass-15, landlocked salmon-1, rainbow smelt-2, lake trout-1.
West Creek Lake	773	MH	08/05/87	ALSC	-26.3	4.61	22.4	1987	ALSC	No fish captured.
West Lake	718	MH	07/15/76	DEC	-	5.70	-	1976	DEC	Netted as a site location of Canada Lake above.
Wilder Vly	843A	MH	08/06/87	ALSC	-20.8	4.52	28.4	1987	ALSC	No fish captured.

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data									
Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Management Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Alder Brook Lake	853	MH	1374	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	25.9	6'	-
Basin Pond	792	MH	1233	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	2.9	-	-
Big Alderbed Pond	790	MH	1230	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	43.7	8'	-
Big Marsh Pond	239	UH	447	Hamilton	Hoffmeister	Warmwater	24.9	-	-
Bills Pond	776	MH	1211	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	5.9	-	-
Black Cat Lake	780	MH	1216	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Coldwater	32.0	23'	-
Black Creek Lake	832	MH	1344	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	13.0	17'	-
Blind Man's Vly	790A	MH	1235	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	8.6	-	-
Bochen Lake	844	MH	1362	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	22.0	33'	-
Bowen Ponds	774	MH	1209	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	1.0	-	-
Bowen Ponds	775	MH	1210	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	8.8	20'	-
Boyer Lake	829	MH	-	Herkimer	Morehouse Lake	Other	27.4	24'	5'
Broomstick Lake	720	MH	1139	Fulton	Canada Lake	Other	19.0	20'	-
Canada Lake	717	MH	1134	Fulton	Canada Lake	Two-story	536.0	144	40.0
Christian Lake	784	MH	1223	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	13.1	25'	-
Clockmill Pond	228	UH	436	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Other	67.2	20'	-
Comstock Vly	5313	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	1.2	-	-
Coon Vly	785	MH	1224	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	2.0	-	-
Cranberry Lake	815	MH	?	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	48.0	-	-
Debraine Lake	846	MH	1364	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	13.1	27'	-
Deer Lake	824	MH	1332	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Other	10.0	12'	3.6'

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data									
Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Management Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Dexter Lake	759	MH	1190	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	32.1	22'	-
Dry Lake	761	MH	1192	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	13.0	-	-
Ferris Lake	777	MH	1213	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Warmwater	120	23'	12'
Ferris Vly	778	MH	1214	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	14.5	-	-
Feullard Lake	845	MH	1363	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Other	6.2	18'	4.6'
Fourth Lake	765	MH	1196	Fulton	Canada Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	47.4	20'	-
Frank's Pond	782	MH	1219	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	3.0	14'	5.2'
G Lake	859	MH	1384	Hamilton	Hoffmeister	Adir. Brook Trout	84.3	32'	-
Glasgow Pond	695	MH	1084	Fulton	Lasselville	Warmwater	5.9	8.0'	-
Good Luck Lake	265	UH	483	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	84.5	18'	-
Goose Egg Lake	766	MH	1197	Fulton	Canada Lake	Other	5.9	6'	-
Hart Vly Lake	752	MH	1182	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Adir. Brook Trout	5.9	23'	-
Hillabrandt Vly	713	MH	1128	Fulton	Lasselville	Unknown	52.8	-	-
House Pond	770	MH	1202	Fulton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	17.5	24'	7.3'
Iron Lake	779	MH	1215	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Adir. Brook Trout	25.0	36'	11.5
Jockeybush Lake	259	UH	476	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Adir. Brook Trout	42.7	37'	15'
Knapps Long Lake	753	MH	1183	Fulton	Canada Lake	Other	19.0	37'	-
Lily Lake	716	MH	1132.1	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	42.0	23'	6.3'
Little Chub Lake	751	MH	1181	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	1.0	-	-
Little Metcalf Lake	768	MH	-	Herkimer	Morehouse Lake	Other	8.1	-	-
Long Lake	763	MH	1194	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	19.0	20'	-

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data									
Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Management Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Long Lake	823	MH	1330	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	54.0	55'	-
Long Pond	755	MH	1185	Fulton	Canada Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	19.0	32'	-
Low. Conglin Lake	756	MH	1187	Fulton	Canada Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	6.0	22'	-
Mid. Conglin Lake	757	MH	1188	Fulton	Canada Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	6.0	22'	-
Morley Lake	778A	MH	1214	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Other	14.1	40'	-
Mountain Pond	781	MH	1217	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	1.0	-	-
Mounts Creek Lake	814	MH	?	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Other	14.5	18'	6.6'
Mud Lake	712	MH	1127	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	11.6	-	-
Mud Lake	767	MH	-	Herkimer	Morehouse Lake	Other	5.2	15'	3'
Mud Lake	816	MH	1321	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	23.0	12.5'	7'
Mud Pond	226	UH	434	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	13.0	-	-
Mud Pond	714	MH	1129	Fulton	Canada Lake	Unknown	11.6	-	-
Negro Lake	738	MH	1161	Fulton	Canada Lake	Unknown	5.9	-	-
Nine Corner Lake	719	MH	1138	Fulton	Canada Lake	Coldwater	111	48'	17.8
North Branch Lake	825	MH	1333	Herk/Ham	Jerseyfield Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	16.0	26'	10'
Piseco Lake	234	UH	442	Hamilton	Piseco Lake	Two-Story	2842	129	58
Punkhole	831	MH	-	Herkimer	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	2.9	-	-
Redlouse Lake	771	MH	1204	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	13.0	34'	-
Rock Lake	229	UH	437	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Warmwater	25.9	21'	9.2'
Sand Lake	225	UH	433	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Two-Story	109	56'	-
Spectacle Lakes	760	MH	1191	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	165.0	46'	-

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data									
Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Management Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Spy Lake	232	UH	440	Hamilton	Piseco Lake	Two-Story	376	30'	17'
Stony Brook Pond	749	MH	1177	Fulton	Stratford	Unknown	13	-	-
The Flow	850A	MH	-	Hamilton	Hoffmeister	Unknown	67.0	-	-
Third Lake	764	MH	1195	Fulton	Canada Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	55.0	22'	9.9
Trammel Creek Lake	748A	MH	-	Herkimer	Salisbury	Other	1.0	-	-
Trout Lake	793	MH	1234	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Other	41.2	28'	8.2'
Unnamed Pond	223	UH	431	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	224	UH	432	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	-	-	-
Unnamed Pond	227	UH	435	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	1.9	-	-
Unnamed Pond	230	UH	438	Hamilton	Piseco Lake	Unknown	6.2	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5325	UH	-	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	2.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	707	MH	-	Herkimer	Salisbury	Unknown	5.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	715A	MH	-	Fulton	Canada Lake	Unknown	0.7	-	-
Unnamed Pond	737	MH	1160	Fulton	Canada Lake	Unknown	1.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	747	MH	-	Herkimer	Salisbury	Unknown	1.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	752A	MH	-	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Unknown	6.2	-	-
Unnamed Pond	754	MH	1184	Fulton	Canada Lake	Other	1.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	762A	MH	-	Fulton	Canada Lake	Other	1.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	772A	MH	-	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	1.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	791	MH	1232	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	2.0	-	-
Unnamed Pond	791A	MH	-	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	0.5	-	-

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data									
Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Management Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Unnamed Pond	822A	MH	-	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	6.2	-	-
Unnamed Pond	830	MH	-	Herkimer	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	2.7	-	-
Unnamed Pond	830A	MH	-	Herkimer	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	5.6	-	-
Unnamed Pond	843B	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	11.6	-	-
Unnamed Pond	843D	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	11.1	-	-
Unnamed Pond	843E	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	1.2	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5319	MH	-	Hamilton	jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	2.2	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5321	MH	-	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Unknown	3.4	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5323	MH	-	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	Other	9.6	-	-
Unnamed Water	827A	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	19.0	-	-
Unnamed Water	5305	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	4.4	-	-
Unnamed Water	5306	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	3.2	-	-
Unnamed Water	5307	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	-	-	-
Unnamed Water	5308	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	11.4	-	-
Unnamed Water	5309	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	1.7	-	-
Unnamed Water	5310	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	2.0	-	-
Unnamed Water	5311	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	2.0	-	-
Unnamed Water	5314	MH	-	Herkimer	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	2.0	-	-
Unnamed Water	5315	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	6.2	-	-
Unnamed Water	5317	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	1.5	-	-
Unnamed Water	5318	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Unknown	3.5	-	-

Ferris Lake Wild Forest - Poned Water Inventory Data									
Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Management Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Upp. Conglin Lake	758	MH	-	Fulton	Canada Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	6.0	18'	-
Waters Millpond	762	MH	1193	Fulton	Canada Lake	Warmwater	19.0	22'	-
West Caroga Lake	698	MH	1087	Fulton	Caroga Lake	Two-Story	319	75'	29.0
West Creek Lake	773	MH	1208	Hamilton	Morehouse Lake	Adir. Brook Trout	10.6	17'	3'
West Lake	718	MH	1135	Fulton	Canada Lake	Two-Story	183	28'	-
Wilder Vly	843A	MH	-	Hamilton	Jerseyfield Lake	Other	17.0	4'	3'

INDIVIDUAL POND NARRATIVES FOR FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

The following is a brief description of each pond in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Definitions of fisheries management classifications referred to in this section of the unit management plan are noted below:

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

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

Other Ponds and Lakes - Waters containing fish communities consisting of native and nonnative fishes which will be managed for their intrinsic ecological value without any new species introductions. Several waters in the FLWF that are currently fishless due to acidic conditions, but were formerly thought or known to have supported fish populations are included in this category.

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

Unknown Ponds and Lakes - Waters which lack fishery information.

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

Alder Brook Lake (MH-P 853) - Alder Brook Lake, also known from early records as Diamond Lake, is a 26-acre, shallow pond that has abundant floating and emergent vegetation. Most of the pond is less than 4 feet in depth. Alder Brook Lake was surveyed during the New York State Biological Survey in July of 1934. Gillnets captured white suckers and native-but widely-introduced (NBWI) brown bullheads. Shore seining captured redbelly dace, creek chubs (NBWI), blacknose dace, and brook trout. The two species of dace are generally intolerant of low pH conditions and their presence gives credibility to the reported pH of 6.9. A water sample gathered during the 1995 ALSC synoptic surveys had a pH of 6.19. Alder Brook Lake was surveyed again on July 14, 1997 for unit management planning purposes. This survey captured only brook trout and brown bullheads and documented that the pH has fallen to 5.58. The lake should be monitored for a continued decline in pH and potential loss of its fish population. Currently the brook trout populations appears to be relatively abundant with a net catch per unit of effort similar to many stocked waters. At this time the brook trout population is considered to be self-sustaining. Alder Brook Lake will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout Pond to preserve a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Basin Pond (MH-P 792) - Basin Pond is a 3-acre pond which has never received a biological survey.

Management Class: Unknown

Big Alderbed Pond (MH-P 790) - Big Alderbed Pond is a 44 acre marsh which was formerly a 100 acre impoundment that was reported to be excellent fishing. When the pond was netted in 1967, the old logging dam was in disrepair and the pond was only 1-2 feet deep except in the old stream channel. Brook trout and brown bullheads (NBWI) were captured in the deeper channel area. The dam has never been repaired and the pond is now warm,

shallow and weedy, with little management potential in its current condition. The pH is relatively favorable; a 1995 sample gathered for the ALSC synoptic surveys measured 5.95. The dam will not be maintained and the area allowed to revert back to its natural state. Big Alderbed Pond will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout Pond to preserve a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Big Marsh Pond (UH-P 239) - Big Marsh Pond is a large marsh that was previously deeper due to a manmade dam. No fisheries information is available other than an old report of chain pickerel. The dam is now out and while the pond is now smaller, a cursory examination in July 1997 indicated that there are still several acres of open water with abundant cover. A 1995 water sample collected for ALSC synoptic surveys had a favorable pH of 7.6. The pond appeared to be well suited for largemouth bass. Big Marsh Pond will be experimentally stocked with largemouth bass. Big Marsh Pond will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its aquatic community in the presence of historically associated species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Bills Pond (MH-776) - Bills Pond has never received a biological survey. A water sample taken during the 1995 ALSC synoptic survey showed the 1.5 meter pH of this 6 acre pond to be 4.39.

Management Class: Unknown

Black Cat Lake (MH-P 780) - Black Cat Lake is a 32-acre pond which was not studied during the original biological survey of the Mohawk Hudson drainage. It was reported to be good brook trout fishing at that time. Black Cat Lake was surveyed in June of 1954; the primary purpose of this survey was to determine if Black Cat Lake would be a suitable reclamation candidate. A gillnet set captured golden shiners (nonnative), yellow perch (nonnative), white suckers, creek chubs (NBWI) and brown bullheads (NBWI). The survey found fish to be abundant, but the pond was not considered a reclamation prospect due to the lack of a natural barrier or suitable site to construct one. The pH at a depth of 8 feet was 6.2. Black Cat Lake was surveyed again on July 16, 1996 for unit management planning purposes. This survey documented yellow perch, golden shiners, pumpkinseeds and brown bullheads. Neither creek chubs nor white suckers were collected. The pH is still quite favorable; the 1.5 meter sample from this survey measured 6.12. The 1996 survey affirmed that Black Cat Lake's lack of a suitable site to construct a barrier dam excludes it from consideration as a reclamation candidate. Given the favorable pH and previous history of good fishing, Black Cat Lake will be experimentally stocked with brown trout. Black Cat Lake will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Coldwater

Black Creek Lake (MH-P 832) - Black Creek Lake (13 acres), like so many waters in the FLWF, has a demonstrable loss of fish species. First surveyed by the New York State Biological Survey in 1934, brown bullheads (NBWI) were common, and brook trout were reported. The pH was recorded at 6.2 during the survey. Black Creek Lake did not receive another biological survey until 1997 when it was studied in preparation for this unit plan. The July, 1997 survey revealed that the pond is now fishless and that the pH has dropped to 4.96. The survey indicated that Black Creek Lake would meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria as a liming candidate relative to bog characteristics, but its estimated flushing rate of 4.8 times per year is too high for inclusion in the Division of Fish, and Wildlife's pond liming program. Black Creek Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Blind Man's Vly (MH-P 790A) - Blind Man's Vly is a shallow marsh which is tributary to Big Alderbed Pond. It has never received a biological survey, but a pH check was performed during the 1995 ALSC synoptic surveys. The 1.5 meter pH was 5.0.

Management Class: Unknown

Bochen Lake (MH-844) - Bochen Lake, a 22-acre lake, is located ½ mile East of the trail connecting Jerseyfield Lake to Hamilton County Route 17. Survey crews first visited in 1934 during the New York State Biological Survey. The pond appeared to be heavily fished and several boats were stored around the lake. The lake had been stocked annually with brook trout fingerlings from 1924 until the survey. A gillnet captured brook trout, creek chubs (NBWI) and brown bullheads (NBWI). In 1934 the pH was measured to be 6.2. Bochen Lake was not surveyed again until 1976 when an overnight gillnet set employing several nets failed to capture any fish. A minnow trap did capture a number of small bullheads. Based upon the results of this survey, the lake was assumed to be acidified and a long-standing brook trout stocking policy was discontinued. The annual brook trout policy of 1,000 fall fingerlings dated back at least 20 years. A pH measurement during ALSC synoptic surveys in 1995 showed the pH of Bochen Lake to be surprisingly high at 6.31. A follow up survey was conducted in July of 1997 in preparation for this plan. Like the 1976 netting effort, no fish were captured in Swedish style survey nets. Brown bullheads, creek chubs and a high number of golden shiners (nonnative) were captured in minnow traps and fine mesh gillnets. The 1.5 meter pH at the time of the survey was again favorable at 6.4. The failure of the brook trout and lack of larger bullheads in Bochen Lake is a bit of a mystery. However, given the favorable pH and previous history of good fishing, Bochen Lake should be experimentally stocked with brown trout and brook trout. Bochen Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Bowen Ponds (MH 774) - Bowen Ponds (774) is a 1 acre pond that is tributary to West Creek Lake. It has never received a biological survey, but doubtless shares the same marginal conditions.

Management Class: Unknown

Bowen Ponds (MH-775) - Bowen Ponds (MH-775) is a 9 acre pond which never received a biological survey prior to a 1997 study made for the purpose of preparing this unit management plan. It is shown on some maps as Deer Pond. Standard ALSC type survey gear failed to capture any fish and the 1.5 meter pH was measured at 4.8. Bowen Ponds (MH-775) is located in a chain with Bowen Ponds (MH-774) and West Creek Lake. As Bowen Ponds (MH-775) is positioned at the uppermost position in the watershed, its flushing rate would be less than that of Bowen Ponds (MH-774) or West Creek Lake. The 1997 survey indicated that Bowen Pond (MH-775) would meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria as a liming candidate relative to bog characteristics, but its estimated flushing rate of 2.3 times per year is slightly too high for inclusion in the Division of Fish, and Wildlife's pond liming program. Bowen Pond (MH-775) will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Boyer Lake (MH-P 829) - Boyer Lake is a 27-acre lake which was not visited during the New York State Biological Survey; however it was reported to contain brown bullheads (NBWI) at the time. A 1955 overnight gillnet set documented that brown bullheads were abundant. A 1962 netting effort captured only one brown bullhead and one brook trout. Survey comments included a note that the previously excellent bullhead fishing "apparently declined abruptly 4 or 5 years ago. Schools of young bullheads were seen. The surface pH was measured at 5.2 during the survey. An experimental brook trout stocking policy was initiated about this time. In 1966 a netting was conducted to evaluate the stocking policy. This netting captured only three brown bullheads. No brook trout were collected. The surface pH was again measured as being 5.2 in 1966 and the survey recommendation was to delete the stocking policy.

Boyer Lake was most recently surveyed by ALSC in 1987. By this time the pond was fishless and the 1.5 meter pH had dropped to 4.7. The ALSC survey indicated that Boyer Lake would not meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for inclusion in the limed waters program. It is located in Region 6. Boyer Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Broomstick Lake (MH-P 720) - Broomstick Lake was first surveyed in 1934. At that time bullhead (NBWI) was the sole species captured, despite repeated stocking with brook trout fingerlings. The pH was reported to be 5.5 to 6.2. When Broomstick Lake was netted again in 1956 the bullheads were no longer present and the pond was fishless. The annual brook trout stocking policy of 1,000 fall fingerlings was suspended based upon the results of the 1956 survey. Broomstick Lake was sampled to determine its acidity status during 1995 ALSC synoptic surveys. A 1.5 meter pH was 5.01. A map check indicates that Broomstick Lake would not meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for inclusion in the limed waters program as its flushing rate would exceed 2.0 times per year. Broomstick Lake is 19 acres in size and is reached by a .75 mile bushwhack from State Route 10. Broomstick Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Canada Lake (MH-P 717) - Canada Lake, at 536 acres, is the one of the larger water bodies in the unit. First surveyed in 1934, Canada Lake contained nonnative fallfish, chain pickerel, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, lake whitefish and golden shiners; NBWI brown bullheads; white suckers and lake trout. A 1947 netting effort captured the same species plus creek chubsuckers¹. A netting survey in 1964 noted the presence of rock bass (nonnative) and a 1976 netting effort failed to capture smallmouth bass or lake whitefish, but black crappies (nonnative) were first documented. Canada Lake has been stocked for many years with lake trout. Attempts to establish fisheries for other salmonids including brown trout and rainbow trout have met with only limited success. It is very likely that stocked rainbow trout would survive if current downward trends in acidification continue. The Bureau of Fisheries anticipates undertaking an updated survey of the Canada Lake system in the near future to evaluate the current lake trout stocking policy and discern changes in the fish community. Canada Lake can be reached by water from the West Lake Boat

¹This fish species, scientific name *Erimyzon oblongus oblongus*, is commonly known as creek chubsucker or sweet sucker. This species is very similar to the lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta*, which is currently listed as a threatened species in New York. *E. sucetta* is known to occur only in a few localities in the lowland areas of Rochester and Blind Sodus Bay (Smith, 1985). *Erimyzon oblongus* is more common and was collected by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corp. (ALSC) in 17 of 1123 waters surveyed (Gallagher, J., and J. Baker, 1990). Curiously, Carl George, in his excellent The Fishes of the Adirondack Park does not discuss the genus *Erimyzon*. A Biological Survey of the Mohawk-Hudson Watershed, a supplement to the Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the State of New York Conservation Department, names several waters in the FLWF vicinity from which *E. oblongus* were collected, and states that the species is native to the Mohawk River. "In the Mohawk drainage it was taken at the following localities: West and East Stoner Lakes, Green Lake, Pine Lake, West Lake, Otter Lake, Third Lake, Fourth Lake, Lelands Pond, tributary 240, tributary 88 of the Schoharie Creek near Middleburgh, and the Chenango Canal at the headwater of Oriskany Creek...It is evident that this species is native to the Mohawk as it is mentioned (*Labeo gibbosus*) from this river by DeKay."

Several of the above waters are known to still contain the species. In some surveys subsequent to the original biological survey of the state, the species is identified on survey forms as *Erimyzon sucetta*, but given the information available on the distribution of the two species, it is reasonable to assume that only creek chubsuckers are found in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest region.

Launch. The lake is adjacent State Route 10 and several smaller highways. Much of the shoreline is privately owned. Canada Lake will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two Story

Christian Lake (MH-784) - Thirteen acre Christian lake was first surveyed on July 20, 1934 by the New York State Biological Survey Unit. No fish were taken in a 3-hour gillnet set, but seining captured pumpkinseeds (NBWI), creek chubs (NBWI), golden shiners (nonnative), blacknose dace and brook trout. The pH was recorded at 6.2-6.7. Those studying the pond in 1934 felt that the pond lacked sufficient deep water habitat to be a good trout pond. When the pond was again surveyed in 1965 white suckers had become established and were abundant. Golden shiners and blacknose dace were not captured in the 1965 effort, but brook trout and pumpkinseeds were still present. The pH measurements were similar, ranging from 5.5-6.5. The pond was reclaimed in 1967, and a success netting in August of 1970 captured a moderate number of brook trout, some over 12" in length. This netting showed that pumpkinseeds had survived the treatment.

A 1980 survey indicated a fish community similar to that which had been present in 1967, but the pH measurements had dropped to 5.0-5.4. The most recent survey of Christian Lake is a 1997 study conducted in preparation for this plan. The results were strikingly similar to the last two surveys in terms of fish species, size and numbers caught; moderate numbers of mid-sized brook trout and pumpkinseeds. The pH is now more favorable and was measured at 6.5. While no single natural fish barrier can be identified on the outlet stream of Christian Lake, the overall steep gradient functions as an effective barrier, which has prevented the reintroduction of undesirable fish for over thirty years. Christian Lake will be reclaimed if a fish species that presents a threat to the brook trout fishery should become established. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be revised to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. Christian Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community. It will be reclaimed upon the establishment of nonnatives or other fishes to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Clockmill Pond (UH-P 228) - Clockmill Pond is 67-acre pond that is easily reached by a 1 mile trail from Powley Road. The southern arm of the lake which constitutes about 40% of the total surface area is a marsh. Clockmill Pond was surveyed by the New York State Biological Survey on June 25, 1932. A 3 hour gillnet set captured no fish, but one pumpkinseed (NBWI), two chain pickerel (nonnative) and two brown bullheads (NBWI) were collected by shore seining. The pond was reported to be "foul" on the bottom, and the gillnets were slimy from algae when retrieved. The pH was 5.2 and oxygen levels were low (0 ppm at 12 feet). Routine water chemistry and pH measurements were gathered on July 16, 1997 for Clockmill Pond in preparation for this unit management plan. The 1.5 meter pH was 4.97. Low summer oxygen levels similar to 1932 were not encountered; the oxygen level at 15 feet was 11.0 ppm. Given the marked changes in water chemistry, the fish fauna of Clockmill Pond is likely no longer the same as it was in 1932. Because Clockmill Pond resides in a chain of interconnected lakes it is not a candidate for either liming or reclamation. Clockmill Pond will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Conglin Lakes (MH-P 756-758) - Conglin Lakes is a chain of three small connected ponds which had never been surveyed prior to 1997. The ponds were not visited during the 1930's Biological Survey, but are simply listed as "pickerel reported". Modern biological surveys were conducted on all three waters for unit management planning purposes. Both Upper Conglin Lake and Lower Conglin Lake contain brown bullheads (NBWI) in low abundance. No fish were captured in Middle Conglin Lake. The paucity of fish in these three waters is curious as they appear to have surprisingly good chemistry. The pH values are among the best in the area, with the upper two ponds being

measured at 6.38 and 6.62. pH is lower in the lower lake, but is still suitable at 5.85. The lakes occur in relatively gentle terrain, so one would expect greater diversity from downstream sources. The apparently open fisheries niche makes one wonder if these are waters that lost species diversity due to acidification and are now experiencing improved pH conditions. An experimental brook trout policy has been implemented in these waters in an attempt to provide angling opportunities in an area of the region in which such opportunity is limited. The Conglin Lakes will be managed as Adirondack brook trout ponds to enhance and restore native fish communities.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Coon Vly (MH-P 785) - Coon Vly is 2.0 acre pond in the course of a stream. It has no historical survey data, but was reported to contain brook trout in 1934.

Management Class: Unknown

Cranberry Lake (MH-P 815) - At one time Cranberry Lake's water elevation was controlled by a dam used for log drives. A 2001 DEC inspection found the dam out. All that remains of the lake's 48 acres is a low gradient, meandering mud bottom stream. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Unknown.

Debraine Lake (MH-P 846) - Debraine Lake is a 13-acre pond which never received its first modern biological survey in July of 1997 in preparation for this unit management plan. The survey showed that at 5.18, the 1.5 meter pH was only a slightly more favorable than samples taken from many nearby waters. Even so, the pond was found to have a population of small bullheads (NBWI). A 1995 summer pH taken during ALSC synoptic surveys was higher at 5.63. While a flushing rate is not available, Debraine Lake's comparatively large watershed appears to preclude its inclusion in the Division of Fish and Wildlife's pond liming program. Its pH and evidence of fish survival warrants the initiation of an experimental brook trout stocking policy. Debraine Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Deer Lake (MH-P 824) - This 10-acre lake was surveyed for the first time in 1987 by ALSC. The ALSC survey captured no fish and the 1.5 meter pH was measured at 4.53. The flushing rate of Deer Lake is estimated to be 3.9 times per year, a value in excess of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's current criteria of 2.0 or less for a water to be considered for inclusion in the limed waters program. Deer Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Dexter Lake (MH-P 759) - Dexter Lake, at 32.1 acres, is a moderate size water body with historically significant data. In Fred Mather's "Adirondack Fishes with Descriptions of New Species, from Researches Made in 1882" (1884), Dexter Lake, along with Spectacle Lakes, is mentioned as being one of only a few Adirondack lakes known to have been stocked with chain pickerel (nonnative). Letters to Mather reported the demise of brook trout in these lakes due to the unwise introduction. Pickerel were reported again on a 1930's survey sheet. A 1995 pH measurement was 5.86. Surveyed in August of 1997 for unit management planning purposes, Dexter Lake is a substantial water body, with a maximum depth of 22 feet. A temperature profile revealed that the lake does not thermally stratify. The lake has a warmwater fish community consisting of brown bullheads (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI), yellow perch (nonnative) and chain pickerel (nonnative). The pH was 5.87. The flat terrain and extensive wetlands along the outlet make chemical reclamation of this pond infeasible. Pending the outcome of experimental introductions of largemouth bass in other waters with similar pH values, an experimental stocking of Dexter Lake will be considered. Dexter Lake

will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Dry Lake (MH-P 761) - Dry Lake is a 13 acre shallow, weedy pond that is connected to Spectacle Lakes (above discussion) with no physical barrier to fish between the two water bodies. Due to low pH it may well be that Dry Lake contains fewer fish species or no fish at all. In the summer of 1995 the pH was measured at 4.76. Because Dry Lake is connected to Spectacle Lakes it cannot be managed separately. It is not a candidate for liming or reclamation. Dry Lake will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Ferris Lake (MH-777) - At 120 surface acres, the namesake of the unit is one of the larger water bodies. In Fred Mather's "Adirondack Fishes with Descriptions of New Species, from Researches made in 1882" (1884), he published some information about the distribution of fishes that was garnered by inquiries. These inquiries were in the form of 15 questions that were published in Forest and Stream and also sent to various persons known to be familiar with Adirondack locales. Several respondents were familiar with the Ferris Lake area, especially one Watts T. Loomis of Little Falls, New York. Ferris Lake is specifically mentioned in his response as not containing lake trout ("salmon") but is not mentioned among waters not containing brook trout. In fact his response and those of Captain L.A. Beardsley, also of Little Falls, and Mr. C.P. Williams, President of Albany National Bank, would suggest that virtually all the waters of the Ferris Lake area contained brook trout at that time. Ferris Lake was surveyed by the New York State Biological Survey in 1934. Species captured by seine and gillnets included but one nonnative species; golden shiners. Native-but-widely-introduced species included common shiners, brown bullheads, creek chubs and pumpkinseeds. Native species included brook trout, white suckers and blacknose dace. Brook trout were considered abundant at the time of the survey, but the lake was considered to be heavily stocked. pH values ranged from 6.0 to 7.4.

A 1953 netting effort captured most of the same species as the previous survey, but nonnative yellow perch were now established and the brook trout had become rare. No blacknose dace were collected in the 1953 effort. pH values had not changed dramatically, with the June, 1953 values ranging from 5.9 to 6.0. Ferris Lake was surveyed by ALSA in 1987. Species collected included golden shiners, yellow perch, creek chubs, brown bullheads and pumpkinseeds. Brook trout are no longer present in the lake. A 1997 water sample showed that pH values remain higher than many surrounding waters at 5.86 but the low ANC values (approximately 10 ueq/l) indicate that buffering capacity is very low. Pending the success of experimental largemouth bass stockings in other marginally acidified waters, Ferris Lake will be stocked with largemouth bass. Ferris Lake will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Ferris Vly (MH-P 778) - Ferris Vly is an 11-acre marsh on the inlet of Ferris Lake which is largely created by a beaver dam. A summer pH taken for ALSA synoptic survey showed the surface pH to be 6.56. Hopefully Ferris Vly offers some sanctuary from acidified conditions for native minnows.

Management Class: Unknown

Feullard Lake (MH-P 845) - This 6.2-acre pond never received a biological survey until an ALSA effort in 1987. It was earlier reported to be a beaver pond, but the ALSA survey found that it had a maximum depth of 18 feet. The pond was fishless and was found to have an extremely low pH of 4.54 at a 1.5 meter depth. With a flushing rate of

2.3 times per year, the pond falls outside the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criterion of 2.0 or less to qualify as a candidate for liming. Feullard Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Fourth Lake (MH-P 765) - Fourth Lake is one of a chain of six lakes which includes; Waters Millpond (MH P 762), Unnamed Pond (MH P 762A, Long Lake (MH-P 763), Third Lake (MH-P 764), and Goose Egg Lake (MH-P 766). This chain of lakes is very interesting as the fish community varies greatly in the different waters as does the water quality, especially in regards to pH and ANC. Interestingly, the pH is best in the central portion of the chain (Long Lake and Third Lake) and is lower both up and downstream.

Fourth Lake is a substantial water body with a 47.4 acre surface area. It was briefly examined in 1934 by the New York State Biological Survey Unit. Crew members made a 4 hour gillnet set and conducted shore seining. They reported brook trout, pumpkinseed (NBWI) and creek chubsuckers. The pond was characterized as being shallow and weedy with a limited amount of trout habitat. The surface pH was 6.2. Fourth Lake was again surveyed in 1957 in anticipation of reclaiming the entire chain above Waters Millpond. The fish community was documented to include yellow perch (nonnative), brown bullheads (NBWI), golden shiners (nonnative), pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and creek chubsuckers. Brook trout were reported. The reclamation was carried out in September of 1957 and Fourth Lake was stocked with brook trout in 1958. Trout survival was documented in 1959 and 1969 and correspondence files include reports of good fishing. However, a 1976 acid waters survey captured no fish and the stocking policy was deleted. In August of 1997 an updated biological survey was undertaken in preparation for this plan. Three golden shiners were captured in an overnight effort which employed two Swedish survey nets and a fine mesh minnow net. The pH was measured at 4.97.

At this time no active fisheries management is anticipated for Fourth Lake. However, the pH should be periodically checked. If the pH should show a trend of improvement, brook trout management would again become a viable option. A summer pH measurement approaching 5.2 would indicate conditions suitable for an experimental stocking. Nearby Indian Lake sustains a good brook trout fishery and has a summer pH of only 4.8. Given that Fourth Lake has exhibited poor survival in the past, it seems reasonable to wait until pH returns to more favorable level.

Fourth Lake will be annually sampled for pH and ANC for the next several years. At such a time as acidity levels decrease and the summer 1.0 meter pH rises to 5.2 or above the pond will be experimentally stocked with brook trout and managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Frank's Pond (MH-782) - Frank's Pond is a 3-acre pond that first received a biological survey in September of 1987 by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation. While the pond was fishless, the 1.5 meter pH was 5.6, somewhat better than many other waters in the unit. Slightly elevated dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and stained water (40 platinum cobalt color units) suggested that an experimental brook trout stocking policy might be productive. A brook trout fingerling policy was initiated in 1994. A follow up survey to determine the success of this policy will be undertaken. However, an angler reported having good angling in Frank's Pond during the 1998 fishing season. Frank's Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

G Lake (MH-P 859) - G Lake was studied in 1934 by the New York State Biological Survey Unit. A private fishing preserve at that time, the lake was heavily stocked with brook trout. A gillnetting effort in August 1934 documented the dense brook trout population plus NBWI pumpkinseed and brown bullheads. The pH was measured at 6.0 to 6.6.

The brook trout were heavily parasitized by the copepod *Salmoncola edwardsii*. G Lake was reclaimed by a private landowner in 1950 in an attempt to break the life cycle of the parasitic copepod. The reclamation was facilitated by a man-made concrete dam on the outlet, approximately 4 feet in height, which allowed the water to be retained and was an effective fish barrier. Just prior to reclamation, the fish community was largely the same as in 1934 with the additional species creek chubs (NBWI) being noted. The pH was also similar, ranging from 6.0 to 6.3. A follow up netting in 1953 indicated that the reclamation had been successful in eliminating all brook trout competitors and in eradicating the parasitic copepod. G lake was not netted again until 1978 when it was included in the regional acid waters survey. Brook trout, creek chubs (NBWI) and golden shiners were captured. The brook trout were relatively abundant with several quality size individuals. The pH was much lower than previously recorded, ranging from 4.8 to 5.2. A repeat survey in 1981 yielded information similar to the 1978 effort, with golden shiners increasing in abundance. G Lake was last visited in 1994 when it was surveyed for reclamation potential. The concrete dam was badly undermined and no longer functions as barrier to fish. However, the outlet stream's steep gradient does act as an effective fish barrier as evidenced by fact that several fish species found in the South Branch of West Canada Creek have not colonized G Lake. G Lake is accessible by a 2½ mile road and trail from State Route 8. G Lake will be reclaimed and managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Glasgow Pond (MH-695) - Glasgow Pond is shallow 6-acre pond reachable by trail leading from the Glasgow Road. The name Glasgow Mills appears on topographic maps in that vicinity and suggests that the pond outlet may have been previously dammed for water power purposes. It was surveyed in 1955 and again in 1966. Both surveys showed the pond to contain brown bullheads (NBWI) and chain pickerel (nonnative). Glasgow Pond will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Good Luck Lake (UH-P 265) - Good Luck Lake, like many of the waters in the FLWF, has received little biological investigation. It received a cursory netting in 1932 as part of the New York Biological Survey. At that time the pond contained nonnative fallfish, chain pickerel and yellow perch, native-but-widely-introduced brown bullheads and pumpkinseed, and white suckers. Notes from that survey indicated that bass were not known to occur, but would likely do well. Good Luck Lake is moderate in size at 84.5 acres. A recent netting survey conducted in 1996 for unit management planning purposes documented virtually the same fish community as the 1932 survey. The presence of nonnative golden shiners in 1996 is the one deviation. During the time of the 1996 survey the surface pH was 5.76. Pending bass stocking success evaluations of other waters with similar chemistry, largemouth bass will be introduced. Good Luck Lake can be reached by a short paddle up the outlet from the West Branch of the Sacandaga River or by a ½-mile trail from State Route 10. Good Luck Lake will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Goose Egg Lake (MH-P 766) - Goose Egg Lake is one of an interesting chain of lakes (see the discussion for Fourth Lake MH-P 765). Goose Egg Lake is a small (5.9-acre) bog pond which flows directly into Long Lake. It is very acidic and has probably been so for a long time. The pond was reclaimed in 1957 as part of the Long Lake chain, but it may have been fishless. No fish were captured during pretreatment netting and no mention is made of fish being killed during the treatment. Goose Egg Pond was surveyed in preparation for this plan. The pond was fishless and the pH of a water sample taken on August 6, 1997 was 4.40. Goose Egg Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Hart Vly Lake (MH-P 752) - Hart Vly Lake is a 6-acre pond which received its first biological survey on July 15, 1997, when it was surveyed in preparation for this unit management plan. A 1995 pH check during ALSC synoptic surveys had shown that the pH of this water to extremely low; a 1.5 meter sample yielded a pH of 4.75. The 1997 survey verified that the pond is fishless and the pH remains critically low at 4.74. The survey found that Hart Vly has the physical attributes to be a reclamation candidate, including a natural barrier falls on the outlet. Additionally, the 1997 survey indicated that Hart Vly Lake would meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria as a liming candidate relative to bog characteristics, but its estimated flushing rate of 3.2 times per year is slightly too high for inclusion in the Division of Fish, and Wildlife's pond liming program. Maps show no trail leading to Hart Vly Lake. It would be a bushwhack of approximately 1½ miles from State Route 8. Hart Vly Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Hillabrandt Vly (MH-713) - Hillabrandt Vly is large (53-acre) wetland located past Glasgow Pond on the same trail. A 1995 ALSC synoptic survey measured the pH of Hillabrandt Vly to be only 4.95. Visual observations in 1997 showed that there is now very little open water, and a high percentage of floating bog habitat. No other survey information is available.

Management Class: Unknown

House Pond (MH-769-770) - In its current high water condition caused by a beaver dam, House Pond encompasses what appears on older maps as two ponds. House Pond was not surveyed during the New York State Biological Survey, but was reported as being a brook trout pond. Surrounded by fishless acidified waters, House Pond is an oasis. First surveyed in 1987 by ALSC, House Pond has a self-sustaining population of brook trout and bullheads (NBWI). There is no record of House Pond being stocked with brook trout and the current trout population is considered a heritage strain. The flushing rate was estimated at 3.21 times per year. Although the pond has a bog type shoreline around 40% of its perimeter, the 1.5 meter pH was 5.8. A second netting conducted by DEC in 1989 also caught brook trout, but did not capture brown bullheads. Because of its unique acidity status the Bureau of Fisheries has annually monitored the pH for the past several years. The most recent measurement was 07/18/00, when a 1.5 meter sample had a pH of 6.23. House Pond will continue to be monitored for favorable pH and brook trout production. If the pH in this unique water should drop to dangerous levels it will be limed to sustain the brook trout fishery. Although its flushing rate falls slightly outside the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criterion for liming candidates of 2.0 or less, House Pond's standing as a brook trout water and the likelihood that it contains a heritage strain of brook trout justifies it as an exception to the liming criteria. House Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Iron Lake (MH-P 779) - Iron Lake was not studied during the original Biological Survey of the Mohawk Hudson drainage in 1934. It was reported to provide no fishing opportunities. A 1954 netting effort showed that the pond was fishless and that the pH was 6.1. Based upon the 1954 survey a brook trout stocking policy was initiated. Iron Lake has received five netting checks over the years since the stocking policy began. In each effort fair numbers of brook trout have been caught. No other fish species has been found. The 1987 ALSC survey established that the pond met the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for pond liming. A July 1996 survey undertaken for unit management planning purposes affirmed the pond to be a brook trout monoculture, with a critical 1.5 meter pH of 5.01 and showed that Iron Lake had the attributes for reclamation should one become necessary. Iron Lake will be reclaimed if a fish species that presents a threat to the brook trout fishery should become established. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be revised to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. Iron Lake is 25 acres in size and can be accessed by a short carry from Kennels Pond on the east or a longer bushwhack from Ferris Lake on the west.

Iron Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community. If future surveys indicate that liming is necessary for continued brook trout survival, Iron Lake will be limed. It will be reclaimed upon the establishment of nonnatives or other fishes that jeopardize the brook trout population.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Jockeybush Lake (UH-P 259) - Jockeybush Lake was studied by the New York State Biological Survey on July 19, 1932. A overnight gillnet captured yellow perch (nonnative), golden shiners (nonnative), brown bullheads (NBWI) and pumpkinseeds (NBWI). Species reported to be present at that time, but not collected during the survey, included white suckers, brook trout and lake trout. The surface pH was 5.6 at the time of the survey. When the pond was netted again in 1951, brown bullheads, golden shiners and pumpkinseeds were captured. The pond was reclaimed in August 1951 and brook trout and white suckers were additional species collected. pH values in 1951 were simply recorded as "below 6.0".

Jockeybush Lake was netted three times between 1964 and 1981 to check on the trout survival and the status of competing fish. In all three surveys brook trout were the only species captured and they appeared to be moderately abundant. Jockeybush Lake was netted by ALSC in 1987. The brook trout catch was excellent despite pH values generally considered less than optimum. The 1.5 meter pH was 5.31 at the time of the netting survey. With a calculated flushing rate of 1.7 times per year, the ALSC survey indicated that Jockeybush Lake would meet the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for inclusion in the limed waters program. This 43-acre trout lake was last surveyed on July 16, 1996 in preparation for this unit management plan. This survey showed that Jockeybush Lake continues to support a native fish community consisting of brook trout despite near critical acidity levels. The brook trout are maintained by stocking.

ALSC sampled Jockeybush Lake for pH and ANC in 5 consecutive months from May through September of 1996. The pH ranged from 5.12 to 5.51 and ANC from -1.8 to 4.3. This pond may be reached via a 1-mile trail from State Route 10. Jockeybush Lake will be reclaimed if a fish species that presents a threat to the brook trout fishery should become established. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be revised to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

Jockeybush Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community. If future surveys indicate that liming is necessary for continued brook trout survival, Jockeybush Lake it will be limed. It will be reclaimed upon the establishment of nonnatives or other fishes that jeopardize the brook trout population.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Knapps Long Lake (MH-P 753) - Knapps Long Lake is a 19-acre lake from which brook trout were reported during the 1930's Biological Survey. Never netted until 1963, the fish fauna then consisted of brook trout and NBWI brown bullheads and pumpkinseeds and white suckers. The pH at that time was 5.65. Data was updated for Knapps Long Lake in preparation for this plan. An August, 1997 survey showed that brook trout and white suckers are no longer present, but that golden shiners (nonnative) are now established. The pH was essentially unchanged at 5.53. Knapps Long Lake is centrally located in a chain of lakes. It is fed by Long Pond (MH-P 755) and Unnamed Pond (MH-P 754) and flows into Knapp Reservoir. Extensive wetlands throughout the system make reclamation infeasible at this time. The present conditions found in the 1997 survey (relatively favorable pH and moderate competition) warrant an experimental brook trout stocking policy. Knapps Long Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Lily Lake (MH-P 716) - Lily Lake is a 42.0- acre body of water which is actually the long outlet arm of Canada Lake. Last surveyed by the ALSC in 1987, Lily Lake contained nonnative northern pike, golden shiners, fallfish, yellow perch, black crappie, rock bass, and largemouth bass, and NBWI brown bullheads and pumpkinseed, as well as creek chubsuckers* (see discussion on page _ for a discussion on the endemicity of this species). In recent years it has been stocked with smallmouth bass by a private individual under a permit issued by DEC and reports of anglers catching quality size largemouth and smallmouth bass have been received. The pH at the time of the ALSC survey was 6.36. The Canada Lake system is thought to be rather unproductive from a nutrient standpoint and like most waters in the area has been impacted by acidification. Lily Lake is paralleled by the Stewart Landing Road, although much of the shoreline along the road is in private ownership. The lake can be reached by boat from West Lake, a connected water which has a DEC boat launch. Lily Lake will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Little Chub Lake (MH-P 751) - Little Chub Lake is a 1-acre pond that has very little file information. In 1932 it was reported to contain chain pickerel (nonnative), yellow perch (nonnative) and brown bullheads (NBWI).

Management Class: Unknown

Little Metcalf Lake (MH-768) - Little Metcalf Lake was first surveyed in 1975 by the Bureau of Fisheries. Survey comments include reports that brook trout and bullheads were reported in the 1950's. At the time of the 1975 survey, observations of this 8-acre pond were typical of a critically acidified water including water very clear and *Utricularia* abundant on bottom. No fish were captured in gillnets or a minnow trap. A 1.5 meter ph measurement taken by ALSC during the 1995 synoptic surveys was 4.95. Little Metcalf Lake is remote, and could be accessed by a 1.5-mile bushwhack from the Jerseyfield Lake Road. It is located in Region 6. Little Metcalf Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Long Lake (MH-P 763) - Long Lake is one of an interesting chain of lakes(see the discussion for Fourth Lake MH-P 765). Long Lake was not surveyed during the 1930's Biological Survey. A net check and shore survey in July of 1957 determined that the lake contained chain pickerel and yellow perch, both nonnative species. Brown bullheads (NBWI) were also reported. The pond was reclaimed with rotenone shortly after the survey and stocked with brook trout in early 1958. The natural barrier separating Long Lake from downstream Waters Mill Pond was apparently not fully effective and in the following decade the lake was invaded by creek chubsuckers, white suckers(NBWI), brown bullheads (NBWI), dace and other unidentified minnows. The brook trout population, supported by annual stocking, remained at a moderate level. By 1973 chain pickerel were again present and management for brook trout was no longer considered possible without construction of a barrier dam on the outlet and a second reclamation. Although contemplated this work was not carried out. An August 1997 survey conducted for purposes of this plan indicate that the fish population now consists of chain pickerel, brown bullheads, golden shiners (nonnative) and creek chubsuckers. With a summer pH of 5.96 at the time of the survey, Long Lake has a more favorable pH than most other ponds in the area and will be experimentally stocked with largemouth bass. Long Lake will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated species and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Long Lake (MH-P 823) - Long Lake is a 54-acre water that lies on both public and private land. About 70 % of its area is in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. The lake was first visited by the New York State Biological Survey on July 31, 1934. The caretaker of Jerseyfield Lake reported the pond to contain brook trout and bullheads. Another local individual reported lake trout also to be present. An overnight gillnet set failed to capture any fish, although the nets

were set primarily to target lake trout. pH values reported at the time of the survey ranged from 5.4 to 6.2. A netting survey conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries during 1976 acid water surveys failed to capture any fish and a long-term brook trout fingerling stocking policy was terminated. It should be noted that one year prior to the survey, Conservation Officer Homer Preston had reported good catches of brook trout from Long Lake. A summer 1995 pH check conducted by ALSA for synoptic surveys had a pH of 4.91. The acidified condition of the lake was reaffirmed in the summer of 1997 when a 1.5 meter water sample was determined to have a pH of 4.94. Long Lake has a maximum depth of 55 feet and a significant amount of water over 30 in depth. Its watershed is relatively small, which would cause it to have a low flushing rate. Long Lake will be evaluated to determine if it meets the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Criteria for inclusion in its pond liming program. If Long Lake meets these criteria, it will be limed to restore a native fish community. Long Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Long Pond (MH-P 755) - Long Pond is a 19.0 acre pond which flows into Knapps Long Lake. Although no fish barrier exists between the ponds, the fish communities differ, suggesting that the beaver marshes on Long Pond outlet act as a barrier to at least some species. Long Pond was never surveyed until 1978, despite a history of stocking with brook trout. Because the 1978 survey captured only brown bullheads (NBWI) the stocking policy was deleted. During the 1978 survey the pH was measured at 4.8. A 1997 fisheries survey undertaken for preparation of this unit management plan caught brown bullheads in numbers and size similar to those handled in 1978. The pH was significantly better at 5.77. The improved pH justifies an experimental stocking of brook trout fingerlings. Long Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Morley Lake (MH-P778A) - Morley Lake is a 17.4-acre pond which lies south of Jockeybush Pond and could be accessed by ½-mile bushwhack from there. Situated on a plateau, the lake drains north to Black Cat Outlet. Some file data indicates that the lake drains south to Limestone Creek, but a field check on February 22, 1999 shows this to be incorrect. Morley Lake has a brief history of fish management. It was stocked for a time in the late 1950's, but two attempts to collect trout in 1960 and 1961 were unsuccessful. The 1960 effort relied on angling, without success. In July 1961 gillnets were set overnight and no fish were captured. The surface pH was 5.4 and liming was recommended. Morley Lake was most recently surveyed in July of 1996 for unit management planning purposes. This survey showed that the pond is fishless and acidified with a 1.5 meter pH of 4.97. Physical assessments showed that the pond has an excellent natural barrier on the outlet and would make a suitable reclamation candidate should reclamation ever become necessary. They also showed that the pond meets the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for liming in terms of water quality and color and bog characteristics. Unfortunately a bathymetric map and volumetric check showed that the flushing rate is 2.40 times per year, somewhat greater than the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criterion of 2.0 or less for inclusion in the limed waters program. Morley Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Mountain Pond (MH-781) - Mountain Pond is a 1-acre pond that has never received a biological survey.

Management Class: Unknown

Mounts Creek Lake (MH-P 814) - Mounts Creek Lake is a 14.5-acre pond that is accessed by the Jerseyfield Lake trail. Mounts Creek Lake was first surveyed in July of 1971. Swedish gillnets captured a moderate number of brown bullheads (NBWI) and the lake was considered a good potential brook trout water. Anglers reported no success for brook trout following stocking and a follow up survey in May of 1973 confirmed the lack of success. pH values were

measured at 5.5 in both 1971 and 1973. A 1987 ALSC survey showed that bullheads are abundant despite a 1 meter pH of 4.89. The flushing rate of Mounts Creek Lake is estimated to be 4.5 per year. The lake is located in Region 6. Mounts Creek Lake will be managed to preserve its native fish community for its intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Mud Lake (MH-P 712) - Mud Lake is a 12-acre pond which has never received a formal biological survey. An informal file note indicates that it contains nonnative chain pickerel and NBWI brown bullheads. Mud Lake flows to Middle Sprite Creek via a relatively low gradient outlet, so it likely contains other fish species as well. It can be reached by a 1½-mile bushwhack from Stearns Landing or a similar distance from State Route 119. Mud Lake will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Mud Lake (MH-767) - Mud Lake is a small, remote water located approximately 2 miles from the nearest road. The pond was first surveyed in 1987 by ALSC. The pond is mostly shallow, but does have a small area that is 15 feet in depth. The pond was fishless and had a pH of only 4.97. The flushing rate is estimated to be 14 times per year, significantly higher than the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for liming candidates. It is located in Region 6. Mud Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Mud Lake (MH-P 816) - A 2001 survey of 23-acre Mud Lake revealed the presence of naturally sustaining populations of both brook trout and brown bullhead, plus remnant stocks of white sucker and golden shiner. If this brook trout population is "wild", it is an especially valuable resource. Future management plans for this lake include monitoring fish populations and water chemistry status. In particular, the spawning status of the lake's brook trout population needs to be confirmed. At present the lake's pH is low, but not threatening to its fish populations. If its summer pH declines below 5.7, it will be considered for lime treatment in accordance with the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources Pond Liming Policy. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Mud Pond (MH-P 226) - This 13-acre water has no data other than a 1932 comment that pickerel were NSA (natural spawning adequate).

Management Class: Unknown

Mud Pond (MH-P 714) - Mud Pond is a 7-acre marsh which a 1995 data sheet describes as "pond out". Mud Pond owes its ephemeral existence to beaver activity.

Management Class: Unknown

Negro Lake (MH-P 738) - Negro Lake is a 6-acre pond which is tributary to Canada Lake. As the outlet stream which connects the two water bodies is moderately low gradient Negro Lake likely contains many of the same fish species as Canada Lake. No fisheries survey has been conducted on Negro Lake, but a summer pH was taken in 1995. The summer pH was 5.54. Negro Lake is accessed by a ½ mile bushwhack from Canada Lake.

Management Class: Unknown

Nine Corner Lake (MH-P 719) - Nine Corner Lake is a 111-acre lake with an extensive history of fish management. First surveyed in 1934, the low density of the fish population and recorded observations suggest that this lake may have been impacted by acidification at this early date. The scant vegetation, clear water and reduced success of the formerly excellent lake trout fishery are all noted. The decline in lake trout may have been in part attributable to the reduction of deep water habitat due to the breaching of a manmade dam which added 10 feet to the lake depth. Records show that lake trout had been stocked for several years prior to the 1934 survey. Species present in 1934 included lake trout, nonnative yellow perch and golden shiners, and NBWI brown bullheads and pumpkinseeds and white suckers.

The pond was reclaimed in 1954 to provide a brook trout fishery. The species composition at the time of the reclamation was the same as that in 1934. The pond provided fair brook trout fishing for a time, but by 1963 the Department received reports of a decline in angling quality. A netting check in 1963 caught few brook trout and pH values ranged from 5.4 to 5.6, a drop from earlier measurements. A 1963 lake description is typical of an acidified lake; "crystal clear with blue cast, sterile appearing". Despite continued stocking of brook trout, a 1973 gillnetting effort captured only brown bullheads. The stocking policy was suspended due to the lack of success and by 1975 the pH had dropped below 5.0. Nine Corner Lake was experimentally limed with 21 tons of hydrated lime in May of 1977. A planting of yearling brook trout was made shortly after and subsequent netting documented good initial growth and survival. The amount of limestone applied was an insufficient amount to provide long-term buffering and the pH had dropped to pre-treatment levels in 2 years time. Later applications of hydrated lime and agricultural limestone elevated the pH, but program limitations prevented an application of the magnitude needed for a lake of this size.

A follow up netting in 1985 revealed that yellow perch and brown bullheads had become reestablished in the pond. Stocking ceased in 1994. It would be very gratifying to be able to restore Nine Corner Lake to good fishing. Nine corner Lake will be limed and stocked with brown trout. The lake is accessed by a 1.25 mile trail from State Route 10. Nine Corner Lake will limed and managed as a coldwater pond preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Coldwater

North Branch Lake (MH-P 825) - North Branch Lake is a 16-acre lake which first received a biological survey on August 29, 1966. Although it occurs equally in Regions 5 and 6, it is managed by Region 6. The Region 5 portion is in private ownership. In 1966 the pond had a good population of brook trout and some brown bullheads (NBWI). Surveyed again in 1987 by ALSC, the fish community consisted of brook trout, brown bullheads and 1 yellow perch (nonnative). Since then the DEC brook trout stocking policy was dropped due to the combination of poor public access and acidification. As of August 2001, the lake's fish community consists of brook trout and brown bullheads (DEC Region 6). Based on anecdotal information the brook trout currently inhabiting the lake are believed the result of illegal stocking.

At 5.6, the lake's pH appears to be favorable for brook trout survival. This is considered low, however. Since its 7.5 flush rate is >2.0, the lake is not a liming candidate. North Branch Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. The source of its alleged illegal brook trout will be investigated. It will be reconsidered as a DEC stocking candidate water.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Piseco Lake (UH-P 234) - At 2842-acres, Piseco Lake is the largest water in the FLWF. It is also likely the best known. Accessed from State Route 8, roads encircle the lake. Most of the shoreline of Piseco Lake is in private ownership, but three public campsites are found here. Public camping has long been a priority on this lake; the Poplar Point Campground was first opened in 1927 and the Point Comfort Campground opened just 2 years later. Boat access is available at all three public areas. Boating access will not be further discussed here, but in individual

campground unit management plans. Piseco Lake has a long history of fish management and fish stocking. This history has been dealt with in various reports and articles and the information is too voluminous to be included in this unit management plan. However a brief summation follows.

“Wallace’s Guide to the Adirondacks”,(1894) gives this very brief account of the fishery of Piseco Lake at that time; “Speckled trout fishing is good in its inlets and the lake itself furnishes Salmon trout {lake trout} in considerable quantities. Its outlet (W. Sacandaga) is quite broad and deep and together with a stream entering Gerundegut Bay, also near the foot of the lake, affords the best trout fishing in the vicinity. Bull-heads are found in great numbers near the head of the lake.” DEC’s first records of the fish community in Piseco Lake are from the Biological Survey of the Hudson Drainage in 1932. Seines, gillnets and dynamite were employed to sample the fish fauna of the lake. Species documented at the time included brook trout, pumpkinseeds (NBWI), brown bullheads (NBWI), white suckers, lake trout, lake whitefish (nonnative), yellow perch (nonnative), smallmouth bass (nonnative), fallfish (nonnative) golden shiners (nonnative), chain pickerel (nonnative) and one round whitefish. The lake whitefish and yellow perch were considered to be abundant.

The next survey of Piseco Lake came in 1964. Lake whitefish were still abundant. Brown bullheads, white suckers, lake trout, and fallfish were also captured during the study. Large mesh nets designed to capture lake trout were used, so many species present in the lake were likely not effectively sampled in 1964. A more extensive sampling effort took place in 1966 which employed both gillnets and trapnets. New species included rock bass(nonnative), brown trout (introduced) and rainbow trout (introduced). Piseco Lake received more netting in 1968 and 1969. These surveys did not yield additional species. Effort was focused on lake trout due to concern that while large lake trout were being captured, juvenile fish were almost unknown. It is likely that the decline in the lake trout population was related to DDT spraying, a problem which caused lake trout to decline in many Adirondack Lakes during the 1950's and 1960's. A 1972 survey found lake trout to be more abundant, including younger, smaller fish, and stocking of yearling lake trout combined to restore the lake trout fishing. Rainbow smelt were added to the lake’s fish fauna in the early 1970's and have become a important forage fish. A spring dipnet fishery was suspended in order to protect this species for its forage attributes.

The most recent netting survey of Piseco Lake took place in August of 1984. This netting captured lake whitefish, lake trout, white suckers, rock bass, yellow perch, rainbow smelt, smallmouth bass, one longnose sucker and one brown bullhead. The lake trout were numerous and the survey indicated a stock piling of fish under the 21" size limit. The size limit was reduced to 18" which has proven to be very effective in making Piseco Lake a productive lake trout fishery. Lake trout fishing has been good in Piseco Lake throughout the 1990's, and the lake continues to have an abundant lake whitefish population. A special brown trout stocking program utilizing Seeforellen browns ceased when whirling disease infected the brood stock. A landlocked salmon policy has been instituted to create some additional angling opportunities. Early angler information suggests that this species is surviving and growing well and is providing some diverse fishing experiences. Anglers also catch good number of smallmouth bass each season. Piseco Lake will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve a native fish community in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two-story

Punkhole (MH-P 831) - No data exists for 3-acre Punkhole. The name would suggest that the pond lacks suitable habitat for fish management potential. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Unknown

Redlouse Lake (MH-771) - Redlouse Lake is a 13 acre lake which has a record of acidification and declining fish species diversity. Not studied during the original New York State Biological Survey, it was reported to contain 4 and 5 pound brook trout. Redlouse Lake was first netted in July of 1957. Gillnets captured brook trout and brown

bullheads(NBWI). Pumpkinseed sunfish (NBWI) and golden shiners (nonnative) were both reported to be common and golden shiner remains were found in the trout stomachs. The pH at the time of the 1957 survey was reported at 6.1. A 1969 netting effort captured brook trout, brown bullheads and golden shiners and reported the pH to be 6.0. A 1973 netting effort caught only brown bullheads and brook trout. The June 1973 pH was a similar 6.0. Redlouse Lake was again netted in July of 1980. Two Swedish survey nets captured 17 brook trout of moderate size. No bullheads were caught and two minnow traps failed to capture golden shiners or other minnows. By 1980 the pH had dropped to less than 5.0. Redlouse Lake was most recently netted in July of 1997 in preparation for this unit management plan. Results were similar to the 1973 effort in that both brown bullheads and brook trout were captured. The 1.5 meter pH on July 16, 1997 was 5.27.

A physical inspection of Redlouse Lake during the 1997 netting effort indicated that the lake is a good candidate for reclamation if undesirable fish should become established. The lake will be reclaimed if a fish species that presents a threat to the brook trout fishery should become established. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be revised to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. If future surveys of Redlouse Lake indicate that liming is necessary for continued trout survival, Redlouse Lake will be evaluated to determine if it meets the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Criteria for inclusion in its pond liming program. If Redlouse Lake meets these criteria, it will be limed to restore a native fish community. Redlouse Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fish community. It will be reclaimed upon the establishment of nonnatives or other fishes that jeopardize the brook trout population.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Rock Lake (UH-P 229) - Rock Lake is a 26-acre pond located in a chain with Clockmill Pond, Mud Pond, Unnamed Pond (UH 227) and Sand Lake. It can be reached by a 2 mile trail from the Powley Road. While it is the uppermost pond in the chain, it still has a moderately large watershed which would cause it to have a calculated flushing rate in excess of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria of 2.0 or less to be considered as a candidate for inclusion in the limed waters program. Rock Lake was first surveyed in 1932 and had many characteristics in common with Clockmill Pond into which it flows. An overnight gillnet on July 28, 1932 captured but one chain pickerel (nonnative). Pumpkinseeds (NBWI) were also reported. The oxygen level was depressed in only moderately deep water and the surface pH was 5.2. Rock Lake was again surveyed in 1987 by ALSC. This survey showed that conditions at Rock Lake have changed little. The 1.5 meter pH was 5.09. The nets captured 17 brown bullheads (NBWI), 3 pumpkinseeds and 2 chain pickerel. Rock Lake will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve a native fish community in the presence of nonnative chain pickerel.

Management Class: Warmwater

Sand Lake (UH-P 225) - This 109-acre lake is reachable by a ½-mile unmarked trail leading from the Powley-Piseco Road. The pond was surveyed by the New York State Biological Survey on July 20, 1932. At that early date the fish fauna was dominated by introduced species. An overnight gill net set captured yellow perch (nonnative), chain pickerel (nonnative), fallfish (nonnative) and white suckers. Angling added pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and golden shiners (nonnative) to the species list. Notable among comments recorded in the 1932 survey is that the pond was formerly an excellent trout water. pH levels were uniformly 5.4. A 1995 1.5 meter pH sample collected for ALSC synoptic surveys measured 5.54 and a 1997 1.5 meter pH collected for preparation of this plan was also 5.54. A bathymetric sketch showed there to be a significant amount of deep water habitat. No calculated flushing rate is available for Sand Lake, but a map check shows that it has a very large watershed, which would preclude it from being included in the Division of Fish and Wildlife's limed waters program. Sand Lake will be experimentally stocked with brown trout to determine their suitability for management in marginally acidified waters. Sand Lake will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two-Story

Spectacle Lakes (MH-P 760) - Like Dexter Lake above, Spectacle Lakes are discussed in Fred Mather's "Adirondack Fishes with Descriptions of New Species, from Researches Made in 1882" (1884). Spectacle Lakes is mentioned as being one of only a few Adirondack lakes known to have been stocked with chain pickerel. Letters to Mather reported the demise of brook trout in these waters due to the unwise introduction. Spectacle Lakes was visited by the Biological Survey in 1934. No fish were collected in an overnight gillnetting effort, but angling captured eight chain pickerel (nonnative). Pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and brown bullheads (NBWI) were identified by examining the stomach contents of the pickerel. The pickerel population was judged to be dense and physical conditions were considered ideal for them. pH values during the 1934 survey ranged from 5.4 to 6.7. Spectacle Lakes was studied by the ALSC in 1987. This 165-acre water body had a fish community that was similar to that observed in 1934 plus nonnative yellow perch. Water chemistry, like so many waters in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest, is marginal with pH measurements of 5.61 and 5.65. Spectacle Lakes was experimentally stocked with largemouth bass in 1997. Spectacle Lakes will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Spy Lake (UH-P 232) - Spy Lake is a 376-acre lake which has not been included in previous inventories of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Most of its area is divided between private ownership and the Silver Lake Wilderness. However, a small parcel of wild forest land on the north shore dictates that it be included in this wild forest plan. First studied in 1932 by the New York State Biological Survey, the pond lake was found to contain a largely nonnative species association including smallmouth bass (nonnative), golden shiners (nonnative), chain pickerel (nonnative), fallfish (nonnative), yellow perch (nonnative) and pumpkinseeds (NBWI). The pH in 1932 was measured at 6.6. A netting survey utilizing trapnets was undertaken in 1964. This survey documented two additional native-but widely-introduced species: brown bullheads and white suckers. Other species captured in 1964 included pumpkinseed, smallmouth bass, yellow perch and fallfish. Smallmouth bass were considered to be abundant.

Spy Lake was most recently surveyed in 1987 by ALSC. This survey showed that Spy Lake continues to be dominated by a nonnative fish community with new species additions. ALSC captured chain pickerel, fallfish, rock bass (nonnative), smallmouth bass, yellow perch, white suckers, brown bullheads, pumpkinseeds, and one lake whitefish (nonnative). Spy Lake has very favorable chemistry and supports good numbers of forage fish. It is desirable to manage this as a two-story lake, by stocking one or more salmonid species. Poor public access currently rules out implementing any stocking policies. The direct access to the lake is by private, posted road. It is a considerable distance to gain access by circumnavigating the private land. A public trail connecting the Northville-Placid trail to Spy Lake is one alternative for providing public access. This would provide canoe access to a sizable public resource which currently has little legitimate public access. Spy Lake will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve its native fish species in the presence historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two-story

Stony Brook Pond (MH-P749) - Stony Brook Pond is the only FLWF water that occurs on the Stratford Quadrangle. This pond appears smaller on some maps and is likely an ephemeral beaver marsh.

Management Class: Unknown

The Flow (MH-P 850A) - The flow is a 67-acre still water on the South Branch of West Canada Creek. There is no file data, but doubtless it contains brook trout during cooler weather, and several other species.

Management Class: Unknown

Third Lake (MH-P 764) - Third Lake is one of an interesting chain of lakes (see the discussion for Fourth Lake MH-P 765). Third Lake was visited briefly during the Biological Survey in August of 1934. Fish collected by gillnet and

seine included brook trout, white suckers, pumpkinseed (NBWI), creek chubsuckers, golden shiners (nonnative) and creek chubs (NBWI). The surface pH was reported to be 6.7 at the time of the 1934 survey. Third Lake lies immediately upstream of Long Lake (MH-P 763) and has a fish management history that is quite similar to that of Long Lake. When surveyed in 1957 in anticipation of a reclamation, the pond contained yellow perch (nonnative), pumpkinseeds (NBWI), golden shiners (nonnative), creek chubsuckers, brown bullheads (NBWI) and bluegills (nonnative). Brook trout were also reported. Third Lake was reclaimed in September of 1957 and restocked with brook trout in early 1958. The outlet stream between Third Lake and Long Lake has a steep gradient.

When Third Lake was netted in August of 1997 to update our information for this plan, brook trout, golden shiners and creek chubsuckers were captured. Unlike Long Lake, no brown bullheads or chain pickerel are present. The golden shiners are likely the result of unauthorized introductions by persons using fish as bait. The brook trout catch indicated a relatively abundant population including some large individuals. The catch was similar to a netting survey conducted in 1976 as part of a regional acidification study. As part of the unit management planning survey, Third Lake was investigated for its potential as a reclamation candidate. The long standing dissimilar fish communities in Long Lake and Third Lake indicate that the outlet is a fish barrier. If Third Lake becomes infested with yellow perch, chain pickerel or other serious trout competitor, a reclamation will be undertaken. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be revised to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. The August 1997 pH was 5.54. With a surface area of 55 acres, Third Lake represents one of the most significant brook trout waters in the unit. Third Lake will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout pond and will be reclaimed upon the establishment of additional fish species to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Trammel Creek Lake (MH-P 748A) - This 1-acre marsh was studied by the Biological Survey on August 4, 1934. It is the spring headwaters to Trammel Creek. The study was notable because the surface pH was recorded to be 6.2. The presence of blacknose dace, a species known to be intolerant of low pH, adds credibility to the comparatively high pH measurement. Brook trout, brown bullheads (NBWI) and creek chubs (NBWI) were also collected. It would be interesting to revisit this area and see if it still provides a haven for native minnows. It is located in Region 6. Trammel Creek Lake will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Trout Lake (MH-P 793) - Trout Lake was briefly visited during the original New York State Biological Survey on June 29, 1934. A 6-hour gill net set captured only one bullhead (NBWI) and the lack of minnows was noted. The pH was recorded to be 6.4. The lake received a more thorough survey by ALSC in 1987. Standard ALSC survey methodologies failed to capture any fish and the pH was measured at 4.9. The AISC bathymetric study showed the 41-acre to have a significant amount of deep water habitat mixed with productive shallows. It is surprising that the pond did not contain more fish when surveyed in 1934. The flushing rate of Trout Lake is estimated to be 5.5 times per year, a rate in excess of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's criteria for liming candidates of 2.0 or less. Trout Lake will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Unnamed Ponds (UH-P 223, 224) - These two unnamed ponds are both small and have never received a biological survey.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 227) - Unnamed Pond is a 2-acre pond with no file information other than a 1932 comment that chain pickerel are NSA.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 230) - This Unnamed Pond is 6 acres in size and shallow. No other information is available.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 707) - This unnamed pond is a 5-acre water which has never had a modern biological survey. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 715A) - Unnamed 715A is a 1-acre pond for which there is no file data.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 737) - This 1-acre pond was reported to be “out” in 1932. Unnamed 737 is likely an ephemeral beaver marsh.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 747) - This unnamed pond is a 1-acre water which offers little potential for fisheries management. In 2000, its pH and ANC, which were 4.9 and -7.66 ueq/l respectively, indicate the pond is acidified. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Acid

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 752A) - This unnamed pond is a 6-acre marsh that lies close to Hart Vly Lake. It likely shares its acidified condition. With most of the pond approximately 1 foot in depth, it is not considered to have potential for fisheries management.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 754) - This unnamed pond is a small marsh that occurs between Knapps Long Lake and Long Pond. It likely shares some of the same fish species. Unnamed Pond MH-P754 will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 762A) - This unnamed pond is one of an interesting chain of lakes(see the discussion for Fourth Lake MH-P 765). It is a 6-acre water that is in the course of the stream flowing from Long Lake to Waters Mill Pond. It has never been surveyed, but likely has bullheads and golden shiners like Long Lake, by which it is fed. Located in a large wetland area, the pond cannot be effectively managed for game fish. Unnamed Pond MH-P 762A will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 772A) - This unnamed pond is a small, 1-acre pond that has never received a biological survey.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Ponds (MH-P 791 and 791A) - These are two small ponds which have never received biological surveys.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 822A) - Unnamed Pond 822 is a 6-acre marsh. A summer 1995 pH measurement taken during ALSC synoptic surveys was 4.82.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 827A) - This 20-acre pond has never been the subject of a general biological survey. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 830) - This unnamed pond has never received a modern biological survey. Pond 830 is slightly less than 3 acres in size. It is located in Region 6.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 830A) - Like Unnamed Pond (MH-P830), this 6-acre pond has never received a modern biological survey; however, it was sampled for pH during the 1995 ALSC synoptic surveys. The 1.5 meter sample had a pH of 5.67, a value high enough to warrant consideration for brook trout management. Unnamed Pond will be further investigated to determine its management potential. It is located in Region 6.

If neither brook trout nor serious competitors of brook trout are established in the pond, an experimental stocking policy will be implemented. The pond will be reclaimed if it is found to contain nonnatives or other fishes and it is determined that it has the physical attributes of a reclamation candidate. If a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be revised to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. Unnamed Pond (MH-P 830A) will then be managed to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Unnamed Ponds (MH-P 843B, 843D, 843E) - Unnamed Ponds 843 B and D are both approximately 12 acres while 843E is only 1 acre in size. All three appear to be shallow and marshy and have never received a biological survey

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Waters (MH-P 5305, 5306, 5307, 5308, 5309, 5310, 5311, 5314, 5315, 5317, 5318, and 5319) and Comstock Vly (MH-P 5313) - There are numerous small, mostly unnamed waters in the Jerseyfield Lake Quadrangle area of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. These waters have never received detailed biological surveys. Many are small and located in the course of a stream. All of the several water listed except 5315, 5317, 5318 and 5319 are located in Region 6.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 5321) - This 3-acre pond is actually a marsh.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5325) - This 2-acre pond has no file data.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (MH-P 5323) - Unnamed Pond is a marsh which has now become nearly entire vegetated. There remains but a small trickle of water flowing through it. Unnamed Pond (MH-P 5253) will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Waters Millpond (MH-P 762) - Waters Mill Pond is a 19-acre pond which first received a biological survey in 1958. Its fish community consisted of nonnative chain pickerel and yellow perch, NBWI brown bullheads and creek chubsuckers. A summer 1995 pH taken during ALSC synoptic surveys was higher than expected, being measured at 6.11. An additional recent pH measurement was made for the purposes of this plan. The July 1997 water sample had a pH of 5.65. Waters Mill Pond will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

West Caroga Lake (MH-P 698) - West Caroga Lake, at 319 acres, is one of the largest water bodies in the unit. The maximum depth is approximately 75 feet and more than one-half the lake is in excess of 40 feet deep. When surveyed in 1934 the lake had been stocked with many species of fish and had a diverse fish community which included fall fish (nonnative), redbreast sunfish, lake whitefish (nonnative), brook trout, white suckers, golden shiners (nonnative), brown bullheads (NBWI), chain pickerel (nonnative), yellow perch (nonnative), lake trout (native), smallmouth bass (nonnative), walleye (nonnative), pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and rock bass (nonnative). The fishing was reported to be fair for the warm- water species and lake whitefish. Water chemistry was very favorable in West Caroga Lake in 1934. High oxygen levels were present at all depths and pH was very favorable ranging from 6.5 to 7.3. Conditions have seemingly been quite consistent in West Caroga Lake over the years, with periodic surveys showing little change.

The most recent biological survey took place in 1989. The fish community consisted of rock bass, yellow perch, splake (stocked), lake whitefish, white suckers, golden shiners, chain pickerel, brown bullheads, yellow bullheads (native), pumpkinseeds, smallmouth bass, landlocked salmon (stocked), rainbow smelt (stocked), and lake trout. The appearance of yellow bullheads is interesting, but it is not known if they were introduced or simply not previously detected. The apparent healthy population (58 captured) of lake whitefish is also noteworthy as this species seems to be regionally far less abundant now than in the past when it was stocked in many Adirondack Lakes. pH and oxygen levels remain very favorable in Caroga Lake and are similar to values recorded in 1934.

The shoreline of West Caroga Lake is predominately privately owned, and seasonal camps abound. At least one commercial launch provides public access. Boat access is also possible by boating from the public boat launch in the East Caroga Lake Campground. West Caroga Lake will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two-Story

West Creek Lake (MH-773) - West Creek Lake is an 11-acre pond which was found to hold a self-sustaining population of brook trout when first surveyed in 1955. Surveyed again in 1987 by ALSC, the pond was found to be

fishless and acidified with a 1.5 meter pH of 4.6. West Creek Lake has a rather large watershed and an estimated flushing rate of 31 times per year, a value which precludes it from being considered as a liming candidate. In contrast to many fishless waters, West Creek Lake has stained water, possibly indicating factors that can mitigate low pH values. An experimental brook trout stocking population was implemented in 1997. Follow up surveys will clarify the parameters for stocking marginal waters. West Creek Lake will be managed to restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

West Lake (MH-P 718) - West Lake is a 183-acre water body which is broadly connected to Canada Lake and shares much of the same fish community. Because it lacks the deepwater habitat of Canada Lake, lake trout are not found in West Lake during the summer months, but may reside there when shallower waters are a satisfactory temperature. If the current trends of reduced acid deposition level continues, a stocking policy of rainbow trout may provide good angling. West Lake is accessible from a State DEC Boat Launch. West Lake will be managed as a two story lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two-story

Wilder Vly (MH-P 843A and 5316) - Wilder Vly is a 17-acre shallow water body which was first surveyed by ALSC in 1987. The ALSC study indicated the pond to be fishless and acidified. With a maximum depth of only 4 feet at the time of the survey, the pond is largely created by a beaver dam. Given its shallow nature, low pH (4.6 during the ALSC survey) and high flushing rate (27 times per year) Wilder Vly is not considered to have fisheries management potential. Wilder Vly will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Note: For purposes of this plan, only waters officially recognized (those with P numbers) by the NYS Biological Survey are included. The Ferris Lake Wild Forest contains numerous small wetland/beaverponds which have not been assigned P numbers. In some years these pond/wetland complexes may be nearly dry, while during wet years or periods of beaver activity they may constitute a significant water body. These ponds/wetlands will be managed to preserve their existing fish communities for their intrinsic value.

APPENDIX F
COMPREHENSIVE SNOWMOBILE PLAN - BRIEFING DOCUMENT

BRIEFING DOCUMENT
Draft Comprehensive Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park

VISION STATEMENT

To develop and maintain an integrated snowmobile trail system on public and, increasingly, on private land in the Adirondack Park that will provide snowmobilers with an experience that is consistent with the spirit and letter of Article XIV of the State Constitution while also striving to enhance the economic vitality of the Park's citizens by providing trail linkages between local communities within the Park.

GOALS

1. Protect natural and cultural resources and the wild forest character of public lands in the Park (as envisioned by the Constitution, APSLMP and appropriate laws, rules, regulations) by:
 - considering underutilized trails for abandonment;
 - utilizing to the maximum extent possible routes on the periphery of Wild Forest Units or parallel and near to travel/transportation corridors for new trail development and, where appropriate, re-designating trails in the interior of Wild Forest Units or in the vicinity of private inholdings for non-snowmobile use only;
 - focusing on opportunities to route trails on non-state lands wherever possible and encouraging long-term commitment of corridor trail systems on private lands;
 - increasing law enforcement resources at all levels to deter illegal activity on the trail system and in surrounding public and private areas;
 - providing intelligent and resource protective trail system planning in an overall way rather than dealing with each trail segment individually;
 - focusing the corridor trail system on non-state lands.

2. Providing a safe, enjoyable snowmobile experience by:
 - avoiding unsafe trail conditions;
 - minimizing dependency on lake and road crossings;
 - encouraging partnerships with the private sector, state and local governments that will provide, maintain and operate snowmobile trails;
 - establishing a clear set of standards for snowmobile trails and snowmobile related activities on public lands.

3. Promoting tourism and economic opportunities for local communities by:
 - connecting communities and major points of interest;
 - connecting trail systems from outside of the Park;
 - connecting to necessary support services (gas, food, lodging, etc.);
 - identifying important snowmobile trail connections.

COMMUNITIES AND IMPORTANT “COMMUNITY CONNECTOR TRAILS” IN THE FLWF

Local communities where snowmobile trail linkages are important to their winter economy include:

Poland	Salisbury	Caroga Lake	Stratford
Bleecker	Oppenheim	Rockwood	Dolgeville
Piseco	Arietta	Pine Lake	Morehouse
Hoffmeister	Ohio	Nobleboro	

Important “community connector trails” include: communities(trails)

- Poland-Ohio-Nobleboro (Secondary Trails 46 and 46A; Corridor Trail 4)
- Nobleboro-Morehouse-Hoffmeister-Piseco (Secondary Trail 46A; Corridor Trails 4 and 4A)
- Salisbury-Morehouse (Corridor Trail 4)
- Poland-Salisbury (Secondary Trail 44; Corridor Trail 4)
- Salisbury-Stratford (Corridor Trail 8C and 4A)
- Oppenheim-Dolgeville-Salisbury (Corridor Trail 8A)
- Stratford-Piseco (Corridor Trails 4A and 8A)
- Oppenheim-Caroga Lake-Arietta-Piseco (Corridor Trail 8)
- Caroga Lake-Stratford (Corridor Trail 8, 8A and 4A)
- Caroga Lake-Pine Lake (Secondary Trail 82)
- Caroga Lake-Bleecker (Corridor Trail 8)
- Rockwood-Caroga Lake (no existing state corridor or secondary trails)

APPENDIX G
TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND MARKING STANDARDS

TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM – FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

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

TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM – FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

CLASS	MARKING	TREAD	BARRIERS	USE LEVEL	ACCEPTABLE MAINTENANCE
IX Mountain Bike Trail	Marked frequently and No Biking signs posted on adjoining trails not specified for bike use.	New trails to maximum of 4 feet. Tread width less than 18 inches on a rolling grade.	None	Moderate	Remove vegetation at root level. Texture the tread. Keep trails below 2000 feet. Use existing roads or trails that do not exceed 10% grade. Blowdown removal (annual). Trail brushing.

TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM – FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST

CLASS	MARKING	TREAD	BARRIERS	USE LEVEL	ACCEPTABLE MAINTENANCE
Snow mobile Trail- Class A (Corridor)	Marked High	Groomed (width 8 feet, 12 feet on corners)	None	Moderate to High	Blowdown removal (annual) Trail brushing Erosion control structures (box culverts, etc.) Trail hardening (corduroy) Bridges Trail rehabilitation
Snow mobile Trail- Class B (Secondary)	Marked High	May be groomed (width 8 feet)	None	Low, varies by location	Blowdown removal (annual) Trail brushing Erosion control structures (box culverts, etc.) Trail hardening (corduroy) Bridges Trail rehabilitation
Snow mobile Trail- Local	Marked High	May be groomed (width ≤ 8 feet)	None	Variable	Varies by amount of use.

TRAIL MARKING STANDARDS

On Forest Preserve and State Forest lands, all trails are marked with small, colored plastic disks nailed to trees or posts at regular intervals. In the past on hiking trails, blue markers were used for north-south trails, red markers for east-west trails and trails to fire towers, and yellow markers for connector trails.

The following markers are used today. All are available in blue, yellow, and red.

Foot Trail - Used on all trails where only foot traffic is permitted.

Trail - Used along multiple-use trails. Other markers appropriate on a given trail, such as foot, snowmobile, horse, and bicycle trail markers, are posted together at trailheads and intersections on guideboards. "Trail" markers are used along the trail to mark the trail route.

Canoe Carry - Used on designated canoe carry trails.

Cross-country Ski Trail - Used on trails considered suitable for cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing is permitted anywhere on the Forest Preserve.

Snowmobile Trail - Used on trails where snowmobiles are permitted. Snowmobiles are only permitted on trails marked as snowmobile trails.

Horse Trail - Used on trails where horses are permitted. Horses may not be ridden on foot trails that are not also marked as horse trails, nor on snowmobile or cross-country ski trails when they are covered with ice and snow.

Bicycle Trail - Used on trails where bicycles are permitted. Bicycles are permitted in wild forest areas except where posted. In wild forest, it is not necessary for a trail to be marked as a bicycle trail for bicycles to be permitted. They may be used in primitive, and canoe areas only on designated roads. They are not permitted in wilderness.

Markers should be applied so that they appear on the right side of the trail to the traveler. They should be close enough that a person standing at one marker can see the next marker ahead clearly, but cannot see more than two markers ahead. Long straight trails or naturally well-defined trails should be marked less frequently (one every 100-200 feet). This guideline is especially applicable in wilderness areas where markers should be kept to a minimum.

Markers should be applied in **one direction at a time** to assure that they are located where appropriate for those traveling in that direction.

Appearance is extremely important. Old and damaged markers should be removed wherever it is possible to do so without further damage to the tree before posting the new marker. If the old marker can't be removed, cover it with a new marker, rather than setting the new marker in a different spot. Use **two** 1 ½-inch roofing nails, preferably aluminum (untreated steel nails rust and can stain markers), one near the top and one near the bottom of the marker. Unless vandalism is a problem, do not drive the nails home. Sinking the nails no more than one-half to two-thirds of the way into the wood allows the tree to grow for a few years without damaging the marker. Markers should be posted at or slightly above eye level except in areas of heavy snowfall where snow might obscure them. The markers then should be placed even higher on the tree.

APPENDIX H
INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR STATE LANDS UNDER MANAGEMENT OF THE DEC IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

Applicability

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

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

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

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

1. In or within 100' of a wetland on private or public lands -- requires a general permit from the Adirondack Park Agency.
2. Forest Preserve lands -- requires an AANR from the Department of Environmental Conservation and, if wetlands are involved, an Adirondack Park Agency permit.
3. If the standing water is greater than one acre in size and/or has an outlet to surface waters, an aquatic pesticides permit is required pursuant to ECL 15-0313(4) and 6 NYCRR 327.1 in which case application can only be made by a Certified Applicator or Technician or supervised Apprentice licensed in "Category 5 – Aquatic Vegetation Control".

GENERAL PRACTICES

1. **Minimum Tools Approach** - State land stewardship involving invasive plant species management practices should always incorporate the principles of the Minimum Tools Approach. Any group or individual implementing such practices on State land should only use the minimum tools, equipment, devices, force, actions or practices that will effectively reach the desired management goals. Implicit in this document is the stricture to implement a hierarchy of management practices based upon the target species and site conditions starting with the least intrusive and disruptive methods.

2. **Notification** - The following best management practices are intended to be used only when invasive terrestrial plant species are identified on Forest Preserve lands. These management techniques are temporary activities and are implemented with the ultimate goal being protection and restoration of native plant communities. Appropriate signage should be employed to explain the project. It may also be appropriate to issue press releases to explain the goals and techniques of the management activities.

3. **Motorized Equipment** - All use of motorized equipment on State lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC within the Adirondack Park shall be in compliance with Commissioner's Policy Number 17 (CP17), and other pertinent DEC policy regarding the use of motorized equipment on Forest Preserve Lands.

4. **Erosion Control** - Some of the methods described below require actual digging or pulling of plants from the soil. In all cases they require removal of vegetation whether or not there is actual soil disturbance. Each situation must be studied to determine if the proposed control method and extent of the action will destabilize soils to the point where erosion is threatened. Generally if more than 25 square feet of soil surface is cleared or plant removal occurs on steep slopes silt fence should be installed and maintained.

5. **Revegetation** - All of the control methods below are aimed at reducing or eliminating invasive species so that natives are encouraged to grow and re-establish stable conditions that are not conducive to invasive colonization. In most cases removal or reduction of invasive populations will be enough to release native species and re-establish their dominance on a site. However, replanting or reseeding with native species may be required.

6. **Herbicide Treatments** - The only herbicide application allowed is spot treatment to individual plants using a back pack or hand sprayer, wick applicator, cloth glove applicator, stem injection or herbicide clippers. **No broadcast herbicide applications using, for example a truck mounted sprayer, are allowed.** The only herbicides contemplated and approved for use are glyphosate and triclopyr. Glyphosate, in the correct formulation, may be used in situations where there is standing water including wetlands. Triclopyr is to be used only in upland situations. **In all cases all label restrictions must and shall be followed by a certified applicator in an appropriate category.** The certified applicator or technician must have copies of the appropriate labels at the treatment site. Glyphosate and triclopyr are non-selective herbicides that are applied to plant foliage or cut stems and are then translocated to the roots. The application methods described and allowed are designed to reduce or eliminate the possibility that non-target species will be impacted by the herbicide use. All herbicide spot treatments require follow-up inspection later in the growing season or the following year to re-treat any individuals that were missed. Stem injections may be implemented using a large gauge needle or a specialized injection tool such as the JK Injection System (www.jkinjectiontools.com).

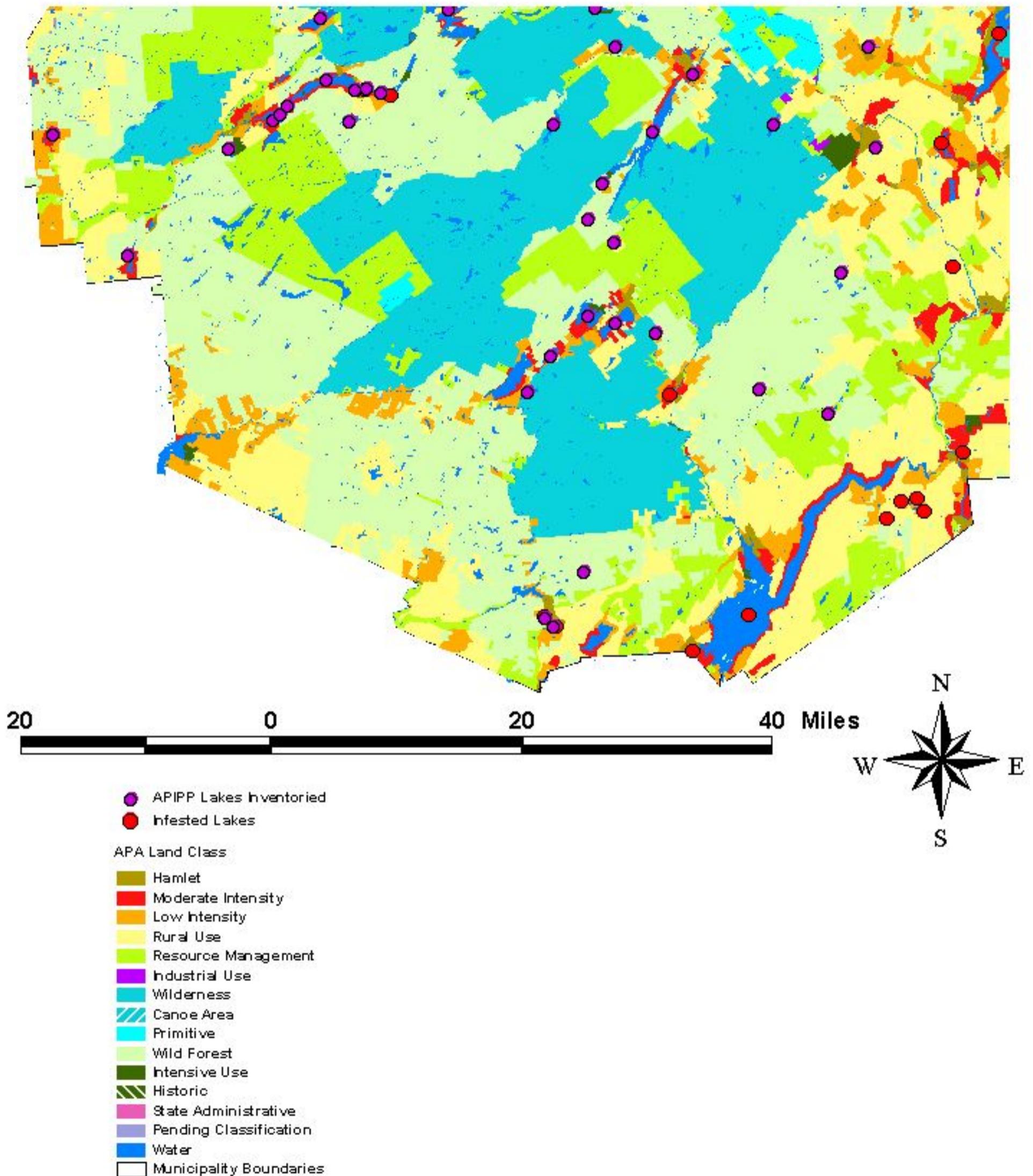
All herbicide mixing will be done in accordance with the label precautions and take place at a staging area (typically at a marshalling yard or a vehicle). No mixing shall take place on State lands unless at an approved location constructed for such use. Unused chemical and mixes shall be disposed of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

7. **Sanitation** - Management personnel must attempt to prevent invasive plant propagules from entering a treatment site or from being exported from it. Therefore, personnel must insure that their clothing including boots do not carry seeds or other propagules or weed seed infected soil clods. At the beginning of the field day personnel should inspect their clothing and boots at the staging area. Prior to leaving the treatment site personnel should conduct another inspection and remove any propagules or soil clods from their clothing or boots. Personnel must insure that all equipment used for invasive species control whether it be hand or power driven is cleaned prior to entering onto a control site and prior to leaving the treatment site. Vehicles and equipment can be cleaned at a staging area that is distant from the control site after management activities if precautions are taken during transport to contain any propagules. This is an effort to reduce transport of plant propagules and reduce the potential for new invasive introductions. Use steam or hot water to clean equipment.

8. **Material Collection and Transportation** - While on the treatment site bag all cut material in heavy duty, 3 mil or thicker, black contractor quality plastic clean-up bags. Securely tie the bags and transport from the site in a truck with a topper or cap to securely fasten the load, in order to prevent spread of the plant material from the project work site. Transport the material to a legal disposal location.

9. **Composting** - Because of the extremely robust nature of invasive species, composting in a typical backyard compost pile or composting bin is not appropriate. However, methods can be used whereby sun-generated heat can be used to destroy the harvested plant materials. For instance, storage in a sealed 3 mil thickness (minimum) black plastic garbage bags on blacktop in the sun until the plant materials liquefy is effective. If a larger section of blacktop is available, make a black plastic (4 mil thickness minimum) envelope sealed on the edges with sand bags. The plant material left exposed to the sun will liquefy in the sealed envelope without danger of dispersal by wind. The bags or envelopes must be monitored to make sure the plants do not escape through rips, tears or seams in the plastic. **When composting is suggested later in the text it is understood that liquefying the plant material in or under plastic is the desired action; not disposal in backyard composters or open landfill composting piles.**

Ferris Lake Wild Forest Aquatic Invasive Plant Distribution, 2004



APPENDIX I
CAMPSITE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING MANUAL

**DESIGNATED CAMPSITE
IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING MANUAL**

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES

For the purpose of this manual, designated campsites are defined as those areas either designated by the Department with a yellow DEC designated campsite marker, or shown on an area brochure. In areas with multiple sites there may not always be undisturbed areas separating sites, and an arbitrary decision may be necessary to define separate sites. For each site, monitoring begins with an assessment of Condition Class:

CONDITION CLASS DEFINITIONS

- Class 1: Recreation site barely distinguishable; slight loss of vegetation cover and/ or minimal disturbance of organic litter.
- Class 2: Recreation site obvious; vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized in primary use area.
- Class 3: Vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized on much of the site, some bare soil exposed in primary use areas.
- Class 4: Nearly complete or total loss of vegetation cover and organic litter, bare soil widespread.
- Class 5: Soil erosion obvious, as indicated by exposed tree roots and rocks and/or gulying.

For sites rated Condition Class 1 or 2, complete Form B; for sites rated Class 3, 4 or 5, complete Form A. Form B is an abbreviated version of Form A and greatly reduces the amount of field time. The rationale for this approach is that detailed information on lightly impacted sites is not as critical to management.

During subsequent surveys an attempt should be made to relocate and reassess all sites from the proceeding survey. Former designated sites that have been closed, and are still being used, should be noted as illegal sites. Always note information regarding the history of site use under the comment parameter.

- Materials:
- Compass, peephole or mirror type (not corrected for declination)
 - GPS data recorder (GPS point will be taken at each sites center point)
 - Tape measure, 100-foot (marked in tenths)
 - Flagged wire pins (25 min), one large steel center point stake.
 - Digital camera
 - Clipboard, pencil, field forms, field procedures
 - Steel nails (5 inch)

FORM A PROCEDURES

Inventory Parameters

1. Site Number: All sites will be assigned an old site number as well as a new site number. Old site numbers will use the existing site numbering system, while new site numbers will be assigned following completion of the mapping of all sites.
2. Inventoried By: List the names of field personnel involved in data collection.
3. Date: Month, day and year the site was evaluated (e.g., June 12, 1999 = 06/12/99)
4. Substrate of site area: Record the predominant substrate for the area of human disturbance for each site using the coded categories below.

B = bedrock - shelf bedrock

C = cobble - includes gravel size stone and up

S = sand - includes sandy soils that do not form a surface crust in trampled areas

O =s oil - includes clays to loamy sands

5. Number of other sites visible: Record the number of other campsites, which if occupied, would be visible from this site.
6. Fire ring: if present or not (y or n)
 - a. Construction: stone/masonry or metal.
 - b. Condition: good = intact, functional for cooking.
Poor = missing stones, broken, not functional for cooking but will contain open fire.
7. Privy: if present or not (y or n)
 - a. Condition: good = functional, has door, wood not deteriorated (would you use it?).
Poor = nonfunctional, door missing, wood rotten.
8. Picnic table: if present or not (y or n)
 - a. Condition: good = usable, no broken boards, table is solid.
Poor = not usable, broken/rotten boards, not sturdy.
9. Tree canopy cover: Estimate the percentage of tree canopy cover directly over the campsite.
1 = 0-25%, 2 = 26-50%, 3 = 51-75%, 4 = 76-100%

Impact Parameters

The first step is to establish the sites boundaries and measure its size. The following procedures describe use of the variable radial transect method for determining the sizes of recreational sites. This is accomplished by measuring the lengths of linear transects from a permanently defined center point to the recreation site boundary.

Step 1. Identify Recreation Site Boundaries and Flag Transect Endpoints. Walk the recreation site boundary and place flagged wire pins at locations which, when connected with straight lines, will define a polygon whose area approximates the recreation site area. Use as few pins as necessary, typical sites can be adequately flagged with 10-15 pins. Look both directions along site boundaries as you place the flags and try to balance areas of the site that fall outside the lines with offsite(undisturbed) areas that fall inside the lines. Pins do not have to be placed on the site boundaries, as demonstrated in the diagram following these procedures. Project site boundaries straight across areas where trails enter the site. Identify site boundaries by pronounced changes in vegetation cover, vegetation height/disturbance, vegetation composition, surface organic litter, and topography. Many sites with dense forest over stories will have very little vegetation and it will be necessary to identify boundaries by examining changes in organic litter, i.e. leaves that are untrampled and intact versus leaves that are pulverized or absent. In defining the site boundaries, be careful to include only those areas that appear to have been disturbed from human trampling. Natural factors such as dense shade and flooding can create areas lacking vegetative cover. Do not include these areas if they appear "natural" to you. When in doubt, it may also be helpful to speculate on which areas typical visitors might use based on factors such as slope or rockiness.

Step 2. Select and Reference Site Center point. Select a site center point that is preferably a) visible from all site boundary pins, b) easily referenced by distinctive permanent features such as larger trees or boulders, and c) approximately 5 feet from a steel fire ring if present. Embed a 5 inch nail in the soil at the center point location so that the head is 3-4 inches below the surface. During future sight assessments a magnetic pin locator can be used to locate the center point. Next, insert a large steel stake at the center point and reference it to at least three features. Try to select reference features in three opposing directions, as this will enable future workers to triangulate the center point location. For each feature, take a compass azimuth reading and measure the distance (nearest 1/10 foot) from the center point to the center of trees or the highest point of boulders. Also measure the approximate diameter of reference trees at 4.5 feet above ground (dbh). Be extremely careful in taking these azimuths and measurements, as they are critical to relocating the center point in the future. Record this information on the back of the form.

Take a digital photograph that clearly shows the center point location in relation to nearby trees or other reference features, such as the fire ring, trees or boulders. Record a photo description, such as "center point location site 23", in the photo log.

Options: Some sites may lack the necessary permanent reference features enabling the center point to be accurately relocated. If only one or two permanent reference features are available, use these and take additional photographs from several angles. If permanent features are unavailable, simply proceed with the remaining steps without permanently referencing the center point. This option will introduce more error in comparisons with future measurements, particularly if the site boundaries are not pronounced. Note your actions regarding use of these options in the comment section.

Step 3. Record Transect Azimuths and Lengths. Standing directly over the center point, identify and record the compass bearing (azimuth) of each site boundary pin working in a clockwise direction, starting with the first pin clockwise of north. Be careful not to miss any pins hidden behind vegetation or trees. Be extremely careful in identifying the correct compass bearings to these pins as error in these bearings will bias current and future measurements of site size. Next, anchor the end of your tape to the center point stake, measure and record the length of each transect (nearest 1/10 foot), starting with the same boundary pin and in the same clockwise direction as before. Be absolutely certain that the appropriate pin distances are recorded adjacent to their respective compass bearing.

Step 4. Measure island and satellite areas. Identify any undisturbed islands of vegetation inside the site boundaries (often due to the clumping of trees and shrubs) and disturbed satellite use areas outside the site boundaries (often due to tent sites or cooking sites). Use site boundary definitions for determining the boundaries of these areas. Use the geographic figure method to determine the areas of these islands and satellites (refer to the diagrams following these procedures). This method involves superimposing one or more imaginary geometric figures (rectangles, circles or right triangles) on island or satellite boundaries and measuring appropriate dimensions to calculate their areas. Record the types of figures used and their dimensions on the back of the form; the size of these areas should be computed in the office using a calculator.

Site Remeasurement: During site remeasurement use the data from the last monitoring period to reestablish the center point and all site boundary pins. If steel nails were embedded in the ground, a magnetic pin locator can assist in this process. Place flagged wire pins at each transect boundary point. Boundary locations based on the following procedures:

- Keep the same transect length if that length still seems appropriate, i.e., there is no compelling reason to alter the initial boundary determination.
- Record a new transect length if the prior length is inappropriate, i.e., there is compelling evidence that the present boundary does not coincide with the pin and the pin should be relocated either closer to or further away from the center point along the prescribed compass bearing. Use different colored flags to distinguish these current boundary points from the former boundaries.
- Repeat steps 1 and 3 from above to establish additional transects where necessary to accommodate any changes in the shape of recreation site boundaries (diagram below). Also repeat step 4.
- Leave all pins in place until all procedures are completed. Pins identifying the former site boundaries are necessary for tree damage and root exposure assessments.

These additional procedures are designed to eliminate much of the measurement error associated with different individuals making subjective judgements on those sites or portions of sites where boundaries are not pronounced. These procedures may only be used for sites whose center points can be relocated.

Site Number / Site Name		_____/____														
Compass Bearing:																
X	0	22	45	67	90	112	135	157	180	202	225	247	270	292	315	337
X																
O																
Campsite Map:																

10. Condition class: Record the condition class you assessed for the site using the categories described earlier.

11. Vegetative ground cover on site: An estimate of the percentage of live non-woody vegetative ground cover (including herbs, grasses, and mosses and excluding tree seedlings, saplings, and shrubs) within the flagged campsite boundary using the coded categories listed next. Include any disturbed satellite use areas and exclude any undisturbed Island areas of vegetation. For this and the following two parameters, it is often helpful to narrow your decision to two categories and concentrate on the boundary that separates them. For example, if the vegetation cover is either category 2 (6-25%) or category 3 (26-50%), you can simplify your decision by focusing on whether vegetative cover is greater than 25%.

1 = 0-5%, 2 = 6-25%, 3 = 26-50%, 4 = 51-75%, 5 = 76-95%, 6 = 96-100%

12. Vegetative ground cover offsite: An estimate of the percentage of vegetative ground cover in an adjacent but largely undisturbed “control” area. Use the codes and categories listed earlier. The control site should be similar to the campsite in slope, tree canopy cover (amount of sunlight penetrating to the forest floor), and other environmental conditions. The intent is to locate an area that would closely resemble the campsite area had the site never been used. In instances where you cannot decide between two categories, select the category with less vegetative cover. The

rationale for this is simply that, all other factors being equal, the first campers would have selected a site with the least amount of vegetation cover.

13. Soil exposure: An estimate of the percentage of soil exposure, defined as ground with very little or no organic litter (partially decomposed leaf, needle, or twig litter) or vegetation cover, within the campsite boundaries and satellite areas. Dark organic soil, which typically covers lighter colored mineral soil, should be assessed as bare soil. Assessments of soil exposure may be difficult when organic litter becomes highly decomposed and forms a patchwork with areas of bare soil. If patches of organic material are relatively thin and few in number, the entire area should be assessed as bare soil. Otherwise, the patches of organic litter should be mentally combined and excluded from assessments. Code as for vegetative cover.

14. Tree damage: Tally the number of live trees (>1 in, diameter at 4.5 ft.) within the campsite boundaries, including trees in undisturbed islands and excluding trees in satellite areas, into one of the rating classes described below. Assessments are restricted to trees within the flagged campsite boundaries in order to ensure consistency with future measurements. Multiple tree stems from the same species that are joined at or above ground level should be counted as one tree when assessing damage to any of its stems. Assess a cut stem on a multiple-stemmed tree as tree damage, not as a stump. Do not count tree stumps as tree damage. Take into account tree size. For example, damage for a small tree would be considerably less in size than damage for a large tree. Omit scars that are clearly not human-caused (e.g., lightning strikes).

During site remeasurement, begin by assessing tree damage on all trees within the site boundaries identified in the last measurement period. Tally the number of trees in areas where the boundary has moved closer to the center point, i.e., former site areas that are not currently judged to be part of the site separately. Place a box around this number. Next, assess tree damage in areas where boundaries have moved further from the center point, i.e. expanded site areas that are newly impacted since the last measurement period. Circle these tallies. These additional procedures are necessary in order to accurately analyze changes.

None/Slight - No or slight damage such as broken or cut smaller branches, one nail, or a few superficial trunk scars.

Moderate - Numerous small trunk scars and/or nails or one moderate-sized scar.

Severe - Trunk scars numerous with many that are large and have penetrated to the inner wood; any complete girdling of trees (cut through tree bark all the way around tree).

15. Root exposure: Tally the number of live trees (>1 in, diameter at 4.5 ft.) within the campsite boundaries, including trees in undisturbed islands and excluding trees in satellite areas, into one of the rating classes described below. Assessments are restricted to trees within the flagged campsite boundaries in order to ensure consistency with future measurements. Where obvious, omit exposed roots that are clearly not human-caused (e.g., stream/river flooding).

During site remeasurement, begin by assessing root exposure on all trees within the site boundaries identified in the last measurement period. Tally the number of trees in areas where the boundary has moved closer to the center point, i.e., former site areas that are not currently judged to be part of the site separately. Place a box around this number. Next, assess root exposure in areas where boundaries have moved further from the center point, i.e. expanded site areas that are newly impacted since the last measurement period. Circle these tallies. These additional procedures are necessary in order to accurately analyze changes in root exposure over time.

None/Slight - No or slight root exposure such as is typical in adjacent offsite areas.

Moderate - Top half of many major roots exposed more than one foot from base of tree.

Severe - Three-quarters or more of major roots exposed more than one foot from base of tree; soil erosion obvious.

16. Number of tree stumps: A count of the number of tree stumps (>1 in. Diameter) within the campsite boundaries. Include trees within undisturbed islands and exclude trees in disturbed satellite areas. Do not include cut stems from a multiple-stemmed tree.

During site remeasurement, begin by assessing stumps on all trees within the site boundaries identified in the last measurement period. Tally the number of trees in areas where the boundary has moved closer to the center point, i.e., former site areas that are not currently judged to be part of the site separately. Place a box around this number. Next, assess stumps in areas where boundaries have moved further from the center point, i.e. expanded site areas that are newly impacted since the last measurement period. Circle these tallies. These additional procedures are necessary in order to accurately analyze changes in stumps over time.

17. Number of trails: A count of all trails leading away from the outer campsite boundaries. Do not count extremely faint trails that have untrampled tall herbs present in their tread or trails leading out to any satellite sites.

18. Number of fire sites: A count of each fire site within campsite boundaries, including satellite areas. Include old inactive fire sites as exhibited by blackened rocks, charcoal, or ashes. Do not include areas where ashes or charcoal have been dumped. However, if it is not clear whether or not a fire was built on the site, always count questionable sites that are within site boundaries and exclude those that are outside site boundaries.

19. Litter/trash: Evaluate the amount of litter/trash on the site: n = None or less than a handful, S = some-a handful up to enough to fill a 2-1/2-gallon bucket, M = Much- more than a 2-1/2-gallon bucket.

20. Human waste: Follow all trails connected to the site to conduct a quick search of likely “toilet” areas, typically areas just out of sight of the campsite. Count the number of individual human waste sites, defined as separate locations exhibiting toilet paper and/or human feces. The intent is to identify the extent to which improperly disposed human feces is a problem. Use the following code categories: N=None, S=Some-1-3 sites, M=Much-4 or more sites evident.

21. Comments/Recommendations: An informal list of comments concerning the site: note any assessments you felt were particularly difficult or subjective, problems with monitoring procedures or their application to this particular campsite, or any other comment.

22. Campsite photograph: Select a good vantage point for viewing the entire campsite, preferably one of the site boundary pins, and take a digital picture of the campsite. Note the azimuth and distance from the center point to the photo point and record on the form. The intent is to obtain a photograph that includes as much of the site as possible to provide a photographic record of site condition. The photo will also allow future workers to make a positive identification of the site. Label disks with date, and site number.

23. Total campsite area: Calculate the campsite area based on the recorded transect measurements. Add the area of any satellite sites and subtract the area of any undisturbed islands to obtain the Total Campsite Area. Record campsite area to nearest square foot (ft²).

FORM B PROCEDURES

Refer to the procedures described earlier, all procedures are the same with the exception of campsite size. Measure campsite size using the geometric figure method. Typically, class 1 and 2 campsites are quite small in size and this method should be both efficient and accurate. Be sure to record on form B the types of figures used (rectangle, square, triangles...etc.) and all necessary dimensions. Record campsite area to nearest square foot (ft²).

CAMPSITE MONITORING FORM A

- 1) Old Site Number: _____ 1a) New Site Number _____
- 2) Inventoried By: _____ 3) Date: ____/____/____

INVENTORY PARAMETERS

- 4) Substrate of site area: (B = bedrock, C = cobble, S = sand, O = soil) _____
- 5) Number of Other Recreational Sites Visible: _____
- 6) Fire Ring Present: (y or n) _____
 Construction: (stone or metal) _____
 Condition: (1 = good, 2 = poor, 3 = replace) _____
- 7) Privy Present: (y or n) _____
 Condition: (1 = good, 2 = poor, 3 = replace) _____
- 8) Picnic Table Present: (y or n) _____
 Condition: (1 = good, 2 = poor, 3 = replace) _____
- 9) Tree Canopy Cover: (1 = 0-25%, 2 = 26-50%, 3 = 51-75%, 4 = 76-100%) _____

IMPACT PARAMETERS (Begin with Site Boundary Determination)

- 10) Condition Class: (3, 4 or 5) _____
- 11) Vegetative Ground Cover Onsite: (Use categories below) _____
 (1 = 0-5%, 2 = 6-25%, 4 = 51-75%, 5 = 76-95%, 6 = 96-100%)
- 12) Vegetative Ground Cover Offsite: (Use categories above) _____
- 13) Soil exposure: (Use categories above) _____
- 14) Tree Damage: None/Slight____, Moderate____, Severe____
- 15) Root Exposure: None/Slight____, Moderate____, Severe____
- 16) Number of Tree Stumps: _____
- 17) Number of Trails: _____
- 18) Number of Fire Sites: _____
- 19) Litter/Trash: (N = None, S = Some, M = Much) _____
- 20) Human Waste: (N = none, S = Some, M = Much) _____
- 21) Comments/Recommendations: _____

22) Take Center point and Site Photographs:

Site Center point References

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Satellite Site Dimensions

Island Site Dimensions

Site area from Program: _____
 +Satellite Area _____
 -Island Area _____ =

Total Site Area _____ (sq ft)

Transect Data
AzimuthDistance (ft)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)
- 13)
- 14)
- 15)
- 16)
- 17)
- 18)
- 19)
- 20)
- 21)
- 22)
- 23)
- 24)
- 25)

CAMPSITE MONITORING FORM B

- 1) Old Site Number: _____ 1a) New Site Number: _____
- 2) Fire Ring Present: _____ Condition: _____
- 3) Privy Present: _____ Condition: _____
- 4) Picnic Table Present: _____ Condition: _____
- 5) Condition Class (1 or 2) _____ Site Size: _____ (ft²)

APPENDIX J
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL ANALYSIS

Snowmobile Trail Analysis (existing and future status)

The APSLMP requires that there be no “material increase in the mileage of roads and snowmobile trails open to motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the master plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972.” Further, the APSLMP provides that “the mileage of snowmobile trails lost in the designation of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas may be replaced in wild forest areas with existing roads or abandoned wood roads as a basis of such new snowmobile trail construction, except in rare circumstances requiring the cutting of new trails;” and that “wherever feasible such replacement mileage should be located in the general area as where mileage is lost due to wilderness, primitive or canoe classification.”

During the winter of 2001, DEC performed a GPS inventory of all known existing snowmobile trails on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park. As a result of this survey, it was determined that there were approximately 117.7 miles of designated snowmobile trail in the FLWF. In order to determine if “a material increase” in trail mileage is proposed in this UMP, it was necessary to document the historic mileage in the unit. Prior to the adoption of the APSLMP, there were approximately 81.9 miles of snowmobile trail across lands that were to become the FLWF (excepting town roads). The implementation of this UMP will result in a cumulative total of approximately 93.1 miles of designated snowmobile trail in the FLWF, resulting in a net gain of approximately 7.65 miles from the pre-1972 mileage. The proposed snowmobile trail mileage is partially offset by the closure of 24.6 miles of trail and 3.55 miles of open motor vehicle road.

The 1972 snowmobile trail mileage in the table below is based upon DEC records and the DEC snowmobile trail publication entitled Snowmobile Trails in New York State dated 1973. The exact locations of some snowmobile trails were not known and the method used in the past to determine trail distance could not be determined. The mileage figures in this table are based on map measurements and were developed for planning purposes only. The Department believes that the 1973 brochure is more accurate in depicting the trail network that existed in 1972 when the Master Plan was adopted. Therefore, the 1973 publication was used as the benchmark for the existing trail network in 1972. The 1980 DEC Snowmobile Trail Inventory Data was included for comparison. The post-UMP mileage refers to the snowmobile trail mileage after all proposed trail construction, relocation, and closure and includes mileage of existing trails that will remain open. Any future UMP amendments may change the mileage within the unit.

Old Pre-1972 Snowmobile Trails No Longer Used for Snowmobiling						
Trail Name	1980 DEC Trail Inventory Data	1972 Mileage ('73 brochure)	Existing Trail Mileage (2006)	Trail Mileage to be Opened (+) or Closed (-) in UMP	Post-UMP Mileage	Net Post-1972 Gain (+) or Loss (-)
Broomstick Lake Trail	NA	0.7 miles	NA	NA	0 miles	-0.7 miles
Totals	NA	0.7	NA	NA	0	-0.7
Existing Snowmobile Trails to Remain Open to Snowmobiling						
Trail Name	1980 DEC Trail Inventory Data	1972 Mileage ('73 brochure)	Existing Trail Mileage (2006)	Trail Mileage to be Opened (+) or Closed (-) in UMP	Post-UMP Mileage	Net Post-1972 Gain (+) or Loss (-)

Mounts Creek Trail	2.2 miles	2.0 miles	3.2 miles	0 miles	3.2 miles	+1.2 miles
Hurrell Vly Trail	0 miles	0 miles	5.9 miles	0 miles	5.9 miles	+5.9 miles
Fourmile Brook Trail	0 miles	0 miles	0.6 miles	0 miles	0.6 miles	+0.6 miles
Cranberry-Mud Lake Trail ¹	3.5 miles	5.0 miles	6.2 miles	0 miles	6.2 miles	+1.2 miles
Switchback Trail ²	6.4 miles	0 miles	5.8 miles	+0.8 miles	6.6 miles	+6.6 miles
Murphy Brook Trail	0 miles	0 miles	0.8 miles	0 miles	0.8 miles	+0.8 miles
Meco Lake Trail	0 miles	0 miles	1.4 miles	0 miles	1.4 miles	+1.4 miles
Clockmill Corners Trail	included	3.2 miles	3.4 miles	0 miles	3.4 miles	+0.2 miles
Seeley Trail	6.0 miles	0 miles	4.1 miles	0 miles	4.1 miles	+4.1 miles
Phantom Trail	0 miles	0 miles	1.5 miles	0 miles	1.5 miles	+1.5 miles
Parker Vly Trail	included	0 miles	3.3 miles	0 miles	3.3 miles	+3.3 miles
Alderbrook Trail	16.5 miles	2.8 miles	5.2 miles	0 miles	5.2 miles	+2.4 miles
Bear Path Spur	0 miles	0 miles	0.1 miles	0 miles	0.1 miles	+0.1 miles
Jones Lake Trail	included	2.9 miles	2.9 miles	0 miles	2.9 miles	0 miles
Edick Road Extension Trail	0 miles	1.8 miles	1.8 miles	0 miles	1.8 miles	0 miles
Hawes Road Extension Trail	0 miles	0.4 miles	0.4 miles	0 miles	0.4 miles	0 miles

¹The section of trail from Billy Hamlin Road to Jerseyfield Lake Outlet (~5.0 miles) is a DEC open motor vehicle road.

²The UMP proposes a 1.2 mile reroute of existing trail that would result in a net gain of 0.8 miles of trail.

Hawes Road Crossover	0 miles	0 miles	0.8 miles	0 miles	0.8 miles	+0.8 miles
Dexter Lake Trail	7.1 miles	7.0 miles	7.0 miles	0 miles	7.0 miles	0 miles
Waters Millpond Trail	5.75 miles	2.5 miles	2.5 miles	-1.1 miles	1.4 miles	-1.1 miles
Avery Road Trail	included	2.5 miles	2.5 miles	-2.0 miles	0.5 miles	-2.0 miles
Marina Trail	4.5 miles	0 miles	1.5 miles	0 miles	1.5 miles	+1.5 miles
Burnt Vly Trail	6.5 miles	6.5 miles	6.5 miles	-2.0 miles	4.5 miles	-2.0 miles
Long Lake Trail	4.0 miles	4.5 miles	4.5 miles	-3.6 miles	0.9 miles	-3.6 miles
Ayers Lake Trail	0 miles	0 miles	0.8 miles	0 miles	0.8 miles	+0.8 miles
Long Lake Crossover	1.75 miles	0 miles	0.7 miles	0 miles	0.7 miles	+0.7 miles
Nine Corner Lake Trail	included	1.0 miles	3.0 miles	0 miles	3.0 miles	+2.0 miles
West Stoner Lake Trail	2.0 miles	2.4 miles	2.4 miles	0 miles	2.4 miles	0 miles
Arietta Inn Trail	0 miles	1.4 miles	1.4 miles	0 miles	1.4 miles	0 miles
Third Lake Trail	3.25 miles	2.4 miles	2.4 miles	0 miles	2.4 miles	0 miles
East Canada Trail	0 miles	0 miles	0.5 miles	0 miles	0.5 miles	+0.5 miles
Stewart Landing Trail	4.75 miles	2.2 miles	4.0 miles	0 miles	4.0 miles	+1.8 miles
Pleasant Lake Inn Trail	0 miles	0 miles	0.3 miles	0 miles	0.3 miles	+0.3 miles
Crystal Lake Trail	1.0 miles	2.9 miles	2.9 miles	0 miles	2.9 miles	0 miles
Morey Road	6.75 miles	4.7 miles	4.7 miles	0 miles	4.7 miles	0 miles
East Road Trail	0 miles	1.4 miles	1.4 miles	0 miles	1.4 miles	0 miles

Glasgow Trail	included	4.6 miles	4.6 miles	0 miles	4.6 miles	0 miles
Totals	81.95	64.1	101	-7.9	93.1	+29.0

Existing Snowmobile Trails to be Closed to Snowmobiling

Trail Name	1980 DEC Trail Inventory Data	1972 Mileage ('73 brochure)	Existing Trail Mileage (2006)	Trail Mileage to be Opened (+) or Closed (-) in UMP	Post-UMP Mileage	Net Post-1972 Gain (+) or Loss (-)
Dingman Hill Trail	3.5 miles	0 miles	2.6 miles	-2.6 miles	0 miles	0 miles
Pleasant Lake Trail	0.3 miles	1.8 miles	1.8 miles	-1.8 miles	0 miles	-1.8 miles
Jockeybush Lake Trail	1.1 miles	1.2 miles	1.2 miles	-1.2 miles	0 miles	-1.2 miles
Big Alderbed Trail	2.3 miles	2.6 miles	2.6 miles	-2.6 miles	0 miles	-2.6 miles
Route 10 Spur	included	0.2 miles	0.2 miles	-0.2 miles	0 miles	-0.2 miles
Spectacle Lake Trail	1.5 miles	1.0 miles	1.0 miles	-1.0 miles	0 miles	-1.0 miles
Wagoners Loop Trail ³	16 miles	9.1 miles	6.1 miles	-6.1 miles	0 miles	-9.1 miles
Sheriff Lake Trail	4.0 miles	0.9 miles	0.9 miles	-0.9 miles	0 miles	-0.9 miles
East Shore Road Spur	0 miles	0.3 miles	0.3 miles	-0.3 miles	0 miles	-0.3 miles
Totals	28.7	17.1	16.7	-16.7	0	-17.1
SNOWMOBILE TOTALS	110.65	81.9	117.7	-24.6	93.1	+11.2

Motor Vehicle Roads to be Closed to Public Motor Vehicle Use

Road Name	1980 DEC Trail Inventory Data	1972 Mileage ('73 brochure)	Existing Road Mileage (2006)	Road Mileage to be Opened (+) or Closed (-) in UMP	Post-UMP Mileage	Net Post-1972 Gain (+) or Loss (-)
Ferris Lake Road	NA	0.4 miles	0.4 miles	-0.4 miles	0 miles	-0.4 miles
California Road	NA	3.0 miles	3.0 miles	-3.0 miles	0 miles	-3.0 miles

³The 1972 mileage figure includes three miles of trail parallel to the Powley-Piseco Road that are no longer used for snowmobiling.

Partridge Lane	NA	0.15 miles	0.15 miles	-0.15 miles	0 miles	-0.15 miles
Totals	NA	3.55	3.55	-3.55	0	-3.55
GRAND TOTALS	110.65	85.45	121.25	-28.15	93.1	+7.65

APPENDIX K
SEQR DOCUMENTS

**14-12-9(3/99)-9-cSEQR
State Environmental Quality Review
Positive Declaration
Notice of Completion of Draft EIS
and
Notice of SEQR Hearing**

Identifying #

Lead Agency: NYSDEC

Address: 625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4250

Date: October 5, 2006

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below may have significant impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared. The DEIS has been completed and accepted for the proposed action described below. A public meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 6, 2006 at the Caroga LakeTown Hall in Caroga Lake. Comments are welcome and will be accepted by the contact person until November 24, 2006.

Name of Action: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, Completion of the Draft Unit Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, and Notice of Hearing for the Ferris Lake Wild Forest.

Description of Action: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has completed a Draft UMP/EIS for the Ferris Lake Wild Forest.

Major proposed management actions in the Draft UMP/EIS include: improving trail information and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, including the development of accessible camping sites and two canoe access sites; designating and improving approximately 8.8 miles of existing unmarked foot trail and the development of approximately 7.0 miles of new trail; closing approximately 16.7 miles of snowmobile trail and maintaining the remaining trails and bridges in compliance with DEC standards and policies, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), and the 2003 DEC/APA Memorandum of Understanding; posting a number of roads against motor vehicle use, posting open roads for continued motor vehicle use, and temporarily closing one road to public motor vehicle use until it is rehabilitated; recommending reclassification of the West Lake Boat Launch to an Intensive Use Area; enacting special regulations to manage public use at Stewart Landing, such as parking, camping, swimming and trailered boat launching restrictions; and establishing and maintaining several quality fisheries.

Location: This Wild Forest consists of 147,454 acres of State Forest Preserve lands in the Towns of Stratford, Caroga, Oppenheim and Ephratah in Fulton County; Morehouse and Arietta in Hamilton County; Salisbury and Ohio in Herkimer County.

Potential Environmental Impacts: A minor amount of tree and/or vegetation removal will be necessary for the construction of proposed parking areas, lean-tos and new trails. Possible adverse impacts from implementation of the UMP/EIS may include temporary disturbance to wetland areas including vegetation, increased siltation and stream bottom disturbance. Other possible adverse impacts include: minor temporary erosion, increased hiking and snowmobiling traffic in certain areas, and minor noise impacts during the construction of new facilities.

A copy of the Draft UMP/EIS may be obtained from:

Contact Person: Eric J Kasza

Address: NYSDEC
PO Box 89
Herkimer, NY 13350

Telephone Number: (315) 866-6330

A copy of this notice must be sent to:

Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of Stratford, Caroga, Oppenheim, Ephratah, Morehouse, Arietta, Salisbury and Ohio.

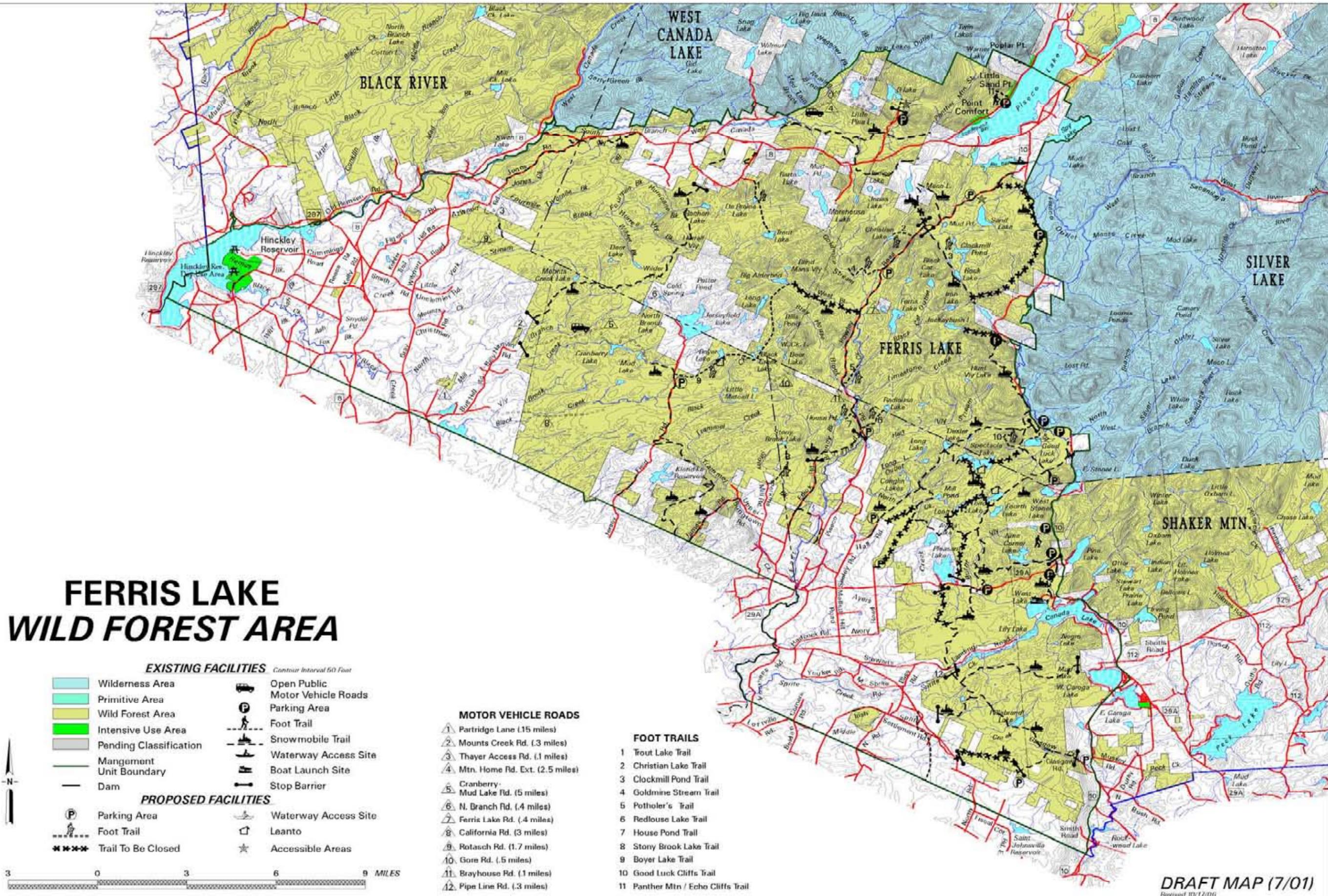
Any person who has requested a copy of the Draft/final EIS

Any other involved agencies: Adirondack Park Agency

Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Copies of the Draft EIS must be distributed according to 6NYCRR 617.12(b).

MAPS



FERRIS LAKE WILD FOREST AREA

EXISTING FACILITIES Contour Interval 50 Feet

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | Wilderness Area | | Open Public Motor Vehicle Roads |
| | Primitive Area | | Parking Area |
| | Wild Forest Area | | Foot Trail |
| | Intensive Use Area | | Snowmobile Trail |
| | Pending Classification | | Waterway Access Site |
| | Mangement Unit Boundary | | Boat Launch Site |
| | Dam | | Stop Barrier |

PROPOSED FACILITIES

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Parking Area | | Waterway Access Site |
| | Foot Trail | | Leanto |
| | Trail To Be Closed | | Accessible Areas |

MOTOR VEHICLE ROADS

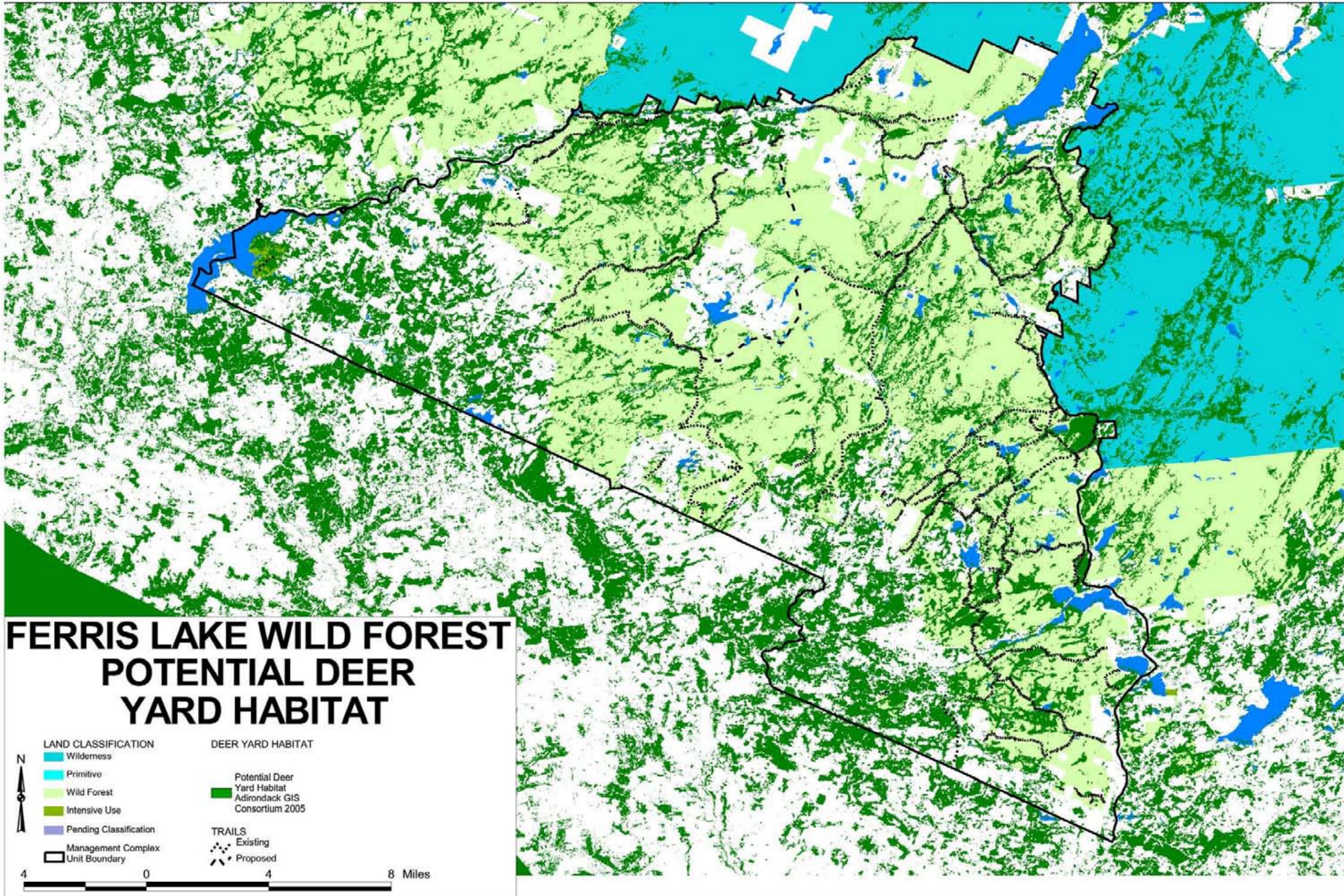
- 1 Partridge Lane (.15 miles)
- 2 Mounts Creek Rd. (.3 miles)
- 3 Thayer Access Rd. (.1 miles)
- 4 Mtn. Home Rd. Ext. (2.5 miles)
- 5 Cranberry-Mud Lake Rd. (.5 miles)
- 6 N. Branch Rd. (.4 miles)
- 7 Ferris Lake Rd. (.4 miles)
- 8 California Rd. (3 miles)
- 9 Rotasch Rd. (1.7 miles)
- 10 Gore Rd. (.5 miles)
- 11 Brayhouse Rd. (.1 miles)
- 12 Pipe Line Rd. (.3 miles)

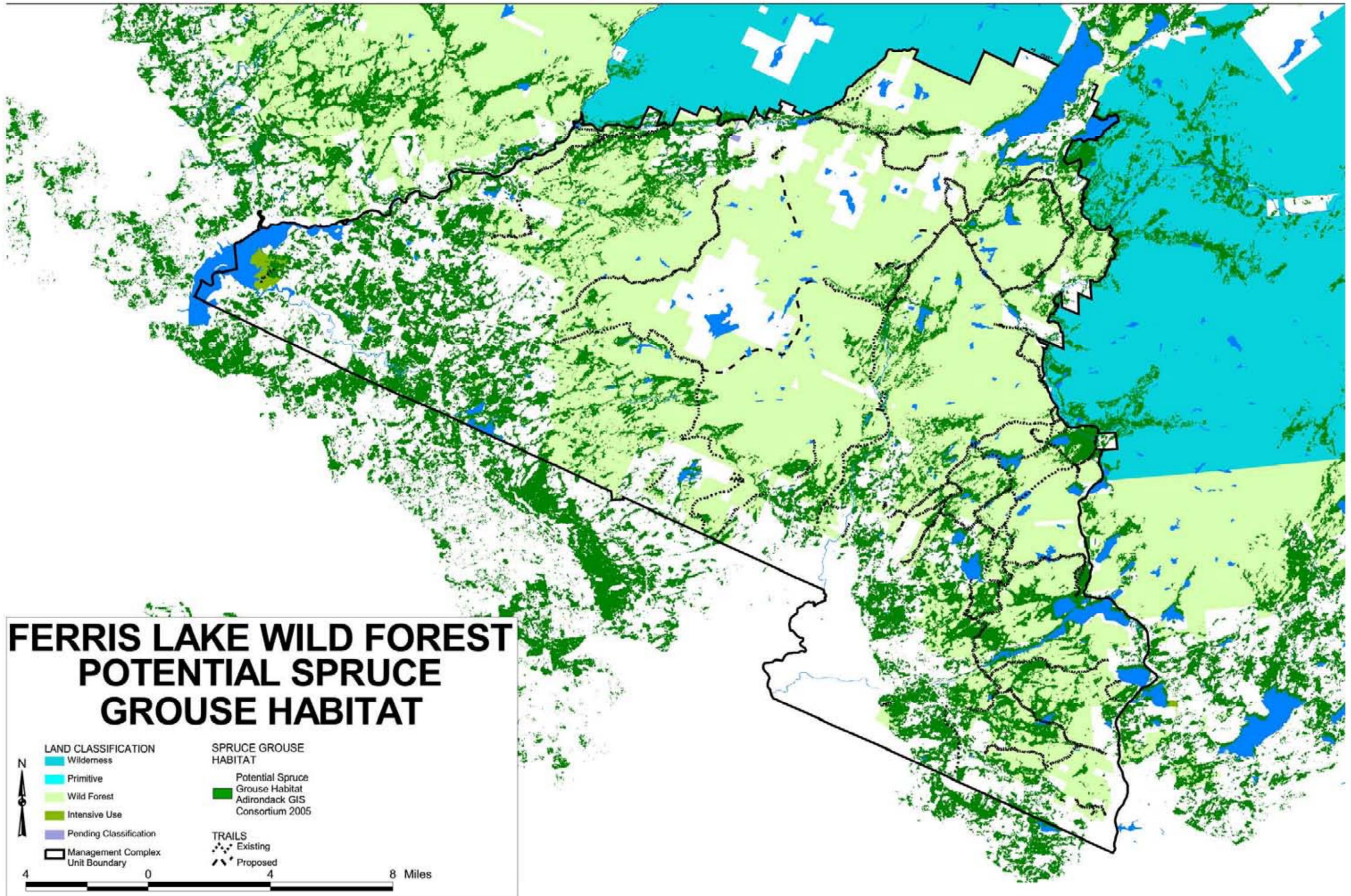
FOOT TRAILS

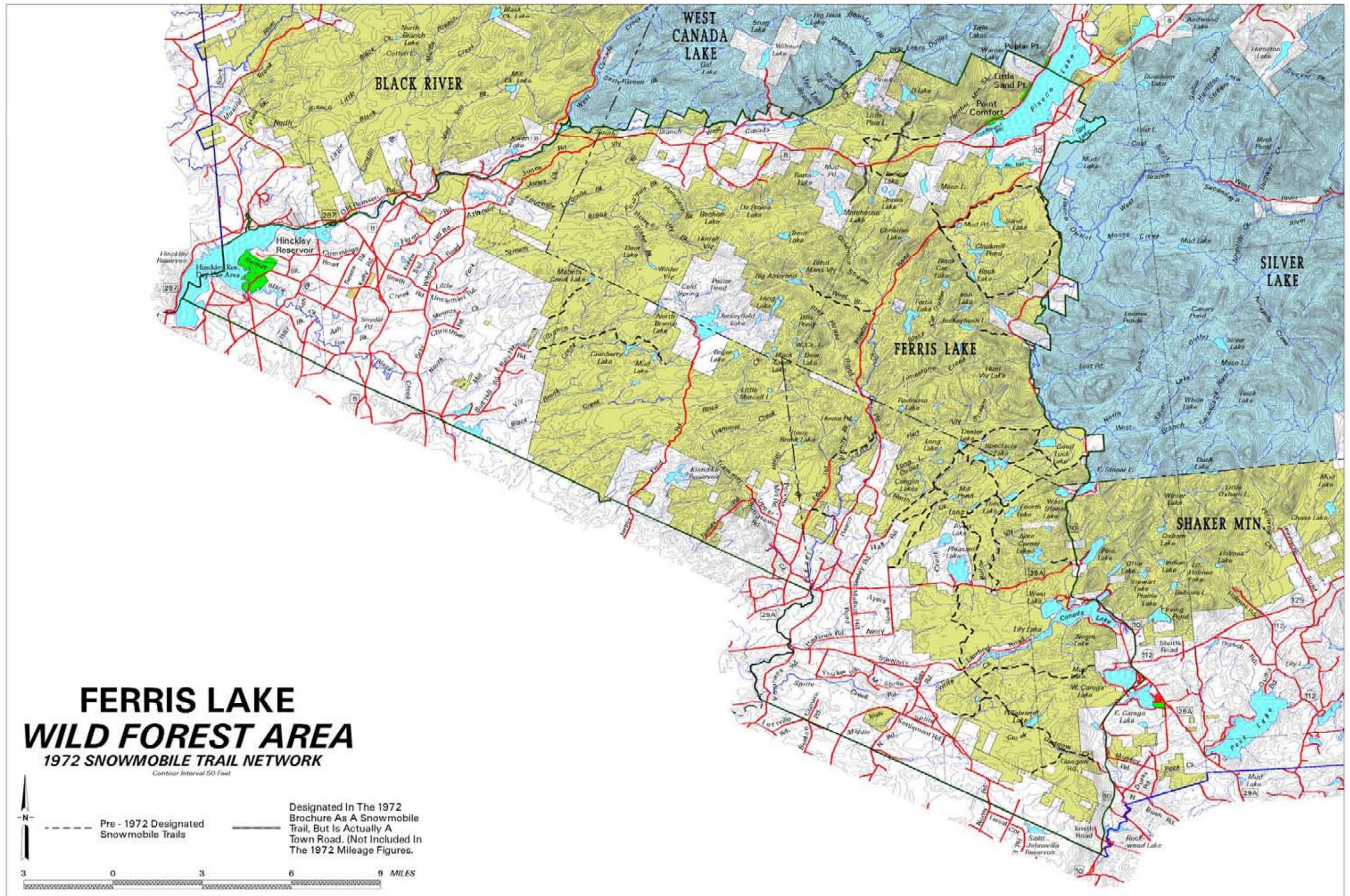
- 1 Trout Lake Trail
- 2 Christian Lake Trail
- 3 Clockmill Pond Trail
- 4 Goldmine Stream Trail
- 5 Potholer's Trail
- 6 Redlouse Lake Trail
- 7 House Pond Trail
- 8 Stony Brook Lake Trail
- 9 Boyer Lake Trail
- 10 Good Luck Cliffs Trail
- 11 Panther Mtn / Echo Cliffs Trail

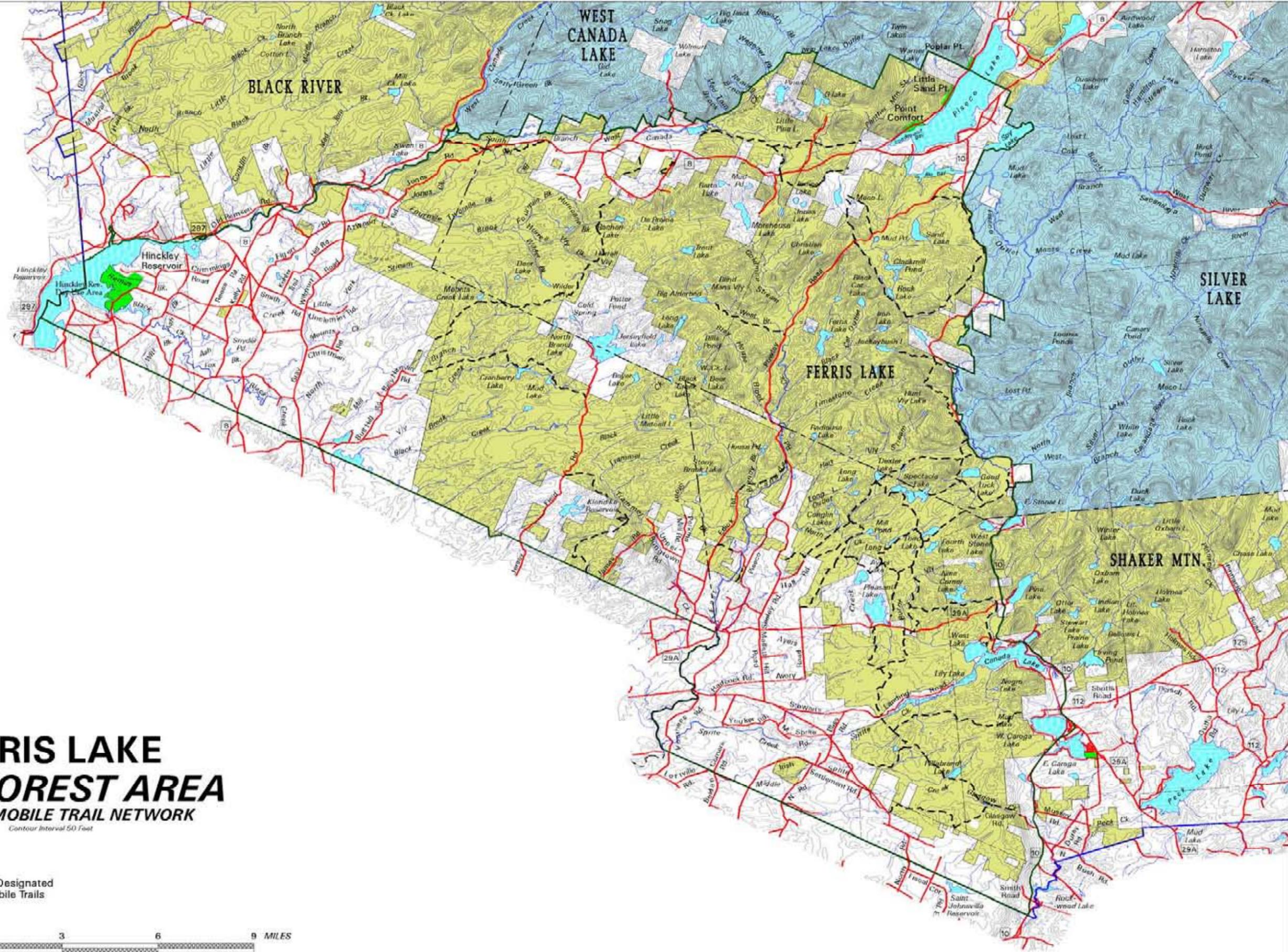
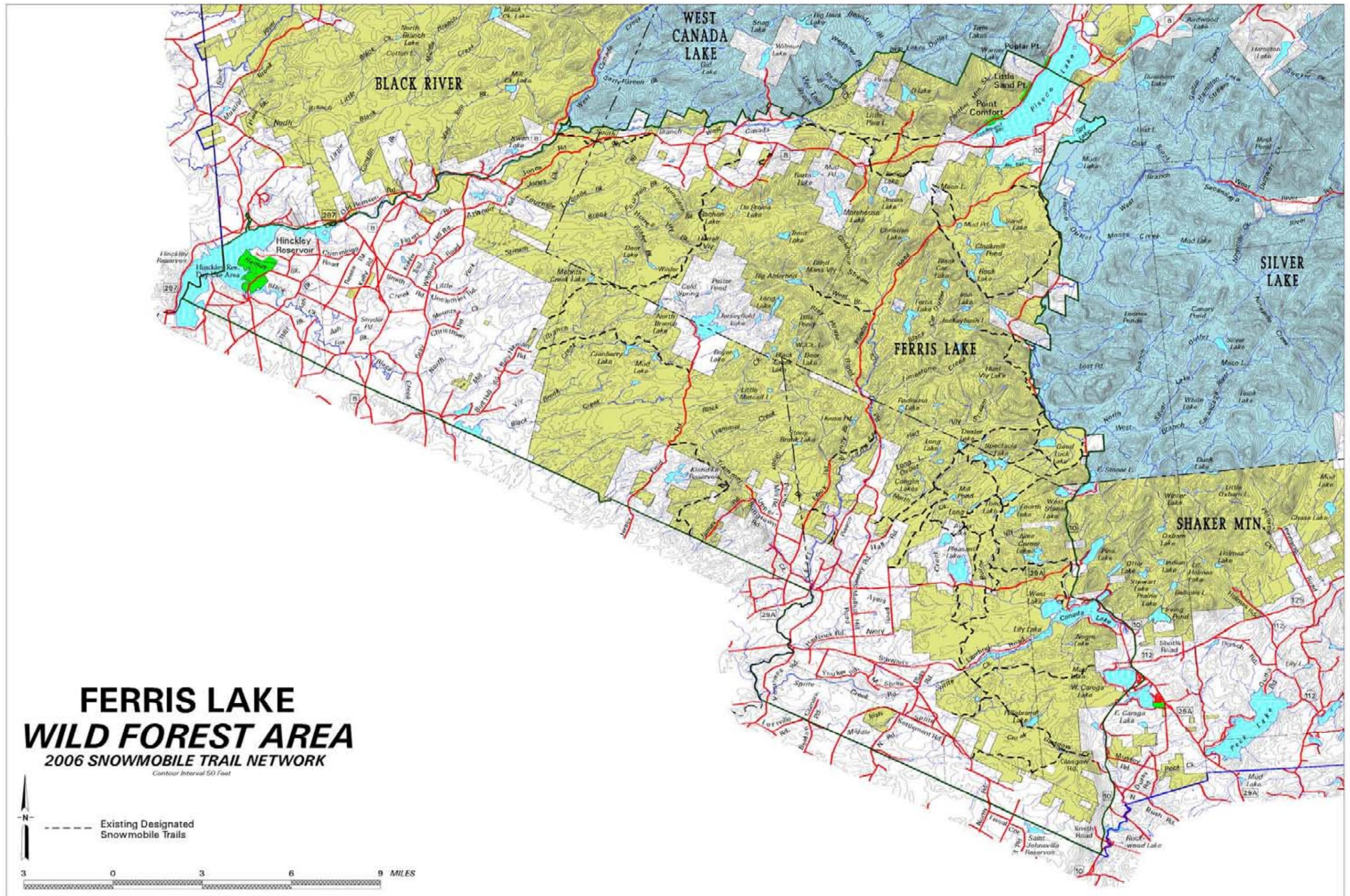


DRAFT MAP (7/01)
Revised 10/17/06









**FERRIS LAKE
WILD FOREST AREA
2006 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL NETWORK**

Contour Interval 50 Feet

Existing Designated Snowmobile Trails

0 3 6 9 MILES

