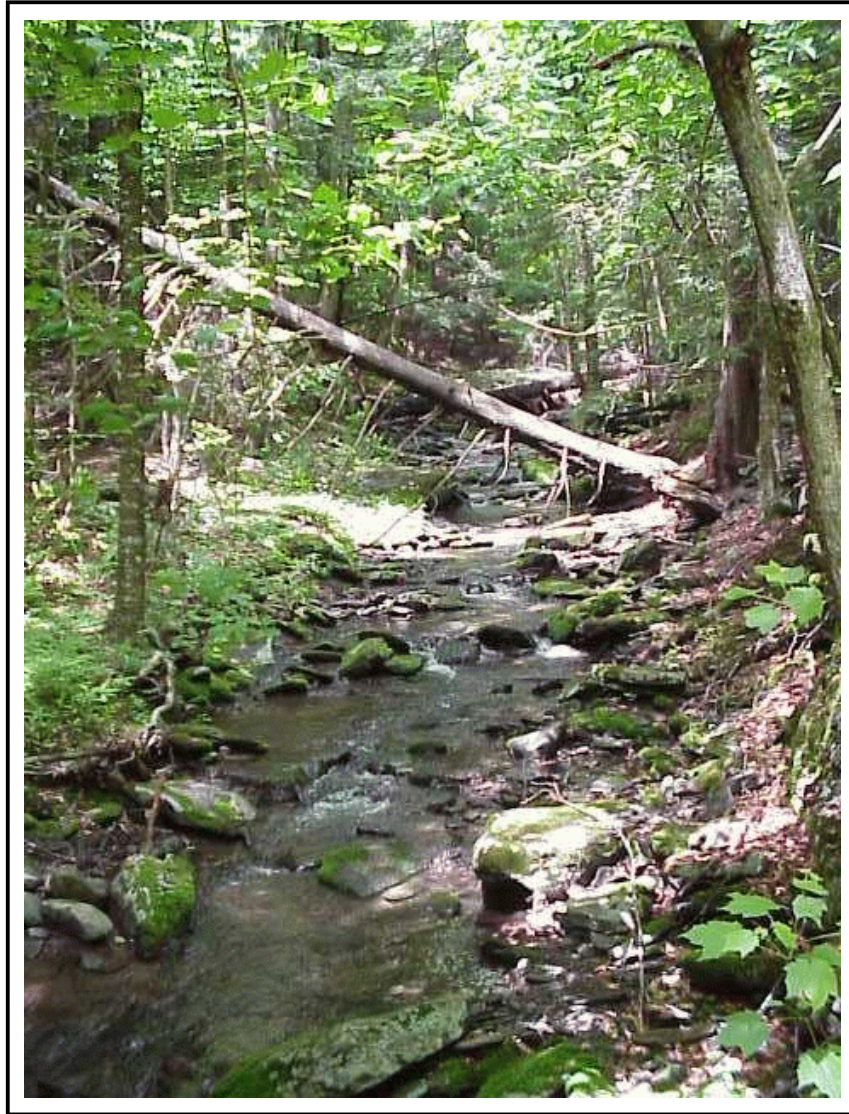


Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan



JUNE 2005

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 3 Office, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (845) 256-3000

George E. Pataki, Governor

*Denise M. Sheehan,
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SHANDAKEN WILD FOREST

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

PREFACE

The Shandaken Wild Forest is a relatively small unit of land which contains several different parcels offering a variety of recreational opportunities for public use.

A unit management plan identifies a unit of Forest Preserve lands and provides direction for the management and use of the unit within the constraints of Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law, Department policies and the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (“Master Plan”). Forest Preserve lands in the Catskill Park are classified by the Master Plan according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use. Comprehensive unit management plans provide specific management objectives and a schedule of actions needed to meet those objectives. Many of these objectives can be accomplished with existing staff and resources.

This unit is located within the New York City watershed. Activities proposed within this unit management plan are also subject to the 1997 “New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement” and New York City’s regulations for the watershed(15RNYC 18-11 et. seq.).

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Area Description

The majority of the Shandaken Wild Forest is located in the Ulster County town of Shandaken, with the remainder lying in the southern Greene County town of Lexington. This unit consists of four separate parcels of land. The largest of the parcels contains Rochester, Seneca and Millbrook Hollows. The second largest parcel consists of lands in Peck Hollow adjacent to the Westkill Mountain Wilderness Area. The third parcel contains lands surrounding the Allaben Cemetery and is bordered by Broadstreet Hollow on the west, Route 28 to the south, and the Westkill Mountain Wilderness Area to the north and east. The last parcel is located at the end of Lower Birch Creek Road in Pine Hill and borders Upper Birch Creek Road to the north. This parcel is known locally as the estate of Dr. and Mrs. Otto Reisser.

This unit contains approximately 5375.6 acres with 4184.6 acres located in the Town of Shandaken and the remaining 1191 acres found in the Town of Lexington. The acreage can be further defined by parcel as follows:

Rochester Hollow Parcel -	approx. 2475 acres
Peck Hollow Parcel -	approx. 2384 acres
Allaben Parcel -	approx. 414 acres
Lower Birch Creek Road -	approx. 102.6 acres

The terrain ranges from relatively flat, open fields to very steep forested slopes. Elevation ranges from a low of 900 feet along Route 28 in the Allaben parcel to a high of 2900 feet on a spur of Rose Mountain. This unit can be described as having a less remote character than either of the two adjacent Wilderness Areas. There are no named mountain peaks in this unit. However, this unit serves as watershed for the New York City Water Supply since all of this unit lies within the Ashokan Reservoir Basin and contains many tributaries to the Esopus Creek, the main feeder stream for the Ashokan reservoir.

B. History

The Shandaken Wild Forest unit consists of four distinctly different parcels derived from different origins.

The Lower Birch Creek Road parcel is the smallest parcel consisting of the estate of Dr. and Mrs. Otto Reisser. This appears to have been a typical Catskill mountain region farmstead. The property was conveyed to Dr. Otto H. Reisser from Mary E. Price dated October 3, 1942. Dr. Reisser, a German dentist, and his wife Elisabeth bought the "farm" as a summer retreat from the heat of New York City where they resided. The Reissers utilized this property to entertain guests from all over the world. Register boxes were found in the house amongst German dental books and references indicating that the Reissers entertained a significant number of guests over their fifty-five years of ownership. After retirement, the Reissers moved permanently to Pine Hill. Dr. Reisser died on January 24, 1996 and his wife Elisabeth, passed on April 15, 1997. In her will, Elisabeth left the estate to the caretaker with the stipulation that he remain on the property. If he declined the offer, the property was to become State land and be "forever wild forest lands." Since the caretaker already owned his own house, the offer was declined and the property became State land as deeded on March 26, 1999.

The second parcel consists of lands adjacent to the Allaben Cemetery. This parcel consists of approximately 414 acres which, prior to state acquisition, was slated to become a housing development. A road system was developed which created two cul-de-sacs along with the construction of one residence. No further development occurred and the State purchased the property through several acquisitions between 1975 and 1986 with the one house lot remaining as an exception. This parcel created additional access to the adjacent West Kill Wilderness Area from Route 28 to the south. This parcel is currently utilized as a primitive camping area with eight designated tent sites along the access roads.

The third parcel consists of lands located in Peck

Hollow that fall outside the West Kill Wilderness Area boundary. These lands were not included in the West Kill Wilderness due to private inholdings and a public road bisecting this parcel. The majority of these lands were acquired in 1975, 1979 and 1980 with other parcels dating back as early 1870 up to and including an acquisition in 1985. The lands purchased contained several easements, including one for New York City for purpose of creating an underground aqueduct to transport drinking water from the Schoharie Reservoir to the Esopus Creek via the portal along Route 28 in Shandaken. The water then flows down the Esopus to the Ashokan Reservoir, a major water source for New York City residents as well as several towns along the way. This aqueduct was completed in 1923 and is still in use today.

The largest parcel in the unit consists of Rochester, Seneca and Millbrook Hollows. Of these, Rochester Hollow contains a bit of interesting history. The hollow was named after William Rochester, a retired Colonel who moved to the area and began to purchase small family farms in an attempt to create a large estate. This estate contained a private through road from Matyas Road to Rose Mountain Road. This is the Rochester Hollow Road, which is closed to public motor vehicle use. Stone pillars still exist at various locations along the road that follows the edges of the ravine containing Rochester Hollow Creek. These pillars are the remnants of the gated entrances to the Rochester Estate.

II. INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND

USE

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical Resources

a. Geology

The Catskill Region is a plateau of sedimentary rock. These rocks were originally sediments laid down in a shallow sea some 395 million years ago in the Paleozoic Era of geologic history.

This region is generally underlain by interbedded Devonian sandstone, siltstone and shale formations that have very gentle inclinations toward the west and northwest. This Catskill Mountain region is essentially an uplifted, dissected plateau with elevations that range from lows around 1400 feet to 4180 feet at the top of Slide Mountain, located in the southern part of the town of Shandaken. This area, including Ulster and Greene Counties, was completely covered by a continental glacier which withdrew from the region about 14,000 years ago. This period of glaciation significantly altered the preglacial landforms and produced much of what is found today. The Catskills of present are characterized by benched slopes, deep ravines, steep escarpments and huge boulders.

b. Soils

In general, the Catskill Mountain region consists of the Arnot-Oquaga-Lackawanna soils that formed in glacial till deposits of various thickness over bedrock. The landscape is mainly hills that are affected by the underlying bedrock and mountainsides that have a slight stairstep appearance because of the underlying rock. Many areas are very bouldery with slopes predominantly 35 to 45 percent with ranges from 8 to 90 percent.

The soils of the Shandaken Wild Forest vary somewhat between the four distinct parcels that make up this forest.

The Lower Birch Creek Road parcel consists predominantly of the Lackawanna(LaC) flaggy silt

loam soils in the low lying fields with the hillsides predominantly consisting of the Lackawanna and Swartswood (LCD) soils.

The area consisting of the Rochester, Seneca and Millbrook Hollows contains predominantly the Arnot-Oquaga-Rock outcrop complex (ARF). A narrow strip of Lackawanna and Swartswood (LCF) very bouldery and very steep soil can be found along the Route 28 corridor. The Seneca Hollow area contains the Lackawanna and Swartswood (LCD) very bouldery and moderately steep soils. A very small area of Oquaga-Arnot-Rock outcrop complex(ORC) can be found in the interior portion of this parcel.

The parcel containing the Peck Hollow area consists predominantly of the Arnot-Oquaga-Rock outcrop complex (ARF). A small area contains the Oquaga-Arnot-Rock outcrop complex (ORC). The final soil in this area is found on a long finger ridge between Peck Hollow and Jay Hand Hollow and consists of the Oquaga-Arnot -Rock outcrop complex(ORD) moderately steep.

The final parcel which encompasses the access roads in Allaben consists of four different soil types. The area North of the road complex is predominantly the Lackawanna and Swartswood very bouldery and very steep (LCF) soils. The area South of the access roads consist of the Schoharie silt loam (SaC) complex. The road itself lies within the Odessa silt loam complex (OdB) and the area on the East side of the parcel is made up predominantly of the Lackawanna and Swartswood extremely bouldery soils (LEE).

The soils found within the Shandaken Wild Forest typically host mountain forests throughout the Catskill region. The steep slopes and well-drained nature of the soils create a moderate potential for erosion, especially when the vegetation is removed, and are susceptible to drought. The soils have good potential for recreational uses such as hiking and camping, provided developed areas are carefully designed and protected from erosion.

A complete description of soils within the

Shandaken Wild Forest can be found in appendix D.

c. Terrain

This unit contains no formal peaks and is less remote than surrounding units. The terrain varies from brush lots at 900 feet along Route 28 in Allaben to a 2900 foot spur on the southeast shoulder of Rose Mountain. This unit also contains many ravines or hollows which range from the well known Peck, Broadstreet and Rochester Hollows to the lesser known Seneca and Millbrook Hollows. Portions of these hollows contain very steep sides and significant elevation gains. Some of these hollows see little public use except for hunting seasons. Relatively open farm fields are also found within this unit at the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel.

d. Water

There are numerous seasonal and year-round streams whose flow, which is predominantly in a north-south orientation, feed the Esopus Creek. Many of these free flowing mountain streams are spring fed. There are eight named watercourses within the unit's boundary:

Birch Creek	Peck Hollow
Jay Hand Hollow	Esopus Creek
Broadstreet Hollow	Millbrook Hollow
Seneca Hollow	Rochester Hollow

Five of these watercourses are classified, and are protected under Article 15 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. These protected watercourses are:

Peck Hollow	Rochester Hollow
Broadstreet Hollow	Birch Creek
Esopus Creek	

There are four ponded water bodies found within the Shandaken Wild Forest. Two small trout ponds are located adjacent to the old farmhouse within the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. A third small pond is located south of the right fork of the access

road in the Allaben parcel. The fourth pond is a very small impoundment near the Rochester Hollow house site.

e. Wetlands

There are no state regulated wetlands (greater than 12 acres in size) located within the unit. However, there are some very small, and widely scattered vernal pools at high elevations. These pools serve as an important seasonal source of water for numerous wildlife species.

2. Biological Resources

a. Vegetation

This Wild Forest Area is almost completely forested. The diversity of vegetation has been chiefly influenced by soils, topography, man-made and natural disturbances, and climate.

Although often delineated by elevation, it is believed that till quantity (i.e. soil depth), volume of stoniness and water availability are important factors in the distribution of tree species in the Catskill region. Botanist Michael Kudish PhD., presented this in his book The Catskill Forest: A History (2000) pp. 2-4.

Several forest types are present in the Shandaken Wild Forest. Portions of this Wild Forest are dominated by the sugar maple-beech-yellow birch (northern hardwoods) forest type. White ash, black cherry, northern red oak, red maple, basswood, hop hornbeam, aspen, hemlock, white pine and scattered red spruce are species associated with the northern hardwoods and many are present, and locally abundant in the Shandaken Wild Forest. Much of the Allaben, Peck Hollow and some of the Rochester Hollow parcel contains this forest type. In addition, red oak is locally abundant on the ridges associated with Seneca, Millbrook and Peck Hollows with some occurrences of hickories mixed in. This forest type is considered to be southern hardwoods and likely is present due to forest disturbances that may have occurred including fire, timber harvesting and farming/pasturage. Once the forest

canopy has been removed, the southern hardwoods are able to compete with, and sometimes out compete, the native northern hardwood species.

In addition to these forest types, several small White and Norway spruce plantations exist in Rochester Hollow above the hairpin turn.

b. Wildlife

The wildlife species in this wild forest unit are similar to those found in other areas of southeastern New York State. This unit consists primarily of northern hardwoods which favor forest species of wildlife such as black bear, snowshoe hare, wild turkey, gray squirrel and porcupine. Other species such as the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, beaver and ruffed grouse who favor early successional habitats occur at lower population levels.

The Breeding Bird Atlas records indicate that one hundred bird species have been found or are likely to be found in this wild forest unit. A complete listing of amphibian, reptile, mammal and bird species can be found in Appendix B.

c. Fish Resources

The waters in this unit consist of both free flowing streams generally less than 20 feet wide and a few small ponds. Good numbers of native brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis) are present in most streams with brown trout (Salmo trutta), rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) and sculpin (Cottus spp.) present in some. Suckers (Catostomus commersoni), minnows (Notropis spp.) and dace (Rhinichthys spp.) may be present in some of the lower elevation streams. The small size, steep gradient, seasonal fluctuation of water levels and general low fertility limit the density and growth rate of the trout populations. Consequently, this unit's streams do not lend themselves to stocking or other forms of active management and cannot support an intensive fishery.

The ponded waters consist of two spring fed ponds near the farm house on the Lower Birch Creek

Road parcel, one small impoundment at the “T” intersection in the Allaben parcel and a very small pond at the Rochester Hollow house site. The two ponds near the farmhouse contain native brook trout and may be capable of catch and release or put and take management. These ponds are spring fed year ‘round and seem to produce enough cold water and oxygen for continual support of trout.

The pond in Allaben is a man-made impoundment not conducive to stocking with trout. This pond lacks the cold water and oxygen necessary for trout habitat. It will likely remain a warm water fishery for bass and other less demanding species.

The pond at the Rochester Hollow house site is too shallow and small to support a traditional fishery. A goldfish had appeared for a time but has not been sighted in recent history.

3. Visual Resources

The visual attributes of the Shandaken Wild Forest are not necessarily derived from summit views, although natural views are possible at the heads of Rochester, Seneca and Millbrook hollows. A spectacular view of Belleayre Mountain can be seen year ‘round from the upper fields on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel in Pine Hill. In addition, visual opportunities abound throughout the unit which include streams, ponds, fields, a variety of wildlife and vegetation including a significant amount of red and sugar maple trees which produce an array of brilliant colors for fall viewing. The Lower Birch Creek Road parcel is especially capable of producing beautiful fall foliage due to the abundance of open grown maples in the end of this valley.

4. Historic Resources

The John Burroughs Memorial Forest is one of the more noted historical resources found in the area. This forest consists of White and Norway spruce plantations established on an abandoned farm site in Rochester Hollow from elevation 2,160 to 2,350 feet. A concrete marker dedicating the forest to Burroughs is located at the lower

elevation near the hairpin turn on the Rochester Hollow access road.

The plantations were established by the Raymond Riordon School as described on the marker (See section B.9. Historical Markers on page 7).

A second historic resource found partially on the Shandaken Wild Forest is the Shandaken Tunnel. This tunnel was constructed to allow the New York City Board of Water Supply to connect the Schoharie watershed to the Ashokan watershed. The tunnel excavation was completed February 13, 1923. The completed tunnel is 18.2 miles long and attains a maximum depth of 2200 feet below surface with an average depth of 750 feet. The finished tunnel measures 10 feet 3 inches wide by 11 feet 6 inches high. According to “The Shandaken Tunnel,” a report issued in May 1923 by Ulen & Company, the company contracted to build the tunnel, the tunnel is capable of transporting 600 million gallons of water a day. To excavate through the rock, 2.5 million pounds of dynamite was placed in 570 miles of drilled holes. Approximately 220 thousand yards of concrete was used as a partial replacement of the 584 thousand cubic yards of rock removed.

This tunnel remains a man-made marvel even by today’s standards.

Many remnants of farms, tanneries, sawmills and bluestone mining can be found throughout the forest preserve including the lands which make up the Shandaken Wild Forest. Many foundations and remnants of old roads still exist throughout the unit and attract visitors interested in the history of the area. This is especially true of the visitors to Rochester Hollow, an area with significant remnants of past use.

5. Critical Habitat

Critical Habitat contains, or contributes to the preservation of species listed as rare, threatened or endangered by the Department in 6NYCRR Part 193.

As of December 2000, the New York State Natural

Heritage Database identified no rare, threatened or endangered species or habitats within the Shandaken Wild Forest. Although no critical species have been observed in the unit, one has been noted nearby. The Blunt-Lobed Grape Fern (*Botrychium oneidense*), a vascular plant listed as exploitably vulnerable, has been noted in the vicinity of the Shandaken Wild Forest.

All management activities for this Wild Forest unit will consider the probability that this species may be present in, or utilize portions of the unit.

6. Wild Forest

The Master Plan classifies State lands within the Park based on their character and capacity to withstand use. The Master Plan, at page 34, defines wild forest as: “a section of Forest Preserve where the resource can sustain a somewhat higher degree of human use than a wilderness area. It may contain, within its bounds, smaller areas of land or water that are essentially wilderness in character, where the fragility of the resource or other factors require wilderness management. A wild forest area is further defined as an area which lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness areas and which permits a wider variety of outdoor recreation.”

B. Man-Made Facilities

1. Public Roads

The following public roads abut the Shandaken Wild Forest at various locations, providing access to the unit:

- a. State Route 28
- b. Ulster County Route 47
- c. Lower Birch Creek Road
- d. Matyas Road
- e. Peck Hollow Road
- f. Broadstreet Hollow Road

2. Forest Roads (which include 20+ culverts)

- a. Rochester Hollow-approx. 2.77 miles
- b. Allaben Access - approx. 1 mile

3. Parking Lots

- a. Lower Birch Creek Road-3 cars
- b. Matyas Road-6 cars
- c. Peck Hollow Road-4 cars
- d. Route 28 East of the Allaben Cemetery (sawmill lot) - 6 cars

4. Easements

The lands of the Shandaken Wild Forest are subject to the following easements:

- a. Various spring and stream rights as recited in Deeds; Liber 559 page 71 (Rochester Hollow); Liber 1524 page 333 (Broadstreet Hollow); Liber 1674 page 77 (Bushnellsville).
- b. A Perpetual Easement of the City of New York pursuant to Chapter 724 of the Laws of 1905 as amended (New York City Aqueduct).
- c. A 33' wide Permanent Easement to the “Lean-to” parcel (private inholding within state land) over an existing mountain road described in Deed Liber 1433 page 209 (Peck Hollow).
- d. A 10' wide drainage easement and a 75' wide Right-of-Way for access to Lot 4 (a private inholding within state land), as shown on Filed Map #2812, described in Deed Liber 1345 page 314 (Allaben).
- e. A New York State Electric and Gas Easement described in Deed Liber 1419 page 988; and a N.Y.S. Department of Transportation Permanent Easement (for Route 28) described in Deed Liber 1632 page 18. (See Appendix E)

Easement Together With The lands of the Shandaken Wild Forest:

A 33' wide Permanent Easement over an existing mountain road (the same road as #3 above) from Peck Hollow Road through private lands as described in Deed Liber 1433 page 209 (Peck Hollow).

5. Barriers

a. **Matyas Road** - Two gates prohibit motor vehicle access to Forest Preserve lands in Rochester Hollow. One at the south end, the other on the north end.

b. **Peck Hollow Road** - A wood debris barricade prohibits motor vehicle access beyond the parking area on the east of Peck Hollow Road.

6. Designated Camping Sites (10)

- a. Allaben access - 8 sites
- b. Rochester Hollow - 2 sites

7. Existing Structures

a. Lower Birch Creek Road parcel - two story wood frame house, large post and beam barn, small cottage, wood house, workshop, sugar shack, spring house, fenced gardens and outdoor fireplace.

b. Rochester Hollow - large spring house and foundation remains of a garage.

c. Several improved springs/water lines (see easements), some of which are still in active use.

8. Miles of Boundary

Approximately 32.27 miles of boundary line adjoin private lands. Approximately 26.75 miles of boundary are in the Town of Shandaken with the remaining 5.52 miles in the Town of Lexington.

9. Historical Markers (1)

A concrete monument along the access road in Rochester Hollow with the inscription:

“JOHN BURROUGHS FOREST”

“MEMORIAL TO THE BELOVED NATURALIST, AUTHOR, AMERICAN OF SLABSIDES AND THE WORLD. REFORESTED BY HIS NEIGHBORS THE BOYS OF THE RAYMOND RIORDON SCHOOL, AND TO BE GIVEN THEIR PERPETUAL, JOYOUS CARE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION”

April 18th 1921”

A photograph of this marker is found in appendix G.

10. Signs

There is one road side “Forest Preserve Access” sign at the intersection of the Allaben access road and Route 28. A parking area sign is located in the Peck Hollow parking area and various Department rules and regulations signs can be found within this unit.

C. Cultural/Historic Impact

Numerous visitors to the unit take advantage of the environment to enhance their knowledge and experience in the field of camping, hiking, photography, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, trapping, botany, geology, ornithology and zoology. Various groups ranging from schools to religious organizations to scouts and outing clubs utilize the forest preserve for various recreation activities. Many are looking for the challenges of self reliance, while others simply wish to have a quiet setting for study or to simply get back in touch with the natural environment. Some come to examine the subtle reminders of past history of what is now forest preserve.

D. Economic Impact

Visitors are attracted to this area for a variety of

recreational and cultural uses and have a positive impact on hotels, motels, campgrounds, groceries, service stations, restaurants, and sporting goods stores. The many Catskill Region resorts utilize the mountain background as a passive setting for their recreational enterprises. Private campgrounds and resorts adjacent to public lands also directly utilize the facilities provided by these public lands.

While it is clear that the indirect effects on tourism and private land values in the Catskill region that result from the existence and use of the Forest Preserve are substantial, they are understood only in general terms. On the other hand, the economic benefits directly conferred on the region by the payment of property taxes can be quantified.

Under Section 532A of the Real Property Tax Law, “all wild or forest lands owned by the state within the Forest Preserve” are taxable for all purposes.

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

The State pays full property taxes based on bare land value. The latest available figures for the Shandaken Wild Forest are:

Town	Acres	Total Taxes 1998 (\$)	Average Taxes/Acre 1998 (\$)
Lexington	1191 acres +/-	\$23,641.35	\$19.85
Shandaken	4184.6 acres +/-	\$131,982.28	\$31.54
Total	5375.6 acres +/-	\$155,623.63	\$28.95

E. Public Use of Area

The public visits the Shandaken Wild Forest for a variety of primitive recreational programs which include hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking and historical enquiry. There are presently no trail registers located within this unit to record use such as those found in many of the adjacent forest preserve units. However, use is estimated to be substantial as observed by Forest Rangers and Department personnel as well as from public comments received.

Rochester Hollow is a favored location for the cross-country skiing and mountain biking community due to the existence of a gravel road leading to the Rochester Estate ruins. Hunters also frequent the area due to moderate game levels and ease of pedestrian access via the road.

The Allaben parcel is utilized predominantly as a primitive campsite that receives significant use during the peak camping season and offers an alternative to State and private campgrounds where a fee is charged.

The Lower Birch Creek Road parcel is becoming a destination for families and local residents wishing to enjoy the various features typically found surrounding a Nineteenth Century Catskill farmstead. Ponds entice one’s interest in fishing while the fields, apple orchards, and surrounding woodlands make a picturesque setting for a variety of family activities. Photographers can also be tempted by the view of Belleayre Mountain which at times is spectacular.

F. Capacity of the Resource to Withstand Use

The ability of this unit to withstand use is a function of its physical and biological resources as well as the type of use the area receives.

1. Land Resource

Soil characteristics play a major role in an area’s

ability to withstand use. Soils in this unit are generally well drained. Erosion can be a problem on steeper terrain if proper water diversion devices are not utilized in the construction of trails. Water bars, drainage dips, ditches and other devices will be utilized along with vegetation to help stabilize trails.

In valley bottoms, ravines, upland benches and other areas with little relief, drainage is poor resulting in ponding, vernal pools, wetlands and seasonally muddy areas. These areas are poorly suited to many types of recreation unless significant drainage and/or trail hardening occurs. Trails will be routed to avoid such areas when possible, otherwise the wet areas must be drained, hardened or bridged to prevent erosion, compaction or other adverse impacts to the area.

The ability of this unit to withstand hiking and similar uses in most areas is high. Areas such as the Rochester Hollow road provide a hardened and stable treadway designed originally for vehicle use and should have no trouble withstanding significant public use as an access trail. The Allaben parcel has several designated campsites that have been hardened through use and are able to withstand continued use as long as users do not degrade the area. Baseline data should be collected for existing campsites to aid in monitoring their condition and changes in condition. The Limits of Acceptable Change system developed by the USDA Forest Service should be utilized to determine if or when sites need to be added, removed or relocated as need arises in order to preserve the character of the area. In addition, the ability of this unit to accommodate the public's demand for primitive camping in other than designated sites is dependent upon their compliance with the Department's regulations which prohibit camping within 150 feet from any trail, road or water throughout the year except at areas designated by the Department. Without strict compliance, soil compaction, erosion, degradation of vegetation, water pollution and deterioration of the character of the area could result.

2. Wildlife Resources

Two types of visitor use are directly associated with wildlife. The first is wildlife photography and observation, a non-consumptive use and the second is hunting and trapping. There are no known animal species within this unit that cannot

tolerate the occasional presence of humans. Therefore the ability of this unit to withstand non-consumptive use is high.

White-tailed deer are the most commonly harvested species in this unit. Although the actual deer harvest from this unit is not known, the following table gives a breakdown of deer harvested in the two towns in which this unit falls.

AVERAGE ANNUAL DEER HARVEST (1995-1999) BY TOWN		
TOWN	ADULT MALES	TOTAL DEER
Shandaken	173	197
Lexington	125	186

Black bear are also hunted within this unit. The following table gives the breakdown of black bear harvested by town.

AVERAGE ANNUAL BLACK BEAR HARVEST (1995-1999) BY TOWN	
Shandaken	16
Lexington	6

Turkeys are probably the most hunted small game species in the unit. The average annual turkey harvest by town is shown in the following table.

AVERAGE ANNUAL TURKEY HARVEST (1995-1999) BY TOWN	
Shandaken	70
Lexington	110

The average annual furbearer harvest for the two towns within this unit are shown in the following table.

AVERAGE ANNUAL FURBEARER HARVEST (1995-1999) BY TOWN		
	Shandaken	Lexington
Beaver	10	8
Bobcat	3.4	1.4

**AVERAGE ANNUAL FURBEARER
HARVEST (1995-1999) BY TOWN**

Fisher	0.2	0
Coyote	4.6	5

These numbers represent a light harvest when compared to similar and/or adjoining towns. Although wildlife populations are much lower in the Catskills than many other places in the State, the current consumptive use of wildlife by hunters and trappers in this unit appears too low to have any detrimental effect on their populations. While the impacts on “non-game” species populations is not well understood at this time, studies are being conducted to assess what effect, if any, the present use levels have on the wildlife species found within this unit.

3. Fisheries Resource

In evaluating the capacity of the fisheries resource within this unit to withstand use, two aspects must be considered. Brook trout are the major species of fish found within this unit. Brook trout are generally considered to be easily caught. An increase in pressure could result in a decrease in the quantity of the fish caught. This may also apply to the other species of fish found within this unit. Secondly, if the level of usage increases significantly, the overall experience of the angler may be compromised in relation to crowding. Presently the fishing pressure in this unit is believed to be low. Fishing pressure is much greater outside this unit in areas where there are more fishable waters, such as the Esopus Creek along Route 28. Given the current statewide regulations and the low level of public use in this unit, there is little chance that the fish populations are being adversely affected by anglers in the Shandaken Wild Forest.

However, waters within this unit as well as most of the Catskill Forest Preserve have been identified as being sensitive to acid deposition, especially during snow melt, due to the very low buffering capacity of the geology of the region. The buffering capacity of a water will determine how much acidity that water can withstand before experiencing a drop in pH. Increased acidity (lower pH) can lower the reproductive potential and/or be lethal to fish. Over time, decreasing pH can change the abundance and distribution of fish and other aquatic organisms. This situation is

being monitored by several organizations including the Department. In the event that acid precipitation creates acidic conditions which threaten fish populations within this unit, a liming policy may be implemented to neutralize acidic waters. Any such program will be consistent with the Department’s Revised Liming Policy (June 1991). The Policy has established a series of qualifying criteria, all of which must be met prior to any liming treatment.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Past Management

Previous to 1985, management of Forest Preserve lands was guided primarily by the “forever wild” clause of Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution (see Constraints, page 12). Specific management activities were primarily concerned with fire control, protection of the forest from degradation and fish and wildlife management. In 1985, the Department completed a Master Plan which provided additional management guidelines as well as classifying Catskill forest preserve lands into four basic categories: Wilderness, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, and Administrative. The Master Plan further provides guidelines for the management of each classification.

The guidelines for wild forest areas are found in Appendix H.

Past management of the Shandaken Wild Forest prior to State ownership occurred at different levels depending on the particular parcel. The Rochester Hollow and the Lower Birch Creek Road parcels were cleared and farmed. The Allaben parcel had been logged and subdivided for development purposes. The Peck Hollow parcel had also been logged, with portions utilized for farming purposes.

After State acquisition and prior to the writing of this proposed unit management plan, the Shandaken Wild Forest was managed and utilized as described below.

The Rochester Hollow acquisition included several buildings, including a house near the end of the road on the State lands. The house and

outbuildings were used by the Department's trail crew as a headquarters. The road was improved to accommodate heavy equipment such as dump trucks and equipment trailers and was utilized until the mid 1970's. The trail crew subsequently removed all their equipment and relocated to a shack on the Allaben parcel along State Route 28 next to the Allaben Cemetery. In the winter of 1984, the house and outbuildings were razed with the exception of the spring house. A parking area was created at the end of Matyas Road for public access and a gate was installed in the back of the parking lot to prohibit motor vehicle access to the road leading through Rochester Hollow.

The majority of the Allaben parcel was purchased in 1975 with an additional acquisition in 1986. This acquisition consisted of a defunct housing development which only produced one utilized house lot. This house is an exception to the State owned parcel and is privately held with an easement over state lands for access. The State owned parcel has predominantly been utilized as a primitive camping area with eight(8) designated campsites. In addition, the trail crew utilized the shack and immediate surrounding area for storage of trail supplies and as an informal field headquarters. Due to its deteriorating condition, the building was removed in the spring of 2000 and most trail supplies moved to the Region 3 office in New Paltz.

The Peck Hollow parcel has not received as much use as the others due to access issues to the west side of Peck Hollow Road. A parking area was installed in 1998 to help facilitate access to the east of Peck Hollow Road. A brush barricade has been placed at the beginning of an old woods road starting from the back of the parking area as a deterrent to motor vehicle access.

The Lower Birch Creek Road parcel, the most recent addition to this unit, has had a significant amount of usage. The parcel contains an old farmhouse, barn and several outbuildings that have been utilized since May 1999 as a headquarters for a contracted trail crew during the summer work seasons. In addition, the barn and fields have been used as a field headquarters for DEC personnel supervising inmate work crews. The crews have been responsible for the upkeep of the grounds and have utilized the fields to prefabricate several Adirondack style log lean-tos to be used in the interior of the forest preserve. The remainder of this parcel has received no

active management other than protection as forest preserve.

1. Wildlife

Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution has direct implications on the management of wildlife. Cutting or burning of trees or other vegetation to modify habitat is not permissible within the Forest Preserve under the "Forever Wild" constraints of Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. Natural succession is allowed to progress toward ecological climax on Forest Preserve lands. Some wildlife populations will not be as large under these conditions as if habitat manipulation were allowed. The Forest Preserve concept provides a strategy of land management that does not favor any particular species, but rather places emphasis on the protection of natural processes.

Wildlife management in this unit has generally been limited to regulations controlling season, species, method of taking and bag limits. These regulations pertain to the state in general and to specific Wildlife Management Units. There are no special wildlife management regulations specific to the Shandaken Wild Forest.

2. Fisheries

Past fisheries management has been primarily limited to the occasional stocking of brook, brown and rainbow trout. There are no current stocking policies for any waters located within this unit. All waters within this unit are subject to the statewide general fishing regulations with no special harvest regulations imposed. A population census was conducted in the spring of 2001 for the two ponds on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. Population census will continue to be performed periodically by the Department.

B. Constraints and Issues Affecting the Planning Area

1. Constraints

a. Legal Considerations

This UMP has been developed pursuant to, and is consistent with, relevant provisions of the New York State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation law, the Executive Law, the Catskill

Park State Land Master Plan, and applicable Department rules and regulations.

The lands of the Shandaken Wild Forest are Forest Preserve lands protected by Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. This Constitutional provision, which became effective on January 1, 1895, provides in relevant part:

“The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.”

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

The Catskill Park State land Master Plan (“Master Plan”) was initially adopted in 1985 by the Department, and provides the overall general framework for the development and management of State lands in the Catskill Park, including those Forest Preserve lands which are the subject of this UMP.

The Master Plan places State land within the Catskill Park into the following classifications: Wilderness, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, and State Administrative, and sets forth management guidelines for the lands falling within each major classification. Guidelines are set forth for such matters as: structures and improvements; ranger stations; the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft; roads, jeep trails and state truck trails, flora and fauna, recreation use and overuse; boundary structures and improvements and boundary markings. Actions by the State on lands covered by the Master Plan must be consistent with the provisions of the Master Plan.

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

This UMP, and all actions undertaken pursuant to

it, are also subject to the following laws, rules, regulations, and policies:

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL):

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

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

Chapter I:	Fish and Wildlife
Chapter II:	Lands and Forests
Chapter III:	Air Resources
Chapter IV:	Quality Services
Chapter V:	Resource Management Services
Chapter X:	Division of Water Resources

Department Policies:

Acquisition
Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles on the Forest Preserve (CP-17)
Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-95-1)
Fish Species Management
Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities (CP-3)
Public Use
Temporary Revocable Permits
Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands

Division of Lands & Forests Policies:

Fire places and Fire rings
Foot bridges
Foot trails
Primitive camping sites
Road Barriers
Sanitary facilities
Trailheads

b. 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 process. The assessment established the need for new or upgraded facilities or assets necessary to meet ADA mandates, in compliance with the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Master Plan. 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 "Proposed Management Recommendations" section.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

The 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, campsites 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.

2. Issues

a. Lower Birch Creek Road Parcel

Easy access from Lower Birch Creek Road, no gate preventing motor vehicle access and no nearby neighbors increases the potential for vandalism and/or abuse to occur. In addition, structures on forest preserve lands need to be addressed as per constraints as listed above and specifically as described in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (See Appendix H). This issue is further addressed in the “Projected Use and Management Proposed” section beginning on page 16.

b. Allaben Parcel

Ease of access from Route 28 and proximity to existing State campgrounds has led to site degradation/abuse. In some instances, users wishing to avoid the structured setting of a formal campground or those that have been removed from a campground have migrated to the designated sites at Allaben. Sanitation has become a problem at some of the designated campsites. Currently, there is one accessible port-a-john located in this area. This issue is further addressed in the “Projected Use and Management Proposed” section beginning on page 16.

c. Access

Access to this unit is fair, however additional access would facilitate public use. Access to the Peck Hollow parcel is limited due to private holdings along the road. Additional access is needed for the west side of the Peck Hollow Road. There is potential for an additional parking area near the county line on a parcel recently utilized as a log landing. Potential acquisition by the State will be based strictly on a willing seller/willing buyer agreement consistent with the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan(2002) or subsequent updates.

d. Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan

This plan was published in August 1999 and was written “To provide additional guidance for forest preserve planning by taking a Preserve-wide perspective on the management of public use and

natural resources.” In addition, the plan calls for cooperation between private and public sectors to enhance the use, enjoyment and protection of the forest preserve and “to identify opportunities to enhance the quality and enjoyment of the forest preserve experience for Catskill Park residents and visitors.”

The Shandaken Wild Forest, due to its proximity to State Route 28 and ease of access, could provide additional recreational opportunities for visitors including families and persons with disabilities.

e. Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling was identified in the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan as a recreational use of Forest Preserve best suited to areas on “wild forest lands where the relatively gentle terrain, the presence of old roads, and light use by hikers makes them well suited for this use.” Though portions of the Shandaken Wild Forest fit this description, the Shandaken Wild Forest in and of itself is not a large enough area for development of a snowmobile trail system. Several informal meetings were held in the Town of Shandaken during the winter of 2000 to discuss the potential of snowmobiling across portions of the Forest Preserve. A snowmobile trail system created in this area would require the combination of both State and private lands to provide adequate mileage to produce a useable system. To date, no formal proposal has been brought to the attention of the DEC regarding the use of State owned lands in the Town of Shandaken.

f. Easements

There are several easements of both public access across private lands as well as private access across public lands that need to be surveyed, marked, and posted with appropriate signage or otherwise maintained. This issue needs to be addressed so that access or restrictions to access are clearly marked and maintained for ease of public use.

g. Outhouses

Currently there are two accessible port-a-johns open to the public on this unit. Although it is not a requirement to provide such facilities on forest preserve, in some instances, facilities such as pit privies or port-a-johns may be necessary for protection of the resource. This is especially true at the Allaben and Lower Birch Creek Road parcels.

h. Signs

Although there are currently no marked trails within this unit, bulletin boards as utilized in other units provide valuable information to users and should be located in the major parking areas in this unit. In addition, roadside signage is poor or non-existent.

C. Goals and Objectives

1. Goals

- a. To preserve and protect the wild forest character of the unit.
- b. To provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of outdoor recreation for users of all abilities.
- c. To provide opportunities for education and for historic and scientific research.

2. Objectives

a. Land Management Objectives

- (1) Maintain boundary lines to clearly identify public ownership and discourage trespass on private land.
- (2) Selectively acquire additional lands contiguous to the unit which will consolidate the State's holdings, simplify boundary lines and/or protect unique areas, provide additional or improved access or otherwise enhance the area. Any such acquisitions will be purchased from willing sellers and be governed by the Conserving Open Space in New York State Plan(2002) and any subsequent updates.
- (3) Maintain the present facilities and structures on the unit to facilitate management of the forest preserve as proposed in the "Projected Use and Management" section.
- (4) Coordinate activities between the divisions of the Department throughout

the unit.

b. Wildlife Management Objectives

- (1) Maintain wildlife species at levels within the carrying capacities of this unit through current hunting/trapping regulations.
- (2) Maintain hunting, trapping and other forms of wildlife related recreational activities.

c. Fisheries Management Objectives

- (1) To preserve, enhance, and restore where needed, fisheries habitats to achieve and perpetuate the historic quality of the fish communities found in all streams occurring within this unit.
- (2) To enhance the angling experience for both the young and persons with disabilities through more intensive management of the ponded waters within the unit.
- (3) Identify future management objectives resulting from information gained during ongoing fisheries studies surrounding the unit.

d. Water Quality Management Objectives

Maintain free flowing water courses in their natural condition and free of human-induced contaminants such that water quality is not impaired.

e. Public Use Management Objectives

- (1) Provide recreational opportunities to the extent that they do not infringe upon the wild forest character of the area.
- (2) Monitor the level and intensity of public use and to take appropriate steps to prevent overuse or degradation to the unit.
- (3) Educate visitors on proper use of the area to reduce the risk of degradation.

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

A. Facilities Development and/or Removal

1. Create an Administrative Use Area:

The Lower Birch Creek Road building complex has proven useful as a trail crew headquarters for workers performing back country trail maintenance under contract. In addition, the buildings and grounds have been utilized by Department work crews prefabricating Adirondack style log lean-tos for future installation in remote forest preserve settings. Because of this site's suitability for these and other administrative tasks, the Department proposes that the Lower Birch Creek Road building complex be classified as an Administrative Use Area.

The Administrative Use Area would consist of five existing structures to include the house, a large barn, a workshop, a sugar shack and a small cottage. In addition to the structures, this Administrative area would encompass an approximate 5.75 acre portion (including two ponds) of open areas on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel surrounding the structures and to include what formerly was maintained as lawn areas. This will allow the Department to develop opportunities for fishing, and outdoor recreation. It will be managed for the purpose of providing developed recreational opportunities for a variety of people including families and persons with disabilities and to provide an open area for lean-to pre-construction. Further, it will be managed to provide for the historical use of this parcel for diversified recreation such as organized group events, wildlife observation, star gazing, picnicking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and similar pursuits.

The Department has utilized a portion of this open area for lean-to preconstruction for many years. Lean-tos are built, disassembled and packaged for transport to remote locations in the Forest Preserve. Classification of this area as Administrative Use will allow the Department to continue to maintain this portion of open area for the lean-to construction process on State lands.

The remaining structure, the woodshed, serves no administrative purpose and therefore will be removed.

A map depicting the proposed intensive use area is attached in Appendix F.

2. Establish a parking area on Lower Birch Creek Road:

The majority of public use on this parcel is expected to be day use by families seeking recreational activities. It is also expected that the majority of public use will occur during the warmer months of the year when family activities such as picnicking, hiking, birdwatching and fishing are common. Currently, the only available public parking is below the lower pond. This parking area will only allow parking for two to three vehicles. Additional parking will be necessary to accommodate public use. A seven car parking area will therefore be created in addition to the current parking area. This parking area will be established along the East side of the driveway, adjacent to the lower pond. Tree cutting will be minimal and will be in accordance with Department policy for tree cutting in the Forest Preserve. Water control devices will be installed to protect the site from erosion and to protect the water quality of the stream. Two accessible parking spaces will be designated within this seven car parking area. Both spaces will be designated near the accessible fishing platform and port-a-john described below.

* This parking area was constructed during the summer of 2004 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) settlement agreement time table.

3. Install a gate on Lower Birch Creek Road:

The access to the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel is the driveway leading from the end of Lower Birch Creek Road. Currently there is no structure prohibiting vehicular access to the fields beyond the farmhouse. There have been instances where unauthorized motor vehicles have accessed the Forest Preserve. To prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access to the buildings and fields beyond the parking area and to protect the environment, a gate will be installed across the driveway between the upper and lower ponds, adjacent to the sugar shack.

* A gate was installed in the spring of 2004 to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access on the ADA facilities under construction.

4. Develop Accessible Fishing Facility:

A fishing platform will be constructed adjacent to the lower pond on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. This area will be constructed to provide fishing access for a variety of users, including families and persons with disabilities.

* Accessible platform installed spring 2002 as an Eagle Scout project in conformance with ADA.

5. Construct an Accessible Path and Picnic Area around the lower pond on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel:

An accessible path will be constructed beginning at the seven car parking area and will continue to an accessible information kiosk(see project #17). From here, the trail will be routed around the north and west side of the lower pond and will include an accessible picnic area near the pond.

* This path and picnic area was constructed during the summer of 2004 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) settlement agreement time table.

6. Install Accessible Pit Privy/Port-a-John on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel:

Public use of this parcel will require appropriate sanitation facilities to protect the resource from degradation. A pit privy or port-a-john will be installed at a convenient location to aid in sanitation for public use. The location will be chosen for both convenience and for protection of the resource and will be accessible to persons with disabilities. The port-a-john will be installed for eight (8) months per year during the peak season.

* Accessible port-a-john installed spring 2002 for eight months and is continuing on an annual basis in conformance with the ADA settlement.

7. Construct and install two (2) accessible picnic tables on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel:

Construct and install two (2) accessible picnic tables on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. Both will be located in the picnic area along the accessible path on the west side of the lower pond.

* Picnic tables were installed during the summer of 2004 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) settlement agreement time table.

The recreational enhancements to the Lower Birch Creek road Administrative Use Area implement proposals as outlined in the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan.

8. Construct an accessible Lean-to in Rochester Hollow:

Construct an accessible Adirondack style log lean-to for purpose of providing a “back country” camping experience for persons with disabilities and families new to the forest preserve who may require ease of access. An accessible pit privy will be installed near the lean-to for sanitation purposes.

This lean-to will be located in the general vicinity of the Rochester homestead site, approximately 2.3 miles from the trailhead along the Rochester Hollow road and at least 150 feet from the road. This road provides convenient access for hikers and families with no modification necessary. Construction materials can be transported to the site with no further road improvement. Persons with disabilities will, pending approval of this plan, have all terrain vehicular access through a permit process(see project # 10). The permit will allow for such use from May 1st to December 15th unless the road is snow covered, at which time motor vehicle access will be prohibited to allow for cross-country skiing(see project #9).

This location will provide a similar camping experience to those found throughout the forest preserve that are not easily accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, a spring is located nearby and is already established for use as a water supply.

9. Rochester Hollow Cross Country Ski/Mountain Bike/Hiking Trail:

There is a strong interest in outdoor recreational activities in the Town of Shandaken, including winter sports. Many of these activities occur on State lands, including significant usage in Rochester Hollow for cross country skiing and mountain biking. To increase the available opportunity for this recreational activity, the following is proposed:

Designate the 2.77 mile State owned portion of the Rochester Hollow Road as a cross country ski/mountain bike/hiking trail. This trail will be

appropriately marked and maintained.

Establish a cross country ski/mountain bike/hiking loop trail in Rochester Hollow. The new loop will likely begin near the hair pin turn on the Rochester Hollow access road and generally head in a west/southwest direction. The trail will utilize the contours and open terrain associated with the old farm sites, providing the user with a scenic tour of past uses of this portion of the Forest Preserve. The trail will eventually turn to the north and re-join the Rochester Hollow Road near the end of the State owned lands. This trail will offer the user an opportunity for an alternative setting for a portion of the return trip. The trail will be cut to a width of eight feet and appropriate height so as to accommodate skiing, mountain biking and other forms of non-motorized recreation. The trail will be approximately 1-2 miles in length. Appropriate water diversion devices will be utilized to divert runoff and help stabilize the tread and to protect the resource. Tree cutting will be kept to a minimum by diverting the trail around the larger trees or critical areas when possible.

A map of the proposed trail can be found in Appendix C.

A trail register will be erected along the Rochester Hollow access road above the Matyas Road parking area.

* Trail register was installed during the summer of 2004 to assess current and future use.

10. Rochester Hollow Road - Access for People with Disabilities:

Designate the Rochester Hollow Road for all terrain vehicle access for persons with disabilities by permit issued by the Department pursuant to Commissioner Policy CP-3. Persons with disabilities seeking motorized access for purpose of recreating in the Forest Preserve would be able to operate an all terrain vehicle on the Rochester Hollow Road between May 1st and December 15th unless snow covered, at which time motor vehicle access will be prohibited to allow for cross-country skiing(see project #9). This permit strictly allows access to programs such as primitive camping, hunting, bird watching, and similar pursuits but does not allow for the riding of all terrain vehicles for the sole purpose in and of itself as recreation. This strict permitting of the use of

an all terrain vehicle will allow persons with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy their pursuits in a semi-primitive setting not readily available to them in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

The gate at the entrance to Rochester Hollow road will remain closed to prevent illegal motor vehicle use. Recipients of a CP-3 permit wishing to utilize the road will be allowed access through the gate via a key or combination to the lock.

11. Enlarge the current parking area at the end of Matyas Road(Rochester Hollow):

The parking area located at the end of Matyas Road in Rochester Hollow is inadequate for current and potential future use. The existing parking area can hold approximately six cars. This parking area will be increased in size to allow for parking of up to ten cars and will be made accessible to persons with disabilities wishing to utilize the Rochester Hollow Road. Tree cutting will be minimal and in conformance with Department policies for tree cutting in the Forest Preserve.

12. Define parking area on Allaben Parcel

The parking area located on the north side of Route 28 before the Allaben Cemetery known locally as the "sawmill" will be improved and widened for ease of access. The parking area will be surfaced with gravel or other appropriate materials as necessary and defined with boulders. A "Forest Preserve Access Parking" sign will be installed and area maintained. Tree cutting is unlikely due to an existing opening.

13. Construct and designate two (2) accessible primitive campsites on the Allaben Parcel

Construct and designate two accessible primitive campsites. One site will be located at the end of the right side cul-de-sac, the second site will be located near the pond. Both locations are existing designated campsites which will be upgraded to meet accessibility standards. Construction of accessible paths will be required for both sites. Two (2) accessible picnic tables will be constructed and installed, one for each accessible site.

* This project was completed during the summer of 2004 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) settlement agreement time table.

14. Install Accessible Pit Privy/Port-a-John on the Allaben parcel:

Public use of this parcel will require appropriate sanitation facilities to protect the resource from degradation. A pit privy or port-a-john will be installed at a convenient location to service the accessible campsites and aid sanitation. The location will be chosen for both convenience and for protection of the resource and will be accessible to persons with disabilities. The port-a-john will be installed for eight (8) months per year during the peak season.

* Accessible port-a-john installed spring 2002 for eight months and is continuing on an annual basis in conformance with the ADA settlement.

15. Construct a parking area in Broad Street Hollow:

Construct a two car parking area on the west side of Broad Street Hollow Road north of the Greene County line. This parking area will provide additional access to the east side of the Peck Hollow parcel where access has been limited. Tree cutting is unlikely due to an existing opening.

16. Install Gate in Peck Hollow:

A gate will be installed at the back of the parking area in Peck Hollow prohibiting vehicular access to the forest road in the rear of the lot.

17. Erect Four Information Boards:

An information board will be constructed at each of the following parking areas:

* Allaben Access Road - accessible(ADA)

This project was completed during the summer of 2004 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) settlement agreement time table.

* Peck Hollow Parking Area

* Matyas Road/Rochester Hollow Parking Area

Installed fall 2001 as part of an Eagle Scout project.

* Lower Birch Creek Road Parking Area - accessible(ADA)

This project was completed during the summer of 2004 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) settlement agreement time table.

18. Signs:

Signs will be established and maintained at each of the major parking areas.

Some directional signs may be necessary at the intersection of Matyas Road and Route 28, Peck Hollow Road and Route 28 and Birch Creek Road and Route 28.

Interior trail markers and directional signs will be established after completion of the cross country ski/mountain bike/hiking trail in Rochester Hollow.

Existing regulatory signs will be maintained and additional ones installed as necessary. An "Administrative Use Area" sign will be installed on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel.

19. Remove Dump Remains in Broadstreet Hollow:

Two locations on the west side of Broad Street Hollow Road north of the county line contain the remnants of an old dump. These remains will be removed.

20. Gather baseline data for existing designated campsites and monitor their condition and change:

All of the existing campsites on the unit will be surveyed for baseline data regarding the size of the de-vegetated area and the condition of the facilities. Using the Limits of Acceptable Change system developed by the USDA Forest Service, parameters will be developed to determine when campsites should be relocated or removed. Campsites will be re-surveyed every two years to ascertain if the parameters have been met or exceeded.

B. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities

1. Allaben Access Road:

The Allaben access road is rutted and in poor repair. This road will be resurfaced and appropriate water diversion devices installed. This road will continue to be maintained for public motor vehicle(automotive) access to the designated campsites found along both branches of the cul-de-sac.

2. Rochester Hollow Road:

The Rochester Hollow access road will be maintained at a level allowing for motorized vehicle access for administrative purposes and for persons with disabilities under permit. The maintenance of this road will not be to passenger car standards. This road will be designated as a cross country ski/mountain bike/hiking trail. This trail will not be plowed during periods of snow cover.

3. Burrough's Plaque:

The historic Burrough's marker will be repaired/replaced to original condition. Stone steps will be located to provide clear entrance into and out of the marker area. The stone wall surrounding the marker will be maintained.

4. Lower Birch Creek Road Administrative Use Area:

The open areas surrounding the buildings which are included in the Administrative Use area will be maintained for both public and administrative purposes as described in the proposed "Administrative Use" area.

5. Parking Areas:

The parking areas will be maintained for vehicular use. Maintenance will include snow removal as necessary and appropriate signage.

6. Boundary Line Maintenance:

Boundary lines including easements, will be surveyed, marked and painted as necessary, on a 6-year rotation basis.

C. Public Use Management and Controls

1. Group Camping

The regulatory provisions regarding group camping(6NYCRR Part 190.4) state: "no group of 10 or more individuals may camp on State lands at any one time except under permit" issued by the Department. In wild forest areas, groups of individuals numbering between ten and twenty can obtain a camping permit from the local Forest Ranger. Groups consisting of more than twenty individuals wishing to camp in wild forest areas must obtain a Temporary Revocable Permit(TRP) issued by the Regional or Supervising Forester in the Division of Lands and Forests working in the regional office.

Designated campsites will be maintained and modified as necessary to accommodate public use and to prevent site degradation.

2. Vehicular Use

All motor vehicle use by the public in the Shandaken Wild Forest is restricted to the access road in the Allaben parcel, the Rochester Hollow Road(for persons with disabilities under permit) and designated parking areas. Barriers and appropriate signage will prohibit all other public motorized vehicular use.

3. Administrative Use Area

The buildings on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel will be posted as Administrative Use and will not be open to the public.

D. Fish and Wildlife Management

1. Fisheries

All waters within the unit will continue to be managed under current statewide general fishing regulations.

The Bureau of Fisheries inventoried the ponds located on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel utilizing electrofishing in May 2001 which yielded the following results:

The upper pond has an abundant brook trout

population that appears to be self sustaining. However, this pond is very small(0.14 acres) and only a few feet deep, limiting the potential of the trout population. Due to the small size and shallow depth of this pond, the trout population is susceptible to predation and fishing.

The lower pond is approximately 0.46 acres in size with depths reaching ten feet. Despite the likelihood that brook trout from the upper pond recruit to the lower pond, few were found during electrofishing. Discussions with anglers confirms that some brown trout may also exist in this pond. It is likely that brook trout would do well in this pond, however, several factors may be limiting their success. Currently, brook trout may be emigrating from the lower pond via the spillway. By the same token, brown trout may be immigrating to the lower pond via the same spillway, competing with the brook trout.

To improve the lower pond's potential for retaining brook trout, the following will be installed:

A fish barrier will be installed at the outlet of the pond to prevent the emigration of brook trout out of the pond. In addition, this barrier will also prevent the potential immigration of brown trout into the pond, limiting competition between the brook trout and the brown trout.

A small spawning box will be installed in the lower pond to increase spawning and improve the chances of egg survival of the brook trout. The box will be located to provide an adequate environment for spawning while minimizing the potential for vandalism.

Additional restrictions may be necessary for the ponds on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel to accommodate the demands the public may have on the resource.

The current fishing regulations for trout calls for an open season from April 1 - October 15 with a daily limit of five with no size limit.

To encourage voluntary catch and release of trout from the ponds and streams located on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel, signs may be posted at the kiosk(information board) and possibly near the ponds. A formal catch and release regulation is

not deemed appropriate at this time because current fishing pressure does not appear to warrant it. Such a regulation may bring unnecessary attention to such a small resource and prove counter productive.

2. Wildlife

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

E. Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers

There are no water courses in this unit classified under the provisions of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Title 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

F. Fire Management

The Department is charged with protecting the Shandaken Wild Forest from fire under the provisions of Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The Towns of Shandaken and Lexington are fire towns. It is the Department's policy to extinguish all fires regardless of cause, ownership or classification. This policy dictates the fire management program for this unit.

Fire prevention, detection and suppression is the responsibility of the Forest Rangers assigned to the Towns of Shandaken and Lexington.

G. Administration

1. Staffing

a. Forest Ranger Staffing

The Shandaken Wild Forest unit falls within two different Towns and Ranger districts - Shandaken and Lexington. Rangers working out of the NYS DEC Region 3 office in New Paltz cover the Town of Shandaken while Rangers working out of the Region 4 office in Schenectady cover the Town of Lexington. These Rangers are the day to day

enforcers of the Department's Rules and Regulations and the Environmental Conservation Laws. They also perform searches, undertake fire detection and suppression and educate the public on the proper use of State lands. Their continued presence is essential in the management of this unit.

b. Operations Staffing

Thirty(30) work days of trail maintenance work need to be conducted annually to keep up with current maintenance needs. This work could be accomplished by a seasonal assistant supplied with a vehicle and the necessary tools to undertake trail, lean-to and sign maintenance.

c. Fish and Wildlife Staffing

The existing regional fish and wildlife management staff is currently adequate to handle all existing and proposed management activities requiring their assistance.

d. Preserve Management Staffing

Additional Legal and Real Property staff time is critical to resolving easement and access issues, survey boundary lines and resolve encroachment and occupancy issues.

2. Education

Educating users on proper use of State lands is essential to achieving long term protection of our natural resources. To assist with this process, a Shandaken Wild Forest brochure will be developed. This brochure may be developed in conjunction with the nearby Phoenicia-Mount Tobias Wild Forest unit. A map depicting the unit, area description and rules and regulations will be included.

Trailhead information boards will be constructed at the four major parking areas as described in the "Projected Use and Management Proposed" section to further assist users on proper use of State lands.

H. Land Acquisition

Additional land acquisition will be pursued as a means of protecting the integrity of the Shandaken Wild Forest, provide additional public access and to potentially link the four separate parcels together as one. Lands will be pursued in accordance with the provisions of the most recent revision of "Conserving Open Space in New York," a plan(OSP) developed jointly by DEC and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, with extensive public participation. The 2002 OSP identifies the Forest Preserve as a Land Protection Category and as a Major Resource Area. This plan recommends protection of two areas contiguous to the Shandaken Wild Forest:

- * New York City Watershed Lands
- * Catskill Mountain/Delaware River Region
- * Catskill Unfragmented Forest

The OSP further recommends the continuation of the use of scenic and conservation easement programs with private landowners on a voluntary basis as the preferred method of conserving forest land for the protection of watersheds, sensitive habitat areas and viewsheds.

In 1997, a Memorandum of Agreement regarding watershed issues was forged between the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Ad Hoc Environmental Coalition, the State of New York, New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the towns and counties within the Catskills. This Watershed Agreement created a cooperative program to protect New York City's water supply through land purchase in both fee and easement forms from willing sellers. New York City's authority to acquire lands within their watershed is governed by a water supply permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The 1997 watershed land acquisition permit requires NYC DEP to consult with DEC, local governments and a regional Sporting Advisory Committee regarding the recreational uses the DEP may allow on newly acquired fee parcels. The DEP shall allow for historic recreational uses, such as hunting, hiking and fishing to continue on the newly acquired parcels unless DEP determines that such uses threaten public safety or water quality. The use of these lands will be subject to rules and regulations promulgated, and/or permits issued, by the DEP. The DEC will take an active role in

pursuing public recreational use of lands the DEP may acquire in the future which may adjoin the Shandaken Wild Forest unit.

The Department will also pursue additional lands for acquisition within the Catskill Park, as broadly described in the Open Space Plan. Lands targeted for acquisition will only be purchased in fee or easement from willing sellers. The following is a list of project areas which the state would have an interest in acquiring:

- Rose Mountain area - potential linkage of Forest Preserve parcels.
- Two private inholdings in Peck Hollow parcel.
- Private inholding along Allaben access road.
- Large holding adjoining the east side of Seneca Hollow
- Large holding adjoining the southwest side of Millbrook Hollow.
- Large holding straddling the county line on the west side of Broad Street Hollow Road.
- Portions of the ridge on the west side of the Rochester Hollow road. If acquired, these parcels in conjunction with the existing State land, would allow for the construction of a return cross country ski trail of gradual descent to the parking area.
- Additional land along Matyas Road south of the Rochester Hollow parking area.

I. SEQR Requirements

The actions proposed in this unit management plan will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. A negative declaration has been filed. A copy is attached as Appendix A.

J. Relationship of this Unit with Other Forest Preserve Units

The Shandaken Wild Forest is centrally located in the Catskills along the Route 28 corridor. The Peck Hollow and Allaben parcels directly adjoin the West Kill Wilderness Area and provide additional access to this wilderness area. Several other forest preserve units are nearby and compliment the Shandaken Wild Forest including Slide Mountain Wilderness, Phoenicia-Mount Tobias Wild Forest, Halcott Mountain Wild Forest and the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. These nearby units provide a variety of additional recreational opportunities ranging from the solitude of wilderness to the more developed offerings at the ski center.

V. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/BUDGET

YEAR	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
I	Create an Administrative Use Area at Lower Birch Creek Rd	\$500
	Install gate on Lower Birch Creek Road parcel (Installed summer 2004)	\$ 0
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on Lower Birch Creek Road parcel for eight (8) months per year. (Installed in spring 2002 and is continuing on an annual basis in conformance with the ADA settlement)	port-a-john \$195/month for 8 months/yr \$1,560
	Erect an information board at the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. (Installed summer 2004)	\$0
	Develop accessible fishing platform at the Lower Birch Creek Road Parcel. (Completed 2002)	\$ 0
	Construct and install two (2) accessible picnic tables on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. (Completed summer 2004)	\$ 0
	Construct a six (6) car parking area on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. Two (2) parking spaces will be improved to meet accessibility guidelines and designated. (Completed summer 2004)	\$0
	Rehabilitate Allaben access road	\$25,000
	Construct and install two (2) accessible campsites on the Allaben parcel including accessible paths to each site. (Completed summer 2004)	\$0
	Construct and install two (2) accessible picnic tables on the Allaben parcel. One at each accessible campsite. (Completed summer 2004)	\$ 0
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Allaben parcel for eight (8) months per year. (Installed in spring 2002 and is continuing on an annual basis in conformance with the ADA settlement.)	port-a-john \$195/month for 8 months/yr \$1,560
	Construct an information board at the Allaben access road. (Installed summer 2004)	\$ 0
	Designate the Rochester Hollow Road for motor vehicle access by persons with disabilities who possess a valid permit from the DEC.	\$ 0
	Designate and mark the Rochester Hollow Road as a cross country ski/mountain bike/hiking trail.	\$500
	Erect an information board in Rochester Hollow (Matyas Road) parking area. (Installed 2002)	\$ 0
	Rochester Hollow road maintenance	\$2,500
	Lower Birch Creek Road Administrative Use Area maintenance	\$2,000
	Parking area maintenance including snow plowing	\$1,000

YEAR	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
	Boundary line maintenance - 5.5 miles/year @ \$300/mile	\$1,650
	Print Shandaken Wild Forest Brochure	\$1,000
	Gather baseline campsite data	\$2,000
	Install signs/designate and sign group campsites/maintenance	\$1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR YEAR I		\$40,770
II	Construct an accessible Adirondack style lean-to and pit privy in Rochester Hollow	\$4,500
	Establish a 2 mile cross country ski/mountain bike trail in Rochester Hollow	\$6,000
	Enlarge Matyas Road parking area in Rochester Hollow to 10 cars	\$5,000
	Replace/repair Burrough's plaque in Rochester Hollow	\$3,000
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Allaben parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$200/month for 8 months/yr \$1,600
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$200/month for 8 months/yr \$1,600
	Allaben access road maintenance	\$3,000
	Rochester Hollow road maintenance	\$2,500
	Lower Birch Creek Road Administrative Use Area maintenance	\$2,000
	Parking area maintenance including snow plowing	\$1,000
	Boundary line maintenance - 5.5 miles/year@ \$300/mile	\$1,650
	Print a Shandaken Wild Forest brochure	\$1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR YEAR II		\$32,850
III	Define parking area east of Allaben cemetery - "Sawmill Lot". Brush back, gravel and define with boulders. Erect sign.	\$5,000
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Allaben parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$205/month for 8 months/yr \$1,640
III	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$205/month for 8 months/yr \$1,640

YEAR	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
	Install gate at the back of Peck Hollow parking area	\$1,200
	Allaben access road maintenance	\$3,000
	Rochester Hollow access road maintenance	\$2,500
	Lower Birch Creek Road Administrative Use Area maintenance	\$2,000
	Parking area maintenance including snow plowing	\$1,000
	Boundary Line maintenance 5.5 miles/year@ \$300/mile	\$1,650
	Print a Shandaken Wild Forest brochure	\$1,000
	Re-survey campsites for comparison with Year I data	\$2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR YEAR III		\$22,630
IV	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$210/month for 8 months/yr \$1,680
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Allaben parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$210/month for 8 months/yr \$1,680
	Remove dump remains in Broad Street Hollow	\$3,000
	Construct a two car parking area in Broad Street Hollow	\$4,000
	Erect an information board in Peck Hollow parking area	\$2,000
	Allaben access road maintenance	\$3,000
	Rochester Hollow access road maintenance	\$2,500
	Lower Birch Creek Road Administrative Use Area maintenance	\$2,000
	Parking area maintenance including snow plowing	\$1,000
	Boundary line maintenance - 5.5 miles/year @ \$300/mile	\$1,650
	Print a Shandaken Wild Forest Brochure	\$1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR YEAR IV		\$23,510
V	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$215/month for 8 months/yr \$1,720
	Install accessible pit privy/port-a-john on the Allaben parcel for eight (8) months per year.	Port-a-john \$215/month \$1,720

YEAR	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
	Allaben access road maintenance	\$3,000
	Rochester Hollow access road maintenance	\$2,500
	Lower Birch Creek Road Administrative Use Area maintenance	\$2,000
	Parking area maintenance including snow plowing	\$1,000
	Boundary line maintenance - 5.5 miles/year @ \$300/mile	\$1,650
	Print a Shandaken Wild Forest brochure	\$1,000
	Re-survey campsites for comparison with Year III data	\$2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR YEAR V		\$16,590

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR YEARS I THROUGH V = \$136,350

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Chambers, Robert E., Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York, 1983.

Evers, Alf. The Catskills - From Wilderness to Woodstock, 1972.

Hendee, John C., George H. Stankey and Robert C. Lucas. Wilderness Management, 2nd edition, Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, CO, 1990.

Kudish, Michael, Ph.D. The Catskill Forest, A History, First Edition, Purple Mountain Press, Ltd., 2000.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Unit Management Plans: Slide Mountain Wilderness Area (1998 Revision), Westkill Wilderness Area Draft (2000), Halcott Mountain Wild Forest (2001).

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, 1985.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan, 1999.

Ulen & Company. The Shandaken Tunnel, May, 1923.

U.S.D.A. Soil Survey of Greene County, New York, 1993.

U.S.D.A. Soil Survey of Ulster County, New York, 1979.

APPENDICES

A. Negative Declaration

B. Wildlife Inventory

C. Facilities Map

D. Soils

E. Easements

F. Proposed Intensive Use and Administrative Use Area maps

G. Burrough's Plaque

H. Catskill Park State Land Master Plan Guidelines for Wild Forest

I. Responsiveness Summary

APPENDIX A

Negative Declaration

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

Towns of Shandaken, Ulster County and Lexington, Greene County. New York State Forest Preserve lands designated as the Shandaken Wild Forest in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

(See 617.7(a)-(c) for requirements of this determination; see 617.7(d) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

This area will be managed in accordance with the Wild Forest and Administrative Use Area guidelines established in the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, as well as the constraints set forth in Article XIV of the NYS Constitution and Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Two small parking areas (less than 1/10 acre total) will be located so as to provide safe access to the unit and one parking area will be expanded. Tree cutting will be kept to a minimum by utilizing existing open areas. Any tree cutting deemed necessary will be in accordance with the Commissioner's Delegation Memorandum #84-06 on the cutting, removal or destruction of trees on Forest Preserve lands and Lands and Forest Policy 91-2.

All parking area construction and relocation projects will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- A. Locating parking areas to minimize cut and fill;
- B. Locating parking areas away from streams, wetlands and unstable slopes whenever possible;
- C. Locating parking areas on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
- D. Whenever possible, utilizing wood buffers to screen parking areas from roads;
- E. Limiting the size of the parking lot to the minimum necessary to address the intended use;
- F. Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;
- G. Ditches, culverts, road fabric, and surfacing with gravel or other appropriate natural materials will be utilized when necessary.

Noise emitted from the excavating equipment during construction will be temporary.

Construction of the accessible Adirondack style log lean-to will be in compliance with existing policies and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- H. Locating lean-to to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- I. Locating lean-to to minimize tree cutting;
- J. Locating lean-to away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- K. Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;
- L. Utilize drainage structures on trails leading to lean-to sites to prevent erosion of site.

The pit privy supporting the lean-to, as well as others designated in this plan, will be located so as to promote sanitation and prevent site degradation. The privy will be located at least 150 feet from any water source to prevent surface water contamination and will be checked annually and will be relocated when necessary.

All trail construction and relocation projects will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

13. Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;
14. When possible, trails will utilize existing old roads or open areas;
15. Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes where possible;
16. Use of proper drainage devices such as waterbars and broad-based dips;
17. Locating trails to minimize grades;
18. Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
19. Construction of stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
20. Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
21. Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
22. Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings;
23. Tree cutting will be kept to a minimum by passing around large trees when possible and cutting only the small understory trees that may be blocking the route. All tree cutting will be in compliance with the Commissioner's Delegation Memorandum #84-06 on the cutting, removal or destruction of trees on Forest Preserve lands and Lands and Forest Policy 91-2;
24. Any rare plant or critical habitats will be avoided when possible.

Information boards will be erected at major trailheads and/or parking areas to convey rules and regulations governing the use of forest preserve land and to instruct users in techniques for minimum impact camping, proper human sanitation and precautions concerning Giardia and Lyme Disease and prevention measures on rabies. Emergency phone numbers will also be posted. The construction of these information boards will have a minimal impact on the resource and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- XXV. Tree cutting will be kept to a minimum and will be in compliance with the Commissioner's Delegation Memorandum #84-06 on the cutting, removal or destruction of trees on Forest Preserve lands and Lands and Forest Policy 91-2;
- XXVI. Any rare plant or critical habitats will be avoided when possible;
- XXVII. Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings;
- XXVIII. Exposed wooden surfaces will be painted with earth tone colors to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

The designation of the Administrative Use Area will also have minimal impact on the land due to existing maintenance practices that occurred prior to State ownership. This area was intensively managed as lawns, gardens, stocked ponds, and recreational area for the previous property owners. This same area will be maintained at a minimal level necessary for administrative purposes and to improve access for families and persons with disabilities. All maintenance and use will be in compliance with those uses

allowed by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and all appropriate Department policies for an Administrative Use area.

Within this designated area, several improvements have been proposed to protect the natural resource while continuing to provide adequate facilities for both users and Department administration. The proposed fishing platform will provide access to persons with disabilities to fishing. The platform will be adjacent to the road and will be constructed so that the pond bottom will not be disturbed. An access ramp will be installed along the road to further reduce impacts to the shore line.

The impact of not allowing the proposed Administrative Area to be managed as Wild Forest is minimal. If managed as proposed, little change will occur over past management practices. If managed as wild forest, all non-conforming structures must be removed. This would result in additional temporary disturbance to the area during demolition and would ultimately reduce the opportunity to provide recreational programs for persons with disabilities.

The remains of the dump at Broadstreet Hollow will be transported to an appropriate landfill.

The impacts of all actions discussed in the plan were evaluated in the Full Environmental Assessment Form and are detailed in the Unit Management Plan. The UMP also contains a Bibliography which includes references which were relied upon in the preparation of the Negative Declaration. All impacts were determined to be small and their affects were limited to relatively small areas. The project area involves less than 1% of the total project area.

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

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Jeff Rider, Senior Forester

Address: NYS DEC
21 South Putts Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561

Telephone Number: (845) 256-3083

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

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of

Other involved agencies (if any)

Applicant (if any)

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

617.20
Appendix A
State Environmental Quality Review
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM

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

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

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

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

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE -- Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

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

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

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

*A Conditioned Negative Declaration is only valid for Unlisted Actions

Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

Name of Action

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Name of Lead Agency

Peter J. Frank

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

**Chief, Bureau of Forest Preserve
Management**

Title of Responsible Officer

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (If different from responsible officer)

June 3, 2005

Date

PART 1--PROJECT INFORMATION

Prepared by Project Sponsor

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

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

NAME OF ACTION Adoption and Implementation of the Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan		
LOCATION OF ACTION (INCLUDE STREET ADDRESS, MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY) Shandaken Wild Forest, Towns of Shandaken, Ulster County and Lexington, Greene County		
NAME OF APPLICANT/SPONSOR New York State Department of Environmental Conservation		BUSINESS TELEPHONE (845)-256-3083
ADDRESS 21 South Putt Corners Road		
CITY/PO New Paltz	STATE New York	ZIP CODE 12561
NAME OF OWNER (IF DIFFERENT)		BUSINESS TELEPHONE ()
ADDRESS		
CITY/PO	STATE	ZIP CODE
DESCRIPTION OF ACTION Implementation of the Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, located within the Towns of Shandaken, Ulster County and Lexington, Greene County. These lands are located within the Catskill Park and are designated as Forest Preserve. Proposed Management Actions are described in the Unit Management Plan.		

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

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

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

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

2. Total acreage of project area: <u>5,375.6</u> acres.	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	<u>5,375.6</u> acres	<u>5,375.6</u> acres
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	<u>11.6</u> acres	<u>7.0</u> acres
Forested	<u>5,359.5</u> acres	<u>5,363.6</u> acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Wetland(Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Water Surface Area	<u>0.75</u> acres	<u>0.75</u> acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	_____ acres	_____ acres
Other (Indicate type) <u>Trails and Parking Areas</u>	<u>3.75</u> acres	<u>5.75</u> acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? Arnot-Oquaga-Lackawanna
- a. Soil drainage: Well drained 90 % of site Moderately well drained 8 % of site.
 Poorly drained 2 % of site

- b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System? N/A Acres (see 1NYCRR 370).
4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site? YES NO
 a. What is depth to bedrock? (in feet) 0-4 feet
5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes: 0-10% 1 % 10-15% 9 %
 15% or greater 90 %
6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places? YES NO
7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks? YES NO
8. What is the depth of the water table? 1-6+feet (in feet)
9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer? YES NO
10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? YES NO
11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered? YES NO
 According to: Natural Heritage program
 Identify each species: _____
12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations)? YES NO
 Describe: _____
13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area? YES NO
 If yes, explain: The Shandaken Wild Forest is utilized by the public for outdoor recreation including:
hunting, hiking, camping, fishing, mtn. biking, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, birdwatching, and similar pursuits.
14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community? YES NO
15. Streams within or contiguous to project area: Birch Creek, Jay Hand Hollow, Broadstreet Hollow, Peck Hollow, Seneca Hollow, Millbrook Hollow and Rochester Hollow
 a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary: Esopus Creek in the Hudson River Watershed.
16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:
 a. Name: Lower Birch Creek Road Parcel Ponds (2), Allaben Parcel Pond, and Rochester Hollow Pond
 b. Size (in acres): 0.36, 0.11, 0.23, and 0.05
17. Is the site served by existing public utilities? YES NO
 a. If YES, does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection? YES NO
 b. If YES, will improvements be necessary to allow connection? YES NO
18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? YES NO
19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617? YES NO
20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes? YES NO

B. Project Description

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).
- a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor 5375.6 acres.
- b. Project acreage to be developed: 0 acres initially; 0 acres ultimately.
- c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped 5,375.6 acres.
- d. Length of project, in miles: 2 (if appropriate)

- e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed N/A %
- f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing 19; proposed 27
- g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour N/A (upon completion of project)?
- h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:
- | | One Family | Two Family | Multiple Family | Condominium |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Initially | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Ultimately | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
- i. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure 9 height; 12 width; 14 length.
- J. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? 200 ft.
2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site? 0 tons/cubic yards.
3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed? N/A YES NO
- a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed? _____
- b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? YES NO
- c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? YES NO
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site? 1.94 acres.
5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project? YES NO
6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction 60 months, (including demolition)
7. If multi-phased:
- a. Total number of phases anticipated _____ (number)
- b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1 _____ month _____ year, (including demolition)
- c. Approximate completion date of final phase _____ month _____ year.
- d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases? YES NO
8. Will blasting occur during construction YES NO
9. Number of jobs generated: during construction 0; after project is complete 0
10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project 0
11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities? YES NO
If yes, explain: _____
12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved? YES NO
- a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount _____
- b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged _____
13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? Type _____ YES NO
14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? YES NO
If yes, explain: _____
15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain? YES NO
16. Will the project generate solid waste? YES NO
- a. If yes, what is the amount per month _____ tons
- b. If yes, will an existing solid waste facility be used? YES NO
- c. If yes, give name _____; location _____
- d. Will any wastes not go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill? YES NO
- e. If yes, explain: _____
17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste? YES NO
- a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal? about 15 tons/month.
- b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life? 1X years.

18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides? YES NO
19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)? YES NO
20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels? YES NO
21. Will project result in an increase in energy use?
If yes, indicate type(s) _____
 YES NO
22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity N/A gallons/minute.
23. Total anticipated water usage per day N/A gallons/day.
24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding? YES NO

If yes, explain: All projects described in this Unit Management Plan are dependent on State funding sources.

25. Approvals Required:

				TYPE	SUBMITTAL DATE
City, Town, Village Board	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
City, Town, Village Planning Board	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
City, Town Zoning Board	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
City, County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
Other Local Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
Other Regional Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
State Agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		NYS DEC UMP Approval	
Federal Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			

C. Zoning and Planning Information

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

If Yes, indicate decision required:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? N/A
a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? _____

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

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

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

a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic.

YES NO

D. Informational Details

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

E. Verification

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

Applicant/Sponsor Name NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Date June 3, 2005

Signature _____ Title Chief, Bureau of Forest Preserve Management

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

Part 2 - PROJECT IMPACTS AND THEIR MAGNITUDE

Responsibility of Lead Agency

General Information (Read Carefully)

- In completing the form the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my responses and determinations been **reasonable**? The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst.
- The **Examples** provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of impacts and wherever possible the threshold of magnitude that would trigger a response in column 2. The examples are generally applicable throughout the State and for most situations. But, for any specific project or site other examples and/or lower thresholds may be appropriate for a Potential Large Impact response, thus requiring evaluation in Part 3.
- The impacts of each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples are illustrative and have been offered as guidance. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of impacts and thresholds to answer each question.
- The number of examples per question does not indicate the importance of each question.
- In identifying impacts, consider long term, short term and cumulative effects.

Instructions (Read carefully)

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

IMPACT ON LAND

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

Examples that would apply to column 2

- Any construction on slopes of 15% or greater, (15 foot rise per 100 foot of length), or where the general slopes in the project area exceed 10%.
- Construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet.
- Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles.
- Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface.
- Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage.
- Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e., rock or soil) per year.
- Construction or expansion of a sanitary landfill.
- Construction in a designated floodway.

• Other impacts Construction of two parking areas and approximately two miles of ski/bike/hike trail requiring clearing of approximately 1.94 acres

2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological) NO YES

• Specific land forms: _____

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

IMPACT ON WATER

3. Will Proposed Action affect any water body designated as protected? (Under Articles 15, 24, 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law, ECL)

NO YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

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

	1	2	3	
	Small to Moderate Impact	Potential Large Impact	Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
			Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developable area of site contains a protected water body. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of utility distribution facilities through a protected water body. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other impacts _____ 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Will Proposed Action affect any non-protected existing or new body of water? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease. • Construction of a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other impacts <u>Construction of a small disabled access fishing platform along the edge of the lower pond on Lower Birch Creek Road</u> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Will Proposed Action affect surface or groundwater quality or quantity? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action will require a discharge permit. • Proposed Action requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed (project) action. • Proposed Action requires water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity. • Construction or operation causing any contamination of a water supply system. • Proposed Action will adversely affect groundwater. • Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity. • Proposed Action would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day. • Proposed Action will likely cause siltation or other discharge into an existing body of water to the extent that there will be an obvious visual contrast to natural conditions. • Proposed Action will require the storage of petroleum or chemical products greater than 1,100 gallons. • Proposed Action will allow residential uses in areas without water and/or sewer services. • Proposed Action locates commercial and/or industrial uses which may require new or expansion of existing waste treatment and/or storage facilities. • Other impacts _____ 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed (project) action. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action requires water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction or operation causing any contamination of a water supply system. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action will adversely affect groundwater. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action will likely cause siltation or other discharge into an existing body of water to the extent that there will be an obvious visual contrast to natural conditions. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action will require the storage of petroleum or chemical products greater than 1,100 gallons. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action will allow residential uses in areas without water and/or sewer services. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action locates commercial and/or industrial uses which may require new or expansion of existing waste treatment and/or storage facilities. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other impacts _____ 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Will Proposed Action alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action would change flood water flows • Proposed Action may cause substantial erosion. • Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action may cause substantial erosion. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

	1	2	3	
	Small to Moderate Impact	Potential Large Impact	Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Action will allow development in a designated floodway. Other impacts _____ 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON AIR				
7. Will Proposed Action affect air quality? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Action will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour. Proposed Action will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour. Emission rate of total contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour. Proposed Action will allow an increase in the amount of land committed to industrial use. Proposed Action will allow an increase in the density of industrial development within existing industrial areas. Other impacts _____ 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS				
8. Will Proposed Action affect any threatened or endangered species? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near the site, or found on the site. Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat. Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes. Other impacts _____ 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Action would substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish, shellfish or wildlife species. Proposed Action requires the removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest (over 100 years of age) or other locally important vegetation. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES				
10. Will Proposed Action affect agricultural land resources? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES Examples that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Proposed Action would sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land (includes cropland, hayfields, pasture, vineyard, orchard, etc.) Construction activity would excavate or compact the soil profile of agricultural land. The Proposed Action would irreversibly convert more than 10 acres of agricultural land or, if located in an Agricultural District, more than 2.5 acres of agricultural land. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- The Proposed Action would disrupt or prevent installation of agricultural land management systems (e.g., subsurface drain lines, outlet ditches, strip cropping); or create a need for such measures (e.g. cause a farm field to drain poorly due to increased runoff).
- Other impacts _____

IMPACT ON AESTHETIC RESOURCES

11. Will Proposed Action affect aesthetic resources? (If necessary, use the Visual EAF Addendum in Section 617.20, Appendix B.)

NO YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- Proposed land uses, or project components obviously different from or in sharp contrast to current surrounding land use patterns, whether man-made or natural.
- Proposed land uses, or project components visible to users of aesthetic resources which will eliminate or significantly reduce their enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities of that resource.
- Project components that will result in the elimination or significant screening of scenic views known to be important to the area.
- Other impacts _____

IMPACT ON HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

12. Will Proposed Action impact any site or structure of historic, prehistoric or paleontological importance?

NO YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- Proposed Action occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any facility or site listed on the State or National Register of historic places.
- Any impact to an archaeological site or fossil bed located within the project site.
- Proposed Action will occur in an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NYS Site Inventory.
- Other impacts _____

IMPACT ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

13. Will Proposed Action affect the quantity or quality of existing or future open spaces or recreational opportunities?

NO YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity.
- A major reduction of an open space important to the community.
- Other impacts Recreational opportunities will increase with improved access to public lands.

IMPACT ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

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

- Proposed Action will remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen.
- Other impacts Temporary noise from excavating equipment during parking area construction and road maintenance.

IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH

18. Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety?
 NO YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- Proposed Action may cause a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (i.e. oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation, etc.) in the event of accident or upset conditions, or there may be a chronic low level discharge or emission.
- Proposed Action may result in the burial of "hazardous wastes" in any form (i.e. toxic, poisonous, highly reactive, radioactive, irritating, infectious, etc.)
- Storage facilities for one million or more gallons of liquefied natural gas or other flammable liquids.
- Proposed Action may result in the excavation or other disturbance within 2,000 feet of a site used for the disposal of solid or hazardous waste.
- Other impacts _____

IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER

OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD

19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community?
 NO YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- The permanent population of the city, town or village in which the project is located is likely to grow by more than 5%.
- The municipal budget for capital expenditures or operating services will increase by more than 5% per year as a result of this project.
- Proposed Action will conflict with officially adopted plans or goals.
- Proposed Action will cause a change in the density of land use.
- Proposed Action will replace or eliminate existing facilities, structures or areas of historic importance to the community.
- Development will create a demand for additional community services (e.g. schools, police and fire, etc.)
- Proposed Action will set an important precedent for future projects.
- Proposed Action will create or eliminate employment.
- Other impacts _____

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

NO YES

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
			Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If Any Action in Part 2 Is Identified as a Potential Large Impact or

If you Cannot Determine the Magnitude of Impact, Proceed to Part 3

APPENDIX B

Wildlife

Appendix B-1.

Status and occurrence of New York amphibians in the Shandaken Wild Forest, a part of the Catskill Peaks subzone as listed in “Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook”(Chambers, 1983).

SPECIES

STATUS in NY

Jefferson Salamander

Special Concern

Blue-Spotted Salamander

Special Concern

Spotted Salamander

Special Concern

Red-Spotted Newt

Dusky Salamander

Mountain Dusky Salamander

Redback Salamander

Slimy Salamander

Four-toed Salamander

Spring Salamander

Red Salamander

Two-lined Salamander

Longtail Salamander

American Toad

Fowler’s Toad

Spring Peeper

Gray Treefrog

Bullfrog

Game Species

Green Frog

Game Species

Wood Frog

Game Species

Pickerel Frog

Game Species

Appendix B-2.

Status and occurrence of New York reptiles in the Shandaken Wild Forest, a part of the Catskill Peaks subzone as listed in “Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook” (Chambers, 1983).

SPECIES

STATUS in NY

Snapping Turtle

Stinkpot

Spotted Turtle

Special Concern

Wood Turtle

Special Concern/Game Species*

Painted Turtle

Northern Water Snake

Brown Snake

Redbelly Snake

Common Garter Snake

Eastern Ribbon Snake

Eastern Hognose Snake

Special Concern

Ringneck Snake

Black Racer

Smooth Green Snake

Rat Snake

Milk Snake

* Currently no open season

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Masked Shrew		Eastern Chipmunk	
Smoky Shrew		Gray Squirrel	Game Species
Longtail Shrew		Red Squirrel	
Water Shrew		Southern Flying Squirrel	
Least Shrew		Northern Flying Squirrel	
Shorttail Shrew		Beaver	Game Species
Starnose Mole		Deer Mouse	
Hairy-tailed Mole		White-footed Mouse	
Little Brown Bat		Southern Bog Lemming	
Keen's Bat		Southern Red-Backed Vole	
Small-footed Bat	Special Concern	Meadow Vole	
Silver-haired Bat		Woodland Vole	
Eastern Pipistrelle		Muskrat	Game Species
Big Brown Bat		Meadow Jumping Mouse	
Red Bat		Woodland Jumping Mouse	
Hoary Bat		Porcupine	
Black Bear	Game Species	Snowshoe Hare	Game Species
Raccoon	Game Species	Eastern Cottontail	Game Species
Whitetailed Deer	Game Species	Mink	Game Species
Fisher	Game Species	Shorttail Weasel	Game Species
River Otter	Game Species	Longtail Weasel	Game Species
Striped Skunk	Game Species	Coyote	Game Species
Red Fox	Game Species	Gray Fox	Game Species
Bobcat	Game Species	Woodchuck	Game Species
Opossum	Game Species		

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas

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

The highest level of confirmation of breeding recorded during the Atlas was retained in this listing. For example, a record of probable nesting "T2" (Bird Holding Territory) in 1983 would be retained over a possible nesting "X1" (Species Observed in Possible Nesting Habitat) in 1984 and over a probable nesting "P2" (Pair Observed in Suitable Nesting Habitat) in 1985 since "T2" is the highest level of breeding evidence in this example.

Atlas block boundaries can be identified by the New York Transverse Mercator (NYTM) grid, a modification of the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid. Coordinates for the block are included in the heading on page 1 of each printout. These coordinates correspond to tick marks found on United States Geological Survey (USGS) and New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) 7.5' quadrangles. In New York west of 78 degrees longitude and in extreme eastern Long Island, east of 72 degrees longitude (Montauk Point and Mystic quadrangles) the NYTM grid differs from the UTM grid. In these areas tick marks are accurate on the NYS DOT quadrangles. Do not use USGS quadrangles to identify Atlas block boundaries in these areas.

Political jurisdiction(s) within each Atlas block are also included in the heading on page 1. County(ies) and Town(s) or City(ies), American Indian lands, neighboring states and/or Canada are listed if more than five percent (5%) of the area within the block occurs in the jurisdiction. In addition, an estimated percentage of the block area within each jurisdiction is included.

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

Explanation of the breeding code category can be found on the enclosed sheet entitled "New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Key to Breeding Evidence."

Questions concerning these data may be addressed to:

Significant Habitat Information Services

NYS DEC

Wildlife Resources Center

700 Troy-Schenectady Road

Latham, NY 12110

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

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Species Status

New York State Legal Status

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

- 1) Any native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York.
- 2) Any species listed as endangered by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.

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

- 1) Any native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in New York.
- 2) Any species listed as threatened by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11, and not listed as endangered in New York.

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

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

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

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

Natural Heritage Program State Ranks

- S1** - Typically 5 or fewer occurrences, very few remaining individuals, acres or miles of stream, or some other factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable in New York State.
- S2** - Typically 6 to 20 occurrences, few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable in New York State.
- S3** - Typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream in New York State.
- S4** - Apparently secure in New York State.
- S5** - Demonstrably secure in New York State.
- SH** - Historically known from New York State, but not seen in the past 15 years.
- SX** - Apparently extirpated from New York State.
- SE** - Exotic, not native to New York State.
- SR** - State report only, no verified specimens known from New York State.
- SU** - Status in New York State is unknown.
- NR** - Not ranked, usually a hybrid species.

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas

Key to Breeding Evidence

CODE DEFINITION OF CRITERIA

Possible Breeding

X1 Species observed in possible nesting habitat but no other indication of breeding noted, or singing male (s) present (or breeding calls heard), in breeding season (based upon one visit).

Probable Breeding

P2 Pair observed in suitable habitat in breeding season.

S2 Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) on more than one date in the same place.

T2 Bird (or pair) apparently holding territory.

D2 Courtship and display, agitated behavior or anxiety calls from adults suggesting probable presence nearby of a nest or young; well-developed brood-patch or cloacal protuberance on trapped adult. Includes copulation.

N2 Visiting probable nest site. Nest building by wrens and woodpeckers.

B2 Nest building or excavation of a nest hole.

Confirmed Breeding

DD Distraction display or injury-feigning.

UN Used nest found.

FE Female with egg in the oviduct.

FL Recently fledged young (including downy young of precocial species - waterfowl, shorebirds).

ON Adult (s) entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest.

FS Adult carrying fecal sac.

FY Adult (s) with food or young.

NE Identifiable nest and eggs, bird setting on nest or eggs, identifiable eggshells found beneath nest, or identifiable dead nestling (s).

NY Nest with young.

Great Blue Heron S5	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	X1	81	Protected
Green Heron S5	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	X1	81	Protected
Canada Goose S5	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	X1	83	Game Species
Mallard S5	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	P2	84	Game Species
Turkey Vulture S4	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	X1	83	Protected
Broad-winged Hawk S5	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	P2	83	Protected
Red-tailed Hawk S5	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	X1	83	Protected
American Kestrel S5	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	X1	84	Protected
Ring-necked Pheasant SE	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	X1	83	Game Species
Wild Turkey S5	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	FL	81	Game Species
American Crow S5	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	X1	83	Game Species
Common Moorhen S4	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X1	83	Game Species
Killdeer S5	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	FL	84	Protected
Spotted Sandpiper S5	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	X1	83	Protected
Rock Dove SE	<i>Columba livia</i>	N2	85	Unprotected
Mourning Dove S5	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	P2	84	Protected

Yellow-billed Cuckoo S5	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	X1	81	Protected
Great Horned Owl S5	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	X1	83	Protected
Barred Owl S5	<i>Strix varia</i>	X1	82	Protected
Whip-poor-will S4	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	S2	83	Protected-Special Concern
Chimney Swift S5	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	X1	83	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird S5	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	P2	82	Protected
Belted Kingfisher S5	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	FL	81	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker S5	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	P2	84	Protected
Downy Woodpecker S5	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	FY	81	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker S5	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	FY	81	Protected
Northern Flicker S5	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	FY	83	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker S5	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	X1	83	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee S5	<i>Contopus virens</i>	FY	81	Protected
Acadian Flycatcher S3	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	X1	84	Protected
Alder Flycatcher S5	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	S2	83	Protected
Willow Flycatcher S5	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	X1	83	Protected

Least Flycatcher S5	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	T2	84	Protected
Eastern Phoebe S5	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	NY	82	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher S5	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	X1	83	Protected
Eastern Kingbird S5	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	FY	83	Protected
Tree Swallow S5	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	ON	83	Protected
No. Rough-winged Swallow S5	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	FY	81	Protected
Cliff Swallow S5	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	NE	84	Protected
Barn Swallow S5	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	NY	81	Protected
Blue Jay S5	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	FY	81	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee S5	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	FY	83	Protected
Tufted Titmouse S5	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	FL	82	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch S5	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	FL	83	Protected
Brown Creeper S5	<i>Certhia americana</i>	X1	84	Protected
House Wren S5	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	NY	82	Protected
Eastern Bluebird S5	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	FL	83	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	FL	83	Protected

S5				
Hermit Thrush S5	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	T2	84	Protected
Wood Thrush S5	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	FL	84	Protected
American Robin S5	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	FY	83	Protected
Gray Catbird S5	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	FY	83	Protected
Northern Mockingbird S5	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	FY	83	Protected
Brown Thrasher S5	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	P2	83	Protected
Cedar Waxwing S5	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	B2	83	Protected
European Starling SE	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	FY	83	Unprotected
Blue-headed Vireo S5	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	FL	82	Protected
Yellow-throated Vireo S5	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	X1	83	Protected
Warbling Vireo S5	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	X1	83	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo S5	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	FY	82	Protected
Blue-winged Warbler S5	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	FY	83	Protected
Yellow Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	FY	83	Protected
Chestnut-sided Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	FL	82	Protected

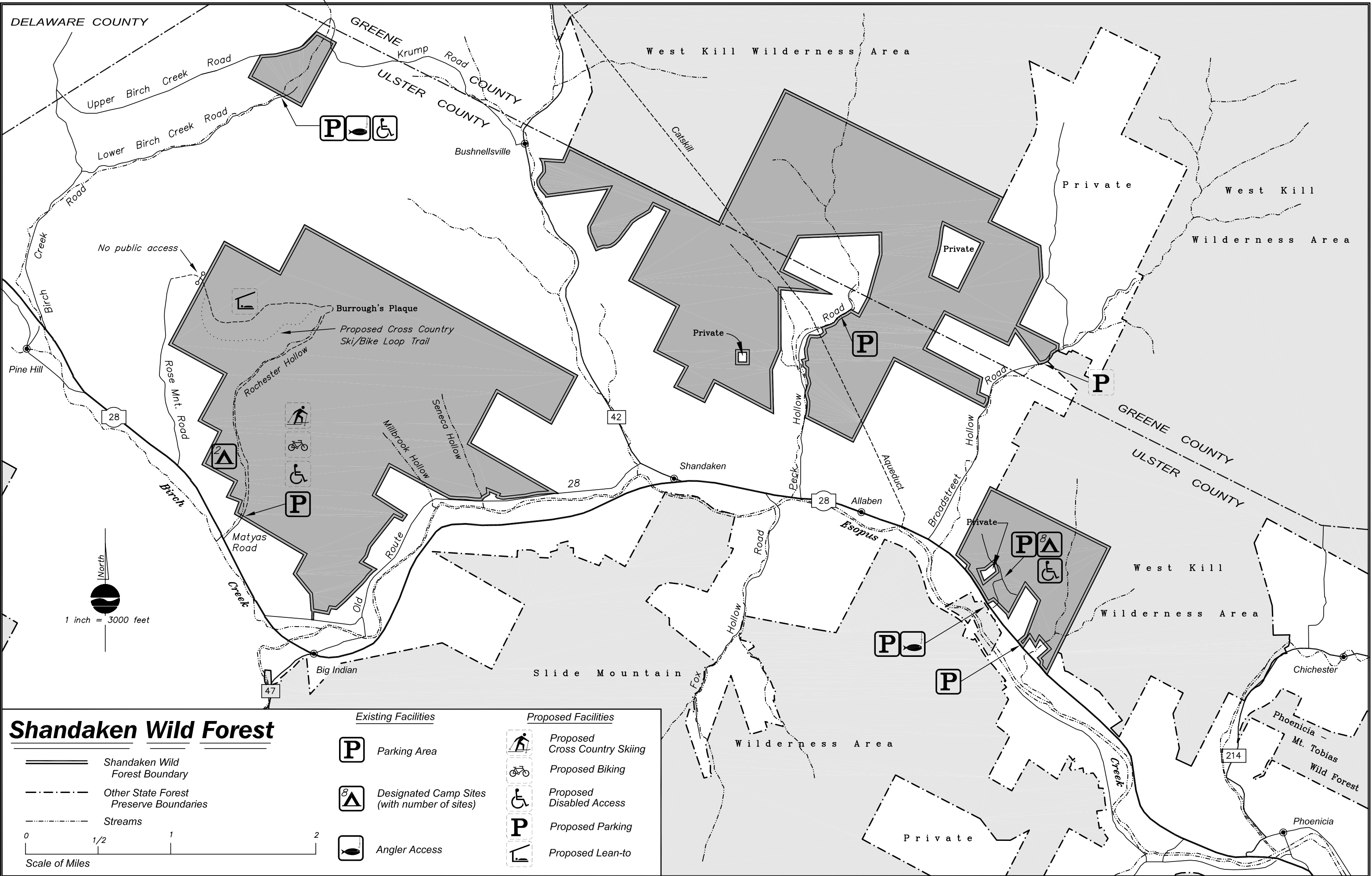
Magnolia Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	X1	84	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	T2	84	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	D2	84	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	T2	84	Protected
Pine Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	S2	83	Protected
Prairie Warbler S5	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	S2	83	Protected
Black-and-white Warbler S5	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	FL	81	Protected
American Redstart S5	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	FL	81	Protected
Ovenbird S5	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	FY	84	Protected
Northern Waterthrush S5	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	X1	83	Protected
Louisiana Waterthrush S5	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	FY	83	Protected
Common Yellowthroat S5	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	FY	83	Protected
Hooded Warbler S5	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	FY	82	Protected
Canada Warbler S5	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	P2	84	Protected
Scarlet Tanager S5	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	FL	81	Protected
Northern Cardinal S5	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	FY	83	Protected

Rose-breasted Grosbeak S5	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	FL	81	Protected
Indigo Bunting S5	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	D2	82	Protected
Eastern Towhee S5	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	P2	83	Protected
Chipping Sparrow S5	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	FY	81	Protected
Field Sparrow S5	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	X1	81	Protected
Vesper Sparrow S5	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	X1	83	Protected-Special Concern
Song Sparrow S5	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	FY	83	Protected
Swamp Sparrow S5	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	T2	85	Protected
White-throated Sparrow S5	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	X1	82	Protected
Dark-eyed Junco S5	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	FL	81	Protected
Bobolink S5	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	P2	83	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird S5	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	FY	83	Protected
Eastern Meadowlark S5	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	P2	83	Protected
Common Grackle S5	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	FY	84	Protected
Brown-headed Cowbird S5	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	FL	83	Protected
Orchard Oriole S4	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	X1	83	Protected

Baltimore Oriole S5	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	FY	81	Protected
Purple Finch S5	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	P2	84	Protected
House Finch SE	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	FL	83	Protected
American Goldfinch S5	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	P2	84	Protected
House Sparrow SE	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	FY	83	Unprotected

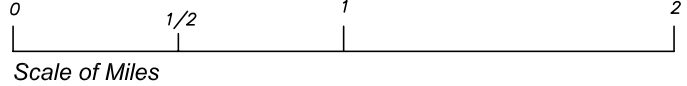
APPENDIX C

Facilities Map



Shandaken Wild Forest

- Shandaken Wild Forest Boundary
- Other State Forest Preserve Boundaries
- Streams



- | Existing Facilities | | Proposed Facilities | |
|----------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Parking Area | | Proposed Cross Country Skiing | |
| Designated Camp Sites (with number of sites) | | Proposed Biking | |
| Angler Access | | Proposed Disabled Access | |
| | | Proposed Parking | |
| | | Proposed Lean-to | |

--insert facilities map here--

APPENDIX D

Soils

APPENDIX D - SOILS

ARF

Arnot-Oquaga-Rock outcrop complex. Consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained and moderately well drained very bouldery soils formed in glacial till over sandstone, siltstone and shale bedrock on hillsides, valleysides and mountains. Very steep slopes, rock outcrops, surface boulders and moderate to shallow depth to bedrock prevent most uses other than woodland and wildlife habitat. Contains moderate erosion hazard which can be minimized by establishing trails cross slope utilizing good design to include drainage dips or water bars.

LaC

Lackawanna flaggy silt loam. 8-15 percent slopes with slight erosion hazard. Consist of deep, sloping, well drained soil formed in glacial till. It is found on valley sides or hill crests on glaciated uplands. Areas are usually long and narrow in shape and are suited to crops and pasture.

LCD

Lackawanna and Swartswood very bouldery soils, moderately steep with slight erosion hazard. Consist of deep, well drained soils on valley walls and ridgetides on glaciated uplands. Very bouldery soils formed in glacial till with slope ranges from 15-25 percent. Most areas are long and narrow in shape. Soils generally have poor potential for farming. Some areas are used for permanent pasture or hay. Pasture is generally unimproved and brushy. These soils are more suited for woodland and wildlife habitat.

LCF

Lackawanna and Swartswood very bouldery soils, very steep, moderate erosion hazard. Unit consists of deep, well drained soils on valley walls and V-shaped ravines in glaciated uplands. These very bouldery soils formed in glacial till with slope ranges from 35-70 percent. Most areas are long and narrow in shape and small in size. Water runoff is very rapid. Streams may undercut the very steep soils and cause sections to slump and form escarpments. Typically used for woodland, recreation and wildlife habitat. Erosion hazard is high and soil needs to be protected when trails are built through proper use of water bars and trail cross slope design.

LEE

Lackawanna and Swartswood extremely bouldery soils, steep with slight erosion hazard. Consists of deep, well drained soils that are mainly on valley walls or on the ridgetides below rock ledges in glaciated uplands. Soils are extremely bouldery and formed in glacial till with slope ranging from 25-35 percent. Soils have poor potential for farming and most are used for woodland and wildlife habitat. Erosion potential is high when cleared of vegetation. Trails need to be well laid out and protected from erosion with drainage dips and waterbars.

OdB

Odessa Silt Loam, 3-8 percent slopes, slight erosion hazard. A deep, somewhat poorly drained, gently sloping soil found in lake-laid deposits of clay and silt. Some areas are on gentle side slopes along waterways and are usually small and irregular shaped. Undrained areas of this soil are suited to woodland and wildlife habitat.

ORC

Oquaga-Arnot-Rock outcrop complex, sloping, slight erosion hazard. This soil consists of a moderately deep, well drained and excessively drained Oquaga soil and a shallow, somewhat excessively drained and moderately well drained Arnot soil with small areas of exposed bedrock. These soils formed in reddish glacial till over sandstone, siltstone, and shale bedrock in the Catskill mountains and their foothills. Soils are found mainly on a series of small benches that have a stairstep appearance where the sandstone is dominant. Most areas have potential for paths and trails even though small stones and included rock outcrops interfere with this use. Drainage dips and waterbars along trails help protect soils from erosion.

ORD

Oquaga-Arnot-Rock outcrop complex, moderately steep. Soil consists of a moderately deep, well drained or excessively drained Oquaga soil and a shallow, somewhat excessively drained and moderately well drained Arnot soil and small areas of exposed bedrock. These soils are found mainly in a series of benches and at the base of slopes, having a stairstep appearance. Erosion hazard is high where vegetation is removed. Trails in recreational areas need to be protected from erosion and established across the slope when possible.

SaC

Schoharie silt loam, 8-15 percent slopes, moderate erosion hazard. A deep, moderately well drained and well drained, sloping soil formed in lake-laid deposits of clay and silt. This soil has limited potential for urban development but has some potential for woodland and some recreational uses such as paths and trails. Trails need to be protected from erosion and established across slope when possible.

APPENDIX E

Easements

APPENDIX E - EASEMENTS

Shandaken Wild Forest - Unit Management Plan

Easements Found:

Notes:

-See "Acquisition History" sketch for parcels corresponding to numbers below.

-Does not include general highway and utility rights of way or easements.

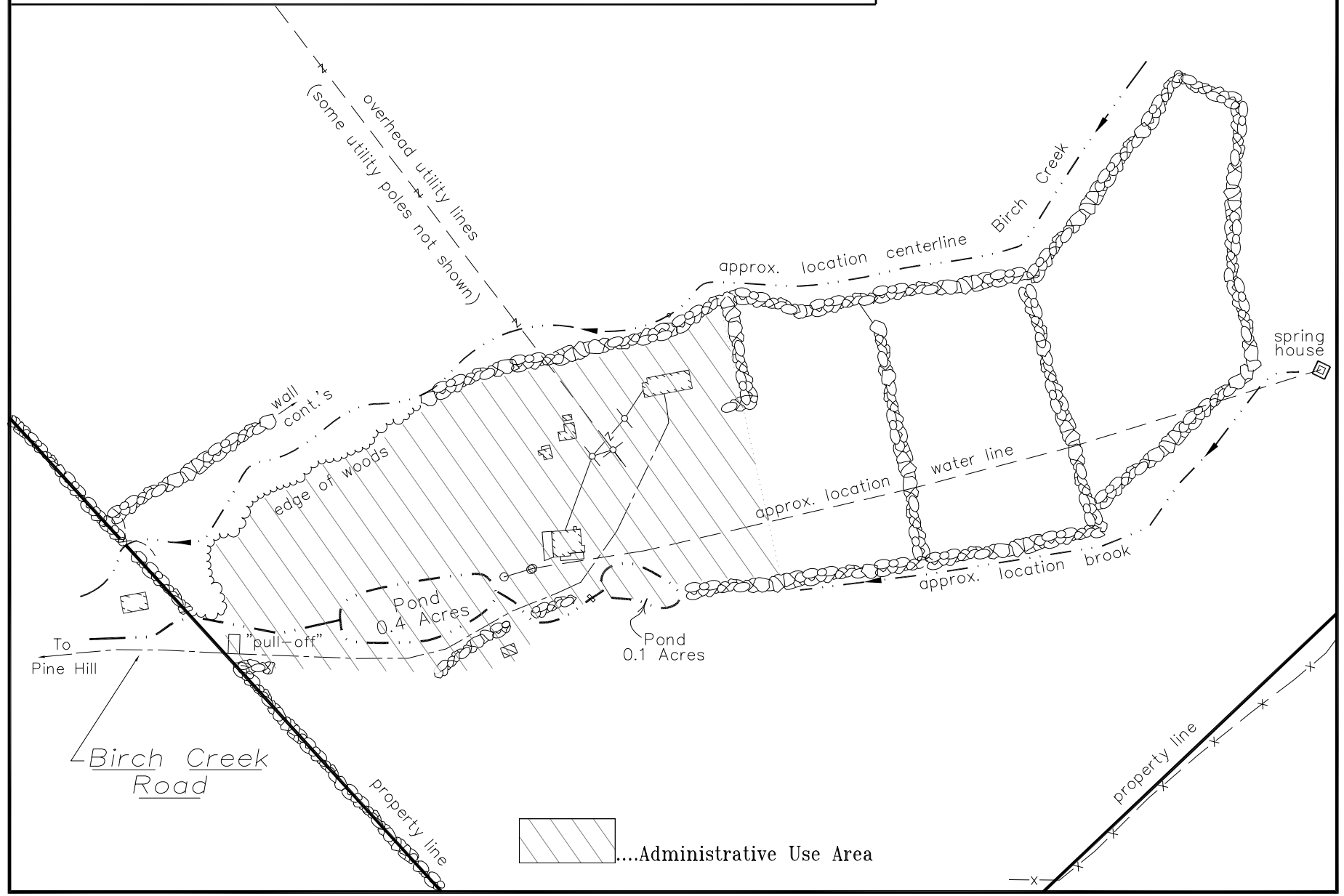
- 1) **Rochester Hollow** - Subject to: Spring and stream rights, and maintenance thereof. (L.559 Cp. 71; Map #1896).
- 2) **Broadstreet Hollow** - Subject to: "...Existing spring and connecting water pipeline rights within about 200 feet of the rear line of ...Carol Schlegel...abutting the northeasterly area of the above described premises." (L.1524 Cp.333; Map #10,370).
- 3) **Westkill Parcel** - Excepting and Reserving: "...A spring high up on the mountain, together with a pipeline connecting it to the parcel being retained by the Grantor, together with another existing spring located approximately 60 feet northeasterly of the division line of lands being retained with the right to improve and maintain..."(L.1674 Cp. 77; Map #10,547).
- 4) **Westkill Parcel** - Together with: "...The Right of Way ...across land now or formerly...Charles Van Valkenburgh...reserved in deed dated October 5, 1881...L. 232 Cp. 86." (L.503 Cp.450; Map #3956).
- 5) **Westkill Parcel** - Also: Permanent easement (granted to state) over an existing mountain road from Peck Hollow Road to described lands (33 feet wide, centerline described). (L. 1433 Cp. 209; Map 9493-B). Excepting: 2.75 acres, "...with a 'lean-to'". (L. 1433 Cp. 209; Map 9493-B). Reserving: A Permanent Easement to "Lean-to" parcel by Grantors along existing mountain road (33 feet wide, centerline described). (L. 1433 Cp. 209; Map 9493-B). Subject to: Perpetual Easement of the City of New York, Pursuant to Chapter 724 of laws of 1905, as amended.
- 6) **Westkill Parcel** - Subject to: N.Y.C. Perpetual Easement (see #5 above). Subject to: N.Y.S.E.G. Easement dated 1-17-56 in L. 966 Cp. 299 (L. 1419 Cp.988; Map #9493-1-A).

- 7) **Cemetery Parcel** - Excepting: Lots 4 & 15 (U.C.C.O. filed map #2812) **note**: Lot 15 was later acquired by S.N.Y., see #11 below). Lots 4 & 15 Subject to: 10' wide drainage easement along bounds of lots 15 & 16 (U.C.C.O. filed map #2812). Lots 4 & 15 Excepting: R.O.W. for access to above described lots 75 feet wide. Lots 4 & 15 Reserving: to owners of Lot 15 an undivided interest in common to,"the so called 'Parkland Area'"(2.289 Acres) as shown on U.C.C.O. filed map # 2812). Excepting and Reserving: Cemetery enclosed by a fence, described. Other Rights of way and exceptions in deed do not apply to Shandaken Wild Forest. (L. 1345 Cp. 314; Map #9459).
- 8) **Cemetery Parcel** - Permanent Easement (D.O.T.). (L. 1632 Cp. 18; Map #10,497).
- 9) **Cemetery Parcel** - Lot 15 (U.C.C.O. filed map #2812) Subject to: 10' wide drainage easement along bounds of lots 15 & 16 (U.C.C.O. filed map #2812). Lot 15 Reserving: R.O.W. for access 75 feet wide (no longer necessary). Lot 15 Reserving: to owners of Lot 15 an undivided interest in common to,"the so called 'Parkland Area'"(2.289 Acres - as shown on U.C.C.O. filed map # 2812). (L.2004 Cp. 98; Map #9459)
Note - see #7 above.

APPENDIX F

Proposed Administrative Use Area map

Shandaken Wild Forest
Administrative Use Area - 5.75 Acres
(including ponds)



APPENDIX G

Burrough's Plaque



APPENDIX H

Catskill Park State Land Master Plan Guidelines for Wild Forest

B. Wild Forest

The largest component of the Catskill Park Forest Preserve lands is classified wild forest. The management objective for wild forest is to accommodate present and future public recreation needs in a manner consistent with Article XIV of the State Constitution. Within the bounds of many wild forest areas are smaller parcels where fragile resources or other factors require the same degree of protection as wilderness areas. Generally these areas are located at higher elevations and can be adequately provided for by proper planning.

1. Definition

A wild forest area is a section of Forest Preserve where the resource can sustain a somewhat higher degree of human use than a wilderness area. It may contain, within its bounds, smaller areas of land or water that are essentially wilderness in character, where the fragility of the resource or other factors require wilderness management. A wild forest area is further defined as an area which lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness areas and which permits a wider variety of outdoor recreation.

2. Guidelines for Management and Use

a. Basic Guidelines

**The primary wild forest management guideline will be to protect the natural

wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that the**

public can enjoy without impairing the wild forest atmosphere or changing the character of fragile areas within wild forest boundaries.

In wild forest areas, wilderness guidelines will apply to all lands and waters over 2700 feet in elevation unless specified otherwise in the following guidelines.

In wild forest areas:

1) no additions or expansion of existing nonconforming uses will be permitted and

2) existing nonconforming uses will be phased out as rapidly as possible by the Department and in all cases within three years of adoption of this plan. An

exception is the High Peak-Roundtop snowmobile trail. While portions of this trail are above the 2700 foot elevation, the local terrain places the fragile and critical area above the trail.

No new nonconforming uses will be permitted in any designated wild forest area.

Public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will not be any increase in the number or length of roads and trails open to motorized use.

Incompatible uses such as snowmobiling and ski touring or horseback riding will be located in separate areas.

When public access to and enjoyment of wild forest areas is inadequate, appropriate steps to improve access will be taken to encourage public use consistent with the wild forest character.

b. Structures and Improvements

All structures and improvements permitted under the guidelines covering wilderness areas will be allowed in wild forest areas. In addition, the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of the structures and improvements listed below will be

allowed:

- existing nonconforming structures of a permanent nature located above 2700 feet

in elevation that are deemed necessary for administrative purposes by the Department

such as fire towers and appurtenances. These may be maintained for as long as needed

for protection of the forest resource or recreational, educational and informational

purposes.

-existing lean-tos on mountain tops above 2700 feet in elevation or elsewhere above

3500 feet in elevation may be maintained until major rehabilitation or replacement is

necessary.

-small groupings of Adirondack type lean-tos and individual tent sites with fire rings,

below 2700 feet in elevation

-nature and interpretive trails

-Nordic ski trails

-trailhead construction and related parking facilities adjacent to public highways or public access lanes, including fisherman parking near streams.

-cartop boat access sites adjacent to public highways

-communication systems necessary for administrative purposes of the Department of Environmental Conservation

-rustic buildings necessary for administrative purposes below 2700 feet in elevation

-motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft as set forth below;

-roads and State truck trails as set forth below

-snowmobile trails as set forth below

-horse trails as set forth below

c. Motor Vehicles, Motorized Equipment and Aircraft

All uses of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft permitted under wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in wild forest areas.

In addition, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be

allowed as follows:

1) by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain and construct

permitted structures and improvements, for rescues, or for other appropriate law

enforcement and general supervision of public use.

2) by the general public, subject to basic guidelines set forth above, but only on;

-existing public roads, maintained by the State Department of Transportation or

local governments

-designated roads now open to the public at the discretion of the Department of

Environmental Conservation.

-rivers, lakes and ponds now or hereafter designated by the Department as suitable

for such motorized uses

3) by snowmobiles on trails designated by the Department in accordance with the

guidelines for such trails specified below.

d. Road and State Truck Trails

1) Continued use of existing roads, and State truck trails by administrative personnel

will be permitted, as necessary to reach, maintain and construct permitted structures

and improvements and conduct approved fish and wildlife research and management

projects.

Existing roads officially open to the public may remain open for motor vehicle use,

compatible with the wild forest character of the area, at the discretion of the

Department.

2) No new roads will be constructed. No new State truck trails will be constructed

unless such construction is absolutely essential to protect or administer an area

and there will be no material adverse effect on the wild forest character of the area by

the proposed construction.

e. **Snowmobile Trails**

Snowmobile trails and appurtenances should be designed and located in a manner which will not adversely affect adjoining private landowners or the wild forest environment. In particular:

-existing snowmobile trails located above 2700 feet in elevation will be closed to snowmobile use with the exception of the High Peak-Roundtop Trail as previously noted in a.2) of this section.

-any existing mileage of snowmobile trail or open roadway lost in the designation of wilderness or lost due to elevation limitations may be replaced in wild forest areas utilizing abandoned woods roads. New trail cutting may occur where necessary to create desired loops. Such cutting will be in accordance with Department organization and delegation memorandum 84-06 and Division of Lands and Forests policy statement LF-84-2 Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve.

-appropriate opportunities to improve or expand the snowmobile trail system may be pursued below 2700 feet in elevation where the impact on the wild forest environment will be minimized. Examples of such opportunities include:

(i) placing snowmobile trails adjacent to but screened from public highways within the

Park to aid access between communities where alternative routes are not available,

(ii) combining snowmobile and horse trails or in some instances, foot trails, provided

such combining is safe and does not require additional cutting of trees.

-trails will not run through deer wintering yards and other important areas of ecological significance, such as the habitats of endangered species.

-appurtenances to snowmobile trails such as bridges will be constructed of natural materials.

f. Horse Trails

Horse trails and appurtenances will be designed and located in a manner which

will not adversely affect the wild forest environment. In particular:

-appropriate opportunities to improve and expand the horse trail system will be pursued where the impact on the wild forest environment will be minimized, such as, (i) designating suitable abandoned woods roads as horse trails (ii) designating suitable existing snowmobile trails as horse trails (iii) occasional cutting of new trails in accordance with Department organization and delegation memorandum 84-06 and Division of Lands and Forests policy statement LF-84-2, Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve.

-appurtenances to horse trails such as bridges and hitching rails will be constructed of natural materials.

-adequate parking for vehicles with horse trailers will be provided near the trail head.

g. Flora and Fauna

Wilderness area guidelines will apply, although exceptions may be made in ac-

cordance with sound biological management practices, particularly where such practices will enhance resident fish and wildlife resources.

h. Recreational Use and Over-Use

All types of recreational uses considered appropriate for wilderness areas are compatible with wild forest. In addition, limited and regulated snowmobiling, motor-boating and travel by other vehicles are permitted if they will not materially increase existing motorized uses and will not adversely affect the essentially wild character of the land.

Certain wild forest areas offer better opportunities for a more extensive horse trail system than wilderness areas. Horse trails and associated facilities in these areas will be considered where appropriate.

Although the nature of most wild forest areas indicates that they are not as sensitive to recreational over-use as wilderness areas, care must nonetheless be

taken to avoid over-use. The relatively greater intensity of use allowed by the wild forest guidelines should not be interpreted as permitting or encouraging unlimited or unrestrained use of wild forest areas.

3. Designation of Wild Forest Areas

The application of the wild forest definition and criteria described above results in the initial designation under the Master Plan of about 155,000 acres of wild forest land, comprising approximately 60 percent of the Forest Preserve within the Catskill Park. A wide variety of terrain and ecosystems is represented in these areas.

Wild forest areas are listed and described in section IV AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS.

APPENDIX I

Responsiveness Summary

APPENDIX I - RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

LOWER BIRCH CREEK ROAD

Strongly oppose the designation of the 5.5 acres on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel as “Intensive Use”.

The proposed 5.5 acre Intensive Use Area has been reclassified as Administrative Use and will include all of the area in the previously proposed Administrative Use Area. This Administrative Use Area now consists of 5.75 acres.

Oppose additional parking on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel. It will increase traffic and pose a hazard to pedestrians using the Lower Birch Creek Road.

Adequate parking was not previously available to handle ongoing use of the area, resulting in unauthorized motorized access to the lawn and field areas. The proposed parking area is designed to provide space for current and future use. Significant increase in traffic on the town maintained Lower Birch Creek Road is unlikely.

Proposed six car parking area near the barn with perimeter boulders and gates will destroy the “farmstead” quality of the parcel.

The parking area has been relocated across the road from the lower pond.

Oppose the proposed lean-to on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel.

The lean-to proposal for this parcel has been eliminated from the plan.

A “no” answer was used on the SEQR Environmental Assessment Form Part 1, Section A, Question 14, “Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community?” The answer should have been “yes”.

The answer has been changed to “yes”.

Please do not remove the sugar shack to put in accessible(ADA) parking area.

The parking area has been relocated across from the lower pond and will include the accessible(ADA) spaces. The sugar shack will remain and is included in the Administrative Use Area.

Please consider relocating the Lower Birch Creek Road port-a-john. This is the first thing you see when you enter the property.

The port-a-john has been relocated to the parking area across the road from the lower pond.

Strongly urge the DEC to manage the fisheries on the Lower Birch Creek Road parcel as wild trout

fisheries and not stock them.

The ponds and streams on the Lower Birch Creek Road will not be stocked. They will be managed for wild brook trout which will include the use of a spawning box in the lower pond to aid in trout production(see page 21 "Fish and Wildlife Management").

The fishing platform does not enhance wheelchair accessibility and defaces the natural look of the pond. Please remove it. The pond was 100% wheelchair accessible before the addition of the platform.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines(ADAAG), accessible facilities are required to meet specific guidelines which include surface, slope, outslope, width, height, reach and many other features necessary to comply with the regulations. The pond area did not comply with these Federal standards. The fishing platform has been built and installed within the ADAAG requirements.

The gravel path is unnecessary. The ground is even and smooth, perfect for walkers and wheelchairs already. Simple mowing of paths would be just fine.

Under ADAAG, grass is not considered accessible. The paths are designed to ADAAG specifications and are installed as part of a settlement agreement.

The buildings should be restored gradually and a public hearing should be held to determine what the community wishes their ultimate use to be.

The buildings have been included in the Administrative Use Area and will remain at this time. Potential

use of the buildings will be discussed during the five year revision planning period. The public will have additional opportunities to comment on the fate of the buildings during this process.

Instead of DEC personnel, I recommend a staff of two on-site caretaker/gardeners to gradually restore the fruit trees, berry patches and vegetable gardens to their original historical function.

The Shandaken Wild Forest is part of the Catskill Forest Preserve which is managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Lower Birch Creek Road parcel is within the Forest Preserve and is managed as such. Manipulation of habitat, including the fruit trees, berry patches and vegetable gardens would be inconsistent with the forever wild character of the forest preserve, as determined by Article XIV of the New York State Constitution.

ROCHESTER HOLLOW ROAD

The proposed cross country ski/bike/hike loop trail at Rochester Hollow might best be located to the north of the existing road to avoid stream and seep crossings.

This will be taken into consideration when siting the trail on the ground.

Discourage locating the Rochester Hollow lean-to directly across from the terrace wall foundation. The

privacy of all users would be compromised.

This lean-to will be located at least 150 feet from the Rochester Hollow road in a location that will minimize impacts to other users. An accessible trail will be built to the lean-to from the Rochester Hollow road.

Don't allow Rochester Hollow road to be accessible by motor vehicle for handicapped, find somewhere else.

There are few places in the Catskill Forest Preserve suitable to provide an opportunity for access for persons with disabilities. Rochester Hollow road is a well established, hardened road that offers a significant opportunity to provide accessible facilities for recreationists requiring some assistance. The road will be designated for motorized use for persons with disabilities through a permit process.

PECK HOLLOW

The plan only calls for a gate and an information board in peck hollow. Why no trails?

There was no public interest expressed for a trail or other recreational facilities on the Peck Hollow parcel at this time.

SHANDAKEN WILD FOREST - GENERAL

I would like to see trail register boxes installed.

A trail register box has been installed in Rochester Hollow. Additional registers will be added as necessary.

Motorized access, even for the disabled, should be kept out of the Forest Preserve.

The Forest Preserve is public land managed for people of all abilities. Motorized access is extremely limited in the Forest Preserve. When the resource is available and can withstand such use, limited motorized access will be allowed for persons with disabilities through a permit process. The permit will allow the holder to access recreational facilities and opportunities via motorized vehicle where the riding of the motor vehicle is not the activity itself, but a means to gain access to the facility.

There are several projects proposed in the plan that involve construction of hardened areas for parking, trails, toilets, ADA recreational facilities, and so forth. We recommend that these improvements always be located at the greatest distance from water resources as practical.

All hardened areas will be located to protect water quality to the greatest extent possible.

We understand that you are relying on the use of *item 4* to obtain compaction needed for ADA trails and

parking. Consideration for and research into other more pervious and less erosive materials that would meet the ADA requirements is suggested.

Research in alternatives to the use of *item 4* is ongoing. Other materials will be considered when they are determined to be in compliance with ADAAG requirements.

We request that plans for implementing the proposed management activities be done to include specific erosion and sediment control measures for use during and after construction.

All facilities will be installed using Best Management Practices to control potential sedimentation and erosion.

We request that all toilet facilities and all proposed management activities comply with City regulations for the watershed(15RNYC 18-11 et. Seq.) including any at the proposed Intensive Use Area at the Lower Birch Creek parcel or others installed.

The Department will work to insure that all facilities will be in compliance, where required.

The City owns several properties that adjoin the Shandaken Wild Forest and is in the process of acquiring additional lands in this area. If you are interested in pursuing cooperative management projects in these areas to help DEC meet its goals for recreational use either now or in the future, please contact my staff at DEP Land Management, 71 Smith Ave., Kingston, New York 12401.

The DEC will pursue opportunities for cooperative management projects and welcomes the opportunity

to work with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Do you expect to receive the total amount of funding in year 1? Are projects listed in priority order? If not funded in year 1, do projects slide to the top of the list for year 2?

Generally speaking, yes. However, funding for projects is dependent on budget and varies from year to year.

Projects are not necessarily listed in priority order. Funding may come for a project in year 4 prior to funding being received for a project in year 1. Projects are completed as opportunities and funding allow.