Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness

Unit Management Plan

October 1992

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
MARIO M. CUOMO, *Governor* THOMAS C. JORLING, *Commissioner*

INDIAN HEAD - PLATEAU MOUNTAIN

WILDERNESS

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

October 1992

MEMORANDUM FROM
THOMAS C. JORLING, *Commissioner*

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

TO: The Record

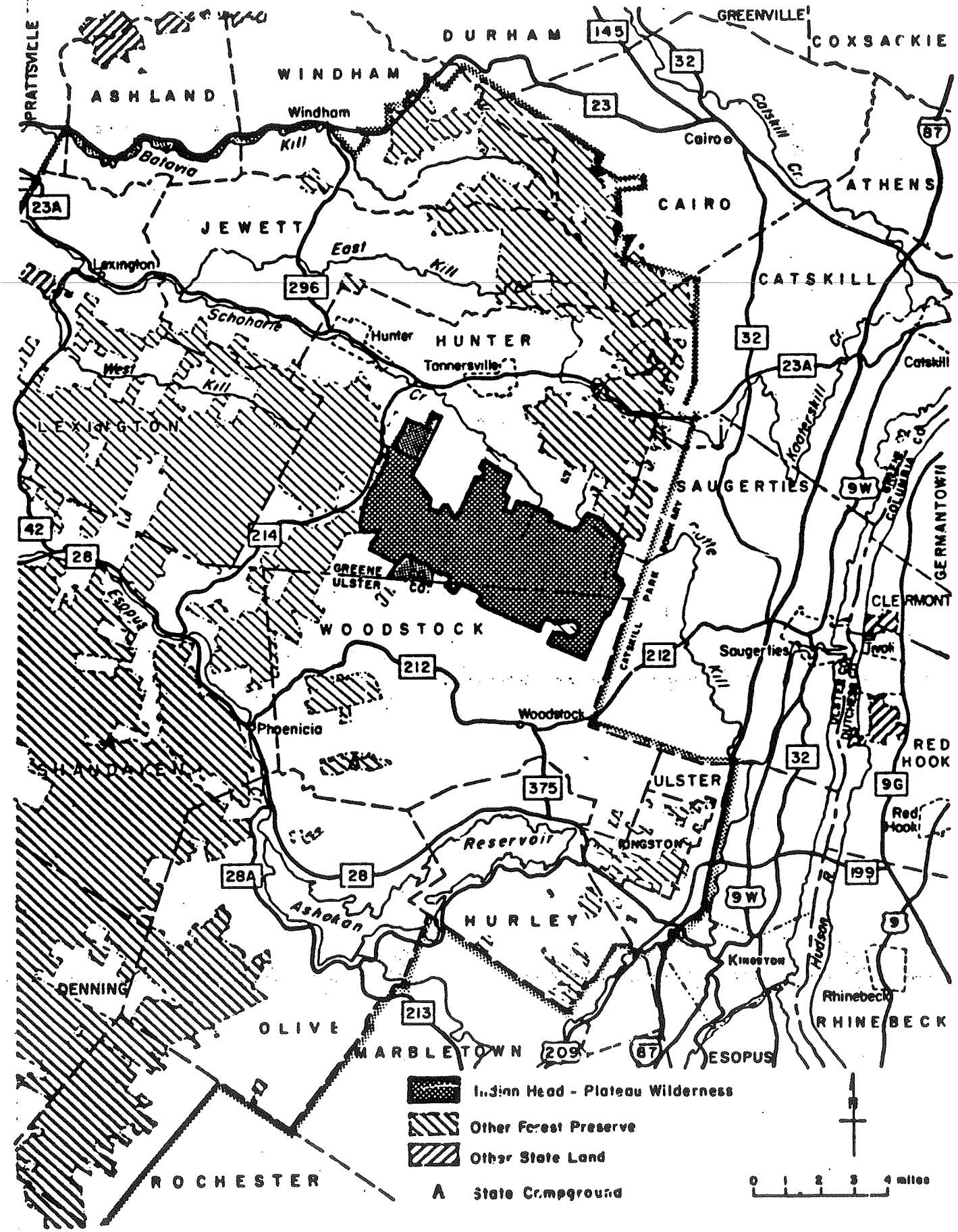
RE: Unit Management Plan
Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness

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

cc: L. Marsh

approved
Thomas Jorling 11/6/92

LOCATION OF INDIAN HEAD - PLATEAU WILDERNESS



PREFACE

Article XIV of the New York State Constitution provides a basic guideline for management of the State's Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Furthermore, the Environmental Conservation Law places responsibility for the care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve on the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan establishes four classifications of State land: wilderness, wild forest, intensive use and administrative areas, each representing a different level of protection and public use. The Plan provides for the establishment of geographic units, each falling into one of the four classifications. Unit management plans will be developed for each unit.

A Unit Management Plan identifies a segment (unit) of this Forest Preserve and provides direction for the management and use of that Unit.

The Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness is identified as such a Unit. A Wilderness is an area of land having a primeval character and without significant improvements or permanent human habitation. Wilderness: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) offers opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) is of sufficient size and character as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historic value.

Protection and controlled use of this Wilderness Unit is necessary for full public enjoyment without degradation of a quality user-experience and the natural resources.

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I. UNIT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The Indian Head-Plateau Wilderness Unit is located at the east edge of the Catskill Mountains in the southeastern part of Greene County and the northeastern part of Ulster County. In an east-west axis, it begins mid-slope up the Catskills escarpment facing the Hudson River Valley and ends near Stony Clove along NY Route 214. In a north-south axis, it begins at the Platte Clove Road (Hunter Town Road 16) and the Elka Park Road (Hunter Town Road 8) and ends in Ulster County, north of Woodstock and Shady.

The Unit consists of 16,725 acres in parts of two counties and three towns.

Greene County		
Town of Hunter	-	13,395 acres
Ulster County		
Town of Saugerties	-	342 acres
Town of Woodstock		2,988 acres

B. Description

1. General

The Wilderness Unit is characterized by extremely rugged topography. Elevation differential spans 3100' with a low of 740' at a Hudson Valley location on the east to a high of 3840' on Plateau Mountain on the west.

There are five* major peaks in the unit. These are:

Plattekill Mountain	3125'
Indian Head Mountain	3585'
Twin Mountain	3647'
Sugarloaf Mountain	3800'
Plateau Mountain	3840'

This range of peaks is not one continuous ridge. The range is characterized by drop-offs into notches and hollows between peaks. For example, from the 3585' height of Indian Head, one drops to 3100' in Jimmy Dolan Notch, climbs to 3647' on Twin Mountain, then drops to 2820' in Pecoy Notch, climbs again to 3800'

*While much of the 3150' Overlook Mountain is within this Unit, the Summit and southwestern slopes of the Mountain are in the Overlook Mountain Wild Forest.

On Sugarloaf, only to drop again to 2640' in Mink Hollow, goes up again to 3840' on Plateau Mountain and finally drops to 2000' in Stony Clove. This foot trail is part of the aptly-named Devil's Path.

Echo Lake (12.8 acres) is a natural lake set in a deep hollow between Overlook and Plattekill Mountains. It is fed by a small stream and springs. The Lake is at one of the headwaters of the Sawkill. The Sawkill Valley, from the hamlet of Shady to Echo Lake is filled with thick glacial drift; Echo Lake is dammed by this glacial drift.

Platte Clove at the northeast of the Unit is considered the wildest such Clove of the Catskills. The Plattekill stream, which created the gorge, drops 200o' in elevation in two miles. This section includes many waterfalls and cascades. Of this two mile length, 1 1/4 miles is included in the Forest Preserve.

Overlook Mountain is at the southeast corner of the Unit. Because of its prominence of view from the Hudson River Valley, it was considered one of the highest peaks of the Catskills by the early settlers and this assumption continued until the mid-19th Century. Kaaterskill High Peak and South Mountain to the north, both prominent and both adjacent to the Valley, were also considered among the higher peaks along with Overlook. Overlook is the easternmost peak of the mountain group and has been called the cornerstone of the Catskills

The old roads cross the area from north to south. Mink Hollow road travels 1.9 miles through Forest Preserve in Mink Hollow between Plateau and Sugarloaf Mountains. The Overlook Road (originally from Platte Clove to the Overlook Mountain House) travels 4 miles through Forest Preserve along the north and east faces of Plattekill Mountain and the north spur of Overlook. Neither has been maintained as a road for decades and neither is capable of being travelled by motor vehicles. Both are utilized as foot trails. There are few man-made facilities. These include foot trails, 3 lean-tos, and scenic vistas cut at vantage points on some peaks. The trails on the old roads are accessible and of moderate grade. But, the east-west trail and its feeder trails are more primitive and give hikers a greater sense of wildness than can be found in adjacent Wild Forest Units. Most of the area is trail-less and here a higher degree of wilderness can be experienced. Rugged topography reduces the number of casual hikers except to the Overlook Mountain and Devil's Kitchen lean-to area.

B. Description

2. Wildlife

The Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Area lies within the Catskill Peaks ecozone. The extensive northern hardwood forest lands of the area provide habitat for a variety of wildlife 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 older age forest. However, the activities of beavers and the aquatic habitat of streams and Echo Lake provide for the presence of a greater variety of species than in just forest alone.

There has never been a formal inventory of animal life for this area. Chambers, in his handbook, Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management, 1983, (available at Region 4 Wildlife Offices in Stamford, Schenectady and New Paltz) compiled an extensive list of wildlife presumed to live within the Catskill Peaks ecozone, and further qualified his listing by categorizing species by forest type, forest stage and special habitat needs. Based on Chamber's criteria, 43 species of mammals, 65 species of birds, and 32 species of amphibians and reptiles are likely to be found within the Unit.

White-tailed deer are an important component of the Unit's fauna. The DEC collects data from returned tags from successful hunters to determine the number of deer which were taken each hunting season. The five-year average buck take for the Town of Hunter, where the majority of the Unit lies, is 1.07 bucks per square mile. For the Towns of Woodstock and Saugerties, the buck takes figures are 2.06 and 2.52 bucks per square mile, respectively. Because of the mix of habitat and topography in the Towns, the deer herd is not uniformly distributed. Fewer deer would be expected in the mature forest of the Unit than in the mixed open 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. Bear are regularly harvested by big game hunters, especially in the portions accessible from Mink Hollow and Keefe Hollow. Overharvest is prevented by season timing and duration. Large tracts of state-owned land such as the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit are becoming more important to black bears as other areas become increasingly developed.

Fishers were transferred into the Catskills throughout 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 adjacent to the area. Sightings of fisher in the Towns of Hunter and Woodstock suggest that fisher presently inhabit the Unit.

Records compiled from 1985 for The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (1988), list 116 bird species for the area which includes Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness. Seventy-nine species are listed as confirmed breeders, 21 as probable breeders, and 16 as possible breeders. Appendix C lists the atlas species and their status, and also lists the mammal, reptile and amphibian species from Chambers.

3. Fisheries

The area contains 12.8 acre Echo Lake and is drained by 18 tributary streams totalling 26.27 miles including 14 direct, secondary or tertiary tributaries to Esopus Creek and four direct or secondary tributaries to Schoharie Creek. Echo Lake is being managed as a wild brook trout pond and has a self-sustaining population of brook trout along with brown bullhead and golden shiners.

The fishes indigenous to this part of the State and normally found in similar habitats are also found in the tributary system of the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Area. The generally mountainous topography features moderate to high gradient tributaries which are subject to damming by beaver which form ponds of varying duration. The tributaries support resident populations of brook, brown and rainbow trout and serve as spawning and nursery areas for the Esopus and Schoharie Creek.

4. Forests

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

The Catskill Mountain Region contains the southernmost outpost of boreal coniferous forest (red spruce-balsam fir-paper birch) in glaciated eastern North America. In great contrast to this very northern forest type is the coastal plain temperate Carolinian Zone forest

(oak-hickory) that abuts against the very base of the Catskills on the east and south. Kudish (Vegetational History of the Catskill High Peaks, 1971) calls it "this telescoping compression of the forest zones." Kudish further describes the Catskills in stating: "The proximity of the Carolinian and Canadian zones, especially in the eastern Catskills, together with the effects of man over two centuries, produces a rich, diverse flora, and creates a vegetation so complex that it nearly defies explanation." This is the condition existing in the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness.

The east slope of Plattekill and the east and south slopes of Overlook are influenced by the Hudson Valley and are of the Carolinian oak-hickory forest. Fire has been a primary influence on the establishment of oak and related species on these slopes; Overlook Mountain has been repeatedly burned over the past 200 years and an 1891 fire on Plattekill Mountain burned 300 acres up its east slope. Kudish states that Overlook and Plattekill "have a long and complex history of burns, logging and bark peeling; this area is the most severely disturbed in the Catskills."

The sugar maple-beech-yellow birch forest (northern hardwoods) inhabits the upper slopes and especially northwest, north and northeast aspects on slopes. It is the most widespread forest type on all the Unit's mountains and inhabits all aspects provided that the slope was not burned.

Moist cloves and ravines harbor mixtures of hemlock and northern hardwoods. Hemlock also often occurs here in small pure stands.

The Canadian boreal forest occurs on Indian Head Mountain, both peaks of Twin Mountain, Surgarloaf Mountain and Plateau Mountain. Kudish's research of records shows that the eastern Catskills receive 55" to 60" average precipitation per year; it is an eastern wet belt. This high precipitation is explained by the juxtaposition of a low elevation moist air mass (Hudson Valley) with a sharply-rising high mountain mass (Catskill Mountains) to the immediate west. Precipitation is formed in the lifting of humid air. The distribution of red spruce, balsam fir and white and yellow birch at high elevations closely follows this wet belt. However, Kudish considers this species distribution and rainfall to be only coincidental.

This boreal forest is also prone to wind and water stress. Rainfall here is heavier but so is wind velocity and trees are frequently under water stress

conditions. The hurricane of November 25, 1950 (the most severe recorded storm in the Catskills) did great damage to spruce and fir on the south peak of Twin Mountain, and severe, if lesser, damage on Indian Head and Sugarloaf. Much of the remaining residual red spruce is badly exposed and suffering effects of exposure and drought. But on these same peaks, balsam fir reproduction has been strong and has formed an almost impenetrable tangle of vegetation. Red spruce and white birch have regenerated in lesser amounts than fir. Incidentally, the south peak of Twin suffered an earlier blowdown dating back to the late 19th Century. The boreal forest on Plateau, Sugarloaf, Twin and Indian Head is considered virgin forest and is of ecological interest.

Major man-made disturbances have somewhat altered the original forest. The valley portions of forest and all the mid-slopes were disturbed first by the leather tanning industry. Hemlock was removed in this Unit between 1820 and 1860; cutting was heaviest in Stony Clove, Platte Clove and the slopes toward the Schoharie. At nearly the same time, the glass factories of Ulster County needed vast amounts of hardwood cordwood for fuel for glass-making. Between 1809 and 1857, the head waters of the Sawkill, south slope of Twin Mountain and much of Overlook and Plattekill Mountains were heavily cut for fuelwood; the even-aged hardwood forests of the area are a result of this cutting. Bluestone quarrying was a localized industry and large blocks of forest were removed in the late 19th Century to get at the stone; blocks of young, light-demanding tree species, like white and black birch and chestnut oak, are common on the old quarries. General heavy lumbering followed the other industries into the first quarter of the 20th Century. Furniture mills in the Chichester-Phoenicia area utilized much hardwood and red spruce from the Mink Hollow and Stony Clove area.

In spite of the many climatic and man-made disturbances, the overall composition of the forest in the Forest Preserve hasn't changed too much from the forest at the time of European settlement. This fact is backed by records of early historians, botanists and surveyors.

C. History

This historical perspective was developed by:

- Irene Caldwell with input from Alf Evers and James Morton.

- John Sencabaugh, with input from Daniel Showers, Edward G. West and Michael Kudish.

The Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Area is a geographic area which evolved through three distinct and different historical periods. These are: 1) the Indian period, 2) the time of European settlement and industrial development and 3) the aesthetic, scientific and resort periods of exploration and development.

A fourth period, although not considered as an historical or development period, occurred when the land unit was included in the New York State Forest Preserve. This use continues to the present.

1) The Indian Period

The terrain of the mountains presented a physical barrier to the native Americans and may have presented a spiritual one as well. It is known that the Mahican branch of the Algonkian Indians inhabited the lower elevations of the nearby Esopus Creek to the south and used the mountain areas sparingly and primarily for hunting. Documentation of Indian use is limited to several sites outside the State-owned lands of the Wilderness Area, but geographically part of the same mountain area. Primary examples are:

a) Schrabisch's Cave at the base of Overlook Mountain near Woodstock. It is the largest of several caves found at areas of 1000' elevation or below on the eastern portion of the wilderness area. The earliest recorded excavation was in 1917 and the site has since given up many Indian artifacts including ceramic work. The site has been proposed for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Sites.

b) Bach Farm is located east of Plattekill Mountain at 540' to 600' elevation. This is a flat and fertile farm area where numerous arrowheads and other artifacts of Indian settlement have been uncovered. There is evidence that Indians infrequently utilized the Echo Lake area as a summer hunting ground and fishing site. It is believed that Indians used the mountain area for late spring maple sugar production, for hunting and for trapping. Use of the Mink Hollow area as a travel corridor was also recorded. Indian incursions into the lands incorporating the fringes of the present Wilderness Area increased after the settlement of Esopus and Catskill (around 1690) due in part to a new demand for beaver pelts in European settlements. The chief factor in sending the Esopus Indians to living at the base of mountains like Overlook and Plattekill was the breaking up of their way of valley life caused by the two Esopus Wars ending in 1664.

2) European Settlement and Industrial Development

This area served as a wild frontier to the European settlements along the Esopus, Schoharie and Catskill Creeks and the Hudson River. The area was not tillable and was inhabited by wild animals. The French and Indian war further put off any planned settlement of this frontier. But the end of that War in 1759 gave stability to white settlements and Woodstock was settled a year later, in 1760.

Echo Lake was once named Shew's (Shue's) Pond in honor of Tunis Shew (various spelling, including Schue's) who farmed close to the eastern base of Overlook Mountain; local lore says that he used the Pond as a hunting and fishing base in the mid-eighteenth century.

In 1793, Peter DeLabigarre, an agent of the French Republic, climbed Overlook from the east, camped in Echo Lake, then crossed Plattekill Mountain and returned to the Hudson Valley by way of Plattekill Clove. He wrote an account of his trip including much detail about vegetation and topography. the account, "Excursions on our Blue Mountain" was published in the Transaction of New York's Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufacture for 1794. It remains the earliest and best account of the east part of the present Wilderness Area and adjacent land.

The first significant incursions of white men into this mountain area was spurred by the search for mineral wealth. Only one small vein of anthracite coal was ever discovered and it was never developed. Legends of gold and silver abounded here as in all other parts of the Catskills, but never were substantiated by discovery.

The earliest settlements of individual frontiersmen in areas like the Sawkill, Platte Clove and Mink Hollow were never officially recorded. The later settlers who left a greater impact on the land were duly recorded and a few old building foundations still exist in places along the Saw Kill and Mink Hollow. The gentle and moderate mountain slopes were farmed by tenant farmers and squatters through the War of Independence.

Agriculture came to the mountains much later than to the Hudson Valley. Even by the early nineteenth century, agriculture had affected only the lower valleys and, to a lesser extent, the upperslope valleys. Very little of the land which is now Forest

Preserve was ever cleared and farmed. Mink Hollow and some of the tributaries to the Saw Kill are the only areas in the Unit where past agricultural disturbance can be readily determined.

Early lumbering was species-selective and was concentrated in the valleys where the timber was more accessible and where transportation was available.

Charcoal was a bartering tool for early settlers and farmers. While it was illegal for the tenants of the Hardenburgh Patent to clear land for charcoal production or fuelwood at the lower elevations, they had permission to use the wooded upper slopes of the mountains as they deemed necessary. Charcoal pits and kilns were erected throughout the mountains and some existed until late in the 19th Century. Charcoal was transported to homes and industries along the Saw Kill and to West Saugerties through the Platte Clove.

A charcoal kiln existed near the present location of the Devil's Kitchen lean-to; remnants of a retaining wall erected against the mountain slopes is still in existence. The creek that passes through it goes by various names, including the Cold Kill. However, the original name was the Coal Kiln Creek because of the charcoal kiln on its banks.

Sawmilling has gone through two distinct periods. The first was at the time of settlement through the 18th Century. Small, family-oriented mills predominated in conjunction with land clearing and sporadic farm building construction. Lack of accessibility, lack of good transportation and lack of convenient markets deferred the cutting of timber in the deeper mountain areas.

But as markets developed and roads were improved, the wilder wooded areas became more accessible. After the War of Independence and through the expansionist period of American history in the 19th Century, demand for wood increased considerably. Milling and timber cutting expanded here until a levelling-off about 1900. There were so many sawmills in the Catskills in the 19th Century that no official census was taken; one unsubstantiated record says that from 1870 to 1900, there were over 200 sawmills in the Catskill Mountains. Hardwoods were the main source of timber during this period. Censuses of New York State in the 19th Century is a source of statistics.

Furniture manufacturing complemented the sawmilling in the last three decades of the 19th Century and lingered somewhat through 35 years of the 20th. Sugar Maple, Black Cherry and Yellow Birch were the favored of the

high value hardwoods. In addition, red spruce was cut from the western slopes of Plateau Mountain. The Stony Clove Valley between Hunter and Phoenicia sported many furniture mills. The Ulster and Delaware Railroad, Hunter branch, ran through this Valley. A furniture turning mill utilizing white ash existed in Mink Hollow as early as 1800; by 1855, over 600 pieces of furniture were turned out weekly.

Three successive waves of industrial development intruded into this mountain area which eventually led to some major deforestation by land-clearing or from forest fires emanating from logging or charcoal pits. These waves of development were: tanning, glass manufacturing and bluestone quarrying.

Tanning was the first extensive human disturbance in the mountain area. Hemlock was cut its bark peeled; the bark was then used to tan leather. Tanning began on a small scale around 1800, but the period 1820 through 1860 saw a huge industry that had a great impact on the forests of the Catskills and the economic growth of local communities.

A bark peeler's hut was reported as being at Echo Lake before the Civil War; it belonged to the Booth-McDaniel Family. Fifty-nine tanneries operated in the Catskill Mountains in 1835.

The last tanneries in the Schoharie Valley closed in the 1860's and, in the upper Esopus, in the 1870's. The hemlock logs were usually a glut on the market and often were left to rot in the woods. Much of the cut area was burned, some accidentally and some deliberately.

Pecoy Notch and Jimmy Dolan Notch are traversed by trails that at their lower elevations were once used as bark roads. Since hemlock is rare over the 2800' elevation in the Catskills, most of the bark roads and influence of cutting are below this elevation. Mink Hollow, however, carried a through-road and was used to transport bark and hides.

Glass manufacturing and its impact was concentrated in the southeast part of the area. Several glass factories, encouraged by available fuel in the form of extensive hardwoods forests of the south-facing slopes of the mountains, were founded in Woodstock and its vicinity beginning in 1809 and lasted until 1857. The factories required vast amounts of hardwood fuelwood and, though no factory was ever located on what is now Forest Preserve land, their collective impact was locally considerable. The slopes of Overlook and

Plattekill Mountains were heavily utilized for glass company fuelwood. A glass factory was located on the Saw Kill just outside of present Forest Preserve, but its workers lived upstream in what is now Forest Preserve and farmed the land and supplemented their incomes through cutting fuelwood for the glass factory. The south slopes of Twin and Indian Head were farmed and the timber heavily cut; the area was known as "The Plains" and its extent can yet be determined by the younger woodland on these slopes.

Bluestone, a fine grained sandstone, is common to the eastern portion of the area. This bluestone supplied the earliest gravestones, some houses and many sidewalks of local communities as well as sidewalks of the larger cities of Albany, Kingston and New York. Bluestone quarrying began in earnest around 1840 and lasted until the turn of the century when Portland cement became a cheap and aggressive competitor. Quarrying removed localized but large amounts of forest cover to get to the stone. Heavy-duty travel roads were built for wagons to haul the stone. Past quarrying operations are very evident on the slopes of the Overlook and Plattekill Mountains from Meads to Platte Clove in this Unit. The bluish sandstone also was quarried near Phoenicia, Palenville, Ashokan, Hurley and in places in Delaware and Sullivan Counties. The industry attracted as labor many of the Irish immigrants of the time.

The quarries only slowly revegetated and then to the light demanding pioneer tree species like white birch; from a distance, a discerning eye can determine the extent of the differing vegetation that still marks the old quarry sites.

The remains of a major quarrying operation is still evident on and below the Echo Lake-Platte Clove trail on the east face of Plattekill Mountain. This point, where the trail intersects the quarry, is known as Cod Fish Point. The most common explanation of this unique name goes back to the quarrymen who devoured many crates of codfish. One fall, an early snowstorm stranded the workers whose only edible provisions at the time were crates of codfish. As crates were emptied, the wooden crate lids were nailed to trees as evidence of the quarrymen's aggravation and real or imagined privation.

3) <u>Aesthetic, Scientific and Resort Period</u>

Tourism began as early as the 1830's when visitors were lured by game and fish in the Saw Kill, Plattekill and

Stony Clove Valleys and Echo Lake. Bear, bobcat, wolf and deer were very common in the area. The Overlook Mountain House operated a "refreshment saloon" at Echo Lake the last two decades of the 19th Century; foundation stones are still evident on the south shore of the Lake.

Overlook Mountain's prominence to the Hudson Valley was a natural invitation to resort development. An earlier visitor to its peak stated, "If there is anything between heaven and earth that can regale the romantic imagination, it is here." (Evers, The Catskills, From Wilderness to Woodstock). Writers, poets, scientists and wilderness romanticists frequented this area as they did the Kaaterskill area to the immediate north.

The first attempt at putting a summer hotel on Overlook Mountain to compete with the Catskill Mountain House took place in 1833. The first Overlook Mountain House was erected in 1871 but, by then, the solitide, peace and beauty that had attracted the early visitors was in competition with the bluestone and charcoal industries. Tourism eventually prevailed. By the early 1900's, Overlook Mountain was well known to the art community and nearby Woodstock's reputation as an art colony was growing thanks to Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead and his assistants in creating the arts and crafts colony of Byrdcliffe.

The original Overlook Mountain House accommodated 300 guests in 1873. Destroyed by fire in 1875, it was rebuilt in 1878. It was anchored to the Mountain by cables. It stood 3 stories high and was 200 feet long. But, between the years of 1887 to 1917, it operated irregularly. In 1917 it was sold and subsequently again destroyed by fire in 1924. Resurrected in concrete to become a grand hotel, it was never completed, a victim of changing public tastes and the automobile. Its incompleted ruins still stand on recently-acquired Forest Preserve land adjacent to the southeast corner of the Wilderness Area.

The Overlook Mountain House gave Echo Lake its name. the Lake's earlier names included Schue's Shew's and Athen's. Guests, driven down to the Lake from the House, would be rowed to the center of the Lake and treated to the echo generated by a hotel employee blowing a horn. The echo effect is still discovered today by hikers and campers who learn that voices carry easily in the lake basin and some conversations can be clearly and distinctly heard around the lake.

As in all tourist areas of the eastern Catskills in the 1800's, all local geologic points of interest were

given names to entice visitation by tourists. Some of these romantic spots on Overlook Mountain are Rip Van Winkle's Cave, President's Rock (named after the visiting President Grant), Bishop's Rock and Turtle Rock. This parallels the commercial tourism sponsored by the Catskill Mountain House to the north in the Kaaterskill area.

The Overlook Turnpike, an early toll road, was built from Meads to Overlook Mountain in 1871. The second phase went from the Mountain to Platte Clove in 1880. The road went down the north ridge of Overlook and around the face of Plattekill at about the 2550' elevation. A toll house is still present in Platte Clove on the property of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development.

A large boarding house in Meads, Ulster County, accommodated guests who used the nearby mountain areas. Platte Clove and Stony Clove were other areas where many smaller boarding houses existed.

In the wild Platte Clove area, boarding house proprietors commercialized the natural geologic attractions of the Clove. "Devil's Kitchen" was an area of natural boulder debris and potholes in the streambed and was reached by trails, stairways and ladders built by the operators of boarding houses. Such commercialism took advantage of the Catskill devil tales, rampant at the time, which were made somewhat believable by wild and forbidding parts of the Catskill Mountains especially in this vicinity.

According to the devil tales, the devil resided in the "Devil's Kitchen" area of Platte Clove. He and his witches traveled the remote and wild areas along the ridge of mountains westerly (now the trail system known as "The Devil's Path" which traverses the Wilderness Area) strewing debris along the way; thus the poor quality of soil in the vicinity. The Devil eventually left the Devil's Kitchen area and travelled the mountains. He reportedly met his death in the then remote Stony Clove where a large upright remnant of sedimentary rock marks his supposed resting place. In 1926, this became Devil's Tombstone Campsite, the first Catskill Forest Preserve Campsite. The Notch Lake in Stony Clove was called Stygian Lake in 1800, another reflection of the influence of Devil tales.

The opening of the mountains as a resort/recreation area also nurtured the evolvement of scientific, literary and aesthetic interest in wild lands in the early 19th Century. This area, and the Kaaterskill

area to the north, had a great influence on these interests. Thomas Cole, John Burroughs and Charles Lanman, among others, were strongly influenced by this area; the writings, paintings and poetry of these men find much of their basis in these mountains. This eastern escarpment of the Catskill Mountains played a part in the development of the concept of wilderness and of a wilderness ethic in America.

Viewed from the Hudson River travel corridor in the early 1800's, the eastern escarpment, and Overlook Mountain in particular, projected an aura of mystery, solitude, danger and excitement. These mountains, as interpreted through the thoughts and perceptions of writers like Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, William Cullen Bryant and the artists of the Hudson River School, attracted and appealed to those in search of a symbol of wildness. Through novels, poetry, paintings, prints and lithographs, and newspapers and magazines, a larger audience could participate, though indirectly, in the romantic view of wilderness.

The imposing view that the Catskill escarpment presented to the Hudson Valley captivated residents and travelers alike. The mountains were a constant and looming presence and a physical barrier that represented a wilderness to a growing urban society. And, because of its proximity to a burgeoning society, it was the first of America's mountain ranges to be scientifically explored.

Spectacular scenery and solitude attracted writers and painters who sought release of their talent in these mountains.

This interaction between a wild and scenic landscape and the people attracted to scientific study and literary and artistic interpretation laid the earliest foundation for a wilderness concept and ethic in the United States.

4. <u>The Forest Preserve and State Development</u>

The establishment of the Forest Preserve concept in 1885 was for practical reasons of land and water conservation. Though wildland preservation and the concept of wilderness had nothing to do with the original Forest Preserve, they have been nurtured in the medium of the Preserve and its "forever wild" mandate.

New York State's acquisition of lands for Forest Preserve in this Unit didn't begin until the Twentieth Century. Some original Forest Preserve lands did exist

in the vicinity of Twin Mountain, Sugarloaf Mountain, eastern Platte Clove and Silver Hollow. Almost all of the present lands were purchased by 1940. Overlook and Plattekill Mountains were purchased in 1921 and 1922. The lands in the vicinity of Indian Head, Twin and Sugarloaf Mountains were purchased from 1921 and 1923. Plateau Mountain was purchased in 1933 (much of the north slope and virgin boreal forest of the summit has not been acquired to date).

In 1929, the first section of the Devil's Path Trail was built from the Overlook Turnpike westerly over Indian Head, through Jimmy Dolan's Notch, over Twin, through Pecoy Notch and over Sugarloaf to Mink Hollow. Robert Tuttle was the Forest Ranger in charge.

Indian Head was named for the profile the mountain presents to the Hudson Valley perspective. Jimmy Dolan was a tavern keeper in Platte Clove and in the heyday of the glass factory in the Sawkill Valley, workers would walk through the notch between Indian Head and Twin on a payday Saturday to visit with Jimmy Dolan and return home on Sunday night; this obscure defile was simply named in behalf of the tavern keeper. Twin Mountain has a double peak and thus, its name; its earlier name was Schoharie Peaks. Pecoy Notch has no known historical background. Sugarloaf was called Mink Mountain in the 19th Century; why it was originally called Mink and why it was changed to Sugarloaf cannot be determined. Mink Hollow retains its original name and was probably named for the animal that must have been a common resident of its wild area. Plateau Mountain is aptly named for its long, flat summit; it was earlier called Stony Mountain.

In 1931, a foot trail was built in Pecoy Notch. This followed an old tan-bark road (some say a quarry road) to the 2100' elevation. The remaining trail was newly constructed to the 2850' level.

The Civilian Conservation Corps built the Plateau Mountain trail in 1935. Daniel Showers was the brand-new Forest Ranger in charge. This segment connected the Devil's Path from Mink Hollow into Devil's Tombstone and N.Y. Route 214. A relatively flat 2-mile summit gives Plateau Mountain its name.

Jimmy Dolan Notch trail was completed in 1949. This also follows an old tan-bark road to the 2300' elevation.

The fire tower was constructed on Overlook Mountain in 1950.

A lean-to was built in Echo Lake in 1967. An earlier lean-to existed at Devil's Kitchen and was replaced in 1968. A lean-to on Plateau Mountain was removed to conform with the policy of no camping over 3500' elevation in the Catskills.

The Stony Clove Notch area was acquired by NYS in 1909 and the Devil's Tombstone Campsite built in this area in 1926. Although outside the Wilderness Area, this Stony Clove section is the western terminus of the trail system to the area.

II INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

A. Barriers (4)

1. Trail (1)

   Wood post barrier at Prediger Road registration box.

2. Road (3)

   a. Boulders at entrance to Forest Preserve along Warners Creek, east of Silver Hollow Road.

   b. A gate at entrance to Forest Preserve along Hutch Hill Road in the Town of Woodstock.

   c. A gate on Overlook Road just north of Overlook Mt. fire tower road.

B. Trail Heads (6)

1. With maintained parking (2)

   a. Devil's Tombstone Campsite on NY Rte. 214 at west end of Plateau Mt. (outside of Unit, but the major access point at west end of Unit).

   b. Meads, north of Woodstock. Overlook Road entrance from the south (also outside of Unit but the major access point at the southeast corner of Unit).

2. Without maintained parking (4)

   a. Prediger Road at start of foot and cross-country ski trials.

b. Mink Hollow - Ulster Co. (Woodstock side at end of Town of Woodstock maintenance).

c. Mink Hollow - Greene Co. (Hunter side at end of Town of Hunter maintenance.)

d. Wase Road at start of trail to Pecoy Notch.

C. Bridges (2)

1. Foot and Nordic Ski (2)

a. Prediger Road at stream crossing adjacent to road at the trail head.

b. Overlook Trail (blue) at north end at crossing of Coal Kiln Creek near Devil's Kitchen lean-to.

D. Fireplaces (3) - non-conforming

1. Mink Hollow at lean-to

2. Devil's Kitchen at lean-to

3. Echo Lake at lean-to

E. Camping Sites (Primitive Tent Sites)

1. Echo Lake - 10 sites.

F. Trails (+24.1 miles)

1. Foot - 24.1 miles including the Devil's Path, Overlook Trail and connecting trails. The "Long Path" of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference traverses a portion of the Devil's Path.

2. Nordic Ski - 5.6 miles from Prediger Road trailhead on the north to the vicinity of the summit of Overlook Mountain. An additional 2 miles, outside the Unit, descends the road from Overlook to the trailhead at Meads. All mileage also coincides with foot-trails.

G. Lean-tos (3)

1. Mink Hollow

2. Devil's Kitchen

3. Echo Lake

H. Roads (3)

1. Mink Hollow Road - A 3.0 mile section of alleged Town of Hunter road that traverses the Unit through Mink Hollow. Used as a foot trail.

2. Overlook Turnpike - A 3.8 mile section of alleged Town of Hunter road that traverses the Unit from near Platte Clove on the north, around the east face of Plattekill Mountain and along the north spur of Overlook Mountain. Used as a foot trail.

3. Silver Hollow Road - A 0.9 mile section of alleged Town of Hunter Road at the southwest of the unit. Serves as the border between this unit and the Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest.

I. Trail Registers (6)

1. Meads at start of the south end of the road to Overlook Mountain (in Region 3, entrance to Overlook Mountain Wild Forest).

2. Devil's Tombstone. Intensive Use Area.

3. Mink Hollow at the height of land.

4. Mink Hollow at south end entrance to State Land (Lake Hill).

5. Wase Road.

6. Prediger Road.

J. Informational Bulletin Boards (3)

1. Meads, at the start of the south end of the road to Overlook Mountain (in Region 3, entrance to Overlook Mountain Wild Forest).

2. Devil's Tombstone Intensive Use Area.

3. Prediger Road.

K. Signing

SEE APPENDIX E

L. Scenic Vistas

1. Platte Clove Road (Town of Hunter Highway 16) about mid-section of Clove.

2. Indian Head Mountain trail on east slope at 3100' elevation.

3. Indian Head Mountain trail on east slope at or near the summit at 3500' elevation.

4. Twin Mountain on south peak facing east.

5. Twin Mountain on south peak at summit (3580') facing south.

6. Twin Mountain on north peak at summit (3640') facing west and southwest.

7. East slope Sugarloaf Mountain just above Pecoy Notch at 3000' elevation.

8. Sugarloaf Mountain at west end on a short spur trail. Faces south at 3700' elevation.

9. Sugarloaf Mountain at west end on a short spur trail. Faces south and west at 3500' elevation.

10. Plateau Mountain near west end facing east and northeast at 3700' elevation.

11. Plateau Mountain at extreme west end of peak facing south through west at 3700' elevation.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Constraints and Issues Affecting the Planning Area:

1. General Constraints

a. This unit management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by Article XIV of the State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Title 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, and established policies for the administration of the lands involved.

b. Rugged topography overall is a constraint to the development or extension of allowable uses within the Unit.

c. Wildlife

The "forever wild forest lands" clause of Article XIV of the New York State Constitution imposes a passive management scheme which ultimately results in mature to old growth forest and wildlife habitat) conditions. On other state-owned lands controlled by the Department of Environmental Conservation, it is legally possible to devise and conduct habitat modification to favor specific wildlife species (most frequently game animals). The forest vegetation of Forest Preserve lands progress through a natural plant succession toward an eventual old-growth forest stage. Game populations may not be large under these conditions. The Forest Preserve concept provides a strategy of land management that does not favor any particular wildlife species or group of species, but rather places emphasis on the protection of natural processes.

Deer management is not specific to the Wilderness Unit, but is governed by the objectives of the Deer Management Unit (DMU) of which it is a part. All of the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit lies within DMU 55. The current management objective for DMU 55 is to maintain a deer population which produces an annual harvest of 2.0 bucks per square mile. Because the number of female deer determines the potential size of the population, management is accomplished by regulated hunting of female deer as well as bucks.

Availability of quality deer Winter habitat is one of the more critical factors influencing the population. Management efforts at this population level are directed towards preventing starvation and maintaining deer in good health and physical condition. A healthy deer population provides important recreational values and contributes highly to the state and local economies.

d. Fisheries

Fishing in the Indian Head-Plateau Wilderness Area is regulated by statewide seasons, size and creel limits specified in 6NYCRR 10.1 as authorized by 11-1303-7 of the Environmental Conservation Law

of New York. Special rules and regulations apply to Echo Lake which include a three fish creel limit and a 10 inch total length minimum size limit with fishing allowed from April 1st through September 30th. The use or possession of bait fish at Echo Lake is prohibited.

2. Issues

a. Recreational Use - General misuse - negatively impacts on the recreational experience and aesthetic sense of the majority of users. Camping too close to waterways and trails, indiscriminate littering and sanitation violations cannot be entirely eliminated, but careful planning and budgeting can significantly reduce them. Misuse occurs in definite areas. All three lean-tos are very accessible to users and are definite attractions. Trailheads are a constant littering problem. Echo Lake, being the only interior water body in the Unit draws many users.

b. Roads in the Interior - Mink Hollow Road and the Overlook Road (Turnpike) are incompatible with the concept of wilderness. The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan calls for the closure to motor vehicles of the parts of these roads within the boundaries of the Forest Preserve. Neither road has been maintained for motor vehicles for many years. Present uses of foot trails and Nordic ski trails are compatible.

c. Water Quality

1. The Beaverkill, through Mink Hollow, and the Sawkill are tributaries to the City of Kingston water supply. The Plattekill Creek and other small, unnamed tributaries feed the Saugerties water supply. The streams emanating from the unit that feed the Schoharie and Esopus Creeks are part of the New York City watershed system. Uses and projects within the Forest Preserve sections of these watersheds must not compromise water quality. These municipalities have watershed rules and regulations that can impact on uses on State lands.

2. All tributaries of this Unit are important trout spawning and nursery areas for the wild trout inhabiting Esopus and Schoharie Creeks. Maintenance of good water quality in tributary streams is critical for continued quality trout fisheries in the receiving water.

3. Echo Lake is a unique natural body of water fed by a short feeder stream and springs, none of which is negatively influenced by any human habitation or adverse land use. Maintenance of its water quality without degradation from recreational overuse is an issue and challenge.

d. Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures define uses and the extent of man-made facilities within the Wilderness Areas. These include: removal of fireplaces, building of fire rings, construction of bridges and the relocation and addition of primitive campsites in Echo Lake.

e. Land Acquisition

Key, preselected parcels are desirable and necessary to provide better access, parking for users, consolidation and protection of unique habitat. Parking space is badly needed at several trailhead areas, primarily in the Greene County area, to alleviate problems faced by the Town of Hunter, overnight hikers and owners of land near trailheads. Scenic easements and conservation easements as alternatives to fee title acquisition must be addressed.

f. Channel 62 - TV Tower

This relatively recent structure is a TV tower near the summit of Overlook Mountain adjacent to the Overlook Mountain House site. A seemingly innocuous use at the time construction

approval was given, it is now a definite visual detriment to the Wilderness area. The tower can be seen from every peak of the Plateau-Indian Head Wilderness. The present tower received construction approval and is operational. It is located on Forest Preserve lands (recent acquisition) in the adjacent Overlook Mountain Wild Forest. Any planned expansion is an issue of concern.

g. Vista Cuts

Cutting of new vistas and the proper maintenance of old vistas is already an issue. Even user groups cannot agree whether new vistas should be cut or not or whether old unmaintained vistas should be reopened or allowed to revegetate. The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan does not allow the cutting of new vistas; maintenance of existing vistas is optional.

h. Regional Coordination

Administrative responsibilities between EnCon Regions 3 and 4 should be addressed in this plan. The convenient and efficient past cooperation between field units (Forest Rangers and Operations personnel) will have to be formalized and definite custodial and monetary responsibilities spelled out.

i. Facility Maintenance

Trail and other facility maintenance efforts are eroding because of budgetary shortfalls leading to manpower attrition. The Department must explore other avenues such as organized volunteer efforts to supplement money and manpower.

3. Critical and Significant Habitats

a. Plant

There are no known endangered or threatened plant species within the Unit. But

considering the size of the unit, it is likely that some exist before any major work is initiated (trail relocation, dispersed camping sites, etc.), it will be policy to investigate the proposed site location for such plant species to ensure no inadvertent destruction of that plant. Locations of endangered or threatened species will not be shown in order to protect those species from collectors and the general public.

There is a botanist's report that Sundew, Drosera rotundifolia, occurs in a limited area of the Unit. This has not yet been substantiated.

The virgin spruce fir forest on high peaks of the Unit is considered significant habitat.

b. Animal

Several species listed as Threatened or Endangered for New York State (ECL 6NYCRRL82.5) occur within the Unit. Two rattlesnake dens are located within the Unit. Timber rattlesnakes, listed as Threatened, can be expected to wander from 1.5 to 2.5 miles each year from their dens, and rattlesnakes from dens outside the Unit can be expected to use portions of the Unit for their summer range. The ledges and rocks above dens are particularly attractive to the snakes for basking.

The peregrine falcon, listed as Endangered, may pass over the area on migration and may find nesting habitat on the steepest rock ledges in or near the Unit. The bald eagle (Endangered) and the red-shouldered hawk (Threatened) may also pass over the area during migration.

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 their listing. One such species, the eastern blue bird, has been "confirmed" as a breeder either in

or adjacent to the Unit in the Breeding Bird Atlas. Other special concern species which may occur in the Unit are so noted in Appendix C.

The National Audubon Society's Blue List (indicating species for which there appear to be non-cyclical population declines or range contractions) includes the hairy woodpecker, which is a confirmed breeder in the Unit. Other species on the Blue List are so noted in Appendix C.

Three present or historic deer wintering areas occur on sheltered slopes in the southern and western parts of the Unit.

Northern Water Shrew habitat (herbaceous cover along cold water streams and ponds; wooded shores) exists in Mink Hollow.

The peaks of mountains over 3,500 feet within the Unit with red spruce-balsam fir-paper birch forest are considered potential habitat for the subspecies of the gray-cheeked thrush called Bicknell's thrush.

1. Deer Winter Concentration Areas

   Three deer winter concentration areas have been located within the wilderness area boundary (Significant Habitat Nos. 20-147, 20-149, and 56-121). One (20-147) near the hamlet of Edgewood is entirely within the wilderness area. The other two are only partially within, extending southerly into Mink Hollow and Keefe Hollow. All three of these areas are considered to be small, lightly used concentration areas.

2. Wetlands

   One wetland has been located. This wetland is approximately 13 acres in size and is officially known as Freshwater Wetland K-11 and falls under the

jurisdiction of Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A small portion of this wetland lies on private land. This wetland was originally an area of coniferous growth.

4. Unique Ecoysystems

a. Virgin Timber Stands

Several of the higher peaks in the Catskill Mountains have virgin timber stands at the summits and highest slopes. Accessibility for logging has always been very difficult if not impossible and the timber quality is low. In this Unit, there are virgin woods on the summits and upper slopes of Plateau, Sugarloaf, Twin and Indian Head Mountains. all these are above the 2,800 foot elevation level. These are boreal forests of red spruce, balsam fir and white and yellow birch.

On lower and mid-slopes, virgin woods remain only in relatively inaccessible ravines such as along precipitous tributaries such as Plattekill Clove. One specific stand of hemlock is reported below the Devil's Kitchen leanto on the Coal Kiln tributary to the Plattekill. Another stand of virgin white ash was partially cut in a timber trespass in the 1960's. There are undoubtedly other unreported small virgin stands in the vicinity of Platte Clove.

b. Waterfalls

The many waterfalls of the Plattekill gorge are famous in the Catskills. The number of waterfalls seems to be in contention among those who have attempted to describe the gorge and its vicinity. Beers, in his 1884 History of Greene County says there are 30 falls on the stream between its head and West Saugerties at its base; this is a crop in elevation of over 2000' in less than two miles. Beers says that in the upper course (all definitely within Forest Preserve) "are 5 (falls) made famous for the wild beauty and rugged randeur of their path--one of the wildest gorges in the mountains."

DeLisser (Picturesque Catskills, 1894) says there are overall 18 large waterfalls; large waterfalls are described as those of a height 25 feet and greater. DeLisser describes the trip down the gorge from its head to West Saugerties: "is full of interest to the lover of Nature in her barbaric state. There is nothing in the Catskills to equal it--of the kind."

Many smaller falls, cascades and cataracts exist on the streams of steep gradient within the Unit but, as they are not generally described in the popular literature, they go unnoticed except by the hikers and explorers of the unmarked areas of the Unit.

c. Escarpment & Cliffs

These are too numerous to mention. Each of the mountains making up this range within the Unit have steep slopes characterized by cliffs and escarpments. The drops from peaks to notches and hollows are all precipitous which allows for the many vistas along the trails.

The Plattekill gorge is famous for cliffs that are barely traversable by any except the most experienced hikers.

The Stony Clove Notch west of Plateau Mountain is short, but one of the most precipitous in the Catskills. Parts of it are devoid of vegetation because of lack of soil. The lower slopes of the notch are out of the Unit and within the Devil's Tombstone Campsite area.

5. Primary Public Use

The primary public use is recreation. The Unit's extremely rugged topography and its many vistas to the north and south draw many serious hikers annually. The "Long Path" of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference passes through this Unit on its

way from the George Washington Bridge to (eventually) the Adirondacks. The Long Path traverses 9 miles of State trails in the Wilderness.

Use can be roughly measured from trail register statistics which indicates the number of people in a hiking party, their length of stay (day, overnight, several nights) and destination. Signing-in at registers is voluntary so figures can be assumed to be on the conservative side; and also, registers and register sheets are periodically vandalized. However, the register tally shows approximate numbers of users and especially indicate trends over a period of time.

Use may increase in the future in parts of the Unit such as Echo Lake. But the steep trails and long hikes are expected to continue to modify use over much of the area.

Table 1. Indian Head-Plateau Mt. Wildnerss Trail Register Tally

Days of Use (Day-users plus overnights)

Register	1989	1990	1991
Devil's Tombstone (Plateau)	1403	1377	1782
Mink Hollow (Lake Hill)	433	1065	705
Mink Hollow (North)	1203	1148	1048
Platte Clove (Prediger Rd.)	2320	3530	3664
Pecoy Notch	780	1091	805
Meads (wilderness users only)	894	1102	1350
Total	7033	9313	9354

High use areas within the Unit include Echo Lake and Devil's Kitchen; there are good day trips as well as overnight destinations.

6. Land Use Impacts

a. Private lands adjacent to this 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 yet offers access to the bordering private owner.

The State pays full property taxes based on bare land value.
Occasional negative impacts do exist where the adjacent public lands are utilized as hiking trail heads and parking areas. Trespass, littering and noise pollution are annoyances that can occur.

b. Fully developed and/or incompatible private development 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.

7. Economic Impact

Visitors are attracted to this area for a variety of recreational and cultural uses and have a positive impact on hotels, motels, campgrounds, groceries, service stations, restaurants, and sporting goods stores. The many Greene County resorts utilize the mountain background indirectly as a passive setting for their recreational enterprises. Private campgrounds and resorts adjacent to public lands also utilize directly the facilities provided by these public lands.

IIIB.

Goals & Objectives

1. Broad Goals for the Unit are to:

- Protect the natural setting of the Wilderness as defined by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP).

- Accommodate and provide for the broadest spectrum of public uses compatible with wilderness land-use criteria and in keeping with recognized legal and environmental constraints.

- Identify and actively protect the special unique and fragile areas within the Unit. This includes critical or unique plant and animal habitat, highly scenic areas, historic sites, special geological formations, etc.

2. Objectives

a. Land Management Objectives

1. Continue with the closure procedure on unmaintained public roads, or assumed public roads, within the bounds of the Wilderness Unit. Determine first if already legally abandoned.

2. Develop a formal and written Memorandum of Understanding between DEC Regions 3 and 4 for the efficient management of this Wilderness that lies within two Counties and two DEC administrative Regions.

3. Continue an active boundary line maintenance program to maintain the integrity of public ownership and to discourage trespass.

4. Adequately protect the Unit from wildfire.

5. Selectively acquire lands on the peripheries of the Unit that will enhance access and recreational opportunity, protect unique natural features, minimize administrative problems and alleviate inconveniences of adjacent landowners. Any acquisition of land or easements will be from willing sellers.

6. Identify critical habitat for rare or endangered species of plant or animal. Resulting records will be used for scientific purposes only and will not be distributed to the general public nor identified in this Plan.

7. Prior to any site disturbances for addition to or modification of recreational facilities, examine all areas involved for critical plant and animal habitat or species.

8. Prevent and alleviate soil erosion and vegetative loss while conducting regular annual facilities management or while relocating any facilities.

9. Maintain and construct facilities in strict conformance with legal NYCRR rules and regulations and with Department policies and procedures.

b. Wildlife Management Objectives

1. Maintain all native wildlife specie at levels compatible with their natural environment.

2. Maintain hunting, trapping and other wildlife-related recreational activities.

c. Fisheries Management Objectives

1. Perpetuate fish as part of the wilderness environment in all streams and ponded waters within the Unit.

2. Optimize the wild brook trout fishery in Echo Lake by application of the most appropriate regulations for fisheries within Wilderness Areas.

3. Maintain fishing as a valid recreational opportunity.

d. Public Use Management Objectives

1. Control adverse and illegal uses through enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law and Department rules and regulations.

2. Provide some and maintain appropriate parking areas to facilitate access to the Unit.

3. Monitor the intensity of public recreational use of the Unit and monitor the conditions of facilities because of public use. Take appropriate steps to prevent overuse or degradation of the Unit and specific parts of the Unit.

4. Educate users to the appreciation, value, enjoyment and management of the public land and its scenic and unique resources.

5. Provide some additional recreational facilities in the Unit. Use techniques of minimal vegetative soil disturbance in keeping with the Wilderness atmosphere.

6. Redistribute and control public use in popular areas like Echo Lake and Devil's Kitchen.

e. Water Quality Management Objectives

1. Protect the waters of the Unit from pollution by controlling public use of the stream corridors and lake shoreline.

2. Maintain and improve the water quality of streams emanating from the Unit.

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

Prior to development of a Unit Management Plan, some Departmental actions were taken toward management of this Unit and alleviation of problems.

- in Echo Lake, designated campsites were established and lakeside camping spots demolished. Initiated in 1980.

- Wilderness Rangers (now Assistant Forest Rangers) targeted Echo Lake on significant summer weekends for user-contacts and educated those users in the objectives of low-impact camping and use of designated campsites.

- wire cable barriers were replaced by gates on Hutch Hill Road and Overlook Road just north of the fire tower road in 1987.

- a 10' x 12' cabin and outhouse were removed in Lewis Hollow in 1987. At the same time, a latrine and an open well were filled with stone.

- a short trail re-route from private to public land was conducted on the Pecoy Notch Trail in 1987.

- significant stone-stair work and water diversion was accomplished on the east summit of Plateau Mountain by the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1986.

- several volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference initiated light maintenance on several miles the Devil's Path and some of its trail tributaries in the Summer of 1990 under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department.

- Adirondack Mountain Club volunteers did 49 stone stairs and ditching work on the Pecoy Notch trail in 1990 as part of a long-range project.

- Appalachian Mountain Club entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for the segment fo the Devil's Path over Plateau Mountain.

A. Facility Development and/or Removal

Action 1

Remove unmaintained buildings from lands recently acquired for Forest Preserve.

- There are rough, rustic huts on two parcels of land acquired within the last three years; these are the Plateau Mountain and the Olderbark Mountain parcels.

Action 2

Add one or two "wilderness" privies in the Echo Lake vicinity midway between the groups of designated camping sites. Sites to be determined by field inspection.

Action 3

Replace fireplaces at all lean-tos with firerings in conformance with policy for Wilderness Areas.

Action 4

Construct a new parking lot at the Roaring Kill on the Elka Park Road (Town of Hunter Highway 8) along with a new trailhead there. This new trailhead will tie into both the Mink Hollow and Pecoy Notch trails via new trails of ±3 mile total length.

- This is necessitated by the lack of parking at both existing trailheads (Mink Hollow Road and Wase Road), problems with landowners adjoining those existing trailheads and the Town of Hunter "no overnight parking" law. Parking will be removed to New York State-owned land and away from private residences.

- Whether this action is carried out or not depends primarily upon State land acquisition in the area that will provide for even better access.

Action 5

Construct two new trails, both emanating from the proposed Roaring Kill parking lot; one will go toward Mink Hollow trail and the other toward the Pecoy Notch Trail. Total length ±3 miles. This construction is necessary to remove trailheads to an area of state-owned land and away from private residences. State land acquisition for parking in the vicinity of existing trailheads at Wase Road and Mink Hollow would cancel this proposed Action.

- Construction and maintenance will conform to specifications of a Class II trail according to the Policy for Foot Trails.

- When and if these trails are built, the sections of trails by-passed in Pecoy Notch and Mink Hollow will be closed.

Action 6

Construct a new parking lot on Mink Hollow Road, north of Lake Hill, on the newly-acquired Olderbark Mountain parcel.

- Present parking is a snowplow turnaround at the end of Town maintenance.

Action 7

Provide a stream crossing where the trail crosses the Beaver Kill in Mink Hollow 0.25 mile north of the parking in Mink Hollow south. Large boulders placed as stepping stones should be sufficient and is preferable to a bridge.

Action 8

Place a bulletin board at the trailhead on the south end of the Mink Hollow Trail.

- Bulletin boards are informational and educational tools.

B. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities

Action 1

Retain the general location of all three (3) lean-tos for the time-being. None of these are in violation of the 150-ft. rule since all are specifically-designated camping sites.

- Echo Lake lean-to will not be maintained. Within this five-year plan, it will be replaced by a new one at another location when the present one is no longer safe or habitable.

- Devil's Kitchen lean-to has a new roof and floor so will not be replaced so soon. It will no longer be maintained and will be replaced by a new one at another location when no longer safe or habitable. This will probably not occur until after the first revision of the Plan in years 6 to 10.

- Mink Hollow lean-to will be maintained at the present site which is convenient to a trails intersection.

This Action is a modification of the Draft UMP which called for moving all three lean-tos. This new, revised Action is a more cost-effective and more practical alternative.

Action 2

Rehabilitate all known springs along the trails in the Unit.

Action 3

Rehabilitate the existing informational bulletin board at the Devil's Tombstone Day-Use Area parking lot along NY 214.

Action 4

Restudy and evaluate existing designated campsites at Echo Lake. Where practical, change old sites and add new. All work will be done according to policies in Wilderness Areas.

Action 5

Relocate short sections of severely eroded Devil's Path on the west side at Sugarloaf Mountain.

Action 6

Work with volunteers, and especially organized groups, to enhance trail and facility maintenance.

Action 7

Open all eleven existing vistas along the trails to enhance hiker/experience and distribute use. Viastas are naturally revegetating.

C. Public Use Management and Controls

Action 1

Formalize a management agreement in this Unit between the two DEC Regions in which this Unit is located. Regions 3 and 4 should spell out the administrative responsibility and authority of each Region as it pertains to the Wilderness. This will involve the Division of Operations, the Division of Lands and Forests and the Division of Law Enforcement.

Action 2

Actively seek the abandonment of two alleged Town roads, the Mink Hollow Road and the Overlook Road, where they pass through Forest Preserve.

Action 3

Barricade the Silver Hollow road at each end as it enters Forest Preserve.

Action 4

Provide for additional parking and improved public access (IV A - 4, 5 and 6).

Action 5

Continue Forest Ranger and seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger patrols to educate and to control actions of users.

Action 6

Monitor the Channel 62 TV Tower for any attempt at expansion of tower or facilities and be prepared to intervene in any proceedings impacting on this Wilderness.

D. Fish and Wildlife

Fisheries

Action 1

Continue to manage all waters within this Unit except Echo Lake, under current Statewide general regulations. The Echo Lake fishery has special regulations; Division of Fish and Wildlife studies in the 1980's call for the continuance of the special fishing regulations which are posted at the lakefront at several points.

Action 2

Maintain and manage the Lake as a wild, self-sustaining brook trout lake. Carry out pond reclamation if fisheries surveys indicate reclamation is needed to perpetuate a wild, self-sustaining brook trout population.

Action 3

Conduct periodic fisheries surveys to monitor the condition of the native trout and other fish populations. Adjust regulations accordingly.

Action 4

Management options will adhere to Commissioner's Organizaiton and Delegation Memorandum #91-31, entitled "Fishery Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas." (Appendix F).

Wildlife

Action 1

Manage and protect wildlife species through enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law and pertinent Rules and Regulations.

Action 2

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 and Deer Management Units.

E. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

There are no watercourses in this Unit that are classified under the provisions of Title 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law (Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act).

F. Fire Management

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

The firetower on Overlook Mountain, although outside this Unit, but contiguous to it, has not been manned for three years.

G. Staffing (Administrative)

The Unit falls within two Forest Ranger Districts: the Ulster County portion in Region 3 and the larger Greene County portion in Region 4. The two Forest Rangers have other additional areas of responsibility and duties, so it will be necessary to continue the seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger program to supplement the Ranger force in this and other Forest Preserve Areas; Region 4 Assistant Forest Rangers have had the responsibility of patrolling this Unit and others.

The Division of Operations staff that administers all of the interior Forest Preserve work in Region 4 is presently a two-man team, one full-time and the other seasonal. This has been the workforce for the last two years; in several years prior to this, the Region has had a three-man and sometimes a four-man team with only one a full-time employee. Region 3 has had a similar history of shrinking manpower. This is inadequate to maintain the facilities required in this Plan. Expand the Operations workforce by adding one full-time employee for interior work.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife staff is currently adequate to handle the management activities of this Unit.

Because of the good working relationship between the Division of Operations and the Division of Lands and Forests in Regions 3 and 4, there is adequate supervisory staff to administer this Unit.

H. Education

Action 1

Develop a joint brochure describing this Wilderness Unit and the adjacent Overlook Mountain Wild Forest. It will include a map, rules of public use, sanitation and low-impact camping techniques. It will be for public distribution and for posting at trailhead information boards.

Action 2

Fully utilize any trailhead bulletin boards to dispense any information about the Unit.

These Actions are supplemental to the personal contact of Forest Rangers and Assistant Forest Rangers.

I. Land Acquisition

Problems of parking, difficult public access and trailhead inconveniences for Preserve users and nearby private landowners have been the subject of several Actions in this Plan. Acquisition of key parcels of private land--available and with willing sellers--will alleviate many present and future problems. Many acquisition proposals have been actively searched and pursued through the last three Bond Acts. Some key projects of parcels with willing sellers had reached the land appraisal stage but the failure of passage of the 1990 EQBA necessitated the termination of these projects.

Action 1

Maintain contact with owners of these key parcels until funding for land purchase eventually becomes available.

J. SEQR Requirements

The provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act have been met. Actions proposed in this UMP will not result in any significant environmental impact. A negative declaration has been filed. A copy of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and the Negative Declaration can be found in the Appendices.

K. Relationship of Unit to Other Forest Preserve and Adjacent Areas

The Overlook Mountain Wild Forest lies in the southeast of the Wilderness Area. Separating this Unit was a well-discussed and thought-out decision. Retention of the fire tower, not allowed in a Wilderness, was a factor. Other factors were; the ruins of the incompleted Overlook Mountain House, the presence of a driveable roadway surrounded by private parcels of land all of which have road access, and the presence of the commercial WTZA-TV tower. None of these factors could be adequately mitigated in the forseeable future. The administrative decision was made to determine the boundaries of the Wilderness Unit and to include all other Forest Preserve lands (existing and future acquisition) in the vicinity in a separate Wild Forest.

To the north of this Unit is the Kaaterskill Wild Forest. To the west is the Hunter Mountain Wild Forest. To the southwest is the Phoenicia-Mount Tobias Wild Forest administered by Region 3. And to the southeast is the Overlook Mountain Wild Forest also administered by Region 3.

L. Proposed Rules and Regulations

None. Existing rules and regulations are considered adquate.

V. Schedule for Implementation/Budget

A. Recurring Annual Maintenance Costs

Item	Cost	Frequency
Parking lot maintenance (includes mowing, litter p/u, drainage, etc.- 2 existing maintained lots.	$700	Annual

Parking lot maintenance-new lot for 3 yrs. Parking lot maintenance-new lot for 2 yrs.	$210 $140	Annual Annual
Litter pickup and disposal	$500	Annual
Fort trail maintenance (24.1 miles)	$3,000	Annual
Signs and registers maintenance	$150	Annual
Informational bulletin board maintenance	$300	Annual
Maintenance of lean-tos, primitive campsites and fire-rings	$800	Annual
Vista maintenance (11 vistas)	$220	Annual
Boundary line maintenance - painting and posting (36 miles on a 7-year rotation)	$550	Annual

B. Non-Recurring Costs

Item	Cost	Frequency
Remove unmaintained non-conforming buildings (2)	$8,000	Year 1
Construct new lean-to at Echo Lake (replacement)	$5,000	Year 5
Add wilderness privies (2)	$1,600	Year 1
Replace fireplaces with fire-rings (3)	$600	Year 1
Construct parking lot-Roaring Kill	$6,000	Year 3
Construct parking lot-Mink Hollow South	$6,000	Year 2
Construct trails from Roaring Kill (3 miles)	$9,500	Year 3
Construct and place informational bulletin board at Mink Hollow South	$700	Year 2
Rehabilitate all known springs on the trails system	$300	Year 2

Relocate Echo Lake privy	$300	Year 1
Rehabilitate existing informational bulletin boards (2)	$500	Year 1
Reset designated camping sites at Echo Lake	$500	Year 1
Construct a trout spawning bed at Echo Lake - if needed	$500	Year 5
Conduct fishery survey in Echo Lake-if needed	$500	Year 5

C. Administrative Costs

There are several Actions that will be accomplished by existing full-time personnel as a part of regular program duties. Thus, these costs will not be shown as part of the management costs in the Unit. These Actions pertain to administration of:

- law enforcement
- fire control
- wildlife management
- fisheries management
- forest preserve management

D. Cost Summary

a.	Maintenance - Annual Cost	$6,570
	Total 5 Years	$32,850
b.	Costs of planned projects (Actions) Total 5 Years	$40,500

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WILDERNESS

Wilderness Areas of the Forest Preserve

Some of the large, remote and more fragile areas have wilderness characteristics. To preserve them as they now exist, these areas are classified as wilderness. These are the same general areas of Forest Preserve that the New York State Joint Legislative Committee termed wilderness in their 1961 annual report.

Definition

A wilderness area is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man -- where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A wilderness is further defined to mean an area of State land or water having a primeval character, without significant improvements or permanent human habitation. Such an area is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions. Wilderness: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) offers opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least ten thousand acres of land (and/or water) or is of sufficient size and character as to make practicable its preservation and use is an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

Basic Guidelines for Management and Use

The primary wilderness management guidelines will be to achieve and perpetuate a plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent.

Source: Catskill Park State Land Master Plan

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

SEQR
Negative Declaration
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project # NO002110-113 Date 2-25-92

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

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

Title of Action: Implementation of the Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type I ☒
Unlisted ☐

Description of Action:

The Plan identifies the various natural and man-made resources of the 16,235 acre Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness, a part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. It also identifies the constraints and issues affecting the Unit, and develops goals and objectives which will govern the future management and protection of the Wilderness Unit. Specific actions (projects) are proposed to fulfill these goals and objectives; actions include the construction of one new lean-to, the minor relocation of three existing lean-tos, the construction of three small trailhead parking areas, the construction of ±3 miles of new trail and the maintenance of all existing man-made facilities. The Plan will direct all management activities within the Unit for a period of five years from the date of its adoption by the Commissioner.

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

Greene County, Town of Hunter and Ulster County, Towns of Saugerties and Woodstock. New York State Forest Preserve lands designated as the Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

This area will be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Guidelines established in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan as well as the constraints set forth in Article XIV of the NYS Constitution and Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Commissioner's Organization and Delegation Memorandum #84-06 regarding tree cutting on Forest Preserve lands will be strictly adhered to when man-made facilities are newly constructed or existing ones are modified. The specific location of sites of projects have not yet been chosen and indeed are conceptual at this time. Projects, and their size and number, may also be modified (expanded, reduced, deleted, moved) as a result of public and DEC review of the draft UMP. Therefore, DEC will do specific SEQR evaluation on any of the approved planned projects as each is planned for construction.

The NYS OPRHP Archaeological Inventory Map show no known historic or archaeological site of any significance within the boundaries of the Unit. There are sites to the north in the Schoharie Creek valley and to the south in the Saw Kill valley. Prior to site disturbance on any project, an updated archaeological and historic review will be sought.

Significant habitats and rare and endangered plant and animal species have also been researched through the Natural Heritage Program. Because conditions change over time and new data is constantly being discovered, updated reviews will be sought in each instance of construction before projects are initiated.

(see attached page for continuation)

For Further Information:

Contact Person: John R. Sencabaugh - Senior Forester
Address: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
HC#3, Box 903, Cairo, NY 12413
Phone No.: (518) 622-9743

Copies of this Notice Sent to:

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

Water management devices (culvert, waterbars, drainage ditches) will be used on all new trail construction and existing trail maintenance to mitigate soil erosion and compaction.

Parking lot construction will be conducted so as to minimize tree cutting and soil disturbance; the three lots planned will collectively disturb about one acre of land. The parking areas are to be located to provide public parking where none now exists and to reduce the existing on-road parking.

All facility maintenance will be conducted in accordance with Wilderness Guidelines and with existing Departmental policies for those facilities.

Information boards will be constructed and maintained with materials that convey the rules governing the use of Forest Preserve land in general and to instruct users in low impact camping, sanitation, safety, etc.

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617.21
Appendix A
State Environmental Quality Review

SEQR

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 unmeasureable. It is also understood that those who determine significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment or may 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 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 magitude 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

Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan
Name of Action

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Name of Lead Agency

Carl P. Wiedemann
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Regional Forestry Manager
Title of Responsible Officer

Carl P. Wiedemann jcs
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (if different from responsible officer)

December 6, 1991
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 Indian Head-Plateau Mt. Wilderness Unit Mgt. Plan		
LOCATION OF ACTION (Include Street Address, Municipality and County) Town of Hunter, Greene County & Towns of Saugerties & Woodstock, Ulster County		
NAME OF APPLICANT/SPONSOR NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Reg. 4	BUSINESS TELEPHONE (518)382-0680	
ADDRESS 2176 Guilderland Avenue		
CITY/PO Schenectady	STATE NY	ZIP CODE 12306
NAME OF OWNER (If different)	BUSINESS TELEPHONE ( )	
ADDRESS		
CITY/PO	STATE	ZIP CODE
DESCRIPTION OF ACTION The implementation of the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan. Refer to the Plan for a review of proposed management projects.		

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: 16,261 acres.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	0 acres	0 acres
Forested	16,235 acres	16,234 acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	0 acres	0 acres
Wetland (Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24, 25 of ECL)	13 acres	13 acres
Water Surface Area	13 acres	13 acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	0 acres	1 acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	0 acres	0 acres
Other (Indicate type) _____	0 acres	0 acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? Arnot-Oquaga, Oquaga-Arnot, Lackawanna

   a. Soil drainage. ☐Well drained 80 % of site ☐Moderately well drained 19 % of site ☐Poorly drained 1 % 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 1 NYCRR 370)

4. Is there bedrock outcroppings on project site? ☒Yes ☐No

   a. What is depth to bedrock? v. variable (in feet)

5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes: ☐0-10% 10 % ☐10-15% 40 %
☐15% or greater 50 %

6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or the 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 NY Natural Heritage Program; Michael Kudish, PhD
Identify each species Eastern Timber Rattlesnake; Sundew

12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations)
☒Yes ☐No Describe Numerous cliffs, rock outcrops and waterfalls; too many to specify. Six major mountain peaks ranging from 3150' to 3840' in elevation. Platte Clove.

13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area?
☒Yes ☐No If yes, explain It is public land with hiking trails.

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: There are 18 tributary streams draining the area.
a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary 14 streams tributary to Esopus Creek (Hudson); 4 streams tributary to Schoharie Creek (Mohawk).

16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:
a. Name Echo Lake; Wetland K-11 b. Size (In acres) 13 Ac; 13 Ac

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 16,235 acres.
b. Project acreage to be developed: 1.0 acres initially; 1.0 acres ultimately.
c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped 16,234 acres.
d. Length of project, in miles: ±3.0 (If appropriate) Total length of trail development.
e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed NA %;
f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing 0 ; proposed 30
g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour NA (upon completion of project)? Projects designed to accomodate present use, not to increase use.
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 8' height, 8' width, 12' length (lean-to)
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 tons/cubic yards

3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed? ☐Yes ☐No ☒N/A

   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? 1.0 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 NA months, (including demolition).

7. If multi-phased:

   a. Total number of phases anticipated 5 (number).

   b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1 April month 1992 year, (including demolition).

   c. Approximate completion date of final phase March month 1997 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 Relocate 3 lean-tos about 100' each

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? ☐Yes ☒No Type _____

14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? ☐Yes ☒No

    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? X Yes No

    If yes, explain NY State annual appropriation and allocation

25. Approvals Required:

			Type	Submittal Date
City, Town, Village Board	☐Yes	☒No		
City, Town, Village Planning Board	☐Yes	☒No		
City, Town Zoning Board	☐Yes	☒No		
City, County Health Department	☐Yes	☒No		
Other Local Agencies	☐Yes	☒No		
Other Regional Agencies	☐Yes	☒No		
State Agencies	☒Yes	☐No	DEC Commr.-Plan approval	
Federal Agencies	☐Yes	☒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 ☐special use permit ☐subdivision ☐site plan

   ☐new/revision of master plan ☒resource management plan ☐other _____

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

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

   NA

4. What is the proposed zoning of the site? Wilderness

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

   NA

6. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans? NA ☐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 within 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 o avoid them.

E. Verification

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

Applicant/Sponsor Name John R. Sencabaugh Date 12/6/91

Signature John R. Sencabaugh Title Senior Forester

If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceedin with this assessment.

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.
- 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.
- 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 cumlative effects.

Instructions (Read carefully)

a. Answer each of the 19 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. If reviewer has doubt about size of the impact then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.

e. 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.

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact Be Mitigated By Project Change	
IMPACT ON LAND				
1. Will the proposed action result in a physical change to the project site? ☐NO ☒YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Any construction on slopes of 15% or greater, (15 foot rise per 100 foot of length), or where the general slopes in the project area exceed 10%.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e., rock or soil) per year.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Construction or expansion of a sanitary landfill.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Construction in a designated floodway.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts Construction of 3 parking lots and one lean-to requiring disturbance and some vegetative clearing of approximately one acre. Construct 3-mile trail	X	☐	☐Yes	☐No
2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological formations, etc.) ☒NO ☐YES				
• Specific land forms _____			☐Yes	☐No

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 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) ☒NO ☐YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
• Developable area of site contains a protected water body.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Extension of utility distribution facilities through a protected water body.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
4. Will proposed action affect any non-protected existing or new body of water? ☒NO ☐YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
• A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Construction of a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
5. Will Proposed Action affect surface or groundwater quality or quantity? ☒NO ☐YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
• Proposed Action will require a discharge permit.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed (project) action.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action requires water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Construction or operation causing any contamination of a water supply system.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will adversely affect groundwater.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• 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.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will require the storage of petroleum or chemical products greater than 1,100 gallons.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will allow residential uses in areas without water and/or sewer services.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action locates commercial and/or industrial uses which may require new or expansion of existing waste treatment and/or storage facilities	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
6. Will proposed action alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff? ☒NO ☐YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
• Proposed Action would change flood water flows			

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact Be Mitigated By Project Chang	
• Proposed Action may cause substantial erosion.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action will allow development in a designated floodway.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
IMPACT ON AIR				
7. Will proposed action affect air quality? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Proposed Action will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Emission rate of total contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed action will allow an increase in the amount of land committed to industrial use.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed action will allow an increase in the density of industrial development within existing industrial areas.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS				
8. Will Proposed Action affect any threatened or endangered species? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near site or found on the site.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐N
• Removal of any por on of a critical or significant wildlife habitat.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐N
• Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐N
• Other impacts: Any site to be disturbed by any approved planned project will be specifically evaluated in individual SEGR evaluation before construction.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐N
9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Proposed Action would substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish, shellfish or wildlife species.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐N
• Proposed Action requires the removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest (over 100 years of age) or other locally important vegetation	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐N
IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES				
10. Will the Proposed Action affect agricultural land resources? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• The proposed action would sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land (includes cropland, hayfields, pasture, vineyard, orchard, etc.)			Yes	N

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact Be Mitigated By Project Change
• Construction activity would excavate or compact the soil profile of agricultural land.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• The proposed action would irreversibly convert more than 10 acres of agricultural land or, if located in an Agricultutal District, more than 2.5 acres of agricultural land.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• The proposed action would disrupt or prevent installation of agricultural land management systems (e.g., subsurface drain lines, outlet ditches, strip cropping); or create a need for such measures (e.g. cause a farm field to drain poorly due to increased runoff)	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No

IMPACT ON AESTHETIC RESOURCES

11. Will proposed action affect aesthetic resources? ☒NO ☐YES
(If necessary, use the Visual EAF Addendum in Section 617.21, Appendix B.)

Examples that would apply to column 2

• Proposed land uses, or project components obviously different from or in sharp contrast to current surrounding land use patterns, whether man-made or natural.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed land uses, or project components visible to users of aesthetic resources which will eliminate or significantly reduce their enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities of that resource.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Project components that will result in the elimination or significant screening of scenic views known to be important to the area.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No

IMPACT ON HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

12. Will Proposed Action impact any site or structure of historic, pre-historic or paleontological importance? ☒NO ☐YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

• Proposed Action occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any facility or site listed on the State or National Register of historic places.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Any impact to an archaeological site or fossil bed located within the project site.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will occur in an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NYS Site Inventory.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts _____	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No

IMPACT ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

[illegible] Will Proposed Action affect the quantity or quality of existing or future open spaces or recreational opportunities? ☒NO [illegible]YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

• The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity			[illegible]Yes [illegible]No
• A major reduction of an open space important to the community			[illegible]Yes [illegible]No
• [illegible] Increase in recreational opportunity: 3 miles of additional trails, parking access.			[illegible]Yes [illegible]No

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact Be Mitigated By Project Change	
IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION				
14 Will there be an effect to existing transportation systems? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Alteration of present patterns of movement of people and/or goods.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action will result in major traffic problems.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts: Improvement for local residents by provision of off-road recreational parking.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
IMPACT ON ENERGY				
15. Will proposed action affect the community's sources of fuel or energy supply? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Proposed Action will cause a greater than 5% increase in the use of any form of energy in the municipality.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action will require the creation or extension of an energy transmission or supply system to serve more than 50 single or two family residences or to serve a major commercial or industrial use.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
NOISE AND ODOR IMPACTS				
16. Will there be objectionable odors, noise, or vibration as a result of the Proposed Action? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• Blasting within 1,500 feet of a hospital, school or other sensitive facility.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Odors will occur routinely (more than one hour per day).	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action will remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH				
17 Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety? ☒NO ☐YES				
Examples that would apply to column 2				
• 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.	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Proposed Action may result in the burial of "hazardous wastes" in any form (i.e. toxic, poisonous, highly reactive, radioactive, irritating, infectious, etc.)	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Storage facilities for one million or more gallons of liquified natural gas or other flammable liquids	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• 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	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No
• Other impacts _____	☐	☐	☐Yes	☐No

IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD

18 Will proposed action affect the character of the existing community? ☒NO ☐YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact Be Mitigated By Project Change
• The permanent population of the city, town or village in which the project is located is likely to grow by more than 5%.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• The municipal budget for capital expenditures or operating services will increase by more than 5% per year as a result of this project.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed action will conflict with officially adopted plans or goals.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed action will cause a change in the density of land use.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will replace or eliminate existing facilities, structures or areas of historic importance to the community.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Development will create a demand for additional community services (e.g. schools, police and fire, etc.)	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will set an important precedent for future projects.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Proposed Action will create or eliminate employment.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No
• Other impacts: Beneficial effect of off-road parking and distribution of recreationists.	☐	☐	☐Yes ☐No

19 Is there, or is there likely to be, public controversy related to potential adverse environmental 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

Part 3—EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS

Responsibility of Lead Agency

Part 3 must be prepared if one or more impact(s) is considered to be potentially large, even if the impact(s) may be mitigated.

Instructions

Discuss the following for each impact identified in Column 2 of Part 2:

1 Briefly describe the impact

2 Describe (if applicable) how the impact could be mitigated or reduced to a small to moderate impact by project change(s).

3 Based on the information available, decide if it is reasonable to conclude that this impact is **important.**

To answer the question of importance, consider:

- The probability of the impact occurring
- The duration of the impact
- Its irreversibility, including permanently lost resources of value
- Whether the impact can or will be controlled
- The regional consequence of the impact
- Its potential divergence from local needs and goals
- Whether known objections to the project relate to this impact

(Continue on attachment)

New York State
Breeding Bird Atlas

The enclosed data from the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas represents a cumulative effort from 1980-1985. These data are the result of on-site block by block surveys conducted by numerous individuals. The appropriate blocks were then selected to form a unit for which we can provide a listing of Confirmed, Probable and Possible breeding birds. The intensity level and effort in data collecting varies throughout the State. Some blocks have been more thoroughly searched than others. For these reasons, we cannot provide a definitive statement concerning the absence of a breeding record for a species not listed in the unit. We can only provide a listing of species known to be breeding or suspected of breeding within this unit.

The highest level of confirmation of breeding recorded during the Atlas period was retained in this list. The list is grouped by breeding level with Confirmed breeders listed first followed by Probable and Possible breeders.

Definitions of the New York State legal status and the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) State ranking are provided on the enclosed sheet entitled "New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Species Status." The NHP rank reflects "believed" rarity within the State. It does not confer any legal protection to the species and is meant only as a "working" list, subject to changes based upon the most recent data available.

Questions concerning these data may be addressed to:

Significant Habitat Information Services
N.Y.S.D.E.C.
Wildlife Resources Center
700 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110

Copies of the published book "The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State", Andrle, Robert F. and Janet R. Carroll, Editors, may be purchased directly from Cornell University Press. Call toll free 1-800-666-2211 to order and have billed to your charge card.

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas
Species Status

New York State Legal Status

Endangered - any species which meet one of the following criteria:

1) Any native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York.

2) Any species listed as endangered by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.

Threatened - any species which meet one of the following criteria:

1) Any native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in New York.

2) Any species listed as threatened by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11, and not listed as endangered in New York.

Protected-Special Concern - those species which are not yet recognized as endangered or threatened, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York and are Federally protected wild birds.

Protected-Game Species - species classified as small game in New York by Environmental Conservation Law, may have an open season for part of the year and are protected at other times.

Protected - those species listed as wild game, protected wild birds, and endangered species as defined in the Environmental Conservation Law.

Unprotected - species which may be taken at any time without limit; however, a license to take may be required.

Natural Heritage Program State Ranks

S1 - Typically 5 or fewer occurrences, very few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or some other factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable in New York State.

S2 - Typically 6 to 20 occurrences, few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable in New York State.

S3 - Typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream in New York State.

S4 - Apparently secure in New York State.

S5 - Demonstrably secure in New York State.

SH - Historically known from New York State, but not seen in the past 15 years.

SX - Apparently extirpated from New York State.

SE - Exotic, not native to New York State.

SR - State report only, no verified specimens known from New York State.

SU - Status in New York State is unknown.

NR - Not ranked, usually a hybrid species.

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS
BREEDING SPECIES OF : INDIAN HEAD-PLATEAU WILDERNESS AREA
1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
CONFIRMED BREEDERS			
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Game Species	S5
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus	Protected	S5
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	Game Species	S5
Wild Turkey	Meleagris gallopavo	Game Species	S5
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Game Species	S5
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	Protected	S5
Rock Dove	Columba livia	Unprotected	SE
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	Protected	S5
Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	Protected	S5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	Protected	S5
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	Protected	S5
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus	Protected	S5
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	Protected	S5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens	Protected	S5
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	Protected	S5
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	Protected	S5
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	Protected	S5
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	Protected	S5
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	Protected	S5
Cliff Swallow	Hirundo pyrrhonota	Protected	S5
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Protected	S5
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	Protected	S5
Black-capped Chickadee	Parus atricapillus	Protected	S5
Tufted Titmouse	Parus bicolor	Protected	S5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	Protected	S5
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis	Protected	S5
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	Protected	S5
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Protected	S5
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	Protected	S5
Eastern Bluebird	Sialia sialis	Protected-Special Concern	S5

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS
BREEDING SPECIES OF : INDIAN HEAD-PLATEAU WILDERNESS AREA
1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	Protected	S5
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	Protected	S5
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	Protected	S5
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Protected	S5
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	Protected	S5
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	Protected	S5
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	Protected	S5
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	Protected	S5
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Unprotected	SE
Solitary Vireo	Vireo solitarius	Protected	S5
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	Protected	S5
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus	Protected	S5
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	Protected	S5
Blue-winged Warbler	Vermivora pinus	Protected	S5
Nashville Warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	Protected	S5
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	Protected	S5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	Protected	S5
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	Protected	S5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	Protected	S5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	Protected	S5
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	Protected	S5
Blackburnian Warbler	Dendroica fusca	Protected	S5
Blackpoll Warbler	Dendroica striata	Protected	S3
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	Protected	S5
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	Protected	S5
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapillus	Protected	S5
Northern Waterthrush	Seiurus noveboracensis	Protected	S5
Louisiana Waterthrush	Seiurus motacilla	Protected	S5
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	Protected	S5
Canada Warbler	Wilsonia canadensis	Protected	S5
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea	Protected	S5
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis	Protected	S5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	Protected	S5

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS
BREEDING SPECIES OF : INDIAN HEAD-PLATEAU WILDERNESS AREA
1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	Protected	S5
Rufous-sided Towhee	Pipilo erythrophthalmus	Protected	S5
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	Protected	S5
Field Sparrow	Spizella pusilla	Protected	S5
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Protected	S5
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	Protected	S5
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	Protected	S5
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Protected	S5
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	Protected	S5
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	Protected	S5
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	Protected	S5
Northern Oriole	Icterus galbula	Protected	S5
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Protected	S5
House Finch	Carpodacus mexicanus	Protected	SE
American Goldfinch	Carduelis tristis	Protected	S5
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Unprotected	SE
PROBABLE BREEDERS			
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	Game Species	S5
American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	Game Species	S4
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	Protected	S5
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	Protected	S5
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularia	Protected	S5
American Woodcock	Scolopax minor	Game Species	S5
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus	Protected	S5
Barred Owl	Strix varia	Protected	S5
Whip-poor-will	Caprimulgus vociferus	Protected	S4
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	Protected	S5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	Protected	S5
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus borealis	Protected	S5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	Protected	S3
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	Protected	S5

Appendix C. Status and occurrence of New York amphibians in the Catskill Peaks subzone as listed in "integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1983).

SPECIES	STATUS*	SPECIES	STATUS*
Jefferson Salamander	Special Concern	Northern Two-lined Salamander	
Blue-spotted Salamander	Special Concern	Longtail Salamander	
Spotted Salamander	Special Concern	American Toad	
Red-spotted Newt		Fowler's Road	
Northern Dusky Salamander		Northern Spring Peeper	
Mountain Dusky Salamander		Gray Treefrog	
Redback Salamander		Bullfrog	Hunted
Slimy Salamander		Green Frog	
Four-toed Salamander		Wood Frog	
Northern Spring Salamander		Pickerel Frog	
Northern Red Salamander			

*Status = Status in New York State

Appendix C. Status and occurrence of New York mammals in the Catskill Peaks subzone as listed in "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1983).

SPECIES	STATUS*	SPECIES	STATUS*
Masked Shrew		Red Fox	Hunted/Trapped
Smoky Shrew		Gray Fox	Hunted/Trapped
Longtail Shrew		Bobcat	Hunted/Trapped
Northern Water Shrew		Woodchuck	Hunted
Least Shrew		Eastern Chipmunk	
Shorttail Shrew		Gray Squirrel	Hunted
Starnose Mole		Red Squirrel	
Hairytail Mole		Southern Flying Squirrel	
Little Brown Myotis		Northern Flying Squirrel	
Keen Myotis		Beaver	
Indiana Myotis	Endangered	Deer Mouse	
Small-footed Myotis	Special Concern	White-footed Mouse	
Silver-haired Bat		Eastern Woodrat	Threatened
Eastern Pipistrelle		Southern Bog Lemming	
Big Brown Bat		Boreal Red-backed Vole	
Red Bat		Meadow Vole	
Hoary Bat		Yellownose Vole	
Black Bear	Hunted	Pine Vole	
Raccoon	Hunted/Trapped	Muskrat	Trapped
Fisher	Trapped	Meadow Jumping Mouse	
Shorttail Weasel	Trapped	Woodland Jumping Mouse	
Longtail Weasel	Trapped	Porcupine	
Mink	Trapped	Showshoe Hare	Hunted
River Otter	Trapped	Eastern Cottontail	Hunted
Striped Skunk	Hunted/Trapped	White-tailed Deer	Hunted
Coyote	Hunted/Trapped		

*Status = Status in New York State

Appendix C. Status and occurrence of New York reptiles in the Catskill Peaks subzone as listed in "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1983).

SPECIES	STATUS*	SPECIES	STATUS*
Common Snapping Turtle		Eastern Ribbon Snake	
Stinkpot		Eastern Hognose Snake	
Spotted Turtle	Special Concern	Northern Ringneck Snake	
Wood Turtle	Special Concern	Northern Black Racer	
Eastern Painted Turtle		Eastern Smooth Green Snake	
Northern Water Snake		Black Rat Snake	
Northern Brown Snake		Eastern Milk Snake	
Northern Redbelly Snake		Northern Copperhead	
Eastern Garter Snake		Timber Rattlesnake	Threatened

*Status = Status in New York State

Protected Native Plants

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests
(518) 457-7370

New York State, for the first time, has given official recognition to truly rare plants. Four lists of plants are included in the new regulation. These lists are endangered, threatened, exploitably vulnerable and rare. The exploitably vulnerable list contains plants that are commercially exploited.

The regulation gives landowners additional rights to prosecute collectors that take plants without permission. Violators of the regulation are subject to fines of $25 per plant illegally taken.

Express Terms

A new Part 193.3 is adopted to read as follows: 193.3 Protected native plants.

(a) All plants enumerated on the lists of endangered species in subdivision (b) of this section, threatened species in subdivision (c) of this section, exploitably vulnerable species in subdivision (d) of this section, or rare species in subdivision (e) of this section are protected native plants pursuant to section 9-1503 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The common names contained on these lists are included for information purposes only; the scientific name shall be used for the purpose of determining any violation. Site means a colony or colonies of plants separated from other colonies by at least one-half mile.

(b) The following are endangered native plants in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges within the state and requiring remedial action to prevent such extinction. Listed plants are those with 5 or fewer extant sites, or fewer than 1,000 individuals, or restricted to fewer than 4 U.S.G.S. 7½ minute series maps, or species listed as endangered by the United States Department of Interior in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Species	Common name
Agalinis acuta	Sandplain Gerardia
Amelanchier x nantucketensis	Nantucket Juneberry
Angelica lucida	Angelica
Arnica lanceolata	Arnica
Asplenium viride	Green Spleenwort
Aster concolor	Silvery Aster
Betula glandulosa	Tundra Dwarf Birch
Betula minor	Dwarf White Birch
Botrychium lunaria	Moonwort
Botrychium minganense	Mingan Moonwort
Botrychium rugulosum	Rugulose Grape Fern
Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama
Calamagrostis porteri ssp. perplexa	Wood Reedgrass
Calamagrostis stricta ssp. stricta	Northern Reedgrass
Carex atratiformis	Black Sedge
Carex barrattii	Barratt's Sedge
Carex hyalinolepis	Shore-line Sedge
Carex mitchelliana	Mitchell Sedge
Carex wiegandii	Wiegand Sedge
Corallorhiza striata	Striped Coralroot
Corema conradii	Broom Crowberry
Cyperus ovularis	Globose Flatsedge
Cypripedium candidum	Small White Ladyslipper
Cystopteris protrusa	Lowland Fragile Fern
Dicentra eximia	Bleeding-heart
Draba glabella	Rock-cress
Eleocharis engelmannii	Engelmann Spikerush
Epilobium hornemannii	Alpine Willow-herb
Eupatorium leucolepis	White Boneset
Gentianopsis procera	Fringed Gentian
Geum triflorum	Prairie-smoke
Hydrocotyle verticillata	Water-pennywort
Hypericum adpressum	Creeping St. John's-wort
Hypericum densiflorum	Bushy St. John's-wort
Hypericum denticulatum	Coppery St. John's-wort
Hypericum hypercoides ssp. multicaule	St. Andrew's Cross
Juniperus horizontalis	Prostrate Juniper
Ligusticum scothicum	Scotch Lovage
Lilium michiganense	Michigan Lily
Listera auriculata	Auricled Twayblade
Loiseleuria procumbens	Alpine Azalea
Lycopodium carolinianum	Carolina Clubmoss
Lycopodium sitchense	Sitka Clubmoss
Lygodium palmatum	Climbing Fern
Lythrum lineare	Saltmarsh Loosestrife
Oryzopsis canadensis	Canada Ricegrass
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern
Pinus virginiana	Virginia Pine
Poa paludigena	Slender Marsh Bluegrass
Polygala lutea	Yellow Milkwort
Potamogeton ogdenii	Ogden's Pondweed
Potentilla paradoxa	Bushy Cinquefoil
Prenanthes boottii	Boott's Rattlesnake-root
Pterospora andromedea	Giant Pine-drops
Pycnanthemum torrei	Torrey's Mountain-mint
Pyxidanthera barbulata	Pixies
Quercus phellos	Willow Oak
Ranunculus cymbalaria	Seaside Crowfoot
Rhynchospora inundata	Drowned Horned Rush
Sabatia angularis	Rose-pink
Sabatia campanulata	Slender Marsh-pink
Sagittaria teres	Quill-leaf Arrowhead
Salix herbacea	Dwarf Willow
Schizaea pusilla	Curlygrass
Scirpus clintonii	Clinton's Clubrush
Scirpus cylindricus	Saltmarsh Bulrush
Scleria minor	Slender Nutrush
Scleria verticillata	Low Nutrush
Sedum integrifolium ssp. leedyi	*Rose Sedum*
Sedum rosea	Roseroot
Sesuvium maritimum	Sea Purslane
Smilax pseudo-china	False China-root
Smilax pulverulenta	Jacob's-ladder
Solidago houghtonii	Houghton's Goldenrod
Thalictrum venulosum	Veiny Meadow-rue
Tillaea aquatica	Pigmyweed
Tofieldia glutinosa	Sticky False Asphodel
Trillium sessile	Toad-shade
Trisetum melicoides	Melic-oats
Uvularia puberula	Mountain Bellwort
Vaccinium cespitosum	Dwarf Blueberry
Viola brittoniana var. brittoniana	Coastal violet
Viola novae-angliae	New England Violet
Viola stoneana	Stone's violet
Vittaria spp.	Appalachian Vittaria
Wolffia braziliensis	Watermeal
Woodsia alpina	Alpine Woodsia
Woodsia cathcartiana	Oregon Woodsia
Woodsia glabella	Smooth Woodsia

(c) The following are threatened native plants that are likely to become endangered within the forseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges in the state. Listed plants are those with 6 to fewer than 20 extant sites, or 1,000 to fewer than 3,000 individuals, or restricted to not less than 4 or more than 7 U.S.G.S. 7½ minute series maps, or species listed as threatened by the United State Department of Interior in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Species	Common name
Aconitum noveboracense	Northern Monk's-hood
Adoxa moschatellina	Moschatel
Agrostis mertensii	Northern Bentgrass
Asclepias purpurascens	Purple Milkweed
Asclepias variegata	White Milkweed
Asplenium montanum	Mountain Spleenwort
Bidens bidentoides	Estuary Beggar-ticks
Bidens hyperborea	Estuary Beggar-ticks
Blephilia ciliata	Downy Wood-mint
Calamagrostis strict ssp. inexpansa	Northern Reedgrass
Cardamine rotundifolia	Mountain Watercress
Carex backii	Rocky Mountain Sedge
Carex bullata	Button Sedge
Carex crawei	Crawe Sedge
Carex sartwellii	Sartwell Sedge
Carex scirpoidea	Canadian Single-spike Sedge
Castilleja coccinea	Scarlet Indian-paintbrush
Ceanothus herbaceus	Prairie Redroot
Cornus drummondii	Rough-leaf Dogwood
Corydalis aurea	Golden Corydalis
Cynoglossum virginianum var. boreale	*Northern Wild Comfrey*
Cypripedium arietinum	Ram's-head Ladyslipper
Desmodium ciliare	Tick-trefoil
Desmodium glabellum	Tall Tick-clover
Diapensia lapponica	Diapensia
Dryopteris fragrans	Fragrant Cliff Fern
Eleocharis equisetoides	Knotted Spikerush
Eleocharis quadrangulata	Angled Spikerush
Eleocharis tricostata	Three-ribbed Spikerush
Eleocharis tuberculosa	Long-tubercled Spikerush
Euonymus americanus	American Strawberry-bush
Fimbristylis castanea	Marsh Fimbry
Geocaulon lividum	Purple Comandra
Halenia deflexa	Spurred Gentian
Hedyotis uniflora	Clustered Bluets
Helianthemum dumosum	Bushy Rockrose
Helianthus angustifolius	Swamp Sunflower
Hierochloe alpina	Alpine Sweetgrass
Hottonia inflata	Featherfoil
Hydrastis canadensis	Golden-seal
Hypericum prolificum	Shrubby St. John's Wort
Juncus debilis	Weak Rush
Juncus trifidus	Arctic Rush
Lachnanthes caroliniana	Carolina Redroot
Lechea pulchella var. moniliformis	Pinweed
Linum intercursum	Sandplain Wild Flax
Linum medium var. texanum	Southern Yellow Flax
Lycopodium sabinifolium	Cypress Clubmoss
Lysimachia hybrida	Lance-leaved Loosestrife
Minuartia glabra	Appalachian Sandwort
Panicum flexile	Panic Grass
Pellaea glabella	Smooth Cliff Brake
Plantago cordata	Heart Leaf Plantain
Platanthera ciliaris	Orange Fringed Orchis
Platanthera cristata	Crested Fringed Orchis
Polemonium vanbruntiae	Jacob's-ladder
Polymnia uvedalia	Bear's-foot
Populus heterophylla	Swamp Cottonwood
Potamogeton hillii	Hill's Pondweed
Prenanthes nana	Dwarf Rattlesnake-root
Primula mistassinica	Bird's-eye Primrose
Pycnanthemum verticillatum var. verticillatum	*Whorled Mountain-mint*
Rhododendron lapponicum	Lapland Rosebay
Rumex hastatulus	Heart Sorrel
Rumex maritimus	Golden Dock
Salix cordata	Sand Dune Willow
Salix uva-ursi	Bearberry Willow
Saxifraga aizoides	Yellow Mountain-saxifrage
Scirpus cespitosus	Tufted Bulrush
Scleria pauciflora var. caroliniana	Fewflower Nutrush
Solidago rigida	Stiff-leaf Goldenrod
Sporobolus heterolepis	Northern Dropseed
Tipularia discolor	Cranefly Orchid
Trollius laxus ssp. laxus	Spreading Globeflower
Valeriana sitchensis ssp. uliginosa	Marsh Valerian
Verbesina alternifolia	Wingstream
Viburnum nudum	Possum-haw
Zigadenus elegans ssp. glaucus	White Camas

(d) The following are exploitably vulnerable native plants likely to become threatened in the near future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges within the state if causal factors continue unchecked.

Species	Common name
Arisaema dracontium	Greendragon (dragonroot)
Asclepias tuberosus	Butterflyweed (Chiggerflower, Orange milkweed; Pleurisyroot)
Campanula rotundifolia	Bluebell of Scotland (Harebell)
Celastrus scandens	American Bittersweet (Waxwork)
Chimaphila spp.	Pipsissewa (Pince's pine; Waxflower)
	Spotted evergreen (Spotted wintergreen)
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood
Drosera spp.	Sundew (Dailydew; Dewthread)
Epigaea repens	Trailing Arbutus (Ground-laurel; Mayflower)
Euonymus spp. (native)	Burningbush (Wahoo)
	Strawberry bush (Bursting heart)
Ophioglossaceae	All native ferns including
Osmundaceae	Adder's-tongue
Polypodiaceae	Azolla
Schizaeaceae	Bracken
Adiantaceae	Buckhorn
	Cliff brake
Vittariaceae	Curly grass
Hymenophyllaceae	Fiddleheads
Aspleniaceae (but excluding Onoclea sensibilis)	Hart's-tongue
Azollaceae	Maidenhair
	Moonwort
	Polypody
	Rock Brake
	Salvinia
	Spleenwort
	Walking-leaf
	Wall-rue
	Water-spangle
	Woodsia
	But excluding Bracken
	Hay-scented Fern
	Sensitive Fern
Gentiana spp., Gentianella spp., Gentianopsis spp.	Ague-weed
	Blue-Bottles
	Gentian (Gall-of-the-earth
Ilex spp. (Native)	Holly (Hulver)
	Inkberry (Bitter Gallberry
	Winterberry (Black Alder)
Kalmia spp.	Laurel
	Spoon wood (Calico-bush)
	Wicky (Lambkill)
Lilium spp. (Native)	Lily
	Turk's-cap
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal-flower (Red Lobelia)
Lycopodium spp.	All Clubmosses, including:
	Bear's-bed (Christmas-green, Running Evergreen; Trailing Evergreen; Ground Pine)
	Bunch Evergreen
	Feston Pine (Coral Evergreen; Buckhorn; Staghorn Evergreen; Wolf's-claw)
	Ground Cedar (Creeping Jenny)
	Ground Fir
	Heath Cypress
Malus coronaria	Wild Crab Apple
Mertensia virginica	Bluebell (Roanoke-bells); Tree Lungwort; Virginia Lungwort; Virginia Cow-slip; Virginia Bluebell
Monarda didyma	American Bee-balm
	Oswego Tea (Indian-heads; Scarlet Bee-balm)
Myrica pensylvanica	Bayberry (Candleberry)
Opuntia humifusa	Prickly Pear (Wild Cactus; Indian Fig)
Orchidaceae	All Native Orchids, including:
	Adder's-mouth (Malaxis)
	Arethusa (Dragon's-mouth)
	Bog-candle
	Calopogon (Grass-pink; Swamp-pink)
	Calypso (Fairy-slipper)
	Coral-root
	Cypripedium (Lady's-slipper:
	Goodyera (Lattice-leaf; Rattlesnake-plantain)

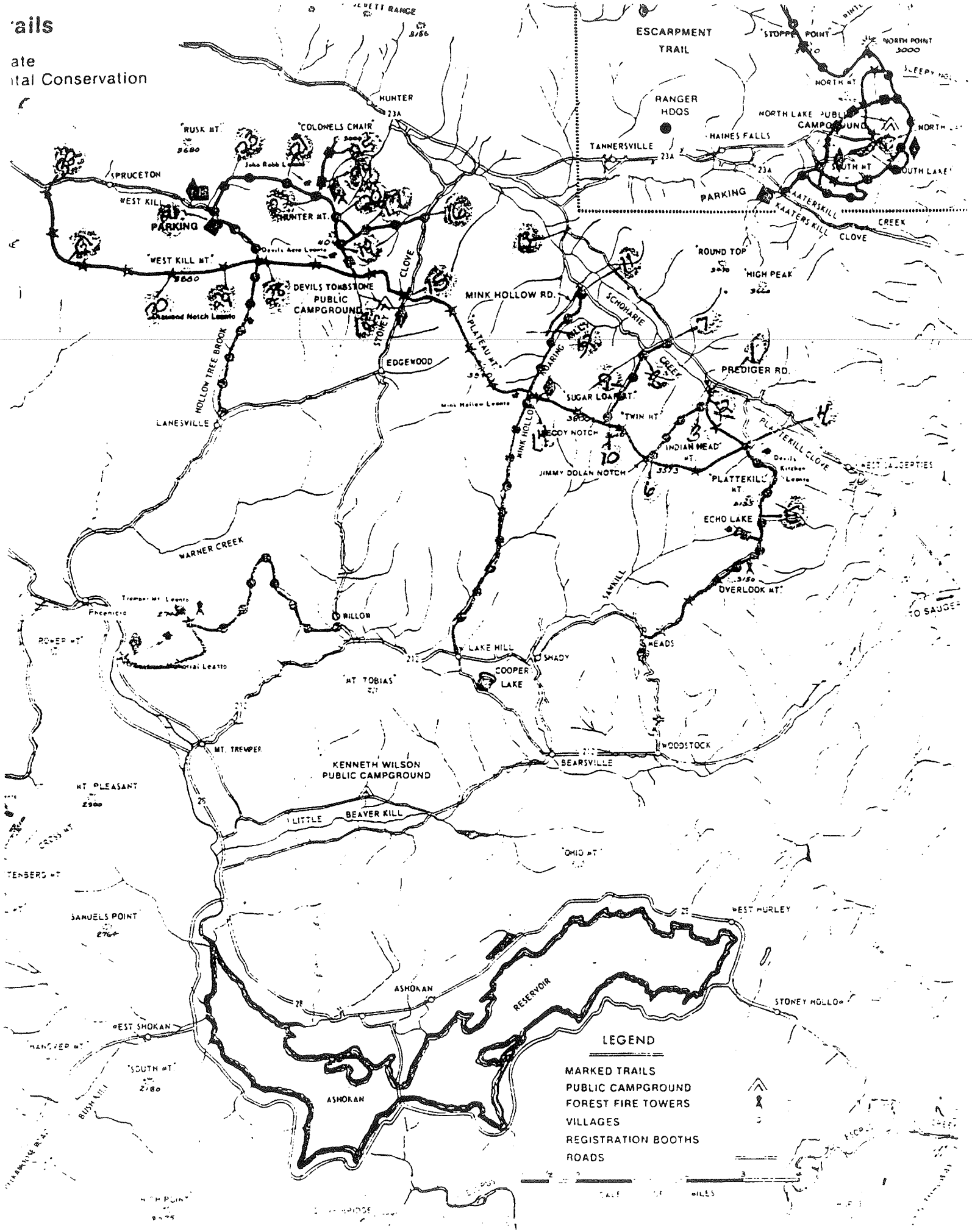
	Kirtle-pink
	Ladies'-tresses (Pearl-twist; Screw-auger)
	Moccasin-flower (Neve-root)
	Orange-plume
	Orchis
	Putty-root (Adam-and-Eve)
	Pogonia (Beard-flower; Snake-mouth; Scent-bottle)
	Soldier's-plume
	Three-birds
	Twayblade
	Whipporwill-shoe
Orontium aquaticum	Golden club
Panax quinquefolius	Ginseng (Sang)
Rhododendron spp. (Native)	Azalea
	Great Laurel (White Laurel
	Honeysuckle
	Pinkster (Election-pink; Pinkster-bloom)
	Rhododendron (Rosebay)
	Rhodora
Sabatia spp.	Bitterbloom (Marsh-pink; Rose pink; Sabatia; Sea-pink)
Sanguinaria canadensis	Bloodroot (Puccoon-root; Red Puccoon)
Sarracenia purpurea	Pitcher-plant (Huntsman's-cup; Sidesaddle-flower)
Silene caroliniana	Wild Pink
Trillium spp.	Bethroot (Birthroot; Squawroot; Stinking Benjamin; Wake-robin)
	Toadshade
	Trillium
Viola pedata	Bird's-foot Violet

(e) The following are rare native plants that have from 20 to 35 extant sites or 3,000 to 5,000 individuals statewide.

Species	Common name
Agalinis virgata	Pine-barren Gerardia
Agrimonia parviflora	Agrimony
Agrimonia rostellata	Woodland Agrimony
Allium cernuum	Wild Onion
Arabis divaricarpa	Purple Rock-cress
Arabis missourensis	Green Rock-cress
Arethusa bulbosa	Swamp Pink
Armoracia aquatica	Lake-cress
Asclepias viridiflora	Green Milkweed
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw
Aster nemoralis	Bog Aster
Betula pumila	Swamp Birch
Bidens laevis	Smooth Bur-mangold
Cacalia suaveolens	Sweet-scented Indian-plantain
Calamagrostis pickeringii	Pickering's Reedgrass
Calamagrostis porteri ssp. porteri	*Porter's Reedgrass*
Carex bicknellii	Bicknell Sedge
Carex bigelowii	Bigelow Sedge
Carex bushii	Sedge
Carex buxbaumii	Brown Bog Sedge
Carex chordorrhiza	Creeping Sedge
Carex collinsii	Collins Sedge
Carex complanata	Hirsute Sedge
Carex cumulata	Clustered Sedge
Carex davisii	Davis Sedge
Carex emmonsii	Emmons Sedge
Carex flaccosperma var. glaucodea	Sedge
Carex formosa	Handsome Sedge
Carex garberi	Elk Sedge
Carex gravida	Heavy Sedge
Carex gynocrates	Northern Bog Sedge
Carex hormathodes	Sedge
Carex houghtonii	Sedge
Carex lupuliformis	False Hop Sedge
Carex merritt-fernaldii	Sedge
Carex molesta	Troublesome Sedge
Carex nigromarginata	Black-edge Sedge
Carex schweinitzii	Schweinitz Sedge
Carex seorsa	Weak Stellate Sedge
Carex typhina	Cat-tail Sedge
Carex vaginata	Sheathed Sedge
Carex venusta var. minor	Sedge
Carex willdenowii	Willdenow Sedge
Chamaecyparis thyoides	Atlantic White Cedar
Chamaelirium luteum	Blazing-star
Coreopsis rosea	Rose Coreopsis
Corydalis flavula	Yellow Harlequin
Crotalaria sagittalis	Rattlebox
Cuscuta campestris	Field-dodder
Cuscuta pentagona	Field-dodder
Cuscuta polygonorum	Smartweed Dodder
Cyperus erythrorhizos	Red-rooted Flatsedge
Cyperus houghtonii	Houghton Umbrella-sedge
Cyperus polystachyos var. texensis	*Cyperus*
Cyperus schweinitzii	Schweinitz Flat-sedge
Digitaria filiformis	Slender Crabgrass
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon
Draba arabisans	Rock-cress
Draba reptans	Carolina Whitlow-grass
Dracocephalum parviflorum	American Dragonhead

Eleocharis fallax	Creeping Spikegrass
Eleocharis halophila	Salt-marsh Spikerush
Eleocharis obtusa var. ovata	Blunt Spikerush
Empetrum nigrum ssp. hermaphroditicum	Black Crowberry
Equisetum palustre	Marsh Horsetail
Equisetum pratense	Meadow Horsetail
Frasera caroliniensis	Green Gentian
Gentiana saponaria	Soapwort Gentian
Geranium carolinianum var. sphaerospermum	Carolina Cranebill
Gnaphalium purpureum	Purple Everlasting
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffee Tree
Hedeoma hispidum	Mock-pennyroyal
Hemicarpha micrantha	Dwarf Bullrush
Heteranthera reniformis	Kidneyleaf Mud-plantain
Hydrangea arborescens	Wild Hydrangea
Isoetes macrospora	Large-spored Quillwort
Jeffersonia diphylla	Twin-leaf
Juncus subcaudatus	Woods-rush
Lathyrus ochroleucus	Wild-pea
Lechea racemulosa	Pinweed
Lechea tenuifolia	Slender Pinweed
Lespedeza stuevei	Lespedeza
Lespedeza violacea	Lespedeza
Liatris scariosa var. novae-angliae	New England Blazing-star
Linum sulcatum	Yellow Wild Flax
Liparis lilifolia	Large Twayblade
Listera australis	Southern Twayblade
Lobelia nuttallii	Nuttall's Lobelia
Ludwigia sphaerocarpa	Ludwigia
Lythrum hyssopifolia	Loosestrife
Malus glaucescens	American Crab
Mimulus alatus	Winged Monkeyflower
Minuartia caroliniana	Pine-barren Sandwort
Monarda fistulosa var. clinopodia	*Basil-balm*
Myriophyllum alterniflorum	Water Milfoil
Najas guadalupensis var. olivacea	Naiad
Najas marina	Holly-leaved Naiad
Nelumbo lutea	Yellow Lotus
Onosmodium virginianum	Virginia False Gromwell
Pedicularis lanceolata	Swamp Lousewort
Phlox maculata	Wild Sweet-william
Physocarpus opulifolius var. intermedius	Ninebark
Pinguicula vulgaris	Butterwort
Pinus banksiana	Jack Pine
Podostemum ceratophyllum	Riverweed
Polygonum buxiforme	Knotweed
Polygonum douglasii	Knotweed
Polygonum tenue	Slender Knotweed
Potamogeton alpinus	Northern Pondweed
Potamogeton confervoides	Pondweed
Potamogeton filiformis var. occidentalis	Sheathed Pondweed
Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica	Silverweed
Proserpinaca pectinata	Mermaid-weed
Prunus pumila var. depressa	Sand-cherry
Prunus pumila var. pumila	Sand-cherry
Psilocarya nitens	Short-beaked Bald-rush
Psilocarya scirpoides	Long-beaked Bald-rush
Ptelea trifoliata	Wafer-ash
Quercus marilandica	Blackjack Oak
Rhododendron canadense	Rhodora
Rosa acicularis ssp. sayi	Prickly Rose
Rotala ramosior	Tooth-cup
Sagittaria calycina var. spongiosa	Spongy Arrowhead
Scirpus heterochaetus	Slender Bulrush
Scleria reticularis var. reticularis	Reticulated Nutrush
Scleria triglomerata	Whip Nutrush
Scutellaria parvula var. leonardii	Small Skullcap
Solidago elliottii	Coastal Goldenrod
Solidago ohioensis	Ohio Golderod
Spiranthes vernalis	Spring Ladies'tresses
Stellaria longipes var. longipes	Starwort
Subularia aquatica ssp. americana	Water Awlwort
Tradescantia ohiensis	Ohio Spiderwort
Triglochin palustre	Marsh Arrow-grass
Utricularia biflora	Two-flowered Bladderwort
Utricularia fibrosa	Fibrous Bladderwort
Utricularia geminiscapa	Hiddenfruit Bladderwort
Utricularia juncea	Rush Bladderwort
Utricularia radiata	Small Floating Bladderwort
Vaccinium boreale	High-mountain Blueberry
Vaccinium uliginosum ssp. pubescens	Bog Bilberry
Viburnum edule	Squashberry
Viola nephrophylla	Northern Bog Volet

(f) It is a violation for any person, anywhere in the state, to pick, pluck, sever, remove, damage by the application of herbicides or defoliants, or carry away, without the consent of the owner, any protected plant. Each protected plant so picked, plucked, severed, removed, damaged or carried away shall constitute a separate violation.


ESCARPMENT TRAIL
RANGER HDQS
TANNERSVILLE
HAINES FALLS
NORTH LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
NORTH MT
SOUTH MT
SOUTH LAKE
PARKING
KAATERSKILL CLOVE
KAATERS KILL
CREEK
HUNTER
RUSK MT
COLONELS CHAIR
SPRUCETON
WEST KILL
PARKING
HUNTER MT.
WEST KILL MT.
DEVILS TOMBSTONE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
STONEY CLOVE
MINK HOLLOW RD.
SCHOHARIE
ROUND TOP
HIGH PEAK
PREDIGER RD.
HOLLOW TREE BROOK
EDGEWOOD
LANESVILLE
PLATEAU MT
SUGAR LOAF MT.
TWIN MT
INDIAN HEAD MT.
JIMMY DOLAN NOTCH
PLATTEKILL CLOVE
PLATTEKILL MT
ECHO LAKE
WARNER CREEK
OVERLOOK MT.
WILLOW
LAKE HILL
SHADY
COOPER LAKE
MT TOBIAS
MEADS
MT. TREMPER
KENNETH WILSON PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
BEARSVILLE
WOODSTOCK
MT PLEASANT
LITTLE BEAVER KILL
OHIO MT
SAMUELS POINT
WEST HURLEY
ASHOKAN
RESERVOIR
STONEY HOLLOW
WEST SHOKAN
SOUTH MT
ASHOKAN
LEGEND
MARKED TRAILS
PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
FOREST FIRE TOWERS
VILLAGES
REGISTRATION BOOTHS
ROADS

TRAIL SIGNS CATSKILL

Sign No.	Arrow	Marker	Legend	Miles	Location	Trail Junction No.
24	R&L	B	Tannersville	3.15	Jct. Elka Park Rd & Mink Hollow Road	13
25	R&L	B	Mink Hollow Lean-to Sugar Loaf Plateau Mt.	2.70 2.95 2.95	Same	
26	L	R	Sugar Loaf Mt. 1200' Devil's Kitchen Lean-to Platte Clove Rd.	.95 6.79 8.45	At Jct. Mink Hollow & Indian Head Trails	14
27	L	B	Mink Hollow Lean-to Lake Hill	.10 5.90	Same	
28	R	B	Tannersville	5.65	Same	
29	R	R	Plateau Mt. Summit 1240' Devil's Tombstone Campsite	2.43 4.21	Same	
30	L&R	R	Platteau Mt. Lookout Mink Hollow Lean-to Indian Head Mt. Platte Clove	1.23 4.30 8.40 12.72	At trail crossing N. end of Devil's Tombstone Campsite	15
	R	R	Overlook Mt.	0.50	Overlook Hotel	
	L	R	Overlook Mt. Parking Area	2.00	Same	
	L	B	Echo Lake Leanto Devil's Kitchen Leanto	2.00 3.50	Same	

TRAIL SIGNS CATSKILL

Sign No.	Arrow	Marker	Legend	Miles	Location	Trail Junction No.
(1)	R&L	--	Devil's Path			
			Devil's Kitchen Lean-to	2.45	At start of Trail	1
			Indian Head Mt. ascent 1645'	3.75	Platte Clove &	
			Jimmy Dolan Notch	4.20	Prediger Road	
			Echo Lake	4.70		
			Spruceton Road	19.65		
			Diamond Notch Falls	17.41		
			Spruceton Rd. via Westkill Mt	24.62		
2	R	R	Indian Head	4.34	Near end of dirt	
			Jimmy Dolan Notch	4.88	road; .40 miles from	2
					Platte Clove Road	
3	R	B	Jimmy Dolan Notch	2.14	Same	
			Mink Hollow	5.77		
			Indian Head Mt.	2.68		
4	L	R	Platte Clove Highway	.31	Same	
5	L	R	Echo Lake	4.43		
			Devil's Kitchen Lean-to	1.68	At first trail	3
			Summit Indian Head Mt.	3.88	Junction	
6	R	B	Dolan's Notch	1.68	Same	
			Summit Twin Mt.	2.73		
			Summit Indian Mt.	2.22		
			Mink Hollow Lean-to	5.31		
7	R	R	Platte Clove Road	.46	Same	
8	R	R	Indiam Head Mt. 1345'	2.41	Where trail to	
			Twin Mt. 1407'	4.00	Indian Head	4
			Sugar Loaf Mt. 1542'	5.62	leaves Old	
			Mink Hollow Lean-to	6.58	Overlook Rd.	
9	L	R	Platte Clove Road	1.93	Same	
10	R	Y	Devil's Kitchen Lean-to	.20	Same	
			Echo Lake			
			Echo Lake Lean-to	2.96		
11	R	Y	Echo Lake		Where trail to Echo	5
			Echo Lake Lean-to	.60	Lake leaves trail	
					to Overlook	
11A	R	R	Overlook Tower	1.80	Same	
			Meads Road	3.90		
11B	L	Y	Devil's Kitchen Lean-to	2.00	Same	
			Prediger Road	4.29		

TRAIL SIGNS CATSKILL

Sign No.	Arrow	Marker	Legend	Miles	Location	Trail Junction No.
12	L	Y	Devil's Kitchen Lean-to	2.15	Same	
			Indian Head Mt.	4.77		
			Platte Clove Road	4.29		
			Devil's Tombstone Campsite	13.15		
13	R	B	Platte Clove Highway	2.45	Jct. of Trails in Jimmy Dolan Notch	6
14	L	R	Indian Head Mt.	.54	Jct. Jimmy Dolan Notch Trail with Red Trail	6
			Devil's Kitchen Lean-to,	3.16		
			Platte Clove Road	5.19		
15	R	R	Twin Mt.	1.05	Same	
			Sugar Loaf Mt.	2.67		
			Mink Hollow Lean-to	3.60		
			Devil's Tombstone Campsite	7.80		
16	L&R	B	Pecoy Notch	2.00	Where road to Twin Mt. House leaves Platte Clove Rd.	7
			Sugar Loaf Mt. 1862'	3.19		
			Twin Mt. 1727'	2.45		
17	L	B	Pecoy Notch	1.69	Where road forks near iron bridge right fork to Elka Park	8
			Sugar Loaf Mt.	2.69		
			Twin Mt.	1.93		
18	R	B	Pecoy Notch	1.20	Where trail to Pecoy Notch leaves road at sharp bend to left	9
			Sugar Loaf Mt.	2.40		
			Twin Mt.	1.63		
19	R	R	Sugar Loaf Mt. Ascent	1.19	Trail Jct. in Pecoy Notch	10
			Mink Hollow Lean-to	2.15		
			Devil's Tombstone Campsite	6.35		
20	R	B	Platte Clove Road	2.00	Same	
21	L	R	Twin Mt.	.43	Same	
			Indian Head Mt.	2.00		
			Devil's Kitchen Lean-to	4.64		
			Platte Clove Rd.	6.36		
22	R&L	B	Mink Hollow Lean-to	2.50	Start of Mink Hollow Rd. off dirt road to Roaring Kill	11
			Lake Hill	8.30		
23	R&L	--	Tannersville	2.95	Same	
23A	R	R	Mink Hollow	.78		12
			Sugarloaf Mt.	1.75	Where trail goes into woods at end of Mink Hollow Road	
			Platteau Mt.	1.68		
			Rte. 214	5.00		
			Platte Clove Rd.	9.23		

MEMORANDUM FROM
THOMAS C. JORLING, *Commissioner*

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

October 31, 1991

TO: Executive Staff, Division and Regional Directors

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling

RE: ORGANIZATIONAL AND DELEGATION MEMORANDUM # 91-31
POLICY: FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND CANOE AREAS

BACKGROUND

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

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

For more than a decade, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has managed ecosystems consistent with legal mandates and professional concerns, with sensitivity for wilderness values and with the intent of providing unique recreational experiences. The Master Plans set no numerical standards on use intensity but indicate that fishing is "compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself."

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

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

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

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

The evolution of fisheries management in New York State and the Adirondack zone has been discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980) and Pfeiffer (1979). Program goals, objectives, policies and management strategies for lake trout including guidelines for stocking were developed by Plosila (1977). The strategic plan recognizes the importance of native Adirondack lake trout stocks and the considerable importance of these lake trout resources to the entire State. In 1979, a strategic plan for the management of wild and hybrid strains of brook trout was completed (Keller 1979). Preservation of native strains in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains was a major component of that plan. Pfeiffer (1979) established goals, objectives and strategies for the

management of broad classes of Adirondack fishery resources and significantly enunciated the importance of angling in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and guidelines for fisheries management within these areas. The latter were consistent with those formulated earlier by Doig (1977). The philosophical and scientific underpinnings for trout stream management in New York with application to management of wilderness, primitive and canoe area trout streams, was completed in 1979 (Engstrom-Heg 1979 a). A recent draft plan for intensification of management of brook trout in 47 Adirondack ponds has been developed by DEC Regions 5 and 6 (Miller, 1986).

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

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

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

PURPOSE

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

POLICY GUIDELINES

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

1. The primary purpose of aquatic resource management in wilderness primitive and canoe areas is to perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems, including perpetuation of indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis.

2. Angling is recognized as a compatible recreational pursuit in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas. Aquatic resource management will emphasize the quality of the angling experience over quantity of use.

3. Aquatic resources in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas will be protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, their natural conditions. Aquatic resource management, including stocking of game and nongame fishes and pond reclamation, may be necessary to achieve and perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems.

4. Brown trout, rainbow trout, splake and landlocked Atlantic salmon are coldwater fish species historically associated with the Adirondack Park. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye are warmwater species historically associated with the entire Adirondack and Catskill Parks and indigenous to some lowland areas. These species may be included in the management and stocking regime of specific waters in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas in instances when indigenous fish communities cannot be protected, maintained, or restored in those waters. Fish species, other than indigenous species and species historically associated with the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, will not be stocked in the waters of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.

5. Waters found to be naturally barren of fish species will not be stocked. Waters which are self-sustaining or which otherwise would be self-sustaining except that they have been compromised by human-caused disturbances may be stocked consistent with these guidelines.

6. Pond reclamation will be practiced as appropriate to prepare or maintain waters in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas but only for the restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish communities.

7. The Unit Management Plan for each wilderness, primitive, or canoe area shall identify aquatic resource management actions on a water-body-specific basis through analysis of unit inventory data adequate to support the actions.

8. In those instances where a Unit Management Plan has not yet been approved for a given wilderness, primitive, or canoe area, aquatic resource management actions to stock waters may be continued in waters so managed before December 31, 1989, consistent with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan. Waters reclaimed prior to December 31, 1989 may be reclaimed subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan. New waters may be stocked or reclaimed only to prevent significant resource degradation subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan.

9. Maintenance liming to protect and maintain indigenous fish species may be continued as mitigation measure for acid rain in Horn Lake (P04854), Tamarack Pond (P06171), Livingston Pond (P05705) and Kitfox Pond (P03142) so treated before December 31, 1989. Upon acceptance of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on liming and the issuance of findings and a decision by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the appropriateness of liming in the waters of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas will be established and appropriate policy guidelines incorporated herein.

10. All aquatic resource management activities in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas will be consistent with guidelines for use of motor vehicles motorized equipment, and aircraft as stated in the State Land Master Plan.

Attachment

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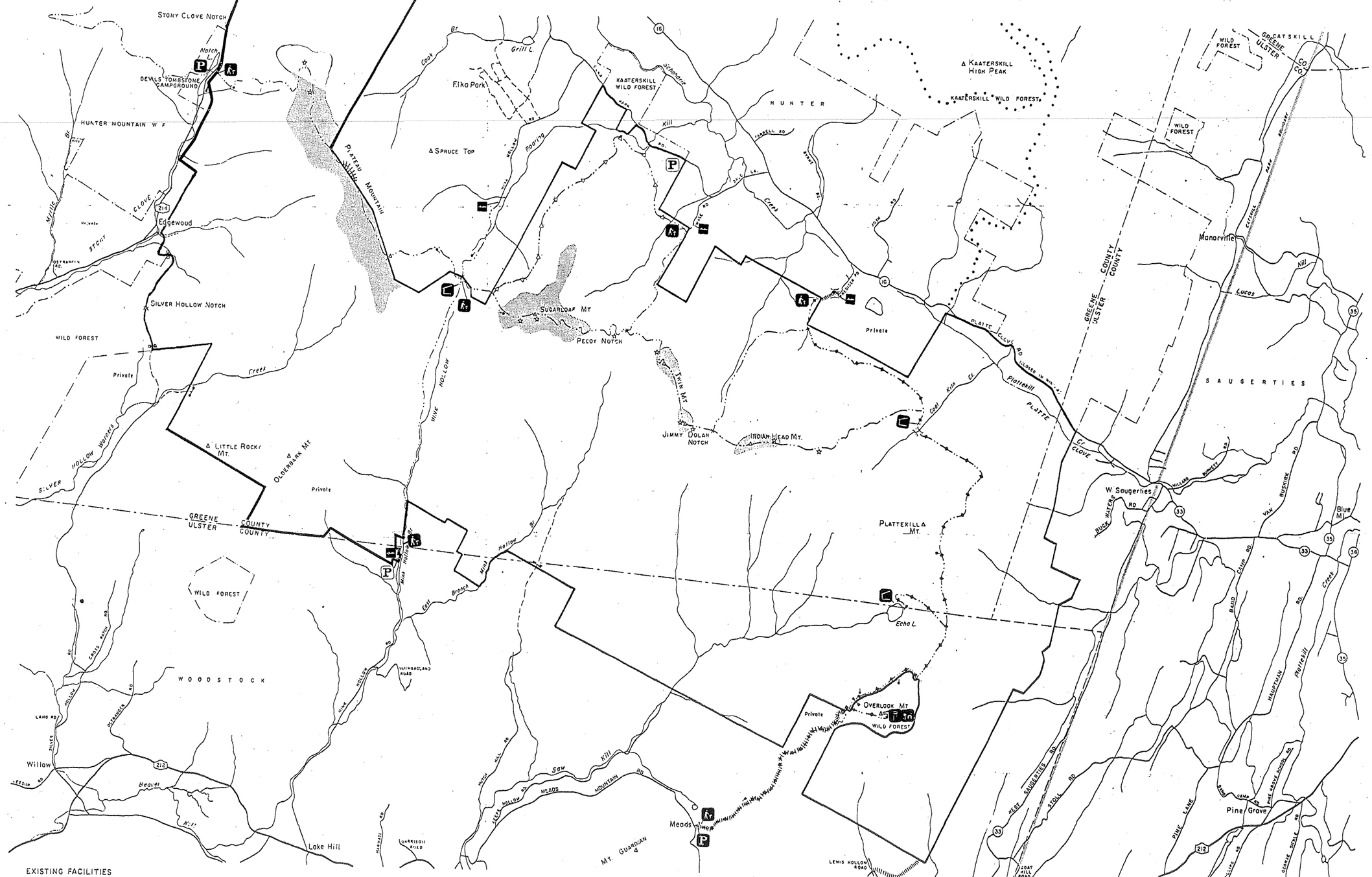
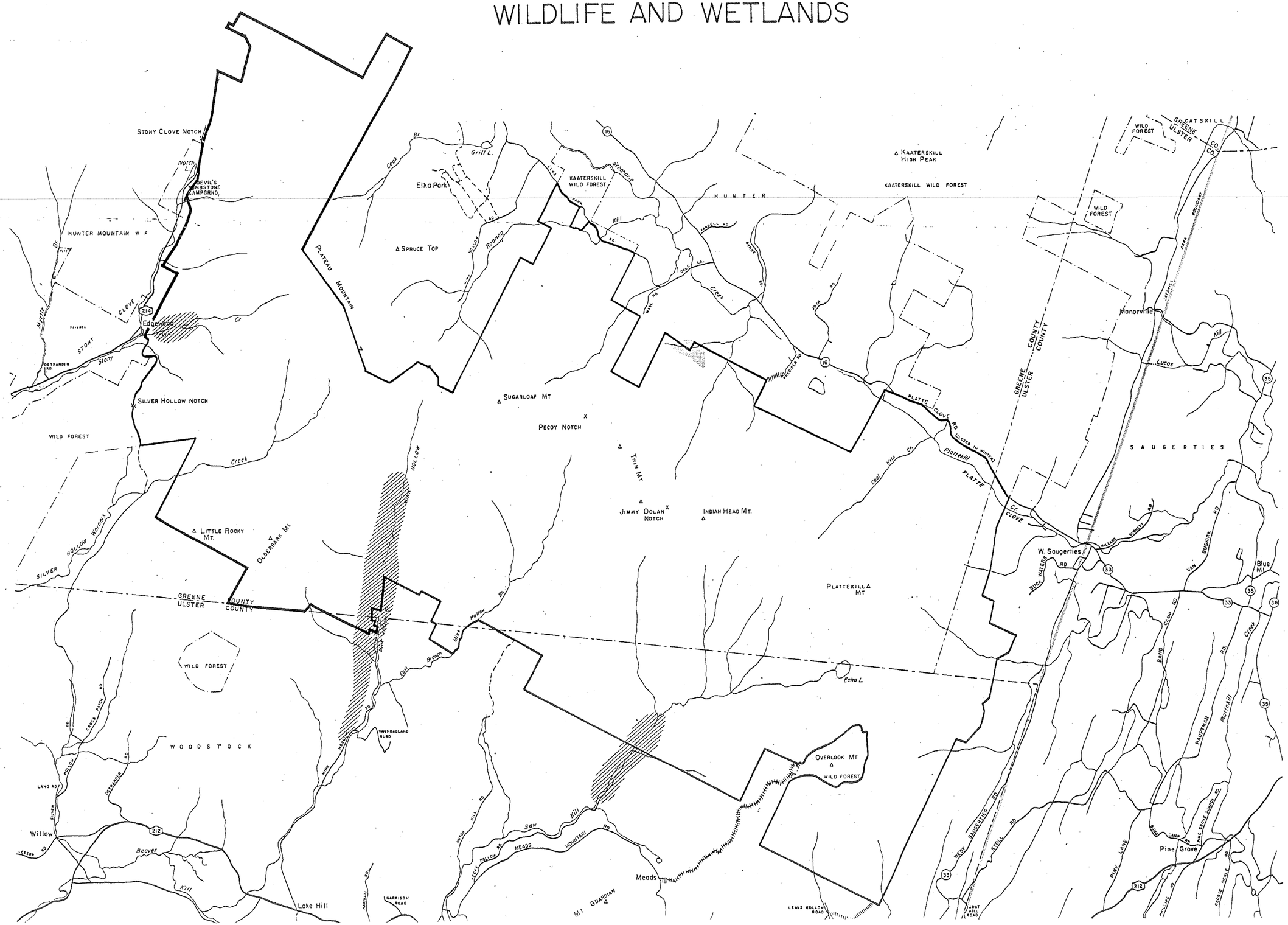
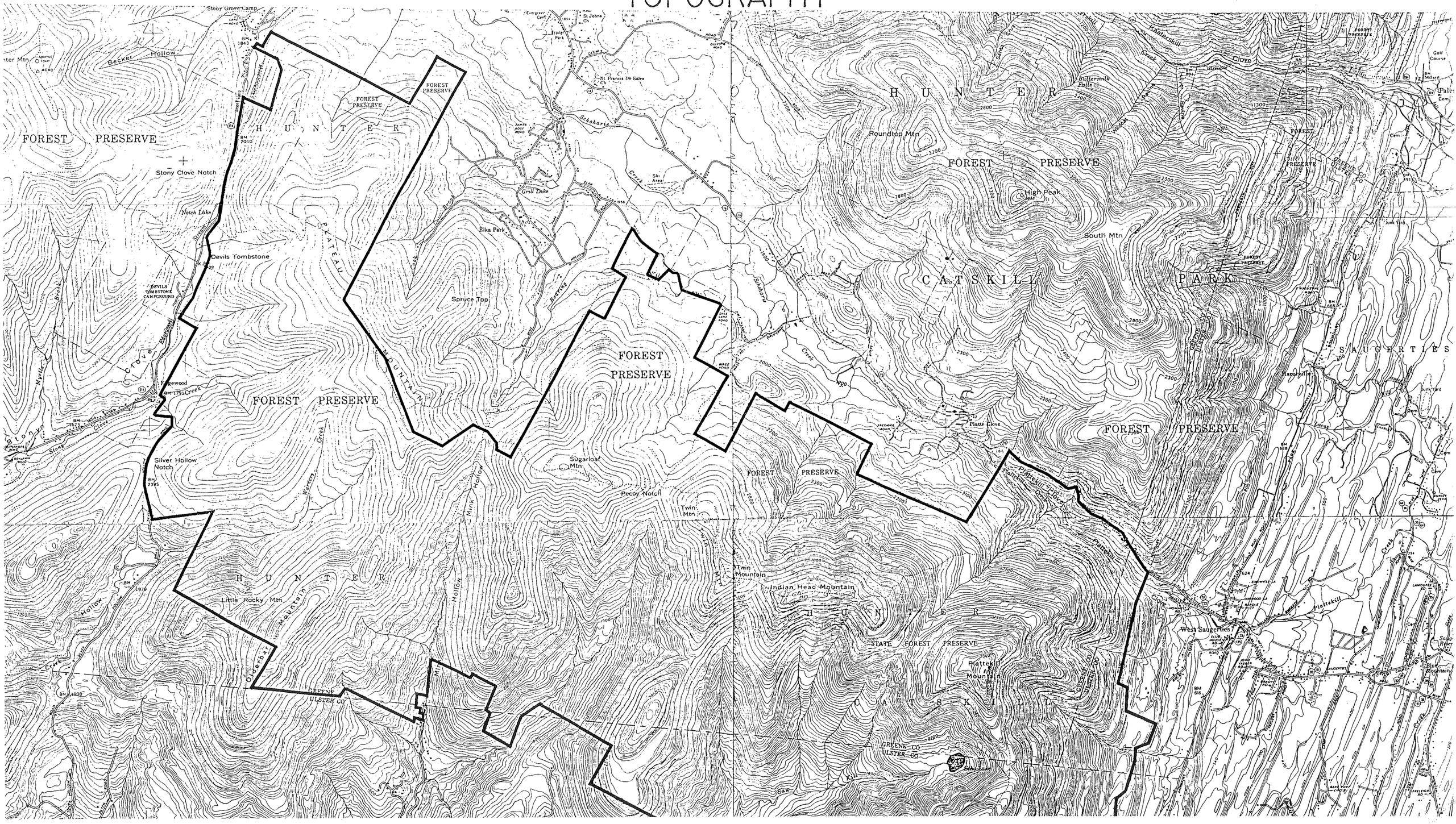
INDIAN HEAD - PLATEAU WILDERNESS FACILITIES



INDIAN HEAD-PLATEAU WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS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TOPOGRAPHY