

**APPENDIX D**  
**FISHERIES INVENTORY**

## **INDIVIDUAL POND NARRATIVES FOR THE SILVER LAKE WILDERNESS**

The following is a brief description of each pond in the Silver Lake Wilderness. The list of waters in this section was obtained from the NYS Biological Survey. Definitions of fisheries management classifications referred to in each description are noted below.

**Adirondack Brook Trout Ponds** - Adirondack Zone ponds which support and are managed for populations of brook trout, sometimes in company with other salmonid fish species. These waters generally lack warmwater fishes but frequently support bullheads. Management may include stocking.

**Coldwater Ponds and Lakes** - Lakes and ponds which support and are managed for populations of several salmonids. These waters generally lack warmwater fishes but frequently support bullheads. Management may include stocking.

**Other Ponds and Lakes** - Fishless waters and waters containing fish communities consisting of native and nonnative fishes which will be managed for their intrinsic ecological value.

**Two-Story Ponds and Lakes** - Waters which simultaneously support and are managed for populations of coldwater and warmwater game fishes. The bulk of the lake trout and rainbow trout resource fall within this class of waters. Management may include stocking.

**Unknown Ponds and Lakes** - Waters which could not be assigned to the subprogram categories specifically addressed in this document due to a lack of or paucity of survey information.

**Warmwater Ponds and Lakes** - Waters which support and are managed for populations of warmwater game fishes and lack significant populations of salmonid fishes. Management may include stocking.

### **UPPER HUDSON WATERSHED**

**Woods Lake** (UH-P156) - Woods Lake is a relatively large (65 acre) water in the southeast portion of the Unit. Woods Lake has a mixture of state and private ownership; as such the lake will not be managed according to wilderness guidelines. The earliest file information on Woods Lake reveals the presence of nonnative smallmouth bass and yellow perch, plus native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI) brown bullhead in 1932. Subsequent surveys caught grass pickerel (nonnative), pumpkinseed (NBWI) as well as the previous three species. Because of the abundance of deep, cold water the lake received rainbow trout stockings beginning in 1967 and continuing into 1973. A subsequent netting survey resulted in a good rainbow trout catch, and angler reports during this period indicated a good fishery. The rainbow trout stocking was discontinued in 1974 because the warm-water fishery was deemed to be sufficient to support its perceived level of fishing. However, the rainbow policy may be revisited because of their relatively good performance. Woods Lake will be managed as a two-story water.

*Management Class:* Two-Story

**Grant Lake** (UH-P157) - Grant Lake is a historical brook trout water and has been annually stocked since 1956. A 1978 survey revealed the nonnative golden shiner had become established, as had the NBWI creek chub, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed and white sucker. The topographic map indicates a steep barrier on the outlet which would likely serve as a natural fish barrier. The pond will continue to be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. If subsequent surveys reveal the brook trout population to be in decline, and if field observations confirm the presence of a natural fish barrier on its outlet, it will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P158a) - This 6 acre pond, located in the headwaters of Abner Brook, has never received a survey. While little specific information about the pond is known because of the lack of survey data, the pond has some management potential because of its size and location, and should be surveyed. Abner Brook itself was sampled near its mouth and contained brook trout in the late 1950's, and so the pond likely has potential as a brook trout water. Because of Abner Brook's brook trout population, the pond will be classed as Adirondack brook trout.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Three Ponds (Lower)** (UH-P159)

**Three Ponds (Middle)** (UH-P160)

**Three Ponds (Upper)** (UH-P217) - The Three Ponds are a set of closely situated ponds on the southern base of Three Ponds Mountain, and all three lack survey information. Middle and Lower Three Ponds are in the same drainage system, in the headwaters of an unnamed tributary that flows south into the North Branch West Stony Creek, while Upper Three Pond is in the headwaters of Ninemile Creek which flows north into West Branch Sacandaga River. Middle and Lower Three Ponds are relatively small (2 and 1 acres, respectively), however the map indicates there may be an effective fish barrier on the outlet of the ponds and so they warrant a survey for their potential as brook trout waters. Similarly, Upper Three Ponds appears to have a potential fish barrier on its outlet, and at a slightly larger 4 acres, it too should be surveyed for its brook trout management potential.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P160a) - This 4 acre pond is located in the southern portion of Benson, in Hamilton County near the Fulton County border. The pond forms the headwater of an unnamed stream eventually flowing into North Branch West Stony Creek. A map check of the pond indicates that there is likely a fish barrier on its outlet and thus should be investigated for its brook trout potential.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P215a) - This 2 acre water located on the eastern portion of the unit is in the headwaters of Vly Creek, reported in a 1932 survey as a brook trout stream. The pond does not show on some topographic maps, and may owe its existence to beaver activity.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Mud Lake** (UH-P216) - This 23 acre lake is a historic brook trout water and part of the Ninemile Creek drainage system. A 1932 survey caught brook trout and brown bullhead (NBWI). In 1982 brook trout and bullhead were recaptured, but the nonnative golden shiner had become established. The pond will continue to be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. If subsequent surveys reveal the brook trout population to be in decline, and if field observations confirm the pond is a viable reclamation candidate, it will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (Motts Flow)- (UH-P216a) - This 3 acre water, part of the Ninemile Creek drainage system, has never been surveyed. A 1932 survey of Ninemile Creek reported brook trout to be sustained by natural reproduction. It seems likely this pond contains brook trout as well, and will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout Water to preserve a native fish community in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P216b) - This unnamed pond, approximately 3 acres in size, is also part of the Ninemile Creek system. It has never received a survey; however its presence in the Ninemile Creek system likely means it

contains or historically contained native brook trout. It will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout Water to preserve a native fish community in the presence of any historically associated or nonnative species.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P216c) - This unnamed pond, approximately 2.5 acres in size, is also part of the Ninemile Creek system. Like the previous two ponds, it has never received a survey; however its presence in the Ninemile Creek system likely means it contains or historically contained native brook trout. It will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout Water to preserve a native fish community in the presence of any historically associated or nonnative species.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Buck Pond** (UH-P218) - An undated file note indicates brown bullhead (NBWI) were reported present, however the pond was not actually surveyed. Buck Pond had its first survey in 1961; no fish were captured in the single variable-mesh gill net set. Notes at the time of the survey indicate much of the pond to be shallow but there was a ½ acre section where the depth was up to 18'; the topographic map of the pond shows a high probability of a natural barrier on the outlet. In 1987 the ALSC surveyed the pond and failed to capture any fish in either gill nets or minnow traps. The maximum water depth was recorded as 22'. Water chemistry at the time indicated the pond was chemically unsuitable for brook trout with a pH of 4.7 and an ANC of -21.6, with a calculated flushing rate of 8.9. This relatively high flushing rate seems questionable as on both occasions when the pond was surveyed there was no flow in the outlet. Nonetheless, the pond appears to have been fishless since at least 1961 and, technically, does not meet criteria as a potential liming candidate because of its calculated flushing rate. Buck Pond will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

*Management Class:* Other

**Unnamed Pond** (UH-P218a) - This relatively small 1 acre pond is man-made, created by a dam on an unnamed tributary (UH-360-20-14) of West Branch Sacandaga River. A file note dated 1932 states that brook trout were reported by the (then) owner, and a 1956 survey of the stream above and below the pond caught brook trout, a young-of-the-year brown trout, and numerous creek chubs, blacknose dace and common shiners. The earlier file note mentions the dam creating the pond is 10' high; thus it seems likely the dam would serve as a barrier to upstream fish movement into the pond from West Branch Sacandaga if still extant. This unnamed pond will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

*Management Class:* Cold Water

**Lake Chartreuse** (UH-P219) - Lake Chartreuse, a 12 acre pond located at the bases of Hamilton, Swart, Haystack and Bear Mountains is an historical brook trout pond. The pond is drained by an unnamed stream eventually flowing into Hamilton Lake Stream. The pond was stocked with brook trout annually from 1944 through 1972 and was reported to have provided good brook trout fishing. In 1973 the stocking was discontinued because an angler reported the beaver dam on the pond had washed out and that it was likely too shallow and warm for brook trout. The pond, however, was never surveyed. Lake Chartreuse will be managed as an Adirondack Brook trout water, and brook trout stocking will resume pending verification of conditions suitable to sustain a native brook trout population.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-221a) - This unnamed water has never been surveyed, despite its relatively large size of 11 acres. The pond, which is partially private, drains via its outlet directly into Hamilton Lake, which is a private water with a long history of lake, brook and rainbow trout stockings. Because of the apparent lack of any barriers to fish movement from Hamilton Lake, it seems likely the pond contains brook trout at least seasonally and perhaps year-

round, assuming its depth is sufficient to provide a summer time refuge from warm surface waters. In fact, brook trout were reported, in a 1932 file note, to be running up all of Hamilton Lake's tributaries. Unfortunately, white sucker, creek chub (NBWI) and nonnative golden shiner were also reported in Hamilton Lake at that time. The presence of these species as well as bullhead was verified in a privately conducted survey in 1982, so the brook and pond may contain these species as well. The pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout water to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-221b) - This 3 acre, unnamed pond is the source of Sucker Brook, which drains directly into Hamilton Lake. Sucker Brook likely contains brook trout because of Hamilton Lake's history of brook trout stockings and the file note mentioned above, although the brook and pond have never been surveyed. The NYCRR has Sucker Brook listed as a class C(T) water, also indicating the brook to be suitable for trout. Thus it seems likely the pond itself would contain brook trout. This water will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Owl Pond** (UH-P222) - This 8 acre water is located on a relatively short, unnamed tributary draining directly into West Branch Sacandaga River. The topographic map indicates a good likelihood of a natural barrier to fish on the pond's outlet. Owl Pond is currently stocked with brook trout, and has been annually since 1942. A 1972 survey caught brook trout, white sucker and northern redbelly dace. The pond will continue to be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. If subsequent surveys reveal the brook trout population to be in decline due to interspecific competition from white suckers or new species introductions, and if field observations confirm the pond is a viable reclamation candidate, it will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Mud Lake** (UH-P231) - Mud Lake (18 acres) drains directly into Piseco Lake Outlet via a very short outlet. Because there is very little elevation differential between Piseco Lake Outlet and Mud Lake, the species assemblage in the pond is likely the same as in Piseco Lake Outlet. The pond was last surveyed in 1932, when a single pickerel was captured via angling. Mud Lake will be managed to preserve its aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

*Management Class:* Other

**Lost or Cooney Lake** (UH-P233) - Cooney Lake or Lost Lake, a 4 acre pond, is located on the western base of Lost Lake Mountain. The pond has been stocked annually with brook trout since 1947. Brook trout and brown bullhead (NBWI) were captured in the most recent survey conducted in 1978. The pH's at that time were in the 5.5 to 5.6 range. Lost Lake drains via an unnamed tributary into Cold Brook and then into West Branch Sacandaga River. The pond will continue to be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. If subsequent surveys reveal the brook trout population to be in decline due to interspecific competition from new species introductions, and if field observations confirm the pond is a viable reclamation candidate, it will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Little Lake or Mud Pond** (UH-P250) - Little Lake (5 acres) drains directly via its unnamed outlet into Piseco Lake. The pond was noted in a 1958 site visit to be extremely shallow with less than an acre of open water, and thus no net was set in it. With very little elevation differential between the pond and Piseco Lake, the fish species

assemblage in the pond is likely directly influenced by Piseco's fish fauna. Little Lake will be managed for the intrinsic value of its aquatic resources.

*Management Class:* Other

**Buckhorn Lake or Fiddlers Pond** (UH-251) - Buckhorn Pond is located upstream of Little Lake at the western base of Buckhorn Mountain. This 40 acre pond was last sampled in 1958, when pumpkinseed and brown bullhead (both NBWI) were captured and nonnative golden shiners were observed but not netted. Its management potential cannot adequately be addressed until the pond receives a complete survey. Because of the paucity of survey data the pond will be classed as unknown. The pond is fairly easily accessed from a trail originating off Route 8 near Rudeston.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Upper Loomis Pond** (UH-P255) - Upper Loomis Pond is part of the three-pond Loomis Ponds, located on the northwestern base of North Branch Mountain. Upper Loomis drains via an outlet into West Branch Sacandaga River separately from Middle and Lower Loomis Ponds. Upper Loomis is an historic brook trout water having been stocked as recently as 1975, and notes from a 1956 survey indicate several 3' - 6' falls on the outlet form an effective fish barrier. In 1961, the pond contained a brook trout monoculture, with good survival noted. The pH's at the time were in the 5.6 - 5.4 range. Unfortunately, when the pond was re-surveyed in 1976 during an acid water survey, the netting yielded no brook trout and stocking was discontinued because the pond had become acidified, with a pH of 4.8 at a depth of 25'. Upper Loomis Pond needs to be investigated as a potential liming candidate. A map check indicates the pond has a limited watershed area and its flushing rate was calculated to be about 1, so preliminarily, the pond seems to be a warrant further investigation. Assuming it is found to meet the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources' criteria as a liming candidate, the liming could restore this pond as a significant native fishery resource. If field observations confirm the pond is a viable liming candidate, it will be limed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a liming is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Middle Loomis Pond** (UH-P257) - Middle Loomis Pond drains into Lower Loomis Pond which in turn, drains via its outlet to West Branch Sacandaga River. There is very little elevation differential between Middle and Lower Loomis, however there appears to be a natural barrier to fish movement on the outlet of Lower Loomis based on a map check. Middle Loomis has a maximum depth of over 20' and is 8 acres. Middle Loomis was first surveyed in 1932 when the pH was determined to be 5.0. Middle Loomis received annual brook trout stockings from 1956 to 1961 based upon the results of a 1956 survey which found the pond suitable for trout. When the pond was re-surveyed in 1961, however, no fish were captured and the pH was less than 5.2. Stocking was then discontinued because the pond was deemed to be chemically unsuited. A more recent ALSC survey conducted in 1987 determined the pH had dropped to 4.69, with a -14.5 ANC. Unfortunately Middle Loomis was determined by the ALSC to have a flushing rate of 6.1, thus exceeding the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources' criteria as a potential liming candidate. Middle Loomis will be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout water. The pond should be re-surveyed. If water chemistry conditions have improved to the point where the pond may once again sustain fish, the pond will be restocked with brook trout.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Lower Loomis Pond** (UH-P256) - Lower Loomis is a relatively shallow (maximum depth of 8') 8 acre pond located just downstream of Middle Loomis. Lower Loomis was first surveyed in 1932, where water temperatures indicated the pond was too warm to support trout. No water chemistries were conducted. In 1961 the pond was surveyed again. An overnight gill net set failed to capture any fish, and the pH was determined to be 5.2. The pond was deemed too shallow to support trout and no stocking at that time was recommended. A late June water chemistry conducted by the ALSC found the pH had dropped to 4.79, with a -9.5 ANC. The ALSC netting also failed to capture any fish. Lower Loomis' high flushing rate precludes it from inclusion in the Division of Fish, Wildlife and

Marine Resources' liming program. Lower Loomis will be managed to protect its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

*Management Class:* Other

**Trout Lake (UH-P260) and**

**Little Trout Lake (UH-P261)** - Trout Lake and its upstream neighbor, Little Trout Lake, are directly connected to the West Branch Sacandaga River by a relatively short, good-sized stream. Thus the river serves to control the fish species assemblage in Trout Lake and Little Trout. Trout Lake was last surveyed in 1987 by the ALSC. Fish species captured in that survey included a mixture of native and nonnative fish including chain pickerel, golden shiner, white sucker, brown bullhead, yellow perch and creek chubsucker. The creek chubsucker is discussed in the nearby Ferris Lake Wild Forest Draft Unit Management Plan by Demong (2000). Trout and Little Trout Lakes will be managed as warm water ponds to preserve their native aquatic community in the presence of nonnative fishes.

*Management Class:* Warm Water

**Lost Pond (UH-P262)** - Lost Pond has never been surveyed. Lost Pond is located upstream of Trout/Little Trout Lakes and is 4 acres in size. While this pond shares an outlet with Trout and Little Trout Lakes, there appears to be a natural barrier to fish movement close to the outlet of Lost Pond. A 1932 survey of the outlet of Lost Pond found it suitable for trout, and brook trout stocking was recommended; this likely indicates the pond itself is suitable for trout. Because of the lack of survey data the pond will be classified as unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Unnamed Pond (UH-P262a)** - This unnamed water lies within the same drainage as Lost Pond. Like its neighbor Lost Pond, there has never been a survey of this 9 acre pond. A map check indicates that likely there would be no barrier to fish movement between the two ponds so that the fish species assemblage of the two is likely similar. Because of the lack of survey data the pond will be classified as unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Chub Lake (UH-P264)** - Chub Lake, a 17 acre pond, is located in between the West Branch Sacandaga River and the western base of Chub Lake Mountain. The pond's relatively short outlet drains directly into West Branch Sacandaga River with very little elevation change, and likely the river influences the fish species assemblage in the pond. When last surveyed in 1932 the pond contained only nonnative chain pickerel, yellow perch and fallfish. Chub Lake will be managed as a warm water pond to preserve its fish species present for their intrinsic value.

*Management Class:* Warm Water

**Ross Lake (UH-P266)** - Ross Lake is a relatively small 4 acre water located in the North Branch drainage between Sherman and White Lake Mountain. The pond is an historic brook trout water and was annually stocked between 1950 and 1966; when surveyed in 1962 the pond's pH was 5.2. Stocking was discontinued in 1967 because of unsuitable water chemistries, and an ALSC survey in 1987 confirmed that the pH had dropped to 4.87, with a -6.7 ANC. Ross Lake was experimentally stocked again from 1995 to 1999, and when the pond was last surveyed in 1999 the pH had improved to 5.78 with an ANC of 14.4. Unfortunately, no fish were captured in the netting conducted in the 1999 survey, and brook trout stocking was once again discontinued. The reason for poor survival is unclear as the chemistries appear suitable, but the pond may be subject to acidic flushes during spring snow-melt. Relatively warm summer water temperatures may also have been a factor. Ross Lake's ALSC-calculated flushing rate exceeds the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources' criteria as a liming candidate. Ross Lake will be managed for the intrinsic value of its remaining aquatic life.

*Management Class:* Other

**North Branch Flow** (UH-P266a) - North Branch Flow, an 8 acre pond, is located directly east of North Branch Mountain. As its name implies, the pond is formed by a widening of the North Branch, a tributary of West Branch Sacandaga River. North Branch Flow's fish fauna is influenced by that in the North Branch. The pond was stocked with brook trout annually from 1950 to 1966. When last surveyed in 1967, the pond contained brown bullhead (NBWI) and brook trout. Stocking was discontinued because the survey revealed natural reproduction was adequate. North Branch Flow will continue to be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout water to preserve its native fish fauna in the presence of native but widely introduced brown bullhead.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P266B) - This 3 acre unnamed pond is located directly east of North Branch Flow and at the headwater of a small tributary that drains into the North Branch. This small pond has never been surveyed. Because of the lack of survey data the pond will be classified as unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Canary Pond** (UH-P267) - This 13.3 acre pond was last surveyed by the DEC in 1981. The pond at that time contained native brook trout and NBWI brown bullhead. The pond has been stocked annually with brook trout since 1942. The species assemblage has essentially remained unchanged from when the pond was first surveyed in 1932. The pond's pH in 1981 was measured at a 5.8 at a depth of 20'. ANC data are not available for the pond. The pond is relatively easily accessed via the Northville-Placid trail, and forms part of the headwaters of the North Branch. Canary will continue to be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout water.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P267A) - This small (0.5 A), unnamed pond has never received a survey. A map check shows no inlet or outlet. Because of the lack of survey data the pond will be classified as unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Brown Lake** (UH-P268) - Brown Lake is a 10.6 acre pond. A 1962 survey with a single net reported non-native golden shiner and brown bullhead, while the following year native brook trout and native white sucker were reported in addition golden shiner and brown bullhead. In 1978 the pond was surveyed again by DEC as part of the Acid Rain Surveys. Only brown bullhead and golden shiners were captured in this survey, and the pH was recorded with a hand meter at a relatively low 5.1. Based on the lack of brook trout catch and the relatively low pH, brook trout stocking was discontinued. The ALSC surveyed the pond again in 1987, and the pH had improved slightly to 5.25; only brown bullhead and golden shiners were captured. Based on the improved situation, brook trout stocking was resumed in 1994. A subsequent survey conducted in 1999 showed the pH had improved to 5.6, and brook trout and brown bullhead were the only species captured. The pond will continue to be managed as an Adirondack Brook Trout pond.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P269) - This 3 acre pond located between Meco Lake and the Silver Lake Outlet has never received a survey. Because there is currently no information on the pond, it will be classed as Unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Silver Lake** (UH-P270) - Silver Lake, the namesake of the Wilderness Unit, once supported a vibrant native fishery, but has, unfortunately, become a victim of acid precipitation. When first surveyed in 1932, the 75 acre pond was reported to have excellent conditions, and brook trout were reported in both Silver Lake and its outlet. Non-native golden shiner, NWBI brown bullhead, and NWBI creek chub were also captured. The lake was stocked annually with brook trout from 1942 to 1968. The lake once sustained a healthy brook trout fishery and as stated in the 2001

State Land Master Plan, “Silver Lake is the principal attraction near the center of this area, chiefly for brook trout fishermen.” However, in 1969 the pond was surveyed following angler reports of poor brook trout fishing. The survey failed to capture fish of any kind, and the pond was determined to be chemically unsuitable for fish. Consequently, stocking was discontinued. When surveyed in 1976 as part of the Acid Waters Survey the pH was 4.92 and, again, no fish were captured. Because some waters have had their pH’s moderate in recent years, beginning in fall 2002, an experimental brook trout stocking policy was started on Silver Lake. The lake is tentatively scheduled to be surveyed in the future and, hopefully, water chemistry results and netting will show some degree of recovery. Silver Lake will also be investigated as a potential liming candidate. Silver Lake has a calculated flushing rate of less than 1, indicating it may meet the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources’ criteria for liming. Assuming it is found to meet the other criteria as a liming candidate, the liming could restore this lake as a significant native fishery resource. Silver Lake is accessed via the Northville-Placid trail, and there is a lean-to site near the lake. If field observations confirm the pond is a viable liming candidate, it will be limed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a liming is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data. Silver Lake will also be investigated for its potential as suitable round whitefish habitat. If suitable, round whitefish may be experimentally stocked in an effort to establish a viable round whitefish population within the Unit.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**White Lake** (UH-P271) - White Lake shares a similar history with Silver Lake. When first surveyed in 1932, the pond was reported to have a naturally sustaining brook trout population. Later, the pond was stocked annually with brook trout from 1942 through 1968. In 1969 following reports of poor fishing, the pond was re-surveyed. No fish of any kind were captured in the survey, the pond was declared chemically unsuitable, and stocking was discontinued. White Lake has never had its pH determined, however low pH, a result of acidic deposition, is assumed to have resulted in the demise of the pond’s fish community. Like Silver Lake, in fall 2002 an experimental brook trout stocking policy was started on White Lake. The pond is tentatively scheduled to be re-surveyed to assess the performance of the brook trout. Preliminary data indicate White Lake may meet the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources criteria for liming as its flushing rate was calculated to be near 2. Liming would enable restoration of a native fish community in White Lake should the scheduled survey information indicate low pH is still a limiting factor for this pond. This remote pond is located at the southern base of White Lake Mountain. If field observations confirm the pond is a viable liming candidate, it will be limed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a liming is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Rock Lake** (UH-P275) - Rock Lake is accessible via the Northville-Placid trail. This 8 acre pond was first surveyed in 1932. Only a single, non-native golden shiner was captured during the survey. From 1954 to the present the pond has received annual brook trout stockings, and prior to 1954 it received a mixture of rainbow trout or brook trout stockings. The pond was subsequently surveyed in 1965 as part of a routine net check on the stocking policy and NBWI brown bullhead and native brook trout were captured. The pond was surveyed again in 1978 as part of the Acid Waters Survey. Brown bullhead, brook trout and golden shiners were captured in that survey, and the pH was measured at a relatively low 4.85, although the meter used by the DEC crew may not have been accurate. If subsequent surveys reveal the brook trout population to be in decline due to interspecific competition from nonnative or NBWI species, and if field observations confirm the pond is a viable reclamation candidate, it will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation and the pond narrative will be revised to reflect the new survey data.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Meco Lake** (UH-P276) - Meco Lake, a 12 acre pond directly south of Silver Lake along the Northville-Placid Trail, was originally surveyed in 1932. No fish were captured in an overnight gill net set. The pond was experimentally stocked with brook trout from 1966 to 1968 following the recommendations of a survey in 1965. When a follow-up survey in 1969 failed to capture any brook trout, the pond was declared chemically unsuitable and stocking was discontinued. In 1975 Meco Lake was surveyed as part of the Acid Waters Survey. The pH recorded at the time was a low 4.70 with a negative alkalinity. A 1987 survey by the ALSC also failed to capture any fish, and the pH at the time was 4.93 with a negative ANC. Unfortunately, Meco Lake has a flushing rate of over 4, indicating it does not meet the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources' liming criteria. Meco Lake should receive a chemical survey to determine if its pH has improved to the point where it can sustain fish. If results show the pond can now sustain a fish community, it will be stocked with brook trout.

*Management Class:* Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P278A) - This small, 1 acre pond is an in-stream pond on Elbow Creek located near Co. Rt. 16. The pond has never been surveyed. Because it has never received a survey and because of its small size, it will be classed as unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P5280) - This in-stream pond on an unnamed tributary of Hatch Brook varies in size depending upon which map is referenced, and probably owes its existence to beaver activity. Its species assemblage is likely determined by that of the stream, and because it has never received a survey and because of its small size, it will be classed as unknown.

*Management Class:* Unknown

**Unnamed Water** (UH-P5284) - This widening of the West Branch Sacandaga is 10.1 acres in size. The species assemblage is controlled by that of the West Branch Sacandaga, and thus the pond offers little management potential.

*Management Class:* Other

**Unnamed Water** (UH-5285) - This small (4 acre) water is also an in-stream pond of the West Branch Sacandaga. The species assemblage in this pond is also controlled by that of the West Branch Sacandaga.

*Management Class:* Other

**Unnamed Water** (UH-5304) - This pond is apparently a temporal one, appearing on some maps and not others, perhaps owing its existence to beaver activity. The pond is located on an unnamed tributary that drains the southern portions of Middle Hill and Round Top. Because the pond is temporal and its species assemblage is determined by that in the tributary forming it, it has limited management potential and is classed as Other.

*Management Class:* Other

## **MOHAWK DRAINAGE**

**Little Stoner Lake**, also referred to as North Stoner, East Stoner or East Stink Lake (MH-P723) - Little Stoner Lake was first surveyed in 1934. A shore seine captured chain pickerel, golden shiner and creek chubsucker. Fallfish nests and sunfish were also observed at that time. In 1975 the lake was surveyed again and yellow perch, fallfish, golden shiner, brown bullhead, chain pickerel, black crappie, and pumpkinseed were captured. No creek chubsucker were captured. In 1925 lake whitefish were stocked, followed by smallmouth bass and walleye in 1928 and 1931, respectively. In the 1950's and early '60's, unspecified numbers of salvage bass were stocked. Largemouth bass were experimentally stocked in the lake in 1969 and 1970, however since no largemouth were captured in the 1975 survey, the plantings were apparently a failure. Because of its dominant non-native, warm-water fishery community and its extensive, un-treatable watershed making a reclamation impossible, management to re-establish a native fish

community in this lake is impractical at this time. The lake will continue to be managed as a warm-water fishery and to preserve its native aquatic community in the presence of nonnative fishes.

*Management Class:* Warm Water

## **RIVER RESOURCES**

**West Branch Sacandaga River** (UH-369-20) - The Sacandaga River forms much of the western boundary of the Silver Lake Wilderness Unit south of its confluence with Piseco Lake outlet, and thereafter bisects the Silver Lake Wilderness Unit in two, flowing across the unit in an easterly direction. The river has an assortment of native and non-native fish species including smallmouth bass, rock bass, fallfish, blacknose dace, longnose dace, cutlips minnow, margined madtom, brown trout and brook trout. The West Branch Sacandaga River is currently stocked with brown trout and brook trout.

**Sacandaga River** (UH-369) - The Sacandaga River roughly forms the eastern border of the unit downstream of its confluence with the West Branch Sacandaga. This river section contains an assortment of native and non-native fish species and no doubt contains many of the same species present in Great Sacandaga Lake, a large flood control reservoir located approximately one mile downstream of the southern boundary of the unit. The river serves as an important walleye spawning area for Great Sacandaga Lake's walleye population. Sampling conducted in 1969 in the vicinity of the Route 920H bridge over the Sacandaga River in Northville captured the following species: northern pike, smallmouth bass, rock bass, walleye, lake whitefish, white sucker, carp, largemouth bass, golden shiner, common shiner, spottail shiner, and fallfish. Stream electrofishing done in August 2002 several hundred yards upstream of the confluence of the Sacandaga River and the West Branch Sacandaga River captured most of the species listed above except walleye, carp and lake whitefish. In addition, stonecats, longnose dace and stocked brown trout were captured.

<b>Table 1. Silver Lake Wilderness Area - Ponded Water Survey Data</b>										
Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conduc-tivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Brown Lake	P268	UH	07/26/99	DEC	3.96	5.62	17.2	1999	DEC	BB(43), ST(7); & in 1987, GS(3) by ALSC.
Buck Pond	P218	UH	09/10/87	ALSC	-13.3	4.77	18.3	1987	ALSC	No fish caught.
Buckhorn Lake (Fiddlers Pond)	P251	UH	06/24/58	DEC	-	5.8	-	1958	DEC	BB(88), Lepomis Spp.(31), GS(observed), PKL(reported)
Canary Pond	P267	UH	07/21/81	DEC	-	4.6	17	1981	DEC	BB(53), ST(18)
Chub Lake	P264	UH	07/18/32	DEC	-	6.2	-	1932	DEC	YP(1), PKL(4), FF(many), & blk. bass nests observed
Grant Lake	P157	UH	08/03/78	DEC	-	5.2	20.2	1978	DEC	ST(4), WS(4), PKS(6), BB(1), CC(21), GS(1)
Lake Chartreuse	P219	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Never surveyed. ST stocked historically until beaver dam went out
Little Lake	P250	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Never surveyed. BB & PKL reported '58.
Little Stoner Lake	P723	M	07/16/75	DEC	-	6	-	1975	DEC	PKL(5), PKS(10), YP(140), BB(11), GS(14), FF(10), COB(1)
Little Trout Lake	P261	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Never surveyed
Loomis Ponds (Upper)	P255	UH	08/25/76	DEC	-	4.85	-	1976	DEC	No fish caught. ST reported historically
Loomis Ponds (Lower)	P256	UH	06/26/87	ALSC	-9.5	4.87	22.6	1987	ALSC	No fish caught. Earlier survey, same.
Loomis Ponds (Middle)	P257	UH	06/26/87	ALSC	-12.7	4.78	21.7	1987	ALSC	No fish caught. Earlier survey, same.
Lost Lake (Cooney)	P233	UH	08/03/78	DEC	-	5.6	19	1978	DEC	BB(24), ST(1)
Lost Pond	P262	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information
Meco Lake	P276	UH	08/04/87	ALSC	-7.9	4.93	19.3	1987	ALSC	No fish caught. Earlier surveys, same.
Mud Lake	P216	UH	07/11/32	DEC	-	6.4	-	1982	DEC	BB(100), ST(14), GS(9)
Mud Lake	P231	UH	07/20/32	DEC	-	5.8	-	1932	DEC	PKL(1), minnows observed.
North Branch Flow	P266A	UH	08/08/67	DEC	-	5.5	-	1967	DEC	BB(8), ST(3)

**Table 1. Silver Lake Wilderness Area - Ponded Water Survey Data**

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical survey					Most Recent Biological Survey		
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Owl Pond	P222	UH	08/02/78	DEC	-	5.55	18	1978	DEC	ST(4), WS(91), NRD(1)
Rock Lake	P275	UH	08/02/78	DEC	-	4.65	17	1978	DEC	BB(77), ST(8), GS(16)
Ross Lake	P266	UH	07/26/99	DEC	14.42	5.78	15.5	1999	DEC	No fish caught.
Silver Lake	P270	UH	08/23/76	DEC	-	5.11	-	1976	DEC	No fish caught. Earlier surveys caught ST, BB, GS.
Three Ponds (Lower)	P159	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information
Three Ponds (Middle)	P160	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Three Ponds (Upper)	P217	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Trout Lake	P260	UH	08/04/87	ALSC	36.5	6.16	24.3	1987	ALSC	YP(41), PKL(3), BB(8), GS(5), WS(1), creek chubsucker(1)
Unnamed Water	P158A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P160A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P215A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P216A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P216B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P216C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P218A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST reported historically.
Unnamed Water	P221A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P221B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P262A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P266B	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P267A	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P269	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.

<b>Table 1. Silver Lake Wilderness Area - Ponded Water Survey Data</b>										
<b>Name</b>	<b>P#</b>	<b>Wshed</b>	<b>Most Recent Chemical survey</b>					<b>Most Recent Biological Survey</b>		
			<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>ANC (ueq/1)</b>	<b>pH</b>	<b>Conduc-tivity</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Fish Species Present and Number Caught</b>
Unnamed Water	P278A	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P5280	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P5284	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
Unnamed Water	P5285	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information
Unnamed Water	P5304	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No information.
White Lake	P271	UH	-	-	-	-	-	1969	DEC	No fish caught.
Woods Lake	P156	UH	?	DEC	-	6.5	-	1973	DEC	SMB(16), PKL(2), RT(9), BB(30), PKS(30), YP(7)

BB = Brown Bullhead  
COB = Black Crappie  
GS = Golden Shiner  
LT = Lake Trout  
PKL = Pickerel  
RB = Rock Bass  
ST = Brook Trout  
WS = White Sucker

CC = Creek Chub  
FF = Fallfish  
LMB = Largemouth Bass  
NRD = Northern Redbelly Dace  
PKS = Pumpkinseed  
SMB = Smallmouth Bass  
YP = Yellow Perch

<b>Table 2. Silver Lake Wilderness Area - Ponded Water Inventory Data</b>								
<b>Name</b>	<b>P#</b>	<b>Wshed</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>USGS Quad Name</b>	<b>Area (acres) NYSBSU</b>	<b>Max Depth (feet)</b>	<b>Mean Depth (feet)</b>
Brown Lake	P268	UH	487	Hamilton	Caroga Lake	10.6	25	7.9
Buck Pond	P218	UH	418	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	5.2	22	4.3
Buckhorn Lake (Fiddlers)	P251	UH	465	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	40	10	-
Canary Pond	P267	UH	486	Hamilton	Whitehouse	13.3	36	-
Chub Lake	P264	UH	482	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	16.6	19	7.9
Grant Lake	P157	UH	327	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	8.4	15	-
Lake Chartreuse	P219	UH	423	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	11.6	-	-
Little Lake	P250	UH	464	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	4.7	-	-
Little Stoner Lake	P723	M	1143	Hamilton	Canada Lake	24.5	33	-
Little Trout Lake	P261	UH	479	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	11.6	-	-
Loomis Ponds (Upper)	P255	UH	472	Hamilton	Whitehouse	30.4	50	-
Loomis Ponds (Lower)	P256	UH	473	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	8.2	4	2.3
Loomis Ponds (Middle)	P257	UH	474	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	8.2	20	6.9
Lost Lake (Cooney)	P233	UH	441	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	4	29	-
Lost Pond	P262	UH	-	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	3.7	-	-
Meco lake	P276	UH	497	Hamilton	Whitehouse	12.1	20	8.2
Mud Lake	P216	UH	414	Hamilton	Whitehouse	23	10	4.6
Mud Lake	P231	UH	439	Hamilton	Piseco Lake	18.3	11	-
North Branch Flow	P266A	UH	485A	Hamilton	Whitehouse	7.9	10	-
Owl Pond	P222	UH	428	Hamilton	Whitehouse	7.7	22	-
Rock Lake	P275	UH	496	Hamilton	Whitehouse	8.2	38	-
Ross Lake	P266	UH	485	Hamilton	Whitehouse	4	10	4.3

<b>Table 2. Silver Lake Wilderness Area - Ponded Water Inventory Data</b>								
<b>Name</b>	<b>P#</b>	<b>Wshed</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>USGS Quad Name</b>	<b>Area (acres) NYSBSU</b>	<b>Max Depth (feet)</b>	<b>Mean Depth (feet)</b>
Silver Lake	P270	UH	490	Hamilton	Whitehouse	75.1	55	-
Three Ponds (Lower)	P159	UH	331	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	2.2	-	-
Three Ponds (Middle)	P160	UH	332	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	1	-	-
Three Ponds (Upper)	P217	UH	416	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	4.4	-	-
Trout Lake	P260	UH	478	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	20.3	14	7.9
Unnamed Water	P158A	UH	329	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	5.9	-	-
Unnamed Water	P160A	UH	-	Hamilton	Caroga Lake	3.7	-	-
Unnamed Water	P215A	UH	-	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	2	-	-
Unnamed Water	P216A	UH	-	Hamilton	Whitehouse	3	-	-
Unnamed Water	P216B	UH	-	Hamilton	Whitehouse	3.2	-	-
Unnamed Water	P216C	UH	-	Hamilton	Whitehouse	2.5	-	-
Unnamed Water	P218A	UH	419	Hamilton	Whitehouse	1	-	-
Unnamed Water	P221A	UH	-	Hamilton	Wells	11.1	-	-
Unnamed Water	P221B	UH	-	Hamilton	Wells	3.2	-	-
Unnamed Water	P262A	UH	-	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	9.4	-	-
Unnamed Water	P266B	UH	-	Hamilton	Whitehouse	3	-	-
Unnamed Water	P267A	UH	-	Hamilton	Sherman Mountain	0.5	-	-
Unnamed Water	P269	UH	489	Hamilton	Whitehouse	3	-	-
Unnamed Water	P278A	UH	-	Hamilton	Wells	1	-	-
Unnamed Water	P5280	UH	-	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	1.7	-	-
Unnamed Water	P5284	UH	-	Hamilton	Whitehouse	10.1	-	-
Unnamed Water	P5285	UH	-	Hamilton	Whitehouse	3.7	-	-

<b>Table 2. Silver Lake Wilderness Area - Ponded Water Inventory Data</b>								
<b>Name</b>	<b>P#</b>	<b>Wshed</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>USGS Quad Name</b>	<b>Area (acres) NYSBSU</b>	<b>Max Depth (feet)</b>	<b>Mean Depth (feet)</b>
Unnamed Water	P5304	UH	-	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	0.7	-	-
White Lake	P271	UH	491	Hamilton	Whitehouse	11.6	19	-
Woods Lake	P156	UH	325	Hamilton	Cathead Mountain	65	40	20.3

Table 3.

**CLASSIFICATION OF COMMON ADIRONDACK UPLAND FISH FAUNA INTO  
NATIVE, NONNATIVE, AND NATIVE BUT WIDELY INTRODUCED**

Adapted from George, 1980

NATIVE TO ADIRONDACK UPLAND		
Blacknose dace	Redbreast sunfish	Common Shiner
White sucker	Finescale dace	Lake chub
Longnose sucker	Creek chubsucker	Slimy sculpin
Northern redbelly dace	Longnose dace	Round whitefish
NATIVE SPECIES WIDELY INTRODUCED WITHIN THE ADIRONDACK UPLAND <sup>1</sup>		
Brook trout	Cisco	Brown bullhead
Lake trout	Pumpkinseed	Creekchub
NONNATIVE TO ADIRONDACK UPLAND		
Golden shiner	Northern pike	Chain pickerel
Rock bass	Bluntnose minnow <sup>2</sup>	Smallmouth bass
Largemouth bass	Yellow perch	Johnny darter
Fathead minnow <sup>3</sup>	Brown trout	Rainbow trout
Splake	Atlantic salmon	Lake whitefish
Banded killifish <sup>4</sup>	Rainbow smelt	Fallfish <sup>5</sup>
Bluegill	Walleye	Pearl dace
Central mudminnow	Redhorse suckers (spp.)	Black crappie

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<sup>1</sup>These native fishes are known to have been widely distributed throughout Adirondack uplands by DEC, bait bucket introduction, and unauthorized stocking. This means that their presence does not necessarily indicate endemism. Other native species listed above also may have been moved from water to water in the Adirondack Upland, but the historical record is less distinct.

<sup>2</sup>Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, widely used as bait.

<sup>3</sup>Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, minor element southern Adirondack Uplands (Greeley 1930-1935).

<sup>4</sup>Early collections strongly suggest dispersal as a bait form.

<sup>5</sup>Adventive through stocking.

Table 4.

**Silver Lake Wilderness - Fish Community Ecological Analysis  
Known Fish Distributions from Early Surveys vs. Present**

<b>Lake/Pond Category</b>	Prior to 1980	%	Post-1980	%	Net Change in # Lakes	% Net Change by Species
Total # Lakes	48	-	48	-	-	-
# Ponds Surveyed	23	-	10	-	-	-
# Un-surveyed	26	-	25	-	-	-
# Historically Fishless Ponds	1	-	1	-	-	-
# Historically Supporting Fish Life	24	-	24	-	-	-
# Ponds Formerly Supporting Fish but now Fishless	6	-	6	-	-	-
<b>SPECIES CATEGORIES</b>						
<b>Native but Widely Introduced</b>	Prior to 1980	%	Post-1980	%	Net Change in # Lakes	% Net Change by Species
Brook Trout	14	58%	9	38%	-5	-36%
Lake Trout	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
Brown Bullhead	12	50%	11	46%	-1	-8%
Pumpkinseed	2	8%	2	8%	0	0%
Creek Chub	3	13%	2	8%	-1	-33%
<b>Native Species</b>						
<b>Native Species</b>	Prior to 1980	%	Post-1980	%	Net Change in # Lakes	% Net Change by Species
White Sucker	4	17%	4	17%	0	0%
Northern Redbelly Dace	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
Creek Chubsucker	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
Round Whitefish	1	4%	0	0%	-1	-100%
<b>Non-Native Species</b>						
<b>Non-Native Species</b>	Prior to 1980	%	Post-1980	%	Net Change in # Lakes	% Net Change by Species
Golden Shiner	7	29%	8	33%	1	14%
Chain Pickerel	5	21%	5	21%	0	0%

Splake	1	4%	0	0%	-1	-100%
Rock Bass	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
Smallmouth Bass	2	8%	2	8%	0	0%
Yellow Perch	5	21%	5	21%	0	0%
Rainbow Trout	2	8%	1	4%	-1	-50%
Black Crappie	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
Fallfish	2	8%	2	8%	0	0%