

**WILLIAM C. WHITNEY AREA  
STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

June 1, 1998

**Region 5**

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

Sub-office, 701 South Main Street, Northville, N.Y. 12134

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**George E. Pataki**  
Governor

**John P. Cahill**  
Commissioner

*“I date from Little Tupper Lake, and a finer lake it would be hard to find. No desolate lines of drowned lands here. All as it came from the hands of nature. Have been out this morning deer hunting, so to speak. Laid off for four mortal hours waiting for a deer to attempt the crossing of Dukett’s Bay. No deer came. But there came a loon, and he settled within ten rods of the canoe, raised himself on hind legs (they are very hind, and he has no others), turned his white, clean breast to me and gave me his best weird, strange song. Clearer than a clarion, sweeter than a flute, loud enough to be heard for miles...”*

Excerpt from Nessmuk’s Adirondack letters  
Cruise of the Sairy Gamp, 6  
Forest and Stream, Sept. 13, 1883

## WILLIAM C. WHITNEY AREA STATISTICS

State Land *		14,780 acres
Bodies of Water: 11		2,805 acres
Elevation:	Minimum (Little Tupper Lake - surface)	1,717 feet
	Maximum (Antediluvian Mountain)	2,297 feet
Buildings/Structures:	Major	16
	Minor (sheds, storage buildings)	14
Roads (Major Woods Roads in the Interior)		± 20
miles		

\*The Headquarters parcel consists of ±80 acres with associated buildings. An additional 55 acres (Camp Bliss) will be acquired by the State in August 1998.

### **PLANNING TEAM:**

Team Leader &

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 1997, Governor George E. Pataki announced the State had agreed to purchase a part of Whitney Park using Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act and State Environmental Protection Fund monies. When the State takes ownership of these lands and waters in June, 1998 the area will be named after William C. Whitney, the famed lawyer, statesman and Secretary of the Navy, who helped purchase and clear title to a large block of virgin forest in the Adirondacks, which later became Whitney Park.

A team of regional and central office Department staff was formed in January 1998 and met five times to develop interim management guidelines for this new acquisition. Various subcommittees were formed to study in detail area facilities, recreational use, public safety, fisheries, wildlife, outreach, legal, and resource protection issues. Numerous issues were examined relating to the natural resources and area facilities such as the buildings at the Headquarters lot. The results from the various committees along with other Department input formed the basis of the following management strategies and proposals.

The team was charged with preparing a custodial plan that would identify immediate needs and propose contingency plans to address anticipated public use, to be completed by May 1, 1998. In this capacity the DEC has prepared an interim custodial plan for the William C. Whitney Area. This document was produced as a result of meetings and discussion and is composed of ideas and recommendations from the in-house Department team.

Even though this document was prepared prior to State acquisition of the property, the implementation of the plan and writing style assumes that the purchase will occur. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will have the statutory responsibility under the Environmental Conservation Law, to provide for the care, custody, and control of these public lands. A conservative approach is proposed so that the property can be managed consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use, and in a manner that would not foreclose options for its future classification. Following formal classification of this area by the APA, DEC will prepare a unit management plan (UMP) as required by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27 of the Executive Law).

Planning is the detailed formulation of a program of action. Without a guiding plan, the management of these public lands could easily become a series of uncoordinated reactions to immediate problems. The development and implementation of this short term custodial plan will allow for the area to be properly managed providing for the protection of the area's resources and ecosystems while accommodating appropriate public use. Within the document, the William C. Whitney Area is sometimes referred to as the Whitney Area or the Area.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Planning Area Overview**

This document will focus on the irregular shaped geographic area (See Map on preceding page) named the William C. Whitney Area. The boundaries of the area enclose a mix of State and private lands and waters located in the central portion of the Adirondack Park. All NYS lands and waters under the jurisdiction of DEC within the Area boundaries will be addressed in this document. This also includes the building complex formerly known as Whitney Headquarters.

This Area consists of one large contiguous tract of unclassified Forest Preserve land situated between the communities of Tupper Lake, Long Lake, and Raquette Lake. One parcel of "private land" is completely surrounded by State land. This inholding\* (Camp Bliss) is located on the western side of Little Tupper Lake. Two other private parcels (Camp on the Point and Camp Francis), while not "inholdings" are entirely bordered by NYS land with shoreline and water frontage on Little Tupper Lake.

### **B. Area Geographic Information**

The lands within the Area are situated entirely within the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. The lands involved include portions of Townships 23 and 36 of the Totten and Crossfield's (T&C) Purchase.

### **C. General Location**

The Whitney Area is located just west of the center of the Adirondack Park. The property is generally bounded by NYS, private lands, and County Route 10 (Sabattis Road) on the north; County Route 10A (Circle Road), on the east; and private lands on the south and west.

The Area is generally located east of Lake Lila Primitive Area, north and west of Sargent Ponds Wild Forest, and south of Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

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\*Camp Bliss is privately owned by the Nature Conservancy. State acquisition is planned to occur in September, 1998.

### **D. Acreage**

The large undeveloped parcel consists of approximately 14,700 acres. The Headquarters parcel includes  $\pm$  80 acres located on County Route 10 at Little Tupper Lake on the northern edge of the property.

### **E. General Access**

The Whitney Area is somewhat accessible with approximately four miles of public roads adjacent to the easterly boundary. The road frontage occurs along County Routes 10 and 10A. An extensive network of woods roads provide additional points of non-motorized entry into the interior.

Waterway access within the Area is possible from both lakes (Little Tupper Lake) and waterways (Shingle Shanty Brook and Rock Pond Outlet).

### **F. History** (See Section II-C-1)

By the middle of the 1800's, lumbermen had reached the central Adirondacks with new settlers following in their wake. Communities were slow to develop due to harsh living conditions and difficulty of travel. Individuals and families had to be self reliant, utilizing local resources for food and income. Early attempts at agriculture and mining were often unsuccessful. Various wood product industries, tourism, and recreation proved more stable and continue to influence the local economy today.

This area is the center of historic canoe routes used by Native Americans and by later Adirondack explorers, documented in the last century by E. R. Wallace's 1887 Descriptive Guide to the Adirondack and W.H.H. Murray's Adventures in the Wilderness.

A comprehensive treatment of the interesting history of this Area or the Adirondacks in general is not practical here. Relevant historical events that directly affected these lands, the history of the Adirondacks, and some of the forest industry are as follows:

**1771** - Joseph Totten and Stephen Crossfield, New York City shipwrights, acting on behalf of the brothers Edward and Ebenezer Jessup, petitioned the Governor-in-Chief of the Province of New York for "lysence" (sic) to purchase a parcel of 800,000 acres from the Indian proprietors in what is now Essex, Hamilton, Herkimer, and Warren Counties. Later

surveys determined that the Totten and Crossfield's Purchase contained 1,150,000 acres. The Whitney Area lands lie within the T&C Purchase.

**1870** - Verplanck Colvin recommended "...these forests should be preserved; and for posterity should be set aside, this Adirondack region, as a park for New York..."

**1885** - Governor David Hill signed a law requiring that, "All the lands now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the State of New York...be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private." This was the creation of the Forest Preserve.

**1892** - The Adirondack Park boundary was established and delineated on official maps by a blue line.

**1894** - Constitutional Convention revised the State's Constitution. Its original wording survives today, although another constitutional change in 1938 recodified its provisions as Article XIV.

**1897** - Whitney Park came into existence through the efforts of William C. Whitney. Through agreement with Patrick Moynehan, an experienced Adirondack lumberman, a partnership was formed to buy a tract of approximately 68,000 acres of virgin forest land in the northern portion of Hamilton County. Under terms of this agreement, title to the land after lumbering was completed in 1914, was to succeed to Mr. Whitney as sole owner.

**1898** - Forest harvesting was begun and a cooperative agreement was signed to provide forestry advice from the USDA Division of Forestry. Henry Graves was employed to develop a scientific management plan for the tract similar to scientific forestry by Gifford Pinchot on the nearby Nehasane Park. Consequently these lands were among the first forest lands to receive the attention of professional foresters in the United States. Only spruce 10" or larger and pine were taken. The softwoods were skidded by horse, then dragged by sled to waterways for driving down the Raquette River to Tupper Lake.

**1903-1908** - In the Adirondacks, the clearcutting of softwoods for pulp left great piles of flammable limbs and slash throughout the forest. A combination of drought, high winds, and other conditions produced major forest fires across the Adirondacks. These and equally destructive forest fires in the next few years brought about an expansion of the State forest fire control force and more stringent laws to prevent such fires. The last major forest fire occurred in 1908 and burned much of the northwest quarter of Whitney

Park.

**1904** - William C. Whitney dies. Henry Payne Whitney takes over.

**1911** - The first cutting on Whitney Park was completed. The logs were cut and driven downstream to the mills on the Raquette River. A series of dams were maintained for multiple purposes (improve navigation, stabilize streamflow, etc.) Most logs were sawn into lumber at the Santa Clara mill at Tupper Lake. Spruce represented the bulk of the volume.

**1923** - The Whitney headquarters building was constructed to house lumberjacks on Whitney Park.

**1931** - Harry Payne Whitney dies. C.V. Whitney becomes Company president.

**1934** - The second cut on Whitney Park starts. The harvest was for both balsam fir and spruce for pulp, hemlocks and over-mature hardwoods left from the first cut. Oval Wood Dish Company of Tupper Lake contracted the hardwoods, while softwoods were driven via the Bog River to Raquette Pond and the railroad. Hardwoods and hemlocks were skidded by horse to landings and taken by truck to Tupper Lake.

**1935** - A branch line of the New York Central Railroad built into Whitney Park. The road system was started, including an engineered tote road system to facilitate horse logging operations.

**1946** - Whitney Realty Company became Whitney Industries. Housing was built for employees at the headquarters.

**1948-1955** - Cornell and Isaac Walton League do much research on area fisheries.

**1950** - Hurricane force winds cause severe damage and blowdown. Fire hazard reduction projects removed some of the salvageable trees in Whitney Park.

**1950's** - Logging resumes. Horses were used until the 1960's, when logging became totally mechanized.

**1955** - Completion of a paved road (Route 30), from the southern end of Hamilton County, near Northville, to the Town of Long Lake, opening the area for easy north-south travel.

## **II. INVENTORY OF RESOURCES, FACILITIES, AND PUBLIC USE**

### **A. Natural Resources and Processes**

#### **1. Physical**

a. Terrain/Topography

The Whitney Area lies within the Adirondack Upland physiographic province. The topography within the area consists of numerous flat/lowlying areas adjacent to low, rolling hills with only a few mountain summits exceeding 2,200 feet.

Numerous ponds and lakes are scattered in the valley drainages. A few larger mountain ranges (Antediluvian Mountain) have steeper topography with a differential in elevation a maximum of 500 feet higher than the surrounding lowlands.

The lowest recorded elevation within the Area is 1,717 feet above mean sea level, the elevation of the surface of Little Tupper Lake.

Detailed information on Area topography can be found on the Little Tupper Lake and Forked Lake, 7.5 X 15 minute USGS maps.

b. Water and Hydrologic Processes (See Map Insert 1)

The water resources are an important component of the natural ecosystem providing a wide range of aquatic environments along with a variety of opportunities for public recreation.

(1) Ponded Water\*

A total of 11 ponds and lakes occur within the Area, of which 10 are named on USGS 7.5 x 15 minute topographic maps. The interior waters are dispersed throughout the Area and range in size from five acres to the 2,300 acre Little Tupper Lake

With the exception of two private portions of Little Tupper Lake the ownership of the underwater lands within the Area is vested with the State.

Appendix 1 lists the major ponded waters in and bordering the Whitney Area with a brief narrative statement pertaining to their important features, including size, watershed, fisheries management classification, and depth.

(2) Impoundments

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\*For purposes of this document, only waters officially recognized (those with P numbers) by the NYS Biological Survey are included. The area contains several small (less than 1 acre), wetland/beaver ponds which have not been assigned P numbers. Occasionally these pond-wetland complexes may be nearly dry wetlands, while during some wet years or when beaver are active they may contain a small impoundment.

Within the Area, no waters are the result of man-made impoundments. Little Tupper Lake is partially impounded by a dam on Round Lake. The dam, owned by International Paper, raises the water level of both lakes by 2.5 to 3 feet (Reid 1954). Whitney Industries retained the right to control water levels after they sold the dam to International Paper.

(3) Watercourses

The Area also contains numerous miles of small, coldwater and warmwater beaver flowages and streams. Prominent streams include Salmon Lake Outlet, Rock Pond Outlet, and Charlie Pond Outlet.

No waterways occur within the Area that are classified under Article 15-2711 of the Environmental Conservation Law as wild, scenic or recreational.

(4) Watershed and Aquifer Information

The lands within the Whitney Area fall in both the Raquette River and Black River watersheds.

(5) Hydrologic Processes

The effect of climate on evaporation, transpiration, precipitation, runoff, and stream flow results in phenomena such as drought, flooding, etc. On the interior waters, these processes generally continue unhampered by human actions. Beavers are active on many area streams. Their dams can lead to flooding of trail systems and will pose problems for canoeists attempting to reach Lake Lila.

The water level of Little Tupper Lake can be partially controlled by manipulations at the dam on Round Lake.

c. Other Natural Processes

Wind can be a factor of considerable importance with evidence of blowdown scattered throughout the Area. Windthrow may be attributed to shallow soils, high water tables, and shallow rooting, individually or in combination. While the storm of 1950 caused some damage, the wind event of July 15, 1995 severely impacted the western portion of the area. Damage was concentrated in the vicinity of Hardigan and Bum ponds and some areas near Little Tupper Lake.

2. Biological

a. Plant Life

The lands within the Whitney Area are almost entirely forested to some degree. Plant communities vary depending on past forest product harvesting and environmental factors. Cutting activity is very noticeable and was concentrated in blowdown areas

or where roads provided easy access. The forested lands along the shorelines of many area waters were cut to a lesser degree.

(1) Vegetative Cover Types

The Whitney Area lies in the ecological transition zone between the temperate deciduous forest and the true boreal forest. The predominant, broad naturally occurring vegetative types include northern hardwoods, mixed woods, pine, and spruce flats. The influence of logging along with a number of natural forces have wrought visible effects on the vegetative cover.

In 1908 forest fires burned much of the northwest quarter of Whitney Park. Scattered plantations of white pine and other species were established in open areas created by the old burn.

The forest resources have been significantly impacted by heavy cutting activity. Recent timber cruises indicate low sawlog volume per acre and a high percentage of small diameter low grade hardwood pulp. This "high-grading," i.e., the cutting of the best specimens of the most desirable species; has resulted in a predominance of poor quality red maple and beech. A major part of the Area forests are successional in nature, with relatively open canopies and sapling sized trees, some regenerated by stump-sprouting. The Whitney's did set aside some commercial forest land as natural areas, where little or no forest harvesting occurred. All islands were included in this category. The narrow band of forest separating Little Tupper Lake from the Sabattis Road was also protected. Some of the more mature stands remaining are those in a zone roughly 100 feet wide along the shorelines, in which little logging has taken place in order to preserve the visual character and prevent erosion.

(2) Rare Plants and Ecological Communities

In 1990 a vegetative inventory of Whitney Park was conducted by the Adirondack Conservancy and Land Trust. This study commissioned by the Whitney's identified rare or scarce plants in some wetlands. None of these species are listed as threatened or endangered.

The Area may contain one identified biologically rich or unusual site representing a wetland coverytype:

(a) Round Lake Wetlands

Extensive wetlands between Little Tupper Lake and Round Lake - Sedge meadow, shallow marsh, red spruce-balsam fir swamp, poor fen and boreal acid bog. Three uncommon sedges, Carex oligosperma,

Carex pauciflora, and Carex exilis can be found in some sedge meadows.

b. Wildlife

This Area is located within the Adirondack Mountain ecological zone of New York State. Recent heavy logging activity has changed the character of the property as well as habitat for many wildlife species. An obvious change is the reduction in the amount of softwood cover utilized by deer as wintering area. The impact is unknown but it is likely that deer have been forced to move elsewhere in winter and/or concentrate more heavily in the remaining cover areas. Extensive logging of hardwoods has undoubtedly impacted on both mammals and birds, some positively, some negatively.

(1) Birds

Cooperators working with the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas have identified 125 species as confirmed breeders within or adjacent to this area. The Area may include boreal bird species which are uncommon in New York State.

(2) Mammals

Important big game species include the white-tailed deer and black bear. Generally, white-tailed deer can be found throughout the Area. Black bears are essentially solitary animals and tend to be dispersed throughout the Area. Other larger mammals known to inhabit the Area include beaver, river otter, fisher, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, pine marten, muskrat, striped skunk, porcupine, and snowshoe hare. A variety of small mammals including a number of species of shrews, bats, voles and mice, along with the short-tailed and long-tailed weasel, mink, eastern chipmunk, red squirrel and gray squirrel are also present.

(3) Amphibians and Reptiles

No comprehensive survey has been done anywhere in New York State, although a New York Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project has been initiated. Various field guides provide information on expected species that may be found on the property.

(4) Endangered, Threatened, Species of Special Concern, and Other Unique Species of Wildlife

Very little survey work has been done by DEC regarding wildlife within this Area. The following section indicates the protective status of some vertebrates that may be in the Area:

Extirpated Species

Moose occasionally have migrated from the north and east into the Adirondack region for decades. Since 1980, they have arrived in numbers that may lead to the establishment of a scattered resident population. Moose have been sighted on numerous occasions on and adjacent to the property. An expanding moose population is likely to result in increased sighting in the future.

Endangered: Except for seasonal migrants, there are no known reports of species recognized as endangered (bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and Indiana bat) currently residing in the Area.

Threatened: Among the threatened species of wildlife that may be residents of the Area are the osprey and red-shouldered hawk. Aerial osprey nesting surveys have been conducted. Several nests exist on and adjacent to the property. These nests will be monitored twice each year to assess activity and production.

Of Special Concern: Species of special concern that are present include the common loon, and raven. The presence of spotted salamander, wood turtle, and spruce grouse has not been determined.

Typical Adirondack Species

There are a number of wildlife species found in New York State whose habitat requirements include extensive areas of forest relatively undisturbed by human development. Often these are northern species that find the habitat conditions of the Central Adirondacks similar to the boreal spruce-fir forests of Canada. A list of species whose range in New York is generally confined to the Adirondacks and may be found within the Area include:

<u>Birds</u>	<u>Mammals</u>
Osprey	Black Bear
Northern Raven	Fisher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Marten
Mourning Warbler	Moose
Rusty Blackbird	Bobcat
Evening Grosbeak	

Boreal Birds

Several species of boreal birds species (spruce grouse, Wilson’s warbler Cape May warbler, bay-breasted warbler, three-toed woodpecker yellow-bellied flycatcher) have been reported as breeding in or adjacent to the Area. These species generally utilize habitats associated with bogs, spruce swamps, and wetlands in general.

(5) Significant Habitats

The Significant Wildlife Habitat files were reviewed for biological information on the Whitney Area. The DEC Bureau of Wildlife identified these sensitive areas:

(a) Deer Wintering Areas

Deer populations fluctuate annually with winter starvation losses representing the most significant mortality factor. When snow depths accumulate to 20 inches or more, deer congregate in specific wintering areas. These sites are typically used every winter and are usually areas of spruce-fir forest. The carrying capacity of deer wintering areas essentially controls the carrying capacity of their entire annual range.

Two small deer wintering areas, remnants of a large historical deer wintering area, remain on the property.

(b) Waterfowl Nesting Areas

Shoreline characteristics of certain waterbodies can provide suitable nesting areas for loons and other waterfowl.

c. Fish

Geological History

The Fishes of the Adirondack Park , a DEC publication (August 1980) 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 BP (before present), glacial

retreat exposed much of the southern Adirondacks. Formation of glacial Lake Albany and inundation of the great falls at Cohoes, Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, and other barriers resulted in recolonization of the Upper Hudson watershed by cold-tolerant Atlantian and eastern Boreal fishes. The genetic characteristics of brook trout in the Little Tupper Lake watershed are quite similar to native trout populations in Upper Hudson waters (Perkins 1991). This led Perkins to speculate about an ancient connection between the Raquette and Upper Hudson River watersheds (they are separated by less than a six foot elevation change). Biologists doing the 1933 survey of the Raquette watershed also suggested a past connection between the watersheds due to presence of Atlantean species such as redbreast sunfish (Greene 1933). Barriers and high gradient streams kept some lowland boreal species such as northern pike, lake whitefish, and burbot from colonizing the area. In general, waters low in the watersheds would have the most diverse communities. The number of species present would have decreased progressing towards headwater, higher elevation sections. Chance and variability in habitat would have complicated the trends. Consequently, a diversity of fish communities, from no fish to monocultures to numerous species, would have occurred.

### Human Influences

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

This exploitation of pristine fisheries combined with deforestation and siltation resulted in the decline of fish populations and stimulated early management efforts consisting primarily of stocking.

### Whitney Area Waters

The Whitney parcel has 11 ponds lying in two major watersheds. Six ponds (Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond, Bum Pond, Antediluvian Pond, Doctors Pond and Louie Pond) lie in the Little Tupper Lake

A variety of nonnative species were distributed into the Adirondack uplands via stocking efforts described by George (1980) as “nearly maniacal”. He notes that many species were “...almost endlessly dumped upon the Adirondack upland”. Nonnative species were introduced and the ranges of native species, which previously had limited distributions, were extended. The result has been a homogenization of fish communities. Certain native species, notably brook trout and round whitefish, have declined due to the introduction of other fishes.

### Impacts of Fish Introductions

The decline of brook trout associated with the introduction of other fishes is a result of both predation and competition for food. Brook trout feed primarily on invertebrates. Many other fishes, including white sucker, longnose sucker, redbreast sunfish, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, yellow perch, and the cyprinids (minnows, shiners, and dace) also feed primarily on invertebrates (Scott and Crossman 1973). In low fertility waters such as Adirondack ponds, competition for such forage can be intense.

In addition to competing with brook trout for food, many fishes prey directly on brook trout. Northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye and rock bass prey largely on other fish. Species which may feed on eggs and/or fry include yellow perch, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, creek chub, common shiner, white sucker and longnose sucker (Scott and Crossman 1973). The relative importance of competition versus predation in the decline of brook trout is not known for individual waters, but the result is the same regardless of the mechanism.

Competition and predation by introduced species have greatly reduced the abundance of brook trout sustained by natural reproduction. Only about 40 (10%) of the traditional brook trout ponds in public ownership in the Adirondack Park now support viable, self-sustaining brook trout populations and they remain susceptible to unauthorized fish introductions.

watershed, which is part of the larger Raquette River watershed. Four ponds (Hardigan Pond, Frank Pond, Little Salmon Pond and Lilypad Pond) lie in the Black River watershed and all are upstream of Lake Lila and downstream of Salmon Lake. The eleventh pond on the parcel drains toward Stony Pond and Slim

Pond, and thus, is part of the Long Lake and Raquette River watersheds. This small pond is unnamed.

Private fisheries investigations of various Whitney ponds were conducted by Harris (1902), Beatty (1950) and Field (1991). DEC personnel trapnetted Little Tupper strain brook trout in 1969 and 1970 to establish a hatchery broodstock (Brewer 1969, Elliott 1970, Miller 1985). These studies provide baseline data which will be augmented by survey work conducted during the summer of 1998 on most parcel waters. There are no known endangered, threatened or special concern fish species on the Whitney parcel. Although genetically unique, the Little Tupper strain is not legally protected.

Little Tupper Lake and Rock Pond are notable exceptions to the pattern of widespread, destructive introduction of nonnative fish species throughout the Adirondacks. Little Tupper Lake is the natal home to a genetically unique strain of brook trout (Perkins 1991, Keller 1979) along with a variety of native minnows (Table 1, Appendix 1). Private and public stocking records indicate that limited brook trout fry stocking was attempted in the late 1890's and again in the 1920's. Harris (1902) opined that those stockings were largely unsuccessful and did not influence the native brook trout population. A private hatchery was operated for several years on the outlet of Little Tupper Lake, but this hatchery utilized native trout as brood stock. Landlocked Atlantic salmon were stocked several times in Little Tupper Lake, but never produced a fishery.

The private owners of Whitney Park have had nearly 100 years of success in preventing the introductions of predatory or competing nonnative fish species such as smallmouth bass, northern pike and yellow perch into Little Tupper Lake. Nonnative species are believed to be limited to rainbow smelt and golden shiner (Field 1991). Rainbow smelt were introduced sometime in the late 1800's prior to Whitney ownership. Golden shiner were probably introduced via the bait pail sometime during the 1980's. A nonnative sunfish species, bluegill, were reported by Beatty (1950) and Miller (1985). Field (1991) suggests, however, that bluegill are unlikely introductions and the fish observed may have been hybrids of pumpkinseed and redbreast sunfish known to occur in nearby waters.

Several native Adirondack fishes are now distributed widely beyond their historic range due to various

manmade influences (George 1980). For management purposes, these species are labeled as "Native-But-Widely-Introduced" or NBWI and include brown bullhead, pumpkinseed and creek chub (Appendix 1 Table 1). The three NBWI species mentioned above are found in most Whitney waters, but it is not known whether these species were introduced prior to 1902 or if they are true natives. Since a nonnative species, rainbow smelt, was present before 1902 in Little Tupper Lake, NBWI species may have established in area waters in the 1800's.

Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond and Bum Pond are the only parcel waters known to harbor the Little Tupper strain brook trout. Little Tupper Lake has a low density of trout, perhaps only 0.25 pound/acre (Elliott 1970), but large individual fish are present. Rock Pond has a more abundant brook trout population, but individual trout seldom exceed 12-15 inches. Bum Pond has a minor population of brook trout. Fisheries has acquired its brood stock Little Tupper from Rock Pond via fall trapnetting several times.

Doctors Pond, Louie Pond and Antediluvian Pond are in the Little Tupper Lake watershed, but are not known to support a trout population. Antediluvian Pond is believed to be fishless. A native community consisting of creek chub, pumpkinseed and white sucker is present in Doctors Pond (Field 1991). Louie Pond is known to be shallow, weedy and warm.

#### Doctors Pond

Doctors Pond was surveyed for the first time in 1991 by Dr. Thomas C. Field of Fernwood-Limne, Inc., at the request of Whitney Industries (Field 1991). Field did not report finding springs in the pond that could act as thermal refuges for trout. Also, a total of only 35 fish (mostly small pumpkinseed) were captured ...indicating a sterile, unproductive environment. With similar effort, Field caught far more fish in Bottle Pond and other Whitney waters.

#### Rock Pond

Rock Pond is the second largest pond on the Whitney parcel (282 acres). Excerpts from Harris (1902) and Beatty (1950) provide the available written data. Limited DEC trapnetting in 1991 suggest the pond community is still similar to the 1950 reports. However, the 1991 netting did capture golden shiner (Miller, personal communication). Golden shiner are a nonnative baitfish species and can impact trout

populations if they become abundant. Golden shiner are a new introduction to Rock Pond and were caught in several other ponds surveyed by Field (1991). The outlet of Rock Pond is navigable to Little Tupper Lake, so golden shiner are now likely present there. Rock Pond has four inlets (Beatty 1950), two of which have good spawning areas for brook trout. The largest of these streams drains a watershed which contains Bottle Pond, Flatfish Pond and Little Moose Pond still on private Whitney property. A second stream outlets from Louie Pond. Two tributaries are intermittent and lack any spawning gravels.

Beatty (1950) reports that brook trout in Rock Pond average 10 - 12 inches in size and exhibit below average growth. More recent DEC trapnetting (1991) and the angling experiences of Ray Brown (DEC Principal Fish & Wildlife Technician) suggest growth rate conditions have not changed in Rock Pond. Beatty's (1950) catch rate for brook trout was 0.1 trout/gill net hour which is indicative of a low or fair abundance for the species. Beatty mentions that Rock Pond has "limited significance as a fishing lake", but did note that good spring fishing was available. The latter comment does not refer to a season of the year, but to angling around spring holes in the pond and its inlets during hot summer weather. Beatty noted that the trout in Rock Pond, unlike Little Tupper Lake, were free of the parasitic gill louse. However, gill lice were present on fish trapnetted by DEC in 1991 (Miller, personal communication).

### Little Tupper Lake

The fish community of Little Tupper Lake apparently has experienced only minor alterations since pre-settlement times. Netting surveys conducted in 1950 by Beatty and in 1969 and 1970 by the DEC had similar results. The Appendix table lists species captured in those efforts. As mentioned above, it appears likely that nonnative golden shiner are also now present.

In general, the lake basin is uniformly shallow with an average depth of 20 feet and a maximum depth of 42 feet. The bottom substrate is mostly muck with some shoal areas of mixed sand, gravel, rubble and boulders. As with Rock Lake and Doctors Pond, no thermal stratification occurs during the summer. Field (1991) found water temperature exceeded 68° F at 35 feet and that dissolved oxygen levels decreased from 4.5 ppm to 0.2 ppm between 35 feet and 42

feet.

### Black River Watershed Ponds

The four waters in the Black watershed lie in the course of, or are tributary to, the outlet stream of Salmon Lake. Salmon Lake, itself, lies on private lands still owned by Whitney Industries. A network of small streams connects the four ponds, all of which are found in low gradient areas with no effective physical barriers to fish migration between the ponds. Heavy beaver activity along these streams poses problems for canoeing between ponds. A physical barrier to fish migration formerly existed in the Salmon Lake outlet stream just above its confluence with the outlet of Hardigan Pond. That barrier was associated with an old railroad grade that crosses Whitney lands. However, storm events in recent years have destroyed that structure (Ray Brown, personal communication). The barrier was important in keeping fish species common to Lake Lila from reaching Salmon Lake.

Lilypad Pond was surveyed in 1985 by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation (ALSC). A total of 5 brook trout (9.2-14.1") and 5 lake trout (13.4-15") were caught. The catch rate for brook trout was a low 0.09 trout/gill net fishing hour. Also captured were yellow perch, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, white sucker, creek chub, common shiner and golden shiner (Table 1). The critical thermal summer volume capable of supporting lake trout in Lilypad Pond is extremely small. Presence of lake trout in Lilypad Pond is probably dependent on migrants from Salmon Lake or Lake Lila.

Low density brook trout populations, sustained by natural reproduction in the stream network, may still exist in Lilypad Pond and Little Salmon Pond. The trout in Little Salmon Pond and Lilypad Pond are wild fish, but it is doubtful that they are a native strain. Lake Lila, which was privately owned until 1979, was stocked with brook trout, lake trout and salmon for many years. With no barriers to fish migration, the stocked varieties of brook trout in Lake Lila may have undoubtedly become genetically intermingled with the native brookies in the streams linking these ponds.

Because the stream network connecting the four Black River watershed ponds has a low gradient, it is likely that the ponds' warmwater fish communities are quite similar. Recent fish community changes in Lake Lila have likely spread to the four Black watershed ponds on the Whitney parcel. Yellow

perch first appeared in Lake Lila after a fish barrier device between Lake Lila and Nehasne Lake failed in 1974 (Lane memo 1978). It is likely that perch then moved up the tributary system to Lilypad Pond. ALSC nettings conducted in 1985 confirmed presence of yellow perch in Lilypad Pond and Mud Pond (just downstream of Lilypad Pond on Brandreth lands). Reportedly, perch can now be caught in Little Salmon Pond and Salmon Lake. Thus, yellow perch now probably inhabit Frank Pond and Hardigan Pond. Smallmouth bass first appeared in Lake Lila in the early 1980's and are now abundant. The Potter family, owners of the Brandreth lands neighboring the Whitney parcel to the west, have complained to regional staff that brook trout fishing has virtually disappeared in Shingle Shanty Brook. Smallmouth bass now dominate the stream, which is part of the network connecting the four Black watershed ponds to Lake Lila. There is little doubt that bass are now also found in some or all four ponds. Brook trout may persist in the tributary streams, but any trout fisheries in the ponds are probably of low quality.

The small, unnamed pond that outlets to Stony Pond (Stony Pond lies on private Whitney lands) likely contains yellow perch, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass...all three of these species are known to inhabit Stony Pond and Slim Pond further downstream. The proximity of this small pond to Little Tupper Lake makes it an evident risk for the introduction of these nonnative species.

d. Wetlands (Map Insert 2)

A wetland is defined as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh, which is one acre or more in size or located adjacent to a body of water with which there is a free interchange of water at the surface.

Logging has taken place in some of the higher quality forested wetlands, particularly those containing spruce and fir. These stands do not appear to have been as severely impacted or changed in composition as much as the upland forests. Biological surveys of some Area wetlands have identified rare or scarce plants. See Section II-A-2-a-(2).

3. Visual/Scenic Resources

The lands and waters within the Whitney Area provide a diverse visual resource consisting of forested lands, picturesque lakes and ponds, old burns

and wetlands.

a. Travel Corridors

The eastern portion of the Whitney Area is less than three miles from State Route 30. This would allow easy access from this popular Scenic Highway (Adirondack Trail).

b. Observation Points

Aesthetic observation points are isolated and may require a bushwack to achieve, with some rock outcrops affording fine views.

The following may provide a good viewpoint of the interior and adjoining areas:

< Antediluvian Mountain

c. Other Natural Features

(1) Sand Beaches - Little Tupper Lake

(2) Islands - Little Tupper Lake (6) and Rock Pond  
(1). Additional islands less than one acre can be found in some area waters.

(3) Waterfalls - Touey Falls

4. Sound Environment

The opportunity for solitude is a valuable resource given that the pervasiveness of human made noise is increasing in our society.

The sound environment adjacent to the Burn Road and Frenchman's Mine will be intermittently less quiet than more remote interior locations due to the use of motorized equipment and/or vehicles during the interim management period.

B. Man-Made Facilities A listing of the man-made physical objects and features on or adjacent to the Whitney Area can be found in Section VI and Map Insert 3.

C. Past Influences

1. Cultural Resources

The cultural resources within the Whitney Area were limited to early travel routes, logging history, farms, and temporary hunting camps. Many of these

locations were identified in the previous history section. Physical evidence of past use in these areas has faded with time, with the exception of various old building remains.

A preliminary evaluation of the buildings of the Whitney headquarters complex suggests that several of the structures may be eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. A formal inventory and evaluation of the structures will take place during the course of the development of a Unit Management Plan for the property. Any potential historic status will be considered as a factor in determining the long term future of structures on the property as well as in determining which buildings should be retained for management purposes.

a. Historical Areas

Generally, the lands have been primarily used for forest-oriented recreational or logging purposes. Natural features (lakes, ponds, streams, etc.) were often named after local individuals or unique qualities of the area.

In 1935 and 1936 Whitney Industries constructed a new railroad grade from Brandreth Park into Whitney Park a distance of approximately four miles ending at southeast side of Rock Pond. No jackworks were involved at Rock Pond because this was a hardwoods logging operation, and hardwood logs were not floated on bodies of water. This railroad was only operational for a few years, ceasing in 1939.

b. Archaeological Areas

To date there has not been a site file search conducted at the State Museum (NYSM) and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to determine if any archaeological sites are located within the Area. A review of the 1987 NYS Archaeological site index map (revised 1992) did not identify any sites on the property.

D. Economic Profiles and the Relationship between Public and Private Land

1. Impact of State Ownership on Nearby Private Lands

The economic base of the general area that includes the Whitney Area is influenced to a large degree by tourism, outdoor recreation, and forestry. The early settlers were attracted to the area by its natural

beauty and abundant fish and wildlife resources. Some individuals capitalized on these natural assets by providing services to the "tourists" who followed. This business has been an important part of the local economy ever since and is dependent, in part, on nearby undeveloped State lands.

Government is the leading source of employment (NYS Campgrounds, etc.) in the county with much of the employment highly seasonal and directly dependent on tourism and recreation, particularly in the summer months. Various local businesses such as motels, gas stations, restaurants, food stores, establishments which sell and rent goods or services benefit from the influx of hikers, campers, hunters, and fishermen and other recreationists attracted by nearby State lands and waters.

a. Land Resources

To date there have been few economic studies on the impact of State ownership as it affects adjacent private lands or local communities. In some cases, property values of private land next to State holdings are increased, by advertising the many benefits of forest preserve lands. Landowners seeking privacy and solitude have protection from adjacent private development. State lands also provide the unique opportunity of having a "backyard" with no maintenance costs or taxes and access to various recreational experiences. Public purchase of local goods and services generates recreation dollars whose multiplier effect is felt throughout the surrounding area. The State will continue to pay taxes although potential development will be lost.

b. Wildlife

The economic importance of the game portion of New York's wildlife resources is reflected in the expenditures of sportsmen, the income from furs and hides, and the meat value of game. Additional nonconsumptive use of wildlife (photography, bird watching, etc.) can augment recreational dollars spent in the local area.

c. Fisheries

Anticipated angler use estimates and their economic impact for the Whitney Area are not available. Angling-related expenditures would contribute to the economy of the area.

d. Water Resources

The abundance of readily accessible lakes and ponds in the area will contribute to and help maintain a stable tourism economy for the area.

## 2. Impact of Adjacent Private Lands on State Holdings

The Adirondack Park is approximately 55% in private ownership; a fact that is often confusing to some visitors. It is this mix that defines the unique qualities of the region, along with the associated restaurants, stores, gas stations, motels and lodges, and related tourist services.

### a. Land Resources

The private sector's lack of intensive development and commercialism have posed few if any conflicts with nearby State land. Adequate State land boundary line maintenance and identification is necessary in order to prevent problems with adjoining landowners.

### Temporary Easements (expires in April 30, 2000)

On this property there is a reserved easement over the Burn Road for access to and use of the Frenchman's mine by Whitney industries. An additional term license exists for ingress and egress over the Burn Road for International Paper Timberlands Operating Company to access their lands.

### Permanent Easements

(1) Water pipeline from bottom of Little Tupper Lake to Camp on the Point.

(2) Telephone cable from Headquarters lot to Camp on the Point under the water of Little Tupper Lake.

### Deed Covenants

Specific restrictions on these lands apply to the development of public lean-tos or tentsites, campgrounds, and permanent fixed new structures or expansion of existing structures within the unobstructed naked-eye view from Camp Francis and Camp on the Point.

### b. Wildlife

Changes in wildlife habitats occur constantly due to natural processes such as succession, blowdown, and disease or human activities such as logging and residential development. These events can impact wildlife species both within and adjacent to the area.

### c. Fisheries

Lessees on the IP lands surrounding Round Lake will be able to access Little Tupper Lake by boat. These visitors will need to comply with the interim prohibitions on use of motorized vessels in the area. The owners, residential lessees, and non-paying personal guests of Camp Francis and Camp on the Point will retain the right to harvest some trout on Little Tupper Lake.

### d. Water Resources

The owners or residential lessees of Camp Francis and Camp on the Point and non-paying guests will retain the right to use boats with outboard motors of 40 horsepower or less on Little Tupper Lake. No more than two such boats shall be allowed for each parcel.

## E. Public Use Potential

The proximity to NYS Route 30, a major travel corridor, and natural beauty of Area waters would attract the public to these State lands. The wide variety of potential recreational opportunities would tend to disperse use with intensity of use dependent on both the type of activity and season of the year.

### 1. Land Resource

Public use tends to be concentrated where facilities are located or in close proximity to water (shoreline areas, scenic natural areas, etc). By controlling the type of use and public access the potential for overuse will be reduced.

### 2. Wildlife

Potential use of the wildlife resource within the Whitney Area can be described in two categories; consumptive use in the form of harvest for meat or fur by hunters and trappers, and non-consumptive use in the form of observations associated with hiking and photography. Both of these uses will be available to the public.

Being a new acquisition, it is unknown how much

pressure the wildlife resources will be subjected to. The property has been hunted by guests of the Whitney family and also has seen hunting leases from 1990 to 1996. Employees and family guests as well as hunting club members have trapped furbearers on the property in the past.

### 3. Fisheries

Information on the numbers of anglers who may visit the waters of the Area has not been determined. However, it is known that fishing will be a popular activity.

Little Tupper Lake is readily accessible and the acquisition of this parcel has generated much interest. Therefore, heavy fishing pressure can be expected in 1998. Experience with similar acquisitions, such as Lake Lila in 1974, suggests angler use will taper off after a few years as public curiosity is satisfied.

Remoteness, coupled with a prohibition on the use of motorized water craft, will discourage day use angling on the interior ponds of this parcel. The Black watershed ponds are especially remote. After journeying to Rock Pond, a two-mile portage through some rough blow down territory is required to reach the closest of these waters, Hardigan Pond. Access from Lake Lila by canoe will be equally difficult. The stream network to Lake Lila crosses other private lands and beaver activity is heavy. A portage route from Lilypad Pond to State lands bordering Lake Lila will be investigated.

### 4. Water Resources

#### a. Flatwater

The majority of flatwater recreation would tend to be concentrated on the more accessible waters or in combination with identified/developed canoe routes.

#### b. Whitewater

No opportunities for this type of recreation are known to exist within the Area.

### F. Access (See also Section VI-B)

The combination of interior roads and numerous waterbodies will enable the general public to access a large portion of these State lands. The most distant parts near the western and southern boundaries are only eight miles from a public trailhead and can be

reached by walking on existing interior roads. The majority of the rest of the Area is less than two miles from a road or waterbody.

### G. Relationship to Adjacent Lands

#### 1. Private lands

##### a. Galipeau property (Bettner Park)

This property consists of a forested tract and Bettner Ponds located to the north of the Whitney Area.

##### b. Hillman property

This forested tract is located to the north of the Whitney Area, and includes Charley Pond and a portion of Charley Pond Stream.

##### c. International Paper Company Lands

Lands owned by IP border the northern and western portions of the Whitney Area. A passable channel connects Little Tupper Lake to Round Lake. IP leases Round Lake to hunting clubs and private individuals. A portion of Shingle Shanty Brook and Lilypad Pond traverses IP lands. A temporary right-of-way is utilized by International Paper across the Whitney Area on the Burn Road.

##### d. Whitney Industries

Whitney Park is composed of the remaining private lands to the south of the area. This property consists of a large contiguous forested tract.

##### e. Whitney Family Holdings

(1) Camp Francis - This lot is located to the west of the headquarters parcel and consists of 170 acres with  $\pm 5,100$  feet of shoreline on Little Tupper Lake.

(2) Camp on the Point - This lot is located to the south of the headquarters parcel and consists of 59 acres with  $\pm 7,710$  feet of shoreline on Little Tupper Lake.

##### f. Nature Conservancy Holdings

(1) Camp Bliss - This lot is located on the western part of Little Tupper Lake. The parcel consists of 54.88 acres with  $\pm 1,890$  feet of shoreline on Little Tupper Lake. Camp Bliss is a preexisting four bedroom single family dwelling. Another

structure is located approximately 150 feet to the north and consists of a guest cottage. A boat and generator shed also are within this parcel. Access is possible via a deeded Right-of-Way on a six mile gravel road over the Whitney Area.

2. State lands

a. State lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC

The Whitney Area adjoins one primitive area. Other State lands of varying classifications are nearby. Each classification provides a different range of conditions, settings, and experiences. Interaction on a management basis with these NYS lands is as follows:

(1) Lake Lila Primitive Area

Only a small portion of this NYS land adjoins the Whitney Area on the northwest boundary. The primitive area classification prohibits motorized vehicle, motor boat, or floatplane use.

3. Adjacent Waterbodies/Waterways

There are a variety of rivers and streams flowing into and out of Little Tupper Lake. These waters include Round Lake/Round Lake Outlet, Bog Stream, Salmon Lake Outlet, Shingle Shanty Brook, Charley Pond Outlet, and Otter Pond Outlet.

**III. MANAGEMENT HISTORY AND POLICY**

A. Past and Present Management

DEC-Administration

The Regional Director for Region 5, headquartered in Ray Brook, has management authority over the Whitney Area. The supervision of the activities of the Divisions of Lands and Forests and Fish and Wildlife within the area are delegated to the Supervisor of Natural Resources. The Regional Supervisor of Operations oversees the construction and maintenance of facilities.

The activities of the Division of Lands and Forests within the area are supervised by the Regional Forester. Reporting to him in the Northville office is a Senior Forester assigned to area management planning.

Division of Fish and Wildlife activities are delegated to the Regional Fisheries Manager and the Regional Wildlife Manager, both stationed in Ray Brook. A Senior Aquatic Biologist and a Senior Wildlife Biologist from the Ray Brook office have been assigned planning responsibilities for fisheries and wildlife concerns within the area.

The Forest Ranger and Environmental Conservation officer whose district or sector encompass part of the Area has direct on the ground administrative responsibilities.

2. Wildlife

The foundation for wildlife management in New York is embodied in Article 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Article 11 authorizes DEC to insure the perpetuation of wildlife species and their habitats and to regulate hunting and trapping through the issuance of licenses, the establishment of hunting and trapping seasons and manner of taking, and the setting of bag limits. On Forest Preserve lands, natural processes alone may determine the characteristics of wildlife habitat; therefore, the only wildlife management activities which may be conducted are: (a) regulation of hunting and trapping; (b) control of nuisance wildlife; (c) surveys and inventories; and (d) species reintroduction.

3. Fisheries

a. Regulations

Angling regulations are designed to preserve fish populations in individual waters by preventing over-exploitation. DEC monitors the effectiveness of angling regulations, stocking policies, and other management activities by conducting periodic biological and chemical surveys. Based on biological surveys planned for the summer of 1998, angling regulations may be changed as necessary to protect the fish populations of the Whitney Area.

**IV. FUTURE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

This section examines the various constraints, issues, and forces affecting the planning area.

A. Management Constraints

The management of the natural resources within the Whitney Area must conform to a number of consti-

tutional, legislative, and policy constraints affecting the Forest Preserve. A short list of restrictions that apply includes:

1. Section one of Article XIV of the NYS Constitution

All cutting, removal, or destruction of trees and other vegetation on Forest Preserve lands is to be performed under approved DEC policy. This permits maintenance and development of facilities while limiting the cutting of trees.

2. Environmental Conservation Law and NYS Rules and Regulations

Adirondack Park State Land Classification

With the passage of the Adirondack Park Agency Act in 1971, the Adirondack Park Agency was authorized to classify State lands and establish management guidelines for each particular classification. Prior to classification, newly acquired lands such as the Whitney Area, are to be managed on an interim basis in a manner consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use in a manner that will not foreclose options for classification. Public facilities or uses inconsistent with wilderness guidelines would effectively preclude such a classification.

Special Regulations

Emergency regulations have been promulgated and are designed to protect the natural resources of the Whitney Area and to enhance the public recreational experience during the interim management period. It was necessary that the Department prohibit public uses that would not be permissible in the strictest possible classification-wilderness, such as the use of motor vehicles, float planes, motor boats, snowmobiles, and bicycles. Additional regulations were also needed to direct public use and protect natural resource values. These regulations involve the prohibition of parking anywhere except in designated areas, prohibition of camping except at designated sites, prohibition of camping groups larger than eight people, prohibition of fires except in designated campsites in fire rings provided, and launching of boats only from designated areas. Two Area specific regulations are in place on the Headquarters lot that prohibit dogs not on a leash and restrict trapping. An additional road specific regulation applies to the Burn Road to prevent motor

vehicle travel at speeds exceeding 15 miles per hour. Since emergency regulations have a limited duration, the Department will seek to finalize these interim regulations until the land has been classified and a UMP for the area is developed. The process will include a provision for public comment not required by the emergency regulation process.

Initially, a catch-and-release policy for Brook Trout will be enforced to help protect the genetically unique heritage strain of the Little Tupper Lake Brook Trout. This will provide the DEC with an opportunity to fully access the Little Tupper Lake fishery and to obtain data on this unique fishery so that final management decisions can be based on sound science.

Statewide regulations will be in place for all other species. Artificial lures only will be allowed; the use of bait fish will be prohibited for all waterbodies within the area. This will protect the heritage strain of brook trout from accidental introduction of species such as bass and perch.

Rights of Navigation

Round Lake and Round Lake outlet are on private land, as are Bog Stream and stretches of Salmon Lake Outlet, Mud Pond into Shingle Shanty Brook, Charley Pond Outlet, and Otter Pond Outlet. While recent court cases have established the public right to traverse private lands by boat on specific waters in other parts of the State, the question of the legal right of the public to navigate any of the waters that enter private lands from the William C. Whitney Area has not been resolved. Private property owners may take legal action if the public enters their property by boat beyond State land boundaries.

3. DEC policies and procedures

Policies have been developed that address both public or administrative use and access along with standards for the maintenance and construction of facilities. Some policies apply to all NYS lands (TRP's, unauthorized structures, boundary lines, etc.) while other policies address specific locations, type of use, or land classification.

a. Forest Preserve Policy

Established policies (Norm VanValkenburg, 1986) exist for: primitive camping sites, foot trails, trailheads, fireplaces and firerings, sanitation facilities, and barriers.

b. Regional Policy

A memo from Regional Director Thomas Monroe to Regional Supervisors dated March 8, 1990 and entitled, "Regional Policy for Interior Management and Maintenance Activities" establishes responsibilities for various activities on State lands in Region 5.

4. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Requirements

The overall intent of this document is to provide mitigating measures to reduce or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the natural resources of the State within the area. The custodial interim plan and planned actions are subject to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act of 1975. The actions proposed in this plan should not result in any significant environmental impacts and thus a negative declaration was filed.

**V. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

The Frenchman's pit is being mined for sand and gravel under a use reservation that expires April 30, 2000. Approved operations involve a total of five acres of affected land. This area will be reclaimed immediately upon completion of mining. Use of the mineral resources is limited to Whitney Industries.

2. Biological

a. Wildlife

Hunting and non-hunting public's have mutual interest in assuring the perpetuation of wildlife species. Game species will continue to be managed by appropriate hunting or trapping seasons as part of larger management areas. Non-game species will be

managed by regulating access and/or directing the public away from sensitive areas.

b. Fisheries

The brook trout fishing resource in Little Tupper Lake and Rock Pond is vulnerable to illegal introductions of nonnative fish species. A continual educational effort, signage, and a visible law enforcement presence will be necessary to guard this resource. Biological survey efforts will help identify spring hole areas where trout tend to congregate during the summer. Future management actions may be necessary to protect trout at these locations during certain seasons of the year. An assessment of the extent and success of natural spawning of brook trout will assist in deciding whether supplemental stocking will be necessary to maintain an acceptable fishery.

Goals

<Perpetuate and enhance the native strain of brook trout in Little Tupper Lake and other watershed ponds in accordance with sound biological management practices.

<Perpetuate and enhance a diverse, high-quality fishing experience in unit ponds in the Black River watershed in accordance with sound biological management practices.

Necessary Actions

»Maintain and enhance the populations of native brook trout in Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond, Bum Pond and their associated tributary systems.

»Educate the public on the dangers of releasing baitfish and/or nonnative predatory and competitive species in unit waters. Develop informational signs and brochures explaining the rationale for this restriction.

»Encourage and promote angler use of interior waters in the unit through routine fish management practices including hotlines, correspondence, stocking, reclamation, liming and contact with the public by Department staff.

Specific Proposals

(1) Conduct biological surveys of Area waters in the summer of 1998.

(2) Identify and monitor locations of spring hole congregations of brook trout in Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond and their tributaries.

(3) Distribute catch cards to anglers accessing unit waters at the proposed Headquarters waterway access site. Analyze cards to estimate harvest and catch/unit effort on area ponds during the summer of 1998.

### 3. Visual/Scenic Resources

Recreational enjoyment in general is often dependent on visual conditions, such as a variety of vegetation types, color contrasts, scenic vista's, landform shapes and edges, etc. Unique natural features such as sand beaches and islands offer special opportunities within the Area.

#### a. Roadside

The management of the immediate environs of these roads impacts on their scenic qualities.

#### Specific Proposals

(1) Develop and post roadside entrance signage on NYS Route 30 and the Sabattis Road to direct the public to the Headquarters area.

#### b. Interior and/or waterfront

Natural attractions attract many users to a specific destination within the area. In addition the appearance of the various buildings in the headquarters parcel has an impact on the visual resources of the area.

#### Specific Proposals

(1) Utilize vegetative screening, planting or fencing to limit view of new pit privies at Headquarters lot.

(2) Remodel exterior and interior of small cement-block structure for information/brochure center.

(3) Remodel exterior and interior of generator building to muffle sound and avoid aesthetic impacts.

(4) Utilize vegetative screening, planting and/or natural earth berms to limit view of main parking area at Headquarters lot, from Little Tupper Lake.

### 4. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include historic structures and all archaeological resources. These locations can help us understand our past and contain information about where people lived, what they had, and how they behaved.

#### a. Historical

Historic sites refer to locations where a facility was built by man. Structures include buildings and/or foundations, bridges, old roads, and other land related uses.

#### Specific Proposals

(1) Prior to site disturbance for construction of any major facility affiliated with this plan, the nature and extent of historical resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated.

(2) Proposed projects that may or will cause any change, beneficial or adverse in the quality of any historic property will be reviewed, and all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered together with plans to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on such property.

(3) Conduct a comprehensive inventory of all buildings, structures or sites in the Headquarters parcel. Determine which facilities are significant in the history, architecture, archeology, or culture of the Adirondack Park.

(4) During the custodial period the Department will maintain the security, appearance and structural integrity of all of the buildings within the headquarters complex. Any Department actions that might affect any of these buildings will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

#### b. Archaeological

These sites refer to any places left behind by prehistoric people. The primary informational value of these locations is contained in the spatial relationship between artifacts, features, and their environmental context, rather than in the artifacts and features themselves.

#### Specific Proposals

(1) Prior to site disturbance for construction of any major facility affiliated with this plan, the nature and

extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated.

(2) Proposed projects that may or will cause any change, beneficial or adverse in the quality of any archaeological property will be reviewed, and all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered together with plans to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on such property.

#### B. Social/Managerial Elements

##### 1. Stewardship

The DEC in its custodial responsibilities must provide for the care, custody, and control of State lands. The Whitney Area will be managed to allow visitors to enjoy all appropriate forms of outdoor recreation, in a manner that would not foreclose options for its future classification.

##### a. Public Information and Education

###### Specific Proposals

(1) Upon final adoption of this plan, the DEC will develop a brochure and map outlining the recreational opportunities afforded by the Whitney Area. The brochure will provide a brief narrative of the area's history, natural resources, and facilities. A segment on backcountry ethics and navigation rights will be included.

(2) Construct and set up informational area on headquarters property.

(3) Develop interpretive exhibits, primarily consisting of maps, photographs, and text panels to be placed in the Headquarters complex.

(4) Use Department staff to inform visitors.

(5) Establish Web page on the Internet.

(6) Work with other groups to get accurate information to the public.

##### b. Identification and Access to NYS Lands and Waters

Knowledge of the location of State lands and waters and associated opportunities for public recreation is critical in order to assist the public in utilizing this resource. DEC has a responsibility to the general

public and adjoining private landowners to make State boundaries readily identifiable. Well marked boundary lines enable to public to utilize NYS land, without trespassing on private lands.

###### Specific Proposals

(1) Identify trails suitable for access by mobility impaired individuals.

(2) Consolidate area information and map at the three trailhead/waterway kiosks.

(3) Proper education on burying of human waste in the backcountry will be stressed. Until problems develop no pit privies will be needed for the designated tentsites.

(4) ADA compliance - buildings, parking, access to buildings, etc.

##### c. Public Use and Needs

A agreement for temporary use and occupancy of private lands under contract for purchase by the State was signed in March 1998. This agreement authorized the Department to develop and/or modify some area facilities before the State took title to the property. The development of these facilities would allow for a safe and orderly opening of the property to the public when the acquisition is finalized.

###### Specific Proposals

(1) Install trail registers at the waterway access site Burn Road trailhead, and Stony Pond Horse trail.

(2) Construct three gravel areas to provide for area parking.

(3) Construct pit privies at the Headquarters site.

(4) After thorough review, reorganize headquarters complex to improve visitor access, enhance traffic flow, and separate modern visitor amenities from sensitive historic features and buildings.

##### d. Recreational Activity on Area Waters

###### Specific Proposals

(1) Clarify public rights of navigation

##### e. Facilities Maintenance

Specific Proposals - See Section VI-A

2. Administration

State administrative access on area roads will be restricted to access required to develop the Unit Management Plan and to those limited administrative purposes provided for in the APSLMP. DEC's use of motorized boats will be restricted to those purposes designed to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources of the area. State boats accessing Little Tupper Lake from the Headquarters parcel will be limited in size to 40 horsepower or less. Smaller horsepower craft may be utilized on interior ponds.

a. Fire Management

The policy of the DEC is to extinguish all fires regardless of cause, land classification or ownership. Fire protection for the area is afforded by Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. All the towns in Hamilton County are designated as "fire towns" in which the DEC maintains a fire protection system, including equipment necessary to prevent and extinguish forest fires. Local fire companies have also provided important assistance work when called upon.

Specific Proposals

- (1) Designate building for fire control supplies
- (2) Control and contain fires (fire rings, fire use ban during dry seasons, information, signs).
- (3) Construct and place a smokey bear fire danger sign at Headquarters area entrance road.

b. Search and Rescue

Area Forest Rangers have search and rescue responsibilities for this area as prescribed by law. Most of this activity occurs during the fall and involves lost hunters.

Specific Proposals

- (1) Designate building for first-aid and search & rescue equipment
- (2) Identify and designate potential helicopter landing sites
- (3) Forest Ranger will be assigned the Whitney Area

as a part of his district and have an office at the Headquarters area.

(4) Liason with Long Lake Fire Dept. Set up and develop emergency plan so that the fire department can have access (key or combination) to Headquarters site and buildings. A boat should also be available for emergency rescue when DEC staff is not present.

c. Fisheries

Regional Fisheries staff will be responsible for conducting biological and habitat surveys of the waters during the interim period. Such activities must be done during the summer period to identify critical thermal refuge areas.

Goals

< To conduct biological surveys on area waters, focusing on identifying critical habitat areas for the native strain of brook trout.

Necessary Actions

- » Fisheries staff will conduct fish inventory and water chemistry studies from June through August on area waters.
- » Provide for administrative road access to Fisheries vehicles to access interior waters.
- » Permit Fisheries to utilize motorized watercraft having up to 40 HP engines on Little Tupper Lake and Rock Pond.

d. Law Enforcement

The mission of the Division of Law Enforcement is to protect the environment and natural resources of the State of New York through law enforcement, education, and public outreach.

Specific Proposals

(1) ECO will be assigned Whitney Area as a sector and have an office at the Headquarters area.

e. Staffing

New staff resources will be required to effectively

manage this new State land. Presently DEC has focused on the more popular trails and problem areas. Cooperative programs, partnerships, and volunteers have helped somewhat to fill the void. Appropriate staff levels will need to be determined as use levels are established.

#### Specific Proposals

(1) To assure that facilities will be adequately maintained a permanent General Mechanic (G-12) and Maintenance Assistant should be funded for the area. Budget for and supply vehicles, maintenance tools & equipment, generators operating & mechanic tools.

(2) Provide for a Ranger Station and Environmental Conservation Police Station to be located at the headquarters area on a year round basis. Designate appropriate room and supply office for Public Protection.

(3) Secure funding and hire two Seasonal Assistant Forest Rangers, that will rotate between parts of the Whitney Area.

(4) Long term plans include the need to secure funding for and hire a forester for planning and interpretation on the property.

#### f. Building Use

Several of the buildings at the headquarters complex are suitable for Department administrative use. It is expected that several structures will be used by Department staff. Two residences will be occupied by on site Operations staff to enable 24 hour coverage of the property and generators. The Forest Ranger and Environmental Conservation Officer will have office space in their respective headquarters, but will reside off site. It is anticipated that some of the other residences will be utilized seasonally by assistant forest rangers, volunteers and/or interns. Until a final decision is made regarding all of the structures on the property initial efforts will be to secure the unused buildings and make livable the residences.

#### Specific Proposals

(1) Conduct a comprehensive inventory of all buildings, structures or sites in the Headquarters parcel. Inspect Buildings (Health & Safety, Building Code upgrades) and inventory assets.

(2) Secure the buildings.

(3) Insulate and/or upgrade windows in residences and for winter use.

(4) Upgrade bathroom in administrative building.

#### g. Funding/Budgeting

All DEC programs within the area (except for fish and wildlife) are funded by the State's general fund. Fish and Wildlife functions are supported by the Conservation Fund, a dedicated fund generated by the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses.

Specific Proposals - Specific projects and cost estimates are detailed in the Schedule for Implementation.

#### 3. Public Use

A listing of all State laws, rules, and regulations that apply to the public use of the natural resources within the Area is beyond the scope of this document. Constraints that apply generally to all State lands are described separately from those that apply only to specific locations within the Whitney Area.

#### a. Overall Use Management/Controls

In the performance of its obligation to provide for recreational pursuits within the Constitutional limitations relating to the Forest Preserve the DEC, with the advice of the Attorney General has evolved a recreational management policy based on the following premises:

[1] No one shall have exclusive use of any portion of State land.

[2] No one shall be allowed to claim any particular tent site or lean to from year to year.

[3] State property shall not be used for commercial purposes or private profit.

Specific Proposals - None

#### b. Area Specific Management/Controls

Specific Proposals

(1) When lot has reached capacity "parking area full"

signage will be placed at the Route 10 entrance road to redirect public use to other areas

(2) Promulgate emergency regulations to prohibit aircraft, outboard motors, motorized equipment, and snowmobiles within the described area boundaries

(3) Register at main Headquarters parking area or watercraft launching site, signing voluntary and not mandatory

(4) Overnight camping will only be allowed at designated sites on the 14,700 acre parcel. This is needed to properly manage and control where this activity will occur. Under current regulations camping could occur all over the area as long as a 150' distance from water, trails or roads is maintained. This would be an unacceptable condition from a public safety (fire protection) perspective. It could also cause problems on areas adjacent or within sight and sound of the adjoining private lands.

(5) All launching of watercraft from the Headquarters parking area only. Control most launching by signage and enforcement of no parking signs.

(6) All dogs must be confined on a leash within the 80 acre parcel. This would prevent conflicts with other recreational users and their pets.

(7) Operation of motor vehicles (except for entry road on the 80 acre piece) by the public will be prohibited.

(8) Horses/Horseback riding and wagons will be not allowed on the 80 acre Headquarters area. The proximity of the horse trailer parking area to the headquarters area will allow easy access to the informational building. Place prohibition signs where necessary.

(9) Bicycles will not be allowed on the property except on roads open to motor vehicle on the 80 acre Headquarters area.

(10) No groups greater than eight will be allowed to camp in the Area.

(11) Fires in designated locations only.

## **VI. DETAILED MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

### **A. Maintenance, Removal, and Development of**

### **Facilities (See Map Insert 3)**

#### **1. Barriers**

These facilities are designed to prevent unauthorized motorized traffic on State lands. Various types of barriers are used depending on the desired type of control. They should be inspected on a regular basis to correct damage or acts of vandalism. Secure barriers with Department locks, paint yellow, install Stop Signs and Barrier Ahead Signs.

No barriers are scheduled for removal during the term of this plan. If cable gates are found on the property they will be replaced due to public safety concerns. Road barriers may be removed if vegetative growth, blowdown, washout or other natural event serves the barricade function and negates the need for the man-made barrier.

New pipe gates will be installed at various locations around the perimeter of the Area. Any gates erected by the Department to close the roads to motor vehicle use by the general public will be constructed in a manner which ensures passage by those using mechanized aids. See Section VI-B.

#### **2. Boundary Lines**

Well marked boundary lines enable the public to more fully utilize NYS land, without trespassing on private lands. Approximately 12 miles of new line was surveyed and blazed by DEC real property staff consisting of the southerly lines adjoining Whitney Industries. The majority of the remaining northerly line was surveyed and marked by DEC contractors. The four miles of property line next to Route 10 and 10A will be signed. Regular maintenance is necessary to help eliminate the need for costly resurveys in the future. Old boundary lines (the result of recent acquisition of adjoining lands) will not be maintained and will be allowed to deteriorate.

#### **3. Bridges**

It is important to examine and maintain these facilities regularly to identify potential safety concerns. - Ditches, and culverts are especially vulnerable to clogging with leaves and other debris. Road bridges that support vehicle traffic should be inspected annually and closed when found unsafe. Inventory bridges that are greater than 20' in length that need DOT inspection and determine posting limit if any.

#### 4. Buildings

A more comprehensive inventory needed. Necessary actions may include vegetative screening and/or planting, general grounds and building maintenance, building aesthetics upgrades, building demolition, hazard tree inventory, and other potential remedial actions.

##### a. Headquarters Complex

###### (1) Whitney Staff Housing

An existing lease arrangement allows for the maintenance and temporary use of these facilities by Whitney staff up to 90 days after closing. DEC will allow Whitney staff to occupy and use the existing housing accommodations for personal purposes for the duration of this term agreement. Some costs and expenses relating to the premises shall be borne solely by the occupants.

###### (2) Buildings

Whitney Headquarters consists of numerous buildings and structures. The more significant buildings consist of seven residences, a main office building, electrical generating facilities, maintenance garage and facility, boathouse, barn, and numerous garages, storage sheds, and small structures.

##### Necessary DEC actions include:

<Examine design flow and location of leach fields

<Use of buildings for staff residence will comply with OSHA and Dept of Labor inspections.

<Use of buildings - Rangers and ECO's,

<Small cement structure will be remodelled to contain area brochures and map.

<Conduct an environmental audit.

##### b. Camp Bliss

This parcel will be acquired by the State in September, 1998.

#### 5. Buoys

No buoys are located or anticipated within the Area.

#### 6. Cable Crossings

No cable crossings are located within the Area.

#### 7. Camping Sites (Primitive Tent Site Designation)

All camping will be addressed by a system of site designation within the area. The management of these camping areas will comply with ASLMP guidelines for primitive tent sites.

It is estimated that 80 waterfront primitive tent sites will be developed for the area. These sites will be located so as to be reasonably screened from adjacent private landowners, trails and bodies of water and unless impractical because of severe terrain restrictions, at least one-quarter mile apart. An additional number of sites will be designated for hunters and hikers in areas near trails and roads. Islands not suitable for camping will accommodate day/picnic use. Primitive camping sites may be closed temporarily because of overuse or other emergency or environmental reasons by the posting of "No Camping" signs. No sites will be designated on the 80 acre Headquarters parcel.

These sites will consist of a identified tent site location (within a reasonable distance of the teepee marker) and established rock fire ring. Specific sites will be identified on area maps and brochure.

#### 8. Communication Facilities

A communication facility will be developed at the Headquarters complex. This will consist of a base station or separate portable.

#### 9. Dams

No dams are located within the Area.

#### 10. Docks

No docks are located on State lands within the area. Within the boathouse there are three slips suitable for Department use.

#### 11. Dumps/Garbage

No facilities for the collection of refuse are scheduled to be developed. Visitors are required to carry out all refuse, trash, garbage, litter, or any other offensive material.

12. Fireplaces/Firerings

One fireplace (fair condition) is located within the Headquarters area in a secluded area on top of an esker.

13. Gravel Pit

The Frenchman's Mine permit will regulate mining activity.

14. Helicopter Landing Sites

A helicopter landing site is scheduled for development and/or designation. Maintenance of areas to be designated as helicopter landing sites consists primarily of the removal of brush.

15. Historic Locations, Memorials, and Plaques

No facilities of this nature are located within the Area.

16. Leanto/Camping or other Structures

Temporary camping structures allowed by DEC permit must be removed at the expiration of the camping permit. Occasionally, illegal camps or tree stands are found on State lands. These are removed upon discovery.

17. Picnic/Day Use Areas

Day use will be allowed along the shoreline and islands within the area. No facilities such as picnic tables or fireplaces will be provided.

18. Pit Privies

The four new privies near the brochure/information building shall be inspected on a regular basis with all maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation scheduled so as to insure that these facilities are kept in a safe and sanitary condition. The structures will be screened from public view. Two of these privies will be accessible for wheelchairs.

19. Roads

Area roads are not open to public vehicular traffic and will only be maintained to the degree necessary

to allow DEC administrative access. No DEC maintenance is planned for area roads except for roads on the 80 acre parcel.

Burn Road Uses: Use of this road is limited to the IP use reservation, access to Camp Bliss and/or Whitney Industries access to Frenchman's Mine. Maintenance is allowed but any change in the present use, width, or route is not permitted. There will be strict enforcement of the 15 mph speed limit.

20. Signs

Local forest rangers shall inspect area trailheads and trails to insure all signs are in place and to observe any vandalism. If replacements or repairs are necessary, they shall be made as soon as possible by DEC personnel or, where necessary, volunteers such as town employees, etc.

All signage on State lands must comply with Department standards (size, wording, color, etc.) with locations approved by the area manager. Within the area, there are several locations where signs and markers have been placed that do not comply with DEC standards. These objects will be removed.

New signs will be placed at main headquarters advising anglers of special fishing regulations. Educational signage concerning impacts of nonnative fish species introductions and the brook trout heritage of Little Tupper Lake must also be developed. New signs and/or markers will be placed at trailhead facilities, along trails, and at popular camping areas, as necessary.

21. Trail Facilities

a. Foot (Total proposed - 13.5 miles)

Trail designation and marking will concentrate the majority of this activity along existing roads. No other activity is needed except for informational signs along the Burn Road so that users are aware that this road/trail will accommodate both recreational uses and motor vehicle use associated with IP's easement, Whitney Industries Gravel Pit use, and DEC administrative access. Numerous skid roads and an additional three miles of good roads and a four mile horse trail may also be utilized by hikers.

(1) Mark foot trail to Rock Pond:

Rock Pond Trail (blue markers) - 2.8 miles

Trail begins on the Burn Road approximately 5.7

miles west of the Sabbatis Road. The trail proceeds in a generally southerly direction passing by the active Frenchman's mine. The trail continues southeasterly crossing over Rock Pond Outlet on a bridge eventually ending on the eastern shore of Rock Pond.

(2) Mark foot trail to Lillypad/Little Salmon Lake: Lilypad Pond Trail (red markers) - 8.2 miles  
This trail begins at the Burn Road parking area on the Sabbatis Road. The trail proceeds in a westerly direction and ends at Lillypad Pond.

(3) Mark foot trail to Hardigan Pond Hardigan Pond Trail (yellow markers) - 1.5 miles  
This spur trail begins on the Rock Pond trail approximately .5 miles south of Frenchman's Mine. The trail proceeds southwesterly eventually turning onto an old railroad grade just before Hardigan Pond.

(4) Mark spur trail to the Camp Bliss area after purchase by the State and demolition/removal of buildings.

Camp Bliss Trail (yellow markers) -1.0 miles  
Trail begins on the Burn Road approximately 4.7 miles west of the Sabbatis Road. The trail proceeds in a southeasterly direction passing by the eastern edge of Bum Pond and eventually reaching Little Tupper Lake.

b. Horse Trail (Road-1.5 mi., trail mileage-4.0 mi.)

Past experience indicates that while use of horses without a developed trail is possible, rider satisfaction and safety can be sacrificed. Terrain constraints, brush, obstacles, and other factors limit the ability to easily ride through the woods.

Horse trails are generally not compatible with pedestrian hiking. Although horse trails may follow foot trails for short distances, it is preferable that they be developed as separate distinct facilities, utilizing as much as possible areas not presently used by the hiker to any extent.

Horseback riders will have to use a portion of road also used by automobiles before accessing the marked trail along the south side of Little Tupper Lake. It was decided not to have parking at the Route 10A trail intersection due to possible conflicts with other users wanting to park to access the east end of the lake. Horse use is not allowed on the Burn Road during this interim period due to safety concerns over conflict with log trucks, and other large motor vehicle use associated with the Frenchman's Mine

operation

(1) Mark horse trail to Little Tupper Lake Southshore Trail (yellow horse markers) - 4.0 miles  
A marked trail will be developed starting at the Sabbatis Road parking area, continuing along Route 10 and 10A for 1.5 miles to the trail intersection with the Stony Pond Road. The horse trail starts along this woods road and ends approximately four miles from the public highway at two separate camping areas. Provide tie up rails. Modify gate to allow easy horse access.

f. Canoe Carry Trails (Total proposed - 1.4 miles)

The designation and marking of carry trails will keep the public on these suitable routes and prevent numerous undesired herd paths if no facility was provided. To enhance canoeing opportunities the following trails will be designated and maintained:

(1) Mark  $\pm$  200 foot carry trail around bridge and rapids - Rock Pond Outlet

(2) Mark carry trail to Bum Pond after ownership of Camp Bliss (See Camp Bliss Trail)

(3) Mark carry trail to Shingle Shanty Brook. Canoe Carry Trail (yellow markers) -.7 miles  
From the northern shoreline of Lillypad Pond to Shingle Shanty Brook. This short carry on an existing trail will provide the public an opportunity to access Lake Lila while avoiding problems and navigation rights issues over the Brandreth lease on IP lands in the vicinity of Mud Pond.

g. Trailheads/Parking Areas

Standard DEC trail signs, giving direction and distance to prominent or popular destinations, will be placed at all trailheads. Repairs will be conducted as necessary.

The plowing of snow from area trailheads will depend upon public use needs. Whenever possible, arrangements should be made with the local government responsible for maintaining the adjacent highway to provide for snow removal in the parking lot.

h. Trailhead and Informational Facilities

Trail registers enable the DEC to monitor public use from a particular location. Date of entry, party size, destination, and visitor residence can be important

information. Statistics may be summarized to estimate monthly or yearly trends. While not all users will register, this has proven to be a cost effective method for monitoring use as well as a valuable resource in search and rescue efforts.

The two area trailheads and the waterway access site will have trailhead shelters/kiosks constructed with display booths. This will allow the placement of informational materials (safety tips, backcountry ethics, etc.) in addition to a USGS topographic map. Relevant historical, geological, and natural resource data will also be provided. In addition the phone numbers of local police, sheriff, forest ranger, ambulance, and hospitals will be posted at these locations. This new structure will be of a uniform standard design and used consistently in all parts of the Forest Preserve.

Registers will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. The forest ranger will collect the register pages and consolidate the public use statistics.

i. Trailhead Parking Development (2)

(1) Construct small 10 car parking lot at Burn Road trailhead using existing cleared area.

(2) Construct 3 car/trailer parking lot for horseback riders on Route 10 a quarter of a mile east of the Headquarters entrance.

22. Utilities

The electrical generators at the headquarters run on diesel fuel and supply electricity to the entire facility. Camp Bliss has an electric generator, a hot water tank and a refrigerator which runs on propane gas. Citizens telecom provides telephone service to this area and Camp Francis and Camp on the Point via underground lines. A public telephone booth will be installed near the telephone pole at the waterway access parking area. New phones for Administrative use will be installed at the main office building and some of the residences.

All maintenance of utility facilities over NYS lands will be in accordance with DEC policy and established agreements.

23. Waterway Access Site

(1) A parking area will be developed in the vicinity

of the existing Headquarters boathouse. This facility will be designed for both day use and overnight use. When the lot has reached capacity a “parking area full” sign will be used to direct to public to other State lands. This facility will be constructed in two phases with the first phase consisting of a 40 car capacity, later expanded to 70 cars if needed. The paved area adjacent to the Department boathouse will be used to launch watercraft. Only canoes or other non-motorized car-top boats will be permitted.

24. Water Pipe

Develop and sign potable water for the public. Chlorinate/test water from well for staff/residence use.

See easement for Camp on the Point - Section II- D-1-a.

25. Water-Springs/Wells

The headquarters obtains potable water for the seven existing houses, office and other structures from a single drilled well, 605 feet deep. The other three properties, Camp Francis, Camp on the Point, and Camp Bliss use lake water for dishwashing and laundry.

26. Wildlife and Fisheries Structures

a. Fish barrier dams

A fish barrier device was located, historically, on the Salmon Lake outlet upstream of Hardigan Pond near the old railroad grade. Surveys conducted in the summer of 1998 will ascertain whether this device should be reconstructed. Other survey efforts may identify possible barrier device locations for unit waters that can be reclaimed with rotenone.

Construction of fish barrier dams is permitted under all State land classifications according to the State Land Master Plan.

B. Access by persons with disabilities

For people with disabilities, as for able-bodied people, outdoor recreation offers opportunities for fun, health, well-being, independence, and social interaction. DEC is committed to making lands under its

jurisdiction more accessible to all people.

Within the William C. Whitney area, the programs offered by the Department to the public will include a variety of passive recreational activities within a wilderness setting. Programs will include such activities as hiking, birdwatching, canoeing, camping, hunting and fishing--all within a setting of quiet and peaceful solitude. The Department plans to manage the Whitney Area in a manner which will offer unique and outstanding opportunities to all its visitors, including those with disabilities who desire to participate in these programs.

The Whitney Area includes approximately 20 miles of relatively level, packed gravel roads. The road system is concentrated mainly in the northern and western portion of the area and will be marked with foot or horse trail markers. This trail system leads to several interior waters, the largest being 281 acre Rock Pond. Although these roads will be closed to public motorized vehicles, they are well-suited for use by persons with mobility impairments who utilize mechanized aids (i.e., non-motorized or motorized wheelchairs or other similar devices), as well as the young hiker and families seeking a wilderness experience by less than strenuous effort. In order to ensure that those with mobility impairments will be able to access the passive recreational activities which exist within the Whitney Area utilizing mechanized aids, any gates erected by the Department to close the roads to motor vehicle use by the general public will be constructed in a manner which ensures passage by those using mechanized aids. This implementation of design standards will eliminate barriers to free access while still conforming to Wilderness principles. Persons with mobility impairments will also have access to the existing road system by utilizing horses on those roads which are

marked with horse trail markers. Thus, much of the Whitney Area will be accessible to those with mobility impairments by the existing system of roads and trails.

In addition to the opportunities available for the pedestrian hiker, snowshoer, and Nordic skier, the Whitney Area contains an extensive and historic system of navigable lakes and streams which are readily accessible by canoe or non-motorized boat. In fact, the area has often been referred to by canoeists as "the Crown Jewel" the Adirondacks. The Department will ensure that the public waterway access site for the Whitney Area, located at the Headquarters area, will be accessible to those with mobility impairments. Thus, persons with disabilities will be able, via canoe or non-motorized boat, to directly access the innumerable passive recreational activities which are situated on and alongside these waterways.

As part of the Unit Management Planning process after classification of the Area has been completed by the Adirondack Park Agency, Department personnel will further examine the issue of disabled access. In the interim, parking spaces will be designated and signed by international symbol in the vicinity of the waterway access site, Burn Road trailhead and forest ranger/environmental conservation officer headquarters. Modified pit privies will be placed at the headquarters complex.

**SECTION VII. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/BUDGET**

The completion of site specific projects and activities will carry out the primary motivation behind this plan to allow public recreational use while protecting the natural resources of the area. The improvements identified in this document are proposed to be accomplished either before closing or within the next two years. The following schedule will be implemented contingent upon budget approval. Estimated costs are in addition to normal program funding. **TBD = to be determined**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COST</u>
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**Before Closing on or before June 1, 1998**

1.	Prepare informational brochure	1	\$	-0-
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Section VII - Schedule for Implementation/Budget

2. Construct Waterway access parking facility (up to 70 car)	1	\$28,000
3. Construct Burn Road parking facility (10 car)	1	\$ 4,000
4. Construct Horse trailer parking facility (up to 3 car + trailer)	1	\$ 2,500
5. Construct minimum toilet facilities (4 pit privies - 2/men, 2/women, two of which are accessible)	4	\$ 3,500
6. Construct and/or modification of area pipe gates	5	\$ 5,000
7. Sign and post State land boundaries		\$ 5,000
8. Erect signs/trail markers for parking areas and trails		\$ 1,500
9. Rehabilitate information building	\$ 7,500	
10. Alteration of Generator Building	\$ 7,500	
11. Construct kiosks for the trailheads and waterway access site	3	\$ 1,750
12. Construct signs and posters		<u>\$ 5,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71,250</b>

## 1998

### Non-Personal Service (Startup - One time costs):

Assistant Forest Rangers (uniforms, travel, canoes, radio's, field gear, maps,		\$ 71,067
Forest Ranger (uniforms, truck, fire equipment, boat, basic academy, etc.)		\$71,067
Environmental Conservation Officer (uniforms, vehicle, boat, snowmobile)		\$28,610
Operations (vehicles)		\$40,000
Snowplow equipment		\$20,000
Boat and 40 hp. motor		\$20,000
Appliances for six residences		\$ 7,500
Mowing equipment - riding and hand		\$ 6,000
Furniture for residences and office Headquarters	\$20,000	
Tools		\$5,000+
Fueling facility (1000 gal. gas)		\$10,000+
Contractual Services & equipment rentals		<u>\$10,000</u>
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$270,893</b>

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COST</u>
	1. Inspect Buildings (Health & Safety) and Inventory Assets		\$ 1,500
	2. Environmental Audit - (remediation - contracted out)	\$ 1,500	
	3. Building Code Upgrades (fire, ADA compliance, etc.)		\$35,000
	4. Designate primitive tentsites and construct firerings	\$15,000	5 .
			Compreh ensive M M S develop ment <u>\$10,000</u>

**Sub-Total** \$63,000

**TOTAL** \$333,893

**Annually**

Personal Service:

Live Onsite - Conservation Operations Supervisor (SG11)	1	\$32,000
Main't Ass't. (SG9)		1 \$27,000
Operations (Overtime, holiday pay, etc.)		\$ 8,500
Live Offsite - Seasonal Laborer (\$9/hr.)	2	\$22,000
Forest Ranger I (Job Rate)	1	\$33,857
Environmental Conservation Officer (Job Rate)	1	\$38,803
Assistant forest rangers (seasonal - June through October)	2	<u>\$21,667</u>
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$194,827</b>

Non-Personal Service:

Supplies and materials (facilities, grounds, equipment maintenance)	\$35,000
No 2 Fuel Oil (heat for residences and other buildings)	\$15,000
Diesel Fuel (generators)	\$35,000
Facilities maintenance	\$10,000
Assistant Forest Rangers (uniforms, travel, canoes, field gear, maps)	\$ 1,340
Forest Ranger (uniforms, truck expenses, fire equipment wear & tear, etc.)	\$ 9,010
Environmental Conservation Officer (uniforms, vehicle & equipment wear & tear, etc.)	\$ 7,410
Travel (Operations)	\$ 1,000
Equipment replacements (Operations)	\$ 1,500
Utilities	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
	<b>Sub-Total</b> \$117,260

**TOTAL** ± \$312,087

**Long-term**

Personal Service:

Forester 1 in residence - planning, info & interpretation (SG18) - starting salary \$27,141

Non-Personal Service:

(Vehicle, computer, office supplies, radio, canoe, etc.) \$ 35,800

**Sub-Total** \$ 62,941

Other Possibilities and Expanded Uses: (costs undetermined)

- < Interpretive/Education Center - Teach wilderness philosophy
- < Visitor Information Center -
- < Scientific Research

