New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests
Region 5

Saint Regis Canoe Area

Unit Management Plan

Franklin County
Towns of Santa Clara, Harrietstown, Brighton

June 2006

George E. Pataki, Governor

Denise M. Sheehan, Commissioner

Lead Agency:
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GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

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

DENISE M. SHEEHAN
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

JUN 13 2006

TO: The Record

FROM: Denise M. Sheehan

SUBJECT: St. Regis Mountain Canoe Area

The Unit Management Plan Amendment for the St Regis Mountain Canoe Area has been completed. The Plan is consistent with guidelines and criteria for the Adirondack Park Sate Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies. The Plan includes management objectives and a five year budget and is hereby approved.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE ST. REGIS CANOE AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
May 11, 2006

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan for the St. Regis Canoe Area dated April, 2006; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type 1 action pursuant to implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR Part 617, and the Department has made a negative determination of significance on May 10, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan, dated April, 2006, is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan explicitly recognizes the primary value of the St. Regis Canoe Area as an area for water based recreation which provides unique opportunities for the recreating public to experience a high degree of solitude in an essentially wilderness setting; and

WHEREAS, Article 9-0109(4)(a) of the Environmental Conservation Law allows for maintenance of historic structures within the Adirondack Park provided that the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation finds that such structures are listed on the state register of historic places and provided that the DEC Commissioner finds that such structures can be maintained for the public enjoyment and understanding of the Forest Preserve in a way which will not disturb the existing degree of the wild forest character of either the adjacent land or the land on which the structure is located; and

WHEREAS, the St. Regis Mt. Fire Tower is listed on the State Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to development of a comprehensive Adirondack fire tower management plan which will address all State owned fire towers in the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to the implementation of strategies for prevention, targeted containment and/or eradication of invasive plant infestations and to expand the Paul Smith’s College Watershed Stewardship program to the ponds within the St. Regis Canoe Area; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes management intended to restore and perpetuate indigenous fish species, provide recreational angling as part of a larger wilderness experience, and maintain and perpetuate annual hunting and trapping activities as legitimate uses of the wildlife resources compatible with wilderness recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes management to monitor and afford protection to species which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern, including management actions to monitor loon populations and nesting activity and restore populations of round whitefish; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to providing visitors with a trail system that offers access to ponds within and in close proximity to the St. Regis Canoe Area while keeping major sections of the SRCA “trailless” to preserve a sense of remoteness and solitude; and

WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to defer any cutting for the purpose of creating or maintaining views on Long Pond Mt. until compliance with the Master Plan for this activity is resolved; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes to inventory the campsites within the five-year planning cycle of this UMP, monitor the condition of the campsites to identify problems from site over-use, develop a campsite plan and identify campsites which need to be closed or relocated and to give priority attention to campsites which are experiencing serious negative impacts from use and campsites which do not comply with Master Plan separation distance requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to continued consultation with Agency staff on the design of primitive tent sites in the Unit, including the Keese Mill Rd. area, and to provide the Agency with the final campsite plan for the St. Regis Canoe Area as an amendment to this Unit Plan within the next year; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to managing mountain bike use to ensure that it does not negatively impact the natural resources or create conflicts with other user groups; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to providing visitors with a ski trail system that offers opportunities for loop trips of varying distances for various user ability levels; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to provide adequate trailhead facilities to protect natural resource values and to accommodate visitor needs, and to monitoring parking usage over the course of this UMP to determine future needs; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to initiation of a Limits of Acceptable Change approach to assessing carrying capacities and to monitor the levels of visitor use through visitor trail registration sheets, conducting visitor surveys, using trail counters, and other sources to determine the number of people visiting the SRCA, the activities they enjoy, and the type of experience they have; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to development of regulations for group size limits which will impose a limit of 8 people per camping group and limit day use to 15 people per party; and

WHEREAS, the plan proposes specific actions to increase the number of facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Regis Fire Tower does not currently meet the criteria of an essential use for the Department of Environmental Conservation and its removal should therefore either occur within three years from the adoption of this Unit Management Plan or other alternatives based on recommendations identified in the proposed comprehensive study of fire towers within the Adirondack Park and in conformance with Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, should be identified within one year and submitted to the Agency through a UMP amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan, dated April, 2006, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan except in regards to a final action on the St. Regis Fire Tower which will be further clarified through the proposed comprehensive study on Fire Towers and in regard to the proposal for the maintenance of views on Long Pond Mt. pending further discussion between Agency and DEC staff; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency’s determination in this matter.

AYES: R. Beach (DED), S. Buchanan (DEC), R. Hoffman (DOS), F. Mezzano, D. Rehm, J. Townsend, L. Ulrich, R. Whaley

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: K. Roberts, C. Wray

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PREFACE

The Saint Regis Canoe Area (SRCA) Unit Management Plan has been developed pursuant to, and is consistent with, relevant provisions of the New York State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), the Executive Law, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan June 2001(Master Plan), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) rules and regulations, Department policies and procedures and the State Environmental Quality and Review Act (SEQRA).

The State land which is the subject of this Unit Management Plan (UMP) is Forest Preserve land 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, or shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."*

ECL §§3-0301(1)(d) and 9-0105(1) provide the Department with jurisdiction to manage Forest Preserve lands, including the SRCA.

The Master Plan was initially adopted in 1972 by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), with advice from and in consultation with the Department, pursuant to Executive Law §807, now recodified as Executive Law §816. The Master Plan provides the overall general framework for the development and management of State lands in the Adirondack Park, including those State lands which are the subject of this UMP.

The Master Plan places State land within the Adirondack Park into the following classifications: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, Historic, State Administrative, Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers, and Travel Corridors, and sets forth management guidelines for the lands falling within each major classification. The Master Plan classifies the lands which are the subject of this UMP as part of the SRCA.

For all State lands falling within each major classification, the Master Plan sets forth management guidelines and criteria. These guidelines and criteria address 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.

Executive Law §816 requires the Department to develop, in consultation with the APA, individual UMPs for each unit of land under the Department's jurisdiction which is classified in one of the nine 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 Adirondack Park.

Executive Law §816(1) provides in part that "(u)ntil amended, the master plan for management of state lands and the individual management plans shall guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack Park.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Planning Area Overview

The Saint Regis Canoe Area (SRCA) is the only unit of New York State land that is designated as a canoe area by the Master Plan. It is located in southern Franklin County, an area that is renowned for water based recreation. The SRCA is a contiguous block of forested State land that covers 18,400 acres. Most of the boundary lines for this area are relatively easy to identify. The boundary on the south runs along Floodwood Road and the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor. The western boundary runs along the Santa Clara town line and around a block of private land. The north border is Keese Mills Road and the St. Regis River. The eastern border follows along old logging roads just east of the Santa Clara town line. The SRCA is bordered by both private land and other state lands. Approximately 68 percent of the land bordering the SRCA is private and 32 percent is state land. The state land that borders the SRCA is part of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest (SLWF). The SLWF is very important for managing the SRCA because several SRCA access points are located in the SLWF. Significant amounts of adjacent private land are owned by Paul Smith's College and Bay Pond Park. (See map #2)

Table 1. General information statistics for the SRCA:

Area:	18,400 acres
Boundary lines:	33.5 miles
Water bodies:	58
Area covered by water:	1,621 acres
Parking Areas:	3
Primitive tent sites:	75
Lean-tos:	3
State Truck Trails:	6.2 miles
Foot Trails:	19.7 miles

Easements

New York State does not own any easements within the SRCA planning area; however, there are important easements on adjacent properties in the SLWF. New York State owns development and recreational easements on nearly 8,000 acres of the lands owned by Paul Smith's College. The Nature Conservancy owns a development easement on the Bay Pond Park property which is adjacent to the entire northern border of the SRCA.

B. Unit Geographic Information

The SRCA can be found on the Saint Regis Mountain and Upper Saranac Lake 1:25,000 scale USGS topographic maps. The SRCA is located in Macomb's Purchase, Great Tract No. 1, in parts of townships 17, 18, 20, and 21.

C. General Location

The majority of the SRCA is within the town of Santa Clara, but there are small sections in the towns of Harrietstown and Brighton. The SRCA is approximately 9 miles northwest of the Village of Saranac Lake and 9 miles northeast from the Village of Tupper Lake. Nearby public lands include the Saranac Lake and Debar Mountain Wild Forests, and the Fish Creek, Rollins Pond, and Meacham Lake Campgrounds. The Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) is operated by the APA and is located on Paul Smith's College property adjacent to the SRCA.

D. General Access

Access to the SRCA is primarily through seven access points (See Map #3). Secondary access is available wherever road frontage allows. The main road used to reach the SRCA is State Route 30. State Route 30 is one of the primary north-south roads through the Adirondacks and is easily reached from other State Routes and interstate highways. Several side roads off of State Route 30 provided direct access to SRCA lands. To the south, Floodwood Road allows people to reach three access points and it fronts 6,500' of SRCA land. Also to the south, Fish Hatchery Road allows access to two entry points. To the north, 13,000' of SRCA land are fronted by Keese Mills Road. This road allows one access point to be reached. To the east, Upper St. Regis Lake allows one access point to be reached. There is no public access on the western side of the SRCA.

Drive times to some nearby communities are Saranac Lake: 15 minutes, Tupper Lake: 20 minutes, Malone: 40 minutes, and Plattsburgh: 1 hour. Times to major population centers are Montreal: 2 hours, Syracuse: 3 hours, Albany 3 hours, New York City and Boston: 6 hours.

E. General History

The history of the SRCA is similar to the rest of the Adirondacks. This UMP will briefly mention some significant events that affected the development of what is now called the SRCA. For those who are interested in the history of the Adirondacks, there are plenty of well-written books concerning this subject.

Logging was as important to the areas around the SRCA as it was to most areas of the Adirondacks. In addition to logging, tourism became a fixture here earlier than it became a fixture in many other areas of the Adirondacks. The early tourists would stay at the prime hotels of the time and often used waterways for travel. The recreational canoe routes that are used today were originally used by those traveling between hotels. When New York began to protect land in the Adirondacks, the SRCA was among the first land to be purchased.

Brief chronological history:

1792- Alexander Macomb purchased 3,934,899 acres from the State of New York, shortly afterward he went bankrupt and had to subdivide the purchase, Tract one was sold to Daniel McCormick.
1849- Martin's Hotel on Lower Saranac Lake is built; it is one of the first enterprises in the area aimed at tourists.
1850- The Maine Company buys township 20 of Great Tract One, and begins logging operations.
1859- Paul Smith opens a hotel on Lower St. Regis Lake.
1864- The Prospect House, a hotel on Upper Saranac Lake, opens.
1876- The summit of St. Regis Mountain burns while survey work is being conducted.
1886- The Saranac Lake Association, a group of businessmen, buys township 20.
1892- Dr. Seward Webb builds the railroad that is now the southern border of the SRCA.
1895- Constitutional Amendment protecting the Forest Preserve becomes effective.
1896- William Rockefeller begins buying land in Santa Clara, this land will become Bay Pond Park.
1898- New York State buys much of township 20, including 14,207 acres which will become the core of the SRCA.
1903- Fire burns 7,400 acres of what will become the SRCA.
1910- A fire observer is stationed on St. Regis Mountain.
1918- A 35' steel fire tower replaces the wooden tower on St. Regis Mountain.
1926- With funds from the 1916 bond act the state buys 3,219 acres from William Rockefeller.
1934- Fire burns a large section of Bay Pond Park, it may have also spread to sections of the SRCA.
1936- The Civilian Conservation Corps builds fire truck trails in the area, including the Fish Pond truck trail.
1946- Paul Smith's College is formed on Lower St. Regis Lake
1972- The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan is adopted and the SRCA is designated.
1978- New York starts acquiring lands from Paul Smith's College in fee or as easements. Over the next twenty years 6,225 acres of land will be acquired in fee and 7,700 acres of easements will be acquired. These purchases added several hundred acres to the SRCA.
1990- The St. Regis Mountain fire tower is closed at the end of the fire season.
2005- The St. Regis Mountain fire tower is listed on the National Historic Register.

II. INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

Many factors over a vast period of time have played a part in creating the SRCA as it is today. The slowest and the most drastic changes have undoubtedly been caused by geological events. Several times over the past billion and a half years the area has been covered by oceans and then formed into great mountains only to erode away and again to be covered by water.

As mountains go the Adirondacks are relatively new, having started the slow creation process less than twenty million years ago. It is believed that a hot spot under the Earth's crust resulted in the uplift of the Adirondacks. Today, the Adirondack Mountains continue to grow at a rate up to thirty times faster than they are being eroded (Schneider 129). Even though the Adirondacks are relatively young, the rocks that make them up are very old. The bedrock of much of the Adirondacks was created as part of the Grenville Series, an area of sedimentary rock that covers a large portion of northeastern North America. The Grenville Series was created over a billion years ago when the area was covered by a shallow sea. Over time the original rock has been buried and changed through many geological processes. Through uplift and erosion, the Adirondacks are one of the few locations where the Grenville Series is exposed at the surface of the earth.

The bedrock found in most of the SRCA is metanorthosite, this was formed separately from the Grenville Series. Metanorthosite was formed when molten anorthosite flowed from the center of the earth toward the surface. As this molten mass made its way up, it would melt or engulf portions of the original rock. When the anorthosite neared the surface, it cooled and solidified. Over time, geologic forces converted the anorthosite to metanorthosite. Metanorthosite is composed mostly of a single mineral type, plagioclase feldspar (Isachsen et al. 30).

Over time, the forces of erosion and deposition have changed the surface landscape. Throughout the Adirondacks the most dramatic of these changes were the result of glaciers. The world's climate grew colder 1.6 million years ago, resulting in the formation of huge sheets of ice which advanced and retreated several times. The last of these ice sheets reached its peak approximately 22,000 years ago and retreated from New York 10,000 years ago. As these ice sheets advanced, they tore away huge quantities of soil and rock from the landscape; later, as they retreated, they deposited this material in new locations. This glacial action resulted in the formation on many of the ponds and wetlands in the SRCA. Some ponds were formed when a large piece of ice was left

buried in deposited soil by the retreating glaciers. When the ice melted a depression would form and many of these became ponds. These are know as kettle ponds. Other ponds were formed by glacier deposits blocking stream channels.

Another feature in the SRCA left by the glaciers is the St. Regis esker, which may be part of an 85 mile long esker referred to as the Adirondack esker. An esker is a ridge of glacial outwash deposited by a subglacial stream. Eskers usually rise 10 to 150 feet from their base and they rise and fall along their course. They may be straight or may twist and bend. The St. Regis Esker starts near Fish Pond, runs to the north of Ochre and St. Regis Ponds, then heads north between Upper Saint Regis Lake and Spectacle Ponds. The sandy soil of the esker is perfect for the growth of white pine. There is a trail along this esker that is a “pillared aisle of majestic white pine” (Jamieson 42).

b. Soils

The soils in the SRCA are derived from glacial deposits. Glacial tills and outwash are both found in the SRCA. Glacial till is an area where the glacier directly deposited the soil, while glacial outwash involved water carrying the soil from the glacier. Outwash areas usually consist of lighter and smaller particles than till areas.

The Franklin County Soil Survey shows that there are four main soil associations in the SRCA. They are, in order of prominence, Hermon-Becket, rough mountainous land, Adams-Colton, and Hermon-Colton. Hermon-Becket soil occurs on glacial till that covers the lower mountain slopes. Characteristics are acidic, stony, well to moderately well drained, and moderately coarse texture. It is too stony to allow use of ordinary farm machinery. Rough mountainous land occurs above 1800'. Characteristics are steep to very steep slopes, many rock outcrops one to three acres in size, some areas are covered by glacial till, and large boulders are common. Adams-Colton occurs along the eastern edge of the SRCA on stratified glacial deposits. It is characterized as being well drained to excessively drained, strongly acidic, low in nutrients, coarse texture, and susceptible to wind and water erosion. It is listed as good building site for recreation uses. Hermon-Colton is found in the southwestern corner of the SRCA where there is rolling relief and glacial outwash deposits are found. (See soils map in Map #4).

c. Terrain/Topography

The SRCA is characterized mostly by gently rolling, relatively low terrain. Two exceptions are St. Regis and Long Pond Mountains. St. Regis Mountain is in the northern section of the unit, while Long Pond Mountain is to the west. These mountains have steep rocky slopes and significant elevation changes. The summit of St. Regis Mountain is the highest point in the SRCA at 2,874 feet, Long Pond Mountain is the second tallest peak at 2,530 feet. The lowest elevation in the SRCA is located on the St. Regis River’s West Branch where it leaves the unit at 1,500 feet.

d. Water

The SRCA is drained by 2 major watersheds - the Champlain watershed and the St. Lawrence watershed. Approximately 25 percent of the area (4,600 acres) is in the Champlain watershed and drains via Fish Creek to Upper Saranac Lake and then to the Saranac River. The remaining 75 percent of the area (approximately 13,800 acres) drains to the St. Lawrence via the Main and West Branches of the St. Regis River. The Champlain Drainage area of the SRCA includes 23 ponds that total 594 acres in surface area while the St. Lawrence portion encompasses 35 ponds that total 1,027 acres.

The unit contains 58 interior lakes and ponds totaling approximately 1,621 acres in surface area. St. Regis Pond is the largest individual water body, with a 401 acre surface area. Other notable waters include: Long Pond (338 acres), Little Long Pond (east) (82 acres) and Fish Pond (51 acres). Portions of the shoreline of Upper Spectacle Pond and East Pond are privately owned, but the ponds are included in the SRCA inventory of lakes. Little Green Pond (CH-P 192) and Little Clear Pond (CH-P 191) have portions of their shoreline within the boundary of the SRCA, but they are not included in the lake inventory because they are both considered to be part of the SLWF.

Appendix E, lists the major ponded waters in the SRCA with a brief narrative statement pertaining to their important features, including past and current management, accessibility, size, water chemistry, and fish species composition. The table of inventory data gives additional statistical information about the ponded waters of the area, including watershed, fisheries management classification, depth, and volume. The most recent chemical and biological data are summarized in Appendix F.

Approximately 2.6 miles of the West Branch of the St. Regis River is contained in the unit and is classified as a Scenic River by ECL §15-2714(2)(cc). Two miles of the Main branch of the St. Regis River is either contained in or forms the northern boundary of the unit. This river section is classified as a Recreational River by ECL §15-2714(3)(s). Named streams not within the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers program include Clamshell Pond Outlet (1 mile) and Grass Pond Outlet (½ mile). Many of the other streams in the unit are not named.

e. Wetlands

Wetlands are important ecological areas for wildlife habitat, water protection, flood control, and recreational values. For these reasons they are protected by state and federal regulations. The APA maintains records on wetlands within the Adirondack Park. Wetlands in the SRCA have been mapped and digitized. There are a roughly 386 separate wetland areas in the SRCA, which cover 1,242 acres. The largest number of wetlands and area covered, is by forested, evergreen wetlands. The second largest is needle-leaved evergreen scrub/shrub wetland. (See map #5).

f. Air Resources and Atmospheric Deposition

The effects of various activities on SRCA air quality have not been sufficiently measured nor determined. An air monitoring station is currently being installed at Paul Smith's College, which will provide continuous air monitoring data specific to the SRCA region. Air quality and visibility in the unit appears to be good to excellent, rated Class II (moderately well controlled) by Federal and State standards. However, the skies are occasionally obscured by haze caused by air pollutants when a large number of small diameter particles exist in the air. Visibility is reduced considerably on high sulphate days (O'Neil 1990). Air quality may be more affected by particulate matter blown in from outside sources rather than from activities within the unit.

The adverse effects of atmospheric deposition on the Adirondack environment has been documented by many researchers over the last two decades. While permanent monitoring sites have not been established in the SRCA general observations of the effects of acidic deposition on the regional ecosystem are numerous and well documented. Sulphur and nitrogen oxides represent the major acidic precursors and in the Northeast are primarily discharged from fossil fuel burning, the smelting of sulfide ores, and automotive emissions. These pollutants are transported great distances in the atmosphere and converted to mineral acids, sulfuric and nitric, which either fall to the earth in precipitation or dry form.

Effects of Acidic Deposition on Forest Systems

At present, the mortality and decline of red spruce at high elevations in the Northeast and observed reductions in red spruce growth rates in the southern Appalachians are the only cases of significant forest damage in the United States for which there is strong scientific evidence that acid deposition is a primary cause (National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, 1998). The following findings of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (1998) provide a broad overview of the effects of acidic deposition on the forests of the Adirondacks.

The interaction of acid deposition with natural stress factors has adverse effects on certain forest ecosystems. These effects include:

- Increased mortality of red spruce in the mountains of the Northeast. This mortality is due in part to exposure to acid cloud water, which has reduced the cold tolerance of these red spruce, resulting in frequent winter injury and loss of foliage.
- Reduced growth and/or vitality of red spruce across the high-elevation portion of its range.
- Decreased supplies of certain nutrients in soils to levels at or below those required for healthy growth.

Nitrogen deposition is now recognized with sulfur as an important contributor to effects on forest in some ecosystems, which occurs through direct impacts via increased foliar susceptibility to winter damage, foliar leaching, leaching of soil nutrients, elevation of soil aluminum levels, and/or creation of nutrient imbalances. Excessive amounts of nitrogen cause negative impacts on soil chemistry similar to those caused by sulfur deposition in certain sensitive high-elevation ecosystems. It is also a potential contributor to adverse impacts in some low-elevation forests.

Sensitive receptors

High-elevation spruce-fir ecosystems in the eastern United States epitomize sensitive soil systems. Base cation stores are generally very low, and soils are near or past their capacity to retain more sulfur or nitrogen. Deposited sulfur and nitrogen, therefore, pass directly into soil water, which leaches soil aluminum and minimal amounts of calcium, magnesium, and other base cations out of the root zone. The low availability of these base cation nutrients, coupled with the high levels of aluminum that interfere with roots taking up these nutrients can result in plants not having sufficient nutrients to maintain good growth and health.

Sugar maple decline has been studied in the eastern United States since the 1950s. Recently, studies suggest that the loss of crown vigor and incidence of tree death is related to the low supply of calcium and magnesium to soil and foliage. (Driscoll 2002)

Exposure to acidic clouds and acid deposition has reduced the cold tolerance of red spruce in the Northeast, resulting in frequent winter injury of current-year foliage during the period 1960-1985. Repeated loss of foliage due to winter injury has caused crown deterioration and contributed to high levels of red spruce mortality in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Acid deposition has contributed to a regional decline in the availability of soil calcium and other base cations in high-elevation and mid-elevation spruce-fir forests of New York and New England and the southern Appalachians. The high-elevation spruce-fir forest of the Adirondacks and northern New England are identified as one of four areas nationwide with a sensitive ecosystem and subject to high deposition rates.

Effects of Acidic Deposition on Hydrologic Systems

Portions of the Adirondack region comprise one of the largest lake districts sensitive to acid rain in the eastern United States. A recent update of Adirondack ponded water acidity status reveals that some 352 lakes, representing 24 percent of a 1,469 study lake subsample, have demonstrated "critical" summer surface pH readings below 5.0. In all of these waters, there has been a complete elimination or a marked reduction in aquatic communities (Kretser et. al., 1989). Similar studies in small streams indicate

even greater losses, because none of the streams registering a low pH were found to contain native cyprinids (minnows, shiners, and dace) or reproducing brook trout populations (Schofield and Driscoll 1987).

In the SRCA, five of the waters have pH values less than 5.0 and are thus are considered to be critically acid. SRCA waters have been less impacted than some other areas due to the area's location on the eastern side of the Adirondacks (away from the heaviest precipitation patterns) and the lower elevation of the area. Acidification effects related to atmospheric pollution have exerted greater negative impacts on western slope waters, including many former Adirondack brook trout ponds. This is not because brook trout are particularly sensitive, but rather because they are frequently the only fish species resident in many vulnerable, small, high elevation habitats.

Of the lakes within the SRCA that have chemical information, 91 percent of the waters, by pond acreage, have pH levels considered to be favorable at above 6.0. Six percent of the total water surface area is considered endangered; and 3 percent, by acreage, of the ponds in the SRCA are considered to be critically acidified. Thus far the SRCA has been impacted by acid precipitation to a lesser extent than most areas in the Adirondacks.

In October 1990, the Department published its "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters" (FGEIS). The FGEIS presents policy guidelines and selection criteria for candidate liming waters along with an extensive section on the impacts of acidic precipitation on aquatic ecosystems. The guidelines state that the Department recognizes that restoration of natural aquatic ecosystems is an acceptable reason for conducting liming. Candidate waters will be carefully selected and treatment plans must be addressed in a unit management plan. Selection criteria for a liming candidate are:

a. Summer surface pH must be < 5.7 or acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) must be 20 ueq/l or less.
b. Sphagnum moss must not occupy more than 50% of the shoreline.
c. Summer surface water color must not exceed 75 platinum cobalt units.
d. Flushing rate must not exceed 2 times/year.
e. Dissolved oxygen and temperature must be suitable for the fish species being managed.
f. A serious decline in a unique or historically excellent fishery can be shown or a heritage strain broodstock or threatened or endangered fish species are present and maintenance liming is required or serious degradation of an aquatic ecosystem can be shown and restoration of the ecosystem is the primary objective.

Exceptions to the selection criteria are permitted on a case-by-case approval basis by the regional fisheries manager and then by the Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries. Detailed justification is required for any exception.

Currently, Bone Pond is the only water body within the SRCA which is receiving periodic liming through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters (the liming program). Two additional ponds within the SRCA, Kitfox Pond and Little Long Pond (west), are proposed to be included in the active liming program. Kitfox has been experimentally treated in the past and demonstrated a favorable response to this management action. Little Long Pond, once noted for large, self-sustaining brook trout, no longer supports a significant fishery. Appendix E provides justification for these limings and individual pond narratives provide pond specific information.

Permanent Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) sites in and around this unit.

The Adirondack LTM program, managed by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC), has been sampling chemistry in 52 lakes across the Park on a monthly basis. While none of these waters are located directly within the boundaries of the SRCA, four LTM waters are located in relatively close (within 10 miles) proximity to the SRCA. These include Black Pond, Middle Pond, Sunday Pond, and Sochia Pond. Annual summaries of 22 chemical parameters are downloadable from the ALSC website at (http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org).

g. Climate

The climate for the SRCA is cool and moist. The yearly mean temperature is 40º F and an average of 39" of precipitation falls each year. July is the hottest month with an average high temperature of 76º F and January is the coldest with an average low of 2º F. Extreme temperatures recorded are -35º F and 93º F. August is the wettest month with an average of 4.5" of precipitation while February's average of 2.5" is the least amount of precipitation (Weather Channel). Snowfall averages 100" per year.

In 1998 the SRCA was affected by an ice storm that caused significant damage throughout the Adirondacks. The SRCA was, however, spared the worst of the damage, being in the zone classified as receiving light damage. This is defined as 0-25% crown loss for the trees in the area. The damage done by the storm was not uniform across the SRCA; some areas did not receive any damage and in others there was significant damage to trees. Generally, the high elevation areas received the most damage.

Another major weather event that is believed to have affected the SRCA is the "great windfall" of 1845. This was a tornado or series of tornados that may have devastated the Long Pond Mountain area (McMartin, Discover 119).

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

The SRCA hosts a wide variety of plant species and communities. Most of these species are found throughout the Adirondacks. The current species composition of the vegetative cover is a result of many factors including local variations in: soil, temperature, moisture, elevation, species interactions, and past disturbance events such as fire, wind, ice, and logging. There are not any endangered or threatened plant species which have been confirmed to be in the SRCA. Endangered or threatened plant species which are identified as being present in close proximity to the SRCA are balsam willow and Canadian rye grass.

The Natural Heritage Program places the SRCA in the western Adirondack foothill eco-zone. The SRCA is covered by several forest types. Some of the natural heritage program ecological communities in the SRCA include hemlock-northern hardwoods forest, beech-maple forest, pine-northern hardwoods forest, and spruce flats (detailed descriptions of these ecological communities can be found in *Ecological Communities of New York State* by Carol Reschke). The primary dominant species are: sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, red maple, hemlock, red spruce, balsam fir, and white pine. Conifer species are less prominent near St. Regis Mountain. Nearly pure conifer stands can be found along the edges of the ponds and streams, in plantations along Keese Mills Road, in smaller plantations along the truck trails, and in scattered stands by East and Long Pond Mountains. White pine makes up a large portion of these stands. Red pine makes up a smaller, but significant portion of the plantations. The non-native Douglas-fir was also planted in some plantations.

The majority of the forest in the SRCA is in a mature stage of growth. Logging did occur on some of the lands of the SRCA; however, there were tracts which were never logged and now contain old growth stands (Kudish 35). Several sections were only lightly logged where some conifer species were removed, but not the hardwoods. The majority of the logging activity in the SRCA occurred over one hundred years ago. The lands which were acquired from Paul Smith's College have been logged in the recent past. The vegetation in these areas consists of younger trees and greater shrub growth than in other areas of the SRCA. Most of the forests have had one hundred years to recover from the fires which burned portions of the SRCA.

The dense tree canopy limits the growth of shrubs and ground cover in areas, but because of the various site conditions in the SRCA there are a wide variety of species which are present. Some of the ground cover plants and shrubs in the SRCA include: witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), hobbelbush (*Viburnum alnifolium*), wild raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*), maple leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), yellow Clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*), clubmoss (*Licapodia*

spp), various ferns, common wood-sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), trilliums (*Trillium spp*), pink (*Cypripedium acaule*) and yellow lady slipper *(C. calceolus*), and Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*).

b. Wildlife

Field inventories of wildlife species have not focused specifically on the UMP level. However, various inventory projects undertaken by the Department and others have included the SRCA in their scope. The species included in Appendices D and E were compiled by combining the results of various surveys, publications, and the reports of observers.

Birds

As a result of the unit's transitional character in terms of climate and vegetation, there is an overlapping of typically northern, eastern and southern bird species. According to New York State Breeding Bird Atlas data, 134 species of birds may breed within the SRCA (Appendix D). Some species thought to occur occasionally within the unit are not shown in the Bird Atlas data. Birds associated with marshes, ponds, lakes and streams are numerous. They include the common loon, great blue heron, green heron, American bittern, a variety of ducks, and shore birds, such as the spotted sandpiper. The most common ducks include the American black duck, mallard, wood duck, hooded merganser, and common merganser. Birds of prey found in the unit include the barred owl, great horned owl, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and broadwinged hawk. Songbirds, such as woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks, and sparrows occupy one or more of the habitat types found in the unit.

Mammals

While no comprehensive inventory of species is available, Appendix C lists mammals whose habitat indicates a likelihood that they are present in the SRCA. Larger mammals known to inhabit the SRCA include white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, fisher, marten, mink, muskrat, striped skunk, river otter, beaver, porcupine, and varying hare. A variety of smaller mammals reside in the SRCA. They include bats, shrews, moles, and mice, along with the short-tailed weasel, long-tailed weasel, eastern chipmunk, and red squirrel. Most species are distributed relatively evenly throughout the unit, although the populations of weasel, mink, muskrat, otter, and beaver are concentrated near water, and the varying hare and red squirrel are mostly confined to stands of spruce and fir.

Although suitable habitats exist for the continued survival of all species presently occurring in the SRCA, the process of forest succession set in motion by wind, insects and disease, past logging, and forest fires continues to alter the composition of forest communities. Marten thrive under habitat conditions brought about by natural forest

disturbances. However, in the absence of any future disturbances, the maturation of climax forest communities may lead to reductions in marten populations. On the other hand, the populations of various species of birds and mammals which require tree cavities for reproduction should increase as forest stands mature.

White-tailed deer are found throughout the SRCA. However, the habitat conditions of the unit make it one of the least productive areas for deer in New York. The size of the deer population is limited by severe winter, insufficient deer browse and limited suitable deer wintering areas. Deer wintering areas usually are lowland areas covered by forests of spruce and fir which serve as shelter when snow accumulates to depths of 20 inches or more. These same areas are used by deer nearly every winter. Severe winter weather virtually confines deer to wintering areas for long periods during which the depletion of available browse can lead to high deer mortality. Severe decline in the deer population can be traced directly to adverse winters. The carrying capacity of deer wintering areas limits the carrying capacity of the entire annual range of the deer population.

Although relatively numerous, black bears are seldom encountered in the unit by visitors of the SRCA, although bears are occasionally encountered in some of the more popular camping areas. To date, negative bear – visitor conflicts have not been identified as a management problem.

The once extirpated moose population has naturally regained a foothold in the periphery of the SRCA. Moose occasionally have migrated from the north and east into the Adirondack region for decades. Since 1980, they have arrived in sufficient numbers to have established a scattered resident population, recently estimated to contain 200 or more individuals. A few sightings have been reported in the SRCA. Although moose prefer to feed on species of woody vegetation generally found in forests of earlier successional stages than those occurring in the SRCA, moose in general find later-stage forest habitats more suitable than do white-tailed deer and may come to occupy the unit in greater numbers in the future. Experience from Vermont and New Hampshire indicates that the moose population is expected to increase in the future.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Relatively short summers and long, cold winters of the SRCA limit the number of species of reptiles and amphibians. Three species of turtles, eight species of snakes, seven species of salamanders, one species of toad, and seven species of frogs are believed to be residents of the SRCA. Species found in marshes or ponds and along wooded streams include the following: turtles - snapping, painted; snakes - northern water, redbelly, common garter, eastern ribbon, brown, ringneck; toad - American; salamanders - red-spotted newt, spotted, blue-spotted, spring, two-lined, mountain dusky; frogs - bull, pickerel, green, wood, mink, gray treefrog, spring peeper. A few species can be found

under logs and leaf litter on the forest floor or in forest openings. These species do not require moist surroundings to survive: snakes - ringneck, smooth green, milk, common garter; salamanders - redback; and turtle - wood.

Endangered, Threatened, Species of Special Concern and Other Unique Species

The short-eared owl is the sole New York State listed endangered species found in the SRCA. It is listed as a probable breeder in the SRCA because a bird was observed holding territory. This bird nests in open areas (Levine 338), which makes it unlikely that it will find good nest locations in the SRCA. A threatened species of wildlife which may be resident of the SRCA is the northern harrier. The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas shows the northern harrier as a probable breeder in the SRCA.

Species of special concern which may be present in the SRCA, include the common loon, American bittern, osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, northern goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, common nighthawk, whip-poor-will, red-headed woodpecker, vesper sparrow, grasshopper sparrow. Of these the common loon, osprey, northern goshawk, red-headed woodpecker, and vesper sparrow are listed as confirmed breeders in the SRCA.

c. Fisheries

The aquatic communities of the Adirondacks are a result of geological and human influences. Prior to human influences, relatively simple fish communities were common, particularly in headwater areas such as the SRCA. Human-caused changes in habitat and introduction of fishes have altered those natural communities. Nonnative fishes are widespread and many native species now are more widely distributed than historically. Other natives, notably brook trout and round whitefish, have declined.

Geological History

The Fishes of the Adirondack Park, a Department publication (August 1980) by Dr. Carl George of Union College, provides a summary of geological events which influenced the colonization of the Adirondack ecological zone by fishes. A limited number of cold tolerant, agile, lake dwelling species closely followed the retreat of the glacier. Such species presumably had access to most Adirondack waters. About 12,000 Before Present (B.P.), glacial retreat exposed much of the St. Lawrence Valley and had enlarged glacial Lake Vermont, linking it with the sea. At this time the Laurentian Corridor (see George 1980 for area details) opened for recolonization the SRCA portion of the Adirondacks via the Saint Regis and Saranac Rivers. Barriers and high gradient streams kept some lowland boreal species, such as northern pike, lake whitefish and burbot from colonizing the area. In general, waters low in the watersheds would have the most diverse communities. The number of species present would have decreased

progressing towards headwater, higher elevation sections. Chance and variability in habitat would have complicated the trends. Consequently, a diversity of fish communities, from no fish to monocultures to numerous species, occurred in various waters.

Human Influences

Approximately 300 years ago the influence of human cultures from the Old World initiated a period of rapid manipulation of the natural environment. Commercial trapping, hunting, fishing and lumbering precipitated substantial impacts to natural ecosystems. Slightly more than 150 years ago, canal construction opened new migration routes for fishes into peripheral Adirondack areas. Railroads and roads were developed to support the tanning and lumbering industries, and in the late 1800's tourism rapidly expanded (George 1980).

This exploitation of pristine fisheries combined with anthropogenic environmental degradation (acid rain) resulted in the decline of fish populations and stimulated early management efforts consisting primarily of stocking. A variety of nonnative species were distributed into the Adirondack uplands via stocking efforts described by George (1980) as "nearly maniacal". He notes that many species were "... almost endlessly dumped upon the Adirondack upland." Nonnative species were introduced and the ranges of native species, which previously had limited distributions, were extended. The result has been a homogenization of fish communities. Certain native species, notably brook trout and round whitefish, have declined due to the introduction of other fishes. Other natives, brown bullheads and creek chubs, for example, are presently much more abundant than historically, having been spread to many waters where previously absent. Consequently, fish populations in the majority of waters in today's Adirondack wilderness areas have been substantially altered by the activities of mankind. Indeed, of 1,123 Adirondack fish communities surveyed by the ALSC, 65% contained nonnative species.

Detailed documentation of the historic fish communities is not available. Extensive fishery survey data were first collected in the 1930's, decades after the massive stockings and introductions of the late 1800's. Reviewing work by Mather (1884) and others from the late 1800's, George (1980) has summarized what is known. Appendix G presents information on species known to be native, native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI), and nonnative. It should be noted that the native classification does not mean those species were found in every water nor even in a majority of waters. For example, of 1,123 fish communities surveyed by the ALSC in the 1980's, white suckers and northern redbelly dace were found respectively in 51 and 19 percent of the lakes. The other species listed in Appendix G as native are less widely distributed. Such distributions, after a century of introductions, demonstrate that "native" does not necessarily imply an historically ubiquitous distribution. Indeed, barriers, high stream gradients, low stream fertilities, and rigorous climatic conditions following retreat of the glacier resulted in low species diversity for fishes in most Adirondack waters.

Brook trout, however, were particularly successful at colonizing and thrived in the relative absence of competing and predacious fishes. George (1980) states: "Under primeval conditions, the brook trout was nearly ubiquitous in the Adirondacks. Its agility, great range in size and facility in rapidly flowing water allowed it to spread widely, perhaps even concurrently with the demise of the glaciers, thus explaining its presence in unstocked waters above currently impassible waterfalls."

The headwater nature of the SRCA and the high gradients of its streams would have caused low fish diversities in this area relative to much of the Adirondacks. Furthermore, the Adirondacks in general had low fish diversities relative to surrounding lowland regions. Consequently, the SRCA historically supported particularly low diversities on a region-wide basis. Brook trout have the extreme agility necessary to have naturally colonized this area waters and, therefore, were probably particularly abundant in the unit. Also, historic brook trout monocultures were most likely to have occurred in such headwater areas.

Impacts of Fish Introductions

The decline in brook trout associated with the introduction of other fishes is a result of both predation and competition for food. Brook trout feed primarily on invertebrates. Many other fishes, including white sucker, longnose sucker, redbreast sunfish, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, yellow perch, and the cyprinids (minnows, shiners, and dace) also feed primarily on invertebrates (Scott and Crossman 1973). In low fertility waters such as Adirondack ponds, competition for such forage can be intense. In addition to competing with brook trout for food, many fishes prey directly on brook trout. Northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and rock bass are important brook trout predators. Species which may feed on eggs and/or fry include yellow perch, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, creek chub, common shiner, white sucker and longnose sucker (Scott and Crossman 1973). The relative importance of competition versus predation in the decline of brook trout is not known for individual waters, but the result is the same regardless of mechanism.

Competition and predation by introduced species have greatly reduced the abundance of brook trout sustained by natural reproduction. Only about 40 (10%) of the traditional brook trout ponds in public ownership in the Adirondack Park now support viable, self-sustaining brook trout populations and they are gradually being lost as other fishes are introduced. Dry Lake, Nellie Pond, and Bessie Pond contain brook trout populations entirely sustained by natural reproduction. Mountain Pond has significant brook trout reproduction, but requires some supplemental stocking. All four waters were reclaimed in the 1990's to eliminate competing species. These ponds are evidence that when interspecific competition and predation are greatly reduced or eliminated, natural reproduction can be restored .

Human introductions of nonnative fishes and native fishes which had limited distributions have nearly eliminated brook trout monocultures in the Adirondacks.

Historic brook trout monocultures are well known in the Adirondack Park and the survival of even a few such unique communities through the massive environmental disturbances and species introductions of the 19th and 20th centuries is quite remarkable.

Acid Precipitation

Fish species native to the SRCA are those typically associated with the Adirondack upland; however, area waters have been impacted by acid precipitation. The SRCA has been less impacted by acid precipitation than many other areas of the Adirondacks, but some ponds have been harmed. Bone Pond, Douglas Pond, Kitfox Pond, Lindsey Pond, and Little Long Pond (west) Pond have all experienced significant acidification. Regionally, many lakes and ponds that formerly contained fish populations are now devoid of fish life and diversity of native species has been reduced.

Many brook trout fisheries in the Adirondacks have succumbed to the insidious phenomenon of acid precipitation. It is believed from Department fishery survey records that the effects of acid rain began impacting fish populations three to four decades ago. This problem is discussed in detail previously in this UMP (Section II.A.1.f.).

At least three SRCA waters known to have supported "fishable" populations of native brook trout prior to the 1950's have acidified to a degree where this is no longer possible. These include Little Long Pond (west), Douglas Pond and Lindsey Pond.

Acidification of SRCA waters has reduced diversity of native fishes. Both Bone Pond and Mud Pond have lost populations of brown bullheads. Other unit waters that now contain no fish life may once have harbored fish populations, but existing records are inadequate to ascertain this.

Brook Trout Distribution

Twenty lakes and ponds in the SRCA now support "fishable" brook trout populations. That this relatively high number of waters still contains this valuable native game fish is in great part due to the long history of brook trout management that has occurred in the SRCA. As described above, brook trout are often times able to sustain themselves naturally when competitive pressure is low. Populations of brook trout in Nellie Pond, Bessie Pond and Dry Lake have become self sustaining since they were reclaimed in 1990 and 1992. Mountain Pond, also reclaimed in 1992, requires light supplemental stocking. Recent survey data indicate that the brook trout population has been reduced due to interspecific competition from other fish species in Ledge Pond. Brook trout were documented in early surveys of Ledge Pond, but are virtually gone since the introduction of yellow perch in the later 1980's.

Fish Distribution (other than brook trout)

Lake trout are the only other native, coldwater gamefish (those species which are regulated by seasons, size or bag limits) in the SRCA. The distribution of Lake Trout has been enhanced by efforts to improve brook trout fishing. During the period 1952-1954, the SRCA was the focus of an intensive effort to rid the Fish Pond chain of Lakes of nonnative yellow perch. In all, 14 ponds were reclaimed with rotenone as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. The rotenone concentration was sufficient to eliminate yellow perch, but was not a sufficient concentration to eliminate most other trout competitors. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. After the successful elimination of yellow perch, brook trout were established throughout the waterway and brook trout fishing was exceptional for a number of years. However, over time, as native trout competitors became more abundant, the brook trout fishery began to decline somewhat. Sometime after reclamation, lake trout were introduced into Fish Pond either by accident or unauthorized introduction. By 1965 lake trout were the dominant game fish. They migrated to other waters and now are present in Ochre Pond, Little Fish Pond and St. Regis Pond as well. Lake trout are also present in Long Pond, and Spectacle Pond. A few individuals persist in Ledge Pond and Turtle Pond.

Warmwater fish are found in the Long Pond chain of lakes, including Long Pond, Pink Pond, North Pink Pond, Turtle Pond and Slang Pond. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass are now found in all four waters. Both species are not native to the Adirondacks.

Native panfish (those species the taking of which is not regulated by season, size or bag limits, but which are generally valued by anglers as food) include the Native But Widely Introduced (NBWI) species of brown bullhead and the pumpkinseed (common sunfish). Brown bullhead are found in at least 22 SRCA lakes, while pumpkinseed are found in 14 lakes. The nonnative panfish species, yellow perch, which is known to be a serious competitor with brook trout, is found in seven unit waters. That yellow perch are now found in just seven waters, down significantly from 14 area waters in 1952 is due to an aggressive pond reclamation program, largely targeting this harmful species.

Another nonnative species, the golden shiner, which is a serious competitor with brook trout is found in 13 Canoe Area waters. This is disappointing, given that only one unit of water was known to contain the species in 1952. Golden shiners are a species commonly used as bait by fishermen which has spread widely across the Adirondacks via careless practices or the illegal use of bait.

Other fish species which are native to area waters include the white sucker, common shiner, creek chub, northern redbelly dace and blacknose dace.

The endangered native species, round whitefish, is a management priority in the SRCA. While no Canoe Area waters were historically known to contain the species, the fact that round whitefish have been documented from Hoel Pond, which is directly upstream of the Long Pond chain of lakes, and lies just outside of the Canoe Area, suggest strongly that they did occur. Ledge Pond is one of the uppermost waters in the Long Pond Chain, is currently dominated by nonnative yellow perch. Recent survey work shows that Ledge Pond has the attributes of an excellent reclamation candidate including a suitable site on the outlet to build a fish barrier dam. This plan recommends stocking round whitefish into Ledge Pond after it is reclaimed.

Other nonnative "minnow" species found currently or historically in the Canoe Area are fallfish.

Streams

Data, both historical and current, is generally lacking for the brooks and creeks within the SRCA. It is believed that nearly all area streams contain populations of small, wild brook trout and native minnows. Some nonnative minnow species may be present as well. The SRCA has sustained fewer nonnative minnow introductions that many other state land units. It is also likely that these fish populations have been impacted by acidification, however, acid rain has been far less of a problem than in many other state land units.

3. Visual/Scenic Resources/Land Protection

The SRCA provides aesthetic enjoyment not only for those who travel in it, but also for those who pass near it. The Remsen-Lake Placid travel corridor borders the SRCA for 5.7 miles. This corridor is currently used by snowmobiles and in the future may be used by passenger trains. Those who pass along this corridor have nice views of several ponds and wetlands in the SRCA. State Route 30, which passes near the SRCA, is designated as a Scenic Byway. The APA has designated a scenic vista adjacent to the SRCA on Keese Mills Road. This vista is of the St. Regis River and the wetlands that surround it. St. Regis Mountain is a prominent feature which is visible from much of the surrounding area. The St. Regis Mountain summit is listed by the Master Plan as a special management area because of its scenic qualities. There are observation points on St. Regis and Long Pond Mountains that allow outstanding views of much the SRCA and the surrounding area.

4. Critical Habitat

There are several critical habitats which are within or adjacent to the SRCA. Critical habitat fully within the SRCA are the ponds which support breeding populations of common loons. The New York Natural Heritage data base shows that there are several critical habitat communities which are along the edges of the SRCA; these communities

may or may not extend into the SRCA. The list of communities are spruce-fir swamp, successional fern meadow, northern sand plain grassland, and successional blueberry heath.

B. Facilities

Facilities in the SRCA are of a primitive nature. The various facilities, such as: trails, campsites, canoe launches pit privies, and parking areas, are designed for the recreational enjoyment and safety of the public and to protect the resources of the area. These facilities are concentrated around the ponds in the SRCA, and reflect the predominate use of the area by canoeists. The condition of the facilities varies considerably, which is to be expected given the mix in ages and levels of use of the facilities. There is a full list of man-made facilities included in Appendix A. Some of this information is summarized in Table 1.

C. Past Influences

1. Cultural

The primary cultural value of the SRCA has been the recreational opportunities that it offers. When the first hotels opened in the areas around the SRCA, visitors would use the waterways to get from one hotel to another and to enjoy hunting, fishing, and the environment. The seven carries canoe route was used for travel between the Prospect House and Paul Smith's Hotel. Tourists would also hire a guide to take them out into the back country. Typically they would use an Adirondack guide boat to reach their destination, which many times would be the shore of a pond or lake. The ponds that tourists went to in the 1800's are the same ponds that today's visitors paddle across. The present day carries are some of the same routes that people used as early as the mid 1800's. The area has been economically important for local outfitters and guides for well over 100 years.

2. Historical

There is one historic structure in the SRCA that is listed on the National Historic Register. This is the fire tower on top of St. Regis Mountain. The first lookout on St. Regis Mountain was established in 1910 following several bad fire years. In 1918 a 35' steel fire tower was constructed and was used by the Department to spot wildfires until 1990. The fire tower is visible from much of the surrounding area and serves as a local landmark significant to the history of the area and neighboring communities. The associated observer's cabin and telephone lines were removed by the Department in the mid 1990's. The St. Regis fire tower was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 2005. The tower is listed under the resource name "St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station."

One former historic structure in the SRCA was the Blagden lean-to. This structure was located on Fish Pond. It was built to serve as a destination for an area boys camp. There is currently a lean-to on Fish Pond referred to as the "Blagden Lean-to"; this lean-to is near the location of the original, but is not a historic structure itself.

D. Public Use

1. Land and Water Resources

As would be assumed for a unit designated as "canoe area," the primary activities in the SRCA are water based. There are a variety of recreational activities that people enjoy while visiting the SRCA. One study showed the following activity participation levels for those paddling in the SRCA: camping 82.8%, view scenery 82.8%, swimming 81%, photography 43.1%, fishing 37.9%, hiking 37.9%, and nature study 20.7% (Pfaffenbach 39). This section will discuss these activities including the time of year and locations that they commonly take place and present statistical information on use patterns.

Canoeing (in this UMP "canoeing" includes the use of kayaks, guide boats, and other human powered water craft) is the basis for a large percent of use in the SRCA. The ponds in the SRCA present opportunities for a variety of experiences to suit the desires and skill of the visitor. Short day trips, camping on the easily accessed ponds, extended day trips with several miles of carries, and camping on remote ponds are just a few of the possible canoeing activities in the SRCA. Ponds which are popular for day use include Long, Little Clear, and Bear Ponds. Two popular trips are the seven carries and the nine carries routes. The seven carries route has one terminus at Saranac Inn and the other at Paul Smiths. The nine carries route can be started at Little Clear Pond or Hoel Pond and proceeds to Fish Pond. Depending on the exact route, there are between 1.5 to 2.5 miles of carries with the nine carries route. The longest carry in the SRCA is the 1.5 mile long carry from Long Pond to Nellie Pond, and many of the other carries are around half a mile long.

The facilities in the SRCA reflect the importance of canoeing; of the seven entry points five are canoe launches, 70 of the 76 campsites and all three lean-tos are accessed by water, and a trip across water is required to reach one of the three hiking trails. Canoeing occurs from May until November, but peak use is from the end of June until Labor Day. For some people, canoeing is the activity that they primarily enjoy in visiting the SRCA. For others, canoeing is just part of the whole experience that they are seeking or it may just serve as the means to reach their desired experience.

Camping is allowed anywhere in the SRCA that is 150' away from water, trails, or roads and at sites designated for camping. The majority of camping occurs at designated sites. The designated sites offer easy access, cleared areas, and established facilities such as fire rings. The four main areas of campsites are on Long, St. Regis, Little Long (east) and Fish Ponds. These areas receive heavy camping use compared to other areas. An additional area frequently used for camping in the SRCA is Little Green Pond. This pond

has 12 campsites around it, three of which are in the SRCA with the rest in the SLWF. Camping at any of the sites on Little Green Pond requires a camping permit. This permit is available from the Department fish hatchery at Saranac Inn. Ponds, in addition to those previously mentioned, in the SRCA with multiple campsites include: Slang, Bear, Ochre, and Grass. For those seeking to camp in solitude, there are several designated sites which are set away from heavy use areas and there is camping at legal locations in areas away from the water and trails. Camping sites that are not associated with canoeing are located off of Floodwood and Keese Mills Roads, the Fish Pond Truck trail, and the St. Regis Mountain trail. The camping off of Keese Mills Road occurs in an area known as Monty Flats. This is primarily used by hunters during big game season. This area will be discussed in more detail in sections III and IV.

The use of campsites is not evenly distributed. Some sites are extremely popular and are in use for most of the season, while other sites on the same pond see sporadic use. Camping mostly occurs at the same time of year as canoeing, while a rare winter camper may use a lean-to. Based on information from register sheets for the year 2000, some rough estimates on camping use in the SRCA can be made. There were an estimated 2,670 group nights spent in the SRCA (a group night is a group, which could be one person or 12 people, staying one night). Dividing the number of group nights by the 72 campsites in the central section of the SRCA results in an average use of 37 group nights per campsite per year. However, as mentioned before, camping use is not evenly distributed between the available campsites.

Hiking can occur throughout the SRCA, but it principally occurs on only three trails. The canoe carries that connect the ponds do provide enjoyable routes through the woods, but are primarily used to simply get to the next pond. There are not any regulations restricting where visitors to the SRCA can walk, and some people enjoy hiking through the woods where there is not a trail. Some of these routes receive multiple use and become informal trails. These paths occur mostly near camping areas and off of existing trails. By far, the most heavily used section of the SRCA is the trail to the summit of St. Regis Mountain. Roughly as many people hike this 3.4 mile trail as visit the rest of the SRCA. The round-trip hike from the parking area on Keese Mills Road to the summit can easily be done in half a day. The views from the summit are captivating. For the first 2.2 miles the trail gradually ascends and descends. The last 1.2 miles rises steeply. There are sections with steep rock steps and eroded areas near the summit.

The Fish Pond truck trail is another hiking trail. While it is not heavily used by hikers, it is still an important entry way to the SRCA and will be discussed further in section IV. This trail allows for an easy way to reach a back country experience. Since this trail was once a road, it is wide and has an even surface. The trail is fairly level with some moderate slopes. The Fish Pond Truck Trail is 4.7 miles from the start at Little Green Pond to the end at Fish Pond and there are also 2 miles of side trails that access other ponds. This trail passes some spectacular stands of mature trees.

A third hiking trail in the SRCA is to the summit of Long Pond Mountain. This trail requires a trip across Long Pond to reach. This 4 mile round-trip hike starts at an arm of Long Pond, proceeds to Mountain Pond and then heads up Long Pond Mountain. The summit allows for nice views of the SRCA and the surrounding areas.

Hiking in the SRCA most frequently occurs during summer and fall.

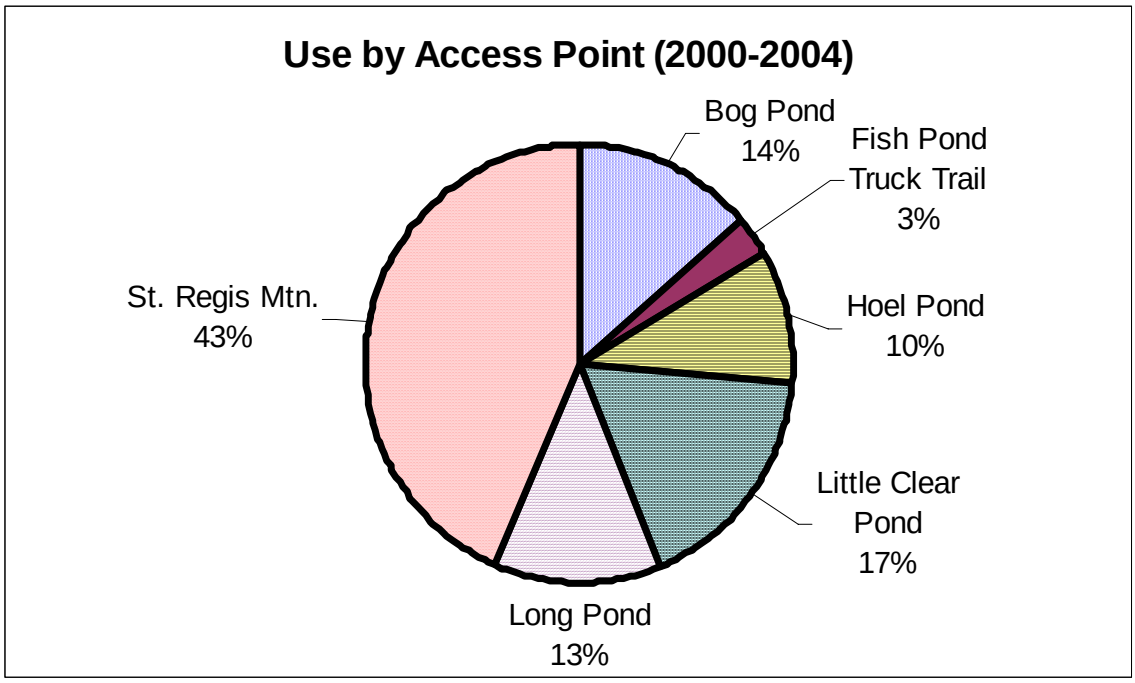
Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing allow people to enjoy the SRCA during the less used winter months. The ponds on the SRCA make for great skiing opportunities when they are frozen over. The canoe carries create a variety of loop trails for people to ski on. The Fish Pond truck trail is one of the primary ski routes. Side trails off the truck trail provide several loops that go through Little Clear Pond. Hoel Pond and Long Pond are also used for ski trips.

Horse use in the SRCA is not common place, but does occasionally occur. Horses are used by some during fishing or hunting seasons in order to carry supplies and equipment. Horse use in the SRCA is of a rustic nature, as there are no improvements to facilitate their use. The horse use in the SRCA is confined to the Fish and St. Regis Pond truck trails.

Information on recreation use levels in the SRCA is available from a variety of sources. Some of these include canoe launch and trail register sheets, surveys, talking to users, direct observations, and examining affects of use. The majority of the available information related to recreational use is based on voluntary registration by those using the SRCA. Register boxes have been provided at six of the seven major entry points. These are located at the parking lot at the Long Pond Truck Trail, at the trail to Bog Pond from Upper St. Regis Lake, at the put in on Little Clear Pond, at the put in at Hoel Pond, at the gate on the Little Green Pond end of the Fish Pond Truck Trail, and at the trailhead to St. Regis Mountain. The entry point that does not have a register box is the carry to Long Pond from the Floodwood Road railroad crossing at Floodwood Pond. There is, however, a register at Floodwood Pond which captures some of the use that is going into the SRCA from the SLWF. While there are some records of visitor numbers going back as far as 1920, the registration data since 1986 is particularly good and was used in the development of this UMP. Numbers for the year 2004 were the latest available when this UMP was developed. The main problem with registers is that not all people sign in. Certain groups of users who are believed to register less frequently than others include day-users, frequent users of the same site, hunters, and fishermen. This means that registers can have a large margin of error, as some use is underestimated (Hendee, Stankey, and Lucas 363). There is no reliable estimate on the percentage of visitors who do not sign the register sheets in the SRCA. Nonetheless, registers are useful at showing trends and getting an idea on relative use.

In addition to the register sheets, there have been several studies on visitor usage of the SRCA. These studies have been very helpful in getting a better understanding of visitor use than the registers could provide alone. Another important source of information of user activities has been the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship

Program. Since the year 2000, this program has placed stewards at several lakes and on the summit of St. Regis Mountain. The stewards observe user activity and present environmental interpretive messages. The program publishes a yearly summary. These reports present useful information on activities within the SRCA and have been helpful in the development of this UMP.



Graph 1

Graph 1 shows the distribution of use by entry point. From this graph, it is clear that the registration numbers at the St. Regis Mountain trailhead are a significant component of the SRCA usage. In addition, the type of use at this entry point (day use and hiking) is different from the types of use that predominate in rest of the SRCA. For those reasons the numbers from the St. Regis Mountain trail will be considered separately in some of the following graphs. For canoeists, the launch at Little Clear Pond receives the most use, followed by Bog, Long, and Hoel Ponds. It is important to note that the entry point from Floodwood Road at Floodwood Pond is not listed because there is not a register at this location. This is a prime location for people to enter the SRCA from the SLWF. There is a register going into Floodwood Pond in the SLWF that captures some of the use going into the SRCA.

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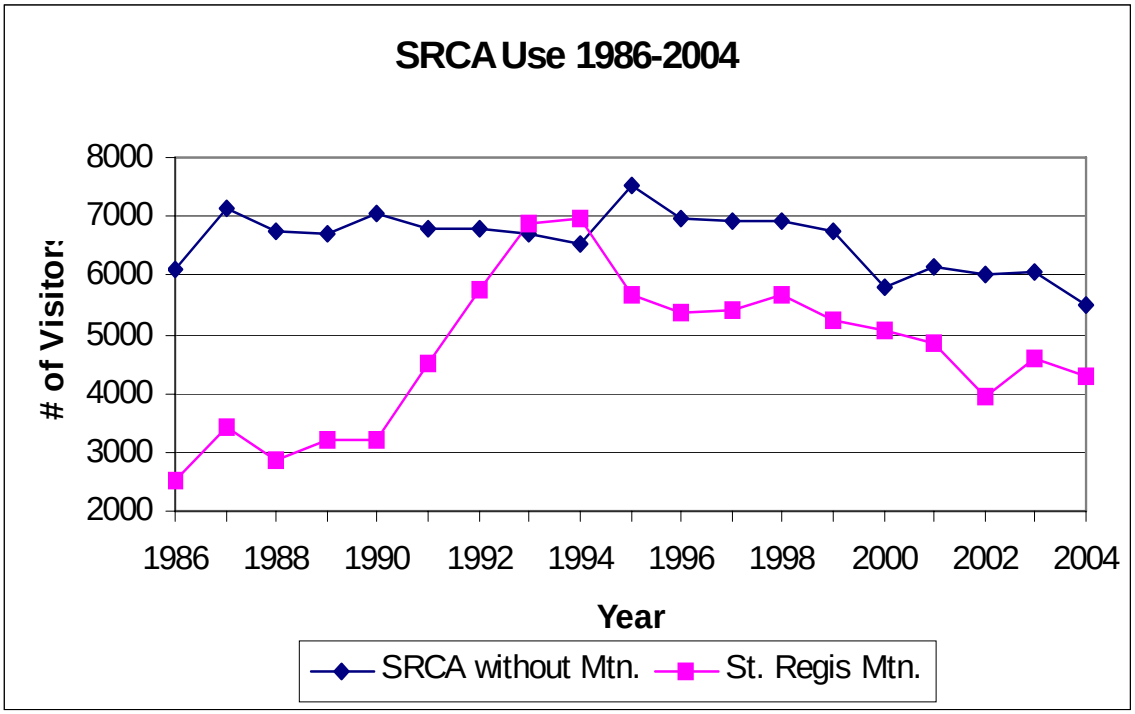


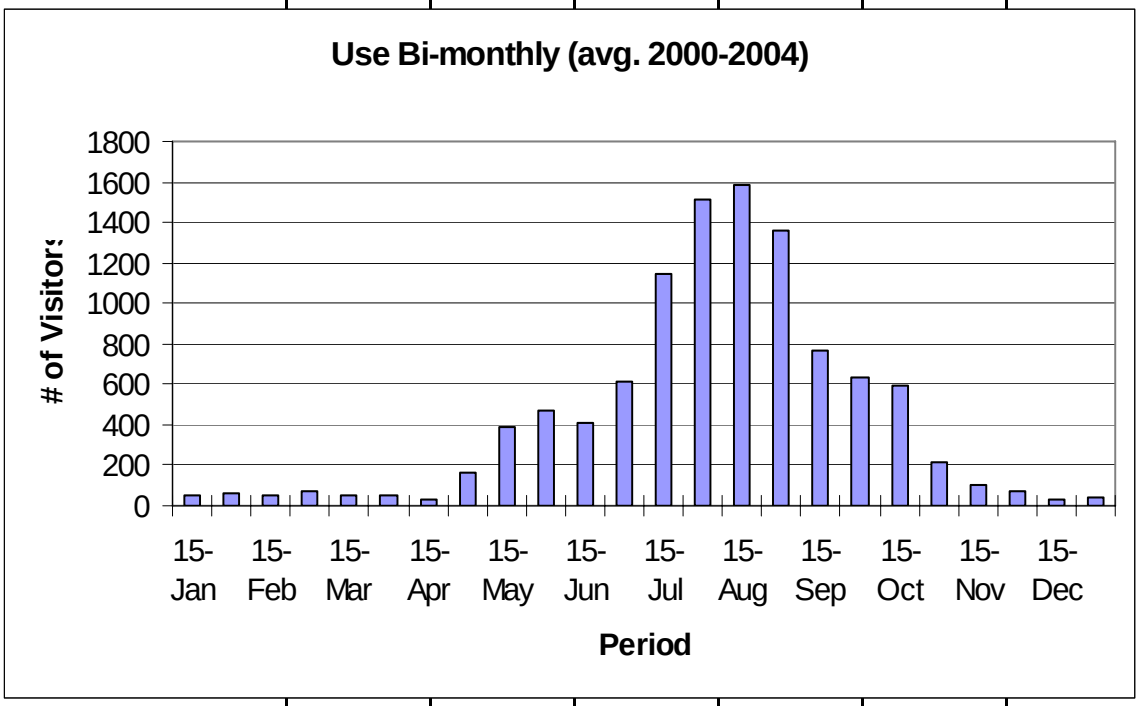
Graph 2

In the year 2004, 9,784 people were registered as visiting the SRCA. Of these, nearly half (4,301) registered at the St. Regis Mountain trailhead. There has been an yearly average of 10,440 registered visitors to the SRCA between the years 2000 and 2004. Graph 2 shows the change in numbers of people registering in the SRCA over time. It is interesting to note that use of the SRCA, has decreased since the mid 1990's. There has been a 16 percent decrease in use of the SRCA (not counting St. Regis Mountain) for the period of 2000-2004 when compared to the pervious 5 years. While the exact reasons for this decline are not known some possible explanations are: the condition of campsites in the SRCA, previous crowding experienced by visitors, and the recent opening of the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area. Another striking aspect of the graph is the sharp increase in use of St. Regis Mountain during the early 1990's. Possible reasons for this increase of registered visitors include the opening of the VIC in 1989 and extremely large groups coming from summer camps.

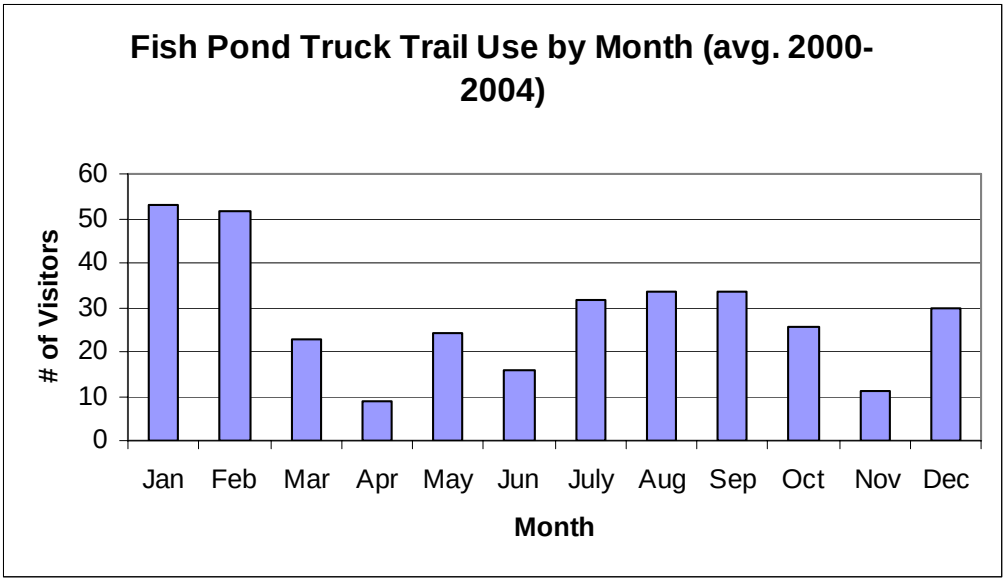
Another measure of use is the number of camping permits issued by Forest Rangers. Camping permits are only required for people staying at the same location for more than three nights and for groups larger than nine people. These permits do not guarantee a specific camping location. Graph 3 shows the number of permits issued from 1989-2004. This graph shows the number of permits issued by the Forest Ranger responsible for the SRCA and nearby sections of the SLWF, these numbers are not for the SRCA alone. Table 2 shows a breakdown of the permits issued for camping in the SRCA between 1999 and 2004. Many of the camping permits that were issued for group size involved canoe trips that included camping stops in both the SRCA and SLWF.

Table 2: Camping permits issued for the SRCA 1999-2004

Type of permit / Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Group Size	95	78	75	48	74	93
Length of Stay	27	34	26	23	31	25
Both	14	8	7	6	5	5
Graph 4						
Total	136	120	108	77	110	123



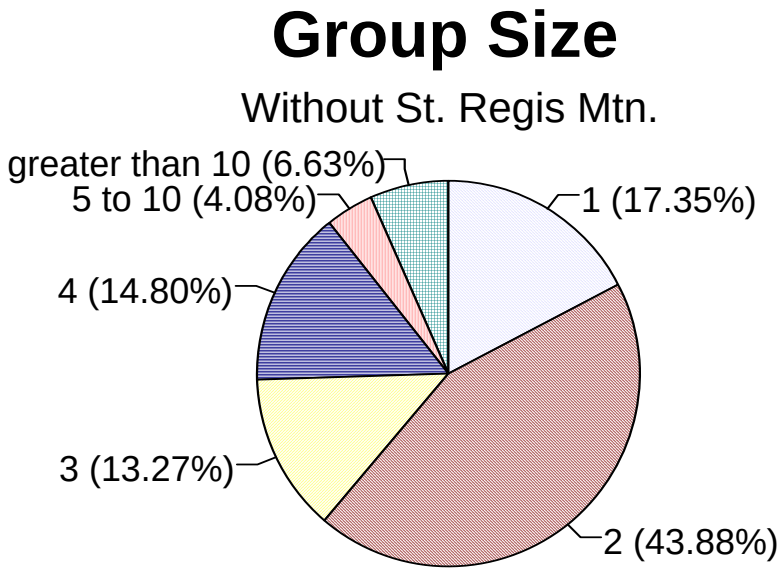
Use of the SRCA is not evenly distributed throughout the year. The months of July and August see the heaviest use. Graph 4 (which includes St. Regis Mountain) shows the average use for the years 2000 - 2004. As is clear from this graph, summer is the time when the SRCA receives most of its use. Registration sheets show that the highest period of use is consistently the first two weeks of August. Weekends see more use than most weekdays. Labor Day Weekend is a further peak use period. The Fish Pond truck trail is the one area that receives more use in winter than summer. Its average monthly use from the years 2000-2004 is shown in Graph 5.



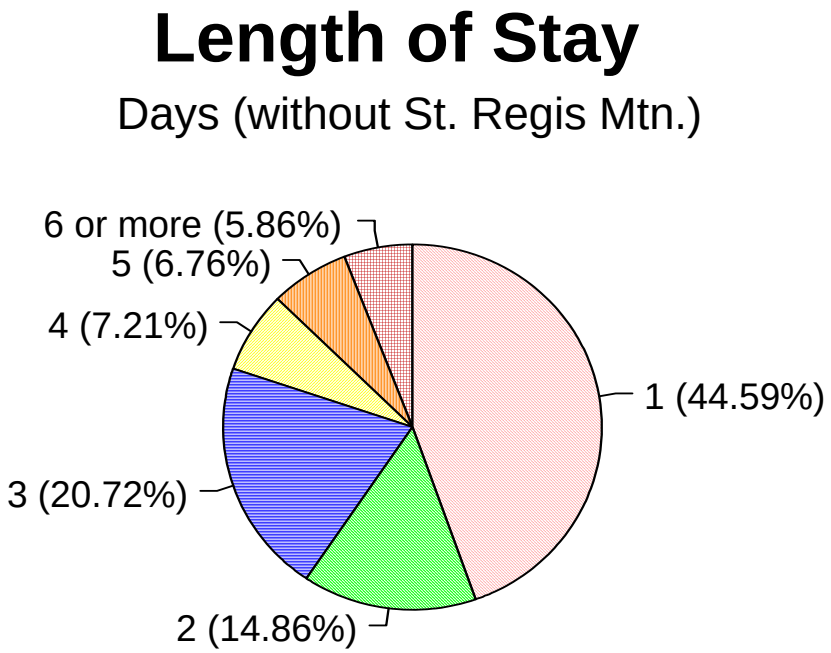
The following table and three graphs show some characteristics of the use of the SRCA. Table 3 is based on a random sampling of 10% of the visitor register sheets from each access point for the year 2000. It shows a breakdown of group size and length of stay based on access point. These characteristics can be important when deciding on a management action to take. There is an average of 3.6 persons per group to visit the SRCA. The average length of stay is 2.5 days. Graph 6 shows the breakdown in group size. Graph 7 shows the length of stay for those visiting the SRCA. Since the use of St. Regis Mountain is different from the use of the rest of the SRCA Graphs 6 and 7 do not include those who climbed St. Regis Mountain. Graph 8 shows the residence of those who visit the SRCA.

Table 3: Group size and length of stay by access point for 2000

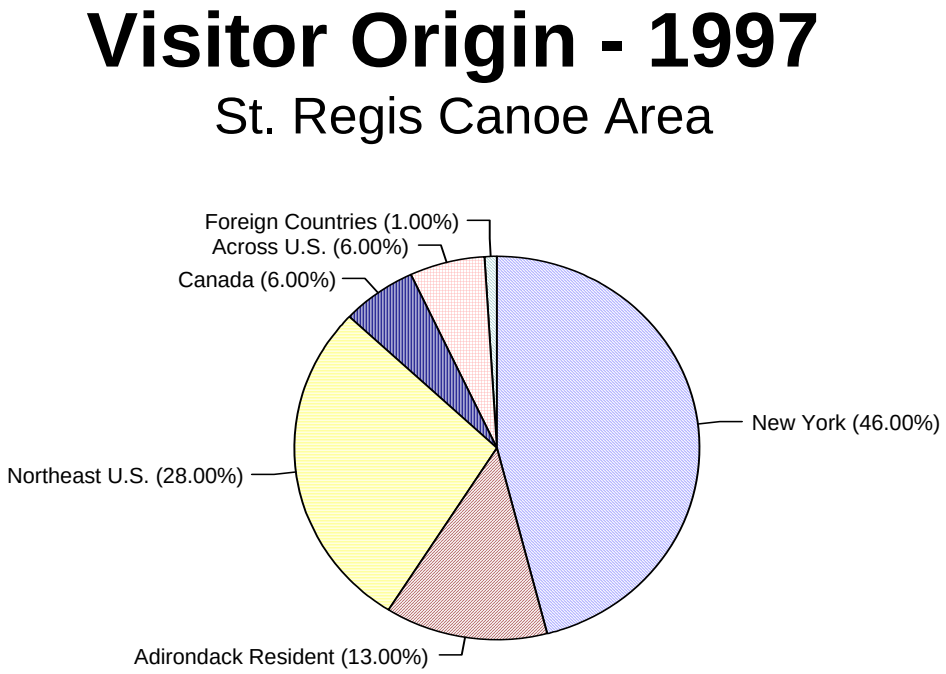
Access Point	Average Group Size	Largest Group Size	Average Length of Stay (days)	Maximum Length of Stay (days)
Fish Pond Truck Trail	2.00	5	1.52	5
Hoel Pond	3.25	12	2.48	10
Long Pond	3.08	9	2.67	9
Bog Pond	4.09	12	1.82	7
Little Clear Pond	3.83	12	3.10	7
St. Regis Mountain	3.13	21	1	1



Graph 6



Graph 7



Graph 8 (Dawson et al. 52)

There have been several visitor surveys conducted over the years on users of the SRCA. One of the most recent was done as part of a scientific study titled Adirondack Wilderness Visitors: Studies in the St. Regis Canoe Area and the High Peaks, Siamese Ponds, and Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Areas (Dawson et al.). This study presents some interesting information on visitor use, which should be considered when making management decisions. Some of the findings are: visitors to the SRCA tend to visit the area often, but do not visit many other wilderness areas. On average, a visitor to the SRCA has been to the area twelve previous times. SRCA visitors on average have visited three other Adirondack wilderness areas, which was the lowest of the four areas studied. Questions related to their experience indicate that visitors to the SRCA know what to expect when visiting the SRCA and are happy with their experience. Only 9% of users reported seeing more large groups than expected and 13% (the lowest of the four areas in the study) reported more groups camped within sight and sound of their campsite than expected. The survey showed that 48% of visitors reported feeling some degree of crowding; of those who felt some degree of crowding, 73% classified it as slight. Twenty-five percent of users (the highest of the four areas studied) reported modifying their trip in some way because of perceptions of crowding. Overall satisfaction of the users visiting the SRCA was high, 35% said they were satisfied and 62% (the highest of

the four areas) said they were very satisfied. In a ranking of importance of sixteen traits which visitors were seeking when visiting the SRCA, the three most important were: 1) tranquillity & peacefulness of a remote environment, 2) an environment free of man-made noise, 3) being in a completely natural environment. The lowest of the sixteen items were: 16) an environment where I can assume an anonymous identity, 15) being relieved from the rules & constraints of society, 14) free from observation by all other people.

Projecting future use of the SRCA is difficult to do with any level of certainty. It is uncertain why there has been a drop in use over the last few years, but this decrease is not likely to continue indefinitely. There are many factors which influence the numbers of visitors to the SRCA. It is nearly impossible to determine how significantly all of these factors will impact the SRCA. Some factors which could increase use of the SRCA include: development of lightweight canoes and camping gear, marketing of modern canoes and kayaks, increase in population, desire for quiet areas to unwind, increased knowledge of the SRCA, increased popularity in outdoor recreation, and an economic downturn resulting in people taking vacations closer to their homes. Factors which could decrease use of the SRCA include: previous bad experience in the SRCA, increase in sedentary lifestyles, greater difficulty in conducting a canoe trip than a hiking trip, availability of other nearby wilderness lakes and rivers, marketing and increased ownership of motorboats, and economic boom where people will spend money on exotic far-away vacations. It is expected that the bell-shaped pattern of usage for the year will continue. There are several social (school schedules) and environmental factors (insects and weather) which are likely responsible for this distribution of use and those factors are not likely to change in the near future.

2. Wildlife

Hunting is a popular activity in the SRCA. The most popular areas tend to be near easily accessible locations such as: Keese Mills Road, Fish Pond Truck Trail, and Floodwood Road areas. Hunting pressure for big game originates principally from points around the perimeter of the unit. Some camping permits are issued to hunters who set up camp around the interior ponds. Hunting generally occurs when the numbers of other visitors to the SRCA are low. These factors naturally segregates two often conflicting groups: non-hunters and hunters. Reports of hunter – non-hunter conflicts in the unit are virtually non-existent.

Past studies by the Department indicate that few sportsmen stop at trailhead registers. However, it can be assumed that the SRCA in general is attractive to those hunters and trappers desiring solitude because of its generally rough terrain and lack of easy access to interior locations, in spite of relatively low densities of wildlife populations.

The Bureau of Wildlife monitors the populations of game species partly by compiling and analyzing harvest statistics, thereby quantifying the effects of consumptive wildlife use. In addition to deer and bear harvest statistics, information on the harvest of

small game and furbearers is compiled by town, county, and Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). The SRCA is totally within WMU 6F. Since the majority of the SRCA is within the town of Santa Clara, the following analysis is based solely on data for this town. The town contains a total of 180 square miles, and the SRCA make up approximately 10 % of the town. The 5 year average harvest is 134 bucks and 149 total deer. Although it is not known how the deer harvest is distributed within the town, it can be assumed that a proportionate number of the deer come from the SRCA. Appendix C shows a detailed table on deer take. The fact that the numbers of deer taken per square mile do not show much variation, indicates that the deer populations in the town are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use.

The Bureau of Wildlife monitors furbearer harvests by requiring trappers to tag the pelts of beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, marten, and otter. Harvest figures are shown in Appendix C. Beaver, fisher, and marten can be susceptible to over-harvest to a degree directly related to market demand and ease of access. Harvest regulations are changed when necessary to protect furbearer populations.

Coyote, varying hare, and ruffed grouse are widely distributed and fairly abundant throughout the Adirondack environment. Hunting and/or trapping pressure on these species in the SRCA is relatively light. These species are capable of withstanding hunting and/or trapping pressure likely to be brought to bear within the unit.

Despite the lack of wildlife information specific to the SRCA, no need has been identified to obtain such information for widely distributed species. It is more practical to study and manage populations over broader areas defined by ecological characteristics that extend beyond forest preserve units' boundaries.

3. Fisheries

Information about the numbers of anglers who visit the waters of the SRCA is not currently available. However, it is known that fishing ranks as one of the more popular activities in selected waters. The area is particularly popular with anglers that target the high quality early spring brook trout pond fishing. Fishing pressure is generally higher on the more readily accessible waterbodies with angler use of the unit's streams estimated to be light. The majority of fishing activity occurs on the area's 20 brook trout waters and the other cold water lakes that support fishable populations of lake trout and splake. A few waters may be fished in the spring by local residents seeking brown bullhead. Slang Pond, Turtle Pond and Long Pond are all fished during the summer by anglers seeking largemouth and smallmouth bass.

After the trout season opens on April 1, fishing pressure typically peaks in intensity in May when trout can still be found in the cool water near the surface of a pond. Fishing activity declines from late spring through the summer due to formation of a thermocline which causes fish to move to deeper water. The decline of fishing activity

which occurs as the summer progresses coincides with an increase in pond use by hikers and campers. Angling on brook trout ponds ceases altogether after the trout season closes on October 15. Warmwater angling peaks in July-August. There are no waters in the SRCA that are open to ice fishing.

E. Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, have important implications for the management of all public lands, including the SRCA. A detailed explanation of the ADA and its influence on management actions is provided under Section III, B; Management Guidelines.

In 1997, the Department adopted policy CP-3, Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands under Jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation for People with Disabilities, that establishes guidelines for issuing temporary revocable permits allowing qualified people with disabilities to use motor vehicles to gain access to designated routes on certain state lands. Due to the classification of the SRCA there are not any CP-3 routes in the planning area. The Master Plan, at page 31, prohibits the public use of motor vehicles on lands classified as canoe areas. Thus, authorizing the use of motor vehicles by persons with disabilities in this unit would alter the fundamental nature of the programs offered to the public. However, there are several areas in the SRCA that lend themselves to non-motorized use by persons with disabilities. Particular areas are the Fish Pond truck trail, the Long Pond truck trail, and the campsites at Monty Flats. These areas will be discussed further in Section IV.

F. Relationship Between Public and Private Land

The SRCA can not be considered without recognizing the uses of adjacent lands. The character of the surrounding lands and what occurs on those lands impacts the SRCA, just as the SRCA has an impact on the lands that surround it. Private lands can affect the environmental condition of the SRCA, the management actions which the State needs to take, public use, and public interest in the area. As described below, major impacts that the SRCA has on the adjacent landowners are economic.

The majority of the lands around the SRCA are currently owned in large blocks. The northern side of the SRCA is bordered principally by a single owner, Bay Pond Park. There are three properties which border the western edge of the SRCA. While it maybe possible for these properties to be subdivided and developed, there are several factors which are currently helping to protect the SRCA from the problems of adjacent development. The surrounding private lands are regulated by the APA, whose regulations affect the amount of development which is allowed to take place. The APA's Adirondack Park Land Use and Development and State Land Map (2001) shows that eighty-eight percent of the private lands that border the SRCA are classified by the APA as resource management, APA's most restrictive private land classification. Under APA regulations, development on this land is limited to 15 buildings per square mile. This

equates to an average lot size of 42.7 acres. The remaining 12% of the private land that surrounds the SRCA is classified by the APA as low intensity use. This classification allows 200 buildings per square mile or a 3.2 acre average lot size. A large portion of these low intensity use areas are already developed.

As mentioned in Section I, the SRCA is additionally protected from development through conservation easements on two of the adjacent properties. The Nature Conservancy easement on the Bay Pond Park lands is extremely important in guaranteeing that the open space character of the lands surrounding the SRCA will be maintained into the foreseeable future. The State's conservation easement on nearly 8,000 acres of Paul Smith's College property is important in the protection of the large waterbodies near the SRCA.

There are two specific areas within the SRCA which are impacted by private land. One of these is on the eastern side of the unit. A private land owner has the deeded right to use and maintain a reservoir, water lines, and a right-of-way for ingress and egress, all of which are in the SRCA. The second is a road which crosses onto the western side of the SRCA. This road travels through 400' of the SRCA heading to Otter Pond. This road may or may not be a legally deeded right-of-way. It is used to access a private camp. The Department will work to determine the legal status of the road and work with the landowner to prevent the resources of the area from being damaged.

The SRCA has several impacts on the surrounding private lands. There are three primary ways that the SRCA impacts the area's economy. The first economic impact is the money visitors to the SRCA bring to the local economy. As mentioned in Section D there are many types of users who come to enjoy the SRCA, while each group has its own spending patterns, all do contribute in some way to the local economy. One study showed that groups of canoeists spend an average of $200 per trip on local amenities and use $500 in locally purchased gear (Omohundron et al. 2000). This can be a significant impact since over 1,300 groups visit the SRCA each year. A second impact on the local economy is through the taxes that the State pays to local governments. The State of New York pays taxes for all purposes on forest preserve lands which are "wild or forest lands" pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §532(a).. Tax records from Franklin County indicate that in 2000 the state paid over $119,000 in taxes for the land that makes up the SRCA. Since the state land does not require much in the way of services from the local governments, this is an important source of income for local governments. The third economic impact on surrounding properties is an increase in the value of private property in the proximity to the SRCA. Several studies have shown that real estate values may increase significantly based on proximity to State Forest Preserve land (Kay 22; Roth and Carr 20-21).

Social impacts on surrounding private lands can be considered positive or negative depending on the point of view of those affected. The visitors who come to the SRCA can cause a change in the character of the surrounding area, congestion on the roads and in the local communities, and other conflicts with those who live in the area. Restrictions on recreation and use in the SRCA can have a greater impact on those who

live nearby the unit than those just visiting. This is due to the fact that a nearby resident is likely to encounter the restriction multiple times.

Adjacent public lands that are important to the SRCA include the SLWF, the Remsen-Lake Placid travel corridor and the Adirondack Park, Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC). Of these, the SLWF has the most impact to the SRCA. The SLWF is extremely important for those using the SRCA. The most direct tie between the SLWF and SRCA is the fact that, as mentioned in Section D, several of the major access points to the SRCA originate in the SLWF. The parking areas associated with these access points are also in the SLWF. Another link between the two units is the fact that the SLWF has ponds of similar character to the ponds in the SRCA. With its different Master Plan management classification, there are a greater variety of uses allowed in the SLWF. This allows the SLWF and SRCA to complement each other by giving visitors the opportunity to choose the type of experience that they want. They can choose the wilderness type water recreation in the SRCA or the motorized access in the SLWF. Some people use the SLWF ponds for an experience similar to that in the SRCA, but with the added mobility of a motor. Others use the canoe routes that cross between the two units to make the SLWF an extension of the SRCA. These recreation patterns are important to consider when deciding on management actions to take in both the SRCA and the SLWF. Since what occurs in one unit can impact the adjacent unit, each area's UMP must take into account the impact management actions will have on the other unit.

The Remsen-Lake Placid travel corridor borders most of the southern boundary of the SRCA and has some affects on the SRCA. The section of corridor along the SRCA boundary is currently a major snowmobile travel route and it is used a couple of times a year by train traffic. In the future the corridor may also host regular train service between Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake. One of the impacts that the travel corridor has on the SRCA is that noise created by use of the corridor can be heard over a portion of the SRCA. This would detract from the wilderness character of the land and the experience that those who visit the SRCA are seeking. This is especially true given that the top two traits that visitors are seeking in the SRCA involve the lack of noise (listed in D.1 above). Another impact from the corridor is that snowmobiles might illegally enter the SRCA, however this is not common.

The VIC is located on land leased by the State of New York from Paul Smith's College. The public facilities present at the VIC are managed by the APA. The VIC is important because it draws visitors to the area. Since the VIC and the SRCA are located in close proximity and there is easy access between them, those who visit one may visit the other. A few of the benefits that the VIC offers include environmental education programs and displays, information on the area, and nature trails. Important information and messages about the SRCA could be made available to the public through the VIC.

G. Capacity to Withstand Use

Carrying Capacity Concepts

The SRCA, like any other natural area in our Forest Preserve, cannot withstand ever-increasing, unlimited visitor use without suffering the eventual loss of its essential, natural character. This much is intuitive. What is not intuitive, though, is how much use and of what type the whole area - or any particular site or area within it - can withstand before the impacts of such use cause serious degradation of the very resource being sought after and used. Such is a wildland manager's most important and challenging responsibility: to work to ensure a natural area's "carrying capacity" is not exceeded while concurrently providing for visitor use and benefit.

The term "carrying capacity" has its roots in range and wildlife sciences. As defined in the range sciences, carrying capacity means "the maximum number of animals that can be grazed on a land unit for a specific period of time without inducing damage to the vegetation of related resources" (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, 1994). This concept, in decades past, was modified to address recreational uses as well; although in its application to recreational use it has been shown to be significantly flawed when the outcome sought has been the "maximum number" of people who should visit and recreate in an area such as the SRCA. Much research had shown that the derivation of such a number is not useful.

Essentially, this is because the relationship between the amount of use and the resultant amount of impact is not linear (Krumpe and Stokes, 1993). For many types of activities, for instance, most of the impact occurs with only low levels of use. In the case of trail erosion, once soil starts to wash away, additional foot travel does not cause the impact upon the trail to increase proportionately. It has been discovered that visitor behavior, site resistance/resiliency, type of use, etc., may actually be more important in determining the amount of impact than the amount of use, although the total amount of use is certainly (and obviously) still a factor (Hammit and Cole, 1987).

This makes the manager's job much more involved than simply counting, redirecting, and (perhaps) restricting the number of visitors in an area. Influencing visitor behavior can require a well-planned, multi-faceted educational program. Determining site resistance/resiliency always requires research (often including much time, legwork and experimentation). Shaping the types of use impacting an area can call not only for education <u>and</u> research <u>and</u> development of facilities, but also the formulation and enforcement of a set of regulations which some users are likely to regard as objectionable.

Nevertheless, the shortcomings of a simple carrying capacity approach have become so apparent that the basic question has changed from the old one: "How many is too many?" to the new, more realistic one: "How much change is acceptable?" The Department embraces this change in approach while recognizing the tasks it calls for in developing the best foundation for management actions. Professionally-informed judgements must be made such that carrying capacity is given definition in terms of

resource and social conditions that are deemed acceptable; these conditions must be compared with the real, on-the-ground conditions; certain projections must be made; and management policies and actions must be drafted and enacted with an aim toward maintaining or restoring the conditions desired.

Clearly, a delicate balancing act is called for, and yet just as clearly, the Department's management focus must remain on protecting the resource.

A central objective of this UMP is to lay out a strategy for achieving such a balance in the SRCA. This strategy reflects important guidelines and principles, and it - along with the guidelines and principles - have directed the development of the management proposals which are detailed in Section VIII.

Strategy

The long-term strategy for managing the SRCA uses a combination of three generally accepted planning methods: (1) the goal-achievement process; (2) the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) model employed by the U.S. Forest Service; and (3) the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) model employed by the National Park Service. Given the distinctly different, yet important purposes of these methods (particularly between the first method and the second two), there are clear benefits offered by employing a blend of these approaches here.

Goal-Achievement Process

The goal-achievement process provides a framework for proposed management by means of the careful, stepwise development of key objectives and actions that serve to prescribe the canoe area conditions (goals) outlined by Master Plan guidelines. The Department is mandated by law to devise and employ practices that will attain these goals. For each management activity category included in Section IV of this UMP, there has been worked up a written assessment of the current management situation and a set of assumptions about future trends, in which the specific management proposals which follow are rooted.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and Visitor Experience and Resources Protection (VERP) Models

These two methods both employ carrying capacity concepts, not as prescriptions of the total number of people who can visit an area, but as prescriptions of the desired resource and social conditions that should be maintained to minimum standards regardless of use. Establishing and maintaining acceptable conditions depends on well-crafted management objectives which are explicit and which draw on managerial experience, research, inventory data, assessments and projections, public input, and common sense. When devised in this manner, objectives founded in the LAC and VERP models essentially dictate how much change will be allowed (or encouraged) to occur and where, as well as how management will respond to changes. Indicators (measurable

variables that reflect conditions) are chosen, and standards (representing the bounds of acceptable conditions) are set, all so that management efforts can be effective in addressing unacceptable changes. A particular standard may be chosen so as to act as a simple trigger for management action (as in VERP), or it may be chosen to act as a kind of boundary which - given certain assessments - allows for management action before conditions deteriorate to the point of no longer meeting the standard (as in LAC).

Even well-conceived and executed efforts can prove ineffective, and when this is the case, management responses must be adjusted. **Monitoring of resource and social conditions is absolutely critical.** Both the LAC and VERP models rely on monitoring to provide systematic and periodic feedback to managers concerning specific conditions. However, since the VERP model was developed to apply only to impacts from visitor use, some management issues in the SRCA (for instance, the impacts of acid deposition) call for an approach that is properly in the LAC vein.

Though the LAC process is ideally suited to solving many management problems, it does not work in every situation. LAC is designed to help managers decide how best to address competing goals where there are concerns about the potential for unacceptable change. For instance, two goals of wilderness management are protecting natural conditions and providing public recreational access. Yet the promotion of recreational use could have unacceptable impacts to natural resources, such as the soils and vegetation in a popular camping area. The LAC process could be used to determine the thresholds of acceptable soil and vegetation impacts and what management actions would be taken to protect resources from camping use. Issues that do not involve potential trade-offs do not lend themselves to LAC treatment. For example, managers do not need a process to help them determine how much motor vehicle use is acceptable in wilderness. Because existing wilderness guidelines and regulations explicitly prohibit all public motor vehicle use, it is clear that no amount of public motor vehicle use is acceptable.

Since differences between LAC and VERP are not significant, choices are left up to managers. These choices are as evident as they need to be wherever this UMP, in Section IV, calls for sets of management actions which incorporate them.

In outline, The Department's approach applies four factors in identifying potential management actions for an area:

- The identification of acceptable resource and social conditions as defined by measurable indicators;
- An analysis of the relationship between existing conditions and those desired;
- Determinations of the necessary management actions needed to achieve desired conditions; and,
- A monitoring program to see if objectives are being met.

The process involves 10 steps:

Step 1: Define Goals and Desired Conditions
Step 2: Identify Issues, Concerns and Threats
Step 3: Define and Describe Acceptable Conditions
Step 4: Select Indicators for Resource and Social Conditions
Step 5: Inventory Existing Resource and Social Conditions
Step 6: Specify Standards for Resource and Social Indicators for Each Opportunity Class
Step 7: Identify Alternative Opportunity Class Allocations
Step 8: Identify Management Actions for Each Alternative
Step 9: Evaluate and Select a Preferred Alternative
Step 10: Implement Actions and Monitor Conditions

A number of management issues will develop within the SRCA that could be addressed by the LAC process. Such issues may be categorized as conflicts between public use and resource protection, conflicts between users, and conflicts between outside influences and the objectives for natural resource or social conditions within the unit. The capacity of the area to withstand use can be divided into three categories for which impact indicators can be chosen:
Physical capacity - May include indicators that measure visitor impacts to physical resources (e.g., soil erosion on trails, campsites and access sites) and changes to environmental conditions (e.g., air and water quality).

Biological capacity - May include indicators that measure visitor impacts to biological resources (e.g., vegetation loss at campsites or waterfront access sites) and changes in the ecosystem (e.g., diversity and distribution of plant and animal species).

Social capacity - May include indicators that measure visitor impacts on other visitors (e.g., conflicts between user groups), the effectiveness of managerial conditions (e.g., noncompliant visitor behavior), and interactions with the area's physical or biological capacity (e.g., the impacts of the sight of significant erosion on trails on the recreational experience of visitors).

The following list gives examples of indicators that could be used in assessing and monitoring conditions in the SRCA.

Physical capacity
- Extent of soil erosion on trails and at campsites
- Extent of soil compaction at campsties

Biological capacity
- Extent of unvegetated soil in camping areas and riparian areas near lakes and streams
- Diversity and distribution of plant and animal species

Social capacity

- Incidence and volume of late night noise at campsites
- Extent of illegal tree cutting for firewood near campsites
- Number of encounters with large groups on trails

These indicators form the basis for the proposed management actions presented in Section IV. This approach will require flexibility, determination, and patience. Though LAC will not be fully implemented during the five-year scope of this UMP, the UMP is complete, organized according to the goal-achievement framework. It provides substantial resource inventory information; sets goals founded on law, policy, and the characteristics of the area; identifies management issues; and lays out an extensive system of proposed objectives and actions designed to meet management goals. Once it is fully implemented, LAC will provide more detailed guidance to managers and the public in the management of important issues. Ultimately a monitoring system will be put in place, and management actions will be revised and refined over time in response to the results of periodic evaluation to assure that desired conditions will be attained or maintained. LAC will be incorporated into the management of the SRCA as a fully-developed, science-based approach to protecting and managing the area's physical, biological, and social resources.

1. Land and Water Resources

The condition of the land resource can be used as an indicator of the level of use that an area can sustain. The most heavily-used areas will usually show the most effects from use. However, there are several factors which can mitigate heavy use or amplify the effects of lighter use. One factor is the conditions at the time that the use occurs. For example, a few people walking a trail when the trail is wet and soft will cause more damage than a large number of people using the same trail when it is dry. Another factor to consider is the skill and behavior of the users. A large group may not leave any evidence that they used an area, while a small group or even an individual can, through willful neglect or ignorance, leave an area permanently altered. A third factor to consider is the design and location of the improvement that is being used. A properly designed and located facility will allow for heavy use without having a negative impact on the resource. Poor facility design or location can lead to quick deterioration of the resource.

Currently, thousands of acres in the SRCA are not impacted significantly by use. Use is concentrated to the areas around the ponds and the foot trails, so these areas experience most of the visitor impacts, while the large unbroken forest areas do not see regular use and are not impacted. The heavily used areas are clearly impacting the land resource. This is primarily occurring at the canoe launches, many campsites, and the wet sections of the foot trails. The main problems resulting from use of the SRCA are erosion, mud, soil compaction, decreased vegetation, litter, improper human waste disposal, and removal of dead wood. It is fairly obvious why most of these impacts are considered to be problems; however, some people may not understand why removal of dead wood is considered to be a problem. It is seen as a problem by land managers because dead wood provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife, slows erosion,

and allows nutrients to be recycled back into the soil. In heavily-used areas, dead wood is collected and burned at a faster rate than it is created, this results in an ever widening area of damage from people gathering wood. Secondary effects of wood gathering include damage to living vegetation and removal of standing dead trees, which is illegal.

Many land resource problems tend to expand with time, if they are not addressed. An example is that muddy sections of trails result in an expansion of the muddy area and loss of vegetation as people, trying to stay dry, walk around the wet areas. Another example is that people who visit a campsite which already has a litter problem are more likely to leave their own trash behind, than if the site was clean. For this reason, it is important to take action when a problem becomes known. Section IV will address courses of action to reduce the problems from visitor use.

2. Fish and Wildlife Resources

Department angling regulations are designed to preserve fish populations in individual waters by preventing overexploitation. In addition to angling regulations, factors at work in the SRCA which serve to limit use include the remoteness of ponds from roads and the seasonal nature of angling in coldwater ponds. The overall fishing intensity on area waters ranges from light to moderate.

The populations of brook trout in several ponds are maintained by the Department's annual fish stocking program. Maintenance stocking is needed in many wilderness waters to recreate an approximation of natural conditions and to afford a quality fishing experience (one akin to that which primeval explorers may have encountered). Under existing angling regulations, the trout populations of stocked and natural spawning adequate (NSA) ponds are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of angler use. Nevertheless, management activities will emphasize establishing brook trout populations which can sustain themselves without the aid of annual stocking. Decades of experience on Adirondack brook trout ponds have shown the invasion of competing species is much more detrimental to trout abundance, sizes, and natural reproduction than is angling. The Pharaoh Lake Unit Management Plan contains several examples of fisheries that illustrate this problem and discusses the issue in more detail.

Acid precipitation has negatively impacted some Canoe Area waters and a few can no longer sustain fish life. Fishless waters include Conley Line Pond and Douglas Pond. Some waters which still contain fish have been acidified to a critical degree and have suffered some species loss. Obviously, since it adversely affects fish survival, acid precipitation reduces the ability of the fisheries of affected waters to withstand angler use. The acidification of the waters of the unit will continue until the problem of acid precipitation is eliminated, regardless of angling pressure, unless management actions intended to counteract the acidification process in individual waters are taken.

Because angler use of streams in the unit is believed to be light, the brook trout populations which they support can sustain anticipated harvest levels without damaging

their capacity to maintain themselves naturally. The warmwater species found in the unit also have proven to be able to sustain themselves under existing regulations without the need for stocking.

The Department monitors the effectiveness of angling regulations, stocking policies and other management activities by conducting periodic biological and chemical surveys. Based on analysis of biological survey results, angling regulations may be changed as necessary to protect the fish populations of the SRCA.

H. Education, Interpretation and Research

There are several programs underway within or adjacent to the SRCA to provide for the education of those using the SRCA. The primary purpose of these programs is to foster a deeper appreciation of the natural community and to inform the public on the proper techniques to ensure that their visit to the SRCA is enjoyable, respectful of other users, and not harmful to the environment. One way the Department gets this education message out is through the Forest Ranger and the Assistant Forest Ranger program. There is one Forest Ranger and one Assistant Forest Ranger who are primarily assigned to the SRCA. These two individuals have a great deal of contact with the public and are thus able to interact with the public as individuals or in small groups. Public education and interpretation are just two of their many job responsibilities, but it is an extremely important facet of their work.

Other important education, interpretation, or research projects have been mentioned before, and include the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewards and the APA's VIC. Both of these provide important benefits for the management of the SRCA. They allow for reaching a large number of people and provide valuable experience for college students and those starting out in the natural resources profession. These programs are not run by the Department, however the Paul Smith's program is conducted under an Adopt A Natural Resource Agreement (AANRA) with the Department. The AANRA allows the Department to control what occurs on State land.

Publications and the internet are further ways that the Department is able to provide educational material to the public. The Department publishes a brochure on the SRCA which provides important information that the public can carry with them while using the area.

Local guides and sporting good shops are another way for the public to get information on the SRCA. Many of these guides and the employees of these shops are usually very familiar with the SRCA and they can provide the public, and Department staff, with valuable information. The information the public gets may not only come from the owners and employees of the shops, but also from the maps and booklets that are sold in the shops. Either way, the public usually accepts this information as official. For this reason, it is important that the Department work with private enterprises to ensure that quality information is given to the public.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Past Management

1. Land Management

Past management of the SRCA was vastly different from what it is today. Prior to the designation of the SRCA by the Master Plan in 1972, the lands were managed more for motorized use. Motorboats and snowmobiles were allowed in the SRCA. In addition, the state allowed the construction of tent platforms, which took on the characteristics of permanent camps. After the Master Plan was adopted motorized use was prohibited and the tent platforms were removed. The majority of current campsites are located where a tent platform used to be. Remains of the tent platforms can still be seen at several of the campsites in the SRCA.

Since the SRCA has been designated, the primary management actions have been involved with trying to control new problems that occur. Problems have mostly been related to camping and the condition of the trails. There has been no overall management plan for the area and management actions have been mainly involved with reacting to problems rather than identifying problems before they appear. Actions have included the clearing of trails, designating campsites, building lean-tos, replacing and relocating privies and the maintaining of these improvements.

2. Wildlife Management

Past wildlife management has not focused on the SRCA specifically. Wildlife management actions usually have involved larger scale areas, such as WMUs. Management actions taken within the SRCA have focused on nuisance wildlife complaints. Past problems have mostly involved beaver caused flooding of trails.

3. Fisheries Management

Fish management in the SRCA has emphasized brook trout restoration through reclamation and stocking programs. There are 20 ponds in the unit that have brook trout populations of sufficient magnitude to provide good quality angling for this species. Whether lake trout are native to the unit is difficult to determine, because widespread stocking of native and nonnative fish had taken place by the time of the first biological surveys. It appears that lake trout occurred naturally in Long Pond and possibly a few other waters as well. The Fish Pond chain of lakes was reclaimed during the early 1950s to remove nonnative yellow perch and restore native brook trout. Lake trout were introduced into the Fish Pond system sometime after the reclamation by unknown means. The lake trout have naturalized and thrive in Fish Pond. St. Regis Pond, a large body of water in the Fish Pond system, has less deep water habitat than Fish Pond, and lake trout have not been as successful there. Brook trout stocking in St. Regis Pond failed to provide satisfactory returns after white suckers became a dominant species. Accordingly, St. Regis Pond was experimentally stocked with splake (a hatchery hybrid of lake trout and brook trout), a hybrid which often times provides a good fishery in the face of

moderate competition and does not require the deep water habitat of lake trout. Splake have provided a significant fishery in St. Regis Pond, and their stocking there should be continued.

SRCA waters have been subject to general angling regulations of the state. The use of fish as bait has been prohibited in area trout ponds to minimize the likelihood of bait pail introduction of competing and/or exotic fish species. Between 1952 and 1991 twenty six reclamations with rotenone were conducted in SRCA waters. See pond narratives section for a complete description of these waters (Appendix E).

Forty-one of the 58 ponds in the SRCA were surveyed by the ALSC between 1984 and 1986. Historical biological data is available for 27 waters in the unit. Since the ALSC surveys, Department Fisheries staff have conducted biological survey on 17 waters within the unit and have conducted physical and chemical surveys on several others. Bone Pond, Whipple Pond, and Ledge Pond were visited during July of 2002 in order to provide additional information for preparation of this UMP. Appendices F, G, and H present pond-specific survey and management data for all SRCA waters.

Very little active fishery management has been undertaken on streams within the SRCA because of their remoteness and small size. Few area streams in the unit have received biological surveys.

Management activities have involved the use of motorized vehicles, equipment, and aircraft. These have been the only practicable means to conduct the activities required to preserve and enhance the valuable fisheries resource. The level of motorized use is generally low. It usually involves an annual stocking trip; other management activities involve infrequent use depending upon the project to be completed.

B. Management Guidelines

1. Guiding Documents

This UMP has been developed within the guidelines set forth by Article XIV of the State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Parts 190-199 of Title 6 NYCRR of the State of New York, the Master Plan, and established Department policy.

Article XIV of the State Constitution provides in part that, “[t]he 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.”

The Master Plan provides guidance for the use and management of lands which it classifies as “canoe area” by establishing basic guidelines. “The primary canoe area management guideline will be to protect the quality of the water and the fishery resources

while preserving a wilderness character on the adjacent lands"(Master Plan, page 30). Other guidelines are listed on pages 30 - 32 of the Master Plan. Three sections of guidelines will be particularly important for the development of this UMP. They are the sections on "Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft," "Roads, snowmobile trails, and state truck trails," and "All Terrain Bicycles." The Master Plan requires that each of these sections be addressed in the UMP.

Department policy has been developed for the public use and administration of Forest Preserve lands. Select policies relevant to the management of this unit include:

Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve (CP-17).
Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands Under the Jurisdiction of The Department for People with Disabilities (CP-3).
Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-91-2; NR-95-1).
Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Land (O&D #84-06).
Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve (LF-91-2).
Acquisition of Conservation Easements (NR-86-3).
Division Regulatory Policy (LF-90-2).
Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ONR-1).
Memorandum Of Understanding between the Department and the APA.
Guidelines for Fisheries Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas (included in Appendix H).
Policies and Procedures Manual Title 8400 - Public Land Management.

The Department also provides guidelines for the design, location, siting, size, classification, construction, maintenance, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of dams, fireplaces, fire rings, foot bridges, foot trails, primitive camping sites, road barriers, sanitary facilities and trailheads. Other guidance used in the administration of Forest Preserve lands are provided through Attorney General Opinions, Department policy memos, and Regional operating procedures.

The recommendations presented in this UMP are subject to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality and Review Act (SEQRA), Article 8 of the ECL. All proposed management activities have been subject to an environmental assessment, and a negative declaration has been prepared (Appendix G).

2. Application of Guidelines and Standards

The above guidelines will be applied along with public input to develop the management principles. These guidelines will be reviewed to ensure that management actions comply with them. The guidelines will be applied in the following ways toward these specific areas.

All trail construction and relocation projects will be developed in accordance with the Master Plan, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's), including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Wherever possible, lay out trails on existing old roads or clear or partially cleared areas;
- Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Locating trails to minimize grade;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
- Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers; and
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

All construction projects will be developed in accordance with the Master Plan, and will incorporate the use of BMPs, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist; and
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

All lean-to relocation projects will incorporate the use of BMPs, including but not limited to, such considerations as:

- Locating lean-tos to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating lean-tos to minimize tree cutting;
- Locating lean-tos away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Use of drainage structures on trails leading to lean-to sites, to prevent water flowing into site;
- Locating lean-tos on flat, stable, well-drained sites; and
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall.

All parking lot construction and relocation projects will incorporate the use of BMPs, including but not limited to, such considerations as:

- Locating parking lots to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating parking lots away from streams, wetlands, and unstable
- Locating parking lots on flat, stable, well-drained sites using gravel for surfacing or other appropriate material to avoid storm water runoff and erosion;
- Locating parking lots in areas that require a minimum amount of tree cutting;
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall; and
- Wherever possible, using wooded buffers to screen parking lots from roads;
- Limiting the size of the parking lot to the minimum necessary to address the intended use.

The "Guidelines for Fisheries Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas" (Appendix H) form the foundation for the following goals for SRCA waters:

- Restore and perpetuate fish communities which replicate, to the best of our understanding, natural ecological conditions (Guidelines 1 and 3);
- Provide recreational angling as part of a larger wilderness experience emphasizing quality over quantity (Guideline 2);
- Protect the fishless state of naturally barren waters that have not been stocked (Guideline 5).
- Management actions appropriate to achieve those goals include stocking, reclamation and liming (Guidelines 4, 6 and 9 respectively).

All fish stocking projects will be in compliance with the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife,* dated December 1979.

All liming projects will be in compliance with the *Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters*, dated October 1990, as well as the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources liming policy.

All pond reclamation projects will be in compliance with the “Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation” and *“Programmatic Environmental Impact*

Statement on Undesirable Fish Removal by the Use of Pesticides Under Permit Issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Pesticide Management."

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 a formal 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. Each Unit Management Plan prepared by the Department will outline a proposed assessment process and a schedule for completing the assessment. This activity is dependent on obtaining an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit. The assessment will also establish the need for new or upgraded facilities or assets necessary to meet ADA mandates, consulting 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. The 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 direction includes the proposed guidelines.

3. Deed Restrictions

As mentioned in Section II. F. there is a reservoir, water lines, and a right-of-way in the SRCA deeded for use by an adjacent landowner. Included with this is the right of the landowner to maintain, repair, and replace the facilities. The deeded right to the reservoir prohibits the expansion of the facilities and the connection of the facilities to

other properties. This reservoir is in a lightly-used section of the SRCA and has little effect on the management of the SRCA. One benefit of the right-of-way is that in an emergency it could be used for access by rescue or fire personnel.

C. Administration and Management Principles

1. Administration

The administration of Forest Preserve land is the responsibility of the Department's Division of Lands and Forests. The responsibility for the enforcement of Department rules and regulations lies with the Office of Public Protection. The Division of Operations conducts interior construction, maintenance and rehabilitation projects. The Bureau of Recreation within the Division of Operations operates and manages the public campgrounds adjacent to the unit. The Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources manages the State's fish ,wildlife, and habitat resources.

2. Management Principles

It is important to state clearly the principles that will be used to manage the SRCA. These principles were used in the development of this UMP and will be applied when future management decisions are required. These principles will serve as a guide to select alternate solutions to problems. These management principles for the SRCA are based on the above guidelines, public input, prior UMPs developed by the Department and the definition of a Canoe Area in the Master Plan on page 29: "a canoe area is an area where the watercourses or the number and proximity of lakes and ponds make possible a remote and unconfined type of water-oriented recreation in an essentially wilderness setting."

MANAGE CANOE AREA AS A WILDERNESS, WHILE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALLOWED IN THE MASTER PLAN.

In both the Master Plan's definition of and primary guideline for the canoe area, the term wilderness figures prominently. Management activities must reflect the importance of preserving a wilderness character in the canoe area. Management actions must also be focused on protecting and enhancing the fishery and water resources and take into account the additional uses allowed in canoe area by the Master Plan, such as all terrain bicycles and administrative use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft.

MANAGE CANOE AREA AS A COMPOSITE RESOURCE, NOT AS SEPARATE PARTS.

Canoe area is a distinct resource producing many societal values and benefits. One of the canoe area's distinctive features is the natural relationship between all its component parts: geology, soil, vegetation, air, water, fish and wildlife - everything that makes up a canoe area. In most cases, separate management plans will not be developed for vegetation, fish, wildlife, recreation, etc. Rather, one plan must deal simultaneously with the interrelationships between these and all other components (Master Plan).

MANAGE THE USE OF OTHER RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN CANOE AREA IN A MANNER COMPATIBLE WITH THE CANOE AREA RESOURCE ITSELF.

All proposed management actions must consider their effect on the canoe area resource so no harm comes to it. For example, recreation should be managed and kept within acceptable levels that maintain the SRCA's canoe area character, including opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation emphasizing a quality visitor experience. (Master Plan; USDA, 1972; Blodel, 1990; Hendee and Dawson, 2002).

ALLOW NATURAL PROCESSES TO OPERATE FREELY SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT HARM THE QUALITY OF THE WATER AND FISHERY RESOURCES.

This principle is derived in part from the Master Plan definition of wilderness in dealing with the term “natural conditions.” According to the Master Plan, the primary wilderness management guideline will be to achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent. This needs to be balanced by the primary canoe area guideline of protecting the water and fisheries resource.

ATTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER WITHIN LEGAL CONSTRAINTS.

An important Master Plan goal is to retain and make where necessary, Adirondack wilderness areas as wild and natural as possible. Examples of this principle include efforts to closing roads to unlawful motor vehicle use or restoring severely eroded trails (Master Plan; Article XIV State Constitution, 1894; and the Environmental Conservation Law.)

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE AIR AND WATER QUALITY.

Canoe area air and water quality bear testimony to the general health of our environment. Federal and state laws are designed specifically to protect air and water quality. In the canoe area, internal pollution sources such as human and animal wastes must be controlled.

SAFEGUARD HUMAN VALUES AND BENEFITS WHILE PRESERVING WILDERNESS CHARACTER.

Canoe areas are not just designated to protect natural communities and ecosystems; they are also for people. The Master Plan states "Human use and enjoyment of those lands (meaning state lands within the Adirondack Park) should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context and their social and psychological aspects are not degraded." This is especially true for the canoe area.

PRESERVE OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION.

This principle comes directly from the Master Plan definition of wilderness. Levels of solitude within canoe area will vary; sometimes substantially. However, there should be places and times where visitors can find little or no contact with others. Management strategies to protect the canoe area resource should strive to minimize the amount of contact or control over visitors once they are in the unit. (USDA, 1978; Hendee and Dawson, 2002; Blodel, 1990).

CONTROL AND REDUCE THE ADVERSE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF HUMAN USE IN CANOE AREA THROUGH EDUCATION AND MINIMUM REGULATION.

When human use must be controlled to prevent misuse and overuse, it is best to do so by education followed by minimum degree of regulation necessary to meet management objectives. The latter option is sometimes called the **minimum tool rule -** application of the minimum tools, equipment, regulations, or practices that will bring the desired result (USDA,1978).

FAVOR CANOE AREA DEPENDENT ACTIVITIES WHEN MANAGING CANOE AREA USE.

The canoe area is a distinct resource, and many recreational or other activities taking place there can be enjoyed elsewhere. Not all outdoor activities require a canoe area setting. Examples are large group use, orienteering schools, competitive events, and other organized events (DEC policy, 1972-present). A DEC management goal is to refer these activities to wild forest areas.

REMOVE EXISTING STRUCTURES AND TERMINATE USES AND ACTIVITIES NOT ESSENTIAL TO CANOE AREA MANAGEMENT EXCEPT FOR THOSE PROVIDED BY THE MASTER PLAN.

"A wilderness area is further defined to mean an area of state land or water having a primeval character without significant improvements or permanent human habitation...."(Master Plan). Except for those conforming structures, uses, and administrative actions specifically identified by the Master Plan, DEC is mandated to remove all non-conforming structures and uses not compatible with a canoe area environment as soon as possible.

ACCOMPLISH NECESSARY MANAGEMENT WORK WITH THE "MINIMUM TOOL."

This principle requires every management action to be scrutinized to see first if it is necessary, then plan to do it with the "minimum tool" to accomplish the task. Its goal is to have the least possible impact on the environment and the visitor experience (USDA, 1978; Blodel, 1990; Hendee and Dawson, 2002).

ESTABLISH SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, WITH PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, IN A MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Working together within the constraints of the Master Plan, managers and the public need to define acceptable levels of use and specific management practices. These need to be clearly stated in management plans available for public review and comment. It is essential visitors and other users understand canoe area values, and managers clearly know their management responsibilities. (Master Plan; DEC policy 1972-present; Blodel, 1990; Hendee and Dawson, 2002).

HARMONIZE CANOE AREA WITH ADJACENT LAND USES.

Canoe area management should be coordinated with the management of adjacent state and private lands in a manner that recognizes differing land management goals.

MANAGE CANOE AREA WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC SKILLS.

Because the canoe area consists of complex relationships, it needs the skills of natural resource professionals and social scientists that work as an interdisciplinary team focusing on preserving canoe area as a distinct resource. Environmental and social sciences are used to replace nostalgia and politics in decision-making.

MANAGE SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS PROVIDED BY THE MASTER PLAN WITH THE MINIMUM IMPACT ON THE CANOE AREA RESOURCE.

The Master Plan provides for certain conforming uses and structures that differ from the wilderness definition. These exceptions, in part, include existing dams on established impoundments, existing or new fish barrier dams, trails, bridges, signs, trail shelters (lean-tos), state truck trails, the use of all terrain bicycles and administrative use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft. Construction of additional conforming structures and improvements will be restrained to comply with appropriate standards, and all management and administrative actions will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of users in an environmentally sound and safe way.

The primary goal of Forest Preserve management is the perpetuation of Forest Preserve lands in a wild forest land state. In conformance with the constitutional and legal constraints that embody this goal, as well as the management guidelines set forth within the Master Plan, The Department will manage the SRCA to provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities for people of all abilities. Through partnerships with local governments, organizations, and individuals, the Department will provide for the use and enjoyment of the SRCA in ways that will support the economy of the region while protecting the wilderness character of the area.

The Department permits and promotes recreational use of forest preserve lands to the extent that it does not degrade the character of the area. To achieve this, the Department will use the "minimum tool" necessary to obtain specific objectives, employing indirect methods (limiting parking, etc.) whenever possible, and developing regulations only where necessary and as a final resort. Existing programs that promote back country use and etiquette will be utilized where appropriate and feasible. Examples of successful programs and messages include, "Leave No Trace" and the International Mountain Biking Association's "Rules of the Trail."

Public use controls are not limited to assessing and matching types and levels of use to physical and biological resource impacts. Social issues, such as user preferences, are also considered. This presents a unique challenge in managing the Forest Preserve, as access is free and use is relatively unregulated.

D. Management Issues

Several issues were identified as a concern for the Department and the public in the development of this UMP. Information has been obtained from the public by way of an open house, held on October 23, 2001 at Paul Smith's College, by mail, email, and personal interviews. The following list of issues, needs and desires were received from the public and Department staff. Some of the issues, needs and desires have not resulted in proposed management actions being developed. Where this has occurred, a justification for the exclusion is provided.

1. Use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft.

In units classified as canoe, the Master Plan authorizes administrative personnel to use motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft "for purposes designed to protect or enhance the water or fishery resources" but only as authorized in a UMP (Master Plan pg. 31). To properly protect and enhance the water and fisheries resources, administrative personnel will sometimes need to use various pieces of equipment and vehicles. However, this use must be mindful of the Master Plan's direction that canoe areas allow for "a remote and unconfined type of water-oriented recreation in an essentially wilderness setting." Thus, this UMP will strive to allow the administrative use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft without impeding the Master Plan's direction that the area be essentially a wilderness setting.

2. Mountain biking on the state truck trails.

The Master Plan, at Page 31, allows for the use of mountain bikes "on existing roads legally open to the public and on state truck trails specifically designated for such use by the (Department), as specified in individual unit management plans." This UMP will determine the suitability of areas in the SRCA to be opened for mountain biking use consistent with this Master Plan guideline .

3. Condition of campsites.

Camping is one of the primary activities that people enjoy while visiting the SRCA. However, use has created problems at some areas . This UMP will develop a variety of solutions for these problems.

4. Camping off of Keese Mills Road.

The historic camping use along Keese Mills Road will be addressed in this UMP in order to bring the use into compliance with the Master Plan.

5. New improvements.

In order to comply with the Master Plan any new structures or improvements will need to be in conformity with this UMP. There has been a public desire to designate several new hiking trails. These will be specified in this UMP.

6. Control spread of exotic/invasive species.

Exotic and invasive species can have a significant impact on the resources of the SRCA. This UMP will develop a plan on how to address this threat.

7. The St. Regis Mountain fire tower.

The St. Regis Mountain fire tower is the issue that has generated the most interest from the public. It is addressed in section IV.E.2.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This section of the UMP breaks down the various resources of the unit into the following categories: bio-physical resources; land protection; facilities; and public use and access. Each category is further broken down into component units where present conditions are assessed, management objectives developed and management actions proposed. All recommended actions are consistent with the management guidelines and principles outlined above, and are based on information gathered during the inventory process, through public input and in consultation with the Planning Team.

A. Bio-Physical Resources

1. Water

Present Conditions:

Water quality studies have been conducted by the ALSC, researching the effects of acid deposition, and the Bureau of Fisheries routinely conducts biological surveys of area waters. No studies have been conducted to determine the effects of recreation use on water quality. As focal points for visitation, streams, springs, lakes, ponds, and wetlands are on the receiving end of more human disturbance than upland forest areas. With the users of the SRCA being in close proximity to water their actions can have an impact on water quality. If proper camping practices are not used then runoff can bring food scraps, trash, and human waste into the water bodies. Erosion from campsites and canoe launches is also a concern. Visitors must be advised that water ought not to be considered potable and must be properly treated before consumption.

Objectives:

- Stabilize and improve water quality.
- Reduce the potential for pathogenic contamination (especially giardiasis) from all water sources.

Management Actions:

- Develop LAC indicators and standards for vegetation in riparian areas near lakes and streams
- Use of any soap or detergent, or the disposal of food scraps in any waters will be prohibited.
- At the land manager's discretion close or rehabilitate lake shore and stream side areas that are severely impacted by recreational use.
- ALSC and biological survey work will be incorporated in all future water related planning activities.

- Information and education efforts will inform users of proper sanitation methods.
- Advise the public through DEC information and education programs to treat all water prior to consumptive use.

2. Soil

Present Conditions:

The soils in the SRCA are fertile. The soils allow the forests that cover the area to flourish. Erosion is a natural and continuous occurrence. There are sites where human disturbances on trails or campsites cause soil loss and deposition. Maintenance actions at these sites could reduce the amount of human influenced erosion. Soil compaction is frequently the result of human activity. Sites where visitors congregate will become compacted. However, recovery of some compaction occurs during winter due to frost action and lack of use.(Hammitt 42)

Objectives:

- Keep soil erosion caused by recreation use to within acceptable limits that closely approximates the natural erosion process.
- Limit soil compaction resulting from human activity where natural plant establishment is precluded to trailheads, trails, and campsites.

Management Actions:

- Watch for impacts to soil conditions caused by recreation use. Inventory and map areas where there is a concern.
- At the discretion of the land manager, close, relocate, or restrict use of unit facilities to reduce serious negative impacts to soil resources caused by recreational use.
- Correct undesirable conditions by rehabilitating the area and/or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Continue to target trail maintenance to heavily eroded trails; develop a priority list based on resource need rather than user convenience.
- Request voluntary compliance in seasonal closures of certain trails during periods of wet weather.

3. Wetlands

Present Conditions:

Wetlands cover over 1,000 acres of the SRCA. These wetlands are important to the environmental health of the SRCA by providing wildlife habitat, water protection, flood control, and recreational values. The wetlands in the SRCA have been mapped and digitized into computer mapping programs. Through natural processes there can be changes in the location and composition of wetlands over time, thus resulting in changes to mapping information.

Objective:

- Allow natural processes to have a much greater affect upon the wetlands in the SRCA than human impacts.

Management Actions:

- Wetland inventory and mapping information will be correlated with recreation, fish, and wildlife project plans to prevent unintended and undesirable impacts to the wetlands.

4. Vegetation

Present Conditions:

The SRCA hosts a variety of plant species and cover types. These vegetative communities have been influenced by a number of natural and human disturbances. Some of the disturbances include wind, fire, ice, insects, disease, logging, and recreational use. The disturbances create opportunities of different species to grow and help to increase the diversity of the vegetation. Currently, the vegetation in the SRCA is largely unaffected by human activities occurring within its boundaries. The vast majority of the area is covered by mature forest. The SRCA is not known to harbor threatened, and/or endangered species. However, several endangered species and communities do occur on adjacent lands and may also be growing in the SRCA itself.

Objectives:

- Encourage programs to identify and map sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.
- Protect known locations of sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.

Management Actions:

- All vegetation protection and restoration programs will emphasize information and education as the primary means to reduce impacts and slow unnatural change.
- Conduct botanical examinations to produce a more complete inventory of threatened, and endangered species.
- Ecological inventories and maps will be correlated with recreation, fish, and wildlife project plans to prevent unintended and undesirable impacts to sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.
- Minimum impact techniques will be used to revegetate sites where natural vegetation has been destroyed by human causes. Native seedlings, trees, shrubs, or grasses will be planted to accelerate return of natural conditions where necessary.
- Visitors will be encouraged to use portable cook stoves and refrain from building campfires. Such messages will be prescribed in LEAVE-NO-TRACE education and information programs and opportunities.

5. Wildlife

Present Conditions:

A number of changes have occurred over the past several decades that have impacted a variety of wildlife species within the SRCA. Habitat changes have resulted from pre-Forest Preserve logging, wildfires, recreation use, natural plant succession, protection of the forest and wildlife species through legislation, attempted reintroduction of extirpated species of wildlife and immigration of extirpated species to the area. Most wildlife management activities have been directed to improving knowledge of the wildlife found in the unit.

One of the original factors attracting visitors to the Adirondacks, in general, was the vast array of hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities. The Master Plan indicates that these uses are legitimate and compatible with wilderness concepts (Master Plan, page 24). Department policy encourages these activities as part of a larger wilderness experience, not just a quest for game (Doig, 1976).

Habitat areas heavily used by wildlife are often also choice locations for human trails and campsites (Hendee and others, 1990). Bears often scrounge for food and garbage where people habitually camp. While negative human/bear encounters are minimal, the concentration of camping in distinct locations poses the potential for this to be a problem in the future. In an effort to reduce human/bear encounters in the nearby High Peaks Wilderness Area the Department has recently imposed a regulation that requires people who are camping to store their food in a bear proof container. All campers in the SRCA should practice camping techniques which reduce the potential for conflicts with bears and other wildlife.

Another source of conflict between visitors and wildlife are domestic pets, mainly dogs, which may harass and stress wildlife.

Objectives:

- Monitor and afford extra protection, where warranted, to species which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern that are currently using the SRCA.
- Maintain and perpetuate annual hunting and trapping seasons as legitimate uses of the wildlife resources compatible with wilderness recreation.
- Keep the number of human wildlife conflicts to a minimum.

Management Actions:

- Monitor loons for nesting activity. Produce informational materials to educate visitors that loon nesting is occurring and what loon behaviors indicate that the bird is being stressed by the visitor.
- Monitor moose that enter the area through visual observation, reports from the public and by radio collaring moose whenever the opportunity presents itself.

- Advise visitors to the area that the potential for conflict with wildlife exists and suggest means of avoiding conflicts through a combination of on-site signage, printed Department media, and direct contact with Department staff.
- Provide information, advice and assistance to individuals, groups, organizations and agencies interested in wildlife whose activities and actions may affect, or are affected by, the wildlife resources or the users of wildlife.
- Develop and implement protocols, procedures and philosophies designed to minimize, alleviate and respond to nuisance wildlife complaints.

6. Fisheries

Present Conditions:

Unit inventory data for the SRCA indicates that most native and native-but-widely- introduced (NBWI) fish species have remained stable since prior to 1952. The abundance of brook trout has increased significantly since 1952 due to an ambitious program of brook trout restoration. This program has utilized three major tools to achieve results; the use of rotenone to reduce and/or eliminate nonnative and native-but-widely-introduced trout competitors, the use of agricultural limestone and hydrated lime to mitigate the impacts of acidification, and the stocking of wild strains of brook trout to perpetuate these valuable resources and provide exceptional quality fisheries. Nonnative yellow perch have declined in the unit since 1952 because of the active program to reduce this harmful species. Unfortunately, nonnative golden shiners have increased greatly over this same time frame. Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass have become established in Long Pond and many waters that connect to it. This chain of lakes already contained nonnative yellow perch to the detriment of native sport fish. Since it is not feasible to reclaim Long Pond, Turtle Pond, Slang Pond and the smaller ponds that make up this chain of lakes, the establishment of bass has provided an additional and acceptable sportfish. The establishment of largemouth or smallmouth bass in any waters that are tributary to the Fish Pond chain of lakes would be considered to be an ecological mishap. Northern redbelly dace, a native minnow, has increased significantly in the unit since 1952, possibly as a result of unauthorized introductions through the use of fish as bait. Northern redbelly dace are not considered a significant brook trout competitor and their increase in occurrence is not viewed as problematic.

Longnose suckers are a native species that have apparently been extirpated from the unit. They were found in three waters in the Fish Pond chain of lakes prior to the extensive pond reclamation program of the 1950s. It is likely that stream populations of longnose suckers still exist in the unit, but that is not known for sure. It is desirable to restore this native fish species to a few SRCA waters. If a suitable donor water can be located, longnose suckers will be stocked in the unit. Lydia Pond, a water which historically contained longnose suckers is a likely candidate for such a reintroduction. Round whitefish, a species listed as endangered in New York, may have been native to the SRCA. They have been documented from Hoel Pond which is just outside of the

Canoe Area boundary, and is in a chain of lakes that includes Ledge Pond, Long Pond, Slang Pond and Turtle Pond. Ledge Pond is currently infested with nonnative yellow perch and has the physical attributes of an excellent reclamation candidate, including a suitable location on the outlet for a fish barrier dam. While water chemistry measurements in Ledge Pond have shown moderately low ANC (acid neutralizing capacity), water chemistry is considered to be suitable for healthy fish populations. pH measurements have been consistently above 6.0. The long-term presence of northern redbelly dace, a fish species intolerant of critically acidified conditions, demonstrates the suitability of the water quality. During the period covered by this plan a fish barrier dam will be constructed on the Ledge Pond outlet and the pond will be reclaimed with rotenone. After reclamation the pond will be stocked with round whitefish and a heritage strain of brook trout to restore a native fish community.

Native common shiners are also a species that has declined somewhat in the unit. However, common shiners are still found in 14% of SRCA waters. Moreover, common shiners were the ninth most common fish species collected by the ALSC in terms of both number of occurrences and number of individuals captured (Gallagher 1990). ALSC collected common shiners in 14% of 1,123 lakes that contained fish, the same percentage as the present occurrence of the species in the unit. In spite of the declines, this species is not imperiled within the unit nor within the Adirondack Ecological Zone. Therefore no restoration effort is considered necessary or appropriate.

Native populations of brown bullheads, white suckers, pumpkinseeds, and creek chubs appear to be stable (Appendix G). Management activities designed to enhance or restore these species are therefore unnecessary. Management activities proposed for other objectives will not seriously impact the existing native fish/fauna of the unit.

The number of fish communities comprised of just native species has declined from historic levels. Mixed communities of native and nonnative species have remained stable in number. According to the most recent survey data available, there are presently 7 brook trout monocultures in the unit; Grass Pond, Green Pond, Sky Pond, Tuesday Pond, Kitfox Pond, Bickford Pond and Little Long Pond (west). Anecdotal information indicates that Green Pond may now contain at least one other species. One nonnative fish monoculture persists; Embody Pond contains yellow perch only. One other native fish monoculture is Turnoff Pond, which contains only brown bullheads.

As discussed in Section II. A. 2. c, brook trout were clearly a significant component of the historic SRCA. Because brook trout are relatively plentiful in the SRCA, efforts to restore natural fish communities in the unit will focus on other native species as well. At least one pond reclamation will include the establishment of round whitefish as a project goal. Ledge Pond appears to be an excellent candidate for round whitefish restoration. Other candidate waters may be feasible as well. If a suitable donor water can be found, populations of longnose suckers will be established in the unit. Reclamations are the only practical technique available to reduce or eliminate the nonnative and native-but-widely-introduced fishes in candidate waters and thus achieve the low levels of competition necessary to restore brook trout and round whitefish.

Longnose suckers can likely be established in ponds that harbor diverse fish communities. Liming will be necessary in several waters to restore/maintain water chemistry conditions suitable for brook trout. Periodic liming is required to maintain the fish population in Bone Pond. Bone Pond now contains northern redbelly dace; a species know to be very sensitive to acidification. The ability of redbelly dace to thrive in Bone Pond, a pond formerly so acidified that brown bullheads died out, gives testimony to the success of periodic liming in providing suitable water quality for fish survival. Kitfox Pond and Little Long Pond (west) will also require liming to restore conditions more favorable to fish survival.

Fishing pressure on SRCA waters ranges from very light to moderate. Native fish populations are not threatened by overexploitation from sportsmen, rather, they are endangered by introductions of nonnative and NBWI competing species and, to a lesser extent, by acid precipitation. Bait fishing with minnows is already illegal in all waters of the SRCA, but such regulations must be reinforced in the minds of the public. The Department has enacted changes to the bait fishing laws which enable entire land use areas to be closed to the use of fish as bait (including streams and nontrout waters). This regulation now applies to the SRCA.

Objectives:

- Sustain the abundance of the native brook trout, through reduction in the distribution of nonnative and native-but-widely introduced fish species, while maintaining the security of all other native fishes.
- Restore populations of the round whitefish, likely a formerly indigenous species to the SRCA.
- Protect the brook trout population in Kit Fox Pond and restore the brook trout populations in Little Long Pond(west) and Douglas Pond.
- Continue to sustain the populations of brook trout and northern redbelly dace in Bone Pond through periodic liming.
- Increase knowledge of the aquatic resource base through surveys of two previously unstudied waters.
- Maintain existing brook trout fisheries dependent on stocking.
- Maintain existing warmwater fisheries.
- Maintain existing lake trout and splake populations dependent upon stocking in order to maintain the high quality fisheries for these fish.

Actions:

- Construct a barrier dam on the outlet of Ledge Pond and reclaim with rotenone to remove a nonnative fish community dominated by yellow perch. If this reclamation is completely successful, one new native fish community will be restored, including the establishment of a population of a species listed as endangered in New York; round whitefish. Native fishes including brown bullhead, creek chub, and northern redbelly dace have been known to survive reclamation attempts in Adirondack waters. Interestingly, Bradbury (1986) indicates that native species are most likely to remain established after reclamation. Currently 16 ponds

contain both nonnatives and natives; successful reclamation of Ledge Pond would represent a 6% reduction in the number of ponds containing nonnatives.

- Reclaim Embody Pond to remove nonnative yellow perch and restore a native brook trout community. Embody Pond has been reclaimed in the past. It formerly supported a brook trout fishery. It now contains only nonnative yellow perch and is the only SRCA water thought to contain only nonnative fish. Successful reclamation of this pond will result in the elimination of this nonnative only fish community. While the pH and ANC of Embody Pond are relatively low, the water chemistry of the pond has been stable. The current water quality is similar to conditions that were found during earlier surveys when brook trout exhibited suitable growth and survival. There are no plans to lime Embody Pond. A heritage strain of brook trout and a native minnow species will be stocked to restore a native fish community.
- Lime Kitfox, Little Long (west), Douglas, and Bone Ponds. Kitfox Pond has been experimentally limed in the past. Inclusion of this pond in the New York pond liming program will protect and enhance a brook trout monoculture. Little Long Pond has not previously been limed. Inclusion of this pond in the New York pond liming program will restore a formerly excellent brook trout fishery. Historically the brook trout population in Little Long Pond was self-sustaining. Hopefully, the periodic liming of Little Long Pond will restore conditions favorable to natural reproduction of brook trout. Little Long Pond was long famous for its capacity to produce large trout.
- Establish longnose suckers to restore a native fish species to the SRCA. Three ponds will remain fishless; Paradise Pond, Conley Line Pond, and Unnamed Pond (SC P5207).
- Quality of the angling experience, as opposed to quantity, is emphasized by <u>excluding</u> the following fish management activities:
  - Intensive management by way of increment stocking through the fishing season to maximize the quantity of trout caught;
  - Stocking of large-sized yearling trout for put-and-take fisheries;
  - Regulations which maximize use such as year-round seasons;
  - Reclamation for the benefit of nonnative species.

Retreatments of reclaimed ponds are not automatically scheduled or planned. Retreatment needs, if any, will be based on biological surveys and incorporated in amendments of the Schedule of Implementation and pond narratives for this UMP. Remote waters, such as those in wilderness areas, typically remain free of competing fish much longer than roadside waters. This may be because of the difficulty of transporting live bait fish to remote wilderness ponds. There are numerous examples of remote waters that have remained free of competing species in excess of 15 to 20 years.

B. Land Protection

1. Administration

a. Fire Management

Present Conditions:

The Department is required by law (ECL § 9-1109) to suppress all human-caused or natural fires in fire towns and forest fire districts. There is no "let burn" wildfire policy in effect. The law, written over 75 years ago, does not recognize that fire is a natural process necessary to perpetuate certain plant and animal communities in wilderness. Consequently, managers are required to suppress all fires in fire towns and forest fire districts, natural or man-caused. Fire activity in the SRCA has been historically low since the wildfires of 1903 which were partially fueled by pre-Forest Preserve logging debris. Precipitation is typically abundant throughout the unit, although short-term droughts do occur. Thunderstorms are frequent and are generally accompanied by heavy rains. Forest fuels tend to decompose rapidly in the humid environment of the SRCA. However, there are charred logs, stumps, and scars on trees which attest to past fires. Unattended and improperly located campfires are commonly encountered.

In the event a fire does occur in the SRCA motor vehicles, helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, chain saws, portable pumps, and other necessary motorized equipment can be used for fire suppression by the authority and approval of appropriate officials.

Objectives:

- Detect and suppress all fires in the SRCA as required by law.
- Reduce, to acceptable levels, the risks and consequences of fires escaping from the SRCA to adjacent lands.
- Adopt light handed, "minimum tool," fire suppression tactics and methods that accomplish fire suppression with the least environmental impact on wilderness resources.

Management Actions:

- Aerial detection patrols will be flown on days of very high and extreme fire danger.
- During periods of very high or extreme fire danger, the Governor may close all or portions of the SRCA to public use (ECL §9-1101).
- Suppression strategy and tactics employed for all fires shall contain strong consideration for impacts on wilderness characteristics of the SRCA.
- Fire suppression and mop-up tactics will be commensurate with the fire's potential or existing behavior, yet leaves minimal environmental impact after application.
- Fires will be suppressed using natural control features (ridges, rivers, vegetation changes) whenever possible.

- After-fire measures will include rehabilitation of fire lines with native species, water bars on steep slopes, removal of flagging, equipment, litter, and obliteration of fire camps and staging areas.
- Continue to emphasize fire prevention in education and information programs and explain the role of natural fire as it relates to past fires and present day SRCA ecosystems.

b. Search and Rescue

Present Situation:

The Department's Forest Rangers have back country search and rescue responsibilities as prescribed by law. The SRCA region has a moderately busy search and rescue workload given the number of people using the area, its terrain, and weather. Search and rescue (SAR) can arise whenever people go into remote areas to seek recreational pursuits. This is especially true in the SRCA where people visiting the area are generally from urban areas and bring with them preconceived ideas about wilderness and what will happen to them if there is an injury. Most visitors don't consciously think about the consequences of a mishap, and in their minds, most assume that they will be rescued immediately if there is a problem. There is no characteristic pattern or time frame of occurrence; however, many search and rescue situations arise during periods of cool-wet weather when visitors are prone to hypothermia. Search and rescue operations are costly. Most unpleasant situations can be avoided if visitors take personal responsibility for their own safety.

Established policy commensurate with the Master Plan, states conditions under which motorized use, equipment, and mechanical transport may be used in cases of sudden, actual, and ongoing emergencies involving the protection or preservation of human life or intrinsic resource values. These conditions lists emergencies where the situation involves need for speed beyond that available by foot. Categories include health and safety or removal of injured or deceased persons. Special considerations are given for using the "minimum tool" to accomplish the job. There is a growing need to address greater attention to preventing search and rescue through information and education materials and by personal contact with visitors.

The Department has used a truck trail that passes through private property to provide access to the base of St. Regis Mountain near the location of the former observer's cabin. Part of this truck trail is the right-of-way used to reach the deeded reservoir. This truck trail has been very helpful in getting to and removing injured people from St. Regis Mountain. The use of this truck trail does not conform to the Master Plan, because it is not used to protect the water or fisheries resources.

Objectives:

- Provide for efficient response time to search and rescue incidents.
- Increase back country safety education and awareness to decrease the need for rescues.

- Reduce or eliminate impacts to the SRCA from search and rescue operations.
- Develop a "light-handed" approach to search and rescue operations; do the minimum necessary to effectively complete the mission.

Management Actions:

- Pursuant to the Master Plan, present policy on Canoe Area intrusions during search and rescue operations will remain in effect.
- Maintain and improve level of preparedness for search and rescue. After search efforts will include removal of plastic flagging, string, or other evidence from search areas following termination of the search in order to reduce visual and physical impacts.
- Safety precautions will be included in Department information and educational materials. Department staff will communicate back country safety practices to visitors in order to reduce the need for rescues. Place emphasis on prevention; greater visitor preparedness and awareness, and user responsibility.
- The truck trail at St. Regis Mountain will be abandoned.

c. Law Enforcement

Present Situation:

The Department attempts to control and reduce the adverse physical and social impacts of human use in the SRCA through education and minimum regulation. If the latter approach does not achieve desired user behaviors, direct restrictive law enforcement measures are employed. The most common violations deal with tree cutting, littering, camping too close (less than 150 feet) to water, trails, or roads, failure to obtain required permits, or violating group size requirements. Many minor violations are due to unskilled actions and/or uninformed behavior rather than maliciousness.

Conservation law enforcement is critical to the successful implementation of fish and wildlife regulations. Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers should routinely patrol area waters, particularly waters with recent management actions and/or waters containing only native species. Enforcement officials should be kept abreast of management actions and be fully informed of the ecological/social reasons for such actions and for the regulations they enforce.

There are few illegal incursions by motorized vehicles into the SRCA. However, there are two areas where this occasionally occurs. So far, the natural resources of these areas have not been damaged by the illegal use of motorized vehicles. However, the risk of such damage persists. One area where illegal motorized use occurs is along the old logging roads between Lake Clear and Little Clear Pond. Use of these trails is infrequent. There are barriers at some of the logging roads. The other area where illegal motorized use occurs is along the Little Long Pond Truck Trail. Illegal use along this truck trail is rare. There are no barricades along the Little Long Pond truck trail.

Since barriers are frequently ineffective at stopping All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use, they will be utilized as the primary method of stopping ATVs only if terrain suggests that a barrier would be successful at stopping the illegal use. Barriers are generally effective at stopping motorized vehicles other than ATVs. The presence of a barrier does help with enforcement cases against illegal ATV use by making it obvious that motorized use is not allowed beyond the barrier.

Objectives:

- Provide for resource protection through law enforcement activities when education and information efforts fail.
- Provide law enforcement at a level commensurate with management objectives and situations.
- Reduce the frequency of violations of laws, rules, and regulations in the SRCA.

Management Actions:

- Promote education and information to reduce violations and improve visitor behavior.
- If indirect educational management techniques do not achieve desired results, use more direct restrictive measures at the lowest level of enforcement to achieve compliance.

d. Administrative use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft

Present Conditions:

Administrative use of motor vehicles is allowed in the SRCA as detailed in the Master Plan for Wilderness Areas. Additionally, in canoe areas the Master Plan allows the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft by administrative personnel for purposes designed to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources (Master Plan, page 31). The use of this type of equipment is required to properly manage these resources. The State of New York has invested a great deal of effort and funding into the fishery and water resources in the SRCA. This investment has resulted in tremendous dividends in the form of fishing opportunities for the public. In order to continue to offer unique fishing experiences and to protect the investments that New York has put into the SRCA, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft by administrative personnel is required. There are five state truck trails in the SRCA. One of these, the Long Pond Truck Trail, has not been used for several years and is in need of major maintenance. The Long Pond Truck Trail is a former public access road to Long Pond. In 1989, when the public was barred from using motor vehicles on this road administrative use, for the most part, also stopped. The lack of a truck trail to Long Pond forces the Department to use a helicopter to carry in boats or supplies to Long Pond. The reopening of the Long Pond Truck Trail will assist with future efforts to protect and enhance the quality of the water and fisheries resources.

The Department has a policy that requires record keeping and reporting of administrative use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft. This policy is numbered CP-17 (see Appendix I) and was issued by the Commissioner on March 29, 2000. One of the intentions of the policy is to "minimize the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads closed to public motor vehicle use and aircraft on Forest Preserve lands." In addition to CP-17 the use of aircraft in wilderness requires Commissioner approval. In the year 2001 there was one motor vehicle trip made to check barrier dam maintenance needs. Since 2001 the use of motor vehicles has been limited by the fact that a UMP has not been completed. This has resulted in required maintenance work being delayed. There is now a critical need for Department staff to be able to use motor vehicles.

Objectives:

- Allow the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft by administrative personnel for purposes designed to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to other resources in the SRCA.

Management Actions*:*

- The use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft will comply with CP-17 and the Master Plan.
- The use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft will be allowed only if non-motorized means would not be practical or effective. Reasonable efforts will be made to use non-motorized means before resorting to motorized use.
- Use of motor vehicles will be allowed on the state truck trails in the SRCA. This use is required for transport of equipment, supplies, and personnel for work on barrier dams, reclamations, liming, erosion control, removal or relocation of threats to water quality (examples include lean-tos and pit privies), and fisheries management and inventory work. Law enforcement may use the truck trails to conduct patrols in order to enforce laws and regulations which protect the water and fisheries resources. The following are the list of the state truck trails that are in the SRCA, named according to their destination (see maps). All truck trails will be gated to prevent unauthorized use.

  To Fish Pond from Little Green Pond
  To St. Regis Pond from the Fish Pond Truck Trail
  To Long Pond from Floodwood Road
  To Bone Pond from Little Clear Pond
  To Little Long Pond (east) from the boat launch at Upper St. Regis Lake
- Since the use of state truck trails are essential for the preservation and enhancement of the fishery and water resources, it is important that the truck trails stay open and be maintained. The maintenance of the state truck trails will require the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment.

- The truck trail at St. Regis Mountain will be abandoned.
- Motorized equipment will be used where and when needed, consistent with Master Plan guidelines. It is expected that motorized equipment use will consist of chain saws, generators, power tools, and water pumps for work on the fish barrier dams and pumps for reclamation work.
- Outboard motor boats will be used for reclamations and open water liming on all ponds and when setting nets on Fish, St. Regis, Little Long (east) or Long Ponds for survey work. Electric motors, if available, will be used where they have the power and endurance to accomplish the task.
- Aircraft will be used throughout the SRCA when needed, consistent with Master Plan requirements. Aircraft will be used to transport equipment, supplies, and personnel to and from interior ponds. Activities requiring aviation support include brood stock egg collections and/or brood stock transfers, reclamations, surveys, liming, and barrier dam repair.
  Snowmobiles may be used in the winter. Such use will be limited to the state truck trails and upon the ponds. Snowmobiles would be used to spread lime and for bathymetry.
  The primary factor in deciding when to use motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be based upon when such use would be most effective; however, every effort will be made to conduct such activities at times of low public use.
- Resources, including visitor experience, will be watched for any observable impacts from the motorized activities.
  If practicable, notices will be posted at entry points to alert the visitors who may be impacted by motorized activities. The notices will explain the motorized activity, including why it is required, the equipment to be used, the time the use is expected to occur, the duration of use, and name a contact person for further information or to make comments.
  The following tables list anticipated motor vehicle and aircraft usage (actual use will be dependent on various factors)

State truck trail use:

Truck Trail Name	Motorized Trips Per Year
Fish Pond	6
St. Regis Pond	2
Long Pond	2
Bone Pond	1
Little Long	1

Aircraft use:

Purpose	Ponds	Drops Per Pond Per Year.
Stocking	Bickford Pond, Bone Pond, Clamshell Pond, Embody Pond, Grass Pond, Green Pond, Kit Fox Pond, Ledge Pond, Little Long Pond, Little Long Pond (west), Lydia Pond, Mountain Pond, Ochre Pond, Otter Pond, Sky Pond, South Otter Pond, St. Regis Pond, Tuesday Pond.	1 (8 flights per year)

Aircraft use:

Purpose	Candidates	Trips Per Project
Brood stock work	Nellie Pond **or** Bessie Pond (Egg take operations are in 2 year cycles interspersed with 2 years of inactivity.)	6
Reclamations	Ledge Pond, Embody Pond (typically 10 year interval between treatments)	10
Liming	Kit Fox Pond, Little Long Pond (west), Bone Pond, Douglas Pond (typically 5 year interval between treatments)	♢
Barrier dam repair	Little Long Pond, Ledge Pond, Little Fish Pond, St. Regis Pond.	**
Surveys	Two - three ponds per year anticipated.	4

♢ Actual number of trips will vary depending upon pond size and capacity of aircraft. Each pond would only require treatment at intervals of 5 years or more.

** Flights required only in the event of substantial repairs. Such repairs not expected during five year planning period. Flights not necessary for maintenance inspections.

Motor boat:

Purpose	Ponds	Trips Per Project
Liming	None anticipated during planning period.	-
Surveys	Fish Pond, Long Pond, St. Regis Pond, Little Long Pond (east)	2

e. Control of exotic or invasive species

Present Conditions:

Nonnative, invasive species directly threaten biological diversity and the high quality natural areas in the Adirondack Park. The Park's key conservation targets and supporting ecological processes are at risk from invasive species; and the number of communities threatened and the number of invasive species that threaten them is expected to increase over time. Invasive plant species can alter native plant assemblages, often forming monospecific stands of very low quality forage for native wildlife, and drastically impacting the ecological functions and services of natural systems. Not yet predominant across the Park, invasive plants are likely to spread - undermining the ecological, recreational, and economic value of the Park's natural resources.

Because of the Adirondack Park's continuous forested nature and isolation from the normal "commerce" found in other parts of the State, its systems are largely functionally intact. In fact, there is no better opportunity in the global temperate forested ecosystem to forestall and possibly prevent the alteration of natural habitats by invasive plant species.

Prevention of nonnative plant invasions, Early Detection/Rapid Response (ED/RR) of existing infestations, and monitoring are primary objectives in a national strategy for invasive plant management and necessitates a well-coordinated, area-wide approach. A unique opportunity exists in the Adirondacks to work proactively and collaboratively to detect, contain, or eradicate infestations of invasive plants before they become well established, and to prevent further importation and distribution of invasive species, thus maintaining a high quality natural landscape. We share an inherent obligation to minimize or abate existing threats in order to prevent widespread and costly infestations.

The mission of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) is to document invasive plant distributions and to advance measures to protect and restore native ecosystems in the Park through partnerships with Adirondack residents and institutions. Partner organizations operating under a Memorandum of Understanding are the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, the Department, APA, Department of Transportation, and Invasive Plant Council of NYS. The APIPP summarizes known distributions of invasive plants in the Adirondack Park and provides this information to residents and professionals alike. Specific products include a geographic database for invasive plant species distribution; a central internet website for invasive plant species information and distribution maps; a list-serve discussion group to promote community organization and communication regarding invasive species issues; and a compendium of educational materials and best management practices for management. Included in Appendix M of this plan is a report from the APIPP concerning the SRCA.

Some measures are currently in place in the SRCA to control the spread of exotic and invasive species. There are signs in place at access points which warn about the threat of exotic species, including specific information about Eurasian water milfoil and

other exotics which are found in areas surrounding the SRCA. Regulations are in place prohibiting the use of bait fish in the SRCA. These regulations are designed to prevent the introduction of invasive fish species.

The Master Plan clearly allows for the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft "to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources of the area" (Master Plan, page 31). This equipment could be used for purposes of control or eradication of exotic or invasive species in the event that such species are introduced to the SRCA and threaten the water or fishery resources. Motorized control measures of exotic and invasive species which threaten other resources could be authorized under Master Plan guidelines if the threat constitutes an emergency involving the protection or preservation of intrinsic resource value (Master Plan, 23).

Objectives:

- Prevent the introduction of exotic or invasive species.
- If exotic or invasive species are introduced to the SRCA respond, if feasible, and as soon as possible, to eliminate these species from within the SRCA.

Management Actions:

- Conduct educational programs to inform the public about the threat from exotic and invasive species and how to prevent their spread.
- Encourage visitors to report sightings of exotic or invasive species.
- The land manager will be responsible for collecting reports of exotic or invasive species and then disseminating that information to the other programs which could be impacted by the exotic or invasive species.
- Eliminate occurrences of exotic and invasive species. Select an effective control option which would have as little impact on the natural resources and visitor enjoyment as possible. Appendix M includes a list of BMP's for the control of three terrestrial plant species. These BMP will be utilized for the appropriate species. Required permits would have to be obtained prior to use of some control measures. Additionally, SEQRA requirements would also have to be followed.
- Where an infestation threatens the water or fishery resources, the following use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft by Department personnel will be authorized. The area fisheries manager will communicate with the Regional Forester regarding an infestation that is threatening the water or fishery resource.
- A work plan will be developed to prescribe actions for control of the infestation and to address the need for motorized vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

- All uses will comply with Master Plan and CP-17 requirements
  Motor boats may be used on any body of water when human-powered water craft are not a practical means of accomplishing the mission. Electric motors, if available, will be used where they would have the power and endurance to accomplish the mission. Gas motors will be used if electric motors are insufficient to accomplish the task, or if speed of the operation is essential.
- Other motor vehicles will be limited to use of the state truck trails. Motorized equipment will be used when required and when human-powered equipment would not be effective.
  Administrative use of aircraft will be allowed for transportation of materials, personnel and other activities necessary for control of the infestation.
- The primary factor in deciding when to use motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be based upon when such use would be most effective; however, every effort will be made to conduct such use at times of low public use.
- In situations, such as the failure of a fish barrier dam, which require a rapid response to prevent the introduction of exotic and invasive species, the immediate use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft is authorized. The manager of the threatened resource will decide if such a situation is occurring. Any such use will comply with CP-17 emergency motor vehicle and aircraft use procedures.
- Partner with Paul Smith's College and others in prevention and education efforts. An example is the Lake Stewards program.
  Surveys and eradication efforts will be encouraged.

2. Open Space/Land Acquisition

Present Conditions:

The overall framework for land protection in New York State is identified in the State Open Space Conservation Plan, 2002. This plan is built from the bottom up from the work of nine regional committees, representing the spectrum of open space advocates, natural resource and recreation professionals, local government, and concerned citizens. This plan ensures that the State of New York conserves its cherished open space resources as a critical part of efforts to improve the quality and character of life in New York communities.

Open space protection also requires the maintenance of the Unit's boundaries. Including public roads and riparian boundaries, the SRCA has 33.5 miles of boundary lines that must be maintained on a regular basis. Of this distance, 9.4 miles are along roads or railroad tracks and 7 miles follow the shoreline of ponds or streams.

The eastern boundary line of the SRCA is hard to identify on the ground. The boundary line used to follow the Santa Clara/Harrietstown town line. This was changed after the State purchased the adjacent land from Paul Smith's college. The current

boundary line follows former logging roads for a portion of its length. The former logging roads are being used by mountain bikers and cross-country skiers. There are sections of these roads which are now in areas designated as part of the SRCA. There have been public comments received regarding this boundary line. There is interest in expanding the SRCA by reclassifying the section of the SLWF between Rt 30 and the SRCA. There has also been interest in resetting the SRCA boundary to the town line. The primary impact that this classification change would have would be on mountain biking. By moving the SRCA boundary line to the west there would be more logging roads open for mountain bikes, by moving the line to the east mountain bikes would be restricted to the State truck trail. The Department uses a truck trail to reach St. Germain, Meadow, and Lindsey Ponds for fisheries management purposes. This access would be needed regardless of a change in classification.

Objectives:

- Locate and post all boundary lines on a scheduled basis.
- Physically identify Master Plan Unit designations on the ground for administrative and public use.

Management Actions:

- Physically inspect boundary lines to determine resurvey and maintenance needs; assign a priority to each.
- Undertake maintenance activity to ensure all boundaries are identified and marked within the five-year implementation of this plan. Brush, paint, and sign all boundary lines at least once every seven years. Mark boundaries where they cross any trail, road, or stream. Monitor boundaries for unauthorized activities, such as illegal motor vehicle and mountain bike entry and timber trespass.
- Sign Unit boundaries with boundary signs identifying the land classification of the Unit. Sign trailheads, trails and other entrances to the SRCA with specific signage identifying the unit's designation, so that both DEC personnel and the public know individual Unit designations.
- Consult with the APA regarding possible classification changes involving the SRCA during revisions or major reviews of the Master Plan.

C. Facilities

1. Trails

a. Foot

Present Conditions:

There are 19.7 miles of designated foot trails in the SRCA. The condition of these foot trails varies considerably from trail to trail. This is primarily due to a combination of the level of use and the layout of the trail. The three main reasons that people use the foot trails in the SRCA are as canoe carries, destination trails, and

informal camper trails. The majority of the trails are used as canoe carries to reach the various ponds. The primary destination trail is the trail to the summit of St. Regis Mountain, which receives heavy use and draws people to the SRCA. Other destination trails are the Long Pond Mountain Trail and the Fish Pond Truck Trail. The informal camper trails are found around some of the campsites. They receive sporadic use from those camping in the SRCA. These trails are usually used for gathering of firewood, personal hygiene, or to explore the area.

Of the trails in the SRCA, the trail up St. Regis Mountain has the greatest need for maintenance. This is to be expected given the heavy use the trail receives and the steepness of several sections of the trail. Work has been done on the St. Regis Mountain Trail to control the affects of the use of the trail. The problems associated with the trail are limited to the immediate vicinity of the trail. The trail is not causing damage to other natural resources in the area.

The Long Pond Mountain Trail is another trail which is in need of maintenance work, particularly the steeper sections. This trail had been a herd path for many years before it was relocated and upgraded in 1997. Since then there has been little maintenance to the trail. The problems associated with this trail are not causing damage to surrounding natural resources. The rock ledges on the summit of Long Pond Mountain offer outstanding views of the surrounding areas. There are trees growing around the summit which over time may block the views from this summit. The Department's tree cutting policy allows for trees to be removed in order to maintain scenic vistas. Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks v. MacDonald, 253 N.Y. 234 (1930) held that immaterial amounts of tree cutting for public recreation purposes complies with the State Constitution's "forever wild" clause. Also, 1935 AG Opinion 274 specifically found that immaterial tree cutting to open or maintain scenic vistas is constitutional. The summit of Long Pond Mountain has a web of trails crisscrossing it. These trails go between the different views.

There are many unofficial trails within the SRCA. These are primarily social trails at campsites, but there are also several herd paths. The herd paths are used regularly to reach certain destinations. One of these herd paths even has a name-- the Teddy Roosevelt Trail (also called the TR Trail)-- Teddy Roosevelt reportedly took a similar route when he climbed St. Regis Mountain. This trail goes from the site of the fire tower observer's cabin to Upper St. Regis Lake. This trail is used as a way to reach St. Regis Mountain by canoeists and boaters on Upper St. Regis Lake. There is a dock on Upper St. Regis Lake at the beginning of this trail. Based on the condition of the trail, (there are no other use estimators available) it is believed that this trail receives regular light use now, and this trail is expected to receive light use over the next five years.

The condition of the canoe carries in the SRCA varies considerably. Several of the carries require work to counter the impacts from use. The main work required is better erosion control. Some of the canoe landings can also use soil stabilization work. Canoe carries which require the most work are Fish Pond to Little Long Pond, Nellie Pond to Long Pond, Little Clear Pond to St. Regis Pond, and the Turtle Pond to Clamshell Pond, which requires a reroute.

Trails in the SRCA are listed in Appendix A along with the classification system used by the Department. All trails require periodic inspection and maintenance to prevent ordinary wear and tear from becoming a major problem.

Objectives:

- Provide visitors with a trail system that offers access to ponds within and in close proximity to the SRCA and to a lesser extent access to scenic vistas or other recreational opportunities. Such a system will seek to keep physical and visual trail and resource impacts to a minimum.
- Maintain and reconstruct trails to appropriate Department standards. Identify need for trail relocations and maintenance.
- Keep major sections of the SRCA "trailless" to preserve a sense of remoteness and solitude and to allow natural process to operate freely.

Management Actions*:*

- Designate the Teddy Roosevelt Trail as an official trail (see map in Appendix P). Reroute the trail slightly to better suited terrain, where needed. Install water bars and other drainage control devices. A dock will be maintained at the start of the trail on Upper St. Regis Lake. Due to the publicity of designating this trail, there may be a small increase in use levels of this trail and the summit of St. Regis Mountain. Any increase in visitors going to the summit is expected to be insignificant compared to the total numbers of those visiting the summit. Since the trail can only be reached by boat, there will be limited opportunities for people to access the trail. Most likely, any increase in use of this trail will be from visitors who are returning to the St. Regis Mountain trailhead, after reaching the summit, and decide to hike this trail at that time. Further, it is expected that most people who use this trail would have climbed St. Regis Mountain anyway using a different route, and are merely using the TR trail as an alternate means of reaching the summit.
- Create a canoe carry between Little Clear Pond and Little Green Pond. This carry would start at Little Clear Pond about 100' north of the smelt channel and run to and then along the road to Little Green Pond. Designate the unofficial canoe carry between Little Long and Little Fish Ponds as an official carry. This trail receives regular use and it would not be feasible to close this trail. The trail needs significant work to control erosion and slight reroutes to create switchbacks through steep areas. Allow newly constructed trails which start in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest to cross through the SRCA for short distances. These trails will be addressed in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP. Possibilities include a trail from Lake Clear to Little Clear Pond via old logging roads near Meadow or Grass Ponds, Lake Clear to Little Long (east) via old logging roads, and sections of the Jack Rabbit ski trail extension along the Remsen - Lake Placid Travel Corridor.

- Trail maintenance will include trail relocations, removal of downed trees, ditching, clearing of brush, water bar construction and cleaning, bridge repairs and reconstruction, cribbing, turnpiking, and building rock steps. Reroute and reopen the Turtle Pond to Clamshell Pond trail. This reroute will bypass an area where a beaver dam failed and eliminated a pond which was paddled across as part of the trail.
- The trail that goes to Long Pond from the Floodwood Road rail road crossing frequently get flooded out by beaver activity. The trail will be rerouted in a way the utilizes the existing pond as a paddle to bypass the problem section of trail.

  Trails may be closed during wet seasons, if other actions can not prevent excessive damage. Voluntary compliance with the closures will be tried before seeking to implement regulatory action.
- Sign the canoe carry between Little Clear Pond and Grass Pond.

  In order to better protect the natural resources of Long Pond Mountain summit and in compliance with Department policies, Attorney General Opinions, and the Master Plan the existing scenic vistas from Long Pond Mountain will be kept clear of new interfering vegetation growth. The maintenance of these views will help to funnel the movements of visitors to desired locations, thereby protecting the vegetation on the summit. The primary purpose of people climbing Long Pond Mountain is to be able to experience the wonderful views. If these views are not apparent when visitors reach the summit, they will wander around the summit in search of openings and much vegetation will be trampled and damaged in the process. A path system will be developed on the summit so that the minimum number of trails are needed to access the views. All extra trails will be blocked and allowed to rehabilitate. The removal of interfering vegetation at the views will be conducted similar to the way that interfering vegetation is removed from the rest of the trail leading up the mountain. As little removal of interfering vegetation as required will be conducted. The views will be maintained primarily through pruning of select branches. This level of removal will not result in a material degree of tree cutting. All removed vegetation will be left on site. After the removal of vegetation the area will be left in a way so that it is not readily apparent that the vegetation was cut by the Department. The Department will ensure that the views are not expanded. To help monitor changes in the vegetation, photos of the views will be kept on file for review.

  A yearly list of trail maintenance needs will be developed.
- Herd paths or social trails which are in poor locations or are causing damage to the natural resource will be brushed-in.

b. Mountain Bike

Present Conditions:

Mountain bikes, called all terrain bicycles in the Master Plan, are currently not allowed in the SRCA. However, the Master Plan does allow for a Canoe Area UMP to designate state truck trails as being open for mountain bike use (Master Plan, page 31). The state truck trail to Fish Pond would provide an enjoyable experience for mountain bikers, by taking them through an impressive forest and terminating at a nice pond for fishing. The state truck trails were built to handle motor vehicles, so the use of mountain bikes will not degrade the road or harm the natural resources of the area. The five mile long Fish Pond Truck Trail is fairly level and straight, has a firm surface, and is adequately drained. The maximum slope is 10%, there are a total of 203 feet of ascent and 154 feet of descent, the maximum elevation is 1,798 feet and the minimum is 1,640 feet. The Fish Pond Truck Trail is sufficiently wide to allow for multiple user groups without creating a conflict. The conditions which make the Fish Pond Truck Trail ideal for mountain bikes are also found on the St. Regis Pond Truck Trail, which is 1,400 feet long and has a drop in elevation of 6 feet . There are no steep areas and there are good lines of sight along this truck trail.

Summer use of the Fish Pond Truck Trail by hikers is extremely low, as Graph 5 shows; in fact, on most days no one uses the trail at all. It is expected that mountain bike use will increase summer use of the truck trails. This use is expected to be small when compared with the rest of the use of the SRCA. The use is not expected to degrade the natural resources. The majority of bikers will be day users and will linger a short time at Fish or St. Regis Ponds. A small number of bikers will also take part in fishing, camping, and/or other activities. This is not expected to negatively impact existing use of the SRCA.

Objectives:

- Allow the use of mountain bikes on the Fish Pond Truck Trail and the St. Regis Pond Truck Trail.
- Manage mountain bike use to ensure that it does not negatively impact the natural resources or create conflicts with other user groups.

Management Actions:

- Open the Fish Pond Truck Trail and the St. Regis Pond Truck Trail to mountain bike use. Mountain bikes will be allowed to ride as far as the circle at Fish Pond and the landing by the St. Regis Pond fish dam (see map in Appendix P).
- Develop LAC indicators and standards for managing mountain bike use. Monitor the truck trail and surrounding areas for changes which may be caused by bike use.
- Use the minium tool approach when managing mountain bike use.
  Post signs to inform bike riders where they are allowed to ride.
  Monitor the level of mountain bike use and conduct surveys to find out what other activities the bike riders are enjoying.

- Improve the condition of the parking area at the Fish Pond Truck Trail and the road leading to it. Remove trees growing inside the parking area and level the area without expanding the perimeter of the parking area.

c. Cross Country Ski

Present Conditions:

In winter, skiing is a popular use of the SRCA. When frozen, the ponds lend themselves to travel by skis. In addition to the ponds, there are several trails which are well suited for skiing. A large portion of this ski use occurs in the area of the Fish Pond Truck Trail. The Master Plan identifies cross country skiing as a use which is ideally suited to take place in the SRCA (Master Plan, page 32).

In addition to the ski use in the area of the Fish Pond Truck Trail, there is an unmarked ski trail up St. Regis Mountain from Keese Mills Road. This trail appears to be lightly used.

Objectives:

- Provide visitors with a ski trail system that offers opportunities for loop trips of varying distances for various user ability levels. Such a system will seek to keep physical and visual trail and resource impacts to a minimum.
- Maintain and reconstruct trails to appropriate Department standards. Identify need for trail relocations.
- Keep major sections of the SRCA “trailless” to preserve a sense of remoteness and solitude and to allow natural process to operate freely.

Management Actions:

- Trail maintenance will consist of removal of downed trees and brush cutting.
- Designate the informal ski trail from the Fish Pond Truck Trail to the Bone Pond Truck Trail as an official ski trail.
- Designate the informal ski trail from the Fish Pond Truck Trail to the canoe carry between Little Clear and St. Regis Ponds as an official trail.
- The unmarked ski trail up St. Regis Mountain will remain an unmarked ski trail. If this trail starts to be used as a regular hiking trail or damage to natural resources results from its use, it will be closed and brushed in.

d. Horse

Present Conditions:

There are two trails in the SRCA which are open to use by horses, the Fish Pond and St. Regis Pond Truck Trails. These trails receive very limited horse use. There are

no facilities in the SRCA designed exclusively for horse use. This results in a rustic type experience for those who bring horses into the SRCA.

Horse-drawn wagons have been used to bring parties to the Fish and St. Regis Pond areas, this is primarily done by parties on hunting or fishing trips. Wagons must currently pass through a quadruple bar gate to be able to access the truck trails. This gate is cumbersome to open. The parties entering the SRCA with wagons either need a key or the gate needs to be unlocked for them. These wagon parties have been using an undesignated campsite near Fish Pond and a recently designated campsite near the St. Regis Pond barrier dam.

Horse use has not resulted in damage to the natural resources in the SRCA. There is a concern that horse use could spread invasive species. This is because invasive species could be contained in the feed brought in for the horses. It is expected that there will not be a significant increase in horse use of the SRCA over the next five years.

Objectives:

- Continue to provide visitors with an opportunity to use horses with in the SRCA.
- Maintain and reconstruct trails to appropriate standards.

Management Actions:

- Improve the condition of the parking area at the Fish Pond Truck Trail and the road leading to it. Remove trees growing inside the parking area and level the area without expanding the perimeter of the parking area. Monitor the truck trails and surrounding areas for changes which may be caused by horse use.
- Replace the current gate with a swing arm style of gate.
- Establish a system that will place a limit of one horse and wagon party in the SRCA at a time. This system will be run by the Division of Lands and Forests. Prior to entering the SRCA those using wagons will receive information regarding proper techniques to prevent the introduction of invasive species and damage to natural resources. If necessary the Department may place restrictions on types of feed used in the SRCA.
- Establish horse hitching posts at one of the campsites to be designated in proximity to the Fish Pond truck trails as well as the site near St. Regis Pond.

2. Trailheads

Present Conditions*:*

Trailheads are points of entry to state land which may contain some or all of the following: parking, trail signs, and registration structures. The SRCA is served by 7 trailheads, 3 of which are in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. Six of the trailheads have a parking area directly associated with it. The exception is the Upper Saint Regis Lake to Bog Pond to Bear Pond canoe carry. The main put-in that people use to reach this carry

is the Town of Harrietstown boat launch on Upper St. Regis Lake. Other put-ins used to reach it are located on Lower St. Regis Lake.

Parking at the SRCA trailheads is a concern at times of peak use. There is limited parking at the trailheads and sometimes the demand for parking exceeds the available supply. The size of parking areas can be used to control interior use of the SRCA. However, if a parking area is full, visitors sometimes park on the side of roads and entryways creating several problems. By parking in areas not designated for parking, visitors can block access for emergency vehicles, damage natural resources, and impede traffic flow. Parking is not as large a problem in the SRCA as it is in other nearby units; however, the need for parking is something which will probably increase in the future. Currently, the parking lot for St. Regis Mountain fills to capacity regularly. On peak weekends the parking at Long Pond exceeds the capacity of the lot. The parking area on Floodwood Road is often filled to capacity during the summer, although the majority of this use is going into the SLWF at Floodwood Pond. In contrast, there is plenty of parking at the Fish Pond Truck Trail, the parking lot at Little Clear Pond is hardly ever filled to capacity, and the parking lot at Little Green Pond is only lightly used. The nature of the SRCA results in a greater need for parking compared to other units of state land. This is because groups might ride in a single vehicle to go hiking, but have to take multiple vehicles for a canoe trip because a vehicle can carry only a limited number of canoes or kayaks. In addition, vehicles may pull canoe trailers, further increasing the need for parking space.

The Hoel Pond trailhead needs to be mentioned specifically because of the problems associated with it. Hoel Pond is used both as a camping area and trailhead. These two incompatible uses are creating many problems. These problems will be discussed and addressed specifically in the SLWF UMP. The main problem for the SRCA is that parking space is limited for canoeists because of campers using the same lot. Since this area is located in the SLWF this UMP will only mention that the Hoel Pond trailhead is extremely important for visitors to the SRCA and efforts taken to address the problems in this area will impact the parking available to those using the SRCA.

Objectives:

- Provide and manage adequate trailhead facilities to protect resource values and to accommodate visitor needs.
- Use parking as an indirect measure to control interior use.
- Use trailheads as educational points.

Management Actions:

- Monitor parking usage over the course of this UMP to determine future needs.
- Ensure that there is information posted at the trailheads regarding the SRCA.
- Maintain the trailheads so that their condition does not deteriorate.
- Monitor the effects that parking is having on natural resources.

- Manage future parking lot expansion, contraction, elimination, or creation to balance desired levels of interior use.
- Provide signs and educational material at trailheads

3. Campsites

Present Conditions:

The damage to natural resources that is occurring because of the condition of the campsites in the SRCA is the primary concern for this UMP. Camping is a very popular activity in the SRCA. Register sheets show that 55% of those canoeing through the SRCA, camp for at least one night. The average stay in the SRCA is 2.5 days. There are 78 designated campsites in the SRCA, this number includes primitive tent sites and lean-tos. Demand for sites does exceed the number of desirable sites at the peak times of use. For the last several years this occurred on one or two weekends a year. The most popular ponds for camping are Long, St. Regis, Fish, and Little Long (east). The sites on Slang and Bear Ponds are also frequently used. Even on popular camping ponds, the use of campsites varies by site. The most popular sites tend to be close to the water and have views of the pond. The removal of vegetation screening is usually the result of use, and this may in turn increase the use of the site. The removal of vegetation between the site and pond is the greatest concern related to campsite use. Removal of vegetation impacts the natural resources and the recreational experiences. As vegetation is removed erosion can be accelerated, putting further vegetation at risk and making it more difficult for vegetation to become reestablished. A recent campsite inventory (included in Appendix A) shows that 10 of the 22 campsites on Long Pond have less than 50% vegetation screening. This survey also shows that there are 17 campsites through out the SRCA which have virtually no screening. A further 25 sites have less than 50% screening. It is desirable that the campsites should have more than 50% vegetative screening.

A second impact that is a concern is the size of the disturbed areas associated with a designated campsite. The Master Plan states in the definition of a primitive tent site that the site should be designed to accommodate a maximum number of 3 tents and 8 people (Master Plan, page 19). Many of the tent sites in the SRCA exceed these numbers by far. The disturbed area in a campsite tends to expand with time as more people use a site. Visitors are likely to set up their tents where it is convenient, even if it is not necessarily in the original area of the campsite. A large campsite causes more impacts to the natural resources than a smaller site. At a large site there is more vegetation which is trampled, more shoreline affected, more area for erosion to occur, and it is more visible to those canoeing on adjacent waters. Sixteen of the campsites in the SRCA are large enough to hold 5 or more tents. There are also many campsites which have a large area where user impacts are apparent. There is no regulation for the SRCA which requires that campers must pitch their tent within some certain specified distance from a “camp here” disk.

Another impact associated with the use of campsites is the number and location of fire rings. As campsites expand additional fire rings often appear. Many of these fire

rings are poorly constructed, located, and also may not properly contain fire. This results in damage to natural resources and poses a fire hazard. There is no regulation for the SRCA which requires users to build campfires in an existing fire ring, although the Master Plan limits construction of fire rings to a temporary cluster of rocks, which may be placed on a cement slab (Master Plan, page 18).

A Master Plan issue with campsites is the separation distance between sites. The Master Plan states sites should be out of sight and sound, and generally 1/4 mile from any other site, unless severe terrain constraints prevent this distance. There are many sites which do not conform to this requirement.

As part of this UMP a campsite inventory has been conducted. There is a summary of this inventory in Appendix A. This inventory has identified the removal of vegetation screening and size of the disturbed area as the two campsite impacts which are of primary concern. There was also a major campsite inventory done in 1985. These two inventories will be compared to determine the change in conditions of the campsites over the years. The surveys already show that there has been a significant decrease in the number of campsites in the SRCA since 1985. The 1985 survey inventoried 142 campsites and recommended that 32 of these sites be closed. However, the 2002 survey found that there were 78 campsites in the SRCA--a decrease of nearly 50% since 1985, which is more than twice the number of sites recommended for closure in 1985. Sites which have been closed are difficult to spot from the ponds, although a few traces of these sites remain evident. Closed sites which were examined were found to be revegetated and without lasting natural resource impacts.

There are some campsites which are having a larger affect on the natural resources of the SRCA than the norm. The sites of the most concern are those which are experiencing more than one of the above listed impacts to a serious degree. Another area of concern are those sites which are located on islands. The island sites provide a limited area for gathering of firewood or proper waste disposal. There are two small islands in the SRCA which have campsites, Long Pond #2 and St. Regis Pond # 10. There is also one large island with two sites, St. Regis Pond #s 14 and 16. This large island can better handle the use than the smaller ones, but two sites on this one island are taking a toll on natural resources. Other sites which are suffering from a high level of impacts include Fish #4; Long #s 5 and 16; Little Long(east) #s 1 and 4; and St. Regis #s 4 and 5.

Floodwood Road site # 15 is an official campsite in the SRCA where people can drive a vehicle onto the campsite. There are also several unofficial campsites along Keese Mills Road that allow for vehicle camping. All these sites can be used by small towed and self-propelled campers. The Department has decided that drive- in camping is not appropriate for the SRCA. These sites will therefor be closed.

Management actions regarding campsites along Keese Mills Road and Little Green Pond are listed under the special management areas section of this Plan.

Objectives:

- Allow for camping opportunities in a variety of settings in the SRCA while protecting the natural resources.
- Increase the amount of vegetation screening between campsites and water.
- Limit the disturbed area associated with each campsite to what is required to accommodate no more than three tents and eight people.

Management Actions:

- Inventory the campsites before the five-year update of this UMP. Compare the results of this survey with the results from the surveys conducted in 1985 and 2002.
- Monitor the condition of the campsites to identify problems or potential problems from usage of the sites.
- Campsite maintenance activities will include clearing of downed trees and brush, water bar construction, and building of rock steps.
- A campsite plan will be developed. This plan will identify campsites which need to be closed or relocated and locations for relocated or new campsites. This plan will seek to keep the number of campsites within 5% of the number identified in this UMP. However, in order to comply with Master Plan separation distance requirements the number of campsites on Long and St. Regis Ponds will likely be reduced. Priority for campsite closure or relocation will be campsites which are experiencing multiple serious negative impacts from use and campsites which do not comply with Master Plan separation distance requirements. The plan will seek to create better screening between the tent sites and the ponds. In many cases this will require that primitive tent sites be located farther from the waters edge. Placing campsites further inland will also assist in bringing campsites into compliance with separation distances.
- Close Floodwood Road site # 15. This site may be relocated to the SLWF side of Floodwood Road.
- Close the small island tent sites on Long (site # 2) and St. Regis Ponds (site # 10).
- Close one of the sites on the large island in St. Regis Pond (site # 14 or 16).
- Provide information to the public on proper camping practices.
  Brush in or in another way close off disturbed areas of excessively large campsites.
- Create two primitive tent sites which are accessible for persons with disabilities a short distance from the Fish Pond Truck Trail. Each of these sites will include an accessible pit privy. One of these sites will also have hitching posts for horse use.
- Encourage campers to set up their tents within 15' of the “camp here” disk.
- Locate “camp here” disks so that within a distance of 15' a maximum of three tents can be accommodated.

- As an experiment to control fire ring locations and to prevent multiple fire rings from appearing at primitive tent sites, construct at up to four campsites, in fire sensitive areas, a fire ring with a hardened slab. At these sites visitors will be required to build fires only in the existing fire ring.

4. Fisheries Structures

Present Conditions:

Natural or artificial barriers which block movement of fish into reclaimed waters are critical to prevent the reintroduction of nonnative fishes. Because they are essential fish management tools, fish barrier dams are included in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan as one of the few structures which may be constructed, rehabilitated, and maintained in Wilderness Areas. Ponds will be reclaimed only if there is no outlet, if a natural or man-made fish barrier is present, or if a fish barrier can be constructed prior to reclamation.

Barrier dams are inspected annually by regional operations or fisheries personnel. Maintenance and repair of barrier dams is a high priority for the fisheries management program. The barrier dams will be inspected and maintained in accordance with the provisions for motorized use, described elsewhere in this plan.

Objective:

- Protect the fisheries resource with structures in as unobtrusive manner as possible.

Management Actions:

- Fish barrier dams will be constructed, maintained, and rebuilt as necessary on the outlets of reclaimed ponds or ponds scheduled for reclamation (see Section IV.A.6.). During the 5 year planning period only one new barrier dam will be constructed– a barrier dam on the outlet of Ledge Pond in order to restore a native fish community. This dam will be constructed in way that will minimize visual impacts. See Appendix A for a list of barrier dams in the unit.
- State truck trails will be used, as authorized on page 31 of the Master Plan, as required for construction and maintenance of fish barrier dams as described in Section IV. B.1. d. All such motor vehicle use will comply with the requirements of Commissioner Policy 17, Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve.
- Additional on-site surveys will be conducted to determine whether natural barriers exist, and if not, whether sites suitable to create barrier dams are present.

5. Other Improvements

Present Conditions:

There are several other types of improvements in the SRCA. The Master Plan limits the type and in some situations the locations for improvements. Among the improvements in the SRCA are lean-tos, pit privies, foot bridges, register boxes, and signs. There are a minimal number of these improvements. The condition of these varies significantly. Some are in disrepair, while others are new.

Several of the improvements in the SRCA do not conform to Master Plan guidelines. The Master Plan requires that lean-tos be set back 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams. The Master Plan states the pit privies "will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river, or stream or wetland." There are several privies (Little Green #3, Long Pond # 2, and St. Regis # 10) and one lean-to (Fish Pond #2) which do not conform to these distances. The Master Plan provides a list of appropriate improvements for a canoe area. There are some improvements in the SRCA which are not on the list of conforming improvements. These include several picnic tables and fireplaces.

Pit privies have been the traditional way that the Department has tried to control problems with human waste. Pit privies consist of a raised platform with a seat, three walls, a door, a roof, and a floor. As an alternative to pit privies the Department has recently been using box toilets. Box toilets are basically a pit privy without the walls, roof, and floor. Box toilets are cheaper and quicker to build than pit privies. The smaller size of box toilets makes them much easier to transport to interior areas of the SRCA. Due to their open construction box toilets do not have the same odor problems that pit privies have. For box toilets to be used by the public they need to be placed in an area where there is adequate vegetation screening for privacy. Box toilets should also be located where a single group has access to it so that a user would not have to be concerned about another party approaching unexpectedly. Such a location could be a campsite that is not near parking areas or trails.

Objective:

- Keep number of improvements to the minimum that are needed to help protect the resources.
- Improvements will conform with Master Plan guidelines.

Management Actions:

- Three lean-tos will be maintained in the SRCA. When lean-tos which violate the Master Plan location requirements need replacement or major repair, they will be relocated so as to conform to the Master Plan, this relocation will be in the same general area.
- Box toilets will be used in place of pit privies wherever appropriate conditions exist.

- All pit privies and box toilets will be checked to ensure they comply with Master Plan guidelines. Pit privies which violate Master Plan guidelines will be removed or relocated as soon as possible.
- New, reconstructed or relocated improvements near shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from view from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Signs at canoe carries will be allowed, but will not be overly obtrusive.
- Ensure that any new improvement is authorized by the Master Plan and is required to protect the resources.
  Remove or obliterate picnic tables, fireplaces, and any other improvements which are not authorized by the Master Plan to be in canoe areas.
- Remove improvements which are not needed to protect the resources. The sites of improvements which are relocated or removed will be rehabilitated.
- Place a register box at the carry from Floodwood Road to Long Pond.

D. Public Use and Access

1. Public Use

Present Conditions:

There were over 10,000 people who visited the SRCA in the year 2004. Register sheet tallies show there were 4,301 visitors who went through the St. Regis Mountain trailhead and 5,483 visitors who entered a different access point. Use primarily occurs during the summer. Excluding the St. Regis Mountain Trail, 45% of those visiting the SRCA are day users. The current levels of public use are having an impact on natural resources at certain sites. The impacts are primarily occurring at campsite areas, canoe launches, and trails. Conversely there are thousands of acres in the SRCA, where visitors seldom venture, which are in pristine condition. Use tends to be concentrated to several ponds.

There are no restriction on day use group size in the SRCA. Regional Department policy limits camping group size in the SRCA to a maximum of 12 individuals. Through various surveys and interviews with visitors, guides, and Department staff, there are currently few problems reported from large groups in the SRCA. Large groups which travel together can create problems for other visitors. Large groups tend to clog up trails and slow down other hikers. Also, a large group can disrupt the experience of other visitors at summits and other stopping points by taking up a large area. Extremely large groups climbing St. Regis Mountain have been a problem in the past. During the early 1990s a local camp would send groups of up to 200 people to climb the mountain at a time. Reports from that time list the impacts of such extremely large groups to the resources and to other visitors' experience. That camp has since stopped taking extremely large groups up the mountain. Numbers from the Paul Smith's stewards show that in 2000 there were 12 groups of more than 15 people to climb to the

summit. The largest was 63 people. On the weekends in 2001 there were 3 groups larger than 15 people to climb to the summit, the largest was 30.

One characteristic of the visitors to the SRCA which is seen as having a large determination on the impact that they create is the visitor's experience and knowledge. Several of those interviewed noted that a few inexperienced or unknowledgeable campers can damage the resource to a much greater extent than a large group which practices proper camping techniques. Although, on average larger groups cause more damage to the resources than smaller groups.

One type of recreational activity which has increased in popularity for the past few years is geocaching. This activity involves the use of GPS devices to locate a hidden container. Information on how to find these containers is generally posted on inter-net sites. Geocaching can be a fun activity which can help to build navigation skills, increase appreciation of the environment, and be a rewarding challenge. There are several geocaches in the SRCA. Problems from geocaching can arise if they are located in a sensitive area or if many people visit a geocache a herd path may be created to it. The Department does not currently have regulations controlling geocaching; however, there is a regulation which prohibits the storage of personal property on State land. Geocaching is an activity which will likely grow in popularity. This is an issue which would better be addressed across the entire Forest Preserve than unit by unit.

Objectives:

- Allow for visitor use of the SRCA without having a permanent negative impact on the natural resources or visitor experience within the SRCA.
- Coordinate the various educational programs for visitors to the SRCA to ensure they understand proper techniques for enjoying the outdoors responsibly.
- Use a multi-layered approach to providing the public with educational material so that the public can receive information at their home, in the vicinity of the SRCA, when entering the SRCA, and while they are within the SRCA.

Management Actions:

- Monitor the levels of visitor use. In addition to the visitor trail registration sheets, conduct visitor surveys, use trail counters, and other sources to determine the number of people visiting the SRCA, the activities they enjoy, and the type of experience they have.
- Prohibit the use of any audio device which is audible outside the immediate area of a primitive tent site.
- Develop regulations which would prohibit public use of motorized equipment in the SRCA
- Work with area guides, outfitters, the Paul Smith's College Stewards, and the VIC to provide information on proper camping techniques.
- Post educational material on the Department's web page.
- Expand information available at the trailheads. Reposition trailhead informational structures if they are not in the proper location.

- Expand the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship program to the ponds of the SRCA.
- Ensure that Department is involved with the development of privately produced maps and guides to verify accuracy of the information conveyed.
- Update and reprint the SRCA brochure.
- Develop LAC indicators and standards for levels of public use.
  The land manager may use any or all of the following actions as temporary measures to protect natural resources until the LAC process is able to be implemented: request public to voluntarily not use the SRCA, restrict or eliminate the issuance of camping permits, constrict available parking areas, close trails or access points, and close or relocate problem campsites.

Camping Group Size

Selected action: impose limit of 8 people per camping group in the SRCA. This number is consistent with the Master Plan definition of a Primitive Tent Site which reads in part "...designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people" (pg 18). This restriction would impact a large number of users of the SRCA. Large groups accustomed to traveling through the SRCA from the SLWF would have to alter their travels or break into smaller groups when entering the SRCA area. This will be phased in over three years. The first year will involve public notification of the impending change. In year two the camping permits will no longer be issued to groups over 9. In year three a regulation will adopted limiting the maximum number of persons per campsite to 8.

Management alternatives considered, but not selected for implementation:

Leave the current camping group size unchanged. Groups of more than 9 require a camping permit, camping permits will not be issued to groups larger than 12. This alternative would be easy to administer, also the public is accustomed to complying with these restrictions. This alternative was not selected because the Department needs to comply with Master Plan requirements.

Stop issuing group size camping permits, thereby effectively creating a maximum of 9 people per camping group. This would impact a large number of users, based on the numbers of permits issued historically there would be 800 to 1,000 people impacted by this restriction. This alternative was not selected because the Department needs to comply with Master Plan requirements.

Develop regulations that limit camping group size to 6 persons. This group size limit recognizes the fact that some people who camp in the SRCA set up 1 tent for every 2 people. With a limit of 8 persons per campsite groups may set up four tents, but this does not comply with the Master Plan's definition of a primitive tent site. It is felt that this level of

restriction is not required at this time to protect the natural resources and visitor experience in the SRCA. This alternative will be studied for possible inclusion in updates of this UMP.

Day Use Group Size

Selected action: adopt a regulation to limit day use to 15 people per party, this number would be the same as the High Peaks and other wilderness areas for which the Department has recently completed UMP's. This limit would reduce congestion across ponds, at canoe carries, on trails, and at summits. Large groups can have more of an impact on the natural resources of the SRCA than smaller groups, so this limit should help to protect natural resources. It may also improve the experience of some visitors. However, other visitors who are required to travel in large groups may be barred from the SRCA. Groups accustomed to traveling through the SRCA from the SLWF would have to alter their travels or break into smaller groups when entering the SRCA area.

Management alternatives considered, but not selected for implementation:

Do not impose any restriction on day group use. This alternative was not selected because large groups can be detrimental to the wilderness character of the SRCA.

Adopt a regulation to limit day use canoe groups to 15 people, adopt a higher number for the St. Regis Mountain trail. This alternative was not selected because the large groups can detract from the experience of other users of the tail and summit of St. Regis Mountain.

Group Separation Requirements

Selected action: when larger groups split up to meet size limits, each subgroup must be equipped as a self-sustaining group. Each division of a larger group must camp and travel at least one mile apart from other divisions of the group so as not to violate group size limits. Divisions of larger groups will also be prohibited from camping or traveling on the same body of water at the same time. Day use groups must adhere to this same requirement and not congregate into larger groups on trails, water bodies, or at destination points.

Management alternatives considered, but not selected for implementation:

Prohibit affiliated groups from being in the SRCA at the same time. It is felt that this level of restriction is not required at this time to protect the natural resources and visitor experience in the SRCA. This alternative will be studied for possible inclusion in updates of this UMP.

The following are management actions which were not selected to be implemented as part of this UMP because they are not needed at this time to protect the SRCA; however, they will be studied for possible implementation in updates to this UMP:

- Ban campfires.
- Ban glass containers.
- Require all pets, except hunting dogs, to be leashed when at campsites, lean-tos, or at areas where the public has congregated.
- Prohibit dogs from being left unattended and require that they be under the control of the owner or handler at all times.
- Implement a fee permit system for those entering the SRCA.
- Permits would be limited to a certain number.

2. Access for Persons with Disabilities

Present Conditions:

Currently within the SRCA there are no designated facilities for persons with disabilities. However, there are some facilities which lend themselves to use by persons with disabilities. A preliminary evaluation of the SRCA found that several of the truck trails might be able to be brought into compliance with the ADAAG. This would be non-motorized access.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Improve access to Department programs by persons with disabilities.

Management Actions:

- Make modifications to facilities which would improve access for persons with disabilities, even if these facilities will not fully comply with ADAAG. This will focus first on the access points to the SRCA and then, as resources permit, the interior facilities.
- Make the Fish Pond Truck Trail an accessible trail. Based on an informal survey it is believed that the following changes to the trail will make the trail more accessible, however they will not bring the trail into compliance with the ADAAG.
- Adjust barriers at the gate end of the trail so that there is a minimum 36 inches of clearance.
- Create rest areas on the steep sections of trail so that people can move off the trail.
- Remove large rocks which protrude from the trail to eliminate obstructions.
- Remove loose stones from the trail to provide a more stable base.
- Repair or replace an existing culvert which is blocked by a beaver dam.
- At the terminus of the trail create a ramp so that the edge of Fish Pond will be accessible.

- Maintain the Long Pond Truck Trail so that it can more easily be used by persons with disabilities. This will require:
  - grading and resurfacing the truck trail
  - construction of rest areas at steep sections of the trail
  - possibly a separate disabled access route to get over the steep section near Long Pond
  - arrange the barriers so that they conform to ADAAG
- Improve the Fish Pond Truck Trail parking area and road to the parking area to increase the accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Rebuild the Fish Pond Lean-to #2, pit privy, and fire ring at Fish Pond so that they are accessible for persons with disabilities. This will be done when major repairs to the lean-to require this lean-to to be relocated. This will be dependent upon the feasibility of constructing an accessible path to the lean-to.
- Create two primitive tent sites which are accessible for persons with disabilities a short distance from the Fish Pond Truck Trail. Each of these sites will include an accessible pit privy.
- Construct the campsites off Keese Mills Road, see special management area below, to conform with ADAAG.
- Provide universal access information to potential users that describes the types of obstacles and challenges that a person may encounter so that users can make informed decisions in accordance with their physical abilities.
- Identify accessible facilities with signs where appropriate. The use of these facilities will not be limited to those with disabilities, but will be available to everyone on a first-come basis.
- Future motorized vehicle barriers placed in the SRCA will conform to ADAAG so that persons with disabilities will not be impeded by these barriers.

E. Special Management Areas

1. Keese Mills Road Camping

Present Conditions:

Currently, there are two areas off of Keese Mills Road which are used, and have historically been used, for camping. These campsites are not officially designated. These areas receive light camping use and occasionally picnics or campfires. The camping which occurs here is primarily done during the fall hunting season. There are a series of roads which provide direct access to the campsites. The roads allow for the use of motorized and towed campers. Some of the roads in the camping areas do not conform to Master Plan guidelines, because they are further than 500' from Keese Mills Road.

The first camping area is known as Monty Flats. It has seven tent sites. The area is fairly flat and vegetated by low growing shrubs and some scattered trees. The terrain will make attempts to restrict motorized vehicles difficult. The activities which are occurring are not visible from the St. Regis River and are further than 150' from the river.

The second camping area is located to the west of Monty Flats. There is one tent site and a trail at this area. The camp site is accessed by a single lane dirt road. This area is more heavily wooded than Monty Flats.

Objective:

- Do not allow drive in camping in the SRCA.
- Allow camping at primitive tent sites along Keese Mills Road, with a focus of making the sites accessible for persons with disabilities.

Management Actions:

- Designate two sites along Keese Mills Road as official campsites: one site will be at Monty Flats, and one site will be at the second camping area, see maps in Appendix P. The campsites will be out of sight and sound from each other and generally 1/4 of a mile apart.
- Create two parking areas just off of Keese Mills Road for those using the tent sites. The parking area at Monty Flats will be large enough to hold three vehicles; the parking area to the west will hold two vehicles. These parking areas will be separate from the campsites. Campers would carry their gear from the parking area to the campsite.
- Block the roads that enter the SRCA from Keese Mills Road The roads will be blocked at Keese Mills Road or at the edge of the parking areas. Locations which are likely to be used to by-pass the blocked roads will also be blocked. The area will be monitored for illegal motor vehicle access. Sections of the roads in the SRCA will be obliterated to discourage motor vehicle use.
- Restore to a natural state those areas not designated for camping. Prohibit camping at the sites which are not designated for camping. Encourage the establishment of vegetation on the sites.
- Construct the two designated tent sites so as to conform to the ADAAG.
- Construct an accessible path from the parking areas to the tent sites.

Management alternatives considered, but not selected for implementation:

- Allow vehicles to drive onto the campsites. These sites would allow for drive in camping and the use of motorized and towed campers. Roads would be blocked 500 feet from Keese Mills Road. Each campsite would have a small parking area designed for two vehicles maximum. This alternative would have allowed

the traditional use of the area to continue, while also putting some controls on that use. This alternative was not selected because the Department has decided not to allow drive in camping in the SRCA.

- Block off all vehicle access to the area and do not allow camping. This would deny a historic use of the area which could be allowed to continue, but since the area receives light use not many people would be affected. This option was not selected because the area could still provide enjoyable camping opportunities for the public even though the motorized access is blocked off.
- Ignore the area and do nothing. This would allow the current uses to occur without regulation. This alternative was not selected because it would be a violation of the Master Plan and Department regulations.

2. St. Regis Mountain Summit

Present Conditions:

With the combination of a relatively short hike and great views, the St. Regis Mountain summit is the most popular destination within the SRCA. The summit is an important scenic resource for the area. The State bought a large portion of St. Regis Mountain in 1926. The Master Plan identifies the summit of St. Regis Mountain as a special management area for scenic reasons. As previously stated, the summit is visited by over 5,000 people yearly. The summit is mostly rock, with some patches of grasses growing in crevices. There are not any threatened or endangered species identified on the summit. Vegetation is growing around the summit and over time may block the views from the summit. This is not expected to occur for many years.

During summers, since the year 2000, the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program has placed a steward on St. Regis Mountain. The first year there was coverage for the whole week, since then the steward was only on the summit for weekends. These stewards observe and record information on the visitors and present an interpretive message. The information which the stewards have gathered are presented in the program's annual report. These reports show that over 17 percent of groups that climb St. Regis bring a dog with them and most of these dogs are unleashed. There have not been any reported problems with dogs harming other visitors or the natural resources. Even though the fire tower is closed to the public and the bottom steps have been removed, at least one member of roughly 3 percent of groups climb the fire tower. The stewards also noted that roughly 2/3 of the groups that hike the St. Regis trail are not prepared for a wilderness experience. The criteria for being prepared was to be wearing proper clothing and footwear and to be carrying a pack.

The summit of St. Regis Mountain is part a Bird Conservation Area, designated to protect habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush. The New York State Bird Conservation Area Program was established in 1997 to safeguard and enhance bird populations and their habitats on State lands and waters. The goal of the Bird Conservation Area (BCA)

Program is to integrate bird conservation interests into agency planning, management and research projects, within the context of agency missions. Adirondack Sub-alpine Forest BCA covers mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, and Warren Counties. On St. Regis Mountain there are 6.5 acres which are over 2,800 feet and so are part of the BCA. Included in Appendix N is the management summary for the Adirondack Sub-alpine Forest BCA. The uses allowed on St. Regis Mountain are compatible with the BCA management.

Objectives:

- Allow for the visitation of the mountain summit and enjoyment of the scenic vistas without damaging the natural resources of the mountain.

Management Actions:

- Expand the Paul Smith's Stewards Program to weekday coverage on the summit.
- Develop LAC indicators and standards for the protection of the St. Regis Mountain summit.
- A path system will be developed on the summit so that the minimum number of trails are needed to access the views. All extra trails will be block and allowed to rehabilitate. Since the summit of St. Regis Mountain is primarily rock the goal will be to protect those areas where grasses or other vegetation have been able to become established.
- Prohibit camping above 2,700 feet on St. Regis Mountain.
- Prohibit camp fires above 2,700 feet on St. Regis Mountain.
- Survey the summit for the presence of the Bicknell's Thrush and the amount of potential habitat present.
- Administrative actions near the summit which could impact Bicknell's Thrush habitat or mating will be conducted outside the birds breeding season, (May- July) if possible.

<u>St. Regis Fire Tower</u>:

Background:

In the early 1900s there were a series of devastating wild fires throughout the Adirondacks. As a result of these New York increased its ability to detect and fight fires. Observation stations were established on key mountain tops, and were located so that they overlapped with other nearby stations. At that time observers were the primary means of detecting fires. Initially most observers used small wooden towers; these were replaced with metal towers starting in 1916. In 1910 the State placed an observer on St. Regis Mountain, which at the time was owned by William Rockefeller. Initially no tower was built, since the view from the summit was not obstructed by vegetation. In 1918 the current tower was built in order to improve fire detection. In 1926 the state bought St. Regis Mountain from the private land owner.

In addition to spotting and reporting wild fires the observers provided important interaction with the public. This included not only providing fire prevention information, but also explaining the history of the area, natural interpretation, and geographical identifications. The interaction with the observers was one of the reasons fire towers became popular hiking destinations. The public saw the towers not only as someplace to visit, but also as instrumental for the protection of communities and the wilderness.

Over the years, as technology changed, the role of the fire tower observers changed. The fire towers became important as communications centers when radios started to be used by the department. The observers would act as relays and dispatchers. Another technology change to affect the towers was the use of aircraft for fire detection. Since the 1930s the State had used a small number of aircraft to spot and fight forest fires. In the 1970s the Department used contractors to fly set routes for the detection of fires. There were 22 routes established. With the use of these flights the Department was able to close a large number of fire towers. By 1986, the last time a major revision to the Master Plan was under taken, the Department had started to reduce the use of aerial detection flights. The Department concluded that the majority of fires were reported by the public. In 1990, the year the St. Regis tower was closed, the Department discontinued regular fire detection flights (Podskoch 2005).

The Master Plan was adopted in 1972, since that time it has undergone two major revisions. The language regarding fire towers has been changed by these revisions. In the original Master Plan fire towers were listed as non-conforming structures in Wilderness areas and were to be removed without exception, this applied to Canoe areas as well. In the last revision, the current language about the St. Regis fire tower was added, giving some conditions for the tower to remain. The Master Plan states that the tower "may be retained so long as retention is considered essential by the Department of Environmental Conservation pending ultimate removal upon final implementation of the aerial surveillance program and modernization of the Department of Environmental Conservation's communication system." In the original Master Plan fire towers could remain in Wild Forest areas for educational purposes "regardless" of need from a fire control standpoint. This was changed in the 1979 Master Plan, and remains in the current version, to say that fire towers in Wild Forest areas may be retained where "consistent with their <u>need</u> from a fire control <u>and</u> communications standpoint" (emphasis added). For some people the thought that the Department would no longer need any of the fire towers was not feasible. This is particularly true for the St. Regis Mountain tower. After all, during the height of the Department's ariel detection program it was still essential that this tower be staffed. When the Master Plan was adopted how many could have foreseen a time when forest fires were detected largely the same way house fires in communities were, by the public reporting them.

New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (SHPA) requires the Department to consult with OPRHP regarding any facilities which are listed on the National Historic Register, or are eligible for listing. With respect to fire towers in the Adirondacks this consultation took the form of a SHPA Letter of Resolution in 1994 (see Appendix J). This agreement commits the Department to taking affirmative steps to

facilitate the preservation of some historic fire towers and allows for the removal of others. It should be noted that the public draft version of this UMP contained a copy of the Letter of Resolution that stated the St. Regis fire tower would be removed, however the original Letter of Resolution states that the St. Regis tower would be retained.

Public interest in fire towers has changed. The towers are no longer just a destination or somewhere to meet a person to learn about the area, they are now valued as a part of the heritage of the Adirondacks. This can be seen in the number of books which have been written about Adirondack fire towers in recent years. There have been several "friends groups" formed to work on the restoration of fire towers, including those on Azure, Arab, Hadley, Owls Head, and Blue Mountains. The Adirondack Mountain Club's Glen Falls/Saratoga Chapter has developed the fire tower challenge, where hikers must climb a certain number of mountains which have a fire tower. Over time the fire towers have become important local land marks. For example, there are few people alive today who could recall the sight of St. Regis Mountain without the fire tower on the summit.

The St. Regis Mountain fire tower has been the highest profile issue in this UMP. This should be expected given the fact that the tower has been a part of the area for nearly 90 years. Since the start of the process to write this UMP the public interest in the St. Regis fire tower has become more visible. The opinions of those who wish the St. Regis Mountain fire tower to remain have been expressed in: petitions, public meeting comments, letters, and local government resolutions. In addition some state representatives have expressed to the Commissioner their desire to save the tower. Those who are opposed to the fire tower remaining have also expressed their desires, this increased greatly after the public draft of this UMP stated that the tower would not be removed immediately.

The Department's actions regarding the St. Regis fire tower have not shown a consistent theme. During the development of this UMP the tower was listed on the National Historic Register. In 1994 the Department was listing the St. Regis fire tower on the National Historic Lookout Register (not a federal government listing) and pledging to retain the tower, even though language in the Master Plan seems to indicate that it should be removed. A third example of the Department's inconsistencies is the confusion over the Letter of Resolution signed with OPRHP regarding whether the tower is to be retained or removed.

The contradictory nature of the Department's actions, lack of public involvement, and the high public interest in the issue of fire towers requires that the Department develop a comprehensive plan for fire towers in the Adirondack Park before any towers are removed.

<u>Preferred alterative:</u> Develop a comprehensive Adirondack fire tower management plan. The Department will work with the APA in the development of this plan through a process that includes public involvement. This plan will address all State owned fire towers in the Adirondack Park. Until this plan is completed the fire tower on St. Regis Mountain will not be removed.

Management alternatives considered, but not selected for implementation:

- Retain the fire tower until such time as the APA considers whether the land surrounding the tower should be reclassified as Historic. This alternative recognizes issues raised regarding the important community significance of this historic resource and provides the opportunity to re-assess both SHPA and Master Plan conformance issues before it is removed. If the land is reclassified, it will provide a mechanism for retaining the tower in compliance with the Master Plan.
  This alternative recognizes the APA Act purpose to "insure optimum overall conservation, protection, preservation, development and use of unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park" (emphasis added). It also recognizes the intent of ECL Section 9-0109.4 to protect structures or improvements in the Adirondack Park listed or eligible to be listed on the state register of historic places. (This alternative was the preferred alternative in the public draft version of this UMP)
- Remove the fire tower as a non-conforming structure in the Canoe Area. The VIC has expressed an interest in re-erecting the tower as a visitor attraction. Once the fire tower is removed, place a sign on the summit to educate about the history of the tower.
- Retain the tower at its current location, but do not maintain it. This would result in the tower slowly falling apart and becoming a safety hazard.
- Operate the tower for wildfire observation. An observer stationed at the tower could also conduct interpretive programs. This alternative was not selected because fire detection programs have advanced beyond the usefulness of the tower for these purposes.
- Reclassify the land around the tower as wild forest or historic, so that the tower would conform with the Master Plan. This alternative was not selected because a UMP is not the mechanism for proposing a reclassification of land.

3. Little Green Pond

Present Conditions:

Little Green Pond is part of the boundary between the SRCA and the SLWF. The pond is managed as part of the SLWF, but about half of the shore line is in the SRCA. Camping has been allowed along the shores of Little Green Pond for many years. There are currently 12 campsites around the pond. The sits are numbered starting with the northern most site and then proceeding clockwise. Three of these sites (#1-3) are in the SRCA and the remaining 9 are in the SLWF. Vehicles can be driven onto or adjacent to nine of the campsites (#'s 4-12). The campsites around Little Green Pond do not conform to Master Plan separation guidelines. The campsites are along the eastern and southern shore of the pond.

Everyone camping at Little Green pond is required to get a permit from the Adirondack Fish Hatchery, this is part of an effort to prevent the introduction of bait fish to this pond and adjacent Little Clear Pond. Little Green Pond contains brood stock for the endangered round white fish. Little Clear Pond serves as New York state's broodstock water for landlocked Atlantic salmon. Fishing is prohibited on both these ponds.

The camping at Little Green Pond will be addressed in this UMP and in the SLWF UMP. Management actions concerning the fisheries resources will be addressed in the SLWF UMP. This UMP will provide an overview for management of the camping and specific information on camp sites in the SRCA. The SLWF UMP will specifically address campsites in that area..

Objectives:

- Protect the natural resources at Little Green and Little Clear Ponds.
- Continue to allow camping at Little Green Pond.

Management Actions:

- Close and rehabilitate campsites # 2 and 3. Site # 1 will be retained as a primitive tent site.
- The current permit system will be retained.
- Construct a primitive tent site on the northwestern shore of Little Green Pond. This site will be accessed via the trail between the Bone and Fish Pond truck trails.
- It is anticipated that the SLWF UMP will designate sites # 4, 5, and 6 as a group campsite. One other site (probably # 10 or 11) will remain open for camping while the other sites will be closed and rehabilitated.
- It is also anticipated that a new parking area will be constructed in the SLWF to replace the parking area in the SRCA which is adjacent to the outlet of Little Green Pond. The new parking area will be large enough to hold 5 cars, which will be much smaller than the current parking area. This will serve as parking for those using campsite # 1 and any day users of Little Green Pond. Once this parking area is complete the gate for the Bone Pond truck trail will be relocated to the SLWF side of the channel between Little Green and Little Clear Ponds. The parking area in the SRCA will be rehabilitated.
- As mentioned in the foot trail section, a canoe carry will be created between Little Clear and Little Green Ponds. This carry would start at Little Clear Pond about 100' north of the smelt channel and run to and then along the road to Little Green Pond.

F. Proposed Regulations

Several of the management proposals outlines in this UMP require the promulgation of new rule and regulations in accordance with Department policies and procedures, the State Environmental Quality Review act (SEQRA), and the Master Plan. Statutory authority for regulations is found in the ECL §9-0105(3), and in the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive law §§816.1 - 816.3). Executive Law §816.3 directs the Department to develop rules and regulations necessary to implement the Master Plan. Existing regulations relating to public use of State Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department are found in 6 NYCRR, Part 190. These proposed regulations constitute the minimum level of direct regulation necessary to assure Master Plan compliance and directly influence visitor behavior to protect resources and the experiences of visitors.

Amend 6NYCRR §190.13 to apply the following regulations to the SRCA:

- Group size restrictions: which prohibit day use groups of sixteen or more people, prohibit camping groups of nine or more, and prohibit larger groups unless separated into smaller groups which do not exceed such limitations and such smaller groups maintain a separation distance from each other of at least one mile and must travel or camp on separate ponds at all times.

- Camping restrictions: which prohibit camping above 2,700 feet in elevation and tent platforms or camp structures other than tents, traps, lean-tos, or those composed of snow.

- Campfire restrictions: which prohibit campfires above 2,700 feet in elevation.

- Miscellaneous restrictions: which prohibit the disposal of any food scrap, food matter, or food container in any pond, stream, or other water body; prohibiting the use of soap or detergent in any pond, stream, or other water body; prohibit the use by the public of any motorized equipment; prohibiting the use of any audio device which is audible outside the immediate area of a campsite; and undertaking any research project except under permit of the Department.

V. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ESTIMATED BUDGET

The following tables outline a schedule for implementation of the proposed management actions and their estimated costs. The estimated costs of implementing these projects is based on historical costs incurred by the Department for similar projects. Values for some projects are based on projected costs for service contracting. These cost estimates do not include capital expenditures for items such as equipment, nor do they include the value of program staff salaries.

Annual Maintenance and other Activities	Estimated Cost ($)
Boundary line maintenance (approximately 5 miles)	2,000
Monitor: soils, vegetation, riparian areas, trails, parking, mountain bike activity, use, campsite condition, and public opinions	36 staff days
Inspect and monitor ponds, trails, and campsites for exotic and invasive species. Remove these when found.	5,000
Develop trail maintenance needs list	6 staff days
Perform routine maintenance on facilities. This includes trails, lean-tos, parking areas, tent sites, privies, and state truck trails. Areas where natural resources are being degraded will be addressed.	5,000
Compile visitor register information	2 staff days
Conduct educational programs in: exotic and invasive species, need to treat water, proper camping techniques, LEAVE-NO-TRACE, and sanitation methods.	1,000
Remove vegetation from Long Pond Mountain that interferes with existing scenic vistas (only as needed, this will not be done every year)	1 staff day
SRCA stewards from the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program	12,000
Distribute SRCA brochure	250
Stock fish in SRCA waters consistent with Bureau of Fisheries policies and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Fish and Wildlife (1980).	6,350
Conduct biological, physical, and chemical surveys of selected waters	15 staff days
Inspect and maintain fish barrier dams. Vehicle and motorized use for these inspections and maintenance will be carried out consistent with the Master Plan and as described in Section IV. B.1.	12 staff days

Annual Maintenance and other Activities	Estimated Cost ($)
Total	31,600

Year 1	Estimated Cost ($)
Open Fish Pond and St Regis Pond Truck Trails to mountain bike use	175
Designate and maintain the canoe carry between Little Long and Little Fish Ponds.	2000
Mark the ski trail from the Fish Pond Truck Tail to Bone Pond	250
Inform public of impending changes to group size	400
Close and rehabilitate campsites this plan identifies for closure	1200
Mark the ski trail from Fish Pond Truck Trail to the Lt. Clear - St. Regis carry	400
Install register box at Floodwood Road carry to Long Pond	500
Conduct Universal Assessment inventory of selected facilities	10,000
Implement the Keese Mills Road campsites plan	4,500
Remove pit privies which are too close to water	400
Develop campsite plan	20 staff days
Rebuild Little Long Pond Barrier Dam	5,000
Total	24,825

Year 2	Estimated Cost ($)
Improve the Fish Pond Truck Trail parking lot	8,000
Bring the Fish Pond Truck Trail up to ADAAG standards	25,000
Lime Little Long and Kitfox Ponds	11,500
Reroute the Turtle to Clamshell trail	500
Construct barrier dam for Ledge Pond	10,000

Year 2	Estimated Cost ($)
Stop issuing camping permits for group size	0
Construct primitive tent site on Little Green Pond	400
Install gate at Little Long Pond truck trail	800
Develop LAC indicators and standards for trails, St. Regis Mountain summit, mountain bike use, campsites, and vegetation in riparian areas	2000
Develop regulations	3 staff days
Investigate the status of the Otter Pond Road	4 staff days
Total	58,200

Year 3	Estimated Cost ($)
Designate the as an official trail Teddy Roosevelt Trail, includes upgrading the condition of the trail.	8,000
Survey St. Regis summit for Bicknell's Thrush	??
Develop path system for the summits of St. Regis and Long Pond Mountains	3 staff days
Create carry from Little Clear to Little Green Ponds	500
Implement regulations for group size	??
Remove improvements which are non-conforming and campsites which need to be closed according to the campsite plan	1500
Reclaim Ledge Pond	25,000
Update and reprint SRCA brochure	5,000
Total	40,000

Year 4	Estimated Cost ($)
Reclaim Embody Pond	1,000
Lime Douglas Pond	800
Create two primitive tent sites along Fish Pond truck trail	800
Bring the Long Pond Truck Trail up to ADAAG standards	14,000
Total	16,600

Year 5	Estimated Cost
Inventory campsites	12 staff days
Total	0

Cost Summary

Annual Maintenance Costs: $31,600
Five year annual total: $149,625
Total Cost: $181,225

??- costs unkown

VI. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Facilities Data
Appendix B - Glossary of Terms
Appendix C - Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians
Appendix D - New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Report for the SRCA
Appendix E - Individual Pond Descriptions
Appendix F - Ponded Water Survey Data
Appendix G - Fish Community Ecological Analysis
Appendix H - Memorandum # 93-35
Appendix I - CP-17
Appendix J - Fire Tower Letter of Resolution
Appendix K - Public Comments
Appendix L - SEQRA Requirements
Appendix M - Invasive Species
Appendix N - Bird Conservation Area
Appendix O - References
Appendix P - Unit Maps

Appendix A: Facilities Data					
Pond	Tent Sites	Lean-tos	Canoe Launches	Pit Privies	Fish Barriers
Bear	3	0	2	0	0
Bessie	1	0	1	0	0
Bog	0	0	2	0	0
Clamshell	1	0	2	0	0
East	0	0	0	0	0
Fish	5	2	4	2	0
Grass (East)	2	0	1	0	0
Grass (West)	1	0	1	0	1
Green	1	0	3	0	0
Kit Fox	0	0	2	0	0
Ledge	1	0	0	0	0
Long	22	0	5	3	0
Lt. Fish	1	0	1	0	1
Lt. Green	3	0	1	1	1
Lt. Long (East)	6	0	2	1	1
Lt. Long (West)	1	0	3	0	0
Lt. Rainbow	0	0	0	0	0
Lydia	1	0	1	1	1
Monday	1	0	0	0	0
Mountain	1	0	1	0	1
Mud	0	0	2	0	0
Nellie	0	0	2	0	1
Ochre	2	0	3	0	0
Roiley	0	0	0	0	0
Slang	2	0	1	0	0
St. Regis	17	1	4	3	1
Turtle	1	0	2	0	0
Floodwood Rd	1	0	0	0	0
St. Regis Mtn.	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	75	3	46	11	8

Trails					
Name	Length (miles)	Proposed	Classification		
Bear - Lt. Bear	0.1		V		
Bear - Lt. Long (E)	0.2		V		
Bone Pond Truck Trail	0.6		III		
Bone Pond TT - Fish Pond TT	0.4	x	VIII		
Fish - Clamshell	0.6		IV		
Fish - Kit Fox	0.3		IV		
Fish - Lt. Fish	0.1		IV		
Fish - Lt Long (W)	0.1		IV		
Fish - Mud	0.2		IV		
Fish - Ochre	1.3		IV		
Fish - Sky	0.1		IV		
Green - Lt Long (E)	0.1		V		
Kit Fox - Nellie	0.2		IV		
Long Pond Truck Trail	0.3		V		
Long - Floodwood Rd	0.7		V		
Long - Mtn.	0.5		IV		
Long - Nellie	1.5		IV		
Long Pond Mountain	1.4		IV		
Long - Slang	0.2		V		
Lt. Clear - Grass	0.1		IV		
Lt. Clear - Lt. Green	0.1	X	IV		
Lt. Long Pond Truck Trail	0.3		III		
Lt. Long (W)- Kit Fox	0.1		IV		
Lt. Long (W)- Lt Fish	0.1	X	IV		
Lt. Long (W)- Lydia	0.1		IV		
Lt. Pink - Ledge	0.5		III		
Ochre - Mud	0.9		IV		
St. Regis - Green	0.1		V		
St. Regis - Lt. Clear	0.6		V		
St. Regis - Ochre	0.5		IV		
St. Regis Mtn.	3.4		V		
Fish Pond Truck Trail	4.7		V		
Fish Pond TT- Grass	0.4		III		

Fish Pond TT - Lt. Clear Carry	0.9	x	VIII		
Fish Pond TT - Ochre	0.4		IV		
Fish Pond TT - Rat	0.3		VII		
St. Regis Pond Truck Trail	0.3		V		
Upper St. Regis Lake - St. Regis Mtn. Trail	1.1	x	III		
Total	23.8				
Other Facilities	Existing	Proposed			
Gates	2	2			
Barriers	2	3			
Dock	1	0			
Bridges	1	0			
Registers Boxes	3	1			

Campsite Inventory Summary:

Pond	Site	Size	tents	Pit privy	Fire ring	Erosion	Screening	Ground cover
Bear	1	50 x 30	3	N	Y-p	S	S	L
Bear	2	20 x 20	1	N	Y-p	M	L	L
Bear	3	50 x 40	5	N	Y-p	M	S	L
Bessie	1	30 x 30	4	N	Y-p	M	L	L
Clamshell	1	30 x 30	3	N	Y-f	M	L	L
Fish	2/ leanto 2	50 x 30	3	Y-f	Y-f	S	S	L
Fish	3	40 x 20	3	N	Y-g	M	S	L
Fish	4/ leanto	75 x 40	5	Y-f	Y-g	M	L	L
Fish	5	25 x 50	4	N	Y-f	M	N	L
Fish	6	30 x 30	3	N	Y-f	M	L	L
Fish Pond	1	30 x 20	2	N	Y-p	N	S	M
Floodwood Rd	15	30 x 45	3	N	Y-f	N	N	L
Grass	1	55 x 30	4	N	Y-p	M	S	M
Grass	2	25 x 25	3	N	N	M	E	M
Grassy	1	5 x 5	1	n	n	N	L	L
Green	1	60 x 30	4	N	Y-p	M	N	L
Ledge	1	25 x 25	1	N	Y-f	M	S	L
Long	1	45 x 30	3	N	Y-f	N	L	M
Long	10	85 x 65	4	N	Y-p	N	S	L
Long	11	50 x 25	3	N	Y-g	N	S	L
Long	12	35 x 20	2	N	Y-p	N	E	L

Long	13	60 x 50	3	N	Y-f	N	L	L
Long	14	100 x75	4	N	Y-p	M	S	L
Long	15	80 x 40	3	N	Y-f	M	L	L
Long	16	105 x60	7	N	Y-g	M	L	L
Long	17	30 x 20	2	N	Y-g	N	S	M
Long	18	75 x 65	6	N	Y-g	N	S	L
Long	19	55 x 45	4	N	Y-g	N	S	L
Long	2	45 x 60	6	Y-g	Y-f	M	S	L
Long	20	42 x 55	5	N	Y-f	N	L	L
Long	21	30 x 70	2	N	Y-p	M	S	L
Long	22	50 x 35	2	N	Y-f	N	S	L
Long	3	70 x 45	3	N	Y-g	M	L	L
Long	4	85 x 40	6	N	Y-f	N	L	L
Long	5	65 x 27	5	N	Y-f	M	N	M
Long	6	45 x 35	4	N	Y-f	M	N	L
Long	7	87 x 30	3	N	Y-g	M	N	L
Long	8	95 x 50	9	N	Y-p	N	S	L
Long	9	35 x 25	2	N	Y-p	N	S	L
Lt Long	3	150 x60	6	Y-p	Y-f	M	N	L
Lt. Green	1	55 x 25	3	N	Y-f	N	N	L
Lt. Long	4	150 x40	4	N	YP 2	M	N	L
Lt. Green	2	35 x 30	2	N	Y-p	N	S	L
Lt. Green	3	35 x 30	4	N	Y-f	N	L	L
Lt. Long	1	120 x30	5	N	Y-f	M	L	L
Lt. Long	2	35 x 35	3	N	Y-p	M	N	L
Lt. Long	5	75 x 50	3	N	Y-f	M	L	L
Lt. Long	6	50 x 50	5	N	Y-f	M	S	L
Lt. Long (w)	1	30 x 20	2	N	Y-f	M	N	L
Lydia	1	25 x 30	2	Y-p	Y-g	M	E	H
Monday	1	25 x 20	1	N	Y-p	N	S	H
Mountain	1	25 x 20	2	N	Y-g	N	S	H
Mountain	2	25 x 20	2	N	Y-f	N	S	M
Ochre	1	30 x 35	2	N	Y-f	M	S	M
Orchre	2	75 x 30	3	N	Y-f	M	L	L
Slang	1	50 x 45	4	N	Y-g	M	N	L

Slang	2	50 x 40	4	N	Y-p	M	N	L
St Regis	9	50 x 20	2	N	Y-p	M	S	L
St. Regis	1	25 x 35	2	N	Y-g	M	L	L
St. Regis	10	30 x 25	2	Y-p	Y-f	S	S	L
St. Regis	11	35 x 20	2	N	Y-p	M	L	L
St. Regis	12	50 x 40	6	N	Y-p	M	S	L
St. Regis	13	40 x 15	2	N	Y-p	S	L	L
St. Regis	14	60 x 30	4	N	Y-p	M	N	L
St. Regis	15	45 x 50	2	N	Y-p	M	L	L
St. Regis	16	50 x 40	3	N	Y-p	M	N	L
St. Regis	17	25 x 25	2	N	Y-f	N	E	M
St. Regis	2		3	N	Y-f	M	L	L
St. Regis	3	20 x 30	2	N	Y-p	M	N	L
St. Regis	4	100 x40	5	Y-p	Y-p	M	L	L
St. Regis	5 / leanto		6	Y-p	Y-g	M	N	L
St. Regis	6	40 x 30	3	N	Y-p	M	L	L
St. Regis	7	30 x 20	2	N	Y-p	M	S	L
St. Regis	8	60 x 30	4	N	Y-p	M	L	L
St. Regis Mtn	1	50 x 50	5	N	Y-f	M	S	H
Turtle	1	30 x 40	4	N	Y-f	M	S	L

Campsite inventory definitions
Size: Rough measurement of area which is obviously disturbed.
Tents: Estimate of number of tents the site can hold.
Ground cover: L- bare ground over 50%, vegetation trampled, M- up to 50% bare ground, H- dense ground cover on site.
Screening: N– no vegetation between site and water, L- less than 50% vegetation cover to water, S- between 50% and 99% cover, E- 100% cover site can not see water.
Erosion: N– no erosion, M — erosion present, S- resource is being degraded work needed.
Pit privy and Fire ring: check present, list condition with G, F, or P for good, fair, or poor.

Department Trail Classification System

TITLE		EXAMPLE	MARKING	TREAD	BARRIERS	USE LEVEL	ACCEPTABLE MAINTENANCE
I	Unmarked Route	Hunter's Path	None	Intermittently apparent, relatively undisturbed organic soil horizon	Natural obstructions present, logs and water courses	Occasional	None
II	Path	Campsite trails	Intermittent	Intermittently apparent, compaction of duff, mineral soils occasionally exposed	Same as unmarked route	Low, varies by location	Intermittent marking with consideration given to appropriate layout based on drainage, occasional barrier removal only to define appropriate route.
III	Primitive	TR Trail	Trail markers, sign at junction with secondary or other upper level trail	Apparent, soil compaction evident	Limited natural obstructions (logs and river fords)	Low	Drainage (native materials) where necessary to minimize erosion, blowdown removed 2-3 years, brushing as necessary to define trail (every 5-10 years). Bridges only to protect resource (max - 2 log width). Ladders only to protect exceptionally steep sections, Tread 14"-18", clear: 3' wide, 3' high.
IV	Secondary	Long Pond Mountain	Markers, signs with basic information	Likely worn and possibly quite eroded. Rocks exposed, little or no duff remaining	Up to one year's accumulated blowdown, small streams.	Moderate	Drainage where needed to halt erosion and limit potential erosion (using native materials), tread hardening with native materials where drainage proves to be insufficient to control erosion. Remove blowdown annually. Brush to maintain trail corridor. Higher use may warrant greater use of bridges (2–3 logs wide) for resource protection. Ladders on exceptionally steep rock faces. Tread 18"-24". Clear 4' wide, 3' High.
V	Trunk or Primary Trail	St. Regis Mountain	Markers, signed with more information and warnings.	Wider tread, worn and very evident. Rock exposed, possibly very eroded.	Obstructions only rarely, small streams	High	Same as above; Plus: regular blowdown removal on designated ski trails, non-native materials as last resort, Extensive tread hardening when needed, bridge streams (2–4 logs wide) difficult to cross during high water, priority given to stream crossings below concentrations of designated camping. Tread 18"-26", clear 6' wide, 8' high, actual turn piking limited to 2% of trail length.
VI	Front Country	VIC trails	Heavily marked, detailed interpretive signing	Groomed	None	Very High	Extensive grooming, some paving, bark chips, handicapped accessible. This is to be implemented within 500' of wilderness boundary.
VII	Horse Trail	Fish Pond Truck Trail	Marked as Trunk or Secondary	Wide tread, must be rather smooth.	Same as Trunk Trail.	Moderate to High	Same as trunk trail, except use techniques appropriate for horses. Bridges: 6' minimum width with kick rails, nonnative dimensional materials preferred. Tread: 2'-4' wide, clear 8' wide, 10' high.
VIII	Ski Trail	Rat Pond Trail	Marked High. Special markers, sign at all junctions with hiking trails.	Duff remains. Discourage summer use	Practically none due to hazards.	High	Focus on removal of obstructions, maintenance should be low profile, tread determined by clearing 6' (Should be slightly wider at turns and steep sections. Provide drainage using native materials to protect resource.

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

Adirondack Forest Preserve - consists of land owned by the State within the 12 Adirondack counties. Essentially all of the 2.7million acres of State land within the Adirondack Park is Forest Preserve and is protected by Article 14 of the State Constitution.

Adirondack Park - consists of six million acres of public and private land within a boundary delineated in the Environmental Conservation Law. At the present time, State ownership accounts for some 45 percent of this area.

Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan-A document prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation that is designed to guide the preservation, management, and use of all State lands within the Adirondack Park.

Administrative Barrier - A barrier that can be opened to allow travel over the road by State personnel for administrative or emergency purposes. An administrative barrier should consist of a swing barrier constructed of pipe.

All Terrain Bicycle - A non-motorized bicycle designed or used for cross-country travel on unimproved roads or trails.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - a major civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in the private and public sectors.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) - guidelines for ADA compliance in the construction of new facilities and the alteration of existing facilities.

ADAAG, Proposed - guidelines recommended in the September 30, 1999 Report by the Federal Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Outdoor Developed Facilities to the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), including the appendix to the Report.

Beaver Ponds - Impoundments created by dam building activities of beaver.

Campground - A concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day use facilities such as picnicking.

Controlled Access Barrier - A barrier that can be opened to allow travel over the road by private individuals or organizations who have the legal right of such travel. A controlled access barrier should be of the same design and construction as an administrative barrier.

Cross-Country (Nordic) Ski Trail - A marked and maintained path or way for cross-country ski or snowshoe travel, which has the same dimensions and character and may also serve as a foot trail, designed to provide reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment and not constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.

Endangered Species - Those species of fish, shellfish, crustacea and wildlife designated by the Department (NYSDEC), by order filed with the Secretary of State, as seriously threatened with extinction (Section 11- 0535 ECL).

Fee Acquisition - The Term "fee" applies to the purchase of all rights to property. This differs from purchasing an easement in which only certain rights are purchased.

Fish Barrier Dam - A man-made device or structure used to prevent the upstream or downstream migration of fish for the purpose of protecting a high-value fishery or population of fish indigenous to the protected body of water.

Fishing and Waterway Access Site - A site for fishing or other water access which provides public access and parking for vehicles which does not contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats.

Forage Fishes - Small fishes which serve as food for larger, carnivorous fishes; e.g., rainbow smelt represents a traditional forage fish for landlocked salmon.

Foot Trail - A marked and maintained path or way for foot travel.

Lean-to - An open front shelter made of natural materials suitable for temporary or transient residence.

Motor Vehicle - A device for transporting personnel, supplies or material that uses a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and has wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on, or adjacent to air, land and water or through water.

Motorboat - A device for transporting personnel or material that travels over, on or under the water and is propelled by a non-living power source on or within the device.

Multi-Species Waters - Waters which support more than one fish species. The great bulk of Adirondack Zone waters meets this definition.

Native Species Waters - Waters supporting native Adirondack Zone fish species. Example: brook trout, lake trout, round whitefish.

Natural Materials - Construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought into the construction site that conform in size, shape and physical characteristics to those naturally present in the vicinity of the project site. Such materials include stone, logs and sawn and treated timber. Natural materials may be fastened or anchored by use of bolts, nails, spikes or similar means.

Natural Spawning Adequate (N.S.A.) Waters - Brook trout ponds and numerous small, headwater stream sections with mainly slow-growing or stunted brook trout populations which are self-maintained by natural reproduction. Also includes the great majority of warmwater and non-game fish species.

Nonnative Species Waters - Waters supporting introduced, nonnative fish species, such as yellow perch and black bass.

Permanent Barrier - A barrier that will close a road permanently to all future travel -- public or administrative -- on such road. A permanent barrier should consist of an earth, rock, or ditch (or any combination thereof) barricade of substantial proportions so as to be obvious and require little or no maintenance.

pH Value - Represents the effective concentration of hydrogen ion. The practical pH scale extends from 0 (very acid) to 14 (very alkaline). Waters with pH values below 7 are acid while those above this value are alkaline.

Primitive Tent Site - An undeveloped camping site providing space for not more than three tents, which may have an associated pit privy and fire ring, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people.

Reclamation - A management technique involving the application of a fish toxicant such as "rotenone" to eliminate undesirable fish populations.

Road - An improved way designed for travel by motor vehicles and either, (a) maintained by a State agency or a local government and open to the general public; or (b) maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also be partly or completely open to the general public for all or a segment thereof; or (c) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation and open to the public on a discretionary basis; or (d) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for its administrative use only.

Small Ponds - Ponds of less than one surface acre which are generally considered too small for management purposes or to provide significant angling opportunities.

Small Streams - Streams less than one mile long and less than 0.5 cfs summer flow. Too small to be considered for management purposes.

Snowmobile - A motor vehicle designed primarily to travel on snow or ice by means of skis, skids, tracks or other devices. It is specifically excluded from the definition of "motor vehicles" in 6NYCRR and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Special Angling Regulations - Departures from the statewide angling regulations. These are currently expressed as options in the fishing guide. May be more liberal or more restrictive than the statewide regulations.

State Environmental Quality Review - Is a process which requires all levels of State and local government to assess the environmental significance of actions which they have discretion to approve, fund or directly undertake.

Trailhead - A point of entrance to State land which may contain some or all of the following: vehicle parking, trail signs, and visitor registration structures.

Unit Management Plan - a document that identifies the natural resources, man-made facilities, public use, and past management within a described geographic unit of State land. The plan covers all aspects of the environment and is the basis for all future activities on State lands for a period of five years.

Acronyms:

ADA	American with Disabilities act
ADAAG	American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
ADK	Adirondack Mountain Club
AFR	Assistant Forest Ranger
ALSC	Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation
ANC	Acid neutralizing capacity
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
APLUDP	Adirondack Park Land Use Development Plan
APSLMP	Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
ARTC	Adirondack Regional Tourism Council
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
ATIS	Adirondack Trail Improvement Society
BP	Before Present
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAC	Citizens' Advisory Committee
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DMU	Deer Management Unit
DOT	New York State Department of Transportation
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Act of 1993
EQBA	Environmental Quality Bond Act
FR	Forest Ranger
LAC	Limits of Acceptable Change
LTM	Long Term Monitoring
NBWI	Native-But-Widely-Introduced
NHPC	Natural Heritage Plant Community
NPS	National Park Service
NYCRR	New York Code of Rules and Regulations
NYS	New York State
OSP	Open Space Plan
SEQRA	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SLWF	Saranac Lakes Wild Forest
SRCA	Saint Regis Canoe Area
SUNY-ESF	State University of New York - College of Environmental Science and Forestry
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UFAS	Uniform Accessibility Standards
UFPBC	Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
UMP	Unit Management Plan
USFS	United States Forest Service
UTAP	Universal Trails Assessment Program
VIC	Visitors Interpretive Center
WMU	Wildlife Management Unit

Appendix C: Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians

Typical Adirondack Species

There are a number of wildlife species found in New York State whose habitat requirements include extensive areas of forest cover relatively undisturbed by human development. Often, like the yellow-nosed vole and the northern three-toed woodpecker, these are northern species who find the habitat conditions of the central Adirondacks similar to the boreal spruce-fir forests of Canada. A list of species whose range in New York is generally confined to the Adirondacks and which may be found within the SRCA include:

Mammals in the SRCA:

black bear

bobcat

fisher

marten

moose

yellow-nosed vole

Reptiles and Amphibians in the SRCA:

Common Name	Scientific Name
painted turtle	Chrysemys picta
snapping turtle	Chelydra serpentina
wood turtle	Clemmys insculpta
northern water snake	Nerodia sipedon
redbelly snake	Storeria occiptomaculata
common garter snake	Thamnophis sirtalis
northern brown snake	Storeria dekayi
northern ringneck snake	Diadophis punctatus
eastern ribbon snake	Thamnophis sauritus
eastern milk snake	Lampropeltis triangulum
smooth green snake	Opheodrys vernalis
redback salamander	Plethodon cinereus
red-spotted newt	Notophthalmus viridescens
blue-spotted salamander	Ambystoma laterale
spotted salamander	Ambystoma maculatum
northern spring salamander	Gyrinophilus porphyriticus
two-lined salamander	Eurycea bislineata

northern dusky salamander	Desmognathus fuscus
American toad	Bufo americanus
bullfrog	Rana catesbeiana
pickerel frog	Rana palustris
green frog	Rana clamitans
mink frog	Rana septenrionalis
wood frog	Rana sylvatica
grey tree frog	Hyla versicolor
spring peeper	Pseudacris crucifer

Deer Hunting Data (information is for the entire Town of Santa Clara)

	Deer taken per Square Mile		Hunting Take				
	Adult		Males		Females		
Year	Males	Females	Adult	Fawns	Adult	Fawns	Total
1990	1.03	.02	185	1	4	1	191
1991	.99	.04	179	2	8	2	191
1992	.97	.12	175	4	22	4	205
1993	1.05	.09	189	1	17	2	209
1994	.61	0.00	110	1	17	2	209
1995	.74	0.00	133	1	0	0	134
1996	.72	.06	129	2	10	2	151
1997	.96	.01	173	0	1	0	174
1998	.76	.06	197	2	10	2	151
1999	.64	.08	116	2	14	3	135
2000	.71	.11	128	0	19	3	152
2001	.64	.07	116	2	13	2	133

Furbearer harvest in Town of Santa Clara for 2000-2001

Species	Beaver	Fisher	Otter	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Total
Number	71	7	5	0	9	0	92

Appendix D: New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Report for the SRCA

Blocks: 5491a, 5491b, 5491c, 5491d, 5591a and 5591c

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Common Loon	Gavia immer	NY	Protected-Special Concern	S3S4
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus	D2	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	T2	Protected	S5
Green Heron	Butorides virescens	X1	Protected	S5
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	FL	Game Species	S5
American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	FL	Game Species	S4
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	T2	Game Species	S5
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	FL	Game Species	S2
Ring-necked Duck	Aythya collaris	P2	Game Species	S3
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	FL	Game Species	S2
Hooded Merganser	Lophodytes cucullatus	FL	Game Species	S4
Common Merganser	Mergus merganser	ON	Game Species	S5
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	T2	Protected	S4
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	NE	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	P2	Threatened	S3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	T2	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter cooperii	X1	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	FL	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus	P2	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus	FL	Protected	S5
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	X1	Protected	S5
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	FL	Protected	S5

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	FL	Game Species	S5
Wild Turkey	Meleagris gallopavo	X1	Game Species	S5
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	FL	Game Species	S5
Sora	Porzana carolina	X1	Game Species	S4
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	DD	Protected	S5
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularia	FL	Protected	S5
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	FL	Game Species	S5
American Woodcock	Scolopax minor	NE	Game Species	S5
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	X1	Protected	S5
Rock Dove	Columba livia	N2	Unprotected	SE
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	P2	Protected	S5
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus	X1	Protected	S5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	X1	Protected	S5
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	T2	Protected	S5
Barred Owl	Strix varia	FL	Protected	S5
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	X1	Protected	S3
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	T2	Endangered	S2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Aegolius acadicus	S2	Protected	S3
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	T2	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Whip-poor-will	Caprimulgus vociferus	X1	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	T2	Protected	S5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	D2	Protected	S5
Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	FL	Protected	S5
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	FY	Protected-Special Concern	S4

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	FY	Protected	S5
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	FY	Protected	S5
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus	FY	Protected	S5
Three-toed Woodpecker	Picoides tridactylus	X1	Protected	S2
Black-backed Woodpecker	Picoides arcticus	X1	Protected	S3
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	ON	Protected	S5
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	FY	Protected	S5
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	FY	Protected	S5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens	FY	Protected	S5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	FL	Protected	S3
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum	FY	Protected	S5
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	FY	Protected	S5
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	ON	Protected	S5
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	FY	Protected	S5
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	NY	Protected	S5
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	ON	Protected	S5
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	T2	Protected	S5
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia	ON	Protected	S5
Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	ON	Protected	S5
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	NY	Protected	S5
Gray Jay	Perisoreus canadensis	X1	Protected	S3
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	FY	Protected	S5
Common Raven	Corvus corax	ON	Protected	S4

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	FY	Protected	S5
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile hudsonicus	ON	Protected	S3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	FY	Protected	S5
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis	T2	Protected	S5
Brown Creeper	Certhia americana	FL	Protected	S5
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	FY	Protected	S5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa	FY	Protected	S5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	X1	Protected	S3
Eastern Bluebird	Sialia sialis	ON	Protected	S5
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	FY	Protected	S5
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	FY	Protected	S5
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	NE	Protected	S5
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	T2	Protected	S5
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	NE	Protected	S5
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	T2	Protected	S5
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	T2	Protected	S5
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	FY	Protected	S5
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	FY	Unprotected	SE
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitarius	FY	Protected	S5
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus	X1	Protected	S5
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	FY	Protected	S5
Nashville Warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	NE	Protected	S5
Northern Parula	Parula americana	FY	Protected	S3S4

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	X1	Protected	S5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	FY	Protected	S5
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	FY	Protected	S5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	FY	Protected	S5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	FY	Protected	S5
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	FY	Protected	S5
Blackburnian Warbler	Dendroica fusca	FY	Protected	S5
Pine Warbler	Dendroica pinus	S2	Protected	S5
Blackpoll Warbler	Dendroica striata	S2	Protected	S3
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	FY	Protected	S5
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	FY	Protected	S5
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapillus	UN	Protected	S5
Northern Waterthrush	Seiurus noveboracensis	X1	Protected	S5
Mourning Warbler	Oporornis philadelphia	T2	Protected	S5
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	NY	Protected	S5
Canada Warbler	Wilsonia canadensis	FY	Protected	S5
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea	FY	Protected	S5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	FY	Protected	S5
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	T2	Protected	S5
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	FY	Protected	S5

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Field Sparrow	Spizella pusilla	T2	Protected	S5
Vesper Sparrow	Pooecetes gramineus	FL	Protected-Special Concern	S5
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	FL	Protected	S5
Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	X1	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	FY	Protected	S5
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	FY	Protected	S4
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	FY	Protected	S5
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	NY	Protected	S5
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	ON	Protected	S5
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	FY	Protected	S5
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	NE	Protected	S5
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna	FL	Protected	S5
Rusty Blackbird	Euphagus carolinus	FY	Protected	S3
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	ON	Protected	S5
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	D2	Protected	S5
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	FL	Protected	S5
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	FY	Protected	S5
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	X1	Protected	S3
White-winged Crossbill	Loxia leucoptera	P2	Protected	S2S3
Pine Siskin	Carduelis pinus	X1	Protected	S5
American Goldfinch	Carduelis tristis	FL	Protected	S5

Common Name	Scientific Name	Breeding Class	NY Legal Status	State Rank
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	X1	Protected	S5

Breeding Code Definitions

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 for 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.

New York State Legal Status Definitions

Categories of Endangered and Threatened species are defined in New York State Conservation Law section 11-0535. Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species are listed in regulation 6NYCRR 182.5.
Endangered species are those species that 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 species are those species that 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.
Special Concern species are those species which are not yet recognized as endangered or threatened, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York. Unlike the first two categories, species of special concern receive no additional legal protection under ECL section 11-0535.
Protected species (defined in ECL section 11-0103) include wild game, protected wild birds, and endangered species of wildlife.
Unprotected species (defined in ECL section 11-0103) include species that may be taken at any time without limit; however, a license to take may be required.
Game species (defined in ECL section 11-0103) include any of a variety of big game or small game species as stated in the ECL; many normally have an open season for at least part of the year, and are protected at other times.

Natural Heritage Rank Definitions

Each species has a global and a state rank as determined by the N.Y. Natural Heritage Program. These ranks carry no legal weight. The state rank reflects the rarity within New York State.
State Ranks:
S1 - Extremely rare; 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 - Very rare; 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 - Rare to uncommon; typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream in New York State. May have fewer occurrences with many large populations.
S4 - Common, apparently secure in New York State; typically 100 or more occurrences. May be fewer occurrences with many large populations.
S5 - Very common, 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 - Reported in the state but without persuasive documentation.
SU - Status in New York State is uncertain.
NR - Not ranked, usually a hybrid species.

Appendix E: Individual Pond Descriptions

Ponded Water Inventory Data										
Name	**Pond #**	**Wshed**	**File #**	**County**	**Quad Name**	**Management Class**	**Area (acres) NYSBU**	**Max Depth (ft)**	**Mean Depth (ft)**	
Bessie Pond	P146	SC	346	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	19	50	14.8	
Bickford Pond	P5199	SC	529	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	12.8	11	5.2	
Bone Pond	P193	C	214	Franklin	Upper Saranac	Adirondack brook trout	10.6	34	12.8	
Clamshell Pond	P153	SC	369	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	35.3	28	13.5	
Conley Line	P204	C	224	Franklin	Upper Saranac	Adirondack brook trout	1.7	17.1	10.5	
Douglas Pond	P148	SC	355	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	3	40	14.4	
Dry Lake	P156A	C	186A	Franklin	Derrick	Adirondack brook trout	3	7	3.9	
Dry Lake	P5153	C	186B	Franklin	Derrick	Adirondack brook trout	1	10	5.7	
East Pond	P133	SC	331	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	68	10	5.9	
Embody Pond	P157	C	187	Franklin	Derrick	Adirondack brook trout	3	27	7.9	
Fish Pond	P149	SC	356	Franklin	Brandon	coldwater	116.6	50	23	
Grass Pond	P194	C	215	Franklin	Upper Saranac	Adirondack brook trout	19.3	33.1	13.5	
Grass Pond	P156	SC	378	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	22	12	4.6	
Green Pond	P157	SC	386	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	22	31	18	
Kitfox Pond	P146B	SC	341	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	10	38	13.8	
Ledge Pond	P155	C	184	Franklin	Derrick	coldwater	42.5	49	20.3	
Lindsey Pond	P200	C	220	Franklin	Upper Saranac	Adirondack brook trout	5.7	20	12.5	
Little Fish Pond	P147	SC	350	Franklin	Brandon	coldwater	24	30	14.4	
Little Long Pond	P141	SC	336	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	40	41	18.7	
Little Long Pond	P267A	SC	524	Franklin	Saint Regis	coldwater	81.8	60	18.7	

Little Rainbow Pond	P164	C	190	Franklin	Upper Saranac	warmwater	11	7	2.6	
Long Pond	P149	C	177	Franklin	Derrick	two-story	338	50	12.5	
Long Pond #3	P158	C	187A	Franklin	Derrick	Adirondack brook trout	2	5	2.3	
Lower Marsh Pond	P5151	C		Franklin	Derrick	other	7			
Lydia Pond	P140	SC	333	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	19	38	21.3	
Monday Pond	P155A	SC	368	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	6.7	8	5.6	
Mountain Pond	P156	C	186	Franklin	Derrick	Adirondack brook trout	12.4	22	10.2	
Mud Pond	P151	SC	361	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	10.4	6	3	
Nellie Pond	P145	SC	342	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	16.3	19	11.2	
North Otter Pond	P159A	SC	395	Franklin	Upper Saranac	Adirondack brook trout	2.2	10	6.6	
North Pink Pond	P151	C	178	Franklin	Derrick	warmwater	5.9	10	4.3	
Ochre Pond	P154	SC	372	Franklin	Saint Regis	coldwater	25.5	52	18.4	
Paradise Pond	P152	SC	366	Franklin	Saint Regis	other	0.7	10	5	
Pink Pond	P150	C	178	Franklin	Derrick	warmwater	13.1	14	6.6	
Saint Regis Pond	P156A	SC	382	Franklin	Upper Saranac	coldwater	401.5	31	15.4	
Sky Pond	P150	SC	360	Franklin	Brandon	Adirondack brook trout	7.5	9	4.3	
Slang Pond	P159	C	188	Franklin	Derrick	warmwater	48	23	12.5	
South Otter Pond	P159	SC	390	Franklin	Upper Saranac	Adirondack brook trout	7.9	11	7.5	
Spectacle Ponds	P253	SC	504	Franklin	Saint Regis	coldwater	45.5	68	28.2	
Summit Pond	P162	C	189A	Franklin	Upper Saranac	other	5.9	5	4.3	
Tuesday Pond	P155	SC	377	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	5.3	22	9.8	
Turnoff Pond	P154	C	182	Franklin	Derrick	other	3	14	4.3	
Turtle Pond	P160	C	188	Franklin	Upper Saranac	warmwater	68	33	10.2	
Unnamed Water	P5148	C		Franklin	Derrick	unknown	1.2			
Unnamed Water	P5149	C		Franklin	Derrick	unknown	2.2			
Unnamed Water	P5150	C		Franklin	Derrick	unknown	1.5			
Unnamed Water	P5152	C		Franklin	Derrick	unknown	1			

Unnamed Water	P140A	SC		Franklin	Brandon	unknown	1.7			
Unnamed Water	P143	SC		Franklin	Brandon	unknown	0.2			
Unnamed Water	P144	SC		Franklin	Brandon	unknown	0.2			
Unnamed Water	P146A	SC	341	Franklin	Brandon	unknown	2.5			
Unnamed Water	P254A	SC		Franklin	Saint Regis	unknown	0.5			
Unnamed Water	P274A	SC		Franklin	Saint Regis	unknown	2.7			
Unnamed Water	P5201	SC		Franklin	Saint Regis	unknown	1			
Unnamed Water	P5207	SC	528BS 1	Franklin	Saint Regis	other	4	11	5.9	
Unnamed Water	P5209	SC		Franklin	Saint Regis	unknown	0.7			
Unnamed Water	P5227	SC		Franklin	Saint Regis	unknown	1.5			
Whipple Pond	P158	SC	389	Franklin	Saint Regis	Adirondack brook trout	8.9	10	5.2	

Pond Management Classifications

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 stockingPond Naratives:

Bessie Pond (SC-P 146)

Bessie Pond received a cursory netting during the New York State Biological Survey in 1930; one brook trout was captured, and shiners, creek chubs (NBWI) and yellow perch (nonnative) were reported to be present. White suckers were thought to likely be present as well. When first surveyed in 1952 it was discovered that yellow perch were not present as assumed. The species collected included lake trout and white suckers. The pH was favorable at 6.0. Nellie and Bessie Ponds are positioned in close proximity and flow to Lydia Pond (SC-P 140). This small chain of lakes was included in an aggressive program to restore brook trout in the St. Regis Canoe Area by eliminating nonnative yellow perch (Zilliox and Pfeiffer, 1956). This project was one of the pioneering attempts to restore native fishes to a watershed via the use of rotenone. In this project 14 waters were reclaimed. It was decided not to treat Nellie and Bessie as they were known to be providing good brook trout fishing, contained only native species, and these species could only potentially reinvade one reclaimed pond, Lydia. Because a natural rock waterfall exists on the Nellie Pond Outlet, Nellie and Bessie Pond are protected from invasive fish species that may occur in Lydia Pond. Nellie and Bessie Pond were reclaimed in 1970 and managed for wild strain brook trout. This project produced good angling for several years and periodic netting indicated an abundant trout population with creek chubs (NBWI) as the only other species.

Bessie Pond was surveyed in 1986 by ALSC. This survey documented that white suckers and northern redbelly dace had become established, and the brook trout catch was disappointing. Nellie, Bessie and Lydia Ponds were reclaimed again in 1990 and restocked with Horn Lake strain brook trout, a native strain originating in the Moose River Plains region. A follow up survey was conducted on August 5, 1996. The survey indicated that brook trout were abundant and self-sustaining. A few fathead minnows were also caught. Sampling with a D-frame net showed that benthic invertebrates were as or more diverse than when similar sampling was conducted by ALSC prior to the reclamation. In Bessie Pond, 11 benthic families were collected while only 8 families were collected during the 1986 ALSC survey. Bessie Pond was used as a source for Horn Lake strain brook trout eggs in 1999. Over 147 brook trout were handled during this operation. Bessie Pond continues to harbor a vigorous, self-sustaining population of Adirondack Heritage Strain brook trout. The pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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

Bickford Pond (SC-P5199)

Bickford Pond (also known as Flaming Gorge Pond) has an interesting and somewhat unique fish management history. An August 11, 1964 netting survey captured no fish and a general remark summed up the pond as "a small, warm, shallow pond with little obvious potential for trout management." When surveyed by ALSC in 1984 the pond contained numerous brook trout and was a monoculture. Because Bickford Pond had no known history of stocking there was some hope that these fish might constitute a heritage strain of brook trout. After the ALSC survey it was discovered that Bickford Pond had been stocked many times by several members of a local family, thus ruling out the possibility that Bickford Pond contains a heritage strain of brook trout. More recently it has been learned that this same family is known to have reclaimed the pond on at least one occasion. Despite its shallow nature, Bickford Pond does have the attributes to provide quality brook trout angling and it is now annually stocked with fall fingerlings by DEC. It was most recently surveyed by DEC on August 07, 2000. This survey again showed a brook trout monoculture.

Bickford Pond does have the attributes of a reclamation candidate including a natural barrier on the outlet. It will be reclaimed upon establishment of competitive fish(es) 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

Bone Pond (CH-P 193)

Bone Pond is an isolated pond with a long history of fish management. Not visited during the New York State Biological Survey (circa 1930), Bone Pond was first netted in 1966 when three brook trout and 277 brown bullheads were caught. This survey documented rather low pH values. The pond was reclaimed in the fall of 1966. After the pond was reclaimed, stocked trout survival was negligible, which lead to the conclusion that the low pH was problematic. Bone Pond was experimentally limed with 350 lbs. of hydrated lime in August, 1970. Stocked trout survival improved immediately after this water chemistry manipulation. A netting survey in June of 1976 indicated an abundant trout population and a sparse population of brown bullheads. The pH values had dropped to critical levels (4.5). The beneficial effects of liming with hydrated lime were short-lived, a consistent observation made during the experimental liming program. Bone Pond was experimentally treated with soda-ash in 1982. This treatment was successful in elevating the pH for a relatively long period of time, however follow up data is not available. A 1.5 meter water sample taken in August of 1992 had a pH of 5.75 and an acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of 15.1, both levels that dictate a retreatment of a limed water according to the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources programmatic environmental impact statement on pond liming. The Bureau of Fisheries sought a jurisdictional determination from the APA relative to the liming of Bone Pond and the matter was determined to be non-jurisdictional. Bone Pond was limed with agricultural limestone in February of 1993 and February 1994. The reason for two applications was that a severe winter storm interrupted the 1993 attempt. Bone Pond has shown an excellent response to liming with agricultural limestone; with many reports of excellent angling success. A water sample collected on June 4, 2001 had an air equilibrium pH of 6.89 and an ANC of 63.3. Bone Pond was surveyed on July 11, 2002 as an update for this unit management plan. The survey revealed that brown bullheads are no longer in Bone Pond; likely they died out during the time the pond was

critically acidified. Brook trout are common and some quality size individuals were sampled. The survey also revealed that northern redbelly dace have become established. This native species introduction is not considered to be problematic for the brook trout and because redbelly dace are intolerant of acid conditions, their presence gives testament to the good water quality conditions that are maintained here. Because Bone Pond is in the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources Liming Program, it will annually be monitored for pH and ANC. In accordance with the programmatic liming EIS, when the pH falls below 6.0 or the ANC drops below 25 ueq/l, the pond will be relimed. Bone Pond will be reclaimed upon establishment of competitive fish(es) 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

Clamshell Pond (SC-P 153)

Clamshell Pond was surveyed on August 24, 1930 during the New York State Biological Survey. At that time it still had a native fish community consisting of brook trout, white suckers, creek chubs (NBWI) common shiners and pumpkinseeds (NBWI). The fact that the pond provided fair brook trout fishing despite an abundant white sucker population is interesting and is a scenario that has continued over time in this pond. Survey comments focused on the relative productivity of this pond. Clamshell was netted a second time in 1952. In this survey white suckers, brook trout and pumpkinseeds were caught. Yellow Perch, a nonnative fish that was abundant in waters downstream of Clamshell Pond in 1930, had not gained access to Clamshell Pond. This indicates that the outlet of Clamshell is an effective barrier to upstream migration of yellow perch and possibly other species. Clamshell Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River and restore native brook trout. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. Clamshell Pond was treated during this effort despite the fact that it did not contain yellow perch. This was because the brook trout in Clamshell were heavily parasitized by the parasitic copepod *Salmincola edwardsii*. By temporarily removing the entire brook trout population it was theorized that the parasite would be eliminated. The reclamation of Clamshell Pond was successful in eliminating this parasite.

Netting checks in 1965 and 1968 documented good numbers of brook trout with native creek chubs and common shiners. pH measurements during the 1968 survey was favorable at 6.6. Another netting survey in 1985 showed that white suckers and northern redbelly dace had reestablished. The suckers were particularly abundant and the brook trout population had declined. Clamshell Pond was most recently surveyed by the ALSC in 1985. This survey again documented creek chubs, abundant white suckers with moderate numbers of brook trout. Clamshell Pond is a relatively productive pond which has the capacity to provide exceptional brook trout angling. A fish barrier dam will be constructed on the Clamshell Pond outlet and the pond will be reclaimed. Access to construct, inspect and maintain this structure and to conduct this work will be via the St. Regis Canoe Area truck trail as provided for in the State Land Master Plan. These necessary activities will be included in annual vehicle use reports. Following reclamation it will be stocked with a heritage strain of brook trout. Clamshell Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community. The barrier dam and reclamation will not be carried out in the five year scope of this plan.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Conley Line Pond (SC-P 204)

Conley Line Pond was visited, but not netted on September 06, 1929, during the original New York State Biological Survey. The site description is of a typical bog pond, except the note that the water color was white (rather than the typical bog stained water) and that the pond seemed to have a sand bottom underneath the muck. The pond was first netted on August 06, 1954. No fish were captured during this effort, although the pond was considered to be a good candidate for experimental stocking and such a policy was initiated. The pH was recorded as being “below 6". A follow up survey on July 3, 1957 captured 12 brook trout including several three year old fish. When next surveyed in 1976 during a regional “Acid Rain Survey”, Conley Line Pond still contained a favorable trout population with several year classes present, but pH levels were very low. The surface sample pH was measured at 4.65.

ALSC surveyed Conley Line Pond on May 21, 1985. The pH was still very low at 4.67 and the pond was fishless. Conley Line Pond was most recently surveyed by DEC on July 14, 1998. Despite the continued low pH levels, the pond was again supporting trout. An overnight gill net set captured 12 brook trout. The air equilibrium pH was exceptionally low at 4.54.

Conley Line Pond is not considered to be a water for inclusion in the New York State Dept. Of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters, because it has many attributes of a classic bog kettle, including an extensive sphagnum bog shoreline. However it is hoped that as acid precipitation abates, that it will continue to support a plentiful trout population. Conley Line Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve and enhance its native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Douglas Pond (SC-P 148)

Douglas Pond is a small (2 acre) waterbody adjacent to Fish Pond. It was thought to be fishless when observed in 1930, but no sampling was conducted. No fish were captured when the pond was netted in 1952. It was reclaimed in 1954 when it was part of an enterprising program to restore brook trout to the headwater ponds of the West Branch of the St. Regis River in 1952-1954 by ridding the ponds of non-native yellow perch. It is not clear why it was necessary to treat this pond since no fish were caught in the 1952 survey. Perhaps small minnows were observed or the pond may have been treated simply as a precautionary measure. Douglas Pond was stocked with a variety of salmonids following the reclamation, but acidity problems led to poor survival. It was experimentally limed in 1963. Douglas Pond was most recently surveyed by ALSC in 1985. No fish were captured during this survey and the pond is likely now fishless. The pH at the time of the survey was 4.69. The Bureau of Fisheries requested a jurisdictional determination from the Adirondack Park Agency relative to liming Douglas Pond on March 20, 1992. This finalized response has never been provided by the Agency, pending the projects inclusion in a unit management plan. Douglas Pond will be limed upon receipt of an Adirondack Park Agency Use of Lime in Wetlands Permit and thereafter, when pH levels drop below 6.0 or ANC drops below 25. It will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve a native fish community. Douglas Pond will be reclaimed upon establishment of competitive fish(es) 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

Dry Lake(s) (CH-P 156A & CH-P 5153))

Dry Lake has two pond numbers, but for fish management purposes is one pond, consisting of an upper shallow arm and a lower basin. The lower basin owes much of its existence to the barrier dam on the outlet, the primary function of the dam being to protect Mountain Pond (CH-P 156) from invasion by competitive fish species from Long Pond (CH-P 155). Dry Lake was reclaimed in 1962 shortly after the construction of the barrier dam on its outlet. Following reclamation, it was not netted by DEC until 1989. At that time the dam was old and failing and the pond was dominated by non-trout competitors, including yellow perch. After reconstruction of the barrier dam, the pond was reclaimed along with Mountain Pond in 1991. Dry Lake was most recently studied in 1998. This survey was designed to evaluate the success of the 1991 reclamation and to satisfy permit conditions stipulated by the APA in the Use of Pesticides in Wetlands permit. The survey showed that brook trout were doing well in Dry Lake with moderate numbers of brown bullheads. The brook trout population is sustained by natural reproduction, and the stocking policy was suspended based upon the survey findings. Sampling with a D-frame net showed that invertebrates were as or more diverse than prior to the reclamation. Dry Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve a native fish community. If additional competitive species become established in the pond, a revised schedule of implementation will be submitted and the pond will be reclaimed. The barrier dam will be inspected and maintained annually and replaced if necessary.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

East Pond (SC-P 133)

East Pond is located on the western boundary of the St. Regis Canoe Area and has mixed ownership, with roughly half of its shoreline and its outlet occurring on private land. East Pond is described in Wallace's (1894) Guide to the Adirondacks as an excellent brook trout water. East Pond was studied during the New York State Biological Survey, (circa 1930), and was reported to be an excellent brook trout pond and the absence of yellow perch was thought to be notable. Species captured in gillnets included brown bullheads (NBWI), white suckers (NBWI) , pumpkinseeds (NBWI), creek chubs (NBWI), common shiners (NBWI) and brook trout. However the private landowner constructed a fish barrier dam on the outlet (which was and continues to be private land) and sought permission from the state to reclaim the pond privately. The pond was reclaimed in October of 1973. Although the fish barrier dam failed during an intense thunderstorm during the summer following the reclamation, the beneficial aspects of the reclamation persisted for some time. It is likely that extensive beaver dams on the outlet acted as effective barriers to upstream fish migration from the St. Regis River. The Pond was surveyed by the ALSC in 1984. This survey captured brook trout, creek chubs (NBWI) and fathead minnows. The brook trout population appeared to be abundant at this time. The possibility of entering a cooperative agreement with the current private landowner will be explored. Such an agreement would include the construction of a fish barrier dam on the outlet. The unit management plan would then be amended and East Pond reclaimed. Until such a time, East Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond in the presence of native and possibly nonnative competitive fish species.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Embody Pond (CH-P 157)

Embody Pond was not surveyed during the original New York State Biological Survey, but brook trout were reported at that time. File data for this pond are incomplete, but trout competitors apparently became abundant and the pond was reclaimed in 1958. This reclamation was successful in eliminating trout competitors

and DEC surveys in 1968 and 1982, as well as an ALSC survey in 1985 showed the pond contain only trout. In 1998 DEC received angler reports that yellow perch has become established in Embody Pond. This was confirmed in a DEC biological survey on August 07, 2001. This same survey showed that Embody Pond has attributes making it an excellent candidate for reclamation. These attributes include the lack of an extensive tributary system, acceptable water chemistry and its outlet does not flow to other surface waters. While the pH and ANC of Embody Pond are relatively low, the water chemistry of the pond has been stable. The current water quality is similar to conditions that were found during earlier surveys when brook trout exhibited suitable growth and survival. Embody Pond will be reclaimed and restocked with an Adirondack heritage strain of brook trout and common shiners, a native minnow that has declined in the unit. There are no plans to lime Embody Pond.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Fish Pond (SC-P 149)

Fish Pond received a general biological survey on August 18, 1930. Species captured included white suckers, longnose suckers (native), commons shiners, brook trout, brown bullheads (NBWI) and nonnative yellow perch. The perch were considered to be very abundant at that time. When surveyed again on August 21, 1952, the species captured included brook trout, white suckers, brown bullheads, pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and yellow perch. Fish Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. A fish barrier dam was constructed on the outlet of Little Fish Pond and this dam is crucial to preventing the reestablishment of undesirable species to much of the project area including Fish Pond. Thus, the maintenance of the Little Fish Pond barrier dam is crucial to the fish management of Fish Pond. Access to inspect, maintain and replace, if necessary, this structure will be via the St. Regis Canoe Area truck trail as provided for in the State Land Master Plan. These necessary activities will be included in annual vehicle use reports. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished.

After the reclamation, Fish Pond was stocked with brook trout, however, lake trout may have been introduced by accident or by unauthorized introduction. By 1965 lake trout were the dominant game fish. Fish Pond was surveyed by ALSC in 1984. Fish species captured included brook trout, lake trout, common shiners, white suckers, brown bullheads and creek chubs (NBWI). Based upon this survey, the brook trout stocking policy was discontinued. Lake trout continue to do well rather well in Fish Pond, and their population is self-sustaining. Each year a number of brook trout are caught as well. Fish Pond will be managed to preserve its native fish community.

Management Class: Coldwater

Grass Pond (CH-P 194)

Early records for Grass Pond are scant. This lack of data is surprising, given the close proximity of the pond to the Adirondack Hatchery. It was not visited during the original Biological Survey of New York. It was netted several times during the late 1950's to evaluate special trout stockings. Each of these efforts captured brook trout and white suckers. The pond was reclaimed with rotenone in 1966. No meaningful follow-up netting was conducted until July 20, 1982. This survey showed that trout were abundant, and that no competitive species had reestablished. Grass Pond was most recently studied in 1986 by ALSC. This survey again indicated a

healthy brook trout population without the presence of competitive species.

Grass Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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

Grass Pond (SC-P 156)

Grass Pond was surveyed on August 24, 1930 during the New York State Biological Survey. Despite its position near the top of the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River, Grass Pond had an extremely abundant population of nonnative yellow perch. It is possible that they had been introduced directly into the pond rather than gaining access from the outlet. In addition to 485 yellow perch, nets captured white suckers, brown bullheads (NBWI), common shiners, creek chubs (NBWI) and pumpkinseeds (NBWI). Grass Pond was one of the first waters in New York to be treated with rotenone to remove undesirable fish species. It was treated on August 21, 1950. It is noteworthy that virtually all early reclamation projects were carried out with lower concentrations of rotenone than are normally used today. Yellow perch were commonly the target species of these early projects and rotenone concentrations sufficient to remove all brook trout competitors were not used. Most of the competitive species other than yellow perch were present just one year after the treatment.

Grass Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. A wooden fish barrier dam was constructed on the outlet of Grass Pond. This structure is no longer functional, and will be replaced. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished. Some fish species that were present in Grass Pond prior to the 1952 reclamation were not represented in the 1951 netting survey. Fish species present prior to the reclamation included brook trout, white suckers, northern redbelly dace, creek chubs (NBWI), common shiners, brown bullheads, pumpkinseeds and pearl dace *(Semotilus margarita)*.

After each reclamation, Grass Pond was stocked with brook trout. The pond has shown the ability to produce good brook trout fishing, but since the trout competition has never been totally eliminated, this ability has not been fully expressed. The most recent survey of Grass Pond was conducted by ALSC in 1984. The net catch consisted of brook trout, white suckers, brown bullheads and pumpkinseeds.

The fish barrier dam that prevents fish from entering Grass Pond from Fish Pond has fallen into disrepair. There are no plans to rebuild this structure during the five year planning period. Grass Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Green Pond (SC-P 157)

Green Pond was first studied during the original New York State Biological Survey on August 26, 1930. An overnight gillnet set captured white suckers, brown bullheads (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and common shiners. Shore seining added fathead minnows, and blacknose dace to the species list. It was noted that there were no inlets or outlets. Green Pond was not surveyed again until 1964. This survey recorded white suckers,

brown bullheads, common shiner, pumpkinseed and lake trout. Green Pond was reclaimed with emulsifiable rotenone in 1968. It was not surveyed again until an ALSC effort in 1986. Brook trout and one splake were the only fish caught in this survey. The most recent survey of Green Pond was undertaken on August 18, 1998. This survey showed that Green Pond continued to be a brook trout monoculture with some amount of natural spawning. This survey also showed that Green Pond continues to be an excellent candidate for reclamation should another treatment become necessary. Green Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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

Kitfox Pond (SC-P 142)

Kitfox Pond was first surveyed on August 14, 1952. Twenty four brook trout were captured in an overnight gill net set and the pH was recorded as 6.0. A file note in 1954 referenced the excellent brook trout fishing and recommended a continued experimental brook trout stocking policy. Subsequent to the good fishing experienced in Kitfox Pond in the 1950's, routine net catches were disappointing in 1968 and 1970. Kitfox was experimentally limed with 300 lbs. of hydrated lime on August 25, 1970. The trout catch had improved when netted in 1985, but dropped again when netted by ALSC in 1986. ALSC measured the pH at 4.77 and the ANC at -16.6 at the time of the netting survey. Although Kitfox Pond has been consistently considered by the Department to be a water that is included in its limed waters program, a second treatment has never been undertaken due to administrative hurdles. A Use of Lime in Wetlands permit application was submitted to the Adirondack Park Agency for Kitfox Pond on January 13, 1997. The APA has taken the position that Kitfox Pond may be limed only upon its inclusion in an approved unit management plan. Kitfox Pond meets the Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources' criteria for inclusion in the liming program as described in the Division's Final Generic Impact Statement on the New York State Dept. Of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters (Liming EIS). Upon final approval of a St. Regis Canoe Area unit management plan, the pending wetlands permit application will be reactivated. Kitfox Pond will managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve and enhance its native fish community. The pond will be limed upon receipt of an Adirondack Park Agency Use of Lime in Wetlands Permit and thereafter, when pH levels drop below 6.0 or ANC drops below 25. 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

Ledge Pond (CH-P 155)

Ledge Pond was visited briefly during the New York State Biological Survey on August 28, 1929. No fish sampling was conducted, but brook trout were reported and the stocking of brook trout, lake trout and whitefish was recommended. The Pond was not netted until 1959 when an overnight gill net effort captured lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish, brown bullheads and white suckers. This survey documented favorable temperatures, pH and oxygen levels for salmonids. Ledge Pond was again surveyed in 1968 during an extensive survey of the Long Pond (CH-P 149) system. The species captured included lake trout, lake whitefish and white suckers. A 1984 survey of Ledge Pond conducted by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation captured the same three species plus northern redbelly dace (NBWI), creek chubs (NBWI) and pumpkinseeds (NBWI). Ledge Pond was last surveyed by the Department in 1989. In the 5 years since the ALSC survey non-native yellow perch had become established. In addition to one brook trout and one lake trout, white suckers and brown bullheads, the

catch contained creek chubs, northern redbelly dace, and yellow perch. The reported catch of two ciscos may have been misidentified lake whitefish. It is very noteworthy that yellow perch did not show up in Ledge Pond until 1989, despite their presence in Long Pond and Pink Pond in 1929. This indicates that yellow perch, a notoriously weak swimmer, likely were introduced into Ledge Pond and did not gain access via the outlet. Largemouth and smallmouth bass also had not established from downstream. Water chemistry measurements in Ledge Pond have shown moderately low ANC (acid neutralizing capacity). However, water chemistry is considered to be suitable for healthy fish populations. pH measurements have been consistently above 6.0. The long-term presence of northern redbelly dace, a fish species intolerant of critically acidified conditions, demonstrates the suitability of the water quality. A July 2002 survey of Ledge Pond revealed that it has the physical attributes to make it an excellent candidate for reclamation. It has an excellent site to build a man-made barrier dam on the outlet. Because Ledge Pond was stocked a number of times with lake trout, the remaining lake trout population is not a heritage strain. A fish barrier dam will be constructed on the outlet of Ledge Pond. Following the construction of the barrier dam, Ledge Pond will be reclaimed and stocked with a heritage strain of brook trout and round whitefish, a fish species currently listed as endangered in New York State. Round whitefish were documented from this drainage when they were captured in Hoel Pond, like Ledge Pond is tributary to Long Pond, but lies just outside of the St. Regis Canoe Area. Ledge Pond will be managed as a coldwater pond to enhance and restore a native fish community.

Management Class: Coldwater

Lindsey Pond (CH-P 200)

Lindsey Pond was visited, but not netted on September 06, 1929, during the original New York State Biological Survey. The site description is of a typical bog pond, except the note that the water color is white (rather than the typical bog stained water). The pond was first netted in August of 1954, when an excellent count of 53 brook trout was reported. The pH was measured at 6.0. There are conflicting records as to the stocking history of Lindsey Pond. A annual policy was initiated based upon this survey.

Lindsey Pond was netted again in 1970. No fish were captured in an overnight gill net effort and the pH was determined to have dropped to 5.3. Because the pH had declined the pond was experimentally limed with 150 lbs. of hydrated lime on August 24, 1970. A follow up netting occurred on May 21, 1973. No fish were captured and the pH had dropped further to 4.9. Based upon the poor results, the stocking policy was deleted. Lindsey Pond was survey by the ALSC on October 30, 1986. At that time the pond was fishless and the pH had dropped further to 4.8. Lindsey Pond was most recently surveyed by DEC on July 14, 1998. The survey did capture 3 brook trout and showed a modest improvement in pH, which was measured at 5.0.

Lindsey Pond is not considered to be a water for inclusion in the New York State Dept. Of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters, because it has many attributes of a classic bog kettle, including a sphagnum bog shoreline. However it is hoped that as acid precipitation abates, that it will again support a plentiful trout population. Based upon the 1998 survey, a fingerling brook trout policy has been reinstated. Lindsey Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve and enhance its native fish community.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Little Fish Pond (SC-P 14)

Little Fish Pond received a cursory netting during the New York State Biological Survey in 1930; one common shiner, seven white suckers and 12 yellow perch (nonnative) were captured, while brook trout were thought to be present in low numbers. An overnight gillnet set in September of 1952 captured brook trout, white

suckers, brown bullheads (NBWI) and yellow perch. pH at the time of the 1952 survey was very favorable at 6.8. Little Fish Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams, including one on the Little Fish Pond Outlet. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Ponds that are protected from invasion by the Little Fish Pond barrier dam include Little Fish Pond, Fish Pond, Mud Pond, Sky Pond, Ochre Pond, Monday Pond and Clamshell Pond. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished. Thus, the upkeep of the Little Fish Pond barrier dam is of utmost importance to the unit. Access to inspect, maintain and replace, if necessary, this structure will be via the St. Regis Canoe Area truck trail as provided for in the State Land Master Plan. These necessary activities will be included in annual vehicle use reports.

A net check in Little Fish Pond in 1965 documented a sparse brook trout population and abundant white suckers. A 1968 survey revealed the establishment of pumpkinseeds (NBWI). Little Fish Pond was most recently surveyed in 1985 by ALSC. This survey showed that many species have now become established. The net catch consisted of brook trout, lake trout, white suckers, common shiners, creek chubs (NBWI), and brown bullheads (NBWI). Nonnative species were not present despite the fact that over 30 years had passed since the reclamation. The lake trout likely originated from Fish Pond (SC-P 148). Little Fish Pond will be managed to preserve its native fish community.

Management Class: Coldwater

Little Long Pond (SC-P 141)

Little Long Pond has a long-standing reputation of producing large brook trout. In 1952 an overnight gillnet set captured 23 brook trout. The pH at the time of the survey was 5.8. Little Long Pond is “isolated” having no inlet or outlet. It contained only brook trout at the time of an enterprising program to restore brook trout to the headwater ponds of the West Branch of the St. Regis River in 1952-1954 by ridding the ponds of non-native yellow perch. A 1964 netting check captured 15 brook trout with the largest weighing just under three pounds. A 1973 netting captured large brook trout and the pH was recorded at 5.0. A fall trapnet effort, also in 1973 captured 75 brook trout, and the trout population was judged to be self-sustaining. Acidity problems were acute in many regional waters during the later 1970's and 1980's and it appears that the pH in Little Long Pond dropped to levels unsuitable for trout production; a 1982 gillnet effort yielded only one brook trout despite the deployment of several nets. Similarly, a netting survey by ALSC on October 27, 1986 captured just 2 brook trout, and the pH was only 4.66. All trout stocking was suspended based upon the results of the ALSC survey. An experimental stocking policy was initiated in 1993 based upon the improvement in pH levels in some area waters and anecdotal accounts of fish seen rising in the pond. A 1995 follow-up survey captured 3 large brook trout and the pH was 4.99. Little Long Pond meets the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Marine Resources’ criteria for inclusion in the liming program as described in the Division’s Final Generic Impact Statement on the New York State Dept. Of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters (Liming EIS). A request for a jurisdictional determination was made to the Adirondack Park Agency. By letter of April 3, 1991 the Agency advised DEC that the proposed liming of Little Long Pond is a jurisdictional matter requiring a wetlands permit. Little Long Pond will managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve and enhance its native fish community. The pond will be limed upon receipt of an Adirondack Park Agency Use of Lime in Wetlands Permit and thereafter, when pH levels drop below 6.0 or ANC drops below 25. Little Long Pond will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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 Long Pond (SC-P 267)

Little Long Pond was first surveyed on Sept. 2, 1930 during the original New York State Biological Survey. Gillnets indicated that it contained white suckers, creek chubs (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI), brown bullheads (NBWI) and common shiners. The physical description of the pond suggested its potential for salmonids, but none were captured. When surveyed again in May of 1955 the netting showed results showed the success of a varied salmonid stocking program. Lake trout, lake whitefish (nonnative) were both judged to be abundant and brook trout were plentiful. White suckers, pumpkinseeds and common shiners were also captured. A fish barrier dam was constructed on the outlet of Little Long Pond to prevent competitive species from ascending from Roiley Pond and Little Long Pond was reclaimed in the fall of 1961. Netting checks in both 1964 and 1967 verified the success of the salmonid management program and brook trout, rainbow trout and splake were captured in both surveys. Little Long Pond was next netted in 1982 by DEC. This survey showed the continued success of splake and brook trout. Pearl dace, fathead minnows and northern redbelly dace, all native minnow species, were all captured for the first time.

Little Long Pond was most recently surveyed by ALSC on October 16, 1985. This survey captured lake trout, splake, brook trout and rainbow trout, northern redbelly dace and fathead minnows. Little Long Pond continues to provide an excellent and diverse salmonid fishery. Presently the barrier dam is in serious need of replacement. The barrier dam will be reconstructed as soon as possible. Little Long Pond will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) to enhance and restore a coldwater 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: Coldwater

Little Rainbow Pond (CH-P 164)

Little Rainbow Pond was not visited during the original New York State Biological Survey. It was first netted in 1947 when yellow perch (nonnative), brown bullheads (NBWI), creek chubs (NBWI) and pumpkinseeds (NBWI) caught. By 1968 golden shiners (nonnative) had become established. This 1968 survey made note of the very abundant floating vegetation. A 1984 ALSC captured golden shiners, brown bullheads and pumpkinseeds. The shallow nature of Little Rainbow Pond, favorable pH and accessibility make this an excellent candidate for largemouth bass stocking.

Management Class: Warmwater

Long Pond (CH-P 149)

Long Pond is one of two major access points for the interior of the St. Regis Canoe Area. An uncommonly beautiful waterway, Long Pond is dotted with designated campsites and is in close proximity to a private outfitting company. Earliest DEC records in 1929 indicate that the pond contained brook trout and lake trout, and that yellow perch had become established. Attempts to stock brook trout were continued through the 1940's, but those policies were unsuccessful in providing significant fisheries and ceased thereafter. By 1968 smallmouth

bass had also become established. Despite Long Pond's significance as a main access point for the St. Regis Canoe Area, it has not received a great deal of attention from a fish management standpoint. This may be in part be because its extensive tributary system which includes several large waterbodies, makes reclamation to remove the non-native competitors unlikely. Hoel Pond, Turtle Pond, Slang Pond, Mountain Pond, Pink Pond, North Pink Pond and Ledge Pond all flow into Long Pond. The fisheries survey in 1968 documented the following species: white suckers (NBWI), brown bullheads (NBWI), kokanee salmon (stocked), splake (stocked), longnose suckers (native), brook trout (native), lake trout (native), yellow perch (non-native), and smallmouth bass (non-native). Based upon the results of the 1968 survey the stocking of splake was discontinued, and the kokanee salmon stocking policy was retained. The stocking of kokanee salmon was popular with some anglers and was continued until recently. The policy was stopped because the Wilderness Guidelines For Fish Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas, a memorandum of understanding between DEC and APA, does not allow the stocking of this west coast species in such units. The most recent biological survey of Long Pond was undertaken by ALSC in 1984. This survey documented the addition of two new species; pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and fallfish (nonnative). Lake trout seem to persist in low abundance. Recent reports from anglers now suggest that largemouth bass have become established and are a dominant fish species. Long Pond will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Two Story

Long Pond # 3 (CH-P 158)

Long Pond # 3 is a small waterbody which is the source of the northern most tributary of Long Pond. Although there is little elevation drop between Long Pond # 3 and Long Pond, yellow perch have never invaded. A 1984 biological survey conducted by ALSC showed that Long Pond # 3 supported a moderate brook trout population despite the existence of several competitive species including creek chubs (NBWI), brown bullheads (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI), and nonnative golden shiners. Long Pond # 3 will be managed to preserve and enhance its brook trout population in the presence of native and nonnative species.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Lower Marsh Pond (CH-P 158A or 5154)

Lower Marsh Pond is located between Long Pond # 3 and Long Pond. It has only received one biological survey, a 1968 DEC effort which documented the presence of brown bullheads (NBWI), common shiners and golden shiners (nonnative). Like Long Pond #3, yellow perch had not successfully colonized from Long Pond via the outlet, which is surprising, given the pond's close proximity to Long Pond. Long Pond # 3 will be managed to preserve it native fish species in the presence of nonnative fish species.

Management Class: Other

Lydia Pond (SC-P 140)

Lydia Pond was first surveyed on August 19, 1930, during the New York State Biological Survey. Fish species captured in gillnets and by seining included white suckers (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI), common shiners (NBWI), longnose suckers (native), cutlips minnows (native), brook trout and yellow perch (nonnative). Another Department survey in 1952 captured most of the same species as the 1930 effort and revealed that the brook trout were parasitized by gill lice (the parasitic copepod *Salmincola edwardsii*). Lydia Pond was reclaimed

with emulsifiable rotenone in 1952 as part of an aggressive program to restore brook trout in an interconnected chain of lakes by eliminating nonnative yellow perch (Zilliox and Pfeiffer, 1956). This project was one of the pioneering attempts to restore native fishes to a watershed via the use of rotenone. Some of the benefits of this early program are still being realized to this day. The project included the construction of four fish barrier dams, including one on the Lydia Pond Outlet. The 1952 survey also documented water chemistry parameters considered excellent for brook trout. Lydia Pond was next surveyed in 1968 to assess the resurgence of trout competitors. White suckers were common, but other non-trout species had not reestablished. By 1973 the barrier dam was failing, and common shiners and pumpkinseeds had become reestablished. Lake trout had been introduced, perhaps by accidental stocking. The barrier dam was rebuilt and the pond was reclaimed a second time in 1974. White suckers might not have been eliminated during this reclamation and they were captured a short time after. Northern redbelly dace were introduced by 1979. ALSC inventoried Lydia Pond on October 29, 1986. This survey captured brook trout, lake trout, northern redbelly dace, creek chubs, pearl dace, and white suckers. Lydia Pond was most recently reclaimed in 1989. Unfortunately the barrier dam suffered a wash out under one of the cribs and many competitive species gained access to the pond shortly after the treatment. The pond was still providing good fishing in 1996, but anecdotal information indicates that the trout population diminished rapidly after that time. A 1996 netting check captured brook trout, pumpkinseeds, common shiners, northern redbelly dace, creek chubs, white suckers and golden shiners (nonnative). Lydia Pond has the proven ability to provide high quality brook trout fishing in the absence of trout competitors. The barrier dam must be made fish proof before another reclamation can be undertaken. The barrier dam will be repaired and the pond will be reclaimed. Access to inspect, maintain and replace this structure, if necessary, and to conduct this work will be via the St. Regis Canoe Area truck trail as provided for in the State Land Master Plan. These necessary activities will be included in annual vehicle use reports. It will be stocked with an Adirondack heritage strain of brook trout. The barrier dam repair and reclamation are not planned to be undertaken during the five year planning period.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout.

Monday Pond (SC-P152)

Monday Pond was first surveyed in 1952. The net catch consisted of 5 brook trout and 1 brown bullhead (NBWI). Monday Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. The project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Ponds that are protected by the Little Fish Pond barrier dam from the reinvasion of unwanted fish species include Monday Pond. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished. Thus, the upkeep of the Little Fish Pond barrier dam is of utmost importance to the management of Monday Pond. Some fish species that were present in Monday Pond prior to reclamation were not represented in the 1952 netting survey. Fish species present prior to the reclamation included brook trout, northern redbelly dace, creek chubs (NBWI), and brown bullheads. A 1968 net check captured brook trout, brown bullheads, white suckers and pumpkinseeds (NBWI). By 1976 redbelly dace and creek chubs were also present. Based upon the 1976 survey, a brook trout stocking policy was discontinued. Monday Pond was most recently surveyed by DEC in 1994 to reassess it potential for trout management. The catch consisted of one brook trout and pumpkinseeds, brown bullheads, white suckers and one northern redbelly dace. Monday pond will be managed to preserve its remaining brook trout population in the presence of other native fish species.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Mountain Pond (CH-P 156)

Mountain Pond was reported to contain brook trout during the Biological Survey of 1929, however, no netting was conducted. The pond was surveyed in1950 in anticipation of being reclaimed. Gillnets set overnight captured brown bullheads, white suckers, brook trout, smallmouth bass, golden shiners and abundant yellow perch. This survey documented water chemistry suitable for trout management. A barrier dam was constructed in close proximity to where the outlet leaves the pond and the pond was reclaimed in August of 1950. Creek chubs were identified as an additional species during the reclamation. A netting check in 1960 captured brook trout, white suckers and brown bullheads. Reports of yellow perch at that time were not confirmed by the netting. The survey included a search for a new barrier dam location suggesting that there were problems with the barrier dam existing at that time. File notes indicate that the pond was reclaimed again in 1962. While not documented in file information, it is assumed that the barrier dam was rebuilt downstream of Dry Lake (CH-P 156A) prior to the 1962 reclamation. A netting check in 1968 captured brook trout and creek chubs. Another check in July of 1982 showed the pond to still contain good numbers of brook trout, creek chubs and an incidental rainbow trout. Mountain Pond was surveyed by ALSC in 1985. This survey revealed that brook trout were still abundant. One brown bullhead and creek chubs were also captured. By 1989 the barrier dam on the outlet of Dry Lake was in need of replacement. A netting check of Mountain Pond in that year indicated a decline in the brook trout fishery and revealed the establishment of pumpkinseed. The barrier dam was rebuilt circa 1990, and the pond was reclaimed again in 1991. A post netting check showed that some bullheads had survived the treatment. The most recent survey of Mountain Pond occurred in 1998. This survey was designed to evaluate the success of the 1991 reclamation and to satisfy permit conditions stipulated by the APA in the Use of Pesticides in Wetlands permit. The survey showed that brook trout were doing well in Mountain Pond with moderate numbers of brown bullheads. The brook trout population is partially sustained by natural reproduction, but not in numbers sufficient to fully discontinue stocking. Sampling showed that invertebrates were as or more diverse than prior to the reclamation. Mountain Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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 Pond (SC-P 151)

Mud Pond was visited, but not netted during the New York State Biological Survey. Comments made on Aug. 22, 1930 included that yellow perch were very abundant and that stocking of pike could be considered only if the brook trout fishing in the area ponds were ruined by the yellow perch. A netting survey was conducted on August 22, 1952. Brook trout, white suckers, creek chubs (NBWI), common shiners, brown bullheads (NBWI) pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and yellow perch were captured in the net sample. The survey documented favorable pH and trout survival despite the shallow nature of Mud Pond. Mud Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. A fish barrier dam was constructed on the outlet of Little Fish Pond and this dam is crucial to preventing the reestablishment of undesirable species to much of the project area including Mud Pond. Thus, the maintenance of the Little Fish Pond barrier dam is crucial to the fish management of Mud Pond. A netting check in July of 1968 showed that white suckers, brown bullhead and pumpkinseeds had reestablished in the pond. Yellow perch - the

most significant brook trout competitor, had not reestablished in Mud Pond or the other waters that make up the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. The most recent survey of Mud Pond occurred on July 15, 1998. This survey captured the same species as the 1968 survey plus blacknose dace, creek chubs and nonnative golden shiners. There are no natural or man-made fish barriers that isolate Mud Pond from other nearby waters , so another reclamation of Mud Pond is not feasible at this time. It will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve brook trout in the presence of native and nonnative competitors.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Nellie Pond (SC-P 145)

Nellie Pond was not netted during the New York State Biological Survey; brook trout, creek chubs (NBWI) and yellow perch (nonnative) were reported to be present. White suckers were thought to likely be present as well. When first surveyed in 1952 it was discovered that yellow perch were not present as assumed. The species collected included brook trout, brown bullheads (NBWI) and white suckers. The pH was very favorable at 6.8. Nellie and Bessie Ponds are positioned in close proximity and flow to Lydia Pond (SC-P 140). This small chain of lakes was included in an aggressive program to restore brook trout in the St. Regis Canoe Area by eliminating nonnative yellow perch (Zilliox and Pfeiffer, 1956). This project was one of the pioneering attempts to restore native fishes to a watershed via the use of rotenone. In this project 14 waters were reclaimed. It was decided not to treat Nellie and Bessie as they were known to be providing good brook trout fishing, contained only native species, and these species would only potentially reinvade one reclaimed pond, Lydia. Because a natural rock waterfall exists on the Nellie Pond Outlet, Nellie and Bessie Pond are protected from invasive fish species that may occur in Lydia Pond. Nellie and Bessie Pond were reclaimed in 1970 and managed for wild strain brook trout. This project produced good angling for several years and periodic netting indicating an abundant trout population with creek chubs (NBWI) as the only other species. Nellie Pond was surveyed in 1985 by ALSC. This survey documented that white suckers and northern redbelly dace had become established, and the brook trout catch was disappointing. Nellie, Bessie and Lydia Ponds were reclaimed again in 1990 and restocked with Horn Lake strain brook trout, a native strain originating in the Moose River Plains region. A follow up survey was conducted on August 5, 1996. The survey indicated that brook trout were abundant and self-sustaining. A few fathead minnows were also caught. Sampling with a D-frame net showed that benthic invertebrates were as or more diverse than when similar sampling was conducted by ALSC prior to the reclamation. In Nellie Pond, 13 benthic families were collected while only 5 families were collected during the 1985 ALSC survey. Nellie Pond continues to harbor a vigorous, self-sustaining population of Adirondack Heritage Strain brook trout. The pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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

North Otter Pond (SC-P 159A)

North Otter Pond is a small, shallow pond located north of the St. Regis truck trail. It was surveyed on July 21, 1952. Fish species captured include brook trout, white suckers, brown bullheads (NBWI) and yellow perch (nonnative). North Otter Pond connects to St. Regis Pond via a small outlet with almost no drop in elevation.

North Otter Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This

program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout.

A barrier dam was constructed on the St. Regis Pond outlet just downstream from the pond. This barrier dam provides protection from undesirable fish species that may attempt to gain access to St. Regis Pond and North Otter Pond from downstream waters. Both ponds are also afforded further protection from upstream migrants by the Little Fish Pond barrier dam, which is located further down in the watershed. The maintenance of both barrier dams is crucial to the management of North Otter Pond. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished.

North Otter Pond responded well to the reclamation and a gillnet survey in 1964 captured 33 brook trout as well as brown bullheads. North Otter Pond was most recently surveyed by ALSC in 1984. Species represented in the net catch include white suckers and brook trout. Because there is no elevation drop between North Otter Pond and St. Regis Pond, there is no site to build an effective fish barrier dam, and thus no way to manage North Otter Pond independently. Despite the presence of competitive species the pond does continue to provide fair angling for brook trout. North Otter Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond in the presence of native competitive fish species.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

North Pink Pond (CH-P 151)

North Pink Pond lies north of Pink Pond into which it flows. Like the ponded waters in close proximity, North Pink Pond has a fish community dominated by nonnative yellow perch. Several attempts were made in the 1940's to provide angling by stocking brook trout. These efforts met failure and stocking ceased. 1968 fish survey captured nonnative yellow perch and golden shiners, and native-but widely-introduced creek chubs, pumpkinseeds, and brown bullheads. The most recent survey was conducted by ALSC in 1984. This survey captured the same species as the 1968 survey. Recently, anglers have reported largemouth bass have become established. North Pink Pond will be managed to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species and historically associated species.

Management Class: Warmwater

Ochre Pond (SC-P 154)

Ochre Pond was surveyed during the New York State Biological Survey in 1930, and like many of the other nearby waters, it was dominated by nonnative yellow perch. White suckers and brook trout were also caught. Survey comments included “Trout fishing practically ruined by perch”. A second survey in 1952 affirmed the dominance of white suckers and yellow perch and documented brown bullheads (NBWI) and common shiners. Water chemistry measurements during this survey showed the pH to be suitable at 6.0. Ochre Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. A fish barrier dam was constructed on the outlet of Little Fish Pond and this dam is crucial to preventing the reestablishment of undesirable species to much of the project area including Ochre Pond. Thus, the maintenance of the Little Fish Pond barrier dam is crucial to the fish

management of Ochre Pond. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished. Some fish species that were present in Ochre Pond prior to reclamation were not represented in the 1952 netting survey. Fish species present prior to the reclamation included brook trout, white suckers, northern redbelly dace, creek chubs (NBWI), common shiners, brown bullheads, yellow perch and pumpkinseeds (NBWI).

After reclamation, Ochre Pond was stocked with brook trout. A 1968 net check captured brook trout and one white sucker. Ochre Pond was most recently surveyed by ALSC on 06/08/1984. This survey showed that all the trout competitors except yellow perch and northern redbelly dace had reestablished in the pond. Brook trout and lake trout were caught in moderate numbers. Because Ochre Pond is located downstream of St. Regis Pond, it cannot be reclaimed independently. It will be managed to preserve it native game fishes in the presence of native and native-but-widely-introduced trout competitors.

Management Class: Coldwater

Paradise Pond (SC-P 152)

Paradise Pond is a tiny, isolated pond, located 1/4 mile east of Mud Pond (SC-P 151). Paradise Pond was netted on July 7, 1952 and was found to be fishless. It will be managed to preserve it remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Pink Pond (CH-P 150)

Pink Pond is located on the outlet of Ledge Pond and flows to Long Pond (CH - P 150). There is very little elevation drop between Pink Pond and Long Pond, thus ruling out a fish reclamation. Nonnative yellow perch were present at the time of the 1929 biological survey, but brook trout persisted. In 1968 an extensive netting of the Long Pond system showed Pink Pond to contain only yellow perch and white suckers (NBWI). The most recent survey of Pink Pond was conducted by ALSC in 1984. This survey documented golden shiners (nonnative), largemouth bass (nonnative), creek chubs (NBWI), brown bullheads (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI), as well as yellow perch and white suckers. Pink Pond will be managed to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

St. Regis Pond

At 382 acres, St. Regis Pond is the largest body of water in the St. Regis Canoe Area. It was first surveyed on August 28, 1930 during in original biological survey of New York State. Gillnetting conducted during this survey included nonnative yellow perch, white suckers, creek chubs (NBWI), common shiners and one brook trout. Lake trout and whitefish had been reported, but none were taken during the survey and depth and oxygen measurements suggested that St. Regis Pond was not prime habitat for these species. St. Regis Pond was surveyed again in July of 1952. An overnight gillnet effort captured brook trout, white suckers, longnose suckers, common shiners, brown bullheads (NBWI), pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and yellow perch. pH at the time of the 1952 survey was very favorable at 6.8. St. Regis Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved

the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams, including one on the St. Regis Pond outlet. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. The St. Regis Pond fish barrier dam provides protection from undesirable fish species that may attempt to gain access from downstream waters. St. Regis Pond is also afforded further protection from upstream migrants by the Little Fish Pond barrier dam, which is located further down in the watershed. The maintenance of the St. Regis Pond barrier dam is crucial to the management of St. Regis Pond. Access to inspect, maintain and replace, if necessary, this structure will be via the St. Regis Canoe Area truck trail as provided for in the Master Plan. These necessary activities will be included in annual vehicle use reports. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished.

After the reclamation, St. Regis Pond was stocked with brook trout, and the fishing was very good for this species for several years. In 1964 a few lake trout showed in a netting check. These lake trout may have been introduced by accident or by unauthorized introduction. Periodic surveys also indicated an expanding white sucker population which appeared to be exerting considerable competitive pressure on the brook trout. The decline in the brook trout fishery let to the experimental stocking of Splake (lake trout X brook trout hybrid). By 1982 lake trout had become the dominant game fish. Introduced splake and brook trout also provided angling opportunities. The most recent netting of St. Regis Pond is a 1985 ALSC survey. This survey caught northern redbelly dace, creek chubs, white suckers, brown bullheads pumpkinseed, brook trout, lake trout and splake. St. Regis Pond continues to provide good quality angling opportunities for a variety of salmonids. It will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fish community.

Management Class: Coldwater

Sky Pond (SC-P 150)

Sky Pond is located upstream of Fish Pond and was not studied during the original New York Biological Survey. When it was test netted in 1952, it was found to be fishless. The pH was favorable at 6.6. Sky Pond was stocked with brook trout as part of an extensive project to restore brook trout in the St. Regis Canoe Area. A netting check in 1968 captured 13 brook trout. In a biological survey conducted by ALSC in 1984 netting again took 13 brook trout in one experimental survey net; a catch rate considered to indicate an abundant brook trout population. The fact that Sky Pond remains a brook trout monoculture despite the abundance of non-trout competitors in Fish Pond indicates that a natural barrier to upstream movement of fish exists on the Sky Pond Outlet. Sky Pond will be will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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

Slang Pond (CH-P 159)

Slang Pond was only visited briefly during the original New York State Biological Survey. Brook trout were reported to be “coming back”, possibly a reference to the early introduction of nonnative competitive fish species in this system. Slang Pond and Turtle Pond are two moderate sized waters that are situated between large Hoel Pond and Long Pond. Slang Pond was surveyed by New York State in 1956. Species captured included native-but-widely-introduced white suckers, brown bullheads and pumpkinseeds and nonnative golden shiners and yellow perch. The survey documented favorable water chemistry including pH values above 6.0. While many of the waters in the St. Regis Canoe area were reclaimed during the 1950s in an aggressive program to

eliminate nonnative fish species which were decimating the native brook trout populations, the Long Pond-Hoel Pond system was not treated. The large volumes of the lakes and the low gradient which prevented the construction of effective barrier to fish migration precluded such treatment. Yellow perch were the dominant fish species in a 1968 netting effort. The most recent biological sampling of Slang Pond was undertaken by ALSC in 1984. This survey again documented the dominance of yellow perch and also captured one largemouth bass. Recent observations by fisheries staff indicate that largemouth and smallmouth bass are now abundant in Slang Pond. Fisheries biologist Richard Preall reported catching a rock bass (nonnative) and fallfish. Slang Pond will be managed to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class: Warmwater

South Otter Pond (SC-P

South Otter Pond is a small, shallow pond located just north of the St. Regis truck trail. It was surveyed on September 2, 1930 during the New York State Biological Survey. South Otter Pond connects to St. Regis Pond via a small outlet with almost no drop in elevation. At the time of the 1930 survey nonnative yellow perch were established in South Otter Pond. Other species captured include brown bullheads (NBWI) and white suckers. It was noted during the survey that the pond had cool water, favorable oxygen levels and areas with gravel. In short, the pond was described as having the attributes of a good trout pond if not for the presence of yellow perch. South Otter Pond was next surveyed on July 17, 1952. The species captured include white suckers, common shiners, brown bullheads, pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and yellow perch.

South Otter Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout.

A barrier dam was constructed on the St. Regis Pond outlet just downstream from the pond. This barrier dam provides protection from undesirable fish species that may attempt to gain access to St. Regis Pond and South Otter Pond from downstream waters. Both ponds are also afforded further protection from upstream migrants by the Little Fish Pond barrier dam, which is located further down in the watershed. The maintenance of the St. Regis Pond barrier dam is crucial to the management of South Otter Pond. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished.

South Otter Pond was most recently surveyed by ALSC in 1984. Species represented in the net catch include white suckers, brown bullheads, northern redbelly dace, one brook trout and one golden shiner (nonnative). Because there is no elevation drop between South Otter Pond and St. Regis Pond, there is no site to build an effective fish barrier dam, and thus no way to manage South Otter Pond independently. Despite the abundance of competitive species the pond does continue to provide some angling for brook trout. South Otter Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond in the presence of native and nonnative competitive fish species.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Summit Pond (CH-P162)

Summit Pond is a shallow marshy waterbody which is tributary to Turtle Pond. Summit Pond first received a biological survey in 1968 when an overnight gill netting effort captured brook trout, one golden shiner (nonnative), one brown bullhead (NBWI) and one creek chub (NBWI). An ALSC survey conducted in 1984

captured brook trout, golden shiners and northern redbelly dace (NBWI). Based upon the modest brook trout catch, an experimental brook trout stocking policy was initiated in 1989. A follow-up survey conducted by DEC in 1994 again caught golden shiners, northern redbelly dace and many brown bullheads. As there were no brook trout in the catch, the stocking policy was discontinued. Summit Pond will be managed to preserve its native and nonnative fish species for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Tuesday Pond (SC-P 155)

Tuesday Pond was not visited during the original New York State Biological Survey, and was never netted until 1952. Brown bullheads were the only fish caught. The pH was measured at “below 6". Tuesday Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. Tuesday Pond is an isolated pond with no inlet or outlet connecting it to other waters. Evidently it was treated with rotenone during the St. Regis restoration project to in order to reduce the likelihood of undesirable fish species being transported from adjacent waters. Netting checks in 1968, 1976 and 1977 showed Tuesday Pond to be a brook trout monoculture. Tuesday Pond was most recently surveyed in 1984 by ALSC. At that time it continued to contain only brook trout. Tuesday Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond and will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) 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

Turnoff Pond (CH-P 154)

Turnoff Pond gets its name from its location adjacent to the turnoff from the Floodwood road to the access trail to Long Pond. It is tributary to East Pine Pond, and was reclaimed in 1952 in conjunction with East Pine Pond. Bullheads were not eliminated during the reclamation and became very abundant within a few years. The pond was also studied as part of a regional liming study. Poor survival of stocked trout led to the water being dropped for consideration for trout management. Physical and chemical surveys conducted by ALSC in 1984 confirmed the marginal water chemistry and that the abundant brown bullhead population persists. Turnoff Pond will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources.

Management Class: Other

Turtle Pond (CH-P 160)

Turtle Pond was only visited briefly during the original New York State Biological Survey. Brook trout were reported to be “coming back”, possibly a reference to the early introduction of nonnative competitive fish species in this system. Slang Pond and Turtle Pond are two moderate sized waters that are situated between large Hoel Pond and Long Pond. Turtle Pond was surveyed by New York State in 1956. Species captured included

native-but-widely-introduced brown bullheads, nonnative yellow perch and both ciscos and lake whitefish. The ciscoes and whitefish may have resulted from stocking efforts in Hoel Pond. The survey documented favorable water chemistry including pH values above 6.0. While many of the waters in the St. Regis Canoe area were reclaimed during the 1950's in an aggressive program to eliminate nonnative fish species which were decimating the native brook trout populations, the Long Pond-Hoel Pond system was not treated. The large volumes of the lakes and the low gradient which prevented the construction of effective barriers to fish migration precluded such treatment. Another netting effort in 1968 captured high numbers of yellow perch and one cisco.

The most recent biological sampling of Turtle Pond was undertaken by ALSC in 1984. This survey again documented the dominance of yellow perch and also captured ciscos, brown bullhead, white suckers (NBWI), one golden shiner (nonnative) and four lake trout. Anecdotal information indicates that both largemouth and smallmouth bass now are established. Turtle Pond will be managed as a two-story lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

Management Class**:** Two-story

Unnamed Ponds (CH-P 5148, 5149)

Both of these Unnamed Ponds are small still water areas on the south inlet of Long Pond (CH-P 149). Neither has ever received a biological survey.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (CH-P 5150)

This Unnamed Pond is a small still water on the outlet of Ledge Pond. Likely is shares many of the same fish species.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (CH-P 5152)

Unnamed Pond (CH-P 5152) is a small, isolated, pocket of water just North of Long Pond (CH-P 149). It is less than an acre in size.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Ponds (SC-P 140A, 143, 144)

These three small, unnamed ponds, are located on the Brandon 7 1/2 minute quadrangle and have no file information.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (SC-P146A)

This Unnamed Pond lies on the tributary to Bessie Pond and has therefore been reclaimed. Likely it contains brook trout.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Ponds (254A, 274A)

These two small, unnamed ponds, are located on the St. Regis 7 ½ minute quadrangle and have no file information.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Ponds (SC-P 5201, 5209, 5227)

These three small, unnamed ponds, are located on the St. Regis 7 ½ minute quadrangle and have no file information.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (SC-P 5207)

Is a four acre pond west of Bear Pond. It was surveyed in August of 1960 and contained brown bullheads (NBWI). Because it had been reported to provide some angling for brook trout, it was stocked for a few years. This stocking policy was discontinued when a follow-up netting failed to capture any fish. Winterkill was suggested at the problem. Unnamed Pond will be managed to preserve its remaining aquatic resources for their intrinsic ecological value.

Management Class: Other

Upper Spectacle Pond (SC-P 204)

Upper Spectacle Pond is a moderate size (45 acre) water body that was privately owned for many years. It was surveyed by Fisheries Biologist Steve Simkins in May of 1962. This effort captured lake trout, yellow perch (nonnative), white suckers and pumpkinseeds (NBWI) and documented favorable water chemistry and pH. Mr. Simkins' report recommended that Upper Spectacle Pond be reclaimed to eliminate the yellow perch. Upper Spectacle Pond was reclaimed as part of a private fish management program on Upper and Lower Spectacle Ponds. Upper Spectacle Pond was first surveyed by New York State on June 26, 1978. This survey, which employed electrofishing as well as gillnets, revealed abundant brook trout and lake trout populations as well as rainbow trout, splake and one Atlantic salmon. Other species captured included rainbow smelt (nonnative) and creek chubs (NBWI). Because the pond had received substantial, but unquantified stocking, it was unknown if the salmonid populations were self-sustaining.

Upper Spectacle Pond was surveyed by ALSC on October 30, 1986. This survey also indicated abundant brook trout and lake trout. Creek chubs, rainbow smelt, brown trout (introduced), brown bullheads (NBWI) and golden shiners (nonnative) were also captured. Once again the catch included one Atlantic salmon. Upper spectacle pond was most recently surveyed by DEC on July 21, 1993. The brook trout and lake trout populations

were still relatively abundant, but catch rates were lower than in the previous surveys. Other species captured included common shiners, golden shiners, northern redbelly dace, creek chubs and white suckers. Because the brook trout population seemed to be declining, a fall fingerling policy was initiated following this survey. Upper Spectacle Pond flows into adjacent Lower Spectacle Pond. It is noteworthy that Upper Spectacle Pond still does not contain yellow perch, a nonnative fish species known to be particularly detrimental to native brook trout, but yellow perch are abundant in Lower Spectacle Pond. It is not known why yellow perch have not established in Upper Spectacle Pond. The outlet of Upper Spectacle Pond is on private land. The private landowner will be contacted and if that person agrees, the factors that have prevented yellow perch from successfully migrating from Lower Spectacle Pond will be identified. The possibility of building a fish barrier dam between he two lakes will be evaluated. If a suitable site is found the Department will propose a cooperative arrangement with the private landowner to construct a fish barrier dam. Upper Spectacle Pond will be managed to preserve it native game fishes in the presence of native and nonnative competitors.

Management Class: Coldwater

Whipple Pond (SC-P 158)

Whipple Pond is a small, shallow pond that was named after a former Conservation Department Commissioner. Despite its shallow nature the pond was reported to historically provide good brook trout fishing. The short outlet flows to St. Regis Pond (SC-P 156A) and when surveyed in 1930, Whipple Pond contained nonnative yellow perch and brown bullheads (NBWI). A netting survey was conducted on July 15, 1952 and again yellow perch and brown bullheads were the two species captured. Whipple Pond was one of 14 ponds that were reclaimed with rotenone in the period 1952-1954, as part of a program to eliminate yellow perch from the headwaters of the West Branch of the St. Regis River. This program, described in the New York Fish and Game Journal, Vol 3. No.2, involved the reclamation of fourteen ponds, 21.25 miles of inlets, outlets, main river and tributaries, and the construction of four fish barrier dams. This project was successful in removing this nonnative fish species from the project area. Yellow perch is a species which has proven to be extremely detrimental to native brook trout. Some fish species that were present in Whipple Pond prior to the reclamation were not represented in the 1952 netting survey, but showed up during the reclamation. Fish species present prior to the reclamation included brook trout, white suckers, creek chubs (NBWI), common shiners, brown bullheads, and yellow perch.

A barrier dam was constructed on the St. Regis Pond outlet just downstream from the pond. This barrier dam provides protection from undesirable fish species that may attempt to gain access to St. Regis Pond and Whipple Pond from downstream waters. Both ponds are also afforded further protection from upstream migrants by the Little Fish Pond barrier dam, which is located further down in the watershed. The maintenance of the St. Regis Pond barrier dam is crucial to the management of Whipple Pond. While trout competitors do occur throughout the system, yellow perch - the most significant brook trout competitor, have not reestablished.

Whipple Pond was most recently surveyed by ALSC in 1984. Species represented in the net catch included white suckers, pumpkinseeds (NBWI), creek chubs, northern redbelly dace, one golden shiner (nonnative) and two splake . Despite the pond's shallow nature, it has sufficiently cold water to support trout. The outlet of Whipple Pond was examined for a suitable site for a fish barrier dam in July of 2002. Unfortunately no such site was found, so fish management options for Whipple Pond are limited to the management strategy for St. Regis Pond. Whipple Pond will be will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fish community.

Management Class: Coldwater

Appendix F: Ponded Water Survey Data

			Most recent Chemical Survey					Most recent Biological Survey		
Name	**Pond #**	**Wshed**	**Date**	**Source**	**ANC (ueq/1)**	**pH**	**Conductivity**	**Year**	**Source**	**Fish Species Present and Number Caught**
Bessie Pond	P146	SC	07/15/98	DEC	53	6.65	19.4	1999	DEC	ST (147+)- ST egg take.
Bickford Pond	P5199	SC	08/07/00	DEC	17.8	6.1	14.4	2000	DEC	ST (19)
Bone Pond	P193	C	06/04/01	DEC	63.3	6.89	15.9	2002	DEC	ST(12) NRBD (118). Also, an ALSC survey in 1984, ST(4), BB(1).
Clamshell Pond	P153	SC	08/09/85	ALSC	83.9	7.05	24.3	1985	ALSC	ST(30), CC(2), WS(118)
Conley Line Pond	P204	C	07/14/98	DEC	-24.3	4.54	17.6	1998	DEC	ST(12)
Douglas Pond	P148	SC	07/18/85	ALSC	-18.6	4.69	15	1985	ALSC	No fish caught
Dry Lake	P156A	C	07/15/98	DEC	49.7	6.61	19.2	1998	DEC	BB(23), ST(12)
Dry Lake	P5153	C	07/15/98	DEC	49.7	6.61	19.2	1998	DEC	BB(23), ST(12)
East Pond	P133	SC	07/20/84	ALSC	98.4	7.17	26.6	1984	ALSC	ST(87), CC(43), FAT(68)
Embody Pond	P157	C	08/07/00	DEC	10.5	5.65	15.7	2000	DEC	YP(56)

Fish Pond	P149	SC	07/20/84	ALSC	67.2	6.81	25.2	1984	ALSC	ST(3), LT(28), CSH(7), BND(1), CC(12), WS(42), BB(36), PKS(26)
Grass Pond	P194	C	07/28/86	ALSC	10.5	5.78	17.5	1986	ALSC	ST(28)
Grass Pond	P156	SC	07/20/84	ALSC	60.6	6.43	25.1	1984	ALSC	ST(2), WS(21), BB(3), PKS(1)
Green Pond	P157	SC	08/18/98	DEC	34.96	6.74	17.2	1998	DEC	ST(27)
Kitfox Pond	P146B	SC	06/24/97	DEC	11.22	5.83	3.8	1986	ALSC	ST(3)
Ledge Pond	P155	C	07/20/84	ALSC	20.4	6.23	18.7	1989	DEC	ST(1), LT(1), NRD(2), CC(26), WS(46), BB(35), PKS(3), YP(13), cisco(2)
Lindsey Pond	P200	C	07/14/98	DEC	1.02	4.97	10	1998	DEC	ST(3)
Little Fish Pond	P147	SC	08/09/85	ALSC	81.8	6.96	28	1985	ALSC	ST(1), LT(7), CSH(29), CC(1), WS(22), BB(22), PKS(8)
Little Long Pond	P141	SC	06/20/00	DEC	-4.35	4.99	11.78	2000	DEC	ST(3)
Little Long Pond	P267A	SC	08/09/85	ALSC	40.4	6.69	23.5	1985	ALSC	RT(2), ST(15), LT(5), SPK(34), NRD(25), FAT(17)
Little Rainbow Pond	P164	C	07/19/84	ALSC	67	6.84	22.4	1984	ALSC	BB(13), GS(58), PKS(1)
Long Pond	P149	C	07/20/84	ALSC	102.8	7.05	26.2	1984	ALSC	KOK(14), ST(1), LT(2), WS(32), BB(11), PKS(12), SMB(4), YP(92), FF(21)
Long Pond #3	P158	C	07/20/84	ALSC	29.9	5.86	22.2	1984	ALSC	ST(15), CC(13), BB(27), PKS(1)

Lower Marsh Pond	P5151	C						1968	DEC	BB(17), GS(1), CSH(1)
Lydia Pond	P140	SC	08/07/96	DEC	159.6	7.3	28.6	1996	DEC	ST(26), CSH(56), NRD(2), WS(4), BB(39), PD(11), GS(34), CC(12), PKS(82)
Monday Pond	P155A	SC	06/27/94	DEC	16.3	5.78	17.8	1994	DEC	ST(1), WS(7), BB(20), PKS(18), NRD(23)
Mountain Pond	P156	C	07/14/98	DEC	29.5	6.3	16.9	1998	DEC	ST(13), BB(87), smelt(1)
Mud Pond	P151	SC	07/15/98	DEC	165.45	7.37	31.4	1998	DEC	ST(2), BND(2), PKS(54), BB(17), WS(18), CC(21), GS(30)
Nellie Pond	P145	SC	08/05/96	DEC	86.6	7	22.9	1996	DEC	ST(26), FAT(2)
North Otter Pond	P159A	SC	07/26/84	ALSC	23.9	5.1	29.5	1984	ALSC	ST(11), WS(24)
North Pink Pond	P151	C	07/20/84	ALSC	143.8	7.21	33.2	1984	ALSC	GS(6), CC(1), BB(2), PKS(1), YP(78)
Ochre Pond	P154	SC	07/23/84	ALSC	72.3	6.54	26.7	1984	ALSC	ST(5), LT(6), CSH(147), CC(1), WS(27), BB(2), PKS(1)
Paradise Pond	P152	SC	07/07/52	DEC		4.4		1952	DEC	No Fish Caught
Pink Pond	P150	C	07/20/84	ALSC	181	7.56	33.5	1984	ALSC	GS(65), CC(3), WS(26), BB(26), PKS(10), LMB(4), YP(120)
Saint Regis Pond	P156A	SC	08/09/85	ALSC	43.7	6.71	25.3	1985	ALSC	ST(1), LT(36), SPK(21), PKS(99), NRD(1), CC(3), WS(195), BB(88)
Sky Pond	P150	SC	07/20/84	ALSC	21.6	5.94	22.9	1984	ALSC	ST(13)

Slang Pond	P159	C	07/20/84	ALSC	68.7	6.89	25.7	1984	ALSC	ST(2), WS(5), BB(5), PKS(4), LMB(1), YP(81), GS(1), cisco(2)
South Otter Pond	P159	SC	07/19/84	ALSC	37.5	5.59	26.4	1984	ALSC	ST(1), WS(14), NRD(3), GS(1), BB(9)
Spectacle Ponds	P253	SC	07/21/93	DEC	96.1	7.23	24.2	1993	DEC	ST(21), LT(7), GS(7), CSH(1), NRD(34), CC(34), WS(27)
Summit Pond	P162	C	06/29/94	DEC	32	5.6	22.9	1994	DEC	GS(24), NRD(3), BB(38)
Tuesday Pond	P155	SC	07/23/84	ALSC	12.5	5.48	16.5	1984	ALSC	ST(6)
Turnoff Pond	P154	C	07/20/84	ALSC	-3.7	5.01	13.6	1984	ALSC	BB(138)
Turtle Pond	P160	C	07/20/84	ALSC	60.1	6.83	24	1984	ALSC	cisco(15), LT(4), YP(88), WS(9), BB(7), GS(1)
Unnamed Water	P5148	C								No information.
Unnamed Water	P5149	C								No information.
Unnamed Water	P5150	C								No information.
Unnamed Water	P5152	C								No information.
Unnamed Water	P140A	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P143	SC								No information.

Unnamed Water	P144	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P146A	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P254A	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P274A	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P5201	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P5207	SC	08/24/60	DEC	40	5.7		1964	DEC	No fish caught.
Unnamed Water	P5209	SC								No information.
Unnamed Water	P5227	SC								No information.
Whipple Pond	P158	SC	07/19/84	ALSC	-0.9	5.09	13.4	1984	ALSC	SPK(2), NRD(43), CC(1), WS(46), BB(2), PKS(5)

Key:

ALSC	Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation	FF	fall fish	RT	rainbow trout
DEC	Department of Environmental Conservation	GS	golden shiner	SMB	small mouth bass
BB	brown bullhead	KOK	kokanee salmon	SPK	splake
BND	black nosed dace	LMB	large mouth bass	ST	brook trout
CC	creek chub	LT	lake trout	WS	white sucker
CSH	common shiner	NRD	northern redbelly dace	YP	yellow perch
FAT	fathead minnow	PKS	pumpkinseed		

Appendix G: Fish Community Ecological Analysis

St. Regis Canoe Area - Fish Community Ecological Analysis
Known Fish Distributions from Early Surveys vs. Present

Lake/Pond Category	Prior to 1952	%	Post-1952	%	Net Change in # Lakes	% Net Change by Species
Total # Lakes	57	-	57	-	-	-
# Ponds Surveyed	28	-	43	-	-	-
# Un-surveyed	29	-	14	-	-	-
# Historically Fishless Ponds	2	-	3	-	-	-
# Historically Supporting Fish Life	25	-	40	-	-	-
# Ponds Formerly Supporting Fish but now Fishless	-	-	1	-	-	-
SPECIES CATEGORIES						
Native but Widely Introduced						
Brook Trout	16	57%	30	70%	+14	88%
Lake Trout	2	7%	9	21%	+7	350%
Brown Bullhead	17	61%	22	51%	+5	29%
Pumpkinseed	10	35%	14	33%	+4	40%
Creek Chub	9	32%	14	33%	+5	55%
Cisco	0	0%	2	5%	+2	200%
Native Species						

White Sucker	16	57%	18	42%	+2	13%
Northern Redbelly Dace	1	4%	11	26%	+10	1000%
Blacknose Dace	0	0%	1	2%	+1	100%
Common Shiner	12	43%	6	14%	-6	-50%
Longnose Sucker	3	11%	0	0%	-3	-100%
Blacknose Dace	1	4%	1	2%	0	0%
Lake/Pond Category	Prior to 1952	%	Post-1952	%	Net Change in # Lakes	% Net Change by Species
Native Species (con't)						
Cutlips Minnow	1	4%	0	0%	-1	-100%
Fathead Minnow	1	4%	4	10%	+3	300%
Non-Native Species						
Yellow Perch	14	50%	7	16%	-7	-50%
Golden Shiner	1	4%	13	30%	+12	1200%
Largemouth Bass	0	0%	3	7%	+3	300%
Smallmouth Bass	1	4%	3	7%	+2	200%
Rock Bass	0	0%	1	2%	+1	100%
Fallfish	0	0%	1	2%	+1	100%

Appendix H: Memorandum # 93-35

MEMORANDUM FROM
THOMAS C. JORLING, *Commissioner*
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

TO: Executive Staff, Division and Regional Directors

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling

RE: ORGANIZATIONAL AND DELEGATION MEMORANDUM # 93-35 POLICY: FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND CANOE AREAS-Amended 11/02/93

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goals for each program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife have been described in DEC's 1977 Division of Fish and Wildlife Program Plan. Environmental impacts of the Division of Fish Wildlife's fish species and

habitat management activities are discussed in programmatic environmental impact statements prepared by Shepherd et al. (1980) and Odell et al. (1979), respectively.

The evolution of fisheries management in New York State and the Adirondack zone has been discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980) and Pfeiffer (1979). Program goals, objectives, policies and management strategies for lake trout including guidelines for stocking were developed by Plosila (1977). The strategic plan recognizes the importance of native Adirondack lake trout stocks and the considerable importance of these lake trout resources to the entire State. In 1979, a strategic plan for the management of wild and hybrid strains of brook trout was completed (Keller 1979). Preservation of native strains in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains was a major component of that plan. Pfeiffer (1979) established goals, objectives and strategies for the management of broad classes of Adirondack fishery resources and significantly enunciated the importance of angling in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and guidelines for fisheries management within these areas. The latter were consistent with those formulated earlier by Doig (1977). The philosophical and scientific underpinnings for trout stream management in New York with application to management of wilderness, primitive and canoe area trout streams, was completed in 1979 (Engstrom-Heg 1979 a). A recent draft plan for intensification of management of brook trout in 47 Adirondack ponds has been developed by DEC Regions 5 and 6 (Miller, 1986).

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

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

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

PURPOSE

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

POLICY GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Liming to protect and maintain indigenous fish species may be continued as a mitigation measure for acid rain in Horn Lake (P04854) and Tamarack Pond (P06171). As UMP's are completed, new waters may be limed in accordance with the provisions of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Liming Policy presented on pages 2-7 of the Final GEIS on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. As provided in the Liming Policy, no naturally acidic waters or bog waters will be limed. All limed waters will be relimed in accordance with the provisions of the Liming Policy. Any water that must be relimed more than three times in ten years, except for original sources of heritage strains, will be allowed to reacidify.

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

Appendix I: CP-17

Commissioner Policy	**Department ID: CP-17**
Name: John P. Cahill	Office/Division: Lands/Forests
Title: Commissioner	Unit:
Issuance Date: March 29, 2000	Latest Review Date (Office Use):

Abstract: This policy recites Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Catskill Park State Land Master Plan guidelines and establishes record keeping and reporting requirements for administrative motor vehicle and aircraft use on Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park.

This policy replaces and supercedes CP 17, entitled "Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve," effective November 23, 1999. This policy is effective on March 29, 2000.

Related References: Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; Catskill Park State Land Master Plan; Article XIV, §1 of the New York State Constitution; and §87 of the Public Officers Law.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the policy on Record keeping and Reporting of Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve is to recite existing guidelines and provide recordkeeping and reporting requirements for administrative use of motor vehicles on roads not open to public motor vehicle use and of aircraft on Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, with the intent of minimizing such use.

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Office of Public Protection ("OPP") shall be exempt from the reporting requirements of this policy. However, OPP remains subject to Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution and all provisions of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, including those which govern motor vehicle and aircraft use for administrative purposes. OPP maintains independent records of such activities as part of its law enforcement responsibility.

II. Background

Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution directs that lands classified as Forest Preserve, as defined by Environmental Conservation Law §9-0101(6), be "forever kept as Wild Forest lands."

The Adirondack Park Agency ("APA"), pursuant to Article 27 of the Executive Law, has adopted the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan ("APSLMP"), which classifies State lands in the Park according to "their characteristics and capacity to withstand use" and includes guidelines for the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads not open to the public and of aircraft. The Department of Environmental Conservation ("the Department") must comply with the APSLMP, which has the force and effect of law.

The Department has adopted the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan ("CPSLMP") as policy to govern the administration of Forest Preserve lands in the Catskill Park,. The CPSLMP is closely patterned after the APSLMP and, similarly, includes a classification system and guidelines for the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads not open to the public and of aircraft.

III. Policy

It is the policy of this Department to establish record keeping and reporting requirements for the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads that are closed to public motor vehicle use and of aircraft on Forest Preserve land within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park to the extent that such use is allowed by relevant provisions of State law. The following definitions, guidelines, responsibilities and procedures shall govern administrative motor vehicle use in the various land classification areas.

A. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply:

1. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.
2. "Department" means the Department of Environmental Conservation and its Offices and Divisions.
3. "Motor Vehicle," defined in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans, means a device for transporting people, supplies or material, incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on or adjacent to land and water or through water. The term includes such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, motorbikes, dirt or trail bikes, any type of all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment and motorboats.
4. "Office of Public Protection" means the Department's Office of Public Protection, including Environmental Conservation Officers and Rangers.

5. The following terms shall be defined as provided in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans, respectively: "Aircraft", "Wilderness Area", "Primitive Area", "Canoe Area", "Wild Forest Area", "Intensive Use Area", "Historic Area", "State Administrative Areas", "Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Area," "Travel Corridor Area, "snowmobiles" and "all terrain vehicle."

B. Guidelines

1. Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft

It is the responsibility of the Department to ensure that administrative use of motor vehicles and aircraft on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park complies with relevant provisions of State law and Department policy. All administrative use of motor vehicles and aircraft on Forest Preserve lands must, therefore, comply with the following requirements of the Master Plans:

(a) Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan provisions:

1. In Wilderness areas:

a. Administrative personnel will not use motor vehicles or aircraft for day-to-day administration, maintenance, or research.

b. Use of aircraft, but not motor vehicles, may be permitted for a specific major administrative maintenance, rehabilitation or construction project if that project involves conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of non-conforming structures or improvements, upon written approval of the Commissioner.

c. Such use of aircraft will be confined to off-peak seasons for the area in question and normally will be undertaken at periodic intervals of three to five years, unless extraordinary conditions, such as a fire, major blow-down or flood mandate more frequent work or work during peak periods.

d. Irrespective of the above guidelines, use of aircraft, but not motor vehicles, for a specific major research project conducted by or under the supervision of a state agency will be permitted if such project is for purposes essential to the preservation of Wilderness values and resources, no feasible alternative exists for conducting such research on other state or private lands, such use is minimized, and the project has been specifically approved in writing by the Commissioner after consultation with the APA.

e. Irrespective of the above or any other guidelines in the APSLMP, use of motor vehicles and aircraft will be permitted by or under the supervision of appropriate officials, in cases of sudden, actual and ongoing emergencies involving the protection or preservation of human life or intrinsic resource values--for example, search and rescue operations, forest fires, or oil spills or similar large-scale contamination of water bodies.

f. Written logs will be kept by the Department recording use of motorized vehicles and aircraft. The Department will prepare an annual report providing details of such motorized uses and the reasons therefore and file it with the APA.[(1)]

g. Where a Wilderness boundary abuts a public highway, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unity management plan, to locate within 500 feet from a public highway right-of-way, on a site-specific basis, trailheads, parking areas, fishing and waterway

access sites, picnic areas, ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use, and, in limited instances, snowmobile trails.

h. Where a Wilderness boundary abuts a water body accessible to the public by motorboat, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted UMP, to provide, on a site-specific basis, for ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use or for the location of small, unobtrusive docks made of natural materials on such shorelines in limited instances where access to trail heads or the potential for resource degradation may make this desirable.

I. During the phase out of existing nonconforming roads and state truck trails, the use of motorized vehicles by administrative personnel for transportation of materials and personnel will be limited to the minimum required for proper interim administration and the removal of nonconforming uses. After the phase out, the Department of Environmental Conservation will prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles. [Note: unlike paragraphs a through h above, this paragraph is not taken verbatim from the APSLMP. In the interest of brevity, this paragraph summarizes paragraphs 2 and 3 under the heading "Roads, snowmobile trails and state truck trails" on page 19 of the APSLMP].

2. In Primitive Areas:

a. All uses of motor vehicles and aircraft permitted under Wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in Primitive Areas.

b. In addition, the use of motor vehicles and aircraft by administrative personnel will be permitted to reach and maintain existing structures, improvements or ranger stations: (a) whose eventual removal is anticipated but cannot be removed by a fixed deadline; or (b) in primitive areas not destined to become Wilderness whose presence is of an essentially permanent character; in each case as specified in a duly adopted UMP.

c. Continued use of existing roads and state truck trails by administrative personnel will be permitted, to the extent necessary to reach and maintain structures and improvements whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be effected by a fixed deadline or, in the case of primitive areas not destined to become Wilderness, whose presence is of an essentially permanent character.

3. In Canoe Areas:

a. All uses of motor vehicles and aircraft permitted under Wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in primitive areas.

b. In addition, motor vehicles and aircraft may be used by administrative personnel, but only for purposes designed to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources of the area as specified in duly adopted unity management plans.

4. In Wild Forest Areas:

a. All uses of motor vehicles and aircraft permitted under Wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in Wild Forest areas.

b. In addition, the use of motor vehicles and aircraft will be allowed by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain or construct permitted structures and improvements, for appropriate law enforcement and general supervision of public use, or for appropriate purposes, including research, to preserve and enhance the fish and wildlife or other natural resources of the area.

5. In Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas:

a. Wild Rivers:

(I) Wild rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for Wilderness areas.

(ii) Motorboat usage of wild rivers will be prohibited.

b. Scenic Rivers:

(I) Scenic rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for the management of Wild Forest areas (except where such rivers flow through Wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, where the more restrictive guidelines of the particular area will apply).

(ii) Access points to the river shore or crossings of the river by roads, fire truck trails or other trails open to motor vehicle use by administrative personnel will normally be located at least two miles apart.

(iii) Other motor vehicle roads in the river area will not be encouraged and, where permitted, will normally be kept at least 500 feet from the river shore and will be screened by vegetation or topography from view from the river itself.

(iv) Motorboat use is not normally permitted but may be allowed by the Department, where such use is already established, is consistent with the character of the river and river area, and will not result in any undue adverse impacts upon the natural resource quality of the area.

c. Recreational rivers:

(I) Recreational rivers and their river areas will be administered in accordance with the guidelines for management of Wild Forest areas (except where such rivers flow through Wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, where the more restrictive guidelines of the particular area will apply).

(ii) Motorboat use of recreational rivers may be permitted, as determined by the Department.

6. In all other Classified Areas:

The APSLMP Plan does not discuss the administrative use of motor vehicles or aircraft use within Intensive Use, Historic, State Administrative Areas and Travel Corridor Areas. Accordingly, such use in these areas will not be subject to the compulsory review and the mandatory recordkeeping and reporting standards set forth below. However, only the most appropriate motor vehicle for the intended administrative use and that which incurs the least amount of environmental impact shall be used. In the case of travel corridors, administrative use of motor vehicles on state lands within the travel corridors but outside of the right-of-way shall conform with the guidelines for the classification of those lands.

7. In Unclassified lands and waters:

Prior to classification, such lands and waters are administered on an interim basis in a manner consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use and which will not foreclose options for eventual classification.

(b) Catskill Park State Land Master Plan provisions:

1. In Wilderness areas:

a.. Administrative personnel will not use motor vehicles or aircraft for day-to-day maintenance.

b. Administrative use of motorized equipment or aircraft may be permitted for maintenance, rehabilitation, construction, fish stocking or research projects involving conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of nonconforming structures upon the approval of the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

c. Such use of motorized equipment or aircraft will be confined to off-peak seasons for the area in question and normally will be scheduled at three-to five-year intervals, unless extraordinary conditions such as a fire, major blowdown, flood or ecological disaster require more frequent work.

d. Irrespective of the above guidelines, use of aircraft, but not motor vehicles, for a specific major research project conducted by or under the supervision of a state agency will be permitted if such project is for purposes essential to the preservation of Wilderness values and resources, no feasible alternative exists for conducting such research on other state or private lands, such use is minimized, and the project has been specifically approved in writing by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

e. Irrespective of the above or any other guidelines in the CPSLMP, use of motor vehicles and aircraft will be permitted by or under the supervision of appropriate officials, in cases of actual and ongoing emergencies involving the protection or preservation of human life or intrinsic resource value--for example, search and rescue operations, forest fires, or large-scale contamination of streams, ponds and lakes.

f. During the phase out of existing nonconforming roads and state truck trails, the use of motorized vehicles by administrative personnel for transportation of materials and personnel will be limited to the minimum required for proper interim administration and the removal of nonconforming uses. After the phase out, the Department of Environmental Conservation will prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles.

2. In Wild Forest Areas:

a. All uses of motor vehicles and aircraft permitted under Wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in Wild Forest areas.

b. In addition, the use of motor vehicles and aircraft will be allowed by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain or construct permitted structures and improvements, for rescues, or for appropriate law enforcement and general supervision of public use.

c. 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.

d. Wilderness guidelines (including those relating to the administrative use of motor vehicles and aircraft) apply to all lands and waters over 2,700 feet in elevation unless otherwise specified in a Wild Forest guidelines.

3. In all other Classified Areas:

The CPSLMP Plan does not discuss the administrative use of motor vehicles or aircraft within Intensive Use and State Administrative Areas and Travel Corridor Areas. Accordingly, such use in these areas will not be subject to the mandatory recordkeeping and reporting requirements set forth below. However, only the most

appropriate motor vehicle for the intended administrative use and that which incurs the least amount of environmental impact shall be used.

4. In Unclassified lands and waters:

Prior to classification, newly acquired lands will be administered on an interim basis in a manner consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use and which will not foreclose options for eventual classification.

C. Review and Recordkeeping

All administrative use of motor vehicles on roads closed to the public and of aircraft, except that of OPP, shall be subject to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of this policy. These requirements are intended to ensure that administrative use complies with the Master Plans and the procedural requirements of this policy, as well as other applicable state law, regulation and policy, and is intended to minimize the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads closed to public motor vehicle use and of aircraft on Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park. A comprehensive review will ensure that there is a justifiable need for motor vehicle or aircraft use, that feasible alternatives to motor vehicle or aircraft use have been examined, that the motor vehicle or aircraft use is most appropriate given the purpose and location of the access, and that such use will incur minimal, if any, environmental impact.

Emergency use, such as fire control and abatement and search and rescue missions, shall be recorded and reviewed in accordance with Section V.A of this Policy. A Conceptual Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use Plan for monitoring and inspection, land management and planning, patrol, enforcement, maintenance, rehabilitation, replacement and development of structures and improvements, liming and stocking, research and reclamation shall be required in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section V.B. of this Policy. Non-emergency uses which are not included in the conceptual Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use Plan shall require prior approval in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section V.C. of this Policy. Where there is a question as to whether a particular administrative use has been approved as part of the Conceptual Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use Plan, prior approval shall be sought pursuant to Section V.C.

The Department shall maintain written documentation on the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads that are closed to the public and of aircraft on Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park . Each Department Office and/or Program Division Regional manager shall provide to the Regional Director a quarterly record of administrative motor vehicle use on such lands. Such a record will include, but not be limited to, the date and time of motor vehicle use, the location where such motor vehicle use occurred, the frequency and duration of such use, and the purpose for such use. This record shall be provided on a quarterly basis, (i.e., January, April, July and October), to the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests by the Regional Director. This submission shall be accompanied by a Notice of Availability published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin by the Regional Director. These records shall be retained in the Region and in Central Office for a period of three years from the date of the record. In accordance with the Freedom of

Information Law (FOIL), these records, or portions thereof, as well as the documentation described below, or portions thereof, will be made available upon proper request.

IV. Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of all Department divisions and staff to implement the guidelines and procedures of this policy. It shall also be the responsibility of the Division of Lands and Forests to periodically review the provisions of this policy and recommend amendments, where necessary. As noted above, it shall further be the responsibility of each Division of this Department to provide the Regional Director with written quarterly reports on all administrative uses of motor vehicles on roads closed to the public and of aircraft on Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park. The Regional Director shall then forward such record to the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests for a quarterly compilation of all administrative motor vehicle use on roads closed to the public and of aircraft within the Forest Preserve.

The Commissioner's Designee to the APA shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual report providing details of motorized uses in Wilderness areas and the reasons therefore, and for the filing of such report with the APA.

V. Procedure

The following procedures shall govern the administrative use of motor vehicles on roads closed to the public and of aircraft in the Forest Preserve within the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park.

A. Emergency Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use:

1. For activities carried out in response to any sudden, actual and ongoing emergency where immediate action is warranted, the Department's Regional Forester for the region(s) in which the activity took place must be notified in writing within 72 hours after commencement of the action.
2. Within ten (10) days of completion of the activity and termination of the emergency, a record must be developed by the Program/Division involved in the emergency activity and forwarded to the Regional Forester containing a description of the activity, the location and site of the activity, the reasons why the situation was an emergency, the type of motor vehicles or aircraft utilized and the frequency and duration of such motor vehicle or aircraft use.
3. In the case of emergency action by an entity other than the Department, a representative of the Department shall, within 72 hours of such notification, visit the site of the activity to ascertain that the activity was or is carried out in a manner that caused or causes the least change, modification or adverse impact to life, health, property or natural resources. Modifications to such procedures shall be made when necessary to lessen such activity's impact.
4. The Department's Regional Forester shall maintain a written record of the activity of the entity and the Department's inspection, as required by "Record keeping", above, on the form provided as "Appendix D", and provide, on a quarterly basis, a report to

the Regional Director. The Regional Director shall then forward such report to the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests on a quarterly basis.

5. The Department shall maintain documentation of emergency activities on the form attached as "Appendix C" and shall comply with the requirements of "Record keeping" above. Each Office or Division shall maintain a record of its emergency motor vehicle and aircraft use and submit a quarterly report of actual use to the Regional Director, who shall then forward such quarterly report to the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests.

B. Conceptual Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use Plan:

An annual plan for motor vehicle access to roads closed to the public and of aircraft on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park shall be submitted by the Regional Division Program Manager to the Regional Forester for monitoring and inspection, land management and planning, patrol, enforcement, maintenance, rehabilitation, replacement and development, liming and stocking, research and reclamation, where authorized by the applicable Master Plan or other provision of State law. The annual plan must be submitted to the Department's appropriate Regional Forester in writing at least sixty (60) business days prior to January 1 of each year. A complete plan must specifically identify the area(s) within the Preserve to be accessed, the purpose(s) and necessity for such access, the types and numbers of motor vehicles and aircraft to be used and the estimated frequency and duration of the activity, including estimated starting and ending dates for such access. The plan must also contain an assessment of the viability of non-motorized options and/or a justification for the use of motor vehicles and aircraft. The plan shall be submitted on the form attached as "Appendix A".

2. The Regional Forester shall review the plan and submit comments, if any, within ten (10) working days of its receipt to the Regional Division Program Manager. Within ten (10) business days following completion of the Regional Forester's review, the Regional Forester and the Regional Program Manager shall both sign a recommendation for approval of the Conceptual Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use Plan to the Regional Director. After receipt and review, the Regional Director, within twenty (20) business days, shall compile all plans for the Region into a single mailing and forward the package, with a recommendation for approval, to the Division Director of the Division of Lands and Forests. The Division Director, after receipt and review will approve, approve with modification or reject the Regional plans within ten (10) business days. Upon final approval, a Notice of Availability will be published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin.

3. An approved Conceptual Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use Plan for any of the above-listed activities will authorize the requesting party to utilize a motor vehicle and/or aircraft to access roads that are closed to the public on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park on an ongoing and continual basis for the purposes identified in the request in compliance with relevant provisions of the APSLMP or CPSLMP. There shall be no additional approval required for the duration and scope of activities which are identified in the request on an annual basis.

4. The Department shall maintain documentation of administrative activities on the form attached as "Appendix C" and shall comply with the requirements of "Record

keeping" above. Each Office or Division shall maintain a record of administrative motor vehicle on roads closed to the public and aircraft use and submit a quarterly report of the use to the Regional Director, who will forward a copy to the Division Director of Lands and Forests.

5. The Regional Director, Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources and the Regional Division Program managers for each Department Office or Division shall meet annually with the Division Director to review the past year's administrative motor vehicle and aircraft use on Forest Preserve land in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves and how to incorporate the experiences of the past year into the following year's conceptual plan.
6. Modification or amendment to the conceptual use plan must be made when circumstances for administrative use require significantly greater access or more frequent visits than originally anticipated. Such modification or amendment must be made prior to such additional use. Modifications that result in additional access or visits that do not exceed originally anticipated figures by fifty percent (50%) do not require amendment to the conceptual use plan unless they result in an increase of more than twenty-five (25) visits per year. However, all increased use must be documented and appear in the quarterly report(s). Those modifications that result in additional access or visits that exceed originally anticipated figures by fifty percent (50%) or more, or result in an increase of more than twenty-five (25) visits per year, and all other modifications shall be made in a manner consistent with the prior approval review process noted below. The conceptual use plan may be modified or amended when less use will actually occur then originally anticipated, but such modification or amendment is not required.

C. Prior Approval for Motor Vehicle and Aircraft Use:

1. A request for aircraft access or motor vehicle access to roads closed to the public the Forest Preserve for administrative uses other than those constituting an emergency and other than those included in the conceptual use plan or any amendment or modification thereto, must be submitted to the Department's appropriate Regional Forester in writing at least thirty (30) working days prior to the anticipated start date of the activity. A complete request must specifically identify the area within the Forest Preserve to be accessed, the purpose and need for such access, an assessment of the viability of non-motor vehicle or aircraft options, the types and numbers of motor vehicles and aircraft to be used, and the estimated frequency and duration of the activity, including desired dates for such access. The request should be submitted on the form attached as "Appendix B".
2. Upon receipt of such request, the Regional Forester shall review the request within ten (10) working days and submit comments, if any, to the Regional Program Manager and the Division Director of the Division of Lands and Forests. Within twenty (20) business days from completion of the Regional Forester's review, and after receiving written approval from the Division Director of the Division of Lands and Forests, the Regional Forester and the Regional Program Manager shall agree to and both sign an approved request.
3. The Department shall maintain documentation of administrative activities on the form attached as "Appendix C" and shall comply with the requirements of

"Recordkeeping" above. Each Office or Division shall maintain a record of its administrative activities and submit a quarterly report of such activities to the Regional Director.

4. The Regional Director, Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources and the Regional Division Program managers for each Department Office or Division shall meet annually to review the past year's administrative motor vehicle and aircraft use within the Forest Preserve. The Regional Director, Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources and the Regional Division Program managers for each Department Office or Division shall meet annually with the Division Director to review the past year's administrative motor vehicle and aircraft use on Forest Preserve land in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park and how to incorporate the experiences of the past year into the following year's conceptual plan. Where approval was granted for a multi-year activity, this review shall include a determination of continuance.

1. Although this policy addresses only the administrative use of motor vehicles and aircraft, it should be noted that the APSLMP requires that logs be kept on the use of motorized equipment in Wilderness areas, and that the annual report of motorized uses in Wilderness areas which the Department must provide to the APA must include details on the use of motorized equipment as well as motor vehicles and aircraft.

Appendix J: Fire Tower Letter of Resolution

LETTER OF RESOLUTION
BETWEEN
THE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Whereas, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed an assessment of thirty-five fire towers under DEC jurisdiction which are either eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places (NRE), or have been designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) (see attachment 1),

And whereas the DEC determined that the removal of eight fire towers and the transfer of four fire towers is an undertaking which will have an impact on those properties and has consulted with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) pursuant to the New York State Historic Preservation Act (PRHPL §14.09);

Now, therefore, the DEC and the OPRHP agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations, in order to take into account the impact of the undertaking on historic properties.

Stipulations

The DEC will ensure the following stipulations are carried out:

The disposition of subject fire towers under DEC jurisdiction will be conducted according to attachment 1.

DEC shall make its best efforts to ensure that the instrument of conveyance for the transfer of fire towers to another public, or private entity shall include a protective covenant to ensure that the historical or architectural aspects of the fire towers will be preserved and maintained.

The OPRHP shall not object to the disposition of the subject fire towers by the DEC if such dispositions are carried out consistent with this agreement.

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
BY: J Winthrop Aldrich DATE: 12/13/94

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
BY: Langdon Marsh DATE: 5/18/94

Appendix K: Response to Public Comments

Formal public comments were solicited by the Department on the draft UMP for the SRCA between July 7, 2005 and August 26, 2005. The Department held a public meeting on August 10, 2005, to present the draft UMP and to accept public comments. Nine people presented comments at the public meeting. In addition 65 people sent letters, emails, or called in order to comment on the draft UMP.

The following is a summary of the public comments received and the Department responses to them.

Fire tower:

1. The UMP needs to adhere to the Master Plan, the tower is non-conforming and needs to be removed.
   The Department feels that the UMP does conform to the Master Plan. The APA will ultimately decide if the UMP conforms to the Master Plan.

2. If tower is moved it may be more accessible.
   This is true, however if the tower is moved from its original location it will lose its historic context. It will then no longer be eligible for listing on the National Historic Registry.

3. There are plenty of other towers in the Adirondacks.
   There are other towers in the Adirondack Park, however each is historically significant in its own right. The St. Regis Mountain fire tower is significant to the local community.

4. The relocation and restoration of the St. Regis tower could be acceptable mitigation for the State Historic Preservation Act.
   See answer to question # 2

5. Add wording to the UMP reflecting that the tower is on the NRHP.
   This has been done.

6. The tower could be useful for education.
   The Department will consider this use if the tower is repaired.

7. The fire tower is an important part of past efforts to protect the wilderness and reminds us of the need to protect it in the future.
   The tower symbolizes different things to different people. Some feel that true wilderness should not be protected from natural forest fires, but would be allowed to burn.

8. The tower will encourage more people to go to the mountain and enjoy the SRCA, making them more likely to protect this area.
   It is debatable wether more people climbing St. Regis Mountain will be better for the environment or do more harm.

Vista maintenance:

1. Would have negative effect on conservation education.
   The UMP calls for the vistas to be maintained in such a way that it will not be obvious that vegetation was removed. An important aspect on environmental conservation is managing problems, the UMP takes the approach that by maintaining the scenic views there will be fewer negative environmental impacts.

2. Would be harmful to Bird Conservation Area.
   The UMP has been changed to remove the language about vista maintenance for the St. Regis Mountain section.

3. Not needed on St. Regis mountain because of fire tower.
   The UMP has been changed to remove the language concerning vista maintenance for the St. Regis Mountain summit.

4. Cutting of vegetation on the Forest Preserve to provide hikers with a view is irresponsible.
   The reason that the UMP calls for maintenance of scenic views is to protect against damage to mountain vegetation. By cutting a small amount of vegetation the majority of the summit can be protected from damage.

5. Any vegetation removal should be done very carefully.
   The Department recognizes the public concerns about vegetation removal and will use sound judgement when it is time to implement this.

Mountain biking:

1. Access and lack of enforcement are opportunity for abuse and environmental damage.
   The Department will monitor the mountain bike use and will take action if there are problems.

2. Inconsistent with wilderness.
   Mountain bikes are consistent with the canoe area classification in the Master Plan.

3. Trailers pulled by mountain bikes should not be allowed.
   The UMP has not called for prohibiting the use of bike trailers, this level of protection is not needed at this time, but could be added in future updates of the UMP if the need arises.

4. The aim of the area should be to get a feel for how it was when everything had to be brought in on one's back.

5. These trails will be a wonderful addition to mountain biking in the Adirondacks.

6. Must be limited to Fish Pond Truck Trail.
   The UMP also calls for the St. Regis Pond truck trail to be opened for mountain bikes. This truck trail is right off the Fish Pond truck trail and provides a nice destination for bikers.

7. Consider opening the Bone Pond truck trail.
   This was considered, however this trail was decided to be to short to warrant opening for bikes.

8. Allow mountain bikes, they don't do damage, heavy wagons do.
   A*s long as the truck trails are maintained the use of wagons should not do damage.*

9. Mountain bike use of truck trails should be done on a trail basis.
   See response to question # 1

Group size:

1. St. Regis Mountain should have a larger number for educational groups, can use special permit or limit to lower use days.
   There are other locations that large groups can go to. Periods of low use in the SRCA can be used by those seeking solitude.

2. Boy Scout trek program needs groups of 10 boys & 2 adults. Some camps may have to close with limit of 8
   The day use limit is 15 persons, so that groups of 12 could pass through the SRCA and then camp at night in adjacent wild forest area.

3. Fifteen person day groups are too large.
   Based on previous Department UMP efforts the day use groups of 15 is a good compromise between competing ideas. This is the number that the Department will be using in wilderness areas.

Horse use:

1. Horse friendly campsites should be built.
   The UMP has been changed to state that there will be two sites built with hitching posts.

2. Fish Pond truck trail should be open for horse use, but not wagons with special gate pass privileges.
   The UMP has been changed to specify a plan to manage the use of wagons. Wagons will continue to be allowed in the SRCA.

3. New access gate is needed for horse teams.
   The UMP now calls for a swing type gate to be built in place of the sliding bars.

4. Commercial wagons should not be allowed on the trail.
   There is nothing illegal with a commercial enterprise guiding or helping to transport people into the SRCA. This use will continue to be allowed.

Camping:

1. Why is the DEC eager to close trailer camping within the 500' buffer of the Keese Mills Road.
   The Department has decided that trailer camping is not appropriate for locations within the SRCA. There are locations in the adjacent SLWF which would be appropriate for trailer camping.

2. DEC has information to make management decisions about campsites now.
   The Department does have inventory information on the campsites, however more is needed than just information on the campsites. By developing a UMP which states the direction the campsite plan will follow the Department is able to react to public comment before investing the time and effort of developing the detailed campsite plan.

3. Box toilets should be installed at all campsites.
   The Department will increase the number of box toilets in the SRCA, however they may not be needed or be appropriate for all sites. Funding will also be a factor in determining how many campsites end up with a box toilet.

4. Half the sites on Long Pond should be closed.
   It is felt that this level of restriction is not needed to protect the resources of the SRCA.

5. Establish tent pads to focus tents to resilient locations.
   The Department will be taking multiple actions to help restore the condition of the campsites. The use of tent pads can be considered at certain sites.

6. Consider lean-to on old cabin site, camping and historic/educational use, cabin site was part of historic designation.
   It is felt that there is not enough camping use at this location to justify the expense of installing a lean-to.

7. Consider use of Fish Pond and impact on resource from increased use of more sites.
   The impacts from use of new facilities upon the resources are considered when developing the UMP.

Other public comments:

1. Prohibit glass and cans. Improper disposal degrades the wilderness setting.
   The amount of problems from the use of glass and cans does not warrant their prohibition. They can be prohibited if it becomes a problem in the future.

2. DEC should be less adverse to ticketing violators. A rule with no teeth is bound to be disregarded.

3. Management of Bear Pond should be included in this plan.
   When multiple land classifications touch the shore of a pond the Department generally groups ponds into the UMP for the least restrictive classification.

4. Do not build more handicap accessible facilities, these are often under-used wastes of money.
   The Department is committed to increasing the facilities which are accessible to persons with disabilities. These facilities are used by more than just those with disabilities.

5. Little Long Pond truck trail is being used to bring in boats; also the pond is being ice fished.

6. Fisheries management seems heavy-handed, hardly minimum tool. Few ponds will support fish without stocking and barrier dams.

7. The eastern boundary line should be moved to the town line.
   The UMP has been changed to include a discussion concerning expansion of the SRCA to the east.

8. Reopen a carry from Lt. Clear Pond to Lake Clear.
   This will be considered in the SLWF UMP.

9. St. Regis Mountain trail needs better side cutting for skiers.

10. Hoel Pond parking needs a complete overhaul.
    This will be addressed in the SLWF UMP.

11. The Little Green parking area is needed for overfill parking, no value in moving.
    Limiting parking is one way that the Department can control use. That is one reason that the parking area at Little Green Pond will be closed. Another reason is to remove a overlarge parking area from land classified as Canoe Area.

12. The roads off Keese Mills Road should be reclaimed.
    This will be done.

13. The boundary between State land and private land needs to be better identified.

14. Concerned about what impact the Adirondack Railroad would have on area.

15. Ponds south of Floodwood Rd should be motorless.

16. SRCA should be expanded by acquiring lands north and west of the unit.

17. Carries are in desperate need of repair.

18. One access point crosses the railroad, provisions need to be made for safe pedestrian crossing. This should be addressed now in case use of the railroad increases.

19. Section on past influences should mention tent platforms.
    This is mentioned in the past management section.

20. Mention the ADK's adopt a lean-to program in the UMP.

21. Put-in and take-out areas need maintenance work.

22. Strongly support the new carries in the plan.

23. Create a carry from Little Clear to Grass Pond.
    The UMP calls for this carry to be signed.

24. DEC needs to be sure that reclamations will not destroy native fish thereby altering Ledge Pond's native ecosystem. Concerned about the impact on brown bullhead, creek chub, and northern redbelly dance along with impact on loon reproduction.
    The fish community ecological analysis on pages 161-162 shows that brown bullhead, creek chub and northern redbelly dace are secure in the unit. This ecological analysis does show that common shiners are a native species that has declined in the unit. To address this decline, common shiners will be stocked in Embody Pond following reclamation. Loons thrive on reclaimed ponds and frequently nest on recently reclaimed waters.

25. The three lean-tos should be removed.
    The Master Plan allows for the construction and maintenance of lean-tos in the SRCA. The UMP calls for no new lean-tos to be built and the continued presence of three lean-tos.

26. Lean-tos should be maintained in the SRCA.

27. Exposure to sunlight should be considered when relocating lean-to.

28. The DEC should do more (education, signs, more wash station) to control invasive species.
    The plan calls for inventory, monitoring, and control of invasive species on an annual basis. The plan also calls for an education program on exotic and invasive species.

29. Look at trail from truck trail to Ochre Pond through to TR trail.
    This trail will not be built at this time.

30. Need improved parking for day use.

Appendix L: SEQRA Requirements

N12-12-79 (3/99)-9c **SEQR**

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

Identifying # 2006-FPM-5-59

Date May 10, 2006

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

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

Name of Action:
Adoption of the St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type 1 X
Unlisted ___

Conditioned Negative Declaration: ___ Yes
X No

Description of Action:
Adopt a comprehensive unit management plan (UMP) addressing the use of and preservation of public lands. Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law) requires the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual UMP's for each unit under its jurisdiction classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. This UMP needs to be reviewed every five years.

Maintenance activities will include removal of downed trees, ditching, clearing of brush, water bar construction and cleaning, bridge repairs and reconstruction, cribbing, turnpiking, building rock steps, and boundary line marking. Other activities will include search and rescue operations, public information and education, and public use controls.

SEQR Negative Declaration
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Specific actions covered by the plan include:

1) Designate the Teddy Roosevelt Trail as an official trail; this trail goes from the site of the fire tower observer's cabin to Upper St. Regis Lake.
2) Management activities will be implemented for fish stocking, pond reclamation and liming. Stocking will be conducted in ponds which are dependent on it to maintain existing brook trout fisheries and lake trout or splake populations. Kitfox, Little Long (west), Douglas, and Bone Ponds will be limed in order to restore or protect the fisheries resource. Ledge Pond and Embody Pond will be reclaimed to restore native fish communities.
3) Open the Fish Pond and St. Regis Pond truck trails to mountain bike use.
4) Construct a fish barrier dam on the outlet of Ledge Pond in order to restore a native fish community including the endangered round whitefish.
5) Create a canoe carry from Little Clear to Little Green Ponds. This carry will be located through the Little Green Pond parking area and proceed to the southwestern shore of Little Clear Pond.
6) Create five campsites. Two of these sites will be off of Keese Mills Road, two will be off the Fish Pond Truck Trail, and one will be on the shore of Little Green Pond. The sites off Keese Mills Road have received historic use. There will be two parking areas built along Keese Mills Road. Four of the five campsites will be built so that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.
7) Improve the truck trails so that they conform to Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility guidelines. Actions may include: adjust barriers at the gate end of the trail so that there is a minimum 36 inches of clearance, create rest areas on the steep sections of trail so that people can move off the trail, remove large rocks which protrude from the trail to eliminate obstructions, remove loose stones from the trail to provide a more stable base.

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

Towns of Santa Clara, Harrietstown, and Brighton in Franklin County.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

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

General supporting reasons are:

Best management practices will be used for all projects.

Any tree cutting will conform to the Commissioner's Delegation Memorandum on Tree Cutting in the Forest Preserve, #84-06 and LF-91-2 Policy on Cutting, Removal or Destruction of Trees on Forest Preserve Lands

Trails may be closed during wet seasons if other action cannot prevent damage.

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Herd paths causing damage to natural resources will be brushed in.
The management plan conforms to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, which specifies requirements for the plan.

Specific supporting reasons for the numbered actions above:

1) This is an existing trail which predates state ownership of the property. The trail will be rerouted to better suited terrain. In steep areas, erosion control devices will be used, such as waterbars and switchbacks. There will be no tree removal required for this action.
2) All fish stocking projects will be in compliance with the "*Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife,"* dated December 1979.

   All liming projects will be in compliance with the *"Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters*," dated October 1990, as well as the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources liming policy.

   All pond reclamation projects will be in compliance with the "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation" and *"Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Undesirable Fish Removal by the Use of Pesticides Under Permit Issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Pesticide Management."*
3) Use of mountain bikes will not degrade the road or harm the natural resources of the area. Both truck trails are fairly level and straight, have a firm surface and are adequately drained. The truck trails are wide enough for multiple user groups without creating a conflict. Allowing mountain biking is not expected to attract large numbers of people to the area.
4) The fish barrier dam will not alter the flow of water through the outlet. The barrier dam will prevent the non-native fish from entering Ledge Pond. The barrier dam will be sited at an unobtrusive location to minimize visual impacts. This project will be in compliance with the *"Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Habitat Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife," December 1979.*
5) Of the 900' total trail length, approximately 700' of this trail will follow an existing road. There will not be any significant change in elevation along the length of the trail.
6) The campsites will be built in flat areas so that they will not create erosion problems. The pit privies will be located away from any stream or pond.

SEQR Negative Declaration
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7) These actions will be taken to existing state truck trails. There will be no impacts outside of these truck trails.

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: Steven Guglielmi
Address: NYS DEC, PO Box 296, RT86, Ray Brook, NY 12977
Telephone Number: (518) 897-1286

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)

Appendix M: Invasive Species

Terrestrial Invasive Plant Inventory

In 1998 the Adirondack Nature Conservancy's Invasive Plant Project initiated Early Detection/Rapid Response (ED/RR) surveys along Adirondack Park roadsides. Expert and trained volunteers reported 412 observations of 10 plant species throughout the area surveyed, namely NYS DOT Right-of-Ways (ROW). In 1999 the Invasive Plant Project was expanded to include surveying back roads and the "backcountry" (undeveloped areas away from roads) to identify the presence or absence of 15 invasive plant species. Both surveys were conducted under the auspices of the Invasive Plant Council of New York "Top Twenty List" of non-native plants likely to become invasive within New York State. A continuum of ED/RR surveys now exists under the guidance of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).

Assessments from these initial ED/RR surveys determined that four (4) terrestrial plant species would be targeted for Control and Management based upon specific criteria such as geophysical setting, abundance and distribution, multiple transport vectors and the likelihood of human-influenced disturbance. The four Priority terrestrial invasive plants species are **purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*), **common reed** (*Phragmites australis*), **Japanese knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and **garlic mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*).

The Adirondack Park is susceptible to further infestation by invasive plant species intentionally or accidentally introduced to this ecoregion. While many of these species are not currently designated a priority species by APIPP, they may become established within or in proximity to a Unit and require resources to manage, monitor, and restore the site.

Infestations located within and in proximity to a Unit may expand and spread to uninfected areas and threaten natural resources within a Unit; therefore it is critical to identify infestations located both within and in proximity to a Unit and then assess high risk areas and prioritize Early Detection Rapid Response (ED/RR) and management efforts.

Terrestrial invasive plant species documented in, or within proximity to, **St. Regis Canoe Area** include the following: **purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*), and **Japanese knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). Additionally, extensive

infestations of exotic Bush honeysuckle (**Tatarian honeysuckle** (*Lonicera tatarica L.*)) occur in and within proximity to **St. Regis Canoe Area.**

Terrestrial Locations

Terrestrial invasive plant infestations within DOT State Route ROW are referenced by the green Reference Markers (RM) positioned every 0.2 mile along State Routes within the Park. **Example**: State Route RM 86-1202-1172.

Terrestrial infestations beyond NYS DOT ROW, along County, Town or back roads, or within backcountry settings are geo-referenced via a hand-held GPS unit utilizing NAD 83 Program for Zone 18. **Example**: 4911698North (N) 590545East (E).

Infestations noted as **High Priority** should be strongly considered for containment and/or eradication controls. These infestations have multiple vectors or threaten sensitive communities within or adjacent to the infestation.

There are ten (10) **purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*) infestations affecting this Unit. The infestations occur throughout the St. Regis Lake Chain and are hydrologically connected to **St. Regis Canoe Area.** APPIP has assessed all ten sites as **High Priority** management sites. APIPP continues to directly assist the Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program with containment/eradication controls at these critical sites. APIPP recommends that the Planner for this Unit become familiar with the geophysical settings of these infestations and collaborate with Paul Smith's College to ensure a continuum of controls.

At **4918680 N 557988 E** a small, confined stand of purple loosestrife occurs along the north shoreline of Spitfire Lake near the Shedd Camp.

At **4918290 N 558390 E** interspersed purple loosestrife occurs in a southeast bay on Spitfire Lake. Plants are expanding beyond shoreline into an associated bog.

At **4918636 N 557038 E** purple loosestrife occurs in a small bay on the north shore of Spitfire Lake, just east of Camp Cobblestone. The plants expand northwest beyond shoreline into associated wetlands/brook.

At **4918149 N 557190 E** an expansive purple loosestrife infestation occurs in a southwest bay of Spitfire Lake, the second bay south of Camp Cobblestone. The plants expand southwest beyond the shoreline into an associated bog.

At **4917831 N 557837 E** a confined stand of purple loosestrife occurs along the southwest shoreline of Spitfire Lake, just north of Rabbit Island.

At **4917674 N 557994 E** a light, juvenile stand of purple loosestrife occurs along the southwest point of the channel between Upper St. Regis Lake and Spitfire Lake. The infestation is on your left after you idle past the first set of green/red buoys as you leave Upper St. Regis Lake.

At **4918087 N 557660 E** a dense stand of purple loosestrife occurs in a southwest bay of Spitfire Lake along the south shoreline. Plants have expanded south from shoreline into associated bog.

At **4918673 N 5586675 E** interspersed Purple loosestrife occurs along the northeast (left) shoreline of Spitfire Lake just before you enter the "Slough" from Spitfire Lake. Plants are expanding beyond shoreline into associated wetlands.

At **4918731 N 559028 E** a light stand of purple loosestrife is interspersed along the north shoreline of the (east) tributary confluence with the "Slough."

At **4917748 N 558103 E** interspersed purple loosestrife occurs along the northeast shoreline of the channel between Upper St. Regis Lake and Spitfire Lake. The infestation is near the first camp on your right as you idle past the first set of green-red buoys from Upper St. Regis Lake.

There is one (1) **High Priority, Japanese knotweed** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) infestation affecting this Unit.

At State Route RM 30-7209-1253 multiple Japanese knotweed stands occur within and beyond both north and south ROWs of State Route 30. The largest stands occur along the outlet/culvert of Hatchery Brook as it passes under State Route 30. The infestations within the north ROW expand beyond NYS DOT ROW and onto **DEC State Administrative Land**. Infestations within the south ROW expand beyond NYS DOT ROW and into the ordinary high water mark and stream banks of Hatchery Brook. Due to the high probability of downstream transport and distribution of these infestations, the primary control focus should be that of eradication.

Observances of New Non-Native Invasive Plant Species

There are multiple Bush honeysuckle, (**Tatarian honeysuckle** (*Lonicera tatarica L.*)), infestations affecting **St. Regis Canoe Area**.

At **4909719 N 547405 E** APA staff and APIPP have documented numerous, mature and juvenile, stands of Bush honeysuckle widely dispersed along the railroad tracks and associated ROWs at Floodwood Road. These multiple infestations occur along the south and north railroad ROWs as the tracks cross Floodwood Road. The infestations expand well beyond railroad ROW onto a myriad of public/private land parcels, including **St. Regis Canoe Area**. A large, monospecific stand of Bush honeysuckle is expanding onto the northwest shoreline of Floodwood Pond at the heavily utilized, public canoe carry.

Terrestrial Actions

While Bush honeysuckle is not currently designated a priority terrestrial invasive plant species by APIPP, these documented infestations within St. Regis Canoe Area are the largest known occurrences of this invasive species that directly affects a Unit. Containment and eradication of this species should be considered a **High Priority** by the Department for Incorporation into the Management Section of the Unit Management Plan.

Prior to implementing targeted containment and/or eradication controls, terrestrial invasive plant infestations occurring within the **St. Regis Canoe Area** need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis. The geophysical setting and the presence, or absence, of sensitive native flora within or adjacent to the targeted infestation often predicts the Best Management Practices (BMP's) and limitations of the control methodology. Infestations occurring within specific jurisdictional settings may trigger a permitting process, as do most terrestrial infestations occurring within an aquatic setting. The species itself often dictates whether manual management controls, e.g. hand-pulling or cutting, or the judicious, surgical application of herbicides is warranted in order to best control that specific species in that exacting infestation and setting. No single BMP guarantees invasive plant containment or eradication. Many infestations require multiple, seasonal control efforts to reduce the density and biomass at that setting. Adaptive Management protocols suggest that implementation of integrated control methodologies may provide the best over-all efficacy at specific infestations.

It is suggested that NYS DEC view all "easy to contain – low abundance" terrestrial infestations within the **St. Regis Canoe Area** as immediate targets for containment and/or eradication controls. Minimizing the spread of newly documented and immature infestations before they have the chance to become well-established should be considered a priority management action.

Existing infestations of Bush honeysuckle should be considered a High Priority management action. NYS DEC should foster an Early Detection/Rapid Response inventory and GPS referencing of the multiple infestations. The Department should identify exactly which pioneering infestations are affecting the Unit. Once ownership is established the immediate control focus should be that of eradication for juvenile, pioneering infestations. Containment controls should be implemented on mature stands serving as nurseries within proximity to the Unit. NYS DEC should foster collaboration with APIPP and other experts in order to research and determine appropriate BMPs for Bush honeysuckle infestations on State Lands.

The **High Priority** terrestrial infestations occurring within **St. Regis Canoe Area** have been assessed by APIPP. Suggested BMPs are as follows.

Suggested BMPs for the **High Priority** Bush Honeysuckle sites:

The best control of *Lonicera* spp. will likely occur with the use of an integrated management approach, where certain control methods are combined and closely monitored to assess the effectiveness of that treatment. APIPP recommends that eradication controls be implemented on the juvenile, pioneering infestations that have expanded beyond colonization in proximity to the St. Regis Canoe Area.

Implement mechanical controls, including grubbing or pulling of seedlings and mature shrubs, and repeated clipping of shrubs. Effective mechanical management requires a commitment to cut or pull plants at least once a year for a period of three to five years. Grubbing or pulling by hand (using a Weed Wrench or a similar tool) is appropriate for small populations or where herbicides cannot be used.

Clipping can be effective on juvenile infestations growing in shaded forest settings. Clip twice yearly, once in early spring and again in late summer or early fall. Winter clipping should be avoided as it encourages vigorous re-sprouting.

Implement cut-stump treatments. Clip the target infestations early in the growing season to reduce or eliminate fruit and seed dispersal. Immediately following the second cutting in early fall implement a swab, or paint-brush application, to the outer ring (phloem) of the cut stem utilizing 20 to 25 percent solutions of glyphosate or triclopyr herbicides. Cut-stump treatments should be implemented from late summer through the dormant season.

Dispose of gleaned plant material at approved landfill or incinerator.

Clean all clothing, boots and equipment before and after entering the control area to prevent spread of seed and plant parts.

Conduct post-control assessment and develop restoration strategy to promote native conditions.

Suggested BMPs for the **High Priority** Purple Loosestrife sites within the St. Regis Lake Chain:

- APIPP and ANC Staff will continue to directly assist Paul Smith's College's Watershed Stewardship Program with containment and eradication controls. APIPP and Paul Smith's Lake Steward will conduct an ED/RR inventory below the dam on Lower St. Regis Lake and assess the Middle Branch St. Regis River for uncharted infestations.

- In July, hand-pull juvenile Purple loosestrife plants especially those in unconsolidated soils. Attempt to remove all of the root stock. Securely bag all gleaned plant material and root stocks and remove from site. Allow bags to liquefy at secure, monitored site prior to disposal at approved landfill. Re-inspect site in 3 weeks for any re-growth. Hand-pulling requires follow-up treatments for 3 years to eliminate re-sprouting from root fragments left behind.

- Mature plants with anchored root systems should be cut prior to seed set. Cut the plants just above soil/bog level. Securely bag all gleaned plant material. Re-inspect the site in 3 weeks for any re-growth.

- Mature plants with anchored root systems may also receive cut stem treatment. Cut the plants just above soil level. Immediately swab the freshly-cut stem with glyphosate. Securely bag all gleaned plant material and remove from site. Re-inspect site in 3 weeks for any re-growth.

- Clean all clothing, boots, boat and equipment before and after entering control area to prevent spread of seed and plant parts.

Suggested BMPs for the **High Priority** Japanese knotweed sites at SR RM 30-7209-1253:

- Implement cut stem treatments in late June. Individual Japanese knotweed stems should be manually cut below the 2nd node above the soil level. An immediate swab/saturation of the freshly-cut cross sections with triclopyr amine or glyphosate will be applied. If implementing stem injection (www.jkinjectiontools.com) the individual stems do not need to be cut.

- Gleaned plant material will be securely bagged in large, black, contractor's trash bags, securely hauled from the site and allowed to liquefy at monitored, secure location prior to disposal at approved landfill or incinerator.

- After 3 weeks the infestations should be inspected for any re-growths. Cut stem treatment will be repeated as necessary on any/all re-growth.

- Clean all clothing, boots and equipment before and after entering control area to prevent spread of seed and plant parts.

Aquatic Invasive Plant Inventory

A variety of monitoring programs collect information directly or indirectly about the distribution of aquatic invasive plants in the Adirondack Park including the NYS DEC, Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Paul Smiths College Watershed Institute, lake associations, and lake managers. In 2001, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) compiled existing information about the distribution of aquatic invasive plant species in the Adirondack Park and instituted a regional long-term volunteer monitoring program. APIPP trained volunteers in plant identification and reporting techniques to monitor Adirondack waters for the presence of aquatic invasive plant species. APIPP coordinates information exchange among all of the monitoring programs and maintains a database on the current documented distribution of aquatic invasive plants in the Adirondack Park.

Aquatic invasive plant species documented in the Adirondack Park are **Eurasian watermilfoil** (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), **Water chestnut** (*Trapa natans*), **Curlyleaf pondweed** (*Potamogeton crispus*), **Fanwort** (*Cabomba caroliniana*), **European frog-bit** (*Hydrocharus morsus-ranae*), and **Yellow floating-heart** (*Nymphoides peltata*). Species located in the Park that are monitored for potential invasibility include **Variable-leaf milfoil** (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), **Southern Naiad** (*Najas guadalupensis*), and **Brittle Naiad** (*Najas minor*). Additional species of concern in New York State but not yet detected in the Park are **Hydrilla** (*Hydrilla verticillata*), **Water hyacinth** (*Eichhornia crassipes*), and **Brazilian elodea** (*Egeria densa*).

Infestations located within and in proximity to a Unit may expand and spread to uninfected areas and threaten natural resources within a Unit; therefore it is critical to identify infestations located both within and in proximity to a Unit to identify high risk areas and prioritize Early Detection Rapid Response (ED/RR) and management efforts.

Saint Regis Canoe Area has an assemblage of lakes and ponds with public access. Access points range from hard surface to hand launches. Aquatic invasive plants are primarily spread via human activities, therefore lakes with public access, and those connected to lakes with public access, are at higher risk of invasion. While a comprehensive survey for the presence of aquatic invasive plant species has not been completed at present, APIPP volunteers monitored Mountain Pond, Long Pond, and Bear Pond, and no aquatic invasive plant infestations are documented in the Unit to-date. APIPP volunteers also monitored numerous lakes on the periphery of the Unit. The APIPP Park-wide volunteer monitoring program aims to maintain a long-term monitoring program on these and other lakes.

The APIPP Park-wide volunteer monitoring program and partner efforts identified occurrences of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and Curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) in the adjacent **Debar Mountain Wild Forest** and **Saranac Lakes Wild Forest**. All aquatic invasive species pose a risk of spreading via transport mechanisms which may include seaplanes, motorized and non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, jet skies, motor boats etc.) and associated gear and accessories.

For species specific information regarding natural history, ecology, and reproduction, please refer to the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England program website http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/search.cfm.

Aquatic Locations

Longitude and latitude coordinates are used to indicate a lake with a documented infestation. Infestations may range from an isolated population to a lake-wide invasion. Knowledge of locations and coordinates of specific infestations within the lake is limited and variable and will be provided as available.

Initial surveys do not detect occurrences of aquatic invasive plants within the **St. Regis Canoe Area**; however Eurasian watermilfoil is confirmed in the following lakes in the adjacent **Debar Mountain Wild Forest**:

Meacham Lake	443349N 741713W
Indian Lake	444300N 740807W
Mountain View Lake	444156N 740733W
Deer River Flow	443928N 741913W

Horseshoe Pond	444013N 741726W
Lower Chateaugay Lake	445030N 740229W
Upper Chateaugay Lake	444434N 735748W

Eurasian watermilfoil is confirmed in the following lakes in the adjacent **Saranac Lakes Wild Forest**:

Floodwood Pond	441952N 742344W
Copperas Pond	441849N 7422387W
Little Square Pond	441912N 742312W
Fish Creek Pond	441811N 742112W
Follensby Clear Pond	441923N 742058W
Upper Saranac Lake	441733N 741933W
Middle Saranac Lake	441528N 741558W
Lower Saranac Lake	441829N 741103W
Oseetah Lake	441655N 740810W
Kiwassa Lake	441741N 740924W
Lake Colby	442031N 740910W

Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed are confirmed in the following lake:

Lake Flower	441825N 740735W

Aquatic Actions

No aquatic plant occurrences are documented within the **St. Regis Canoe Area**, therefore there are no management recommendations prescribed at this time. However, ongoing inventory is required to detect new invasive plant occurrences. All waters with public access should be inventoried for the presence of aquatic invasive plants. If aquatic invasive plant infestations occur, rapid response should be implemented by hand-pulling plants via the guidelines set forth by the Adirondack Park Agency's "Advice on the Handharvesting of Nuisance and Invasive Aquatic Plants." Additional methods may be required to manage an infestation to contain, reduce, or eradicate the population. Management will require assessing a set of criteria to evaluate site conditions to determine appropriate and permitted actions.

Because of the intensive use of the **Saint Regis Canoe Area** and proximity to intensive use of infected waters, a rigorous educational campaign should be implemented to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species.

When identified, all "easy to contain – low abundance" aquatic plant infestations should be considered as immediate targets for containment and eradication controls. Minimizing

the spread of newly documented and immature infestations before they have the chance to become well-established should be considered a priority management action. Additional research and collaboration among partners and stakeholders should occur to develop an appropriate, effective, and approved prevention and integrated plant management plan.

Please see the Protect Your Waters website for complete information on prevention procedures for specific recreational users http://www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/ .

Information Needs

All management recommendations are based on knowledge of nonnative invasive species present in a Unit and their location, species, abundance and density. A complete inventory of the Unit is necessary to identify aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant threats facing the Unit. Inventory should be based on existing inventories, formal or informal inventories during routine operations, and by soliciting help from volunteers to actively study the Unit and report on invasive species presence, location, and condition.

Facilities and designated (and passive) activities within the Unit may influence invasive plant species introduction, establishment, and distribution throughout and beyond the Unit boundaries.
The lack of control of ingress/egress, whether motorized or non-motorized traffic, of frequently utilized facilities warrants an elevated response to ED/RR inventory for invasive species.
These facilities and activities are likely to serve as “hosts” for invasive plant establishment. Perpetual ED/RR protocols should be implemented for probable hosts of invasive plant introduction. These probable hosts include the following:

- Public Day Use Areas
- Parking Areas
- Campgrounds
- Boat Launches
- Dedicated All-Terrain-Vehicle Trails
- Dedicated Snowmobile Trails
- Horse Trails

Protocols to minimize the introduction and transfer of invasive plant species should be incorporated during routine operations and historic and emergency maintenance activities, which may include the following:

Construction Projects

- Supplemental to the principals of the Minimum Tools Approach, all soils/straw/seed or sources of materials to be used as stabilization/cover for construction projects within the UMP should be certified as weed-free.

Campground Maintenance

- Campgrounds should be inventoried for invasive plant establishment on a yearly basis.
- Staging areas of spring clean-up debris and soils within the Campground should be closely monitored for invasive plant establishment.
- Campgrounds already infested with priority invasive plant species should incorporate ED/RR protocols into that respective Campground's yearly plan of work. (Example: DEC's Lake Eaton, Eighth Lake, Golden Beach and Limekiln Lake Public Campgrounds are all documented having multiple Garlic mustard infestations at each facility.)
- Sanitization protocols for clothing, boots, tools and equipment utilized at Campgrounds should be established.

Trail Maintenance

- Supplemental to the principals of the Minimum Tools Approach, all soils/straw/seed or sources of materials to be used as stabilization/cover for construction projects within the UMP should be certified as weed-free.

Field Sampling

- Personnel performing field sampling should avoid transferring aquatic invasive species between waters by thoroughly inspecting and cleaning equipment between routine operations. Potential pathways include: vehicles, boats, motors, and trailers; sampling equipment; measuring and weighting devices; monitoring equipment; and miscellaneous accessories.[11]

Angling Tournaments / Derbies

- Licensing, registration, and/or permitting information distributed by DEC to Tournament or Derby applicants should include guidelines to prevent the introduction and transport of invasive species.

Restoration of sites where invasive plant management occurs is critical to maintain or enhance historical ecological function and structure. Restoration should incorporate best available science to determine effective techniques and the use of appropriate native or non-invasive plant species for site restoration.

[1] Minimizing Transfer of Aquatic Nuisance Species, draft, April 2004. Preddice, T. L.

Educating natural resource managers, elected officials, and the public is essential to increase awareness about the threat of invasive species and ways to prevent their introduction and transport into or out of the Unit. Invasive species education should be incorporated in staff training and citizen licensing programs for hunting, fishing, and boating; through signage, brochures, and identification materials; and included in information centers, campgrounds, community workshops, and press releases.

Appendix N: Adirondack Sub-alpine Fir Forest Bird Conservation Area

Management Guidance Summary

Site Name: Adirondack Sub-alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area

State Ownership and Managing Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

Location: Adirondack Mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren counties. Surveyed and confirmed nesting locations for Bicknell's Thrush (Atwood and Rimmer, et al. 1996) include: Mount Marcy, Algonquin Peak, Blue Mountain, Cascade Mountain, Giant Mountain, Kilburn Mountain, Hurricane Mountain, Lower Wolfjaw Mountain, Lyon Mountain, Mount Haystack, Phelps Mountain, Porter Mountain, Rocky Ridge Peak, Santanoni Peak, Snowy Mountain, Vanderwhacker Mountain, Wakely Mountain, Whiteface Mountain, Wright Peak.

Size of Area: Approximately 69,000 acres

DEC Region: 5

General Site Information: Adirondack Mountain summits over 2,800 feet in elevation, more specifically, those with dense subalpine coniferous forests favored by Bicknell's Thrush. Bicknell's Thrush prefer dense thickets of stunted or young growth of balsam fir and red spruce. Found less frequently in other young or stunted conifers, and heavy second growth of fir, cherry, birch.

Vision Statement: Continue to maintain the wilderness quality of the area, while facilitating recreational opportunities in a manner consistent with conservation of the unique bird species present.

Key BCA Criteria: Diverse species concentration site; individual species concentration site; species at risk site (ECL 11-2001, 3.f, g, and h). Peaks over 2,800 feet with dense subalpine thickets provide habitat for a distinctive bird community, which includes Bicknell's Thrush (special concern), Blackpoll Warbler, Swainson's Thrush.

Critical Habitat Types: Dense subalpine coniferous thickets. To a lesser degree, young or stunted and heavy second growth of cherry or birch.

Operation and Management Considerations:

Identify habitat management activities needed to maintain site as a BCA.

None identified for certain, although human access and acid rain could be impacting.

Identify seasonal sensitivities; adjust routine operations accordingly.

The BCA is comprised of lands that are within the Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness Area, and other lands within the broader Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness Area portion is subject to relatively stringent regulations and use limitations. Portions of the BCA that are not within the High Peaks Wilderness Area may have less stringent use limitations. Access to wilderness areas is completely limited to foot trails and non-motorized access, including horse trails. Access in wild forest and intensive use areas may include motorized forms of access. Examples include a road up Blue Mountain to transmitters, and a road up Whiteface. The road up Blue Mountain is used largely for administrative access to the transmitter towers. Whenever possible, routine maintenance on these towers or the access road should be scheduled outside the nesting season for Bicknell's Thrush (May through July). The road up Whiteface sees considerable use by the public. Trail and road maintenance activities have the potential to disturb nesting activities of high altitude birds (in particular, Bicknell's Thrush). Whenever possible, routine maintenance should be planned so that it can be completed outside of the normal nesting season. Should maintenance be needed during the nesting season, the use of non-motorized equipment would help to minimize the impacts.

Identify state activities or operations which may pose a threat to the critical habitat types identified above; recommend alternatives to existing and future operations which may pose threats to those habitats.

Ensure that bird conservation concerns are addressed in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, individual unit management plans, and other planning efforts. For those areas where plans have already been completed, incorporate concerns for subalpine bird communities at the earliest opportunity. On May 18, 2000, Emergency Regulations were adopted for the High Peaks Wilderness Area, which comprises part of the BCA. These regulations prohibit camping above 4,000 feet; limit camping between 3,500 and 4,000 feet to designated areas; prohibit campfires above 4,000 feet, and require the leashing of pets above 4,000 feet.

Identify any existing or potential use impacts; recommend new management strategies to address those impacts.

There has been little research on what effect normal use of hiking trails has on nesting birds. Recreational use in some areas of the BCA is relatively high. More research is needed on whether there is a significant impact to bird populations from the current level of human visitation. The Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness portions of the BCA are remote locations and access is largely limited to foot trails. Motorized vehicles are not normally allowed. Those areas of the BCA outside of the High Peaks Wilderness Area allow the use of motorized vehicles and have fewer restrictions on other uses. The Unit Management Planning process for these areas should assess the effects of current levels of recreational use, and the need for new trails (including placement, timing, and construction method) on subalpine bird species (in particular, Bicknell's Thrush). Consideration should be given to prohibiting motorized vehicle access to subalpine forests above 2,800 feet.

Education, Outreach, and Research Considerations:

Assess current access; recommend enhanced access, if feasible.

Recreational use in some areas of the BCA is relatively high. Further study or research would help to assess impacts of recreational activities on nesting high altitude species. The need for protective measures will be discussed and incorporated as part of the planning process for the Adirondack Forest Preserve and Wilderness Areas that form the BCA, or at the earliest opportunity.

Determine education and outreach needs; recommend strategies and materials.

There is a need to identify to the public the distinctive bird community present in subalpine forests over 2,800 feet. The potential impacts of human intrusion need to be portrayed to the public, and a "please stay on the trails" approach may be beneficial. Continue partnerships with the National Audubon Society, High Peaks Audubon Society, Adirondack Mountain Club and other groups involved in education and conservation of birds of the Adirondack High Peaks.

Identify research needs; prioritize and recommend specific projects or studies.

Acid rain deposition may be having an impact on nesting success of songbirds at high elevations by causing die-offs of high altitude conifer forests, and killing snails and other sources of calcium needed for egg production. More research is needed on this. The curtailment of sulphur dioxide emissions and the reduction of acid rain is currently a

significant New York State initiative. A detailed inventory and standardized monitoring of special concern species is needed for the area. In particular, all peaks above 2,800 feet should be surveyed for Bicknell's Thrush. The impact of the current levels of human use on nesting success needs to be assessed.

Contacts:
Ken Kogut, DEC Region 5 Wildlife Manager, 518-897-1291
Thomas Martin, DEC Region 5 Regional Forester, 518-897-1276

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Date BCA Designated: 11/16/01

Date MGS Prepared: 12/6/01

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Appendix P: Maps

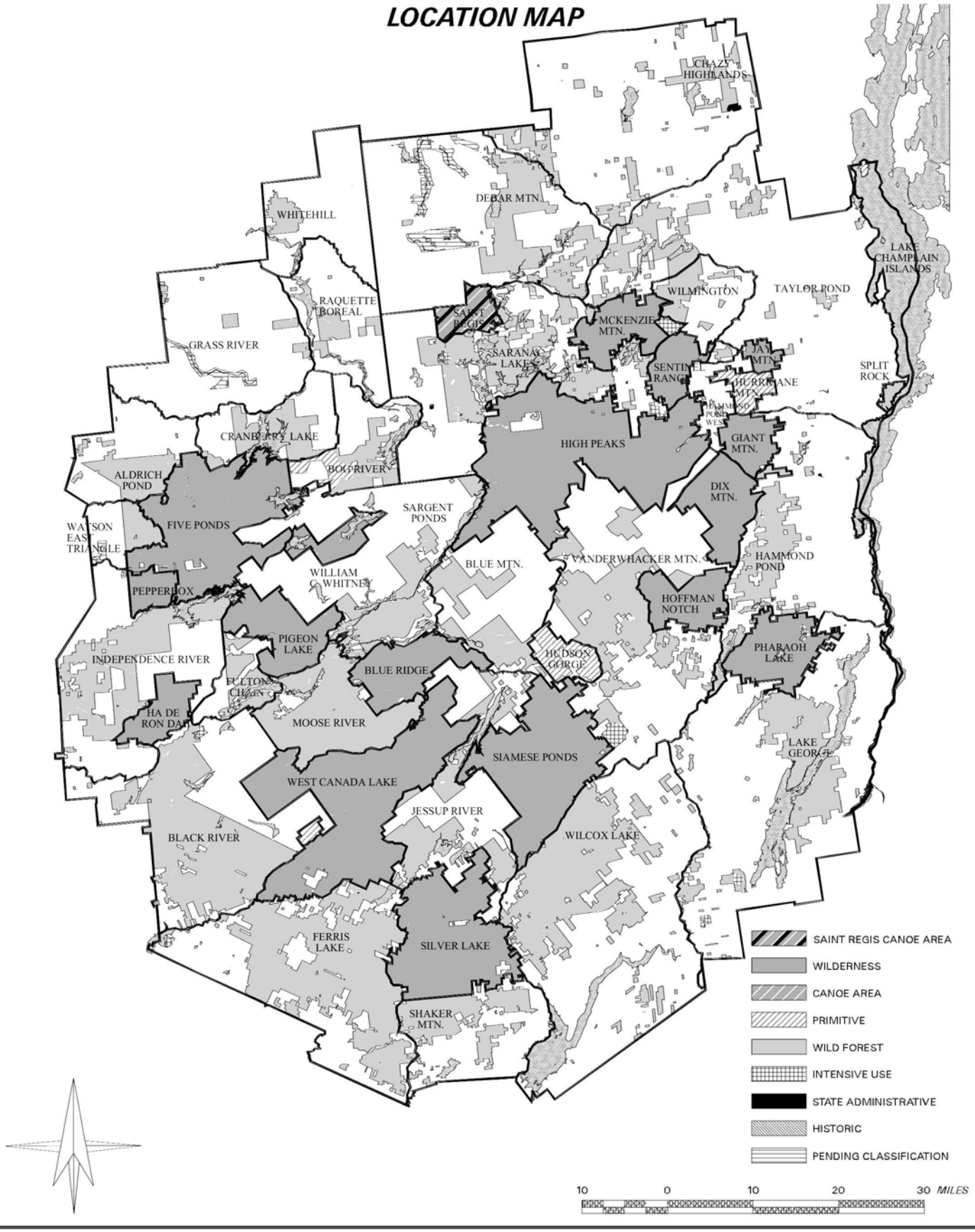
Maps included in this UMP:

1- Location Overview
2- Facilities
3- Soils
4- Wetlands
5- Deer Wintering Areas
6- Potential spruce grouse habitat
7- Teddy Roosevelt Hiking Trail
8- Keese Mills Road Camping
9- Little Green Pond Camping

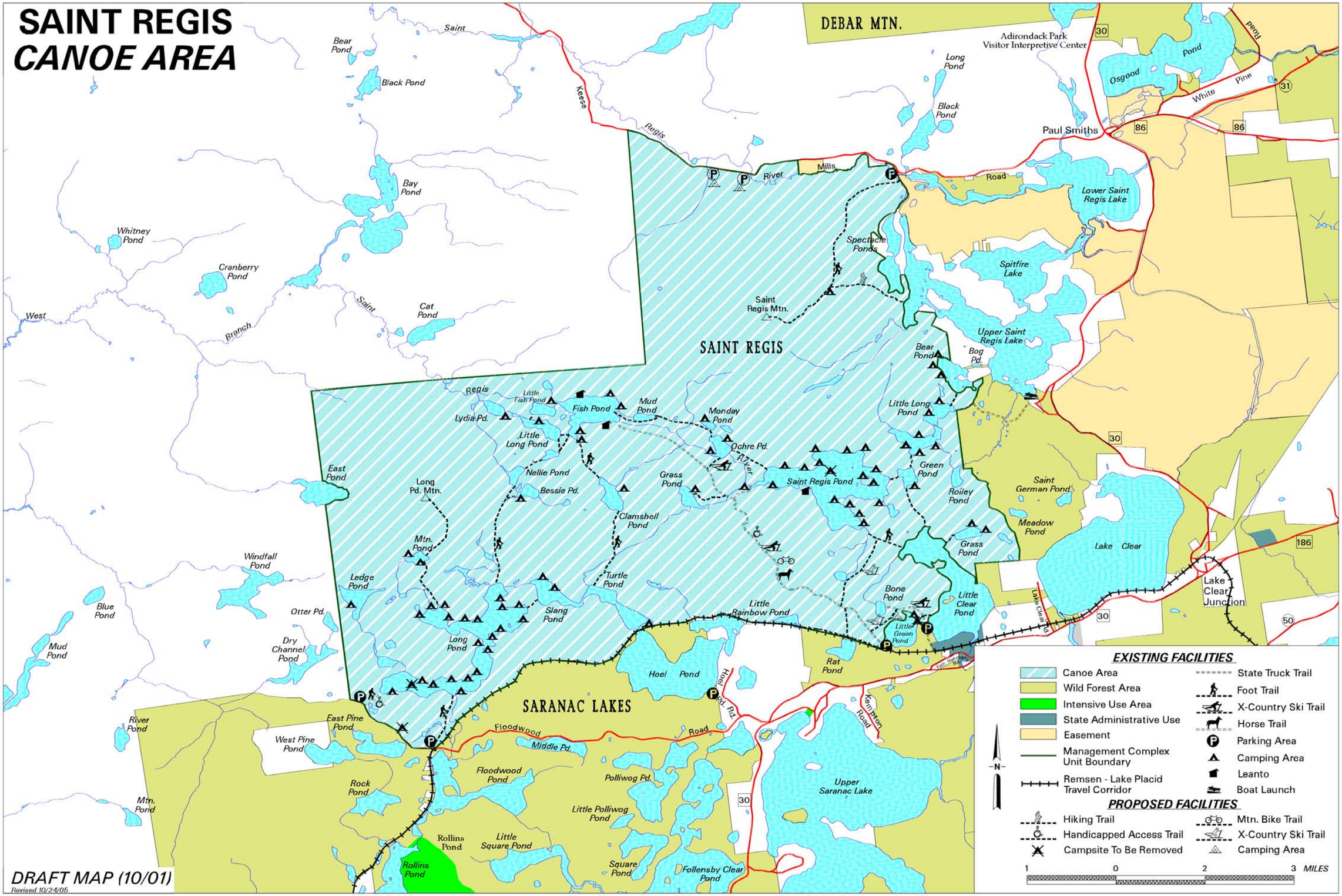
ADIRONDACK PARK

SAINT REGIS CANOE AREA

LOCATION MAP



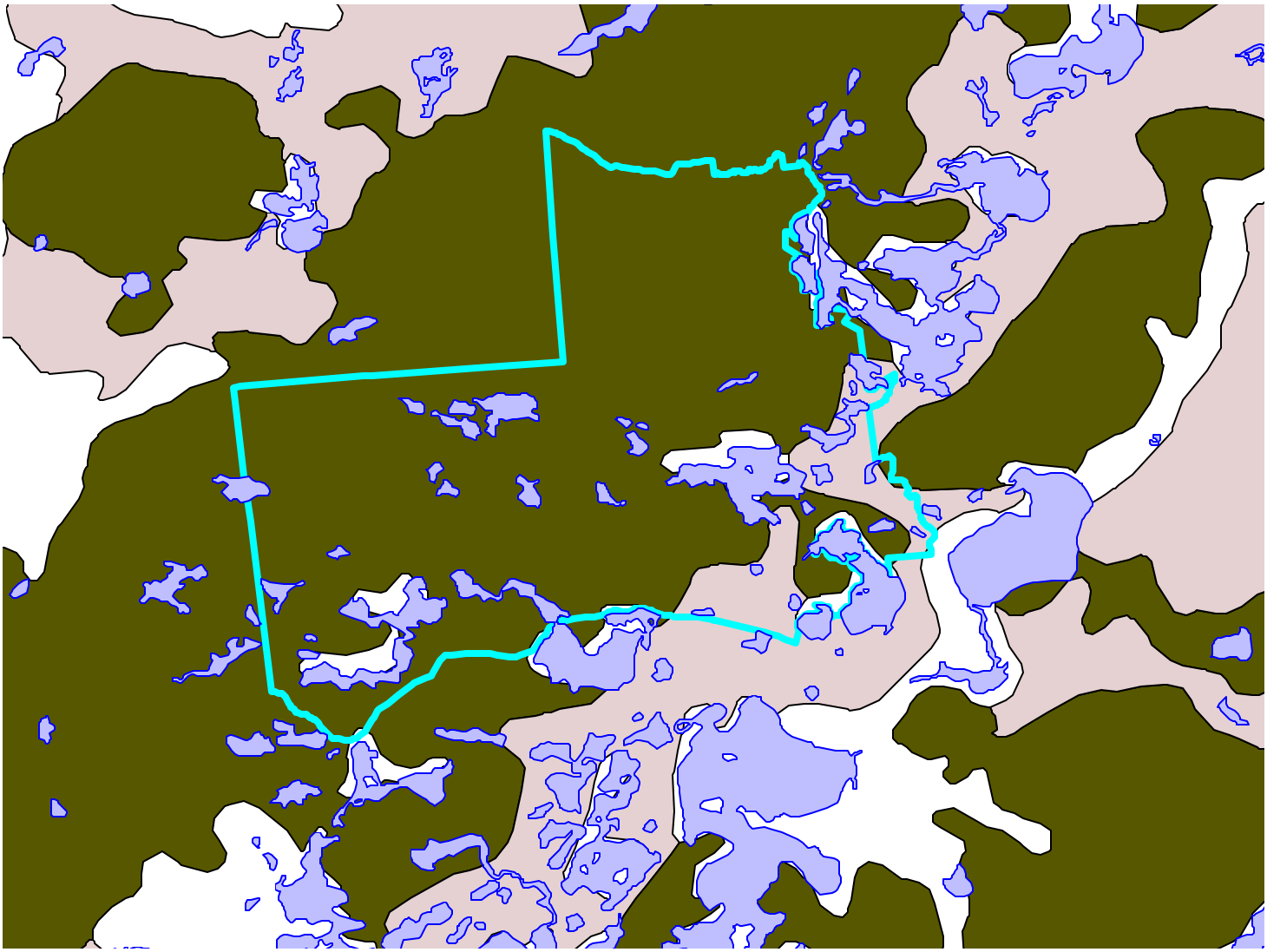
SAINT REGIS
CANOE AREA



DRAFT MAP (10/01)

Revised 10/24/05

SRCA Soils



Water

SRCA Boundary

Soil Type

ADAMS

BECKET

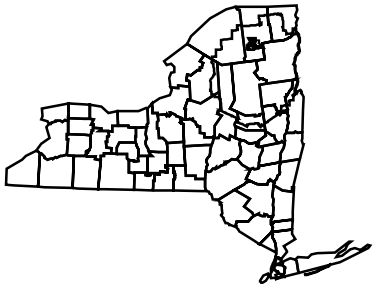
N

W E

S

3 0 3 6 Miles

Wetlands of the St. Regis Canoe Area



Railroad
County Route
State Route
Stream/River
Wetland
Pond/Lake
St. Regis Canoe Area Boundary

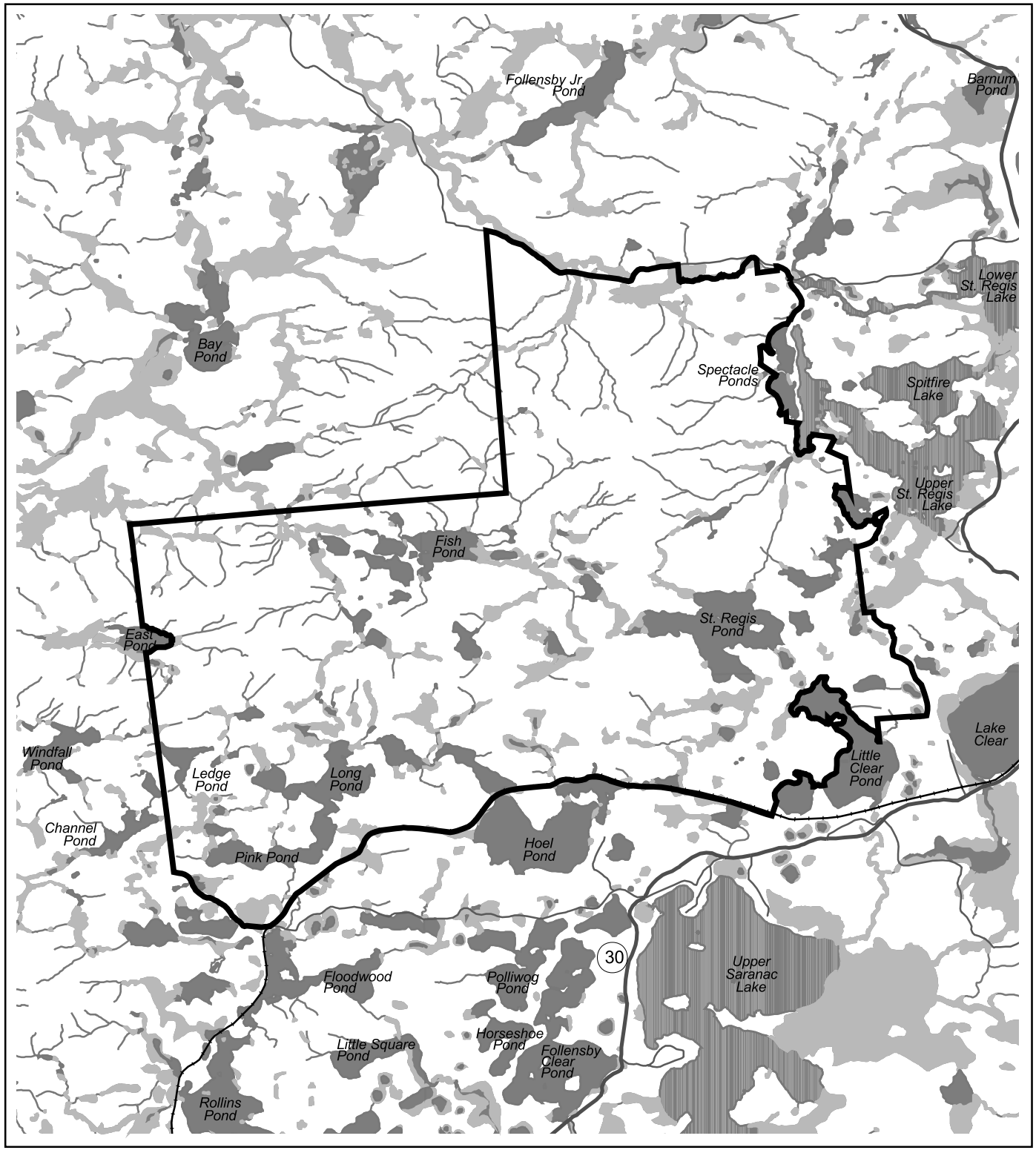
N

0 1 2 3 Kilometers

0 1 2 3 Miles

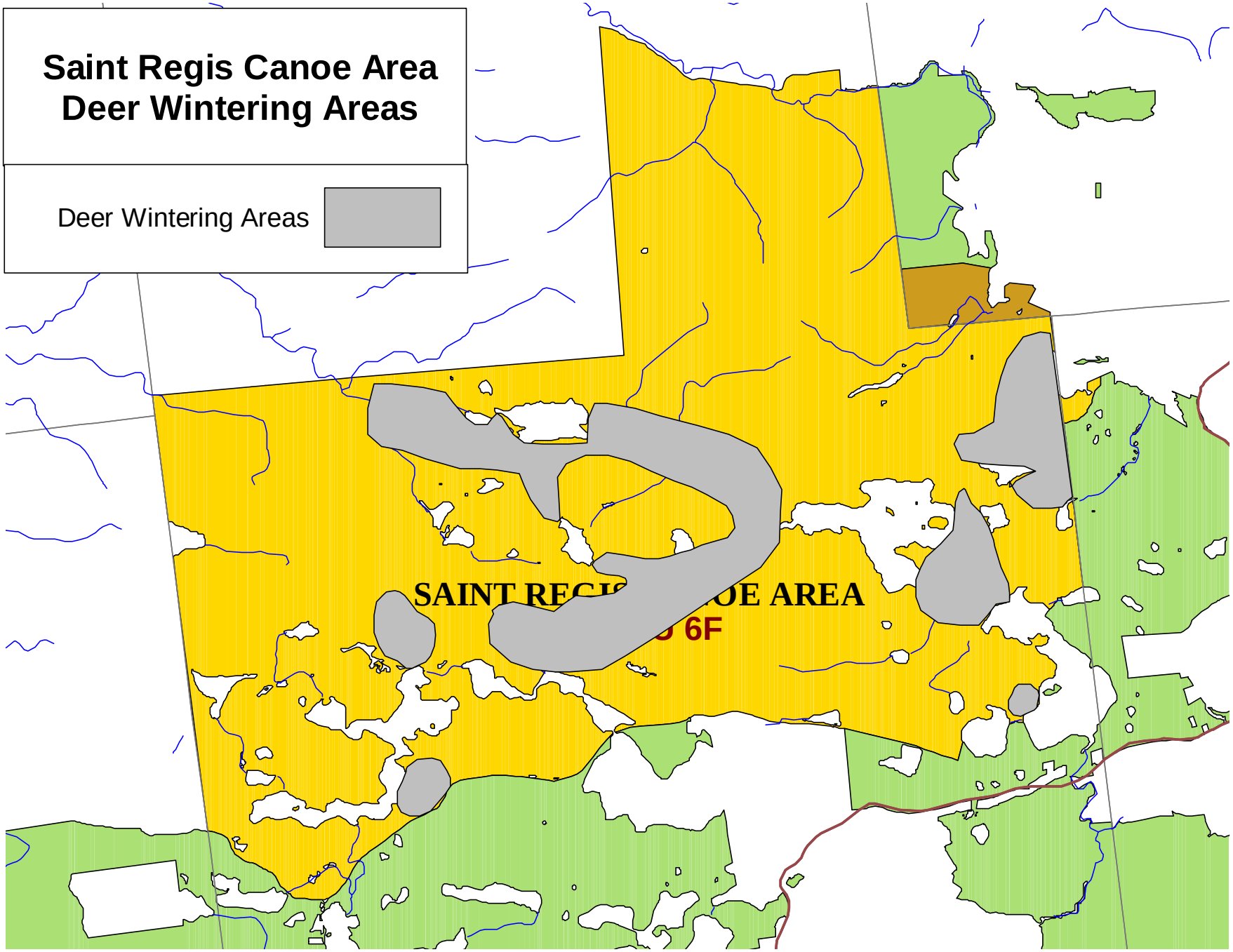
1:90000

Adirondack Park Agency 2002

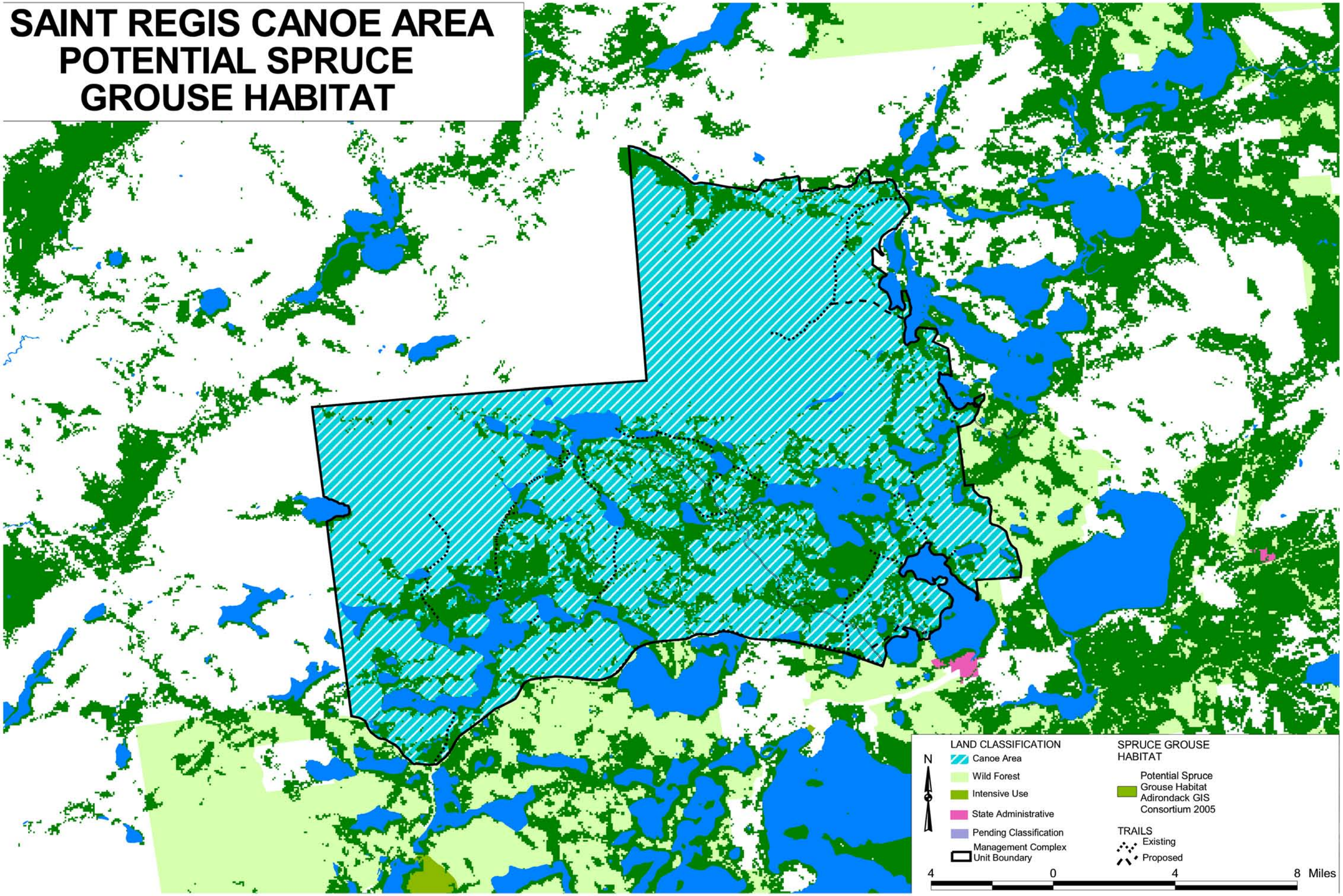


Saint Regis Canoe Area Deer Wintering Areas

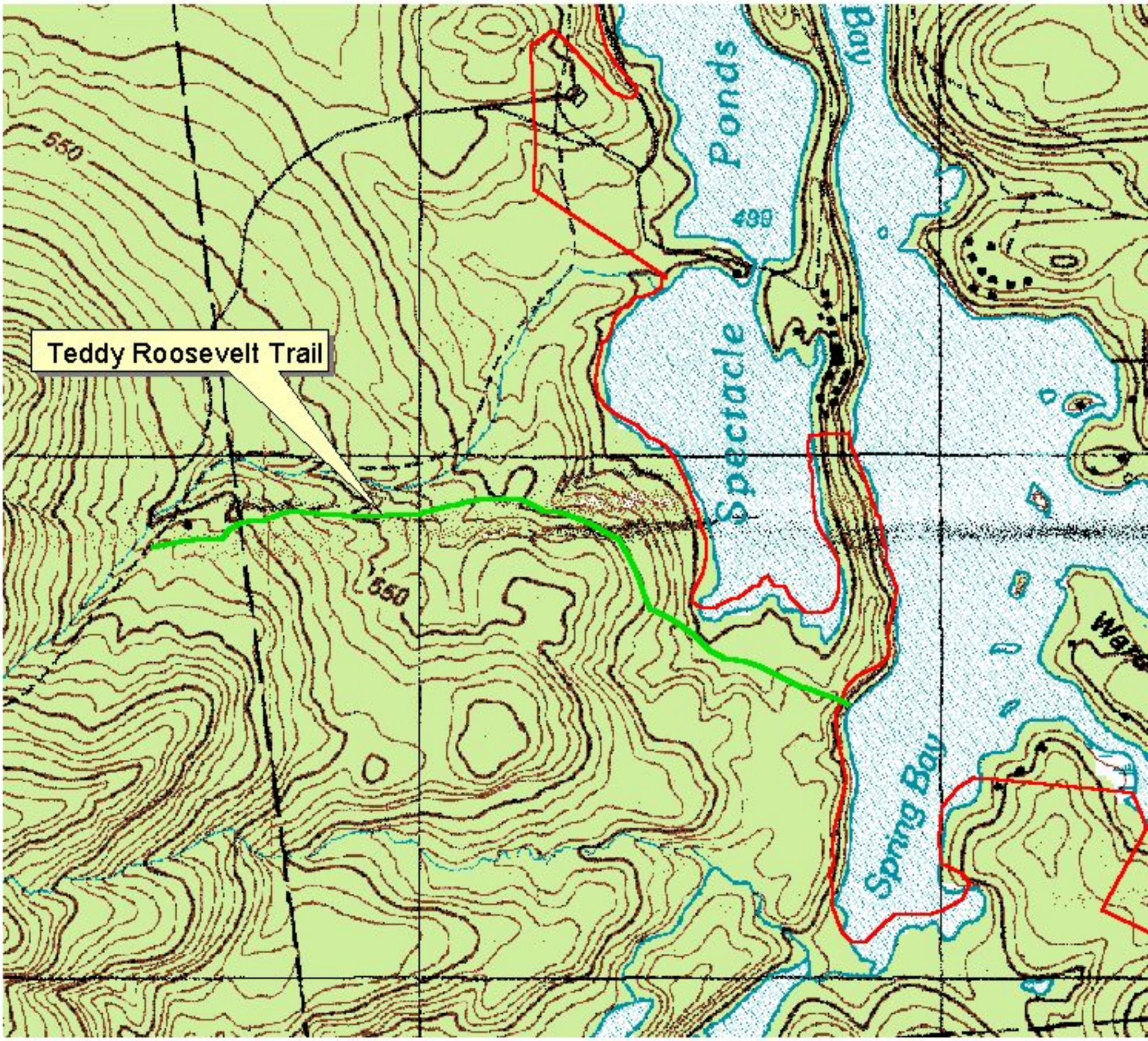
Deer Wintering Areas



SAINT REGIS CANOE AREA POTENTIAL SPRUCE GROUSE HABITAT



Proposed Teddy Roosevelt Hiking Trail

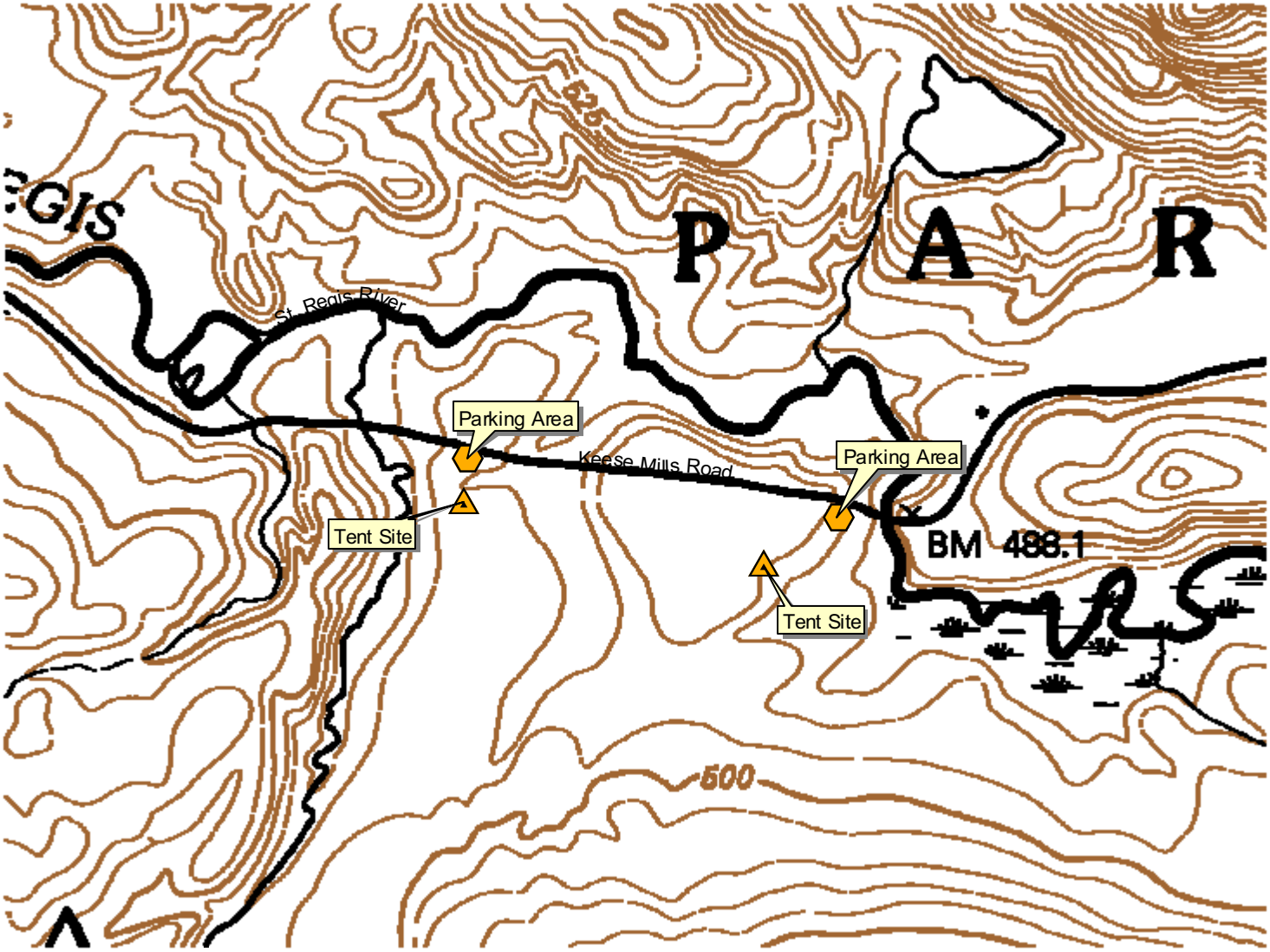


0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles

N
W E
S

UMP Boundaries

Keese Mills Road Camping



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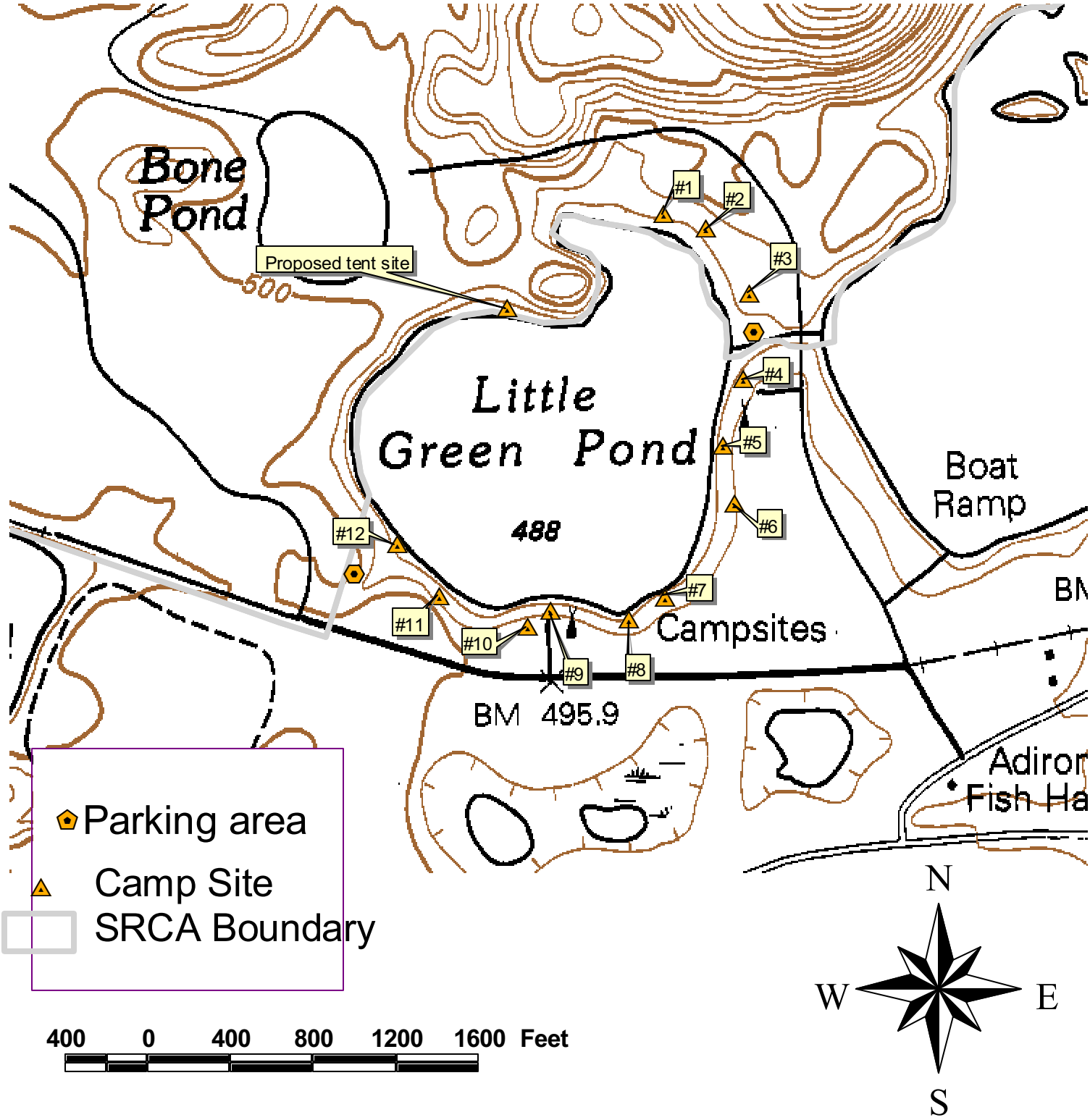
Little Green Pond Camping