



New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests

White Hill Unit Management Plan

including:
White Hill Wild Forest
Unclassified Lands
Lassiter Easement
Niagara Mohawk Easement
Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site

St. Lawrence County
Towns of Colton, Hopkinton, and Parishville

December 2006

GEORGE E. PATAKI, Governor

DENISE M. SHEEHAN, Commissioner

Lead Agency: (in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4254

For further information contact:
Division of Lands and Forests
New York State DEC
6739 US Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676
315/265-3090

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR


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

DENISE M. SHEEHAN
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

DEC 22 2006

TO: The Record

FROM: Denise M. Sheehan 

SUBJECT: White Hill Wild Forest

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



**RESOLUTION
ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO
WHITE HILL
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

December 15, 2006

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

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan for the White Hill Wild Forest, including management proposals for Lassiter Easements, Niagara Mohawk Easements and the Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 for which the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency; and

WHEREAS, the Department has filed a SEQOR Negative Declaration and published a notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on December 6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has consulted with the Adirondack Park Agency staff in the preparation of the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final draft of the White Hill Unit Management Plan, dated November, 2006 is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed White Hill Wild Forest Unit Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan's objectives are intended to improve appropriate recreational use of the area while minimizing natural resource impacts; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan proposes to conform to State Land Master Plan guidelines for primitive tent site separation for sites located on Clear Pond, to create universally accessible parking and tent sites, in consultation with APA staff, to designate one group tent site and to monitor future recreational use of Clear Pond according to standards for campsite monitoring specified in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan proposes to undertake a visitor use survey to gain a better understanding of current use patterns, seasonal trends and type of use within the Unit, and to utilize the data collected as part of a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) decision system; and

WHEREAS, the Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park recommends that studies should be conducted where high snowmobile use occurs so that traffic volumes, hourly emissions estimates and dispersion modeling will be conducted; and

WHEREAS, the Department commits to the collection of recreational use data on snowmobile activity for the White Hill Wild Forest, and to the development of estimated current and projected use levels for the area; and

WHEREAS, the Department commits to working with Agency staff to develop and implement protocols for and assessment of potential resource impacts related to existing and projected snowmobile use levels during the next five-year planning cycle; and

WHEREAS, longstanding use of tracked groomers in this Unit is limited to qualified abandoned town rights of way and a trail on which the legal status of future public motorized use has not been fully resolved or will involve relocation to an existing DEC administrative road to avoid wetland impacts; and

WHEREAS, the final White Hill Unit Management Plan, once implemented, will contain a total of 3.8 miles of snowmobile trails in Wild Forest which were designated for snowmobile use after 1972 pending clarification through a continuing investigation of the status of 1972 mileage and final boundary surveys; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan is intended to provide and maintain foot trails and snowmobile trails and to designate the Gold Mine Road for equestrian use; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan proposes to improve water access by creating an official fishing and water access site at Clear Pond; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan commits to survey existing use levels and to determine carrying capacity for Clear Pond and other waters within the Unit; and

WHEREAS, the White Hill Unit Management Plan includes proposals to eliminate and control illegal use of ATVs through aggressive enforcement, signage and clear posting of trails, and through the education and cooperation of local clubs and ATV users, while working with clubs and communities to direct ATV use to officially designated town roads and easement lands; and

WHEREAS, management proposals include utilizing signage about invasive plant species at public fishing and waterway access sites and conducting botanical surveys to produce a more complete inventory of area ecosystems, continuing efforts to identify and map sensitive, rare, threatened and endangered plant species and expanding Natural Heritage Program efforts in the Unit; and

WHEREAS, the Unit will be included in survey efforts for rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife species and species of special concern; and

WHEREAS, lakes and ponds in the Unit will be monitored and managed by DEC's Fisheries staff to maintain and enhance recreational fishing opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the White Hill Unit Management Plan, dated November 2006, and with additions and revisions to pages 78 and 79 as submitted

to the Agency on December 14, 2006 (identified as Attachment A to this resolution) conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

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

AYES: R. Beach (DED), S. Buchanan (DEC), R. Hoffman (DOS),
A. Lussi, F. Mezzano, K. Roberts, J. Townsend,
L. Ulrich, C. Wray, R. Whaley

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: W. Thomas



New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests

White Hill
Proposed Final Unit Management Plan

including:
White Hill Wild Forest
Unclassified Lands
Lassiter Easement
Niagara Mohawk Easement
Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site

St. Lawrence County
Towns of Colton, Hopkinton, and Parishville

November 2006

GEORGE E. PATAKI, Governor DENISE M. SHEEHAN, Commissioner

Lead Agency: (in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4254

For further information contact:
Supervising Forester John Gibbs
New York State DEC - 6739 US Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676
315/265-3090

- The Gold Mine Road is proposed to stay open to ATV use, as well as the Rainbow Road, which is the short haul road that leads to the south from the Gold Mine Road. The bridge over Dead Creek needs to be inspected and if it doesn't meet DOT standards it will be closed to all motor vehicles until it is repaired. The Gold Mine Road will not be open for ATV use when there is snow on the ground. A portion of this road will need some improvement to meet trail standards.
- ATV use on the Gold Mine and Rainbow Roads will be monitored to assure that ATV use is not occurring on any other routes off of these roads. A systematic assessment of these roads and ATV use on them will be conducted.
- The development of additional new routes for ATV access is not proposed at this time. If new proposals arise, amendments to the recreation plan for the easement lands will be necessary, and any new trail construction will be guided by road standards agreed upon between DEC and the landowner.

2. Trails

Present Conditions: Fair to Good

Objectives:

- To maintain clearly marked routes through the property for various public uses including access to ponds and streams and thru connections for snowmobile trails.

Management Actions:

Forest Preserve Land

Foot trails

- On the trail from Lilypad Pond to the Gold Mine Road, reroute the section which currently runs over steep ledge rock.
- Establish a trail around Clear Pond by using segments of the existing herd path as well as new segments where conditions of the existing herd path warrant relocation.
- Establish a trail from the west end of Lily Pad Pond south to the trail from Rainbow Reservoir that will be developed by Brookfield Power (as agreed to by parties to the hydro license settlement). The length is about 1.5 miles.

Snowmobile trails

- Reroute the section of Secondary Snowmobile Trail 49 from the Morgan Road to the West Parcel Road as described in Issue 5.
- The trail from Clear Pond to the Picketville Road will be maintained as a Class A primary snowmobile trail (per ONR-2), and will require the reconstruction of one existing bridge to current standards and construction of a bridge across the Rock Pond Outlet. In the event that a corridor trail connection to the east is completed through the 5 Mile tract, the need for the Clear Pond to Picketville Road snowmobile trail will be re-evaluated
- The Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park provides guidance for the inventory and analysis of snowmobile use and impacts. Consistent with the Snowmobile Plan, over the following 3 year period the DEC will conduct an inventory of snowmobile use in the Unit. During that 3 year time period, The DEC and APA will work together to establish appropriate protocols and

scientific techniques to adequately assess the impacts associated with snowmobile use in the Unit. In addition, the DEC will consult with the APA to develop measurable indicators for monitoring the resource and social conditions associated with the level of snowmobile use in the Unit.

Equestrian Use

No official horse trails will be designated within the WHWF, although the opportunity for limited riding experiences does exist. Some trails and roads that are currently ridden sporadically by local equestrian users are capable of sustaining such minimal use, but may not be able to withstand the use that could result from formal designation.

All-terrain Bicycle Use

In 1993, the APA and DEC signed an addendum to the memorandum of understanding between the two agencies that addressed use of all-terrain bicycles (mountain bikes or ATBs) on Wild Forest classified lands, while prohibiting mountain bicycling on all Wilderness areas. The memorandum was partly in response to the tourism, bicycling, and regional planning interests which identified the economic and recreational potential for mountain bicycling in the Adirondack Park. For the next couple of years, the identification and inventory of popular mountain bicycling trails (Adirondack Park Mountain Bike Preliminary Trail and Route Guide, 1995) was undertaken through a combined effort of the Adirondack North Country Association, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and the LA Group. Since the preliminary listing, some counties have identified other routes at the local level and additional routes continue to be identified through the Adirondack Park Mountain Bike Initiative.

The APSLMP guidelines for Wild Forest areas allow ATBs “on roads legally open to the public and on state truck trails, foot trails, snowmobile trails and horse trails deemed suitable for such use as specified in individual unit management plans.” 6NYCRR §196.7(e) provides that “[t]he operation of bicycles is permitted on all roads and trails on Adirondack forest preserve wild forest areas except for those roads and trails posted as closed to bicycle operation.” As part of the UMP process, the planning team determined there was no need to formally designate ATB trails within the White Hill Unit at this time.

Conservation Easement Land

Foot trails

- The Department will provide support and guidance in the establishment of Brookfield Power’s proposed trail leading from Rainbow Reservoir to the Main Parcel and continuing into the vicinity of Lilypad Pond. This trail will be located to provide a scenic and interesting route, such as the potential section that can be found on an old road adjacent to a wetland on the conservation easement portion of the trail. The Department will also provide assistance on establishment of the trail on the Stark Tailrace Parcel that provides access to the upper end of Blake Reservoir and serves as part of the carry route from there to Stark Reservoir.

Snowmobile trails

- Sign and designate the Gold Mine Road on the Gold Mine Parcel as a snowmobile trail.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>1</u>
A. Planning Area Overview	<u>1</u>
B. Unit Geographic Information	<u>4</u>
C. General Location	<u>4</u>
D. Acreage	<u>4</u>
E. General Access	<u>7</u>
F. General History	<u>7</u>
II. <u>INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE</u>	<u>9</u>
A. Natural Resources	<u>9</u>
1. Physical	<u>9</u>
2. Biological	<u>16</u>
3. Visual/Scenic Resource/Land Protection	<u>35</u>
4. Critical Habitat	<u>35</u>
B. Man-Made Facilities	<u>36</u>
1. Forest Preserve	<u>36</u>
2. Easement Lands	<u>38</u>
C. Past Influences	<u>39</u>
1. Cultural	<u>40</u>
2. Historical	<u>41</u>
D. Public Use	<u>41</u>
1. Land Resources	<u>41</u>
2. Wildlife	<u>43</u>
3. Fisheries	<u>44</u>
4. Water Resources	<u>45</u>
E. Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities	<u>45</u>
F. Relationship Between Public and Private Land	<u>46</u>
G. Capacity to Withstand Use	<u>47</u>
1. Land Resources	<u>51</u>
2. Fish and Wildlife Resource:	<u>51</u>
3. Carrying Capacity Summary:	<u>52</u>
H. Education, Interpretation and Research	<u>52</u>
I. Economic Impact	<u>52</u>
III. <u>MANAGEMENT AND POLICY</u>	<u>53</u>
A. Past Management	<u>53</u>
1. Land Management	<u>53</u>
2. Wildlife Management	<u>54</u>
3. Fisheries Management	<u>54</u>
B. Management Guidelines	<u>54</u>
1. Guiding Documents	<u>54</u>
2. Application of Guidelines and Standards	<u>56</u>
C. Administration	<u>63</u>
D. Management Issues, Needs and Desires	<u>63</u>
1. Clear Pond to Picketville Road Trail	<u>64</u>
2. Boundary Line Maintenance:	<u>66</u>
3. Public use of Blake Falls, Whispering Pines, and Stark Tailrace Forest Preserve Parcels	<u>67</u>
4. Separation Distances for Designated Campsites at Clear Pond	<u>68</u>

IV. <u>PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</u>	73
A. Bio-Physical Resources	73
1. Water	73
2. Soil	73
3. Wetlands	73
4. Vegetation	73
5. Wildlife	74
6. Fisheries	74
B. Land Protection	74
1. Administration	74
2. Illegal ATV Use	74
3. Boundary Lines	75
4. Research	75
5. Open Space/Land Acquisition	75
C. Man-Made Facilities	75
1. Roads	75
2. Trails	77
3. Trailheads	79
4. Campsites	79
5. Bridges	80
6. Pit Privy	80
7. Parking Areas	80
8. Waterway/Fishing Access Sites	81
D. Public Use and Access	83
1. Public Use	83
2. Access for Persons with Disabilities	83
3. User Survey	84
E. Updates to APA Adirondack Park State Land Map	84
V. <u>SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ESTIMATED BUDGET</u>	85
VI. <u>BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES</u>	91
VII. <u>APPENDICES</u>	97
UNIT MAPS	149
White Hill Unit Area Existing and Proposed Facilities	
White Hill Unit Area Hydrology	
White Hill Unit Potential Deer Habitat	
White Hill Unit Potential Spruce Grouse Habitat	

DEC PLANNING TEAM

Task Force Leader	John Gibbs
Lands & Forests	Tim Baxter
Public Protection	Wayne LaBaff
Fisheries	Rodger Klindt
Wildlife	Blanche Town
Operations	Eric Mayer
Habitat	Mark Craig
Pubic Relations	Steve Litwhiler
APA	Walt Linck

Other Contributors:

Hillary Oles	Lenny Ollivett
Stewart Brown	JoEllen Oshier
Larry Denis	Mike Perry
Brian Finlayson	Emma Remington
Sandra Garlick	Dave Smith
Bill Gordon	Paul Toohey
David Hamelin	Rick Weber
Tom Kapelewski	Harry Wilbur
Patrick Marren	Charles Vandrei
Patrick Whalen	John Wood

PREFACE

The lands that comprise the White Hill Unit which are the subject of this plan include Forest Preserve lands and private lands subject to New York State owned conservation easements. Each has its own unique set of legal structures that help define how the lands should be managed and planning requirements for these lands.

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

“The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, or shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.”

State Lands owned in fee in the Adirondack Park are classified by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) according to “...their characteristics and capacity to withstand use.” Those lands administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are classified into seven categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe Area, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, State Administrative and Historic. Each classification carries an explicit set of guidelines which will, when implemented, provide the State lands of the Park with a unique blend of resource protection and public use.

The APSLMP was required to be created by the Adirondack Park Agency Act and was designed to provide a unified and comprehensive mandate on how the State lands of the Adirondack Park should be managed and used. To accomplish this objective the APSLMP directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans (UMPs) for each unit of land under its jurisdiction. In accordance with this statutory mandate, all plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the APSLMP and cannot amend the master plan itself. It has been held that the APSLMP has the force of legislative enactment. These UMPs translate the objectives of the APSLMP and related legislation, legal codes, rules, regulations, policies, area specific resource and visitor information into a single useful document. Ordinarily, these plans are based on a five- year time frame so that revisions can be made reflecting changes in resource and/ or sociological conditions. Plans may also be amended or revised sooner if warranted.

It is important to understand that the APSLMP has structured the responsibilities of the Department and the Agency in the management of State lands within the Adirondack Park. Specifically, the APSLMP states that:

"..... the legislature has established a two-tiered structure regarding state lands in the Adirondack Park. The Agency is responsible for long range planning and the establishment of basic policy for state lands in the Park, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Via the master plan, the Agency has the authority to establish general guidelines and criteria for the management of state lands, subject, of course, to the approval of the Governor. On the other hand, the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies with respect to the more modest acreage of land under their jurisdictions, have responsibility for the administration and management of these lands in compliance with the guidelines and criteria laid down by the master plan."

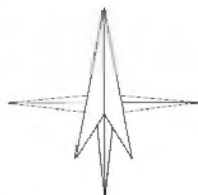
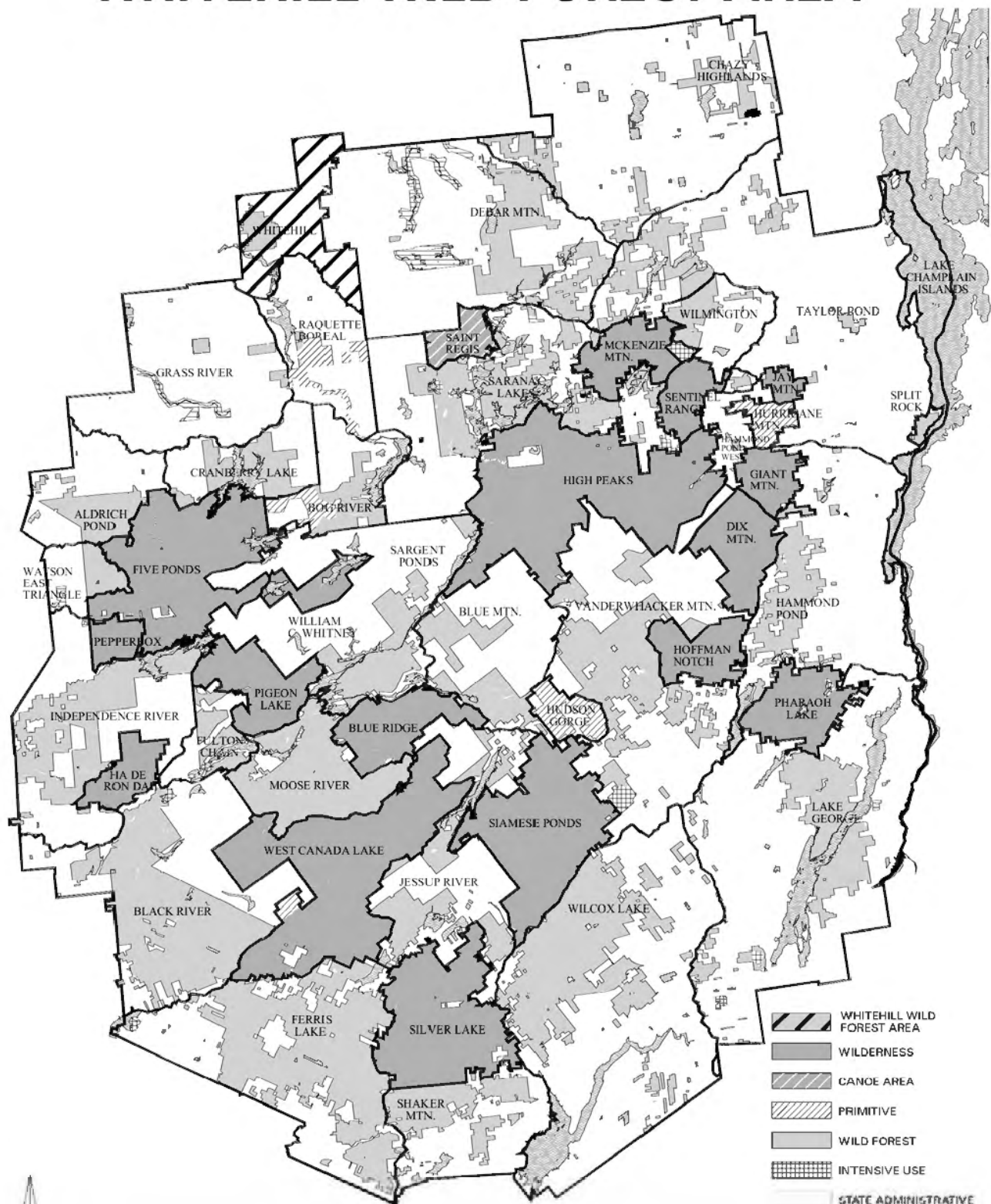
In order to put the implementation of the guidelines and criteria set forth in the APSLMP into actual practice, the DEC and APA have jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the implementation of the APSLMP for the Adirondack Park. The document defines the roles and responsibilities of the two agencies, outlines procedures for coordination and communication, defines a process for the revision of the APSLMP, as well as outlines procedures for State land classification, the review of UMPs, State land project management, and State land activity compliance. The MOU also outlines a process for the interpretation of the APSLMP.

Conservation easement lands are established and operate under the legal jurisdiction of Article 49 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). Easements may be as simple as a limitation on the number of buildings that may be present on a piece of property to easements providing for public recreation use and limitations/requirements for sustainable forest management. Most easements which include public recreation rights require the State to consult with the landowner when developing public recreation plans for the property and may require the Department to submit such plans for landowner determination of compliance with the easement. Including these easement lands in this UMP will fulfill the requirements of the easements regarding public recreational use and planning.

The subject of this Unit Management Plan includes Forest Preserve lands classified as Wild Forest and two tracts on which the State of New York holds conservation easements, each of which is different. Without a UMP, the management of these lands could easily become a series of uncoordinated reactions to immediate problems. When this happens, unplanned management actions may be in conflict with Forest Preserve or easement goals and objectives. A prime objective of unit management planning is to use environmental and social science. Comprehensive planning allows for the exchange of ideas and information before actions are taken that can have long-term effects. A written plan stabilizes management despite changes in personnel or the influences of multiple administrative units where several managers and/or disciplines have different perceptions on how these lands should be managed. Plans that clearly identify management objectives and actions have demonstrated greater potential for securing needed funding.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, involving and introducing the public to the planning process gives interested parties the opportunity to learn about, evaluate, provide advice and become directly involved in unit planning. Public participation gives a sense of pride and ownership in the care and custody of State lands; it allows the public to provide input on the problems that DEC constantly struggles to resolve. This involvement is crucial to a plan's acceptance and implementation.

ADIRONDACK PARK
WHITEHILL WILD FOREST AREA



10 0 10 20 30 MILES

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Planning Area Overview

Throughout this plan, the term “unit” will be used to describe the state-owned Forest Preserve lands comprising the White Hill Wild Forest (WHWF), unclassified Forest Preserve parcels, and adjacent conservation easements. The phrase “planning area” is used to describe a larger geographic area containing both public and private land that is shown as “White Hill Planning Area Unit Boundary” on the 11"x17" maps in the Appendix. The planning area boundary is used for administrative and planning purposes and does not have any legal connotation.

The White Hill Unit is bounded on the north by the Adirondack Park Boundary, on the east by the St. Lawrence-Franklin County Line, on the south by the West Branch of the St. Regis River, the Stark-Joe Indian Road, and State Highway 56, and on the west by the Adirondack Park Boundary. Many thousands of acres of privately owned property are encompassed by the bounds of this planning area. This document deals **only** with the management of public lands and private land with state owned conservation easements.

Note: The Santa Clara Tract of the Champion Easement lands in St. Lawrence County, which falls within the above described planning area boundary, will be excepted from the White Hill Unit Management Plan and addressed in a separate Recreation Plan which will include ALL of the Santa Clara Tract Champion Easement lands on both sides of the St. Lawrence - Franklin County Line.

The White Hill Unit includes the following parcels.

1. Forest Preserve

Please refer to the White Hill Unit Area Facilities Map and individual Forest Preserve parcel maps in Appendix M.

a. White Hill Wild Forest

<u>Parcel Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax # and Township</u>
<u>Main Parcel</u>	9,385.6	Located between White Hill and Picketville Roads.	Various tax map numbers, Parishville and Hopkinton
<u>Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site</u>	1.21	Located adjacent to Lake Ozonia off Lake Ozonia Road.	Hopkinton 94.034-1-8
<u>Five Falls Parcel</u>	35	East of the Raquette River Road between Five Falls Reservoir and the Raquette River Road	Parishville 106.000-6-1

<u>Parcel Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax # and Township</u>
<u>Blake Falls Parcel</u>	96	West of the Joe Indian Road, between the Raquette River outflow at Blake Falls Dam and the Joe Indian Road.	Parishville 122.000-1-2.115
<u>Whispering Pines Parcel</u>	272	West of the Joe Indian Road, along the east shore of Blake Falls Reservoir, and along both sides of the Whispering Pines Road.	Parishville 122.000-1-2.113
<u>Stark Tailrace Parcel</u>	11	West of Joe Indian Road, between the raceway of Stark Falls Dam and the Joe Indian Road.	Parishville 137.000-9-1 Colton 137.000-12-1
<u>West Boundary Parcel</u>	130.7	Northeast of Five Falls Reservoir adjacent to the Adirondack Park Blueline	Parishville 106.000-4-1

b. Unclassified Lands - See maps in Appendix M

<u>New York State Radio Tower Parcel</u>	3.3	Located east of White Hill Road, 1 mile North of the Main Parcel.	Hopkinton 93.000-1-33.2
<u>West Branch Parcel</u>	15.3	Located west of Sylvan Falls Road, just south of intersection between Sylvan Falls Road and the Jones Road, between the Sylvan Falls Road and the West branch of St. Regis River	Hopkinton 93.000-2-11

2. Easement Lands

a. Niagara Mohawk (NiMo)

<u>Parcel Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax # and Township</u>
<u>Gold Mine Parcel</u>	2,227	South of White Hill Wild Forest, north of Rainbow Falls Reservoir	Parishville 122.000-1-2.112 121.000-2-2.2

<u>Parcel Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax # and Township</u>
<u>Peaked Hill Parcel</u>	1,457.3	West of Blake Falls Reservoir, on either side of the Power Project Road.	Parishville 122.000-1-2.114 122.000-1-62 137.000-8-4 Colton 137.000-10-1
<u>Stark Parcel</u>	30.3	North of Joe Indian Road directly opposite the intersection of Joe Indian and Carry Falls Road.	Colton 137.000-2-2
<u>Hungry Bay Parcel</u>	101.2	North of Joe Indian Road just north of Stark Falls Dam substation	Parishville 137.000-8-1 137.000-8-2 Colton 137.000-11-1

b. Lassiter

<u>Preston Lot</u>	1,230	South of Round Pond Road, north of Barney Pond	Parishville 121.000-6-39 121.000-8-1
--------------------	-------	--	--

Identified above are the two New York State Easement properties in the White Hill Unit: the 3,815.8 acre Niagara Mohawk Easement, composed of four parcels (Gold Mine, Peaked Hill, Stark, Hungry Bay) and the 1,230 acre Lassiter Easement (Preston Lot).

These two easements are similar in that both convey the developmental and recreational rights on the property to the people of the State of New York. However, there some differences between the rights conveyed in the two easements. Please refer to Appendix F and G for detailed descriptions of Public Use Rights and Restrictions on the two easements.

The most noticeable difference between the two easements concerns the reservation of hunting rights. On the Lassiter Easement, hunting by the public is not permitted during the period September 1 through and including December 31 for the years 1989 through and including 2019. Hunting by the public is allowed for all legal hunting seasons on the Niagara Mohawk Easement.

Another difference between the two easements concerns motorized access by the public. On the Lassiter Easement, vehicular access to the property can only occur over roads present when the easement was signed (as of 12/27/88). On the Niagara Mohawk Easement, access to the property by vehicle can occur on any established roads and on main haul roads constructed in the future.

B. Unit Geographic Information

The planning area is covered by the following United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Maps.

Rainbow Falls
Sylvan Falls
Nicholville
Carry Falls Reservoir
Stark
Augerhole
St. Regis Falls

C. General Location

The White Hill Unit is bounded by lands under various ownerships and management practices, including lands that New York State either owns in fee or upon which New York State owns an easement (See Appendix M). To the north, within a distance of two miles but outside the Adirondack Park, lie two New York State Reforestation Areas, the Whiskey Flats and Catherineville State Forests, both of which are contained in the Colton (State Forest) Unit. To the east, within five miles, lies the Santa Clara Tract (Champion Easement). To the south lies the Raquette-Boreal Unit, which includes Forest Preserve land and Niagara Mohawk Easement properties which directly adjoin other Niagara Mohawk Easement properties in the White Hill Unit. To the west, directly adjoining both the Lassiter (Preston Lot) and Niagara Mohawk Easement parcels in this White Hill Unit, are two more State Reforestation Areas, the High Flats and the Snow Bowl State Forests, both of which are contained in the Colton (State Forest) Unit.

The White Hill Unit is located near the following hamlets: it is 2 miles south of the Hamlet of Parishville, 4 miles east of the Hamlet of South Colton, 6 miles east of the Hamlet of Colton, 10 miles southeast of the Village of Potsdam, and 15 miles due east of the Village of Canton.

D. Acreage - See Appendix M for maps of parcels listed below.

1. Forest Preserve

a. White Hill Wild Forest

1) Main Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
8/10/1881	Tax Sale	704	State Comptroller
2/10/1919	Dewey Property	3,590.04	Fred L. Dewey
2/10/1919	Gibson Property	508.69	George N. Gibson
8/15/1927	Elliott Property	3,212.5	Clayton H. Elliot
2/8/1955	Bump Property	162.15	Leslie and Maude Bump

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
8/1/1955	DeLong Property	350.0	Guy C. DeLong
9/3/1981	Sochia Property	177.5	Howard Sochia
6/10/1985	Boy Scout Property	92.77	Boy Scouts of America
1/30/1986	Edwards Property	551.06	Jack Edwards
6/19/01	Raquette Flats Parcel	36.9	Niagara Mohawk
	Total	9385.6	

2) Isolated Parcels

Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/1980	Phillips Property	1.21	Ethan & Theresa Phillips

Blake Falls Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk Property	96	Niagara Mohawk

Whispering Pines Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk Property	272	Niagara Mohawk

Stark Tailrace Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk Property	11	Niagara Mohawk

West Boundary Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk property	130.7	Niagara Mohawk

Five Falls Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
8/31/1877	Tax Sale	35	State Comptroller
	Total	545.9	

Total Wild Forest 9,931.5

b. Unclassified Lands

New York State Radio Tower Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
3/25/1969	Kromko Property	3.3	Steven Kromko

West Branch Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
11/25/1892	Tax Sale	15.3	State Comptroller

Total Unclassified 18.6

2. Easement Properties

a. Niagara Mohawk

Gold Mine Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk property	2,227	Niagara Mohawk

Peaked Hill Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk property	1,457.3	Niagara Mohawk

Stark Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk property	30.3	Niagara Mohawk

Hungry Bay Parcel

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
6/19/01	Niagara Mohawk property	101.2	Niagara Mohawk

Total NiMo Easement 3,815.8

b. Lassiter

Preston Lot

Date Conveyed	Description	Acreage	Grantor
12/23/1988	Lassiter Property	1,230	Lassiter Corporation

E. General Access

The White Hill Unit can be easily accessed from town roads which run through the planning area. The White Hill Road (also called Joe Indian or Stark Road), which runs south out of the Hamlet of Parishville, provides direct access to the largest block of Forest Preserve in the unit, and also some of the Niagara Mohawk Easement. There are numerous places along the west side of this road that are clearly signed and identified as Forest Preserve. The Clear Pond Road, which joins the White Hill Road from the west approximately 5 ½ miles south of the Hamlet of Parishville, is a seasonal town road which dead ends at the center of the Main Parcel at Clear Pond. The Picketville Road, which begins in the Hamlet of Parishville, also provides access to the Main Parcel.

The Niagara Mohawk and Lassiter Easement lands in this unit are most easily accessed off the Raquette River Power Project Road which runs north-south along the west shores of Blake and Rainbow Reservoirs. The Raquette River-Power Project road joins New York State Route 56 from the east right in the Hamlet of South Colton. One other good access point to the Niagara Mohawk Easement lands is off the Morgan Road, which is a dead end road that runs along the north shore of the South Colton Reservoir, and joins with the Windmill Road right in the Hamlet of South Colton.

The White Hill Unit is within 15 miles of two of the larger villages in St. Lawrence County, Canton and Potsdam. St. Lawrence County is very remote and very rural by most metropolitan standards. This unit is located about 120 miles from both Ottawa and Montreal, about 150 miles from Syracuse, 200 miles from Albany, and 400 miles from New York City.

F. General History

For centuries, the area now known as White Hill was a vast, unbroken and dense forest comprised mainly of maple, beech, birch, pine and hemlock. The Native American Mohawk people used this area for hunting and fishing, and did often use the same camping areas year after year, however, there were no known native villages or settlements in the area. These seasonal use sites were mainly concentrated along the two river corridors (Raquette and West Branch of the St. Regis). Reportedly, remains of a Native American hunting camp were found in Picketville as well.

Most of what is now known as the town of Parishville was sold to New York State by the Native American Mohawk Tribe in 1795. This land was sold by the State to several wealthy speculators before it was purchased by David Parish in 1808. The settlers that he eventually sold smaller parcels of property to in the early 1800's carved out a living from what they viewed as an unending source of thick, impenetrable forests. Many of these earliest European settlers came to the area from Vermont and New Hampshire. Mr. Parish laid out plans for the St. Lawrence Turnpike, and this first road in the area provided a north-south route for further settlement, running from Black River in Jefferson County through Russell, Pierrepont, Parishville, and Hopkinton and ending near Malone in Franklin County. The establishment of this Turnpike led directly to the settlement of Parishville and many other small communities nearby. Farming in the area began around 1810 as the native forests began to be cleared. One of the earlier settlers, named White, started a farm on the hill outside of the village of Parishville, and from then forward the hill was named White Hill. Initially, the predominantly light soils in the area were quite productive for farming, and crops of grain and potatoes were raised for the distillery and starch factories which quickly followed. The first industry in Parishville was a distillery, and the liquor produced there was transported to Boston and New York City. During the War of 1812,

soldiers passed through the Parishville area, confiscating horses, wagons and other goods for the army. This first settlement period of Parishville, with the focus being agriculture and homesteading of new farms, lasted until approximately 1865.

Around 1870, the Parishville settlement began a period of intense industrial activity that was to last for the next 35 years, and all of this activity centered around the lumbering trade. Much of the native timber stands had remained untouched until the 1870's, and, as elsewhere throughout this country, the liquidation of this seemingly endless resource proceeded quickly. During the lumbering period, Parishville was one of the most prosperous "off line" hamlets in St. Lawrence County; that is with a location off the main rail lines that had sprung up in the northern part of the county. Log drives were huge events each spring along the West Branch of the St. Regis River and Raquette River, and much of the virgin timber that was floated down the river came from the thousands of acres along the river corridor. The lumber industry flourished, with sawmills and smaller manufacturing companies fueling a boom town atmosphere in the Hamlet of Parishville. During this period of time, the population of the town was nearly double what it is today. Yet, the future of the area was already within view as New York State began to acquire some of the cut over forest acreage via tax sales that formed the beginnings of the White Hill Wild Forest. Eventually, the timber near the rivers was depleted, the log drives were over, and the end of the lumbering industry was signaled by the close of S.L. Clark and Son in Parishville in 1908. The remaining old growth timber, that was located too far away from the river drives, lasted until the advent of gasoline powered trucks and crawlers in the 1900's. As technology advanced, the last of the old timber finally fell with the first crude chain saws. It is indeed interesting that the White Hill Wild Forest, with its thousands of acres of forever wild forests as we know it today, was nearly stripped of all of its timber a mere 100 years ago. In the years 1919 to 1927 over 7,000 acres of land was acquired by New York State and added to the White Hill Wild Forest and much of the land had been cut over before the sale was made to New York State.

The beginning of the 1900's signaled a new movement in the Town of Parishville, that of a gradual decline in farming, industry and population. The light soils' productivity had been depleted after a few generations of farming and heavy logging, and many farms were abandoned for greener pastures by families who decided to try their luck elsewhere. Many of these old farms were purchased by New York State in the 1930's. Trees were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) on those farms which became the State Reforestation Areas just to the north of the Adirondack Park boundary.

The next significant development which shaped the White Hill Unit was the establishment of the hydro power reservoirs all along the Raquette River in the 1950's. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation was licensed to transform a river corridor into a series of reservoirs, and the Blake, Rainbow and Five Falls Reservoirs were part of this massive undertaking. These three reservoirs alone cover 602 acres. First, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation needed to acquire all of the land it intended to flood. Some of this acquisition was done by eminent domain, where people were given no option other than to sell their property for a predetermined fee to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. Once that the land was acquired, the few remaining homes, barns and outbuildings were either removed or destroyed, and all of the timber was stripped from the acreage to be flooded. The earthen containment dams were constructed, utilizing millions of tons of native stone and gravel. An entire landscape was transformed from a rural river corridor to a series of lakes, where no lake had existed previously. Much of the current landscape and the recreational use the area receives is directly related to the establishment of these power dams.

Acquisitions by the state continued, though at a reduced pace, in the second half of the twentieth century. In 1955 over 500 acres were added to the White Hill Unit. In 1985 a key inholding, the

90 plus acre Boy Scout property at Clear Pond, was acquired. In 1969, three acres of land and a Right-of-Way was acquired to develop a DEC radio repeater site near the summit of White Hill. In 1986, 551 acres were also added to the Unit with the Jack Edwards acquisition.

The most recent acquisitions were the Lassiter Easement, purchased in 1989, and the Niagara Mohawk Easement and fee acquisitions in 2001. The NiMo lands subject to this easement have since been sold to GMO Renewable Resources, and as of December 2005, are again for sale. Please refer to the Unit Acreage section of this plan for a more detailed description of all of the above mentioned acquisitions.

II. INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

The broad geological features of the planning unit are described by Buddington (1962) as being within the Adirondack Mountain section, which is an area of generally great relief that is caused by domal uplift. This section includes a number of major longitudinal topographic features that tend to run northeast-southwest.

The predominant bedrock underlying this unit is granitic gneiss. These are ancient, highly metamorphosed granite gneisses which are very resistant to erosion. The White Hill Unit is divided roughly in half by two distinct topographic zones: the Fall Zone Belt and the Childwold Rock Terrace. The Fall Zone Belt is located along the northerly bounds of the White Hill Unit, and are characterized by a distinct increase in upper slope of both the upland surface and the valleys. The "Fall Zone" is one in which water falls are sufficiently concentrated and common to characterize the topography, though "stillwaters" are of course found in the belt, and falls occur in other topographic sections. The maximum relief generally ranges from 300 to 400 feet, and the decline of the major river valleys within this belt averages about 60 feet per mile. The Childwold Rock Terrace is located more in the southern half of the White Hill Unit. An outstanding feature of this topographic type is the abundance of sand plains, small lakes, and swamps. The maximum relief here is generally about 400 feet or less, and the major valley bottoms have a low topographic variant.

The White Hill Unit lies within the region of the northern United States that was buried, during temporary periods in the Pleistocene time, beneath the ice of continental glaciers. The major bedrock of this area is mainly obscured by a veneer of "drift" left behind after the retreat of the last glacier. All of the major features of the topography are thought to be the product of stream erosion, largely pre-glacial in age, but many of the minor features of the topography are the result of the superimposition of deposits from the ice and its melt waters. The drift has commonly been eroded from the tops of the higher hills, but drift still fills some valleys deeply and, except where the hills are steep sided and cliff faced, usually obscures the bedrock slopes. This drift blankets the bedrock far more completely, and presumably more thickly, in the area of the Childwold Rock Terrace than in the Fall Zone.

The deposit of this "drift" is, in places, very patterned. These deposits are called by various names, distinguished from each other by their method of formation. One such formation is

named kames, which are hillocks or short ridges of stratified gravel and sand formed in the interface between the glacier and its melt waters. Several or many kames may occur together in areas or belts and may be associated with generally closed depressions called kettle holes. Another common formation found in the White Hill area are eskers, which are narrow, elongate winding ridges or a linear series of interrupted ridges, also composed of stratified sand and gravel. Eskers commonly have a steep sided form, which leads them to be called “embankments,” “hogsbacks,” or “horsebacks,” and are usually oriented roughly parallel to the direction of the motion of the glacial ice. In general, eskers have been interpreted as having formed in several ways- in sub glacial tunnels, in crevasses without roofs, and during the retreat of the ice front as a result of successive yearly deposits formed at or near the mouth of subglacial streams in bodies of standing water. As well, during the melting away of the glaciers, the ice pack’s margin locally dammed back northward flowing waters, yielding temporary lakes into which flowed streams from both the land and the ice, to build deltas. The White Hill Unit is covered with ridges which connect with kames and depressions, and sometimes deltas and eskers which constitute a glacial esker system. The topography we see today and the soils that are present in White Hill are all linked heavily back to the times of the glaciers.

b. Soils

A variety of soils exist on the White Hill Unit (See Soils Map in Appendix M). The predominant soil types, Potsdam, Adams, and Tunbridge, are all soil series that are associated with glacial activities. The Potsdam series consists of very deep, well drained soils on glacial till plains. The Adams series consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils, formed in glacial-fluvial or glacio-lacustrine sand, on outwash plains, deltas, lake plains, moraines, terraces, and eskers. The Tunbridge series consists of moderately deep, well drained soils on glaciated uplands formed in loamy glacial till. In each of these soil types, the depth to bedrock ranges from 20 to 72 inches, and all three soil types are noted to be strongly to very strongly acidic soils. The vegetation associated with these three soil types are also strikingly similar, all consisting of northern hardwood and successional hardwood types. Common tree species found growing on these soils include: American beech, sugar maple, yellow birch, aspen, black cherry, white ash, eastern white pine, red spruce, and eastern hemlock. All of these soils are good candidates to support all types of recreational use in the unit.

The one soil type located in the unit that is sensitive in nature and cannot support recreational use is the Dawson series, which is the soil type associated with the unit’s wetlands. The Dawson series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils formed in herbaceous organic material overlying sandy deposits in depressions on outwash plains, lake plains, ground moraines, and moraines and floodplains. This soil type is also extremely acidic. In association with the Dawson soil type, the depth to the seasonal high water table ranges from one foot above the surface to one foot below the surface of the soil from September to June. Tree vegetation is very sparse, with black spruce and tamarack comprising the major species. Ground cover consists of sphagnum moss, blueberries, leather leaf and other typical wetland plants.

c. Terrain/Topography

Named Elevations in the White Hill Unit with public access:

Peaked Hill 1504 feet (public access via Niagara Mohawk Easement, Peaked Hill Parcel).

d. Water (See 11" x 17" Hydrology Map in the Appendix)

Waters in the planning area comprise portions of the Raquette River and St. Regis River watersheds - all part of the St. Lawrence River Drainage Basin .

Rivers in the White Hill Unit:

The 8.9 miles of the Raquette River adjacent to the unit are not classified under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, because the former river bed is now a series of reservoirs.

Public access is readily available on the Raquette River and associated reservoirs via public boat launch facilities owned and maintained by Brookfield Power, which is the company that currently owns the hydro facilities and the reservoirs from Carry Falls downstream to and beyond the Adirondack Park Blue line and the boundaries of the unit.

The 22.3 miles of the West Branch of the St. Regis River in the planning area are classified as follows under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act:

5 miles classified as "Recreational."
17.3 miles classified as "Scenic."

The 1/3 mile section of the West Branch of the St. Regis River that adjoins the West Branch Parcel is classified "Recreational" by the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers act. Public access on the West Branch of the St. Regis River is more difficult to attain within the planning area than access to the Raquette. One can only access the river via the West Branch Parcel and the St. Lawrence County Forest parcel located just north of the bounds of the White Hill Unit. There is an issue that exists on the West Branch Parcel concerning the whereabouts of the parcels boundary line in relation to the Sylvan Falls Road. At present, pending a needed survey, it appears that one would need to cross private posted property to access the West Branch Parcel; however, the very narrow strip of posted property may well be on the ROW for the road and thus legally accessible to the public. Pursuant to 6 NYCRR §666.6(f) upon the designation of a river in this system and until final boundaries are established the provisions of NYCRR Part 666 (the regulations implementing the Wild, Scenic and Recreational River program) are applicable within one-half mile of each bank of the river. As there are no proposals for any management actions to take place on this parcel included in this White Hill UMP, there will be no conflicts with regards to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act.

The adjoining reservoirs on the Raquette River are the dominant water bodies associated with the planning area. Although these reservoirs are adjacent to New York State ownership, the waters and a buffer zone slightly beyond the high water line are under the management of Brookfield Power. Ownership of these facilities has changed several times recently.

Reservoirs in the White Hill Planning Area:

Blake Falls Reservoir	642 acres
Rainbow Falls Reservoir	739 acres
Five Falls Reservoir (only southeastern 1/3)	107 acres

There are six named lakes and ponds, ranging in size from five to 405 acres, that are accessible to the public in the White Hill Unit:

Lakes in the White Hill Unit:

Lake Ozonia	405 acres
-------------	-----------

Ponds in the White Hill Unit:

Clear Pond	35 acres
------------	----------

Long Pond	4 acres
-----------	---------

Lilypad Pond	2 acres
--------------	---------

Rock Pond	15 acres
-----------	----------

Little Rock Pond	10 acres
------------------	----------

Water quality is generally satisfactory with low productivity and fertility typical to the northern Adirondacks. In comparison to the Five Pond Wilderness Area located to the south of the unit, where a substantial number of lakes and ponds have lost their fish populations due to the impacts of acid deposition (Simonin 1990), acidification is not considered a major limiting factor in the White Hill Unit's waters. Based on resource inventory data, the majority of the area's lakes and ponds have pH levels greater than 6.0, and are therefore considered satisfactory relative to fish survival.

Streams in the White Hill Unit:

There are three named streams in the White Hill Unit which are accessible to the public from Forest Preserve or easement lands.

Alder Meadow Brook	2.5 miles
--------------------	-----------

Dead Creek (Picketville)	1.0 miles
--------------------------	-----------

Dead Creek (Joe Indian Rd.)	2.5 miles
-----------------------------	-----------

e. Wetlands

A wetland is identified as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh. They are inventoried, mapped, and protected under the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act of 1975 by the Department of Environmental Conservation outside of the Adirondack Park and the APA inside.

Approximately 13% of the White Hill Unit's fee and easement lands are regulated wetland. Presently, regulated wetland maps are not digitized for all of St Lawrence County. Accordingly, they will be included in the next revision or in any amendment to the plan, should they be available at that time. (See Hydrology Map in the Appendix)

The largest wetland in the unit is 1,238-acre Wheeler Marsh, located in the Main Parcel. This extensive wetland is one of the largest in the northern Adirondack region.

Virtually all of the identified wetlands in the White Hill Unit fall in the Palustrine category. These wetlands are characterized by open bog habitat with associated stands of black spruce, red spruce, and balsam fir. These stands of softwood timber are very dense dog hair type thickets, which are very difficult to traverse on foot. No new facilities are planned in or near those protected wetland habitats.

Only one Lacustrine habitat is identified for the White Hill Unit, that being Clear Pond. It is assumed that some of the other ponds in the unit, particularly Long and Lilypad ponds will eventually be classified and identified as lacustrine habitat.

There is one section of the Raquette River located between the Raquette Flats Parcel and the Five Falls Parcel that has been identified as Riverine. No management actions or facilities are being proposed along this section of Riverine habitat.

f. Air /Climate

Climate

Air temperatures and precipitation in the White Hill Unit are illustrated by the following table.

	January	March	May	July	Sept	Nov	Annual
Avg. Tem.(*F)	17.8	28.4	55.6	68.6	58.2	34.0	43.5
Avg. Min.(*F)	6.9	16.9	44.4	57.6	47.1	26.8	32.8
Avg. Max.(*F)	25.9	36.5	67.6	80.1	71.1	45.0	53.8
Lowest Ever (*F)	-40	-18	17	40	25	-5	-40
Highest Ever (*F)	65	76	96	101	90	69	101
Monthly Precip.	2.15	1.98	3.61	4.10	3.10	2.33	33.37
Avg. Snowfall	20.8	12.2	Trace	0.	0.	6.5	76.5
% of Sunshine	37%	50%	55%	63%	53%	29%	49%

The average date for the last frost in the spring in the unit is calculated to be May 14th, and the first frost of the fall typically occurs around September 22nd, giving the area 130 mean frost free days for the growing season.

Air Quality

Air quality in the geographic region is good to excellent, rated Class II (moderately well controlled) by federal and state standards. The region receives weather flowing south from the Arctic Circle that tends to be cleaner than weather emanating from the west and southwest. Summit visibility is often obscured by haze caused by air pollutants when a large number of small diameter particles exist in the air. Air quality may be more affected by particulate matter blown in from outside pollution sources rather than from activities inside the Adirondack Park. The relative assimilation of outside pollutants, commonly referred to as “acid rain,” is under investigation and study by staff at the NYS Atmospheric Science Research Station located on Whiteface Mountain and other researchers. Whiteface’s preeminent feature as a high standing mountain apart from the other High Peaks, in the face of prevailing winds, and a long-term collection center of weather research data, makes it an outstanding outdoor research laboratory.

Recent results of lake chemistry monitoring by NYS DEC, from 1992 through 1999, shows sulfates declined in 92 percent of a representative sample of lakes, selected by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC), but nitrates increased in 48 percent of those lakes. The decrease in sulfates is consistent with decreases in sulfur emissions and deposition, but the increase in nitrates is inconsistent with the stable levels of nitrogen emissions and deposition.

Continued monitoring by collection and analysis of acid deposition will allow the monitoring network to determine if improvements will continue as a result of reductions of SO₂- and NO_x- legislated in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.

Effects of Acidic Deposition on Forest Systems

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

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

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

Nitrogen deposition, in addition to sulfur deposition, is now recognized as an important contributor to declining forest ecosystem health both at low and at higher elevations. Adverse effects occur through direct impacts via increased foliar susceptibility to winter damage, foliar leaching, leaching of soil nutrients, elevation of soil aluminum levels, and/or creation of nutrient

imbalances. Excessive amounts of nitrogen cause negative impacts on soil chemistry similar to those caused by sulfur deposition in certain sensitive high-elevation ecosystems.

Sensitive Receptors

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

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

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

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

Effects of Acidic Deposition on Hydrologic Systems

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

There are two types of acidification which affect lakes and streams. One is a year-round condition when a lake is acidic all year long, referred to as chronically or critically acidic. The other is seasonal or episodic acidification associated with spring melt and/or rain storm events. A lake is considered insensitive when it is not acidified during any time of the year. Lakes with acid-neutralizing capability (ANC) values below 0 $\mu\text{eq/L}$ are considered to be chronically acidic. Lakes with ANC values between 0 and 50 $\mu\text{eq/L}$ are considered susceptible to episodic acidification; ANC may decrease below 0 $\mu\text{eq/L}$ during high-flow conditions in these lakes. Lakes with ANC values greater than 50 $\mu\text{eq/L}$ are considered relatively insensitive to inputs of acidic deposition (Driscoll et al. 2001). Watersheds which experience episodic acidification are very common in the Adirondack Region. A 1995 EPA Report to Congress estimated that 70% of the target population lakes are at risk of episodic acidification at least once during the year.

Recent results of lake chemistry monitored by NYS DEC

From 1992 through 1999, sulfates declined in a majority of selected lakes by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation, but nitrate patterns were less clear with a few lakes improving and most lakes not changing. The decrease in sulfates is consistent with decreases in sulfur emissions and deposition, but the nitrate pattern is not explained by the unchanged levels of nitrogen emissions and depositions of recent decades.

In addition to sensitive lakes, the Adirondack region includes thousands of miles of streams and rivers which are also sensitive to acidic deposition. While it is difficult to quantify the impact, it is certain is that there are large numbers of Adirondack brooks that will not support native Adirondack brook trout. Over half of these Adirondack streams and rivers may be acidic during spring snowmelt, when high aluminum concentrations and toxic water conditions adversely impact aquatic life. Acid ion depositions, “acid rain,” has apparently had little impact on the fisheries resources in the area covered in the White Hill UMP.

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

As part of an Adirondack Park extensive survey in 1986, the ALSC surveyed a total of seven waters in this unit; Clear, Little Rock, Rock, Lilypad, Long and 2 unnamed ponds. Summaries of those ponded waters data can be found at (<http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org>), see ALSC Pond Information. Since 1992, the Adirondack Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) program managed by the ALSC has been sampling chemistry in 52 lakes across the Park on a monthly basis. The nearest LTM lake to this unit is Grass Pond located in the Franklin County town of Waverly.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

All of the forested lands within this unit have been modified, in various degrees, by the harvest of forest products and now provide a diverse pattern of plant succession within the unit. During the course of the facilities inventory for this Wild Forest, the following Ecological Communities were noted (ref. DRAFT Ecological Communities of New York State, Edinger et.al 2002).

Beech-Maple mesic forest: a hardwood forest with sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) codominant. This is a broadly defined community type with several regional and edaphic variants. These forests occur on moist, well-drained, usually acid soils. Common associates are yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), eastern hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). There are relatively few shrubs and herbs.

Characteristic small trees or tall shrubs are hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*).

Dominant groundlayer species are star flower (*Trientalis borealis*), common wood-sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), purple trillium (*T. erectum*), shining clubmoss (*Lycopodium lucidulum*) and intermediate wood fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*). Associated herbs include Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and false Solomon’s seal (*Smilacina*

racemosa). There are many spring ephemerals which bloom before the canopy trees leaf out. Typically there is also an abundance of tree seedlings, especially of sugar maple; beech and sugar maple saplings are often the most abundant “shrubs” and small trees. Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) may be present at a low density. In the Adirondacks a few red spruce (*Picea rubens*) may also be present.

Characteristic birds include American redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), black-throated blue warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), least flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), and red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*).

Within extensive areas of beech-maple mesic forest, there are often associated small patches of hemlock-northern hardwood forest in steep ravines and gullies where hemlock is locally dominant.

This hardwood forest type is wide spread throughout the unit’s Forest Preserve lands. It is dominated by shade tolerant species, indicating that a relatively long period of time has passed since any disturbance has occurred (50-60 years), either due to natural causes or the hand of man.

In association with the Beech-Maple mesic forest, the following common ecological communities are interspersed, mixing and blending with the main Beech-Maple mesic community.

Hemlock-northern hardwood forest: a mixed forest that typically occurs on middle to lower slopes of ravines, on cool, mid-elevation slopes, and on moist, well-drained sites at the margins of swamps.

In any one stand, hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is codominant with any one to three of the following: beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*A. Rubrum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black birch (*B. Lenta*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and basswood (*Tilia americana*). The relative cover of hemlock is quite variable, ranging from nearly pure stands in some steep ravines to as little as 20% of the canopy cover. Striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*) is often prominent as a mid-story tree.

The shrublayer may be sparse; characteristic shrubs are hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), maple-leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), and raspberries (*Rubus spp.*). In some ravines, especially in the southern part of the state, rosebay (*Rhododendron maximum*) forms a dense subcanopy or tall shrublayer. Canopy cover can be quite dense, resulting in low light intensities on the forest floor and hence a relatively sparse groundlayer.

Characteristic groundlayer plants are Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), shining clubmoss (*Lycopodium lucidulum*), common wood fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), mountain wood fern (*Dryopteris campyloptera*), christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), star flower (*Trientalis borealis*), bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*), common wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), round-leaf violet (*Viola rotundifolia*), twisted stalk (*Streptopus roseus*), purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*), and the moss *Leucobryum glaucum*. In forests that have beech as a codominant, beech-drops (*Epifagus virginiana*) is a common herb.

Characteristic birds include wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), black-throated green warbler (*Dendroica virens*), and Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*).

This is a broadly defined and very widespread community, with many regional and edaphic variants. For example, in the Hudson Valley, hemlock is sometimes codominant with red oak; in the Adirondacks, yellow birch and sugar maple are sometimes codominant, with a relatively small number of hemlocks as well as a few red spruce (*Picea rubens*). More data on the shrublayer and groundlayer composition are needed before these regional variants can be distinguished as separate types.

Spruce-northern hardwood forest: a mixed forest that occurs on lower mountain slopes and upper margins of flats on glacial till, primarily in the Adirondack and Catskill mountains, and in the Tug Hill plateau. This is a broadly defined community with several regional and edaphic variants; it is one of the most common forest types in the Adirondacks.

Codominant trees are red spruce (*Picea rubens*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*), with scattered balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). Striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*) and mountain maple (*A. Spicatum*) are common subcanopy trees.

Characteristic shrubs are hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), American fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera candensis*), and Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*).

Characteristic groundlayer plants are common wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), common wood fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), shining clubmoss (*Lycopodium lucidulum*), wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*), bluebeads (*Clintonia borealis*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*), and twisted stalk (*Streptopus roseus*).

Characteristic birds include yellow-bellied flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), and gray jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*).

Hemlock-hardwood swamp: a mixed swamp that occurs on mineral soils and deep muck in depressions which receive groundwater discharge, typically in areas where the aquifer is a basic or acidic substrate. These swamps usually have a fairly closed canopy (70 to 90% cover), sparse shrublayer, and low species diversity.

The tree canopy is typically dominated by hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and co-dominated by yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Other less frequently occurring trees include white pine (*Pinus strobus*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*).

Characteristic shrubs include saplings of canopy trees plus highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) often dominant, with great rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) and sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) becoming more common in Lower Hudson Valley examples. Other less frequently occurring shrubs include various viburnums (*Viburnum cassinoides*, *V. lentago*, and *V. lantanoides*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and mountain holly (*Nemopanthes mucronatus*).

Characteristic herbs are cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). Groundcover may also be fairly sparse. Other less frequently occurring herbs include sedges (*Carex trisperma*, *C. folliculata*, and *C. bromoides*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), mountain sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*).

This is a common and widespread swamp community. Some occurrences are very small (1 to 2 acres). Water levels in these swamps typically fluctuate seasonally: they may be flooded in spring and relatively dry by late summer.

Also noted in the White Hill Unit, but less prevalent, is the common successional northern hardwoods ecological community. The existence of these communities in the unit indicate that the area has been disturbed in more recent years, most likely with a timber harvest prior to New York State ownership.

Successional forests includes forests that develop on sites that have been cleared (for farming, logging, etc.) or otherwise disturbed (by fire, ice scour, wind throw, flooding, etc.). Successional forests generally have the following characteristics: 1) dominated by light requiring, wind-dispersed species that are well-adapted to establishment following disturbance, 2) lack of reproduction of the canopy species, 3) have tree seedlings and saplings that are more shade-tolerant than the canopy species, 4) shrublayer and groundlayer dominants may include many species characteristic of successional old fields, or they may include species that occurred on or near the site prior to disturbance, 5) have canopy trees with small diameter (generally less than 10 to 15 cm dbh), 6) have canopy trees of young age (generally less than about 25 to 50 years old), 7) have evidence of recent logging (e.g., presence of stumps and brush), and 8) have relatively low canopy height with poor tree diversity and poor development of multiple strata.

Successional northern hardwood: a hardwood or mixed forest that occurs on sites that have been cleared or otherwise disturbed.

Characteristic trees and shrubs include any of the following: quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), big-tooth aspen (*P. grandidentata*), balsam poplar (*P. balsamifera*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), or gray birch (*B. populifolia*), pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*), black cherry (*P. serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), with lesser amounts of white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), green ash (*F. pensylvanica*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*). Northern indicators include aspens, birches, and pin cherry. This is a broadly defined community and several seral and regional variants are known.

Characteristic birds include chestnut-sided warbler (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*), Nashville warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) in young forests with aspen and birch seedlings, and yellow-bellied sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) in mature aspen forests.

Both the Niagara Mohawk and Lassiter Easement properties in the White Hill Unit have retained timber rights. The Niagara Mohawk easement Gold Mine Parcel has, in the last 3 years, had the majority of its overstory timber removed; Peaked Hill Parcel is currently being harvested in much the same manner. In time, the rest of the Niagara Mohawk Easement will most likely be treated silviculturally with the same philosophy, resulting eventually in a Successional northern hardwood Ecological Community. This acreage will certainly offer a diverse contrast to the adjoining Beech-Maple mesic forest on the Forest Preserve, leading to a diversity in bird, plant and animal species.

At present there has been no exercise of Lassiter's timber rights on their Preston Lot Easement parcel; certainly the composition of the forest and the Beech-maple mesic forest that exists there now will be altered if and when timber is harvested.

Invasive-Exotic Plants

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

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

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

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

Relationship to State Lands

Because of the intermingled nature of private and public lands and embedded transport vectors, State Lands are, and are likely to be, affected by infestations of invasive species and subsequent degradation of natural system function. The following section was prepared by APIPP to provide NYS DEC staff with current inventory and management information on documented invasive plant species infestations that threaten exemplary communities and conservation targets within the Adirondack Park.

Terrestrial Invasive Plant Inventory

In 1998 the Adirondack Nature Conservancy's Invasive Plant Project initiated Early Detection/Rapid Response (ED/RR) surveys along Adirondack Park roadsides. Expert and trained volunteers reported 412 observations of 10 plant species throughout the area surveyed, namely NYS DOT Right-of-Ways (ROW). In 1999 the Invasive Plant Project was expanded to include surveying back roads and the "backcountry" (undeveloped areas away from roads) to identify the presence or absence of 15 invasive plant species. Both surveys were conducted under the auspices of the Invasive Plant Council of New York "Top Twenty List" of non-native plants likely to become invasive within New York State. A continuum of ED/RR surveys now exists under the guidance of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).

Assessments from these initial ED/RR surveys determined that four (4) terrestrial plant species would be targeted for Control and Management based upon specific criteria such as geophysical setting, abundance and distribution, multiple transport vectors and the likelihood of human-influenced disturbance. The four Priority terrestrial invasive plants species are Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

The Adirondack Park is susceptible to further infestation by invasive plant species intentionally or accidentally introduced to this ecoregion. While many of these species are not currently designated a priority species by APIPP, they may become established within or in proximity to a Unit and require resources to manage, monitor, and restore the site.

Infestations located within and in proximity to a unit may expand and spread to uninfected areas and threaten natural resources within a unit; therefore it is critical to identify infestations located both within and in proximity to a unit and then assess high risk areas and prioritize Early Detection Rapid Response (ED/RR) and management efforts.

Terrestrial invasive plant species documented in, or within proximity to, the White Hill Unit include the following: Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

Terrestrial Locations

Terrestrial invasive plant infestations within DOT State Route ROW are referenced by the green Reference Markers (RM) positioned every 0.2 mile along State Routes within the Park. Example: State Route RM 86-1202-1172.

Terrestrial infestations beyond NYS DOT ROW, along County, Town or back roads, or within backcountry settings are geo-referenced via a hand-held GPS unit utilizing NAD 83 Program for Zone 18. Example: 4911698North (N) 590545East (E).

Infestations noted as High Priority should be strongly considered for containment and/or eradication controls. These infestations have multiple vectors or threaten sensitive communities within or adjacent to the infestation.

There are two (2) Purple loosestrife infestations affecting this unit.

At State Route RM 56-7501-1127 a Purple loosestrife infestation occurs in the south right-of-way. Infestation is linear in fashion and there is evidence that poorly-timed, mowing practices by NYS DOT is spreading this infestation. Subsequent cut-stem herbicide applications have reduced the infestation density and biomass.

At State Route RM 56-7501-1114 a Purple loosestrife infestation occurs within both right-of-ways. The southerly infestation has spread into the shoreline fringe of an un-named pond.

There are two (2) Japanese knotweed infestations affecting this unit.

At State Route RM 56-7501-1073 a dense Japanese knotweed infestation occurs in the west right-of-way and expands into upland forested fringe. Infestation occurs approximately .2 mile from Forest Preserve and approximately 200 feet from Fox Marsh.

At State Route RM 56-7501-1099 a dense Japanese knotweed infestation occurs within right-of-way fringe and wetland setting, approximately 1/10th mile from Cold Pond.

There are two (2) Common reed infestations affecting this unit.

At State Route RM 56-7501-1116 dense pockets of Common reed occur within right-of-way fringe and wetland setting just south of the South Branch Cold Brook.

At State Route RM 56-7501-1126 a dense infestation of Common reed occurs in the east right-of-way at a culvert that discharges into a wetland setting.

Please refer to the terrestrial invasive plants species distribution map in Appendix I.

Observances of New Non-Native Invasive Plant Species

APIPP has not documented any new non-native invasive species within or in proximity to the White Hill Unit.

Terrestrial Actions

Prior to implementing targeted containment and/or eradication controls, terrestrial invasive plant infestations occurring within the White Hill Wild Forest need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis. The geophysical setting and the presence, or absence, of sensitive native flora within or adjacent to the targeted infestation often predicts the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and limitations of the control methodology. Infestations occurring within specific jurisdictional settings may trigger a permitting process, as do most terrestrial infestations occurring within an aquatic setting. The species itself often dictates whether manual management controls, e.g. hand-pulling or cutting, or the judicious, surgical application of herbicides is warranted in order to best control that specific species in that exacting infestation and setting. No single BMP guarantees invasive plant containment or eradication. Many infestations require multiple, seasonal control efforts to reduce the density and biomass at that setting. Adaptive Management protocols suggest that implementation of integrated control methodologies may provide the best over-all efficacy at specific infestations.

Please refer to the APA Best Management Practices in Appendix J.

It is suggested that NYS DEC view all “easy to contain – low abundance” terrestrial infestations within the White Hill Unit as immediate targets for containment and/or eradication controls. Minimizing the spread of newly documented and immature infestations before they have the chance to become well-established should be considered a priority management action.

Aquatic Invasive Plant Inventory

A variety of monitoring programs collect information directly or indirectly about the distribution of aquatic invasive plants in the Adirondack Park including the NYS DEC, Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Paul Smiths College Watershed Institute, lake associations, and lake managers. In 2001, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) compiled existing information about the distribution of aquatic invasive plant species in the Adirondack Park and instituted a regional long-term volunteer monitoring program. APIPP trained volunteers in plant identification and reporting techniques to monitor Adirondack waters for the presence of aquatic invasive plant species. APIPP coordinates information exchange among all of the monitoring programs and maintains a database on the current documented distribution of aquatic invasive plants in the Adirondack Park.

Aquatic invasive plant species documented in the Adirondack Park are Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), Curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), European frog-bit (*Hydrocharus morsus-ranae*), and Yellow floating-heart (*Nymphoides peltata*). Species located in the Park that are monitored for potential invasibility include Variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), Southern Naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), and Brittle Naiad (*Najas minor*). Additional species of concern in New York State but not yet detected in the Park are Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), and Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*).

Infestations located within and in proximity to a unit may expand and spread to uninfected areas and threaten natural resources within a unit; therefore it is critical to identify infestations located both within and in proximity to a unit to identify high risk areas and prioritize Early Detection Rapid Response (ED/RR) and management efforts.

The White Hill planning area has several easily accessible water bodies. These waterbodies total over 8,700 acres of surface area. The Department maintains fishing and waterway access sites at Lake Ozonia and Clear Pond.

The chain of reservoirs on the Raquette River is very heavily used by boaters and anglers. There is at least one public boat launch at each of the five reservoirs near the Unit. Many informal launch sites exist where the road is close to the shore.

Aquatic invasive plants are primarily spread via human activities, therefore lakes with public access, and those connected to lakes with public access, are at higher risk of invasion. APIPP volunteers have not monitored any waters within the unit, and no aquatic invasive plant infestations are documented in the Unit to-date. APIPP volunteers monitored several in the periphery of the unit. The APIPP Park-wide volunteer monitoring program aims to maintain a long-term monitoring program on these and other lakes. All aquatic invasive species pose a risk

of spreading via transport mechanisms which may include seaplanes, motorized and non-motorized watercraft (canoes, kayaks, jet skies, motor boats etc.) and associated gear and accessories.

For species specific information regarding natural history, ecology, and reproduction, please refer to the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England program website

<http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/search.cfm>.

Aquatic Locations

Longitude and latitude coordinates are used to indicate a lake with a documented infestation. Infestations may range from an isolated population to a lake-wide invasion. Knowledge of locations and coordinates of specific infestations within the lake is limited and variable and will be provided as available.

No aquatic invasive plants are detected within the White Hill Unit. Monitoring and further study is recommended and will be conducted as funding and personnel dictates.

Eurasian water milfoil is confirmed in the following lakes in the adjacent Debar Mountain Wild Forest:

Meacham Lake	443349N 741713W
Indian Lake	444300N 740807W
Mountain View Lake	444156N 740733W
Deer River Flow	443928N 741913W
Horseshoe Pond	444013N 741726W
Lower Chateaugay Lake	445030N 740229W
Upper Chateaugay Lake	444434N 735748W

Aquatic Actions

No aquatic plant occurrences are documented within the White Hill Unit, therefore there are no management recommendations prescribed at this time. However, ongoing inventory is required to detect new invasive plant occurrences. All waters with public access should be inventoried for the presence of aquatic invasive plants, especially Lake Ozonia. If aquatic invasive plant infestations occur, rapid response should be implemented by hand-pulling plants via the guidelines set forth by the Adirondack Park Agency's "Advice on the Hand harvesting of Nuisance and Invasive Aquatic Plants." Additional methods may be required to manage an infestation to contain, reduce, or eradicate the population. Management will require assessing a set of criteria to evaluate site conditions to determine appropriate and permitted actions.

A rigorous educational campaign should be implemented to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species. When identified, all "easy to contain – low abundance" aquatic plant infestations should be considered as immediate targets for containment and eradication controls. Minimizing the spread of newly documented and immature infestations before they have the chance to become well-established should be considered a priority management action. Additional research and collaboration among partners and stakeholders should occur to develop an appropriate, effective, and approved prevention and integrated plant management plan.

Please see the Protect Your Waters website for complete information on prevention procedures for specific recreational users <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/>.

Information Needs

All management recommendations are based on knowledge of nonnative invasive species present in a unit and their location, species, abundance and density. A complete inventory of the unit is necessary to identify aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant threats facing the unit. Inventory should be based on existing inventories, formal or informal inventories during routine operations, and by soliciting help from volunteers to actively study the unit and report on invasive species presence, location, and condition.

Facilities and designated (and passive) activities within the unit may influence invasive plant species introduction, establishment, and distribution throughout and beyond the unit boundaries. The lack of control of ingress/egress, whether motorized or non-motorized traffic, of frequently utilized facilities warrants an elevated response to ED/RR inventory for invasive species. These facilities and activities are likely to serve as “hosts” for invasive plant establishment. Perpetual ED/RR protocols should be implemented for probable hosts of invasive plant introduction. These probable hosts include the following:

Public Day Use Areas
Parking Areas
Campgrounds
Boat Launches
Dedicated All-Terrain-Vehicle Trails
Dedicated Snowmobile Trails
Horse Trails

Protocols to minimize the introduction and transfer of invasive plant species should be incorporated during routine operations and historic and emergency maintenance activities, which may include the following:

Construction Projects

- Supplemental to the principals of the Minimum Tools Approach, all soils/straw/seed or sources of materials to be used as stabilization/cover for construction projects should be certified as weed-free.

Trail Maintenance

- Supplemental to the principals of the Minimum Tools Approach, all soils/straw/seed or sources of materials to be used as stabilization/cover for construction projects should be certified as weed-free.

Field Sampling

- Personnel performing field sampling should avoid transferring aquatic invasive species between waters by thoroughly inspecting and cleaning equipment between routine operations. Potential pathways include: vehicles, boats, motors, and trailers; sampling equipment; measuring and weighting devices; monitoring equipment; and miscellaneous accessories.

Angling Tournaments / Derbies

- Licensing, registration, and/or permitting information distributed by DEC to Tournament or Derby applicants should include guidelines to prevent the introduction and transport of invasive species.

Restoration of sites where invasive plant management occurs is critical to maintain or enhance historical ecological function and structure. Restoration should incorporate best available science to determine effective techniques and the use of appropriate native or non-invasive plant species for site restoration.

Educating natural resource managers, elected officials, and the public is essential to increase awareness about the threat of invasive species and ways to prevent their introduction and transport into or out of the Unit. Invasive species education should be incorporated in staff training and citizen licensing programs for hunting, fishing, and boating; through signage, brochures, and identification materials; and included in information centers, campgrounds, community workshops, and press releases.

An Overview of the New York Heritage Program

The New York Natural Heritage Program is a partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and The Nature Conservancy. Their mission is to enable and enhance conservation of rare animals, rare plants, and significant natural communities, maintaining a comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities. The following definitions apply to the **List of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Fish and Wildlife Species of New York State**.

Endangered- Any native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York State.

Threatened- Any native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in New York State.

Special Concern- Any native species for which a welfare concern or risk of endangerment has been documented in New York State.

The following definitions apply to the **New York State Rare Plant Status List**.

Endangered Species: listed species are those with:

- 1) 5 or fewer extant sites, or
- 2) fewer than 1,000 individuals, or
- 3) restricted to fewer than 4 U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute topographical maps, or
- 4) species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior as enumerated in Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11

Threatened Species: listed species are those with:

- 1) 6 to fewer than 20 extant sites, or
- 2) 1,000 to fewer than 3,000 individuals, or
- 3) restricted to not less than 4 or more than 7 U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute topographical maps, or
- 4) listed as threatened by the U.S. Department of Interior, as enumerated in Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11

Rare Species: listed species have:

- 1) 20 to 35 extant sites, or
- 2) 3,000 to 5,000 individuals statewide

Exploitably Vulnerable: listed species are likely to become threatened in the near future throughout all or a significant portion of their range within the state if causal factors continue unchecked.

Natural Heritage Occurrences in the White Hill Unit:

a. Plants:

Northern Gerardia (*Agalinis paupercula var borealis*)

Northern gerardia, which is listed as a “threatened” species, is the only Natural Heritage Plant occurrence within the boundaries of the White Hill Unit. This occurrence, however, is not located on either Forest Preserve or easement lands. Chances are that it may also be located on Forest Preserve or easement lands. The preferred habitat for this plant is moist meadows and bogs (ref: A field Guide to Wild Flowers by Petersen/McKenny), or in other words, wetlands. As no management actions are proposed in or near any wetlands in the White Hill Unit, the possibility of adversely effecting this plant is nearly non existent. Should northern gerardia be discovered on New York State property in the future, due care will be given to preserve this threatened resource.

b. Wildlife

Wildlife species that favor mature forests are likely to be more plentiful over time in this unit due to the limitations on tree removal on Forest Preserve. Easement lands will continue to have trees harvested providing more “open canopy” habitat types and early successional stages, so will provide some habitat diversity throughout the planning unit.

Field inventories for some wildlife species in this unit have been done. The Breeding Bird Atlas Survey (a statewide effort), completed during the years 1980-1985, documented the presence of 61 bird species (Appendix A) within the White Hill unit (See Breeding Bird Atlas Map in Appendix M). A new Atlas project, initiated in the year 2000 will provide additional breeding bird information. The statewide Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (1990-1998 data) confirmed the presence of 21 species (Appendix B). An analysis of habitats within the unit documents that the unit contains suitable habitat for 40 species of mammals (Appendix C). Big game, both deer and bear exist in the unit, and hunting seasons are set according to WMU 6F in the New York State hunting guide published annually. Calculated deer, bear, and furbearer harvest figures can be found in Section II-D-2. Harvest information is calculated from the overall

take figures of a wildlife management unit in consideration of the total area within the unit. Trapping regulations are also identified and set by WMU 6F. Deer yard areas are identified on a separate map in Appendix M.

Road and trail access to lands within the unit are available to hunters and wildlife observers. A variety of habitats exist for bird watchers and naturalists along public access roads. Wetlands, including bogs, provide some especially unique habitats often harboring less common species. Likewise, recreationists have remote and roadless tracts to view or hunt wildlife if desired.

Within this area the following species have been noted on the **List of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Fish and Wildlife Species of New York State**:

Threatened Species:

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is classified threatened in New York. The White Hill Unit features excellent bald eagle habitat, particularly along the Raquette River reservoirs. With fish making up the majority of the bald eagle diet, there is no shortage of prey for the eagles in this location. The shoreline and surrounding area are wooded. White pine (*Pinus strobus*) trees are abundant, including numerous super canopy pines. They are a commonly chosen nest tree species in the northeast, with eagles typically choosing one of the tallest in the area and locating the nest several feet down from the top, but with an excellent vantage from the nest. Bald eagle activity, (including both adult and immature eagles), has been observed in the area for a number of years. In 1990, a bald eagle nest was discovered in the Unit. The nest has been moved twice since then. The adults have been productive in all but two years since observation began in 1990. The site continues to be monitored by DEC Wildlife personnel. When nests are discovered, a 100-300 meter buffer may be established around the nest. This buffer zone may or may not be posted. A determination is based on attracting the least amount of attention to the nest while providing protection to the eagles. Bureau of Wildlife staff typically observe bald eagle nests by the means most appropriate for monitoring activity while causing the least amount of disturbance, at least once early in the nesting season. At this location monitoring can be done by helicopter, or by boat. Following a determination that the nest is active, a trip is made into the nest during the summer months to band the young eaglets and collect any unhatched eggs or prey remains for contaminate studies.

It is recommended that no white pine trees over 25" dbh be cut within ½ mile of the Raquette River corridor, as the super canopy white pines provide excellent nesting potential for bald eagles.

Special Concern Species:

Osprey

Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are a Species of Special Concern in New York State. Ospreys have been observed in the unit but no known nests have been found to date. If an osprey nest is discovered in the unit, appropriate actions will be taken to protect the site.

Common Loon

The common loon (*Gavia immer*) is a Species of Special Concern in New York State. The characteristics of being a predator at the top of the food chain and a long-lived species make loons susceptible to accumulation of environmental toxins. Thus, this species is often used by scientists as an ecological indicator of the health of the environment and water quality. In addition, the common loon has great public appeal, signifying remote, wild areas to people. Adirondack residents and visitors enjoy visiting waterbodies that have resident loons, particularly breeding loons, to experience the beauty and unique vocalizations of these charismatic birds.

Numerous natural and anthropogenic factors impact the breeding population of common loons in the Adirondack Park, including the birds on Blake reservoir in the White Hill Unit. Airborne contaminants, including mercury and “acid rain”, can cause the bioaccumulation of mercury, a neurotoxin, and a decreased food supply, which can potentially lead to decreased reproductive success. In addition, human disturbance (including motorboat, personal watercraft, seaplane, and paddler activity) can result in nest abandonment or direct injury to adult or juvenile birds. Shoreline use by campers, particularly on islands, has the potential to lead to the loss of nest site availability. Death of adult loons due to lead toxicity from the ingestion of lead fishing tackle accidentally lost by anglers has also been documented in New York State (Stone and Okoniewski, 2001). New York has since banned the use of lead sinkers. The effects of direct anthropogenic impacts, such as disturbance or shoreline use, on the breeding loons in the White Hill Unit is unknown.

Jefferson Salamander Complex

The Jefferson Salamander Complex (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum x laterale*) salamanders are early spring breeders of woodland ponds, ditches, etc. that range further north than any other salamander in eastern North America. This salamander commonly hybridizes with the Blue-spotted Salamander. Within this area, a bewildering array of colors and patterns may be exhibited by the hybrids and their parents, and certain identification to either species is extremely difficult. These salamanders are occasionally found (from spring to autumn) beneath stones or boards in moist conditions or during wet weather.

Significant Habitats (See Potential Deer and Spruce Grouse Habitats maps in the Appendix)

Deer Wintering Areas

A deer yard or deer wintering area is any piece of landscape where deer tend to concentrate during winter. Deer yards typically have features that provide thermal benefits and/or mobility advantages during periods of cold and deep snow. In the Adirondacks, deer yards are often associated with dense conifer cover which helps to reduce rapid snow accumulation, provides shelter from winds, and limits radiational cooling during the evening. South-facing slopes are also used by wintering deer, where lower snow accumulation and favorable sun exposure provide similar benefits. Better quality deer yards also have adjacent regenerating hardwood components that provide available woody browse during milder conditions.

In the Adirondacks, deer use the same yarding areas annually, although the precise boundaries change over time with succession. Deer use within yarding areas will also change annually in response to winter severity. The maintenance and protection of winter deer yards remains a concern of wildlife managers, particularly in the Adirondacks, as they fulfill a critical component of the seasonal habitat requirements of white-tailed deer.

Information provided by regional wildlife staff identified deer wintering areas that are wholly or partially contained within the planning area. The boundaries of these areas can change depending on winter weather and vegetative succession, so some of these areas may not hold deer every winter, and other areas may not have been identified as yet. (See Deer Wintering Yards Map in Appendix M)

A GIS model of potential deer wintering habitat based on forest type, elevation, and slope and was recently developed for the Adirondacks (J. Gagnon and S. McNulty, Adirondack Ecological Center, 2005). The GIS potential deer yard habitat model was applied to the WHWF and surrounding areas. Initial results suggest that most of the potential deer wintering habitat lies outside the wild forest boundaries, primarily on nearby private land. Deer selection of wintering areas is not completely understood. However, the identification of areas of potential wintering habitat in the unit, combined with the recent findings of Hurst (2004), suggest that the current sizes and locations of deer yards within the unit may not reflect historical deer yard boundaries delineated by the Department in the 1960s and 1970s. Therefore, planning for the protection of deer wintering areas relative to recreational activities in the unit should consider the dynamic nature of these areas rather than the static representation of historical boundaries, and seek to update our understanding of wintering areas currently used by deer. The model was developed for the central Adirondacks and may be inaccurate along the periphery of the Park.

Guidelines for Protection of Deer Wintering Areas

The maintenance and protection of deer wintering areas are important in maintaining deer in the northern portions of their range. Activities which substantially diminish the quality or characteristics of deer wintering areas should be avoided, but this does not mean human use is always detrimental. Forest stewardship activities (including softwood harvest), pass-through trails, and other uses can be compatible with deer yards if they are carefully considered (Hall, 1984).

The most important characteristic of an Adirondack deer yard is the habitat configuration making up a "core" and travel corridors to and from the core. The core is typically an area or a complex of areas of dense conifer cover used by deer in severe conditions. Travel corridors are dense but narrow components which allow access to food resources in milder conditions. Management conditions which afford protection of core sections and avoid fragmenting travel corridors are acceptable in many situations. Certain types of recreation trails, such as ski trails or snowmobile trails, particularly if the traffic is not prone to stopping or off-trail excursions, are not considered to have significant negative impacts on deer yards. These types of trails in or adjacent to deer wintering areas can provide firm, packed surfaces readily used by deer for travel during periods of deep snow. They can, however, also create access for free-roaming dogs if the location is close to human habitation; thus, trails should avoid deer yards in these situations. High levels of snowmobile or cross-country ski use can disturb deer and may cause them to run, placing higher energy demands on deer already stressed by winter. The following are some general guidelines to follow for protecting deer wintering areas.

- Maintain a minimum 100 foot forested buffer on either side of streams to protect winter habitat and travel corridors between core yard components.
- Avoid placement of ski trails through core segments of deer yards to reduce disturbance associated with skiers stopping to observe deer.
- Trails should not traverse core segments of deer yards in densely populated areas such as hamlets, villages, or along roadsides developed with human habitation because they provide access to free roaming dogs.

The Departments' Northern Zone deer biologist do not presently feel snowmobile activity has a significant adverse impact on deer populations. Care should be used in the planning of snowmobile trails in or adjacent to deer wintering areas. Increased human activity within the core of a yarding area can result in an increased energy demand to deer present in the immediate vicinity of the trail. During portions of the day when use is limited however, the same trail may also provide a firm, packed surface readily used by deer for travel between yard components during periods of deep snow.

Spruce Grouse Potential Habitat

In addition to deer wintering habitat, GIS models were also developed for potential spruce grouse habitat (APA/Suny Plattsburg, 2004). Although potential spruce grouse habitat was identified within the WHWF and on nearby private lands, no spruce grouse have actually been observed within the WHWF based upon BBA data. The spruce grouse model is important not only for this species, but theoretically the whole suite of boreal forest birds and other wildlife that use lowland spruce-fir habitats.

c. Fisheries

Aquatic resources within this unit consist of a mix of small ponds, impoundments, and large and small streams. Waters are split between the Raquette River and St. Lawrence - Canada watersheds as identified by the New York State Bureau of Fisheries. Historically, fishery resources in both of these watersheds have been heavily impacted by human disturbance and transport of alien species.

Aquatic communities within both watersheds were once characterized primarily as brook trout waters. Included within this community are brown bullheads, white suckers, and native minnows. Human activities that have had an impact on the aquatic community include timber harvesting, hydro power development, point source pollution, and indiscriminate stocking. Such stocking activities have added warmwater species including northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass and yellow perch to this region.

A total of 62 ponded waters lie within the planning area boundary with the majority of waters falling under private ownership. Seven of these however are actively managed for public use. Approximately 11 ponds, although located within the planning area, will be addressed in separate recreation plans dealing with the Champion Easement and the Santa Clara Tract.

Five ponds lie within White Hill Unit. Rock Pond and Little Rock Pond are not actively managed by the DEC. Historical information indicates that these waters are chemically unsuitable for brook trout survival. Although ALSC data from 1984 indicated the presence of brook trout in Little Rock Pond, poor overall water chemistry negates an active management policy. Regardless of the presence of trout in Little Rock Pond in 1984, both ponds are treated as having warmwater fish communities.

Clear Pond has been managed for brook trout since at least 1927 according to DEC files. Surveys by DEC demonstrated relatively stable brook trout production through 1974. Subsequent surveys indicated a decline in the trout population while golden shiner, pumpkinseed, white sucker and creek chub began to dominate the assemblage.

In 1988 the DEC reclaimed Clear Pond to reestablish brook trout as the primary fishery and remove competing species primarily golden shiners, white suckers, and pumpkinseed. While the removal of target species was incomplete, densities were reduced to a point where a trout fishery

has been reestablished. Current management requires annual stocking of 1000 brook trout fall fingerlings. Recent survey data (2002) indicates a healthy trout fishery currently exists. Although the current trout population is viable, it may be necessary to repeat the reclamation process in the future. Clear Pond sustains a healthy population of brook trout, and the pond's management is described in greater detail under the Management and Policy Fisheries Management Section.

Lilypad Pond and Long Pond, host healthy brook trout populations. The most recent surveys (2002) demonstrated typical trout pond communities with the additional presence of golden shiners in Long Pond. This is the first record of this species in the water body. Current management requires stocking of 500 and 900 brook trout fall fingerlings in Lilypad and Long Ponds respectively. Anecdotal reports from anglers suggest that quality fishing currently exists.

Three of the Raquette River Reservoirs lie either wholly or partially within the planning area. Historically the Raquette River flowed unimpeded through the area and was considered trout water. Productivity of Adirondack drainages is typically low and well suited to produce trout. Stocking of warmwater species in the headwater ponds in the late 1800's led to the eventual displacement of trout throughout this river reach (Bio Survey 1933).

Construction of impounding hydroelectric structures for Five Falls, Rainbow Falls and Blake Reservoirs was completed in 1955, 1956, and 1957 respectively. To date the most comprehensive assessment of the entire impoundment system was completed in 1995 by DEC (Gordon 1995). The assessment concluded that low fish productivity was a result of low fertility, low macroinvertebrate and macrophyte biomass, and high flush rates.

Within the hydroelectric system the mainstream flow is essentially piped to generating houses, leaving the original streambed essentially de-watered and of little or no value to aquatic organisms. Current FERC licensing agreements require year around instream flow at each reservoir for the purposes of spawning and forage production (Table I). Initiation of instream flow is contingent upon the actual license issuance from FERC.

All three reservoirs have warmwater fish communities consisting of smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch and white sucker. The fishery resource has remained relatively stable since the facilities have been in operation. Due to the relative stability of the system, new fishery surveys are not anticipated until three to four years post instream flows initiation. Management is by statewide regulation.

Outside of the Forest Preserve land and Niagara Mohawk Easement properties aquatic resources with public access are very limited. Lake Ozonia is the only other ponded water having public access which is addressed in this UMP. This lake historically held a trout based community which transitioned to a warmwater community prior to 1890 with the stocking of smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Due to the lakes physical characteristics it is managed as a Two-Story water capable of maintaining both cold and warmwater species. It currently receives 2500 each of splake and rainbow trout annually. A survey in July 2002 produced both splake and rainbow trout indicating adequate survival of stocked fish, as well as catches of numerous large yellow perch.

Stream resources within the unit are somewhat limited. Alder Meadow Brook historically could support brook trout up to tributary 1e (near Picketville Road). A current electrofishing survey at Picketville Road found habitat variables favorable to trout survival. A total of 10 brook trout

from 4-8 inches were captured at the sample location. The majority of waters lie within private ownership giving no access to the public for fishing.

Large streams within the unit are primarily the West Branch St. Regis and the St. Regis River. Due to the impounding of the Raquette River, it will not be addressed as a stream issue.

Within the unit many of the small tributaries are intermittent and likely too warm for trout survival in the summer months. The Biological Survey (1930) sampled Alder Meadow Brook and Dead Creek (SL-1-43). Dead Creek was found to be warm, intermittent, and not capable of maintaining a fishery. Observations in 2002 by DEC corroborate this earlier conclusion.

On the West Branch St. Regis River there is a 15 acre piece of public land adjacent to Sylvan Falls Road, which may provide public access to the West Branch St. Regis River. A current survey of this access and fishery assessment is pending.

Table I: Instream flow - Raquette River impoundments.

Name	Pond	Year Impoundment Completed	Instream Flow (IF) Commenced	Volume of IF (cfs)
Five Falls Reservoir	21A	1955	2003	50 - general 145 - sp walleye spawning*
Rainbow Falls Reservoir	22A	1956	2004	20 - year around
Blake Reservoir	29A	1957	2002	55 - general 120 - sp walleye spawning*

* Walleye spawning at Blake and Five Falls is defined below:

Walleye spawning season starts when the water temperature at South Colton reaches 4 degrees celsius for 4 consecutive days after March 15th of each year. Walleye spawning season ends 30 days after water temperature at South Colton reaches 10 degrees Celsius for 4 consecutive days. Temperature readings to determine the start and end of walleye spawning are taken in the tailrace of the South Colton impoundment.

White Hill Unit - Ponded Water Survey Data

Name	Pond	Wshd	File	County	USGS quad (7.5')	Mgmt. Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU*	Max Depth (ft)	Mean Depth (ft)
Blake Falls Reservoir	29A	R*	177	St. Law.	Stark	Warm-water	642.2	45.0	7.0
Clear Pond	91	SC*	304	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Adir. Brook Trout	35	23.0	11.0
Five Falls Reservoir	21A	R	161	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Warm-water	106.5	40.0	21.3
Lake Ozonia	165	SC	420	St. Law.	Sylvan Falls	Two-Story	404.7	58.4	20.0
Lilypad Pond	25	R	173	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Adir. Brook Trout	2.0	24.0	8.0
Little Rock Pond	27	R	175	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Other	10.1	12.0	5.0
Long Pond	28	R	176	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Adir. Brook Trout	4.2	20.0	11.0
Rainbow Falls Res.	22A	R	154	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Warm-water	739.1	44.9	7.2
Rock Pond	18	R	157	St. Law.	Rainbow Falls	Other	14.6	26.0	11.0

* NYSBSU - New York State Biological Survey Unit

* R - Raquette

* SC - St. Lawrence/Canada

White Hill Unit - Ponded Water Survey Data

Name	Pond	Wshd	Most Recent Chemical Survey				Most Recent Biological Survey			
			Date	Source	ANC (ueq/l)*	pH	Conductivity	Year	Source	Fish Species and Number Caught
Blake Falls Reservoir	29A	R	7/19/93	DEC	72.7	6.58	29.7	7/19/93	DEC	WE-1, SMB-3, YP-22, WS-2
Clear Pond	91	SC	7/8/02	DEC	pending			6/27/02	DEC	ST-18, GS-5, BHC-25, PKS-1
Five Falls Reservoir	21A	R	7/21/94	DEC	85.5	7.07	-	6/19/95	DEC	WE-1, SMB-14, PKS-27, WS-23, YP-39
Lake Ozonia	165	SC	7/14/92	DEC	205	7.33	-	7/15/02	DEC	SPK-11, RT-1, WS-23, SMB-8, YP-35
Lilypad Pond	25	R	7/8/02	DEC	pending			6/26/02	DEC	ST-13, BHC-35
Little Rock Pond	27	R	7/25/02	ALSC	86.1	6.75	25.7	10/5/84	ALSC	ST-2, CC-5, WS-12, PKS-17

Name	Pond	Wshd	Most Recent Chemical Survey				Most Recent Biological Survey			
Long Pond	28	R	7/8/02	DEC	pending			6/26/02	DEC	ST-7, WS-13, BHC-36, GS-8
Rainbow Falls Res.	22A	R	7/19/94	DEC	76.4	7.05		6/20/95	DEC	WE-1, SMB-38, WS-2, YP-46, RKB-11
Rock Pond	18	R	7/22/91	DEC	98.6	6.65	23.6	7/22/91	DEC	PKS-3

* ANC - Acid Neutrality Capacity *ueq/l - in mili equivalents per liter

* WE - Walleye, SMB - Small Mouth Bass, YP - Yellow Perch, WS - White Sucker, ST - Speckled (Brook) Trout, GS - Gold Shiner, BHC - Bullhead/Catfish, PKS - Pumpkinseed, SPK - Splake, RT - Rainbow Trout, CC - Creek Club, RKB - Rock Bass

3. Visual/Scenic Resource/Land Protection

a. Travel Corridor

The White Hill Road (southern portion referred to as Joe Indian Road) is the main highway passing through the unit. It provides a view of the typical Adirondack foothills landscape. The secondary town roads, gravel haul road and trails used for foot and snowmobile travel are located for the most part in low lying, dense forest with scenery that one would expect.

b. Observation Points

The only scenic vista is on the Niagra Mohawk Easement (Dead Creek Area) where all the vegetation that obscured the view has been removed. From this location one can see almost to Montreal.

c. Other Natural Areas

Much of the aesthetic appeal of this unit is water related. The unit's ponds and waters are described in the Natural Resources Section-Ponds in the White Hill Unit. Hiking around and boating on the unit's waters provide the public with a great opportunity to view the contrasts between the terrestrial and aquatic landscapes.

The hills in the unit are heavily wooded and do not provide the opportunity for scenic vistas due to the vegetation and rolling terrain.

4. Critical Habitat

There are no critical habitats listed by Natural Heritage that occur on the public lands in this unit. There are both plant and animal occurrences that are listed by Natural Heritage on the public lands in this unit; these are discussed in Section II-A-2 of this Unit Management Plan.

B. Man-Made Facilities (See 11" x 17" White Hill Unit Area Facilities Map in the Appendix)

1. Forest Preserve

<u>Boundary Lines</u> <u>Forest Preserve</u>	<u>Surveyed (Boundary clearly</u> <u>marked and signed)</u>	<u>Needs Survey (No evidence</u> <u>of boundary line)</u>
Main Parcel	25.50 miles	10 miles
Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site	0.25 miles	
Five Falls Parcel	1 miles	
Blake Falls Parcel	0 miles	1.50 miles
Whispering Pines Parcel	0 miles	5.90 miles
Stark Tailrace Parcel	0 miles	0.35 miles
Raquette Flats Parcel	0 miles	1.20 miles
West Boundary Parcel	0 miles	1.90 miles
Total	26.75	20.85 miles

Unclassified Lands

New York State Radio Tower Parcel	0.5 miles	
West Branch Parcel	0.4 miles	0.35 miles (estimated)
Total	0.9 miles	0.35 miles

a. Bridges

Number

Main Parcel (50') 1 (Clear Pond to Picketville Trail)

b. Designated Campsites

Number

Main Parcel 9 (Clear Pond)

c. Foot Trails

Number

Main Parcel 1 (Clear Pond to Gold Mine Road)
3.50 miles

d. Gates

Number

0

e. Parking Areas**Number**

Main Parcel

1 (Clear Pond)

Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site

1

f. Snowmobile Trails**Number**

Main Parcel

1 (Clear Pond to Picketville- 2.8 miles)

g. Trail Head Registers**Number**

1 (Clear Pond)

h. Privies**Number**

Main Parcel

1

Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site

1

i. Radio Towers**Number**

Radio Tower Parcel

1

200 foot high metal tower with aircraft warning lights, anchored with guy wires. On tower are two radio antennae's. 125 foot antennae is used by DEC Forest Protection and Fire Management and 200 foot antennae used by DEC law enforcement. Accessory facilities include a transmission line and chain link fence.

j. Radio Tower Building**Number**

Radio Tower Parcel

1

Within the building is the radio repeater

k. Waterway/Fishing Access Sites**Number**

Main Parcel

1 (at Clear Pond)

Lake Ozonia

1

l. Administrative Road**Number**

West Parcel Road - 1.0 miles

1

m. Qualified Abandoned Roads**Number**

Morgan Road - 1.3 miles

2

Picketville Rd. - about 4 miles

Boundary Lines

Needs Survey (No evidence of boundary line)

Gold Mine Parcel	0	11.50 miles
Peaked Hill Parcel	0	10.10 miles
Stark Tailrace Parcel	0	0.80 miles
Hungry Bay Parcel	0	1.25 miles

Preston Lot	0	8.20 miles
Total	0	31.85 miles

Number

1 (Gold Mine Rd)

Number

0

Number

Gold Mine Road to Lily Pad Pond 1 (0.75 miles)

Number

1 (Gold Mine Road)

Number

0

Number

Gold Mine Parcel 1 (Gold Mine Road/trail-6.3 miles)

f. Snowmobile Trails**Number**

Preston Lot

1 (Part of Corridor trail C8-1 mile)

g. Trail Head Registers**Number**

0

h. Roads**Number**

Gold Mine Parcel

2 (Gold Mine Road, Rainbow Road)

C. Past Influences

The archaeological inventory of the WHWF (Site file information provided by Charles Vandrei, 2006) reflects the known general characteristics of the area's history. Euro-American sites within the unit reflect land use prior to state acquisition. These include a number of farmstead sites and the remains of mining and logging operations. Archaeological sites are, simply put, any location where materials (artifacts, ecofacts) or modifications to the landscape reveal evidence of past human activity. This includes a wide range of resources ranging from precontact Native American camps and villages to Euro-American homesteads and industrial sites. Such sites can be entirely subsurface or can contain above ground remains such as foundation walls or earthwork features.

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

The quality of the site inventory information varies a great deal in all respects. Very little systematic archaeological survey has been undertaken in New York State and especially in the Adirondack region. Therefore all current inventories must be considered incomplete. Even fewer sites have been investigated to any degree that would permit their significance to be evaluated. Many reported site locations result from 19th century antiquarian information, artifact collector reports that have not been field verified. Often very little is known about the age, function or size of these sites. This means that reported site locations can be unreliable or be polygons that encompass a large area. Should a systematic archaeological inventory be undertaken at some point in the future it is very likely that additional resources will be identified. The results of these site file checks identified 6 sites within 2 miles of the unit boundary. The details concerning these five sites are summarized in the following table.

Table II - Known Archaeological/Historical Resources

Site Number NYSM ¹	Site Name	Description
A089-05-0036	Five Falls Hydroelectric Plant	Concrete dam, poured concrete powerhouse, steel penstock
A089-05-0037	Stark Hydroelectric Plant	Concrete dam, poured concrete powerhouse, steel penstock, cut channel canal
A089-24-0005	Blake Falls Hydroelectric Plant	Concrete dam, poured concrete powerhouse, steel penstock, cut channel canal
A089-24-0006	Rainbow Falls-Raquette Hydroelectric Plant	Concrete dam, poured concrete powerhouse, steel penstock
A089-24-0007	Colton Forge	No Info.
A089-24-0008 / NYSM 2752	Stark Foundation	Datable pipe bowl fragment (1790-1820). / Possible foundation remains.

¹ New York State Museum (NYSM)

1. Cultural

There are two known cultural points of interest that exist in the White Hill Unit. The first point is what is now known as Clear Pond. Back in the 1800's, when Parishville was first settled, what is now known as Clear Pond was called Roslyn Pond. A beautiful spot to this day, the pond attracted many different owners over the years who utilized the location as a summer resort camp. All traces of those very early landowners' dwellings have been obliterated by time. The last owner before New York State acquired the property was the Boys Scouts of America, who ran and maintained a summer camp for boys that included a main lodge, a mess hall and other small buildings. These were all demolished and removed shortly after New York State purchased the property. A few remnants of some of the building foundations are all that is visible currently. This was the one significant use for the property, as the rest of the acreage has always been unimproved woods.

The other cultural point of interest, located somewhere on the Gold Mine easement parcel, is the "Gold Mine." In 1921, one William Hayes bought a summer home on Clear Pond. Mr. Hayes, having experience in mining, recognized some geological formations in the area that reminded him of similar formations in the Canadian gold regions. He first opened mining operations for gold at a location near Wheeler Marsh, but this operation did not "pan" out, and was quickly abandoned. He then moved his equipment to another location, west of Dead Creek some distance off the White Hill Road, where he mined for gold for several years. Little if any gold was ever processed, and eventually the operation ceased and all of the equipment was moved to the Pierrepont iron mines. From that time forth, the ridge that he had located his mine on was called

Gold Mine Ridge, and today the access road that was been constructed by Niagara Mohawk on the easement property is called Gold Mine Road. No trace of the Gold Mine was detected during the inventory process for this UMP.

2. Historical

During the inventory process for this land unit, an old cellar hole was noted on the Gold Mine Parcel. Unlike many cellar holes, this particular location still has some of the remnants from the building's walls intact along the top of the cellar walls. These wall remnants are squared logs, which are dove tailed together at the corners. This represents a fine example of our forefathers construction skills. The site is a former owner's settlement, which was absorbed in the land acquisition process for the development of Rainbow reservoir. No facilities or improvements are proposed at or near the site.

D. Public Use

1. Land Resources

The amount of public use that occurs on the fee and easement lands in the White Hill Unit cannot be quantified at this time due to the fact that no studies concerning numbers of people and use have ever been attempted at this location. A trail head register at Clear Pond has been in place for a few years but use data is sparse since many people who visit the area do not sign in. Additional trail head registers will be proposed by the Department to begin to address this short coming in user data. The Department recognizes this issue exists both within the White Hill Unit and many of the adjoining Units, and as such, will make every effort to include the White Hill Unit in any new proposals that address quantifying people's use in the Adirondack Park.

Snowmobile use is one of the popular uses of this unit, though no record exists of the amount of use that occurs. There are five snowmobile routes that run through the unit, three on the Main Parcel, one on the Gold Mine Parcel, and one on the Preston Lot Parcel. The trail between Clear Pond and the Picketville Road is part of the OPRHP designated Corridor 8, as is the "Margaritaville Trail" on the Preston Lot. These trails appear to receive the heaviest use in the unit. Morgan Road and Picketville Road are designated as part of Secondary Trail 49, indicating lower use and maintenance levels. Both of these are on qualified abandoned town roads, so are not entirely under the control of DEC. The route on the Gold Mine parcel is also part of Secondary Trail 49 so is also not as heavily used. The trail between Clear Pond and the Picketville Road has some questions about ownership that are outlined in the issues section but at this time it is not expected to interfere with its corridor designation. These trails are maintained by the St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association.

Currently, bicycling is not prohibited on any WHWF trail or road. Occasional all terrain bicycle use has been observed. Some of this use may have been due to the published listing of the trail between Clear Pond and the Picketville Road in the Adirondack Park 1994 Mountain Bike Preliminary Trail and Route Listing guide.

There presently is one opportunity in the main parcel for the public to use a motorized boat in the White Hill Unit. At Clear Pond there is a Waterway Access site, allowing the hand launch of small boats, where motor size is not restricted.

Anecdotal public use information from Ranger LaBaff is all that exists at present time, and that information concerns only the Main Parcel, not the outlying Forest Preserve parcels. It appears

that the Main Parcel receives year-round use. In the spring, as soon as the seasonal Clear Pond Road is traversable, people begin to drive motor vehicles in to Clear Pond. Much of this early spring traffic is from sport fishermen fishing for brook trout in Clear Pond. Fishing is usually best in ponds like this just after the ice goes out, and this early influx of traffic reflects this fact. As the seasons progress and the temperatures and water warm up, less fisherman are observed, and camping use increases at the sites on Clear Pond. As usual in the Adirondacks, the available campsites are full on the holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day) and less so during the weekdays. Prolonged hot spells during the summer tend to draw people to Clear Pond, and fill up the available camping sites as well. The beginning of big game hunting season signals another smaller spike in usage, with some parties of individuals camping at Clear Pond for three days at a stretch. After significant snowfall, the designated snowmobile trails get plenty of through use, but little if any overnight camping occurs.

Public use on three of the most recent Forest Preserve acquisitions, the Blake Falls, Whispering Pines and Stark Tailrace Parcels, may prove to be one of the more difficult issues to address in managing the public use of lands in this unit. Prior to New York State ownership, these lands were owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, and the public was able to use this “public” land basically without rules or regulations. Many roads lead from the Joe Indian Road through the woods to the shoreline of the reservoirs, and generations of people have been driving cars, ATVs and camping trailers to what amounted to private sand beach settings on the shoreline. Use levels are not known, but have been high enough to significantly impact vegetation and the shoreline. These impacts are primarily located on Brookfield Power property, however, the sites are accessed by crossing Forest Preserve property where motor vehicle use may need to be reduced or restricted.

Public use of the Niagara Mohawk Easement parcels in the White Hill Unit has been linked most closely with the pursuits of hunting and fishing. The public has used the Gold Mine Road for both snowmobile and ATV travel since it was constructed. There is virtually no evidence to suggest that the public has used these woodland acres for camping. The public has certainly used the available roads to access the reservoirs. These lands have traditionally been open to the public to hunt and fish upon, and it is unlikely that the State’s acquisition of recreational rights on the property will alter the number of people who go there to hunt or fish. The Department’s proposed designation of the Gold Mine Road as a snowmobile, horse, and mountain bike trail may lead to some small increase in the public’s use of the acreage for purposes other than hunting and fishing. Please refer to Appendix G to reference specific Public Use rights.

Public use of the Preston Lot parcel appears to be very limited, with the exception of winter use by snowmobile traffic on the part of Corridor 8 Trail that crosses this easement. Woodlands like those on this parcel receive the most use during hunting seasons. As the hunting rights on this parcel have been retained by Lassiter Corporation until the end of the 2019 big game hunting season, this parcel currently receives little if any use by the public. Please refer to Appendix F to reference specific Public Use rights.

In the White Hill Unit, there are two trails that ATVs have used. One trail (the Clear Pond to Picketville Road trail) located in the Main Parcel is the trail/road leading westward from Clear Pond to the qualified abandoned section of the Picketville Road. It is not known who the legal owner of this “highway” is at this point in time (see Section IV-D-1). However, it is clear that no public or private entity has ever opened this route to public ATV use. The Department currently has that route posted closed to ATV use.

The second trail used by ATVs in the unit is known as the Gold Mine Trail, which is also a designated snowmobile route, located in its entirety on the Gold Mine Parcel. This trail is actually an existing gravel haul road that Niagara Mohawk has used for the hauling of forest products. ATVs have used this route since its construction, which occurred prior to New York State's purchase of the Conservation Easement from Niagara Mohawk. No public or private entity has ever officially opened this route to public ATV use.

2. Wildlife

Deer:

The Department does not maintain harvest statistics specific to State land holdings. Harvest statistics can be extrapolated from harvest records based on acreage figures for the entire town; the Department maintains its harvest statistics by Townships. The vast majority of the White Hill Unit is located in the Town of Parishville; 99% of the fee and easement property is within the town. The Town of Parishville covers 101.3 square miles of territory; the White Hill Unit covers 22.6 square miles in the Town of Parishville, representing 22.3% of the town acreage.

The Town of Parishville has two Wildlife Management Units (WMU) designated by Wildlife personnel, WMU 6C and WMU 6F. WMU 6C's land area represents 37% of the acreage in that town; WMU 6F's land area represents 63% of the acreage in that town. The entire White Hill Unit lies in WMU 6F. By calculation, 63% of 101.3 sq. miles is equal to 63.8 square miles, representing the land area in the Town of Parishville that is encompassed in WMU 6F. Of that 63.8 square miles in WMU 6F in the Town of Parishville, 22.6 square miles is contained in the public lands in the White Hill Unit. By mathematical extrapolation, this means that theoretically approximately 35% of the deer taken in WMU 6F in the Town of Parishville came from public lands in the White Hill Unit.

In the year 2001, 141 deer were reported taken in WMU 6F in the Town of Parishville; 35% of this take would translate to 49 deer taken on the White Hill Unit. WMU 6F has deer densities that are typically low, because of mature forest cover, high annual snowfall, short growing seasons and poor soil fertility. Regulations pertaining to the taking of deer are fairly restrictive with limited opportunities to harvest antlerless deer. Deer harvests over the last 20 years are relatively stable with drops in populations following mortality after severe winters and increases following mild winters. It would appear that the deer harvest trend is currently slightly on the increase.

There are no major concerns related to deer management in this area, as deer densities are stable, and natural factors, most particularly winter severity, regulate deer numbers to a greater degree than hunting. Hunting regulations for this area are thus formulated to limit the harvest of antlerless deer to avoid over harvest.

Bear:

The White Hill Unit is located firmly within the Adirondack bear range, with healthy populations found in the area. Annually, bear harvests fluctuate markedly in response to weather conditions, and the production of hard and soft mast for their food. In the 2001 season, the Adirondack range produced 523 bears, slightly higher than the 10 year average take of 515. In addition to harvest totals, DEC uses a variety of indices to measure bear populations. Taxidermists, technicians and biologists collect age and sex information from harvested bears and movement data from tagged bears. This information is used to help determine whether bear populations are increasing or decreasing, and if bears are expanding into previously unoccupied habitat. Based on this information, the bear population found within the White Hill Unit is considered to be stable.

Furbearers:

The Department maintains harvest statistics for furbearers (beaver, fisher, otter, bobcat, coyote) by town and county. Furbearer harvests fluctuate with market prices, due to weather conditions during open harvest seasons, and due to the normal variations in furbearer populations. In the Town of Parishville, there were 126 reported furbearers harvested in 2001. This figure is down somewhat from a nine year average of 186 furbearers per year, yet is well within the reported range which varied from 91 to a high of 405 furbearers taken annually over the nine year period.

Opportunities abound for the non-consumptive use of the wildlife resources in the White Hill Unit as well. Road and trail access in the area provide an easy means to observe wildlife. Likewise, recreationists have remote and roadless tracts to view wildlife, if desired.

Chronic Wasting Disease in White-tailed Deer:

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

In 2005, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) received confirmation of CWD from two captive white-tailed deer herds in Oneida County and subsequently detected the disease in 2 wild deer from Oneida County. Until recently, New York was the only state in the northeast with a confirmed CWD case in wild deer. However, CWD was recently detected in a wild deer in West Virginia.

The NYSDEC has established a containment area around the CWD-positive samples and will continue to monitor the wild deer herd in New York State. Thousands of deer have been tested since the deer in 2005 were determined positive for CWD and all have been determined to be negative. More information on CWD, New York's response to this disease, the latest results from ongoing sampling efforts, and current CWD regulations are available on the NYSDEC website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/currentcwd.html>

3. Fisheries

The public's use of the areas fisheries can only be described in general terms using anecdotal evidence as the sole source of information. No formal user surveys have ever been conducted in the White Hill Unit. The fact that the unit's waters continue to hold fish and attract the interest of fisherman would seem to indicate that the White Hill Unit's waters and fish populations are in reasonable shape.

Within the White Hill Wild Forest, public fishing focuses on fishing the ponds containing brook trout. Clear Pond receives the most fishing pressure due to its ease of motorized access and due to the fact that the public can launch a boat to fish there. Long Pond and Lilypad Pond receive less pressure due to their more remote locations and more difficult access.

Fishermen can pursue walleyed pike, northern pike, yellow perch and smallmouth bass on the Raquette River reservoirs located adjacent to all of the Forest Preserve parcels and the Niagara Mohawk Easements. Brookfield Power provides trailered boat launches on all of these reservoirs. A list of the fish species that inhabit the White Hill Unit is included in Appendix D.

4. Water Resources

Without a doubt, the main draw for public use in the White Hill Wild Forest are the five ponds that are located in the Main Parcel. Clear Pond is the main destination for much of the use in the area in that it is easily accessible by motor vehicle, has a population of brook trout, and is blessed with a firm sandy bottom on much of its shoreline. People can hand launch small boats and canoes here and enjoy the designated campsites as well. Clear Pond offers a unique Adirondack type camping experience, with the absence of the crowding found in similar settings elsewhere in the Adirondack Park. A relatively short (1 hour \pm) hike from Clear Pond can place a person on any of the other four ponds in the unit: Rock Pond, Little Rock Ponds and most notably Long Pond and Lilypad Pond. Rock and Little Rock Ponds have more marshy shorelines, whereas Long and Lilypad Ponds have higher, rocky shorelines with better camping choices. Both Long and Lilypad Ponds have good populations of brook trout, and all of these four ponds offer a more remote recreational experience.

The West Branch parcel, located on the shoreline of the West Branch of the St. Regis River, may offer public access to the river pending a much needed survey to determine if the town road ROW abuts the Forest Preserve parcel.

The reservoirs in the planning area, Five Falls, Rainbow, and Blake, are heavily used by the public for fishing and motor boat recreation. Public access is provided through boat launches on each reservoir maintained by Brookfield Power. There is also a campground on Blake reservoir that is managed by Brookfield Power, providing additional recreational opportunities and access to Blake Reservoir.

Alder Meadow Brook and Dead Creek both pass through the White Hill Unit, offering a stream setting for those fishermen in search of non-ponded brook trout.

E. Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, have important implications for the management of all public lands, including the White Hill Wild Forest. A detailed explanation of the ADA and its influence on management actions is provided in Section III-B-2.

In 1997, the DEC adopted policy CP-3, Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands under Jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation for People with Disabilities, that establishes guidelines for issuing Temporary Revocable Permits allowing qualified people with disabilities to use motor vehicles to gain access to designated routes on certain state lands.

Currently there are no universally accessible improvements or structures in the White Hill unit.

F. Relationship Between Public and Private Land

There are a variety of interconnecting land ownerships that exist both within the UMP boundary, and beyond the bounds of the White Hill Unit. All of the Forest Preserve and Easement tracts have boundaries in common with town roads, providing the public with a motor vehicle connection between parcels, so that there are no parcels in this unit (with the possible exception of the West Branch parcel) without public road access.

Given the fact that each and every parcel of fee or easement property included in this White Hill Unit is accessible by town roads, and the fact that, in all of the towns in the planning area (Colton, Parishville, and Hopkinton), most of the town roads are posted by the individual towns as being “open” for snowmobile and/or ATV traffic in addition to normal vehicular traffic, opportunities for, and issues with, motor vehicle use exist on every parcel. Direct access to any parcel by motor vehicle is available by simply pulling off on the shoulder of any of the adjacent town roads.

All of the town roads in the White Hill Unit are open for ATV use with a few exceptions (see Appendix E). There are 18 roads open to ATV use that either border Forest Preserve or Easement land or connect areas open for ATV and snowmobile use.

It is difficult, at best, to try to quantify and categorize ATV use on this unit. By its very nature, the White Hill Unit is fairly unique in that it is located on the peripheral edge of the Adirondack Park, squarely against the edge of the population of the Seaway Valley. There are many more residences and interconnecting town roads located along the edges of this unit than, for instance, along the borders of a unit located in the core High Peaks area of the Adirondacks. The individual towns have authorized public ATV and snowmobile use on most of the town roads that border and connect the various parcels of State ownership, granting ATV riders access to the very borders of the Forest Preserve. Please refer to Appendix E.

There are seven smaller parcels of Forest Preserve property that have no common boundaries with other New York State Forest Preserve lands or New York State Easement Lands. These tracts are:

- 1) The 1.21 acre Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site.
- 2) The 3.3 acre (unclassified) New York State Radio Tower Parcel.
- 3) The 15.3 acre (unclassified) West Branch Parcel.
- 4) The 35 acre Five Falls Parcel.
- 5) The 96 acre Blake Falls Parcel.
- 6) The 272 acre Whispering Pines Parcel.
- 7) The 11 acre Stark Tailrace Parcel.

Unlike the isolated parcels listed above, the 9,385 acre Main Parcel in the Town of Parishville has a common boundary with the Gold Mine (easement) parcel on its south side, and Niagara Mohawk Easement Property in the adjoining Colton (State Forest) Unit to the west. The West Boundary Parcel adjoins the 1,682 acre Niagara Mohawk Easement parcel in the Colton Unit on

its western boundary. The 2,227 acre Gold Mine Parcel to the south of the Main Parcel covers nearly all of the land between the Forest Preserve and the shoreline boundaries along the north shore of Rainbow Falls Reservoir, with the exception of one privately owned parcel, extending the public's recreational rights south beyond the Main Parcel. To the west of the Main Parcel, outside of the boundaries of this unit, lies the 1,682 acre Niagara Mohawk Easement. This Niagara Mohawk Easement bridges the gap between the Main Parcel and the 2,018 acre Reforestation Area known as St. Lawrence #20, the High Flats State Forest. This provides a key recreational link between two large State owned properties. The High Flats State Forest and the aforementioned Niagara Mohawk Easement are both part of the adjoining Colton (State Forest) Unit.

In the southwest corner of the White Hill Unit are Blake Falls, Whispering Pines and Stark Tailrace Parcels. Each of these parcels have boundaries along the edges of town roads, however, none of these parcels have common boundaries between them, or adjoining boundaries with any easement parcels.

There are a number of trails which connect various Forest Preserve and easement parcels, providing access both within and beyond the White Hill Unit. The one designated foot trail in the unit, the trail from Clear Pond to Lilypad Pond and the Gold Mine road, provides a link between the Main Parcel and the Gold Mine Parcel.

Snowmobile trails have been designated throughout the unit, crossing and linking various Wild Forest parcels with easement parcels, State Forests and private lands. Please refer to the Facilities Map to gain an understanding of the linkages provided by the various trails.

G. Capacity to Withstand Use

The WHWF cannot withstand ever-increasing, unlimited visitor use without suffering the eventual loss of its essential, natural character. The challenge for managers is to determine how much use and what type of use the area, or particular sites within it, can withstand before the impacts of use cause serious degradation of the resource or recreational experience. At suitable locations, the Department will undertake a visitor use survey. Plans to address over use, illegal use, or improper use are identified in Section IV-D-1.

The term carrying capacity has its roots in range and wildlife management sciences. As defined in the range management sciences, carrying capacity means "*the maximum number of animals that can be grazed on a land unit for a specific period of time without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources*" (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, 1994). This concept, in decades past, was modified to address recreational uses as well, although in its application to recreational use it has been shown to be significantly flawed when used to determine the maximum number of people allowed to visit an area such as the WHWF. After many years of study, basic research showed that there was no linear relationship between the amount of use and the resultant amount of impact (Krumpe and Stokes, 1993). For many types of activities, low levels of use can cause observable impacts. For example, in sensitive areas the elimination of ground vegetation at a campsite can become significant after only a few camping parties have occupied it. Once moderate use levels have removed nearly all the vegetation, large increases in use cause relatively little additional impact. It has been discovered that such factors as visitor behavior, site resistance and resiliency and type of use may actually be more important in determining the degree of impact than the amount of use, although the total amount of use contributes to a significant extent (Hammit and Cole, 1987).

The shortcomings of a simple carrying capacity approach have become so apparent that the basic question has changed from the old one, “How many is too many?” to the new, more realistic one: “How much change is acceptable?” Because of the complex relationship between use and use impacts, the manager’s job is much more involved than simply counting, redirecting, or restricting the number of visitors in an area. Professionally-informed judgements must be made so that carrying capacity is defined in terms of acceptable resource and social conditions. These conditions must be compared to real life situations, projections must be made, and management policies and actions must be drafted and enacted to maintain or restore the desired conditions. Shaping the types of use impacting an area can call not only for education and research, but also the formulation and enforcement of a set of regulations which some users are likely to regard as objectionable.

This strategy will help insure that in the WHWF, the “essentially wild character” contained in the APSLMP definition of wild forest will be retained. A central goal of this plan is to achieve an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use in the WHWF.

Planning Approach

The approach to the development of a unit management plan for the WHWF involves a combination of two generally accepted wilderness planning methods: (1) the goal-achievement framework; and (2) the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) model employed by the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies.

Goal-Achievement Framework

In wild forest areas, the Department is mandated by law to implement actions designed to realize the intent of the wild forest guidelines of the APSLMP. The goal-achievement framework will be used to organize this management plan to direct the process of determining appropriate management actions through the careful development of goals and objectives. Goals are general descriptions of management direction reflecting legal mandates and general conditions to be achieved or maintained in the WHWF area. Wild forest goals and principles, along with guidance for the future of the WHWF can be found in Section III-D-2 through 4. Objectives are statements of more specific conditions whose achievement will be necessary to assure progress toward the attainment of the established goals and principles. In each category of management activity included in Section IV of this plan, the current management situation is assessed and assumptions about future trends and conditions are discussed. Proposed management objectives describing conditions to be achieved are presented and individual actions to meet the objectives are proposed.

However, this approach does not identify specific thresholds of unacceptable impact on particular resources or give managers or the public clear guidance as to when a particular restrictive management action is warranted. For these issues, the LAC process will be used.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Process

The LAC process employs carrying capacity concepts to prescribe--not the total number of people who can visit an area--but the desired resource and social conditions that should be maintained regardless of use. Establishing and maintaining acceptable conditions depends on explicit management objectives which draw on managerial experience, research, inventory data, assessments, projections and public input. Indicators, measurable variables that reflect conditions, are chosen and standards, representing the bounds of acceptable conditions, are set, so management efforts can address unacceptable changes. The LAC process relies on monitoring to provide systematic and periodic feedback to managers.

Though generally the levels of human impact within the WHWF are relatively low, a number of management issues could be addressed by the LAC process. Such issues may be categorized as conflicts between public use and resource protection, conflicts between users, and conflicts between outside influences and the objectives for natural resource or social conditions within the unit. For instance, two goals of management are protecting natural conditions and providing public recreational access. Yet the promotion of recreational use could have unacceptable impacts to natural resources, such as the soils and vegetation in a popular camping area. The LAC process could be used to determine the thresholds of acceptable soil and vegetation impacts and what management actions would be taken to protect resources from camping use. LAC does not work in every situation. For example, managers do not need a process to help them determine how much illegal ATV use is acceptable; because existing wild forest guidelines and regulations strictly limit public motor vehicle use, all illegal motor vehicle use is unacceptable.

The LAC process involves 10 steps:

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

The application of the LAC process will require a substantial commitment of staff time and public involvement. The full implementation of LAC for each unit will occur over a period of years. Of the 10 steps of the LAC process, this plan implements steps 1, 2 and 3, which apply to all the resources and conditions of the unit. The application of steps 4, 5 and 6 to selected issues is proposed for the next five years.

As a part of step two of LAC, this UMP identifies significant management issues affecting the WHWF. From the list in Section III-F, issues suitable for the application of the LAC process will be selected. For these issues, the Department will implement the four major components of the LAC process:

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

Though LAC will not be fully implemented, this plan provides resource inventory information, sets goals founded on law, policy and the characteristics of the area, identifies management issues, and lays out proposed objectives and actions designed to meet management goals. Ultimately a monitoring system will be put in place, and management actions will be revised and refined over time in response to the results of periodic evaluation to assure that desired conditions will be attained or maintained.

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

Establishing and maintaining acceptable conditions depends on well-crafted management objectives which are explicit and which draw on managerial experience, research, inventory data, assessments and projections, public input, and common sense. When devised in this manner, objectives founded in the planning models essentially dictate how much change will be allowed (or encouraged) to occur and where, as well as how management will respond to changes. Indicators (measurable variables that reflect conditions) are chosen, and standards (representing the bounds of acceptable conditions) are set, all so that management efforts can be effective in addressing unacceptable changes. A particular standard may be chosen so as to act as a simple trigger for management action, or it may be chosen to act as a kind of boundary which - given certain assessments - allows for management action before conditions deteriorate to the point of no longer meeting the standard.

Even well-conceived and executed efforts can prove ineffective, but when this is the case, management responses must be adjusted. **Monitoring of resource and social conditions is absolutely critical.**

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

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

A prioritized list of indicators which will be used by the DEC for measuring and evaluating acceptable change on the White Hill Unit are:

1. Condition of vegetation in camping areas and riparian areas near lakes and streams;
2. Extent of soil erosion on trails and at campsites;
3. Noncompliant behavior;
4. Noise on trails and in campsites;
5. Conflicts between different user groups;
6. Diversity and distribution of plant and animal species;
7. Air and water quality;
8. Add other indicators as applicable

These indicators form the basis for the proposed management actions presented in Section IV. Each applicable resource area or facility type identified in Section IV will be assessed for its present condition, its desired future condition and how it will be measured. This approach will require flexibility, determination and patience. It may not be possible to complete all inventories and assessments called for by this strategy - and by the APSLMP - in this plan's five-year time frame. It will be important to show progress in achieving APSLMP goals and in gaining initial managerial experience and knowledge in applying this strategy to some carrying capacity

questions and issues. Knowledge gained as a result of the implementation of this first White Hill Unit management plan will be useful to: 1) revising and refining management actions if evaluation shows that desired conditions are not being attained or sustained; and 2) creating a foundation upon which this strategy can eventually be built into a fully-developed, science-based approach to protecting and managing the unique resources of the White Hill Unit.

1. Land Resources

Forest Preserve

Current Public use of the unit is generally associated with the few existing facilities that the Department has in place on the Main Parcel or occurs adjacent to the Blake Falls, Whispering Pines, and Stark Tailrace parcels. There is little indication that public use is expanding beyond the current campsites and trails; this is due in part to the aftermath of the Ice Storm of 1998. The Ice Storm damage in the largest block of fee land (the Main Parcel) was heavy to moderate, resulting in extensive crown loss from the prevailing cover of deciduous forest trees. Simply put, the ice storm broke and ripped both small and large limbs off most of the trees in the area, killing some trees and damaging the rest. This resulted in a dramatic increase in the amount of sunlight that now reaches the forest floor. In the years that have passed since the ice event, the sunlight has created an explosion of new growth, which is intertwined with the leftover dead slash from the storm itself. This new growth is comprised mainly of blackberry stems, creating a very thorny dense cover which obscures the hidden dead falls from view, making off trail travel difficult. Most folks are more than content to stick with the open trails and campsites for the time being.

The only land resource concerns that exist on the unit are those dealing with the designated campsites on Clear Pond, the re-routing of the Lilypad Pond Trail and with the wetland crossing on the trail between Clear Pond and the Picketville Road. The campsites on Clear Pond do not conform with the separation requirements specified in the APSLMP, though the conditions of the vegetation and soils in the campsites certainly are acceptable and there are no concerns with serious overuse impacts at this point in time (see map in Appendix M). Campsites will be monitored using the attached campsite monitoring system in Appendix H.

The problem wetland crossing on the Clear Pond to Picketville trail will be addressed. See the Management Issues, Needs, and Desires, 1. Clear Pond to Picketville Road/Trail section for details.

Easement Lands

On the Gold Mine Parcel, there is one section of the trail leading from the Gold Mine Road to Lilypad Pond that currently climbs over very steep ledges. The shallow soils that cover some of this rock ledge are eroding rapidly, and are a muddy quagmire during the rainy seasons in the spring and fall. The Department proposes to relocate this section of the trail to a location just to the east of the present location. There is an alternate route to the east of the present trail that would avoid the steep ledge rock section of the trail and is more suitable for foot travel.

2. Fish and Wildlife Resource:

There have been no studies in the White Hill Unit to identify present and projected levels of fish and wildlife use. The Department has received no inquiries, nor had any complaints lodged, nor had any comments taken from the initial Public Hearing for this UMP that would indicate any

concerns over the use of fish or wildlife. The only perceived concern from DEC's Fish and Wildlife staff is the question concerning pond reclamation for the brook trout fisheries that may, at some point in time, need to be reclaimed. The Department's Fisheries staff has monitored and will continue to monitor the fish populations in the White Hill Unit. When Fisheries surveys indicate an imbalance between the populations of brook trout and other less desirable species, a reclamation plan will be prepared for the pond.

Should funding become available, or if any research project come to the attention of the Department at this location, all efforts will be made to include the White Hill Unit as part of any studies pertaining to fish or wildlife uses.

3. Carrying Capacity Summary:

While additional information is needed about overall public use of the WHWF and the impacts of use on the area's physical and biological resources, as well as its social impacts, carrying capacity does not appear to be exceeded at this time, based on site conditions and lack of complaints from users regarding user conflicts. However, in order to identify baseline use and monitor conditions and users over time, a user survey will need to be conducted.

H. Education, Interpretation and Research

There are two research projects that are in progress on the White Hill Wild Forest Main Parcel. USDA Wildlife Services has live trapped raccoons near Clear Pond as part of an ongoing rabies study. SUNY-ESF also has a plot near Clear Pond where they are assessing forest disturbance created by the 1998 Ice Storm. This plot includes a 7x7 meter deer enclosure. Neither of these projects are completed, and when the results are published they will be included in the next update for this unit management plan. The Department encourages research opportunities on these lands. Should the opportunity arise to accommodate any study that will further the understanding of the natural resources in this unit, every effort will be made to accommodate and assist in the study.

I. Economic Impact

Besides its many recreational values, the White Hill Unit is an important economic asset for this area of the Adirondack region. Economic value is derived from users who spend money in the area when they visit, from the positive value the protected lands have on private land values locally, and from the tax payment that New York State government makes to local governments relative to the White Hill Unit land holdings.

Many recreational opportunities exist on the White Hill Unit. Hiking, camping, fishing and motorized use are popular pastimes. Some people spend considerable time and effort enjoying these state and easement lands. Many people will combine their trip to the White Hill Unit with visits to local shops and restaurants. This contribution they make to the local economy is partly due to the White Hill Unit.

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

Section 532-a of the Real Property Tax Law provides that “all wild or forest lands owned by the state within the forest preserve” are subject to taxation for all purposes. State government pays the same taxes on unimproved forest lands as private landowners. State government land holdings are assessed by local government assessors. NYS also pays taxes on the assessed value of the easements purchased by the State. The tax rate that is established by each local government jurisdiction is applied to the assessment and determines the taxes due on the parcels. This procedure is the same as for private forest landowners, and the property tax paid is comparable to rates paid on similar private land holdings.

The taxes paid on the New York State land holdings in the White Hill Unit, based on the 2002 Assessment Rolls, amounted to over \$171,000. Of this amount, approximately \$82,000 were paid for Town and County taxes, and \$89,000 were paid in School taxes.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Past Management

1. Land Management

Forest Preserve Parcels:

No overall management plan has previously been developed for the lands encompassed by this unit. Management actions were generally based on responding to potential impacts such as fire, and to the needs and desires of past users. Public use management of the original tracts began with the first acquisition in 1919, and thereafter consisted of the gradual establishment of boundary lines and a long period of custodial management.

The 1985 acquisition of Clear Pond and its surrounding land from the St. Lawrence Boy Scout Council signaled the very first movement towards establishing infrastructure for public use on the Main Parcel. Within a year of acquiring this parcel, all of the Boy Scout buildings were removed, a waterway access site for the pond was developed, and 9 designated campsites were established for public use on the shores of Clear Pond. The towns of Hopkinton and Parishville continue to maintain the Clear Pond Road off the White Hill Road, providing vehicular access nearly to the shore of Clear Pond. Clear Pond has continued to be the primary attraction for public use in the Main Parcel. Existing foot trails from Clear to Lilypad Pond, created by the Boy Scout Council, were designated with DEC trail markers. Little has changed in the Main Parcel since that flurry of activity in 1985 as no new improvements have occurred.

Stewardship Agreements

Under the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Policy, DEC enters into stewardship agreements with organizations and individuals. Such agreements are authorized by Section 9-0113 of the Environmental Conservation Law for the purpose of preserving, maintaining or enhancing a State-owned natural resource or portion thereof in accordance with the policies of the Department. A stewardship agreement is for a period of up to five years.

Under an existing Adopt-A-Natural Resource (AANR) stewardship agreement, one snowmobile group (St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association) performs maintenance on selected trails in the unit. Inventory information from a 2002 report indicates that area trails are groomed by a farm type tractor with 7.5 foot drag or Tucker tracked groomer with 7.5 foot drag.

Easement Parcels:

None of the easement parcels encompassed by this unit, by virtue of their recent acquisition, have had any past Departmental management other than signing some boundaries. The AANR with the St Lawrence County Snowmobile Association does cover snowmobile trails on the easements.

2. Wildlife Management**Forest Preserve and Easement:**

Hunting and trapping seasons for WMU 6F have been the historical tool to manage wildlife. Eagle nests have been monitored in the unit and appropriate measures have been issued to preclude human interference during the nesting season. Eaglets are banded and egg or food remains are collected as needed for contaminate studies.

3. Fisheries Management**Forest Preserve:**

Please refer to the Fisheries Section in Section II-A-2 of this Plan, which has a detailed description of past Fisheries Management.

Easement Parcels:

None of the easement parcels encompassed by this unit, by virtue of their recent acquisition, have had any past Departmental management.

B. Management Guidelines1. Guiding Documents**Forest Preserve:**

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

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

The APSLMP provides guidance for the use and management of lands which it classifies as “Wild Forest” by establishing basic guidelines. Some of these guidelines are quoted below (For complete list see APSLMP, pages 32-38.)

Wild Forest

Definition: “A wild forest area is an area where the resources permit a somewhat higher degree of human use than in wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, while retaining an essentially wild character. A wild forest area is further defined as an area that frequently lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness, primitive or canoe areas and that permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation.” (APSLMP, p. 32)

Guidelines for Management and Use: “Those area classified as wild forest are generally less fragile, ecologically, than the wilderness and primitive areas. Because the resources of these areas can withstand more human impact, these areas should accommodate much of the future use of the Adirondack forest preserve. The scenic attributes and the variety of uses to which these areas lend themselves provide a challenge to the recreation planner. Within constitutional constraints, those types of outdoor recreation that afford enjoyment without destroying the wild forest character or natural resource quality should be encouraged. Many of these areas are under-utilized.”(APSLMP, p.32)

Recreational use and overuse:

“1. All types of recreational uses considered appropriate for wilderness areas are compatible with wild forest and, in addition, snowmobiling, motorboating and travel by jeep or other motor vehicles on a limited and regulated basis that will not materially increase motorized uses that conformed to the APSLMP at the time of its adoption in 1972 and will not adversely affect the essentially wild character of the land are permitted.

2. Certain wild forest areas offer better opportunities for a more extensive horse trail system than in wilderness, primitive or canoe areas and horse trails and associated facilities in these areas would be provided where appropriate.

3. Although the nature of most wild forest areas indicates that potential recreational overuse will not be as serious as in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas, care must nonetheless be taken to avoid overuse, and the basic wilderness guidelines in this respect apply also to wild forest lands. The relatively greater intensity of use allowed by the wild forest guidelines should not be interpreted as permitting or encouraging unlimited or unrestrained use of wild forest areas.”(APSLMP, p. 37-38)

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

- Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve (CP-17).
- Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands Under the Jurisdiction of DEC for People with Disabilities (CP-3).
- Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-91-2; NR-95-1).
- Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Land (O&D #84-06).
- Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve (LF-91-2).
- Snowmobile Trails - Forest Preserve (ONR-2).
- Division Regulatory Policy (LF-90-2).
- Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ONR-1).
- Policies and Procedures Manual Title 8400 - Public Land Management.
- Forest Preserve Roads (CP-38)

DEC is currently developing policies for ATV Access on Public Lands and Forest Preserve roads. For more information on the proposed ATV policy refer to:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/publands/atv.html>.

Guidance and Clarification Documents:

- Interim Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Construction and Maintenance - 11/1/2000
- Clarification of Practice Regarding Motor Vehicle Use for Snowmobile Trail Grooming, Maintenance and Construction - 11/1/2000

- Guidelines for Motor Vehicle Use Proposals in Wild Forest UMPs Memorandum - 7/25/2001
- Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park - 11/12/2006

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

Easement Parcels:

All management of easement lands will be done in accordance with the easement agreements in Appendix F (Lassiter Easement) and Appendix G (Niagara Mohawk Easement) which are part of the deeds of record.

Management and administration of easement lands also is guided by DEC policies, some specific to easements and some which apply generally to state lands.

- The Administration of Conservation Easements (NR-90-1).
- Acquisition of Conservation Easements (NR-86-3).
- Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands Under the Jurisdiction of DEC for People with Disabilities (CP-3).
- Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-91-2; NR-95-1).
- Division Regulatory Policy (LF-90-2).
- Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ONR-1).

Historic and Archaeological Site Protection:

The historic and archaeological sites located within the unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6 NYCRR § 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of the Education Law. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of the ECL and Section 233 of the Education Law. In some cases additional protection may be afforded these resources by the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

2. Application of Guidelines and Standards

a. Project Development

All projects will be developed in accordance with the above mentioned laws, rules, regulations and policies and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

General:

- Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
- Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;

- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Avoiding areas where habitats of Threatened and Endangered species are known to exist;
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

Lean-tos:

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

Parking Lots:

- Locating parking lots to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating parking lots away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Locating parking lots on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
- Locating parking lots in areas that require a minimum amount of tree cutting;
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;
- Limiting the size of the parking lot to the minimum necessary to address the intended use.

Trails:

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

Bridges:

- Minimizing channel changes and the amount of cut or fill needed;
- Limiting construction activities in the water to periods of low or normal flow;
- Minimizing the use of equipment in the stream;
- Installing bridges at right angles to the stream channel;
- Constructing bridges to blend into the natural surroundings;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Stabilizing bridge approaches with aggregate or other suitable material;
- Using soil stabilization practices on exposed soil around bridges immediately after construction;

- Designing, constructing and maintaining bridges to avoid disrupting the migration or movement of fish and other aquatic life;

Mountain Bike Trails:

- Look for and identify control points (e.g. wetlands, rocks, outcrops, scenic vistas);
- Avoid sensitive areas; wetlands and wherever water collects. Keep trails below 2,500 feet;
- Use existing roadways where possible that do not exceed grades of 10%;
- Clear new trails to a maximum width of 4 feet to establish a single track route;
- Keep tread width less than 18" along a rolling grade;
- Remove vegetation at the root level; not at ground level;
- Keep routes close to the contour and avoid fall lines where water is likely to flow downhill;
- Minimize cuts and fills as much as possible on side slopes, following the contour, cut full benches to construct the tread. Out sloping in this manner helps to remove water from the trail. Vegetate back slopes;
- Build flow into the trail with open and flowing designs with broad sweeping turns;
- Streams should be crossed at 90 degree angles preferably across rock or gravel;
- Bridges may be used where steep banks prevent normal stream crossings;
- Do not construct skid berms or extensive banked turns that may accelerate erosion;
- Avoid acute, sharp angle turns;
- Allow short changes in grade to avoid obstacles;
- Design grade dips to break up long, straight linear sections, and to help divert runoff from the tread;
- Monitor and inspect all trails annually. Address water problems immediately.

b. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Its Influence on Management Actions for Recreation and Related Facilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA applies to the Department and requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to its services and programs, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden to the Department. Since recreation is an acknowledged public accommodation program of the Department, and there are services and activities associated with that program, the Department has the mandated obligation to comply with the ADA, Title II and ADA Accessibility Guidelines, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA requires a public entity to thoroughly examine each of its programs and services to determine the level of accessibility provided. The examination involves the identification of all existing programs and services and an assessment to determine the degree of accessibility

provided to each. The assessment includes the use of the standards established by Federal Department of Justice Rule as delineated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG, either adopted or proposed) and/or the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, as appropriate. The development of an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit was conducted during the UMP process. The assessment established the need for new or upgraded facilities or assets necessary to meet ADA mandates, in compliance with the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Master Plan. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible. New facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the "Proposed Management Recommendations" section.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

The ADA requires public agencies to employ specific guidelines which ensure that buildings, facilities, programs and vehicles as addressed by the ADA are accessible in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has issued the ADAAG for this purpose. The Department of Justice Rule provides authority to these guidelines.

Currently adopted ADAAG address the built environment: buildings, ramps, sidewalks, rooms within buildings, etc. The Access Board has proposed guidelines to expand ADAAG to cover outdoor developed facilities: trails, camp grounds, picnic areas and beaches. The proposed ADAAG is contained in the September, 1999 Final Report of the Regulatory Negotiation Committee for Outdoor Developed Areas.

ADAAG apply to newly constructed structures and facilities and alterations to existing structures and facilities. Further, it applies to fixed structures or facilities, i.e., those that are attached to the earth or another structure that is attached to the earth. Therefore, when the Department is planning the construction of new recreational facilities, assets that support recreational facilities, or is considering an alteration of existing recreational facilities or the assets supporting them, it must also consider providing access to the facilities or elements for people with disabilities. The standards which exist in ADAAG or are contained in the proposed ADAAG also provide guidance to achieve modifications to trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, campsites and beaches in order to obtain programmatic compliance with the ADA.

ADAAG Application

Current and proposed ADAAG will be used in assessing existing facilities or assets to determine compliance to accessibility standards. ADAAG is not intended or designed for this purpose, but using it to establish accessibility levels lends credibility to the assessment result. Management recommendations in each UMP will be proposed in accordance with the ADAAG for the built environment, the proposed ADAAG for outdoor developed areas, the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, and other appropriate guiding documents. Until such time as the proposed ADAAG becomes an adopted rule of the Department of Justice, the Department is required to use the best information available to comply with the ADA; this information includes, among other things, the proposed guidelines.

c. Fisheries Projects

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

All pond reclamation projects will be undertaken in compliance with the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife, dated June 1980 and the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Undesirable Fish Removal by the Use of Pesticides Under Permit Issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Pesticides Management, dated March 1981.

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

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

d. Adirondack ATV Guidelines

The Department does not offer the public an “ATV riding” program in the Adirondack Park, although, ATVs are one of several possible means which the public may utilize to access Department programs (e.g., hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking). In developing Unit Management Plans for units classified as Wild Forest by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (“Master Plan”), the Department may open a road to ATVs, or allow a road to remain open to ATVs, only if the purpose of the opening is to provide access to Department programs, and only if the requirements of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Wild Forest guidelines, Department rules and regulations, relevant Vehicle and Traffic Law provisions, and other policy criteria have been satisfied.

Master Plan ATV guidelines

At Pages 17-18, the Master Plan (APSLMP, 2001) defines “motor vehicle” in relevant part as “a device for transporting people, supplies or material, incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and with wheels . . . for traveling on or adjacent to land and water or through water” and specifies that the term includes all-terrain vehicles.

The Master Plan defines “All Terrain Vehicle” on page 16 as “a motor vehicle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails,” including “jeeps or other four wheel drive automobiles, dirt or trail bikes and all forms of ATVs, ATCs, and ORVs,” but excluding snowmobiles. Thus, for purposes of the Master Plan, an ATV is a “motor vehicle.”

The Master Plan defines “road” on pages 18-19 as “an improved or partially improved way designed for travel by automobiles and which may also be used by other types of motor vehicles except snowmobiles, unless the way is a designated snowmobile trail, and is either
“(i) maintained by a state agency or a local government and open to the general public;
(ii) maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also

be open to the general public for all or a segment thereof; or (iii) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation or other state agency and open to the public on a discretionary basis.”

The Master Plan provides at page 33, in Basic Guideline 4 for units classified as Wild Forest that “public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will not be any material increase in the mileage of roads . . . open to motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the Master Plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972.”

The Master Plan, on page 34 in Guideline 2 for “Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft,” provides further instruction on the public use of motor vehicles in Wild Forest units. This Guideline allows the use of motor vehicles by the general public, subject to the “no material increase” provision cited above, but only on existing public roads and Department of Environmental Conservation roads designated as open for public use by motor vehicles by the Department of Environmental Conservation. This Guideline also limits the public use of ATVs to “existing public roads or Department of Environmental Conservation roads open to such vehicles.”

Thus, the Master Plan authorizes the use of ATVs in the Forest Preserve in areas classified as Wild Forest only on roads that are open for public motor vehicle use. Simply, ATV use is not allowed in Wild Forest units on foot, snowmobile or horse trails, or in areas without trails.

Department Regulations. 6 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (“NYCRR”) Part 196 implements the Master Plan provisions on motor vehicle use in the Adirondack Park. Pursuant to 6 NYCRR §196.1, the operation of motorized vehicles is allowed only on roads.

The Vehicle and Traffic Law. V&TL §2405(1) sets forth the requirements which municipalities and state agencies must follow in order to open highways to ATVs:

“ . . . any . . . governmental agency with respect to highways . . . under its jurisdiction may designate and post any such public highway or portion thereof as open for travel by ATVs when in the determination of the governmental agency concerned, it is otherwise impossible for ATVs to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway. Such designations by a state agency shall be by rule or regulation, and such designations by any municipality other than a state agency shall be by local law or ordinance.”

V&TL §118 defines “highway” as “the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.” Thus, a road, as defined in the Master Plan, is a “highway,” as defined in the Vehicle and Traffic Law, if the road is open to public vehicular traffic.

V&TL §2405(1) requires that state agencies and municipalities which open highways to ATVs must first determine that “it is otherwise impossible for ATVs to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway.” Implicit in this provision is a requirement that such adjacent areas or trails must be legally opened to ATV use.

Three recent State Supreme Court decisions have interpreted the “otherwise impossible to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway” requirement in V&TL § 2405(1). See, e.g., Santagate v. County of Franklin, Supreme Court, Franklin County, Index No. 99-23, January 28, 1999, Decision and Order; Brown v. Town of Pitcairn, Supreme Court, St. Lawrence County,

Index No. 113023, March 13, 2003; and Brown v. Town of Pitcairn, Supreme Court, St. Lawrence County, Index No. 114295, August 19, 2003. These three decisions have each held that, in order to satisfy the “otherwise impossible to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway” requirement, a municipality must make a specific finding that the purpose of opening a road is to provide ATVs with access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway which are otherwise impossible to access. The decisions in these cases, although involving municipal local laws or ordinances, are applicable to State agencies because State agencies, like municipalities, are charged by the statute with making the “otherwise impossible to gain access to areas or trails adjacent to the highway” finding.

In summary, the APSLMP, V&T law, and the easement agreements together yield the following direction and guidance for lands classified as Wild Forest:

- There is limited opportunity for continued public motor vehicle use on forest preserve lands, only on existing roads;
- Since the APSLMP does not provide for use of ATVs on trails or areas, and V&TL §2405(1) does not allow ATV use on public highways except to provide access to areas or trails open to ATV use, they essentially prohibit the Department from allowing the public use of ATVs in Wild Forest Areas. However, unique situations may arise where roads could be legally opened to ATVs in Wild Forest Areas. For example, a forest preserve road open to public motor vehicle use that adjoins two areas (such as easement lands) that are open to ATV use could legally be opened to public ATV use, when it is otherwise impossible for ATVs to access the areas on easement lands that are open to ATVs;
- ATV use may be allowed on private roads on easement lands, if such roads are not concurrently open for other public motor vehicle use, or on portions of roads open to the public on easement lands in order to provide connections between areas or trails on easement lands open for ATV use provided such roads have been opened in compliance with the “otherwise impossible to gain access” and procedural requirements of V&TL §2405(1).
- ATV trails may be established on easement lands per the terms of the easements.

Other policy considerations. In determining whether to allow public ATV use on a particular route, the Department will also be guided by the paramount concern of natural resource protection. Thus, such determinations will also be guided by such considerations as: whether the route can withstand and be maintained for ATV use; whether the area has historically been subject to ATV abuse; whether ATV trespass on neighboring private lands is a concern; whether the route passes through areas with wetlands, steep slopes, or other sensitive areas which have historically attracted ATV abuse; and whether ATV use is likely to create user group conflicts.

Disabled ATV access. Notwithstanding the Master Plan requirements set forth above, limited access to programs by persons with disabilities in Wild Forest units may be allowed to provide program access, provided such access does not alter the fundamental nature of the programs offered by the Department to the public. The Master Plan, at pages 10-11, notes that UMPs should include management objectives which address, on a site-specific basis as may be pertinent to the area, “the identification, in . . . appropriate portions of wild forest areas accessible by motor vehicles, of measures that can be taken to improve access to and enjoyment of these lands, and associated structures and improvements, by the physically handicapped.” Accordingly, roads

which are otherwise closed to public motor vehicle use may be opened to persons with qualifying disabilities on a permit basis under Commissioner Policy 3 through the unit management planning process.

Evaluation Criteria. If it is determined that a particular road is needed to access Department programs by people with qualifying disabilities to Department programs in the Unit, then a road that is otherwise closed to public motor vehicle use may be opened through the unit management planning process solely to ATV access to persons with disabilities who have CP-3 permits.

C. Administration

Several programs within the Environmental Conservation Department share responsibility for the administration of the White Hill Unit.

The Division of Lands and Forests manages Forest Preserve and easement lands. This Division also acquires, maintains and promotes responsible use of public lands.

The Division of Operations is responsible for designing, building and maintaining Department facilities. This unit operates Department campgrounds and maintains facilities such as roads, trails, lean-tos and parking lots.

The Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources protects and manages fish and wildlife species. It also protects and manages habitat and provides for public fishing, hunting and trapping opportunities.

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

The Division of Law Enforcement enforces Environmental Conservation Laws relating to hunting fishing and trapping; endangered species; possession, transportation and sale of fish and wildlife; and laws relative to environmental quality such as pollution.

The Division of Public Affairs and Education is the public communication link to the public. It promotes citizen participation in the UMP process.

The Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management is responsible for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the State's forest resources and the safety of the public using the State's resources. Forest Rangers are the stewards of the State lands and are responsible for fire control and search/rescue functions.

D. Management Issues, Needs and Desires

Input on management issues, needs and desires has been obtained from the public by way of an Open House, held on March 21, 2002 at the Parishville-Hopkinton School, by mail, e-mail and personal contacts. The following list of issues, needs and desires were developed based on input from the public and DEC staff.

1. Clear Pond to Picketville Road Trail

a. Description of Issue

The ownership status of this particular route, and the issue of whether ATV use should or should not be allowed there, are the most significant issues identified for this unit, going back to the public scoping session held in Parishville on March 21st of 2002.

There has been a great deal of confusion and/or misinformation concerning the ownership issue that needs clarification. In addition, there is a strong desire of many users for allowing ATV use on this route to continue, and a strong preference from still other users and interests to deny ATV use of the route. Other uses of the trail have not been contested, for the most part. Outlined below is what we know about past and current use of the trail as well as the legal records that may shed light on ownership and allowable uses.

A description of past and current use of the route in question follows.

1. This route runs through the heart of the main White Hill WF parcel.
2. Use of ATVs and snowmobiles has occurred here for as long as such vehicles have existed, although it has never been designated as open to public ATV use by any entity with possible jurisdiction over the road.
3. This route has been a designated public snowmobile trail for many years; it is identified in a 1974 version of the “Snowmobile Trails in New York State” guide published by DEC.
4. TRPs (Temporary Revocable Permits) have been issued by the Department over the years to allow people to clear brush and blowdowns to maintain the route as a snowmobile trail.
5. Nuisance Beaver Permits (Article 11, Article 15 & 24 general permits attached) have been issued for sites on this trail.
6. This route runs between a seasonal, dead end town road (the Clear Pond Road, where ATV use is allowed by the town of Hopkinton) to a qualified abandoned town road (the Picketville Road, where ATV use is allowed by the town of Parishville).

A description of the physical condition of the route:

1. This route runs mainly on fairly high and dry ground (90% of trail)
2. There are some places on the trail that are not well drained and display typical mud and rutting problems from ATV traffic (9% of trail).
3. There is one location where the trail crosses a major wetland (near the outlet of Rock Pond) that is badly torn up by ATV use and in need of immediate remediation (1% of trail).

Research findings related to Town ownership of the route are as follows:

The Town of Parishville, as with most small rural towns, has sketchy records concerning their town roads in that:

- a. They have no records that show the existence and/or closure/abandonment of this route.
- b. The Town of Parishville does not maintain this route.
- c. This route does appear on the Blankman Map of St. Lawrence County, and appears on the old 1921 USGS Quad sheet as well. The January 1935 Highway

Survey Committee of the State of New York shows this route as a trail, not a road.

Deed references identified concerning the road in question are as follows:

In one of the original deeds of acquisition for the White Hill Wild Forest, recorded 4/17/19 from Fred L. Dewey to The People of the State of New York, the following exception is written on page 591, Liber 194A-588...

“Excepting from the Clear Pond Tract situated in the township of Wick, and described above, a certain highway leading from Parishville and Wick to South Colton and running from the Easterly line of said tract westerly across said Sections four and three in an irregular course to and into Section Two, and South westerly, Southerly, and South Easterly through Section Two and crossing said Section Three Very Near its Southwesterly corner, the center line of such highway being described as follows:”

A full page of bearings and distances (the distances totaling 2.8 miles) was then described, followed by this text:

“Said highway is fifty feet wide and is as shown on a Map or blue print furnished by the Conservation Commission showing the land hereby conveyed, the Clear Pond Reservation and highway, and to be filed in the St. Lawrence County Clerk’s Office, and estimated to include seventeen acres of land. The fee of said highway is not conveyed hereby, but the rights of the public to use and cross and re-cross said highway in common with the owners and to improve and maintain the same as a public highway is hereby conveyed.”

The Conservation Commission Map of 1919 (on file at DEC, Watertown) clearly shows:

1. A highway that runs westerly from Clear Pond towards the Picketville Road, as described above.
2. The above described highway very closely coincides with the current trail.
3. The current trail was GPS located as part of the unit’s inventory process, and when plotted, it matches the 1919 Conservation Commission Map for the section of the route between Clear Pond and the Picketville road.

It is clear from the deed description that this highway was excepted from the Dewey purchase, and that the State of New York was not conveyed ownership of the described highway. This is reinforced by the fact that, in 1919, the Conservation Commission took the time and effort to produce a map to specifically show and describe the excepted highway. In addition, there is no record of it ever being legally conveyed to any other party, individual, or town. The result now is the ownership of the highway exception cannot be conclusively determined without court action.

The Department’s top priority is to manage and protect the natural resources of the lands in the unit. The trail/highway in question serves as an east to west connection between two town roads; one a seasonal town road, the other a qualified abandoned town road. Current public uses include hiking and foot travel, and snowmobile travel. As mentioned previously, the trail is a designated snowmobile trail but not a designated ATV route. The trail does not lead to any significant special destination, for instance a scenic overlook vista or a designated campsite. The trail does provide the common and typical Adirondack experience of traversing a northern forest

for most of its length. The one exception to this description is the location where the trail crosses a major wetland near the outlet of Rock Pond. There is no alternative nearby route that could bypass the wetland on high, dry ground, and yet still utilize the remainder of the existing trail. There is no location that offers a narrower or better suited spot for crossing the wetland than in its current location. Due to ATV traffic, the current wetland crossing has been torn up, rutted, and braided, causing damage to the wetland.

As noted above, ATVs have caused significant environmental damage to portions of this route, and such continued use endangers the adjoining Forest Preserve lands as well as use and enjoyment of the trail by the public.

b. Alternatives Discussion

Alternative A - Allow current uses by hikers, snowmobiles, and other non-mechanized users to continue, and allow ATV use to resume. Obviously, hiking poses little additional threat to the wetland, though it certainly is somewhat difficult to cross the area due to damages caused by ATV use. Snowmobile winter traffic would have a minimal impact on the wetland crossing during its seasonal use. ATV traffic would erode and degrade the damage already in place at the wetland crossing. This alternative would keep some of the user groups happy, but would ultimately result in further damage to the resource. This alternative would also have to be based on the assumption that DEC does not control the road since ATV use alone could not occur on this route if the route is considered Forest Preserve, per the discussion of ATV use on Forest Preserve in Section III-B-2. Therefore, maintaining the status quo is not an acceptable alternative.

Alternative B - This **preferred alternative** allows current use of this trail by hikers and snowmobiles to continue, but eliminates use of the trail by ATVs. This alternative would prevent any further major environmental damage to the resource from the activity that has caused most of the damage in the first place, but would be opposed by many ATV enthusiasts who have expressed their concern over the possible closure of this trail to ATV use. It should be noted the ATV use of this route has never been legal as there has never been permission to allow ATV use by anyone with any possible ownership interest in this route. Therefore, the continued prohibition of ATVs on this route is the preferred alternative. Finally, there should be remediation of damaged areas.

2. Boundary Line Maintenance:

a. Description of Issue

There are many miles of well painted and maintained boundary lines on the unit that DEC personnel have done an excellent job of keeping up over the years. However, on the Forest Preserve and easement lands in this unit, there are miles of unpainted and unmarked boundary lines as well. The problems that this causes, both now and in the future, cannot be overemphasized. Many, if not all of the boundary lines that are missing will need a survey in order to be established. The lack of clearly established and posted boundary lines leads to an increased risk of the following problems:

- Trespass and the cutting of trees on the Forest Preserve.
- Incursion by motorized vehicles on the Forest Preserve by the public.
- Illegal establishment of trails, tree stands, camps, and the storage of personal property.
- Dumping of garbage.
- Inability to access public land.
- Trespass on adjacent private land.

In short, beside these more obvious problems, the list could continue: The real problem is that when DEC Enforcement personnel encounter either a situation or an individual that they suspect is doing something illegal on State Forest Preserve property that has not been properly identified, it may not be possible to issue tickets or prosecute the case if the boundary lines are not clearly identified.

This lack of boundaries can be attributed to a combination of the following factors:

- In some cases, DEC personnel simply have not kept up the maintenance of sections of boundary lines in the past.
- In other cases, the immediate urgency of an ongoing timber sale occurring adjacent to Forest Preserve property has led to DEC personnel going out in the field and doing the best that they could to protect the resource. This situation has led to the “flagging” of approximate lines through the woods, pending a needed survey, most of which has not occurred. Some of these “flagged” lines have since been blazed and painted, both by DEC personnel and the adjoining landowner, without the benefit of a survey. These lines may or may not be properly located.
- The most recent acquisition of Forest Preserve property came in conjunction with the purchase of an easement from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. Whatever the reason, boundary line maintenance was never a priority for Niagara Mohawk, so most of their boundaries are non-existent on the ground.

b. Discussion

Many boundaries need to be surveyed to identify ownership and clarify management responsibilities. In the meantime, the Department will post, with signs, the roadsides that are currently unmarked as to New York State ownership. In addition the Department will post signs on those few boundaries that currently have postings from adjacent private landowners, pending a survey to determine the exact location at those lines. By doing so, the Department will give the public and our Department enforcement staff a better indication of the approximate location of boundaries until the survey work is accomplished.

3. Public use of Blake Falls, Whispering Pines, and Stark Tailrace Forest Preserve Parcels

a. Description of Issue

These Forest Preserve parcels are part of the most recent fee acquisition in the White Hill Unit. They were formerly owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. During the power company's tenure as owners, the public was basically allowed unlimited use of the property. The draw for the public was the shorelines of Blake Reservoir and a section of the Raquette River just north of Blake Falls Dam. Much of the reservoirs shoreline is composed of beautiful, clean sand beaches. In the past, the public could drive their vehicles (and on many sites, tow in a camper trailer as well) directly to sites they had established right on the shores of this reservoir. They were then able to stay for the day, or remain camping as long as they wanted, free of charge. Fire rings, picnic tables, clothes lines and benches are commonly left at sites year to year. As far as the public was concerned, this was an absolutely ideal opportunity to experience a piece of paradise on the water with a private beach free of charge. The younger crowd has used these sites for years as an ideal “party spot” as well. These three Forest Preserve parcels are not yet identified by signs as Forest Preserve parcels. Boundaries have not been surveyed, including the

“Federal Energy Regulatory Commission”(FERC) line, which defines a boundary around the reservoirs that the hydro facility owner, now Brookfield Power, must maintain, and that forms the shoreward boundary of the lands acquired by New York State. The FERC boundary will run through and/or adjacent to many of the existing shoreline campsites and roadways that access those campsites.

The representatives of Brookfield Power have made it clear that they intend to take a much more proactive stance regarding public use of the shorelines of all of the reservoirs on the Raquette River. They have decided to allow day use only on the many miles of shoreline over which they retain jurisdiction. The Department and Brookfield have discussed entering into an agreement which would allow DEC to control public recreation, such as camping, on lands between the Forest Preserve and the reservoirs. If an agreement can be reached, then the Department will work with Brookfield Power to restrict camping on those lands along the reservoir, to designated sites only.

DEC staff feel that use must be controlled on those parcels to protect the resource and the user experience. Though not remote lands, they are Forest Preserve, and must retain a wild forest character.

b. Discussion

The survey work must be accomplished to permanently identify and protect Forest Preserve lands. In the meantime, the Department could post the roadsides that are currently unmarked as to New York State ownership with Forest Preserve signs. In addition, the Department will block (with boulders) the currently used access roads and trails, eliminating motor vehicle traffic on the Forest Preserve.

Once all of the above occurs, the public will have the opportunity to enjoy these sites and know they are not trespassing. DEC enforcement personnel can then identify exactly where they or the public are on the ground (Forest Preserve or Brookfield Power property) and enforce the necessary laws, rules and regulations.

DEC will also work on developing an agreement with Brookfield Power on camping along the shore of the Raquette River reservoirs, which affects the Raquette-Boreal unit also.

4. Separation Distances for Designated Campsites at Clear Pond

a. Description of Issue (See Clear Pond Project Map in Appendix M)

In 1985, the Department acquired Clear Pond and most of its surrounding acreage from the St. Lawrence Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This acquisition gave New York State sole possession of Clear Pond and all of its shoreline. Shortly thereafter, 9 designated campsites were established around the north end of its shores. Reconnaissance of the rest of the shoreline of Clear Pond has revealed why the northern shore sites were originally chosen for campsites, as most of the remaining shoreline is either wet, marshy ground or steep hardwood slopes that are unsuitable for campsites. Unfortunately, the current 9 sites do not meet the guidelines for primitive tent sites according to the APSLMP. Those guidelines state the sites should be out of sight and sound from each other and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive site or lean-to.

b. Discussion

All primitive tent sites within the unit must be monitored for damage due to overuse. Where ease of access by motor vehicle appears to be contributing to overuse of primitive tent sites the least

intrusive measures, such as education and/or site remediation, will be implemented. If these are not successful in reducing user impacts, more stringent measures will be considered and appropriate management actions taken. However, consideration will be given to maintaining motor vehicle access to tent sites that provide recreational opportunities for people with mobility impairments.

Alternative A - This **preferred alternative** allows the Department to comply with the APSLMP guidelines by closing inappropriate sites and those that are too close to each other. Six sites will be closed and the remaining three sites improved with the addition of pit privies. One of these sites will be upgraded to ADA specifications to provide a universally accessible camping opportunity. Two more campsites will be created near this pond. They will be accessed by a formalized trail around the lake, which is currently a herd path. Additionally, two campsites will be designated along the Clear Pond Road. Although necessary, this alternative will not be popular with the public who have camped for years at these sites, filling them to capacity during hot spells in the summer and on holiday weekends.

A detailed work plan will be developed and provided to APA staff for consultation purposes. While the separation distances are generally less than one-quarter mile, they should be adequate (on the order of 800-1000'), particularly since a substantial length of shoreline and trail at the west end of the Pond will be left without any tent sites. Camping around the lake will be monitored and any establishment of additional, new tent sites around the lake by users will not be permitted. Based on user studies, the Department will consider amending this UMP to establish a Special Management Use Area restricting at-large camping to a minimum of 500 ft. from the shoreline of Clear Pond if camping at non-designated areas becomes a problem.

Alternative B - The Department could designate new sites away from Clear Pond to accommodate users. Unfortunately, the main reason that people come to camp in the first place is for the opportunity to camp on the shore of an Adirondack pond. New designated sites far away from the water will not meet the public's expectations, and likely would receive little or no use, as there are plenty of places to camp in the woods but few to camp on the water.

5. Re-route Designated Snowmobile Trail

a. Description of Issue

This issue demonstrates the interconnected nature of New York State land holdings in this region. Currently there is a section of "Secondary Snowmobile Trail 49" (See White Hill Wild Forest Area Facilities Map), located in the southwest corner of the Main Parcel on the (qualified abandoned) Morgan Road. This trail continues west, outside of the bounds of the White Hill Unit, and into the Colton State Forest Unit. The section of the trail that is in the White Hill Unit is in decent condition; however, just to the west of the unit boundary, this route follows a muddy, rutted skid trail. The trail connects snowmobile traffic from the village of South Colton (and points south and west) with Corridor Trail 8. Basically, this trail provides an east to west connection between the Village of South Colton and the qualified abandoned section of the Picketville Road. It has been used as a snowmobile trail for many years, though it does not appear in the DEC/OPRHP snowmobile trail guides dating back to pre-1972. However, since it is a qualified abandoned town road and considered by the Department as a public highway, the trail mileage is not included in the tally of snowmobile trails in Wild Forest for Adirondack Park mileage cap purposes.

b. Alternatives Discussion

Alternative A - This **preferred alternative** will relocate the existing snowmobile trail to an alternate route that exists to the north of the current trail, that is better suited for snowmobile traffic. Located partly on the West Boundary Parcel, the West Parcel Road runs east to west between the westerly end of the Morgan Road, joining the qualified abandoned Picketville Road at a location to the north of the intersection of the current intersection, avoiding the problem section described above. This alternate route utilizes an existing gravel haul road that was built by Niagara Mohawk for timber harvesting prior to fee acquisition by New York State. As with the current trail, this proposed relocation also crosses the boundary between the White Hill Unit and the Colton Unit. Part of the alternate route that is located within the bounds of this White Hill Unit is on private property. The gravel road, with its hard surface, would make a better route than the current route with its drainage problems. The adjoining private land owners have agreed in principle to allow snowmobile traffic only, over their property. This relocation would result in 1.0 miles of new snowmobile trail mileage in wild forest land (West Parcel Road in the West Boundary parcel). The existing 1.3 miles over the Morgan Road would be closed to snowmobiling as a precondition of the trail relocation. By any measure of environmental impacts, benefit to wild forest character and maintainability, the proposed new route is much superior to continued use of the Morgan Road as a snowmobile route.

Alternative B - Leave the current trail in its present location. The present location will require significant remediation to bring it up to acceptable standards; this work effort would also be necessary in the adjoining Colton Unit, which includes state forest and easement lands outside of the Blue Line.

Snowmobile Trail Grooming - Under an existing Adopt-A-Natural Resource Stewardship Agreement the St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association grooms area snowmobile trails with a farm type tractor with tracks and a 7.5 foot drag or Tucker tracked groomer with 7.5 foot drag. DEC will continue to allow grooming by tracked groomers where this activity has occurred in the past in the WHWF. In addition, tracked groomers will be allowed on the proposed snowmobile trail relocation to the West Parcel Road, following the closure of the Morgan Road to snowmobiling. The relocation of snowmobiling and tracked grooming from the Morgan Road snowmobile trail to the DEC administrative road will not involve any tree cutting, or negatively impact trail character, since it would involve use of an existing graveled road.

6. Illegal ATV Use

It is commonplace to observe ATV and snowmobile traffic traversing linking roads that are **not** designated by the individual towns for ATV and snowmobile use. The local perception is that people are free to ride on town roads regardless of the road's designation. (see Appendix E for a list of the status of town roads for ATV and snowmobile use). There is unlimited potential for unauthorized and illegal ATV use on both the Forest Preserve and Easement lands off the town roads, given the versatility and ease with which these machines can be operated off road in a wooded setting. In particular, this potential for illegal motor vehicle use and the subsequent establishment of illegal unauthorized trail systems exists along and across the property lines adjoining private and New York State owned property. Barricading a known illegal trail most often results in the establishment of another nearby illegal trail to bypass the barricade. This issue is further complicated by the absence of well marked boundary lines clearly showing New York State ownership. There are no simple answers to addressing the problems associated with illegal ATV use; this is a problem that will be resolved over the course of many years.

7. Hiking Trail Condition

The public is free to travel on foot, snowshoes, cross country skis and by any other non-mechanized means anywhere on the Forest Preserve or Easement lands within the White Hill Unit. As authorized by 6NYCRR section 190.8(n): "The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.

No person shall ride or permit a horse on:

1. land devoted to intensively developed facilities, such as boat launch sites, day use areas, campsites, ski centers, education centers, fish hatcheries, game farms or headquarters complexes, and lands managed for public safety, such as flood control levees;
2. foot trails, except where such trails are part of a publicly maintained road, or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses thereon; and
3. designated snowmobile trails and cross country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow."

Currently, there is only one trail in the unit that is specifically designated as a foot trail, the trail that leads from Clear Pond southerly to Little Rock Pond, Long Pond, and Lilypad Pond, eventually leaving the Main Parcel and crossing in to the Gold Mine Parcel and joining with the Gold Mine Road (part of snowmobile "Corridor 8" trail). The trail is well marked and maintained from Clear Pond through to Little Rock Pond. The section from Little Rock Pond through Long Pond to Lilypad Pond is marked with disks and flagged, but is in need of brushing of trees (none over 3" DBH) and the cutting and removal of larger blowdowns. This section of this hiking trail has not been maintained since the Ice Storm in January of 1998. The final section of this hiking trail was obliterated as a result of the ice storm. A new path has developed but has not been signed or designated by DEC personnel, and runs southerly from Lilypad Pond, off the Main Parcel to the Gold Mine Parcel and the Gold Mine Road. While cutting "informal" paths on Forest Preserve lands is illegal, subject to enforcement action and fines, the path that has been established follows a reasonable route for most of its length and will likely be the route that the Department adopts. At the southern end of this last section of trail, however, there is one section that climbs a slope over steep ledge rock. An alternate route has been proposed, just east of the present trail location, which can be designated and signed when the rest of the trail is officially designated.

The previous landowner of the hydro facilities and the reservoirs along the Raquette adjacent to this unit, Brascan Power, was required as part of their license to establish several trails from and to their reservoirs. The locations agreed to in the license negotiations that involve state land are from Carry Falls Reservoir to a canoeable section of the Jordan River (in the Raquette-Boreal Unit), from Stark to Blake Reservoir on easement lands, and from Rainbow Reservoir north to White Hill WF. DEC staff worked with Brascan staff in the fall of 2005 to site these trails. Brascan agreed to a relocation of the proposed site of the trail from Rainbow to White Hill to a site that will provide a connection to the existing White Hill foot trail near Lilypad Pond. This Brascan property is now owned by Brookfield Power.

8. Road Access to Private Lands across the Gold Mine Parcel

a. Description of Issue:

There are two privately owned parcels (Coupal and Coit) adjacent to the Gold Mine parcel that currently have vehicular access to their properties via the Gold Mine Road and the Rainbow

Reservoir Road respectively. In both cases, the access road that exists off these two roads is not part of a deeded ROW through the easement property. The access roads were built shortly after the construction of the Gold Mine and Rainbow Roads, which Niagara Mohawk built to facilitate the removal of forest products from their lands prior to the sale of the easement to New York State. In both cases, the current roads provide vehicular access to lands that formerly had no vehicular access. In the case of the Coit property, access to the parcel was formerly only possible by boat across Rainbow Falls Reservoir. In the case of the Coupal property, vehicular access to the northwestern part of their acreage was not possible due to the fact that Dead Creek bisected their acreage, and being that Dead Creek at that location is a sizeable flow with associated wetlands, vehicular access was impossible.

b. Discussion

The rights of these landowners to use the roads on the Gold mine parcel will be limited to the opportunities provided for the public to use these roads. As proposed below, the roads will be open for ATV and snowmobile use, as well as non-motorized uses. This will not include the spur routes to the private lands. Any use of those routes by the landowners by motor vehicle will have to be via temporary revocable permit and the associated guidelines that allow for occasional use for logging, and for short term seasonal access to open and close a camp for the season.

9. Public Access on Roads to Forest Preserve and Easement Lands

a. Description of Issue:

Roads on or adjacent to Forest Preserve generally provide adequate public access to the unit, though most of the access is from town roads, or Forest Preserve roads maintained by DEC. The White Hill Road, a town road, is adjacent to the main parcel and several smaller Forest Preserve parcels. The Clear Pond Road, also a town road, provides access through Forest Preserve to the approximate center of the main White Hill parcel, ending near Clear Pond. The Picketville Road, though qualified abandoned by the Town of Parishville (so no longer maintained), is posted open to ATV and snowmobile use and continues to be used by motor vehicles. Town roads in the White Hill Unit are open for ATV use with a few exceptions (See Appendix E). There are 18 town roads open to ATV use that either border Forest Preserve or easement land or connect areas open for ATV and snowmobile use.

The roads on easement lands range in condition from not passable by car or pickup to good pavement. They are adequate to provide access to most of the easement tracts.

b. Discussion

The one area where roads provide more access than is probably necessary is at Clear Pond. The town road ends at the top of the hill above the pond at a parking lot. Beyond that are several narrow Forest Preserve roads that lead to campsites along the pond, as well as providing very easy access to the waterfront. Impacts resulting from that kind of access to the waterfront and the adjacent campsites are obvious. As part of the campsite relocation discussed above, most of these short road segments need to be closed.

The Goldmine Road on the former NiMo easement has been open to motor vehicle use since it was constructed for forest products harvesting access. It provides a connection between the Picketville Road and the Joe Indian/White Hill Road, though a portion is only passable by ATV. A spur road off the Goldmine Road also provides additional access to this parcel, which is and has been used for many years particularly by hunters. These roads would be suitable for ATV use to access the property for hunting, as well as providing a connection to the Picketville Joe Indian roads.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

A. Bio-Physical Resources

1. Water

Objectives:

- Allow natural process to continue without interference.

Management Actions:

- None

2. Soil

Objective:

- Allow natural processes to continue without interference.

Management Actions:

- Use best management practices where applicable in construction and remediation work.

3. Wetlands

Objectives:

- Allow natural processes to continue without interference.
- Avoid impacting wetlands with any work proposals.

Management Actions:

- Conduct inspection of the Rock Pond Outlet trail. Work with law enforcement personnel to document the amount of illegal ATV activity in the area and develop a strategy to minimize illegal riding in the area. To reduce impacts to area wetlands, the Rock Pond Outlet trail crossing of the Clear Pond-Picketville trail will be remediated using best management practices in consultation with APA.

4. Vegetation

Objectives:

- Allow natural process to continue without interference.
- Strive for minimal impact/minimal tools to maintain trails and campsites.

Management Actions:

- Keep trails and campsites open and free of blowdown and small brush through annual routine maintenance.

- Through the NYS Invasive Species task force, DEC will investigate use of appropriate educational signage at public fishing and waterway access sites to mitigate or prevent the spread of non-native or invasive plants.
- Contract botanical surveys to produce a more complete inventory and understanding of area ecosystems by expanding New York Natural Heritage Program and TNC programs in the unit. Continue and enhance programs to identify and map sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered species.

5. Wildlife

Objectives:

- Allow natural processes to continue without undue interference.

Management Actions:

- DEC, Fish and Wildlife division manages game species and will continue to do so. Deer Management Units and inherent game regulations will fluctuate with time; adjustment of regulations may be necessary as populations vary.
- Include the White Hill Unit in any survey efforts (many times done for multiple units in a given geographical area) concerning Rare, Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species.

6. Fisheries

Objectives:

- Allow natural processes to continue without interference.
- Maintain the existing historic brook trout fisheries in the unit.

Management Actions:

- The Department's Fisheries staff has monitored and will continue to monitor the fish populations in the waters of the White Hill Unit.
- When Fisheries surveys indicate an imbalance between the populations of brook trout and other less desirable species, a reclamation plan will be prepared for the pond.

B. Land Protection

1. Administration

Objectives:

- Oversee the stewardship, protection and care of natural resources of the unit.
- Provide recreational opportunities for the public while protecting the resource.

Management Actions:

- Insure that adequate staffing is available for administration of the duties in this unit.

2. Illegal ATV Use

Objectives:

- Eliminate illegal use of ATVs.

Management Actions:

- Educate the public that ATVs are only allowed on New York State property on designated roads and trails.
- Post signs clearly indicating legally designated trails.
- Post "illegal use" signs in areas of reoccurring illegal use.

- Aggressively ticket and enforce the law when encountering any illegal ATV use.
- Encourage legal ATV riders to police their own ranks.

3. Boundary Lines

Objectives:

- Establish and maintain clearly identified boundary lines on all unit lands

Management Actions:

- Survey, post, paint, and maintain all New York State boundary lines within 10 years.
- Until surveys are completed, DEC staff will post signs on the roadsides that are currently unmarked, but clearly DEC lands, and post signs on those few boundaries that currently have postings from adjacent private landowners, pending a survey to determine the exact location at those lines.

4. Research

Objectives:

- The Department encourages research and studies that will further our understanding of the natural resources and public use of this unit.

Management Actions:

- Should the opportunity arise to accommodate any new study that will further the understanding of the use, or natural resources of this unit, every effort will be made by the Department to accommodate and assist in the study.

5. Open Space/Land Acquisition

Objectives:

- Protect the integrity of the unit by considering acquisitions that eliminate inholdings and provide additional protection in susceptible locations.

Management Actions:

- Pursue acquisition of parcels identified in the Open Space Plan from willing sellers, including acquisitions under the priority project categories North Flow River Corridors, Recreational Trail Linkages & Networks, and Working Forest Lands.

C. Man-Made Facilities

For all proposed facilities, the Adirondack Park Agency will be consulted about management activities proposed in wetlands and in areas adjacent to wetlands to determine if an Agency wetlands permit is required.

1. Roads

Present Conditions: Roads on Forest Preserve are adequate for seasonal motor vehicle use, and administrative access. The White Hill Road, a town road, is adjacent to the main parcel and several smaller Forest Preserve parcels. The Clear Pond Road, also a town road, provides access through Forest Preserve to the approximate center of the main White Hill WF parcel, ending near Clear Pond. The Picketville Road, though qualified abandoned by the Town of Parishville (so no longer maintained), is posted open to ATV and snowmobile use and continues to be used by motor vehicles. Town roads in the White Hill Unit are open for ATV use with a few exceptions (See Appendix E). There are 18 town roads open to ATV use that either border Forest Preserve or easement land or connect areas open for ATV and snowmobile use.

The roads on easement lands range in condition from not passable by car or pickup to good pavement.

Objectives:

- The unit will be managed to preserve the wild forest characteristics of the lands adjacent to the roadways. Access to recreational opportunities by motor vehicle will continue in a manner that does not degrade the environment.
- Coordinate with towns to insure that any ATV riding associated with “officially designated” town roads legally complies with Vehicle and Traffic Law and ATV use does not spill over into adjacent WHWF lands.

Management Actions:

Forest Preserve Lands

- The Clear Pond-Pickettville “Road” will remain closed to public motor vehicle use, including ATV use due to the considerations discussed in Section III-D-1.
- There are currently several hundred yards of roads open to public motor vehicle use off the end of the town maintained Clear Pond Road that provides access to campsites along Clear Pond. The proposed reduction in the number of campsites will also reduce the amount of road open to public motor vehicle use. The Clear Pond campsite map identifies what sections of road will be closed and what will remain open.
- Department will post the roadsides that are currently unmarked as to New York State ownership with Forest Preserve signs. In addition, the Department will block (with boulders) the currently illegally used access roads and trails, to discourage illegal motor vehicle traffic on the Forest Preserve.
- Illegal ATV use on Forest Preserve lands as a result of travel beyond legally posted highways will be monitored. A systematic assessment of ATV use will be conducted.

Conservation Easement Lands

- The Town of Colton’s Round Pond Road, which provides access to the Preston Lot, is open to motor vehicles for a distance of 1.3 miles; this provides reasonable access to this easement parcel, so no additional roads will be open to motor vehicle use.
- Motor vehicles have always been allowed to travel on the road that leads to the Blake Falls Dam from the River Road, and this UMP proposes that it remain open to public motor vehicle, but not public ATV use.
- The Gold Mine Road is to remain open to motor vehicles for a short distance, from the White Hill Road to the Dead Creek crossing, where a parking area will be provided.

- The Gold Mine Road is proposed to stay open to ATV use, as well as the Rainbow Road, which is the short haul road that leads to the south from the Gold Mine Road. The bridge over Dead Creek needs to be inspected and if it doesn't meet DOT standards it will be closed to all motor vehicles until it is repaired. The Gold Mine Road will not be open for ATV use when there is snow on the ground. A portion of this road will need some improvement to meet trail standards.
- ATV use on the Gold Mine and Rainbow Roads will be monitored to assure that ATV use is not occurring on any other routes off of these roads. A systematic assessment of these roads and ATV use on them will be conducted.
- The development of additional new routes for ATV access is not proposed at this time. If new proposals arise, amendments to the recreation plan for the easement lands will be necessary, and any new trail construction will be guided by road standards agreed upon between DEC and the landowner.

2. Trails

Present Conditions: Fair to Good

Objectives:

- To maintain clearly marked routes through the property for various public uses including access to ponds and streams and thru connections for snowmobile trails.

Management Actions:

Forest Preserve Land

Foot trails

- On the trail from Lilypad Pond to the Gold Mine Road, reroute the section which currently runs over steep ledge rock.
- Establish a trail around Clear Pond by using segments of the existing herd path as well as new segments where conditions of the existing herd path warrant relocation.
- Establish a trail from the west end of Lily Pad Pond south to the trail from Rainbow Reservoir that will be developed by Brookfield Power (as agreed to by parties to the hydro license settlement). The length is about 1.5 miles.

Snowmobile trails

- Reroute the section of Secondary Snowmobile Trail 49 from the Morgan Road to the West Parcel Road as described in Issue 5.
- The trail from Clear Pond to the Picketville Road will be maintained as a Class A primary snowmobile trail (per ONR-2), and will require the reconstruction of one existing bridge to current standards and construction of a bridge across the Rock Pond Outlet. In the event that a corridor trail connection to the east is completed through the 5 Mile tract, the need for the Clear Pond to Picketville Road snowmobile trail will be re-evaluated
- The Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park provides guidance for the inventory and analysis of snowmobile use and impacts. Consistent with the Snowmobile Plan, over the following 3 year period the DEC will conduct an inventory of snowmobile use in the Unit. During that 3 year time period, The DEC and APA will work together to establish appropriate protocols and

scientific techniques to adequately assess the impacts associated with snowmobile use in the Unit. In addition, the DEC will consult with the APA to develop measurable indicators for monitoring the resource and social conditions associated with the level of snowmobile use in the Unit.

Equestrian Use

No official horse trails will be designated within the WHWF, although the opportunity for limited riding experiences does exist. Some trails and roads that are currently ridden sporadically by local equestrian users are capable of sustaining such minimal use, but may not be able to withstand the use that could result from formal designation.

All-terrain Bicycle Use

In 1993, the APA and DEC signed an addendum to the memorandum of understanding between the two agencies that addressed use of all-terrain bicycles (mountain bikes or ATBs) on Wild Forest classified lands, while prohibiting mountain bicycling on all Wilderness areas. The memorandum was partly in response to the tourism, bicycling, and regional planning interests which identified the economic and recreational potential for mountain bicycling in the Adirondack Park. For the next couple of years, the identification and inventory of popular mountain bicycling trails (Adirondack Park Mountain Bike Preliminary Trail and Route Guide, 1995) was undertaken through a combined effort of the Adirondack North Country Association, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and the LA Group. Since the preliminary listing, some counties have identified other routes at the local level and additional routes continue to be identified through the Adirondack Park Mountain Bike Initiative.

The APSLMP guidelines for Wild Forest areas allow ATBs “on roads legally open to the public and on state truck trails, foot trails, snowmobile trails and horse trails deemed suitable for such use as specified in individual unit management plans.” 6NYCRR §196.7(e) provides that “[t]he operation of bicycles is permitted on all roads and trails on Adirondack forest preserve wild forest areas except for those roads and trails posted as closed to bicycle operation.” As part of the UMP process, the planning team determined there was no need to formally designate ATB trails within the White Hill Unit at this time.

Conservation Easement Land

Foot trails

- The Department will provide support and guidance in the establishment of Brookfield Power’s proposed trail leading from Rainbow Reservoir to the Main Parcel and continuing into the vicinity of Lilypad Pond. This trail will be located to provide a scenic and interesting route, such as the potential section that can be found on an old road adjacent to a wetland on the conservation easement portion of the trail. The Department will also provide assistance on establishment of the trail on the Stark Tailrace Parcel that provides access to the upper end of Blake Reservoir and serves as part of the carry route from there to Stark Reservoir.

Snowmobile trails

- Sign and designate the Gold Mine Road on the Gold Mine Parcel as a snowmobile trail.

- Sign and designate the section of “Corridor 8” snowmobile trail that crosses the Lassiter Easement as a recognized snowmobile trail.

ATV Trails

See Section C.1. - Conservation Easements for a discussion of ATV use.

Horse Trails

Sign the Gold Mine Road on the Gold Mine Parcel as a horse route.

3. Trailheads

Present Conditions: Poor

Objectives:

- Provide trail registers, complete with maps, that clearly show routes and destinations available in the White Hill Unit. Applicable rules and regulations should be posted at these locations.

Management Actions:

- The Department will place new trail head registers at both ends of the Clear Pond to Gold Mine Road trail.

4. Campsites

Present Conditions:

- The current 9 designated campsites on Clear Pond are in fairly good condition, but are located too close to each other to be in compliance with the criteria for campsite location as described in the APSLMP.

Objectives:

- Bring designated campsites into compliance with the separation distances recommended by the APSLMP.

Management Actions:

- Select three of the current 9 sites to remain open as designated campsites, to comply with the separation distance requirement of the ASLMP. Phase out those sites that are located right on the shoreline, or present other management problems, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency. One designated campsite will be made universally accessible, most likely the site to the north of the pond outlet.
- Two campsites will be designated on the south side of Clear Pond, all accessed by the proposed foot trail around the pond. Two additional sites will be designated on the Clear Pond Road, primarily for hunting season use.
- Based on public input, there appears to be a need and desire for camping in groups larger than 9 people. A limited amount has happened in the past, primarily by school groups and possibly by family groups, though permits were likely not issued for those occasions. One of the campsite on Clear Pond will be designated as a group site, in consultation with APA.
- All designated campsites will be monitored using the attached Campsite Monitoring System (See Appendix H).

5. Bridges

Present Conditions: The existing bridge on the Clear Pond-Picketville Trail is in good shape but is only 4 feet wide, and is more of a boardwalk than bridge. It is suitable for hiking and mountain biking use, but not for use on a Class A snowmobile trail. Also on the Clear Pond-Picketville Trail, a bridge is needed over the Rock Pond Outlet to keep users out of the wetland at the mouth of the pond. The bridge on the Gold Mine Road across Dead Creek needs to be inspected by DOT.

Objectives:

- Maintain bridges in safe & satisfactory condition and at an appropriate size for the use allowed.

Management Actions:

Forest Preserve Lands

- Reconstruct the existing bridge on the Clear Pond-Picketville Trail.
- Build a new bridge at the Rock Pond Outlet for snowmobile use; minor relocation of the existing trail may be required for proper bridge siting.
- Newly constructed snowmobile bridges will be built to the standard design recently approved by APA

Conservation Easement Land

- The Gold Mine Road will be gated to block public motor vehicle use until the bridge receives DOT inspection approval. The bridge will only be open for snowmobiles until appropriate improvements, if necessary, are made.

6. Pit Privy

Present Condition: Fair

Objectives:

- Maintain privies in a safe and satisfactory condition.

Management Actions:

- Place privies at each designated campsite and install a universally accessible privy at the proposed accessible campsite.

7. Parking Areas

Present Condition: There are two developed parking areas in the unit, at Clear Pond and the Lake Ozonia fishing access site.

Objectives:

- Provide safe and adequate parking areas, including universally accessible spaces in new or enlarged parking areas.

Management Actions:

- The Department proposes the construction of two new parking lots for the public's use, as described below.

Forest Preserve Lands

- As described in Issue 3, the Department proposes to block vehicular access to and close campsites along the Whispering Pines Road. The public will only be allowed day use of the sites to which they were formerly able to drive. Parking options after the blockage of the access roads will be limited to parking on the shoulder of a narrow, gravel town road, so the Department proposes the construction of a new five car parking lot off the Whispering Pines Road to provide the public with a safe parking area within easy walking distance of the shores of Blake Reservoir.
- There currently are no public parking areas on the western edges of the main White Hill Wild Forest parcel off the Picketville Road. The Department proposes the construction of one five car parking lot off the Picketville Road to provide necessary access. There are two locations that could accommodate this parking lot. One possible site is where the road contacts the Main Parcel on the northwest, and the second site is where the road enters forest preserve. Please refer to the Public Facilities Map to view the two alternate parking lot locations.

Conservation Easement Lands

- The Department proposes the construction of a five car parking lot less than one acre in size off the Round Pond Road to accommodate public use of the Preston Lot. There currently is no designated parking area located on this easement property.
- At Dead Creek on the Gold Mine Road a small parking area will be provided near the water access as outlined in the FERC agreement.

8. Waterway/Fishing Access Sites

Present Condition: There are two sites established for public access to waterways, Clear Pond and Lake Ozonia. There are no accessible sites designated at this time. The Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site is a hand launch facility with a 10 hp motor limit restriction. The launch is stepped and restricted with boulders to prevent trailered boat launching. Parking capacity is 20 vehicles.

Objectives:

- To provide the public with opportunities for water access for boating, canoeing and fishing, and related activities.

Management Actions:

- Develop Clear Pond waterway access site. In order to provide public access to Clear Pond, the existing site will be converted to a waterway access site. Fishing and waterway access sites are defined in the APSLMP, 2001, page 17 to include: “a site for fishing or other water access with attendant parking which does not contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats.” Access to Clear Pond will be limited to cartop launching only, with the existing site barricaded with a suitable barrier to prevent trailered launching by the public. This facility will provide a unique opportunity for persons with disabilities to fish for brook trout and experience the pleasure of an Adirondack pond. A short section of trail will need to be improved to meet ADAAG specifications.

- The UMP planning process focuses on a five year horizon but must also consider water body carrying capacity, based upon current and anticipated recreational use. As mentioned in the APSLMP: “A comprehensive study of Adirondack lakes and ponds should be conducted by the Department of Environmental Conservation to determine each water body's capacity to withstand various uses, particularly motorized uses and to maintain and enhance its biological, natural and aesthetic qualities. First emphasis should be given to major lakes and ponds totally surrounded by state land and to those on which state intensive use facilities exist or may be proposed.” Some of this research is outside the scope of this UMP since it involves different land classifications and/or private land uses. As identified in the APSLMP, DEC will support the study of waters within the unit, such as Clear Pond, to survey existing use levels and determine carrying capacities related to access from State lands.
- The Department will cooperate with Brookfield Power to develop parking and access to Dead Creek on the Gold Mine easement parcel for canoers and kayakers. A small parking area and signage directing users to the site will be provided and maintained by Brookfield Power as a condition of the FERC settlement.

Based on the recommendations above, the facilities on this unit after full implementation will be as follows:

Forest Preserve

Boundary Lines	48.85 miles
Bridges	2 (on Clear Pond to Picketville trail)
Designated Campsites	7 (1 universally accessible)
Foot Trails	5.0 miles
Parking Areas	4 (Lake Ozonia, Clear Pond, Whispering Pines and Picketville Road)
Snowmobile Trails	3.8 miles
Trailhead Register	1
Privies	10 (Lake Ozonia, Clear Pond)
Area signs	4
Waterway Access Sites	2(Lake Ozonia and Clear Pond)

Easement Lands

Boundary Lines	31.85 miles
Foot Trails	0.4 miles
Parking Areas	2 (Gold Mine Road, Preston Lot)
Snowmobile Trails	7.3 miles

Boundary Lines	31.85 miles
Trailhead Register	1
Area Signs	4
Waterway Access Site	1
Bridge	1

D. Public Use and Access

1. Public Use

Present Conditions: The White Hill Unit is very accessible and used by the public for a variety of recreational opportunities.

Objectives:

- Provide for public use while protecting the resource.

Management Actions:

- Much of New York State's land in the White Hill Unit is not currently identified in any way. Both the Department and the public will be better served with signs clearly identifying Forest Preserve and Easement.

Forest Preserve

- The Department will place four new signs identifying parcels of New York State Forest Preserve. Two will identify the Main Parcel, one on the White Hill Road, the other on the Picketville Road. Two will be placed off the Joe Indian Road identifying the Blake Falls and Whispering Pines parcels.

Easement

- The Department will place four new signs identifying the Easement Parcels in the White Hill Unit. One will be placed on the Preston Lot on the Round Pond Road at the site of the proposed new parking lot. Two will be placed on the Raquette River Road, one identifying the Peaked Hill Parcel, the other identifying the Hungry Bay Parcel. The fourth will be placed at the intersection of the Joe Indian Road and the Gold Mine Road identifying the Gold Mine Parcel. In addition, Brookfield Power will install and maintain signage at the same intersection indicating the canoe access to Dead Creek.

2. Access for Persons with Disabilities

Present Conditions: No facilities.

Objectives:

- Provide universal access to programs.

Management Actions:

- Provide universally accessible parking, privy, designated campsite, and access to Clear Pond.

3. User Survey

Present Conditions: None done to date

Objectives:

- Obtain better user information

Management Actions:

- Place trail registers at several locations.
- Undertake a visitor use survey of WHWF lands in concert with users surveys in other units. In order to more effectively manage the area, additional information is needed about the public use of the WHWF and the impacts of use on the area's physical and biological resources, as well as its social impacts. At suitable locations, the Department will undertake a visitor use survey. The data collected will focus on unit level use. The survey will investigate such aspects as seasonality, modality and total level of use of public lands. Data will focus on trends in register sign-ins, programs and resources targeted by users, and other specific data to be used in a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) decision-making system. This survey is intended to provide data not only for use in managing facilities and improvements, but also to assist with decision making pertaining to management practices. State of the art technology will be used when necessary and combined with traditional methods to inventory the type and extent of actual public use.

E. Updates to APA Adirondack Park State Land Map

There are a small number of apparent inaccuracies on the most recent version of the APA State Land Map (2001) regarding the WHWF. In a few instances, new State acquisitions were not identified. In some cases the error can be corrected with a technical map amendment, while in other instances a formal classification or reclassification process will be necessary.

White Hill Radio Tower Forest Preserve Parcel

Since the radio tower and related facilities serve an essential function for the Department and the property is not suitable for public recreational purposes, this parcel should be considered for classification as Administrative. (See Map in Appendix M)

West Branch of the St. Regis Forest Preserve Parcel

This parcel has apparently not been classified, apparently as an oversight, since it has been in state possession since 1892. Classification as Wild Forest would be most appropriate.

Management Actions:

- Assist with the revision of the APA State Land Map in future editions to reflect actual State ownership and any changes in land classification.
- Propose for classification as administrative the 3.3 acre radio tower parcel in the vicinity of the White Hill Road.
- Propose the classification of the West Branch parcel as Wild Forest.

V. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ESTIMATED BUDGET

The following tables outline a schedule for implementation derived from management recommendations made in Section IV. Projected Use and Management Proposed, as well as their estimated costs. Accomplishments are contingent upon sufficient staffing levels and available funding. The estimated costs of implementing these projects is based on historical costs incurred by the Department for similar projects. Values for some projects are based on projected costs for service contracting. These cost estimates do not include capital expenditures for items such as equipment, nor do they include the value of program staff salaries.

Year 1

Forest Preserve

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Install 4 Area ID Signs	N/A	6
Improve signing on roads and trails	N/A	5
Install new trail register at Clear Pond	\$250	3
Install ADA improvements at Clear Pond (designated campsite, privy, waterway access site). Install new rock barriers, where needed.	\$30,000	60
Remove 6 Campsites at Clear Pond	\$4,000	10
Improve 5 Campsites at Clear Pond or Clear Pond Road	\$4,000	10
Survey 10.6 miles of boundary line (both Classified and Unclassified Parcels)	\$46,5000 (Contracted) N/A or DEC	N/A 553.5
Paint, blaze, sign, 10.6 miles of boundary line	\$5,600	26.5
Install road barriers at FP parcels (Blake, Whispering Pines, Stark Trail)	\$15,000	6
Close Clear Pond to Picketville Road to ATVs or other motor vehicles. Install pipe gates on both ends of this snowmobile trail.	\$5,000	10
If permission to cross private lands is secured, relocate Morgan Road snowmobile trail to West Boundary Parcel.	N/A	2
Develop LAC indicators and standards.	N/A	3
Conduct assessment of use and use impacts at Clear Pond.	N/A	5

Easement Lands

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Install 4 Area ID Signs	N/A	6
Improve Signing on Roads & Trails	N/A	5
Install trail register at Gold Mine Road	\$250	3
Begin monitoring of ATV use on Gold Mine and Rainbow Res. roads.	NA	6
Build new Parking Area at Lassiter Easement on Round Pond Road	\$15,000	20

Year 2**Forest Preserve**

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Build new Parking Area at Whispering Pines (Whispering Pines Road) - 5 car	\$15,000	20
Replace bridge Clear Pond - Picketville trail	\$20,000	30
Install bridge at Rock Pond outlet	\$15,000	45
Build 1.5 mile trail from near Lilypad Pond to the trail from Rainbow Reservoir on the Gold Mine easement	\$7,500	35
Remediate wetland impacts caused by ATVs at Rock Pond Outlet.	\$10,000	20
Conduct baseline site inventory of all new designated tent sites. Document location and condition with GPS and digital photos.	N/A	2
Assist with inventory of the unit to determine the presence of invasive plant species. Solicit help from volunteers, when appropriate.	N/A	2
Once LAC indicators and standards have been developed, monitor to determine compliance. Take actions necessary to assure APSLMP compliance and to prevent standards from being exceeded.	N/A	Undetermined

Easement Lands

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Build 0.75 mile trail on Gold Mine Parcel to connect to WHWF as per FERC settlement	NA	NA
Survey 31.85 miles of boundary line	\$150,000 (Contracted) or DEC-N/A	N/A 1326

Year 3**Forest Preserve**

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Evaluate plan effectiveness to date - comprehensive review.	N/A	5
Contract inventory of ecological communities, rare species and critical habitats.	\$30,000	2
Build new Parking Area (Picketville Road) - 5 car	\$5,000	10
Brush and relocate steep section of foot trail between Lilypad Pond and the Gold Mine Road.	\$5,000 (Contracted) N/A or DEC	N/A 20
Survey 10.6 miles of boundary line (both Classified and Unclassified Parcels)	\$46,5000 (Contracted) N/A or DEC	N/A 553.5
Paint, blaze, sign, 10.6 miles of boundary line	\$5,600	26.5 PD

Easement Lands

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Improve west end of Gold Mine Road. Build new Parking Area at Dead Creek (Gold Mine Road) - 5 car	\$30,000	30
Pending DOT inspection, replace or rehabilitate Dead Creek Bridge	\$75,000	50

Year 4**Forest Preserve**

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Nothing planned.		

Easement Lands

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Nothing planned.		30

Year 5**Forest Preserve**

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Reinventory baseline site inventory of all designated tent sites.	N/A	2
Investigate the feasibility of future trail proposals.	N/A	5
Evaluate plan effectiveness to date - comprehensive review. Begin preparation for five year revision of UMP.	N/A	5

Easement Lands

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days
Nothing planned.		

Annual Maintenance by Component Facilities after Plan Implementation**Forest Preserve**

Component	Inventory	Man Days/Year
Trails (all uses)	2 - 4.5 miles	7
Parking Areas	4 at Lake Ozonia, Whispering Pines, Main Parcel (2 accessible)	10
Boundary	48.85 miles	19

Component	Inventory	Man Days/Year
Trail Registers	1	1
Signs	4 (2 - Main Parcel) (2 - Blake Falls, Whispering Pines)	2
Designated Campsites	8 (1 - accessible)	2
Privies	8 (1 - accessible)	1
Waterway Access Site	2 (1 - accessible)	1

Easement Lands

Component	Inventory	Person Days/Year
Trails (all uses)	2 - about 1.5 miles (FERC trail and Lilypad Pond trail on Gold Mine Parcel)	10
Parking Areas	1 - Lassiter Easement	2
Boundary	31.85 miles	13
Trail Registers	1	1
Signs	4 - (3-Gold Mine parcel) (1-Lassiter)	2
Litter Control		12
Roads: Grade, Rake, Mow Misc. (culverts, gravel, other repairs)		10

Annual Maintenance Actions and Management Activities

Forest Preserve

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days - PD
Forest Ranger enforcement, fire detection, suppression	\$1,000	50
Maintain existing Area ID Signs (4 - all new after plan implementation)	\$500	2
Trash pickup and disposal	\$300	2
Disposal fee for accessible privy	\$700	NA

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days - PD
Maintain 4 Parking Areas (1 existing, 1 new)	\$4000	16
48.85 miles of boundary line maintenance on a 5 year schedule - after needed surveys	\$150 annual	31
Coordinate and supervise volunteer projects (AANR, TRP's, YCC)	NA	5
Administrative supervision, reporting, acquisition proposals etc.	NA	5
Maintain Designated Campsites (8)	\$1,200	8
Maintain ADA Waterway Access Site	\$400	3
Maintain trails (including bridge)	\$200	20
Total Annual Budget	\$6,100	129

Easement Lands

Action	Supplies Materials & Equipment	Personnel Service Person Days - PD
Forest enforcement, fire detections, suppression	\$600	30
Maintain existing Easement ID signs (4 - all new after plan implementation)	\$500	2
Trash Pickup and disposal	\$200	2
Maintain Parking Area (1- Lassiter, 1 Gold Mine)	\$1200	4
31.85 miles of boundary line maintenance on a 5 yr. Schedule - after needed surveys	\$100 annual	21
Administrative supervision (lessee inspections, complaints, re-con)	NA	10
Road maintenance (Due to public presence, new gravel, drainage, grading etc.)	\$1500	40
Total Annual Budget	\$3,500	109

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

A Biological Survey of the Raquette Watershed. Supplement to Twenty-Third Annual Report, 1933. State of New York Conservation Department Biological Survey (1933), No. VIII. J. B. Lyon Co., Printers. Albany, 1934.

Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) 1984-1987 Reports. Vol. 1-18. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Adirondack Park Agency, Ray Brook, 1989.

Andrle, Robert F. and Janet R. Carroll (eds.). The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press. Ithaca and London. 1988.

Bolliger, J.G., O.J. Rongstad, A. Soom, and R.G. Eckstein. 1973. Snowmobile noise effects on wildlife. 1972-1973 Report. Madison: University of Wisconsin. 85 pp.

Briggs, Charles B. Escape through the Adirondacks. Adirondack Life. Summer 1975. pp. 57-60.

Bryan, Charles W. The Raquette - River of the Forest. Adirondack Museum. Blue Mountain Lake. 1964.

Buddington, A. F. Regional Geology of the St. Lawrence County Magnetite District, Northwest Adirondacks, New York. U.S. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 376. 1962.

Connelly, N.A., T. Brown, and B. Knuth. 1996. New York Statewide Angler Survey - 1996. Report 1: Angler Effort and Expenditures. New York State DEC Adm. Report. 107pp.

Colvin, Verplank. Report on the Topographical Survey of the Adirondacks for the Years 1873 and 1879. Albany.

Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. April, 1985.

Cushing, H.P. Recent Geologic Work in Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties. New York State Museum Report 54(1). 1900

DEC. 1980. Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Fish and Wildlife (1980).

Doan, K.H. 1970. Effects of snowmobiles on fish and wildlife resources. Proceedings Int. Assoc. Game Fish and Conserv. Comm. 60:97-103.

Doherty, P. 1971. Effects on fish and game management. In conference on snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles. R.W. Butler, P.S. Elder, H.N. Janish, and B.M. Petrie, Eds. London, Ontario. Univ. of Western Ontario. 237 pp.

Donaldson, Alfred L. A History of the Adirondacks. Vols. I and II. Century Co. New York. 1921. Reprinted by Harbor Hill Books, Harrison, New York. 1977.

Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission. First Annual Report. Wynkoop, Hallenbeck, Crawford Co. 1896.

Dorrance, M.J., P.J. Savage, and D.E. Hugg. 1975. Effects of snowmobiles on whitetailed deer. J. Wildlife Manage. 39(3):563-569.

Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Revised April 1994.

Gordon, W.H. 1993. Region 6-Adirondack Brook Trout Pond Angler Use Survey, 1992. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Administrative Report, March, 1003, 24 pp.

Graham, Frank. The Adirondack Park. Alfred A. Knopf. New York. 1978.

Halls, L.K. (ed) 1984 White-Tailed Deer: Ecology and Management Wildlife Management Institute. 870.

Headley, Joel T. The Adirondack or Life in the Woods. 1849. Edited by Philip G. Terrie, Harbor Hill Books. 1982.

Ives, Martin V.B. Through the Adirondacks in Eighteen Days. Harbor Hill Books, Harrison, New York. 1985.

Jamison, Paul. "Adirondack Eskers." Adirondack Life. November/December, 1978.

Jamison, Paul and Donald Morris. Adirondack Canoe Waters: North Flow. The Adirondack Mountain Club. Lake George, New York. 1991.

Kudish, Michael. Where Did the Tracks Go?. The Chauncy Press. Saranac Lake, New York. 1985.

McIntyre, J.W. Biology and Behavior of the Common Loon with Reference to its Adaptability to a Man-Altered Environment. PhD. Thesis. University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. 1975.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Eighth Annual Report. J. B. Lyon Co. Albany. 1919.

Pfeiffer, M.H. 1979. A Comprehensive Plan for Fish Resource Management Within the Adirondack Zone. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Administrative Report, 207 pp.

Richens, V.B., and G.R. Lavigne. 1978. Response of white-tailed deer to snowmobiles and snowmobile trails in Maine. *Can. Fieldnatur.*92:334-344.

Rosevear, Francis B. Colvin in the Adirondacks: A Chronology and Index. North Country Books, Utica, New York. 1992. Simmons, Louis J. Mostly Spruce and Hemlock. Vail-Ballou Press. Tupper Lake, New York. 1976.

Schoch, N. and D.C. Evers. 2002. Monitoring mercury in Common Loons: New York Field Report, 1998-200. Report BRI 2001-01 submitted to U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. And New York State Dept. Environ. Conservation. BioDiversity Research Institute, Falmouth, ME.

Simmons, Louis J. "Tupper Lake." Franklin Historical Review. Vol. 5. 1968.

Simonin, H. Et al. 1990. Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. Administrative Report, 242 pp.

Stillman, William J. Autobiography of a Journalist. Houghton, Mifflin & Company. Boston and New York. 1901.

Titus, James R. and Larry W. VanDruff. Response of the Common Loon to Recreational Pressure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Northeastern Minnesota. The Wildlife Society. Wildlife Monograph No. 79. Louisville, Kentucky. October 1981.

U.S. Department of the Interior. 1972. National Survey of Hunting and Fishing 1970. Resource. Publication 95. U.S. Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. 108 pp.

U.S. Department of the Interior. 1977. National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Associated Recreation 1975. Addendum. New York. U.S. Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 77 pp.

VanValkenburgh, N. J. The Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondack Museum. Blue Mountain Lake, New York. 1979.

VanValkenburgh, N. J. Land Acquisition for New York State. The Catskill Center. Arkville, New York. 1985.

Wallace, E.R. Descriptive Guide to the Adirondacks. Bible Publishing House. Syracuse, New York. 1887. Will, G., R. Stumvoll, R. Gotie and E. Smith. The Ecological Zones of Northern New York. New York Fish and Game Journal. Vol. 29, No. 1, January, 1982.

Young, J., and A. Boice. 1971. Recreational uses of snow and ice in Michigan and some of its affects on wildlife and people. In Proc. Snow and ice in relation to wildlife and recreation symposium, ed A. O. Haugen, pp. 193-196. Ames: Iowa State University.

ACRONYMS

AANR	Adopt-a-Natural Resources Agreement
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
ADK	Adirondack Mountain Club
AFR	Assistant Forest Ranger
ALSC	Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation
ANC	Acid neutralizing capacity
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
APIPP	Adirondack Park Invasive Plants Program
APLUDP	Adirondack Park Land Use Development Plan
APSLMP	Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
ARTC	Adirondack Regional Tourism Council
ASRC	Atmospheric Science Research Center
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
BMP's	Best Management Practices
BBA	Breeding Bird Atlas
DEC	Department of Environmental Conservation
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DMU	Deer Management Unit
DOT	Department of Transportation
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
ED/RR	Early Detection/Rapid Response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ENB	Environmental Notice Bulletin
EPA	Environmental Protection Act of 1993
EQBA	Environmental Quality Bond Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FPAC	Forest Preserve Advisory Committee
FR	Forest Ranger
IMBA	International Mountain Bike Association
LAC	Limits of Acceptable Change
NBWI	Native-But-Widely-Introduced
NiMo	Niagara Mohawk Power Corp
NPS	National Park Service
NYCRR	New York Code of Rules and Regulations
NYNHP	New York Natural Heritage Program
NYS	New York State
NYSM	New York State Museum
OPRHP	Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
OSP	Open Space Plan
RM	Reference Marker
ROW	Right-of-Way
RRAC	Raquette River Advisory Committee
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SEQR	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SH	State Highway
SUNY	State University of New York

UMP	Unit Management Plan
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VERP	Visitor Experience and Resource Protection
V&T	Vehicle and Traffic Law
WHUMP	White Hill Unit Management Plan
WHWF	White Hill Wild Forest
WMU	Wildlife Management Unit

VII. APPENDICES

Appendix A	Breeding Bird Atlas Survey
Appendix B	Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project List
Appendix C	Mammal List
Appendix D	Comprehensive Fish Species List
Appendix E	Status of Town Roads in the White Hill Unit
Appendix F	Lassiter Easement Public Use Section
Appendix G	Niagara Mohawk Easement Public Use Section
Appendix H	Designated Campsite Monitoring Manual
Appendix I	Invasive Plant Species Map
Appendix J	Best Management Practices for State Lands
Appendix K	Proposed Easement Road and Trail Specifications
Appendix L	Public Comment Summary and Response
Appendix M	State Environmental Quality Review Act
Appendix N	Unit Maps

APPENDIX A

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Breeding Status</u>
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Probable
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Possible
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Confirmed
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Confirmed
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Confirmed
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Probable
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Confirmed
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Confirmed
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Confirmed
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Confirmed
Bank Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Confirmed
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Possible
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Possible
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Confirmed
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Possible
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Probable
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile arcticus</i>	Confirmed
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Confirmed
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Confirmed
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Confirmed
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Probable
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Confirmed
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Possible
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Confirmed
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Possible
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Probable
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Possible
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Confirmed

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Breeding Status</u>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Confirmed
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Confirmed
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Confirmed
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Possible
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Confirmed
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Confirmed
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Confirmed
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Confirmed
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Confirmed
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Possible
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Possible
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Confirmed
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Confirmed
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Confirmed
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Confirmed
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Confirmed
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Probable
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Confirmed
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	Possible
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Possible
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Confirmed
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Confirmed
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Possible
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Possible
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Confirmed
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Confirmed
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Possible
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Possible
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Confirmed
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Possible
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Possible
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Confirmed

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Breeding Status</u>
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Confirmed
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Possible
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Possible
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Confirmed
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Possible
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Possible
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Confirmed
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	Confirmed
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Confirmed
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Confirmed
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Confirmed
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Possible
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Confirmed
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Probable
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Possible
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Confirmed
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Possible
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Confirmed
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Possible
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Confirmed
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Confirmed
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Possible
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Possible
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Probable
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Confirmed
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Probable
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Confirmed
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Possible
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Possible
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Confirmed

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Breeding Status</u>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Confirmed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Confirmed
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Confirmed
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Possible
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Probable
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Possible
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Confirmed
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Confirmed
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Confirmed
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Confirmed
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Confirmed
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Confirmed
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Possible
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Confirmed
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Possible
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Possible
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Possible
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Possible
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Confirmed
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Confirmed
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Probable
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Confirmed
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Probable
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Confirmed
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Possible

APPENDIX B

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE ATLAS PROJECT LIST

Allegheny Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>
Eastern American Toad	<i>Bufo a. americanus</i>
Eastern Milk Snake	<i>Lampro</i>
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans melanota</i>
Jefferson Salamander Complex	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum x laterale*</i>
Mink Frog	<i>Rana septentrionalis</i>
Northern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>
Northern Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>
Northern Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsii</i>
Northern Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris c. crucifer</i>
Northern Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus p. porphyriticus</i>
Northern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>
Pickerel Frog	<i>Rana palustris</i>
Red-spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus v. viridescens</i>
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>

*Special Concern Species - any native species for which a welfare concern or risk of endangerment has been documented in New York State.

APPENDIX C

MAMMALS

The White Hill Wild Forest Unit contains potential habitat for 40 species of mammals:

MAMMALS	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>		
Big Game:				
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	P	G	R
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	P	G	Tr
White Tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	P	G	R
Furbearers:				
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	P	G	R
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	P	G	R
Eastern Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	P	G	R
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	P	G	Oc
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	P	G	R
Gray Fox	<i>Uro. cinereoargenteus</i>	P	G	Oc
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>		P	GOc
Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	P	G	Oc
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	P	G	R
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>	P	G	R
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	P	G	R
River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>		P	GR
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	P	G	Oc
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	P	G	Oc
Small Game:				
Varying Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	P	G	R
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>		Un	UnOc
Other:				
Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>		Un	UnR
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Un	Un	R
Hairy-tailed Mole	<i>Parascalops breweri</i>	Un	Un	R
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>		Un	UnR
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Un	Un	R
Mead. Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Un	Un	R
Meadow Vole	<i>Micotus pennsylvanicus</i>	Un	Un	R
Nn. Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>	Un	Un	R
Nn. Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Un	Un	R
Pigmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Un	Un	R
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Un	Un	R
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus</i>	Un	Un	R
Rock Vole	<i>Micotus chrotorrhinus</i>		Un	UnR
Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Sorex brevicauda</i>	Un	Un	R

Smokey Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Un	Un	R
Sn. Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Un	Un	R
Sn. Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>		Un	UnR
Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>		Un	UnR
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	Un	Un	R
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>	Un	Un	R

Un = Unprotected G = Game R = Resident Tr = Transient Oc = Occasional P = Protected

APPENDIX D

COMPREHENSIVE FISH SPECIES LIST

NAME	GENUS	SPECIES
American Eel	<i>Anguilla</i>	<i>rostrata</i>
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus</i>	<i>diaphanus</i>
Blacknose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys</i>	<i>atratus</i>
Bluegill **	<i>Lepomis</i>	<i>macrochirus</i>
Brassy Minnow **	<i>Hybognathus</i>	<i>hankinsoni</i>
Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus</i>	<i>fontinalis</i>
Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus</i>	<i>nebulosus</i>
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo</i>	<i>trutta</i>
Cisco or Lake Herring	<i>Coregonus</i>	<i>artedi</i>
Common Shiner	<i>Luxilus</i>	<i>cornutus</i>
Central Mudminnow	<i>Umbra</i>	<i>limi</i>
Creek Chub	<i>Semotilus</i>	<i>atromaculatus</i>
Cutlips Minnow	<i>Exoglossum</i>	<i>maxillingua</i>
Fallfish	<i>Semotilus</i>	<i>corporalis</i>
Fantail Darter	<i>Etheostoma</i>	<i>flabellare</i>
Fathead Minnow **	<i>Pimephales</i>	<i>promelas</i>
Finescale Dace **	<i>Phoxinus</i>	<i>neogaeus</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus</i>	<i>crysoleucas</i>
Johnny Darter **	<i>Etheostoma</i>	<i>nigrum</i>
Lake Chub **	<i>Couesius</i>	<i>plumbeus</i>
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus</i>	<i>salmoides</i>
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys</i>	<i>cataractae</i>
Northern Pike	<i>Esox</i>	<i>lucius</i>
Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Phoxinus</i>	<i>eos</i>
Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus</i>	<i>margarita</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis</i>	<i>gibbosus</i>
Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>mykiss</i>

NAME	GENUS	SPECIES
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites</i>	<i>rupestris</i>
Slimy Sculpin **	<i>Cottus</i>	<i>cognatus</i>
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus</i>	<i>dolomieu</i>
Sockeye Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>nerka</i>
Splake	<i>Salvelinus</i>	<i>fontinalis X namaycush</i>
Tessellated Darter	<i>Etheostoma</i>	<i>olmstedii</i>
Walleye	<i>Stizostedion</i>	<i>vitreum</i>
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus</i>	<i>commersoni</i>
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca</i>	<i>flavescens</i>

Sources: New York State Bureau of Fisheries Database, ALSC

Note: ** denotes species which appear only in historical New York State DEC data sets prior to 1984.

APPENDIX E

STATUS OF TOWN ROADS IN THE WHITE HILL UNIT

Town of Parishville Roads designated by the Town as “open” for ATV and snowmobile traffic that border New York State Forest Preserve or easement lands in the White Hill Unit:

Picketville Road
Clear Pond Road

Note: The additional roads listed below are designated as open to ATV’s and snowmobiles in the Town of Parishville. They do not border New York State lands in this White Hill Unit but do provide linkages between New York State Reforestation Areas (High Flats, Whiskey Flats, and Catherineville) and parcels within the White Hill Unit for ATV and snowmobile traffic. In addition, Catherine Street and the Catherineville Road interconnect with town roads designated as open to ATV’s and snowmobiles in the adjoining Town of Hopkinton, providing a legal means, via the Santamont, Sylvan Falls, and Jones Roads, to travel from the village of Parishville to the White Hill Road which adjoins the east boundary of the White Hill Wild Forest main parcel.

French Hill Road
Chapel Hill Road
Perkins Road
Cook Road
George Street south to the Picketville Road
Catherineville Road
Catherine Street
Mill Street
Charles Street

Town of Hopkinton Roads designated by the town as “open” for snowmobile traffic, that border New York State Forest Preserve or easement lands in the White Hill Unit:

White Hill Road
Clear Pond Road
Sylvan Falls Road
Lake Ozonia Road

Note: All Town Roads in the Town of Hopkinton, with the exception of Church Street (a small loop street where the Town Offices are located in “downtown” Hopkinton, are designated as being “open” for ATV and snowmobile traffic by the Town of Hopkinton.

Town of Colton Roads designated by the town as being “open” for ATV and snowmobile traffic, that border New York State Forest Preserve or easement lands in the White Hill Unit:

Joe Indian Road
Stark Road
Morgan Road

Note: There are currently no roads open to ATVs in the Town of Colton. All Town Roads in the Town of Colton are designated as “open” for snowmobile use with these few exceptions:

Closed to snowmobile traffic:

Sugarbush Lane
Stowe Lane
French Hill Road

Closed to snowmobile traffic from Memorial Day to Labor Day:

Coldbrook Drive, from the Littlejohn Road to State Route 56
Gulf Road, from Cottage Road to State Route 68
Cottage Road

APPENDIX F

LASSITER EASEMENT - AFFIRMATIVE RIGHTS AND DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS SECTIONS

AFFIRMATIVE RIGHTS

Those rights agreed to by the parties herein as running with the Protected Property are more fully described as follows:

1. The Grantor grants to the Grantee and its successors the right to view the Protected Property in its natural state, including the right of public access to the Protected Property for recreational purposes only, subject to the Terms and Conditions and Reserved Rights set forth herein. This right of public recreational use includes the following:
 - a. Access to and over the Protected Property by foot including hiking, snowshoes, cross-country skiing or on horseback. The use of horses, or other similar animals, for riding or transport of supplies is permitted.
 - b. Access to the Protected Property by vehicle, only over presently established roads. Vehicle, as used in this easement, includes all motor vehicles, bicycles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and other similar forms of transport.
 - c. Canoe and other means of non-motorized access and travel by the public on any navigable streams which cross the Protected Property.
 - d. Camping by the public is permitted and will be regulated in the same manner as on existing Forest Preserve land or in accordance with the Unit Management Plan to be developed by the Grantee. Camping by those exercising the Grantor's reserved hunting rights is not subject to regulation by the Grantee, provided that those exercising such rights shall leave the sites free of debris and garbage and shall not create a health hazard.
 - e. Firewood may be gathered from dead and downed trees only for on-site use by the public to build fires for cooking or warmth only.
 - f. Fishing and trapping by the public is permitted in accordance with established seasons and applicable rules and regulations.
 - g. Pursuant to the Reserved Rights Section, the hunting rights have been retained by the Grantor, to the exclusion of the public, on the Protected Property during the period September 1 through and including December 31 for the years 1989 through and including 2019. During those years, hunting by the public is permitted only for any established season not within the September 1 to December 31 period. After December 31, 2019, hunting by the public on the Protected Property is permitted in accordance with established seasons and applicable rules and regulations.
 - h. Grantee shall have the right to construct and maintain trails for non-motorized and snowmobile use in addition to those which may already exist on the Protected Property subject to the Grantee's Unit Management Plan to be developed.

- i. Grantee shall have the right to construct and maintain roads (not to exceed one-half mile in length) and parking lots (not to exceed one acre in size) as necessary for the exercise of the recreational right conveyed in this easement. Provided, however, any roads exceeding one-half mile in length or any parking lots exceeding one acre in size shall be subject to the consent of the Grantor, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
2. The Grantor grants to the Grantee and its successors and assigns the right to enter upon and inspect the Protected Property to determine the compliance of the Grantor, its successors or assigns, with this easement. Grantor shall within thirty (30) days after any inspection be provided a copy of any inspection report.
3. In response to natural disaster, environmental hazard or threats to human safety, Grantee may take any emergency action necessary to preserve the Protected Property.

DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS

The parties agree that the following restrictions shall apply to the Protected Property in perpetuity:

1. No buildings, residences, mobile homes or other structures, fences, signs, billboards or other advertising material shall be constructed or placed in, on, over, under or upon the Protected Property except to the extent provided in the Reserved Rights Section.
2. Except as provided in the Reserved Rights Section, no application of pesticides, including but not limited to insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and herbicides or any farming, tilling or grazing of cattle or other livestock shall be allowed on the Protected Property without the prior written consent of the Grantee.
3. Except to the extent provided in the Reserved Rights Section, no dumping or storing of ashes, sawdust, noncomposted organic waste, sewage or garbage, scrap material, sediment discharges, oil and its by-products, leached compounds, toxic fumes or any other unsightly or offensive material shall be allowed in, on, over, under or upon the Protected Property.
4. No snowmobiles, dune buggies, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles or other recreational vehicles shall be operated on the Protected Property by Grantor except as they may be used for inspection, maintenance, fire protection or other emergency needs, and for the furtherance of Grantor's Reserved Rights. No off-road use of automobiles, trucks, vans or other motor vehicles shall be permitted on the Protected Property, except as is necessary for operations as described in the Reserved Right Section. This restriction does not impair the public access rights described in this easement.
5. No exterior artificial illumination shall be employed on the Protected Property, other than that employed on the date hereof, without prior written consent of the Grantee, except as is reasonably required for enjoyment of the Reserved Rights by the Grantor.
6. No residential, commercial or industrial activities of any kind shall be permitted on or in the Protected Property other than those specifically provided for in the Reserved Rights Section.

7. Except as may be specifically permitted in the Reserved Rights Section or pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Section 49-0307, no telephone, telegraph, cable television, electric, gas, water or sewer or other utility lines shall be routed over, under, in, on, upon or above the Protected Property without the prior written consent of the Grantee.

APPENDIX G

NI-MO EASEMENT -AFFIRMATIVE RIGHTS AND DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS SECTIONS

AFFIRMATIVE RIGHTS

1. The Grantor grants to the Grantee and its successors and assigns the right to view the Protected Property in its current state, including the right of public access to the Protected property for recreational purposes only, subject to the terms and conditions and reserved rights set forth herein. This right of public recreational use includes the following:

- a. Access to and over the Protected Property by bicycle or foot, including hiking, snowshoes, cross-country skiing, and/or horseback, the use of horses or other similar animals for riding or transportation of supplies is permitted.
- b. Public access to the Protected Property by motor vehicle shall be limited to the Main Haul Roads of the Property.
- c. Snowmobiles and ATVs may use all existing roads except those roads which are plowed by the Grantor and area being used for logging purposes. The Grantee is responsible for all necessary signage to indicate trails open for public ATV and snowmobile use.
- d. Canoe and other means of non-motorized access and travel by the public on any navigable streams or bodies of water crossing or situated on the Protected Property.
- e. Camping by the public is permitted and will be regulated in the same manner as on existing Forest Preserve Land or in accordance with the Recreation Plan as defined in Item 5a of the Terms and Conditions section of this agreement.
- f. Firewood may be gathered and/or cut from dead and down trees only for and to the extent of onsite use by the public to build fires for cooking or warmth only. Open fires will be regulated in the same manner as on existing Forest Preserve.
- g. Hunting, fishing and trapping by the public is permitted in accordance with established seasons and applicable rules and regulations.
- h. Grantee shall have the right to construct and maintain new roads and trails for snowmobiles, ATVs and foot travel by the public in addition to those which may already exist on the Protected Property as long as those trails do not interfere with the Grantor's reserved right of Forest Management, are mutually agreed upon by the Grantor and Grantee prior to such construction and are provided for in the Grantee's Recreation Plan to be developed.
- i. Grantee shall have the right to construct and maintain motor vehicle roads and parking lots as necessary for the exercise of the recreational rights conveyed in this easement. However, the location of any new roads or any parking lots exceeding two acres in size shall be mutually agreed upon by Grantor and Grantee prior to such construction and be described in Recreation Plan described in Item 5a of the Terms and Conditions portion of this agreement. Any timber removed by the construction of these roads or parking lots shall belong to the Grantor.

- j. The Grantee shall have the right to manage the fish and wildlife resources on the Protected Property for the long term use and benefit of the public.
 - k. In no case shall the rights of the public to use the Protected Property exceed those uses as defined in Section 9-103(1)(a) of the New York State General Obligations Law as currently written, or hereinafter modified.
2. In response to natural disaster, environmental hazard or threats to human health and safety, or property either Grantor or Grantee may take any emergency action necessary to preserve the Protected Property. The other party to this Conservation Easement shall be immediately notified and consulted with relative to any such emergency action.
3. The right to enter the Protected Property at all reasonable times and with prior notice for the purpose of:
- a. Inspecting the Protected Property to determine if the Grantor is complying with the covenants and purposes of the Conservation Easement.
 - b. Enforcing the terms of the Conservation Easement.
 - c. Taking any and all actions with respect to the Protected Property as may be necessary or appropriate, with or without order of court, to remedy or abate violations of the Conservation Easement.

DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS

The parties agree that the following restrictions shall apply to the Protected Property in perpetuity:

1. This Working Forest will be considered a commercial forest managed by a Professional Forester under the direction and control of the Grantor and guided by a silviculturally based forest management plan that encompasses both the economic and biological aspects of forestry. The Grantor agrees that all harvesting activities shall conform to all applicable Federal and State rules and regulations guiding the harvesting of forest products.
2. No buildings, residences, mobile homes or other structures, fences, signs, billboards or other advertising material shall be constructed or place in, on, over, under or upon the Protected Property except to the extent provided in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section and Item 5b of the TERMS AND CONDITIONS section of this Conservation Easement.
3. Except as provided in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section, no application of pesticides, including but not limited to insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and herbicides shall be allowed.
4. Except to the extent provided in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section, no dumping or storing of ashes, sawdust, noncomposted organic waste, "offsite" sewage or garbage, scrap material, sediment discharges, oil and its by-products, leached compounds, toxic fumes or any other unsightly or offensive material shall be allowed in, on, over, under or upon the Protected Property.
5. No snowmobiles, dune buggies, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles or other recreational vehicles shall be operated on the Protected Property by Grantor except as they may be used for inspection, maintenance, fire protection or other emergency needs, and for the furtherance of Grantor's RESERVED RIGHTS, or as authorized in the AFFIRMATIVE RIGHTS Section of this

Conservation Easement. No off-road or off-trail use of automobiles, trucks, vans, all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, or other motor vehicles shall be permitted on the Protected Property, except as in necessary for operations as described in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section. This restriction does not impair the public or Grantor's access rights described in this Conservation Easement.

6. No exterior artificial illumination shall be employed on the Protected Property, other than that employed on the date hereof, without prior written consent of the Grantee, except as is reasonably required for enjoyment of the RESERVED RIGHTS by the Grantor.

7. No residential, commercial or industrial activities of any kind shall be permitted on the Protected Property, other than those specifically provided for in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section, or as may be authorized by the mutual consent of the parties herein in writing.

8. Except as may be specifically permitted in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section or pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Section 49-0307, no new telephone, telegraph, cable television, electric, gas, water or sewer or other utility or communications lines or facilities shall be placed upon or routed over, under, in, on, upon or above the Protected Property without the prior written consent of the Grantor and the Grantee.

9. No mining will be conducted and no minerals, gas or oil will be extracted from the property except the onsite use of gravel for road construction as provided for in the RESERVED RIGHTS Section will be permitted, subject to any applicable laws and governmental regulation.

APPENDIX H

DESIGNATED CAMPSITE MONITORING MANUAL

Description of Procedures

For the purpose of this manual, designated campsites are defined as those areas either designated by the Department with a yellow DEC designated campsite marker, or shown on an area brochure. In areas with multiple sites there may not always be undisturbed areas separating sites, and an arbitrary decision may be necessary to define separate sites. For each site, monitoring begins with an assessment of Condition Class:

CONDITION CLASS DEFINITIONS

- Class 1: Recreation site barely distinguishable; slight loss of vegetation cover and/ or minimal disturbance of organic litter.
- Class 2: Recreation site obvious; vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized in primary use area.
- Class 3: Vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized on much of the site, some bare soil exposed in primary use areas.
- Class 4: Nearly complete or total loss of vegetation cover and organic litter, bare soil widespread.
- Class 5: Soil erosion obvious, as indicated by exposed tree roots and rocks and/or gullying.

For sites rated Condition Class 1 or 2, complete Form B; for sites rated Class 3, 4 or 5, complete Form A. Form B is an abbreviated version of Form A and greatly reduces the amount of field time. The rationale for this approach is that detailed information on lightly impacted sites is not as critical to management.

During subsequent surveys an attempt should be made to relocate and reassess all sites from the proceeding survey. Former designated sites that have been closed, and are still being used, should be noted as illegal sites. Always note information regarding the history of site use under the comment parameter.

- Materials:
- Compass, peephole or mirror type (not corrected for declination)
 - GPS data recorder (GPS point will be taken at each sites center point)
 - Tape measure, 100-foot (marked in tenths)
 - Flagged wire pins (25 min), one large steel center point stake.
 - Digital camera
 - Clipboard, pencil, field forms, field procedures
 - Steel nails (5 inch)

Form A Procedures

Inventory Parameters

1. Site Number: All sites will be assigned an old site number as well as a new site number. Old site numbers will use the existing site numbering system, while new site numbers will be assigned following completion of the mapping of all sites.

2. Inventoried By: List the names of field personnel involved in data collection.

3. Date: Month, day and year the site was evaluated (e.g., June 12, 1999 = 06/12/99)

4. Substrate of site area: Record the predominant substrate for the area of human disturbance for each site using the coded categories below.

B=bedrock - shelf bedrock

C=cobble - includes gravel size stone and up

S=sand - includes sandy soils that do not form a surface crust in trampled areas

O=soil - includes clays to loamy sands

5. Number of other sites visible: Record the number of other campsites, which if occupied, would be visible from this site.

6. Fire ring : if present or not (y or n)

a. Construction: stone/masonry or metal

b. Condition: good=intact, functional for cooking

Poor= missing stones, broken , not functional for cooking but will contain open fire.

7. Privy: if present or not (y or n)

a. Condition: good= functional, has door, wood not deteriorated(would you use it?)

Poor=nonfunctional, door missing, wood rotten,

8. Picnic table: if present or not (y or n)

a. Condition: good= usable, no broken boards, table is solid

Poor=not usable, broken/rotten boards, not sturdy

9. Tree canopy cover: Estimate the percentage of tree canopy cover directly over the campsite.

1=0-25%, 2=26-50%, 3=51-75%, 4=76-100%

Impact Parameters

The first step is to establish the sites boundaries and measure its size. The following procedures describe use of the variable radial transect method for determining the sizes of recreational sites. This is accomplished by measuring the lengths of linear transects from a permanently defined center point to the recreation site boundary.

Step 1. Identify Recreation Site Boundaries and Flag Transect Endpoints. Walk the recreation site boundary and place flagged wire pins at locations which, when connected with straight lines, will define a polygon whose area approximates the recreation site area. Use as few pins as necessary, typical sites can be adequately flagged with 10-15 pins. Look both directions along site boundaries as you place the flags and try to balance areas of the site that fall outside the lines with offsite(undisturbed) areas that fall inside the lines. Pins do not have to be placed on the site boundaries, as demonstrated in the diagram following these procedures. Project site boundaries straight across areas where trails enter the site. Identify site boundaries by pronounced changes in vegetation cover, vegetation height/disturbance, vegetation composition, surface organic litter, and topography. Many sites with dense forest over stories will have very little vegetation and it will be necessary to identify boundaries by examining changes in organic litter, i.e. leaves that are untrampled and intact versus leaves that are pulverized or absent. In defining the site boundaries, be careful to include only those areas that appear to have been disturbed from human trampling. Natural factors such as dense shade and flooding can create areas lacking vegetative cover. Do not include these areas if they appear “natural” to you. When in doubt, it may also be helpful to speculate on which areas typical visitors might use based on factors such as slope or rockiness.

Step 2. Select and Reference Site Center point. Select a site center point that is preferably a) visible from all site boundary pins, b) easily referenced by distinctive permanent features such as larger trees or boulders, and c) approximately 5 feet from a steel fire ring if present. Embed a 5

inch nail in the soil at the center point location so that the head is 3-4 inches below the surface. During future sight assessments a magnetic pin locator can be used to locate the center point. Next, insert a large steel stake at the center point and reference it to at least three features. Try to select reference features in three opposing directions, as this will enable future workers to triangulate the center point location. For each feature, take a compass azimuth reading and measure the distance (nearest 1/10 foot) from the center point to the center of trees or the highest point of boulders. Also measure the approximate diameter of reference trees at 4.5 feet above ground (dbh). Be extremely careful in taking these azimuths and measurements, as they are critical to relocating the center point in the future. Record this information on the back of the form.

Take a digital photograph that clearly shows the center point location in relation to nearby trees or other reference features, such as the fire ring, trees or boulders. Record a photo description, such as "center point location site 23", in the photo log.

Options: Some sites may lack the necessary permanent reference features enabling the center point to be accurately relocated. If only one or two permanent reference features are available, use these and take additional photographs from several angles. If permanent features are unavailable, simply proceed with the remaining steps without permanently referencing the center point. This option will introduce more error in comparisons with future measurements, particularly if the site boundaries are not pronounced. Note your actions regarding use of these options in the comment section.

Step 3. Record Transect Azimuths and Lengths. Standing directly over the center point, identify and record the compass bearing (azimuth) of each site boundary pin working in a clockwise direction, starting with the first pin clockwise of north. Be careful not to miss any pins hidden behind vegetation or trees. Be extremely careful in identifying the correct compass bearings to these pins as error in these bearings will bias current and future measurements of site size. Next, anchor the end of your tape to the center point stake, measure and record the length of each transect (nearest 1/10 foot), starting with the same boundary pin and in the same clockwise direction as before. Be absolutely certain that the appropriate pin distances are recorded adjacent to their respective compass bearing.

Step 4. Measure island and satellite areas. Identify any undisturbed islands of vegetation inside the site boundaries (often due to the clumping of trees and shrubs) and disturbed satellite use areas outside the site boundaries (often due to tent sites or cooking sites). Use site boundary definitions for determining the boundaries of these areas. Use the geographic figure method to determine the areas of these islands and satellites (refer to the diagrams following these procedures). This method involves superimposing one or more imaginary geometric figures (rectangles, circles or right triangles) on island or satellite boundaries and measuring appropriate dimensions to calculate their areas. Record the types of figures used and their dimensions on the back of the form; the size of these areas should be computed in the office using a calculator.

Site Remeasurement: During site remeasurement use the data from the last monitoring period to reestablish the center point and all site boundary pins. If steel nails were embedded in the ground, a magnetic pin locator can assist in this process. Place flagged wire pins at each transect boundary point. Boundary locations based on the following procedures:

2. Keep the same transect length if that length still seems appropriate, i.e., there is no compelling reason to alter the initial boundary determination.

3. Record a new transect length if the prior length is inappropriate, i.e., there is compelling evidence that the present boundary does not coincide with the pin and the pin should be relocated either closer to or further away from the center point along the prescribed compass bearing. Use different colored flags to distinguish these current boundary points from the former boundaries.
4. Repeat steps 1 and 3 from above to establish additional transects where necessary to accommodate any changes in the shape of recreation site boundaries (diagram below). Also repeat step 4.
5. Leave all pins in place until all procedures are completed. Pins identifying the former site boundaries are necessary for tree damage and root exposure assessments.

These additional procedures are designed to eliminate much of the measurement error associated with different individuals making subjective judgements on those sites or portions of sites where boundaries are not pronounced. These procedures may only be used for sites whose center points can be relocated.

Site Number / Site Name	____/____																																																
Compass Bearing:																																																	
X	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>0</td><td>22</td><td>45</td><td>67</td><td>90</td><td>112</td><td>135</td><td>157</td><td>180</td><td>202</td><td>225</td><td>247</td><td>270</td><td>292</td><td>315</td><td>337</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table>	0	22	45	67	90	112	135	157	180	202	225	247	270	292	315	337																																
0	22	45	67	90	112	135	157	180	202	225	247	270	292	315	337																																		
Campsite Map:																																																	

10. Condition class: Record the condition class you assessed for the site using the categories described earlier.

11. Vegetative ground cover on site: An estimate of the percentage of live non-woody vegetative ground cover (including herbs, grasses, and mosses and excluding tree seedlings, saplings, and shrubs) within the flagged campsite boundary using the coded categories listed next. Include any disturbed satellite use areas and exclude any undisturbed Island areas of vegetation. For this and the following two parameters, it is often helpful to narrow your decision to two categories and concentrate on the boundary that separates them. For example, if the vegetation cover is either category 2 (6-25%) or category 3 (26-50%), you can simplify your decision by focusing on whether vegetative cover is greater than 25%.
1=0-5%, 2=6-25%, 3=26-50%, 4=51-75%, 5=76-95%, 6=96-100%

12. Vegetative ground cover offsite: An estimate of the percentage of vegetative ground cover in an adjacent but largely undisturbed “control” area. Use the codes and categories listed earlier. The control site should be similar to the campsite in slope, tree canopy cover (amount of sunlight penetrating to the forest floor), and other environmental conditions. The intent is to locate an area that would closely resemble the campsite area had the site never been used. In instances where you cannot decide between two categories, select the category with less vegetative cover. The rationale for this is simply that, all other factors being equal, the first campers would have selected a site with the least amount of vegetation cover.

13. Soil exposure: An estimate of the percentage of soil exposure, defined as ground with very little or no organic litter (partially decomposed leaf, needle, or twig litter) or vegetation cover, within the campsite boundaries and satellite areas. Dark organic soil, which typically covers lighter colored mineral soil, should be assessed as bare soil. Assessments of soil exposure may be difficult when organic litter becomes highly decomposed and forms a patchwork with areas of bare soil. If patches of organic material are relatively thin and few in number, the entire area should be assessed as bare soil. Otherwise, the patches of organic litter should be mentally combined and excluded from assessments. Code as for vegetative cover.

14. Tree damage: Tally the number of live trees (> 1 in, diameter at 4.5 ft.) Within the campsite boundaries, including trees in undisturbed islands and excluding trees in satellite areas, into one of the rating classes described below. Assessments are restricted to trees within the flagged campsite boundaries in order to ensure consistency with future measurements. Multiple tree stems from the same species that are joined at or above ground level should be counted as one tree when assessing damage to any of its stems. Assess a cut stem on a multiple-stemmed tree as tree damage, not as a stump. Do not count tree stumps as tree damage. Take into account tree size. For example, damage for a small tree would be considerably less in size than damage for a large tree. Omit scars that are clearly not human-caused (e.g., lightning strikes). During site remeasurement, begin by assessing tree damage on all trees within the site boundaries identified in the last measurement period. Tally the number of trees in areas where the boundary has moved closer to the center point, i.e., former site areas that are not currently judged to be part of the site separately. Place a box around this number. Next, assess tree damage in areas where boundaries have moved further from the center point, i.e. expanded site areas that are newly impacted since the last measurement period. Circle these tallies. These additional procedures are necessary in order to accurately analyze changes

None/Slight- No or slight damage such as broken or cut smaller branches, one nail, or a few superficial trunk scars.

Moderate- Numerous small trunk scars and/or nails or one moderate-sized scar.

Severe- Trunk scars numerous with many that are large and have penetrated to the inner wood; any complete girdling of trees (cut through tree bark all the way around tree).

15. Root exposure: Tally the number of live trees (> 1 in, diameter at 4.5 ft.) Within the campsite boundaries, including trees in undisturbed islands and excluding trees in satellite areas, into one of the rating classes described below. Assessments are restricted to trees within the flagged campsite boundaries in order to ensure consistency with future measurements. Where obvious, omit exposed roots that are clearly not human-caused (e.g., stream/river flooding). During site remeasurement, begin by assessing root exposure on all trees within the site boundaries identified in the last measurement period. Tally the number of trees in areas where the boundary has moved closer to the center point, i.e., former site areas that are not currently judged to be part of the site separately. Place a box around this number. Next, assess root exposure in areas where boundaries have moved further from the center point, i.e. expanded site areas that are newly impacted since the last measurement period. Circle these tallies. These additional procedures are necessary in order to accurately analyze changes in root exposure over time.

None/Slight- No or slight root exposure such as is typical in adjacent offsite areas.

Moderate- Top half of many major roots exposed more than one foot from base of tree.

Severe- Three-quarters or more of major roots exposed more than one foot from base of tree; soil erosion obvious.

16. Number of tree stumps: A count of the number of tree stumps (> 1 in. Diameter) within the campsite boundaries. Include trees within undisturbed islands and exclude trees in disturbed satellite areas. Do not include cut stems from a multiple-stemmed tree.

During site remeasurement, begin by assessing stumps on all trees within the site boundaries identified in the last measurement period. Tally the number of trees in areas where the boundary has moved closer to the center point, i.e., former site areas that are not currently judged to be part of the site separately. Place a box around this number. Next, assess stumps in areas where boundaries have moved further from the center point, i.e. expanded site areas that are newly impacted since the last measurement period. Circle these tallies. These additional procedures are necessary in order to accurately analyze changes in stumps over time.

17. Number of trails: A count of all trails leading away from the outer campsite boundaries. Do not count extremely faint trails that have untrampled tall herbs present in their tread or trails leading out to any satellite sites.

18. Number of fire sites: A count of each fire site within campsite boundaries, including satellite areas. Include old inactive fire sites as exhibited by blackened rocks, charcoal, or ashes. Do not include areas where ashes or charcoal have been dumped. However, if it is not clear whether or not a fire was built on the site, always count questionable sites that are within site boundaries and exclude those that are outside site boundaries.

19. Litter/trash: Evaluate the amount of litter/trash on the site: n=None or less than a handful, S=some-a handful up to enough to fill a 2-1/2-gallon bucket, M=Much- more than a 2-1/2-gallon bucket.

20. Human waste: Follow all trails connected to the site to conduct a quick search of likely "toilet" areas, typically areas just out of sight of the campsite. Count the number of individual human waste sites, defined as separate locations exhibiting toilet paper and/or human feces. The intent is to identify the extent to which improperly disposed human feces is a problem. Use the following code categories: N=None, S=Some-1-3 sites, M=Much-4 or more sites evident.

21. Comments/Recommendations: An informal list of comments concerning the site: note any assessments you felt were particularly difficult or subjective, problems with monitoring procedures or their application to this particular campsite, or any other comment.

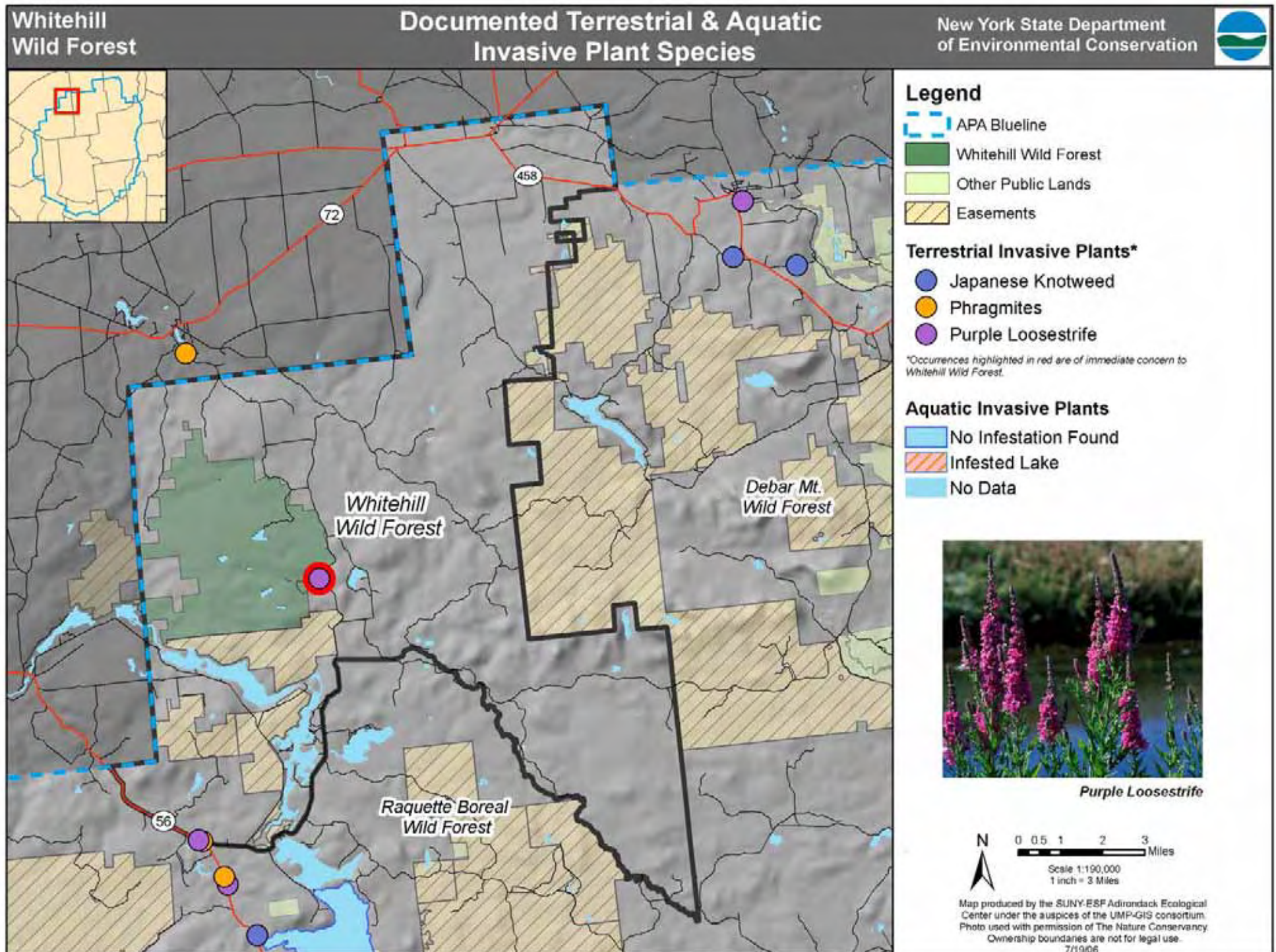
22. Campsite photograph: Select a good vantage point for viewing the entire campsite, preferably one of the site boundary pins, and take a digital picture of the campsite. Note the azimuth and distance from the center point to the photo point and record on the form. The intent is to obtain a photograph that includes as much of the site as possible to provide a photographic record of site condition. The photo will also allow future workers to make a positive identification of the site. Label disks with date, and site number.

23. Total campsite area: Calculate the campsite area based on the recorded transect measurements. Add the area of any satellite sites and subtract the area of any undisturbed islands to obtain the Total Campsite Area. Record campsite area to nearest square foot (ft²).

Form B Procedures

Refer to the procedures described earlier, all procedures are the same with the exception of campsite size. Measure campsite size using the geometric figure method. Typically, class 1 and 2 campsites are quite small in size and this method should be both efficient and accurate. Be sure to record on form B the types of figures used (rectangle, square, triangles...etc.) And all necessary dimensions. Record campsite area to nearest square foot (ft²).

Appendix I - Invasive Plant Species Map



APPENDIX J

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR STATE LANDS UNDER MANAGEMENT OF THE DEC IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

Applicability

These Best Management Practices (BMP's) are intended for use by those applying for and implementing terrestrial invasive plant species management activities on State Lands under an Adopt-a-Natural-Resource Stewardship Agreement (ANRSA). The following document contains acceptable practices for control of the following terrestrial invasive species: Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese, giant and bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* ssp. *japonica*, *F. sachalinensis* and *F. x.bohemica*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*), Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), japanese, Morrow's, tatarian, Amur and Bell's honeysuckles (*Lonicera japonica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tartica*, *L. maackii*, *L. x. bella*) and yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

The following management options, should be selected with consideration for the location and size of the stands, the age of the plants, past methods used at the site, time of year, sensitive native flora within or adjacent to the target infestation, and adjoining and nearby land uses.

Other management approaches not identified here may be appropriate but must be approved by the Regional Land Manager of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the region where the proposed invasive plant control activity will take place in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency's Director of Planning.

Within the Park there are several geographic settings (at the location of the target plant(s)) that need to be considered when determining appropriate BMP's and the regulatory instruments needed prior to their implementation. These settings and relevant action are:

1. In or within 100' of a wetland on private or public lands -- requires a general permit from the Adirondack Park Agency.
2. Forest Preserve lands -- requires an ANRSA from the Department of Environmental Conservation and, if wetlands are involved, an Adirondack Park Agency permit.
3. If the standing water is greater than one acre in size and/or has an outlet to surface waters, an aquatic pesticides permit is required pursuant to ECL 15-0313(4) and 6 NYCRR 327.1 in which case application can only be made by a Certified Applicator or Technician or supervised Apprentice licensed in "Category 5 - Aquatic Vegetation Control".

GENERAL PRACTICES

1. **Minimum Tools Approach** - State land stewardship involving invasive plant species management practices should always incorporate the principles of the Minimum Tools Approach. Any group or individual implementing such practices on State land should only use the minimum tools, equipment, devices, force, actions or practices that will effectively reach the desired management goals. Implicit in this document is the stricture to implement a hierarchy of management practices based upon the target species and site conditions starting with the least intrusive and disruptive methods.

2. **Notification** - The following best management practices are intended to be used only when invasive terrestrial plant species are identified on Forest Preserve lands. These management techniques are temporary activities and are implemented with the ultimate goal being protection and restoration of native plant communities. Appropriate signage should be employed to explain the project. It may also be appropriate to issue press releases to explain the goals and techniques of the management activities.

3. **Motorized Equipment** - All use of motorized equipment on State lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC within the Adirondack Park shall be in compliance with Commissioner's Policy Number 17 (CP-17), and other pertinent DEC policy regarding the use of motorized equipment on Forest Preserve Lands.

4. **Erosion Control** - Some of the methods described below require actual digging or pulling of plants from the soil. In all cases they require removal of vegetation whether or not there is actual soil disturbance. Each situation must be studied to determine if the proposed control method and extent of the action will destabilize soils to the point where erosion is threatened. Generally if more than 25 square feet of soil surface is cleared or plant removal occurs on steep slopes silt fence should be installed and maintained.

5. **Revegetation** - All of the control methods below are aimed at reducing or eliminating invasive species so that natives are encouraged to grow and re-establish stable conditions that are not conducive to invasive colonization. In most cases removal or reduction of invasive populations will be enough to release native species and re-establish their dominance on a site. However, replanting or reseeding with native species may be required.

6. **Herbicide Treatments** - The only herbicide application allowed is spot treatment to individual plants using a back pack or hand sprayer, wick applicator, cloth glove applicator, stem injection or herbicide clippers. **No broadcast herbicide applications using, for example a truck mounted sprayer, are allowed.** The only herbicides contemplated and approved for use are glyphosate which is marketed under the trade names ROUNDUP®, RODEO®, GLYPRO® or AQUAMASTER®. ROUNDUP® may be used only in situations where there is no standing water, whereas RODEO may be used where standing water is present. **In all cases all label restrictions must and shall be followed by a certified applicator in an appropriate category.** The certified applicator or technician must have copies of the appropriate labels at the treatment site. Glyphosate and triclopyr are non-selective herbicides that are applied to plant foliage or cut stems and are then translocated to the roots. The application methods described and allowed are designed to reduce or eliminate the possibility that non-target species will be impacted by the herbicide use. All herbicide spot treatments require follow-up inspection later in the growing season or the following year to re-treat any individuals that were missed. Stem injections may be implemented using a large gauge needle or a specialized injection tool such as the JK Injection System (www.jkinjectiontools.com).

All herbicide mixing will be done in accordance with the label precautions and take place at a staging area (typically at a marshalling yard or a vehicle). No mixing shall take place on State lands unless at an approved location constructed for such use. Unused chemical and mixes shall be disposed of in a legal manner. No chemical or mix shall be disposed of on State lands unless at an approved location constructed for such use.

7. **Sanitation** - Management personnel must attempt to prevent invasive plant propagules from entering a treatment site or from being exported from it. Therefore, personnel must insure that their clothing including boots do not carry seeds or other propagules or weed seed infected soil

clods. At the beginning of the field day personnel should inspect their clothing and boots at the staging area. Prior to leaving the treatment site personnel should conduct another inspection and remove any propagules or soil clods from their clothing or boots. Personnel must insure that all equipment used for invasive species control whether it be hand or power driven is cleaned prior to entering onto a control site and prior to leaving the treatment site. Vehicles and equipment can be cleaned at a staging area that is distant from the control site after management activities if precautions are taken during transport to contain any propagules. This is an effort to reduce transport of plant propagules and reduce the potential for new invasive introductions. Use steam or hot water to clean equipment.

8. Material Collection and Transportation - While on the treatment site bag all cut material in heavy duty, 3 mil or thicker, black contractor quality plastic clean-up bags. Securely tie the bags and transport from the site in a truck with a topper or cap to securely fasten the load, in order to prevent spread of the plant material from the project work site. Transport the material to a legal disposal location.

9. Composting - Because of the extremely robust nature of invasive species, composting in a typical backyard compost pile or composting bin is not appropriate. However, methods can be used whereby sun-generated heat can be used to destroy the harvested plant materials. For instance, storage in a sealed 3 mil thickness (minimum) black plastic garbage bags on blacktop in the sun until the plant materials liquefy is effective. If a larger section of blacktop is available, make a black plastic (4 mil thickness minimum) envelope sealed on the edges with sand bags. The plant material left exposed to the sun will liquefy in the sealed envelope without danger of dispersal by wind. The bags or envelopes must be monitored to make sure the plants do not escape through rips, tears or seams in the plastic.

APPENDIX K

PROPOSED EASEMENT ROAD AND TRAIL SPECIFICATIONS

PROPOSED EASEMENT ROAD AND TRAIL SPECIFICATIONS

[illegible]

- 1 VEHICLE VOLUME SPECS:
LOW: <20 ROUND TRIPS/MONTH
MEDIUM: 20 to 300 TRIPS/MONTH
HIGH: >300 TRIPS/MONTH
- 2 BMPS ARE PER THE NYS FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY: BMP FIELD GUIDE
- 3 ALL CULVERTS SHALL BE PROPERLY HEADED WITH STONE, WOOD, OR STEEL/PLASTIC COLLARS
- 4 SIGNAGE STANDARDS:
MINIMAL- SIGNS FOR IDENTIFYING ROAD NAME WHERE BEGINS AND FOR HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS SUCH AS BARRIERS/KNOWN HAZARD PREVENTING PASSAGE AHEAD, STOP SIGN INDICATING INTERSECTION WITH A MODERATE OR HIGHER VOLUME ROAD
BASIC - SAME AS MINIMAL PLUS BRIDGE APPROACH SIGNAGE, SHARP CURVE SIGNS, OR ADDITIONAL AS OTHERWISE NEEDED AND AGREED UPON BY DEC AND LANDOWNER (EG., SUCH AS SUGGESTED SPEED LIMIT IF IS FIRST ROAD INTO A PROPERTY)
MODERATE - SAME AS BASIC PLUS SUGGESTED SPEED LIMIT (UNTIL IT BECOMES A REGULATION), TURNOUT SPACING, OR ADDITIONAL AS OTHERWISE NEEDED AND AGREED UPON BY DEC AND LANDOWNER
- 5 "SURFACE" MEANS THE CONDITION AND TYPE OF THE SURFACE WILL SET STANDARDS FOR SEASONAL USE. GENERALLY CLOSED DURING MUD SEASON (AS POSTED) TO PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE AND LOG TRUCK USE, BY AGREEMENT OF DEC AND LANDOWNER; "WINTER" MEANS WINTER USE ONLY

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:
MINIMAL - CONDITION CHECKED ANNUALLY, ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SUCH AS GRADING, DITCH CLEANING POTHOLE/WASHOUT REPAIR GENERALLY NEEDED ONLY EVERY THREE OR FOUR YEARS
AS NEEDED - SAME AS MINIMAL BUT DUE TO HIGHER USE LEVELS WILL LIKELY NEED SOME ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ANNUALLY OR EVERY OTHER YEAR
REGULAR - ANNUAL ROUTINE MAINTENANCE LIKELY NEEDED
- 6 APA/DEC REGULATIONS ON WETLANDS, STREAM CROSSING, ETC.
- 7 NYS REGULATIONS ON INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES
- 8 LANDOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING LESSEE'S OF RULES AND REGS FOR USE OF TRAILS AND RELATED RETAINED RECREATION RIGHTS; DEC HAS LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF DEC REG'S WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING LANDOWNER LESSEES WHEN ARE RECREATING AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

APPENDIX L

WHITE HILL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY AND RESPONSE

The DEC greatly appreciates the many comments, observations, and suggestions received from the public. Comments regarding the draft White Hill Unit Management Plan (UMP) were received by the Region 6 Division of Lands and Forests Office. The Department held a public meeting on September 21, 2006, to present the draft UMP and to accept public comments. A total of forty-nine people attended, and six made comments. Written comments were accepted until October 6, 2006. A total of 18 people sent letters, faxes, e-mails, or called in order to comment on the draft UMP.

The following is a summary of the public comments on the draft White Hill UMP received, and the Department's responses to them. These public comments are summarized by topic:

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Please consider the size and type of mobility impaired access vehicle barrier installation.

The Department is committed to increasing its facilities which are accessible to persons with disabilities. Generally the standards we will follow are that motor vehicle gates will be installed on level surfaces with locks placed in the open on the face of the gates. Persons with disabilities may obtain CP-3 permits allowing them access beyond the gates.

CAMPSITES

1. Concern with the DEC's recommendation to close certain campsites at Clear Pond, upgrade some existing ones, and establish new, more appropriate sites.

The Department's recommendation to eliminate campsites at Clear Pond is in direct response to language in the APSLMP that states, "primitive tent sites below 3,500 feet in elevation that are out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or lean-to" (APSLMP 2001, p. 21). Six of the existing tent sites in the vicinity of Clear Pond will be closed in an attempt to maintain the 1/4 mile separation distance guideline, to the degree possible. However, two more will be sited near the pond but away from the existing sites, so there will end up being 5 sites near the pond rather than the current 9. Two additional site will be established for hunting season use along the Clear Pond Rd.

2 Suggest the addition of a group campsite at Clear Pond.

A group campsite designed to accommodate large groups may be provided at a carefully selected location, on a site specific basis at Clear Pond in conformity with the APSLMP. This designated campsite will be identified by a yellow DEC campsite marker, will "be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark, and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof" (APSLMP, 2001, p. 37).

3. Concern with motor vehicle access to campsites at Clear Pond.

Only one campsite, the universally accessible site, will have direct motor vehicle access. The other sites will be walk in sites; two of the sites will be within about 1000 feet from the parking area, while the two new ones on the west side of the lake will be about half mile walk. Providing drive to waterside sites increases the potential for damage to the sites and to the shore of this relatively small pond. Requiring campers to walk in will reduce the potential impacts of use. The additional spacing between sites as well as limiting motor vehicle access will also provide for a much quieter experience than currently.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Baseline biological survey data is lacking relating to specific natural resources in the White Hill unit.

The natural resources inventory utilizes the best biological survey data available during the planning process. Where additional information is deemed necessary for management of the natural resources, management actions to develop that information have been identified in the plan.

Actions recommended in the plan to reduce campsite concentration, to eliminate illegal use of ATV's, and to repair damage from such illegal use will reduce the overall impact of public use of this relatively undeveloped area. The likelihood of resource impacts on significant resources in this area is felt to be very low, so maintaining the existing facilities and relative use levels is not judged to be a threat to the biological values of the property.

2. Primary focus must be to protect the area's natural resources in the White Hill unit.

Protecting the area's natural resources is the primary goals of this plan, and for Forest Preserve lands it is drawn right from the APSLMP; "The primary wild forest management guideline will be to protect the natural wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the wild forest atmosphere." (APSLMP, 2001, p. 32). It often appears that much of the focus of a plan is on the human activities that occur on the site; that is not unexpected since human activities must bear the most scrutiny in order to be sure use is not having significant impacts on the natural resources of the unit. In this plan the most significant actions taken - reduction of campsites on Clear Pond and actions to prevent illegal use of motor vehicles - are about protecting the natural resources of the unit.

3. Pond reclamation and liming projects should only be undertaken after careful study and ecological scrutiny.

All fisheries projects, such as stocking, pond reclamation and liming will occur in compliance with the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements on Fish Species Management Activities of the DEC.

TRAILS

1. **Suggest the creation of a separate cross country ski trail from the White Hill Road into Clear Pond, parallel to the Clear Pond Road, to reduce conflicts with snowmobile use of the road.**

A cross country ski trail essentially paralleling the White Hill Road into Clear Pond, could be provided on a site specific basis in conformity with the APSLMP. Separating potentially incompatible uses such as snowmobiling and cross country skiing is one of the guidelines in the APSLMP (APSLMP, 2001, p. 33). A trail will be investigated, but given the topography, it will be extremely difficult to find a suitable route. Other trails in the White Hill Unit are open to cross-country skiing.

2. **Suggest the addition of sled dog teams on snowmobile and equestrian trails, and ski-jouring on hiking and cross country ski trails in the White Hill Wild Forest area.**

Sled dog and skijouring use are activities which require routes of similar scale to snowmobile trails due to the higher speeds and character of the equipment use. These activities would be most suitable for use on old roads that are not open for motorized use. White Hill WF has very few roads under the jurisdiction of DEC, and the snowmobile routes are regularly used in the winter, so there are not good opportunities for identifying trails specifically for these activities. Similar to use by horses, dog sled and skijouring can occur on the unit but there is not enough of the rights kinds of routes to encourage significant use.

ATV USE

1. **Opposition and concern with the DEC's recommendation to eliminate ATV use on the Clear Pond to Picketville Road trail.**

ATVs are legally allowed only on public motor vehicle roads on Forest Preserve Wild Forest areas. Currently there are no routes open to ATVs in White Hill Wild Forest. This road has never been legally open to ATVs, and will remain closed. This trail is a designated snowmobile trail, but not a designated ATV route. An ATV route has been designated in the Gold Mine parcel, connecting Picketville Road to Joe Indian Rd.

2. **Support of the recommended preferred alternative of closing Clear Pond to Picketville Road trail to ATV use.**

This alternative would prevent any further environmental damage to the natural resources on the Forest Preserve. Remediation and rehabilitation of the damaged areas can then take place.

3. **Support of DEC's enforcement to limit illegal ATV activity.**

Education and enforcement of illegal ATV use on the White Hill Wild Forest area will be undertaken by DEC Forest Ranger personnel.

4. DEC must protect the White Hill Wild Forest by effectively barricading all ATV access points into the Unit.

Gates and barricades will be used when appropriate, however it is impractical to blanket this area with barricades. Monitoring of ATV use will occur.

5. Grooming of snowmobile trails with tracked groomers is not legal.

The use of tracked groomers will be allowed in accordance with Department policy and in conformance with the APSLMP. Consultation between APA and DEC will occur prior to any use of tracked grooming on new trails.

APPENDIX M

SEQR

State Environmental Quality Review NEGATIVE DECLARATION Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Identifying # 2006-FPM-6-63

Date November 15, 2006

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Compliance Determination and Department of Environmental Conservation Adoption of the White Hill Unit Management Plan, including the White Hill Wild Forest, Unclassified Lands, Lassiter Easement parcel, Niagara Mohawk Easement parcels and Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site

SEOR Status:

Type I

☒

Unlisted

☐

Conditioned Negative Declaration:

☐

Yes

☒

No

Description of Action: The action involves the development by the NYSDEC of a Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the White Hill Unit, and as the lead agency, determining that the proposed UMP will not have a significant adverse environmental impact.

Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law) requires the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual unit management plans for each unit under its jurisdiction classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Proposed management actions include closing six primitive campsites; monitoring public use, fish and wildlife populations, and environmental impacts; public education; maintenance of existing facilities; improving access for people with disabilities to outdoor recreational opportunities at Clear Pond, designation and development of parking areas and improving bridges.

Location: The White Hill Unit is located in the Towns of Parishville, Colton and Hopkinton in St Lawrence County.

Reasons Supporting This Determination: A majority of the proposed management actions consist primarily of monitoring and maintenance to protect the natural resources of the area. The designation and development of parking areas and trails will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines established in the Division of Operations Handbook for building trails and parking areas in addition to all other applicable Department rules, regulations, policies and guidelines.

A designated area for five cars will be developed at the Whispering Pines Road. This will provide the public with a safe parking area within easy walking distance of the shores of Blake Reservoir. In addition, another five car parking area will be developed and designated off the Picketville Road to provide necessary access. On the conservation easement lands a five car parking area will be developed and designated off the Round Pond road to accommodate public use of the Preston Lot. At the present time there is no designated parking area located on this easement property. At Dead Creek on the Gold Mine road a small parking area will be provided near the water access as outlined in the FERC agreement.

These proposed parking areas will utilize existing open areas to minimize vegetative disturbance.

Parking area designation and relocation projects will be developed in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

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

The trail re-route on the Lilypad Pond to the Gold Mind road would eliminate public safety concerns by rerouting the trail avoiding the section over steep ledge rock. This trail will also improve the user experience and overall character of the trail. A trail will be established around Clear Pond by utilizing existing segments of herd paths as well as a trail from the west end of Lily Pond south to the trail from Rainbow Reservoir. Snowmobile trails will be maintained and the snowmobile trail from the Morgan road to the west boundary parcel will be rerouted. Trail construction and relocation projects will be developed in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Wherever possible, lay out trails on existing old roads or clear or partially cleared areas;

- Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Locating trails to minimize grade;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency to determine if an agency wetlands permit is required

Trails may be closed during wet seasons to protect natural resources from degradation if no other action can prevent damage.

The existing bridge on the Clear Pond-Picketville trail needs to be widened from the existing four feet to eight feet which will make it suitable for snowmobile use. In addition, a new eight foot wide bridge will be proposed at the Rock Pond Outlet for snowmobile use.

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

- Minimizing channel changes and the amount of cut or fill needed;
- Limiting construction activities in the water to periods of low or normal flow;
- Minimizing the use of equipment in the stream;
- Installing bridges at right angles to the stream channel;
- Constructing bridges to blend into the natural surroundings;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Stabilizing bridge approaches with aggregate or other suitable material;
- Using soil stabilization practices on exposed soil around bridges immediately after construction;
- Designing, constructing and maintaining bridges to avoid disrupting the migration or movement of fish and other aquatic life;
- Consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency in cases where existing bridge abutments must be replaced.
- Newly constructed snowmobile bridges will be built to the standard design recently approved by the APA.

Three of the current nine designated campsites on Clear Pond will be selected to remain open. This will bring the campsites into compliance with the separation distance requirements in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. One designated campsite will be made universally accessible. Campsite designation and relocation projects will be developed in accordance with

the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to such considerations as:

- Locating campsites to minimize cut and fill;**
- Locating campsites to minimize tree cutting;**
- Locating campsites so that they are properly separated from one another;**
- Locating campsites away from wetlands, streams, and unstable slopes;**
- Locating campsites on flat, stable, well drained sites;**
- Use of drainage structures on access trails to prevent water flowing into the site.**

Any tree cutting will conform to the Commissioner's Delegation Memorandum on Tree Cutting in the Forest Preserve, #84-06 and LF-91-2 Policy on Cutting, Removal or Destruction of Trees on Forest Preserve Lands.

Fishery management projects will be developed in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and the following Environmental Impact Statements and Policy:

- The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the Fish Species Management Activities of the DEC, Division of Fish and Wildlife, June 1980**
- The Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the NYSDEC Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters, October 1980, as well as the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources Liming Policy**
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation**
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Undesirable Fish Removal by the Use of Pesticides Under Permit Issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Pesticide Management**
- The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Habitat Management Activities**

No historic or archaeological sites are known to exist near any proposed project sites.

If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: John Gibbs
Address: NYSDEC
6739 US HWY 11
Potsdam, NY 13676

Telephone Number: (315) 265-3090

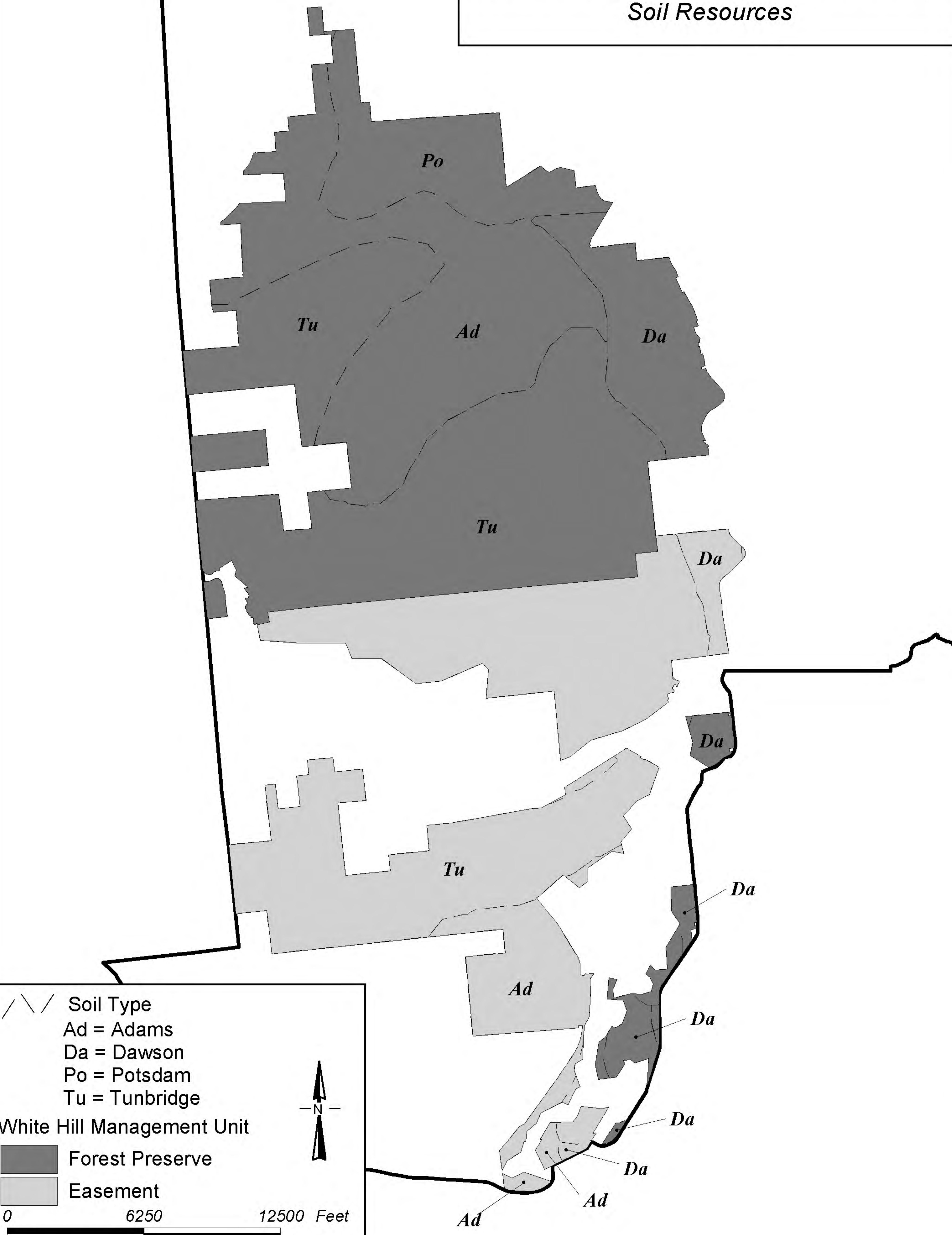
For Type I Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice Sent to:
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York
12233; Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation; Office of the
Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located.
Applicant (if any)
Other involved agencies (if any)

APPENDIX N

UNIT MAPS

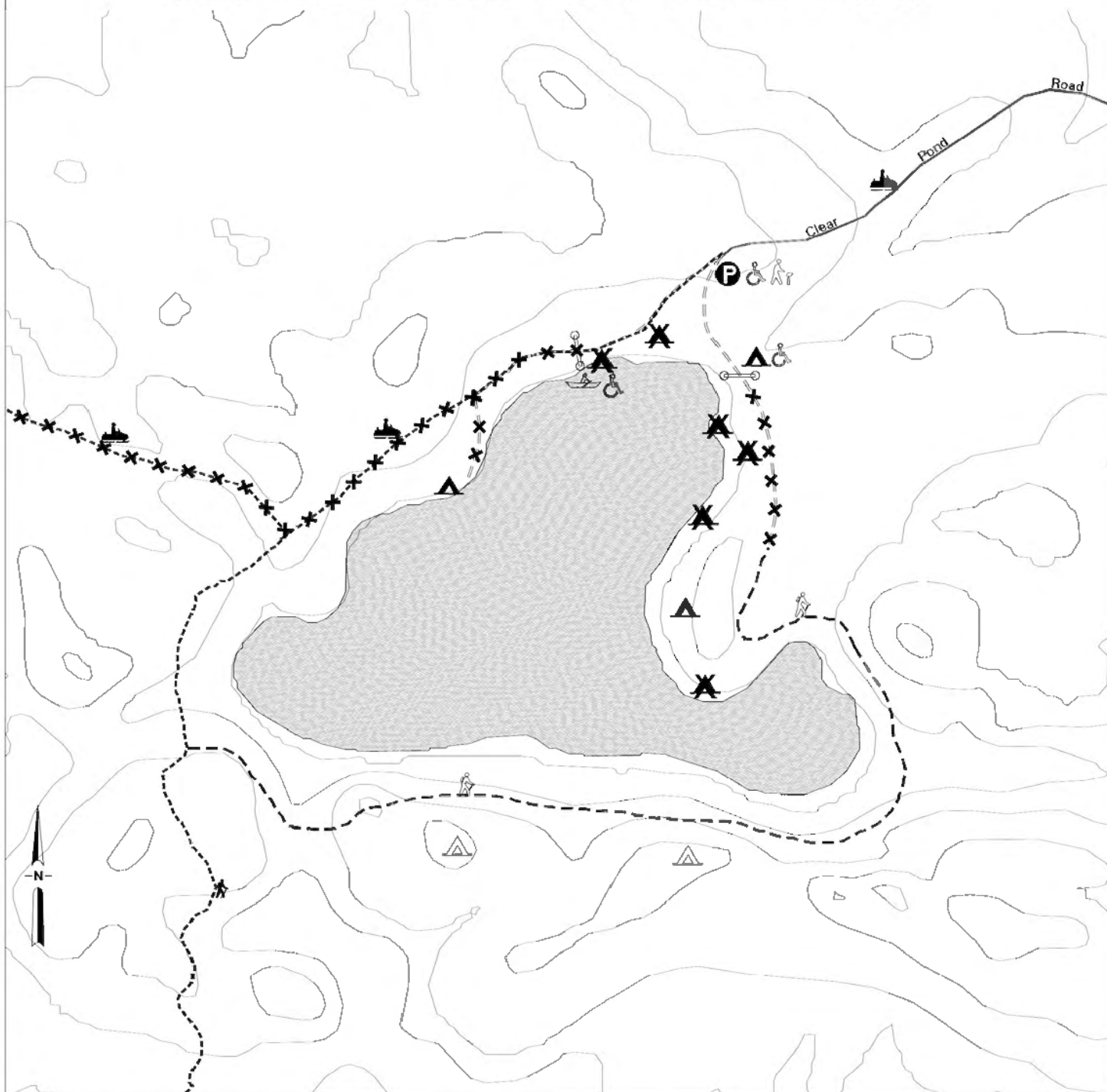
WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT

Soil Resources



WHITEHILL WILD FOREST AREA

CLEAR POND PROJECT MAP



EXISTING FACILITIES

- Seasonal Town Road
- - - - Motor Vehicle Access
- - - - Foot Trail
- - - - Snowmobile Trail
- P Parking
- ▲ Campsite

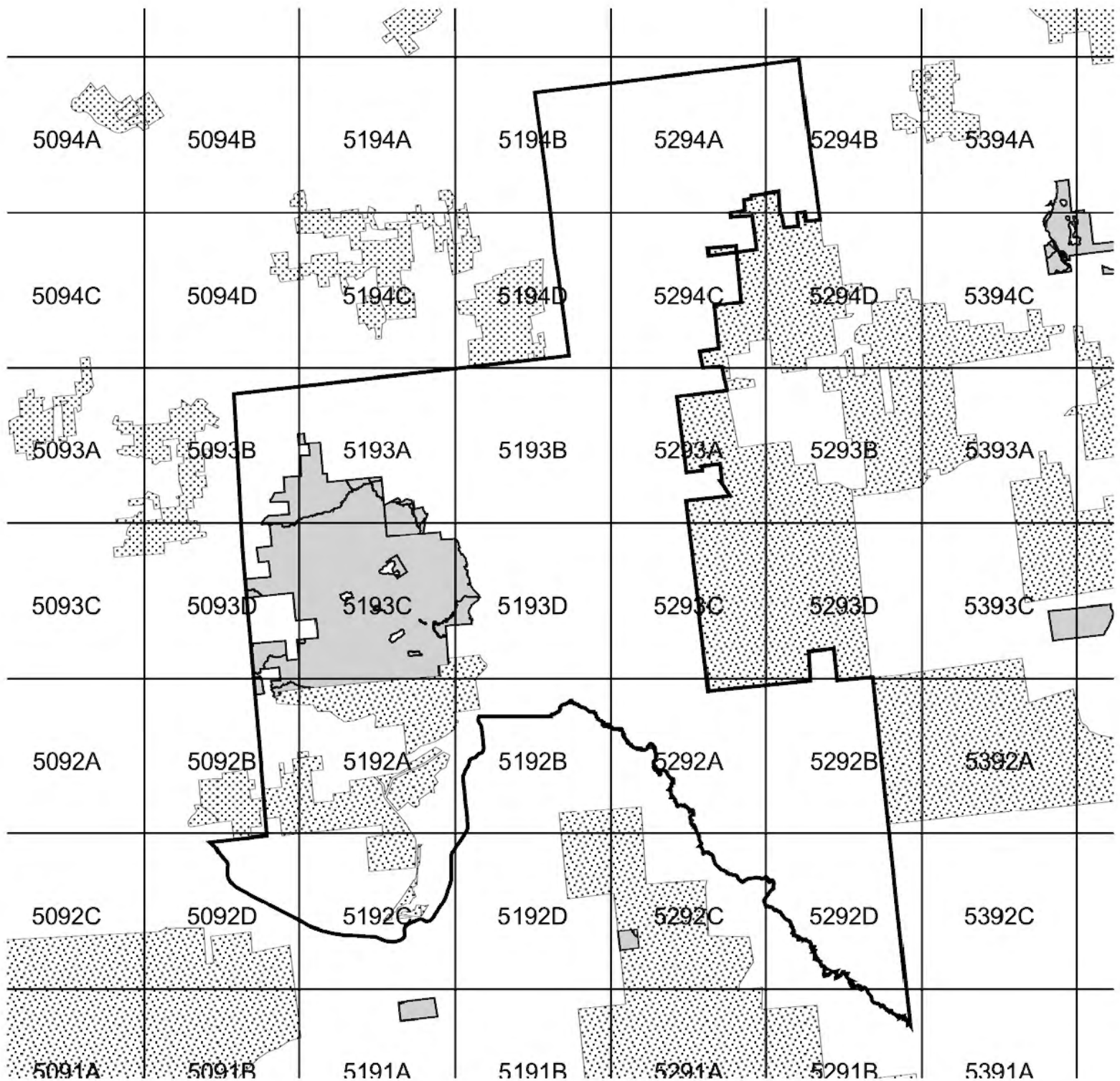
PROPOSED FACILITIES

- Trail Register
- Herd Path
- Campsite
- Accessible
- Gate
- Waterway Access Site
- Close To Vehicle Traffic
- Campsite Closure



Contour Interval 20 Feet

WHITEHILL UNIT BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

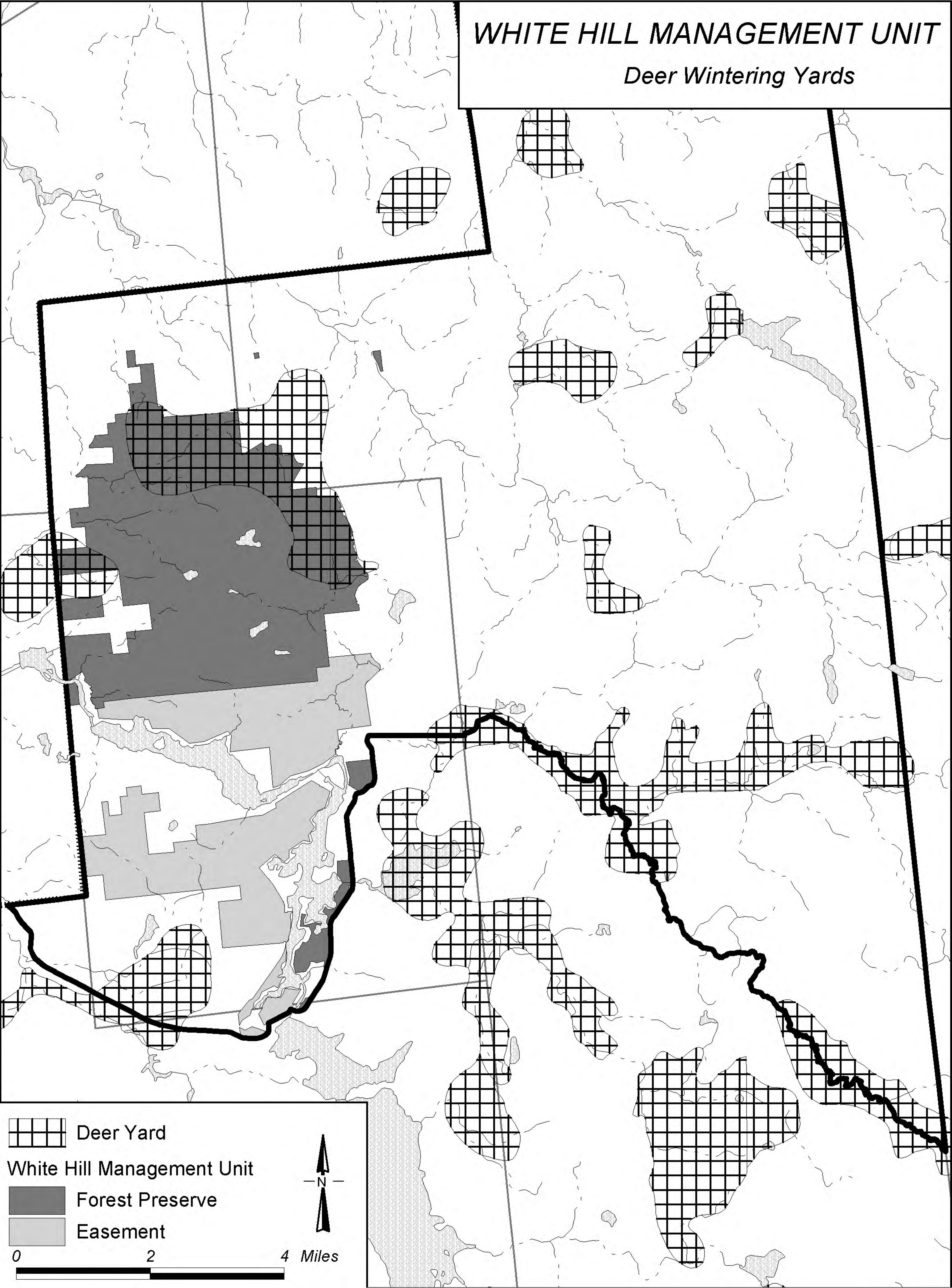


- Wild Forest
- State Land
- Easement
- Planning Area Unit Boundary
- Breeding Bird Atlas Block

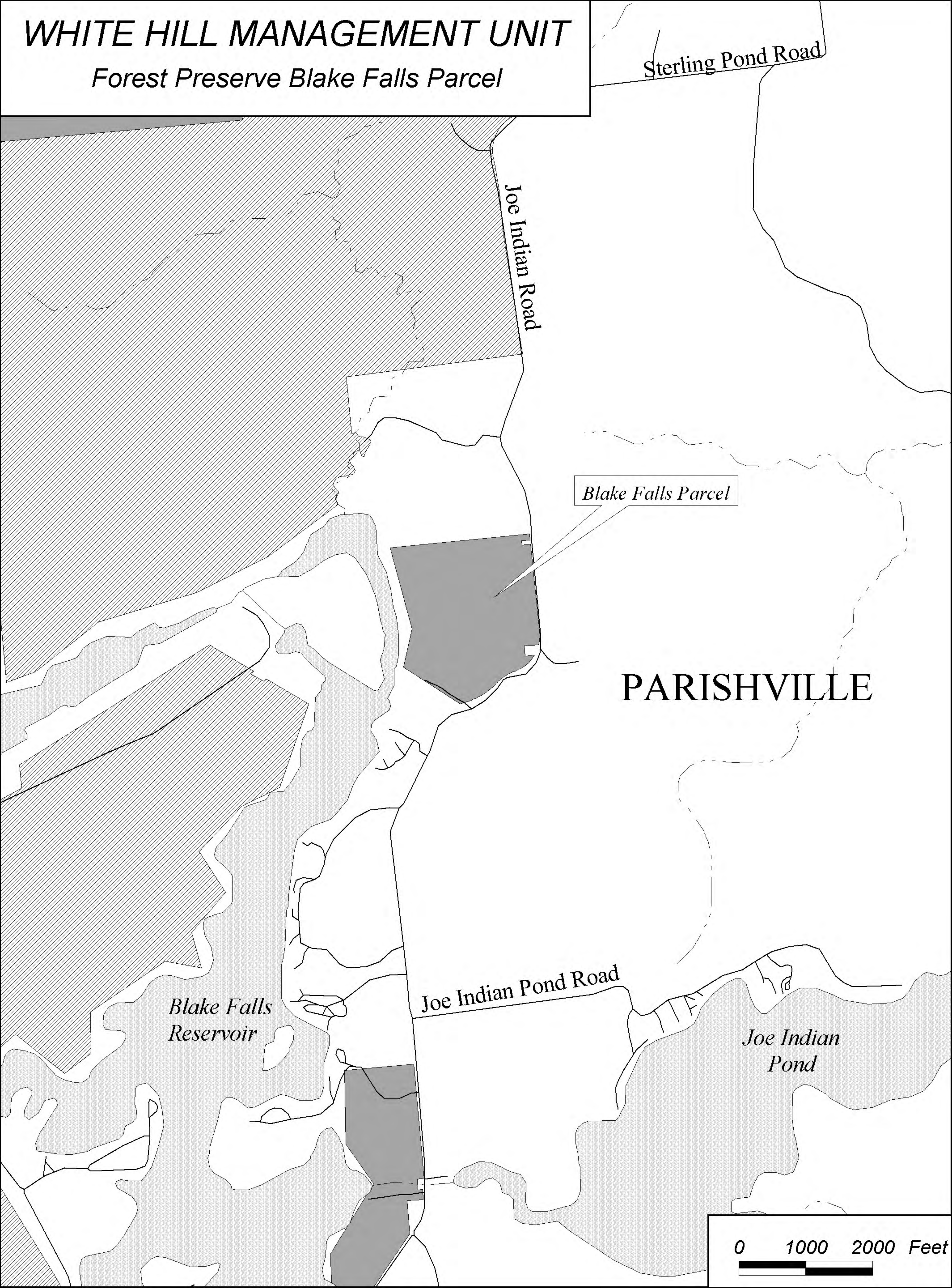


WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT

Deer Wintering Yards



WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT
Forest Preserve Blake Falls Parcel



Sterling Pond Road

Joe Indian Road

Blake Falls Parcel

PARISHVILLE

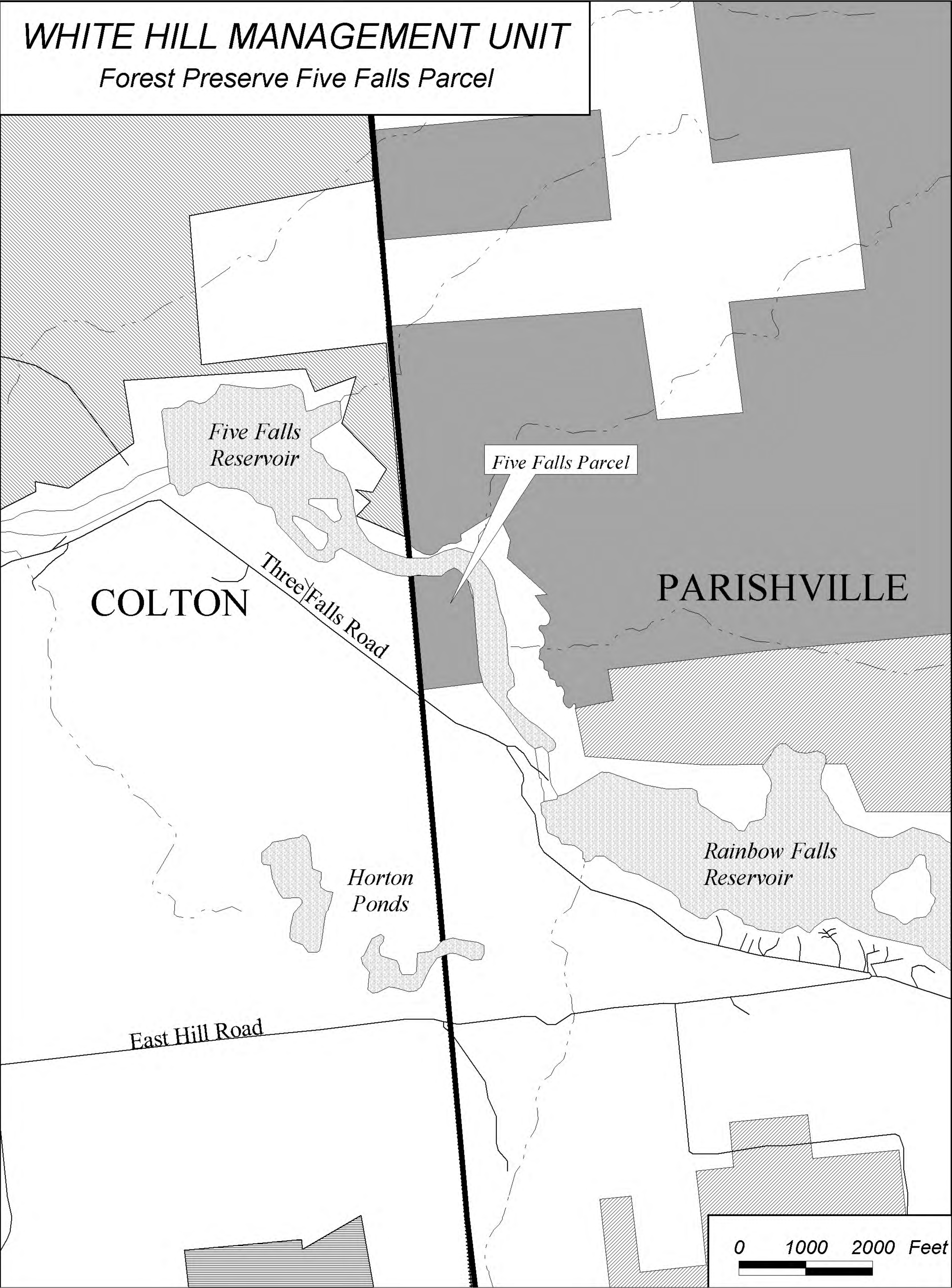
Blake Falls
Reservoir

Joe Indian Pond Road

Joe Indian
Pond

0 1000 2000 Feet

WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT
Forest Preserve Five Falls Parcel



*Five Falls
Reservoir*

Five Falls Parcel

COLTON

Three Falls Road

PARISHVILLE

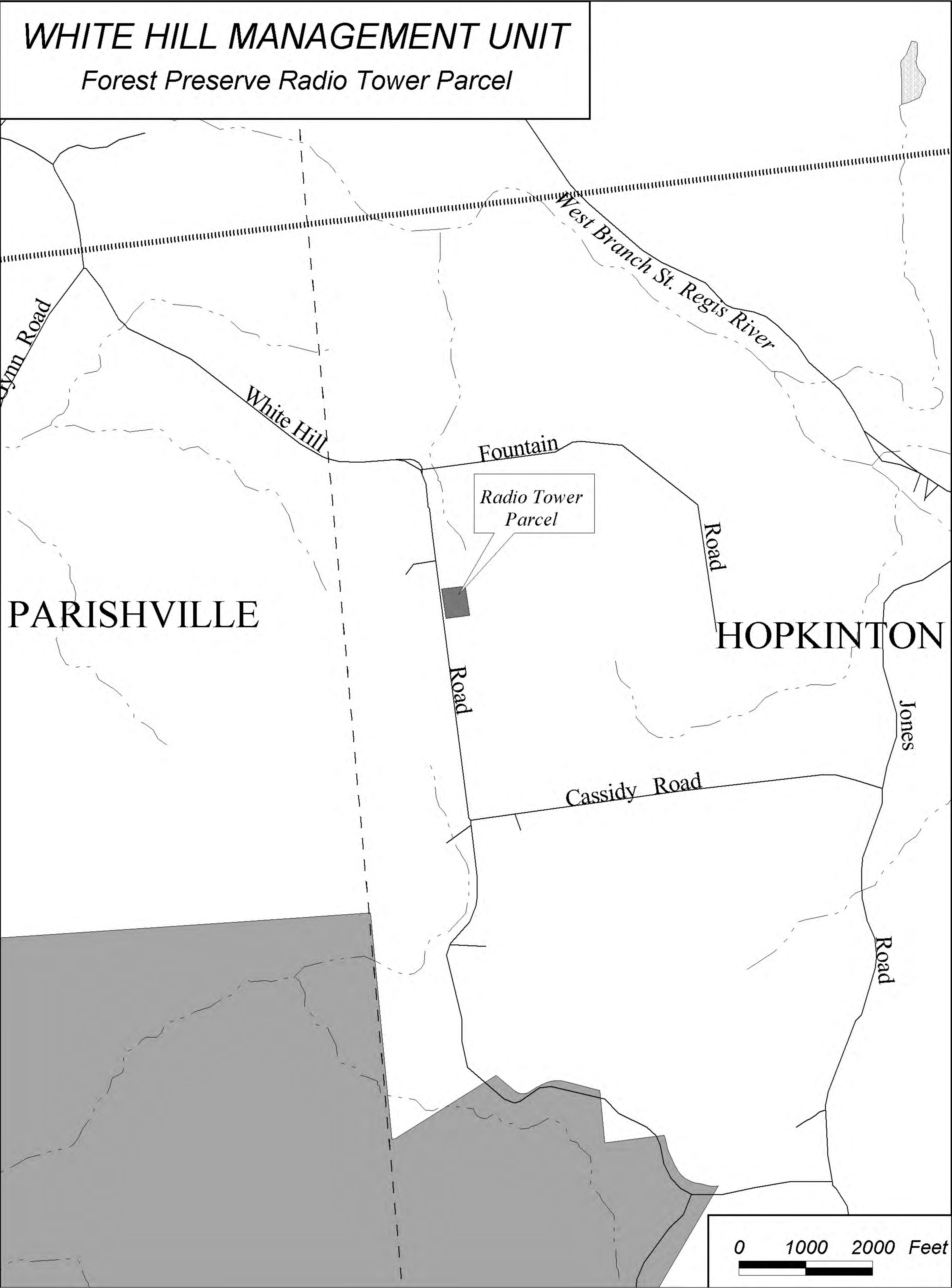
*Horton
Ponds*

*Rainbow Falls
Reservoir*

East Hill Road

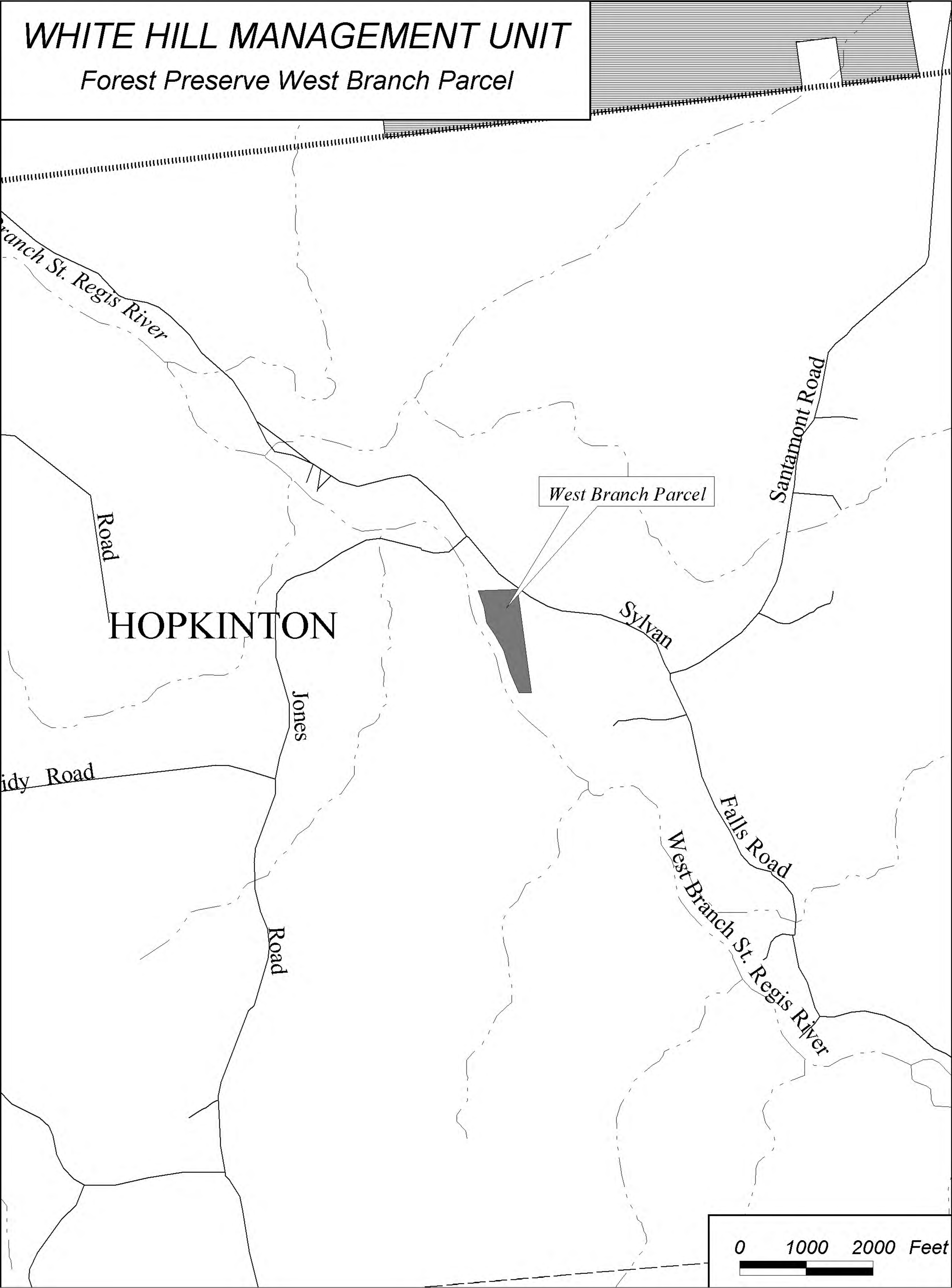
0 1000 2000 Feet

WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT
Forest Preserve Radio Tower Parcel



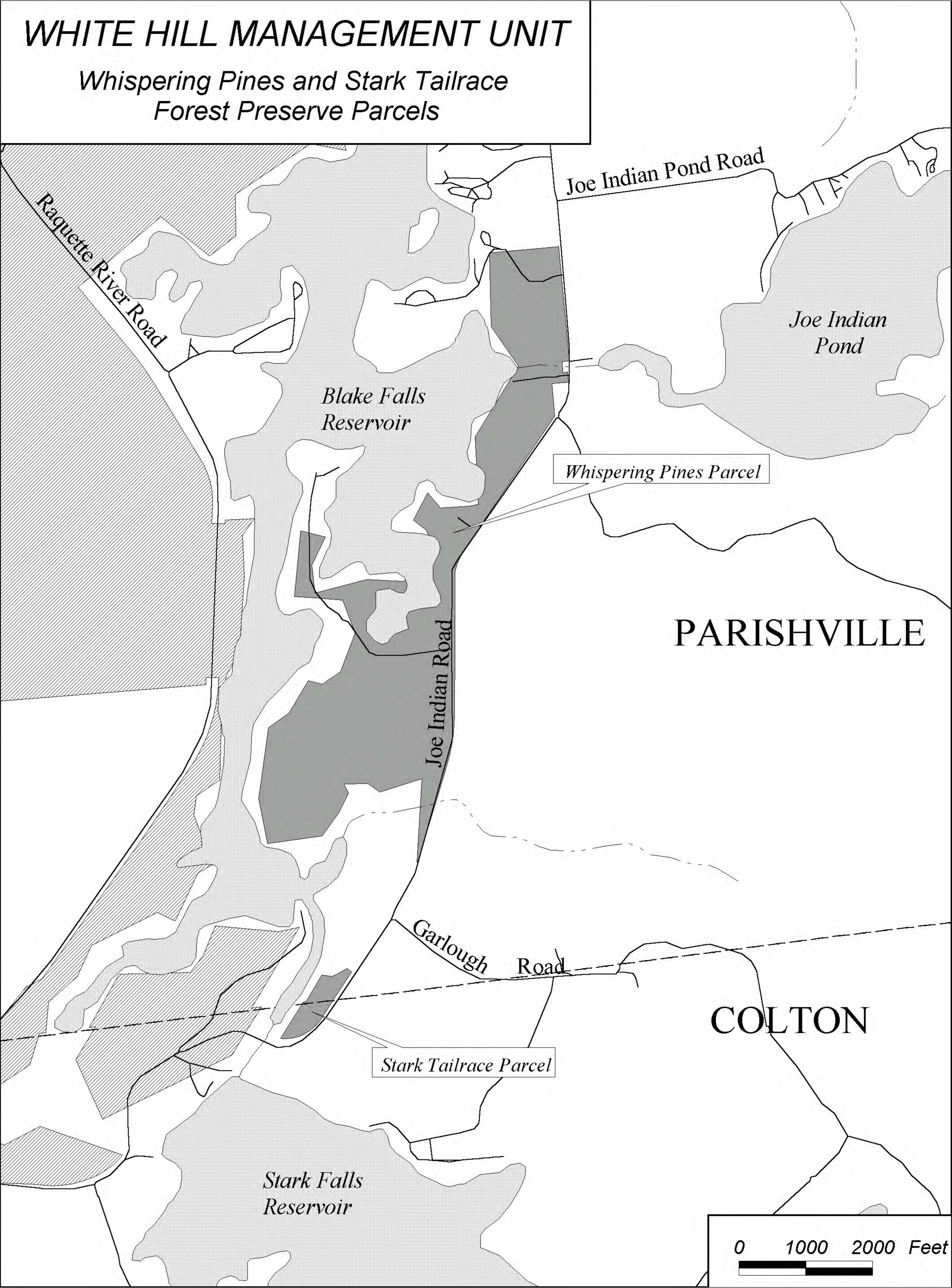
WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT

Forest Preserve West Branch Parcel



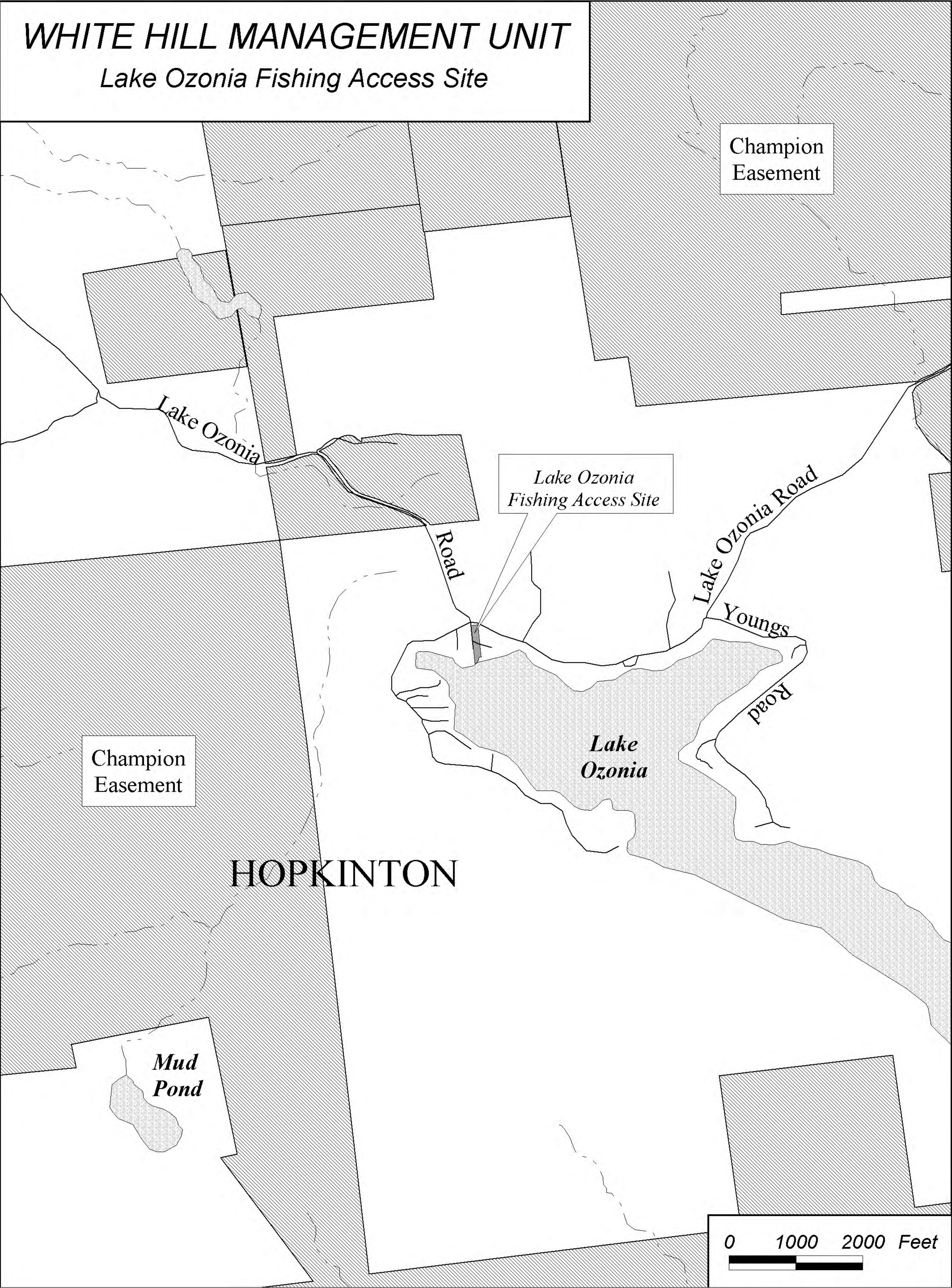
WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT

*Whispering Pines and Stark Tailrace
Forest Preserve Parcels*



WHITE HILL MANAGEMENT UNIT

Lake Ozonia Fishing Access Site



Champion
Easement

Lake Ozonia

Lake Ozonia
Fishing Access Site

Lake Ozonia Road
Youngs
Road

Champion
Easement

Lake
Ozonia

HOPKINTON

Mud
Pond

0 1000 2000 Feet

UNIT MAPS

White Hill Unit Area Existing and Proposed Facilities

White Hill Unit Area Hydrology

White Hill Unit Potential Deer Habitat



White Hill Unit Potential Spruce Grouse Habitat

WHITE HILL UNIT AREA

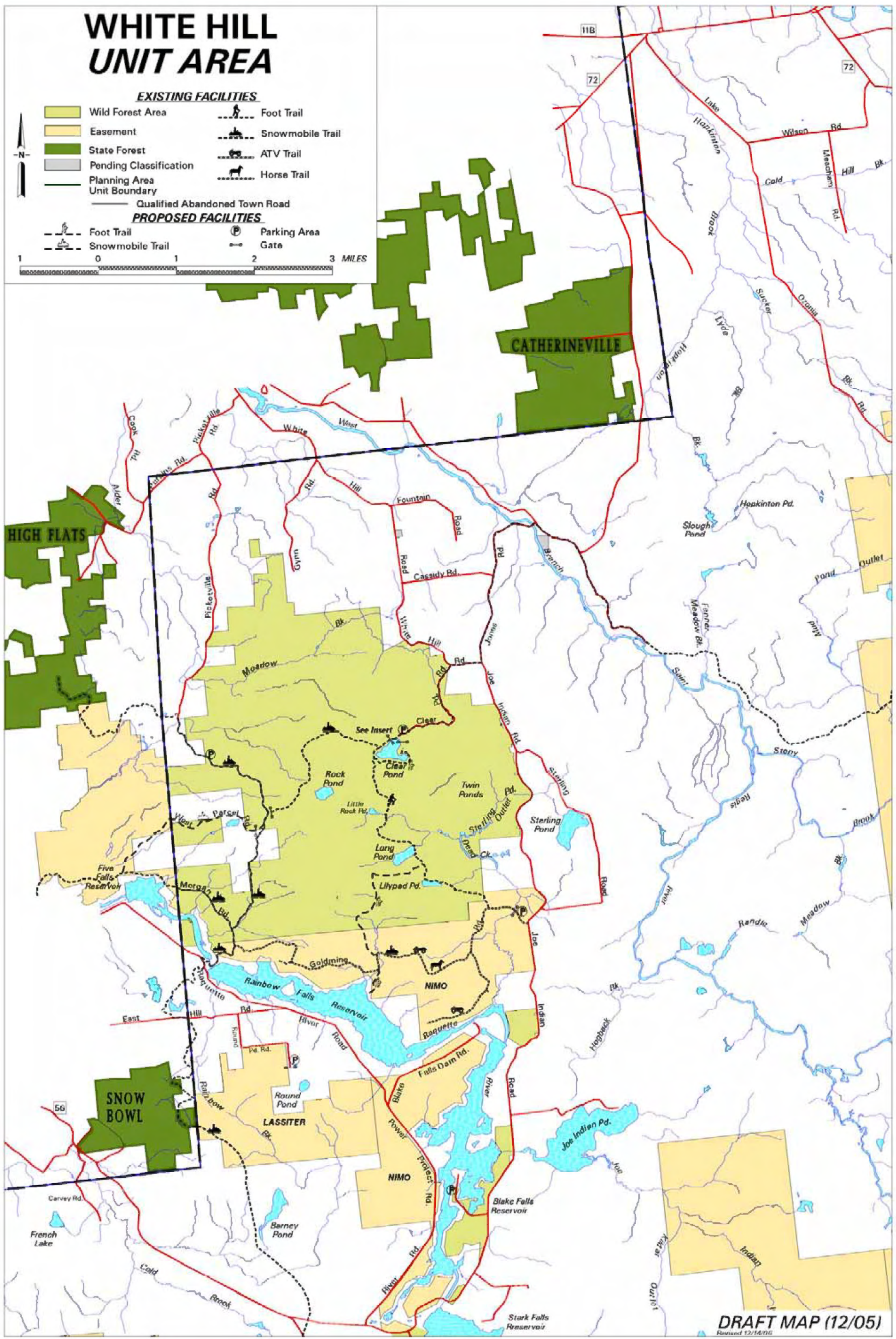
EXISTING FACILITIES

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Wild Forest Area |  Foot Trail |
|  Easement |  Snowmobile Trail |
|  State Forest |  ATV Trail |
|  Pending Classification |  Horse Trail |
|  Planning Area |  Qualified Abandoned Town Road |
|  Unit Boundary | |

PROPOSED FACILITIES

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Foot Trail |  Parking Area |
|  Snowmobile Trail |  Gate |

1 0 1 2 3 MILES



DRAFT MAP (12/05)
Revised 12/18/06

WHITE HILL UNIT AREA HYDROLOGY

LAND CLASSIFICATION

- Wild Forest Area
- Easement
- State Forest
- Pending Classification
- Planning Area
- Unit Boundary

HYDROLOGY

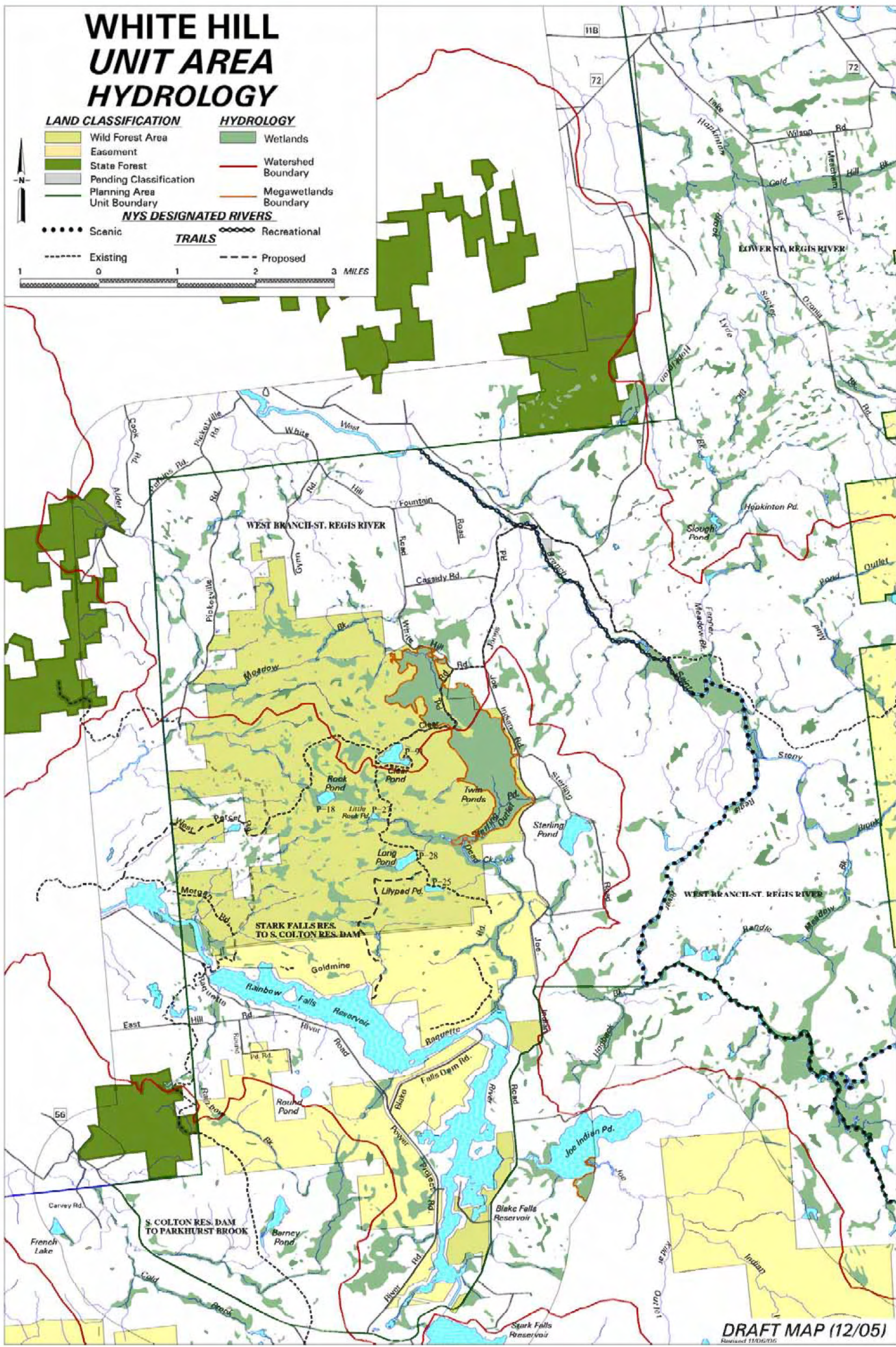
- Wetlands
- Watershed Boundary
- Megawetlands Boundary

NYS DESIGNATED RIVERS

- Scenic
- Recreational

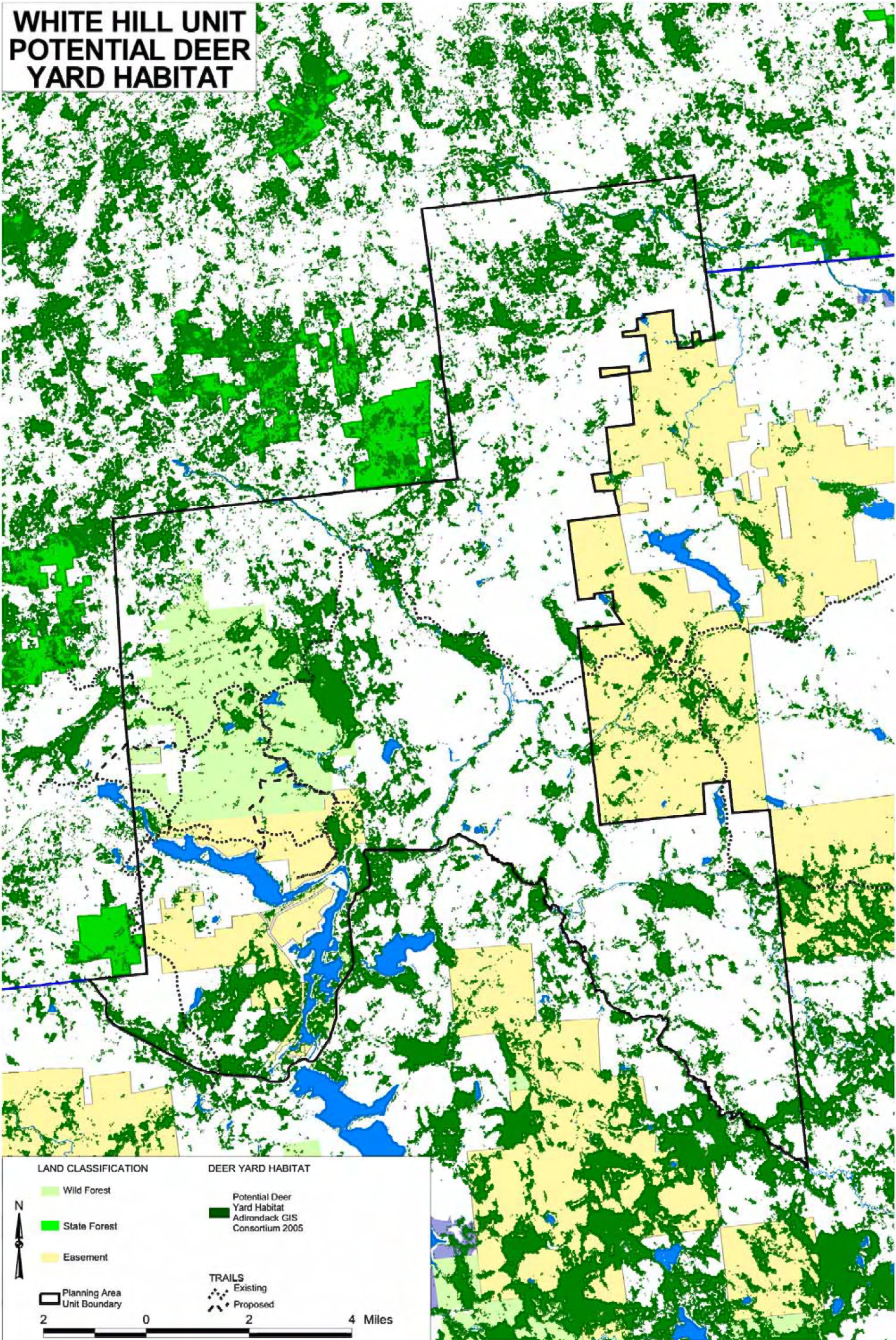
TRAILS

- Existing
- Proposed



DRAFT MAP (12/05)
Revised 11/06/05

WHITE HILL UNIT POTENTIAL DEER YARD HABITAT



WHITE HILL UNIT POTENTIAL SPRUCE GROUSE HABITAT

