New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests

Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan

Amendment

Town of Hunter, Green County
Towns of Saugerties and Woodstock, Ulster County

December 2005

George E. Pataki, Governor

Denise M. Sheehan, Commissioner

Lead Agency:
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4254

For further information contact:
Frank Parks, Senior Forester
NYSDEC - Lands & Forests
65561 State Highway 10
Stamford, NY 12167-9503
607/652-7365

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

DENISE M. SHEEHAN
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

JAN 17 2006

TO: The Record

FROM: Denise M. Sheehan DMS

SUBJECT: Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan Amendment, Relocation of Portions of the Long Path

The Unit Management Plan Amendment for the Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Area to relocate portions of the Long Path has been completed. The Amendment is consistent with guidelines and criteria for the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, SEQRA and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies. The Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan Amendment for relocation of portions of the Long Path is hereby approved.

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Introduction:

The Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Unit Management Plan (UMP) was approved by Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Thomas Jorling in November 1992. Since that time changes have occurred both on and off the unit, that warrant amendments to this UMP. These major changes include:

- The purchase of 610.85 acres of land off of Mink Hollow Road east of Elka Park. This purchase was significant since it allowed for implementation of several projected use and management activities proposed in the 1992 Indian Head-Plateau Mountain UMP.

- Two of these management activities were:
  1.) The construction of a new parking lot near where the Roaring Kill crosses Elka Park Road.
  2.) Establishment of an enhanced trail loop over Sugarloaf Mountain.

- The completion of a Long Path re-route (the Warner Creek Trail) on the Phoenicia - Mt. Tobias Wild Forest, that goes over Carl Mountain into Silver Hollow Notch. The Long Path is a continuous hiking trail marked, managed and maintained by the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference which originates in Fort Lee, New Jersey and extends northward through the Catskills to John Boyd Thatcher State Park in Albany County, New York. It is currently approximately 328 miles long. Within the Catskill Park, the Long Path uses hiking trails marked and maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation with volunteer assistance from the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference (approximately 90 miles). The completion of the Warner Creek Trail over Carl Mountain was significant, in that it moved a large portion of the Long Path (approximately six miles) off roads and placed it on public forest land through the Forest Preserve

- The construction of a parking lot on the adjoining Kaaterskill Wild Forest Unit, north of County Route 16. Although this activity occurred on the adjoining Kaaterskill Wild Forest, it has significance for the Indian Head unit because it now provides parking for a portion of the Long Path where formerly there was none. It also provides convenient off-road parking for the eastern end of the Devil's Path.

The proposed amendments to the Indianhead-Plateau Mountain Wilderness will be part of **Section I . Unit Location and Description**, starting on page 5 of the UMP, and **Section IV. Projected Management and Use Proposed** starting on page 36 of the UMP from October 1992.

I. UNIT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

A. Location

The area in Greene County, Town of Hunter has increased by 610.85 acres. This addition to the Indianhead-Plateau Mountain Wilderness brings the total land area to 17, 336 acres.

IV. PROJECTED MANAGEMENT AND USE PROPOSED

A. Facility Development and/or Removal

Action 9

Relocate the Long Path from Route 214 to a new trail over Plateau Mountain

The completion of the Warner Creek Trail over Carl Mountain, as mentioned above, has now moved the Long Path into a position in Silver Hollow Notch that would allow another beneficial re-route to occur. It is proposed that the section of the Long Path that currently follows NYS Route 214 from Edgewood to Notch Lake (a one and one half mile road walk), be relocated as follows: Starting in Silver Hollow Notch at a point just east of where the Warner Creek Trail joins Notch Road, the trail will head in an easterly direction utilizing switchbacks where necessary and the natural ridge line, to ascend Plateau Mountain. Once on top of the mountain, the trail will connect to the Devil's Path Trail, which is currently a part of the Long Path system. The total length of the trail re-route will be approximately two miles. The trail route should incorporate a natural vista along the ridge. When incorporated into the trail system, this vista point will become an official vista point on the unit, and will be maintained in the future in compliance with the Departments 1986 Foot Trails Policy.

This type of action is in keeping with the current (1985) Catskill Park State Land Master Plan which says, "The Department... will consider interconnecting trail networks, long trails and continuous natural features such as streams regardless of administrative boundaries. As they are developed, unit management plans will ensure compatibility and continuity of existing and proposed trail systems and coordinated planning for natural features." Furthermore, the draft Catskill Park State Land Master Plan revision specifically speaks of the Long Path and says "While there now exists a defined route through the Catskills for the Long Path, the department will try to accommodate route changes to move more of the trail onto public land and thus reduce road walking." It also states that "Development of long distance trails that cross the boundaries of management units and DEC regions will be encouraged as a type of recreational opportunity appropriate for Forest Preserve lands." It is also useful to note that the 1999 Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan suggests that "Units holding promise for additional hiking opportunities include: Indian Head - Plateau Mountain Wilderness and Hunter Mountain Wild

Forest Units (both in Greene County), for linkages for the Long Path which will eliminate "road walks."

The current "road walk" portion of the Long Path along NYS Route 214 is undesirable for a number of reasons. Route 214 is a narrow highway in this vicinity, and there is some danger to pedestrians who walk the highway shoulders. "Road walks" are generally viewed as aesthetically undesirable by most hikers, and it is clearly more pleasing to hike through the forest where one is able to do so. "Road walk" portions of a trail are often difficult to mark, and people sometimes become confused when leaving the forested portion of a trail to enter a highway.

Re-routing the Long Path as proposed will have several beneficial consequences. The ascent to Plateau Mountain via the Devil's Path Trail/Long Path that starts at NYS Route 214 across from Notch Lake, is very steep. This section of trail ascends the mountain quickly with few switchbacks. Consequently the trail is steep and subject to erosion. Maintenance of this trail segment has required the application of significant resources over the years, and is ongoing. It is expected that the proposed Long Path re-route will help to disperse use, taking some of the pressure off this steep segment of trail. Removing the trail from the Route 214 highway corridor will enhance the safety of hikers and should eliminate the confusion of where the trail goes once a person arrives at the highway. The re-route will provide a more aesthetically pleasing hiking route for Long Path users by taking them through a pleasantly wooded environment as opposed to being on a roadway.

It is expected that the construction of this trail re-route will have little negative impact on the Forest Preserve Wilderness Area. The Natural Heritage database reveals no protected habitats for biological resources except for the habitat for Bicknell's Thrush. No archaeological resources are mapped on the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation Geographic Information System for Archeology and the National Register. The proposed trail route will be scouted for the presence of bogs. The trail shall be routed so as to avoid any such situations. It is anticipated that minimal vegetative cutting will be needed to establish a foot trail tread. Portions of this new trail will pass through dense Spruce-Fir forest cover and may require some tree cutting. All tree cutting will conform to Lands and Forests Policy # 91-2.

The High Peaks Bird Conservation Area (BCA) has been established for the protection of habitat for Bicknell's Thrush and the Blackpoll Warbler, on Catskill peaks over 3,500 feet in elevation. It is located on Plateau Mountain on an area traversed by the Devil's Path. The new trail will join the Devil's Path in the BCA. The proposed re-route of the Long Path will lie outside of the BCA, with the exception of where it crosses 3500 feet elevation. Approximately one quarter (0.25) mile of the new leg of the Long Path will traverse the BCA to its junction with the Devil's Path. Trail layout and construction will not occur during the breeding season, May through July, as identified in the BCA Management Guidance Summary. Trail design and layout will minimize tree cutting and the creation of openings in the canopy.

Action 10

Designate the portion of the Overlook Turnpike from privately owned land to its junction with the Devil's Path as a hiking trail.

As a result of the construction of a parking lot on the Kaaterskill Wild Forest Unit, north of County Route 16 and east of Steenburgh Road, a proposal was made by the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference to re-route the Long Path. The re-route would eliminate a"road walk" from Steenburgh Road to Prediger Road (a distance of approximately 1.25 miles), and replace it with an existing trail through the privately owned Platte Clove Preserve. The trail exists, generally, as the old road bed for the Overlook Turnpike which ran from Platte Clove south to Overlook Mountain, except where it was relocated to avoid severely eroded sections. After negotiating with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (the owners of the Platte Clove Preserve), the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference obtained permission to locate the Long Path through the Platte Clove Preserve lands, and from there, onto the Forest Preserve. Once on the Forest Preserve, the trail follows portions of the old Overlook Turnpike and recently constructed trail where it soon joins the Devil's Path/Long Path.

A key element that would be required to establish the re-route, was the need for a bridge across Plattekill Creek on the property of the Platte Clove Preserve. During the summer and fall of 2001, The NY/NJ Trail Conference, under the direction of Catskill Trails Chairman Pete Senterman, built an historic Kingpost style bridge over Plattekill Creek.

The old Overlook Turnpike, both across Platte Clove Preserve and the New York State Forest Preserve, has been used for years as an unofficial entry point to reach Overlook Mountain and Echo Lake from the north. Because of this, the tread of this old toll road is a clearly worn path that is relatively devoid of vegetation, is easy to follow, and retains the look of an old woods road.

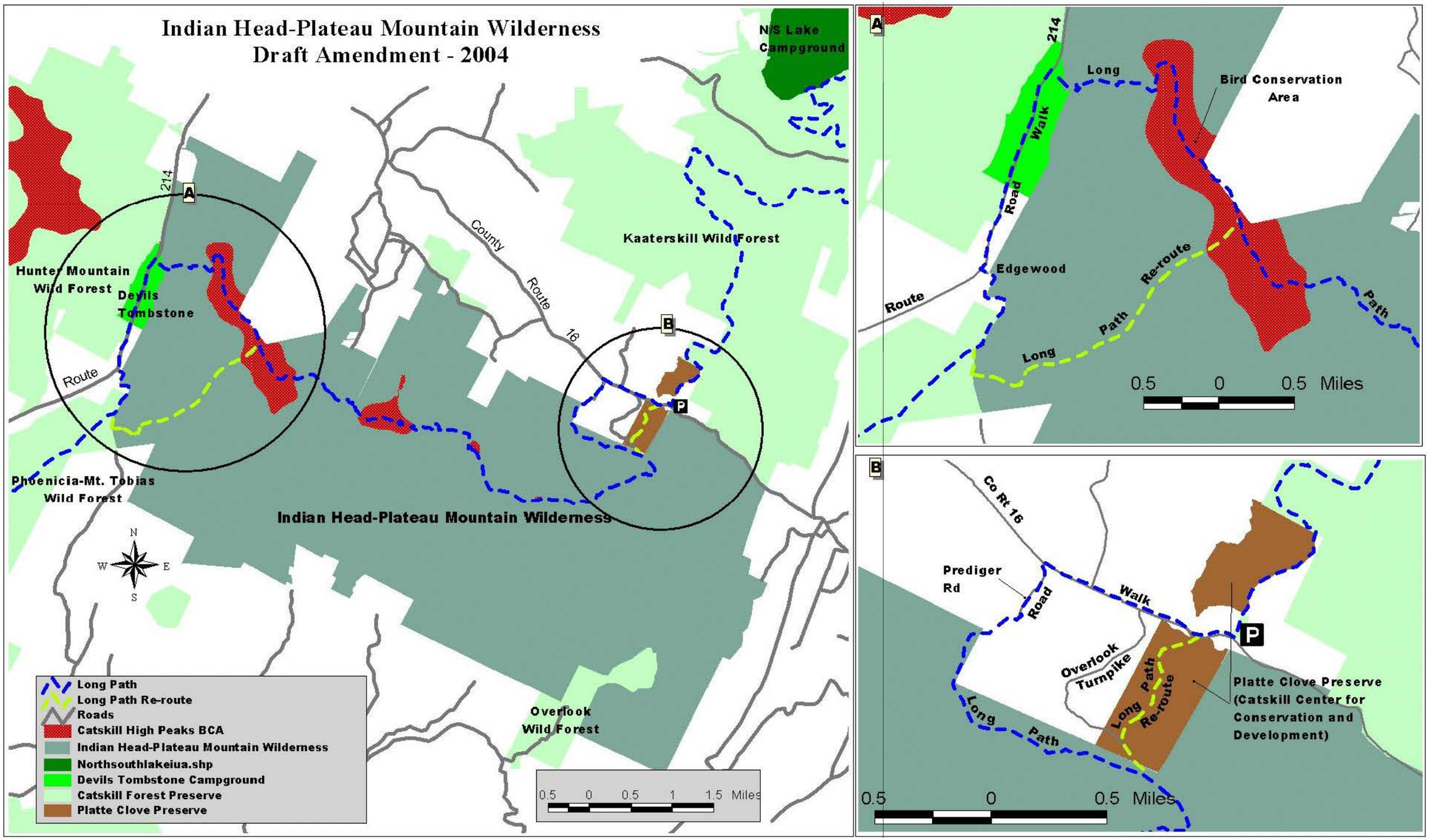
Conversion of this section of the old Overlook Turnpike to a hiking trail involves little or no impact to the Indian Head Wilderness. Due to the present condition of the Overlook Turnpike, it will not be necessary to remove any significant amount of vegetation to create the trail re-route. Essentially all that is needed is the posting of a small number of directional signs and trail markers. The length of the new segment of trail will be approximately one half mile.

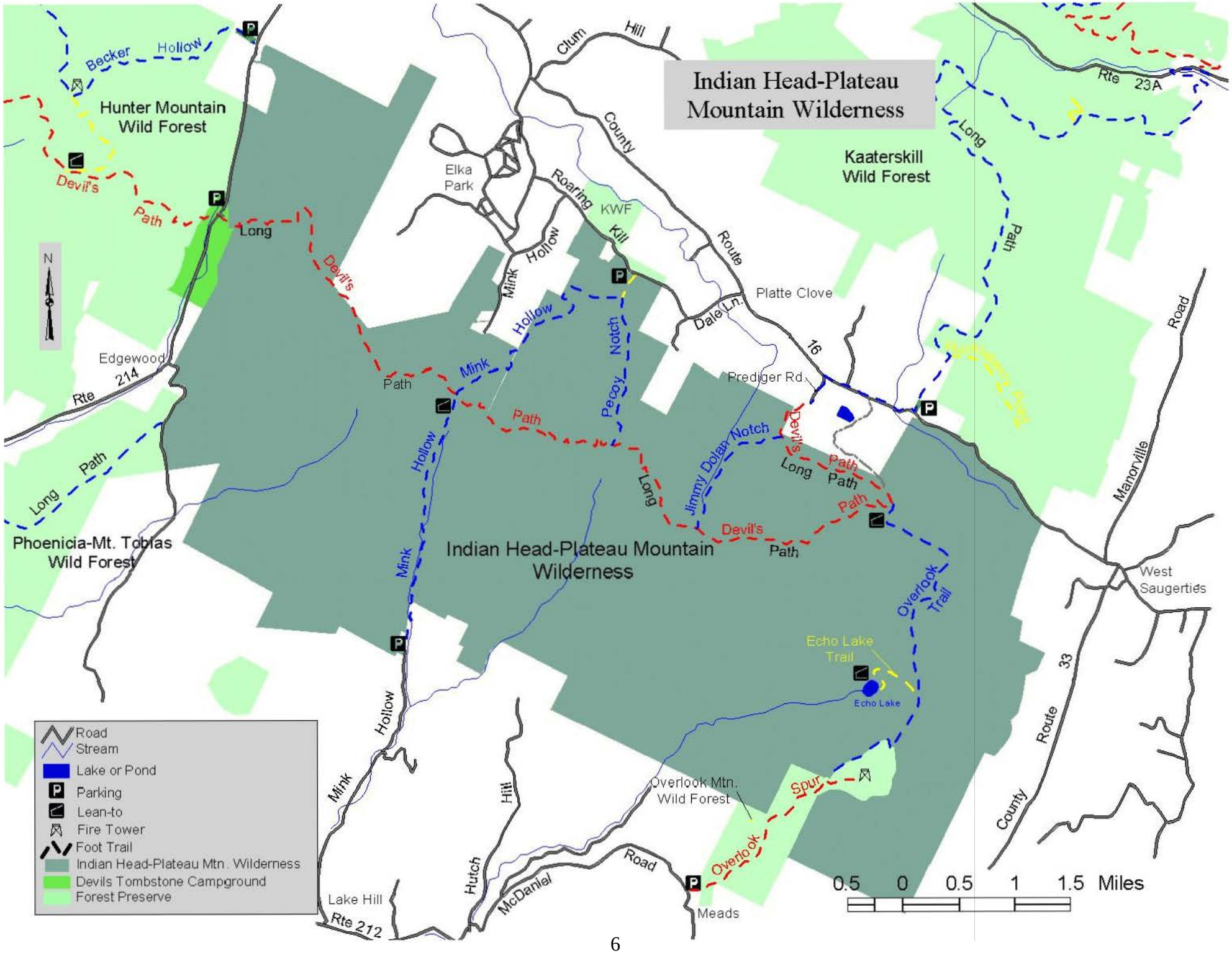
SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Year One - Anticipated 2006

1. Scout and mark route for the Long Path Re-route from Devil's Path to Silver Hollow Notch
2. Prepare Forest Preserve Project Plan
3. Establish new Foot Trail and post Long Path markers with assistance of New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Volunteers
4. Post trail markers and directional signs on the Overlook Turnpike from the border of the

Platte Clove Preserve to the Devil's Path


Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness
Draft Amendment - 2004
N/S Lake Campground
Kaaterskill Wild Forest
Hunter Mountain Wild Forest
Devils Tombstone
Route 214
County Route 16
Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest
Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness
Overlook Wild Forest
N
S
E
W
Long Path
Long Path Re-route
Roads
Catskill High Peaks BCA
Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness
Northsouthlakeiua.shp
Devils Tombstone Campground
Catskill Forest Preserve
Platte Clove Preserve
0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
A
B
P
Long Walk Road
Bird Conservation Area
Edgewood Route
Long Path Re-route
Long Path
0.5 0 0.5 Miles
Co Rt 16
Prediger Rd
Road
Walk
Overlook Turnpike
Long Path Re-route
Long Path
Platte Clove Preserve (Catskill Center for Conservation and Development)
0.5 0 0.5 Miles


Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness
Hunter Mountain Wild Forest
Kaaterskill Wild Forest
Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest
Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness
Overlook Mtn. Wild Forest
Becker Hollow
Devil's Path
Long Path
Clum Hill
County Route 16
Roaring Kill
Mink Hollow
Peggy Notch
Jimmy Dolan Notch
Overlook Trail
Overlook Spur
Echo Lake Trail
Echo Lake
Elka Park
KWF
Platte Clove
Dale Ln.
Prediger Rd.
Edgewood
Rte 214
Rte 23A
Manorville Road
West Saugerties
Route 33
County Road
Hutch Hill
McDaniel Road
Lake Hill Rte 212
Meads
N
0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
Road
Stream
Lake or Pond
Parking
Lean-to
Fire Tower
Foot Trail
Indian Head-Plateau Mtn. Wilderness
Devils Tombstone Campground
Forest Preserve

Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness
UMP Amendment - 2004
N
Devico Parcel
Indian Head-Plateau Mtn. Wilderness
Devils Tombstone Campground
Forest Preserve
1 0 1 2 Miles

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

Identifying # _____

Date September 9, 2004

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

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

Name of Action: Amendment to the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan (UMP).

SEQR Status:Type 1 X
Unlisted ___

Conditioned Negative Declaration: ___ **Yes**
X **No**

Description of Action: Adoption of the draft amendment to the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness UMP. The UMP amendment notes the addition of approximately 611 acres of land to the Wilderness. There are two proposed management actions in the draft amendment.

1.) **Relocate the Long Path from Route 214 to a new trail over Plateau Mountain.** It is proposed that the section of the Long Path that currently follows NYS Route 214 from Edgewood to Notch Lake (a one and one half mile road walk), be relocated as follows: Starting in Silver Hollow Notch at a point just east of where the Warner Creek Trail joins Notch Road, the trail will head in an easterly direction utilizing switchbacks where necessary and the natural ridge line, to ascend Plateau Mountain. Once on top of the mountain, the trail will connect to the Devil's Path Trail, which is currently a part of the Long Path system. The total length of the trail re-route will be approximately two miles.

2.) **Designate the portion of the Overlook Turnpike from privately owned land to its junction with the Devil's Path as a hiking trail.** The re-route would eliminate a"road walk" from Steenburgh Road to Prediger Road (a distance of approximately one mile), and replace it with an existing trail through the privately owned Platte Clove Preserve and the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness. The existing trail is the old road bed for the Overlook Turnpike which ran from Platte Clove to Overlook Mountain. After negotiating with the Catskill Center

for Conservation and Development (the owners of the Platte Clove Preserve), the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference was able to obtain access for the public through the Platte Clove Preserve lands, and from there, entry onto the Forest Preserve. Once on the Forest Preserve, the trail follows the old Overlook Turnpike where it soon joins the Devil's Path/Long Path.

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

The Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness is located in:
Greene County - Town of Hunter
Ulster County - Towns of Saugerties and Woodstock

Reasons Supporting This Determination:
(See 617.7(a)-(c) for requirements of this determination; see 617.7(d) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

The two management actions proposed in the amendment offer relocation of approximately two and one half (2 ½) miles of the Long Path to areas that are away from motor vehicle traffic. This offers greater protection from motor vehicle traffic through less exposure to it while hiking on the Long Path.

The first management action will involve the lay-out and establishment of approximately two miles of new hiking trail over Plateau Mountain. The proposed route will follow a shoulder of Plateau Mountain from Silver Hollow Notch easterly to where it will join with the Devil's Path/Long Path.

It will be located to minimize the potential for soil erosion, tree cutting and traversing poorly drained areas. Several Best Management Practices to minimize soil erosion will be used including:

- trail layout with slopes under 10 percent
- locating the trail to minimize necessary cut and fill
- locating the trail to minimize tree cutting and creation of openings in the canopy
- Any excavation will be performed using hand tools and limited to dry periods to avoid muddy conditions
- Out-sloping of trail tread and/or use of waterbars to move surface water quickly off the trail surface

Tree cutting will follow the guidelines of LF 91-2, Final Policy - Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve and the 1986 Foot Trail Policy. Foliage will be pruned so that a 4 foot wide trail corridor will be maintained and overhead clearance will be 8 to10 feet above the trail surface. Trail markers will be placed so that one is visible from one to the next, and in each direction of travel.

The Management Guidance Summary for The Catskill High Peaks Bird Conservation Area (BCA) includes Plateau Mountain in elevations above 3500 feet. Bicknell's Thrush is a species of special concern that inhabits the boreal forest cover in the Catskill High Peaks BCA. No trail construction activities will be permitted during the breeding season which occurs from May through July. It is anticipated that trail construction that minimizes tree cutting and openings in the canopy will have an insignificant impact upon birds within the BCA.

The second management action will require posting directional signs and trail markers on the old road from the border of the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness and the Platte Clove Preserve, to its junction with the Devil's Path Trail. It will not be necessary to remove any significant amount of vegetation to create the trail re-route. Essentially all that is needed is the posting of a small number of directional signs and trail markers. The length of the new segment of trail will be approximately one half mile and is located outside of the Catskill High Peaks BCA.

If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed, and identify comment period (not less than 30 days from date of publication in the ENB)

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Frank Parks - Senior Forester

Address: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Lands and Forests
65561 State Highway 10, Suite One
Stamford, NY 12167-9503

feparks@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Telephone Number: (607)652-3698

For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice is sent to:

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of

Other involved agencies (if any)

Applicant (if any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin - NYS DEC - 625 Broadway - Albany, NY 12233-1750 (Type One Actions Only)

617.20
Appendix A
State Environmental Quality Review
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM

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

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

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

Part 1: Provides objective data and information about a given project and its site. By identifying basic project data, it assists a reviewer in the analysis that takes place in Parts 2 and 3.

Part 2: Focuses on identifying the range of possible impacts that may occur from a project or action. It provides guidance as to whether an impact is likely to be considered small to moderate or whether it is a potentially-large impact. The form also identifies whether an impact can be mitigated or reduced.

Part 3: If any impact in Part 2 is identified as potentially-large, then Part 3 is used to evaluate whether or not the impact is actually important.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE -- Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

Identify the Portions of EAF completed for this project: [X] Part 1 [X] Part 2 [ ] Part 3

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

[X] 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

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Lands and Forests
Name of Lead Agency

Paul Trotta
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Regional Supervising Forester
Title of Responsible Officer

Peter Frank for Paul Trotta
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (If different from responsible officer)

September 9, 2004
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 **Amendment of Unit Management Plan for the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness**		
LOCATION OF ACTION (INCLUDE STREET ADDRESS, MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY) **Town of Hunter (Greene County) and Towns of Woodstock and Saugerties (Ulster County)**		
NAME OF APPLICANT/SPONSOR **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**	BUSINESS TELEPHONE **(607)652-7365**	
ADDRESS **65561 State Highway 10, Suite One**		
CITY/PO **Stamford**	STATE **NY**	ZIP CODE **12167-9503**
NAME OF OWNER (IF DIFFERENT)	BUSINESS TELEPHONE **( )**	
ADDRESS		
CITY/PO	STATE	ZIP CODE
DESCRIPTION OF ACTION **Amend the Unit Management Plan (UMP) in the following ways:** **1. Amend the map to include new land acquired since the UMP was adopted in 1992** **2. Construct approximately two miles of trail to the Long Path from the vicinity of Silver Hollow to the Devil's Path Trail on Plateau Mountain.** **3. Designate and mark approximately ½ mile of the old Overlook Turnpike as a Hiking Trail.**		

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: ≅ 1.25 acres.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
	acres	acres
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	acres	acres
Forested	1.25 acres	1.25 acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	acres	acres
Wetland(Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL)	acres	acres

Water Surface Area		acres		acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)		acres		acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces		acres		acres
Other (Indicate type)		acres		acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? **Halcott**

   a. Soil drainage: [X] Well drained **100** % of site [ ] Moderately well drained _____ % of site.

   [ ] Poorly drained _____ % 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? **N/A** Acres (see 1NYCRR 370).

4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site? [X] YES [ ] NO

   a. What is depth to bedrock? (in feet) 1 to 1 ½

5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes: [X] 0-10% **50** % [X] 10-15% **50** %

   [ ] 15% or greater _____ %

6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places? [ ] YES [X] NO

7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks? [ ] YES [X] NO

8. What is the depth of the water table? **0 to 6** (in feet)

9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer? [ ] YES [X] NO

10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? [X] YES [ ] NO

11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered? [ ] YES [X] NO

    According to: **Master Habitat Database - Natural Heritage Program**

    Identify each species:

12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations? [X] YES [ ] NO

    Describe: **Rock Outcrops near the proposed trail route that offer vistas of the Northern Catskills**

13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area? [X] YES [ ] NO

    If yes, explain: Local residents and tourists often hike the trails in the vicinity of the Indian Head -Plateau Mountain Range

14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community? [X] YES [ ] NO

15. Streams within or contiguous to project area: **None**

    a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary

16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:

    a. Name: **None**

    b. Size (in acres):

17. Is the site served by existing public utilities? [ ] YES [X] NO

    a. If **YES,** does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection? N/A [ ] YES [ ] NO

    b. If **YES**, will improvements be necessary to allow connection? N/A [ ] 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 [X] 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 [X] NO

20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes? [ ] YES [X] 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 . 17,336 acres.
   b. Project acreage to be developed: 0 acres initially; 0 acres ultimately.
   c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped 17,336 acres.
   d. Length of project, in miles: 2.5 (if appropriate)
   e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed 10 %
   f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing 20 ; proposed 0
   g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour N/A (upon completion of project)?

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

	One Family	Two Family	Multiple Family	Condominium
Initially	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ultimately	"	"	"	"

   I. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure N/A height; _____ width; _____ length.
   J. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? N/A 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? [X] N/A [ ] Yes [ ] No
   a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed? _____
   b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? [ ] Yes [ ] No
   c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? [ ] Yes [ ] No
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site? 0 acres.
5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project? [ ] Yes [X] No
6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction 12 months, (including demolition)
7. If multi-phased:
   a. Total number of phases anticipated N/A (number)
   b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1 _____ month _____ year, (including demolition)
   c. Approximate completion date of final phase _____ month _____ year.
   d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases? [ ] Yes [ ] No
8. Will blasting occur during construction? [ ] Yes [X] 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 [X] No
    If yes, explain: _____
12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved? [ ] Yes [X] No
    a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount _____
    b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged _____
13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? Type _____ [ ] Yes [X] No
14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? [ ] Yes [X] No
    If yes, explain: _____
15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain? [ ] Yes [X] No
16. Will the project generate solid waste? [ ] Yes [X] 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 [X] NO

e. If yes, explain: _____

17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste? [ ] YES [X] 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 [X] NO

19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)? [ ] YES [X] NO

20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels? [ ] YES [X] NO

21. Will project result in an increase in energy use? [ ] YES [X] NO
If yes, indicate type(s) _____

22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity **N/A** gallons/minute.

23. Total anticipated water usage per day **N/A** gallons/day.

24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding? [X] YES [ ] NO

If yes, explain: **NYS - Payroll for employees**

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	[X] YES	[ ] NO	**DEC Commissioner**	
Federal Agencies	[ ] YES	[ ] NO		

C. Zoning and Planning Information

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

If Yes, indicate decision required:

[ ] Zoning amendment [ ] Zoning variance [ ] New/revision of master plan [ ] Subdivision

[ ] Site plan [ ] Special use permit [X] Resource management plan [ ] Other _____

2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site? **Forest Preserve - Wilderness**

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

Wilderness

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?

Wilderness

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

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

Wilderness, Wild Forest, and residential

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

9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? **N/A**

a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? N/A

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

11. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection? ☐ YES ☒ NO
    a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand? ☐ YES ☐ NO

12. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels? ☐ YES ☒ NO
    a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic. ☐ YES ☐ NO

D. Informational Details

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

E. Verification

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

Applicant/Sponsor Name **Frank Parks** Date **September 9, 2004**

Signature Peter Frank for Frank Parks Title **Senior Forester**

If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceeding 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.
- The **Examples** provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of impacts and wherever possible the threshold of magnitude that would trigger a response in column 2. The examples are generally applicable throughout the State and for most situations. But, for any specific project or site other examples and/or lower thresholds may be appropriate for a Potential Large Impact response, thus requiring evaluation in Part 3.
- The impacts of each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples are illustrative and have been offered as guidance. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of impacts and thresholds to answer each question.
- The number of examples per question does not indicate the importance of each question.
- In identifying impacts, consider long term, short term and cumulative effects.

Instructions (Read carefully)

a. Answer each of the 20 questions in PART 2. Answer **Yes** if there will be **any** impact.
b. **Maybe** answers should be considered as **Yes** answers.
c. If answering **Yes** to a question then check the appropriate box(column 1 or 2)to indicate the potential size of the impact. If impact threshold equals or exceeds any example provided, check column 2. If impact will occur but threshold is lower than example, check column 1.
d. Identifying that an Impact will be potentially large (column 2) does not mean that it is also necessarily **significant**. Any large impact must be evaluated in PART 3 to determine significance. Identifying an impact in column 2 simply asks that it be looked at further.
e. If reviewer has doubt about size of the impact then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.
f. If a potentially large impact checked in column 2 can be mitigated by change(s) in the project to a small to moderate impact, also check the **Yes** box in column 3. A **No** response indicates that such a reduction is not possible. This must be explained in Part 3.

IMPACT ON LAND

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
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 tree cutting, pruning of branches, and construction of waterbars to control surface water run-off	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological) ☒ NO ☐ YES	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Specific land forms:	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON WATER

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

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
• 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	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• 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 the site, or found on the site.	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat.	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes.	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species?			

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
[X] 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 [ ] No
• Proposed Action requires the removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest (over 100 years of age) or other locally important vegetation.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] Yes [ ] No
IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES			
10. Will Proposed Action affect agricultural land resources? [X] 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 [ ] No
• 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 Agricultural 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).	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] [ ]
• Other impacts _____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] Yes [ ] No
IMPACT ON AESTHETIC RESOURCES			
11. Will Proposed Action affect aesthetic resources? (If necessary, use the Visual EAF Addendum in Section 617.20, Appendix B.) [X] NO [ ] YES			
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, prehistoric or paleontological importance? [X] 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			
13. Will Proposed Action affect the quantity or quality of existing or future open spaces or recreational opportunities? [X] NO [ ] YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
• The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] Yes [ ] No
• A major reduction of an open space important to the community.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ] Yes [ ] No

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
• Other impacts improved outdoor recreation opportunities	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

14. Will Proposed Action impact the exceptional or unique characteristics of a critical environmental area (CEA) established pursuant to subdivision 6NYCRR 617.14(g)?

☒ NO ☐ YES

Examples that would apply to column 2			
• Proposed Action to locate within the CEA?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quantity of the resource?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quality of the resource?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Proposed Action will impact the use, function or enjoyment of the resource?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION

15. 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	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON ENERGY

16. 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

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
NOISE AND ODOR IMPACT			
17. Will there be objectionable odors, noise, or vibration as a result of the Proposed Action? [X] 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			
18. Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety? [X] 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 liquefied 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			
19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community? [X] NO [ ] YES			
Examples that would apply to column 2			
• 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

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
• 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 _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ **NO** ☐ **YES**

If Any Action in Part 2 Is Identified as a Potential Large Impact or If you Cannot Determine the Magnitude of Impact, Proceed to Part 3

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.

Summary of Comments and Department Response for the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan Draft Amendment - October 20, 2005

- Relocate the Long Path from Route 214 to a new trail over Plateau Mountain

- Designate the portion of the Overlook Turnpike from privately owned land to its junction with the Devil's Path as a hiking trail

These two proposals have generated positive comments from persons who attended the public availability session on September 9 and those who chose to make written or verbal comments through October 10, 2005.

Comments were solicited from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and Bird Conservation Area Program (BCA) regarding potential negative impacts on Bicknell's Thrush and the Blackpoll Warbler. An e-mail response from the VINS stated they did not expect a significant impact on the two species of birds. A printed copy of the draft amendment was sent and no further comments have been received.

The BCA Program response also indicated that no significant impact on the two bird species is expected from the establishment of the new trail on Plateau Mountain.

- Why is an amendment to the Unit Management Plan (UMP) being prepared rather than a full revision to the Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness, which was completed in 1992? A complete revision is more appropriate than an amendment because thirteen years have passed since adoption of the original UMP. The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan suggests that UMP's be updated every five years.

The Master Plan provides that UMPs will be reviewed and modified as necessary on a five year basis. The Master Plan does not mandate a comprehensive UMP revision every five years. The Department believes this amendment is in compliance with the Master Plan policy.