DEC
PUBLICATION

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FEBRUARY 1990

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

MARIO CUOMO
GOVERNOR

THOMAS C. JORLING
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM FROM
THOMAS C. JORLING, *Commissioner*

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

FEB 21 1990

TO: The Record

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling

SUBJECT: Unit Management Plan
Grass River Wild Forest

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

cc: L. Marsh

DEC TASK FORCE

John Kramer - Task Force Leader

Edward Smith - Wildlife

William Gordon - Fisheries

H. Robert VanWie - Operations

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BACKGROUND

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

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

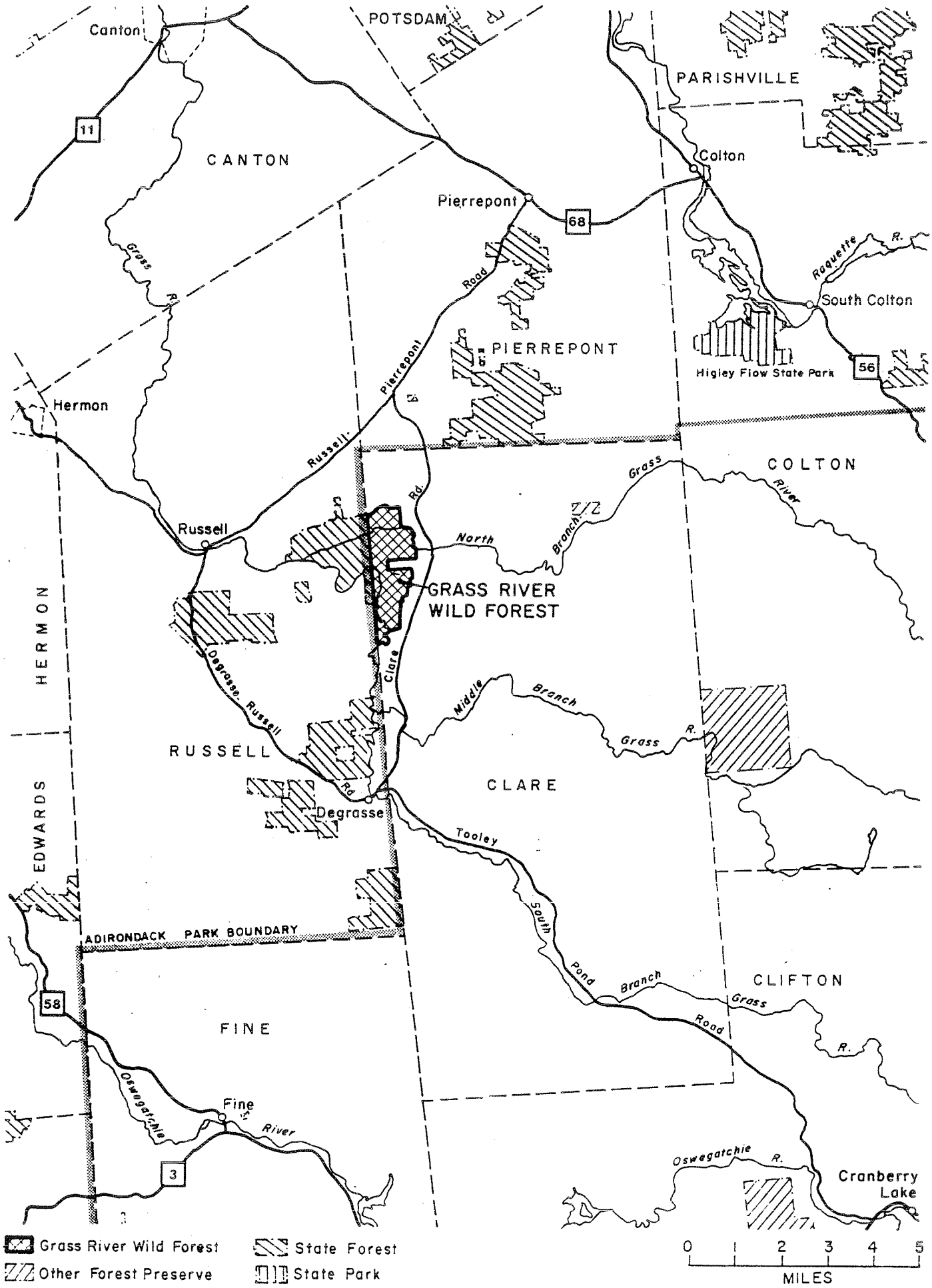
- The creation of the Adirondack Park Agency
- The preparation of a Master Plan for State-owned lands by the Agency.
- The classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use" and
- A set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody and control of State-owned lands under the Master Plan with particular emphasis on proposed wilderness and primitive areas.

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

The final legislative mandate provided for the Agency's Master Plan for State-owned lands in the Adirondack Park. A

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

LOCATION OF GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST



I. INTRODUCTION

A. Area Description

1. General Location

The Grass River Wild Forest is described as those contiguous Western Adirondack Forest Preserve lands in the northwestern part of the Town of Clare in St. Lawrence County bordering both the Grass River and the North Branch of the Grass River. The forest consists of 1,274 acres which, when considered with the adjacent Downerville State Forest, forms a 2,509 acre block of state lands.

2. Acreage

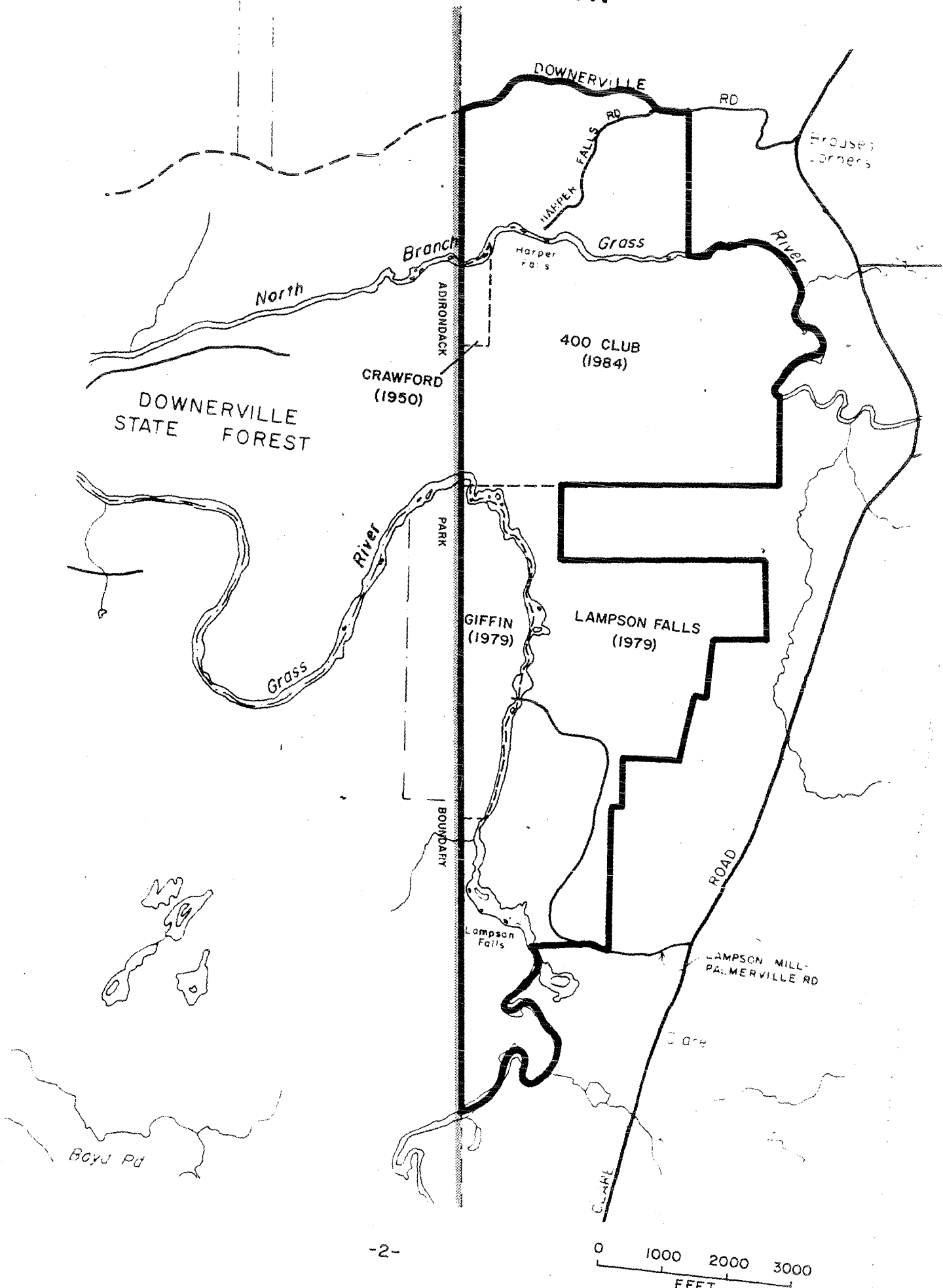
The development of this forest as a component of the forest preserve has occurred as follows:

Date of Conveyance	Lot	Acres	Cumulative Acreage
1950	Crawford	25	25
1979	Lampson Falls	481	506
1979	Giffin	117	623
1984	400 Club	651	1,274

3. Access

Public foot access to this area is primarily along the Lampson's Mill Road approximately .3 mile to the southeastern corner of the forest. Access to the northern part of the forest is primarily along the Downerville Road. Canoe access to the area is available from the Degrasse State Forest to the south.

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST ACQUISITION



Motorized administrative access is available along either the Lampson's Mill/Logging Road or the Harper Falls Road.

B. History

The early history of the lands of which this forest is a part was concerned with land speculation from around the end of the Revolutionary War (Read Lampson Falls by Paul Jamieson) to the mid 1800's when logging began in the area and a sawmill was established at Lampson Falls. The logging has continued on most of the forest up to it's purchase by the State; however, the mill at Lampson Falls went out of production in the early 1900's. An 1858 map notes that "water power" was used at Harper Falls and a stone foundation attests to that. Little else is known about this site. In the 1930's and 1940's these lands were owned but not developed by power companies after which they were sold to either the state (Crawford Tract) or to individuals for hunting purposes.

A chronological account of known facts concerning this area is contained in Appendix D.

II. RESOURCE AND PUBLIC USE INVENTORY OVERVIEW

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

This forest is located near the edge of the Fall Zone which is idendified by Buddington as a monocline separating the Childwold Terrace and the Grenville

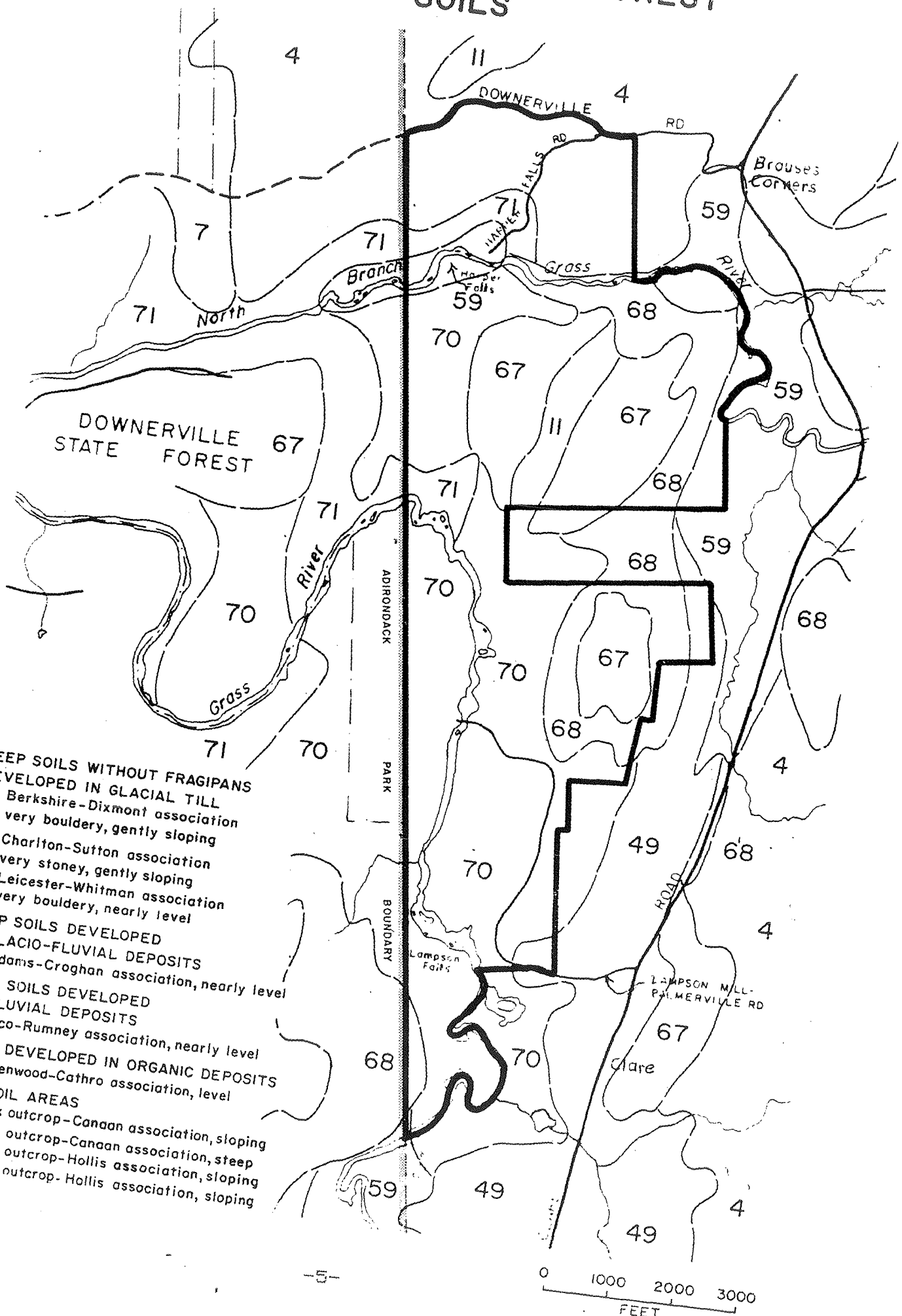
Lowlands in this area (Regional Geology of St. Lawrence Magnetite District). Much of the exposed rock along the riverbeds within this forest are precambrian which are identified by Buddington as predominately igneous gneiss. They are classified as being in the Grenville series of which the sedimentary parent rock was deposited over one billion years ago. This Grenville complex is exposed in much of southeastern Canada and the Adirondacks. These exposures are joined by an isthmus at the Thousand Islands in what is widely known as in the Frontenac axis (Refer to Bloomer and Elberty and Jamieson). Common to the area are kame terraces such as the locality of the white pine stand just north of the pool below Lampson Falls. (Refer to Facilities Map on page 14).

b. Soils

A general soils map and description of the major broad soil classifications found on this area are contained on the following page. These broad classifictions are of little use for management purposes; however, site specific soils information will be determined as required.

Bedrock and shallow depth to bedrock are the predominant soil features which have limited use of this area to forestry purposes. The primary exception to this observation is the previously

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST SOILS



DEEP SOILS WITHOUT FRAGIPANS DEVELOPED IN GLACIAL TILL

4 Berkshire-Dixmont association very bouldery, gently sloping

7 Charlton-Sutton association very stoney, gently sloping

11 Leicester-Whitman association very bouldery, nearly level

DEEP SOILS DEVELOPED IN GLACIO-FLUVIAL DEPOSITS

49 Adams-Croghan association, nearly level

DEEP SOILS DEVELOPED IN ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS

59 Saco-Rumney association, nearly level

SOILS DEVELOPED IN ORGANIC DEPOSITS

62 Greenwood-Cathro association, level

NON SOIL AREAS

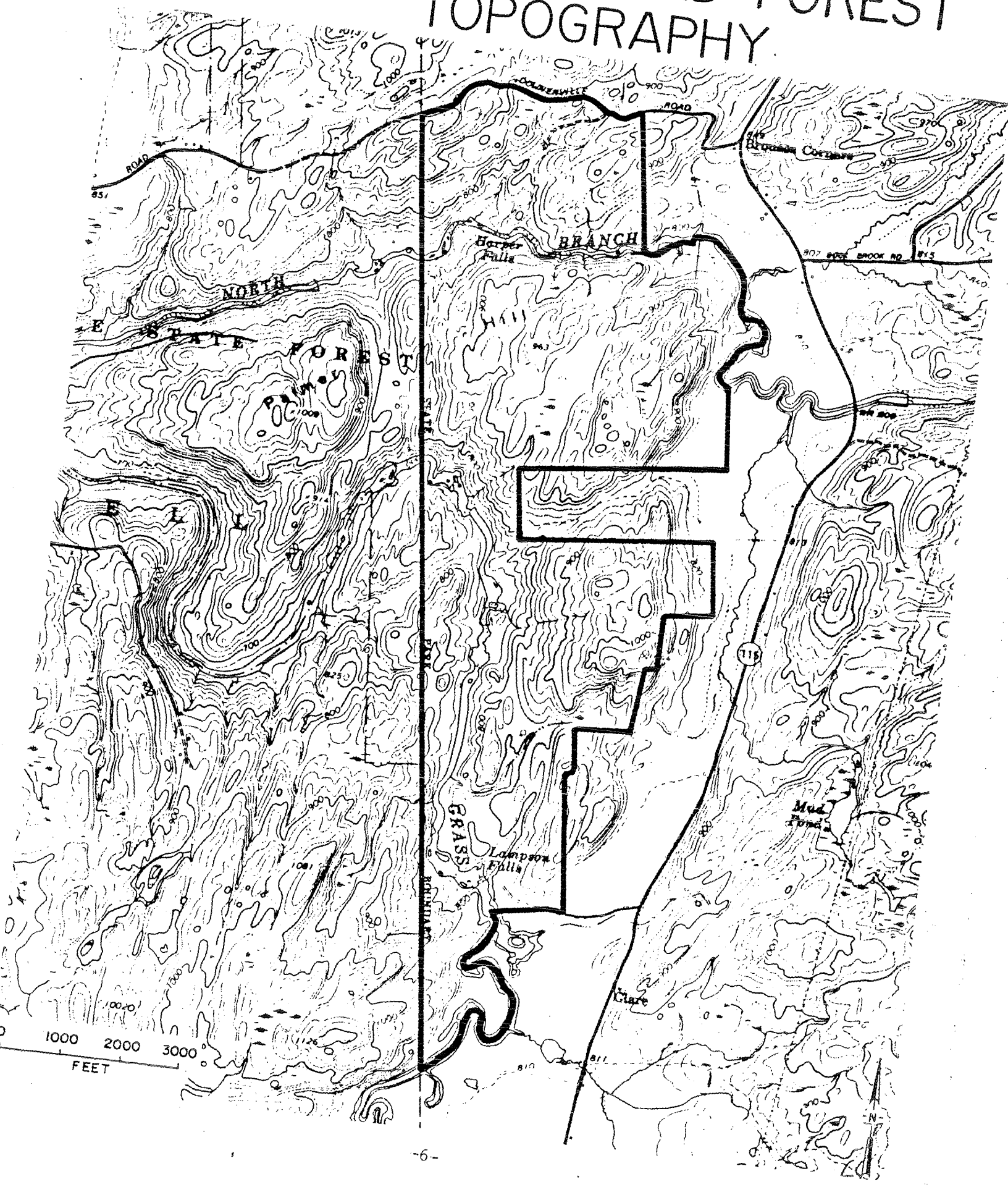
67 Rock outcrop-Canaan association, sloping

68 Rock outcrop-Canaan association, steep

70 Rock outcrop-Hollis association, sloping

71 Rock outcrop-Hollis association, sloping

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST TOPOGRAPHY



mentioned kame terrace which appears to have been cultivated prior to seeding into white pine.

c. Terrain

There are no named elevations within this area with the possible exception of Palmer Hill which the USGS map shows to encompass two large hills on the 400 Club and Crawford lots and the Downerville State Forest.

Elevations generally range between 720 feet and 1,040 feet with much of the area being steep.

d. Water

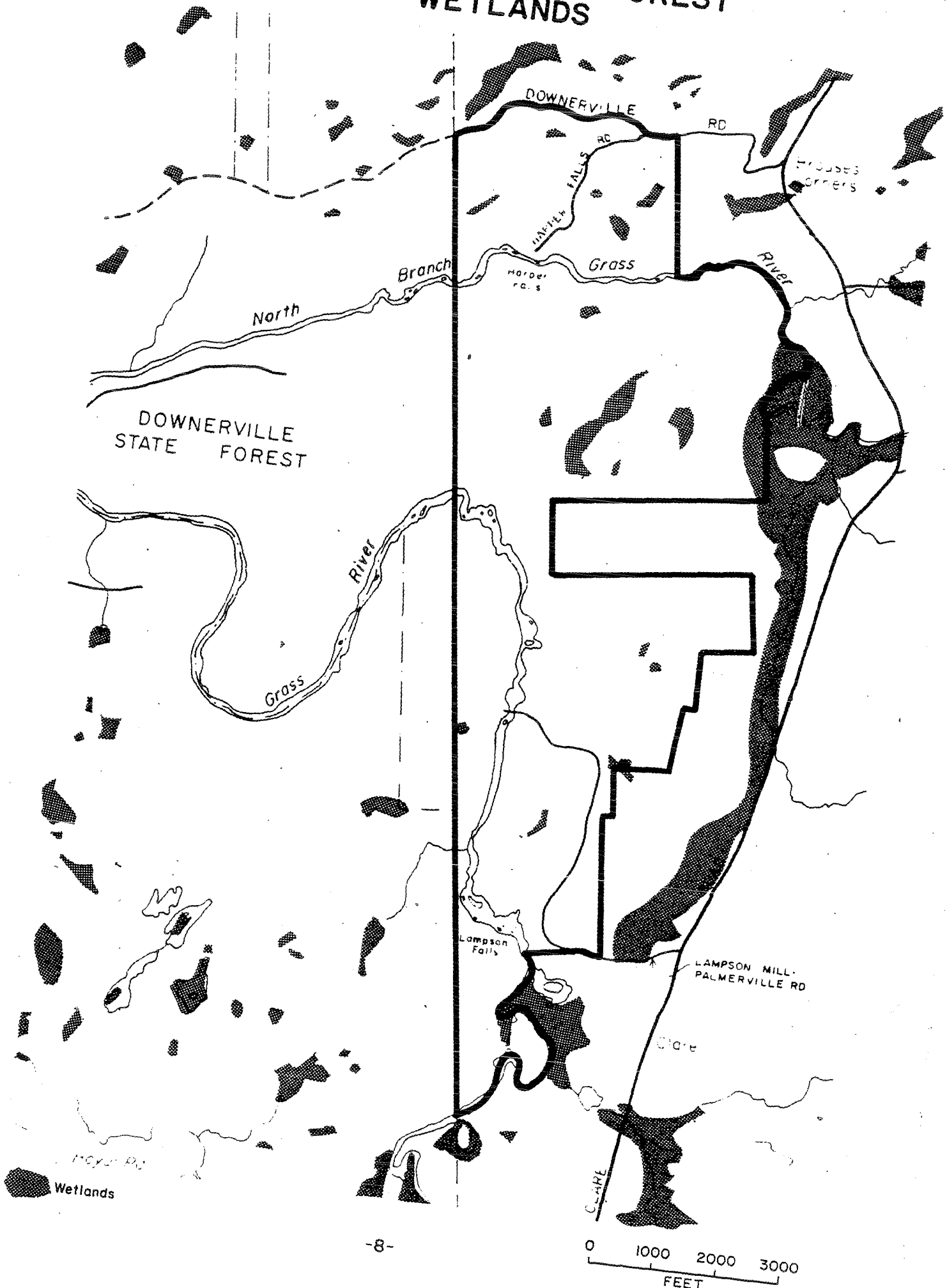
Located within this forest are approximately three miles of the Grass River and one mile of the North Branch of the Grass River. Water quality is good with low productivity and fertility. Problems with increasing acidity have not been identified within this unit.

Recent data from the 1984 water quality survey indicated that the Grass River is not acidified. Results from this study showed that the Grass River in the vicinity of Russell (two and one-half miles downstream from this forest), had a mean spring pH of 7.23.

e. Wetlands

A wetland is defined as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh.

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST WETLANDS



They are inventoried, mapped and protected under the 1975 New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. The core wetlands are indicated on the previous page which was prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

Virtually all of this forest has been modified in various degrees by the harvest of forest products. The Crawford Lot was probably last harvested in the 1920's when a logging railroad along the south bank of the North Branch fed a large sawmill at Palmerville. It is most likely that only softwoods and the better quality hardwoods were removed. This is the commonly practiced system of "highgrading" which occurs when there are no markets for poor quality trees. This practice produces the greatest biological degredation of any harvesting system. A few years prior to State acquisition of the Giffin and Lampson Falls lots in 1979, both of them and that part of the 400 Club lot south of the North Branch were harvested. It should be noted that only the northern part of the Lampson Falls Lot was harvested as the previous owners donated an estimated 894 MBF of unharvested sawtimber to the People of the State of New York. As owners before them had also left

softwoods in the southern part of the lot, there remain today many large white pine and eastern hemlock which add to the aesthetic appeal of the area.

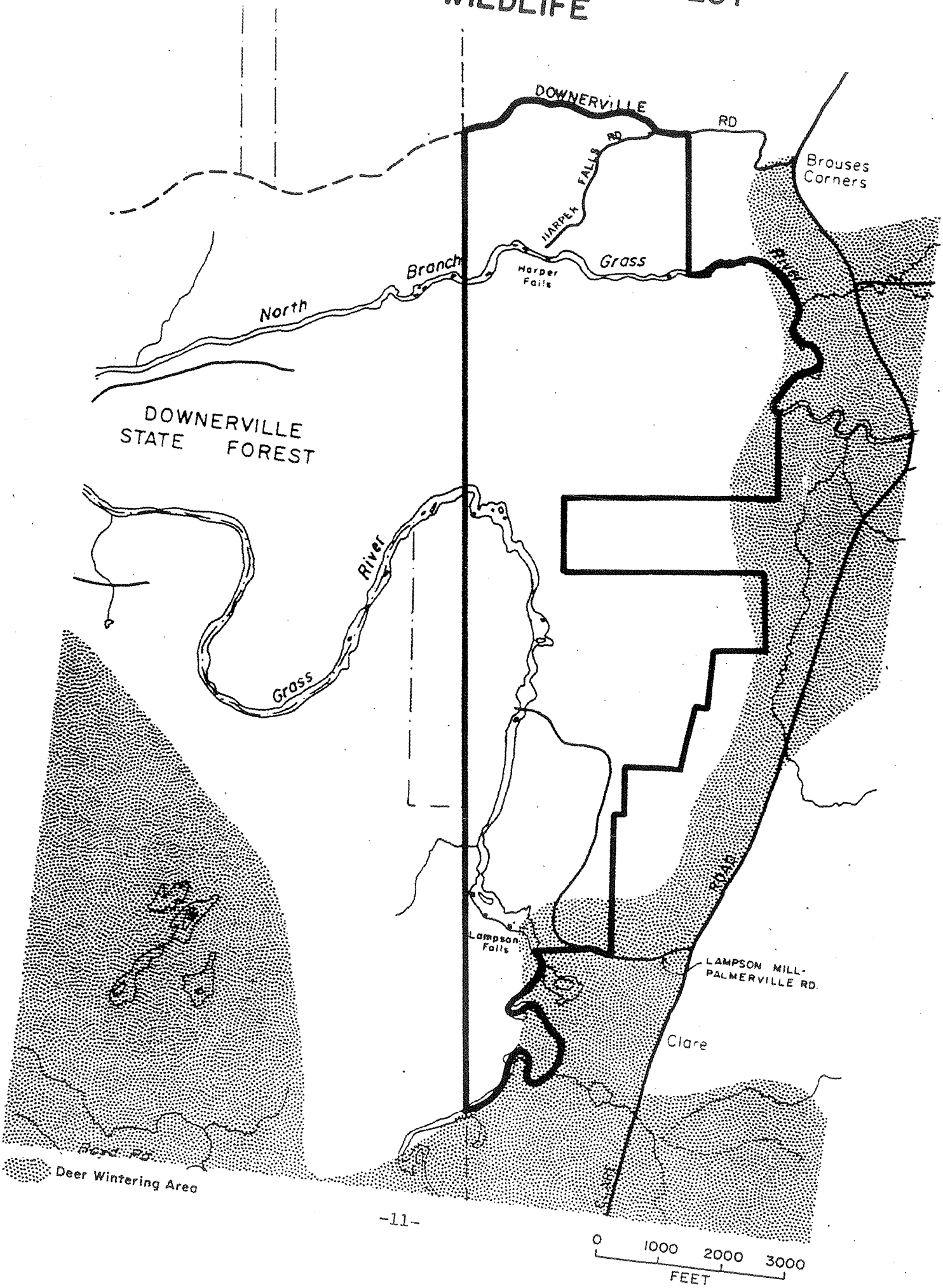
Other human activities which have effected the vegetative growth of the area are the apparent cultivation of the previously described kame terrace, grazing of the northeastern part of the 400 Club lot and a noncommercial thinning of 25 acres of the northwestern part of the 400 Club lot in 1967.

Although no specific vegetation surveys exist for the area, the 1972 timber cruise for the Giffin Lot indicates that sawtimber was primarily black cherry, hard maple, white ash, soft maple, basswood and yellow birch. The predominance of intolerant species suggests that heavy harvesting occurred on this lot in the early 1900's.

b. Wildlife

This forest is located in the Western Adirondack Foothills Ecological Zone (Refer to Will et. al.), DEC Deer Management Unit 15 and DEC Wildlife Management Unit 23. Because of its small size, however, wildlife data for the specific area is unavailable. Harvest data for the Town of Clare is contained in Appendix B as is a listing of the 36 bird species confirmed as nesting within the general area. The location of the significant deer wintering

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST WILDLIFE



yard near this area is of special concern as winter use of this area by deer is common.

c. Fisheries

There is no record of a fishery survey ever being conducted in the waters within this forest. However, there have been surveys on both branches of the Grass River at nearby stations. Using the data from these stations, it is assumed that the fishery of the Grass River Wild Forest is generally composed of the following:

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

Brook Trout (*Salvelinus frontinalis*)

Smallmouth Bass (*Micropeterus dolomieui*)

Associated minnow species

These species are all self sustaining within the unit's waters. No stocking policy has ever been recommended for the unit. A report of unauthorized stocking has confirmed that 1,100 yearling brown trout were stocked in the pool below Lampson Falls in the springs of 1983 and 1984.

3. Visual

Much of the aesthetic appeal of this forest may be attributed to the two branches of the Grass River within it. Especially noteworthy are Lampson Falls, Harper Falls and nine ledges and cascades downstream from the logging bridge. Also adding to the aesthetic appeal of the area are the large softwood trees left by the

previous owners.

4. Unique

Other than the many features found along both branches of the river, a unique geological feature is a 20 foot wide pothole located approximately 150 feet west of Lampson Falls. This relatively large rock formation bears testimony to the former size of this river and the force that it had generated.

B. Existing Facilities

Gates (2)

Harper Falls Road

Lampson's Mill Road

Trail Heads without maintained parking (2)

Harper Falls Road and Downerville Road

Lampson's Mill Road and Clare Road (CR 115)

Bridges (1)

Logging Road Bridge

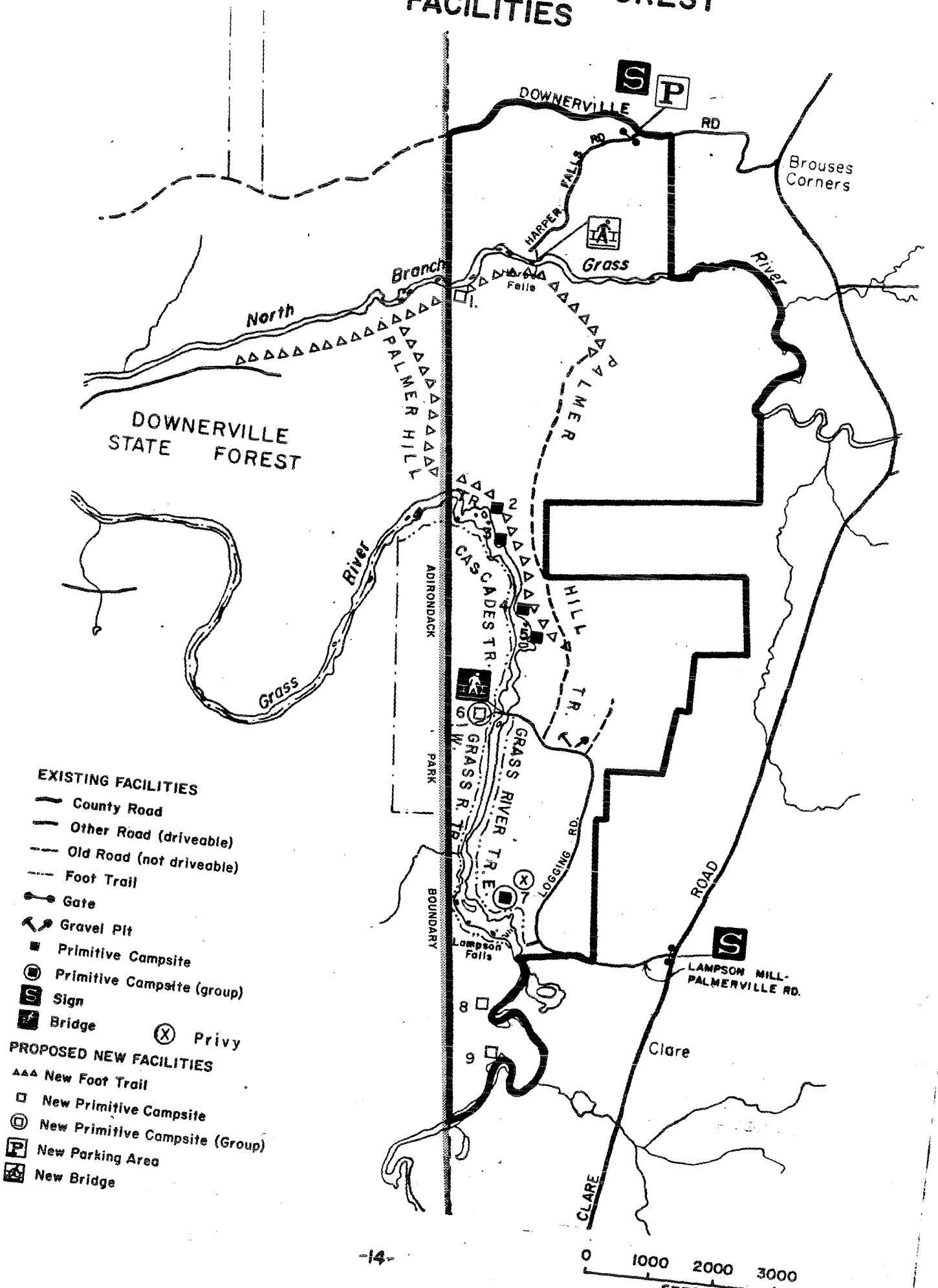
Foot Trails (2.7 miles)

Grass River Trail (West)-Lampson Falls to Logging Bridge (red)	.9 mi.
Grass River Trail (East)-Lampson Falls to Logging Bridge (red)	1.0 mi.
Cascades Trail-Logging Bridge to State Boundary (yellow)	.8 mi.

Roads (2.2 miles) Administrative Use Only

Lampson's Mill/Logging Road	1.6 mi.
Harper Falls Road	.6 mi.

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST FACILITIES



Signs (2)

Lampson's Mill Road

Harper Falls Road

Pit Privy (1)

Group Campsite Below Lampson Falls

Designated Campsites (5)

Below Lampson Falls (Group)

Below Logging Bridge (4)

Gravel Pit (1)

Canoe Route

Degrasse State Forest to Lampson Falls 3.0 mi.

C. Cultural

The cultural value of this forest lies primarily in its use as a resource to aid people in an understanding of the natural world. The easy access and scenic attraction of this area make it more relevant for this use than many other areas of the forest preserve.

D. Economic

A significant economic factor in the management of this forest is the annual cost of ownership familiar to most private forest owners -the tax bill. The 1985 school tax and 1986 land tax amounted to $6,921.52 or $5.43 per acre. The annual cost of maintenance and admininstration is estimated to add another $2.50 per acre per year.

E. Public Use of Area

The heaviest use of the area occurs in the vicinity of Lampson Falls with the Lampson's Mill Road receiving heavy

foot traffic. The use is primarily day use-sightseeing, picnicking, hiking, fishing, etc. It is anticipated that similar uses of the Harper Falls area will increase as public knowledge of its existence increases and the foot bridge over the North Branch, which was maintained for many years by the previous owners, is replaced.

Camping use is light. That which does occur was initially on or near the foot trails. The development of designated campsites has altered this initial misuse of the area by offering campers an acceptable alternative.

Deer hunting is relatively good in this area and this use is also significant.

Skiing the Lampson's Mill/Logging Road was very popular soon after the land was purchased, but this use has fallen off. This might have been caused by the deep footprints made in the snow on the Lampson's Mill Road by persons walking to the falls. When the snow thaws and freezes, these prints make skiing the road unpleasant.

The canoe route beginning at the canoe launch site on the Degrasse State Forest and ending at the former cabin site above Lampson Falls offers a leisurely one and one-half hour trip during periods of moderate to high water levels. At the end of this trip, the canoeist can either paddle back or carry the canoe out the Lampson's Mill Road.

For experienced canoeists of intermediate skill, the route can be extended to the Hamlet of Russell during high and medium high waters in April and May. The carry at

Lampson Falls is on the rock face on the west bank. Flat water then extends to the logging bridge. In the next mile there is a series of nine flumes and cascades requiring several short carries. None of these pitches should be attempted in an open canoe, and some of them not even in kayaks. This scenic corridor is worth the effort it causes. After the last of the pitches, four and one-quarter miles of continuous Class I and Class II rapids remain. This stretch is a fast float with very little maneuvering required at adequate water levels. Flat water then follows to the bridge in Russell. The total distance from the Degrasse State Forest is 11-1/2 miles.

F. Capacity of the Resource to Withstand Use

As those areas of this forest receiving maximum use have been recently purchased, no signs of overuse have yet been observed. It is anticipated that maintenance activities will be sufficient to alleviate the effects of public use of the area. Campsite development and monitoring will be instituted to minimize the effects of indiscriminate use and to provide for remedial activities before overuse occurs.

III. MANAGEMENT

A. Past Management

Fisheries management on this forest was initiated with the stocking project in 1983. Wildlife management activity specific to this area began with the breeding bird inventory in 1984. Land management activities have followed the pattern generally established on all State-owned forest

lands. Buildings have been removed, boundary lines marked and established foot trails, bridges and roads maintained. Although these activities will continue, the implementation of this plan will provide a more active direction for management.

Camping on this area has been relatively light and has generally occurred on or immediately adjacent to the foot trails. A major exception to this pattern of misuse followed the establishment of a group campsite on the kame terrace below Lampson Falls by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1984. Since its construction, this area has received most of the camping use. The four campsites north of the logging bridge were established by the Youth Conservtion Corps in 1987 but have not been used much because a trail system leading to them cannot be built until this plan is completed.

Administrative motorized use of the Lampson's Mill/Logging Road and, to a much lesser extent the Harper Falls Road, allows for the relatively efficient use of limited departmental staff. To underscore the importance of this use, the regional forester conducted a one year survey from May 1, 1984 to May 1, 1985 which is summarized in Appendix C. Although these results indicate that such use was almost exclusively maintenance, it should be noted that other uses, such as law enforcement, search and rescue, and fire control could also be undertaken.

B. Relationship of Management of Area to Adjacent State Forests

The public use management of this area has been enhanced by similar activities on two State Forests. The Degrasse State Forest has a canoe launch site which was constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps after State purchase of the Lampson Falls lot provided the resulting three mile route. Although this is the only common use between these areas, it is significant due to the overall scarcity of easily canoeable public routes. The adjacent Downerville State Forest offers expanded hiking, camping, hunting and fishing opportunities for the users of this area.

As state forest management becomes more sophisticated, the presence of this area will become increasingly important to the foresters managing the Downerville State Forest as they seek old growth forest habitat to meet wildlife management goals. Presently, only the 25 acre Crawford lot contains old growth, but its location next to the state forest might make it significant for this use.

The 100-acre parcel of the Downerville State Forest to the west of the logging bridge was last harvested in the winter of 1975 utilizing a short (approximately 700') skid trail between the bridge and the state forest boundary. This route represents the only feasible access to this parcel due to topographical limitations. The present forest inventory indicates that it contains an estimated 118 MBF of sawtimber and will be ready for harvest again after 1992.

C. Management Objectives

The following objectives have been developed by Department professionals while recognizing the comments received as a result of the public meeting held on October 17, 1984 (Refer to Appendix E).

1. Land Management

a. Expand the custodial functions necessary for the support of public ownership through the following activities:

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

2) Continue maintenance of the following:

- Maintain the 2.7 miles of foot trail, including the logging bridge.
- Keep the logging road clear of blowdown for skiing use
- Mow the Lampson's Mill/logging road and the Harper Falls Road every two years
- Maintain 12.3 miles of boundary lines (every 5-7 years)
- Keep the Grass River clear of debris to allow canoeing between the Degrasse State Forest and Lampson Falls

3) Develop and maintain an accurate trail and facility inventory.

b. Inventory the vegetation of this forest to

quantitatively identify the forest cover including an inventory of rare and endangered plant species.

c. Expand the area of contiguous state lands for the enhancement of the objectives of this plan. As they become available, lands will be recommended for purchase as follows:

1) Private lots between the present state lands and the Downerville and Clare Roads. The purchase of any of these lands would help disperse public access, especially during hunting season and provide a site for a parking lot.

2) Private lots along the Grass River between the canoe launch site and Lampson Falls. The purchase of these lots would enhance the canoe route.

3) The purchase of one 1,200 acre parcel would make this area contiguous with both the Downerville and Degrasse State Forests, creating notably increased recreational and wildlife management opportunities.

2. Wildlife Management

a. Continue annual monitoring of game animal and furbearer harvests of DMU 15 and WMU 23 assuring management consistent with statewide wildlife management objectives while maximizing recreational opportunities and perpetuating indigenous species in the unit.

b. Encourage the development of research projects to identify rare or endangered wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat that could improve the unit's wild character and could provide the basis for future plan updates.

c. Maintain wildlife resources and encourage hunting and trapping as an important concept of wildlife management and the balance of nature.

d. Provide well-identified legal access to all sides of the unit for the benefit of wildlife users.

3. Fisheries Management

a. Perpetuate fish as part of the Adirondack environment by managing fish so that their numbers and occurances are compatible with their habitat and the public interest.

To date, management of the fishery of the Grass River Wild Forest has been limited to sportfish harvest regulation via statewide recommendations. Any specific management work within the unit will require the development and maintenance of resource inventory data at least for the two major waters, the Grass and North Branch of the Grass Rivers. Survey results could lead to a variety of management options. It is suspected that mangement with naturally sustaining native species will be continued, with a possibility for some future stocking recommendations.

A survey of the units major river sections is tentatively scheduled for 1992.

b. Provide optimum opportunity for enjoyment and beneficial utilization of the fish resource by the user.

Within the Grass River Wild Forest this can be accomplished by improving and maintaining public access to the unit's waters. No specific fisheries projects are recommended at this time. Present plans for maintaining overall access to the unit through foottrail and parking area maintenance and development will be adequate to meet the needs of the unit's fisheries resource users.

4. Public Use Management

a. Provide for a variety of recreational pursuits which will optimize user enjoyment of the area and minimize the effects of human use on the environment. Specific activities to accomplish this objective are included on the facilities map and will be as follows:

1) Foot Trail Development -The development of foot trails within this forest will occur as follows:

- Both the Lampson's Mill/Logging Road and the Harper Falls Road will be promoted as public foot access.
- The Palmer Hill foottrail will be established

to connect the dead-end road on the Downerville State Forest, the Harper Falls Road and the present road system leading north from the Lampson's Mill/Logging Road.

- Four short trails will be constructed to lead to the four designated campsites north of the logging bridge.

2) Nordic Ski Trail - Foot trails and roads do not need designation as ski trails to be used for that purpose. Therefore, it is presently the intent of this plan to maintain the status quo in respect to ski trail development and/or promotion.

3) Bridge Reconstruction - The reconstruction of the Harper Falls bridge is a vital activity necessary to disperse users. It will be done in the first year to allow for administrative access to establish the Palmer Hill trail.

4) Parking Lot Development - There are two areas where public parking is necessary:

- The intersection of the Lampson's Mill and Clare roads receives heavy use at times and cars must be parked along the Clare Road near this intersection. This is not an ideal situation especially when cars are parked on both sides of the road. However, state ownership along the Lampson's Mill Road does

not occur for .3 mile and the development of a parking lot at that location would likely cause an increase in littering at Lampson Falls, traffic problems on the narrow Lampson's Mill Road and vandalism of parked cars. The present situation will be retained.

- The intersection of the Harper Falls and Downerville roads needs a parking lot because there are no shoulders on the Downerville Road. Presently, two cars can be carefully parked in front of the gate on the Harper Falls Road. A nine car parking lot will be constructed in the first year to alleviate a potential safety problem.

5) Campsites - To further enhance public use and enjoyment of this area with minimal environmental impact, four additional campsites will be designated as follows:

- Two sites on the western bank of the Grass River above Lampson Falls will be reachable by canoe only and will add to the options available to that segment of the user public.
- The present group campsite located on the kame terrace north of Lampson Falls and an additional site west of the logging road bridge will accomodate groups of ten persons or more who obtain a department permit.

- One site on the south side of the North Branch below Harper Falls.

6) Logging Road Maintenance - To provide minimal disruption when the 100-acre parcel to the west of the logging bridge is next harvested, the road will be maintained to the state forest.

b. Increase public awareness and appreciation of this forest as follows:

1) To aid the user public in the location of this forest, wooden area identification signs have been installed at the intersections of the Lampson's Mill and Clare Roads and the Harper Falls and Downerville Roads.

2) Upon final approval of this plan, the Department will develop a brochure to inform the user public of the objectives of this plan, the history, natural resources and facilities available, and will provide the necessary maps to satisfy user needs.

3) Assistant Forest Ranger patrols, funded by the Five Ponds plan, will be initiated to aid the user public.

5. Water Quality Management

a. Reduce the direct impact of human activities on water quality by improving user awareness of the impact of polluting activities in the development of the area brochure and personal contacts with

department personnel.

b. Reduce the impact of facility use and development on water quality by minimizing sedimentation caused by erosion.

IV. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following schedule is included as a general guide. It should be noted that factors such as budget constraints and unforeseen developments will necessitate deviations in the schedule.

1990

1. Develop the four designated campsites with necessary trails.
2. Develop boundary line maintenance records.
3. Brush out the skid trail.

1991

1. Initiate the vegetative survey.
2. Develop a brochure for the area.
3. Construct the foot trail to Harper Falls (Palmer Hill Loop Trail).
4. Construct the Harper Falls Road Parking Lot.
5. Maintain boundary lines.
6. Reconstruct the Harper Falls bridge.

1992

1. Remove the concrete foundation above Lampson Falls.
2. Conduct fisheries resource inventory survey in both the Grass and the North Branch.

1993

1. Clare Rd./Lampson's Mill Rd. Parking Lot (if land available).

1994

Revise this plan.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. Staffing

Department staffing is presently adequate for the continued management of this relatively small area.

B. Budgeting

Estimated project expenses to be incurred by implementation of this plan will be budgeted as follows:

Year	Project	Estimated Cost
1990	Trail & Facility Maintenance	$ 2,500
	Designated Campsite & Trail Develop.	6,000
		$ 8,500
1991	Trail & Facility Maintenance	$ 3,000
	Palmer Hill Trail Development	9,000
	Harper Falls Road Parking Lot	8,000
	Vegetative Survey	5,000
	Boundary Line Maintenance	1,500
	Harper Falls Bridge	8,000
		$34,500
1992	Fisheries Surveys	$ 4,000
	Remove Concrete Foundation	3,000
		$ 7,000
1993	Clare Rd./Lampson's Mill Rd. Parking Lot	$ 8,000

1992-94 Trail & Facility Maintenance $ 3,500/yr.

C. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities

1. Bridges (2)

Logging Road

Harper Falls (after year two)

2. Foot Trails (2.7 miles)

Grass River Trail (W)	.9 mi.
Grass River Trail (E)	1.0 mi.
Logging Road Bridge to Downerville State Forest (Cascades Trail)	.8 mi.

(Palmer Hill Trail and campsite trails will be added as constructed).

3. Roads (2.2 miles) (mow every two years)

Lampson's Mill/Logging Road (1.6 mi.)

Harper Falls (.6 mi.)

4. Pit Privy (1)

Below Lampson Falls.

5. Parking Lots (2)

Harper Falls Road (after year two)

Clare Rd./Lampson's Mill Rd. (if land available)

6. Gates (2)

Harper Falls Road

Lampson's Mill Road

7. Boundary Lines (12.3 miles)

Rehabilitation is anticipated in 1991.

8. Signs (2)

Lampson's Mill Road

Harper Falls Road

9. Designated Campsites (5)

Below Lampson Falls (group)

North of Logging Bridge (4)

(Four additional after year one)

10. Canoe Route (3 miles)

D. Problem Areas

1. Accessibility

Both the Harper Falls and Lampson's Mill Roads provide convenient foot access to the northern and southern ends of this forest, respectively. The development of the Palmer Hill Trail will join both of these roads with the Downerville State Forest to provide more convenient access to all of the area.

2. Trespass

Because several adjacent landowners have a legal right to use the gate on the Lampson's Mill Road, some vehicular trespass had occurred shortly after the property was purchased. There have been no recent incidents, however. It is assumed that this potential problem will now be minimal or likely nonexistent.

3. Land Titles

Soon after State purchase of the Lampson Falls Lot, some confusion existed as to boundary line locations. This was alleviated by a State survey of the lines in question.

One adjacent owner has the legal right to remove

gravel from the existing pit and to drive to his adjacent woodlot and another has the right to drive to his property at the head of Lampson Falls. Neither of these rights are anticipated to provide management problems.

E. Fire Management

Fire presuppression activities will consist of public education by the integration of fire safety awareness in appropriate public communications, the maintenance of fire rings and active patrol during periods of high fire danger. Department contact with the Degrasse, Clare and South Russell Fire Department will recognize the importance of this organization in any necessary suppression activities.

F. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

For the purpose of compliance with the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Article 15, Title 37 of the Environmental Conservation Law, the corridor widths of the following rivers shall be one-quarter mile from the mean high water mark:

North Branch Grass River (Scenic River)

Middle Branch Grass River (Study River)

The management activities promoted by this plan are consistent with the rules and regulations necessary to implement this law.

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Will, G., Stumroll, R., Gottie, R. and E. Smith. The Ecological Zones of Northern New York. New York Fish and Game Journal. Vol. 29, No. 1, January, 1982.

A Positive Declaration was issued on the Grass River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan on September 17, 1984. Prior to the preparation of the Unit Management Plan, the Department had expected that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement would be the appropriate procedure under the State Environmental Quality Review Act. Subsequently, in preparation of the draft Plan, considering all relevant areas of environmental concern, it was found that there were no significant environmental impacts. Accordingly, the Department is hereby withdrawing the positive dedication and issuing this Negative Declaration as supported below:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Identifying # N6402400-1

SEQR
Negative Declaration
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project # _____

Date February 26, 1988

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Title of Action: Grass River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type I [X]
Unlisted [ ]

Description of Action:

The Department of Environmental Conservation will manage 1,274 acres of forest preserve lands as wild forest in accordance with the definitions and guidelines set forth in the Adirondack State Land Master Plan. The authority for program actions is granted by the provisions of Article XIV of the NYS Constitution, Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, various opinions of attorneys general and the State Land Master Plan. These actions include facilities maintenance, foot trail construction, boundary line marking, fire suppression, search and rescue operations, fish stocking, nonconforming building removal, designated campsite implementation, resource monitoring and surveys, patrolling and surveilance activities, public information and education, signing, and public use control systems. All activities are to be carried out in accordance with applicable statutes and guidelines.

Location: (Include the name of the county and town. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended)

St. Lawrence County, Town of Clare

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

1. The area will be managed in accordance with guidelines established in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and applicable statutes, allowing the department little discretionary power.

2. Maintenance of facilities, structures and systems are covered in the programmatic EIS entitled Forest Preserve Interior Recreation Management Program (Joseph LaSpisa, 1981)

3. Physical disturbances due to trail and campsite construction and maintenance will be of limited extent and will affect minimal acreage.

4. Public use will be dispersed with the construction of 3.3 miles of new trails and campsites to minimize the effects of overuse at the more popular areas.

5. Boundary line marking, patrolling and surveillance should reduce incidences of trespass.

6. Resource monitoring and surveys will provide the basis for future plans.

7. Breaking up and hauling away of an old camp building's foundation above Harper's Falls will be done at times when public use is minimal.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: John G. Kramer
Address: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
30 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617
Phone No.: 315-386-4546

Copies of this Notice Sent to:

Commissioner-Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-0001
Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation
Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located
Applicant (if any)
Other involved agencies (if any)

Reasons Supporting This Determination continued:

9. The increase in parking capacity from 4 to 9 cars will require clearing brush from only .04 acres of land.

10. Maintenance of a skid trail requires mechanical brush control only with negligible soil disruption.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

DRAFT EIS

REGION 6—(P-6) DEC, as lead agency, has accepted a draft EIS on the proposed **Acquisition of Forest Preserve Lands under the 1972 EQBA, Q-AFP Herkimer 112.**

The action involves the acquisition of approximately 10,800 acres of land offered by the J.P. Lewis Company located in the Town of Ohio, Herkimer County.

Potential environmental impacts considered in the draft EIS include: natural resources, land development, game management, forest pest control options and recreational opportunities, and improved access.

CONTACT: David V. Gray, NYSDEC, 225 North Main Street, Herkimer, New York 13350, (315) 866-6330.

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

REGION 6—(N-6) DEC, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed **Grass River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan** will not have a significant environmental impact.

The action involves the management of 1,274 acres of forest preserve lands as wild forest in accordance with the definitions and guidelines set forth in the Adirondack State Land Master Plan located in the Town of Clare, St. Lawrence County.

CONTACT: John G. Kramer, NYSDEC, 30 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617, (315) 386-4546.

7

REGION 7 **includes: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Tioga and Tompkins Counties. For information regarding any application notice in Region 7, contact the following:**

REGION 7	**DEC, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool, NY 13088**	**(315)428-4497**
REGION 7C	**DEC, PO Box 5170, Fisher Ave., Cortland, NY 13045**	**(607)753-3095**
REGION 7S	**DEC, Sherburne, NY 13460**	**(607)674-2611**

		Last Filing Date	Office	SEQR
CHENANGO COUNTY				
Burton F. Clark PO Box 427 [illegible], NY 13753	The applicant proposes the expansion of the existing Wehrli Gravel Bed to provide for a total affected area of 12 acres. Approximately 4 acres would be mined in the first 3 year permit term. Topsoil will be replaced and the site will be restored to a condition that is suitable for residential construction. The project is located adjacent to the western boundary of the Village of Oxford, between South Washington Road and West Park Street, Town of Oxford, Chenango County. SHPA—2 Permit: Mining—71-88-0117 Contact: Patrick M. Snyder	3/25/88	7C	2
	The applicant proposes the expansion of an existing sand and gravel mine to allow for a total of 20 more acres to be mined over approximately 20 years. A portable screen of 50 tons/hour will be operated at the site. The project is located in the Town of Norwich, Chenango County. SHPA—2 Permit: Mining, Air—71-87-0454 Contact: [illegible] M. Snyder	3/18/88	7C	3

APPENDIX A

EAF

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - PART I

Project Information

NOTICE: This document is designed to assist in determining whether the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. Please complete the entire Data Sheet. Answers to these questions will be considered as part of the application for approval and may be subject to further verification and public review. Provide any additional information you believe will be needed to complete PARTS 2 and 3.

It is expected that completion of the EAF will be dependent on information currently available and will not involve new studies, research or investigation. If information requiring such additional work is unavailable, so indicate and specify each instance.

NAME OF PROJECT:

Grass River Wild Forest
Unit Management Plan

ADDRESS AND NAME OF APPLICANT:

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
(Name)
30 Court Street
(Street)
Canton, NY 13617
(P.O.) (State) (Zip)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER (If Different)

(Name)

(Street)

(P.O.) (State) (Zip)

BUSINESS PHONE: _____

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: (Briefly describe type of project or action) Development and implimentation of a five year management plan.

(PLEASE COMPLETE EACH QUESTION - Indicate N.A. if not applicable)

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

(Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas)

1. General character of the land: Generally uniform slope ____ Generally uneven and rolling or irregular X.

2. Present land use: Urban ____, Industrial ____, Commercial ____, Suburban ____, Rural ____, Forest ____, Agriculture ____, Other Forest Preserve.

3. Total acreage of project area: 1,274 acres.

Approximate acreage:	Presently	After Completion		Presently	After Completion
Meadow or Brushland	____ acres	____ acres	Water Surface Area	____ acres	____ acres
Forested	1,268 acres	1,268 acres	Unvegetated (rock, earth or fill)	3 acres	3 acres
Agricultural	____ acres	____ acres	Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	3 acres	3 acres
Wetland (Freshwater or Tidal as per Articles 24, 25 or F.C.L.)	____ acres	____ acres	Other (indicate type)	____ acres	____ acres

4. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? Canaan & Hollis

5. a. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site? X Yes ____ No

b. What is depth to bedrock? varies (In feet)

9/1/78

6. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes: 0-10% 20 %; 10-15% 50 %; 15% or greater 30 %.

7. Is project contiguous to, or contain a building or site listed on the National Register of Historic Places? X Yes ____ No Entire Adirondack Forest Preserve is on the register.

8. What is the depth to the water table? ____ feet varies.

9. Do hunting or fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? X Yes ____ No

10. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered - ____ Yes X No, according to - Identify each species _____

11. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e. cliffs, dunes, other geological formations - X Yes ____ No. (Describe 20' wide pothole, Lampson & Harper Falls)

12. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area - X Yes ____ No.

13. Does the present site offer or include scenic views or vistas known to be important to the community? X Yes ____ No

14. Streams within or contiguous to project area:

    a. Name of stream and name of river to which it is tributary Grass River - Middle and North Branches.

15. Lakes, Ponds, Wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:

    a. Name Wetlands ; b. Size (in acres) 12

16. What is the dominant land use and zoning classification within a 1/4 mile radius of the project (e.g. single family residential, R-2) and the scale of development (e.g. 2 story). Resources Management

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate)

    a. Total contiguous acreage owned by project sponsor 2,509 acres.

    b. Project acreage developed: 4 acres initially; 4 acres ultimately.

    c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped 1,270 .

    d. Length of project, in miles: N/A (if appropriate)

    e. If project is an expansion of existing, indicate percent of expansion proposed: building square footage _____; developed acreage 100% .

    f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing 4 ; proposed 9 .

    g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour unknown (upon completion of project)

    h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:

	One Family	Two Family	Multiple Family	Condominium
Initial				
Ultimate				

    i. If:

	Orientation Neighborhood-City-Regional	Estimated Employment
Commercial		
Industrial		

    j. Total height of tallest proposed structure 4 feet.

2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site - 0 tons
0 cubic yards.

3. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site - .04 acres.

4. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project? ____Yes X No

5. Are there any plans for re-vegetation to replace that removed during construction? ____Yes X No

6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction ____months, (including demolition).

7. If multi-phased project: a. Total number of phases anticipated 3 No.

   b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1 4 month 88 year (including demolition)

   c. Approximate completion date final phase 9 month 90 year.

   d. Is phase 1 financially dependent on subsequent phases? ____Yes X No

8. Will blasting occur during construction? X Yes ____No

9. Number of jobs generated: during construction 2; after project is complete 0.

10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project 0.

11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities? ____Yes X No. If yes, explain:

_____.

12. a. Is surface or subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? ____Yes X No:

    b. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc.) _____.

    c. If surface disposal name of stream into which effluent will be discharged _____.

13. Will surface area of existing lakes, ponds, streams, bays or other surface waterways be increased or decreased by proposal? ____Yes X No.

14. Is project or any portion of project located in the 100 year flood plain? X Yes ____No

15. a. Does project involve disposal of solid waste? ____Yes X No

    b. If yes, will an existing solid waste disposal facility be used? ____Yes ____No

    c. If yes, give name: _____; location _____.

    d. Will any wastes not go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill? ____Yes ____No

16. Will project use herbicides or pesticides? ____Yes X No

17. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)? ____Yes X No

18. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambience noise levels? ____Yes X No

19. Will project result in an increase in energy use? ____Yes X No. If yes, indicate type(s) _____

_____.

20. If water supply is from wells indicate pumping capacity _____ gals/minute.

21. Total anticipated water usage per day _____gals/day.

22. Zoning: a. What is dominant zoning classification of site? Wild Forest.

    b. Current specific zoning classification of site Same.

    c. Is proposed use consistent with present zoning? Yes.

    d. If no, indicate desired zoning _____

26. Approvals: a. Is any Federal permit required? ____Yes X No

b. Does project involve State or Federal funding or financing? X Yes ____No

c. Local and Regional approvals:

	Approval Required (Yes, No)	(Type)	Submittal (Date)	Approval (Date)
City, Town, Village Board	No			
City, Town, Village Planning Board	No			
City, Town, Zoning Board	No			
City, County Health Department	No			
Other local agencies	No			
Other regional agencies	No			
State Agencies	Yes	UMP	1988	
Federal Agencies	No			

C. INFORMATIONAL DETAILS

Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarify your project. If there are or may be any adverse impacts associated with the proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which can be taken to mitigate or avoid them.

PREPARER'S SIGNATURE: John E Kramer

TITLE: Associate Forester

REPRESENTING: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

DATE: 10/15/87

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - PART II

Project Impacts and Their Magnitude

General Information (Read Carefully)

- In completing the form the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my decisions and determinations been reasonable? The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst.
- Identifying that an effect will be potentially large (column 2) does not mean that it is also necessarily significant. Any large effect must be evaluated in PART 3 to determine significance. By identifying an effect in column 2 simply asks that it be looked at further.
- The Examples provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of effects and wherever possible the threshold of magnitude that would trigger a response in column 2. The examples are generally applicable throughout the State and for most situations. But, for any specific project or site other examples and/or lower thresholds may be more appropriate for a Potential Large Impact rating.
- Each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples have been offered as guidance. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of impacts and thresholds to answer each question.
- The number of examples per question does not indicate the importance of each question.

INSTRUCTIONS (Read Carefully)

a. Answer each of the 18 questions in PART 2. Answer Yes if there will be any effect.

b. Maybe answers should be considered as Yes answers.

c. If answering Yes to a question then check the appropriate box (column 1 or 2) to indicate the potential size of the impact. If impact threshold equals or exceeds any example provided, check column 2. If impact will occur but threshold is lower than example, check column 1.

d. If reviewer has doubt about the size of the impact then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.

e. If a potentially large impact or effect can be reduced by a change in the project to a less than large magnitude, place a Yes in column 3. A No response indicates that such a reduction is not possible.

		1. SMALL TO MODERATE IMPACT	2. POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT	3. CAN IMPACT BE REDUCED BY PROJECT CHANGE
IMPACT ON LAND	NO YES			
1. WILL THERE BE AN EFFECT AS A RESULT OF A PHYSICAL CHANGE TO PROJECT SITE?	( ) (X)			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2				
__ * Any construction on slopes of 15% or greater, (15 foot rise per 100 foot of length), or where the general slopes in the project area exceed 10%.		X	__	__
__ * Construction on Land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet.		X	__	__
__ Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles.		__	__	__
__ * Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface.		X	__	__
__ Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage.		__	__	__
__ Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e. rock or soil) per year.		__	__	__
__ Construction of any new sanitary landfill.		__	__	__

* Foot Trail Construction

	1. SMALL TO MODERATE IMPACT	2. POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT	3. CAN IMPACT BE REDUCED BY PROJECT CHANGE
___ Construction in a designated floodway.	___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
_____	___	___	___
2. WILL THERE BE AN EFFECT TO ANY UNIQUE OR UNUSUAL LAND FORMS FOUND ON THE SITE? (i.e. cliffs, dunes, geological formations, etc.) NO (X) YES ( )			
___ Specific land forms: _____	___	___	___
_____	___	___	___
IMPACT ON WATER			
3. WILL PROJECT AFFECT ANY WATER BODY DESIGNATED AS PROTECTED? (Under Articles 15, 24, 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law, E.C.L.) NO (X) YES ( )			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___ Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream.	___	___	___
___ Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland.	___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
_____	___	___	___
4. WILL PROJECT AFFECT ANY NON-PROTECTED EXISTING OR NEW BODY OF WATER? NO (X) YES ( )			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___ A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease.	___	___	___
___ Construction of a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area.	___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
_____	___	___	___
5. WILL PROJECT AFFECT SURFACE OR GROUNDWATER QUALITY? NO (X) YES ( )			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___ Project will require a discharge permit.	___	___	___
___ Project requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed project.	___	___	___
___ Project requires water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity.	___	___	___
___ Construction or operation causing any contamination of a public water supply system.	___	___	___
___ Project will adversely affect groundwater.	___	___	___
___ Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity.	___	___	___
___ Project requiring a facility that would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day.	___	___	___
___ Project will likely cause siltation or other discharge into an existing body of water to the extent that there will be an obvious visual contrast to natural conditions.	___	___	___

		1. SMALL TO MODERATE IMPACT	2. POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT	3. CAN IMPACT BE REDUCED BY PROJECT CHANGE
___ Other Impacts: _____		___	___	___
_____		___	___	___
6. WILL PROJECT ALTER DRAINAGE FLOW, PATTERNS OR SURFACE WATER RUNOFF?	NO (X) YES ( )			
Example that Would Apply to Column 2				
___ Project would impede flood water flows.		___	___	___
___ Project is likely to cause substantial erosion.		___	___	___
___ Project is incompatible with existing drainage patterns.		___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____		___	___	___
IMPACT ON AIR				
7. WILL PROJECT AFFECT AIR QUALITY?	NO (X) YES ( )			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2				
___ Project will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour.		___	___	___
___ Project will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour.		___	___	___
___ Project emission rate of all contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour.		___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____		___	___	___
_____		___	___	___
IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS				
8. WILL PROJECT AFFECT ANY THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES?	NO (X) YES ( )			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2				
___ Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near site or found on the site.		___	___	___
___ Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat.		___	___	___
___ Application of Pesticide or herbicide over more than twice a year other than for agricultural purposes.		___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____		___	___	___
_____		___	___	___
9. WILL PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECT NON-THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES?	NO (X) YES ( )			
Example that Would Apply to Column 2				
___ Project would substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.		___	___	___
___ Project requires the removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest (over 100 years in age) or other locally important vegetation.		___	___	___

		1. SMALL TO MODERATE IMPACT	2. POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT	3. CAN IMPACT BE REDUCED BY PROJECT CHANGE
	IMPACT ON VISUAL RESOURCE			
10.	WILL THE PROJECT AFFECT VIEWS, VISTAS OR THE VISUAL CHARACTER OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD OR COMMUNITY? ..... NO ( ) YES (X)			
	Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___	An incompatible visual affect caused by the introduction of new materials, colors and/or forms in contrast to the surrounding landscape. Bridge at Harper Falls.	X	___	___
___	A project easily visible, not easily screened, that is obviously different from others around it.	___	___	___
___	Project will result in the elimination or major screening of scenic views or vistas known to be important to the area.	___	___	___
___	Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
	_____	___	___	___
	IMPACT ON HISTORIC RESOURCES			
11.	WILL PROJECT IMPACT ANY SITE OR STRUCTURE OF HISTORIC, PRE-HISTORIC OR PALEONTOGICAL IMPORTANCE? ..... NO (X) YES ( )			
	Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___	Project occuring wholly or partially within or contiguous to any facility or site listed on the National Register of historic places.	___	___	___
___	Any impact to an archeological site or fossil bed located within the project site.	___	___	___
___	Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
	_____	___	___	___
	IMPACT ON OPEN SPACE & RECREATION			
12.	WILL THE PROJECT AFFECT THE QUANTITY OR QUALITY OF EXISTING OR FUTURE OPEN SPACES OR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES?..... NO (X) YES ( )			
	Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___	The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity.	___	___	___
___	A major reduction of an open space important to the community.	___	___	___
___	Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
	_____	___	___	___
	IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION			
13.	WILL THERE BE AN EFFECT TO EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS? ..... NO (X) YES ( )			
	Examples that Would Apply to Column 2			
___	Alteration of present patterns of movement of people and/or goods.	___	___	___
___	Project will result in severe traffic problems.	___	___	___
___	Other impacts: _____	___	___	___
	_____	___	___	___

	NO	YES	1 SMALL TO MODERATE IMPACT	2 POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT	3. CAN IMPACT BE REDUCED BY PROJECT CHANGE
IMPACT ON ENERGY					
14. WILL PROJECT AFFECT THE COMMUNITIES SOURCES OF FUEL OR ENERGY SUPPLY?	X				
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2					
___ Project causing greater than 5% increase in any form of energy used in municipality.			___	___	___
___ Project requiring the creation or extension of an energy transmission or supply system to serve more than 50 single or two family residences.			___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____			___	___	___
_____.			___	___	___
IMPACT ON NOISE					
15. WILL THERE BE OBJECTIONABLE ODORS, NOISE, GLARE, VIBRATION or ELECTRICAL DISTURBANCE AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT?	X				
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2					
___ Blasting within 1,500 feet of a hospital, school or other sensitive facility.			___	___	___
___ Odors will occur routinely (more than one hour per day).			___	___	___
___ Project will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures.			___	___	___
___ Project will remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen.			___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____			___	___	___
_____.			___	___	___
IMPACT ON HEALTH & HAZARDS					
16. WILL PROJECT AFFECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY?	X				
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2					
___ Project will cause a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (i.e. oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation, etc.) in the event of accident or upset conditions, or there will be a chronic low level discharge or emission.			___	___	___
___ Project that will result in the burial of "hazardous wastes" (i.e. toxic, poisonous, highly reactive, radioactive, irritating, infectious, etc., including wastes that are solid, semi-solid, liquid or contain gases.)			___	___	___
___ Storage facilities for one million or more gallons of liquified natural gas or other liquids.			___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____			___	___	___
_____.			___	___	___

		SMALL TO MODERATE IMPACT	POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT	CAN IMPACT BE REDUCED BY PROJECT CHANGE
IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD				
17. WILL PROJECT AFFECT THE CHARACTER OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY?	NO (X) YES ( )			
Example that Would Apply to Column 2				
___ The population of the City, Town or Village in which the project is located is likely to grow by more than 5% of resident human population.		___	___	___
___ The municipal budgets for capital expenditures or operating services will increase by more than 5% per year as a result of this project.		___	___	___
___ Will involve any permanent facility of a non-agricultural use in an agricultural district or remove prime agricultural lands from cultivation.		___	___	___
___ The project will replace or eliminate existing facilities, structures or areas of historic importance to the community.		___	___	___
___ Development will induce an influx of a particular age group with special needs.		___	___	___
___ Project will set an important precedent for future projects.		___	___	___
___ Project will relocate 15 or more employees in one or more businesses.		___	___	___
___ Other impacts: _____		___	___	___
_____		___	___	___
18. IS THERE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY CONCERNING THE PROJECT?	NO (X) YES ( )			
Examples that Would Apply to Column 2				
___ Either government or citizens of adjacent communities have expressed opposition or rejected the project or have not been contacted.		___	___	___
___ Objections to the project from within the community.		___	___	___

IF ANY ACTION IN PART 2 IS IDENTIFIED AS A POTENTIAL LARGE IMPACT OR IF YOU CANNOT DETERMINE THE MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT, PROCEED TO PART 3.

PORTIONS OF EAF COMPLETED FOR THIS PROJECT:

PART I X PART II X PART 3 ___

DETERMINATION

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF (Parts 1, 2 and 3) and considering both the magnitude and importance of each impact, it is reasonably determined that:

A. The project will result in no major impacts and, therefore, is one which may not cause significant damage to the environment. — PREPARE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION (X)

B. Although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in PART 3 have been included as part of the proposed project. — PREPARE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION ( )

C. The project will result in one or more major adverse impacts that cannot be reduced and may cause significant damage to the environment. — PREPARE POSITIVE DECLARATION PROCEED WITH EIS ( )

Date

John E Kramer 10/15/87

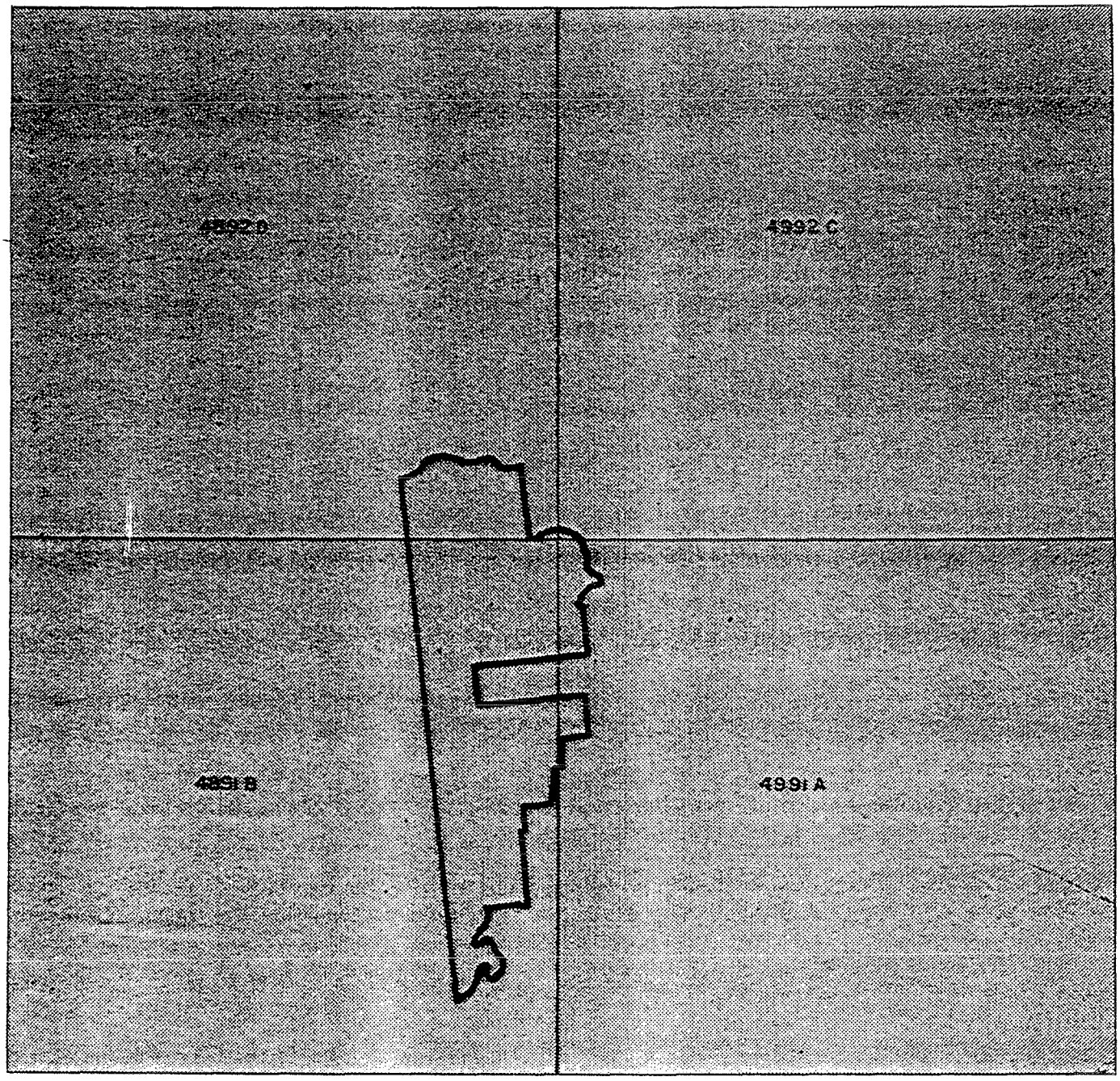
Signature of Preparer (if different from responsible officer)

Signature of Responsible Official in Lead Agency

W. G. Ives

Print or type name of responsible official in Lead Agency

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST BREEDING BIRD ATLAS KEY



0 ½ 1 mile

GRASS RIVER WILD FOREST

CONFIRMED NESTING BIRDS

Species	Block	Confirmation
Great Blue Heron	4992 C	UN
Common Merganser	4891 B	FL
Goshawk	4991 A	FY
Kildeer	4992 C	DD
Rock Dove	4992 C	UN
Belted Kingfisher	4991 A	UN
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4991 A	NY
Eastern Kingbird	4992 C	FL
Eastern Phoebe	4892 D	NY
	4991 A	UN
	4992 C	UN
Least Flycatcher	4991 A	FY
Tree Swallow	4891 B	ON
	4991 A	NY
Bank Swallow	4992 A	UN
Barn Swallow	4991 A	NE
	4992 C	NY
Cliff Swallow	4991 A	NY
	4992 C	NY
Blue Jay	4991 A	FY
Black-capped Chickadee	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FY
Gray Catbird	4891 B	FY
	4992 C	FY

Species	Block	Confirmation
American Robin	4991 A	FL
	4992 C	FY
Veery	4991 A	FY
Starling	4991 A	ON
Red-eyed Vireo	4991 A	FY
Nashville Warbler	4991 A	FY
Yellow Warbler	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FY
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FY
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4992 C	FL
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4891 B	NY
	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FL
Common Yellowthroat	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FY
Canada Warbler	4991 A	FY
Ameican Redstart	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FY
Redwinged Blackbird	4991 A	FY
	4992 C	FY
Common Grackle	4991 A	FY
Scarlet Tanger	4992 C	FL
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4991 A	FY
Chipping Sparrow	4991 A	FL

Species	Block	Confirmation
White-throated Sparrow	4991 A	FY
Song Sparrow	4991 A	FY

DD Distraction Display
UN Used Nest
FL Recently Fledged Young
ON Adult Entering or Leaving Occupied Nest
FY Adult with Food for Young
NE Nest and Eggs
NY Nest with Young

WILDLIFE HARVEST

TOWN OF CLARE

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Deer	125	105	177	225	210	192	224	281	344	337	351
Bear	1	0	3	0	5	2	1	0	5	3	3
Beaver	98	160	51	74	101	31	51	152	137	114	76
Bobcat	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	4	0	0
Coyote	*	7	1	3	3	1	1	5	3	1	0
Fisher	20	20	12	8	12	**	**	14	10	18	2
Otter	6	7	6	2	7	2	4	10	11	3	9

*No tagging required on coyotes.

**No open season on fisher.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

30 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617
May 1, 1984

To: Roger Hutchinson, Morgan Roderick, Doug Fletcher

From: Elmer B. Erwin

Subject: Lampson Falls Vehicular Use

Due to the heavy recreational use that this area receives, it is essential that we maintain accurate records of our administrative use of the Lampson Falls access road to support public acceptance of this use. I am asking you, therefore, to provide me with the following information whenever a person within your unit drives a vehicle on this road:

Date	User	Vehicle(s)	Purpose

ADMINISTRATIVE USE OF THE
LAMPSON'S MILL/LOGGING ROAD
May 1, 1984 - May 1, 1985

DATE	USER	VEHICLES	PURPOSE
05.29.84	Operations	1	Cleanup
05.31.84	Fish Management	2	Fish Stocking
06.26.84	Preserve Management	1	Retrieve Canoe
06.27.84	Forest Management	1	Maintenance Inspection
07.17.84	Operations	1	Bridge Repair
07.18.84	Operations	1	Bridge Repair
07.18.84	Youth Cons. Corps/YCC	3	Bridge Repair/Trail Maint.
07.19.84	Operations	1	Bridge Repair
07.19.84	YCC	2	Bridge Repair/Trail Maint.
07.23.84	YCC	2	Bridge Repair/Trail Maint.
07.24.84	YCC	2	Bridge Repair/Trail Maint.
07.25.84	Operations	1	Bridge Repair
07.30.84	Operations	1	Bridge Repair
08.13.84	YCC	3	Trail Maintenance
08.14.84	YCC	2	Trail Maintenance
11.19.84	Operations	1	Boundary Line Maintenance
11.20.84	Operations	1	Boundary Line Maintenance

HISTORY

The following account represents those facts presently known about the early history of this area:

In his article "Lampson Falls," Paul Jamieson discusses the early history of the Lampson Falls tract from Macomb's Purchase in 1791 to the sale by French nobility of a tract of which this forest was a part in 1846 and 1847. History of St. Lawrence County, New York confirms this exchange to S. Pratt and John L. Russell and states that between 1864 and 1868 William H. Sawyer, Leslie W. Russell, and Samuel C. Wead purchased the west half of the Township of Pierrepont of which this forest was a part. A. C. Rogerson's 1858 map of St. Lawrence County indicates a building at Lampson Falls labeled "Russell and Allen's Sawmill." This map also indicates another building north of the logging bridge and east of the river labeled "Russell and Allen." Harper Falls is not labeled as such, but the words "water power" denote the spot.

The 1865 St. Lawrence County Atlas labels a building at Lampson Falls "S. Mill and Shingle Mill" and a nearby building "J. S. Lamson." The Lampson Mill Road is shown as ending at the falls with an extension crossing the river above the falls and joining with the present Backus Road to lead to Russell. It is interesting to note that the deed description for the state-owned Malone Tract on the Backus Road refers to this road as "the road leading from Palmerville to Lamsons Mills."

On July 2, 1868, Thomas and Mary Allen and Samuel and Mary Weed conveyed a 100 acre parcel within this forest to David Judson. On April 4, 1874, David C. Judson conveyed the parcel to Caroline Lampson. The deed was witnessed by

Murray N. Ralph, Deputy Clerk. On February 21, 1900, Caroline Lamson conveyed the "Lampson Mill Property" with a sawmill to Murray N. Ralph.

The 1896 Blankman Map of St. Lawrence County also shows the Lampson's Mill Road crossing upstream from the falls and joining with the present Backus Road. Three buildings are shown at the falls, one labeled "SM" and another "M. Ralph."

A newspaper article datelined Russell and dated November 12, 1901 states the following:

> Hugh Kelly having used up his season's stock of logs has shut down the steam mill and now has a gang of men cutting timber on the Palmer tract between the north and middle branch of the Grass River.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public informational meeting was held on October 17, 1984 at 7:00 p.m. at the Canton Free Library. DEC employees present were: Elmer Erwin, Roger Hutchinson, and John Kramer. The following Canton residents were in attendance: Betty Peckham, Kermit Morgan, Paul Jamieson and Richard Zimmerman.

Suggested items for consideration in the development of the unit management plan were:

* develop a parking lot on the 400 Club lot
* develop the Harper Falls Road as a foot trail
* the lack of a parking lot on the Lampson's Mill Road should be addressed
* rebuild the foot bridge at Harper Falls
* extend the logging road system from the Lampson's Mill Road to connect with the Harper Falls Road and develop as a foot trail - try to develop it as a ski trail also
* include the nine ledges and cascades on the Main Branch of the Grass River from the logging bridge downstream in the scenic area description
* include canoeing as a public use
* it should be noted that the exposed bedrock on this area is Precambrian and that it tapers northwestward to an isthmus at the Thousand Islands and links the Adirondacks with the Canadian Shield
* also the large pothole approximately 150' west of Lampson's Falls is a noteworthy geological feature
* a history of the area may be found in an article by Paul Jamieson in the March/April 1980 issue of Adironack Life

* complete a foot trail system between the present logging road system on the Downerville State Forest, the Harper Falls Road and the present logging road leading north from the Lampson's Mill Road - make the trail system suitable for snowshoeing and skiing
* restrict vehicular access across the ford on the Downerville State Forest and across the logging bridge on the Grass River Wild Forest
* enforce camping restrictions, especially on the north shore of the pool at the base of Lampsons Falls
* encourage organizations to help in trail maintenance and improvement
* develop a wildlife inventory of the area
* acquire legal access to Lampsons Falls, if needed
* designate appropriate "fly fishing only" sections along both rivers