NEW YORK STATE

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF LANDS & FORESTS

Taylor Pond Management Complex

including:

Taylor Pond Wild Forest
Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area
Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area
Pauline Murdock Wildlife Management Area
Clinton County State Forest Areas 2, 3 and 4

Unit Management Plan

Towns of Ausable, Black Brook, Peru and Saranac - Clinton County

Towns of Chesterfield, Elizabethtown, Essex, Jay, Lewis, St. Armand, Westport and Willsboro - Essex County

Town of Franklin - Franklin County

ANDREW M. CUOMO
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JOE MARTENS
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February 2013

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ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

JOE MARTENS
COMMISSIONER

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

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Record

SUBJECT: Taylor Pond Management Complex

DATE: FEB 2 8 2013

The Final Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit Management Plan has been completed and the Adirondack Park Agency found it to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Final UMP is consistent with the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.

Joseph J. Martens

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NEW YORK STATE
Adirondack
parkagency

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO TAYLOR POND MANAGEMENT COMPLEX
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

January 10, 2013

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 State Lands in Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties which includes proposed management actions for the Taylor Pond Management Complex dated December, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Department has filed a SEQR Negative Declaration and published a notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on January 9, 2012; 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 Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit Management Plan, dated December, 2012, 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 Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Taylor Pond Complex Unit Management Plan recognizes the need to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent overuse according to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's objectives include providing reasonable public access where appropriate in order to provide visitors with recreational opportunities while minimizing resource impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes formal adoption and management by the Department of the Catamount Mountain, Fay Mountain, Burnt Hills State Forest and the Casey Road Portage trails and to reroute trails as necessary to minimize resource impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the establishment of new trailheads and parking areas for Catamount Mountain, Poke-O-Moonshine Ranger Trail, Terry Mountain Mud Pond and Military Pond; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes four Group tent sites which will be made available by permit to a group of affiliated individuals and limited to a maximum group size of 12 at designated sites along water bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes three additional primitive tent sites along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, which crosses this unit, to increase recreational opportunities for paddlers and other recreationalists to camp; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes that the Department monitor the location and extent of key invasive plant species, train Department staff to identify and document the extent of invasive plants, and work with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program to effectively manage and eradicate invasive plants; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies a management priority of increasing the understanding of the occurrence and distribution of wildlife species and their habitat as well as to monitor and inventory wildlife populations and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies the Department’s intention to manage for wildlife in Ausable Marsh and Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Areas using forest management and other practices, but also the need to protect sensitive Class I wetlands and the rare species found in these habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies the Department's intent to study the suitability of developing a trailered boat launch at Union Falls Pond;

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies the Department's intent to review and develop options for the construction of a Mountain Bike Trail System that would interconnect with other Units;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit Management Plan, dated December, 2012, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; 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:	S. Craig, P. Hooker (DED), A. Lussi, F. Mezzano, D. Scozzafava (DOS), R. Stegemann (DEC), W. Thomas, L. Ulrich, W. Valentino, C. Wray
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	R. Booth

/lhb

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Taylor Pond Management Complex is spread over a 567 square mile area and consists of 26 separate parcels of state land totaling 53,280 acres. Of this, 45,637 acres are Forest Preserve, 6,314 acres are State Forest and 1,329 acres are Wildlife Management Area. All of the lands subject to this Unit Management Plan (UMP) are classified as Wild Forest by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

This UMP has been broken down into separate smaller localized geographical units (compartments) with like management requirements. This summary outlines each of these areas and gives a general outline for each compartment. Maps of the Taylor Pond Management Complex are included as Appendix Z.

The Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. Conservation Easement Tracts, Lassiter Properties, Inc. Conservation Easement - Cook Mountain Tract, Alderbrook Park Conservation Easement and Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC easement lands are all geographically located within the Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit boundary, and are occasionally referenced throughout this UMP for the purpose of continuity. These conservation easements, however, are not subject to any management proposals or recommendations found within this UMP, nor are they subject to the Unit Management Plan.

Descriptions of current and proposed management for some of the geographic compartments are listed below:

Black Mountain Gorge - The Department has not yet been able to determine access to the Department's parcels in this area. A deed search needs to be conducted and the area needs to be surveyed and posted.

Burnt Hill (Clinton 2 State Forest) **-** This State Forest will have a multiple use trail system developed. Much of the trails are already in place left over from past logging activities. The old road starting from the Strackville Road along with many of the other old roads will be brushed out to connect this State Forest with Terry Mountain State Forest making a large trail system for biking, hiking, skiing, and horse-back riding. The timber on the State Forest will be managed according to existing Department policies and best management practices established for timber harvesting. A current timber management plan and detailed stand inventory is included in the timber management section of this plan for Burnt Hill State Forest.

Catamount - The Catamount Trail is currently an unofficial trail to the summit of Catamount Mountain. This trail has been located here for many years and needs to be maintained and upgraded to properly protect the soils from erosion. The Catamount trailhead is in need of a parking area for hikers, snowshoers and snowmobilers. The lot should be large enough to park 5 vehicles with snowmobile trailers in the winter and allow for snow plowing. A small section of the Catamount trail will become a section of the proposed corridor snowmobile trail, connecting the town of Wilmington to the Silver Lake trail system. The main purpose of the parking area is to supply summer hikers a safe parking area to access the Catamount trailhead. The Catamount Trail must be properly signed, marked and maintained as a foot trail after the point where the snowmobile trail departs State Lands. The Catamount trail is wholly located on State Lands. Some rerouting is needed before it can accommodate snowmobiles on the short section from the Forestdale Road to the point where it will depart from the State Land and enter the Boeselager property.

Fay Mountain – The path that originates on an old logging road at the parking area and quickly turns into a bushwhack to the summit of Fay Mountain should be replace with a marked Department trail. The new trail needs to be properly constructed to reduce the soil erosion that is occurring at locations where persons attempting to find the summit congregate due to the topography. The proposed trail has been designed to mitigate the damage being caused by use, while maintaining access to the area.

Franklin Falls Pond – Franklin Falls primitive tent sites are facilities that need to be relocated to conform to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). Two of the sites on the road are being managed as a group site. These sites are now known as 3 and 4. Site 5 was closed due to site degradation issues and in the future may be looked at for being relocated to a location on the water that complies with APSLMP sight and sound separation distances. Sites 1 and 2 will be left as is since they conform to the APSLMP sight and sound distance guidelines. A barrier will be constructed to maintain a separation between vehicles and the campsites. The other sites that were closed will be looked at further and a plan developed for their relocation as needed. Moving sites to the other side of the road is one possibility that is being explored but this option could possibly develop into a hazardous situation for campers accessing the water. The current site 8 located on the small island will be closed and the island posted for day use only. The island is too small to sustain overnight use. The large island originally had 3 tent sites. It currently has 2 tent sites that remain after one was closed and revegetated due to resource protection issues. The remaining 2 sites are numbered 10 and 11. Site number 11 will be closed due to its location in close proximity to the water's edge. This island is large enough to sustain overnight use.

The Fishing Access Site (FAS) on Franklin Falls Pond that has developed into an informal trailered boat launch is considered to be a non-conforming facility according to the APSLMP guidelines for Wild Forest. Fishing and waterway access sites are not supposed to "contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats" (Master Plan Page 17). This fishing and waterway access site is used for launching trailered and cartop boats. This informal ramp will be blocked to stop the direct launching of trailered boats. Trailers will still be allowed to back up to the water's edge but the boats will now have to be hand launched from the trailer. An appropriate barrier will be placed at the water's edge to stop trailers from being backed into the water while still allowing ice fishing shanties and snowmobiles to reach the ice.

Mud Pond Route 3 Trail - This trail is in good condition as it was recently rebuilt. The trail needs annual maintenance to remove blow down. Mud Pond which is located at the end of the trail will have a new primitive campsite developed for overnight users. The area around this pond and trail receive a low level of use. During the winter this pond is a destination often visited by snowmobilers.

Poke-O-Moonshine Climbing and Poke-O-Moonshine hiking trail to tower - Poke-O-Moonshine consists of three separate management areas, two Wild Forest sections and an Intensive Use Area. The Intensive Use Area will be referred to as the public campground. The two Wild Forest sections will be referred to as the climbing area and hiking or fire tower area. This climbing area makes up the balance of the climbing that is not included in the intensive use area and outlined in Adirondack Rock (Lawyer, J. and Haas, J. 2008) and Blue Lines - An Adirondack Ice Climber's Guide (Mellor , D. 2005). The Intensive Use Area will not be discussed in detail since it has a current UMP that was adopted in 1995. The boundary of the Intensive Use Area and Wild Forest is not clearly defined. The Intensive Use Area is 3 acres of developed land with 272 acres remaining undeveloped. The 272 acres partially encompass the rock cliffs known as Poke-O-Moonshine climbing area. The Intensive Use Area and Wild Forest boundary lines meet in the center of the climbing area known as Main Face. This section comprises most of the climbing. Legal

parking and access to the climbing and hiking area is currently available at the Intensive Use Public Campground. The campground was closed in 2009. The gate at the campground is open to allow public access during the spring, summer and fall. There is no parking available before the gate opens in the spring and after it closes in the fall. The original trail to the fire tower (Ranger Trail) that leaves from the campground is in need of rock work and some rerouting due to its heavy use and steep nature. There are currently a few sections that have open water running down the trail and others that are deeply eroded from foot traffic as well as heavy rains. Trail work in these areas will provide for many years of recreation use and diminish any further erosion minimizing future trail maintenance costs. Much of the work on this trail is completed through an Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement (AANR) with The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine. A second trail which also provides access to the fire tower is located just to the south. This is the old access road to the tower (Observers Trail). The Department has acquired the balance of the lands on which the old road lies. This trail needs to have additional water control devices installed and a parking area built. The Observers trail (the old jeep access road) provides a far superior access route in terms of resource protection to the fire tower and lean-to.

The lean-to located near the site of the old fire tower observer's cabin is close to the top of the mountain. This lean-to receives heavy use and recently had its roof replaced. This lean-to was often vandalized, but in more recent years vandalism has dropped. The old fire tower observers cabin remains need to be signed as to their history and past use.

The Wild Forest section of the climbing area needs to have a detailed fixed anchor inventory completed as well as an access trail constructed. This area is a known Peregrine Falcon breeding area.

Silver Lake Mountain - This commonly used trail has a well maintained parking area large enough to supply access to the trail. The trail is generally in good condition but needs annual maintenance to keep it from degrading. The trail needs to have a small amount of rerouting completed on it and water control devices built in order to get the trail back to a well maintained status. The erosion taking place on the trail is detrimental to the trail and nearby soils.

Taylor Pond - Taylor Pond has two main sections, the Intensive Use public campground/boat launch area and the Wild Forest section. The Taylor Pond Dam is classified as Wild Forest and needs to be reclassified as part of the Intensive Use Area. The public campground will not be discussed since it has a current UMP. The Wild Forest section contains many snowmobile trails, fishing opportunities and camping sites. The Wild Forest section also has three lean-tos and two tent sites that receive significant use. Maintenance is currently afforded by the Division of Operations, through an agreement with Lands and Forests. The user fees received from the five sites go back into the facilities for maintenance. The snowmobile trail which is a loop surrounding Taylor Pond is in moderate condition and needs some rerouting on the western end of the lake to move the trail off the water and onto private land. The snowmobile trail was originally located on a road that had bridges over the eastern side of the lake. When the bridges rotted away the road became unusable for vehicles trying to drive around the lake except when the lake was frozen. Rerouting this snowmobile trail off the water will be completed through an agreement with the adjacent land owner and the local snowmobile club. At the same time this is done, the trail will be rerouted in some small sections to avoid hazardous terrain and rocks. Once rerouted, this trail will become part of the connection from the Town of Wilmington to the statewide snowmobile trail system. Trail reconstruction will provide a superior connection to the town of Peru by bypassing a section of trail located on the paved Silver Lake Road.

The Taylor Pond Snowmobile Trail is located on an old road. The road has in the past been used to access the lean-to on the southern shore of Taylor Pond. This road needs to be closed as drive up access to this lean-to by the general public is not appropriate. The road and lean-to are both suitable to be developed for use by persons with disabilities. Opening the road to CP-3 permit holders would provide an excellent outdoor experience for persons with reduced mobility, including those holding nonambulatory hunting permits.

Terry Mountain State Forest (Clinton 3 & 4 State Forests) **-** Terry Mountain consists of two State Forest Areas, Clinton 3 and 4. A general location map displaying the roads and trails can be found in Appendix Z. This area contains Mud Pond, Military Pond and a main access road called the Red Road. The Mud Pond Road (Patent Road or Military Pond Road on old maps) which accesses portions of the area is no longer maintained by the Town. When the Town stopped maintaining the road, one family gated the road since they were maintaining it to access their property. This Road is also the public access for Mud Pond and Military Pond. A new multi-use trail for snowmobiling and silvicultural activities called the Cliff Trail will be built to connect Military and Mud Pond with the Red Road. A second multi-use trail for snowmobiling and silvicultural activities has been laid out and will be built to connect the Cliff Trail and Red Road with the Tower Road. This new trail will be called the Summit Trail. For the use of the facilities on this state forest to be maximized by the public, the Mastic gate must be removed, since it blocks the only legal access to one side of the trails. The Military Pond Road would provide a Snowmobile trail from Fern Lake to Peru utilizing a section of Terry Mountain State Forest from Military Pond past Mud Pond to the Red Road where it intersects with the town's Manix Road. Sections of trail along the Red Road will be included as small ski and bike loops.

The snowmobile connection from Terry Mountain State Forest to Fern Lake was originally planned to be completed through a private snowmobile club agreement with International Paper Company, Inc. (IP). Since that time the IP lands were acquired by Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC. (LATL). The Department has purchased easement rights on these LATL lands. According to the easement purchase, the trails and lands could not be opened to the public until Earth Day 2009. This connection will supply Wilmington, Taylor Pond and Silver Lake with a good connection to the State snowmobile trail system. This connection will supply the needed trail to make a day trip. The Department plans to open the logging access roads between Fern Lake and Military Pond for snowmobile access. The majority of these trails are already in place and used as logging roads. Some small connections may need to be developed or improved. This section is the final trail section completing a corridor snowmobile trail from Wilmington past Taylor Pond and into Peru. These IP lands are located in the Town of Black Brook and locally known as the Black Brook Tract.

The timber on Terry Mountain State Forest will be managed according to existing Department policies and best management practices established for timber harvesting. A timber management plan is included in this plan under the Special Management Areas heading. Along the Red Road in Terry Mountain State Forest two new tent sites will be developed as timber stand improvements continue to open up new areas. The new sites will adhere to the APSLMP guidelines for the development of tent sites.

The multiple use snowmobile trail from the end of the maintained portion of the Mud Pond Road to Military Pond and the IP easement boundary will have some trail improvements completed. Three sections of the trail need to have bog bridging built on them. Two small streams need to have bridges built over them capable of holding horses and snowmobiles as well as mountain bikes, cross country skiers and hikers.

Terry Mountain also has a foot trail accessing the logging trail system (The Champlain View Trail). A new tent site will be located at the scenic vista on this trail. The remains of fire rings and tent sites near the scenic vista are indicative of the levels of historic use. This trail needs annual maintenance and some water control devices installed. The trail has three, foot bridges. The largest of the bridges and also the first you come to when walking the trail is 16 feet long and 3 feet wide.

The most imposing feature on the landscape, a 891 foot tall radio brodcast tower, is located on a local government inholding, inside the boundary of Terry Mountain State Forest. This tower served as a television broadcast tower until the switch over from analog to digital broadcasting.

Terry Mountain - Mud Pond (Clinton 3 State Forest) **-** The trail that provides access to this pond is maintained by the Department and not used very often due to the private gate that blocks access. The pond will be accessed in the future from the Red Road, by the construction of a newly proposed trail. The proposed new multi-use trail will be open to snowmobiles, mountain bikes, horse-back riding and cross-country skiing.

Mud Pond is located in a remote area of Terry Mountain State Forest and would provide for a great overnight experience for people with disabilities. To help develop this area and encourage use, an accessible lean-to will be built. This pond is naturally in a good location for easy access. Once the gate has been removed building a parking area at the trailhead and building an accessible trail to this pond would provide a great outdoor experience for persons with disabilities.

Terry Mountain State Forest - Military Pond (Clinton 3 State Forest**) -** The trail that provides access to this pond is maintained by the Department and not used very often due to the gate that was placed on the access road. This trail will be called the Military Pond Trail since it is located on the old Military Pond Road. The trail needs annual maintenance as well as bridges and bog bridging built in appropriate locations. Local mountain biking groups and snowmobile clubs have expressed interest in developing an AANR with the State to help maintain these trails. The trail and pond will be able to be accessed in the future from the Red Road, a Department road. The new Cliff Trail a hiking, biking, horse-back riding and cross-country ski trail that will also provide fishing access is proposed to be built to connect Military and Mud Pond with the Red Road. This trail has been needed for many years. A trail which connects the Silver Lake snowmobile system to the Town of Peru was laid out many years ago. All but the small Cliff Trail section connecting Mud Pond and the Red Road has been in use since before 1972. Prior to the access road being gated there was no need to construct a trail connecting the Red Road to Mud Pond. This trail section is now needed. Even if the gate is removed this trail will still provide access to portions of this State Forest which would remain hard to access.

Military Pond is located on the western edge of Terry Mountain State Forest. Half of the pond is State land while the other half is owned by LATL. Since half of the lake is surrounded by State land the pond is considered to be a public pond. The recreation rights on the lands of LATL in this area have recently been purchased by the Department through a conservation easement. The Department purchased all development rights and recreational rights in this area. This pond was once a stocked trout pond and stocking should resume once public access is regained. A lean-to should be constructed to provide overnight camping for fishermen, hikers, bikers, horse-back riders and snowmobilers. Access to the pond will be provided to persons with disabilities.

Tolman Mountain - This area is trail less and access is difficult. A four car parking area will be built to provide parking for outdoor enthusiasts using this area.

Union Falls Pond -The site on Union Falls Pond that has developed into an informal trailered boat launch site is considered to be a non-conforming facility according to the APSLMP guidelines for Wild Forest. Fishing and waterway access sites are not supposed to "contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats"(Master Plan P.17). This informal site is used for launching trailered and car top boats. This informal ramp will be blocked to stop the direct launching of trailered boats if the ramp is determined to be on Department land. Trailers will still be allowed to back up to the water's edge but the boats will now have to be hand launched from the trailer. An appropriate barrier will be placed at the water's edge to stop trailers from being backed into the water while still allowing ice fishing shanties and snowmobiles to reach the ice. This site along with other sites on this pond will be studied as to their suitability for being developed into a intensive use area boat launch site, since the pond is large enough to accommodate such a facility.

A cleared area exists near the informal boat launch. This area has been used historically as a group camping location. The area will continue to be described as a group camping area and suitable barriers will be constructed to separate vehicles from campsites while providing parking. The primitive tent sites at this location will be relocated, if needed, to suitable locations that are sustainable and compliant with APSLMP guidelines for group camping. An additional Primitive tent site will be designated out of sight and sound of the group camping location, and otherwise compliant with the APSLMP. Once modifications to this area are complete, this area will have a parking area, a cluster of 2 primitive tent sites designated as a group camping area with a maximum group size of 12 and a primitive tent site. Both the newly located tent site and group site will be accessible by foot from the parking area. In order to provide access to the campsites, a foot trail will be constructed. The new sites will be constructed at the same time as the old facilities are closed so as to minimize disruption to users at this location.

A trail accessing the north western shoreline of Union Falls Pond will be constructed to provide access to the pond. The trail will leave Rock Street following the land contours down to the shoreline as depicted on the UMP map included as Appendix Z. A parking area for this trail will be constructed to provide parking for four cars.

On Union Falls Pond three primitive tent sites (two new, one pre-existing) will be developed for users of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. The sites were chosen using the APSLMP guidelines for primitive tent sites.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Robert Haywood	Superintendent of Highways, Town of Black Brook
Joseph Rine	Resident of Silver Lake, Town of Black Brook
Timothy Booth	Superintendent of Highways, Town of Ausable

…and to the many residents of the Towns of Ausable, Saranac, Franklin, Black Brook, Peru, Chesterfield, Willsboro, Elizabethtown, Essex, Jay, Lewis, St. Armand, and Westport as well as the countless other individuals and organizations who offered advice, comments, and support.

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PREFACE

The Taylor Pond Management Complex 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 (APSLMP), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) rules and regulations, Department policies and procedures and the State Environmental Quality and Review Act of 1975 (SEQRA).

Most of the State Lands which are the subject of this Unit Management Plan (UMP) are Forest Preserve lands protected by Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. This Constitutional provision, which became effective on January 1, 1895 provides in relevant part:

> *The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as Wild Forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.*

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) are not part of the forest preserve but are required to be classified by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and must be managed in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). The WMA's in this UMP have been classified as Wild Forest. To the extent the state lands classified as Wild Forest were given or devised to the state for silvicultural or wildlife management purposes pursuant to statutory provisions specifying that these lands will not form part of the forest preserve (if such provisions are constitutional), the following guidelines are not to be interpreted to prevent silvicultural or wildlife management practices on these lands, provided that other guidelines for wild forest land are respected.

The APSLMP, in part, describes wild forest as an area where "...the resources permit a somewhat higher degree of human use than in wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, while retaining an essentially wild character." A wild forest is further defined as an area lacking "...the sense of remoteness..." found in wilderness areas and "...permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation." Areas classified as wild forest are generally less fragile, ecologically, than wilderness or primitive areas and can accommodate more human use. The APSLMP indicates that the primary wild forest management guideline will be "...to protect the natural wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the wild forest atmosphere." One of the biggest challenges in wild forest management is how to accommodate the growing numbers of people utilizing the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities provided by wild forests without degrading their character or natural resource quality.

State Reforestation and Multiple Use Areas such as Terry Mountain and Burnt Hill State Forests are also not part of the Forest Preserve even though they are state owned lands inside the Adirondack Park. These lands shall be managed as publicly owned forest lands in a manner as to achieve optimum levels of timber production, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, public recreation and kindred uses commensurate with the capabilities of the site and forest environment.

The State Forest Program began with the State Reforestation Act of 1929 and with the passage of the Hewitt Amendment in 1931. This amendment authorized the Conservation Department to acquire for the State by gift or purchase, reforestation areas consisting of not less than 500 acres of contiguous land to

be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forest for watershed protection, the production of timber and for recreation and kindred purposes." The Hewitt Amendment was amended in 1938 but. At present, it is authorized under Article XIV, Section 3 of the Constitution and Article 9, Title 5 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Since the beginning of the program, there have been many changes in program emphasis. After the planting of open land was complete, a great deal of attention was given to silvicultural improvements of existing woodlands, the sale of forest products, development of access, and providing limited public use facilities. All of these activities were directed toward managing the land under the multiple use concept within the limits permitted by funding, statutes, rules, regulations and Department policy.

Article 9, Title 5 of the Environmental Conservation Law provides authorization for the Department to acquire lands outside of the Adirondack and Catskill parks" which are adapted for reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber and other forest products, and for recreation and kindred purposes "; and,

The Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act authorizes the Department to acquire lands for park, conservation and other recreation purposes. More specifically, Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law section 15.01(1)(b) provides that "Lands acquired for other than State or municipal park purposes shall consist of lands desirable for outdoor recreation and wherever possible to serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forestry and reforestation."

The maps in Appendix Z show these State Forests now actually lie with the "Blue Line" due to the expansion of the boundary of the Adirondack Park as a result of Chapter 666 of the Laws of 1972. However, counsel has determined that this and other areas so effected remain State Forests and may be managed as such. While managed as State Forests these lands are still State land inside the “Blue Line” and must be classified by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and be managed in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

ECL §§3-0301(1)(d) and 9-0105(1) provide the Department with jurisdiction to manage Forest Preserve lands and State Forests, including the Taylor Pond Management Complex.

The APSLMP 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 APSLMP 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 APSLMP 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 APSLMP classifies the lands which are the subject of this UMP as part of the Taylor Pond Management Complex.

The APSLMP sets forth Guidelines for such matters as: structures and improvements; ranger stations; the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft; roads, jeep trails and State truck trails; flora and fauna; recreation use and overuse; boundary structures and improvements and boundary markings.

Executive Law §816 requires the Department to develop, in consultation with the APA, individual UMP's for each unit of land under the Department's jurisdiction which is classified in one of the nine classifications set forth in the APSLMP. The UMP's must conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the APSLMP. Thus, UMP's implement and apply the APSLMP's general guidelines for particular areas of land within the Adirondack Park.

Executive Law §816(1) provides in part that "until amended, the APSLMP for management of State lands and the individual management plans shall guide the development and management of State lands in the Adirondack Park."

Purpose and Need

Without a UMP, the management of these Forest Preserve lands can easily become a series of uncoordinated reactions to immediate problems. No new facility construction, designation, or major rehabilitation can be undertaken until a UMP is completed and approved, with current management limited to routine maintenance and emergency actions. A written plan stabilizes management despite changes in personnel and integrates related legislation, legal codes, rules and regulations, policies, and area specific information into a single reference document. Other benefits of the planning process that are valuable to the public include the development of area maps, fishing information handouts, and a greater awareness of recreational opportunities within specific areas of the Adirondack Park. In view of tight budgets, plans that clearly identify area needs have greater potential for securing necessary funding, legislative support, and public acceptance.

This document provides a comprehensive inventory of natural resources, existing facilities and uses, while identifying the special values which justify the protection of this area in perpetuity for future generations. The process involved the gathering and analysis of existing uses and conditions, regional context and adjacent land considerations, future trends, and the identification of important issues. Ordinarily, the plan will be revised on a five-year cycle, but may be amended when necessary in response to changing resource conditions or administrative needs. Completion of the various management actions within this UMP will be dependent upon adequate manpower and funding. Where possible, the DEC will work with volunteer groups, local communities, town and county governments, and pursue alternative funding sources to accomplish some of the proposed projects or maintenance.

What the Plan Does Not Do

The proposed management actions identified in this plan are primarily confined to the state land in the Taylor Pond Management Complex. Activities on adjacent state lands or private property are beyond the scope of this document and will only be discussed as they relate to uses and impacts to the Taylor Pond Management Complex. In addition, this UMP cannot suggest changes to Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution or conflict with statutory mandates or DEC policies. All proposals must conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the APSLMP and cannot amend the Master Plan itself.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

The State Environmental Quality Review Act requires that all agencies determine whether the actions they undertake may have a significant impact on the environment. The intent of the legislation is to avoid or minimize adverse impact on the resource. The guidelines established in the APSLMP for developing unit management plans express these same concerns. Any development within the Taylor Pond Management Complex presented in the plan must take into consideration environmental factors to insure that such development does not degrade that environment. The overall intent of this UMP is to identify mitigating measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

As required by SEQRA, during the planning process a range of alternatives were formulated to evaluate possible management approaches for dealing with certain issues or problem locations. Department staff considered the no-action and other reasonable alternatives, whenever possible. Potential environmental impacts, resource protection, visitor safety, visitor use and enjoyment of natural resources, user conflicts, interests of local communities and groups, and short and long-term cost-effectiveness were important considerations in the selection of proposed actions. Efforts were made to justify reasons for the proposals throughout the body of the UMP so the public can clearly understand the issues and the rationale for Department decision making.

Due to the significance of potential environmental and/or social impacts, a positive declaration may be determined to be necessary. A Positive Declaration is issued through a press release/Notice of Intent document. The UMP then constitutes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Where, as here, impacts are deemed not to be significant, a negative declaration is issued.

The initial draft UMP was reviewed internally by DEC and APA staff, with necessary changes made prior to the draft UM's distribution for public review. At this time, a press release was issued and a public meeting scheduled to receive public comments on the draft plan. A Notice of Hearing was published in the Environmental News Bulletin and local newspapers, and a public meeting held in conjunction with a public hearing to comply with SEQRA requirements.

A minimum 30-day public comment period followed the public meeting, during which time written comments were submitted regarding the plan. At the end of the public comment period, all public comment received on the draft plan were assessed, and appropriate changes were made to the plan. The final UMP was then reviewed by the APA Board to determine its compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Subsequently, the final UMP is approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, printed and distributed.

A full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) was completed to evaluate the actions in this plan to comply with the SEQRA requirements. The long EAF called for the completion of a negative declaration. Both the long EAF and negative declaration can be found in Appendix Q.

No Action Alternative or Need for a Plan

From a legal perspective, the No Action alternative of not writing a UMP is not an option. DEC is required to prepare a management plan for the Taylor Pond Management Complex pursuant to the APSLMP and Executive Law §816. In addition a UMP serves as a mechanism for the Department to study and identify potential areas for providing access to the Taylor Pond Management Complex for persons with

disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA of 1990). The UMP also serves as an administrative vehicle for the identification and removal of nonconforming structures as required by the APSLMP.

From an administrative perspective, the "No Action" alternative is not an option. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has the statutory responsibility under Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) §3-0301(1)(d) and §9-0105(1), to provide for the care, custody, and control of these public lands. The UMP will provide the guidance necessary for staff to manage the area in a manner that protects the environment while at the same time providing for suitable outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Without the development and future implementation of the UMP, sensitive environmental resources of the unit could be impacted negatively and it is highly likely that the public enjoyment of such resources would decrease. Public use problems would continue to occur.

Management of the Taylor Pond Management Complex via a UMP will allow the Department to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent over use of the resource (e.g., through trail designations, access restrictions, placement of campsites and lean-tos away from sensitive resources, etc.). Management Alternatives were developed for some of the UMP proposals that may: (1) have significant environmental impacts, (2) involve facility closures, or (3) involve controversial actions changing existing public use, and can be found in Section IV of this document.

Conservation Easements

State-owned Conservation Easement properties are private land and as such, provisions of the APSLMP governing Forest Preserve lands do not apply. However, the Adirondack Park Agency has the statutory responsibility for the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act on private lands and the Freshwater Wetlands Act. Section 814 of the Park Agency Act requires any State agency which intends to undertake any new land use and development on private land in the Park, other than public land use or development by the Department pursuant to the APSLMP, to give due regard to the provisions of the Plan and the shoreline restrictions and shall file a notice of such intent thereof with the Agency. Executive Order No. 150 recognizes that the Act only provides for Agency advisory review of new land use and development by State agencies on private land in the Park, but it requires such new land use or development to undergo the same level of Agency review as is demanded of private developers, but in accordance with the procedures provided by Section §814 of the Act.

The Department and the Agency have agreed to exercise their respective authority and responsibility through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning state-owned Conservation Easements on private land within the Adirondack Park. In the future, implementation of all Recreation Management Plans for state-owned Conservation Easements will adhere to this MOU.

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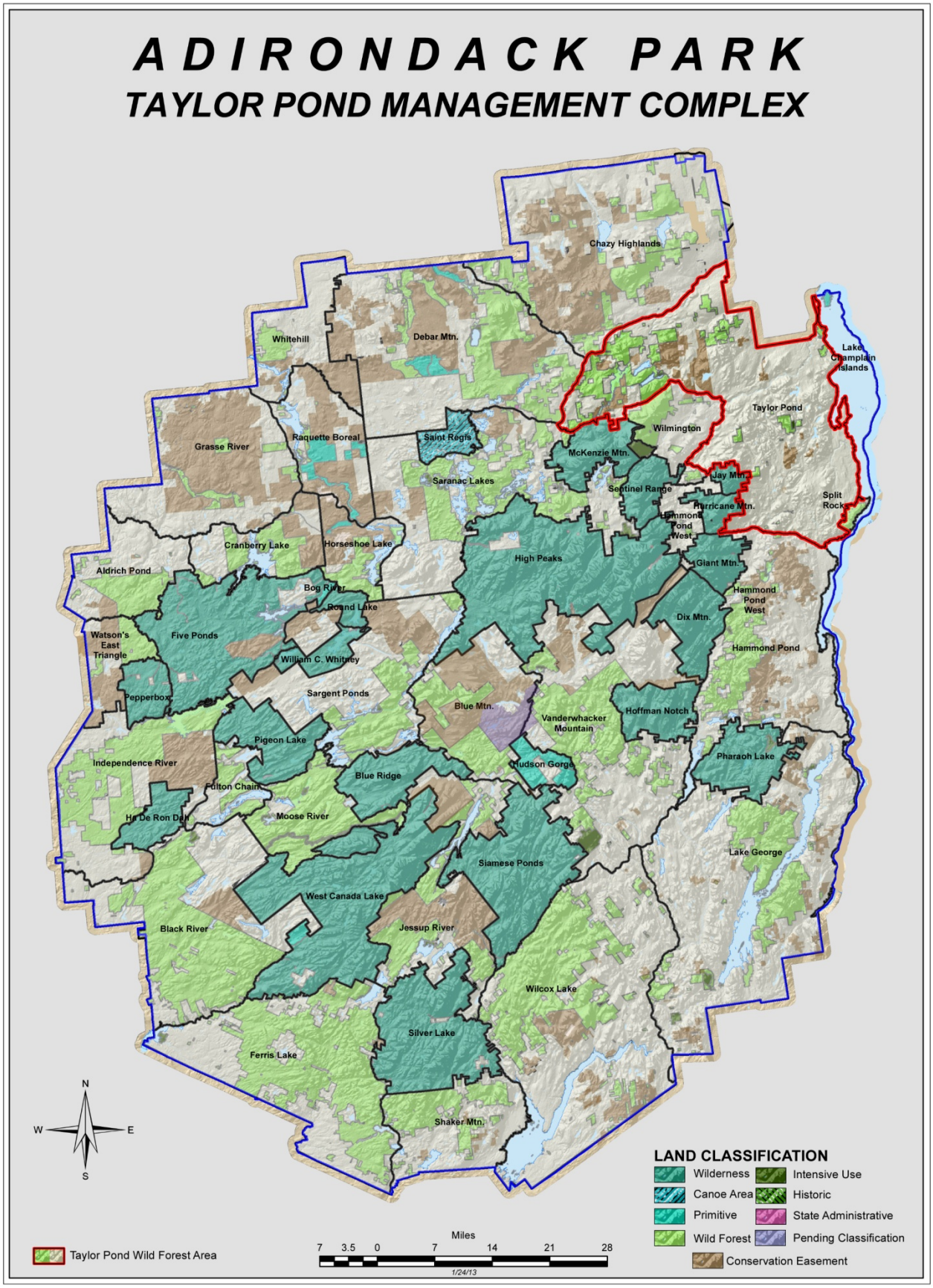
ADIRONDACK PARK
TAYLOR POND MANAGEMENT COMPLEX
Chazy Highlands
Whitehill
Debar Mtn.
Lake Champlain Islands
Taylor Pond
Wilmington
Grasse River
Raquette Boreal
Saint Regis
McKenzie Mtn.
Saranac Lakes
Jay Mtn.
Sentinel Range
Split Rock
Hurricane Mtn.
Hammond Pond West
Cranberry Lake
Horseshoe Lake
High Peaks
Giant Mtn.
Aldrich Pond
Bog River
Round Lake
Hammond Pond West
Dix Mtn.
Watson's East Triangle
Five Ponds
William C. Whitney
Hammond Pond
Pepperbox
Sargent Ponds
Blue Mtn.
Vanderwhacker Mountain
Hoffman Notch
Pigeon Lake
Pharaoh Lake
Independence River
Hudson Gorge
Blue Ridge
Fulton Chain
Moose River
Lake George
Siamese Ponds
West Canada Lake
Black River
Jessup River
Wilcox Lake
Silver Lake
Ferris Lake
Shaker Mtn.
N
W
E
S
LAND CLASSIFICATION
Wilderness
Canoe Area
Primitive
Wild Forest
Intensive Use
Historic
State Administrative
Pending Classification
Conservation Easement
Taylor Pond Wild Forest Area
Miles
7 3.5 0 7 14 21 28
1/24/13

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SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this Unit Management Plan (UMP) is to establish a public partnership between the Department, local governments, interested groups and citizens to cooperatively develop and share strategies for the use, conservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of these areas in accordance with Article 14 of the State Constitution and the APSLMP. Comprehensive planning allows for the exchange of ideas and information before actions, that can have long-term effects, are taken. This is necessary to afford consistent management direction by establishing clearly stated management goals and objectives and the means necessary to implement them.

One of the most important aspects of the planning process is to introduce and to involve the public in the care and stewardship of State lands. This element increases the Department's awareness of, and responsiveness to, the values and opinions expressed by citizens and further helps the Department make better decisions in managing public lands.

This UMP is designed to guide the management of Wild Forest lands in this area for a five year period commencing when the UMP is approved by the Commissioner of the Department. Monitoring is essential to determine whether or not management goals and objectives are being met. If a management action is clearly ineffective and a change is needed, alternatives will be analyzed and a new action will be proposed and implemented following APSLMP guidelines and public review, through the UMP amendment process.

A. Planning Area Overview

The Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC) includes the following Forest Preserve, State Forests, Easements and Wildlife Management Area lands:

- Taylor Pond Wild Forest
- Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. Conservation Easement Tracts (FFTE)
- Lassiter Properties, Inc. Conservation Easement - Cook Mountain Tract (CME)
- Alderbrook Park Conservation Easement
- Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- Pauline Murdock Wildlife Management Area
- Clinton County State Forest Areas 2, 3 and 4
- Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC.

The TPMC is located within three counties: Essex, Franklin and Clinton. Within these three counties the lands making up the Taylor Pond Management Complex are located in the thirteen towns of Ausable, Saranac, Franklin, Black Brook, Peru, Chesterfield, Willsboro, Elizabethtown, Essex, Jay, Lewis, St. Armand, and Westport. The lands of Taylor Pond Wild Forest, Pauline Murdock Wildlife Management Area, Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area and the three State Forests are classified by the APSLMP. Consequently, the Department is required by Executive Law §816 to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), a Unit Management Plan for them.

The conservation easement documents for the Alderbrook Park, Cook Mountain, and Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. Easement tracts (FFTE) may be found in Appendices E through I for reference.

B. Unit Geographic Information

The Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC) is named for Taylor Pond, a 797 acre State-owned, water body located near the center of the planning unit. The TPMC consists of 26 Forest Preserve parcels, the majority of whose acreage is primarily in the three corner area of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. Other parcels are located in east-central Clinton County and northern Essex County. The area is roughly bounded on the north by NYS Route 3, the Saranac River on the west, and Lake Champlain on the east. The boundary extends south to the State-owned Wilmington Wild Forest and Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area then runs due east to Ausable Forks. From Ausable Forks the boundary follows route 9N south to Jay Mtn. Wilderness then south along it and Hurricane Mtn. Wilderness area's easterly boundary to route 9N. From here the boundary then runs east along route 9N to Lake Champlain. The City of Plattsburgh lies 20 miles to the northeast. Nearby hamlets include Ausable Forks, Bloomingdale, Clayburg, Redford, Keeseville, Saranac, and Wilmington.

C. General Location

Forest Preserve lands are located in the Towns of Ausable, Black Brook, Peru, and Saranac in Clinton County, the Towns of Chesterfield, Jay, Lewis and Saint Armand in Essex County, and the Town of Franklin in Franklin County. State lands are interspersed with a mix of rural private lands used for farming, logging, and residential homes.

Topography is strongly influenced by the Clinton Range, a set of low lying mountains located near the three corner area. These include Alderbrook Mountain (2,612 feet), Catamount Mountain (3,168 feet), Duncan Mountain (2,729 feet), Silver Lake Mountain (2,374 feet), and Tolman Mountain (2,368 feet). Cook Mountain (1,095 feet) and Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain (2,162 feet) lie 20 miles to the east. The Saranac River is the largest river in the unit. Principal water bodies include Franklin and Union Falls Flows, Mud Pond (2), Auger Pond, Long Pond, Military Pond, Silver Lake, and Taylor Pond.

The Burnt Hill State Forest is also known as Clinton State Forest # 2. This State Forest, in the Towns of Peru and Saranac, lies approximately 2 miles west of the Macomb State Park, and 15 miles from the City of Plattsburgh. It is bordered on the west by the Pup Hill and Facteau Roads and on the south by the Strackville Road.

The Terry Mountain State Forest is also known as Clinton State Forests 3 and 4. This State Forest, in the Town of Peru, lies approximately two miles southwest of the Macomb State Forest area, and about 15 miles from the City of Plattsburgh. It is bordered on the north by the Peaseleeville Road and on the east by the Patent Road. The area consists of a total of about 4,800 acres which are contiguous and only broken up by a few small private in-holdings.

Ausable Marsh, Pauline Murdock and Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Areas are included in this UMP due to their locations and will be addressed and included as a special management area within the larger Taylor Pond UMP. Pauline Murdock WMA is located one-half mile east of the Village of Elizabethtown on Essex County Route 8 also known as Wadhams Road in the town of Elizabethtown,

Essex County. Wickham Marsh WMA lies along Lake Champlain a half mile north of the Village of Port Kent, Essex County.

The Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area (AMWMA) is a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) managed by the Burea of Wildlife. The WMU is included as a special management area plan because of the special management regulations imposed on the lands. A separate management plan for the AMWMA was prepared and approved in 1999. The plan that is included in the Special Management Area of this plan is an update to that original plan.

The Taylor Pond Public Campground is an Intensive Use Area managed by the Division of Operations and is **not** included in this UMP. Taylor Pond Public Campground is located adjacent to the Silver Lake Road, 9 miles northwest of Ausable Forks in the Town of Black Brook, Clinton County. The campground contains 10 acres of developed area and 133 acres undeveloped. A separate management plan for the public campground was prepared and approved in 1993.

Poke-O-Moonshine Public Campground is an Intensive Use Area managed by the Division of Operations and will **not** be included in this UMP. It is located adjacent to Route 9, 15 miles north of Elizabethtown in the Town of Chesterfield, Essex County adjoining Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain. The Intensive Use Area is 275 acres in size. Three of the 275 acres are developed and the other 272 acres are undeveloped. The three-acre developed section is home to 25 tent sites that were constructed in 1930 as well as a caretaker cabin and registration booth that were added in 1931. Bathroom facilities were constructed later in 1960. A separate management plan for the public campground was prepared and approved in December 1994. The campground was closed in 2009. The gate is currently open in the spring, summer and fall to allow public access to the climbing area and surrounding Wild Forest lands.

The UMP, as previously stated, only addresses Department-managed lands and includes for reference only private lands to which the State has acquired conservation easements. It does not encumber any private lands that may lie within the planning unit. The boundaries described in this UMP are used for administrative and planning purposes and do not have any legal connotations aside from those referenced above.

D. Acreage

The Taylor Pond Management Complex is spread over a 567 square mile area and consists of 26 separate parcels. Wild Forest lands are owned in fee by the People of the State of New York and total 53,280 acres. An additional 23,067 acres are protected by conservation easements to which the People of the State of New York have acquired less than fee title interest. The easements include development rights, public recreation rights, or a combination of both. The mix of State and private lands creates a wide diversity of forested conditions, wetlands, wildlife, and open space complemented by an extensive road network affording public access.

Table 1: Taylor Pond Management Complex Tracts

Forest Preserve	45,637 acres
State Forests	6,314 acres
Wildlife Mgt. Areas	1,329 acres
Easements	23,067 acres
Total Lands	**76,347 acres**

Forest Preserve	
Alderbrook Mountain / Mud Pond	7,489 acres
Alderbrook/ Franklin, Union Falls	11,500 acres
Black Mountain	636 acres
G15 Catamount / Taylor Pond	10,500 acres
Maule's Patent (no survey)	16 acres
Fay Mountain	618 acres
Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain	2,082 acres
Silver Lake Mountain	1,650 acres
Tolman Mountain / Whistle Pond	1,826 acres
OMT Twp. 4, Lot 30 Ore Bed lot	195 acres
OMT Twp 4, Lots 9 & 10	185 acres
Other lots	8,940 acres
Total (Forest Preserve)	**45,637 acres**

State Forests	
Clinton 2, Burnt Hill State Forest	1,575 acres
Clinton 3, Terry Mountain State Forest	1,987 acres
Clinton 4, Terry Mountain State Forest	2,752 acres
Total (State Forest Areas)	**6,314 acres**

Wildlife Mgt. Areas	
Ausable Marsh WMA	577 acres
Pauline Murdock WMA	69 acres
Wickham Marsh WMA	683 acres
Total (Wildlife Mgt. Areas)	**1,329 acres**

Easements	
Alderbrook Park	1,200 acres
Lassiter Properties, Inc. Conservation Easement - Cook Mountain Tract (CME)	1,030 acres
Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. Easement Tracts - Franklin Falls Easement / Shell Rock Easement (FFTE)	5,124 acres
Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC.	15,713 acres
Total (Easements)	**23,067 acres**

E. General Access

Roadside access to State lands is afforded by NYS Routes 3, 9, and 22 and numerous county highways and town roads. The existing road network and resultant ease of access makes the unit very attractive to a variety of recreational opportunities for those individuals seeking a higher level of developed recreational facilities and well marked trails. Recreationists in this group include visitors seeking short outings to mountains and lakes, boaters, fishermen, hunters, older and less physically-able persons and those desiring mechanical and/or motorized forms of recreation such as mountain biking and snowmobiling.

F. General History

1. Land Patents

The Taylor Pond Management Complex is spread across eastern Franklin County, the south west portion of Clinton County and extends south-easterly into northern Essex County. Human occupation of the greater Adirondacks took place immediately following the Wisconsin glaciation period (10,000-8,000 BC). Artifacts representing all periods of New York's history have been found throughout the region, most sites being located along water bodies and wetlands. The introduction of farming in the more hospitable surrounding lowlands (Lake Champlain, Mohawk, and St. Lawrence River valleys) beginning around 1,000 AD probably resulted in reduced human occupation of the Adirondacks. Prior to the 1770's these lands

were occupied by Native Americans. Following the American Revolution, title to these lands passed to the State of New York. In turn, these lands were granted in large tracts to individuals or to associations, sold for cash, or awarded as military bounties to veterans. For example, the Old Military Tract is about 60 miles in length from north to south and is twenty miles wide, occupying the three corner area of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties. It was broken down into twelve townships intended to be ten square miles each. Three of these Townships, numbers three, nine and ten contain the bulk of the Taylor Pond Management Complex. Patents to the east include Maule's Patent and Platts 12,000 acre patent named for the original grantees (Averill, 1885).

2. Iron Ore Industry

The Taylor Pond Management Complex shares a common history tied to 19th century iron industry in the northeast Adirondacks. Commencing in the early 1800's, this area became a regional focal point in the production of iron ore and charcoal which was needed for the production of iron. The region's abundant resources: iron ore close to the surface, substantial timber, and abundant waterpower contributed to the widespread development of these industries.
Iron ore was first mined at Arnold Hill in 1806. An extensive deposit was found at Palmer Hill in 1825 and mined there until 1890. Another deposit was mined on Cook Mountain in 1838. The Tremblay Ore Bed, to the north in the Town of Saranac, was started in 1854. Smaller deposits were exploited throughout the area.

The magnetite ores in these deposits are of high quality, often listed as 60% or more iron in purity. Two thousand pounds of wrought iron could be produced from less than four thousand pounds of raw ore (prepared by crushing and washing) and fired by more than 5,400 pounds of wood charcoal (Allen, 1990). Lake Champlain, 20 miles to the east, served as a natural transportation route to ship ore and wrought iron south to industrial markets. Thriving villages, in support of the iron and charcoal industry soon sprang up at Ausable Forks, Black Brook, Clintonville, Keeseville, Jay, Redford, and Saranac.

One of the most notable industrial enterprises in the unit was the J. & J. Rogers Co. of Ausable Forks. The company had extensive mines at Palmer Hill, iron forges, rolling mills, sawmills, and more than 50 charcoal kilns. J. & J. Rogers Co. made nearly all the charcoal used in their iron production from its company owned timberlands. By 1880, the company controlled more than 75,000 acres of forest land (Hurd, 1880). To produce enough charcoal for their iron works, the company was clear-cutting approximately 1,000 acres per year. There were 17 kilns in the town of Black Brook, six at Taylor Pond, three at Silver Lake, and four at Mud Pond (MacMartin, 1994). Some of the larger charcoal kilns required a thousand cords of hardwood per year. It took approximately two and a quarter to two and a half full cords of hardwood to make 100 bushels of charcoal. Three hundred bushels of charcoal were needed to smelt one ton of iron ore.

Lands were managed on a 40-year rotation between harvest cuts so that timber could regenerate between cuts. This provided a continuous supply of wood under this regimen. Cutting and hauling the wood to charcoal kilns, and then moving the charcoal to the forges was an industry in itself. Many draft animals were needed to haul ore, wood, and charcoal which stimulated agriculture on nearby farms.

The Chateaugay Ore and Iron Company conducted even larger operations to the north with a land base of more than 100,000 acres. By the 1880's the industry peaked and began to decline as the price of Adirondack charcoal rose and competition elsewhere made local production uneconomical. The last Adirondack forge closed in 1900 (Allen, 1990).

3. Divestiture

The J. & J. Rogers Co. divested its iron industry and converted its land base into a pulp and paper making industry in Ausable Forks. The J. & J. Rogers Co. was sold in 1954 to Wambat Realty Corporation who continued to run the mills under the J. & J. Rogers Co. name. At the time of the sale there was a pulp mill and a paper mill both being run by the same company. Shortly after the sale, an unfortunate mistake took place. The pulp mill was run with ammonia instead of sulfurous acid for six hours. This mistake destroyed the valves and much of the piping. The mistake was so disastrous it forced the pulp mill to be shut down. The pulp mill was never reopened. The paper mill continued to operate for years purchasing pulp. The paper mill ceased operation in 1963 when the J. & J. Rogers Co. which was now owned and run by Wambat Realty Corporation went bankrupt. The company timber lands were then subdivided and sold. Major tracts were acquired by International Paper Co., Republic Life Insurance Co. and the State of New York. The State purchased Catamount Mountain (elevation 3,168 feet), the 797 acre Taylor Pond, with the exception of Taylor Pond Dam, and 6,600 acres of adjoining woodlands in 1964. When Wambat Realty went into foreclosure its lands near Silver Lake were acquired by the Republic Life Insurance Co. of Texas. They in turn, sold 440 acres to the State of New York in 1982 that included 8,600 feet of shoreline on the south east side of Silver Lake.

4. Taylor Pond Dam

In 1925, the J. & J. Rogers Co. improved a logging dam at Taylor Pond and constructed a hydroelectric facility down stream to supply electricity to Ausable Forks. The site was acquired by the New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG) in 1942. Citing poor stream flows, NYSEG ceased electric generation there in the 1970's and sold the dam to New York State in 1983.

5. Franklin and Union Falls

Both Franklin and Union Falls were important commercial centers on the Saranac River. An iron ore forge, sawmill, and dam were established at Franklin Falls in 1827 and the area grew into a sizeable community, complete with a hotel, school, and store. The village, which sat in a long narrow ravine next to the river, completely burned in 1852. In addition to its river location, it sat astride the Port Kent to Hopkinton Turnpike, a major thoroughfare across the northern Adirondacks. Its halfway location between Ausable Forks and Paul Smiths made it an early tourist stop for travelers entering the Saranac Lakes Region.

In 1908, Paul Smith built hydroelectric dams on the Saranac River at Franklin and Union Falls to supply electricity to Saranac Lake and surrounding areas. The dams flooded approximately 270 acres of State Forest Preserve killing thousands of trees. The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, as intervener for the State, sued the Paul Smith's Electric Co. and lost the case in State Supreme Court in 1912. The Paul Smith's Electric Co. maintained these dams until 1966 when they were sold to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. The Paul Smith's Electric Co., and later, Paul Smith's College maintained recreational leases on Franklin and Union Falls Ponds. These lands were later sold to the Franklin Falls Timber Co.

The Department acquired a conservation easement (a mix of development and recreation rights) on 5,124 acres of the Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. lands between December 1991 and August of 1992. The Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. Easement tracts adjoin Franklin Falls Pond and Union Falls Pond in the Town of St. Armand in Essex County, the Town of Franklin in Franklin County and the Town of Black Brook in Clinton County. The conservation easement protects 13 miles of shoreline on the two

ponds and river. In addition to purchasing development rights protecting the open space character of the land, the State also acquired the right of public access to much of the property for recreational purposes subject to special regulations. The Franklin Falls Timber Company retained fee title ownership of the land and the right to harvest forest products in accordance with current scientifically-based forest management practices. The lands have since been subdivided and sold and are currently owned by Franklin Falls LLC., John Hutchison and Michael Frisoni.

Along with the easement rights a portion of land was purchased in fee at the same time. These lands made up most of the bed of Franklin Falls and Union Falls Ponds. These lands are now Forest Preserve lands under water.

6. Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain

Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain (2,162 feet elevation) is located in the southeast portion of Maule's Patent in the Town of Chesterfield. The fire tower sits in Lot 56 (200 acres) that was acquired by a tax sale in 1876. An additional 1,882 acres surrounding the mountain were acquired between 1931 and 2004. It is one of the quintessential mountains of the Adirondacks. The east face of the mountain has 1,000 feet of cliffs cumulatively, that are easily recognized from NYS Route 9 and Interstate 87. The summit is bare rock and has a fire tower. The origin of the mountain's unusual name is uncertain, but may be a combination of two Algonquin words, *Pohqui* and *Moosie*, which mean "broken" and "smooth" (McMartin, 1987).

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. A wooden fire tower and trail to the summit were established on the mountain in 1912. The wooden fire tower was replaced by a steel tower in 1917. An observer's cabin (16' x 27') was built south of the tower in 1924. In 1936 the cabin was replaced with a new cabin that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corp. (CCC) boys. (Conservation Report 1936. Albany: 1937, p. 141.) This cabin was burned by vandals in 1991. Walter Collins O'Kane described the view and cabin on Poke-O-Moonshine in his 1928 book, Trails and Summits of the Adirondacks. He states the observer had a spectacular panoramic view of Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east. O'Kane wrote that the cabin was located "in a little glen, with a shoulder of the mountain rising sharply on the right as one approaches it." The observer got his water from a spring that was on the trail about 500' to the east above the cabin. From the cabin the observer had about a fifteen-minute climb to the tower.

In 1924 1,242 hikers visited the fire tower making it the fifth highest number of hikers to visit an Adirondack tower (Conservation Report 1924, Albany: 1925, p.158.) In 1934 the number of visitors to the tower increased to 2,068. (Conservation Report 1934. Albany: 1935, p. 100.)

The Department deactivated the fire tower at the end of the 1988 season. Without any maintenance from an observer or the Department, the tower began to deteriorate.

In late 1995, the Department made public its intention to dismantle and remove the fire tower. Early in 1996, the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), Adirondack Architectural Heritage (ARCH) and the Town of Chesterfield organized a meeting of concerned individuals with the Department. A Friends of Poke-O-

Moonshine group was established. They convinced the Department to keep the tower and stated their intention to work with the Department in restoring the tower, improving the trail, and developing an educational interpretive program that was similar to the program used by the Blue Mountain Restoration Committee. In January 1998, an engineering assessment report of the tower was completed. It recommended the replacement of the wood steps, landings, cabin floor and steel safety screening on the stairs and landings. New concrete footings were needed and the report also recommended that all twenty-four of the steel diagonal supports needed to be replaced.

During the months of July and August, 1998, the deteriorated wood steps and landings were removed and replaced with pressure treated lumber. The tower windows were removed, repaired and replaced later that year.

7. Black Mountain Tract

Black Mountain is an isolated rocky peak in the southeast bounds of the Taylor Pond Management Complex in the Towns of Chesterfield and Jay, Essex County. The tract comprises 636 acres consolidated by three land purchases in 1958, 1963, and 1989. Access to the tract is via the Black Mountain Road (Sanders Road) and a Right-of-Way (ROW) in common with others that leaves Green Street in a southeasterly direction in the Town of Jay.

8. Alderbrook Mountain and Mud Pond Tract

The Alderbrook Mountain and Mud Pond Tract straddles the Clinton/Franklin County line. The entire mountain range is visible from NYS Route 3 near Sugar Bush. Red spruce and white pine saw timber was cut from the tracts southern slopes in the 1840's and transported to Franklin Falls where it was later transported down the Saranac River. The J. & J. Rogers Co. harvested extensive areas for charcoal. Lower elevations close to Alderbrook and the Saranac River were extensively farmed until the 1930's. Alderbrook Corners was once a small thriving village with a post office, school house, sawmills, Catholic Church and cemetery.

A large portion of the tract was acquired by tax sales in 1877, 1881, and 1890. Minor purchases of cut-over lands were acquired for $3.00 per acre in 1907 to consolidate State lands.

In 1983, New York State acquired a conservation easement on 1,200 acres of private property known as Alderbrook Park. The easement secured development rights on the property and protects extensive wetland and deer wintering areas bordering Alderbrook. This easement contains no public recreation rights other than the right to build a single hiking trail which would be open during non- hunting periods.

9. Silver Lake Mountain

Silver Lake Mountain is a small isolated mountain east of Silver Lake. It has a summit elevation of 2,374 feet with outstanding views. New York State acquired 853 acres on the mountain by tax sale in 1871. There had been a hiking trail on the mountain for many years, but private land near the beginning of trail made continued use questionable, New York State later purchased legal access from the International Paper Co. in 1988, which now puts the trail entirely on New York State land. Verplanck Colvin used the summit as a signal station for his Adirondack Survey in 1878.

10. Lassiter Properties, Inc. Conservation Easement - Cook Mountain Tract - Town of Ausable

Cook Mountain is a small isolated mountain. New York State acquired an easement on 1,030 acres from Lassiter Properties, Inc. through the Nature Conservancy, along the top of Cook Mountain which is accessible from the Parrish Road in the Town of Ausable. The land was first purchased by the Nature Conservancy and then sold to the State in December of 1988. The purchase was made up of lots 7, 10, 23, and 24, of Platts 12,000 Acre Location. The Easement was not surveyed by Department and the boundaries are difficult to locate. The Easement starts at the SE corner of Lot 23, Platt's 12,000 Acre Location. This corner is delineated by a red marked pipe 12 feet off the edge of the Parrish Road on the uphill side. The south line runs uphill, follows old blue and red blazes and some old barbed-wire fence can be found part way up the line. This is one of two special easements from Lassiter in which NYS purchased timber rights, development rights, and limited public hiking. Public access is allowed for hiking and snowshoeing only. All other recreational uses are prohibited. Those rights were retained by Lassiter. Historically, the property was cleared for mining and has had numerous forest fires. The resulting forest is a northern hardwoods forest.

11. Ore Bed Lot - Town of Black Brook

The Ore Bed Lot is a land-locked parcel located in Lot 30, Township 4, of the Old Military Tract (OMT). It is 195 acres and was acquired from Lassiter, formerly Diamond International, formerly Republic Steel Corp. The property was purchased as Clinton 116. The property has not been surveyed by the Department. Some blue paint and some old lines following rock walls on the north are partially evident. Also, what appears to be the east line is partially marked with old barbed wire. Legal access to this lot has not been determined and no right -of-way was listed in the chain of title. There is an old road that crosses the southeast corner and leads into private lands owned by Mike Ahern. The forest cover type is white birch and aspen.

12 .Tolman Mountain

Tolman Mountain is a small isolated mountain in lots 10 and 11 of township 3 OMT in the Town of Black Brook. The Tolman Mountain tract is 1,826 acres and includes Tolman Mountain and Signal Peak. It was acquired by several tax sales between 1877-1895. The north and west lines were surveyed in 1999 by the Department and painted yellow. The map referencing this parcel is R-76 Section 2 and Map #11573 in the Departments Real Property office. To the east and south, the property is bordered by Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC. (LATL). The land owner harvested timber up to the boundary line and there is a noticeable type change on aerial photos. Some of the lines are painted red and there is sign of some old blue paint in spots. Legal access has not been determined. There is an old road from the north known as the Kenniston Meadows Road, located off of the Ore Bed Road. From the south, access could be gained through (LATL) logging roads. The LATL logging roads start from the Duprey Road in Swastika. Both approaches are gated and locked. There is a need to research adjoiners to determine if any legal ROW's exist. The property experienced extensive ice storm damage from the 1998 ice storm, on the higher elevations and on the north side of Tolman Mountain.

SECTION II: INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

The Clinton Range, Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain and surroundings are part of an ancient Precambrian mountain range dating back more than one billion years. This region has been elevated by internal doming of the base rock and shaped by subsequent erosion. Most of the mountains are underlain with anorthosite, a fine grained igneous rock made up mostly of the mineral plagioclase feldspar. It underlies most of the eastern United States, and Canada. Bedrock, where exposed at the surface, is deeply pitted, and grooved by weathering.

Fault lines are visible on most of the bare rock mountains, like Catamount, Poke-O-Moonshine, and the Silver Lake Range. Faults are surfaces or zones of rock that have been fractured by the physical movement of one rock mass against another. These mountains all have steep cliffs formed by fault movements, generally on the up-thrown side. The best example of faulting is represented by the high cliffs on Poke-O-Moonshine which are visible from Interstate 87. Silver Lake and Taylor Pond sit on fault lines that run in a northeasterly direction. An earthquake followed these fault lines in April of 2002 causing minor tremors throughout the region. Its epicenter was near Clintonville in the Town of Ausable.

The present landscape has also been significantly modified by mountain glaciers, deep stream cutting, and landslides. Four widely separated glaciers more than 10,000 years ago sculptured the mountains. Alderbrook, Catamount, Poke-O-Moonshine, and Silver Lake Mountains all have conspicuous rounded summits.

b. Soils

Soils across the planning unit vary widely in degree of slope, depth to bedrock, stoniness and drainage. General meso-soil maps for the planning area are available from the Adirondack Park Agency. These maps depict broad soil associations relative to a particular landscape type. The maps portray soil associations as patterns of similar soils based on their properties and constituents. These are useful in the management of large forested areas and watersheds, but are not suitable for planning areas less than 40 acres in size.

Soil names are usually reflective of their dominant characteristics followed by a list of minor components and limitations. For example, frequently observed soils in the Taylor Pond Management Complex include:

- **Adams Loamy Fine Sand:** Adams is a very deep, excessively drained sandy soil formed in low lime deltaic deposits. It is found throughout the landscape, from nearly level deltas and gently sloping outwash plains to steeper sloping terraces and very steep eskers. The rate of surface runoff ranges from very slow to very rapid as the slope increases. Erosion hazard is rated slight but increases with slope and equipment limitations are moderate on steeper slopes. Permeability is rapid or very rapid and the available water capacity is low. This makes Adams a droughty soil that

is usually low in available nutrients. Some units of Adams are recognized on the New York listing of Farmland of Statewide Importance, although it is generally best suited for woodland and wildlife uses. In the TPMC, Adams is found in the valley sides along both branches of the Ausable River and its secondary tributaries. It is commonly found alongside the Fern Lake and Becket soil types.

- **Becket Fine Sandy Loam:** This loamy soil is a very deep, very bouldery, well drained soil formed in low lime glacial till. It is found from nearly level farmland to very steep terrain. Permeability is moderate in the surface and subsoil, and slow in the firm substratum. Available water capacity is moderate. Erosion hazard and equipment limitations are generally slight, but these limitations increase with the slope. Some units of Becket are recognized on the New York listing of Farmland of Statewide Importance, although it is generally best suited for woodland and wildlife uses. This soil is common in the TPMC and can be found on the lower slopes.

- **Becket-Tunbridge (and Skerry) Complex:** This complex consists of well drained loamy soils formed in low lime glacial till deposits in the uplands. Becket soils are well drained, very deep soils with a dense till substratum and are found on strongly sloping to steep uplands. Tunbridge soils are well drained, moderately deep soils and occur over an acidic metamorphic bedrock on gently sloping and strongly sloping uplands. Skerry soils are moderately well drained loamy soils that are moderately deep to dense till substratum deposits and are found on gently sloping uplands. Boulders cover up to 15% of the ground surface. The available water capacity of this unit is low to moderate and the permeability is moderate to moderately slow in the dense till. This complex has slight to moderate ratings for erosion hazard and equipment limitations, depending on the severity of the slope. The capability of this soil is best suited for woodlands and wildlife purposes and it is commonly found on the lower slopes surrounding Catamount Mountain and the general area surrounding Taylor Pond.

- **Colton Gravelly Loamy Coarse Sand:** This is a very deep, excessively drained, gravelly soil formed in low lime glacial outwash material on terraces, kames, eskers, and outwash plains. Large stones are likely to cover up to 3% of the ground surface. The permeability is rapid or very rapid and the available water capacity is very low. The erosion hazard and equipment limitations are rated as slight on gentle slopes, but in strongly sloping and steep areas, the erosion hazard is moderate and the equipment limitations are severe. Certain units of this soil are recognized on the New York listing for Farmland of Statewide Importance. This soil is found on the east side of Black Brook and north of the West Branch of the Ausable River.

- **Fern Lake Cobbly Loamy Sand:** This is a very deep, somewhat excessively drained sandy soil formed in low lime glacial drift with slopes ranging from 3% - 60%. Boulders cover up to 3% of the ground surface. The available water capacity is low and permeability is moderately rapid or rapid. Erosion hazard is slight to moderate and the equipment limitations are slight to severe, depending on the severity of the slope. The capability of this soil is best suited for woodlands and wildlife purposes and is commonly found near Fern Lake. In general, it is widespread throughout the northeastern portion of the TPMC.

- **Colton Gravelly Loamy Coarse Sand:** This is a very deep, excessively drained, gravelly soil formed in low lime glacial outwash material on terraces, kames, eskers, and outwash plains. Large stones are likely to cover up to 3% of the ground surface. The permeability is rapid or very rapid and the available water capacity is very low. The erosion hazard and equipment limitations are rated as

slight on gentle slopes, but in strongly sloping and steep areas, the erosion hazard is moderate and the equipment limitations are severe. Certain units of this soil are recognized on the New York listing for Farmland of Statewide Importance. This soil is found on the east side of Black Brook and north of the West Branch of the Ausable River.

- **Tunbridge-Lyman Complex:** This complex consists of well drained, rocky soils formed in low lime glacial till deposits found on strongly sloping to very steep terrain. Tunbridge soils are moderately deep soils that occur over an acidic metamorphic bedrock and occupy about 45% - 50% of the area. Lyman soils are shallow soils and occupy about 30 - 35% of the area. The remaining percentage of the area includes a mixture of other soils and up to 5% rock outcrop. Surface runoff is moderate to very rapid. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid and available water capacity is low or very low. Erosion hazard is moderate to severe. This soil complex is best suited for woodland and wildlife purposes and is commonly found on the middle and lower slopes of local mountain sides. Additionally, Tunbridge-Lyman is commonly observed alongside the Ricker-Lyman & Lyman Ricker Complexes and in the Black Mountain Tract as well as on Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain.

- **Ricker-Lyman & Lyman-Ricker Complexes:** These similar soil complexes contain well drained to excessively well drained, very rocky soils found on moderately steep to very steep terrain. Ricker soils are very shallow to moderately deep soils formed from low lime glacial till with partially decomposed organic deposits over mineral soil. Lyman soils are shallow soils formed in low lime glacial till deposits. Each soil type occupies between 30% - 45% of the area. The remaining percentage of the complexes includes a mixture of other soils and up to 20% rock outcrop. Surface run off is rapid to very rapid. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid and available water capacity is low or very low. The equipment limitation and erosion hazards are severe and generally restrict the soils capacity for use to woodlands and wildlife purposes. These soil complexes can be observed on the middle and upper slopes of mountains. These soils are found on both the Black Mountain Tract and Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain.

- **Rawsonville Complexes:** This complex consists of loamy soils formed in low lime glacial till. Rawsonville soils are well drained, moderately deep soils that occur on strongly sloping to moderately steep uplands. The soils are very rocky and the bedrock is exposed on up to 10% of the landscape. The available water capacity is low to moderate and permeability is moderate to moderately rapid. Erosion hazard and equipment limitations are rated as moderate for Rawsonville. The capability for usage of Rawsonville is best suited for woodlands and wildlife purposes.

- **Monadnock-Tunbridge-Tahawus Complex:** This unit consists of about 50% Monadnock soils, 25% Tunbridge soils, 15% Tahawus soils, and 10% other soils. The Monadnock soils are rocky, very deep, well drained, low lime, loamy over sandy soil formed in glacial till. The Tunbridge soils are moderately deep to bedrock, well drained, low lime, loamy soil formed in glacial till. Tahawus soils are very deep, poorly drained, medium lime, sandy soil formed in glacial till. Surface runoff is moderate. Permeability is moderate in the surface and subsoil, and moderately rapid or rapid in the substratum. Available water capacity is moderate. This soil complex is found mainly in the Black Mountain Tract in the TPMC.

c. Terrain/Topography

Poke-O-Moonshine's large cliffs, over 1,000 feet when added together, are the largest in the unit. The terrain in the unit is undulating and the unit has many valleys and mountain peaks. Catamount Mountain, Silver Lake Mountain, Fay Mountain, Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain, the Alderbrook Range and Black Mountain are some of the highest peaks in the Unit. The Black Mountain tract is unusual in nature as it also contains large deep gorges. Gorges of this size are rare in this area of Northern New York State. The Unit is widespread and incorporates almost all northern terrain types from lands in the Lake Champlain watershed to the lands on the mountain summits which reach heights of 3,168 feet on Catamount Mountain.

d. Water

The Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC) is wholly located in the Lake Champlain Watershed. Several of the smaller ponded waters and Taylor Pond flow to Black Brook and then to the West Branch of the Ausable River. However Silver Lake flows to the Saranac River and Union Falls Pond and Franklin Falls Pond are both impoundments of the Saranac River.

Eighteen ponds and lakes occur within or border the unit. Waters are dispersed throughout the unit and range in size from several unnamed waters less than an acre to Union Falls Pond, a manmade impoundment of the Saranac River which is over 1671 acres. Taylor Pond and Silver Lake are also moderately large with surface areas near 800 acres.

The area also contains portions of several coldwater streams, including Taylor Pond Outlet, Silver Lake Brook, the Saranac River and Black Brook. The Saranac River provides significant recreational fisheries.

Section IV, Projected Use and Proposed Management - Fisheries, lists the major ponded waters in and bordering the TPMC with a brief narrative pertaining to their important features, including past and current management, accessibility, size, water chemistry, and fish species composition. Appendix O, Table 1 gives additional statistical information about ponded waters including fisheries management classification (See definitions on page 9) and depth. The most recent biological/chemical data are summarized in Appendix O, Table 2.

e. Wetlands

The wetlands found on the Management Complex provide great ecological, aesthetic, recreational, and educational value. In their capacity to receive, store, and slowly release rainwater and snow melt, wetlands protect water resources by stabilizing water flow and minimizing erosion and sedimentation. They are one of the most productive habitats for fish and wildlife, and afford opportunities for fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, and photography. Wetlands also enhance open space character by providing breaks in the heavily forested terrain.

The mountainous topography of the Taylor Pond Management Complex generally restricts the occurrence of wetlands to the narrow valleys, lowlands, and associated creeks and rivers that drain the surrounding mountains. While there are some small isolated wetlands, the vast majority of the wetlands are found in small groups or successive chains along stream courses. The largest wetlands are found at Mud Pond, Taylor Pond, Franklin Falls Pond, Union Falls Pond-Little Bear Bay, and Silver Lake. Others parallel Alderbrook, Allegheny Brook, Little Black Brook, and the Saranac River. The latter are also important bird habitats and deer wintering areas.

Vernal pools are scattered throughout the upland forests of the unit. These are small wetlands that occupy shallow depressions flooded in the spring or after a heavy rainfall, but are usually dry by mid-summer. Many vernal pools refill in the fall. These tiny wetlands support a diverse group of invertebrates that include species of frogs, salamanders, newts, and toads.

Management activities in or adjacent to classified wetlands require consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency.

f. Air Resources and Atmospheric Deposition

Air Quality

The region receives weather flowing south from the Arctic Circle that tends to be more pure than weather emanating from the west and southwest. Air quality may be more affected by particulate matter blown in from outside pollution sources rather than from activities inside the Adirondack Park. The relative assimilation of outside pollutants, commonly referred to as "acid rain," is under investigation and study by the NYS Atmospheric Science Research Station located on Whiteface Mountain just south of the Taylor Pond Management Complex. Whiteface's preeminent feature as a high-standing mountain apart from the other High Peaks, in the face of prevailing winds, and a long-term collection center of weather research data, makes it an outstanding outdoor research laboratory for the entire region.

In the Adirondack Mountains from 1992 through 1999, sulfates declined in 92% of a representative sample of lakes, selected by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC), but nitrates increased in 48% of those lakes. The decrease in sulfates is consistent with decreases in sulfur emissions and deposition, but the increase in nitrates is inconsistent with the stable levels of nitrogen emissions and deposition. Continued monitoring by collection and analysis of acid deposition will allow the monitoring network to determine if improvements will continue as a result of reductions of SO2- and NO4-legislated in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

The effects of various activities on Taylor Pond Management Complex's air quality have not been sufficiently measured nor determined. 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 summits are often obscured by haze caused by air pollutants when a large number of small diameter particles exist in the air. Mountain visibility is reduced considerably on high sulphate days (O'Neil, 1990).

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 Taylor Pond Management Complex general observations of the effects of acidic deposition on the regional ecosystem are numerous and well documented.

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.
- Decrease 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 forests 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 1950's. 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

New York's Adirondack Park is one of the most sensitive areas in the United States affected by acidic deposition. The Park consists of over 6 million acres of forest, lakes, streams and mountains interspersed with dozens of small communities, and a large seasonal population fluctuation. However, due to its geography and geology, it is one of the most sensitive regions in the United States to acidic deposition and has been impacted to such an extent that significant native fish populations have been lost and signature high elevation forests have been damaged.

There are two types of acidification which affect lakes and streams. One is a year-round condition when a lake is acidic all year long, referred to as chronically or critically acidic. The other is seasonal or episodic acidification associated with spring melt and/or rain storm events. A lake is considered insensitive when it is not acidified during any time of the year. Lakes with acid-neutralizing capability (ANC) values below 0 µeq/L are considered to be chronically acidic. Lakes with ANC values between 0 and 50 µeq/L are considered susceptible to episodic acidification; ANC may decrease below 0 µeq/L during high-flow conditions in these lakes. Lakes with ANC values greater than 50 µeq/L are considered relatively insensitive to inputs of acidic deposition (Driscoll, 2001). Watersheds which experience episodic acidification are very common in the Adirondack region. A 1995 EPA Report to Congress estimated that 70% of the target population lakes are at risk of episodic acidification at least once during the year. Additionally, EPA reported that 19% of these lakes were acidic in 1984, based on their surveys of waters larger than 10 acres. A 1990 report by the ALSC (which included lakes of less than 10 acres in an extensive survey of 1,469 lakes in the Adirondacks, found that 24% of Adirondack lakes had summer pH values below 5.0 a level of critical concern to biota. Moreover, approximately half of the waters in the Adirondacks surveyed had ANC values below 50 making them susceptible to episodes of acidification. Confirming that, EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) sampling in 1991-1994 revealed that 41% of the Adirondack lakes were chronically acidic or susceptible to episodic acidification, demonstrating that a high percentage of watersheds in the Adirondacks are unable to neutralize current levels of acid rain.

In addition to sensitive lakes, the Adirondack region includes thousands of miles of streams and rivers which are also sensitive to acidic deposition. While it is difficult to quantify the impact, it is certain that there are large numbers of Adirondack brooks that will not support native Adirondack brook trout. Over half of these Adirondack streams and rivers may be acidic during spring snowmelt, when high aluminum concentrations and toxic water conditions adversely impact aquatic life. This adverse effect will continue unless further limits are placed on emissions of acid rain precursors.

Summaries of those data can be found at (http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org) see Adirondack Lakes Survey (ALSC) Pond Information. The Adirondack Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) program managed by the ALSC has been sampling chemistry in 52 lakes across the Adirondack Park on a monthly basis.

g. Climate

Climatic conditions vary considerably across a unit such as the Taylor Pond Management Complex. Local variations are attributed to such factors as slope, aspect, elevation, proximity to water bodies, precipitation, prevailing winds, and natural barriers to air currents. Summers tend to be warm with cool nights. Maximum day-time temperatures seldom exceed 90 degrees. Frost can occur any month of the year and occasional freezing temperatures are recorded in July and August. Winters are long and extremely cold accompanied by high winds. Daily temperature variations of 20 - 30 degrees are common. Annual precipitation, in rainfall, is between 40 to 60 inches per year; snowfall ranges from 100-150 inches per year. Due to the increased availability of direct sunlight, southern slopes are drier than northern slopes. The latter tend to retain more moisture. Prevailing winds are generally westerly, but may be modified by topography. Eastern slopes, leeward of prevailing winds, tend to be drier and warmer than western slopes. Extensive damaging winds (hurricane force) are rare, but do occur when coastal storms move inland.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

Most of Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC) is located within the Eastern Adirondack Foothills ecological zone, with other parcels located in the Adirondack High Peaks, Champlain Transition, and Champlain Valley ecological zones (Reschke 1990). The Taylor Pond Management Complex is a mosaic of plant communities that correspond to variations in soil, temperature, moisture, elevation, and past cultural practices. Past events, such as fire, wind, ice, land clearing, and pre-Forest Preserve logging have had a profound influence on present-day conditions.

One of the greatest influences on the Taylor Pond Management Complex was the local manufacture of charcoal. Thousands of acres were clear-cut to produce charcoal which was used as a local energy source to smelt iron ore. The environmental impact on these woodlands due to this manufacturing was more severe than traditional lumbering of the time period, because smaller trees were utilized. Often, hardwood trees down to 4 inches in diameter were cut. Whole mountain sides were cleared and areas that were clear-cut for hardwood, regenerated by sprouting from the smaller stumps. Such areas tended to grow more slowly because of their multiple stem "coppice habitat" (Allen, 1990). One hundred years later, these forests are still easily discerned by their same age and species composition. The forests have an abundance of multiple stemmed trees, and are heavily weighted to the species of beech, red maple, aspen, and white birch. The trees are generally of similar diameter and height.

Much of the softwood component of area forests was removed for pulpwood at the end of the nineteenth century and has been replaced by faster growing northern and pioneer hardwoods that out-compete the softwoods. Hemlock was removed for tanning bark, white pine and red spruce saw logs were floated down the Saranac River to local mills, and vast quantities of aspen, red spruce and balsam fir were used to manufacture pulp and paper in Ausable Forks and Plattsburgh.

In 1903, a series of wild fires engulfed this area in a wide swath from the Ausable River to the Saranac River. The burns were especially heavy in areas that had been recently harvested for charcoal and pulpwood with a lot of tops and limbs on the ground (Suter, 1904). These areas included Alderbrook Mountain, Catamount Mountain, the Taylor Pond Valley, and Silver Lake Mountain.

The January Ice Storm of 1998 was felt across the entire Taylor Pond Management Complex. This storm caused heavy mortality and tree and top damage in area forests. It appears that hardwood trees sustained greater damage than softwoods. The loading of tree branches with ice resulted in branch as well as stem damage. Damage to the trees has resulted in altered growth rates, infestations of decay organisms or insect pests, and has impacted the aesthetic quality of individual trees and landscapes. On the positive side, the ice storm was a benefit to wildlife creating a diversity of habitats including new growth on the forest floor. The Ice Storm also resulted in conversion of some even aged stands to two aged stands with more natural growth for trees in these areas. The trees in these stands will be of different heights and ages resulting in a more natural age distribution.

Today, most of the planning area is in a second growth condition that has made a remarkable recovery from past disturbances. In general, area vegetation can be categorized into vegetative zones based on elevation and topography. Each zone has plant communities and associate species that biologists recognize as belonging together under certain circumstances and site requirements. The general

vegetative zones that describe the Taylor Pond Management Complex are adapted from *Ecological Communities of New York State* (Reschke, 1990) and summarized below:

- **Successional Northern Hardwood Forest -** This zone is normally composed of aspen, gray birch, and pin cherry with occasional red maple and balsam fir during the early successional stage. It is characteristic of sites that have been cleared for farming or logging, or otherwise disturbed. This is a broadly defined community dominated by light-requiring wind-dispersed species that are well adapted to establishment following a major disturbance. The over story of this forest type is almost entirely composed of white birch. Other associated species include aspen, beech, cherry, and red maple. As a successional northern hardwood forest moves through its stages from early to late-succession beech, yellow, birch, and sugar maple become more dominant in the canopy. Sometimes red maple replaces sugar maple. Hemlock, red spruce, white, ash, red oak, butternut, basswood, hophornbeam, and other species can be present as well. This forest type occurs in pure timber stands or occupies a transition zone with mixed or northern hardwoods. However, the almost pure dominance of white birch overshadows the importance of the other hardwood species normally found. A characteristic feature of this forest is the lack of reproduction of the canopy species. Most of the seedlings and sapling growing underneath the canopy are of more shade-tolerant species of a different type. This is by far the largest forested community on the Taylor Pond Management Complex. Taylor Pond lies in a basin clothed with successional northern hardwoods that were extensively impacted by the Ice Storm of 1998.
- **Applachian Oak-Pine Forest -** Characteristic of the drier slopes of the Champlain Valley, this is a mixed forest that occurs on sandy soils, or on slopes with rocky, but well-drained soils. The canopy is dominated by a mixture of oaks and pines. The oaks include red or white oak. The pines are either red or white pine. Red maple and black cherry are found in lower densities. Cook Mountain is covered by this forest which was cleared for iron mining and sustained numerous forest fires.
- **Pine-Northern Hardwood Forest -** Pine-northern hardwoods are mixed forests that occur on the gravelly outwash soils of the Saranac River near the Casey Road and Franklin and Union Falls Ponds. The dominant trees are white and red pine with scattered paper birch and aspen. In some stands there is a mixture of other hardwoods and conifers such as yellow birch, red maple, and balsam fir. Characteristic shrubs are blueberries and shadbush.
- **Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest -** This is a minor forest cover type on the Taylor Pond Management Complex that typically occupies the middle to lower slopes of ravines where it is cool and moist. In any one stand, hemlock is co-dominant with a mix of northern hardwoods including beech, red maple, and black cherry. Striped maple is a characteristic understory tree. The shrub layer may be sparse with viburnum and raspberries. This forest type contains Hemlock which is an important winter cover tree for deer and other wildlife.
- **Balsam Flats -** Balsam flats are conifer forests that occur on the moist, well-drained soils of low flats adjoining wetlands. Balsam fir occurs almost in pure stands or mixed with red or black spruce and possibly yellow birch. The shrub layer is patchy and sparse with hobblebush, wild raisin, and mountain ash. Balsam flats are an important winter cover type for deer in the Alderbrook drainage and the outlet of Mud Pond.
- **Shrub Swamp -** Shrub swamp is a general term used to describe a wetland dominated by shrubs that are found along the edge of a lake or stream, wet depression, or valley not associated with lakes, or as a transition zone between a marsh, fen, or bog and a swamp or upland community. In

northern New York, these are dominated by red alder and these swamps are known as alder thickets. The Alderbrook Valley and the headwaters of Little Black Brook are dominated by extensive alder thickets.

- **Conifer Plantations -** Norway spruce plantations were planted for wildlife habitat and erosion control on burned over land at Alderbrook and Sugar Bush more than 80 years ago. These are in small blocks of five to ten acres each. Ground vegetation is generally sparse, but is giving way to balsam fir growing underneath the Norway spruce canopy.

Invasive Plants

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 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 Locations

There are three purple loosestrife infestations affecting this Unit. Multiple, dense, purple loosestrife stands occur upstream and downstream of the bridge over the Saranac River on the service road to Moose Pond, Town of St. Armand. The infestations' distribution ranges from mean low water mark to associated wetlands to upland fringes of the floodplain. The multiple infestations at this site also affect private lands. Affected area is approximately one acre.

Spotty, interspersed purple loosestrife plants occur along the Saranac River off of River Road/County Road 18, at the mean high water mark beginning at the popular culvert fishing area below the canoe carry. The plants continue downstream, on the left (north) riverbank.

Dense purple loosestrife infestations occur at camp sites #20 and #21 at DEC Taylor Pond Campground. Approximately 150 adult plants are established around the periphery of the camp sites and within 20 feet of shoreline habitat.

Information regarding Ausable Marsh WMA can be found in the Special Management Area section of the plan

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 Department, 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 Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), 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) management efforts.

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. Documentation of aquatic invasive plant distributions in the Park is limited by the number of lakes and ponds that have been surveyed and the frequency of monitoring. In some cases, only a portion of the water's shoreline has been surveyed. In other cases, a single specimen may have been identified without documentation as to its location within the waterbody. It follows that a negative survey result indicates only that an invasive plant has not been detected and does not preclude the possibility of its existence.

While a comprehensive survey for the presence of aquatic invasive plant species has not been completed, APIPP volunteers monitored the following waters within the Unit: Taylor Pond, Silver Lake, Union Falls Pond and Franklin Falls Pond. Eurasian watemilfoil was recorded in Taylor Pond and Union Falls Pond. Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed were recorded in Franklin Falls Pond. The APIPP Park-wide volunteer monitoring program aims to maintain a long-term monitoring program on these and other lakes. 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.

Aquatic Invasive Plant 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.

Eurasian watermilfoil is confirmed in the following water bodies:

- Taylor Pond 44273N 0733006W
- Union Falls Pond 442910N 0735618W

Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed are confirmed in the following water body:

- Franklin Falls Pond 442615N 0735822W

b. Wildlife

Taylor Pond Management Complex contains a rich diversity of wildlife habitats, ranging from marshes along Lake Champlain to cliff communities and high elevation spruce-fir forest. The dominant forest community in the unit is mixed northern hardwoods; therefore, wildlife communities reflect those species commonly associated with these forested habitats. Terrestrial fauna are represented by a variety of bird, mammal, and invertebrate species. Amphibians and reptiles also occur on the unit, although species diversity is relatively low as compared with other vertebrates. The distribution and abundance of wildlife species on the unit is determined by physical (e.g., elevation, topography, climate), biological (e.g., forest composition, structure, and disturbance regimes, available habitat, population dynamics, species' habitat requirements), and social factors (e.g., land use). It is important to note that wildlife populations occurring on the unit do not exist in isolation from other forest preserve units or private lands. The physical, biological, and social factors that exist on these other lands can and do influence the abundance and distribution of wildlife species on the TPMC.

With the exception of a New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) survey, comprehensive field inventories of wildlife species have not focused specifically on the TPMC. Statewide wildlife survey efforts conducted by the NYSDEC have included two Breeding Bird Atlas projects (1980-1985 and 2000-present) and the New York State Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (1990-1999). Critical wildlife habitats, specifically deer wintering areas, have also been identified by the NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife within the unit (see Section II, Critical Habitat). Additionally, the Bureau of Wildlife collects harvest data on a number of game species (those that are hunted or trapped). Harvest data is not collected specific to Forest Preserve units, but rather on a town, county, and wildlife management unit (WMU) basis. Harvest data can provide some indication of wildlife distribution and abundance and is sometimes the only source of data on mammals.

A large portion of the unit is covered by late-successional stage forests, with limited areas of early successional habitat. The character of the unit's vegetation has a significant effect in determining the occurrence and abundance of wildlife species. While some species prefer old growth forests, many others occur in lower densities on Forest Preserve lands than they do on private lands characterized by a greater variety of habitat types. Natural forest disturbances including wind storms, ice storms, tree disease and insect outbreaks, fire, and beaver activity influence forest structure and wildlife habitats by creating

patches of earlier successional stages within a larger matrix of mature forest. These natural disturbances create important habitat for a variety of species that depend on early succession vegetation communities and the edges created between these communities and the surrounding forest. However, these areas are usually limited in size. Private lands adjacent to public lands may provide some habitat for species that prefer early successional habitats, depending on the silvicultural practices conducted.

Amphibians and Reptiles

The New York State Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (1990-1999) confirmed the presence of 31 species of reptiles and amphibians in USGS Quadrangles within, or partially within TPMC. It is important to note that quadrangles (the survey sample unit) overlap and extend beyond the land boundary of the unit. Therefore, recorded species do not necessarily reflect what was found on the unit, but on the quadrangles. Some species may have been found on private lands adjacent to the state lands. However, these data should provide a good indication of the species found throughout the TPMC. These included 4 species of turtles, 9 species of snakes, 10 species of frogs and toads, and 8 species of salamanders (Table 1). These species are classified as protected wildlife and some may be harvested during open hunting seasons. Of the 31 confirmed species, 1 was classified as special concern, 1 was classified as threatened, and none were classified as endangered. Of the special concern species, 6 occurrences of wood turtle were documented within quadrangles within, or partially within TPMC. Of the threatened species, 3 occurrences of timber rattlesnake were documented within quadrangles within, or partially within TPMC. It is important to note that all timber rattlesnake occurrences were documented outside of the TPMC.

Table 1 - Amphibian and reptile species recorded in USGS Quadrangles within, or partially within, the Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC) during the New York State Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project, 1990-1999.

Common Name	***Scientific Name***
Spotted Salamander	*Ambystoma maculatum*
Red-spotted Newt	*Notophthalmus v. viridescens*
Northern Dusky Salamander	*Desmognathus fuscus*
Allegheny Dusky Salamander	*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*
Northern Redback Salamander	*Plethodon cinereus*
Northern Spring Salamander	*Gyrinophilus p. porphyriticus*
Northern Two-lined Salamander	*Eurycea bislineata*
Common Mudpuppy	*Necturus maculosus*
Eastern American Toad	*Bufo a. americanus*
Northern Spring Peeper	*Pseudacris c. crucifer*
Gray Treefrog	*Hyla versicolor*
Bullfrog	*Rana catesbeiana*
Green Frog	*Rana clamitans melanota*
Mink Frog	*Rana septentrionalis*
Wood Frog	*Rana sylvatica*
Northern Leopard Frog	*Rana pipiens*
Pickerel Frog	*Rana palustris*
Western Chorus Frog	*Pseudacris triseriata*
Common Snapping Turtle	*Chelydra s. serpentina*
Wood Turtle [1]	*Clemmys insculpta*

Common Name	*Scientific Name*
Painted Turtle	*Chrysemys picta*
Common Map Turtle	*Graptemys geographica*
Northern Water Snake	*Nerodia s. sipedon*
Northern Brown Snake	*Storeria d. dekayi*
Northern Redbelly Snake	*Storeria o. occiptomaculata*
Common Garter Snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis*
Ribbon Snake	*Thamnophis sauritus*
Northern Ringneck Snake	*Diadophis punctatus edwardsi*
Smooth Green Snake	*Liochlorophis vernalis*
Eastern Milk Snake	*Lampropeltis t. triangulum*
Timber Rattlesnake [2]	*Crotalus horridus*

[1] Special Concern species.
[2] Threatened species.

Habitat Associations

Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*).-- The spotted salamander prefers vernal pools for breeding, but its jelly-like globular egg masses are found in a variety of wetland habitats. Because of its fossorial habits, the spotted salamander is rarely encountered except during the breeding season. At that time they can be found under rocks, logs, and debris near the edges of the breeding pools.

Red-spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*).-- One of the most fascinating life histories of any salamander is that of the Red-spotted Newt, with four stages in its life cycle (egg, aquatic larva, terrestrial immature red eft, and aquatic adult). Interestingly, the red eft remains on land from two (Bishop, 1941) to seven years (Healy, 1974) before they transform into their final life stage, the aquatic adult.

Northern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*).-- The Northern Dusky Salamander inhabits rocky stream ecotones, hillside seeps and springs, and other seepage areas in forested or partially forested habitat. They are typically found under rocks and other cover objects such as logs adjacent to, or in the water (Harding, 1997).

Allegheny Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*).-- The Allegheny Dusky Salamander is more terrestrial than its congener, the Northern Dusky Salamander, being found under rocks and woodland debris in moist forests usually near a seep or stream.

Northern Redback Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*).-- The Northern Redback Salamander is found in deciduous, coniferous or mixed forest where it nests in moist, rotten logs. It favors pine logs in advanced stages of decay rather than deciduous tree logs that appear to be more susceptible to molds, thus attributing to possible fungal infections in the eggs (Pfingsten and Downs 1989).

Northern Spring Salamander (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*).-- Although Northern Spring Salamanders inhabit cool, well-oxygenated streams in forested areas where they can be found under rocks and logs, they sometimes can be found foraging in the open on rainy nights. This species also uses underground springs that are a considerable distance away from their natal habitat (Harding, 1997).

Northern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*).-- Northern Two-lined Salamanders inhabit springs and seeps in forested wetlands, edges of brooks and streams, and terrestrial areas many meters from water. They are usually found under rocks, logs, and debris (Pfingsten and Downs, 1989).
Common Mudpuppy (Necturus maculosus).-- The habitat of the Common Mudpuppy includes lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and other permanent waterbodies. This species is primarily nocturnal but may be active during the day. The Common Mudpuppy will feed on most small aquatic animals, including fish, fish eggs, crayfish, aquatic insects, and mollusks.

Eastern American Toad (*Bufo americanus*).-- Although Eastern American Toads can be found in almost every habitat from cultivated gardens to woodlands, they are typically found in moist upland forest. Special habitat requirements include shallow water for breeding (DeGraaf and Rudis, 1983).

Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*).-- Northern Spring Peepers inhabit coniferous, deciduous and mixed forested habitat where they typically breed in ponds, emergent marshes or shrub swamps. However, their spring chorus is commonly heard from just about any body of water, especially in areas where trees or shrubs stand in and near water (Hunter, et al., 1999).

Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*).-- Gray Treefrogs are found in forested areas where they hibernate near the soil surface, tolerating temperatures as cold as -6 degrees C for as long as five consecutive days. Due to the production of glycerol which serves as an antifreeze, gray treefrogs can freeze up to 41.5% of their total body fluids. The frogs breed in both permanent or temporary ponds or wetlands (Hunter, et al., 1999).

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*).-- Bullfrogs require permanent bodies of water with adequate emergent and edge cover. Their aquatic habitats include shallow lake coves, slow-moving rivers and streams, and ponds (Hunter, et al., 1999).

Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*).-- Green frogs are rarely found more than several meters from some form of water, including lakes and ponds, streams, quarry pools, springs, and vernal pools (DeGraaf and Rudis, 1983).

Mink Frog (*Rana septentrionalis*).-- Mink frogs prefer cool, permanent water with adequate emergent and floating-leaved vegetation where they feed on aquatic insects and other invertebrates. Here they also hibernate on the bottom in the mud (Harding, 1997).

Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*).-- Wood frogs prefer cool, moist, woodlands where they select temporary pools for breeding. However, where vernal pools are absent, wood frogs will breed in a variety of habitats including everything from cattail swamps to roadside ditches (Hunter, et al., 1999).

Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*).-- Although sometimes found in wet woodlands, Northern Leopard Frogs are the frog of wet meadows and open fields, breeding in ponds, marshes, and slow, shallow, vegetated streams (DeGraaf and Rudis, 1983).

Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*).-- Whether the habitat selected is a bog, fen, pond, stream, spring, slough, or cove, Pickerel Frogs prefer cool, clear waters, avoiding polluted or stagnant habitats. Grassy streambanks and inlets to springs, bogs, marshes, or weedy ponds are preferred habitats (Harding, 1997).

Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*).--Western chorus frogs inhabit marshes, ponds, small lakes, meadows, damp woods, or wooded swamp lands (Baxter and Stone 1980). Habitats containing water sources varying in size from vernal pools, large wetlands, or lake shallows are preferred breeding areas (Nussbaum et al. 1983).

Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*).-- Snapping Turtles are found in most permanent and semipermanent bodies of fresh and brackish water. Areas that have dense aquatic vegetation with deep, soft, organic substrates and plenty of cover are favored (Mitchell, 1994).

Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*).-- The Wood Turtle is a semiaquatic turtle that inhabits both the terrestrial and aquatic environment. It favors streams with sandy-pebbly substrates that are deep enough so that they do not freeze during hibernation, are well-oxygenated, and have good water quality. Terrestrial habitat includes a variety of wetlands, upland successional fields, and deciduous woodlands with open areas for basking (Tuttle and Carroll, 1997).

Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*).-- Painted Turtles most often inhabit ponds, lakes, and other slow-moving bodies of water with soft substrates and abundant aquatic vegetation. A critical habitat parameter is adequate basking sites such as logs, rocks, and mats of aquatic vegetation.
Common Map Turtle (Graptemys geographica).--The Common Map Turtle ranges from Lake Champlain to the Great Lakes region and south to Louisiana. This is an uncommon turtle of limited distribution. The Common Map Turtle inhabits rivers and lakes and prefers large bodies of water with muddy bottoms and aquatic vegetation (DeGraaf and Rudis, 1986).

Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia s. sipedon*).-- This species is found in many aquatic habitats including lakes, ponds, rivers, and wetlands. Northern Water Snakes prefer fish and amphibians as their primary food source (Mitchell, 1994).

Northern Brown Snake (*Storeria d. dekayi*).-- Northern Brown Snakes are found in the soil-humus layer of hardwood forests, mixed hardwood-pine forests, pine woods, grasslands, early successional agricultural land, and urban areas where they are frequently found in gardens (Mitchell, 1994).

Northern Redbelly Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*).-- Although the Northern Redbelly Snake prefers wetland-upland ecotones, it is found in a variety of terrestrial habitats. This extremely secretive nocturnal species may be found under rocks, logs, bark, and leaves; but if conditions are dry, they are apt to go underground in unused rodent borrows (Mitchell, 1994).

Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*).-- Garter Snakes are found in a wide variety of habitats including, but not limited to, woodlands, meadows, wetlands, streams, drainage ditches, and even city parks and cemeteries (Conant and Collins, 1998). But large populations of Common Garter Snakes are usually found in moist, grassy areas near the edges of water (Harding, 1997).
Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*).–This semi aquatic snake requires shallow, permanent waterbodies in open, grassy habitats. Examples of these habitats include damp meadows, grassy marshes, northern sphagnum bogs, and the borders of ponds, lakes, and streams (DeGraaf and Rudis, 1986).

Northern Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsi*).-- The Northern Ringneck Snake is a secretive woodland snake and is usually more common where abundant hiding structure exists, including stones, logs, and other rotting wood. Rocky, wooded hillsides are favored.

Smooth Green Snake (*Liochlorophis vernalis*).-- The Smooth Green Snake is a snake of moist, grassy areas of wetland edges, meadows and old fields, and of deciduous and coniferous woods and woodland ecotones where they feed on insects, their forage of choice (Harding, 1997).

Eastern Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*).-- The Milk Snake is the snake of farm outbuildings and barns, taking cover under rocks, logs, firewood, or building materials. Natural habitat includes open woodlands, wetlands, old fields and pastures (Harding, 1997).

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*).--One of the most notable species found adjacent to the unit is the Timber Rattlesnake, a threatened species. The population in this area is near the northernmost limits of its geographical range. This snake prefers forested areas with rocky out croppings (with southern exposures), dry ridges, talus slopes, and high rodent populations. See the Critical Habitat Section of the UMP for more information on this species.

Birds

The avian community varies seasonally. Some species remain within the area year round, but the majority of species utilize the area during the breeding season and for migration. The first Breeding Bird Atlas Project (BBA) conducted during 1980-1985 (Andrle and Carroll, 1988) and the Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 Project (2000-2005) documented 169 and 122 species, respectively, in atlas blocks within, or partially within the TPMC (Appendix K and L). It is important to note that atlas blocks overlap and extend beyond the land boundary of the TPMC (A map that outlines the locations of the Breeding Bird Atlas blocks included in appendices K and L is included in Appendix Z). Therefore, these data do not necessarily reflect what is found on the unit, but on the atlas blocks. It is probable that some species determined to be present by BBA surveys were found only on private lands adjacent to the state lands. However, the BBA data should provide a good indication of the species found throughout the unit and adjacent region. Additionally, many factors can influence survey results (e.g., weather, survey effort), therefore, these comparisons should be used as a tool for further study and monitoring of bird populations and not as a definitive statement on bird population changes.

Birds Associated with Boreal Forest

The TPMC contains limited high elevation and lowland boreal forest, (a map showing these areas is included in Appendix Z), however, these habitats are significant for a variety of birds. The state endangered Spruce Grouse prefers lowland boreal forests, where it selects immature or uneven-aged spruce-fir habitats. Spruce Grouse were documented during the first BBA project, but not the second (Table 2).

There are approximately 73 acres (29.5 hectares) of high elevation boreal forest (equal to or greater than 2,800 feet elevation) in the unit (limited to Catamount Mountain). High elevation spruce-fir forest is especially important as breeding habitat for Bicknell's Thrush, a special concern species in New York. Throughout the range of this species, montane forest between 2,900 ft. and 4,700 ft. and dominated by stunted balsam fir and red spruce is the primary breeding habitat (Atwood et al., 1996). This species utilizes fir waves and natural disturbances as well as the dense regenerated ecotones along the edges of ski slopes. The species is most common on the highest ridges of the Adirondacks, preferring young or stunted dense stands of balsam fir up to 9 ft. in height. Here they lay their eggs above the ground in the dense conifer thickets. No extant or historical records of Bicknell's Thrush exist for TPMC.

In an effort designed to protect birds associated with high elevation boreal forest and their habitats, New York State designated the Adirondack mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Essex, Franklin, and Hamilton counties as the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) in November 2001. The New York State Bird Conservation Area Program was established in September 1997, under section §§11-2001 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The program is designed to safeguard and enhance bird populations and their habitats on selected state lands and waters.

Of the 27 bird species associated with boreal forest that occur in New York (Tim Post, NYSDEC, personal communication), 22 (81%) have been documented in BBA survey blocks within, or partially within, TPMC. During the two BBA projects, 14 species of lowland boreal forest birds, 3 species of high elevation boreal forest birds, and 5 species commonly associated with boreal forest, have been documented on the unit (Table 2). Some notable differences in boreal bird species composition were recorded between the two atlas periods; Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Blackpoll Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Tennessee Warbler were documented in the first atlas project but not the second.

Table 2.
Bird species associated with boreal forest as recorded by the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas projects (1980-1985 and 2000-2005) occurring in atlas blocks within or partially within the Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC).

Breeding Bird Atlas Project

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	***1980-1985***	***2000-2005***
Lowland Boreal Forest Species			
Spruce Grouse	*Falcipennis canadensis*	✓	
American Three-toed Woodpecker	*Picoides dorsalis*	✓	
Black-backed Woodpecker	*Picoides acticus*	✓	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Contopus cooperi*	✓	✓
Boreal Chickadee	*Poecile hudsonicus*	✓	✓
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*	✓	✓
Cape May Warbler	*Dendroica tigrina*	✓	✓
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*	✓	✓
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*	✓	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*Empidonax flaviventris*	✓	✓
Lincoln's Sparrow	*Melospiza lincolnii*	✓	✓
White-winged Crossbill	*Loxia leucoptera*	✓	✓
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*	✓	✓
Pine Sisken	*Carduelis pinus*	✓	✓
High Elevation Boreal Forest Species			
Blackpoll Warbler	*Dendroica striata*	✓	
Winter Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	✓	✓
Swainson's Thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*	✓	✓

Species Commonly Associated with Boreal Forest

Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*	✓	✓
Blackburnian Warbler	*Dendroica fusca*	✓	
Magnolia Warbler	*Dendroica magnolia*	✓	✓
Northern Parula	*Parula americana*	✓	✓
Tennessee Warbler	*Vermivora peregrina*	✓	

Habitat Associations

In additional to boreal and mixed-boreal forests, other habitats types of importance include deciduous forests, lakes, ponds, streams, bogs, beaver meadows, and shrub swamps.

Birds associated with marshes, ponds, lakes, and streams include: common loon, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, green-backed heron, American bittern, and a variety of waterfowl. The most common ducks include the mallard, American black duck, wood duck, hooded merganser, and common merganser. Other species of waterfowl migrate through the region following the Atlantic Flyway.

Bogs, beaver meadows, shrub swamps, and any areas of natural disturbance provide important habitat for species that require or prefer openings and early successional habitats. Species such as Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers, American Woodcock, Lincoln Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrow rely on these habitats and are rarely found in mature forests. These species, as a suite, are declining more rapidly throughout the Northeast than species that utilize more mature forest habitat. Habitat for these species is, and will be, very limited within TPMC.

Birds that prefer forest habitat are numerous, including many neotropical migrants. Some species prefer large blocks of contiguous forest (e.g., Northern Goshawk), others prefer blocks of forest with adjacent openings, and many prefer forest with a relatively thick shrub layer. The forest currently is maturing, and will eventually become old growth forest dominated by large trees.

Songbirds are a diverse group filling different niches in the Adirondacks. The most common species found throughout the deciduous or mixed forest include the Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, and Black and White Warbler. The Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Pine Sisken, Red and White-winged Crossbill and Black-throated Green Warbler are additional species found in the coniferous forest and exhibit preference for this habitat. Birds of prey common to the area include the Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech-owl, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk.

Game birds include upland species such as turkey, ruffed grouse and woodcock, as well as a variety of waterfowl. Ruffed grouse and woodcock prefer early successional habitats and their habitat within the area is limited due to the lack of timber harvesting. Turkey are present in low numbers and provide some hunting opportunities. Waterfowl are fairly common along the waterways and marshes and provide hunting opportunities.

Mammals

Large and Medium-sized Mammals

Large and medium-sized mammals known to occur in the central Adirondacks are also believed to be common inhabitants of the TPMC and include white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, coyote, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, fisher, American marten, river otter, mink, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, and snowshoe hare (Saunders, 1988). Of these species, white-tailed deer, black bear, coyote, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, bobcat, and snowshoe hare can be hunted. Additionally, these species (with the exception of white-tailed deer, black bear, and snowshoe hare) along with fisher, mink, muskrat, beaver, and river otter can be trapped. Hunting and trapping activities are highly regulated by NYSDEC, and the department's Bureau of Wildlife collects annual harvest data on many of these species.

Important big game species within the area include the white-tailed deer and black bear. Generally, white-tailed deer can be found throughout TPMC. From early spring (April) to late fall (November), deer are distributed generally on their "summer range". When snow accumulates to depths of 20 inches or more, deer travel to their traditional wintering areas. This winter range is characteristically composed of lowland spruce-fir, cedar or hemlock forests, and to a lesser degree, a combination of mixed deciduous and coniferous cover types. Often found at lower elevations along water courses, this habitat provides deer with protective cover from adverse weather and easier mobility in deep snows (see Critical Habitat section).

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in White-tailed Deer

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a rare, fatal, neurological disease found in members of the deer family (cervids). It is a transmissible disease that slowly attacks the brain of infected deer and elk, causing the animals to progressively become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, and invariably results in the death of the infected animal. Chronic Wasting Disease has been known to occur in wild deer and elk in the western U.S. for decades and its discovery in wild deer in Wisconsin in 2002 generated unprecedented attention from wildlife managers, hunters, and others interested in deer. Chronic Wasting Disease poses a significant threat to the deer and elk of North America and, if unchecked, could dramatically alter the future management of wild deer and elk. However, there is no evidence that CWD is linked to disease in humans or domestic livestock other than deer and elk.

In 2005, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) received confirmation of CWD from two captive white-tailed deer herds in Oneida County and subsequently detected the disease in 2 wild deer from this area. Until recently, New York was the only state in the northeast with a confirmed CWD case in wild deer. However, CWD was recently detected in wild deer in West Virginia. The NYSDEC has established a containment area around the CWD-positive samples and will continue to monitor the wild deer herd in New York State. More information on CWD, New York's response to this disease, the latest results cwdmaponei.html from ongoing sampling efforts, and current CWD regulations are available on the NYSDEC website:
http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/currentcwd.html

Black bears are essentially solitary animals and tend to be dispersed throughout the unit. The Adirondack region supports the largest black bear population in New York State (4,000 to 5,000 bears). Hikers and campers in this region are likely to encounter a bear, and negative interactions between black bears and humans, mainly related to bears stealing food from humans, have been a fairly common occurrence in the Adirondack High Peaks for at least twenty years. In 2005 a new regulation was enacted, requiring all

overnight campers in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness Area to use bear-resistant canisters for food, toiletries, and garbage. In other areas of the Adirondacks, NYSDEC recommends the use of bear resistant canisters as well.

Moose entered the state on a continuous basis in 1980, after having been absent since the 1860's. Currently, the moose population in New York State is estimated to be approximately 800-1000 animals (Al Hicks, NYSDEC, personal communication). In the northeastern United States, moose use seasonal habitats within boreal and mixed coniferous/deciduous forests. The southern distribution of moose is limited by summer temperatures that make the regulation of body temperature difficult. Moose select habitat primarily for the most abundant and highest quality forage (Peek 1997). Disturbances such as wind, fire, logging, tree diseases, and insects create openings in the forest that result in regeneration of important hardwood browse species such as white birch, aspen, red maple, and red oak. Typical patterns in moose habitat selection during the summer include the use of open upland and aquatic areas in early summer followed by the use of more closed canopy areas (such as upland stands of mature aspen and white birch) that provide higher quality forage in late summer and early autumn. After the fall rut and into winter, moose intensively use open areas again where the highest biomass of woody browse exists (i.e., dormant shrubs). In late winter when browse quantity and quality are lowest, moose will use closed canopy areas that represent the best cover available within the range (e.g., closed canopy conifers in boreal forest). From late spring through fall, moose commonly are associated with aquatic habitats such as lakes, ponds, and streams. However, use of aquatic habitats can vary geographically over their range. It is believed that moose use aquatic habitats primarily to forage on highly palatable plants; however, moose may also use these areas for relief from insects and high temperatures.

Small Mammals

The varieties of habitats that occur within the Adirondack region are home to an impressive diversity of small mammals. These mammals inhabit the lowest elevations to those as high as 4,400 feet (Southern bog lemming). Most species are found in forested habitat (coniferous, deciduous, mixed forest) with damp soils, organic muck, or soils with damp leaf mold. However, some species (e.g., hairy-tailed mole) like dry to moist sandy loam soils and others (e.g., white-footed mouse) prefer the drier soils of oak-hickory, coniferous, or mixed forests. Small mammals of the Adirondack region are found in alpine meadows (e.g., long-tailed shrew), talus slides and rocky outcrops (e.g., rock vole), grassy meadows (e.g., meadow vole, meadow jumping mouse), and riparian habitats (e.g., water shrew). It is likely that many, if not most, of the small mammal species listed below inhabit the TPMC (Table 3). An exception may be the Northern bog lemming, a species whose southernmost range extends just into the northern portion of Adirondack Park; only one recently-verified specimen exists (Saunders, 1988). All listed species are known to occur within Adirondack Park.

Table 3.

Small mammal species recorded within Adirondack Park (data based on museum specimens; Saunders, 1988). Number of towns represents the number of towns in which each species was recorded.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Towns
Star-nosed mole	*Condylura crestata*	6
Hairy-tailed mole	*Parascalops breweri*	11
Short-tailed shrew	*Blarina brevicauda*	31
Pygmy shrew	*Sorex hoyi*	1
Long-tailed shrew	*Sorex dispar*	7
Smoky shrew	*Sorex fumeus*	18
Water shrew	*Sorex palustris*	10
Masked shrew	*Sorex cinereus*	25
Deer mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*	26
White-footed mouse	*Peromyscus leucopus*	14
Southern red-backed vole	*Clethrionomys gapperi*	32
Meadow vole	*Microtus pennsylvanicus*	31
Yellownose vole	*Microtus chrotorrhinus*	6
Woodland vole	*Microtus pinetorum*	1
Southern bog lemming	*Synaptomys cooperi*	12
Northern bog lemming	*Synaptomys borealis*	1
Meadow jumping mouse	*Zapus hudsonicus*	22
Woodland jumping mouse	*Napaeozapus insignis*	25

Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species

New York has classified species at risk into three categories, endangered, threatened, and species of special concern (6 NYCRR §182). The following section indicates the protective status of some vertebrates that may be in the unit:

Endangered: Any species that is either native and in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York; or is listed as endangered by the US Department of Interior.

Threatened: Any species that is either native and likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future in New York; or is listed as threatened by the US Department of the Interior.

Special Concern: Native species 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, they receive no additional legal protection under the Environmental Conservation Law; but, they could become endangered or threatened in the future and should be closely monitored.

The following section describes those species that are classified as endangered, threatened, or special concern within TPMC and briefly summarizes the habitat requirements of these species.

Table 4.

Endangered, threatened, and special concern species documented in survey blocks within, or partially within, Taylor Pond Management Complex (TPMC). Bird data were collected during the 1980-1985 and 2000-2005 Breeding Bird Atlas projects. Amphibian and reptile data were collected during the 1990-1999 Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project1.

		Breeding Bird Atlas Project	
Common Name	Scientific Name	1980-1985	2000-2005
Birds			
Endangered			
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	✓	✓
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*	✓	
Spruce Grouse	*Falcipennis canadensis*	✓	
Threatened			
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	✓	
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	✓	✓
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	✓	
Least Bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis*	✓	
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	✓	✓
Upland Sandpiper	*Bartramia longicauda*	✓	
Henslow's Sparrow	*Ammodramus henslowii*	✓	
Special Concern			
American Bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*	✓	✓
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	✓	✓
Common Nighthawk	*Chordeiles minor*	✓	✓
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	✓	✓
Golden-winged Warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*	✓	
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*	✓	
Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	✓	
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	✓	✓
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*	✓	✓
Red-shouldered Hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	✓	✓
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	✓	✓
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*	✓	✓
Whip-poor-will	*Caprimulgus vociferus*	✓	✓

Amphibians and Reptiles

Special Concern	
Wood Turtle	*Clemmys insculpta*
Threatened	
Timber Rattlesnake	*Crotalus horridus*

Habitat Associations

Endangered Species

Birds

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).-- Three basic habitat requirements are necessary for nesting Peregrine Falcons, including open country in which to hunt, sufficient food resources (i.e., other avian species), and steep, rocky cliff faces for nesting (Ratcliffe, 1993). The falcons typically nest 50 to 200 feet off the ground and often near a river, stream, or other water body. Nesting sites for Peregrines usually include a partially-vegetated ledge (with both herbaceous and woody species) that is large enough for at least several young to move about during the pre-fledging period. The nest is a well-rounded scrape that is sometimes lined with grass. Ideally, the eyrie ledge also is sheltered by an overhang that protects the chicks from inclement weather. Occasionally, Peregrines may nest in old Common Raven nests. Suitable nest sites (e.g., snags, live trees, ledges) are located on the cliff face near the eyrie, on more distant sections of the cliff, and on the cliff rim.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).--Short-eared owls are medium size owls with small ear tufts that appear as two ridges along the top of the head. This species prefers open habitats, including marshes and grasslands, however, is more common as a winter resident than as a breeder. During the winter Short-eared Owls gather in open habitats that support large numbers of voles. When food is abundant they may form large communal roosts of up to 200 birds in sheltered sites ranging from conifers to stump piles to abandoned quarries. These birds eat primarily small mammals, but they occasionally take small birds and the young sometimes eat insects. Nests are constructed on the ground where the female creates a cup and lines it with grasses and down. Four to nine eggs are typical, but clutches as large as fourteen have been reported in years of peak small mammal abundance (NYSDEC, Endangered Species Program).

Spruce Grouse (*Falcipennis canadensis*).-- In the Adirondacks, the rare Spruce Grouse is a denizen of the boreal acid bog forest where it selects immature or uneven-aged spruce-fir habitat (Andryle and Carroll, 1988). Mosses, lichens, and shrubs provide nesting and foraging ground cover in areas where the forest canopy is less dense. Because their forested wetland habitat is poorly drained, grouse move on to upland summer range to dust and forage (Andryle and Carroll, 1988).

Threatened Species

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).-- The Northern Harrier is a bird of open country and is associated with wet to mesic habitats (Johnsgard,1990). Results of a 1979 survey showed that bogs and other wetland habitats provided nesting sites for Northern Harriers in the Adirondacks (Kogut, 1979 In: Andrle and Carroll 1988). Unlike most New York raptors, harriers nest on the ground, either on hummocks or directly on the ground in nests that are woven from grass and sticks (Andrle and Carroll, 1988).

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).-- Bald eagles breed in forested and open areas that are usually near large bodies of water with an abundance of fish. Bald eagles construct their nests in large living trees, approximately 50 to 60 feet off the ground and occasionally on cliffs. Tree species used for nesting is not as important as its structural characteristics (e.g., size, shape) and distance to other nesting eagles. Nesting sites with an unobstructed view are preferred and access points to and from the nest (pilot trees) and perch trees are important components of bald eagle habitat. Bald eagles are sensitive to human disturbance.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).-- Common terns inhabit gravelly and sandy beaches, grassy uplands, and rocky inland shores. Breeding occurs on large inland lakes or along the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico where nest sites are slight hollows in sand, shell, or pebble substrate (Harrison 1975).

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*).-- Emergent wetlands such as cattail marshes are the preferred habitat for Least Bitterns in upstate New York.. Nests woven of cattails and various other herbaceous species are usually built by the male (Andryle and Carroll, 1988) and placed from one to four feet above water level (Bull, 1974).

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*).-- Habitat requirements for the Pied-billed Grebe include open water with emergent aquatic vegetation with marshes, ponds, shallow lakes, and slow-moving streams. The nest is built on the water around emergent dead or growing vegetation within cattail stands, sedges, rushes, and bushes (Andrle and Carroll, 1988).

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*).-- The Upland Sandpiper is associated with open pastures and grassy fields such as hayfields of alfalfa or clover. Display perches such as fence posts are considered important components of the habitat selected by the Upland Sandpiper (Bent 1962). Nest sites are typically depressions in grass that are protected by surrounding vegetative cover and found in a variety of habitats including wet meadows, idle fields, pastures, and croplands, burned areas, and sandy areas (Buss and Hawkins 1939, Bent 1962).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).-- Henslow's Sparrows have special habitat requirements including dense herbaceous vegetation, moderate moisture and ground litter, and singing perches (Robins 1971). Moist lowland habitat is favored while dry cultivated uplands are occasionally used by these sparrows (Weins 1969). Dense ground vegetation in weedy fields, wet meadows, and saltmarsh edges is preferred and nesting depressions are typically found in grass concealed by surrounding vegetation (Bent 1968).

Special Concern Species

Birds

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).-- In the Adirondacks, the American Bittern is a bird of freshwater emergent wetlands where it typically nests on a grass tussock or among the cattails. Here it lays its eggs from 4 to 18 inches above the water (Bull, 1974) in scanty nests made from sticks, grass, and sedges. Separate paths are made in the tall vegetation for entering and exiting the nest (Erlich et al., 1988).

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*).-- Common Loons use small and large freshwater lakes in open and densely forested areas for breeding and nest on lakes as small as two acres. Special habitat requirements include bodies of water with stable water levels with little or no human disturbance. Loons use islets for nesting

and shallow coves for rearing their young. Nests are constructed on the ground at the water's edge on sand, rock, or other firm substrates. Loons prefer small islands for nesting (to avoid predators) but will also nest along protected bays and small peninsulas of the shoreline. In an extensive project undertaken to determine the status of the common loon in New York, NYSDEC staff surveyed 557 lakes in the northern part of the state during 1984 and 1985.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*).-- Two distinct habitats are used by nesting Common Nighthawks: bare flat rocks or bare ground in open fields and pastures, and, more recently (since the mid-late 1800s), on flat, gravel rooftops (Bent, 1940). In upstate New York nighthawks also nest in mountainous areas, provided woods are interspersed with clearings or openings (Bull, 1974). Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii).-- Cooper's Hawks use a variety of habitat types, from extensive deciduous or mixed forests to scattered woodlots interspersed with open fields. Floodplain forests and wooded wetlands are also used by Cooper's Hawks. Cooper's hawk construct nests typically at a height of 35 to 45 feet in both conifer (often white pine) and deciduous trees (often American beech). Nests are commonly constructed on a horizontal branch or in a crotch near the trunk. Cooper's Hawks have been known to use old crow nests as well. Foraging areas are usually located away from the nest in forested areas or open areas adjacent to forest.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).-- Golden-winged Warblers prefer dense brush and scattered small trees, habitat that commonly succeeds as a result of abandoned farmland. In fact, large areas of land in early, secondary stages of succession coincide with the expansion of the Golden-winged Warbler in New York and New England (Andrle and Carroll 1988). On the ground at the base of a grass tuft, the Golden-winged Warbler hides its cup-shaped nest of long grass strips or grapevine bark; grapevine fibers smoothly line the nest (Erlich, 1988).

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*).-- The Horned Lark, first recorded breeding in the Adirondacks in 1900 (Andrle and Carroll 1988), inhabits short, grassy, open areas or open areas devoid of vegetation including fields and pastures, sandy beaches and dunes, barren wasteland, airports, and golf courses (Bull, 1974). Here, the female digs a shallow depression with her beak and feet near or under a tuft of grass, rocks, or a clump of dirt (Bent, 1942) where she lines the nest with roots, grass, plant down, or hair (Ehrlich, 1988).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).-- Important habitat characteristics for Northern Goshawk include a combination of tall trees with a partial canopy closure for nesting and woodlands with small, open areas for foraging (Johnsgard, 1990). In New York State, goshawks prefer dense, mature, continuous coniferous or mixed woods where they typically place their nest 30-40 ft. off the ground in the crotch of a tree (Andrle and Carroll, 1988).

Osprey (*Pandion haliates*). -- Osprey breed near large bodies of water, including rivers and lakes, that support abundant fish populations. Osprey typically construct their nest in tall dead tress, but also use rocky ledges, sand dunes, artificial platforms, and utility pole crossarms. Nests are placed in locations that are taller than adjacent areas, which provide vantage points.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).-- Both wetlands (forested and riverine wetlands, beaver impoundments, dead tree swamps) and uplands (grasslands with scattered trees, golf courses, pastures, roadsides) are used by nesting Red-headed Woodpeckers (Bull, 1974). Red-headed Woodpeckers also are attracted to old burns and recent clearings. Nests are usually located in snags or dead limbs of live trees, or in the absence of trees, poles, fences, or roofs (Erlich, 1988).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*).-- Red -shouldered Hawks breed in moist hardwood, forested wetlands, bottomlands and the wooded margins of wetlands, often close to cultivated fields, Red-shouldered hawks are reported as rare in mountainous areas. Special habitat requirements include cool, moist, lowland forests with tall trees for nesting. Red-shouldered hawks forage in areas used as nesting habitat as well as drier woodland clearings and fields.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*).-- Sharp-shinned Hawks prefer breeding habitats that consist of open or young woodlands that support a large diversity of avian species, the hawk's primary prey (Johnsgard, 1990). Although Sharp-shinned Hawks use mixed conifer-deciduous forest for nesting, most nests recorded in New York State have been located in conifers, with 80% of the nests found in hemlocks (Bull, 1974).

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*).--The Vesper Sparrow is a grassland bird that prefers short-grass meadows, pastures, hayfields, and cultivated grain fields. Special habitat requirements include open areas with short herbaceous vegetation containing conspicuous singing perches. This species nests on the ground at the base of grasses or in a depression. The Vesper Sparrow forages on insects and other small invertebrates as well as seeds.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*).--Whip-poor-will select open woodlands in lowland deciduous forest, montane forest, or pine-oak woods (Erlich, et. al., 1988) that is interspersed with open fields, with a preference for dry oak-hickory woods in some areas of upstate New York (Bull, 1974). Whip-poor-will nest on the ground in dry, sparse areas. Eggs are typically laid in the open or under a small shrub on the leaf litter where they are well concealed (Bent, 1940).

Amphibians and Reptiles

See Habitat Associations of Amphibians and Reptiles.

Extirpated and Formerly Extirpated Species

The moose, elk, wolf, eastern cougar, Canada lynx, bald eagle, golden eagle, and peregrine falcon all inhabited the Adirondacks prior to European settlement. All of these species were extirpated from the Adirondacks, mostly as a result of habitat destruction during the nineteenth century. Unregulated harvest also lead to the decline of some species, such as moose, wolf, elk, beaver, American marten, and fisher. More recently some birds fell victim to the widespread use of DDT.

Projects to re-establish the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and Canada lynx have been implemented. A total of 83 Canada lynx were released into the Adirondack Park from 1989 to 1991 by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry as part of their Adirondack Wildlife Program. Lynx dispersed widely from the release area and mortality was high, especially mortality caused by vehicle-animal collisions. It is generally accepted that the lynx restoration effort was not successful and that there are no lynx from the initial releases or through natural reproduction of released animals remaining in the Adirondacks. Lynx are legally protected as a game species with no open season as well as being listed as threatened on both the Federal and State level.

Efforts to reintroduce the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle through "hacking" programs began in 1981 and 1983, respectively. These projects have been remarkably successful within New York, Bald Eagles are becoming much more common, and Peregrines are recovering. Both species are now found in portions of

the Adirondacks and are believed to be common residents within TPMC. Golden Eagles are generally considered to have always been rare breeders within the state.

The wolf and eastern cougar are still generally considered to be extirpated form NYS. Periodic sightings of cougars are reported from the Adirondacks, but the source of these individuals is believed to be from released captive individuals. Reports of timber wolves are generally considered to be misidentified coyotes, although there is some evidence to suggest that the Eastern coyote found in the Adirondacks may be a hybrid between the red wolf and coyote.

Invasive/Exotic Wildlife

As with plant species, these organisms do not occur naturally in New York State. While some species go relatively unnoticed (e.g., spiny water flea), other introductions such as the zebra mussel have caused great concern. There are no confirmed reports of zebra mussels in unit waters. Domestic canines and felines can also have an impact on native deer, rodents, and birds.

Other Fauna

Other, less known, members of the animal kingdom occur within the unit. Insects are the most notable and abundant form of animal life. Some species can cause human health concerns (e.g., Giardia, swimmer's itch) or are generally considered a nuisance (e.g, black flies, mosquitoes) to individuals that recreate in the area.

c. Fisheries

Fish communities in the Adirondacks are a result of geological and human influences. Prior to human influences relatively simple fish communities were common. Human-caused changes in habitat and introduction of fishes have altered those natural communities.

Geological History

The Fishes of the Adirondack Park, a DEC 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, vagile, lacustrine species closely followed the retreat of the glacier. Such species presumably had access to most Adirondack waters. About 13,000 B.P. (before present) glacial Lake Albany, with a surface elevation of 350' a.s.l. (average sea level), provided colonizing route for Atlantean and eastern boreal species to Lake George and Lake Champlain. Barriers above that elevation would have excluded those species from interior portions of the Adirondacks.

By about 12,300 BP, the Ontario lobe of the glacier had retreated sufficiently to allow species associated with the Mississippi drainage access to fringes of the Adirondacks via the Mohawk Valley and the St. Lawrence drainage including Lake Champlain. Lake Albany had apparently drained prior to that, as barriers had formed on the Lake George outlet.

The sequence of colonization routes to surrounding areas, combined with Adirondack topography, resulted in highly variable fish communities within the Adirondacks. 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 and simple communities consisting of monocultures to numerous species, occurred in various Adirondack waters.

Acid Precipitation

The phenomenon of acid ion deposition, popularly known as "acid rain," has had little discernible impact on the fisheries resources of the TPMC. The pH of all the lakes and ponds with chemistry information is 7.0 and above. Likely no other state land unit has such favorable acidity levels.

Brook Trout

The available information suggests that brook trout were well represented in the unit but their exact distribution remains obscure because the area was heavily impacted by the early establishment of nonnative species. In many areas of the Adirondack Park brook trout are now maintained principally through routine stocking and by reclamation. Reclamation is a management technique involving the application of a fish toxicant called rotenone to eliminate nonnative and/or competing fishes. Upon detoxification these waters are generally restocked with brook trout and or rainbow trout. The physical nature of the lakes and ponds of the Taylor Pond Management Complex do not lend themselves to management for brook trout via reclamation with rotenone. The large size of Taylor Pond, Silver Lake and the Saranac River impoundments makes reclamation infeasible, and several of the smaller ponds do not have sufficient outlet gradient to prevent reinvasion by undesirable species. Thus, most of the lakes and ponds of the Taylor Pond Management Complex are managed for native and historically associated species other than brook trout.

Streams

The unit contains a number of streams which are stocked by DEC, however, recent biological survey information is relatively sparse. Black Brook has undergone a recent survey but, the Saranac River has not been re-surveyed due in a large part to the fact that its large size and rapid nature makes a biological survey especially difficult.

d. Visual/Scenic Resources/Land Protection

Catamount, Poke-O-Moonshine, and Silver Lake Mountains offer spectacular views across a heavily forested landscape from their summits. Poke-O-Moonshine's large multiple stage cliffs, over 1,000 feet when added together, are easily seen from the north and south bound lanes of Interstate 87. NYS Route 3 between Saranac Lake and Plattsburgh is a scenic travel corridor which affords panoramic views of the Alderbrook Range and both the Main and North Branch of the Saranac River. Another vantage point is found on the Alderbrook Road in the Town of Franklin, Franklin County. This viewshed overlooks a vast alder-sedge-meadow wetland at the base of Alderbrook Mountain. Franklin Falls Road and Rock Street make for a scenic highway trip paralleling Franklin and Union Falls Flows along the Saranac River. The area known as the Black Mountain tract is unusual in nature as gorges of this size are rare in this area.

e. Rare Ecological Communities

The unit hosts a wide variety of plant and animal species. Most of these species thrive throughout the Adirondack Park. However, due to ecological factors, change in climate, and human factors, there are some species that warrant protection. According to the NYS DEC, Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), various plant, animal and community species have been identified as rare, threatened, endangered or protected. Eight significant ecological communities in the unit have been identified by the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP). These ecological communities include a northern white cedar swamp, medium fen (2 locations), floodplain forest, deep emergent marsh, sand beach, calcareous talus slope woodland, cliff community, and pitch pine heath barren. Ecological communities were described by Reschke (1990). A listing of these species and communities can be found in Appendix M.

Peregrine Falcon Nesting Areas

Peregrine falcons, an endangered species in New York State, nest on cliffs in the Adirondack region. The population of Peregrine Falcons has steadily grown in the state due to a successful hacking program which was initially conducted by NYSDEC in this region from 1981-1988 at 4 cliff sites in the Adirondacks. Peregrines first mate when they are 1 to 3 years old, building nests on high cliff ledges 20 to 200 feet off the ground. The same nesting ledge, called an eyrie, may be used year after year. The female lays 3 to 5 eggs in a nest, called a scrape, which consists of a shallow depression in the gravel found on the ledge. These eyries are aggressively protected against predators, and humans, by both the male and female peregrine. The young hatch after a 28 to 33 day incubation period. Each chick will stay in and about the nest until it fledges at 35 to 45 days of age. Young will stay with the parents for a few more weeks to perfect their flying and hunting skills. As cooler weather approaches, peregrines begin to migrate south. In the spring, peregrines have a tendency to return to the same region from which they fledged.

Peregrine Falcons and Rock Climbers

Human disturbances, such as rock climbing on cliffs containing eyries, can be a potential problem to nesting Peregrines. Human disturbance within the territory of a breeding pair may result in nest abandonment and/or death of any young. Rock climbing routes with known peregrine falcon nesting sites are monitored by NYSDEC annually. Rock climbing routes with active nest sites are temporarily closed to prevent any disturbances that might interfere with the successful raising of the young peregrine falcons. The closure of climbing routes is based on a number of factors, including the route's proximity to a nesting site, observations of alarm behavior by the nesting falcons, and professional judgement by NYSDEC staff. The specific areas of the cliff that are closed to rock climbing represent a balance between the recreational interests of climbers and the need to protect the breeding and nesting activities of this endangered species. The department’s priority is protecting an endangered species; however, attempts are made to maximize the opportunities for climbing at the same time. This is the reason why individual rock climbing routes are closed rather than entire cliffs.

In summary, NYSDEC stresses the following points to Adirondack rock climbers:

- Peregrine Falcons are an endangered species and are protected under state and federal law,
- Human disturbance within the territory of a breeding pair may result in nest abandonment and/or death of any young,
- Certain rock climbing routes are closed and illegal to climb during the breeding season, and
- Falcons are very territorial and will utilize their razor sharp talons in defense of their domain, including attacks on humans.

Timber Rattlesnake Habitat

*Important Note: Timber rattlesnakes have not been documented on TPMC, however, due to the proximity of documented occurrences of this species within the Lake Champlain basin, this section is included as a general reference.

Timber rattlesnakes play an important ecological role in deciduous forest communities as a small mammal predator. This species has a limited distribution in the state, occurring along the New York/Pennsylvania border, in southeastern New York in the Hudson Valley, and in northeastern New York in the Lake George/Lake Champlain basins (NYSDEC, Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project, unpublished data). In northeastern New York, this species prefers well-drained oak-hickory forests consisting of three habitat types that are necessary for it to meet its life history requirements. These habitat types include

denning areas (southeast-oriented talus slopes located below a cliff face), basking areas (open rocky and grassy areas near the den which are used primarily for basking, shedding, and birthing), and summer range (predominately northern hardwood forests) used as foraging habitat and where knolls and rocky outcrops provide basking areas for mating and shedding (Brown, 1993). Timber rattlesnakes hibernate from early autumn to early spring. After emerging in May, the active season lasts 5 months through September (Brown, 2000). The snakes move from the dens in spring to their summer range (1-3 miles). The life history and reproductive biology of timber rattlesnakes are such that populations are sensitive to habitat disturbances and factors that increase mortality. These characteristics include extensive movements by male snakes in the summer, a long delay until female sexual maturity (i.e., females don't reproduce until 9 or 10 years old), low birthing frequency (females reproduce only at 3-year and 4-year intervals), and low reproductive output over the life span of females (they reproduce, on average, only once or twice during their lifetimes; Brown, 2000). Therefore, habitat protection and protection from poaching and illegal collections are priorities for timber rattlesnake conservation. As part of this conservation program, public outreach to users of the unit and residents of the region concerning this important species should continue.

Deer Wintering Areas

The maintenance and protection of deer wintering areas (or deer yards) are important in maintaining northern deer populations. These areas provide deer with relief from the energetic demands of deep snow and cold temperatures at a time when limited fat reserves are being used to offset reduced energy intake (i.e., nutritionally, winter browse is poor). Previous researchers have demonstrated that deer consistently choose wintering areas which provide relief from environmental extremes over areas that may provide more abundant forage (Severinghaus, 1953; Verme, 1965). These observations are consistent with the fact that the nutritional value of winter browse is poor due to low digestibility and that deer can expend more energy obtaining browse than the energy gained by its consumption (Mautz, 1978).

Severinghaus (1953) outlined several habitat components of deer yards, including topography and forest cover type (i.e., presence of conifers). The most important characteristic of an Adirondack deer yard is the habitat configuration making up a "core" and travel corridors to and from the core. The core is typically an area, or areas, of dense conifer cover used by deer during severe winter weather conditions. Travel corridors are dense but narrow components which allow access to food resources (hardwood browse) in milder conditions. Use of wintering areas by deer can vary over time depending on winter severity and deer population density. Although Severinghaus (1953) reported that some Adirondack deer yards have been used since the early 1800's, recent research suggests that the location of some current deer yards may overlap very little (or not at all) with their historical counterparts mapped in the late 1960's and early 1970's by NYSDEC (Hurst, 2004). Therefore, planning for the protection of deer wintering areas relative to recreational activities in the unit should consider the dynamic nature of these areas (not the static representation of historical boundaries) and seek to update our understanding of wintering areas currently used by deer.

<u>Historical and Potential Deer Wintering Habitat</u>

A GIS model of potential deer wintering habitat was recently developed for the Adirondacks (J. Gagnon and S. McNulty, Adirondack Ecological Center, unpublished data). While this model is a working draft, initial results suggest that a moderate amount of potential deer wintering habitat exists in a patchy distribution within the unit as displayed on the map in Appendix Z.

Guidelines for Protection of Deer Wintering Areas

Research on wildlife responses to winter recreation (e.g., cross-country skiing, foot travel, snowmobiling) is limited. Studies conducted on mule deer (Freddy et al., 1986) and elk (Cassirer et al., 1992) suggest that these species can be disturbed by these activities. However, when planning the location of recreational trails, general guidelines for protecting deer wintering areas can be followed which should reduce the potential for disturbance.

Activities which substantially diminish the quality or characteristics of the site should be avoided, but this does not mean human use is always detrimental. Pass through trails, and other recreational uses can be compatible with deer wintering areas if they are carefully considered. Recreational planning which affords protection of core sections and avoids fragmenting travel corridors are acceptable in many situations. Certain types of recreation such as cross-country skiing are not presently considered to significantly impact deer yards in an overall negative way, particularly if the traffic along trails is not prone to stopping or off-trail excursions. These types of trails in or adjacent to deer wintering areas can provide a firm, packed surface readily used by deer for travel during periods of deep snow. They can also create access for free-roaming dogs if the location is close to human habitation; thus, trails should avoid deer yards in these situations. High levels of cross-country ski use can increase the energy demands of deer within the yard due to increased movement.

In summary, general guidelines for protecting deer wintering areas include:

- Within travel corridors between core wintering areas, avoid placement of trails within a 100 foot buffer on either side of streams,
- Avoid placement of trails through core segments of deer yards to reduce disturbance associated with users stopping to observe deer,
- Trails should not traverse core segments of deer yards in areas adjacent to densely populated areas such as hamlets, villages, or along roadsides developed with human habitation because they provide access to free roaming dogs,
- In areas with nearby human habitation, avoid land uses which result in remnant trails, roadways or other access lanes which facilitate accessibility to free-roaming dogs.

B. Man-Made Facilities

The TPMC has a modest inventory of facilities considering its acreage and central location to, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Wilmington and Plattsburgh. There are 11.6 miles of designated foot trails in the Unit. 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 main reason that people use the foot trails in the TPMC are as destination trails. The three most used destination trails in the unit are the two trails to the summit of Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain and the Catamount Mountain Summit trail, both destinations receive heavy use and draw people to the TPMC. Other destination trails are the Silver Lake Mountain, Military Pond and Mud Pond Trails. A detailed summary of all the trails and roads in the TPMC can be found in Appendix B.

C. Past Influences

1. Cultural

The term "cultural resources" encompasses a number of categories of human-created resources including structures, archaeological sites and related resources. The Department is required by the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - PRHPL Article 14) and SEQRA (ECL Article 8) to include such resources in the range of environmental values that are managed on public lands. The Adirondack Forest Preserve was listed as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 1963. This designation also results in automatic listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Within the Adirondack Forest Preserve, the number of standing structures is, in general, limited due to the requirements of Article 14 of the NYS Constitution and the APSLMP. Often those that remain are structures that relate to the Department's land management activities such as fire towers, ranger cabins and related resources. Fire towers, as a class of resources, have been the subject of considerable public interest over the last decade. The majority of surviving fire towers have been found eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places and a number of towers were formally listed in the Registers in 2001. For State agencies, register listing or eligibility are effectively the same; obligating the Department to treat these resources appropriately and requiring that special procedures be followed should it be necessary to remove or otherwise affect these resources. This formal listing is in addition to the State Historic Preservation Act Memorandum of Agreement relating to fire towers that the Department signed with OPRHP in 1994. This agreement was designed to accommodate the requirements of the APSLMP and the SHPA. The fire tower on the summit of Poke-O-Moonshine in the TPMC is an example of a cultural resource.

In past years there have been inconsistencies on the Department's part when dealing with fire towers. Due to these inconsistencies, lack of public involvement, and the high level of public interest on the issue of fire towers, the Department was required to develop a study for fire towers in the Adirondack Park. The study provides recommendations for the future use of the 20 remaining fire towers on state forest preserve lands and four towers under DEC jurisdiction on private land, along with an assessment of associated observer cabins and radio facilities. The study will serve to inform management proposals outlined in unit management plans on a unit-by-unit basis in conformance with the APSLMP.

2. Historical

Archaeological sites are, simply put, any location where materials (artifacts, ecofacts) or modifications to the landscape reveal evidence of past human activity. This includes a wide range of resources ranging from pre-contact Native American camps and villages to Euro-American homesteads and industrial sites. Such sites can be entirely subsurface or can contain above ground remains such as foundation walls or earthwork features.

As a part of the inventory effort associated with the development of this UMP the Department arranged for the archaeological site inventories maintained by the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be searched in order to identify known archaeological resources that might be located within or near the unit. The two inventories overlap to an extent but do not entirely duplicate one another. The purpose of this effort was to identify any known sites that might be affected by actions proposed within the unit and to assist in understanding and characterizing past human use and occupation of the unit.

The quality of the site inventory information varies a great deal in all respects. Very few systematic archaeological surveys have been undertaken in New York State and especially in the Adirondack region. Therefore, all current inventories must be considered incomplete. Even fewer sites have been investigated to any degree that would permit their significance to be evaluated. Many reported site locations result from 19th century antiquarian information, artifact collector reports that have not been field verified. Often very little is known about the age, function or size of these sites. This means that reported site locations can be unreliable or be polygons that encompass a large area. Should systematic archaeological inventory be undertaken at some point in the future, it is very likely that additional resources will be identified. The results of these site checks are presented in the table on the following page.

Archaeological Site Protection

The historic and archaeological sites located within the TPMC as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6 NYCRR Section 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of Education Law. No actions that would impact these resources are proposed in this UMP. Should any such actions be proposed in the future, they will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. In some cases, additional protection may be afforded these resources by the Federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

Archaeological Research

The archaeological sites located on this land unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property may be made available for appropriate research. Any future archaeological research to be conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Extensive excavations are not contemplated as part of any research program in order to assure that the sites are available to future researchers who are likely to have more advanced tools and techniques as well as more fully developed research questions. The Department has facilitated access to the unit for purposes of resource inventory and anticipates continuing to do so.

Quadrangle	Site Name	Description: age, cultural affiliation, etc.	**Elevation**
Keene Valley	Iron Mine and Separator	Description: opening of iron mine shaft and walls of separator over Walton Brook on Roy's Sheaby's property. Ceased operation c. 1890. Historical Documentation of site: From "Iron Industry of Essex County" by Witherbee: WF and SH Weston built a forge in Keene, below here, on the east branch of the Ausable River, in 1887, which continued operation until 1897. The ore used came, principally, from the Keene mine, located about one mile from the forge. Disturbance: Roy Sheasby, in building his new home at the edge of the mine, dumped fill and debris into it in an attempt to fill it up.	971 feet
Franklin Falls	Franklin Falls (or McLenathan Falls) Forge	Erected in 1827 by Issac G. McLenathan and William Wells. Abandoned and out of operation by c. 1836.	1397 feet
Elizabethtown	No name provided	Prehistoric site Traces of occupation Site identified by AC Parker/1922	646 feet
Elizabethtown	Valley Forge	Built in1845 by Col. E.F. Williams, once run by J.S. Whallon and W. Judd. Sold in the spring of 1864 to the Lake Champlain Iron Company. 6 fires, 30 hp steam engines, separator and 9 tenement houses, a store, coal houses etc. and 3 charcoal kilns, run in 1866-1867 by F.C. Crowley and W.L. Hoblitzell. In 1866 they made 1,150 tons of bloom iron, bringing ore from the Burt mine, but failed in 1867 and the property reverted to Essex and Lake Champlain Ore and Iron Company. W. Morehead of Philadelphia was president of this company which was backed by J. Cooke interests. Later, mining engineer W.G. Neilson became president, agent and manager of the company Neilson, from Philadelphia, later built "Noon-Mark Lodge" at the head of Keene Valley, which was his summer home for 20 years. Valley Forge operated until 1873. In March of that year it was deeded to the Champlain Iron Company but was never again put into operation.	603 feet

Quadrangle	Site Name	Description: age, cultural affiliation, etc.	**Elevation**
Keeseville	Bridge	Memoir 22 recently destroyed. Site identified by W.A. Ritchie. No other information provided.	321 feet
Keeseville	No name provided	Spencer Cram's Grandfather reported many arrowheads found. Site reported by Spencer Cram/ 1993	321 feet
Keeseville	No name provided	Prehistoric camp site No more information provided	95 ft
Alderbrook	Union Falls Hydroelectric Plant	Complete superstructure Construction materials include; Dam: concrete, Penstock: steel, Powerhouse: concrete block (1907), Gatehouse: wood frame Construction/occupation: 1907-present. NYSM info: 30 years ago Richard White found (basal portion of lg quarry blank of red weathered? Dark grey chert-BW) on Saranac River gravels.	1,397 ft
Alderbrook	Union Falls Forge	Built in 1832, but short lived. In 1840 a forge is spotted on the Burr map on lot 24 north of the village on the west bank of the river. Construction/occupation: 1832-1840's?	1,398 ft

D. Public Use

Despite its close proximity to Upper Jay, Keene, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh and Wilmington, total annual visitation to TPMC is relatively low. During calendar year 2003, it is estimated that fewer than 10,000 people visited the TPMC. It is extrapolated from information gathered in other UMP's and based on the conclusions drawn from that data that visitation figures for future years are not expected to reach much higher. Information on the number of users of the TPMC is not complete. The main way that this information is gathered is through the use of trailhead registers. These require people to voluntarily fill out the register sheet. The main problem with registers is that not all people sign in. Of these non-registering users, specific 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 (Dawson 2002). There is no reliable estimate on the percentage of visitors who do not sign the register sheets in the TPMC. Other problems with the register sheets are that they are susceptible to vandalism, the sheets must be checked and removed periodically, and the information on the sheets may not be accurate. For the TPMC there is a lack of good information about use levels because there is so much missing data from register sheets as well as the fact that many of the register boxes have only been installed in the last few years. Appendix D displays the trail register data available for the TPMC.

Very steep slopes, rugged terrain, and thick vegetation are barriers to cross-country travel. Practically all visitation is, therefore, limited to the few existing trails and former logging roads in the area. An exception to this is made by hunters. During the fall hunting season as well as other times of the year, hunters look for these tough conditions and are willing to fight to reach interior locations. During these times, use of the interior increase. Although some winter-related recreation such as cross-country ski touring, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling has been observed, most recreation occurs during mid-May through mid-November.

From field observations, it is clear that day-use activities are preferred over those requiring an overnight stay. The Management Complex's detached parcels make the unit seem smaller in size than it really is, this factor and its lack of recreation facilities along with its ease of access, and proximity to local communities, strongly favor day-use activities of a short duration. Day hiking, hunting, fishing, horse-back riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, sightseeing, bird watching, wildflower and wildlife observation, and mountain biking are popular activities. The most heavily used hiking trails are Poke-O-Moonshine, Catamount and Silver Lake Mountain. Catamount Mountain trail is essentially an unmarked footpath, a "herd path" leading to the summit. Hunting is also a popular use of the TPMC because of its easy access due to the large amount of road frontage on public land and the proximity of the public land to towns.

1. Land Resources

Taylor Pond - Taylor Pond is a State owned waterbody. The shoreline is either classified as Intensive Use or Wild Forest. The public campground and boat launch area are classified as Intensive Use. The public campground will not be discussed in this unit management plan since it has a current UMP. The balance of the shoreline, the dam and surrounding forest are classified as Wild Forest. The Wild Forest section contains several snowmobile trails and fishing opportunities. The snowmobile trails are groomed by a local snowmobile club and receive significant use during the winter season. The lake has three lean-tos that receive significant use. The three lean-tos are managed by the Division of Operations under the

campground reservation system. There is no register data available for any of these sections of trail. It is, however, obvious from site visits that the trails receive a significant amount of use as the soils in them show significant compaction from use. The snowmobile trail loop surrounding Taylor Pond is used by local residents once the lake freezes. Due to the need for maintenance though, this trail does not receive as much use as the other nearby trails in the unit. The trail is located on a old road which in the past has been used to access the lean-to on the south shore of Taylor Pond.

Silver Lake Mountain - The Silver Lake Mountain Trail has not historically had a trail register. One was placed at the trailhead in mid-February of 2004. In the three-month period following the register installation, 140 people recorded their names and stated in the register that they were there to hike to the summit. The trail receives use throughout the year. Trail use is much lower in the winter season once a solid blanket of snow has covered the trail. During all time periods in the winter however, local users still frequent this trail for activities such as a after-work walk. Appendix D contains a detailed monthly accounting of use numbers derived from the trail head register.

Catamount - This unofficial trailhead has very little available parking. On the sides of the road there is a small area large enough to park 2 to 4 cars depending on their size. During any fair weather day cars can be found parked in this manner. The trail receives heavy use and on some days as many as ten vehicles can be found parked along the side of the road, many of which obstruct travel on the road. The trail is of a steep and rocky nature which only permits hiking and perhaps snowshoeing in the winter months. This trailhead is sorely in need of a parking area. A detailed monthly accounting of use numbers derived from the trail register data is included in Appendix D.

Poke-O-Moonshine Rock and Ice Climbing - This well known area attracts climbers from all over the northeast. The area has a detailed guide book and many bolted routes. Bolted routes are climbing routes that have fixed anchors that have been drilled into the rock to serve as repelling points and belay points for climbers to use when climbing the route. The routes attract climbers of all abilities and ages. A detailed monthly accounting of use numbers derived from the trail register data is included in Appendix D. As well as rock climbing routes, the walls also provide for ice climbing routes in the winter months. Access to this area is provided through the Department's Public Campground which was closed in 2009. During the spring, summer and fall the gate is left open to the campground to facilitate public access. There is no official winter parking for this area. Climbers and other winter users park along the road.

Poke-O-Moonshine hiking trail to tower – The Ranger trail is a 1.2 miles and affords hikers excellent scenic views from the exposed rock summit and fire tower. The trail is a continuous climb from the start allowing for little rest. There are currently a few sections that have open water running down the trail and others that are deeply eroded from foot traffic as well as water. Access to this area is provided at the Department's (closed) public campground. The hiking trail to the lean-to and fire tower is steep and rocky limiting use to hiking and in the winter months snowshoeing. The trail data from the trail register shows significant year round use. A detailed monthly accounting of use numbers is included in Appendix D. The lean-to provides a nice overnight camping location and receives use most weekends. During the fall season this trail receives more use than the rest of the year from people looking for great fall foliage viewing. There is no official winter parking for access to this area. Due to the acquisition of the remaining lands that the historic Jeep Road (Observers trail) passes through the Department has opened that route to the public in order to provide additional access to the summit. This UMP recommends the further development of the Observers trail for public access to the summit as well as the development of a parking area at the start of the trail.

Route 3 Mud Pond- Access to this area is from Route 3 via a large parking lot which is located just across from the trailhead. This trail receives use from hikers, fishermen and hunters. A detailed monthly accounting of use numbers derived from the trail register data is included in Appendix D.

Black Mountain Gorge - This area is posted by a private forestry group and real property research has been inconclusive with respect to public access rights. This area needs to have a deed search completed to determine ownership and the land surveyed and posted.

Lassiter Properties, Inc. Conservation Easement - Cook Mountain Tract (CME) - This is a 1,030 acre easement from Lassiter. The easement rights sold to the State were development, timber, hiking, and snowshoeing rights. All other rights were retained by Lassiter. Access to the 1,030 acre CME is provided by a narrow access strip along the Parish Road.

Fay Mountain - This small mountain makes for a nice day hike and is used mostly by local residents. The mountain though small provides an expansive view. The mountain summit is currently accessed by a bushwhack from the parking area.

Franklin Falls Pond - The roadside picnic and camping sites on and near Franklin Falls are heavily used by motorists as well as others aware of these attractive sites. Unfortunately, they are frequently vandalized due to their accessible yet somewhat isolated location. The multiple sites along Franklin Falls Pond were developed to provide canoeists with rest stops as well as the community with camping and picnic locations. The Saranac River as well as Franklin Falls Pond are part of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, an historic 740 mile waterway through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. This trail is used by canoeists as well as kayakers. There is no record of use for this canoe trail, but the tent sites receive much use and when driving along the Saranac on a weekend day, it is quite likely that you would see canoeists, fishermen and kayakers using the river and pond.

Franklin Falls Tract - A portion of the Department managed lands surrounding Franklin Falls Pond are not owned in fee by the State. Most of the land that makes up the FFTE is located on two tracts of land adjacent to Franklin Falls Pond and Union Falls Pond. However, the FFTE consists of three tracts. The third which is called the Shell Rock Tract is located just northeast of Union Falls Pond in Clinton County. The Franklin Falls Tract and Union Falls Tract management is guided by the Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc.-Franklin Falls Conservation Easement. The management guidelines on the balance of the lands in the FFTE, which consist of the Shell Rock Tract, are outlined in the Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc. – Shell Rock Conservation Easement. The Franklin Falls Tract lands are lands for which the Department has purchased specific rights. On most of these lands the Department has purchased recreation rights as well as development rights. There are also areas, mostly those that abut the water, that the Department has only purchased development rights. The portion of these easement lands for which the Department has purchased recreation rights is used for mountain biking, horse-back riding, cross country skiing and hunting. The Conservation Easement which covers the Department's rights on the Franklin Falls Tract lands, along with the Department's proposed management of these these lands can be found in Appendices (E and G).

Shell Rock Tract - The lands known as the Shell Rock Tract were purchased a short time after the rest of the lands that make up the FFTE, from the same seller and have their own easement which can be found in Appendix F. The proposed management for these easement lands and other lands included in the FFTE can be found in Appendix E.

Union Falls Pond - Union Falls Pond is also part of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

Union Falls Tract - The FFTE lands adjacent to Union Falls Pond and known as the Union Falls Tract are managed according to the Franklin Falls Timber Company, Inc.-Franklin Falls Conservation Easement and are lands for which the Department has purchased specific rights. On most of these lands the Department has purchased recreation rights as well as development rights. There are also areas, mostly those that abut the water, that the Department has only purchased development rights. The portion of the lands for which the Department has purchased recreation rights is used by the public for mountain biking, horse-back riding, cross country skiing and hunting. In the winter the access road known as Camp Road D is also used as a snowmobile trail by local residents. The Conservation Easement as well as the proposed management that covers the Union Falls Tract can be found in Appendices (E and G).

State Forests - These areas, also known as Reforestation Areas and/or Multiple Use Areas**,** are managed for multiple uses including timber management. The lands are not forest preserve lands but, the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the APA to classify all State-owned lands within the Adirondack Park. In the TPMC all State Forests are classified as Wild Forest. Under this designation the State Forests must be managed in accordance with the APSLMP Wild Forest guidelines. The purposes of these lands are to provide continued and sustained forest products as well as recreation, clean water and wildlife.

Terry Mountain State Forest (Clinton 3 & 4 State Forests) - This area is used for hunting, day hiking, skiing, mountain biking and general recreation. There is no historical use information for this area but anecdotal evidence indicates the area is often used. There are two ponds included in this area that have had their access blocked due to the installation of a private gate.

The first, Mud Pond has a very low level of use due to the fact that access to the area has been gated. The Pond has basically become a private use area due to the gate. Before the gate was erected people from Plattsburgh as well as the nearby towns used the pond for fishing, hunting and camping. This pond is one of many attractions blocked by the gate.

Military Pond, the second pond, also has a low level of use due to the gate. The pond has basically become a private use area due to the gate. Before the gate was erected people from Plattsburgh, Peru, Schuyler Falls and other nearby towns used the pond for fishing, hunting and camping. The hike, ski or bike ride to this remote pond makes for a nice day outing. Before the installation of the gate, the pond was a stocked trout fishery but when the gate was installed blocking access, the Bureau of Fisheries discontinued stocking.

Burnt Hill (Clinton State Forest 2) **-** This area is seldom used for anything other than hunting and some cross country skiing due to the lack of maintenance on the roads.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) - These areas have specific land use restrictions. These restrictions vary from one WMA to another. Hunting, trapping and fishing are permitted on wildlife management areas in general, however, certain WMA's do not allow these and other activities. Areas that have these restrictions are posted. For example Pauline Murdock WMA does not allow for hunting. Camping on WMA's is prohibited except pursuant to written permission of the regional supervisor having jurisdiction. No permanent structure, blind, stand or platform shall be constructed or placed except pursuant to written permission of the regional supervisor. For specific area restrictions see the related Special Management Section of this plan.

Public Use Restrictions - Most lands contained in this unit are classified by the APSLMP as Wild Forest lands open to the public for no charge. Certain other lands have public use restrictions on them:

Public use of the FFTE lands are restricted by the easement. Much of the lands in these easements are open to the public; however, the lands covered by this easement surrounding Franklin and Union Falls Ponds are generally not open to the public. When these lands were purchased, the Department only purchased development rights for the shore lines of Franklin and Union Falls Ponds. These lands are not open to the public. Detailed information on the easements covering the FFTE tracts can be found in Appendices (E, F and G).

The State owns an easement on the Alderbrook Park. The rights the State purchased on these lands are development rights and the right to build a hiking trail. Detailed information on the easement can be found in Appendix H.

Public use of the Cook Mountain Tract lands is restricted by the CME. The only rights purchased by the State were development, timber, hiking, and snowshoeing rights. All other recreation rights were retained by Lassiter. Access to the 1030 acres is provided by a narrow access strip along the Parish road. Detailed information on the easement can be found in Appendix I.

Camping - Of the 12 designated primitive tent sites within the planning area, 6 are roadside sites while the remaining 6 are accessible by water and also accessible by trail. There are also three lean-tos on Taylor Pond which are managed under the campground reservation system and accessible by both trail and water. A forth lean-to is located near the summit of Poke- O -Moonshine along the summit trail. Otherwise, camping is allowed by regulations (6 NYCRR §190.3). These regulations prohibit camping within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond, or other body of water except at sites designated by the Department.

Bicycling Trails - An abundance of roads and trails within this unit, as well as in the adjacent Wilmington Wild Forests, provide a special opportunity for extensive all terrain mountain bike trail use. The area is currently lacking signs indicating where this use may and may not occur. In Wild Forest areas, bicycles are permitted on State truck trails as well as on roads, foot trails, snowmobile trails and horse trails deemed suitable for such use as specified in the UMP.

Hunting - The TPMC experiences much use from hunters, especially during archery, muzzle loading, and the early part of big game season. Easy road access and the availability of undisturbed land are contributing factors. Presently, the only land inside the TPMC that is restricted from hunting is the Pauline Murdock WMA. When this area was given to the Department, the Murdock family kept the hunting rights and required that there never be any public hunting on the property.

Trail Registers - The following trails all have class 3 style registers which are in good condition: Catamount Mountain trail, Silver Lake Mountain trail, Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain trail and the Route 3 Mud Pond trail. Trail register data can be found in Appendix D.

1. Wildlife

Data regarding the amount of public use of the wildlife resource within TPMC are not available. A variety of wildlife recreation uses occur on the unit, including: hunting, trapping, bird watching, and wildlife photography. Past studies by NYSDEC indicate that few sportsmen sign-in at trailhead registers. This,

combined with the fact that many hunters and trappers traditionally bush whack, and use unmarked trails and watercourses to enter State lands, makes an accurate estimate of total visitor use difficult. Information regarding non-consumptive use of wildlife is also lacking. For the most part, observations of wildlife enhance the recreational experience of the general public. Recreational use tends to be heaviest near towns, roads, and access points. With the exception of the more readily accessible areas (e.g., adjacent to Route 3), the majority of the unit probably is not heavily used by sportsmen during the hunting and trapping seasons.

A number of mammals and birds may be hunted or trapped during seasons set annually by NYSDEC. These species are identified in the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Section 11-0903 and 11-0908. The NYSDEC has the authority to set hunting and trapping season dates and bag limits by regulation for all game species. White-tailed deer and bear may be taken during archery, muzzle loading, and regular seasons. Antlerless deer harvest is prohibited during the regular firearm season but may be permitted during the archery and muzzle loading seasons. In addition, there is an early season for black bear.

Small game hunters may take certain waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rail, crow, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, weasel, skunk, varying hare, cottontail rabbit and gray squirrel. Muskrat, beaver, weasel, river otter, mink, fisher, skunk, raccoon, coyote, red fox, gray fox, and bobcat may also be trapped.

Harvest statistics are generated and compiled by NYSDEC using an automated licensing and reporting system (DECALS) for deer, bear and turkey and a pelt sealing system for river otter, fisher, and bobcat. Harvest information is reported by township, county, and Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). Since harvest information is not collected on a Forest Preserve unit basis and harvest distribution is not evenly distributed across the landscape, harvest data by town are generally not representative of the actual harvest within units. Types and levels of non-consumptive uses of wildlife within TPMC have not been determined.

Potential Impacts

The impact of public use on most wildlife species within the unit is unknown. Wildlife species that can be vulnerable to disturbance associated with public recreational activity include:

Non-game Species

Common loons nest along shorelines of lakes and ponds. Their nests are often very near the water line, and are susceptible to disturbance from the land or from the water. Nests along shore are more susceptible to human disturbance where trails follow the shore of a lake. Nests along the shore or on islands are more susceptible to human disturbance if boats or canoes can be carried readily into lakes occupied by loons. Water bodies with greater boating access will have higher levels of disturbance. If adults are forced to leave the nest, nest abandonment could occur. Additionally, fledgling mortality can occur if chicks are chased by boats.

Loons are a long-lived species and a predator near the top of the food chain. These characteristics make loons more susceptible to the accumulation of environmental toxins. Thus, this species is often used by scientists as an ecological indicator of the health of the environment and water quality. Airborne contaminants, including “acid rain”, can cause the bioaccumulation of mercury, a neurotoxin, and a decreased food supply, which can potentially lead to decreased reproductive success. The effects of direct human impacts, such as disturbance or shoreline use, on breeding loons within this unit has not

been determined, but is presumed to be low due to the minimal number of improvements and facilities. Management efforts will concentrate on protecting loon nesting areas and habitat.

Game Species

Impacts appear to be minimal for those game species that are monitored. The NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife monitors the populations of game species partly by compiling and analyzing harvest statistics, thereby determining levels of consumptive wildlife use. Past legislative changes have occurred that likely have had impacts on use of the area by hunters. Both hunting of bears by using bait and by using dogs have been prohibited, probably lowering use by bear hunters. Harvest statistics are compiled by town, county and wildlife management unit. Regular season deer regulations (bucks only) for this area result in limited impacts to the reproductive capacity of the deer population. Overall, deer populations within the unit are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use.

An analysis of black bear harvest figures, along with a study of the age composition of harvested bears, indicates that hunting has little impact on the reproductive capacity of the bear population. Under existing regulations, the unit's bear population is capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use.

The coyote, varying hare, and ruffed grouse are widely distributed and fairly abundant throughout the Adirondack environment. Hunting and/or trapping pressure on these species is relatively light. Under current regulations, these species undoubtedly are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use.

While detrimental impacts to game populations over a large area are unlikely, wildlife biologists continually monitor furbearer harvests, with special attention to river otter, bobcat, and fisher. These species can be susceptible to overharvest to a degree directly related to market demand for their pelts as well as a variety of other economic and environmental factors. The NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife closely monitors furbearer harvest by requiring trappers to have the pelts of bobcat, fisher, and river otter sealed by NYSDEC staff. Specific regulations are changed when necessary to protect furbearer populations.

Other Impacts

Water fluctuations can have a significant impact on nesting activity of loons, marsh birds, and waterfowl and can also have a negative impact on furbearers such as muskrats and beaver. The maintenance and protection of winter deer yards remains a concern of wildlife managers, particularly in the Adirondacks, as they fulfill a critical component of the seasonal habitat requirements of white-tailed deer. Few data are available on the impacts of cross-country ski trails and foot travel during winter on deer use of wintering areas.

2. Fisheries

Quantitative information about the numbers of anglers who visit the waters of the TPMC is unavailable. However, fishing is a popular activity in selected waters. The Saranac River, Taylor Pond, Union Falls Pond, Franklin Falls Pond and Silver Lake all sustain significant recreational fishing opportunities.

Taylor Pond is a lake managed for both lake trout and land locked salmon. The Lake provides an opportunity for anglers to catch large size fish of both species. Many campers who utilize the Taylor Pond Campground fish as a primary recreational activity. The lake is a popular destination for day use anglers

as well. The Saranac River is a popular fishing destination for trout fishermen and the river provides good quality angling for brown trout and rainbow trout. Fishing for cold water species generally peaks on lakes and ponds in April, May, and June when trout can still be found in the cool water near the surface. Surface fishing activity declines in the summer due to formation of a thermocline which causes fish to move to deeper water. In the TPMC angling through the ice is not allowed for cold water species like trout and salmon. Warm water angling generally peaks in July and August. It is legal to fish for some warm water fish species through the ice. Because the TPMC has a higher proportion of warm water fisheries resources than most other units, angling use is likely less seasonal than most other wild forest units. Angling for bass, pike and walleye is popular throughout the summer, and ice fishing for pike, walleye and yellow perch extends through March.

The Saranac River has special regulation areas where anglers can fish for trout all year. One such area is a "trophy section" located on the North Branch of the Saranac River. This section of river provides for year round angling for trout using artificial lures only. Anglers can keep no more than 3 trout per day and they must be 12 inches or greater in length. The main branch of the Saranac River has two catch and release areas inside the unit boundary. The first extends from 100 yards upstream of the river's confluence with the North Branch of the Saranac, upstream to Stord Brook. The second section begins at the Millstone Monument in Morrisonville and extends upstream to the Kent Falls Dam. Both sections provide year round angling opportunities for trout with the use of artificial lures only. All trout caught in the main branch sections must be released. All three of these special regulation areas serve to reduce the seasonal nature of angling in the unit.

Quantitative angler use estimates and their economic impact for the TPMC are not available. Angling-related expenditures contribute to the economy of the area and have probably remained stable or increased in the last decade. Tourism and outdoor recreation are an important portion of the area's economy.

3. Water Resources

The water resources in the TPMC are one of the greatest draws to the area for the public. Other than hiking, these facilities are where most of the recreation activities occur. There is a vast range of activities that take place on these water bodies some of the more common activities to name a few are: canoeing, kayaking, fishing, swimming, camping, bird watching, ice fishing, snowmobiling and waterskiing.

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 Taylor Pond Management Complex. An explanation of the ADA and its influence on management actions is provided under Section III.

In 1997, DEC 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 people with qualifying disabilities to use motor vehicles to gain access to designated routes on certain state lands. The Terry Mountain Red Road is the only CP-3 access route currently open in the unit. The roads in Burnt Hill State Forest lend themselves to this use but would require repairs to be open to the public as CP-3 roads. The road accessing the south side of

Taylor Pond also lends itself to CP-3 access. This road could also be used for non-ambulatory hunting and access to an accessible lean-to.

F. Relationship between Public and Private Land

The TPMC lies adjacent to the McKenzie Mountain Wilderness area, the Wilmington Wild Forest, and the Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area as well as Debar Mountain and Chazy Highlands Wild Forests to the north. Lands in the southern portion of TPMC lie adjacent to Jay Mtn. Wilderness and the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness areas. These areas are bisected by highways and roads. Private lands are interspersed throughout. This mix of State and private land combined with ease of access affords a diversity of forest conditions and a wide spectrum of recreational opportunities.

In addition to the recreational opportunities provided by the TPMC lands, the lands also impact the town's financially. The thirteen towns located in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties all receive tax revenue from the state-owned lands in the towns, respectively. The school, county, town and special district taxes on those lands are paid by the People of the State of New York. The tax payments on state owned lands in the thirteen towns which have lands included in the TPMC based on the 2012 assessment roll amount to $3,115,507. Since the state lands do not require much in the way of services from the local governments, this is an important source of income for local governments. Note that the taxes paid in these towns include all taxes paid on state lands in the towns and not just the lands that make up the TPMC.

1. State Lands

Chazy Highlands Wild Forest (36,800 acres): The CHWF consists of several classifications of State land. The 36,800 acres of State land is spread out over the 312,000 acres in the planning area. The CHWF is not in a contiguous block, but is instead made up of 35 separate parcels. This unit is located just to the north of TPMC.

Debar Mountain Management Complex (143,888 acres): The DMMC consists of several classifications of dispersed State land. There are 73,803 acres of Wild Forest lands; 6,200 acres of Madawaska Flow/Quebec Brook Primitive Area; 1,830 acres consisting of the Deer River Primitive Area; 158 acres of State Administrative Area; the 260 acre Buck Pond intensive use campground; 392 acre Mecham Lake Intensive Use Campground; and 61,245 acres of conservation easement. Significant elevations are Azure Mountain at 2518 feet, Debar Mountain at 3305 feet, and Loon Lake Mountain at 3355 feet. This unit is located just to the north of TPMC.

McKenzie Mountain Wilderness (37,616 acres): Although this area is in close proximity to Saranac Lake on the southwest, Lake Placid on the southeast, and Wilmington on the east, its interior has retained its wilderness character. This is due, in part, to its steep terrain which prevented most motor vehicle penetration prior to wilderness designation in 1972. The wilderness wraps around the west and north sides of Whiteface Mountain. This area is popular with hunters, fishermen, and long-distance hikers.

Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area (2,910 acres): Managed by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), this area provides recreational and competitive downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. The ski center includes three mountain lodges and provides 25 miles of ski trails on 241.4 acres.

Wilmington Wild Forest (WWF) - (approximately 13,000 acres): The WWF lies immediately south of the TPMC. The Unit area consists of mountains straddling the Clinton/Essex County line and takes in portions of the Town of Black Brook in Clinton County and the Towns of Jay, Keene, and Wilmington in Essex County. The Forestdale Road, just inside the Clinton County line serves as the division line between the two Wild Forest areas.

2. Commercial Forest Landowners

Private commercial forest lands are interspersed throughout the TPMC. Boeselager Forestry Inc., Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC., Franklin Falls LLC., Fountain Forestry and Lassiter Holdings have substantial forest holdings in this area. These lands are actively managed for forest products. Several segments have private recreational leases and are closed to public use. In addition the State has purchased conservation easement rights on some of these lands.

3. Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) Landowners

The Alderbrook Park area borders State Land west of Union Falls. The family who owns these lands sold the development rights to the State. These lands have no public access. In addition, the TPMC borders many private residences and many small non-industrial private forest landowners (less than 100 acres in size). The mix of State and private lands provide for a diversity of access, forest conditions, wildlife, and recreation opportunities and habitat diversity.

G. Capacity to Withstand Use

Carrying Capacity Concepts

The Taylor Pond Management Complex, 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; however, 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 Taylor Pond Management Complex. 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 and research and 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 judgments 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.

This shift in managers' central focus - away from trying to determine how many visitors an area can accommodate to trying to determine what changes are occurring in the area and whether or not they are acceptable - is as critical in a Wild Forest area like the Taylor Pond Management Complex as it is in a wilderness. All such areas are State Forest Preserve units which must be protected, as per the State Constitution, as "forever wild." Furthermore, the APSLMP dictates in the very definition of Wild Forest areas that their "essentially wild character" be retained.

The magnitude of the challenge here is made evident by other statements and acknowledgments found in the APSLMP concerning Wild Forest areas. The 1972 APSLMP claim that "[m]any of these areas are under-utilized" remains seemingly true, and from this determination and the determination that these areas "are generally less fragile, ecologically" comes a directive that "these areas should accommodate much of the future use of the Adirondack Forest Preserve."

Clearly, a delicate balancing act is called for, and yet just as clearly, the Department's management focus must remain on protecting the resource. "Future use" is not quantified in the above directive, but it is generally quantified and characterized in the definition of Wild Forest as only "a somewhat higher degree of human use" when compared to Wilderness, and whereas certain "types of outdoor recreation... should be encouraged," they must fall "within constitutional constraints... without destroying the Wild Forest character or natural resource quality" of the area.

A central objective of this UMP is to lay out a strategy for achieving such a balance in the Taylor Pond Management Complex. 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 Taylor Pond Management Complex 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 Wild Forest conditions (goals) outlined by APSLMP guidelines. 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 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, but 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 Taylor Pond Management Complex (for instance, the impacts of acid deposition) call for an approach that is properly in the LAC vein.

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.

A prioritized list of indicators which may be used by the Department for measuring and evaluating acceptable change on the Taylor Pond Management Complex are:

- Condition of vegetation in camping areas and riparian areas near lakes and streams;
- Extent of soil erosion on trails and at tent sites;
- Noncompliant behavior;
- Noise on trails and in tent sites;
- Conflicts between different user groups;
- Diversity and distribution of plant and animal species;
- Air and water quality;

These indicators form the basis for the proposed management actions presented in Section IV. Each applicable resource area or facility type identified in Section IV will be assessed for its present condition, its desired future condition and how it will be measured. This approach will require flexibility, determination and patience. It may not be possible to complete all inventories and assessments called for by this strategy - and by the APSLMP - in this UMP's five-year time frame. It will be important to show progress in achieving APSLMP goals and in gaining initial managerial experience and knowledge in applying this strategy to some carrying capacity questions and issues. Knowledge gained as a result of the implementation of this first Taylor Pond Management Complex UMP will be useful to: 1) revising and refining management actions if evaluation shows that desired conditions are not being attained or sustained; and 2) creating a foundation upon which this strategy can eventually be built into a fully-developed, science-based approach to protecting and managing the unique resources of the Taylor Pond Management Complex.

1. Fish and Wildlife Resources

DEC angling regulations are designed to preserve fish populations in individual waters by preventing over-exploitation. When necessary, populations of coldwater gamefishes are maintained or augmented by DEC's annual stocking program. Most warmwater species (smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and panfishes) are maintained by natural reproduction; however, stocking is sometimes used to introduce those fishes to waters where they do not exist.

Under existing angling regulations, the coldwater and warmwater fish populations are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of angler use.

DEC 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 Taylor Pond Management Complex Area. Statewide angling and special angling regulations provide the protection necessary to sustain or enhance natural reproduction where it occurs.

2. Education, Interpretation and Research

The Boy Scouts are a group that often uses the area for general outdoor education activities and often hike the trailed mountains. Other groups use the land and water for teaching classes about kayaking, canoeing**,** skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering and other outdoor activities**.**

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SECTION III: MANAGEMENT AND POLICY OVERVIEW

A. Administration

Administration of the Taylor Pond Management Complex is shared by several programs in the DEC. Within the context of the unit, DEC programs fill the following functions:

The Division of Lands and Forests acquires and maintains land for public use, manages the Forest Preserve lands, promotes responsible use of public lands and provides educational information regarding the use of the Forest Preserve.

The Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources protects and manages fish and wildlife species, provides for public use and enjoyment of natural resources, stocks freshwater fish, licences fishing, hunting and trapping, protects and restores habitat, and provides public fishing, hunting and trapping access.

The Division of Water protects water quality in lakes and rivers by monitoring waterbodies and controlling surface runoff.

The Division of Operations designs, builds and maintains DEC facilities and infrastructure, operates Department Campgrounds and day-use facilities and maintains trails and lean-tos.

The Division of Public Affairs and Education is the public communication wing of the DEC. The Division communicates with the public, promotes citizen participation in the UMP process, produces, edits and designs DEC publications.

The Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for enforcing all of New York's Environmental Conservation Laws relating to hunting, fishing, trapping, licence requirements, endangered species, possession, transportation and sale of fish and wildlife, trespass, and damage to property by hunters and fishermen.

The Forest Ranger Division is responsible for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the State's forest resources, and the safety and well-being of the public using those resources. Forest Rangers are the stewards of the Forest Preserve and are the primary public contact for the TPMC and responsible for fire control and search and rescue functions. In 1980, state law designated Forest Rangers as Peace Officers with all powers to enforce all state laws and regulations with emphasis on the Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Part 190 of the Department's Regulations. Examples include enforcement of laws protecting state lands, open burning laws and licensed guide regulations. Since 1980 Forest Rangers have undergone some administrative changes and are now designated as police officers. The Forest Rangers are still the primary law enforcement service for state owned lands.

B. Past Management

The administration of Forest Preserve land is the responsibility of the 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 and wildlife resources.

1. Land Management

No overall management plan with the exception of the lands of the Ausable Marsh WMA has previously been developed for the region encompassed by this UMP. Management actions were generally reactive to potential environmental impacts or the needs and desires of past users. Public use management of the original tracts acquired since the late 1800's consisted of gradual establishment of boundary lines and a long period of custodial management. The designated trail systems in the unit, Silver Lake Mountain, Taylor Pond, Mud Pond and Military Pond as well as the Route 3 Mud Pond trail are believed to have received low to moderate recreational use in past years. Of all the trails in the TPMC, Catamount (an unofficial trail) Poke-O-Moonshine and Silver Lake Mountain trail receive the greatest use. These trails have all been maintained periodically.

There is a significant amount of Wild Forest land in this unit that has no identified boundary lines and/or public access. These lands need to be surveyed and have their chain of title researched to determine if there is public access.

The three lean-tos and two primitive tent sites on Taylor Pond that are being managed by the Taylor Pond Campground reservation system have long standing historical reasons for being managed this way. The lean-tos and tent site's due to their ease of access were experiencing use by a wider range of user groups than normally found at primitive sites and remote lean-tos. This wide range of user types caused user conflicts. It was decided that putting these sites into the reservation system would solve many of these issues by limiting group size to six and requiring users to check in. This also guaranteed the sites were available for the user. Along with user conflicts other issues such as maintenance and access through the campground would also be addressed in this manner. These lean-tos and tent sites are all accessed through the campground and boat launch.

The lands in this unit are in need of management. In order to help achieve the high level of management some groups wish to see, they have asked to be allowed to volunteer and help maintain certain facilities. This is done through the use of an (AANR) Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement with these groups. This tool is used to provide insurance to groups wishing to volunteer and provide needed maintenance to specific trails and facilities. The following groups are active in the unit and have current AANR's with the Department:

- Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine
- The Trail Groomers Snowmobile Club
- Adirondack Mountain Club - Adopt-A-Lean-To-Program
- Adirondack Mountain Club - Trail Steward Program
- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail

2. Wildlife Management

Past and present wildlife management activities on TPMC have been shaped largely by Article XIV of the New York State Constitution that provides that the lands of the Forest Preserve "shall be forever kept as wild forest lands" and that the timber thereon shall not be "sold, removed, or destroyed." Therefore,

habitat management through the use of timber harvesting, prescribed burning, or other means of modifying the vegetation to alter wildlife habitat is not permissible in the unit. Additionally, NYCRR §194.2 (b) prohibits prescribed fires to be set on Forest Preserve lands. Options for wildlife management in the Forest Preserve include the setting of hunting and trapping seasons, setting harvest limits, defining manner of taking, restoring or augmenting populations of native species, preventing the introduction of non-native species, and removing non-native species.

3. Fisheries Management

Fish management in the TPMC has emphasized rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and northern pike. Taylor Pond is managed as a cold water lake for landlocked salmon and lake trout. Previously it provided angling for rainbow trout and brown trout, but the resurgence of the native lake trout led to a decline in the success of those species. Union Falls Pond has long been the primary walleye fisheries in the vicinity. More recently DEC has been successful in establishing a quality fishery for walleye in Franklin Falls Pond. Franklin Falls Pond and Union Falls Pond are managed for a variety of warm water species including black bass, walleye and northern pike. The Saranac River is managed for rainbow trout and brown trout. Several small streams in the unit contain wild, self-sustaining populations of native brook trout.

TPMC waters generally are subject to statewide angling regulations. Exceptions include a catch and release - year round fishing area for trout on the Saranac River. Other special regulation areas may be established to protect important fisheries resources and to provide exceptional angling opportunities.

Historical biological data is available for the major ponded waters in the unit, but no data exists for most of the small unnamed waters. Section IV.D and Tables 1 and 2 present pond-specific survey and management data for TPMC waters.

Relatively little active fishery management has been conducted on streams within the TPMC because of their small size, although some of the accessible streams have been stocked with brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Black Brook is currently stocked with brook trout and the Saranac River is stocked with brown trout and rainbow trout.

C. Management Guidelines

1. Guiding Documents

This UMP has been developed within the guidelines set forth by Article XIV, sections 1 and 3 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 APSLMP, and established Department policy.

Article XIV, section 1 of the State Constitution provides in part that, “The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as Wild Forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.”

The APSLMP provides guidance for the use and management of lands which it classifies as “Wild Forest” by establishing basic guidelines.

This UMP contains Forest Preserve units with the APSLMP classification of Wild Forest. "Wild Forest" is defined, in relevant part, on page 32 of the APSLMP, as:

> *"An area where the resources permit a somewhat higher degree of human use than in Wilderness, Primitive, or Canoe areas while retaining an essentially wild character. A Wild Forest area is further defined as an area that frequently lacks the sense of remoteness of Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe areas and that permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation."*

Wild Forests are generally less fragile than Wilderness or Primitive areas, and thus more human impacts can be tolerated. But, the natural resources and natural forest setting must still be protected in a Wild Forest despite the expanded recreational opportunities that can be provided.

Part of the definition exempts State Reforestation Area's and Wildlife Management Area's from management as "Wild Forest" as follows:

> *"To the extent that the state lands classified as wild forest were given or devised to the state for silvicultural or wildlife management purposes pursuant to statutory provisions specifying that these lands will not form part of the forest preserve (if such provisions are constitutional), the following guidelines are not to be interpreted to prevent silvicultural or wildlife management practices on these lands, provided that other guidelines for wild forest are respected."*

It is the intention of the department to continue to manage Wildlife Management Area's and State Forest Area's for timber production. Forest management plans must be completed for each of these individual areas before any silvicultural prescriptions can be applied.

Department policy has been developed for the public use and administration of Forest Preserve lands. Select policies and guidelines 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 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).
- Snowmobile Trails - Forest Preserve (ONR-2).
- Management Guidance - Snowmobile Trail Siting, Construction and Maintenance on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park, November 2009
- Division Regulatory Policy (LF-90-2).
- Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ONR-1).
- Policies and Procedures Manual Title 8400 - Public Land Management.
- Public Use Management Handbook (ECH 8309.11).
- Unpaved Forest Roads Handbook (ECH 8409.11).
- Timber Management Handbook (ECH 8409.12).
- State Forest Wildlife Management Handbook (ECH 8409.16).
- State Forest Unit Management Planning Handbook.

Guidance and Clarification Documents

- Memorandum of Understanding Between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning the Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park

The Department also maintains policy to provide 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 guidelines 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 SEQRA. All proposed management activities will be reviewed and significant environmental impacts and alternatives will be assessed.

2. Application of Guidelines and Standards

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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 requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to the services and programs of public entities, 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.

Consistent with ADA requirements, the Department incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has issued the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for this purpose.

An assessment was conducted, in the development of this UMP, to determine appropriate accessibility enhancements which may include developing new or upgrading of existing facilities or assets. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible so long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible. New facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the Proposed Management Actions section.

For copies of any of the above mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact the DEC Universal Access Program Coordinator at 518-402-9428 or universalaccessprogram@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

3. Best Management Practices

All trail construction and relocation projects will be developed in accordance with the APSLMP, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, 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 crossing 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.
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

All construction projects will be developed in accordance with the APSLMP, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, 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.
- Locating trails to minimize grade.
- Using stream crossing 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.
- Avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist.
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

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

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

4. Fisheries Projects

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, dated December 1979.

All pond reclamation projects will be undertaken 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 June 1980 and the 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 Pesticides Management, dated March 1981.

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.

5. State Forest Management

The following generic environmental impact statements (EIS) are relevant to the management of state forests in the TPMC. All state forest projects will be in compliance with the following generic environmental impact statements:

- EIS for State Forest Timber Sales 1982
- EIS for State Forest Recreation Management 1982
- EIS for Red Pine Clearcuts on State Forests 1979
- EIS for Wildllife Habitat Management on State Forests 1983
- SEQR Guidance Memo 2001

6. Deed Restrictions

The Pauline Murdock WMA has deed restrictions which apply to the lands. There is no hunting allowed on the Pauline Murdock WMA.

D. Management Principles

The call for a management approach which balances the need for recreational use with the need to preserve the Wild Forest character of the area and the capacity of the resources to withstand use presents a challenging and complex task - one which requires both a long-term and a day-to-day approach to problem solving. There may be no one right answer to a problem - that in making Department decisions, the key is to apply a systematic rationale based on monitoring and evaluation.

This Unit Management Plan is intended to serve as the basic management tool for the TPMC for a five-year period following APA determination of conformity with the APSLMP, public comment, and approval by the Department's Commissioner. Implementation will commence following approval by the Commissioner.

All necessary work in the TPMC will be accomplished with the ***minimum tool concept*.** This concept requires that every management action be scrutinized to see first if the action is necessary, then plan to do it with "minimum tools" to accomplish the task. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure should be the one that least degrades Wild Forest character temporarily or permanently.

State Forests and Wildlife Management Area's will be subject to the following principles:

- Manage lands to achieve the optimum levels of timber production, wildlife habitat, watershed protection and public recreation.
- All forest land management activities on these lands will be carried out under the multiple use concepts.
- All activities on the lands will be conducted in accordance with best management practices.
- The lands will be managed in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standards for certification.
- Provide optimum access to these lands to enable expansion of the forest product sales program and enhance public use opportunities.
- Generate site income through product sales to contribute to the stabilization of the forest product industry, and contribute to alternate energy concerns by use of wood resources.
- Manage lands in accordance with APSLMP Wild Forest Guidelines.

Future issues, actions, or opportunities will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if they are consistent and compatible with the APSLMP and the goals and objectives of this UMP. The APSLMP has procedures to amend UMP's if resource and/or social conditions change during the five-year tenure of each UMP.

E. Management Issues, Needs and Desires

Issue identification is an important element of the planning process that comes only through public participation. An issue is defined as a point or question of public discussion or interest that needs to be addressed or decided upon in the planning process. Issues help identify where DEC needs to focus its management efforts in the future.

Several issues are of 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 10, 2003 at the Town of Jay Community Center in Ausable Forks, by mail, and email as well as the numerous conversations that occured with interested citizens, local organizations and town governments.

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. Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Despite past recreational development little recreational development has occurred in the TPMC in recent years. Damage due to the Ice Storm of 1998 and the lack of an approved unit management plan have limited this area's recreational potential to meet public demands. Issues raised by the public include future use of many former roads and footpaths as well as places where new trails and parking areas should be constructed. For example:

- Expand opportunities for short hiking trips, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.
- Provide additional parking areas and pull-offs to access State lands.

- Provide parking for access to Poke-O-Moonshine Fire Tower and climbing area's in the closed public campground.
- Build a Kiosk at the Poke-O-Moonshine Observers Trail Trailhead
- Maintain ruins at the Poke-O-Moonshine Fire Tower observer cabin (foundation and old chimney)
- Maintain Poke-O-Moonshine Fire Tower in perpetuity
- Build a Snowmobile connection from Wilmington to Taylor Pond.
- Maintain motorized access for people with qualified disabilities and investigate additional opportunities.
- Provide additional information about planning actions during the planning process.
- DEC should provide for more public involvement besides at the beginning and end of process.
- The APSLMP should be updated to deal with current situations.
- Provide public access to Union Falls Pond from Rock Street.
- Develop a public boat launching site on Union Falls Pond.
- DEC should provide proactive maintenance on all facilities.

2. Preserve Cultural Resources

The historical and archaeological sites located in TPMC as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6 NYCRR § 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of the Education Law. No actions that would impact these resources are proposed in this Unit Management Plan. Should any such actions be proposed in the future they will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of the ECL and Section 233 of the Education Law. In some cases, additional protection may be afforded these resources by the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

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

The TPMC has many cultural resources that document the early history of the area. Interpretation of these cultural resources helps define the evolution of the landscape encountered in the TPMC today. Questions of concern include the following:

- Identify and protect area cultural resources.
- Determine how various management activities and recreational uses affect area cultural resources.
- Provide information and interpretation of this areas past.

3. Education, Information, and Interpretation

Education, information, and interpretation are the means that connect people and places, influence behaviors, and help instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship for wild places.

- Provide information and education materials to potential visitors before they arrive in the region, at trailheads, and once they go in the interior.
- Provide maps and brochures to help visitors enjoy the amenities of the TPMC.
- Provide and disseminate information to outside groups, organizations, area businesses, and Chambers of Commerce.

SECTION IV: MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the UMP breaks down the various resources of the unit into the following categories; bio-physical resources, land protection, man-made facilities and public use and access. Each category is further broken down into component units where the 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:

The TPMC lies within the Lake Champlain watershed. Most of the area is drained by small headwater streams that are tributaries to the Saranac and Ausable Rivers. Some of the lands in the unit have frontage on the bank of the Main Branch of the Saranac River. This portion of the river is classified as a recreational river by the New York Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act of 1972, (ECL §15-2714(3)(c). Recreational rivers are generally accessible, may have a significant amount of development in their river areas, and may have been impounded or diverted in the past. Management of recreational rivers is directed to preserving and restoring their natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational qualities (ECL §15-2707(2)(c). The North Branch of the Saranac River also flows through the unit but is not bordered by any unit lands. The section of the North Branch that flows through the unit is approximately two miles in length and is often used by outdoor enthusiasts. This UMP serves as a River Corridor Management Plan, as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for sections of the rivers flowing through state-owned lands.

A serious threat to the fishery resource of the Adirondack Park is acid precipitation. The TPMC is located on the eastern side of the Park, where waters have not been greatly impacted. Further, the Taylor Pond Management Complex is a unit which is situated at relatively low elevation and the lakes and ponds generally have large watersheds. These factors all provide increased resistance to the impacts of acidification. The pH measurements of area ponds are higher than or equal to 7.0. If significant pond acidification does occur, there will be a reduction in public use stemming from reduced recreational fishing opportunity. The same factors that make the lakes and ponds of the TPMC poor candidates for reclamation would also tend to make them unlikely candidates for liming.

Objectives:

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

Management Actions:

- Monitor TPMC waters for physical and chemical factors and maintain water quality database. Biological survey work will be incorporated in all water related planning activities.
- Advise the public through DEC and information and education programs to treat all water prior to consumptive use.

2. Soil

Present Conditions:

Little information has been collected to document soil loss through human disturbance on trails, ponded shorelines and riverine areas, and at tent sites. An unmarked trail to the Catamount Mountain Summit is heavily used (3,168 feet elevation). This route requires waterbars and stone steps to control and prevent future erosion. This situation is the same on the trail to Silver Lake Mountain Summit (2,374 feet elevation), Fay Mountain (2,306 feet elevation) and Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain (2,162 feet elevation).

Objectives:

- Keep soil erosion caused by recreation use within acceptable limits that closely approximates natural processes.
- Remediate and stabilize areas that have significant erosion.

Management Actions:

- Prepare a detailed inventory of all trails and areas requiring erosion control.
- Correct problem areas by rehabilitating the area and/or relocating use to more durable sites.
- Establish routine maintenance on all designated trails; establish a priority list based on resource needs rather than on the convenience of users.
- Relocate portions of the Catamount, Silver Lake and Poke-O-Moonshine trails to avoid steep slopes.

3. Wetlands

Present Conditions:

The wetlands found on the unit provide great ecological, aesthetic, recreational, and educational value. In their capacity to receive, store, and slowly release rainwater and snow melt, wetlands protect water resources by stabilizing water flow and minimizing erosion and sedimentation. They are one of the most productive habitats for fish and wildlife, and afford opportunities for fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, and photography. Wetlands also enhance open space character by providing breaks in the heavily forested terrain.

The mountainous typography of the TPMC generally restricts the occurrence of wetlands to the narrow valleys, lowlands, and associated creeks and rivers that drain the surrounding mountains. While there are some small isolated wetlands, the vast majority of the wetlands in this management area are found in small groups or successive chains along stream courses. The largest wetlands are found at Mud Pond, Taylor Pond, Franklin Falls Pond, Union Falls Pond-Little Bear Bay, and Silver Lake. Others parallel Alderbrook, Allegheny Brook, Little Black Brook, and the Saranac River. Significant wetlands can also be found in Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area. Information regarding Ausable Marsh wetlands can be found in the Special Management Area section of this plan. Wetlands are also important bird habitats and deer wintering areas.

Vernal pools are scattered throughout the upland forests of the unit. These are small wetlands that occupy shallow depressions flooded in the spring or after a heavy rainfall, but are usually dry by mid-summer. Many vernal pools refill in the fall. These tiny wetlands support a diverse group of invertebrates and species of frogs, salamanders, newts, and toads.

Management activities in or adjacent to classified wetlands require consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency.

Objectives:

- Minimize the impacts of construction and maintenance activities on wetlands.
- Allow natural processes to freely operate to ensure that the succession of native plant communities is not altered by human use.
- Protect known locations of sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered plant species.

Management Actions:

- Relocate trails, campsites and lean-tos which are less than 100 feet from wetlands to reduce sedimentation and/or contamination of wetlands.

4. Vegetation

Present Conditions:

Much of the TPMC landscape has been altered by agriculture, wind, fire, ice, and pre-Forest Preserve logging. Despite these influences, the unit has several unique ecosystems requiring special attention and protection. These include areas of rare flora, wetland complexes, and forest communities such as the summit communities on Catamount. Because of the intermingled nature of private and public lands and embedded transport vectors, State Lands are, and are likely to be, affected by infestations of invasive species and subsequent degradation of natural system function. The extent of exotic or non-native species introductions that compete with indigenous vegetation within the TPMC is not known at this time.

Invasive Plants

The negative impacts of invasive species on natural forests, terrestrial and aquatic communities are well documented. Colonization and unrestrained growth of invasive species cause the loss of biodiversity, interruption of normal hydrology, suppression of native vegetation, and significant aesthetic, human safety and economic impacts. Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species have been identified at increasing rates of colonization along roadsides in campgrounds, and in water bodies of the Forest Preserve. Some of these species have the potential to colonize backcountry lands, lakes and ponds and degrade natural resources of the Forest Preserve.

Although in the context of a global society, the transfer of species from one location to another may be viewed as part of a “natural process,” there may be occasions when this relocation of non-native species becomes unacceptable and an active response is warranted.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has created an Office of Invasive Species to work with various universities, state agencies and non-profit groups in coordinating a response to invasive species. The Department is a member and will continue to collaborate with other partners of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) (Adirondack PRISM) to support education, inventory, research, control protocol, and control of invasive species. An inventory and analysis of the current distribution of invasive species on Forest Preserve lands will provide the necessary information on the present extent of invasive exotics and provide the basis for long term decision making.

In 2010 the Department and the Adirondack Park Agency developed Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices for the Control of Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park (see appendix X). These Guidelines provide a template for the process through which comprehensive active terrestrial and aquatic invasive species management will take place on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park. The Department shall be responsible for management of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species on Forest Preserve lands while the Agency will be responsible for providing review of, and advice on, APSLMP compliance and permit jurisdiction.

The control methods and Best Management Practices (BMPs) contained in these Guidelines restrict the use of herbicides so that adverse impacts to non-target species are avoided and native plant communities are restored. Aquatic invasive species will be managed using non-mechanical harvesting techniques (hand-pulling) and temporary benthic matting as described in the Guidelines. Use of pesticides for aquatics is not a part of this guidance. The Guidelines are meant to be a dynamic document that is periodically revised to reflect new invasive species threats, continuing inventory of the Forest Preserve, and evolving invasive species management techniques.

Efforts should be made to restore and protect the native ecological communities in the Taylor Pond Management Complex through early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate or control existing or newly identified invasive species populations. Adoption of the Guidelines and implementation through the UMP and site specific work planning process, gives the Department the basic tools needed to preserve, protect and restore the natural native ecosystems of the Forest Preserve.

Prior to implementing containment and/or eradication controls, terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant infestations occurring within the Unit 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 specific 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.

All management recommendations are based on knowledge of non-native invasive species present within the 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.

The purple loosestrife infestations on the Saranac River downstream of the Moose Pond Road infestations have been controlled through cut stem herbicidal control efforts. The infestations downstream of the Moose Pond road are an extension of significant purple loosestrife monocultures that occur upstream to the Pine Street Bridge over the Saranac River. Wetland habitats associated with this large river floodplain upstream of the TPMC unit boundry are becoming infested at an alarming rate each growing season. These aggressive and contiguous infestations are beyond the feasibility of cultural or

herbicidal control efforts. The Department plans to collaborate with NYS DOT regarding the application and liberation of adult Galerucella beetles at contiguous, monotypical, purple loosestrife infestations in adjacent planning units. It is reaonable to expect that the purple loosestrife monocultures may eventually work their way down stream into this unit. If the infestations in TPMC grow beyond the feasibility of cultural or herbicidal control efforts the Department may look to the use of beetles that will be released at the same time actions are taken in adjacent planning units. With successful over-wintering it is anticipated that the adult Galerucella beetles will propagate and continue foraging downstream of the primary, upstream release sites on their own.

Invasive Plant Control

Facilities and activities within the Unit may influence invasive plant species introduction, establishment, and distribution throughout and beyond the unit boundaries. These facilities and activities are likely to serve as "hosts" for invasive plant establishment. Perpetual ED/RR protocols should be implemented in probable locations of invasive plant introductions:

- Parking Areas
- Campgrounds
- Boat Launches
- Dedicated Snowmobile Trails
- Horse Trails

Protocols to minimize the introduction and transfer of invasive plant species will be incorporated during routine operations 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 unit will be certified as weed-free.

- 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 Unit will be certified as weed-free. Persons working on trails will clean boots, tools and clothing prior to entering or leaving a work area to reduce the risk of invasive species transport and introduction to new sites.

- 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.

- Angling Tournaments / Derbies

  Licensing, registration, and/or permitting information distributed by the Department 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.

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.

Aquatic Invasive Plant Recommendations - All aquatic invasive species pose a risk of spreading via transport mechanisms which may include seaplanes, motorized and non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, jet skis, motor boats etc.) and associated gear and accessories. Some measures are currently under development to help educate the public about controlling the spread of exotic and invasive species. Signs have been placed at some access points and DEC boat launches which warn about the threat of exotic species, including specific information on some aggressive species such as Eurasian water milfoil. Additional research and collaboration among partners and stakeholders should occur to develop an appropriate, effective, and approved prevention and integrated plant management plan.

Objectives:

- Allow natural processes to freely operate to insure that the succession of native plant communities are not altered by human use.
- Prevent the establishment of non-native invasive vegetation.
- Through the NYS Invasive Species task force DEC will investigate use of appropriate educational signage at public boat launches to mitigate or prevent the spread of non-native or invasive plants.
- Educate natural resource managers, elected officials and the public about the threat of invasive species and ways to prevent their introduction and transport into or out of the TPMC. Incorporate information in staff training and citizen licensing programs for hunting, fishing, and boating; and through signage, brochures, and educational materials; and included in information centers, campgrounds, community workshops, and press releases.
- Protect known locations of sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered plant species.
- Promote programs and studies that identify rare ecological communities.

Management Actions:

- Encourage botanical surveys to produce, an updated inventory and increase understanding of area ecosystems by, encouraging and funding New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) and TNC programs in the TPMC.
- Release beetles as needed if purple loosestrife infestations grow beyond the feasibility of cultural or herbicidal control efforts.
- The Department will collaborate with APIPP and implement a thorough ED/RR inventory of the shorelines, coves and bays of Franklin Falls Pond for the presence of purple loosestrife infestations. Once completed, Union Falls Pond will also receive an ED/RR inventory for the presence of any purple loosestrife infestations.

- The existing purple loosestrife infestations at camp sites # 20 and #21 are very close to the dam and outlet of Taylor Pond. The Department will implement an ED/RR inventory of the Taylor Pond outlet downstream of the dam to the culvert at Silver Lake Road/Turnpike Road.
- Work with APIPP to develop a plan to control/eradicate Eurasion Milfoil from Taylor Pond.
- APIPP has minimal, baseline, invasive plant documentation from the interiors of the Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit. As capacity allows APIPP and ANC staff will work with the Department to implement ED/RR inventories at all trails, trailhead parking areas, lean-tos, barriers, motorized trails, camp sites and facilities within the interior of the Taylor Pond Management Complex Unit.
- ANC staff will continue to provide the manual management controls at the purple loosestrife infestations along the Saranac River near the popular fishing area off of River Road. Loosestrife plants growing from within the maintained Right-of-Way will receive a cut-stem or wick treatment utilizing glyphosate herbicide formulation.
- Utilize case studies and management recommendations afforded by NYNHP in managing sensitive areas.
- Ecological inventories and maps will be correlated with recreation, fish and wildlife project plans to prevent unintended and undesirable impacts to sensitive areas prior to any new facility construction or major maintenance of existing facilities.
- Monitor and correct impacts on vegetation from such things as trail widening, erosion, camping and other recreational activities.

5. Wildlife

Present Conditions:

The TPMC hosts a variety of Adirondack wildlife. Many species depend on area habitats for nesting, rearing, and survival. Recreational hunting is a major use of the TPMC because of the easy access to public land. Many visitors come to the TPMC to view wildlife, especially along riparian areas and wetlands. Sportsmen and the Town of Black Brook have identified a need for safe parking areas along the Forestdale Road. This road is used to access the Stephenson Range and Catamount Mountain for both small and big game hunters. It is narrow and has few opportunities for off-shoulder parking especially after snowfall. While all of the objectives and management actions outlined below are important, a management priority should be placed on increasing our understanding of the occurrence and distribution of many wildlife species and their habitats within TPMC.

Objectives:

- To perpetuate, support, and expand a variety of wildlife recreational opportunities, including sustainable hunting and trapping and wildlife observation and photography as desirable uses of wildlife resources.
- To assure that wildlife populations are of appropriate size to meet the demands placed on them, including consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
- To increase our understanding of the occurrence, distribution, and ecology of game and non-game wildlife species and their habitats.
- To minimize wildlife damage and nuisance problems.
- To meet the public's desire for information about wildlife and its conservation, use, and enjoyment.
- Provide additional hunter access to public lands.

Management Actions:

- Manage and protect wildlife through enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law and applicable Rules and Regulations.
- Support traditional use of the unit's wildlife resources, particularly activities designed to perpetuate hunting and trapping programs and education efforts.
    a) Conduct a survey of hunters and trappers to document use of the unit.
- Identify bird viewing locations on the Forestdale Road wetlands by maps, brochures, and/or signs.
- Continue to monitor and inventory wildlife populations and their habitats, particularly game species, species classified as rare, threatened, endangered or special concern, and those species associated with boreal habitats.

    a) Conduct targeted surveys for threatened and special concern bird, reptile, and amphibian species. For birds, target species that were documented in the first Breeding Bird Atlas Project, but not the second.
    b) Continue to closely monitor Peregrine Falcons and their habitats in the unit.
    c) Conduct surveys for American marten to better understand distribution and habitat use in the northern Adirondacks.
    d) Monitor existing radio-collared moose and continue to collar new individuals on an opportunistic basis and as pertinent research questions arise. Plan and conduct systematic aerial surveys for moose.
    e) Monitor use of deer wintering areas in the unit.
    f) Continue to support statewide survey efforts that increase our understanding of the occurrence and distribution of flora, fauna, and significant ecological communities (e.g., Breeding Bird Atlas, New York Natural Heritage Program surveys).

- Active management of wildlife populations will be accomplished primarily through hunting and trapping regulations developed by the NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife for individual or aggregate Wildlife Management Units. Continued input from Citizen Advisory Committees will be considered in determining desirable levels of wildlife.
- Re-establish, to the extent possible, self-sustaining wildlife populations of species that are extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern in habitats where their existence will be compatible with other elements of the ecosystem and human use of the area.

    a) Conduct surveys for Spruce Grouse and evaluate the distribution and quality of potential Spruce Grouse habitat. Based on results of the surveys and habitat assessment, consider reintroducing this species.

- 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.
- Provide information, advice and/or direct assistance to requests for relief from, or solutions to reduce or alleviate, problems with nuisance wildlife.
    a) Provide information to user groups on avoiding problems associated with black bears. Encourage the use of bear-resistant food canisters.

b) Work cooperatively with the Division of Lands and Forests to assess problems associated with beaver-flooded trails. Work with area trappers and encourage trapping at nuisance sites during the open beaver trapping season.

6. Fisheries

Present Conditions:

Fish management in the TPMC in past years has emphasized rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and northern pike. Taylor Pond is managed as a cold water lake for landlocked salmon and lake trout. Previously it provided angling for rainbow trout and brown trout, but the resurgence of the native lake trout led to a decline in the success of those species. Union Falls Pond has long been the primary walleye fishery in the vicinity. More recently DEC has been successful in establishing a quality fishery for walleye in Franklin Falls Pond. Franklin Falls Pond and Union Falls Pond are managed for a variety of warm water species including black bass, walleye and northern pike. The Saranac River is managed for rainbow trout and brown trout. Several small streams in the unit contain wild, self-sustaining populations of native brook trout.

TPMC waters generally are subject to statewide angling regulations. Exceptions include a catch and release - year round fishing area for trout on the Saranac River. Other special regulations areas may be established to protect important fisheries resources and to provide exceptional angling opportunities.

Historical biological data is available for the major ponded waters in the unit, but no data exists for most of the small unnamed waters. Appendix N and O tables 1 and 2 present pond-specific survey and management data for TPMC waters.

Relatively little active fishery management has been conducted on streams within the TPMC because of their small size. Some of the accessible streams have been stocked with brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Black Brook is currently stocked with brook trout and the Saranac River is stocked with brown trout and rainbow trout.

Objectives:

- Perpetuate and enhance a diverse, high-quality fishing experience in accordance with sound biological management practices.
- Enshure the security of native fishes within the unit.

Management Actions:

- Maintain the diversity of coldwater and warmwater fish populations in the unit.
- Study the suitability for the development of a Trailered Boat Launch site to be developed on Union Falls Pond. This will include looking at the informal site currently located near the dam for development.
- Encourage and promote angler use of the waters in the unit through routine fish management practices including hotlines, correspondence and contact with the public by Department staff.
- Conduct biological surveys of waters within the unit as required.
- Manage Mud Pond (CH-42) as an Adirondack brook trout pond.
- Manage Taylor Pond as a coldwater pond.
- Manage Silver Lake as a two-story lake.
- Manage Union Falls Pond and Franklin Falls Pond as warmwater ponds

B. Land Protection

1. 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." The 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 economy and the quality of life in New York Communities.

There are two parcels in the unit which are landlocked and have no legal access. They are both located in Township 4 Old Military Tract (OMT). These parcels comprise 295 acres of State land in the unit.

Objectives:

- Maintain all boundary lines.
- Provide public access to all state lands.
- Physically identify APSLMP unit designations on the ground for administrative and public use.

Management Actions:

- Physically inspect the boundary lines of all TPMC lands to determine survey and maintenance needs; assign a priority to each.
- Undertake maintenance activities to ensure all boundaries are identified and marked within the five-year implementation of this UMP.
- 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 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 TPMC with specific signage identifying the unit's designation, so that both Department personnel and the public know individual unit designations.
- Explore opportunities to gain legal access to landlocked parcels.

C. Man-Made Facilities

The TPMC has a modest inventory of facilities considering its acreage and central location near Lake Placid, Wilmington, Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake. A complete inventory of the facilities in TPMC can be found in Appendix B.

1. Non-Motorized Trails

Present Conditions:

Trail management involves not just the trail itself, but also the corridor it occupies. Trails are not self-sustaining. Once developed, all trails must receive a degree of maintenance; otherwise non-maintained

trails will deteriorate and cause resource problems. Trail maintenance and reconstruction is needed on the majority of the Unit's trails. The Department relies on volunteers and trail contractors to close the gap. User groups, clubs, and other organizations raise resources, financial and otherwise, for trail work. Contributions come in terms of labor, materials, and planning assistance. The use of volunteers and contractors, though effective, has associated costs and other limitations. For example, Department personnel must devote time to planning and coordination, training, supervision, and logistical support to volunteers. Trail planning is conducted semi-annually between staff, potential trail contractors, and volunteers.

An inventory of TPMC trails has been completed and incorporated into a trails classification system. The trail classification system used for the Dix Mountain Wilderness Area (DMWA) patterned after the U.S. Forest Service's Nationwide Trails Program as endorsed by the U.S. General Accounting Offices, 1989 (Appendix B) was the suggested system. This system is being incorporated into the TPMC and each trail has been assigned a classification based on its present condition and level of use. Five trail classifications are used ranging from unmarked footpaths (Class I) on through to intensively maintained trunk trails (Class V). Trail standards and maintenance prescriptions, reflecting different types and levels of use, are defined for each class in Appendix B. The classification system acknowledges the fact that all trails do not require the same degree or frequency of maintenance.

Several sections of the TPMC trail network are poorly located, with stretches of grade three to four times steeper than present acceptable design standards. As grades approach 50%, the point of being able to control erosion is passed. Summit trails, with these long steep grades, tend to channel water and create gullies accelerating erosion (Trapp et.al., 1994). These are “weak links” in the system and require extensive work and investment.

The TPMC unit currently has a large variety of trail types and uses. The four most popular hikes are Silver Lake Mountain, Catamount Mountain (non-designated), Poke-O-Moonshine and Route 3 Mud Pond. A parking problem currently exists at Catamount Mountain unofficial trailhead during the summer due to its high level of use and no parking area. In the winter, cars are often in the way of town plows and cause safety issues.

All the trails in this unit need maintenance and upkeep. Some are experiencing a higher level of deterioration than others. The trail around Taylor Pond specifically needs much maintenance. Large sections of the trail have rotted or missing bridges and culverts. Some sections need rerouting to avoid open water and excessively steep areas. The Catamount Mountain trail is in need of erosion control work and some rerouting. Users often complain about lack of trail delineation and marking. Many users state that they had a hard time finding their way back down after reaching the summit and during bad weather been unable to find the trail. The Poke-O-Moonshine Ranger Trail and rock climbing access trail are also in need of extensive erosion control work. In addition to the named and maintained trails in the unit there are systems of old woods roads that are not maintained by the Department. These trails are used for various uses from hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing to horse-back riding.

The Catamount trail is an unofficial foot trail that is approximately 1.7 miles in length. The trail is in fair condition but needs some erosion control devices installed in certain areas to remove water from trail and portions of the trail need to be rerouted. There is a class 3 trail register near the road. This trail is partially marked by use of stone cairns. Parking for this trail is limited and has been a hot topic for the town as it causes problems with plowing in the winter.

The Fay Mountain Herd Path is an unofficial foot trail that is approximately 0.9 miles in length and needs to be properly constructed. This trail is completely unmarked except for the flagging used during layout. The trail has no trail register. Parking for this trail is sufficient. There is a small parking area large enough to accommodate 4 to 5 vehicles.

The Poke-O-Moonshine Ranger trail is a designated foot trail that leads from the Poke-O-Moonshine public campground to the fire tower. This trail is approximately 1.2 miles in length. It is well marked and in fair condition. It needs extensive erosion and water control devices installed to remove water from trail. The trail has a class 3 trail register installed at the trailhead. The campground has been closed and parking for this trail is provided at the campground during the summer. For some time now this has caused an issue with hikers that wish to hike the trail at other times of the year. These users have tried parking on the shoulder of the road which is not safe. If the public campground remains closed it has ample parking to provide for summer trail use. During the life of this plan the Ranger trail will be reviewed as to its suitability for continued maintenance. Once the new parking area has been constructed for the Observers Trail, the Ranger Trail will be reviewed for possible closure. If it is determined that the Ranger trail will be retained, a new trail will be developed and constructed from the current trail head to the proposed new parking area for the Observers trail, to provide year round access and a loop type experiance.

The acquisition of the lands on which the old jeep road(Observers trail), which historically provided access to the Poke-O-Moonshine ranger cabin and fire tower, lies has provided an additional route to the summit for hikers and other non-motorized users. This trail provides superior access to the summit, but needs some rerouting and work completed in order to remove water from the trail and prevent erosion. In addition to this work the trail head does not supply ample parking for the trail. A parking area needs to be developed for this trail.

The Silver Lake Mountain trail is a designated foot trail that leads from the parking area on the Silver Lake Road to the top of Silver Lake Mountain. The trail is approximately (0.9) miles in length. It first had a class 3 trail register box installed on it in the spring of 2004. This trail is well marked and in fair condition. The trail needs rerouting as well as extensive erosion and water control devices installed to remove water from the trail. The parking area at the trailhead provides ample parking for the trail.

The Route 3 Mud Pond trail is a designated foot trail that leads from Route 3 in the Town of Black Brook to Mud Pond. This trail is approximately 1.4 miles in length. The trail is in good condition and has a class 3 trail register. Parking for this trail is afforded by the fishing access parking area on the opposite side of Route 3. This lot provides ample parking for both facilities.

The path from the Saranac River to the Casey Road is currently a portage used by canoeists traveling the river. This portage is located in a great location to provide access to the river. This trail will be improved to allow canoeists to carry their boats in and out of the river as well as provide other users access. Very few people park at this location. Since the road has a low level of use and has an area for users to pull off the road when loading and unloading boats, parking has not been a issue at this location.

Mountain Biking - Mountain Biking is a use that conforms well with the other uses in this unit. Most of the trails in the unit are open to mountain biking. The few trails that are closed to bikes were closed due to their geographical features and natural inability to withstand this type of use. There are no specifically designated mountain biking trails in this unit. Mountain biking will be encouraged in this unit and additional areas will be explored as the needs arise. During the life of this plan the possibility of

developing interconnected trails with other state land units and easement lands will be reviewed. The snowmobile trails in the vicinity of Taylor Pond and the Forestdale Road that will be closed to snowmobiles post UMP implimentation will remain open to other uses such as mountain biking, hiking, and skiing. The snowmobile trails and old roads closed prior to UMP development will be reopened as mountain biking trails. The Department will look to develop an AANR with a group to provide the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction that will be needed on these 14.9 miles of trails. Where possible, these old roads and trails will be rehabilitated and developed specifically for use by mountain bikes. This will include the construction of bridges needed to cross the major streams like the Little Black Brook. Some of the old trails and roads will be used to develop a trail linking the Forestdale Road with the roads and trails around Taylor Pond.

Horse-back Riding- There are currently no department identified horse-back riding trails in the unit. Some trails such as the old roads surrounding Silver Lake, Taylor Pond, Franklin Falls Pond and Union Falls Pond have historically been used for this activity. These areas will be examined for their possible development as a horse-back riding trail system as well as having their maintenance provided through the development of an AANR agreement.

Objectives:

- Provide visitors with a trail system that offers a range of Wild Forest recreational opportunities in a manner that keeps physical and visual trail and resource impacts to a minimum.
- Maintain trails to appropriate Wild Forest standards.
- Identify need for trail relocations and/or need for new trails.
- Provide access to areas as appropriate and needed in a manner that protects the resource.
- Connect Burnt Hill and Terry Mountain State forests.
- Provide a unified system of trail signage and markers on Forest Preserve lands.

Management Actions:

- Formally adopt, as a matter of Department policy, the trails classification and standards system proposed in Appendix B for all trail management activities. Under this system, all developed trails will be maintained, relocated, or reconstructed to specified standards. Wild Forest trail maintenance will emphasize resource protection and visitor safety rather than user convenience or comfort.
- Review and develop options for construction of a mountain biking trail system that would interconnect with other planning units.
- Trail construction, relocation, or reconstruction activities will not be undertaken in the absence of an approved work plan.
- Trail maintenance will include removal of downed trees, ditching, clearing of brush, water bar construction and cleaning, bridge repairs and reconstruction in accordance with annual work plans and availability of funds. Bridge repair and construction will occur only in cases where public safety and/or resource protection is an identified need.
- The APA will be consulted in any trail management activities in wetlands and in areas adjacent to wetlands to determine if an Agency wetlands permit is required.
- Trail sections, vulnerable to excessive damage, which cannot be relocated, will be identified and closed during wet seasons. Postings will be done at trailheads and through the media. Voluntary compliance will be the first strategy employed; mandatory regulation and enforcement will be the actions of last resort.

- Work with trail volunteers to develop a trail on state land to the rock outcrop on Burnt Hill SF to replace the trail that currently originates on private land at the McManus Road.
- Construct ladders as needed, made from natural materials, to assist users over Class III, IV or V trails on steep slopes in order to protect soils and vegetation if other reasonable alternatives do not exist.
- Improve access to the Saranac River from the Casey Road by improving the current portage.
- Seek out additional AANR agreements with trail volunteers and mountain bike groups.
- Trails signed with other than official Department trail markers or signage will be replaced with official Department signage and markers to comply with a 1982 Division directive regarding trail marking. Trails adopted by various organizations will be formalized using the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Program (ONR-1). Appropriate signage will be utilized to recognize those organizations' role in maintenance as provided for under the AANR agreement (ONR-1).
- Close Trails on Forest Preserve that serve solely as private access from adjacent parcels.
- Access trails to rock climbing areas will be identified and classified as Class III trails. All trails will be maintained, relocated, or reconstructed to specified standards, as identified in the trails classification and standards system.
- Maintain the Poke-O-Moonshine Climbing Trail.
- Reroute trail and place water bars in portions of the Silver Lake Mountain trail as needed.
- Mark, sign, adopt and classify the Catamount Mountain trail as a Department trail. A section in the beginning of this trail will be a snowmobile trail.
- Reroute small sections of the Catamount Mountain trail. A detailed trail work plan is included as Appendix J.
- Build a 12 (5 trucks and trailers) vehicle parking area for the Catamount Mountain trail to allow for hikers in the summer and snowmobilers in the winter.
- Place water bars and other erosion control structures in portions of the Catamount Mountain trail as needed.
- Replace bridges, reroute trail and perform maintenance on the Taylor Pond foot trails.
- Replace the bridge with a culvert at the Route 3 Mud Pond Trailhead.
- Build trails on Terry Mountain State Forest including accessible trails at Mud Pond and Military Pond.
- Maintain the portages along the Northern Forest Canoe Route on lands covered by this UMP.
- Construct a trail to access Union Falls Pond from Rock Street.
- Brush out the trails from Terry Mountain State Forest to Burnt Hill State Forest.
- Work with NYS DOT to Post Rt. 9 as a "no parking area" near the Poke-O-Moonshine campground.
- Construct a parking lot to provide access to the newly acquired lands on which the Observers trail lies at Poke-O-Moonshine. A map showing the proposed size and location of the parking lot can be found in Appendix Z.
- Install signs on the Rt. 3 Mud Pond foot trail, Terry Mountain State Forest Champlain View trail, the foot trail to Poke-O- Moonshine that leaves the campground and others not appropriate for mountain biking, designating the trails as closed to mountain biking.
- Design and construct a new foot trail to the summit of Fay Mountain.
- Rehabilitate and develop the old roads and trails in the vicinity of Taylor Pond and the Forestdale Road that were snowmobile trails, for use by mountain bikes. This will include the construction of bridges where needed on streams.
- Study, and if appropriate, develop a mountain bike trail system that would utilize the Taylor Pond region, connecting it to the Wilmington Wild Forest and the neighboring easement lands.

2. Snowmobile Trails

Present Conditions:

The snowmobile trails in this unit are in disarray, maps depicting the trails and roads as they exist at the time of the development of this plan, as well as how they will look after the recommendations made in this plan are implemented can be found in Appendix Z. In addition the trails at these time periods along with their classifications according to the 2006 Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park/Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Comprehensive Plan) are found in the table in Appendix B. The trails in this and other units need to be unified and connected with the State Wide Trail System. The core of the trails in this unit lie around Silver Lake and Taylor Pond. In agreement with the recommendations of the Wilmington Wild Forest UMP this plan proposes a connection between Taylor Pond and the Town of Wilmington. This plan also calls for a connection to the Town of Peru.

There are many designated snowmobile trails in the TPMC. The Taylor Pond snowmobile trail system has its center in and around Taylor Pond. The trail system, however, runs much further than around the pond. In fact, much of the pond trail is hard to ride due to lack of maintenance. The "Trail Groomers," an active snowmobile club based at Silver Lake, is responsible for grooming most of the trails in the unit. The proposed Wilmington Wild Forest trail will be extended from the Forestdale Road along the Catamount trail to private property before returning back to State land to join the Taylor Pond loop.

The Taylor Pond Snowmobile route is located on the Taylor Pond Road Loop and is approximately 11.6 miles in length. The trail has no register box and most of the trail markers are gone. The bridges that were used historically to cross the streams and pond along the trail have rotted away. The section of the trail accessing the lean-to is in fair condition but needs extensive erosion and water control devices installed. The trail section on the south side of the pond was open to the public until 2003 for motor vehicle access. Due to resource degradation issues the department closed the road in order to protect it.

Snowmobile Trail Classification

Class II (Community Connector Trails) - Snowmobile trails or trail segments that serve to connect communities and provide the main travel routes for snowmobiles within a unit are Community Connector Trails. These trails are located in the periphery of Wild Forest or other Forest Preserve areas. They are located as close as possible to motorized travel corridors, given safety, terrain and environmental constraints, and rarely are they located further than two miles away from the nearest of these corridors. They are not duplicated or paralleled by other snowmobile trails.

Class I (Secondary Snowmobile Trails) - All other snowmobile trails that are not Community Connector Trails are Secondary Snowmobile Trails. These trails are located in the periphery of Wild Forest and other Forest Preserve areas where snowmobile trails are designated.[*] They may be spur trails (perhaps leading to population areas and services such as repair shops, service stations, restaurants and lodging), short loop trails or longer recreational trails. If directly connected to Class II trails, new and rerouted Class I trails are located as close as possible to - and no farther than two miles from - motorized travel corridors, although some - with high recreational value - may be located beyond one mile and may approach a remote interior area.

[*] *Snowmobile trails may also be located in Intensive Use Areas as well as in some Primitive areas and in Wilderness areas within 500 feet of the Wilderness boundary.*

Snowmobile Use on Department Roads. DEC management of all such roads for motor vehicle use, including snowmobiles, is guided by the Departments CP-38 (Forest Preserve Roads) policy.

A Park-wide Perspective on Snowmobile Planning

Until recently snowmobile trail planning and development was accomplished through individual unit management plans on a unit by unit basis. Throughout the development of UMPs, the need to consider a broader approach to snowmobile trail planning became evident. When the Adirondack Park snowmobile trail network is viewed in its entirety, it becomes obvious that there are numerous gaps in the trail network, as well as redundant trails. These gaps isolate individual towns and villages and without connections to other regions may limit opportunities for riding. In other cases ice crossings, necessitated by the lack of land based routes, adversely affects when adjoining trails may be used. These situations not only limit for some communities the opportunity to take advantage of the economic benefits of snowmobiling but also tend to focus more intensive use of areas with a more developed snowmobile trail network.

Developing a better park-wide network will not only improve snowmobiling opportunities throughout the Park, but will offer opportunities to enhance areas within the interior by reducing impacts associated with snowmobile use. Interior trail closures should focus on dead-end trails, those requiring ice crossings, trails that are redundant and those that are in proximity to either wilderness boundaries or areas of the unit that are primitive in character. Although the balance of new long distance connections versus interior back country opportunities may not achieve the desires of all snowmobilers, it is consistent with the direction of snowmobiling on the forest preserve, where the emphasis is on providing trail connections that cross the forest preserve in lieu of trails that utilize the forest preserve as a destination for riding. These concepts are outlined in the 2006 Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park/Generic Environmental Impact Statement and the 2009 Management Guidance - Snowmobile Trail Siting, Construction And Maintenance On Forest Preserve Lands In The Adirondack Park (Management Guidance).

New connecting routes should follow public highway corridors or be as peripheral to the unit as possible. The overall goal of this approach is to focus motor vehicle use in or near travel corridors while making interior portions of the unit more primitive in character.

Trail Closures

As discussed above trails that are redundant and or dead-end trails should be closed to snowmobiles while remaining open to other uses such as bikes, horses, skiing and hiking. Trails that are closed will be blocked with natural barriers unless ongoing administrative access is required. The trail that leaves the southern arm of the Taylor Pond Loop and heads to the Taylor Pond Dam, then to the Nelson Road is a redundant trail. This trail historically provided a loop type riding experience. The trail is no longer needed and will be closed to snowmobiles. Additionally a network of old woods roads, the state owned portion of the Richards Road and trails on the powerlines in this vicinity are redundant and will be closed to snowmobiles once the proposed relocations and new trail construction is completed. Since 1972 many other trails in the unit have been rerouted, and or closed for various reasons. The new closures along with the proposed new trail sections are an attempt to resolve many of the long standing issues with the disconnected snowmobile trail segments that exits in this unit.

New Snowmobile Trail Proposal

The Catamount Trail is currently an unofficial foot trail. This trail has been located here for many years.The Catamount trailhead is in need of a parking area for hikers, snowshoers and snowmobilers. The lot should be large enough to park 5 vehicles with snowmobile trailers in the winter (12 vehicles in the summer) and allow for snow plowing. A small section of the Catamount trail will become a section of the corridor snowmobile trail, connecting the town of Wilmington to the Taylor Pond trail system. Some rerouting along the Catamount mountain trail will be needed in order to accommodate snowmobiles on the short section from the Forestdale Road to the point where it will depart from the State Land and enter the Boeselager property. From the private lands currently owned by Boeselager the trail will connect with the Taylor Pond Loop.

The snowmobile route that encircles Taylor Pond is in moderate condition and needs some rerouting on the western end of the lake to move the route off the water and onto private land. The snowmobile route was originally built as a road with bridges over the eastern side of the lake. When the bridges rotted away it became unusable for vehicles. Historically a portion of the road has supplied access to the lean-to on the southern shore of Taylor Pond. This section of road on the south side of the pond was open to the public until 2003. Due to heavy use, resource degradation issues and a lack of funding for maintenance the department temporarily closed the road until funding is available to properly maintain the road for use by persons with limited mobility. The road on the western edge of the Taylor Pond will be rerouted. This rerouting will be completed through an agreement with the adjacent private land owner and the local snowmobile club. The snowmobile route will also be rerouted in some small sections to avoid hazardous terrain and rocks. This route will become the connection from the Town of Wilmington.

The portion of the snowmobile connection from Terry Mountain State Forest to Fern Lake was originally planned to be completed through a snowmobile club agreement with International Paper Company, Inc. (IP). Since that time the IP lands were acquired by Lyme Adirondack Timber Lands LLC (LATL) and the Department has purchased a conservation easement on the lands. The connection will now have to incorporate planning with the LATL owners and the Department. Once the connection is made through the Easement lands and onto Terry Mountain State Forest the trail will co- exist on logging roads that will take users to the access road for Mud Pond. From Mud Pond a new mulit-use trail for snowmobiling and forestry called the Cliff Trail will be constructed to connect Military and Mud Pond with the Red Road (a Department road). A second multi-use trail for snowmobiling and forestry has been laid out and will be built to connect the Cliff Trail and Red Road with the Tower Road (a second Department road). This new trail will be called the Summit Trail. From the ends of these two roads users will travel on to private property and state lands outside of the ADK Park to the Towns of Peru, Plattsburgh and Saranac.

A portion of the C8D trail that is used by snowmobilers to travel from Taylor Pond to Loon Lake runs through lands that have been recently subdivided. Due to this subdivision and expected future sale of the building lots, it is possible that this small portion of the C8D trail will be closed by the new land owners when they develop the lots. In order to provide an alternative route that can be used if the private land owners close the trail, this plan calls for the construction of a new section of trail on state land that will connect the Union Falls Power LIne with Union Falls Pond.

Trail Construction

Before any portion of trail is constructed, a detailed Snowmobile Trail Work Plan will be developed as per the *Management Guidance*. The final layout will utilize existing roads, trails and natural openings to the greatest extent possible. Wetland permits will be obtained from APA if required. It is possible that soil and grade conditions would make the trail suitable for the use of bicycles during the summer and fall months. The location of the proposed route would lend itself to the creation of a number of bicycle trail loops of various lengths. Trail construction will conform to current snowmobile trail policy standards.

Projected Use and Potential Impacts

Any increase in use due to the construction of new routes is offset by the closure of existing trails within the interior of the unit. Not only is the mileage of proposed trail closures greater than the mileage proposed to be constructed, but with regard to the general effects on wild forest character, the beneficial effects resulting from the removal of interior trails are likely to exceed the negative impacts caused by the construction of peripheral trails.

Some tree cutting and the removal of other vegetation will be necessary for the construction of proposed trails. Other possible adverse impacts may include temporary disturbance to streams and wetlands, such as increased soil erosion and siltation and stream bottom disturbance. There may be minor noise impacts during construction. Potential environmental impacts will be minimized through the application of best management practices during trail construction.

Monitoring will be important to ensure that environmental degradation of the trail is minimized. If degradation were to occur, the Department would take appropriate mitigation actions, including increased maintenance activities, education and other management actions. The Department will work with local snowmobile clubs to monitor use and to coordinate maintenance activities through the use of Adopt-a-Natural-Resource Stewardship Agreements.

Discussion of No Material Increase

The APSLMP requires that there be no *" material increase in the mileage of roads and snowmobile trails open to motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the master plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972"* Further, the APSLMP states that *"the mileage of snowmobile trails lost in the designation of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas may be replaced in wild forest with existing roads or abandoned wood roads as a basis of such new snowmobile trail construction, except in rare circumstances requiring the cutting of new trails;"* and that *"wherever feasible such replacement mileage should be located in the general area as where mileage is lost due to wilderness, primitive or canoe classification.*

While the no material increase provisions applies to all wild forest areas on a Park-wide basis, efforts are made during the planning process, for each unit, to close unsuitable snowmobile trails to help compensate for new snowmobile trail mileage necessary for trail relocations or new community connector links. In order to determine what contribution proposals of this UMP would make to a "material increase" or decrease in trail mileage, it was necessary to document historic mileage in the unit and compare that mileage to the total mileage proposed in this plan. Implementation of all the proposed

snowmobile trail changes in this UMP will result in the closure of 13.82 miles of existing trails and roads open to snowmobiling pre-UMP (and the closure of 20.14 miles since 1972) and the creation of 11.6 new miles of trail post -UMP.

In March of 2008 the Adirondack Park Agency adopted a resolution which found that existing DEC policy, which places a cap on the total snowmobile trail mileage on all wild forest units at 848.88 miles, is consistent with the APSLMP. The resolution also outlined the format in which snowmobile trail mileage should be presented in unit management plans. This information is presented below.

This Unit Management Plan:

Base Snowmobile Trail Mileage in 1972:	54.44 miles
Base Snowmobile Trail Mileage (pre UMP):	36.87 miles
Proposed Closure Mileage:	13.82 miles
Proposed New Trail Mileage:	11.6 miles
Total Proposed Trail Mileage (post UMP):	34.65 miles

Park-wide Trail Mileage:

1972 Mileage	**Estimated Existing Mileage in All Wild Forest Units**	**Proposed Net Gain/(Loss) of Mileage in TPWF**	**New Total Estimated Mileage in All Wild Forest Units**	**Total Allowable Wild Forest Mileage *** ***Mileage beyond which would be considered a "material increase"**
740	760.77	(2.22)	758.55	848.88

Objectives:

- Provide for snowmobiling opportunities in the TPMC consistent with APSLMP criteria and guidelines.
- Connect the Taylor Pond snowmobile trail system with the snowmobile trails in the Wilmington Wild Forest.
- Connect the Taylor Pond snowmobile trail system with the snowmobile trails in the Loon Lake area.
- Ensure that all snowmobile trails in the unit are being maintained.
- Connect the Taylor Pond snowmobile trail system through Burnt Hill State Forest to New York State Route 3.
- Connect the existing snowmobile trails on Burnt Hill State Forest with those on Terry Mountain State Forest.
- Connect the Taylor Pond snowmobile trail system with trails in the towns of Saranac and Peru.

Management Actions:

- Close the Old Route 3 Mud Pond Snowmobile Trail from Rt.3 to Mud Pond (1.6 miles)
- Maintain the existing snowmobile trail system as a designated snowmobile trail system. Connect the Wilmington Snowmobile Trail to the Taylor Pond Snowmobile Route.

- Build a snowmobile trail from the Forestdale Road along the Catamount trail to the Boeselager property (0.5 miles).
- Relocate the portion of the snowmobile trail which is located on the north side of the water crossing at Union Falls Pond from private property to adjacent state land if the private land owners close the current trail to the public.
- Build a snowmobile trail from the Boeselager property to the Taylor Pond snowmobile route on the northwest side of the pond.
- Reroute the Taylor Pond Snowmobile Trail off of the water. Build a trail from the current Taylor Pond route to the Boeselager property on the south west side of the pond (0.25 miles).
- Open and connect to the LATL near Fern Lake. These lands have previously been used as a unofficial snowmobile connector between the Taylor Pond trail system and the town of Peru.
- Connect the snowmobile trail from Burnt Hill State Forest to New York State Route 3.
- Replace bridges and perform maintenance on the Taylor Pond snowmobile trail.
- When feasible reroute sections of snowmobile trail running over water and on excessively steep slopes.
- Review all snowmobile trails in AANR's annually to ensure clubs are maintaining the trails covered by their AANR agreements.
- Seek out additional AANR agreements with snowmobile clubs and volunteers for trails not already covered under an AANR agreement.

3. Dams

Present Conditions:

The Taylor Pond dam is the only state-owned dam in the unit. It is located on Black Brook in the town of Black Brook. It is an approximately 390 foot long and 22 foot high earthen dam that is 12 feet wide at the crest. This dam controls the water level of Taylor Pond. A preliminary engineering inspection for the dam was completed on November 5th 2004 by Clough, Harbour and Associates LLP. The report outlined the general condition of the dam, the engineering fees necessary to provide a more in depth investigation, and preliminary costs for rehabilitation and dam upgrades. The dam is a earthen dam with either a partial or complete concrete core. The core measures 18 inches at the crest of the dam where it is visible. The overall assessment of the Taylor Pond dam, ranked the maintenance listed in the preliminary investigation as a medium priority when compared to other dams owned and maintained by the state.

In August of 2006 phase two of the Taylor Pond dam inspection as recommended in the preliminary report of 2004 was completed. The report outlines different methods of bringing the Taylor Pond Dam into compliance with NYS DEC dam saftey regulations.

Objectives:

- Maintain the Taylor Pond Dam in accordance with NYS DEC regulations.
- Maintain the level of Taylor Pond at an optimal water level.

Management Actions:

- Perform maintenance when and where necessary.
- Perform periodic scheduled inspections of the dam to determine it's condition.
- Exercise the gate valve on a scheduled basis to maintain the valve.
- Perform needed upgrades as required to keep the dam in compliance with NYS DEC regulations.

- Update the TPMC UMP to incorporate planned upgrades as outlined by the Division of Operations and Environmental Quality.
- Consider moving the Taylor Pond Dam from the Taylor Pond Wild Forest UMP to the Intensive Use Area UMP during the Taylor Pond Intensive Use Area UMP update.

4. Fire Tower

Present Conditions:

The Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower has been rehabilitated. Much of the maintenance of the tower is afforded though an AANR agreement with the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine. In January 1998, an engineering assessment report of the tower was completed. It recommended the replacement of the wood steps, landings, cabin floor and steel safety screening on the stairs and landings. New concrete footings were needed and the report also recommended that all twenty-four of the steel diagonal supports be replaced. During the months of July and August, 1998, the deteriorated wood steps and landings were removed and replaced with pressure treated lumber. The tower cabin windows were removed, repaired and replaced later that year. The balance of the work required under the engineering assessment was completed in subsequent years. The Tower currently stands in good condition and receives a lot of use. The tower provides visitors with a great view of the surrounding area.

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 A). 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. The best way for the department to deal with the issues pertaining to the retention or removal of fire towers was to complete an Adirondack Fire Tower study. The Department has completed this study and it provides recommendations for the future use of the 20 remaining fire towers on state forest preserve lands and four towers under DEC jurisdiction on private land, along with an assessment of associated observer cabins. It serves to inform management proposals outlined in unit management plans.

Public interest in fire towers has changed. The towers are no longer just a destination or a place 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 Mountain as well as others. 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 landmarks.

Objectives:

- Retain the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower.
- Maintain the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower in its current condition.
- Keep the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower open to the public.
- Use the fire tower as an interpretive location for the surrounding area.

Management Actions:

- Maintain the AANR agreement with The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine.

- Perform maintenance on the fire tower as needed.
- Install signs needed for interpreting the surrounding area.

5. Fish Ladder

Present Conditions:

The Willsboro fishway is a concrete fish ladder which was constructed by DEC to facilitate the movement of landlocked Atlantic salmon from Lake Champlain to the upper river sections of the Boquet River. Lake Champlain has historically supported an abundant landlocked Atlantic salmon population and early records note enormous runs of salmon in the tributary rivers of the Lake. Human-caused environmental degradation, particularly the construction of man-made dams that were impassable to fish, led to the demise of the salmon population because the salmon must migrate up the rivers to successfully spawn. Landlocked Atlantic salmon were extirpated from Lake Champlain by the mid-1800's.

There has long been interest in restoring landlocked Atlantic salmon to Lake Champlain. The U.S. Fish Commission Report in 1874 recommended a fishway be built to allow fish passage up the Boquet River. Salmon restoration efforts commenced in 1962 when the New York Conservation Department, the forerunner of DEC, began stocking landlocked salmon fry and fingerlings in the Saranac and Boquet Rivers. Stocking effort intensified in the early 1970's and the first significant salmon runs occurred in the Boquet River in 1977. With highly visible salmon attempting to leap the 8 foot high Willsboro dam, the idea of a fish ladder became a point of local interest. The interest was by no means limited to anglers. Local citizens, politicians, environmentalists, merchants and sports people joined forces to support the concept. Local citizens went so far as to build a temporary fish ladder with sand bags. Without an operable fishway in Willsboro, Atlantic salmon would be limited to the lower 2.2 miles of the Boquet River. With an operable fishway, Atlantic salmon have access to an additional 15 miles of the Main Branch of the Boquet River, in addition they can ascend an even greater distance up the North Branch due to this facility.

In 1981, the New York State legislature appropriated $ 175,000 to construct a fish ladder in Willsboro, with construction to be undertaken in 1982. Construction commenced in early 1982 and the fishway became operable on October 2, 1982. An opening ceremony was held on October 26, 1982 which was attended by hundreds of people. DEC Commissioner Robert Flacke was on hand for the event and he cheered the cooperation of townspeople, sportsmen, DEC biologists, engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Willsboro fishway was immediately successful, and over 100 landlocked Atlantic Salmon were passed over the dam between its opening on October 2 and the dedication on October 26. This is an impressive number considering that September is the month considered to be the peak of salmon migration. Significant runs were experienced for a few years, but then diminished. By 1990 no salmon were passed through the Willsboro fishway. At least part of the problem in restoring landlocked Atlantic salmon to Lake Champlain and the Boquet River is the high abundance of parasitic sea lamprey. This fish species is a serious cause of mortality for trout and salmon in Lake Champlain. An experimental chemical sea lamprey control program was initiated in Lake Champlain in 1990 and landlocked salmon runs improved markedly within a few years, peaking again in 1998 when 87 adult salmon were passed though the fishway. The 1998 run was surpassed only by the 1982 run (139 salmon) and the 1983 run (130 salmon). Following the experimental eight year sea lamprey control program, control treatments were reduced in New York and suspended for several years in Vermont. The reduction in sea lamprey control has been accompanied by a decline in the number of landlocked salmon entering the Willsboro fishway and only one adult salmon

was passed over the Willsboro dam in 2003. It is not yet clear if sea lamprey depredation is the limiting factor to landlocked salmon in Lake Champlain. A long-term program of sea lamprey control was initiated in 2001 and Vermont has again treated important lamprey producing streams. The landlocked Atlantic salmon runs last peaked in 1998, eight years following the initiation of the experimental sea lamprey control program. The long term program is working. In 2011 the salmon runs approached the record levels recorded in 1998.

The fishway is situated on a 1.08 acre parcel of land that was purchased from Willsboro Industries in 1982. The APA has classified these lands as wild forest however, the deed conveying the property is very specific, that the parcel is to be used for fish management purposes and, "therefore, its acquisition is inconsistent with the purposes of the New York State Forest Preserve." The deed entitles New York State to modify the Willsboro dam as needed to allow for fish passage through the fishway, however ownership of the Willsboro dam is retained by the Town of Willsboro. This facility should be reviewed for the possibility of being reclassified by the APA.

The Willsboro fishway is a 220 cubic yard concrete structure composed of a denil type fish ladder, 2 fish holding pools, a trapping pool, a jump pool, a lamprey weir and several resting pools. The fishway will pass approximately 15 cubic feet of water per second at a velocity of 2.5 feet per second to allow Atlantic salmon to surmount the 8' high Willsboro dam. Sea lamprey, a fish species also dependent upon access to upstream areas for spawning and nursery areas are prevented from successfully moving upstream through the fishway. This is achieved by a weir which provides an 18" jump. This jump is not an obstacle for migrating salmon, but is a deterrent to sea lamprey. Additionally the jump is topped with an overhanging aluminum channel which further impedes the sea lamprey.

The Willsboro fishway can be operated in trapping mode or run of the river mode. In trapping mode the migrating salmon must pass through a fish funnel and are held in a screened holding pool. This mode allows biologists to examine the fish and gather biological data before releasing them upstream. Removal of the fish funnel and upstream holding grates allows fish to pass freely. The Bureau of Fisheries operates the fishway in trapping mode during the fall spawning season as the data gathered is important in assessing the success of the sea lamprey control program and its impact on important components of the fisheries resources of Lake Champlain.

Maintenance of the Willsboro fishway is an important consideration. The 220 cubic yard concrete structure was constructed in 1982. Thus the structure is now approaching 25 years of age. To this point only minor and routine maintenance has been conducted. Annual maintenance has consisted of blocking off the water flow through the fishway each fall and dewatering the structure to the greatest extent possible. The wooden denils (hydraulic baffles to allow fish to ascend the ladder) are lifted up to keep them from incurring ice damage, and the metal grates and funnel are removed and stored. The viewing chamber is cleaned and painted as needed. Additionally the viewing windows have been replaced twice since the construction.

The Willsboro fishway is in need of significant maintenance and repair. The concrete surface has many cracks which have worsened in recent years. Additionally, the Bureau of Fisheries staff has documented movement of the main concrete walls. This movement has been documented by comparison of periodic measurements. Bureau of Fisheries staff and Division of Operations staff have met and discussed the need for repairs several times over the years. A cost estimate provided by the Bureau of Design and Construction in 1995 anticipated an expense of $ 40,000 to make repairs to the structure. A more recent proposal in January 2000 suggested a cost of $ 24,000 for concrete work with additional work including

landscaping and repair to wooden components in the amount of $ 31,890 for a total of $ 55,890. Unfortunately, these repairs have not been carried out. Hopefully, financial resources to accomplish these needed repairs will be forthcoming. It is in the best interest of the Department and the public to protect this important and popular investment. During the winter of 2012 the Department began discussions with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a new plan on how to carry out the repairs on the dam and fishway.

Objectives:

- Retain the Willsboro Fishway.
- Continue to provide a means for Atlantic salmon to spawn up stream of the Willsboro dam.

Management Actions:

- Perform needed maintenance on fishway.
- Conduct biological examinations of the fish traveling through the fishway and gather biological information.

6. Trailheads

Present Conditions:

A trailhead is defined as the starting or termination point of one or more designated trails at a point of entrance to State land which may contain some or all of the following: vehicle parking, trail signs, and peripheral registration structures (Van Valkenburg, 1987). A trailhead policy was adopted in 1986 to provide for consistency in their location and development. Class I trailheads are the most developed and are found at the major entrances to back country. Class II and Class III are encountered at lesser used trails with correspondingly less development.
Managing parking at trailheads can become a problem at popular locations on peak weekends and holidays. Where parking areas are not adequate improper and unsafe parking becomes a problem and is a problem shared by the Department, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and town governments. Litter is picked up by volunteers and Department personnel. Adjunct facilities, such as privies and signs are provided at the more popular trailheads.

Objectives:

- Provide and manage adequate trailhead facilities to protect resource values and to accommodate visitor needs.
- Indirectly manage interior use by balancing parking area capacities to interior visitor capacities.
- Prohibit parking on access roads adjacent to parking areas.
- Mitigate parking problems in cooperation with affected parties.

Management Actions:

- Work with local government, DOT and State Police to establish no-parking zones adjacent to road shoulder parking areas to reduce unsafe parking.
- Build an 80 foot x 100 foot trailhead parking area at Catamount Mountain trailhead for summer and winter users.
- Maintain all take outs, put in’s and portages along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.
- Build accessible trailhead at Military Pond trail
- Schedule routine maintenance of trailheads and litter removal.

- Develop partnerships with local governments and volunteers to maintain and snowplow roadside trailhead parking areas.
- Build a trailhead parking area for public access to the Observers trail (Old Jeep Rd) which provides access to the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower.

7. Primitive Tent Sites

Present Conditions:

Existing Department camping regulations require camping to be at designated sites or locations that are at least 150 feet or more from a road, trail or water (6 NYCRR §190.3(b)). The latter is referred to as the "150 foot rule" which permits "at-large" camping subject to those requirements. A primitive tent site, commonly referred to as a designated campsite, is one identified by a Department permissive sign or disk, ([providing space for not more than three tents, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people on a temporary or transient basis, and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive to the environment] (APSLMP, 2001, page 18)). Tent sites will be designated to direct campers to previously used disturbed areas, to define proper camp locations, to disperse use, and limit adverse impacts to resources and other campers. Steep shoreline, steep mountains, rocky outcrops, wetlands, poorly drained soils, etc., severely restrict camping and intensify the demand for available tent sites. The tent sites in the unit that were developed by the Department have been carefully developed to minimize soil erosion and disturbance to wildlife. Many of the sites were located close together due to these terrain constraints. This campsite development method has caused tent sites in some instances to be developed in a manner that does not conform to the APSLMP with regard to sight and sound seperation distances.

Large camping groups require greater campsite space and often clear areas to accommodate additional tents, store equipment, or make room to eat and congregate. Large groups cooking with wood fires generally consume greater amounts of fuel wood and extend firewood gathering areas. Impacts tend to be more spread out and extend well beyond campsite boundaries. There are no restrictions limiting day use. Groups of any size may enter the TPMC. When staying overnight, stricter restrictions apply. Group camping locations which are clusters of up to two primitive tent sites, located along waterways, will allow a maximum number of 12 people. This plan reflects APSLMP compliant group camping separation distances as well as sight and sound separation distance spacing on primitive tent sites as the norm. Sites which have been established through long-term repeated use were evaluated in terms of size, distance from trails and water sources, distance between sites, level of impact on vegetation and soils, amount of garbage present and human sanitation problems.

The APSLMP guidelines for primitive tent sites in wilderness areas, which are also relevant in wild forest areas (APSLMP, page 21) defines conforming primitive tent sites as meeting the following criteria:

> *Primitive tent sites below 3,500 feet in elevation that are out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or lean-to; where severe terrain constraints prevent the attainment of the guideline for a separation distance of generally one-quarter mile between primitive tent sites, individual unit management plans may provide, on a site-specific basis, for lesser separation distances, provided such sites remain out of sight and sound from each other, be consistent with the carrying capacity of the affected area and are generally not less than 500 feet from any other primitive tent site.*

An analysis of existing camping locations and the separation distance between sites in the TPMC revealed that many individual sites were not in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the APSLMP.

Groups of 10 or more individuals up to a maximum of 20 people must obtain a camping permit prior to overnight use of NYS lands as required by DEC rules and regulations (6 NYCRR §190.4(e)). Under guidelines for management and use of wild forest areas (APSLMP, page 36), the APSLMP additionally allows:

> *small groupings of primitive tent sites designed to accommodate a maximum of 20 people per grouping under group camping conditions may be provided at carefully selected locations in wild forest areas, even though each individual site may be within sight or sound and less than approximately one-quarter mile from any other site within such grouping, subject to the following criteria:*
>
> *such groupings will only be established or maintained on a site specific basis in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan for the wild forest area in question;*
>
> *such groupings will be widely dispersed (generally a mile apart) and located in a manner that will blend with the surrounding environment and have a minimum impact on the wild forest character and natural resource quality of the area;*
>
> *all new, reconstructed or relocated tent sites in such groupings will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers and major streams and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.*

While the APSLMP accepts large camping groups of 9 to 20 people as a legitimate class of users in wild forest areas, it is very specific (p.37) about how carefully they should be accommodated "*per grouping under group camping conditions*." In the Franklin Falls Pond area, this UMP proposes one group site consisting of sites 3 and 4. On Union Falls Pond at the Dam and the location on the Saranac River which is accessed from the Casey Road, this UMP also proposes one group site at each location. Group sites will be a cluster of 2 sites that will be available to groups with a group camping permit. Group camping permits will be issued by the Department for a specific "area" and for a specific time period and restricted so as to limit the number of group camping permits to the number of group sites available in that area. The maximum group size for group sites which are designated along waterways will be 12 people; at any other group sites in wild forest areas, the group size may be up to 20 people. At group camping locations along waterways after 5 PM, any unoccupied group site will become open to the public at large for that night, for no more than 3 consecutive nights. The use of this area will be closely monitored and, if user conflicts result, the Department may choose to designate the sites for use via permit only to alleviate user conflicts. Careful and limited development of designated group campsites is called for in the APSLMP since camping in large groups can cause significant degradation of an area's resources. This is reflected by the APSLMP guideline that states such group campsites "*will be widely dispersed… and have a minimum impact on the wild forest character and natural resource quality of the area*."

Group campsites are to be provided only *"at carefully selected locations in wild forest areas*" and established or maintained only "*on a site specific basis in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan*."

Large groups of people (10 or more individuals) have utilized portions of the TPMC for camping in the past. Much of this use is associated with groups such as Boy and Girl Scout troops and outdoor education classes. The majority of this type of use in the TPMC has occurred in and around Franklin Falls Pond. These groups have been allowed to camp at locations that were deemed suitable by the area forest ranger. Consistent with APSLMP guidelines, Wilderness UMPs are proposing a maximum overnight group size of 8 people. A limit on the size of overnight groups in Wilderness Areas may put increasing pressure on wild forest areas to accommodate group camping activities. While only four formal group campsites are currently designated within the TPMC, in the interest of resource protection, group campsites will be developed at suitable locations when and where a demand by large groups is occurring or is reasonably anticipated to occur in the future. This UMP will be amended to include additional group camping sites if their development becomes necessary.

On the east side of the River Road on Franklin Falls Flow there were a number of primitive tent sites. These sites were heavily used by both local residents and visitors. Many of the sites were overused and in poor locations. These overused and badly located sites were closed in the spring of 2004.

The designating of primitive tent sites will conform to the following criteria:

- The primitive tent sites will be designed to accommodate a maximum of 8 people.
- Individual tent sites will be out of sight and sound and otherwise compliant with the APSLMP.

The designating of group camp sites will conform to the following criteria:

- The grouping will be designed to accommodate a maximum group size of 12 people along waterways and no more than 20 people in other areas.
- Individual tent sites within a group site do not have to be out of sight and sound and may be less than one-quarter mile apart from other sites in the grouping.
- The group sites will be more than one mile from any other designated group site.
- Impacts on natural resources will be minimized by locating new individual sites at least 100 feet from water and wetlands.

Terry Mountain State Forest has 2 designated tent sites both which are in good locations and conform to the APSLMP guideline on separation distances.

Objectives:

- Reduce, eliminate, or mitigate the adverse effects on natural resources that result from improperly located tent sites.
- Manage visitor use to keep impacts on the resource and experiences of all visitors at an acceptable level consistent with the concept of Wild Forest as described by the APSLMP.
- Comply with the APSLMP campsite standards to disperse use.
- Direct the public to designated camping locations by providing information in publications and at area trailheads.
- Provide primitive and group camping locations where appropriate.
- Keep the effects of visitor use on resources to a minimum.
- Provide appropriate screening of tent sites from water bodies.
- Encourage both overnight and day users to keep parties small.

Management Actions:

- Complete a campsite monitoring study of the tent sites on Franklin Falls Pond using the Campsite Monitoring Program for visitor impacts on recreation sites developed by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The forms and procedures are included in Appendix R.
- Monitor primitive tent sites in popular areas annually. Survey locations where camping is believed to occur. Re-inventory campsites every 5 years.
- Designate one group camping location on Franklin Falls Pond which will consist of sites 3 and 4. Since this group camping location is located along a waterway, group use will be capped at 12 people.
- Designate a group camping location consisting of 2 primitive tent sites on Union Falls Pond near the Dam. Since this group camping location is located along a waterway, group use will be capped at 12 people. Block access to the campsite with a barrier to separate vehicles from the camping area.
- Designate 2 new primitive tent sites which will serve as a group camping location along the Saranac River at the Portage to the Casey Road.
- Close sites which do not conform to the APSLMP. Tent sites will be selected on both the physical criteria and the sight and sound criteria of the APSLMP. Sites will be relocated if appropriate locations can be identified prior to closure.
- Revegetate natural screening of tent sites from water bodies.
- Rehabilitate sites as needed.
- Restore all closed campsites to a natural condition. Remove fire rings and other evidence of past use. Install Department “No Camping” disks to designate sites as closed.
- Locate and construct 2 primitive campsites which will serve as a group camping location along the Saranac River upstream of Franklin Falls Pond, compliant with APSLMP guidelines.
- Close and rehabilitate one of the 2 campsites managed by Operations on the northeastern shore of Taylor Pond. Relocate the closed site to the proposed new site location shown on the map in Appendix Z.
- Construct 3 primitive tent sites on Union Falls Pond as indicated on the map in Appendix Z.
- Develop 2 new primitive tent sites on Terry Mountain State Forest in compliance with the APSLMP requirements for Wild Forests.
- Relocate the remaining tent sites which will not serve as group camping locations outside of sight and sound, and to be compliant with the APSLMP.
- The Department will consult with APA to establish and implement design criteria for campsites accessible along roads.
- Construct a new primitive tent site northeast of the Franklin Falls Pond FAS on land adjacent to the water that complies with APSLMP guidelines.
- Develop a new primitive tent site that is compliant with APSLMP sight and sound separation distances at a location near the Union Falls Dam and accessible by foot from the parking area.
- Construct a foot trail to the new primitive tent site at Union Falls Dam.
- Revegetate and rehabilitate the cleared area at Union Falls Dam that is no longer used after the parking area and 2 primitive tent sites which will serve as a group camping facility have been delineated.
- Retained sites will have conforming pit privies or box privies.
- Close site 9 located on the small island in Franklin Falls Pond. Post island for day use only.
- Construct a barrier at campsite 1 on the Saranac River upstream from Franklin Falls Pond that will separate the tent site from vehicles.

- Develop barriers as needed to ensure that parking and camping are separated at primitive tent sites.
- During the life of the plan monitor use at campsite 10 on Franklin Falls Pond as to the need for relocation further inland.
- Close campsite 11 on the large island in Franklin Falls Pond.

8. Gates

Present Conditions:

Gates are employed at selected locations to curtail illegal motor vehicle use and/or protect road and/or trail surfaces from unwarranted use during inclement weather. Gates are painted bright yellow, marked with red stop signs and have "barrier ahead" cautionary signs located 150 feet from the gate on either side. Forest Rangers may open gates on designated snowmobile trails when there is sufficient snow on the ground. A gate located on the Military Pond road that was installed by a local land owner is blocking access to state lands and needs to be removed. The issue with the Mastic's gating the Military Pond Road which is a public ROW has been referred to the Attorney General's office. Awaiting a decision from the Attorney General, the gate remains in place blocking access to the public lands which include trout ponds, hiking, biking and cross country ski trails. The solution to this issue is outside the scope of this UMP.

Objectives:

- Control access to roads.
- Protect road surfaces during mud seasons.
- Maintain all gates in working order with proper cautionary signage.

Management Actions:

- Update all gates to current health and safety regulations.
- Install a pipe gate on the road accessing the south shore of Taylor Pond.
- Install a pipe gate on the access road to Clinton 2 at the Strackville Road access point.

9. Parking Areas

Present Conditions:

The TPMC has extensive road frontage, but few places to safely park motor vehicles off the road shoulder to access State lands. Parking is even more restrictive along town and county roads in the winter due to deep snowfalls and banked snow. Discussions with Forest Rangers indicate parking for recreationists in the unit is inadequate. Recreationists, particularly hunters and hikers, use road shoulders for parking. On the Forestdale Road there have been numerous "near-accidents" caused by the lack of off road parking for the Catamount trailhead. The Town of Black Brook has been in contact with the Department to try and alleviate this problem but, without a UMP, DEC has been unable to build the needed parking lot. Until such a time that a parking area can be built, the town in cooperation with the Department has agreed to post one side of the road "no parking" while pushing back the snow bank on the other side in the winter to allow a place for recreationists to park. A list of current department parking facilities is included in Appendix B.

Objectives:

- Improve and maintain existing parking lots.
- Provide safe parking and access for Taylor Pond Management Complex Lands.

Management Actions:

- Develop a parking area at the Catamount trailhead with a 12 vehicle capacity. This lot will serve foot trail users as well as snowmobilers and must be able to accommodate vehicles with trailers. A large flat area already exists adjacent to the Catamount trailhead. The proposed parking area will serve the snowmobile trail users going south to Wilmington and north to Taylor Pond.
- Improve Fay Mountain Trail Head Parking Lot (parking for 4 cars)
- Construct a 4 car parking lot to provide for access to Tolman Mtn. lands.
- Build Parking Area at Mud Pond Trail head for three cars on Terry Mountain State Forest.
- Poke-O-Moonshine - Work with the Division of Operations, NYS DOT and local government to provide parking at the closed campground and Observers Trail.
- Modify the parking area at Union Falls Dam to keep vehicles separate from primitive tent sites.
- Construct an accessible parking spot at Military Pond trailhead.
- Construct a six car parking lot on the Forestdale Road to provide access for mountain biking, hiking and skiing on the trails that connect to Taylor Pond.

10. Signs

Present Conditions:

Signs are provided to mark trails, minimize impacts, and provide information. Signage is kept to a minimum to avoid interfering with Wild Forest values. There is currently no unit wide sign inventory.

Currently, Lands and Forests, Operations, and Fish and Wildlife all use signs in the unit. Trailheads and much of the Wild Forest boundary are not well identified. Trailhead signing is limited to small signs on standards. Several entrances have register boxes which provide minimal information. Interior signing is limited to trail junctions, special information and regulatory signs.

Sign theft and vandalism is a reoccurring problem. Many of the FFTE signs have been cut down repetitively. Other signs in the Unit are torn down and/or defaced on a regular basis.

Objectives:

- Provide for the minimal use of signs necessary to manage and protect the Wild Forest resource and provide user information.
- Minimize sign theft and vandalism.
- Signs may be erected at trail junctions, showing directions with arrows; wording will be reduced to the minimum necessary.
- No new memorial trail signs or plaques of any kind will be placed in the unit without written Department approval.
- Minimize regulatory signs at interior locations in favor of signs posted at trailheads or access points and published, where feasible, in brochures and maps or otherwise made available to users prior to entry into the unit.

Management Actions:

- Develop, update and maintain a sign inventory.
- Coordinate and review all sign needs through a single area manager.
- Reinforce sign posts in areas that are receiving recurring sign vandalism.
- Replace old, rotten and delaminating signs.

11. Lean-tos

Present Conditions:

Prior to the advent of light-weight backpack tents, lean-tos were erected for user convenience and to provide shelter from inclement weather. The structures were often built immediately adjacent to trails and close to water and firewood sources. They were sometimes clustered in scenic areas to accommodate increased visitor demand and to facilitate maintenance. Many were afforded stone and concrete fireplaces, pit privies, and picnic tables.

There are four lean-tos in the unit. Three are located on Taylor Pond and managed by the campground staff under the reservation system. These lean-tos are currently in good locations and conform with the APSLMP sight and sound separation distance requirements. The lean-tos are, however, non-conforming with the set back requirements from the water. The fourth is located near the summit of Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain.

The APSLMP acknowledges lean-tos as conforming structures, provided they meet minimum setback distances (100 feet) from water (APSLMP 2001, page 33).

Objectives:

- Limit existing lean-tos to appropriate locations as prescribed by the APSLMP.
- Maintain all existing lean-tos in good condition.

Management Actions:

- When non-compliant lean-tos need major maintenance or rehabilitation they will be relocated. If a lean-to cannot be relocated to a compliant site within 1/4 mile of its present location, it will be removed and not replaced.
- Relocated lean-tos will be set back a minimum distance of 100 feet or more from the water.
- The maximum capacity of any lean-to shall not exceed 8 persons.
- Build two new lean-tos on Terry Mountain State Forest, one each, at Mud Pond, and at Military Pond.
- List lean-to on Taylor Pond's south east shore as open for use by persons with disabilities and motorized CP-3 use during the campground season. The balance of the year when the campground is closed the lean-to will be on a first come first serve basis. Make the lean-to accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Relocate the lean-to on Taylor Pond that burned to a APSLMP conforming location.
- Build new lean-to on south west side of Taylor pond.

12. Sanitation

Present Conditions:

Improper waste disposal can affect the environment and the health and safety of visitors. Most overnight use is concentrated around lakes and streams. As use increases, water quality protection becomes increasingly important. Some hikers have reported contraction of protozoan parasitic diseases, such as giardia, from contaminated drinking water sources. Improper disposal of human waste in the back country, coupled with high concentrations of users, compounds this problem. Soaps, shampoos, and other wastes affect the delicate chemical/biological balance of area waters.

Public cooperation with the "If you carry it in, carry it out" policy for litter removal has helped considerably. However, litter still remains a problem in some areas, e.g., trailhead parking facilities, popular campsite and lean-to locations, and in fire rings. Broken glass and unburned refuse take much expense and time to clean-up and are a safety risk to Department staff and volunteers.

Proper human waste disposal is of critical importance in regularly visited places. The Department uses pit privies (outhouses) and box privies in areas where use levels are usually high and adequate dispersal of "catholes" - buried waste - is difficult. The APSLMP requires that all pit privies be located a minimum distance of 150 feet from water (APSLMP, 2001, page 21). Pit privies can be effective in minimizing health risks and water contamination if they are properly located and maintained. Chemical, vault and composting toilets have not generally been used in the Wild Forest. One chemical type toilet has been installed at the Franklin Falls Fishing Access Site due to its heavy use and close proximity to the water.

Objectives:

- Prevent or mitigate the adverse chemical/biological and visual effects that result from the improper disposal of human waste.
- Minimize litter in the TPMC.

Management Actions:

- Information and education efforts and LEAVE-NO-TRACE™ programs will stress proper treatment of drinking water and the need for proper human waste disposal.
- The "If you carry it in, carry it out" policy for litter will be given renewed emphasis. All litter will be bagged and packed out. Users will be encouraged not to burn garbage in fire rings.
- Use of any soap or detergent, or the disposal of food scraps in any waters will be prohibited by regulation.
- Tent sites will be located where waste disposal will not be a problem (for example, where soil is deep).
- Install a pit or box privy at all primitive tent sites and lean-tos.
- Maintain all existing pit and box privies.

13. Campfires

Present Conditions:

Campfires have historically been associated with the camping experience. Many users value the presence of a campfire as an important part of their camping experience. While many users now carry portable backpacking stoves, eliminating their need for a fire for cooking, the fire remains an important social focus. Existing Department regulations allow for fires for the purpose of "cooking, warmth or smudge" on

most public forest land in the State (6 NYCRR §190.1[a]) except for portions of the High Peaks Wilderness Area where stricter regulations have been promulgated.

Even though the number of visitors using portable gas stoves is increasing, there are campfire rings at every established campsite in the TPMC. Every campsite shows some evidence of fire: blackened rocks, charcoal, hacked trees, and occasionally partially burned garbage, melted and broken glass. Campfires occasionally are improperly built in parking areas, in the middle of trails, inside lean-tos, and along the immediate shorelines of lakes and ponds. "There is no question that camp fires have substantial environmental impacts" (Cole and Dalle-Moll, 1982).

Physical impacts associated with campfires in the back country are numerous. Although actual fire sites are quite small, a more serious aspect involves firewood gathering which by itself causes widespread impacts. This activity greatly increases the area of disturbance around tent sites. The disturbed areas can be 10-20 times greater in size than the actual devegetated zone around the campsite. Campfires consume wood which would otherwise decompose and replenish soil nutrients. Excessive firewood gathering has fostered the cutting of live and standing dead trees once all available on-ground sources are consumed. The latter are habitats to many cavity nesting birds and insects. The removal of tree limbs results in visual impacts for other users. Unburned refuse left in fire rings has attracted wildlife in search of food and leads to increased human/wildlife conflicts.

The Department has attempted to build fire rings in popular locations to concentrate fire use in order to avoid excessive damage. Department staff routinely advocate for the use of small portable gas stoves.

Objective:

- Reduce the effects of recreational use of campfires on TPMC natural resources and the natural scene as viewed by visitors.

Management Actions:

- The LEAVE-NO-TRACE™ program will stress proper fire use in appropriate locations, encourage greater use of portable gas stoves, and explain the rationale for avoiding the use of campfires.
- Document campsite and lean-to areas where serious ecological and/or visual impacts due to fire use are occurring as part of the campsite inventory and monitoring program.

14. Roads

Present Conditions:

The roads in the unit are in need of maintenance and upkeep. Some roads have been temporarily closed to public access due to the degree of resource degradation occurring at those locations. This is the case at Burnt Hill State Forest and on the roads around Taylor Pond. In 2003 the road on the south shore of Taylor Pond was temporarily closed until the Department can budget for the needed road maintenance. This road can suit the needs of non-ambulatory hunters and CP-3 permit holders.

The Terry Mountain State Forest Access Roads are approximately (21.74) miles in length.

The Terry Mountain Mud Pond Access Road is a road open to non-motorized vehicles and snowmobiles. The road leads from the Military Pond Road to Mud Pond. This Road is in poor condition. All of the trail

markers have been removed repeatedly by nearby landowners. The Road is approximately (0.6) miles in length. Access to this Road is restricted by a gate installed by a nearby private land owner.

The Terry Mountain Military Pond Access Road is a road open to non-motorized use, mountain bikes and snowmobiles. The road leads from the Military Pond Road to the previously trout-stocked Military Pond. This road is approximately (1.5) miles in length. The road is in poor condition, it needs extensive erosion and water control devices installed to remove water from the road. The road is well marked with Department foot trail markers. Access to this road is restricted by the same gate that restricts access to the Mud Pond Rd.

The Terry Mountain Red Road is in fair condition. The road has two spurs and is approximately (4.3) miles in total length. It needs to be crowned to keep water off the road. The first (1.6) miles of the road and spur are currently passable to motor vehicles. From this point the road is closed to public access and to the end of the road is a CP-3 motorized access route. During the winter months this road is closed to motor vehicles and open to snowmobile use. One additional purpose this road serves is to provide access for forest management activities.

The Terry Mountain Tower Road is approximately (1.9) miles in length and is in good condition. The road is maintained by the owner of the private inholding located at the end of the road. Cross country skiers and mountain bikers often use the road. The road has no register box and is not marked. The road is closed to unauthorized motor vehicles by a gate.

The Burnt Hill Access Roads are approximately (10.2) miles in length cumulatively. The first (0.4) miles encountered when entering the State Forest are maintained for public motor vehicle traffic and provide access to the parking area. The remainder of the roads on the State Forest need extensive erosion and water control devices installed. These poorly maintained sections of road need to have the encroaching seedling, sapling size brush removed in order to allow continued recreation use by hunters, snowmobilers, hikers, mountain bikers, horse-back riders and cross country skiers. There is no register box at any of the entrance locations on this State Forest and the roads are not marked. Additionally these roads provide forest management access.

The Richards Road, along the south shore of Silver Lake consists of approximately one mile of department owned road and is in good condition. The balance of the road is privately owned. It is maintained by the land owners that live at the end of the road. The land owners have ROW's over the Department owned section of the road. The Department owned section of the road is a designated snowmobile corridor trail in the winter and open to all users year round. During mud seasons the road is temporarily closed to unauthorized motor vehicles by gating the road.

An old road off the Alderbrook Road that dead ends needs to be blocked to keep people from driving four wheel drive vehicles on the old road. The road is shown as a jeep road on old maps and served as access to an old camp.

Objectives:

- Manage all roads in the unit according to the Unpaved Forest Roads Handbook and best management practices.
- Open roads where appropriate to CP- 3 users.
- Use roads to provide non- ambulatory hunting opportunities in the unit.

Management Actions:

- Open the roads on Burnt Hill State Forest to CP-3 access and non-ambulatory hunting.
- Close the old jeep road off the Alderbrook road by installing a barrier.
- Open the road on the south shore of Taylor Pond to CP-3 users and non-ambulatory hunting.
- Perform annual maintenance on all roads in the TPMC.

15. Trail Registers

Present Conditions:

All trail registers in this unit are of the class 3 standard box type. The following trails all have these style registers which are in good condition: Catamount Mountain trail, Silver Lake Mountain trail, Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain trail and the Route 3 Mud Pond trail. The historical trail register data can be found in Appendix D.

Objectives:

- Record public use numbers.
- Provide a list of users for search and rescue activities

Management Actions:

- Maintain all register boxes in the unit.
- Install register boxes on new facilities as they are constructed or acquired.

16. Fish Management Facilities

Fish Barrier Dams

Currently there are no fish barrier dams in the Taylor Pond Management Complex.

Fishing Access Sites

Present Conditions:

Currently there is only one fishing access site in the TPMC that is administered by the Bureau of Fisheries. This is a small site located on the north side of Franklin Falls Pond. The site is not intended to be used to back trailered boats into the water for launching, and because Franklin Falls Pond is less than 1,000 acres, a boat ramp is not suitable. During the planning period, the site will be modified to prevent vehicles from backing boat trailers into the water. A boat slide or low barrier will be erected which will allow car top boats and small trailered boats to be hand launched.

Union Falls Pond, at approximately 1671 acres, is a large water body regularly used by small motorboats. It is listed in Section III of the APSLMP as a lake eligible for further analysis to determine its suitability for an initial or additional boat launch. Union Falls Pond currently has limited access through a private boat launch site which could be considered tenuous, as it serves the public at the owner's pleasure. Union Falls Pond is a shallow lake with many stumps and shoals which restrict its use by larger motorboats. For many years the operator of the private boat launch has limited access to motorboats with ten horsepower motors or less. This horsepower limitation has worked well and complaints are rare.

During the 5 year planning period, Union Falls Pond should be evaluated for its suitability for a single lane launch ramp with a modest parking area. Pending the results of this evaluation a suitable parcel of land should be obtained for the purpose of providing public boating access to Union Falls Pond if the site near the dam is not suitable. The unofficial boat launch that is located near the Union Falls Dam needs to be surveyed to determine if it is located on state land. If it is found to be located on state land it will be reviewed for appropriateness of the site to be reclassified as an Intensive Use Area with building a boat launch site in mind. If it is found to be on private land, the management of the site will be discussed with the land owner to determine how the state may provide public access to Union Falls Pond via use of the site as a public boat launch. If a suitable parcel should become available prior to the completion of this evaluation, it should be acquired and developed into a car top launching facility. The new site should be classified as an intensive use area and development into a boat launch. The 10 HP limitation that is in place on the pond should be retained.

Past fisheries management in the TPMC has emphasized warm water species management, while cold water species have been stocked in several natural lakes including Taylor Pond, Silver Lake, Military Pond and Mud Pond. Both Union Falls and Franklin Falls Ponds provide good angling opportunities for northern pike, walleye, perch and smallmouth bass. Taylor Pond supports quality size lake trout and landlocked salmon. Mud Pond, Whistle Pond, Military Pond and Silver Lake all have the potential to provide additional opportunities for angling for trout. Historical biological information is available for all the named waters of the unit. Appendix O, Table 1 provides pond-specific survey and management data for TPMC waters.
Lakes, ponds and impoundments in the TPMC have not escaped the massive fish introduction caused by humans, as is so typical throughout the Adirondacks. By the time most waters in the unit had been biologically surved they had already been compromised by non-native species. Due to the shallow, warm-water nature of the impoundments on the Saranac River, and the preponderance of introduced species, these reservoirs are managed for species not native to the Adirondack uplands.

Objectives:

- Perpetuate and enhance a diverse, high quality fishing experience in accord with sound biological management practices.
- Maintain the diversity of cold water and warm water fish populations in the unit.
- Encourage and promote angler use of the waters in the unit.
- Improve fishing access to ponded waters in the unit.

Management Actions:

- Conduct biological surveys of waters within the unit as required.
- Manage Franklin Falls and Union Falls ponds as warm water lakes with an emphasis on maintaining the high quality walleye fishing.
- Manage Taylor Pond for lake trout and landlocked salmon.
- Manage the two Mud Ponds as well as Military Pond as cold water ponds, for brook trout or brown trout.
- Explore the potential for improving public access to Silver Lake. If public access is improved, manage Silver Lake as a two-story lake with both warm water and cold water species.
- An appropriate barrier will be placed at the water's edge at the Franklin Falls FAS to stop trailers from being backed into the water while still allowing ice fishing shanties and snowmobiles to reach the ice.

- Evaluate Union Falls Pond for the development of a boat launch. Work with APA to classify the needed land as intensive use.
- If a suitable boat launch site becomes available prior to the completion of the suitability study evaluation, acquire the site and develop it as a cartop launch until such an evaluation can be completed.
- Survey the informal Union Falls boat launch site to determine ownership. If the outcome of this Survey shows the site to be on private land work with the private land owner to explore oportunities to develop a suitable public boat launch.

D. Public Use and Access

Present Conditions:

While visitor use information for the TPMC is generally lacking. Department staff has observed an increase in recreational use of the TPMC. Current estimates on public use are largely based on assessments of physical condition of tent sites and trails, access points and trailheads, field diaries of Department personnel, and conversations with users. Combined, these techniques can only provide general assumptions of total use. A summary of the user information from the the trail registers in the unit that have been installed long enough to show use levels can be found in Appendix D.

When dealing with public use, group size and access, a fundamental issue comes to light. Selecting a specific group size regardless of activity requires judgment; no magic formula exists to calculate an ideal number. The situation is parallel to setting speed limits to control use on highways. Research indicates that the size of a group should be low, ideally 4-6 people per group, but generally less than 10 persons per party to be effective in reducing environmental and sociological impacts (Cole, 1987). Many visitors consider large groups inappropriate and undesirable in Wild Forest. Aside from behavioral factors, the potential to cause impact varies with party size and the type of user. Parties larger than eight persons in a group have been documented to cause greater impacts to certain environmental and sociological resources than smaller groups (Cole, 1987, 1989, Dawson 2002, and USDA Forest Service, 1994). Although large party use in the unit represents a small proportion of total users, they contribute a disproportionate amount of impact when compared to smaller parties.

Higher noise levels are often associated with large groups. These higher noise levels are often the cause of user conflicts and user dissatisfaction. Many users of the TPMC are seeking a different type of recreation experience than they experience when surrounded by large groups. Many of the users of the TPMC state that they come to the area rather than nearby Wilderness Areas to escape the crowds and have a more intimate nature experience.

The number of pets, particularly dogs, brought into the back country is increasing. Dogs are encountered on trails, in tent sites, along shorelines, and atop summits. Some dogs are well controlled; others are not. The Department receives general complaints of barking dogs, dog fights, dog bites (to humans and other dogs), summit trampling by unleashed dogs, fecal contamination of water resources, and harassment of deer and other wildlife.

Objectives:

- Manage visitor use to keep impacts on the resource and experiences of all visitors at an acceptable level consistent with the concept of a Wild Forest.

- Monitor changes in use and level of use over time.
- Encourage both overnight and day users to keep parties small and establish desirable maximum party sizes.
- Provide fair and equitable access to interior camping facilities.
- Keep the effects of visitor use on resources to a minimum.
- Increase visitor self-sufficiency and knowledge of personal protection.

Management Actions:

- Develop uniform method of collecting use data across the unit.
- Information about limits will be disseminated through the unit's information and education and LEAVE-NO-TRACE™ programs and regulations will be enforced. Informing visitors of limits during trip planning and/or prior to arrival is essential.

1. Rock and Ice Climbing

Present Conditions:

The Adirondack region remains one of few areas in the country where the placement of fixed climbing anchors (bolts) is not common-place. The reputation of the region is one of traditional climbing, one where bolts and pitons are the exception rather than the rule. The use of fixed anchors, particularly fixed expansion bolts, placed in holes drilled into the rock has been an issue of controversy in public land management (Access Fund, 2001). Fixed anchors have long been used by climbers as a method of protection where use of traditional removable protection (camming devices, chocks and nuts) is not possible. Fixed anchors, including bolts and slings placed around trees, have also been used for rappel anchors. This practice can provide some level of protection to the natural resource by reducing damage to trees by girdling, caused when rappel ropes wrapped around trees are pulled down at the end of a climbing session. When placed indiscriminately, bolts and related fixed anchors can mar cliff faces and result in visual impacts. The use of fixed anchors as a resource protection tool, when properly managed can be an important management tool. Use of fixed anchors for protection on a climb that might not be possible without the placement of fixed or artificial anchors has engendered controversy both within and outside the climbing community. The use of fixed anchors for this purpose in some areas has fundamentally altered the sport of climbing, resulting in a “climbing gym” atmosphere where numerous bolts are used to create a route where none previously existed. The appropriateness of this use of fixed anchors is considered to some as contrary to wild forest philosophy.
At this point in time the placement of bolts, or other fixed anchors which involve drilling or defacement of the rock is a violation of Department regulations (6 NYCRR 190.8(g) -- “No person shall deface, remove, destroy, or otherwise injure in any manner whatsoever any . . . rock, fossil or mineral . . . excepting under permit from the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the Assistant Commissioner for State Museum and State Science Service . . .”).

Large rock and ice climbing groups have the potential to become a management issue at Poke-O-Moonshine. Large groups cause a disproportionate amount of physical impact to a site and have a large social impact on other users. The nature of the climbing itself, concentrates use on a very small area. Individuals who are not climbing congregate at the base of the climbs, causing loss of vegetation and erosion. Soil erosion, compaction and vegetative loss at the base of climbs is significant and shows heavy use. This congregating effect also impacts other climbing parties since multiple climbing routes begin in close proximity to one another and open space at the base of the climbs is already quite limited. The Department will continue to monitor Poke-O-Moonshine for the development of social and other user

conflicts. If these conflicts present themselves it may be necessary in the future for regulations to be promulgated.

In addition to the use issues at Poke-O-Moonshine an additional conflict with rock climbers presents itself during the spring and summer. The rock face that hosts many of the climbing routes is also a nesting location for Peregrine Falcons. These birds choose a variety of locations and require the closure of most of the climbing during nest choosing periods of the spring and early summer. As the birds choose nesting sites the climbing routes that do not interfere with the birds are reopened.

Objectives:

- Manage visitor use to keep impacts on the resource and experiences of all visitors at an acceptable level consistent with the concept of a Wild Forest.
- Provide fair and equitable access to rock and ice climbing resources.
- Manage rock climbing sites to minimize environmental impacts.
- Keep the effects of visitor use on resources to a minimum.
- Minimize conflicts between climbers and wildlife.

Management Actions:

- Stabilize soil at the top and base of climbing routes where erosion is identified as a problem.
- Close climbing routes when necessary to facilitate Peregrine Falcon nesting.
- A temporary moratorium will be established relative to the establishment of new, or replacement of existing, bolts or fixed pitons. The Department will undertake an inventory of all existing fixed anchors in the Unit. The Department will convene a focus group, including Department and APA staff, members of the climbing community, environmental organizations and other interested parties to develop a policy on the management of fixed anchors on Forest Preserve lands.
- Classify trails to climbing routes as Class III trails.

2. Access for Persons with Disabilities

Present Conditions:

All new Department facilities including parking areas, pedestrian recreational trails, boating access locations and campsites will comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the existing and proposed Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). Existing facilities, while not specifically required to comply with ADA and ADAAG, were inspected to determine if compliance is possible. Potential locations to accommodate access for persons with disabilities were identified in the planning process. The two main challenges to accessibiltiy for trails, campsites and parking areas are the requirements for a firm and stable surface and acceptable slope considerations. Although, the TPMC has a great deal of rough, rocky, and steep terrain which limits access for persons with disabilities, potential locations to improve access for persons with disabilities were identified at Military Pond and Mud Pond on Terry Mountain State Forest as well as Taylor Pond and Franklin Falls Pond.

Objective:

- Provide the highest level of accessibility for persons with disabilities consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) to the extent it does not alter the fundamental nature of programs offered to the public.

Management Actions:

- Provide CP-3 access for persons with disabilities to Military and Mud Ponds.
- Construct an (0.5 mile) accessible interpretive hiking trail to Mud Pond and a three vehicle parking area for persons with disabilities at the Mud Pond trailhead. More information regarding this trail can be found in the trail and parking area sections of the plan.
- Construct an (1.5 mile) accessible interpretive hiking trail to Military Pond and a four vehicle parking area for persons with disabilities at the Military Pond trailhead. More information regarding this trail can be found in the trail and parking area sections of the plan.
- Provide Keys to the Gate on the Military Pond Road to CP-3 permit recipients. More information regarding this road can be found in the road section of the plan.
- Upgrade the southern shore access road around Taylor Pond for CP-3 access and non-ambulatory hunting. More information regarding this road can be found in the road section of the plan.
- Upgrade the lean- to on the southern shore of Taylor Pond to current accessibility standards. More information regarding this lean - to can be found in the lean - to section of the plan.
- Upgrade roads on Terry Mountain and Burnt Hill State Forests for CP-3 access and Non-ambulatory hunting.
- Make site 4 on Franklin Falls Pond accessible. More information regarding these sites can be found in the campsite section of the plan.