



Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area, totaling some 3,737 acres, is located in southwestern Madison County between the villages of New Woodstock and Erieville about six miles southeast of Cazenovia. Easy access is provided from NY Route 13 via Damon Road or Dugway Road. The 7 ½ minute topographic map covering the area is Erieville.

Tioughnioga lies in the physiographic region of New York known as the Appalachian Highlands, with the many hills and valleys of the region forming a rolling topography. The area is on a divide that separates the St. Lawrence River drainage from the Susquehanna River drainage and has an altitude ranging from 1,500 to 2,100 feet above sea level. Current objectives for the area are to provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species and to permit wildlife related recreation.

Management techniques to provide the food, cover and shelter requirements for various wildlife species are carried out with monies derived mainly from hunting license fees and federal taxes on sporting arms and ammunition. On Tioughnioga, the management efforts are directed towards maintaining the diversity of cover that has been established from past management primarily through mowing and the sale of wood products. The sale of wood products also provides for improvement of the forestry resource.

The vegetation of this upland area is characterized as northern hardwoods, dominated by beech, yellow birch, sugar maple and hemlock. Wildlife species, such as turkey, white-tailed deer, beaver, ruffed grouse and upland song birds may be observed. Of special interest is a green heron rookery.

Prior to 1935, the area was used for dairy farming. However, poor soils, harsh climate and difficult economic conditions resulted in much of the area being purchased by the US Department of Agriculture as part of a resettlement program. The land was later transferred to New York State. Early development work, utilizing WPA (Work Project Act) and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) labor consisted of planting open fields to a mixture of trees and shrubs. Over 1,000,000 conifers, hardwoods and food-bearing shrubs were planted. Woodland cutting was carried out and a number of shallow water impoundments were constructed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other species of water birds.

A good system of town, county and state roads provide access for a variety of activities. The area is heavily used for big and small game hunting and is controlled by statewide regulations. Hiking, birding and cross-country skiing are other popular activities. A limited number of permits are issued on a first come first served basis for

primitive type camping (no water, sanitation, or garbage facilities). A Wildlife Management Area camping permit application can be obtained by contacting the Region 7 Office (see contact information listed below).

Since Tioughnioga is a Wildlife Management Area, activities not compatible with the Area are prohibited. Prohibited activities include (but are not limited to) swimming, overnight storage of personal property, and any use of motorized vehicles (including cars, travel trailers/RVs, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc.) on terrain other than a maintained public road.

For more information call or write to:

Wildlife Manager
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife
1285 Fisher Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045
607-753-3095 ext. 247

Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area



**New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation**