



New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Halcott Mountain Wild Forest

Unit Management Plan

Towns of Lexington and Halcott
Greene County

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PREFACE

The following plan provides information relative to existing natural and man-made resources, a historical perspective of the area, constraints and issues affecting the Unit, goals and objectives for future management, and a schedule of projects to fulfill these goals and objectives.

The plan represents management objectives and not a work plan of commitments. Actual accomplishments are contingent on sufficient staff and funds to carry them out. The goals and needs presented in this Unit Management Plan provide a framework upon which funding decisions can be made.

The Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan is a combined effort of the Unit Management Planning Team and the public. We appreciate the interest in and support for the plan and pledge to continue a working relationship with interested parties in carrying out management objectives over the life of the plan and in the plan's revisions when deemed necessary.

The plan is in keeping with the basic guidelines for the Wild Forest Classification set forth in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and the Forest Preserve Unit Management Planning and Procedure Handbook.

INTRODUCTION

This UMP has been developed pursuant to, and is consistent with, relevant provisions of the New York State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law, the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, and applicable Department rules and regulations.

The State land which is the subject of this UMP is Forest Preserve 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.

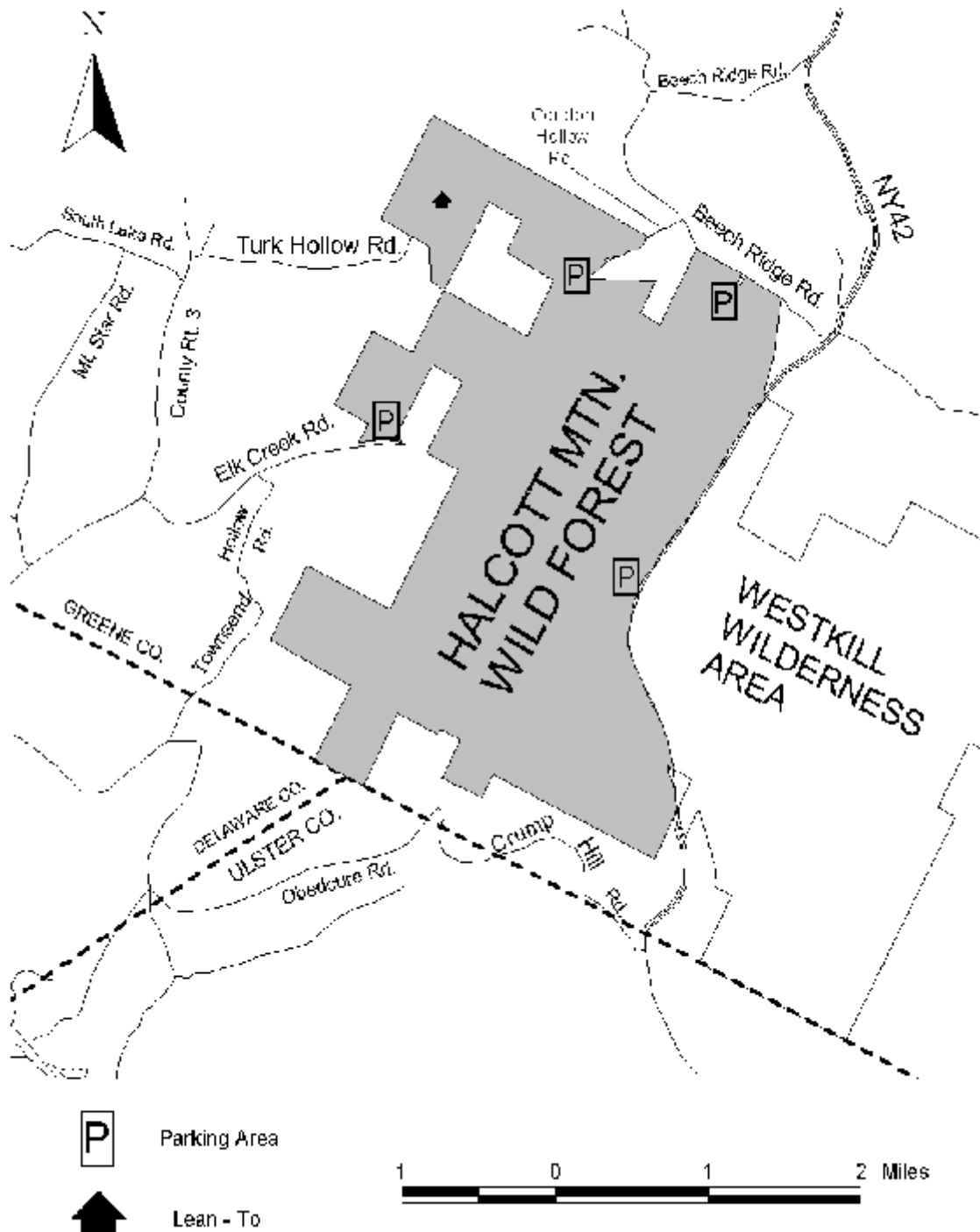
ECL §§3-0301(1)(d) and 9-0105(1) provide the Department with jurisdiction over Forest Preserve lands.

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (“Master Plan”) was adopted in 1985 by the Department as policy, establishing the overall general framework for the development and management of State lands in the Catskill Park, including those State lands which are the subject of this UMP.

The Master Plan places State land within the Catskill Park into the following four classifications: Wilderness, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, and State Administrative areas, and sets forth management guidelines for the lands falling within each classification. The Master Plan classifies the Halcott Mountain planning unit as Wild Forest. Guidelines are set forth for such matters as: structures and improvements; ranger stations; 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. By Department policy, actions by the State on lands covered by the Master Plan must be consistent with the provisions of the Master Plan.

Department policy, as set forth on page 14 of the Master Plan, also requires the Department to develop individual UMP’s for each unit of land under the Department’s jurisdiction which is classified in one of the four classifications set forth in the Master Plan. The UMP’s must conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Master Plan. Thus, UMP’s implement and apply the Master Plan’s general guidelines for particular areas of land within the Catskill Park.

Halcott Mountain Wild Forest



I. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Location

The Halcott Mountain Wild Forest is a designated management unit in the north-central part of the Catskill Park.

This Wild Forest is the most westerly unit of Forest Preserve in Greene County. It is located in the Towns of Lexington and Halcott and is bounded on the east by NYS Route 42 and the Deep Notch. On the south it is bounded by the Ulster County line and on the west by Beech Hill Road. Further north is the Vinegar Hill Wildlife Management Area and the Town of Lexington. The community of West Kill is situated just off the northeast corner of this Unit. On the east side of NYS Route 42 and the Deep Notch is the Westkill Mountain Wilderness Area.

There are approximately 4,760 acres in this mountainous Unit. The highest peak is Halcott Mountain at approximately 3541' above sea level. Three nameless peaks (all under 3500') form a ridge which traverses the Unit. Vly, Bearpen, and Roundtop, part of the same range, are mountains to the north and west of this Forest Preserve Unit but are still part of the same mountain range. To the south of Halcott and connected to this mountain range is Rose Mountain, part of the Shandaken Wild Forest Area. The only physical barrier that separates this Unit from the Westkill Mountain Wilderness Unit is the Deep Notch. If the gorge were not present, Halcott Mountain would be part of the Westkill Mountain Wilderness Unit.

Unit acreage by Town is as follows:

Town of Halcott - 531 +/- acres

Town of Lexington - 4,229 +/- acres

All water from this Unit drains into three New York City Reservoir systems. Tributaries from the

western slopes of this Unit drain into the East Branch of the Delaware River and Pepacton Reservoir. Tributaries from the northern slopes flow into Schoharie Creek and Schoharie Reservoir. The tributaries from the eastern and southern slopes drain into the Esopus Creek and Ashokan Reservoir.

Access

Access to the Unit, while not as limited as on some other Forest Preserve units, is achieved mainly through the parking lots found on NYS Route 42, Condon Hollow Road, Beech Ridge Road, and Elk Creek Road. There is abundant frontage of State land along these roads, which provides access to the western, northern, and eastern portions of the Unit. There is currently no southern access.

Description

General

This Unit is very steep and rocky. The majority of it is mountaintop with various draws and streams. Views from the ridges are beautiful. On a clear day one can see down to Belleayre Mountain to the south, and to Hunter Mountain to the northeast. Game and non-game species of mammals, birds, wildflowers, and many other types of flora and fauna are easily found in the Unit.

History of Unit (including acquisitions)

The Towns of Halcott and Lexington were created from a portion of the Town of Windham in 1851 and 1813, respectively, and were originally part of the Hardenburgh Patent, entirely within Great Lot 21. This land was not easily settled by farming families. The lower sections show evidence of human habitation and an attempt to make a living from the land. Stone foundations, rock walls, small apple orchards, and other signs

of habitation are easily found along the roads (current and abandoned) traversing this Unit. The lands in this Unit were purchased by the State in 17 separate transactions between 1898 and 1989.

II. INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE

Natural Resources

Physical

Geology

The Catskill Mountains were not formed in the same fashion as most mountain ranges. They weren't created by volcanic activity, faulting or folding, or metamorphism (change by heat and pressure). Rather, the Catskill Region is a plateau of sedimentary rock laid down in a shallow sea some 395 million years ago in the Paleozoic Era of geologic history.

After the uplifting of the Catskill Delta, glaciation occurred and created the characteristic U-shaped profile of the valleys. V-shaped valleys were created by stream erosion. This provided a new valley floor and left streams "hanging," producing many beautiful waterfalls.

Geologic history has produced waterfalls, cloves, steep valley and mountain slopes, rock cliffs and terraces and gentle hills. All add to the appealing natural features that constitute the Catskills.

Soils

The soils found in the Halcott Wild Forest belong to the Halcott-Vly association. These soils are reddish silt loams with a larger portion of fragmented rock. Most of these soils are very shallow and are extremely acid with low water capacity. They are subject to extreme erosion and rock outcroppings occur frequently.

Specific soil types for this area are:

EmD - Elka-Channery Loam

VhC - Vly-Halcott Complex

VhD - Vly-Halcott Complex

VhF - Vly-Halcott Complex
LiD - LewBeach & Willowemoc Channery Loam

(Specifications for these particular soil types can be found in Appendix A.)

Terrain

Terrain on this Unit is steep with rock outcroppings. Elevations range from approximately 1700' to just over 3500'. Over 50% of the acreage on this Unit is above 2700' in elevation.

Water

There are several small seasonal streams, but no protected streams located within this Unit.

Wetlands

There are no State protected wetlands located within this Unit.

Biological

Vegetation

This Wild Forest Unit is entirely forested with a wide diversity of plant species determined by soils, topography, climate, man's past use and influence, natural disturbance, and chance distribution of seeds and spores.

The forest cover on this Unit is mostly northern hardwoods (beech, birch, and maple). There are a few acres that were planted with Norway spruce and red pine. These plantations are located in the Elk Creek Valley, on the western side of the mountain, and in Condon Hollow, which is located on the northern end. Occasionally patches of red oak can be found and are usually located on the north side of any east-west drainage. Old growth hemlock can be found on the Deep Notch side of Halcott Mountain along one of the eastern drainages. The sugar maples located on the

mountain tops were severely defoliated by the forest tent caterpillar in the late 1980s and mortality is pervasive (evidenced by dead standing trees). Due to the defoliation, and increased heat and light reaching the forest floor, the Rubus species (blackberry and raspberry) have increased dramatically.

Wildlife

The Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit lies along the northwestern edge of the Catskill Peaks ecozone. The area consists mostly of rugged, forested slopes. The habitat is predominantly mature northern hardwood forest with some pine plantations interspersed, which provide habitat for a variety of forest species. In general species which require open land and early successional forest stages would be less abundant in the Unit than species which use the mature age forest. There has never been a formal inventory of the animal species for this area. Chambers, in his handbook, Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management, (1983), compiled an extensive list of wildlife presumed to live within the Catskill Peaks ecozone, and further qualified his list by categorizing species by forest type, forest stage, and special habitat needs. Based on these criteria, 49 species of mammals, 13 species of reptiles and 20 species of amphibians may be found in the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest (Appendix B).

Records compiled from 1980-1985 for The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State, (1988), list 71 bird species for the area which included Halcott Mountain Wild Forest (Appendix B).

The area receives most of its recreational use from hunters. White-tailed deer are an important component of the Unit's fauna. The DEC collects data from returned tags of successful hunters statewide to determine the number of deer which are taken each hunting season. The five-year average buck take for the Town of Lexington was 1.96 bucks/square mile. Because of the mix of

habitats and topography in the Town, the deer herd is not uniformly distributed. Fewer deer would be expected in the mature forest of the Unit than in the mixed open areas and forest land at lower elevations where they would find more understory browse.

The Unit is within the occupied portion of the Northern Catskill black bear range. Bears are regularly harvested by big game hunters on the Unit and adjacent lands. Overharvest is prevented by season timing and duration. Large tracts of State-owned land, such as the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit, are becoming more important to black bears as other areas become increasingly developed.

Fishers were transferred into the Catskills during a five year (1976-1980) trap and transfer program with the goal of establishing a self-perpetuating fisher population. Since the inception of a limited-bag trapping season in 1985, several fisher have been taken in adjacent Units.

Fisheries

The Unit is bounded or intersected by 12 watercourses totaling 7 miles of tributaries to the East Branch of the Delaware River, Esopus Creek in the Hudson River drainage, and the West Kill of the Mohawk River drainage. Unit waters may provide the spawning and nursery habitat for trout and may be inhabited by brown, brook, or rainbow trout, cutlips minnow, common shiner, blacknose dace, longnose dace, creek chub, white sucker, tessellated darter, and slimy sculpin.

Fishing in all waters of the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest area is regulated by statewide seasons, size and creel limits specified in 6NYCRR10 as authorized by §§11-1303, 11-1305, and 11-1307 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York.

Visual

Scenic Vistas - There are no formally established scenic vistas on this Unit. On the ridge tops there are some opportunities for views, but these are generally screened by the trees' foliage depending on the time of year. The best times of year to see these views are early spring, after the snow melts but before the leaves are out; or in the fall after leaf drop, but before the heavy snows.

Unique Areas

No known unique areas are listed for this Unit.

Critical Habitat

Several species listed as threatened or endangered for New York State (6NYCRR82.5) occur within the Unit. The Bald Eagle (threatened) probably frequents the general area year-round. They are, however, usually associated with aquatic environments. They nest on the nearby Pepacton, Schoharie, and Blenheim-Gilboa Reservoirs. The Red-Shouldered Hawk (threatened) may frequent the Unit.

The Eastern Blue Bird, a species of special concern, has been "confirmed" as a breeder either in or adjacent to the Unit by Breeding Bird Atlas personnel. Species of Special Concern are those which are not yet recognized as endangered or threatened, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York. No additional legal protection is derived from this listing. Other species of special concern which may occur in the Unit are so noted in Appendix B.

Wilderness

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan mandates that all Wild Forest land above 2700' in elevation is to be managed as Wilderness (with some exceptions). This Unit has approximately 50% of its acreage over 2700'.

Facilities and Systems

Man-Made Facilities:

Barriers - none

Pit Privy - at the Lean-to off of Turk Hollow Rd

Parking Lots - 4

- 1- Elk Creek Rd
- 2 - Condon Hollow Rd
- 3 - Beech Ridge Rd #2
- 4 - NYS Route 42

Bridges - none

Fireplaces - 4 (1 in front of lean-to, 3 in surrounding area)

Lean-to - 1 near Turk Hollow Rd

Roads - Public roads bordering on or giving public access to the Unit:

- 1- Elk Creek Rd
- 2 - Condon Hollow Rd
- 3 - NYS Route 42
- 4 - Turk Hollow Rd
- 5 - Beech Ridge Road

Trail Registers - none

Dams - none

Telephone and Electric and Water - NYC Aqueduct line, power line right-of-way NYS Power Authority

Maintained Scenic Vistas - none

Miles of Boundary - 20 miles

Trails - There are no marked trails on this Unit.

Cultural Resources

Visual & Aesthetics

The area around the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest can be characterized as mostly wooded, with some low density residential housing.

There is a vista noted on the NY/NJ Trail Conference map, but the views are the best in the spring before leafout, or fall after the leaves are gone. The ridge line is the best place for long distance viewing. The Unit can also be viewed from NYS Route 28 (particularly from Belleayre

Mountain), or from NYS Route 23A.

Zoning

The Halcott Mountain Wild Forest is designated as undeveloped forest land, and remains “Forever Wild” pursuant to Article XIV, § 1 of the New York State Constitution, and is classified as Wild Forest pursuant to the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.

Archeological

Although no known archaeological sites are located in the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest, it is possible that Native Americans used at least part of the property.

There are old homestead sites located on the lower slopes of the mountains. These are usually within sight of old stone walls and are indicated by old foundations and other artifacts present.

Economic Impact

While it is clear that the existence and use of the Forest Preserve has a substantial impact on the economy of the Catskill region, through tourism and recreation, it is difficult to quantify. On the other hand, the economic benefits directly conferred on the region by the payment of property taxes by the state can be clearly seen.

Visitors are attracted to the area for a variety of recreational and cultural uses. This benefits regional hotels, motels, campgrounds, groceries, service stations, restaurants, and sporting goods stores. Greene County resorts benefit from the mountain scenery as it provides attraction for visitors and a setting for their recreational enterprises. Private campgrounds and resorts adjacent to public lands also benefit from their proximity to public lands.

All wild or forest lands within the forest preserve are subject to taxation in accordance with Section 532(a) of the Real Property Tax Law.

The state pays the same taxes on unimproved forest lands as private landowners. State government landholdings are assessed by local government assessors. The tax rate that is established by each local government jurisdiction is applied to the assessment and determines the taxes on the parcel. The procedure is the same for private landowners and the property tax must be comparable to rates on similar private landholdings.

The State pays full property taxes based on bare land value.

The latest available figures are:

Town	Halcott Mtn Wild Forest Acreage	Total Taxes 1998 (\$)	Average Taxes/Acre 1998 (\$)
Halcott	531.1 acres +/-	8184.25	\$15.41
Lexington	4229.45 acres +/-	83954.58	\$19.85
Total	4760.55 acres +/-	92138.83	\$17.63

Land Use Impacts

Impact of State Ownership on Adjacent Private Lands

Private lands adjacent to the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit have generally become desirable properties because of their relative privacy and solitude. Public lands offer a “backyard” of open space on which no maintenance costs or taxes need be paid, but which offer access to the bordering landowner. There is a limited adverse impact from traffic, cars parking, and noise,

primarily during periods of high use (i.e. hunting season). Hunting season also may slightly increase the potential for conflict between private landowners and users of state lands.

Impact of Adjacent Private Lands on State Holdings

Fully developed private land adjacent to public lands may have a negative impact on these public lands. Problems of littering, trespass, boundary disputes, conflicts with public users, and dilution of recreational experience are all potential negative impacts. These potential impacts are minimal within this Unit, given the limited development in the surrounding area.

Public Use of Area

There is an old roadbed which runs from Condon Hollow to Turk Hollow, but there are no marked trails within the Unit. The lean-to in Turk Hollow is used most often during the big game hunting season. Public access occurs primarily from NYS Route 42 in the Deep Notch, where there is a small undesignated parking area. NYS Route 42 is confined by the steep mountains on both sides of the road, limiting parking opportunities on that portion of the Unit. No use data is currently available for the other parking lot access points on this Unit, but it is believed that they are used less frequently than the NYS Route 42 lot.

Capacity of the Resource to Withstand Use

This area currently receives a minimal amount of public use, and except for the parking area shows minimal damage from use. Occasional abuses occur in the parking lot, such as littering, and defacing of trees. Some additional signage, patrol and policing of this area would alleviate these impacts.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Past Management

Past management of Forest Preserve lands has been guided by the “forever wild” clause of Article XIV of the State Constitution (see Appendix E). Management activities have been concerned with fire control, protection of the forest, and fish & wildlife management (through seasonal bag and creel limits). Norway spruce and red pine plantations are present on the lower slopes from prior reforestation efforts. In 1985, the Department completed the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan which provided additional management guidelines as well as classifying Forest Preserve lands into four basic categories (Wilderness, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, and Administrative) (See appendix D).

Constraints and Issues Affecting the Planning Area

General Constraints

This Unit Management Plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, and the following laws, regulations and department policies:

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL):

Article 9:	Lands and Forests
Article 11:	Fish and Wildlife
Article 15:	Water Resources
Article 23:	Mineral Resources
Article 24:	Wetlands
Article 33:	Pesticides
Article 71:	Enforcement

New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) - Title 6:

Chapter I:	Fish and Wildlife
Chapter II:	Lands and Forests
Chapter III:	Air Resources
Chapter IV:	Quality Services

Chapter V: Resource Management Services

Chapter X: Division of Water Resources

Department Policies:

Acquisition
Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles on the Forest Preserve
Boundary Line Maintenance
Fish Species Management
Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities
Public Use
Temporary Revocable Permits
Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands

Division of Lands & Forests Policies:

Fireplaces and Fire rings
Foot bridges
Foot trails

Division of Lands & Forests Policies (cont'd):

Primitive camping sites
Road barriers
Sanitary facilities
Trailheads

Specific Constraints

Wildlife

Cutting or burning of trees or other vegetation to modify habitat is not permissible within the Forest Preserve under the “Forever Wild” constraints of Article XIV of the New York State Constitution.

Natural succession is allowed to progress toward ecological climax on Forest Preserve lands. Some wildlife populations will be smaller under these conditions than if habitat manipulation was allowed. The Forest Preserve concept provides a strategy of land management that does not favor any particular species, but rather places emphasis on the protection of natural processes.

Use of Motor Vehicles

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan prohibits public use of motor vehicles on the Forest Preserve except on roads marked for their specific use. This includes, but is not limited to: cars, trucks, ATVs, and snowmobiles. Snowmobiles may be used on designated snowmobile trails. There are no specifically marked trails on this Unit.

Goals and Objectives

Goals

- Protect the natural setting of the Wild Forest as defined by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.
- Provide diverse recreational opportunity to the public with safeguards to protect the resources from overuse, misuse, degradation and in keeping with applicable laws, rules, regulations and guidelines and environmental constraints.

Objectives

Land Management

- A. Maintain water quality in all 12 tributary stream systems and their respective watersheds in this Wild Forest.
- B. In order to consolidate Forest Preserve holdings, protect natural features, enhance access and recreational opportunities, and minimize administrative problems, acquire lands and conservation easements from willing sellers pursuant to the Open Space Plan.
- C. Maintain the present facilities, structures and systems of this Unit coordinating activities between the Divisions of the Department.
- D. Maintain the trailless mountaintop of the Unit

(Halcott Mountain, over 3500').

- E. Educate the public on the proper uses of the Forest Preserve.
- F. Pursue an active boundary line maintenance program to maintain the integrity of public ownership and discourage trespass on private lands adjacent to Forest Preserve holdings.
- G. Explore the possibility of extending trails through future acquisitions connecting the Westkill Wilderness/Halcott/Bearpen as an extension of the Devil's Path.

Wildlife Management

- A. Maintain all native wildlife species, primarily deer, at levels compatible with their natural environment.
- B. Maintain hunting, trapping and other wildlife-related recreational activities.

Fisheries Management

No special fisheries management actions are needed or warranted at this time.

Public Use Management

- A. Monitor the intensity, compatibility and impacts of permitted uses within the Unit. Take appropriate action to prevent overuse and degradation of the area particularly with respect to the lean-to. If there is overuse of the lean-to and/or the area around it, a decision will be made as to whether to move the lean-to or remove it altogether.
- B. Educate users regarding appropriate ways of appreciating and enjoying public lands and scenic and unique resources, to prevent abuse of these important resources.

C. When education is unsuccessful, control adverse and illegal uses through law enforcement.

D. Maintain appropriate recreational facilities to facilitate access to, and enjoyment of, the Unit lands. This will be accomplished with existing staff and volunteers.

E. Provide for search and rescue operations as needed.

Water Quality Management

Protect the springs within the Unit, as they impact the aquatic communities and provide filterable water to hikers and campers. If funding becomes available, develop springs within the Unit. (See Appendix C for spring development plans).

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Facilities Development and/or Removal

~ Brush out and mark 2.2-mile trail from Condon Hollow Road parking lot, and along the old roadbed to the Turk Hollow lean-to \$1000 (This project would be contingent on the acquisition of the inholding in the northwest section of the Unit).

~ Brush out and mark 2.1-mile trail from NYS Route 42 parking lot, across two streams to be forded by foot bridge or stepping stones, and along the old town roadbed (Pine Hill Road). (This trail will be made into a loop trail) \$1000

~ Construct 6-car parking lot (60 feet x 24 feet) on Condon Hollow Road.
 Clear trees and grade lot \$500
 Install culvert \$500
 Deliver, spread, grade
 stone (25 yards) \$1000
 Deliver place rock bumpers \$300
 Install sign \$200

TOTAL: \$2500

~ Construct 4-car parking lot just over Forest Preserve boundary, past town maintained portion of Turk Hollow Road (foot access for lean-to).

Clear trees and grade lot.....\$2500
 Deliver, spread, grade stone \$1000
 Install gate \$500
 Install sign \$200
 TOTAL \$4200

~ Construct 5-car parking lot on Beech Ridge Road at the power line right-of-way(with approval from the utility company).

Grade lot.....\$500
 Deliver, spread, grade stone.....\$1000
 I n s t a l l
 gate.....\$500
 Install sign.....\$200

TOTAL.....\$2200

~ Upgrade Turk Hollow Road from end of town maintained portion to parking lot.

Install culverts \$1000
 Grade roadbed \$2500
 TOTAL \$3500

~ As a future consideration, if the required land is acquired, brush out and mark an extension of the Devil’s Path to connect the Westkill Wilderness and extend through the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest, through Vly and Bearpen Mountains. Length and route to be determined at a later date. No cost estimate at this time.

Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities

~ Install signage on Turk Hollow Road - Forest Preserve Access \$200

~ Install signage on Elk Creek Road - Forest Preserve Access (with possible directional arrow), and Public Access over Private Land - Foot Traffic Only \$400

~ Maintain parking lot on Elk Creek Road (Similar to Condon Hollow Road lot) \$2500

~ Maintain Turk Hollow Road lean-to
Replace roof \$1000
Stain Lean-to \$250
Repair fireplace at lean-to \$100
TOTAL \$1350

~ Parking lot on NYS Route 42
Graded, shaled, boulders \$2000
Install sign \$500
TOTAL \$2200
(This project may be completed in cooperation with the NYS Department of Transportation. This parking area is on the State Route 42 right-of-way).

~ Brush out existing Beech Ridge Road parking lot, add boulders to eliminate access from private property \$200

~ Litter Pickup - inmate labor

~ Trash in the saddle between Condon Hollow Road and Turk Hollow Road includes large-sized appliances and remains of a car. These items can be removed by Department employees using appropriate vehicles pursuant to Commissioner Policy #17, Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve.

~ Boundary Line Maintenance - 20 miles on a seven year rotational schedule.

~ Acquire by fee title or easement available parcels of private land that will help fulfill the management objectives of providing access to and consolidation of Forest Preserve lands.

Notes:

1. All budget items are estimated cost only and are subject to budgetary constraints and limitations.
2. All construction projects will incorporate the use

of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- 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; and
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow.

Public Use Management and Controls

~ Install trail register at the Turk Hollow lean-to to monitor use by the public.

~ Install trailhead registers for two proposed trails

~ Continue Forest Ranger patrols to educate and control the actions of users.

Fish and Wildlife

Manage and protect wildlife species through enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law and pertinent rules and regulations.

Because of constraints on traditional habitat management, active management of wildlife populations will be accomplished primarily through hunting and trapping regulations developed for broad Wildlife Management Units.

Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

There are no watercourses in this Unit classified under the provisions of Title 15, Article 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law (Wild, Scenic

and Recreational Rivers Act).

Fire Management

The DEC is charged with providing protection from fire on all lands under its jurisdiction, pursuant to the provisions of Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Department policy is to extinguish all wild fires regardless of land classification. This policy will dictate the fire management program for this Unit.

Administrative

Staffing

In order to implement this plan, there are a specific number of staffing hours that are necessary. This time can come from current staff, out-sourcing (contracts), volunteers, or staff reassignment.

The Facilities Development and Maintenance sections in this Unit Management Plan address specific monetary budgets for materials and labor.

Additional staff time required is as follows:

- Facilities Development: approximately 100 hours of staff time (to include project application development and implementation).
- Enforcement and Patrol: approximately 100 hours of staff time (this can include the Assistant Forest Ranger program). This time would be needed when the trails are marked and maintained.
- Maintenance : approximately 360 hours (including but not limited to boundary lines, parking lots, trails, lean-to, and refuse removal). Volunteers should be utilized for the trail maintenance work whenever feasible, with DEC supervision.

Budgeting

Certain long term expenses such as Forest Ranger and Environmental Conservation Officer patrol are an integral part of the budget. Maintenance funds will be provided for through the annual appropriation and allocation process.

Anticipated projects listed within this plan may be paid for either from the annual allocation and appropriation (the annual work plan - usually maintenance and repairs), or from special projects funding from sources yet to be determined. As always, project completion is contingent on adequate funding.

Education

Develop a brochure describing the Unit, including a map and public use restrictions, sanitation and low-impact camping techniques. This brochure should be suitable for public distribution and posting at information boards/kiosks.

Fully utilize any information board/kiosk to dispense information about this Unit.

These actions are supplemental to the one-on-one interaction of the Forest Rangers and Assistant Forest Rangers with the public.

Land Acquisition

Parking and access on this Unit are somewhat limited. No public access exists on the south side. This situation could be remedied by either State acquisition of an easement or land in fee. This would also improve the parking situation. Access on the west side could be improved by creating a parking lot. There is a large private in-holding in the northwest corner of the Unit, which would be an appropriate site for an additional parking lot. Obtaining any of these would be desirable, but their acquisition would be contingent upon funding,

a willing seller, and a clear title.

Relationship of Unit to Other Forest Preserve and Adjacent Areas

The Westkill Wilderness is adjacent to the Halcott Unit on the east. The Vinegar Hill Wildlife Management Area is north of, but not directly adjacent to, the Halcott Mountain Unit, and is administered by the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. Delaware-Greene Reforestation Area #1 lies to the northwest of this Unit. Reforestation Areas are actively managed for multiple uses including timber production. All parcels directly adjacent to the Unit (with the exception of the Westkill Wilderness) are privately owned.

PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

All projects are contingent upon adequate funding from the department. A schedule of projects in priority order follows:

Year 2001:

1. Install gate on Turk Hollow Road, just past the Forest Preserve boundary.
2. Install signage on Elk Creek Road.
3. Install signage on Turk Hollow Road.
4. Trail construction - NYS Rte 42 lot along old Pine Hill Road (approx. 2.1 miles). Possible loop trail construction.

Year 2002:

5. Parking lot maintenance - NYS Rte 42.
6. Parking lot maintenance - Elk Creek Rd.
7. Parking lot maintenance - Beech Ridge Rd.
8. Lean-to maintenance.

Year 2003:

9. Parking lot construction - Condon Hollow Road
10. Parking lot construction - Turk Hollow Road
11. Parking lot construction - Beech Ridge Road

Year 2004:

12. Lean-to maintenance.

Year 2005:

Any previously not completed projects.

Any projects not completed during their anticipated year will get pushed to the next year.

Projects contingent on certain land acquisitions:

13. Trail construction - Condon Hollow Road to Turk Hollow Road (approx. 2.2 miles)
14. Trail construction - connection to Westkill Wilderness and Bearpen/Vly Mountains. To be determined when circumstances permit.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Chambers, Robert E. Integrating Timber and Wildlife management, 1983.

Department of Environmental Conservation

- Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, 1988.
- Dry Brook Ridge Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, 1988.
- Hunter Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, 1995.
- Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, 1985.
- Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan, 1999.

Salvato, Joseph A. Environmental Sanitation, John Wiley and Sons, 1958.

Titus, Robert. The Catskills: A Geological Guide, 1993.

United State Department of Agriculture. Soil Survey of Greene County, NY, 1993.

APPENDIX A

Soil Maps and Type Descriptions

(From: Soil Survey of Greene County, United State Department of Agriculture, 1993.)

APPENDIX B

Wildlife

(From: Integrating Timber and Wildlife management, by Robert E. Chambers, 1983.)

APPENDIX C

Springs Development and Maintenance

(From: Environmental Sanitation, by Joseph A. Salvato, John Wiley and Sons, 1958.)

APPENDIX D

Catskill Park State Land Master Plan: Definition, Management
Guidelines, and Designation of Wild Forest Areas

APPENDIX E

Article XIV, Section 1, NYS Constitution

Article XIV New York State Constitution

***Section 1.* 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 . . .**

Nothing herein contained shall prevent the state from constructing, completing and maintaining any highway heretofore specifically authorized by constitutional amendment, . . .

. . . nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty-five miles of ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, provided that no more than five miles of such trails shall be in excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the north, east and northwest slopes of Whiteface Mountain in Essex County,

. . . nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty-five miles of ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, provided that no more than two miles of such trails shall be in excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the slopes of Belleayre Mountain in Ulster and Delaware counties . . . (1947, further amended 1987)

. . . and not more than forty miles of ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, provided that no more than eight miles of such trails shall be in excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the slopes of Gore and Pete Gay mountains in Warren

County,

. . . nor from relocating, reconstructing and maintaining a total of not more than fifty miles of existing state highways for the purpose of eliminating the hazards of dangerous curves and grades, provided a total of no more than four hundred acres of forest preserve land shall be used for such purpose and that no single relocated portion of any highway shall exceed one mile in length . . . (1957)

***Section 3.2.* As to any other lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve referred to in section one of this article, but outside the Adirondack and Catskill parks as now fixed by law, and consisting in any case of not more than one hundred contiguous acres entirely separated from any other portion of the forest preserve, the legislature may by appropriate legislation, notwithstanding the provisions of section one of this article, authorize: (a) the dedication thereof for the practice of forest or wildlife conservation; or (b) the use thereof for public recreational or other state purposes or the sale, exchange or other disposition thereof; provided, however, that all moneys derived from the sale or other disposition of any of such lands shall be paid into a special fund of the treasury and be expended only for the acquisition of additional lands for such forest preserve within either such Adirondack or Catskill park. (Formerly § 16 of Art. 7. Renumbered and amended by Constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938; further amended by vote of the people November 5, 1957; November 6, 1973.)**

APPENDIX F

SEQRA -Long Environmental Assessment Form

617.20
Appendix A
State Environmental Quality Review
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Purpose: The full EAF is designed to help applicants and agencies determine, in an orderly manner, whether a project or action may be significant. The question of whether an action may be significant is not always easy to answer. Frequently, there are aspects of a project that are subjective or unmeasurable. It is also understood that those who determine significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment or may not be technically expert in environmental analysis. In addition, many who have knowledge in one particular area may not be aware of the broader concerns affecting the question of significance.

The full EAF is intended to provide a method whereby applicants and agencies can be assured that the determination process has been orderly, comprehensive in nature, yet flexible enough to allow introduction of information to fit a project or action.

Full EAF Components: The full EAF is comprised of three parts:

- Part 1:** Provides objective data and information about a given project and its site. By identifying basic project data, it assists a reviewer in the analysis that takes place in Parts 2 and 3.
- Part 2:** Focuses on identifying the range of possible impacts that may occur from a project or action. It provides guidance as to whether an impact is likely to be considered small to moderate or whether it is a potentially-large impact. The form also identifies whether an impact can be mitigated or reduced.
- Part 3:** If any impact in Part 2 is identified as potentially-large, then Part 3 is used to evaluate whether or not the impact is actually important.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE -- Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

Identify the Portions of EAF completed for this project:

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF (Parts 1 and 2 and 3 if appropriate), and any other supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each impact, it is reasonably determined by the lead agency that:

- A. The project will not result in any large and important impact(s) and, therefore, is one which **will not** have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a negative declaration will be prepared.**
- B. Although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect for this Unlisted Action because the mitigation measures described in PART 3 have been required, therefore **a CONDITIONED negative declaration will be prepared.***
- C. The project may result in one or more large and important impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a positive declaration will be prepared.**

*A Conditioned Negative Declaration is only valid for Unlisted Actions

Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

Name of Action

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Name of Lead Agency

Peter Innes

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Regional Forester

Title of Responsible Officer

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (If different from responsible officer)

Date

PART 1--PROJECT INFORMATION
Prepared by Project Sponsor

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 form, Parts A through E. 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 full 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 ACTION Application of the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan		
LOCATION OF ACTION (INCLUDE STREET ADDRESS, MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY) Halcott Mountain Wild Forest, Greene County, Towns of Lexington and Halcott		
NAME OF APPLICANT/SPONSOR NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation - Region 4		BUSINESS TELEPHONE (607)652-7365
ADDRESS Route 10 HCR1 Box 3A		
CITY/PO Stamford	STATE NY	ZIP CODE 12167
NAME OF OWNER (IF DIFFERENT)		BUSINESS TELEPHONE ()
ADDRESS		
CITY/PO	STATE	ZIP CODE
DESCRIPTION OF ACTION Implementation of Unit Management Plan on the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest, located in Greene County, towns of Lexington and Halcott within the Catskill Park. These lands are designated as Forest Preserve. Refer to the plan for a review of the proposed management actions.		

Please Complete Each Question--Indicate N.A. if not applicable

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas.

1. Present Land Use: Urban Industrial Commercial Residential (suburban) Rural (non-farm)
 Forest Agriculture Other _____

2. Total acreage of project area: <u>4760</u> acres.	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	_____ acres	_____ acres
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Forested	<u>4760</u> acres	<u>4759.5</u> acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Wetland(Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Water Surface Area	_____ acres	_____ acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	_____ acres	_____ acres
Other (Indicate type) <u>Trails & parking lots</u>	_____ acres	<u>0.5</u> acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? **Elka-Channery Loam, Vly-Halcott Complex, Lewbeach & Willemoc Chennery Loam**

- a. Soil drainage: Well drained _____ % of site Moderately well drained 10 % of site.
 Poorly drained 90 % of site
- b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System? NA Acres (see 1NYCRR 370).

4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site? Yes No
- a. What is depth to bedrock? (in feet) 0-4 feet
5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes: 0-10% 1 % 10-15% 4 %

15% or greater 95 %

6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places? YES NO
7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks? YES NO
8. What is the depth of the water table? 0-6 (in feet)
9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer? YES NO
10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? YES NO
11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered? YES NO
According to: _____
Identify each species: _____
12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations?) YES NO
Describe: _____
13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area? YES NO
If yes, explain: Recreation: hunting, hiking, camping
14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community? YES NO
15. Streams within or contiguous to project area: 12 tributary streams draining the area
a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary Esopus Creek in the Hudson River watershed, East Branch of the Delaware River, West Kill of the Mohawk River watershed.
16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:
a. Name: None
b. Size (in acres): _____
17. Is the site served by existing public utilities? YES NO
a. If YES, does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection? YES NO
b. If YES, will improvements be necessary to allow connection? YES NO
18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? YES NO
19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617? YES NO
20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes? YES NO

B. Project Description

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).
- a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor 4760 acres.
- b. Project acreage to be developed: 0 acres initially; 0.5 acres acres ultimately.
- c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped 4759.5 acres.
- d. Length of project, in miles: 4.3 +/- (if appropriate)
- e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed NA %
- f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing _____; proposed _____
- g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour 0 (upon completion of project)?
- h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:
- | | One Family | Two Family | Multiple Family | Condominium |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Initially | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Ultimately | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

- I. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure _____ height; _____ width; _____ length.
- J. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? NA ft.
2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site? 0.25 +/- tons/cubic yards.
3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed? N/A YES NO
- a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed? _____
- b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? YES NO
- c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? YES NO
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site? 0.25 acres.
5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project? YES NO
6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction _____ months, (including demolition)
7. If multi-phased:
- a. Total number of phases anticipated 5 (number)
- b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1 August month 2000 year, (including demolition)
- c. Approximate completion date of final phase July month 2005 year.
- d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases? YES NO
8. Will blasting occur during construction YES NO
9. Number of jobs generated: during construction 0; 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 NO
If yes, explain: _____
12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved? YES NO
- a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount _____
- b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged _____
13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? Type _____ YES NO
14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? YES NO
If yes, explain: _____
15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain? YES NO
16. Will the project generate solid waste? YES NO
- a. If yes, what is the amount per month _____ tons
- b. If yes, will an existing solid waste 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
- e. If yes, explain: _____
17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste? YES NO
- a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal? _____ tons/month.
- b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life? _____ years.
18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides? YES NO
19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)? YES NO
20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels? YES NO
21. Will project result in an increase in energy use? YES NO
If yes, indicate type(s) _____
22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity NA gallons/minute.
23. Total anticipated water usage per day NA gallons/day.
24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding? YES NO
If yes, explain: New York State annual appropriation and allocation

25. Approvals Required:

			TYPE	SUBMITTAL DATE
City, Town, Village Board	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____
City, Town, Village Planning Board	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____
City, Town Zoning Board	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____
City, County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____
Other Local Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____
Other Regional Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____
State Agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> No	NYS DEC Commis. - Plan Appl	_____
Federal Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____

C. Zoning and Planning Information

1. Does proposed action involve a planning or zoning decision? YES NO

If Yes, indicate decision required:

- Zoning amendment
 Zoning variance
 New/revision of master plan
 Subdivision
 Site plan
 Special use permit
 Resource management plan
 Other _____

2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site? Wild Forest

3. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the present zoning?

Wild Forest

4. What is the proposed zoning of the site? Wild Forest

5. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the proposed zoning?

Wild Forest

6. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans? YES NO

7. What are the predominant land use(s) and zoning classifications within a ¼ mile radius of proposed action?

Rural, and rural residential

8. Is the proposed action compatible with adjoining/surrounding land uses with a ¼ mile? YES NO

9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? NA

a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? _____

10. Will proposed action require any authorization(s) for the formation of sewer or water districts? YES NO

11. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection)? YES NO

a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand? YES NO

12. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels? YES NO

a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic. YES NO

D. 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 your proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which you propose to mitigate or avoid them.

E. Verification

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name Barbara L Richardson Date _____

Signature _____ Title Senior Forester

PART 2 - PROJECT IMPACTS AND THEIR MAGNITUDE

Responsibility of Lead Agency

General Information (Read Carefully)

- ! In completing the form the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my responses and determinations been **reasonable?** The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst.
- ! The **Examples** provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of impacts 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 appropriate for a Potential Large Impact response, thus requiring evaluation in Part 3.
- ! The impacts of each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples are illustrative and 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.
- ! In identifying impacts, consider long term, short term and cumulative effects.

Instructions (Read carefully)

- a. Answer each of the 20 questions in PART 2. Answer **Yes** if there will be **any** impact.
- 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. Identifying that an Impact will be potentially large (column 2) does not mean that it is also necessarily **significant**. Any large impact must be evaluated in PART 3 to determine significance. Identifying an impact in column 2 simply asks that it be looked at further.
- e. If reviewer has doubt about size of the impact then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.
- f. If a potentially large impact checked in column 2 can be mitigated by change(s) in the project to a small to moderate impact, also check the **Yes** box in column 3. A **No** response indicates that such a reduction is not possible. This must be explained in Part 3.

IMPACT ON LAND

1. Will the Proposed Action result in a physical NO YES change to the project site?

Examples that would apply to column 2

- c 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%.
- c Construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet.
- c Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles.
- c Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface.

1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

<input type="checkbox"/> Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e., rock or soil) per year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction or expansion of a sanitary landfill.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction in a designated floodway.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts Construction of 3 parking lots and 4.3 miles of trail requiring disturbance and clearing of approx 0.5 acre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Specific land forms: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

	1	2	3	
	Small to Moderate Impact	Potential Large Impact	Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	

IMPACT ON WATER

3. Will Proposed Action affect any water body designated as protected? (Under Articles 15, 24, 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law, ECL)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> Developable area of site contains a protected water body.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of utility distribution facilities through a protected water body.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

4. Will Proposed Action affect any non-protected existing or new body of water?				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction of a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

5. Will Proposed Action affect surface or groundwater quality or quantity?				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will require a discharge permit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed (project) action.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action requires water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction or operation causing any contamination of a water supply system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will adversely affect groundwater.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

	1	2	3	
	Small to Moderate Impact	Potential Large Impact	Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will require the storage of petroleum or chemical products greater than 1,100 gallons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will allow residential uses in areas without water and/or sewer services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action locates commercial and/or industrial uses which may require new or expansion of existing waste treatment and/or storage facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Will Proposed Action alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action would change flood water flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action may cause substantial erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will allow development in a designated floodway.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON AIR				
7. Will Proposed Action affect air quality? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Emission rate of total contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will allow an increase in the amount of land committed to industrial use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Action will allow an increase in the density of industrial development within existing industrial areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS				
8. Will Proposed Action affect any threatened or endangered species? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near the site, or found on the site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species?				

1	2	3	
Small to Moderate Impact	Potential Large Impact	Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH			
18. Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD			
19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- Examples** that would apply to column 2
- C Blasting within 1,500 feet of a hospital, school or other sensitive facility.
 - C Odors will occur routinely (more than one hour per day).
 - C Proposed Action will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures.
 - C Proposed Action will remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen.
 - C Other impacts Temporary noise during parking lot construction

- IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH**
18. Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety? NO YES
- Examples** that would apply to column 2
- C Proposed Action may 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 may be a chronic low level discharge or emission.
 - C Proposed Action may result in the burial of "hazardous wastes" in any form (i.e. toxic, poisonous, highly reactive, radioactive, irritating, infectious, etc.)
 - C Storage facilities for one million or more gallons of liquefied natural gas or other flammable liquids.
 - C Proposed Action may result in the excavation or other disturbance within 2,000 feet of a site used for the disposal of solid or hazardous waste.
 - C Other impacts _____

- IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD**
19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community? NO YES
- Examples** that would apply to column 2
- C The permanent population of the city, town or village in which the project is located is likely to grow by more than 5%.
 - C The municipal budget for capital expenditures or operating services will increase by more than 5% per year as a result of this project.
 - C Proposed Action will conflict with officially adopted plans or goals.
 - C Proposed Action will cause a change in the density of land use.
 - C Proposed Action will replace or eliminate existing facilities, structures or areas of historic importance to the community.
 - C Development will create a demand for additional community services (e.g. schools, police and fire, etc.)
 - C Proposed Action will set an important precedent for future projects.
 - C Proposed Action will create or eliminate employment.
 - C Other impacts _____

1	2	3
Small to Moderate Impact	Potential Large Impact	Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change

20. Is there, or is there likely to be, public controversy related to potential adverse environment impacts?

NO YES

**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**

APPENDIX G

SEQR - Negative Declaration

**State Environmental Quality Review
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance**

Identifying # 2001-PL/FP-4-28

Project Number _____

Date 8-1-01

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 Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type I
Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration: Yes
 No

Description of Action: The plan identifies the various natural and man-made resources located throughout the 4,760-acre Halcott Mountain Wild Forest, located within the Catskill Forest Preserve. It recognizes constraints and issues, and develops goals and objectives which will govern future management and protection of the unit over the five year period following its adoption by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. Specific actions (projects) are proposed to fulfill these goals and objectives. Actions include: maintaining two six-car parking lots; maintaining one lean-to and associated pit privy and fireplaces; maintaining 20 miles of boundary line; removing trash and an abandoned vehicle; installing six signs; installing 3 trail registers; constructing one four-car parking lot, one five-car parking lot, and one six-car parking lot; installing two gates; installing culverts and grading approximately 200 feet of gravel road; brushing and marking 4.3 miles of foot trail; and acquisition of inholding property.

Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

Greene County, Towns of Lexington and Halcott. (see map, page 4).

Reasons Supporting This Determination: (See 617.6(g) for requirements of this determination; see 617.6(h) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

The unit will be managed in accordance with the Wild Forest guidelines established in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan as well as constraints set forth in Article XIV of the NYS Constitution and Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Management activities proposed in the plan are covered under the Final Environmental Impact Statements from the Forest Preserve Interior Recreation Program (11-9-91) and the plan for Conserving Open Space in New York State (6-19-92).

Commissioner's Organization & Delegation Memo 84-06 regarding tree cutting on Forest Preserve lands shall be strictly adhered to when constructing new facilities or modifying existing facilities. Current projects are mostly maintenance oriented and focus on the "Forest Preserve Access" parking lots. Construction of new parking lots and trails will be carried out in accordance with guidelines established in the Division of Operations Handbook for building trails, parking areas, bridges and lean-tos. Proposed parking areas have been sited in such a manner that their construction will not cause significant alteration to drainage or surface flow of water, and will disturb less than one quarter-acre of land. The Department will remove the least amount of vegetation necessary to construct the parking lots.

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Archaeological Inventory Map shows no known historic or archaeological site within the boundaries of the unit. Prior to site disturbance on any project, an updated archaeological and historic review will be sought.

Proposed projects will have no significant effects on known habitat of any Threatened or Endangered species. Updated reviews of habitat data will be sought in each instance of new construction before projects are initiated.

Water and erosion control devices such as water bars, culverts and ditches will be used in all new trail construction to mitigate soil erosion. Trails will be sited such that risk of erosion due to slope is minimized.

If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Barbara Richardson, Senior Forester
Address: NYSDEC - Lands & Forests, Route 10 HCR1 Box 3A, Stamford, NY 12167
Telephone Number: (607) 652-3694

For Type I Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy 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) None

APPENDIX H

Public Comment and Responses by the Department

**COMMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING THE HALCOTT WILD FOREST DRAFT UNIT
MANAGEMENT PLAN DURING
PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING ON 10/26/2000
AND
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDING 12/1/2000**

Maps

Comment: Draft Unit Management Plan lacked a Facilities map.

Department response: This was inadvertently omitted in the draft. A complete facilities map will be included with the final version of the plan.

Parking

Comment: Proposals all seem good. Parking areas should be stabilized with gravel, or seed and mulch.

Comment: Clearings should be kept to the minimum necessary to complete the project.

Comment: If possible, there should be parking on Upper Birch Creek Road, Elk Creek Road, and Turks Hollow Road (Greene County).

Comment: Who will plow up to the parking lot when it's constructed?

Comment: The Beech Ridge Road parking lot seems to be under-utilized, vehicles are often parked down the road at the power line right-of-way.

Department response: There are currently four parking areas for the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest: State Route 42, Beech Ridge Road, Condon Hollow Road, and Elk Creek Road. A proposal adds one at the end of Turk Hollow Road. Upper Birch Creek Road is not adjacent to this Unit. Clearings will be kept to a minimum and graded and stabilized. DEC will not plow up to the Turk Hollow parking lot when it's constructed (The Town of Halcott may want to take responsibility for it. DEC will ask town officials about this issue). A parking lot at the power line right-of-way has been added to the plan with appropriate signage.

Litter

Comment: Litter pickup should include the remains of a car and several old appliances at the ridge top where Turk Hollow Road and Condon Hollow Road meet.

Department response: The Department agrees that the trash should be removed from this location and will include it with the Operations unit work plan for the next fiscal year.

Non-conforming structures

Comment: There is a non-conforming structure on the property, referenced on page 277 in the book "Hiking the Catskills" by MacAllister and Ochman.

Department response: The author states that this building was on private land on the south side of the mountain, probably somewhere between Gooding Road and Upper Birch Creek Road.

Summit canisters

Comment: Retain the canister at the summit of Halcott Mountain, change it to a less intrusive color.

Department response: The canister will remain as it now exists. While the canister may seem obtrusive, its color allows hikers to find it easily. This aids in reducing human impacts on the site, as it lessens hikers' searching around the summit to find the canister.

Devil's Path extension

Comment: The Devil's Path is traditionally a ridge top trail over mountain summits. Thus, the proposal to extend it to Halcott and beyond to Vly and Bearpen, as land is purchased, implied that the extension will cross North Dome, Sherill, Halcott, Vly and Bearpen, all five of which are now trail less. Such a trail over presently trail less summits should not be proposed, much less built. All these areas are largely trail less, so many people would like them kept that way.

Department response: This proposal is heavily contingent on land acquisitions in the area between Halcott and Delaware-Greene Reforestation Area # 1. If these are acquired, an extension of the Devil's Path could be proposed. The trail would be laid out to conform with all Department policies, and Rules & Regulations. While the existing Devil's Path is a ridge line oriented trail, the final route of the extension could be laid out such that it would not alter the trail-less nature of currently trail-less peaks.

Newly marked trails

Comment: No objection to marking a trail using abandoned parts of old town roads. Road design was good and allows for only small amounts of erosion in one section which would need some maintenance work.

Department response: Water bars or other erosion control measures will be utilized on the proposed new trails.

Excluding motor vehicles

Comment: Use trail markers that specifically say "Foot Trail," and include the posting of "Motor Vehicles Prohibited" signs. Also, leave a blowdown across the trail with a small metal sign mounted on it stating that it is to prevent vehicle access.

Comment: How can Turk Hollow Road be cut off to prevent vehicles from using it?

Department response: A gate with appropriate signage will be erected just past the proposed parking area past the end of Turk Hollow Road. Administrative access to the lean-to will be retained. The Town of Lexington portion of Turk Hollow Road/Condon Hollow Road was abandoned in the 1960's, therefore, the road reverts to the owners of adjacent property. The State does not maintain their portion of this old town road. Leaving blowdown across a trail would create a barrier to people with disabilities. The gate will be constructed so as to allow wheelchair access, but not access to motor vehicles.

Halcott lean-to

Comment: The lack of signs directing anyone to the lean-to makes it the most unknown and least used of Catskill lean-tos. At present jeeps and trucks can drive right to the lean-to, as no signs prohibit motor vehicle access at present. It is an ideal party spot for those "in the know." Creation of parking. Road improvements and signage will likely encourage partying. Hunters will no doubt continue their modest and legitimate usage of this lean-to. Study of relocation should be planned for first revision of the UMP to evaluate usage.

Comment: The draft UMP proposes to eliminate a number of lean-tos apparently without replacement. The principle of an approximate 1-for-1 replacement of stream side lean-tos should be applied, within a 1/4 mile of the former lean-to.

Department response: The section of road on state lands will only be upgraded to the new parking lot. A gate will be installed to restrict traffic to the lean-to. Usage will be studied to determine placement or elimination.

There is no proposal to eliminate the current lean-to on the Wild Forest unit.

Budget

Comment: Previous UMP's from Region 4 and elsewhere have had a budget for five years, including staff costs. The present format is less desirable. Some maintenance costs, such as clearing blowdown from trails, recur annually, as do staff costs. Hence the five year budget is a valuable planning tool.

Department response: - A "budget" type of layout would detail all the costs associated with managing a Forest Preserve unit over the cost of a particular year. Certain costs, staffing mainly, are provided for in the yearly allocation. Special projects often get funding from other sources. Projects specifically mentioned can be included in a future year's work plan. Volunteers can be utilized to keep maintenance costs down. Allocations don't always allow a schedule to be adhered to. By prioritizing projects, as funds become available, important construction/maintenance can be accomplished.

Snowmobiling

Comments were received both opposing and supporting snowmobiling.

Department response: No current snowmobile trails exist on this unit. Due to the topography and the prevalence of acreage over 2700' in elevation, no trails are planned. (The "2700 foot rule" applies Wilderness management to any Forest Preserve acreage over 2700' in elevation regardless of original designation).

Road improvements

Comment: Any culvert installations involving watercourses must receive a Crossing, Piping or Diversion Permit from NYCDEP according to Watershed Regulations.

Department response: The Department shall comply with all local and other ordinances and regulations when completing projects on the work schedule.

Camping permits

Comment: Much of what has been termed "overuse" of the area is actually misuse of the resource by a minority of poorly educated campers. Limits on the numbers of campers per group, a ban on campfires, and the requirements that cooking be done on portable gas stoves would be beneficial.

Department response: Currently camping permits are only required for a stay of more than 3 days in the same place, or with a group of more than 9 persons. These may change if the Draft Revision of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan is approved.

Campsites

Comment: Maintain the approximate level of camping opportunities that already exist, retain the ban on camping above 3500' from March through December.

Department response: Camping is prohibited from Dec.21 - March 21 above 3500' . There are no plans for designated sites, but the lean-to is available, and there are several fireplaces near it which could be utilized by tent campers.

Campfires

Comment: The use of portable stoves should be encouraged throughout the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest. Open

fires should be prohibited except in an emergency.

Department response: The use of portable stoves is always encouraged by the Department. Campfires are only prohibited on areas over 3500' in elevation. 6 NYCRR 190.1 AND 190.3 address specific campfire rules and regulations. The department does not feel that current use levels warrant the further restriction of campfires at this time.

Sanitation

Comment: The disposal of human waste has become a serious problem in the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest. The NYSDEC should consider composting privies for high-use areas where pit privies are inappropriate.

Department response: There is a pit privy at the lean-to. There are no true "high use" areas in this unit.

Party size limits

Comment: The NYSDEC should use the number of 12 for both day hike and camping parties.

Department response: The current Draft Revision to the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan suggests a group limit of 20 persons for camping. The current Catskill State Land Master Plan does not limit party size for camping or other activities.

Canisters

Comment: The removal of the small, unobtrusive registers will not be to the detriment of the visual environment of the "trail less" summits. No new trails should be allowed within ½ mile of a 3500' trail less peak.

Department response: The current Catskill Park State Land Master Plan only states that "trail less peaks over 3500' shall remain so," and does not specify a land measure around the summit. The trail less peak canisters can remain with the signing of an Adopt A Natural Resource agreement.

Land acquisition

Comment: The enhancement of the Halcott Mountain Wild Forest through the protection of additional lands with outstanding wilderness values should be pursued. It is further recommended that the use of scenic and conservation easement programs with private landowners be on a voluntary basis as the preferred method of conserving forest land for the protection of watersheds and sensitive habitat areas and the reservation of viewsheds.

Department response: The consolidation of lands and boundary lines is always a priority. The protection of both watershed and recreation values through fee simple title and conservation easements are both acceptable. All land acquisition and/or easement purchases are conducted only with willing sellers.

ATV use

Comment: ATV use on this unit has become widespread, both on old town roads, and the power line ROW.

Department response: This is an enforcement problem. Making the local Forest Ranger and Environmental Conservation Officer aware of problems in the area allows them to patrol more frequently where it's needed.

Hunter access

Comment: There is concern about hunter access to the Wild Forest, that they are reckless, irresponsible and

trespass onto adjacent private land.

Department response: This is an enforcement problem. Making the local Environmental Conservation Officer aware of problems in the area allows them to patrol more frequently where it's needed. As land managers, the Department has a duty to provide a diverse range of opportunities to the public, within the constraints of the Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and the Rules and Regulations. Hunting is a valid part of this recreation spectrum.

Access to landlocked inholding

Comment: There is a private land inholding in the northwest corner of the unit. They do not currently have access via Turk Hollow Road or Condon Hollow Road.

Department response: It is the policy of the State of New York to prohibit motor vehicle use in the Forest Preserve. The owners of the inholding can access their land via foot or horse access. Use of motor vehicles would have to be pursued through litigation.