



Division of Lands & Forests

**KEUKA HIGHLANDS
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

DRAFT

Steuben County

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Lead Agency:
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 8 Sub-Office
7291 Coon Rd.
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PREFACE

It is the policy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to manage state lands for multiple benefits to serve the people of New York State. This Unit Management Plan (UMP) is the first step in carrying out that policy. The plan has been developed to address management activities on this Unit for the next 10 year period. Some management recommendations may extend beyond the 10 year period.

Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities.

The Unit Management Planning Process

New York State's management policy for public lands follows a multiple use concept established by New York's Environmental Conservation Law. This allows for diverse enjoyment of state lands by the people of the state. Multiple use management addresses all demands placed on these lands, such as: watershed management, timber management, wildlife management, mineral resource management, rare plant and community protection, recreational use, taxes paid, and aesthetic appreciation.

In this plan, an initial resource inventory and other information is provided, followed by an assessment of existing and anticipated uses and demands. This information is used to set goals and management objectives. Management actions tables provide an estimated cost and timetable for accomplishing these objectives.

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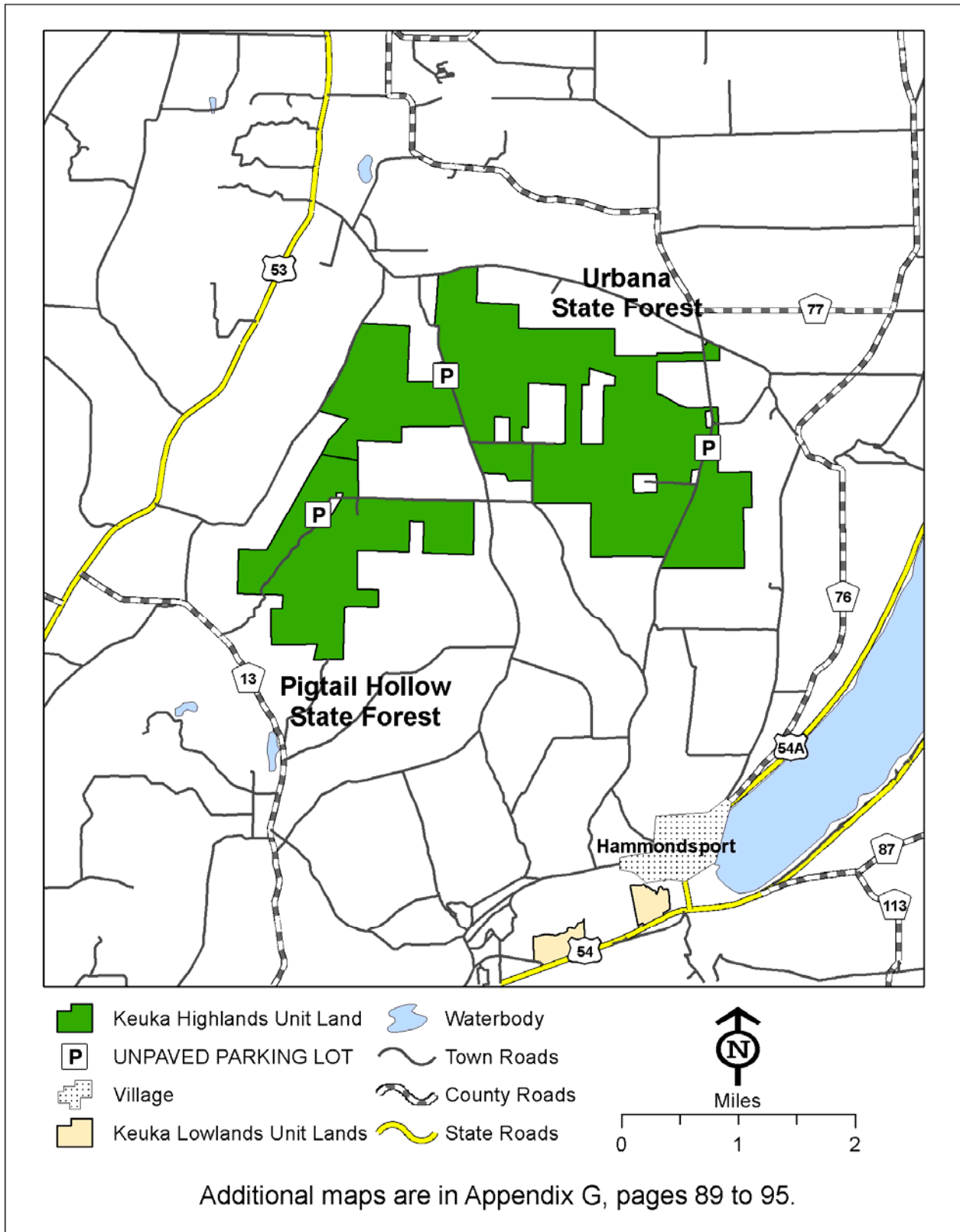
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KEUKA HIGHLANDS UNIT LOCATION MAP



INTRODUCTION

History of State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas

Forest lands outside the Adirondack and Catskill regions owe their present character, in large part, to the impact of pioneer settlement. Following the close of the Revolutionary War, increased pressure for land encouraged westward expansion. Up to 91% of New York woodlands were cleared for cultivation and forage.

As the less fertile soils proved unproductive, they were abandoned, and settlement was attempted elsewhere. The stage of succession was set and new forests of young saplings re-occupied the ground once cleared.

The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth the legislation which authorized the Conservation Department to acquire land by gift or purchase for reforestation purposes. These state forests consisting of not less than 500 acres of contiguous land, were to be forever devoted to “reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes”. This broad program is presently authorized under Article 9, Title 5, of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law.

In 1930, Forest Districts were established, and the tasks of land acquisition and reforestation were started. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was begun. Thousands of young men were assigned to plant millions of trees on the newly acquired state forests. In addition to tree planting, these men were engaged in road and trail building, erosion control, watershed restoration, forest protection, and other projects.

During the war years of 1941-1945, little was accomplished on the reforestation areas. Plans for further planting, construction, facility maintenance, and similar tasks had to be curtailed. However, through postwar funding, conservation projects once again received needed attention.

The Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act of 1960 and the Environmental Quality Bond Acts of 1972 and 1986 contained provisions for the acquisition of state forest lands, these lands would serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forestry, and recreation.

Wildlife management areas in New York, like state forests, have a varied history of acquisition. Many were gifted to the New York State by the Federal Government or other cooperating public or private organization. Some parcels were purchased with Bond Act funds or Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program funds. The latter which is commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act is a federal fund supported by hunters from their purchase of hunting licenses, firearms and ammunition.

Today there are over 770,000 acres of State Forests, approximately 751,000 acres of conservation easements, and over 223,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state. The use of these lands is important to the economy and to the health and well-being of the people of the state.

History of Keuka Highlands Unit Management Area

The area was originally inhabited by the Seneca Indian tribe, a member of the Iroquois Confederacy. It is known that Seneca settlements occupied both the Fivemile Creek Valley to the west of the Unit and the area surrounding Keuka Lake to the east. The famous Seneca chief, Red Jacket, resided in what is now Branchport on the north end of Keuka Lake. The Senecas undoubtedly hunted the area of the management Unit and practiced agriculture in the surrounding valleys.

The Sullivan Campaign of 1779 opened the area to habitation by people of European descent. The purpose of this campaign was to subdue the Native Americans and open the area for development, and it succeeded on both accounts.

In 1788, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham purchased 2,600,000 acres from the State of Massachusetts. In 1790, they sold 1,250,000 acres to Robert Morris, who immediately sold 750,000 acres to William Pulteney. Colonel Charles Williamson, an entrepreneur from Philadelphia was the chief land agent for the Pulteney purchase. He subdivided the Pulteney tract and sold by contract to individual homesteaders. By the late 1800s, only 30 percent of the land was forested.

The first half of the 20th century was characterized by a decline in agriculture and subsequent reversion of open land back to forest. Acquisition under the Reforestation Law and Hewitt Amendment began on the Unit in 1937. Records indicate that at least some cultural activity, namely timber stand improvement, boundary line surveying, and boundary line marking, was accomplished by enrollees of the Kanona Civilian Conservation Corps Camp.

The major emphasis immediately after World War II was tree planting. Between 1946 and 1955, almost 400,000 trees were hand-planted on 525 acres.

On both Urbana and Pigtail Hollow State Forest the first parcels were purchased in 1937, for \$4 per acre. Additional acres were acquired during the mid 1940's and early 50's. In 1961-64, several acquisitions under the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act totaled 1121.5 acres. This brought the total acreage of the Unit to the 3,688 acres it contains today.

During the 1960s, the major management impetus was reforestation of the newly acquired Bond Act properties. State forest crews machine-planted over 200,000 seedlings on 360 acres during this period.

The 1970s saw the forest maturing and an emphasis shift from acquisition and reforestation to management and stewardship.

During the 1980s, a significant change occurred in the land ownership patterns on private lands in the vicinity of the Unit. Farms were subdivided, and new seasonal and full-time residences were built.

The trend toward subdivisions or "fragmentation" of surrounding lands is expected to continue. Keuka Highlands is a large block of state-owned land. As such, it will become an even more valuable public asset in the future.

INFORMATION ON THE UNIT

Identification

The approximately 3,688 acre Keuka Highlands Unit is comprised of two state forests. For management purposes, each state forest is consecutively numbered in the order in which they were purchased in each county. Urbana State Forest (Steuben RA #6) comprises 2,690 acres, and Pigtail Hollow State Forest (Steuben RA #11) comprises 998 acres.

Table 1 Acreage of State Land

NAME	STATE FOREST NUMBER	ACREAGE
Urbana State Forest	Steuben Reforestation Area # 6	2,690
Pigtail Hollow State Forest	Steuben Reforestation Area # 11	998

Geography

This Unit is located in Steuben County in the towns of Pulteney, Urbana and Wheeler. The area is located on the Allegheny Plateau, west of Keuka Lake and northwest of the Village of Hammondsport. Table 2 lists the towns/counties where the individual units fall. On the north, it is bounded by Bean Station Road and on the west, by Dineharts Crossing Road. The Bully Hill Road lies immediately to the east of the Unit, and the hamlet of Mitchellsville immediately to the south.

The Unit is located on the divide between the Susquehanna River Basin and the Southeastern Lake Ontario Basin. Local watersheds for this Unit are the Keuka Lake watershed, Upper Fivemile and Lower Fivemile Creek Watersheds.

The Keuka Highlands Unit is generally located 5-10 miles north east of the town of Bath. Bath sits off exits 39 and 38 of US Interstate 86/State Route 17. This region is generally rural. The city of Corning is approximately 15 miles to the south east.

The Keuka Highlands Unit lies on the northern edge of the Allegheny Plateau. Elevations on the unit range from 1400 to 1900 feet. One and one-half miles to the east of the Unit lies Keuka Lake at 715 feet. The name “Keuka Highlands” is derived from this dramatic change in elevation of 1200 feet.

Table 2 Towns of the Keuka Highlands Unit

Name	Town(s)
Urbana State Forest	Urbana, Wheeler, Pulteney
Pigtail Hollow State Forest	Wheeler

Climate

The average length of the freeze-free growing season on the Unit is 140 days. The average daily high temperature in winter is 34° F and the average daily minimum temperature is 15°F. In summer, the average daily high temperature is 80°F and the average daily minimum temperature is 55°F. Plateau summits are markedly cooler than the lowland farming areas.

Annual precipitation averages 36 inches. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year and is usually adequate for all crops. Keuka Lake moderates temperatures sufficiently along its borders to accommodate vineyards.

Average seasonal snowfall is 70-75 inches. In winter snow depths vary greatly with elevation, but on the average, snow depths are measurable for 3 months. Monthly totals of 8 to 20 inches of snow are common from December through March. Sunshine occurs for 65% of daylight hours in the summer and 30% in the winter. The prevailing wind is from the west to southwest. Average wind speed is at its highest, 12 m.p.h., in February.

Climatic data is supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Adjacent Land - Existing Uses

The lands immediately adjacent to the Keuka Highlands Unit are all in private ownership. Recreational, residential, and second home properties are the primary uses. Land cover is characterized as either “mixed forest”, “evergreen forest”, or “cropland - pasture”. (USGS, Land Use and Land Cover, Anderson’s Classification)

While agricultural production is not a significant use of lands immediately adjacent to the Keuka Highlands Unit, it is an important use in the broader general area surrounding the Unit. Numerous vineyards are found to the east of the Unit, and produce and vegetable farms are located on the Prattsburg Muck to the north.

Small scale forestry projects are carried out on some of the adjacent properties. There are no large industrial forest tracts adjacent to, or in proximity to, the Keuka Highlands Unit.

Taxes

State forest lands acquired for reforestation purposes pursuant to Section 9-0501 of the Environmental Conservation Law are subject to taxation for all purposes except county tax.

Town tax and school tax are paid annually to the county clerk for distribution to the appropriate towns and school districts. State forests are valued as if privately owned and assessed in accordance with subdivision 1, Section 542 of the Real Property Tax Law.

State forest lands and multiple use areas less than 3000 acres in size acquired using monies from the Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act of 1960 are not subject to real property

taxes. Portions of this Unit were acquired using 1960 bond act funds and are there for not subject to property taxes.

Appendix C lists the taxes paid in 2005 on the lands of the Keuka Highlands Unit Management Area. Further details may be found in Section 534 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Geology

Surface Geology

Background

Most surface geology in the Finger Lakes region and Southern Tier of New York was influenced by the processes of glaciation that occurred during the Pleistocene Epoch. Ice sheets from the last glaciation episode (Wisconsinan glaciation episode) retreated from the area approximately ten thousand (10,000) years ago, leaving behind numerous sedimentary deposits and surficial features; including elongated scour features. Some filled with water creating numerous lakes, small and large, some are now call the Finger Lakes.

Most soils and sediments in the region are related to past glacial activity, and subsequent weathering and erosion processes over the last 20,000 years. The underlying parent rocks (rocks that were subjected to the processes of glaciation, weathering and erosion) of this region are sedimentary rocks; specifically shale, sandstone and minor limestone that were deposited in shallow seas that existed in this region during the Devonian Period of the Paleozoic Era, approximately 370 million years ago. Any post Devonian rocks have been eroded from the region. The presence of rounded igneous and metamorphic clasts are indicative of past glacial activity transporting material into the region from the Canadian Shield to the north.

Keuka Highlands Unit

The State lands included in this Unit management plan have similar surface geology. Pigtail Hollow State Forest and the Urbana State Forest include surface geology consisting of glacial till as the dominant surface sediments in the area. Bedrock outcrops and subcrops of Upper Devonian shales, siltstones, sandstones and minor limestones (Westfalls Group) are located intermittently on the sides and crests of ridges and hills in these two State Forests. This is most likely due to the erosion of overlying glacial sediments, causing the exposure of the bedrock. Further information on the surface geology of the region is provided by the Surficial Geologic Map of New York, New York State Museum - Geologic Survey - Map and Chart series #40, 1986.

Table 3 Surficial Geologic Material

Name	Surficial Geologic Material
Pigtail Hollow State Forest	Glacial Till - Deposition of clays, silts and boulders beneath glacial ice Bedrock - Shales, silts and minor limestones of the Devonian Westfalls Group, intermittent outcrops/subcrops
Urbana State Forest	Glacial Till - Deposition of clays, silts and boulders beneath glacial ice Bedrock - Shales, silts and minor limestones of the Devonian Westfalls Group, intermittent outcrops/subcrops

Soils

Soils on this area are of the Mardin-Volusia-Lordstown association. Specific soil series occurring on the Unit are described and mapped in the USDA publication, Soil Survey of Steuben County, New York. The survey was published by the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. The Steuben County survey was published in 1978. Digital soils data is now available for Steuben County. Appendix G contains maps of the soil types.

The major soil limitation which affects management is the depth of the soil to the hardpan or the fragipan. The Chippewa, Volusia, and Mardin soils all have shallow fragipans which create seasonal wetness and restrict depth of rooting.

Bedrock Geology

Background

Bedrock underlying the Finger Lakes region and Southern Tier of New York is inclusive of sedimentary rock units deposited in association with ancient seas and their marine-fluvial-deltaic environments of deposition during the Cambrian (550-500 million years ago (mya)), Ordovician (500-440 mya), Silurian (440-400 mya) and Devonian (400-350 mya) Periods of the Paleozoic Era.

Younger bedrock units deposited during the post-Devonian Periods (such as Mississippian and Pennsylvanian Periods) have been subsequently eroded away by erosional and glacial processes.

Underlying the Paleozoic rocks is pre - Paleozoic Era rocks or Pre-Cambrian rocks generally considered to be composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks. These rocks are generally referred to as “basement” rocks.

Keuka Highlands Unit

Rock units (bedrock) outcropping or subcropping at the surface in the Pigtail Hollow State Forest and the Urbana State Forest of the Finger Lakes region and southerntier of New York are shales, siltstones, sandstones and intermittent limestones of the West Falls Group that were deposited during the Upper Devonian Period (approximately 350 - 400 million years ago).

Further information on the bedrock geology of the region is provided by the: Geologic Map of New York - Finger Lake Sheet - New York State Museum and Science Service - Map and Chart #15, 1970.

Subsurface information pertaining to the bedrock (that does not outcrop) has been acquired through two wells drilled during 1979 and 2004 while exploring for oil and natural gas reserves in areas within and surrounding the Keuka Highlands Unit. These two wells were drilled to vertical depths ranging from 8,315 feet to 9,794 feet into the subsurface. Testing the Black River Formation in an area (offsetting Urbana State Forest), south of the Keuka Highlands Unit, and testing in the deeper Potsdam Sandstone Formation in an area in the northern section of the Urbana State Forest.

These formations were deposited during the Middle Ordovician Period (Black River) approximately 450 million years ago and the Upper Cambrian Period (Potsdam Sandstone), over 500 million years ago.

At a surface location approximately 900 feet west of the southern portion of Urbana State Forest and east of Glen Brook Road, the Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation - McDaniels #1 well (American Petroleum Institute (API) # 31-101-23,151-00) encountered the top of the Devonian Tully Limestone at 1,843 feet, Onondaga Limestone at 2,610 feet, Oriskany Sandstone at 2,655 feet, Silurian Salt at 2,990 feet, Lockport Dolomite at 4,174 feet, Medina Sandstone at 4,697 feet, Queenston Shale at 4,895 feet, Trenton Limestone at 7,076 feet, and Black River Limestone/Dolomite at 7,875 feet. The well was drilled to a total depth of 8,147 feet in 2004.

At a surface location in the northeastern portion of Urbana State Forest and along the west side of Colegrove Hill Road, the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation - NYS Reforestation Area #6 well (API# 31-101-13,699) encountered the top of the Devonian Tully Limestone at 2,059 feet, Onondaga Limestone at 2,825 feet, Oriskany Sandstone at 2,886 feet, Silurian Salt at 3,200 feet, Lockport Dolomite at 4,474 feet, Medina Sandstone at 4,989 feet, Queenston Shale at 5,157, feet, Trenton Limestone at 7,092 feet, Black River Limestone/Dolomite at 7,868 feet, and Theresa Sandstone at 8,791 feet. The well was drilled to a total depth of 9,808 feet in 1979. It was plugged and abandoned in 1979. (See Appendix H for geologic cross section of area).

Structure

Regional structure of the area is a homocline that dips (is becoming deeper) to the south-southwest at an average dip angle of approximately one (1) degree or deepens 100 feet per each mile traveled to the south-southwest. The Geologic Map of New York - Finger Lakes Sheet #15, 1970, depicts progressively older rock units outcropping farther to the north, confirming the southern dip of strata in the region.

Linements, faulting and anticlinal/synclinal structures in the region generally trend in a northeast to southwest direction. North-south trending faults have also been identified in the region. These structures are thought to be due to compressional stress and resulting strain associated with plate tectonics and the opening of the Atlantic Ocean that began at the end of the Paleozoic Era. Structural reference is available at the Preliminary Brittle Structures Map of New York, New York state Museum-Map and Chart Series No. 31E, 1974.

Mineral Resources

Oil and Gas

Section 23-1101 of the Environmental Conservation Law and State Finance Law authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to make leases on behalf of the State for exploration, production and development of oil and gas on State lands. Proposals to lease parcels of Department of Environmental Conservation administered State lands for this purpose will be considered following public notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB), and in local newspapers.

Oil and natural gas are valuable resources which can provide energy and revenue, as well as the opportunity for improvements to the existing infrastructure of the Keuka Highlands Unit (such as improving safe and restricted access through upgrading existing roads, culverts and gates) and creation of grassy openings to enhance habitat diversity. As with any other human activity on State lands, oil and natural gas exploration and development can impact the environment. Most impacts are short term and occur during the siting and drilling phases of a well.

In all areas covered by this Unit Management Plan New York State manages the surface estate through the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests, and the mineral estate is managed through the NYS DEC Division of Mineral Resources.

For more information on the procedures of gas leasing, see the Mineral Resources section on page 48.

Historical Drilling & Production

The drilling of the first commercial oil and natural gas well in the United States occurred in northwestern Pennsylvania during the middle 1800s. The results of this drilling activity carried over into neighboring New York State. Eventually this activity extended into western New York and areas surrounding what is now the Keuka Highlands Unit.

Natural gas was discovered approximately five miles east of the Keuka Highlands Unit in the northwestern corner of Schuyler County at the Wayne Dundee Field during the late 1950s. (See map in Appendix G) Production was from the Oriskany Sandstone Formation that was deposited during the Late Devonian Period. Gas was produced from depths of approximately 2,000 feet.

Fields drilled prior to 1986 are shown on the New York State Gas Field Map - Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Mineral Resources, 1986

Recent Activity

Drilling & Production

Natural gas has been discovered recently (1990s to present) from older and deeper Lower Ordovician age rocks of the Trenton / Black River Formations in the northeast corner of Steuben County.

The closest Trenton/Black River gas production to the Keuka Highlands Unit is located in two fields north of the Unit. These fields are the Glodes Corners Road Field and the Muck Farm Field, which are approximately five and two miles, respectively, to the north. The closest producing well to the Unit is approximately two miles north of the Keuka Highlands Unit. The Columbia Natural Resources Incorporated - Faber # 1 well (API#: 31-101-22,745) was drilled and completed in 1998 in the Muck Farm Field. Production was from the Black River Formation at depths of approximately 7,000 feet (see map Appendix G).

Exploration & Drilling

Exploration for gas in the Trenton / Black River Formations continues to expand into the southern tier of New York State. The most recent drilling activity proximal to the Keuka Highlands Unit occurred during 2004 at a location approximately 900 feet west of the southern portion of Urbana State Forest,

Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation tested the Black River Formation by drilling and completing the Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation - McDaniels #1 well (API#: 31-101-23,151) as a dry hole to a measured depth of 8,315 feet. (See map Appendix G)

Leasing Activity

Initial title review indicates the State owns the mineral estate under all areas covered by this Unit, with the qualification that mineral reservations may exist and no expressed or implied warranty of title is being offered in this document.

Both State Forests in the Keuka Highlands Unit are currently under oil/gas lease contracts. Leases on the mineral estate under Urbana State Forest and Pigtail Hollow State Forest were effective on June 2, 2003 between the NYS DEC as “lessor” and Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation as “Lessee”, and grant Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation oil and gas rights under both State Forests, located in Steuben County and the Towns of Urbana and Wheeler. These leases are for a period of five years or as long as oil or gas is produced from the property in commercially paying quantities.

Future Leasing Activity

Due to recent drilling and production activity in western New York, the State may again receive requests to nominate lands for leasing. In the event of this occurrence, the procedures outlined in the Minerals section on page 48 will be used. For further information contact the NYSDEC Mineral Resource staff, Region 8, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-959.

Mining

Sand, Gravel & Hard Rock

There are no mining contracts, permits, or operations located in the Urbana State Forest or the Pigtail Hollow State Forest. Under Article 7 of the New York consolidated Laws/Public Lands, any citizen of the United States may apply for permission to explore and/or extract any mineral on State

lands. However, current Department policy is to decline any commercial mining application(s) associated with lands in this Unit

Although there are no mines within State land limits, there are a number of permitted sand and gravel operations surrounding the Keuka Highlands area. Hard rock quarries are not found in this area. Rock units may be exposed or within one meter of the surface and includes Paleozoic shales that are not considered suitable for commercial mining. Sand and gravel is excavated from kame and till deposits.

The surficial geology of the Urbana State Forest and Pigtail Hollow State Forest predominately consists of poorly sorted glacial till of variable texture. Kame and till moraine deposits are common in the area. The bedrock consists of mostly shales, siltstone and sandstone. Commercial sand and gravel mining operations occur approximately 2.5 miles to the north, 4 miles to the southwest and 2.5 miles to the southeast and one is located over 2 miles to the west. (See map, Appendix G) Mining operations are located where well sorted till, kame and alluvial deposits exist.

Timber and Vegetation

Green Certification of State Forests

In 2000, New York State DEC-Bureau of State Land Management received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification under an independent audit conducted by the National Wildlife Federation - SmartWood Program. This certification included 720,000 acres of State Forests in Regions 3 through 9 managed for water quality protection, recreation, wildlife habitat, timber and mineral resources (multiple-use). To become certified, the NYS DEC had to meet more than 75 rigorous criteria established by FSC. Meeting these criteria established a benchmark for forests managed for long-term ecological, social and economic health. The original certification and contract was for five years.

By 2005 the original audit contract with the SmartWood Program expired. Recognizing the importance and the value of dual certification, the Bureau sought bids from prospective auditing firms to reassess the Bureaus State Forest management system to the two most internationally accepted standards - FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program. However, contract delays and funding shortfalls slowed the NYS DEC's ability to award a new agreement until early 2007.

Following the signed contract with NSF-International and Scientific Certification Systems, the NYS DEC was again audited for dual certification against FSC and additionally the SFI program standards on over 762,000 acres of State Forests in Regions 3 through 9. This independent audit of State Forests was conducted by these auditing firms from May until July 2007 with dual certification awarded in January 2008. Forest products derived from wood harvested off State Forests from this point forward could now be labeled as "green certified" through chain-of-custody certificates. Green Certified labeling on wood products may assure consumers that the raw material was harvested from well-managed forests.

The NYS DEC now joins only an elite few states representing less than 10% of working forests certified as well managed throughout the Northeastern Region of the United States. The NYS DEC's State Forests can also be counted as part of over 2.3 million acres of public, private and industrial certified forests in New York. That's over 15% of the total working forest land in New York third-

party certified as well managed to protect habitat, cultural resources, water, recreation, and economic values now and for future generations.

Current Vegetative Types and Stages

Plant communities are by nature dynamic and ever changing. Young stands of trees get older, and species composition changes with time. Disturbances from fire, wind, insects, disease, timber harvest, and other land-use practices have been an important part of the history of New York forests and have determined the composition and structure of today's forests. By applying different forest management or silvicultural practices, land managers can affect change in vegetative types and stages and associated use by wildlife. The production of forest products is a clearly stated goal in the Reforestation Law of 1929 and is consistent with the proposed management actions in the Keuka Highlands Unit. Future management is covered in the Timber and Vegetation Management section on page 30 and in Appendix F.

The vegetation of the Keuka Highlands Unit contains a mix of species, but is dominated by Oak/Hickory, mostly pole sized (6 to 11 inch diameter) natural hardwood forests. The dominant species are red, white and black oak; other species present to a lesser extent include red maple, hickories, ash, aspen, birches, beech, and apple. There are fewer Seedling/sapling and sawtimber stands on the Unit. These stands are typically "even-aged". (All of the trees in a stand are approximately the same age.) Non-forest land consists of wetland, bog, grassland and brushy cover.

The conifer segment is largely plantation, mostly red pine, white pine, larch, and Norway spruce. Hemlock and white pine comprise most of the natural conifer stands. In addition, many of the hardwood forest stands have a softwood component made up of white pine and/or hemlock.

Most of the rest of the stands fit into either the category of "transition hardwoods" or "pioneer hardwoods". Common species include red oak, red maple, aspen, basswood, white ash, and sugar maple. Former agricultural fields have reverted back to "pioneer" forest types. There are no significant areas of brushy or grassy upland meadows.

The following tables (Tables 4 and 5) list vegetative types and stages for the Keuka Highlands Unit. These records are estimated from the most recent inventories available. Pigtail Hollow State Forest and Urbana State Forest were inventoried in 2003. Current division policy requires that a forest inventory be conducted every 10 years and whenever stands are changed by any silviculture operation or by the forces of nature. Forest inventory is accomplished by a statistical analysis of stands. Samples are taken from random locations (called plots) within each stand. Information collected during a forest inventory includes, among other items, species, forest type, tree density, forest health issues, topography, drainage, previous management, and site limiting factors. The required number of plots for each stand varies according to the variability of the stand, subject to a minimum number.

Table 4 Vegetative Types and Stages for Pigtail Hollow and Urbana State Forests

(This data is based on the information gathered during the 2003 inventory of the state forests.)

Vegetative Type	Acres by Size Class					% of Total
	0 -5 in	6 - 11 in	12+ in	other	Total	
Natural Forest Hardwood	171	1751	386		2,308	62.6%
Natural Forest Conifer		250	5		255	6.9%
Plantation	108	806	12		926	25.1%
Wetland				50	50	1.3%
Ponds				13	13	0.4%
Open/Brush				100	100	2.7%
Other (Roads, Parking lots, etc.)				36	36	1.0%
Total (Acres)	279	2807	403	199	3,688	
% of Total	7.6%	76.1%	10.9%	5.4%		100%

Changes in the Vegetative Types and Stages Between 1993 and 2009

As can be seen from tables 4 and 5, change has happened in the time between the writing of these Unit Management Plans. Some of that change is a result of how inventory is done, and the computer programs used to crunch the numbers. Pigtail Hollow State Forest has been inventoried in 1964, 1987 and 2003 and Urbana State Forest in 1961, 1988 and 2003. In 1987/88 inventory was recorded in the field on paper, then transferred to a DOS computer program in the Bath office; since 2006 it is recorded in the field on a hand held data recorder, then electronically transferred via the internet to servers in Albany. How the maps are created has also changed. Maps used to be hand drawn on aerial photo's, and dot grids used to calculate acreage. Now they are digitally drawn using ArcGIS on the computer over top of aerial photos. Then the computer program calculates acreage to a much more accurate degree. In 2003 the process was in transition, in that data was recorded in the field on paper, but the maps were created on the computer.

In addition, small ponds, roads, and small parking lots were included in the adjoining stand acreage, and are now separated out. One shallow water impoundment was constructed; however it is less than one acre in size. The additional acres of wetland, and some of the pond, are a result of beaver activity and better type mapping.

The timber vegetation has grown. The number of acres with an average tree size 12 inches or better (sawtimber size) has doubled, and the number of acres of seedling/sapling has dropped dramatically from 1191 to 153. How this impacts future timber management will be discussed in the Timber and Vegetation Management section on page 30.

The numbers of acres of plantation decreased for two reasons. Some of it died and collapsed and converted to native seedling on its own, some was harvested and regrew to (mostly hardwood) seedlings. Natural forest conifer changed dramatically, mostly do to changes in how much conifer is needed to qualify as natural forest conifer vs. natural forest hardwood. Plus three stands were

incorrectly classified in 1993 as natural conifer when they are actually plantation.

Table 5 Vegetative Types and Stages as reported in the 1993 Keuka Highlands Unit for Pigtail Hollow and Urbana State Forests

(Some differences are a result of technology and inventory changes, but general trends can be seen.)

Vegetative Type	Acres by Size Class					% of Total
	0 -5 in	6 - 11 in	12+ in	other	Total	
Natural Forest Hardwood	695	1304	68		2,067	56.0%
Natural Forest Conifer	157	489	138		784	21.3%
Plantation	339	439			778	21.1%
Wetland				33	33	0.9%
Ponds						
Open/Brush				24	24	0.7%
Other (Gas well)				2	2	<0.1%
Total (Acres)	1191	2232	206	59	3,688	
% of Total	32.3%	60.5%	5.6%	1.6%		100%

Fish, Wildlife and Habitat

The fish, wildlife and their habitats found here are products of the landscape’s history. Like many places in the southern tier of New York the coming of the Europeans in the 1700s and the decline of Native American cultures set the stage for widespread changes in the distribution and richness of wildlife resources. Timbering and farming along with unregulated exploitation of fish and wildlife resources, caused the disappearance of many wildlife species including most big game animals as well as native brook trout and other creatures of pristine and wild environments. Over the course of time emphasis on timber harvest and farming changed with the availability of resources and markets. Most of the forests were cut heavily, some burned and most of the land cleared for farming and pasturing. Streams filled with sediments. Wetlands were filled. Very little of the landscape was left untouched.

In the 1930s the depression set the stage for the landscape pendulum to swing in a different direction. A very large portion of the area started to revert back toward the mature hardwood forests as farms failed. Young forests lacked significant age to provide timber products. Wildlife species that could quickly colonize these habitats rapidly moved back onto the landscape. Cottontail rabbits and other farm wildlife species diminished as dwellers of young forests such as grouse and deer took advantage of the unoccupied niches.

Today forests have matured and wildlife species are those commonly associated with such habitats. Today bears, white-tailed deer, bobcat, bald eagles, beavers, otter and fisher roam where farm wildlife species ventured at the beginning of the 20th century.

State lands within the Keuka Highlands Unit are contained within Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 8P. Deer buck take objectives (BTOs) (a index to deer population size) are set by citizen task forces for each WMU. The current BTO for 8P is 4.2 bucks per square mile. Black bear continue to

expand their range northward and are now firmly established in WMU 8P, and in 2008 it was opened to bear hunting.

See the Fishing section, page 19, for a discussion on the current fish populations and locations on the Keuka Highlands Unit. Appendix A lists animals that may be found on the Keuka Highlands Unit and Appendix H for recent wildlife harvest data.

Wetlands and Water Resources

Aquifers

There is a small area of Urbana State Forest which is underlain by the Lower Cohocton primary aquifer. This area is along and adjacent to Dinehart's Crossing Road, along the west side of Urbana State Forest.

The existence of secondary aquifers or minor recharge areas is unknown.

Proper application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during and after forestry and other construction operations will adequately protect water quality. Further information on these BMPs is provided by the publication: New York State Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality: BMP Field Guide.

Wetlands

There are no classified (state protected) Freshwater Wetlands. There are numerous small (unregulated by the State) wetlands, on both State Forest properties. The largest is ten acres in size and comprises Stand D-920 of Urbana State Forest. This wetland is locally known as "Huckleberry Bog".

In general, wetlands are critical habitat for various species of herps, water mammals, birds, etc. See also the wetlands maps in Appendix G.

Streams

This Unit is split nearly evenly between the Upper Susquehanna watershed and the Oswego River watershed. A small portion of the Unit drains into Fivemile Creek and is in the Susquehanna River Basin.

The headwaters of Mitchellsville Creek, Glen Brook, and Hungry Hollow Creek are on the Unit. These are Class "C" streams, which support fish survival. Fisheries resources consist primarily of suckers and minnows. Glen Brook drains directly into Keuka Lake and Mitchellsville Creek into Keuka Inlet or Cold Brook, a significant rainbow trout stream. These streams and several intermittent streams total 6.2 miles on the Unit.

Ponded Waters

There are numerous unnamed vernal pools, small dugouts, water holes, and other small seasonal ponds located throughout the Unit. They provide valuable habitat for reptiles and

amphibians, such as salamanders and frogs, but do not support fish. The volume and depth of water varies seasonally, with some drying up during the summer, and others holding water year round.

See also the inventory of streams and ponded waters in Appendix E.

Significant Plants and Communities

There are no rare plants listed in the Natural Heritage database on either Urbana or Pigtail Hollow State Forests. There is, however a highbush blueberry bog thicket (Huckleberry Bog) on Urbana State Forest. It is an 8.8 acre dense shrub swamp with scattered trees and an underlying layer of peat moss, interspersed with shallow troughs of water. It is located off of Reservoir Hill Road, approximately 2.8 mi WNW of the village of Urbana on Keuka Lake and about 3.9 miles north of Hammondsport. Most of it is on state land but a small amount is located on adjoining private property. According to the Natural Heritage Survey, 60-75% of the shrubs are composed of highbush blueberry, with the remainder composed of leatherleaf, velvetleaf huckleberry, black chokeberry, catberry and common winterberry. The most common type of herb present (~10% of the total herb population) is boreal bog sedge. Other herbs that may be found there are cinnamon fern, silvery sedge, tawny cottongrass, three-seeded sedge and water arum. Sphagnum moss is the dominant moss, comprising 70% of the moss cover found there. Some scattered trees can be found throughout the swamp, with white pine, eastern hemlock, larch, black spruce and red maple being the most common.

Roads

The Unit is accessed by state, county and town roads (see location map, page 1 and Appendix G). Town maintained asphalt and gravel roads comprise the majority of access routes. Some portions of the town roads are seasonal and are not maintained for winter travel. Maintenance on four town roads has not been done for many years: on Urbana State Forest, portions of Wixon Hill Road and Bog Road, and on Pigtail Hollow State Forest, portions of Van Hussen Road, and Runner Road.

The State Forest Transportation system provides for both public and administrative access to the Unit. Roads and trails are constructed to standards that will provide reasonably safe travel and to keep maintenance costs at a minimum. There are six types of transportation corridors providing different levels of access, depending on the standards to which they are constructed. NYS DEC reserves the right to limit access to state lands when public safety issues occur, or damage to access infrastructure is likely.

Urbana and Pigtail Hollow State Forests do not have any haul roads or forest access roads. There are 3.5 miles of access trails in Urbana and 0.3 miles in Pigtail Hollow.

The next several paragraphs give brief descriptions of the six types of roads that can be found on State Land.

Public Forest Access Roads - Permanent, unpaved roads which may be designed for all-weather use depending upon their location, surfacing and drainage. These roads provide primary access for administration and public use within the Unit. The design standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided in the Unpaved Forest Road Handbook (8/04). As a

general guideline, sufficient access is typically achieved when 1 mile of public forest access road is developed for each 500 acres of state land, and no position within the unit lies more than ½ mile from a public forest access road or public highway.

Haul Roads - Permanent, unpaved roads which are not designed for all weather travel, but may have hardened or improved surfaces with artificial drainage. They are constructed according to best management practices primarily for the removal of forest products, providing limited access within the Unit by log trucks and other heavy equipment. These roads may or may not be open for public motor vehicle use, depending on management priorities and objectives. They may serve as recreational access corridors, but are not maintained according to specific standards or schedules. The design standards for these roads are below those of the Class B access roads as provided in the Unpaved Forest Road Handbook.

Access Trails - Temporary, unpaved roads which do not provide all weather access within the Unit. They are not designed for long term and repeated use by heavy equipment. These corridors were originally constructed for the seasonal removal of forest products by skidding to landings or other staging areas. Constructed according to best management practices, these trails may be used to support other management objectives such as recreational access corridors. Maintenance is limited to activities which minimally support seasonal access objectives.

Recreational Trail - Unpaved recreational corridors which do not provide all weather access within a Unit, and are designed to achieve specific recreational access objectives. Constructed according to best management practices, and following accepted regional standards for design, these trails may be used to support multiple types of seasonal recreation access. Maintenance is limited to activities which minimally support the access objectives and design.

Public Road - Permanent, paved or unpaved roads primarily designed for motor vehicle travel which are maintained by federal, state or local government. These roads may or may not provide year round access.

Rights-Of-Way - Permanent, paved or unpaved roads which allow the Department access to state forest properties while crossing private land, or, corridors across state forests allowing access to private in-holdings.

The public forest access roads and haul roads are all maintained by the NYS DEC and the access trails that are accessible by mower are also maintained. The public forest access roads are open to the public use all year round but are not maintained during the winter months. The haul roads and access trails are used by the public for hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding. The public forest access roads, haul roads and some of the access trails are used by the NYS DEC for administrative access. There are also many other unmarked trails in the Unit connecting some of the access trails.

Towers

There may be the potential for generating electricity with windmills or the construction of towers for radio, cell transmission, in the area of the Keuka Highlands Unit. There are currently no windmills, or applications for windmills, for power generation on the Keuka Highlands Unit. NYS

DEC does not have the legal authority to authorize the construction of windmills, or commercial towers on the lands covered by this plan. Therefore, legislation would need to be passed authorizing such use before any tower construction could take place.

Recreation

The Unit provides an abundance of recreational opportunities within a two hour drive of metropolitan Rochester and Syracuse. The cities of Corning and Geneva are within an hour drive. Consequently, recreational use can be concentrated with some seasonal variation.

Recreation Opportunities Include:

- Hunting
- Trapping
- Hiking
- Wildlife observation
- Camping
- Mountain biking
- Snowmobiling (State Forests only)
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Picnicking
- Photography
- Nature study
- Orienteering
- Running

There are no designated Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) trails on this Unit. New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law prohibits All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use on Public Highways which, by definition, also include Public Forest Access Roads. ATV and ORV riding is not a specific program offered on Public Lands owned in fee and managed by the NYS DEC. Existing management actions, poor soils, possible conflicts with other uses, impacts on neighboring residents, safety concerns, maintenance costs and challenges, and existing issues with illegal ATV and ORV use were some of the factors which have prevented the NYS DEC from developing ORV or ATV trails in the past. However, people with qualifying mobility impairments who possess a valid permit from the Department may operate ATVs on specifically designated and signed accessible trails. (See Access for Persons with Disabilities, page 19)

Depositing or leaving rubbish or waste material is prohibited. Cutting, removing, or destroying any living, or standing dead trees or plants is prohibited. Users are required to extinguish all fires completely. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are allowed only during legal season; consult the NYS DEC Hunting and Trapping, and the Fishing Regulations Guides for seasons, hours, and bag limits.

Gates are used to restrict motor vehicle access to the trails and roads of both state forests and wildlife management areas.

Camping

Overnight camping is permitted anywhere on State Forests, as long as it is not within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond, or other water source. For groups of less than 10 people and for up to 3 days, no permit is required, longer stays and/or larger groups are allowed to camp with a permit obtained from the NYS DEC Forest Rangers, at the Bath sub-office. Regardless of location, camping sites must be left in a neat, clean, and sanitary condition.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting and trapping are valuable wildlife management methods. (See the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat and Vegetation sections). High deer populations can have major impacts to forest regeneration and under story vegetation. This can negatively impact plant and animal species diversity and richness. Hunting is popular on all state lands in the Unit. Both small and big game hunting opportunities exist. White-tailed deer is the primary big game species. Archery, muzzleloading, and shotgun seasons open annually in the fall. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. Also prohibited are any equipment that damages the trees, including screw in steps, eye hooks, etc. Small game include: wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, squirrels, cottontail rabbit, and waterfowl. Trapping of furbearers also occurs. Due to the limited water habitats on this Unit most trapping effort is directed toward fox, coyote, and raccoon.

Fishing

Fishing opportunities within the plan area are extremely limited. All of the streams within the Unit are too small to provide fishing opportunities.

Trails

There are several trails, many old roads, and deer trails on the Unit to explore, some of these trails are currently marked and mapped, others are not. A portion of the Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail/North Country Trail is located on the Unit. The Bristol Hills Branch Trail is maintained under the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Stewardship Program by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. An interpretive trail exists on an area known as “ the Huckleberry Bog” on Urbana State Forest. A popular location for high bush blueberry picking when they are in season, this trail features many informative stops as well as an observation platform overlooking the bog. All trails on the Unit can be used for walking, running, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Motorized vehicle use is prohibited. There are no designated horse or bike trails.

Access for Persons with Disabilities

While no ATV trails currently exist on this Unit, specific routes may be opened to allow ATV use by permitted persons with disabilities, pursuant to NYS DEC Commissioners Policy #3 (CP-3). This program is known as the Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). A permit must first be obtained from NYS DEC. Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the NYS DEC. For further information contact the NYSDEC, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, New York 14810. (See Appendix D and G)

Archaeological Resources

This Unit is not listed as an “archaeological sensitive area” by the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Officer).

While Native American populations of several different periods probably used these areas as hunting grounds and wild food gathering areas, and short term campsites related to these activities may be discovered, they are not thought to be areas of continuous habitation. Village sites probably did not occupy these landscape positions.

Archaeological Site Protection

The archaeological sites located within this land Unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. Should any actions be proposed which would impact these sites they will be reviewed in accordance with SHPA. Consultation will be given with the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law.

Archaeological Research

Any archaeological sites located on this land Unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property will be made available for appropriate research. All future archaeological research conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Extensive excavations are not contemplated as part of any research program in order to assure that the sites are available to future researchers who are likely to have more advanced tools and techniques as well as different research questions.

Historic Sites

Urbana and Pigtail State Forests contain numerous cellar holes, barn foundations, stone lined water wells, and other features related to historic occupation during the historical agricultural period.

Please note: As noted above, unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law.

NEEDS, ISSUES AND POLICY CONSTRAINTS

This plan strives to manage the diversity of the Keuka Highlands Unit biological and social resources for multiple use to serve the needs of the people of New York State. In order to manage the Keuka Highlands Unit for multiple use, NYS DEC must manage the ecosystem in a holistic manner while reconciling the many and sometimes conflicting demands on the ecosystem. This must be done within the framework of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), rules and regulations, and NYS DEC policies and procedures.

Many issues, including public needs, form the basis for the objectives and management actions set forth in this plan. The NYS DEC recognizes that planning must be done today to ensure effective management in the future.

Funding

Currently the NYS DEC's Bureau of State Land Management has limited budget to manage of all NYS DEC lands.

Funding, when available, is primarily derived from:

- Capital construction account (State General Fund monies)
- Rehabilitation & improvement account (State General Fund monies)
- Stewardship - Special Revenue Other (SRO) account. State forests only. Note: The primary source of revenue for the SRO account is from commercial sales of forest products on State Forests.
- Services in lieu of payment during commercial sales of forest products. (These services are limited to the specific location and certain activities where the sale occurs.)
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This account is primarily funded from real estate transfer tax and other appropriations by the legislature. Appropriations from this fund may be used for a wide variety of projects including habitat enhancement for plants and animals, recreational facilities and forestry improvements such as pre-commercial thinning, artificial regeneration, and control of invasive species.
- Conservation Fund. Wildlife Management Areas only. A state fund consisting primarily of income from the sale of sporting licenses, fines from penalties from fish and wildlife law violations, sale of products off lands administered by the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, and Return a Gift to Wildlife donations. Revenues attributable to the sale of oil and gas leases from Wildlife Management Areas are deposited into the Conservation Fund.
- Wildlife Restoration Program Funds. These are federal funds commonly referred to as Pittman-Robertson Funds. This is a federal program established from money received from excise taxes on the sale of sporting guns and ammunition. Use of land purchased, or activities funded, are federally regulated to certain activities.

Regional allocations from these accounts must be shared by all NYS DEC lands within the region. There is no specific budget established to manage an individual site. Funding is distributed based on priorities for all areas within the region. Tasks listed in the work schedule in this plan are

contingent upon available funding and commitments associated with higher priority projects within the region.

Cooperative partnerships using the “Adopt-A-Natural-Resource-Program” with private conservation organizations or other interested parties can be used to complete projects on the Keuka Highlands Unit. These partnerships are a valuable supplemental source for providing needed services.

Summary of Identified Issues

As part of any Unit management planning process, NYS DEC is committed to active citizen participation. To that end, adjacent property owners, elected officials, media and others potentially interested in the management Unit were identified. While public comments are accepted at any time, a formal citizen participation process was begun on September 6, 2007, when an introductory letter was sent to those identified on the Keuka Highlands Unit Management Plan mail list. This letter briefly described the lands identified in the Unit Management Plan and potential topics to be covered by the plan. It also asked for verbal or written comments related to the Keuka Highlands Unit Management Plan. Public comments were compiled with staff-identified issues and are included the following section. Full public comments can be found in Appendix B.

Access

The demand for access to the Keuka Highlands Unit is expanding. Private land surrounding the Unit is being subdivided and posted against trespass. Access to the Keuka Highlands Unit is necessary to secure all the uses of the area. From logging to hunting, bird-watching to maintenance, safe access by all users of the state forests is an essential element of management.

It is DEC policy to provide appropriate public and operational access to the Keuka Highlands Unit. Access is a necessity for both public use and land management. Restrictions on access may however, positively contribute to the natural character of state lands.

One person asked for continued public access for hiking on the Finger Lakes Trail. Another questioned if the plan would provide an accessible parking lot in the middle of Urban State Forest. If a parking lot were to be built, he asked that access be limited to hunting season.

Staff identified the possible need to expand parking near where the Bristol Hill Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail crosses Runner/Glen Brook Road on Urbana State Forest. Additional parking is needed on Dineharts Crossing Road and Dineharts Road. Bog Road is in very poor condition, and sections of it are actively eroding. The existing parking on Reservoir Hill Road and Colegrove Hill Road are in poor repair, and in need of work.

Vegetation Management

Plant communities are by nature dynamic and ever changing. Young stands of trees get older, and species composition changes with time. Disturbances from fire, wind, insects, disease, timber harvest, and other land-use practices have been an important part of the history of New York forests and have determined the composition and structure of today’s forests. By applying different forest management or silvicultural practices, land managers can affect change in vegetative types and stages

and associated use by wildlife. The production of forest products is a clearly stated goal in the Reforestation Law of 1929 and is consistent with the proposed management actions in the Keuka Highlands Unit.

The demand for forest products from State Land has been reflected in a steady increase in prices paid for timber in recent years. This is especially true for hardwood sawtimber and veneer. The value of standing red oak sawtimber, for example, has increased six-fold since 1975. The demand for fire wood and for softwood sawtimber has remained constant. The demand for pulpwood has never been strong in this part of the state. Keuka Highlands Unit requires the basic need to protect against the threat of damaging fires, insects and diseases.

Staff identified needs such as maintaining open/early successional and unique plants and to be aware of exotic and invasive plant species, such as Giant Hogweed and purple loosestrife, etc.

There were no public comments received about vegetation management.

Water Resources

The Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) dictates that the State Forests within the Keuka Highlands be managed for watershed protection. This is also clearly consistent with Wildlife Management Area objectives and sound conservation practices and public desires. Best Management Practices for water quality are used for all silvicultural practices on state lands. These require specific conservation practices which protect soils and water quality during timber harvest. Well-managed water resources have multiple benefits, including quality fish and wildlife habitats, aesthetically pleasing sites, ground water protection, and flood water retention.

The demand for clean water and protection of soils from erosion is growing, especially in view of the increased population and development pressures on and around Keuka Lake. In addition, the demand for upland water resources for wildlife is growing. Keuka Highlands presently has limited resources to meet this demand.

One person asked if the flow of water could be increased in a stream on their property adjacent to the Unit.

Wildlife and Fish Management

Availability of wildlife species indigenous to the area receives heavy public utilization by bird-watchers, hikers, trappers, photographers, hunters, and other users of the area. To meet the demand for the increasing wildlife interests, maintaining population levels keep an ecological balance among various species and their habitats.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is charged by Environmental Conservation Law to protect and maintain New York's rich and diverse ecosystems.

One person commented on how the numbers of deer have diminished over the last 30 years.

Staff identified the need to continue to monitor wildlife population levels. Management efforts should include creation of dug-outs for breeding and activity centers as well as protection of sensitive

shallow shaded pools in swamp and bog sites.

Public Recreation and Use

One goal of DEC management is to provide suitable opportunities for the public enjoyment of compatible recreational pursuits in a natural setting. DEC is charged under Environmental Conservation Law with guaranteeing that the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment is attained without unnecessary degradation or other undesirable or unintended consequences. The public has an undeniable stake in identifying both “beneficial uses” and “undesirable consequences.” The recreational use of State Forest land is a clearly stated goal in the Reforestation Law of 1929 and is consistent with the proposed management actions in the Keuka Highlands Unit.

The demand for “open space” is increasing. Along with this, there is an increase in demand for: access to public land; use of the Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail; non-consumptive uses of the forest environment such as nature study, Nordic skiing, bicycling, primitive camping, and hiking. The demand for consumptive uses of the forest resources such as: hunting and trapping, have remained constant. Due to a lack of water resources, water oriented activities are not available on this Management Unit.

There were no related public comments received for the Keuka Highlands Unit.

Oil and Gas Leasing

It should be noted that all State Forests within this Unit are leased under the terms and conditions of the 2003 lease sale and any developments would be undertaken under those terms and conditions. Any recommendations outside the terms and conditions of the current lease would be taken into account during any future lease sales.

There were no related public comments received for the Keuka Highlands Unit.

Cooperative Agreements

State funding to optimally maintain the Keuka Highlands Unit often falls short of what is desired. There is a need for cooperative agreements. There is also a need to identify additional funding and actively search out cooperative agreements and partnerships to maintain roads and trails and other facilities in the Keuka Highlands Unit.

NYSDECs’ formal cooperative program, called the Adopt-a-Natural-Resource Stewardship Program, encourages individuals and groups to undertake activities that meet management needs of state-owned natural resources. Multiple benefits of such partnerships have been identified; serving as a means to complete work that helps preserve, maintain and enhance natural resources at minimal cost to the New York State. It is also an opportunity for organizations, groups and individuals to show willing support for conservation efforts, large and small. Such efforts may involve the clean up of vandalism, litter pick up, establishment or maintenance of nature trails, providing interpretive services for school groups and other citizens, management of fish and wildlife habitats and other positive benefits to the site and natural resources.

Open Space Conservation

New York State has been a leader in recognizing the value of open, undeveloped land. In November 2006 Governor Pataki issued a plan prepared by DEC and the Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation, entitled, "New York State Open Space Conservation Plan"(Open Space Plan).

The Open Space Plan of 2006 characterizes the need for perpetuation, in a grand sense, of open space and natural landscapes as, "The quality and character of the lives of the people of New York depend upon the quality and character of the land on which we live. Our mountains, lakes, rivers, forests and coastline, our natural landscapes, urban parks and historic resources shape the way we spend our leisure time, affect the long term strength of our economy, determine whether we have clean air and water, support the web of living things of which we are apart, and effect how we think about ourselves and relate to other New Yorkers." NYS DEC will consider the purchase of selected parcels from willing sellers when funding becomes available. The area surrounding Keuka Highlands has seen an increase in development in recent years. Many farms have been subdivided and sold for second home sites. Because of this, there is an increased demand for a large block of public land which will never be subdivided

One adjacent property owner proposed a land exchange with parcels of the Urbana State Forest.

Aesthetics

In addition to providing open space and a place to experience wildlife and wild land, public lands should also be pleasing to the eye and soul. Scenic vistas, the use of natural materials, and attention to quality design and maintenance are important components of effectively managing the Keuka Highlands Unit. The challenge is to attract users to the site without destroying what has drawn them there in the first place. There is a strong demand for natural areas which present visually appealing landscapes. On Keuka Highlands we plan to enhance these values.

Staff recommends that garbage pick up continue and encourage "Pack it in, Pack it out" and "Leave no trace" ethics.

Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation

A walk in the woods will often reveal objects from past users of the area. These artifacts, such as stone walls, glass bottles or flint arrowheads should be left where they are. The illegal removal or destruction of historic or archaeological resources is a continual problem.

Current Known Illegal Use

Regular patrols are made by law enforcement officials such as Forest Rangers, Environmental Conservation Officers and even local Sheriff Deputies of the Keuka Highlands Unit, and all other NYS DEC lands. But with the limited resources available it is difficult to stop all illegal activities such as:

- ATV and dirt bike use
- Off road driving

- Dumping / littering
- Vandalism
- Construction of permanent blinds and/or tree stands
- Harvest of ginseng and protected plants
- Cultivation of marijuana
- Poaching
- Underage drinking
- Boundary line encroachments / trespass
- Non-permitted use of state land

Whenever possible, fines or other punishments as the law allows are imposed. As money and other resources allow the damage is fixed, dumping is cleaned up and illegal plants are removed.

Policy Constraints

The laws, regulations, and policies listed below provide broad guidelines within which this plan is prepared. The Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York is available to the public at local libraries, NYS DEC offices, from private vendors, and at <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?commonquery=laws> on the internet.

State Laws

State Finance Law
State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) - Article 14 PRHPL

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL)

ECL Article 8 - Environmental Quality Review
ECL Article 9 - Lands and Forests
ECL Article 11 - Fish and Wildlife
ECL Article 15 - Water Resources
ECL Article 23 - Mineral Resources
ECL Article 24 - Freshwater Wetlands
ECL Article 33 - Pesticides
ECL Article 51 - Implementation of Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972
ECL Article 71 - Enforcement

New York Code Rules and Regulations (6NYCRR)

Available online at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/regulations.html>

Title 6
Chapter I - Fish and Wildlife
Chapter II - Lands and Forests
Chapter III - Air Resources
Chapter IV - Quality Services
Chapter V - Resource Management Services
Chapter VI - State Environmental Quality Review

- Chapter VII - Subchapter A
- Implementation of EQBA of 1972
- Chapter X - Division of Water Resources

NYS DEC Policies

- Public Use
- Temporary Revocable Permits
- Motor Vehicle Use
- Timber Management
- Unit Management Planning
- Pesticides
- Prescribed Burns
- State Forest Master Plan
- Inventory
- Acquisition
- Road Construction
- Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities Policy (CP-3)
- Best Management Practices (Water quality)
- General Freshwater Wetlands Permit for Wildlife Management Area Management Activities
- Bureau of Fisheries Fish Stocking Policies
- Archaeological Site Protection
- Archaeological Research
- Adopt a Natural Resource
- Memorandum of Understanding with BLM for FYO 2004/2005 (leasing of gas wells)
- Draft ATV Policy for Public ATV Access to Recreation Programs
- etc.

Federal Law

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Federal Wetland Law 404 - Water quality
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
- General Stormwater SPDES Permit.
- etc.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

The vision of this plan is to ensure the biological integrity, improvement and protection of the Keuka Highlands Unit. This shall be done within the multiple use concept of management, which strives to serve the needs of the people of New York State by providing a broad based, biologically diverse ecosystem. Management will be considered over a broad geographical area, not only to ensure the biological diversity and protection of the ecosystem, but also to optimize the many benefits to the public that these lands provide.

The legal mandate enabling the Department of Environmental Conservation to manage state forests for multiple use is located in Article 9, Title 5, of the Environmental Conservation Law. Under this law, state forest lands shall be forever devoted to “reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes”.

As stated earlier, it is the policy of the Department to manage state forests for multiple use to serve the needs of the people of New York State. This management will be carried out not only to ensure the ecological enhancement and protection of the forest ecosystem, but also to optimize the many benefits to the public that forest land provides. Management of state forests will be directed toward those activities which will enhance the resources of the land. They will be carried out in a manner which reflects the land’s capability for these uses and strives to optimize the benefits of state forests to the public.

NYS DEC lands within Keuka Highlands Unit are unique compared with most private properties in the surrounding landscape. Private landowners have differing management objectives and property size is generally much smaller. State lands provide large expanses open to public recreation. State land management planning horizons extend over a very long time frame. This allows for a commitment to provide healthy and diverse ecosystems and to manage and enhance unique vegetative types.

To achieve the vision, this plan will provide specific management goals with measurable planning objectives. The objectives will be augmented and supported by a plan of action and a timetable. We have chosen, for planning purposes, to separate these into categories, while recognizing that they are interrelated.

Access

The management goal for access is to maintain an infrastructure system sufficient to manage the Unit’s natural resources and provide for public use of the area. Access is a basic necessity for both public use and land management. The existing public road infrastructure provides adequate public access throughout most of the Unit. However, the need for additional parking to alleviate safety problems which occur when users park on existing road right-of-ways, has been determined. Staff suggested creating or improving additional parking areas on Urbana State Forest on Runner/Glen

Brook Road and Dineharts Crossing Road. Pigtail Hollow could use additional parking on Dineharts Road. Each parking area would accommodate up to 4 vehicles. The existing parking on Reservoir Hill Road and Colegrove Hill Road are in poor repair, and in need of work.

The area signs are in poor repair, and missing completely in some cases. Currently there is one on Reservoir Hill Road for Urbana State Forest, and one on Dinehart Road for Pigtail State Forest. New ones will be placed on Bean Station Road and Hungry Hollow Road. Maintain these area signs on each forest and seek permission to erect a directional sign on the intersection of Hungry Hollow Road and the Mitchellsville Road (County Route 13). Boundary line maintenance will continue to include signing all road sides and corners, and painting and signing interior boundaries, to conspicuously identify State Forest land.

Some portions of the town roads are seasonal and are not maintained for winter travel. Maintenance on four town roads has not been done for many years: on Urbana State Forest, portions of Wixon Hill Road and Bog Road, and on Pigtail Hollow State Forest, portions of Van Hussen Road, and Runner Road. This lack of maintenance means large portions of Urbana State Forest are not accessible, except by foot.

Bog Roads status is unknown, it may never have been officially abandoned, but it definitely has not had maintenance in decades, and most of it has had no vehicle traffic in years. In order to provide better access to Urbana State Forest, portions of the road will be repaired, to haul road standards, as part of several timber sales. This will be a several year, and several different sale, process. For additional details, see the Timber and Vegetation Management section.

There are currently no gates on the Unit, but if needed, restricting motor access to haul roads by gates and signs will continue. The costs to upgrade haul roads for public access are prohibitive. Access restrictions are needed to maintain the "backwoods character" of the land as well as protecting sensitive areas. NYS DEC reserves the right to limit access to state lands when public safety issues occur, or damage to the infrastructure is likely. In light of the above, gate(s) will be placed on Bog Rd after repairs are completed to minimize damage to the new repairs.

Management Objectives and Actions for Access

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Identify need for additional access	1	Survey site(s)	As Needed
		1.1	Receive public comments	On-Going
		1.2	Solicit public comments	Every 10 yrs
2	Construct identified additional access	2	Identify additional access road needs	As Needed
		2.1	Construct access roads	As Needed
3	Maintain roads	3	Inspect culverts	Bi-Annually
		3.1	Replace inoperable culverts	As Needed
		3.2	Public access roads - grade and maintain surface.	Bi-Annually
		3.3	Haul roads - grade and maintain surface.	Every 5 yrs
		3.4	Mow roads right of way	Annually

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
		3.5	Repair “Bog Rd” in sections with timber sale trade offs.	Years 1, 2, 7, 9, and 10.
4	Construct additional parking lots	4	Locate and construct parking lots on Dineharts Crossing, Runner/Glen Brook, and Dineharts Roads.	One Time
		4.1	Determine need for additional parking	On- Going
		4.2	Construct parking lots.	As needed
5	Maintain parking areas	5	Litter removal	As Needed
		5.1	Maintain all parking areas	As Needed
		5.2	Maintain curbing	As Needed
		5.3	Maintain informational signs	Annually
		5.4	Mow all parking areas	As Needed
6	Control access	6	Identify the need for gates and signs.	As Needed
		6.1	Construct gates and post signs	As Needed
		6.2	Maintain gates and signs	Annually
		6.3	Enforce NYS DEC policies	On-Going
		6.4	Gate “Bog Rd” after repairing the first section of the road.	After the first timber sale is completed. (Probably year 2)
7	Identify state property boundary lines.	7	Survey, paint, blaze, and post boundaries.	Every 5 yrs
		7.1	Identify and resolve boundary encroachment issues.	As Needed
		7.2	Repair and replace area signs	On-Going
		7.3	Place new area signs on Bean Station Rd and Hungry Hollow Rd.	One time

Timber and Vegetation Management

Staff has identified the following management objectives: strive to maintain a balance of vegetative types and stages, enhance biodiversity, produce healthy and sustainable forest resources, and enhance wildlife habitat diversity.
Commercial Timber Sales

The primary method used to meet these objectives is the commercial sale of timber. Tables 4 and 5, listing vegetative types and stages, are located on pages 13 and 14.

Timber resources include hardwood and softwood sawtimber, pulpwood, and firewood. Some

of the factors affecting timber demand on the Unit include timber value, distance to markets, timber species and quality, the availability or scarcity of similar timber in the area, international trade policies and market demand.

The demand for timber on the Unit is part of the larger regional timber market which is part of the global market for wood products. For example - a hardwood tree grown and cut on the Unit's State Forests are often purchased by local loggers or sawmills, sawn into lumber at a mill within the region, and may eventually end up in a consumer product sold in Europe, Asia, or South America. The United States is a large part of the global market and has the highest per capita wood consumption of any nation on the planet. Wood products have been essential to the development of our country and continue to be an essential need of our society. As worldwide population continues to increase and the economies of other countries develop, there will be a continued long term increase in the global timber demand.

At the local scale, there is a somewhat different demand for wood products. While many local loggers supply larger mills with hardwood logs, lesser valued products such as hemlock or larch logs and firewood can be profitably cut and sold to local markets. Hemlock and larch are often sawn by small local band mills for use in barn construction. Firewood is cut by individuals for their own use or for resale to home owners.

The authority to sell forest products from NYS DEC-administered lands is provided by the Environmental Conservation Law. To perpetuate the growth, health, and quality of the forest resources, the Department has implemented a sustained yield timber management program for State Forest lands.

The program is governed in part by a Timber Management Handbook which includes both policies and guidelines to insure that management is carried out in a deliberate and professional manner. The Timber Management Handbook directs and regulates the practice of timber management on NYS DEC lands. This handbook contains technical references, as well as direction on regulation, allowable cutting, silvicultural systems and procedures.

Other sources of direction for NYS DEC timber and vegetation management activities include Commissioner's policy, Division directives and the guidance and thresholds established in the State Forest Commercial Sales Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All timber management activities that may be carried out on this Unit will comply with these guidelines and directives, as authorized under the Environmental Conservation Law. Direction is also given in the NYSDEC publication Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and in the recently issued Management Rules for Special Management Zones.

Forest areas that are considered for timber harvesting are prioritized based on the following criteria, in order of importance:

1. Adequate access
2. Present and future forest health concerns;
3. Current distribution of vegetative stages within the unit management plan area and surrounding landscape;
4. Wildlife considerations;
5. Ability to regenerate stands (if a regeneration harvest);
6. Priority needs of management proposals that must be implemented from other unit management

7. Market conditions;
8. Potential growth response of stands to treatment.

By law, any trees to be removed in a harvest must be designated, and paid for, prior to removal. Designation is made by NYS DEC forestry staff. After designation is completed, a fair market appraisal is conducted. No products may be sold at less than the fair market value. Forest stands are prioritized for treatment based on the criteria outlined above, and the desired future conditions identified by this Unit Management Plan. Prioritization is done by NYS DEC forestry staff, with input by wildlife staff. Any one sale may be composed of a partial stand to many stands combined. The preferred method is to include only entire stand(s), but sometimes natural events or natural features dictate otherwise.

The Environmental Conservation Law requires that different procedures are employed based on the appraised value of a timber sale. Sales that are appraised greater than \$10,000 are called “revenue sales” and sales that are appraised at less than \$10,000 are known as “local sales.” The New York State Comptroller must approve revenue sale contracts. The Regional Forester has the authority to execute local sale contracts. All sales valued at more than \$500 (and those less than \$500 which are thought to have “substantial public interest”) are publicly advertised and competitively bid. Law requires that forest product sales can only be awarded to the highest responsible bidder. The Regional sub-office in Bath maintains a mailing list of prospective bidders for forest product sales. Those interested in receiving bid information should contact the Bath office.

Depending upon the sale, there may be an opportunity use up to 25% of the appraised value for in kind services that enhance state facilities within the sale area. An assessment of the potential will be done with each and every sale of forest products for the impact and possible enhancement. Potential enhancements include; a layer of gravel on a haul road, trail, or public access road, relocation of a trail or road for better placement, conversion of a skid trail to a recreation trail through grading and water control measures, creation of informal or formal parking areas by placement of the log landings, construction of small dug out ponds, installation of vehicle control barriers and other possible work as opportunity presents itself.

In order to have access to most of northern Urbana State Forest, Bog Rd will be rehabilitated to haul road status by this process. If, for some reason, Bog Rd. cannot be repaired to usability, then several stands will be un-accessible and thus not treated. Afterwards it will be gated to minimize vehicular damage to the newly repaired road bed. The cost to upgrade it all the way to public access road, and keep it maintained, is more than the anticipated appraised value.

Green Certification

In January 2008 NYS DEC was awarded dual certification by NSF-International and Scientific Certification Systems. Forest products derived from wood harvested off State Forests from this point forward could now be labeled as “green certified” through chain-of-custody certificates. Green Certified labeling on wood products may assure consumers that the raw material was harvested from well-managed forests.



#SCS-FM/COC-00104N ©1996 Forest Stewardship Council

FSC certification means that NY DEC State Forests are managed according to strict environmental, social and economic standards.



#NSF-SFIS-61741 NY DEC use of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program logo mark indicates that State Forests have been certified by a qualified independent auditor to be in conformance with the SFI Standard.

Current and Future Vegetation Types and Stages

As noted above, one management objective is to maintain a balance of vegetative types and stages. Presently, the State Forests within this Unit do not have a balanced mix of vegetative stages, but do have an adequate mix of vegetative types.

Stand composition and vegetative type are influenced by many things. For these forests the most important factors would be:

1. Site capability
2. Seed source
3. Past management
4. Deer Density

The most recent forest inventory data shows there is an over abundance of pole size timber (6-11 inches in diameter) making up almost 76% of the acreage: the rest is split between the sawtimber size (12+ inches in diameter) 11%, and the seedling/sapling size (1-5 inches in diameter) 7%. Less than 3% is classed as grass or brushy openings; and, about 3% was in the pond/wetland/other categories.

For a better distribution of stages, seedling/sapling acres should be created, and sawtimber encouraged, primarily out of the stands currently of pole size. Most pole sized stands will eventually move to the sawtimber size class on their own as a natural result of growth. Thinning a stand encourages faster growth on the remaining trees, allowing them to reach sawtimber size faster.

There are opportunities to create some seedling/sapling acres by treating mature sawtimber areas, but this must be done with discretion to avoid impacting the total number of sawtimber acres. Most of the acreage listed as “plantation sawtimber” will be converted to “hardwood seedling - sapling” during this planning period, either through management actions or natural processes. Smoothing out the “bump” of pole size class acreage will be a many decade process, much longer than this 10 year plan covers.

Please note that it is impossible to predict exactly what our percentages of the various types and stages will be at the end of this plan period. This is due to two factors:

1. The significant role played by natural forces in the type and stage exhibited by any stand.
2. The fact that most tree species do not lend themselves to management over a 10 year period. In some cases it may require 40 - 50 years before the results of any given management action can be adequately assessed.

Success in this objective will be measured simply by a decrease in pole timber acreage, with a corresponding increase in seedling / sapling acres or sawtimber acres.

There is a low percent of grassy/brushy openings, about 3%. Over the 10 years of this plan that amount should be increased to 4%, or an additional 47 acres. This will be created out of stands, or portions of stands, in the pole size class which contain only sparse tree cover.

Silviculture

When managing forests, foresters employ two silvicultural systems to mimic natural disturbance patterns and promote biodiversity, even-aged and all-aged management.

Even-aged Management

Trees in an even-aged stand originated at approximately the same time, either naturally or by planting. They grow, are cared for, may undergo various intermediate cuttings during their development, and they are ultimately removed in one or more major harvest cuts after which a new stand is released or established. Consequently, such a stand has a beginning and an ending time.

Even-aged management systems are important because they create young forests that are necessary for the survival of many plant and animal species. They favor the establishment of shade intolerant and mid - tolerant tree species such as cherry, oak, and ash. These species have some of the highest timber and wildlife values.

Even-aged management favors the establishment of many of the hard mast species that are critically important to wildlife. Over the years, the availability of hard mast producing trees has declined in the landscape, as a result of diseases which have severely impacted American beech, butternut, and American chestnut trees.

Actions taken under even - aged management systems might include

1. pre-commercial thinnings of young stands
2. intermediate thinning cuts of middle aged stands
3. actions aimed at regenerating stands
 - a. shelterwood (either two cut or three cut)
 - b. seed tree
 - c. final harvest (clear cut)

All-aged Management

The all-aged management systems differ from the even-aged systems in several ways. Instead of maintaining one dominant age condition in the stand, these systems establish and maintain many age groups ranging from seedlings and saplings to very large, mature trees.

All-aged management uses two different harvesting methods: single tree selection and group selection.

Single tree selection is used to maintain an unbroken forest canopy as desired in the all-aged forest areas. The single tree selection system removes individual trees throughout a forest stand, thereby minimizing disturbance to the forest canopy. The small openings created by single tree selection limits the amount of sunlight that can penetrate to the forest floor. As such, the single tree selection system encourages long-lived shade tolerant tree species such as Sugar Maple, and Eastern Hemlock.

Group selection removes small groups of trees, in an attempt to mimic natural disturbance regimes. Group sizes will vary depending on the species group being managed. As group size increases, the differences between this system and an even - age system begin to blur.

Current and Future Silviculture Management

Due to the current vegetative types, stages, and species assemblages presented by these forests, we expect that the even - age system will continue to be the primary silvicultural system applied over this Unit during this planning period. Note that this is only for this planning period, and may change as vegetative types and stages change.

A variety of silvicultural techniques will be used to manage the forests within this Unit, including:

- thinning and regenerating, even-aged stands
- converting even-age stands to all-aged stands (where site and species assemblages are favorable)
- establishing protection areas to maintain and enhance diversity
- protecting ecologically sensitive areas such as stream banks, wetlands, and steep slopes from intensive management.

It takes time for trees to grow into the sawtimber size, thinning cuts speed up this process. Over the 10 years of this plan approximately 1,090 acres of thinnings have been scheduled. It is anticipated that some of that acreage will still be in the pole size class in 10 years, especially those cut near the end of the cycle. However, at least some of the early cuts will be closer to, if not in, the sawtimber size class. A regeneration cut results in a seedling/sapling stand. There is about 278 acres of regeneration cuts scheduled for the 10 years of this plan. This is less than the ideal number of acres to create an even flow of age classes, however, biologically, and economically, it is best not to attempt to regenerate stands before they reach maturity.

On Urbana State Forest, stand H-1 will be split into about thirds, with each part being regenerated at least five years apart. The end result is three new stands each at a different stage of growth, and thus providing three different kinds of habitat for wildlife to use.

No pre-commercial thinning have been scheduled to specific years. By definition, pre-commercial cuts require funding to pay someone to cut trees, and funding has not been consistently provided for this purpose in the past. If funding becomes available the seedling/sapling and smaller pole size stands will be evaluated for such activities. In addition several stands can not be accessed with modern logging equipment, even though they could be treated. If access improves through additional acres being purchased, or new types of logging equipment being developed, these stands will also be evaluated for silvicultural activities. If, for some reason, Bog Rd. cannot be repaired to

usability, then several stands will be un-accessible and thus not treated.

Most of the stands scheduled for all-aged cuts are not currently all-aged stands, and it will take several cycles of cuts to reach that status. This is well beyond the 10 years of this plan, in addition, natural events, such as ice storms or insect infestations may cause changes in the end goal.

Protection areas receive special consideration whenever management activities, of any kind, are planned which may impact these areas. Examples include:

- seasonal harvest limitations,
- restrictions of type and/or size of harvesting equipment,
- special considerations for access.

Some protection areas are managed specifically to restrict or prohibit management activities. These practices may also be employed on other areas not designated as protection forest whenever site or vegetation protection is needed. Examples include: poorly drained soils, slopes over 15%, presence of historical or archeological features, recreational use, wildlife considerations, and preparation for forest regeneration. As might be expected from the landscape position, wetlands are not a large proportion of these forests. Wetlands do represent unique habitat types, and require special management zones. See the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat and the Watershed and Wetlands Protection sections for further details.

In 2006 a new forest inventory system was implemented, which allows identification of areas receiving special management considerations.

Oaks and American chestnut are native tree species on the Keuka Highlands Unit. However, historical management and disease have discriminated against these species. The objective is to maintain and enhance well-adapted, native species in the Keuka Highlands Unit by using the most current silvicultural knowledge.

Difficulties with regenerating oak, conifer and other shade-intolerant and mid-tolerant species, have led to shade tolerant species such as Sugar and Red Maple becoming well-established. The presence of shade tolerant species will challenge the land managers abilities to meet the overall vegetative goals of balancing forest types and stages.

The establishment of oak stands on these forests came about due to an unusual set of circumstances, which will be rather difficult to reproduce. When the time comes to regenerate these oak stands it may be necessary to use techniques (such as prescribed fire, scarification, pesticide, etc.) which are not well known in this area. Outreach to user groups, and the general public, will be critical in explaining the science behind these techniques, why they are required, and why it is critical to reproduce the existing oak stands. In some cases additional forms, plans, and/or SEQOR may be required.

See also the discussion under Even Aged Management, above.

Plantation Management

Most of the conifer plantations on this Unit were planted between 1935 and 1968. Many of the

existing red pine plantations on the Unit are reaching their biological maturity. On most sites tree crowns are thinning and many stands are experiencing mortality. Natural succession within these maturing plantations is likely to follow one of two very different pathways.

The first would be characterized by slow decline of the existing softwood overstory and a gradual release of the current crop of young seedling - sapling hardwoods in the understory.

The second would be characterized by the existing softwood overstory being removed by a single catastrophic event (i.e. ice storm, heavy late season snow, unusual wind event, aggressive insect attack, etc.). This pathway would result in a much more rapid release of species in the understory.

The composition of the understory is the key in both cases. Note that, particularly in the case of the second scenario, if the understory is dominated by shrub species, a forested stand may not be the result. Rather a shrub savannah may result which might (depending on site factors) slowly succeed to a young hardwood stand.

In both scenarios there is also the possibility that, if site factors are favorable, some of the softwood species from the original plantation may participate in the “new” stand. Anecdotal evidence suggests that we should expect this, at least through the seedling - sapling stage. Long term persistence of these species on these sites may be somewhat less likely. We have not been following this type of situation long enough to have much information on the likely outcome. See also the discussion relating to desired conifer component for this management Unit.

The objective for managing these plantations should be to try to mimic the first scenario. Enough trees will be removed during thinning to reduce the density of trees and allow the establishment of desirable tree species in the understory. This will be followed by removal of the softwood overstory once the number of new, young, trees in the understory is sufficient to assure a “new” stand.

While this is our primary objective, we recognize that, in spite of our best efforts, there will be those situations where nature will take its course and the second scenario will be played out. Once the catastrophic event occurs, the decision on salvaging the remaining woody material on the site will need to be made. This will be done on a case by case basis, depending on site and regeneration factors. It is impossible for us to estimate, at this time, the acreage which could be involved in salvage operations.

Conifer Component

Forest ecologists have identified conifers as an important component of the ecosystem. The establishment of conifers through planting has created a significant conifer component on these forests. The area in conifer plantations amounts to 23% of the total, natural conifer acreage amounts to about 5% of the area, for a total of 28% conifer of one type or another.

Staff has not identified softwood plantations on this Unit which serve as a habitat niche for native wildlife species. Most of the plantations do not occur on soil types which are conducive to success by plantation conifer species. Therefore, we are not proposing to replant any plantations. The better course is to allow these areas to succeed (either through management intervention or by natural forces) to native, natural, vegetation. This may, or may not, include a significant conifer component.

For the purposes of this plan a conifer natural stand is any stand (that was not planted by

humans) where the most prevalent species is eastern hemlock, eastern white pine, other conifer species, or where these species in combination compose 33% or more of the stand. Care must be taken to assure that the conifer natural stands “reproduce to type”; no conversion of conifer natural stands to other types should occur as a result of management actions.

Grass and Brush Management

Over the 10 years of this plan the amount of grass and brush acreage should be increased to 4%, or an additional 47 acres. This will be created out of stands, or portions of stands, in the pole size class which contain only sparse tree cover. Any one grassy opening will be 5 acres, or more, in size. The timing on clearing to create these openings will depend on funding, because of this; an exact year of action has not been picked.

Existing, and future, grassy and brushy opening will need to be maintained, or they will revert to forest. Grass needs to be mowed at least every 3 years, and Brush hydro-axed about every 5 years. If it isn't mowed the grass converts to brush and then the brush grows into trees. The clock can be set back even more by converting brush to grass, which if the funding becomes available, may be done. Applying lime, or even more rarely fertilizer, can enhance the health of grasses over invasive plants such as goldenrod. Fire can also be used to maintain an area in grasses. Most warm-season type grasses grow the best following a fire. Additional paperwork, such as a burn plan and SEQR are required prior to doing a controlled burn.

Grassland acres are created out of timber acres by removing the trees, including stumps and roots, and planting grass seed. The soil pH will be tested, and if money is available, lime may be applied prior to seeding. Best Management Practices will be used to control erosion.

Forest Health Threats

Often, stands that are stressed by overcrowding become susceptible to forest health threats. One such threat currently causing concern is the Sirex wood wasp (*Sirex Noctilio*). The Sirex wood wasp is a devastating pest of pine plantations. It is native to Europe and Asia and has destroyed millions of pines in Australia, South America and South Africa. In September of 2004, a Sirex wood wasp was discovered in a research trap in Fulton, New York. An expanded trapping effort in 2006 confirmed the presence of Sirex in most counties in western New York. Utilizing literature from around the world, NYS DEC has developed management direction in regard to dealing with the Sirex wood wasp. The literature suggests that dominant trees with a good crown ratio in managed / thinned stands experienced very little to no damage from Sirex. Unhealthy, suppressed and over-crowded trees in unmanaged stands, on the other hand, experienced mortality rates of up to 65% over a three year period in one study. As the infestation in New York is still young, we do not yet know what the impacts will be. Therefore, silvicultural management options, at this point in time, do not include consideration for liquidation cuts or work to convert stands to a non-pine species composition, unless this is a management objective for other valid silvicultural reasons. Periodic, judicious application of thinning operations to maintain stand densities at levels recommended in applicable stocking guides for optimum growth is currently NYS DEC's approach to silviculture in consideration of the potential threat of Sirex.

There are many biotic factors that influence the health of a forest. A few prominent factors for the forests in the Unit are animals and insects or disease. White tailed deer eat young tree seedlings,

and by doing so, play a major role in the success or failure of establishing young forests, particularly those comprised of shade-intolerant species. In accordance with established procedures used by NYS DEC to determine deer management decisions, a reduction in the number of deer on the landscape by liberal harvest via hunting is encouraged.

Some level of insect, disease and natural disaster are recognized as being a beneficial factor in shaping our vegetation. Various endemic and epidemic occurrences of insect, diseases, fires and storms periodically impact the vegetative communities of the Keuka Highlands Management Unit. Infestations of introduced insects such as Gypsy Moth and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the previously mentioned Sirex wood wasp are of present concern and require regular monitoring. Native insect species such as Pear Thrips and Fall Cankerworms are cyclic in population and may be expected to impact vegetation at some time in the future as they have in the past. The professional foresters of NYS DEC will continue to observe the effects of these factors which influence the vegetation on the Unit. By closely monitoring these outbreaks management actions may be able to lessen undesirable impacts.

Invasive exotic insects, fungi, animals, or plants can cause problems. Some exotics, such as chestnut blight, and beech bark disease, invaded years ago, and have all but exterminated the chestnut and beech tree. The hope is to avoid this again, by closely monitoring for new arrivals, and if possible eliminating them from North America before they can spread. At the time of this writing, some known insect/fungi invaders posing threats to New York's forests include the Sirex wood wasp, Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

Invasive plants are also crowding out native species. Current exotic invaders include purple loosestrife, buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, hogweed, multiflora rose, and Japanese knotweed. Unfortunately, there are many more that are not listed here. As money and time allow, they will be monitored, removed when found, or other management actions taken to lessen the effects.

Inventory

Division policy requires that a forest inventory be conducted every 10 years and whenever stands are changed by any silviculture operation or by the forces of nature. Forest inventory is the critical task in the vegetation management planning process, as it forms the basis for all science based vegetative management decisions in this plan.

Forest inventory is accomplished by a statistical analysis of stands. Samples are taken from random locations (called plots) within each stand. Information collected during a forest inventory includes, among other items, tree and shrub species and size, forest type, tree density, forest health issues, topography, drainage, previous management, and site limiting factors. The required number of plots for each stand varies according to the variability of the stand, subject to a minimum number.

See Appendix F for a schedule of stands and management actions, and maps in Appendix G.

Management Objectives and Actions for Vegetation

	Management Objectives	Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Maintain knowledge of forest stands.	1.0	Perform State Forest inventories	Every 10 yrs.
2	Maintain healthy vegetation	2.0	Practice Integrated Pest Management	On-Going
		2.1	Reduce Deer population, to reduce damage to the low growing vegetation (understory).	Annually
3	Develop the Following Vegetative Balance:			
	Grassy/Brushy Openings (100 current acres, plus 47 additional acres)	3.0	Create about 47 acres.	By year 10
		3.1	Maintain grassy openings with a 3 year rotation of mowing. Or annual burn.	Every 3 yrs. (Or annually)
		3.2	Maintain brushy openings with a 5yr rotation of hydro-axing.	Every 5 yrs.
	All Age silviculture - 20 yr cutting rotation	3.3	Stand entry on 126 acres / 7 stands	See schedule, Appendix F
	Even Age silviculture, Natural hardwood at about a 100 yr rotation Plantation softwood at about a 75 yr rotation	3.4	Regenerate 325 acres / 12 stands	See schedule, Appendix F
		3.5	Thin 1,090 acres / 40 stands	See schedule, Appendix F
Roads, ponds, wetlands etc.	3.6	Maintain per “Unit Maintenance and Facilities Management” and/or “Fish and Wildlife Habitat” and/or “Public Recreation and Use”	On-Going	

Wetlands Protection

The Reforestation Law of 1929 mandates watershed protection as one of the most basic goals of the state forest system. Although the Keuka Highlands Unit contains no classified streams, classified freshwater wetlands or large ponds, it forms the headwaters of two streams which flow into Keuka Inlet and Keuka Lake. Watershed protection was a primary objective of the original acquisition of State Forest lands and will be a primary objective on Keuka Highlands.

Compliance with the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act (ECL Article 24) and the Water Resources Law (ECL Article 15, Title 5) is required by NYS DEC when conducting management activities or construction projects that involve regulated activities within protected wetlands, water bodies, or streams. Timber Harvesting Guidelines which are mandatory for all silvicultural practices on state lands, require specific conservation practices which protect soils and water quality. The ECL

dictates that, among other purposes, State Forests within this Unit be managed for watershed protection, and sound conservation practices and public desires.

Regulated activities within protected wetlands, streams and waterbodies include such things as clear-cutting vegetation and construction of ponds or road crossings. Normal maintenance and repair of existing structures is generally exempt from permit requirements. Well-managed water resources have multiple benefits, including quality fish and wildlife habitats, aesthetically pleasing sites, ground water protection, and flood water retention.

The need for small dug-outs were elicited in the objectives for "Fish and Wildlife Habitat".

Management Objectives and Actions for Watershed and Wetlands

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Protect water and wetland resources	1	Utilize Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality on timber sales, gas well site construction, recreation facilities, and any other construction.	On-Going
		1.1	Control erosion through proper road and trail maintenance.	On-Going
		1.2	Comply with the Water Resources Law and Freshwater Wetlands Acts.	On-Going

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The fish and wildlife habitat goals for the Unit are to maintain and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife species and to provide public access for activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, bird watching and other compatible outdoor recreational pursuits.

There is a robust diversity of amphibian and reptile species to be found here. Management efforts should include creation of dug-outs for breeding and activity centers as well as protection of sensitive shallow shaded pools in swamp and bog sites. Protection of all wetland environs should enhance these species as well as several aquatic birds.

Management for birds and mammals will largely be driven by the age of the specific forest stand and its species composition. Most of the area is dominated by pioneer hardwoods which are largely in younger age classes. Efforts need to continue to achieve a balance of age classes, so wildlife species diversity and abundance are maintained. This includes establishing new forests by clear cutting as well as maintaining older age classes via selective harvest or establishment of protection areas. All can be accomplished by continued attention to harvest of forest products. Natural conifer stands are an important component of the predominantly hardwood stands in the Unit and should receive special consideration to insure that they remain as a component in future stands. Management of hemlock stands should be designed to include multiple age classes if possible. Special attention to deer

management is warranted given the ability of high deer populations to impact vegetative species diversity.

Grassland and open areas are indeed rare and should be maintained whenever possible. Opportunities to establish such habitat should be taken advantage of with gas exploration and pipeline development if such occurs.

Management Objectives and Actions for Fish and Wildlife and Habitat

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Manage habitats for endemic wildlife species and public use	1	Conduct all forms of woody vegetation management to achieve balance forest structure. (See Vegetation Management)	As needed
		1.1	Develop and maintain small ponds and dugouts to act as amphibian activity centers.	As opportunities arise
		1.2	Manage conifers in natural forests	On-Going
		1.3	Maintain and enhance grassland habitats by mowing and/or burning	At least every three years.
		1.4	Protect and enhance rare plant and animal communities	Annually
2	Encourage public use to enjoy wildlife resources	2	Assist local groups in utilizing and protecting wildlife resources	Annually
		2.1	Work with local and governmental groups to enjoy wildlife habitat by building ponds, observation decks, nesting structure etc.	As opportunities arise

Public Recreation and Use

One goal of the NYS DEC is to “Connect New Yorkers to Nature” by providing suitable opportunities for the public enjoyment of compatible recreational pursuits in a natural setting. NYS DEC is charged under Environmental Conservation Law with guaranteeing that the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment is attained without unnecessary degradation or other undesirable or unintended consequences. The public has an undeniable stake in identifying both “beneficial uses” and “undesirable consequences.” Recreational program opportunities for people with disabilities will be planned in perspective with those available in the region on NYS DEC lands. For a list of facilities available on The Keuka Highlands Unit see Appendix D.

Wildlife-related recreation, including wildlife viewing, hunting, and trapping, is a dominant and important use of the NYS DEC lands in the Keuka Highlands Unit. Users are encouraged to adhere

to standards of equitable distribution, fair chase, ethics and the maintenance of the variety and quality of use. Additional recreational pursuits will continue to be allowed to the extent that they are compatible with habitat integrity, wildlife use and financial resources.

Haul roads, and old town roads combined with existing logging roads, hiking trails, and utility lines form an excellent network to access recreational opportunities. Parking areas and informational signs and maps are needed on most areas to help identify and promote public enjoyment and compatible use. The individual brochure for the Unit was last updated in 1987, and could use updating.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) or All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails will not be developed on this Unit. A number of factors have contributed to this decision. As stated in NYS DEC's Draft ATV Policy, ATV riding is not a program offered on State Forests. The development of ATV access can be considered under this policy if it is necessary to provide access to programs and activities on the Unit. The Unit is too small to support an ATV trail system, and it would conflict with existing recreational uses. Currently, existing illegal ATV activity has created management and maintenance challenges. In addition, soil limitations on this Unit make many areas unsuitable for ATV use.

While no ATV trails currently exist on this Unit, specific routes may be opened to allow ATV use by permitted persons with disabilities, pursuant to NYS DEC Commissioners Policy #3 (CP-3). This program is known as the Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). A permit must first be obtained from the DEC. Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the NYS DEC. For further information contact the NYSDEC, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, New York 14810. (See Appendix D and G)

Currently there are no MAPPWD trails on Pigtail Hollow or Urbana State Forests. Bog Rd is a possibility, but only if several requirements can be met: it needs to be repaired to a usable state, parking provided, and care taken to not overlap with the walking only Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail, then it may be posted as a MAPPWD route.

In keeping with current State Forest policy, camping, and day use picnicking are acceptable recreational uses of Pigtail Hollow and Urbana State Forests. Dispersed recreation will continue to be encouraged over the entire Keuka Highlands Unit.

The Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail crosses over Pigtail Hollow and Urbana State Forests. On Urbana there is also a loop trail that connects with the Bristol Hills Branch trail. Both were constructed and are maintained by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) under the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Stewardship Program. A portion of the trail is a guided nature walk, constructed and maintained by the FLTC steward for this part of the trail. One of the stops on the nature walk is a wooden wildlife viewing platform on Huckleberry Bog. Two kiosks hold trail books and sign-in books at the intersections of the loop trail and the Bristol Hills Branch. An initial review of the trail indicates that portions need some upgrading. Most is fine, but some sections are wet, and some are steep; re-routing, building puncheons (raised wooden trail) or other trail improvements may be needed to create a better trail experience. Exact locations and construction details would require approval by the Regional Forester or designee. Any major maintenance, re-routes or additions will be reviewed on an individual basis by NYS DEC and require approval of a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP), or an amendment to the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement.

Prior to starting this Unit Management Plan, one person contacted NYS DEC about the possibility of a horse trail being constructed on Urbana and Pigtail Hollow State Forests. However, the

Unit is too small to support a horse trail system. Soils and topography restrict even further the areas that could support a trail.

Occasionally, forest product sales may affect certain recreational facilities. Depending upon the sale, there may be an opportunity to enhance the recreational facility. An assessment of the potential will be done with each and every sale of forest products for the impact and possible enhancement. Potential enhancements: relocation of a trail for better placement, conversion of a skid trail to a recreation trail through grading and water control measures, creation of informal, or formal, parking areas by placement of the log landings, installation of vehicle control barriers and other possible work as opportunity presents itself.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Its Influence on Management Actions for Recreation and Related Facilities

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

The ADA requires a public entity to thoroughly examine each of its programs and services to determine the level of accessibility provided. The examination involves the identification of all existing programs and services and an assessment to determine the degree of accessibility provided to each. The assessment includes the use of the standards established by Federal Department of Justice Rule as delineated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG, either adopted or proposed) and/or the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, as appropriate. The development of an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit was conducted during the UMP planning process. The assessment established the need for new or upgraded facilities or assets necessary to meet ADA mandates. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible. New facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the "Management Actions" section.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

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

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

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

ADAAG Application

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

<i>Management Objectives and Actions for Recreation</i>

	Management Objectives	Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Identify additional recreation needs.	1	Receive public opinion.	On-Going
		1.1	Monitor use patterns	On-Going
		1.2	Assess user satisfaction from comments received.	On-Going
2	Coordinate with volunteer groups, and other agencies/municipalities through the use Cooperative Agreements, to construct and/or maintain existing and/or future recreational facilities	2	Identify resources and/or volunteer groups to form additional partnerships.	On-Going
		2.1	Assist the Finger Lakes Trail Conference sponsors in maintenance and enhancement of the Bristol Hills Branch Trail and Loop Trail.	On-Going

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
		2.2	Provide resources or utilize opportunities as needed to maintain and enhance existing trail(s)	On-Going
		2.3	Minimize conflicts between hikers, bikers, and other users	On-Going
3	Determine feasibility and/or compatibility of proposed additional recreational opportunities.	3	In house review of proposed projects	As Needed
		3.1	Negotiate with sponsoring volunteer groups.	As Needed
		3.2	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups to provide additional recreation	As Needed
4	Provide additional recreational opportunities.	4	Maintain and improve access for persons with disabilities.	On-Going
		4.1	Provide technical support for volunteer groups.	As Needed
		4.2	Construct barriers to discourage motorized use of skid trails and abandoned roads after logging operations.	As Needed
		4.3	Construct other new facilities as appropriate.	As Needed
5	Advocate wildlife-based recreation	5	Encourage bird watching, hunting, fishing, trapping etc. according to New York State regulations.	On-Going
6	Maintain existing and future recreational facilities.	6	See Maintenance and Facilities	On-Going
		6.1	Maintain wildlife viewing platform, kiosks, and trails.	On-Going
7	Increase awareness of public recreation opportunities.	7	Provide brochures and maps for users.	Update Every 5 yrs
		7.1	Place kiosks at high use parking areas.	By 2019
		7.2	Update maps and brochures to reflect new facilities/trails/acquisitions	As Needed
8	Enhance visual appeal	8.0	Establish a litter-free environment by promoting carry in/carry out policy.	On-Going
		8.1	Remove litter from state land.	As-Needed

Unit Maintenance and Facilities Management

The goal is to maintain facilities to ensure the Units integrity, character, and safety. This must be done with the limited money and staff resources that are available. See also the “Access” and “Public Recreation” sections for additional facilities.

There may be the potential for generating electricity with windmills or the construction of towers for radio, cell transmission, in the area of the Keuka Highlands Unit. There are currently no windmills, or applications for windmills, for power generation on the Keuka Highlands Unit. NYS DEC does not have the legal authority to authorize the construction of windmills, or commercial towers on the lands covered by this Unit management plan. Therefore, legislation would need to be passed authorizing such use before any tower construction could take place.

The Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail (a foot trail) crosses the Unit. This trail is maintained by volunteers. It is the policy of the department to encourage the use of volunteers to maintain facilities such as these.

<i>Management Objectives and Actions for Maintenance and Facilities</i>			
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Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Maintain constructed ponds/potholes	1	Inspect for problems.	Annually
		1.1	Repair dikes, control boxes, etc	As Needed
		1.2	Excavate bottom of ponds.	As Needed
2	Solicit volunteer groups to help maintain facilities (see also Public Recreation and Use)	2	Promote Adopt a Natural Resource Program.	On-Going
		2.1	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups.	On-Going
3	Maintain existing and future facilities.	3	Identify needed maintenance	On-Going
		3.1	Do the needed maintenance, as money allows.	On-Going
		3.2	Enhance law enforcement efforts.	On-Going
4	Maintain existing and future roads and parking lots.	4	See “Access” section	On-Going

Land Acquisition

The acquisition of land by DEC in New York State is guided by the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. The Open Space Conservation Plan serves as a blueprint that identifies the priority projects, policies and programs that will enhance land acquisition from willing sellers for the future. The plan, issued jointly with the Department and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, relies heavily upon the input of Regional Advisory Committees, local governments and the public. The Open Space Conservation Plan is updated every three years, as required by law. In November 2006 NYS DEC and the NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation issued

a plan, entitled, "New York State Open Space Conservation Plan". (www.dec.ny.gov/lands/317.html)
 The plan brings together: 1) an objective analysis of the State's resources; 2) the knowledge and insight of professionals inside state agencies; and most importantly, 3) the informed and valuable ideas of the public, local government and the private sector.

<i>Management Objectives and Actions for Land Acquisition</i>

	Management Objectives	Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Provide improved access to the Unit.	1	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
		1.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
2	Consolidate public ownership by eliminating in holdings	2	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
		2.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
3	Enhance recreational opportunity.	3	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
		3.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
4	Protect significant ecological areas.	4	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
		4.1	Acquire by fee simple or easement desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
5	Resolve other issues, such as split mineral estate.	5	Identify Land acquisition needs	On-Going
		5.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going

Mineral Resources

Any party desiring to procure minerals, rocks or oil & gas resources (or the use of the mineral estate in the case of gas or liquid storage in geological formations) from the mineral estate under state lands included in this Unit management plan, must obtain contractual rights (such as a lease contract) to those minerals from the appropriate state entity administering those resources. The party must also obtain appropriate consent (Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP)) from the state to access the surface estate during operations. Prior to the commencement of operations the appropriate permits must be obtained. These procedures are further outlined below.

Any activity involving the procurement of oil and gas resources and/or storage of gas and liquids in the subsurface on state lands in this Unit management plan are administered by the NYS DEC Division of Mineral Resources. The procurement of minerals and rocks (inorganic substances), including the solution mining of minerals (such as salt) on these same state lands are administered by

the Office of General Services. All activity associated with mining minerals and rocks, solution mining of minerals and oil & gas drilling, including production, are regulated by the NYS DEC Division of Mineral Resources (including the issuance of mining permits and drilling permits).

The surface estate of these state lands is managed through the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine. In the event the surface estate is to be used in the evaluation and/or extraction of mineral resources from state lands, a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) must be obtained from the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests prior to conducting any operations. It should be noted that if the mineral estate is under a lease agreement, only the lessee, or entities authorized by the Lessee, will be issued a TRP for these purposes.

It is NYS DEC policy to recommend excluding operations in surface areas with sensitive habitats (stream banks, wetlands, steep slopes, rare communities etc.) or intensive recreational use. Sites to be excluded from drilling, production and/or other surface occupancy for mining, are listed in appendix G, Maps "Recommended Exclusions for Surface Occupancy." Any proposal for mineral development other than oil and gas would require SEQR review.

Procedures for Oil & Gas Procurement

In the event a party has an interest in exploring, and developing, oil and gas reserves under lands administered by the NYS DEC. The NYS DEC will receive requests to nominate specific lands for leasing of the mineral rights. Prior to leasing lands where the mineral estate is owned by New York State, a thorough review of the lands nominated for leasing is conducted to determine:

- 1.) Which areas can be leased with full rights granted (100% surface entry and no special conditions required),
- 2.) Which may require special environmental and safety conditions, and
- 3.) Which may be leased with no surface-disturbance/entry conditions (non-drilling clause).

This review is conducted by the area's land manager (Division of Lands and Forests or Division of Fish and Wildlife) in coordination with the Division of Mineral Resources. A tract assessment is then conducted that identifies sensitive resources of the Unit. These resources include certain management strategies, wetland, riparian zones, steep slopes, recreational trails and areas, unique ecological communities, habitat of rare and endangered species, archeological and cultural sites and scenic vistas and view sheds.

A public meeting will be held to provide information about natural gas development specific to the Unit and receive comments. A 30-day public comment period will follow. The Department will consider all comments prior to making a decision. If the Department decides to pursue leasing, the site specific conditions for limiting impacts on natural resources will be drafted by the Division of Mineral Resources in coordination with the Division of Lands & Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine(Wildlife) and incorporated into contract documents. These conditions will include but not be limited to criteria for site selection, mitigation of impacts and land reclamation upon completion of drilling. A number of factors are considered. Riparian areas, steep slopes, significant recreation areas, presence of rare, threatened or endangered species or unique ecological communities, are all areas which may be excluded from surface disturbance. Certain land management strategies, such as reserves, where timber harvesting is precluded, which may be incompatible with oil and gas well development, may result in exclusion from surface disturbance. This determination is made as part of

the tract assessment process on a case by case basis. Individual tract proposal reviews for each forest within this Unit have been completed, and determinations deciding which areas would be excluded from surface disturbance (should leasing be initiated) have been made. Included in the appendix are maps depicting these areas. Any parcel designated as a non-surface entry lease will no longer be subject to the process detailed above due to the prohibition of surface disturbance(s). Exceptions to these tract assessments are possible if additional analysis, protective measures, new technology, or other issues warrant a change in the compatibility status of an area.

If it is determined that oil and gas exploration and development can proceed on these State minerals, a lease sale is conducted. The DEC Division of Mineral Resources is the oil and gas leasing agent for these state lands. Lease sales are then conducted through a competitive bid process administered by the Division of Mineral Resources and in accordance with Article 23, Title 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law and State Finance Law.

Revenues from State Reforestation Areas and Multiple Use Areas (State Forests) are deposited into the General Fund while revenues from Wildlife Management Areas are deposited into the Conservation Fund.

In the event leases are granted and the drilling of a well is desired by the lessee on the leased property, an Application for Permit to Drill, Deepen, Plug Back or Convert a Well Subject to the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law (form 85-12-5) must be submitted to the Division of Mineral Resources. Site-specific impacts will then be identified by NYS DEC staff during review process and inspection of the proposed well site. The Generic Environmental Impact Statement On the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (Draft, 1988) is used to guide the Department in determining whether the proposal will have a significant impact on the environment. Conditions are then attached to the drilling permit as well as the Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) which covers the mitigation and/or control of surface disturbances.

In the event underground pipelines are planned to transport gas and/or oil across state lands; the Division of Mineral Resources in conjunction with the Division of Lands and Forests, and Division of Fish and Wildlife will coordinate with the mineral estate lessee to determine the best route for the pipeline(s). It should be noted that any pipelines greater than 1,000 feet in length and/or containing pressures greater than 125 pounds per square inch are regulated by the New York State Public Service Commission.

Once the proposal is approved, a drilling permit with site specific conditions is issued by the Division of Mineral Resources along with a Temporary Revocable Permit issued by either the Division of Lands and Forests or Fish and Wildlife. These permits are administered by their respective programs and are designed to prevent and/or mitigate environmental impacts. Site inspections are conducted by the Division of Mineral Resources to ensure compliance with Article 23 of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6NYCRR Part 550 - 559. The Division of Lands and Forests or Fish and Wildlife will also inspect the site to ensure compliance with the TRP.

Procedures for Mineral and Rock Procurement

In the event a party desires to explore and procure minerals and/or rock (including salt) from state lands. The party must be issued a permit, consent or lease of such duration as the commissioner may deem advisable, from the General Services Office, under Article 7 of the New York Consolidated

Laws / Public Lands. Prior to operations, a Mining Permit or Drilling Permit in the case of solution mining, must be obtained from the Division of Mineral Resources and a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) (for access and use of state land) must be obtained from the Division of Lands and Forests or the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine. Mining operations are regulated by the Division of Mineral Resources.

There are no mining contracts, permits, or operations on any areas in this Unit management plan. Under Article 7 of the New York State Consolidated Laws, any citizen of the United States may apply for permission to explore and/or extract any mineral on State lands. However, current department policy is to decline any commercial mining application(s) pertaining to any lands covered by the Keuka Highlands Unit Management Plan.

Surface Use for Evaluation of Mineral Resources

In the event a party desires to use the surface estate to conduct geophysical (such as a seismic survey), geochemical and/or surface sampling procedures on NYS DEC lands after leasing they must first obtain a TRP for the access and use of state lands. Only the lessee, or parties authorized by the lessee, can be issued a TRP for these purposes. A TRP can be applied for through the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, New York 14810.

For further information contact the NYS DEC Mineral Resource staff, Region 8, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9591. Additional contacts include; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-Division of Mineral Resources- Bureau of Oil and Gas Regulation, 3rd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233.

Management Objectives and Actions for Mineral Resources

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Decide to approve or not approve extraction of mineral resources.	1	Nominated properties are reviewed by Division of Mineral Resources(DMN) and Division of Lands and Forests(L&F) and Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine(Wildlife) per above process. Office of General Services(OGS) makes approvals for minerals	As Needed
		1.1	A public meeting is held with a 30 day comment period after.	As Needed
If extraction is permitted...				
2	Execute consent contracts.	2	DMN conducts lease sale through competitive bid process and executes contracts for oil and gas. OGS executes contracts for minerals.	As Needed

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
3	Regulate operations; and access surface estate to extract mineral resources.	3	Division of Lands and Forests reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a “Temporary Revocable Permit”	Every Time
		3.1	DMN reviews proposed operation and issues “Drilling Permit” or “Mining Permit”.	Every Time
		3.2	DMN inspects & regulates operations, production and administers royalty payments to State.	Every Time
4	Monitor reclamation & well plugging	4	DMN enforces Rules and Regulations pertaining to plugging procedures.	Every Time
		4.1	DMN and L&F monitors and enforces surface reclamation	Every Time
5	Administer mineral estate	5	DMN monitors lease, production and royalty payments for oil and gas. OGS does same for minerals.	Every Time
6	Pipeline access and construction	6	Granted and directed by terms of lease agreement administered by DMN.	Every Time
		6.1	L&F and/or Wildlife reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a “Temporary Revocable Permit” (TRP)	Every Time
		6.2	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine enforce TRP provisions.	Every Time

Archaeological and Historic Resources

The archaeological sites located within this Unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. Should any actions that would impact these resources be proposed they will be reviewed in accordance with SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law.

The archaeological sites located on this Unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property may be made available for appropriate research. All future archaeological

research to be conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 716-945-9427.

Management Objectives and Actions for Archaeological and Historical Sites

Management Objectives		Mgt. Action #	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1	Preservation of historical and archaeological resources	1	Avoid any activity which may disturb any historical and/or archaeological resources.	On-Going
		1.1	Comply with state historic preservation act.	On-Going
		1.2	Consultation with the Seneca Nation of Indians Historical Preservation Office.	On-Going

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SUMMARY

The following table is a summary of all the *Management Objectives and Actions for X...* tables located in the preceding sections of the *Goals and Objectives* chapter. Each action has been given a priority code of Critical, High or Low, and an estimated cost or income for over the 10 year plan period. Actual cost or income will be determined at the time of the action.

Priority codes:

C=Critical, Necessary to ensure public health and safety; To stabilize structures so as to not lose the money and time invested in them; Mandated by legislation.

H=High, Necessary for public use, and/or to improve habitat or other natural resources. Often this will be for new projects.

L=Low, Important for the enhancement of public use, habitats or other natural resources.

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est.10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Access	1	Survey Site(s)	L	As Needed	5 Work Days		
	1.1	Receive public comments	C	On Going	5 Work Days		We will always listen or read any comments.
	1.2	Solicit public comments	C	Every 10 yrs	7 Work Days		This is part of the UMP process.
	2	Identify additional access road needs	L	As Needed	2 Work Days		
	2.1	Construct access roads	L	As Needed			\$30-\$50 per linear foot of road.
	3	Inspect culverts	C	Bi-Annually	2 Work Days		
	3.1	Replace inoperable culverts	C	As Needed	\$3,000 per culvert		

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Access	3.2	Public access roads - Grade and Maintain surface.	H	Bi-Annually	6 Work Days		
	3.3	Haul roads - Grade and Maintain surface.	H	Every 5 years	6 Work Days		
	3.4	Mow road right of way.	H	Annually	11 Work Day		
	3.5	Repair "Bog Rd" in sections with timber sale trade offs.	H	Years 1, 2, 7, 9, and 10.	\$200,000		Most of this will be in-kind work as part of several different timber sales.
	4	Locate and construct parking lots on Dineharts Crossing, Runner/Glen Brook, and Dineharts Roads.	L	One Time	\$6,500 or more per parking lot		
	4.1	Determine need for additional parking	L	On- Going	1 Work Day		
	4.2	Construct parking lots.	L	As Needed	\$6,500 or more per lot		
	5	Litter removal	H	As Needed	50 Work Days		Cost does not include inmate labor.
	5.1	Maintain all parking areas.	C	As Needed	\$20,000 and 10 work days		
	5.2	Maintain curbing on parking lots	L	As Needed	\$5,000		
	5.3	Maintain informational signs	C	Annually	\$4,000		
	5.4	Mow all parking areas	H	As Needed	15 Work Days		
	6	Identify the need for gates and signs.	C	As Needed	2 Work Days		

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Access	6.1	Construct gates and post sign	C	As Needed	\$4,000 and 5 Work Days per Gate		
	6.2	Maintain gates and signs.	H	Annually	\$15,000		
	6.3	Enforce NYS DEC Policies	C	On-Going	\$150,000		
	6.4	Gate "Bog Rd" after repairing the first section of the road.	H	After the first timber sale is completed. (Probably year 2)	\$8,000		Most of this will be in-kind work as part of several different timber sales.
	7	Survey, paint, blaze, and post boundary lines.	H	Every 5 yrs	130 Work Days		
	7.1	Identify and resolve boundary encroachment issues.	C	As Needed	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	7.2	Repair and replace area signs.	H	On-Going	\$10,000		
	7.3	Place new area signs on Bean Station Rd and Hungry Hollow Rd.	L	One Time	\$2,000 and 2 Work days		
Vegetation	1	Perform State Forest inventories.	C	Every 10 yrs	40 Work Days		
	2	Practice Integrated Pest Management	C	On-Going	40 or more Work Days		Unable to predict future pest problems. A new invasion could greatly increase the cost.

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Vegetation	2.1	Reduce deer population, to reduce damage to the low growing vegetation (understory).	H	Annually	--	--	Accomplished by hunting license sales, producing brochures, etc.
	3.0	Create about 47 acres. (Of open/brushy)	L	By year 10	\$1,500 per acre		
	3.1	Maintain grassy openings with a 3 year rotation of mowing. Or annual burn.	H	Every 3 yrs. (Or Annually)	\$25 per acre and 100 work days		
	3.2	Maintain brushy openings with a 5yr rotation of hydro-axing.	H	Every 5 yrs.	\$300 per acre		
	3.3	Stand entry on 126 acres/ 7 stands (All-Aged Silviculture)	H	See schedule, Appendix F		\$31,500	Based on \$250 per acre.
	3.4	Regenerate 325 acres / 12 stands (Even Aged Silviculture)	H	See schedule, Appendix F		\$97,500	Based on \$300 per acre.
	3.5	Thin 1,090 acres / 40 stands (Even Aged Silviculture)	H	See schedule, Appendix F		\$87,200	Based on \$80 per acre.
	3.6	Maintain per "Unit Maintenance and Facilities Management" and/or "Fish and Wildlife Habitat" and/or "Public Recreation and Use"	H	On-Going	--	--	
Watershed and Wetlands	1	Utilize Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality on timber sales, gas well site construction, recreation facilities, and any other construction.	C	On-Going	--	--	
	1.1	Control erosion through proper road and trail maintenance.	C	On-Going	--	--	See Access
	1.2	Comply with the Water Resources Law and Freshwater Wetlands Acts.	C	On-Going	--	--	

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est.10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	1	Conduct all forms of woody vegetation management to achieve balance forest structure. (See Vegetation Management)	H	As needed	--	--	See Vegetation Management
	1.1	Develop and maintain small ponds and dugouts to act as amphibian activity centers.	L	As opportunities arise	\$10,000-\$20,000 per each	--	This will often be done as a trade of in a timber sale.
	1.2	Manage conifers in natural forests	L	On-Going	--	--	Most of this will be part of a timber sale
	1.3	Maintain and enhance grassland habitats by mowing and/or burning	H / L	At least every three years.	--	--	See Vegetation.
	1.4	Protect and enhance rare plant and animal communities	C	Annually	15 Work Days		May also include other costs.
	2	Assist local groups in utilizing and protecting wildlife resources	L	Annually	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	2.1	Work with local and governmental groups to enjoy wildlife habitat by building ponds, observation decks, nesting structure etc.	L	As opportunities arise	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
Public Recreation and Use	1	Receive public opinion.	C	On-Going	30 Work Days		We will always listen or read any comments.
	1.1	Monitor use patterns	C	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	1.2	Assess user satisfaction from comments received.	H	On-Going	10 Work Days		
	2	Identify resources and/or volunteer groups to form additional partnerships.	L	On-Going	10 Work Days		

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Public Recreation and Use	2.1	Assist the Finger Lakes Trail Conference sponsors in maintenance and enhancement of the Bristol Hills Branch Trail and Loop Trail.	H	On-Going	12 Work Days		
	2.2	Provide resources or utilize opportunities as needed to maintain and enhance existing trail(s)	C	On-Going	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	2.3	Minimize conflicts between hikers, bikers, and other users	H	On-Going	10 Work Days		
	3	In house review of proposed projects.	L	As Needed	10 Work Days		
	3.1	Negotiate with sponsoring volunteer groups.	L	As Needed	10 Work Days		
	3.2	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups to provide additional recreation.	L	As-Needed	10 Work Days		
	4	Maintain and improve access for persons with disabilities.	C	On-Going	--	--	Unable to predict costs, will vary by project.
	4.1	Provide technical support for volunteer groups.	L	As-Needed	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4.2	Construct barriers to discourage motorized use of skid trails and abandoned roads after logging operations.	C	As Needed	?		Unable to predict costs. Usually will be part of a sale contract.
	4.3	Construct other new facilities as appropriate.	L	As Needed	\$1,000 to \$50,000		
	5	Encourage bird watching, hunting, fishing, trapping, etc. according to State regulations.	C	On-Going	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	6	See Maintenance and Facilities	--	On-Going	--	--	

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Public Recreation and Use	7	Provide brochures and maps for users.	H	Update Every 5 yrs	10 Work Days		
	7.1	Place kiosks at high use parking areas	H	By 2018	\$1,000 to \$5,000 per each		
	7.2	Update maps and brochures to reflect new facilities/trails/acquisitions	L	As Needed	10 Work Days		
	8.0	Establish a litter-free environment by promoting carry in/carry out policy.	H	On-Going	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	8.1	Remove litter from state land.	H	As-Needed	--	--	See Access 5.0
Unit Maintenance and Facility Management	1	Inspect for problems. (Ponds and Potholes)	C	Annually	10 Work Days		
	1.1	Repair dikes, control boxes, etc.	C	As Needed	\$10,000		
	1.2	Excavate bottom of ponds.	L	As Needed	\$5,000 per Each.		
	2	Promote Adopt a Natural Resource Program.	L	On-Going	--		Unable to predict costs.
	2.1	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups.	L	On-Going	--		Unable to predict costs.
	3	Identify needed maintenance	L	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	3.1	Do the needed maintenance, as money allows.	C	On-Going	\$1,000 to \$100,000		
	3.2	Enhance law enforcement efforts.	C	On-Going	--	--	
	4	See "Access" section	C	On-Going	--		See Access.
Land Acquisition	1	Identify land acquisition needs. (Access)	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est.10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Land Acquisition	1.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	2	Identify land acquisition needs. (Eliminate in holdings)	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	2.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	3	Identify land acquisition needs. (Recreation)	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	3.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4	Identify land acquisition needs. (Ecological)	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	5	Identify land acquisition needs. (Other issues)	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	5.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
Mineral Resources	1	Nominated properties are reviewed by Division of Mineral Resources (DMN) and Division of Lands and Forests (L&F) and Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine(Wildlife) per above process. Mining minerals are reviewed by Office of General Services (OGS) instead of the DMN.	C	As Needed	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	1.1	A public meeting is held with a 30 day comment period after.	C	As Needed	5-15 Work Days		

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Mineral Resources	2	DMN conducts lease sale through competitive bid process and executes contracts for oil and gas. OGS executes contracts for minerals.	C	As Needed	?	?	In 2003 Lease Bonus payments were made as follows for lands located in this unit: Urbana SF: \$163,618.23 Pigtail SF: \$61,502.19 To date, no wells have been drilled on lands covered by or pooled with current leases.
	3	Division of Lands and Forests reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a "Temporary Revocable Permit"	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	3.1	Division of Mineral Resources reviews proposed operation and issues "Drilling Permit" or "Mining Permit".	C	Every Time	?	?	Drilling permits generate between \$290 - > \$3800 per well permitted, dependent upon depth well is permitted
	3.2	DMN inspects & regulates operations, production and administers royalty payments to State.	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs or income.
	4	Division of Mineral Resources enforces Rules and Regulations pertaining to plugging procedures.	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	4.1	DMN and L&F monitors and enforces surface reclamation	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs.

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Mineral Resources	5	DMN monitors lease, production and royalty payments for oil and gas. OGS does same for minerals.	C	Every Time	?	?	Royalty payments in past leases have been based upon 1/8th or 12.5% royalty interest to the State. One bcfg produced from state minerals at a sales price of \$5/mcfg, would generate more than \$600,000.00
	6	Granted and directed by terms of lease agreement administered by Division of Minerals. (Pipeline access and construction)	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	6.1	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a "Temporary Revocable Permit" (TRP)	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	6.2	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine enforce TRP provisions.	C	Every Time	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
Arch-aeological and Historic Resources	1	Avoid any activity which may disturb any historical and/or archaeological resources.	C	On-Going	?	?	Unable to predict costs.

Mgmt. Objectives	Mgmt. Action No.	Management Action	Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est.10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Arch-aeological and Historic Resources	1.1	Comply with state historic preservation act.	C	On-Going	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	1.2	Consultation with the Seneca Nation of Indians Historical Preservation Office.	C	On-Going	?	?	Unable to predict costs.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Initial Mailing

The Keuka Highlands Unit Management Plan citizen participation activities commenced with an initial mailing on September 6, 2007, outlining management plan objectives. An attached mailer requested address corrections and gave a due date for the preliminary round of public comments.

The initial mailing's targeted audience consisted of previously identified:

- adjacent property owners;
- local town & county officials;
- recreational groups;
- interested industry groups;
- wildlife groups; and
- other general environmental groups;
- local media.

Based responses to the mailing, and other public comments received, the mailing list was amended to add other interested parties and/or correct outdated names and addresses.

Public comments received from the initial mailing are listed in Appendix B, with a summary in the Summary of Identified Issues section starting on page 22. Topics include: access, vegetation management, water resources, wildlife and fish management, public recreation and use, oil and gas leasing, cooperative agreements, open space conservation, aesthetics and cultural resources and historic preservation.

Second Mailing

Upon completion of the draft Keuka Highlands Unit Management Plan, a second fact sheet will be sent to those on the updated mail list, including the media, summarizing objectives of the draft plan, listing local document repositories and announcing a public meeting. Repositories will include local libraries, the Bath and Avon NYS DEC offices, and NYS DEC's web page. A notice will also be posted in the Environmental Notices Bulletin (ENB) at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Public Meeting

One public meeting will be held near the Keuka Highlands Unit Management area to present the draft plan and receive comments on it. Following the end of a 30-day public comment period, any modifications based on public comment will be made and a responsiveness summary will be in Appendix B of the final plan.

Final Notice

Commentators and those on the updated mail list will receive a notice of availability of the final plan. Document repositories will again be identified and any significant modifications based on public comment will be noted.