Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

November 2025

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

November 2025

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"Once silence stretched over the Adirondack Mountains from shore to shore, peak to peak, like a velvet mantle. It was broken by wind soughing through great white pines, by August thunderstorms and February blizzards. It was disrupted by trout splashing, deer snorting, owls hooting, and coyotes yipping. These sounds melded and molded with silence, and have been here for 10,000 years and more."

Quote from "The Wilderness World of Anne LaBastille – In Celebration of the Adirondack Park Centennial"

I. INTRODUCTION

THIS DOCUMENT SETS FORTH the master plan for all state lands within the Adirondack Park. The classification system and guidelines set forth in Chapter II and the attached map are designed to guide the preservation, management and use of these lands by all interested state agencies in the future. Insofar as forest preserve lands protected by the "forever wild" provisions of Article XIV, §l of the Constitution are concerned, the provisions of the master plan are intended to be constitutionally neutral. While obviously no structure, improvement or use held to be unconstitutional is permitted by this Master Plan, no inference as to the constitutional appropriateness or inappropriateness of any given structure, improvement or use should be drawn from whether it is allowed or prohibited in a particular land classification. This master plan is not intended to make constitutional determinations regarding unresolved issues under Article XIV, which are properly a matter for the Attorney General and ultimately the courts. The guidelines set forth in Chapter II allow certain structures, improvements and uses in some land classifications and prohibit certain of them in other classifications.

If there is a unifying theme to the master plan, it is that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded. This theme is drawn not only from the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27 of the Executive Law - "The Act") and its legislative history, but also from a century of the public's demonstrated attitude toward the forest preserve and the Adirondack Park. Fortunately the amount and variety of land and water within the Adirondack Park provide today and will provide in the future, with careful planning and management, a wide spectrum of outdoor recreational and educational pursuits in a wild forest setting unparalleled in the eastern half of this country.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

The legislative mandate of the Agency regarding this master plan for state lands was originally contained in then Section 807 of the Act which is set forth in Appendix I.

In June 1972, following the statutory procedures and after extensive public hearings around the state, the Agency approved and submitted to Governor Rockefeller the master plan for management of state lands which was duly approved by him in July of that year. In 1973 the legislature renumbered and then amended Section 807 to Section 816, the text of which is also set forth in Appendix I.

STATE OWNERSHIPS

While the Act does not define the term "state lands," the Agency has interpreted it to mean land held in the name of, owned by or under long-term lease to the State of New York or a state agency. In addition, due to the extensive State control in the form of a permanent easement over the North Elba Park

District lands on Mt. Van Hoevenberg, these lands have also been considered State lands for the purposes of the Plan. Applying this definition, the following inventory of state lands exists within the Adirondack Park:

Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation:

Substantially all of the approximately 2.9 million acres of land administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation form part of the Adirondack forest preserve and are protected by the "forever wild" clause of Article XIV, §I of the State Constitution. A small amount of acreage also administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation is considered non-forest preserve. This consists of:

-- lands in the Towns of Altona and Dannemora which are expressly excluded from Article XIV, §I by the terms of the Constitution;

-- lands given or devised to the State for silvicultural or wildlife management purposes which by statute are not considered part of the forest preserve;

-- the Department's administrative headquarters;

-- certain historic areas;

-- certain lands acquired under the 1960 and 962 Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act and other lands which have been administratively classified by the Department as non-forest preserve lands.

Nothing in this master plan should be interpreted as supporting the constitutionality of such legislative or administrative classifications of land as non-forest preserve.

Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation:

These consist of the travel corridors owned in fee, easement, or right-of-way for state and interstate highways and certain railroad corridors within the Park, including administrative headquarters, storage areas and maintenance facilities.

Lands under the jurisdiction of other state agencies:

These include a variety of developed uses such as State Police substations, the Adirondack Correctional Facility, the Dannemora Correctional Facility, Camp Gabriels and the Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility and the Sunmount Developmental Center. Substantially all are immediately adjacent to public highways, and most are in developed areas of the Park. The total acreage involved is approximately 12,000 acres of which the developed portion is approximately 1,000 acres.

These miscellaneous types of uses raise constitutional questions which, though sometimes addressed by the Attorney General, have never been resolved in the courts.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIPS

Land

The Act clearly recognizes the unique land ownership pattern within the Adirondack Park -- the intermingling of public and private lands in a checkerboard pattern -- and mandates

the Agency to reflect in this master plan the actual and projected uses of private lands within the Park. In 1973 the Legislature enacted, in Section 805 of the Act, the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan to guide development on private lands within the Park.

This mixture of public and private lands is a distinguishing feature of the Adirondack Park. At the present time, state ownerships account for some forty- four percent of the 6,000,000 acres of land within the Park, the balance being in private hands. This ownership poses many problems in that development in the private sector often has a dramatic impact on the use of nearby state lands. Conversely, major public facilities, such as a campground or ski center, directly affect land uses on related private lands.

This land relationship also has many advantages. The more intensive recreational and service facilities on private lands permit both a broader spectrum of recreational opportunities and wider public enjoyment of the state lands. The economic viability of these private facilities should be a major concern in the development of pricing and operating policies for state intensive use areas. The siting of new state intensive use areas and the expansion of existing areas also must take into full account the existence of similar and possibly competing private recreational facilities and should not be competitive with such private facilities. In addition, the economy of the entire Adirondack region is vitally affected by the vast acreage of private lands that are devoted to multiple use forestry. To a much lesser extent, mining on private lands is also important to the area's economic well-being.

Fish and wildlife resources on private lands complement those available on the state land, particularly in the many instances where groups of sportsmen lease hunting and fishing rights on large private tracts.

Conservation Easement Lands

The State has acquired over the years a variety of conservation easements and less than fee interests which serve an important public purpose in preserving the natural character of the land for the benefit of the Park. Although the State owns various rights on these lands, the land remains in private ownership and is therefore not subject to the State land classification system and guidelines of the Master Plan.

These less-than-fee interests are an important element in the relationship between state and private lands. In addition to state-held easements, private conservation organizations hold conservation easements over a significant acreage of private land, which also help preserve the natural, open-space character of the Park. This master plan for state lands has therefore attempted to take into account, both in the basic classification system and in the guidelines for future land acquisitions, this intermingling of private and public lands within the Park.

Appendix II of the Master Plan provides a brief description of the 701,724 acres of more important conservation easement acquisitions.

Water

The water resources of the Adirondacks are critical to the integrity of the Park. The protection of the major watersheds of the state was a major reason

for the creation of the forest preserve and continues to be of significant importance. Waters, particularly lakes and ponds, have their carrying capacity from a physical, biological and social standpoint just as do tracts of public or private land. The use made of state waters also has a direct impact on adjacent land holdings.

A genuine need exists to insure that the scale and intensity of water-oriented uses are consistent with uses of adjoining state and private lands and the general character of the Park, particularly so far as the type, speed and number of boats are concerned.

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. The importance of the quality of these resources cannot be overemphasized.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has the authority independent of the master plan to regulate uses of waters and uses of wild, scenic and recreational rivers running through state land, but may not have such authority to regulate certain uses of waters where all or part of the shoreline is in private ownership. The Agency has the authority to regulate motorized use of wild, scenic and recreational rivers and their river corridors on private lands. Regulations exercising this authority have been promulgated by the Agency. Existing power and authority of the state or local governments over state waters should be reviewed with consideration given to legislative needs to more accurately define authority over these waters.

PUBLIC CONCERN FOR THE ADIRONDACK PARK

The people of the State of New York have shown a deep and abiding concern for the management and use of state lands in the Adirondacks for more than a century. This concern was evidenced by the passage of the "forever wild" amendment to the state constitution in 1894 to prevent the ravages of the Adirondack forests and the dissipation of the state's land-holdings, which typified the closing decades of the 19th century.

Article XIV, §1 of the New York State Constitution reads in part as follows:

> 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.

It is significant that, although renumbered, this exact wording has been a part of the State Constitution since 1895.

Article XIV protects both the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves, and covers in all some 3,000,000 acres of state lands in the twelve Adirondack counties and four Catskill counties both within and without the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. However, of the Adirondack acreage, better than ninety-nine percent is contained within the so-called "Blue Line" that delineates the boundaries of the public and private lands constituting the Adirondack Park today. The enormous tracts of forest preserve provide a public resource for recreation in a wild setting that is unique in the eastern half of the United States and complements the more developed facilities of the excellent state park system in the rest of the state.

Between 1895 and 1985 there were over 130 proposed amendments introduced in the state legislature to change Article XIV, but only nineteen have been successful in passing both the legislature and public referendum. In eighteen of the successful measures, the forest preserve lands involved were restricted to small acreage and were quite precisely delineated. The nineteenth successful measure (the Perkins Clearing land exchange approved by the voters in 1979) while authorizing the conveyance of approximately 8,500 acres in the towns of Lake Pleasant and Arietta, required legislative approval of actual tracts to be exchanged. This long history clearly indicates that the majority of voters in the state, for over a century, have expressed their desire to protect the forest preserve against intrusions and retain these public lands as a wild forest preserve.

The attitude of the voters of the state has similarly been reflected in the rulings of the Attorney General and the relatively few court decisions that define the limits and applicability of Article XIV. By and large these legal rulings have taken a conservative attitude towards the scale and character of developments permitted on the forest preserve.

Finally, the administration of the forest preserve has been in the hands of the Department of Environmental Conservation and its predecessor agencies since the "forever wild" amendment was first enacted. Placed in the national perspective, the stewardship of the Department and its predecessors has few equals.

In 1961 the Legislature established the Lake George Park, consisting of some 200,000 acres in Warren, Washington and Essex Counties, which includes all of the watershed of Lake George. The purpose of the law is to provide special protection for the Lake George Park with particular emphasis on preserving water quality and the unique natural and scenic values of the Park.

Over time, increasing attention has been focused on the Adirondack forest preserve. Pioneering studies were undertaken in the late 1950's and early 1960's by the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources under the successive chairmanships of Senators Wheeler Milmoe and R. Watson Pomeroy. More recently the public has recognized that if the character of the Adirondack forest preserve is to be retained in the face of a growing

population, better transportation facilities and the soaring demand for outdoor recreation, not only will past management practices on the forest preserve require reassessment, but also the integrity of the Adirondack Park as a whole must be assured. Thus attention to other critical state ownerships, such as the major travel corridors, and appropriate controls over development on private lands are as important to the future of the forest preserve today as the passage of the forever wild amendment was generations ago.

These new problems were highlighted by Governor Rockefeller in naming the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks in 1968 to assess and make recommendations for the future use of both state and private lands within the Adirondack Park. The Commission's report, issued in December, 1970, is the most comprehensive study ever made of the Adirondack Park. Among its major recommendations are:

-- the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency;

-- the preparation by the Agency of a master plan for state lands;

-- the classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use";

-- a set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody and control of state lands under the master plan, with particular emphasis on stricter controls over proposed wilderness and primitive areas; and,

-- the preparation of a land use and development plan for all private lands within the Park.

ACQUISITION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Agency has an important interest in future state land acquisitions since they can vitally affect both private and public land within the Adirondack Park. As a result the Agency recommends that the following guidelines should govern future acquisitions of state lands within the Park:

1. Future state acquisitions within the Adirondack Park should generally be restricted to the acquisition of forest preserve lands. Where special state purposes are such that non-forest preserve land might be acquired (if such acquisitions are constitutionally permissible) the amount acquired for other than forest preserve purposes should be kept to the minimum necessary. Thus, should the state acquire a 100-acre tract on which it wishes to place a hospital, a prison, an office building or another facility only that part of the tract, say twenty-five acres, that is actually necessary for the facility should be classified as non-forest preserve.

2. As a general guideline, the state should avoid acquiring lands for non-forest preserve purposes (if such acquisitions are constitutionally permissible) within the Park where:

-- the tract is not contiguous to a public highway; or,

-- the tract is of a native forest character, i.e., stocked with any size, native tree species with twenty-five percent crown cover (plantations are not considered to be native forest land); or,

-- the tract involved consists of more than 150 acres; or,

-- the tract is contiguous to existing forest preserve land; or,

-- the tract is within one-half mile of a block of forest preserve land of over 1,000 acres; or,

-- the tract lies at an elevation greater than 2,500 feet; or,

-- the proposed use of the tract will materially alter the surrounding environment; or,

-- the tract is of significant scenic, ecological or geologic value or interest.

3. Save for (i) the two existing alpine skiing centers at Whiteface and Gore mountains and the Mt. Van Hoevenberg area; (ii) rustic state campsites, a long accepted intensive use of the forest preserve; (iii) memorial highways, beaches and boat launching sites; and (iv) historic areas (guidelines for which are provided elsewhere in this master plan), the state should rely on private enterprise to develop intensive recreational facilities on private lands within the Park, to the extent that the character of these lands permits this type of development, and should not acquire lands for these purposes.

4. Highest priority should be given to acquiring fee title to, fee title subject to a term of life tenancy, or conservation easements providing public use or value or rights of first refusal over, (i) key parcels of private land, the use or development of which could adversely affect the integrity of vital tracts of state land, particularly wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and (ii) key parcels which would permit the upgrading of primitive areas to wilderness areas.

5. High priority should also be given to acquisitions of fee title which permit the consolidation of scattered tracts of state land.

6. Fee title or appropriate conservation easements should also be acquired to protect critical wildlife areas such as deer wintering areas, wetlands, habitats of rare or endangered species or other areas of unique value, such as lands bordering or providing access to classified or proposed wild, scenic and recreational rivers.

7. Efforts should be made, by conservation easement or fee acquisition, to protect the major scenic resources of the Park along travel corridors, with particular attention to the Adirondack Northway and those scenic vistas specifically identified on the Private Land Use and Development Plan Map and listed in Chapter III of this document.

8. The acquisition of fee title to or rights-of-way across private lands that effectively prevent access to important blocks of state land should be pursued, except where such acquisition would exacerbate or cause problems of overuse or inappropriate use of state lands.

9. Canoe route easements should be purchased to reopen Adirondack canoe routes for non-motorized access in appropriate areas of the Park.

10. The highly successful fishing rights easement purchase program of the Department of Environmental Conservation should be continued and expanded on appropriate streams.

11. Due to the importance of the forest products industry to the economy of the Adirondack region, bulk acreage purchases in fee should not normally be made where highly productive forest land is involved, unless such land is threatened with development that would curtail its use for forestry purposes or its value for the preservation of open space or of wildlife habitat. However, conservation easements permitting the continuation of sound forest management and other land uses compatible with the open space character of the Park should be acquired wherever possible to protect and buffer state lands.

While the Agency has not been given authority to review proposed acquisitions before title has vested in the state, once new lands have been acquired the Act requires the master plan to be revised by classifying the lands and setting guidelines for their management and use pursuant to the statutory procedures (consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation and submission to the Governor for approval). The following procedures for revisions of the master plan will be followed in connection with new acquisitions:

-- land acquisitions should be classified as promptly as possible following acquisition and in any case classification of new acquisitions will be done annually; and,

-- prior to classification by the Agency, lands acquired by the Department of Environmental Conservation or any other state agency will be administered on an interim basis in a manner consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use and which will not foreclose options for eventual classification.

LAND EXCHANGE

The exchange of state lands for private lands within the Park poses obvious constitutional problems, in that any given exchange must be approved by the people in a constitutional amendment. While this process is cumbersome on a case-by-case basis, serious difficulties are likely to be encountered in attempting to obtain approval of a constitutional amendment permitting wholesale land exchanges, the merits of which are questionable. Careful consideration should be given, however, to the desirability of a constitutional amendment providing a land bank of modest acreage that would allow the legislature to permit small scale land exchanges. This would avoid the difficult amendment process for minor exchanges such as the Saranac Lake town dump and the Piseco airport parcels, now part of Article XIV, §1 of the New York State Constitution.

PLAN REVISION AND REVIEW

The Act states that if amendments are made to the master plan, they shall be effectuated in the same manner as the plan was initially adopted. Changes in existing land use may require periodic amendments to the plan. Such changes essentially involve a shift in classification of lands from one major classification to another and would include, but are not limited to:

-- the proposed construction of a new campground on land previously classified as wild forest; or,

-- the upgrading of a primitive area to a wilderness area as a result of the removal of non-conforming uses and/or of the acquisition of an inholding of private land; or,

-- the designation of a new wild, scenic or recreational river.

In addition, material changes in the guidelines applicable to each classification will also constitute a plan revision.

Revisions will be undertaken as needs dictate and may be requested by the Agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation or any other interested state agency. Requests from local governments or responsible private persons or organizations for plan revision will be given due and fair consideration. Such revisions will be made by the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and will be the subject of public hearings within and without the Park. Any resulting changes in the master plan will be submitted to the Governor for their approval as provided by the Act.

Even in the absence of acquisitions or changes in land classification or guidelines requiring modification of the master plan, the Act mandates periodic reviews of the master plan. Planning is an on-going process and, as public use of the state lands expands or changes in years ahead, land use controls may require re-analysis. The Agency will undertake annual reviews of the master plan to address such issues as the classification of recent acquisitions, reclassification resulting from the removal of non-conforming uses, modest boundary adjustments, minor technical changes, clarification or corrections and similar matters. To assist in this process, the Department will provide, annually, to the Agency the following information:

-- a list of new state land acquisitions together with a summary statement of the applicable acquisition policy guidelines, the objectives served by each acquisition and background information necessary for the classifications of the acquisitions.

-- a list of non-conforming uses removed during the previous year.

Major reviews of the master plan will take place every five years by the Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, as required by statute, and with other interested state agencies. Any state agency may call for such a review at more frequent intervals. In keeping with this recommendation, starting in 1976, the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies, conducted an in-depth

review of the master plan leading to various modifications therein, which were the subject of seven public hearings both within and without the Park and extensive consultation with a wide variety of interest groups in late 1978 and early 1979 and which were submitted to Governor Carey on April 20, 1979, and approved by him on October 24, 1979. Starting in 1984 the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, undertook a similar review and consultation process. Proposed modifications to the master plan were the subject of similar consultation with a wide variety of interest groups as well as two public hearings within and without the Park and were submitted to Governor Cuomo on September 22, 1986 and approved by him on November 4, 1987.

Strong public involvement in the whole process of revision and review should be encouraged. The Act mandates that public hearings be conducted prior to approval by the Agency and the Governor of revisions to the master plan. These public hearings are required to be held both within and without the Adirondack Park in recognition of the state-wide concern for both the forest preserve and the Park. Appropriate publicity and sufficient notice about proposed changes in the master plan are also necessary to permit maximum public participation. In addition, the Agency will make every effort to publish and disseminate copies of the master plan and to take other measures to foster greater public appreciation of the resources of the forest preserve and the Park as well as the nature of the planning process.

Major revisions were conducted and master plan revisions were adopted in 1979, 1987, 2016, 2019, and 2025.

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Section 816 of the Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the master plan. Due to the widely dispersed nature of certain wild forest areas, the Department may establish for unit management planning purposes, individual sub-units of wild forest units which because of location, physical features, ecological systems and use patterns can be managed as an individual unit. In accordance with statutory mandate, all plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan and cannot amend the master plan itself. Unit management plans will contain:

-- an inventory, at a level of detail appropriate to the area, of the natural, scenic, cultural, fish and wildlife (including game and non-game species) and other appropriate resources of the area and an analysis of the area's ecosystems;

-- an inventory of all existing facilities for public or administrative use;

-- an inventory of the types and extent of actual and projected public use of the area;

-- an inventory of existing structures and improvements that are consistent with the applicable federal

accessibility standards for buildings, sites, and outdoor recreation facilities[1];

-- an assessment of the impact of actual and projected public use on the resources, ecosystems and public enjoyment of the area with particular attention to portions of the area threatened by overuse; and,

-- an assessment of the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the area with particular attention to portions of the area threatened by overuse in light of its resource limitations and its classification under the master plan.

Carrying capacity assessments are prescribed throughout this document. Fulfilling this requirement must include desired conditions and associated indicators for specific attributes; thresholds for resource, social and managerial conditions; monitoring; and adaptive management. Levels of time and resources to fulfill this commitment should be proportional to the significance of impacts.

Carrying capacity has been a concept for determining how many people could use a given recreational setting before impacts are unacceptable. Establishing a number of visitors is one strategy to protect resources and experiences, while allowing for recreational use. Visitor use management actions include site management and engineering, information and education, and regulations and enforcement.

Each unit management plan will also set forth a statement of the management objectives for the protection and rehabilitation of the area's resources and ecosystems and for public use of the area consistent with its carrying capacity.

These management objectives will address, on a site-specific- basis as may be pertinent to the area, such issues as:

-- actions to minimize adverse impacts on the resources of the area;

-- the rehabilitation of such portions of the area as may suffer from overuse or resource degradation;

-- the regulation or limitation of public use such that the carrying capacity of the area is not exceeded and the types of measures necessary to achieve that objective;

– the preservation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats of the area;

-- the preservation and management of the fish and wildlife resources (including game and non-game species) of the area;

-- the preservation and management of the lakes, ponds, rivers and streams of the area, with particular attention to all proposed or designated wild, scenic and recreational rivers;

-- the preservation and management of special interest areas such as the habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species and areas with the potential for the reintroduction of extirpated species, unique geological areas and historic areas or structures;

-- the identification of needed additions or improvements to, and plans for providing for further appropriate

[1] U.S. Access Board Accessibility Standards.

public use of, the area consistent with its carrying capacity;

-- the removal of such non-conforming uses as may remain; and,

-- the identification of management actions to improve access to and enjoyment of the unit's lands and waters by persons with disabilities; and

-- a description of how the proposed management actions and alternatives, when considered together, assess and plan for climate change vulnerabilities specific to the unit.

Unit management plans will also address the administrative actions and the minimum facilities necessary on a site specific basis, as may be pertinent to the area to attain the stated management objectives of such area.

Schedules for achievement of such objectives will be included in each unit management plan. The land characteristics and the recommended objectives for each area will be related to and integrated with the characteristics and management objectives for adjacent public and private land areas. General recommendations for future acquisition will be included as appropriate.

An initial draft of the unit management plan for each state land area including alternative management objectives, where appropriate, will be submitted to the Agency for review and comment, prior to the preparation of the final draft plan for public review.

Opportunity will be made for review and comment on the draft unit management plans by the public and other interested parties, and a public meeting or meetings will be convened as appropriate for that purpose.

Final unit management plans will be prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation after due consideration of all comments and recommendations made on the public review draft. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation will adopt each final unit management plan which will then be filed with the Agency. The Department of Environmental Conservation will report annually to the Agency on progress made toward the implementation of each adopted unit management plan.

Any material modification in adopted unit management plans will be made following the procedure for original unit plan preparation.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has made significant progress in unit management planning. This progress should be continued, and the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency should commit the necessary resources so that all unit management plans are completed. The Department is able to utilize a suite of management tools prior to the adoption of a UMP, such as ongoing trail, campsite, and facilities maintenance; closure, rehabilitation or minor relocation of structures and improvements; and managing public access. The process of developing and updating UMPs on a regular basis remains a key priority to ensure public engagement in determining the management objectives for an area.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and their implementing regulations, have implications for the management of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The ADA requires that each service, program and activity offered by state agencies be made accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial and administrative burden.

The State of New York adheres to the ADA Title II regulations (28 CFR Part 35) and accessibility standards, along with the relevant provisions of the ABA and Section 504, in planning, designing, renovating, constructing and managing state land. Consistent with 28 CFR § 35.137, wheelchairs are allowed on state lands anywhere that pedestrian access is permitted.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA or Climate Act), New York State committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ultimately achieving net zero emissions in the state. The Climate Act requires all state agencies to consider whether the issuance of permits or other approvals are "inconsistent with or will interfere with the attainment of the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits established in Article 75 of the Environmental Conservation Law." CLCPA, Ch. 106, Laws of 2019 §7(2).

The Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan lays out a roadmap to meet the Climate Act's nation-leading goals and requirements. The Plan describes strategies across various sectors, including cross-cutting policies concerning land use, adaptation, and resilience. Such strategies include maintaining intact forests and wetlands as carbon sinks and ensuring resilient and connected landscapes for species whose ranges are shifting.

For the lands subject to the guidelines and criteria of the State Land Master Plan, it is imperative to view all policy and planning decisions through the lens of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. The Park includes abundant sources of clean freshwater and wetland habitats, as well as millions of acres of intact, Constitutionally-protected Forest Preserve to mitigate GHG emissions and offer resilience against extreme weather events.

Wild lands and open space provide connectivity to combat habitat fragmentation, protect water quality, and provide habitat for numerous species including those whose ranges may be shifting due to climate change.

Unit management plans should describe how the proposed management actions and alternatives analyses assess and plan for climate change vulnerabilities. For instance, right-sizing bridges and culverts and sustainable trail construction can help to safeguard investments in recreational infrastructure and prevent future environmental degradation. Green infrastructure and appropriate storm water management improvements can help to mitigate onsite flooding at public facilities as well as protect water quality.

INVASIVE SPECIES

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

Efforts should be made to restore and protect the native ecological communities through early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate or control existing or newly identified invasive species populations. Subject to existing policy and guidelines, the Department will use the basic tools needed to preserve, protect and restore the natural native ecosystems of the Forest Preserve.

SPECIAL HISTORIC AREA UNIT MANAGEMENT PLANS

This master plan also provides for special historic area unit management plans for the development and management of state historic sites. This special procedure is designed to address the unique problems associated with these types of facilities. Such special historic area unit management plans will be the subject of public hearings and will be submitted to the agency for its approval as being consistent with the master plan prior to their implementation.

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

Decades of experience under the master plan have confirmed that questions of interpretation of the master plan as applied to a given activity or land use arise from time to time. This is particularly the case in the context of those guidelines that are quite general in character. During the public hearings and consultations preceding the 1978/79 revision of the master plan, there was considerable public comment on the need to clarify the relationship of the Agency to the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies on matters of interpretation and application of the guidelines of the master plan.

In this regard, it is well to remember 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 accordance with its administrative and management responsibilities, the Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with the duty to prepare, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans for the units of land classified in the master plan. The unit management plans must apply the general guidelines and criteria in the master plan and cannot amend the master plan itself. Unit management plans shall be regarded as a mechanism to refine and apply the general guidelines and criteria in the master plan to specific conditions on the ground, at a level of detail appropriate to administration and management. When finally adopted by the Department, these unit management plans will assist significantly in resolving questions of interpretation and application of the master plan.

The 1979 revision of the master plan expressly extended the unit management plan concept to the special case of historic areas. In addition, neither the Act nor the master plan excludes the possibility of preparation of individual unit management plans for other land classifications such as state administrative areas – an approach which would be fully consistent with the basic structure of the Act.

In light of the above principles, the following guidelines will apply to questions of interpretation and application of the master plan:

-- The Agency will be responsible, as a policy matter, for general interpretations of the master plan itself either on its own initiative, at the request of any interested state agency, or, for state agencies other than the Department of Environmental Conservation, in connection with its review of state projects under Section 814 of the Act.

-- The Agency will be responsible for determining whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan.

-- The Department of Environmental Conservation (or other appropriate state agencies) will be responsible for the application of the master plan and individual unit management plans with respect to administration and management of the state lands under its jurisdiction.

-- The Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation (or other appropriate state agencies) will enter into memoranda of understanding designed to implement these guidelines in actual practice. The Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation have operated under such a memorandum of understanding since 1982.

II. CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND GUIDELINES

BASIS AND PURPOSE OF CLASSIFICATION

THE ACT REQUIRES the Agency to classify the state lands in the Park according to “their characteristics and capacity to withstand use.” This section of the master plan will describe the factors which the Agency has taken into account in formulating the classification system set forth in the balance of this chapter and will explain the basic purpose of the system and the guidelines for management and use which follow. This classification system reflects the work of the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks as refined by additional field work and analysis by the Agency at the time the master plan was first prepared in 1972. In addition, a special Department of Environmental Conservation task force set up in 1972 provided extremely valuable assistance in the formulation of this system. Many years of experience under the master plan and considerable additional field work have led to certain additional refinements but the basic classification system remains intact.

A fundamental determinant of land classification is the physical characteristics of the land or water which have a direct bearing upon the capacity of the land to accept human use. Soil, slope, elevation and water are the primary elements of these physical characteristics and they are found in widely varied associations. For example, the fertility, erosiveness and depth of soil, the severity of slopes, the elevational characteristics reflected in microclimates, the temperature, chemistry, volume and turnover rate of streams or lakes, all affect the carrying capacity of the land or water both from the standpoint of the construction of facilities and the amount of human use the land or water itself can absorb. By and large, these factors highlight the essential fragility of significant portions of the state lands within the Park. These fragile areas include most lands above 2,500 feet in altitude, particularly the boreal (spruce-fir), sub-alpine and alpine zones, as well as low-lying areas such as bogs, fens, marshes and other wetlands. In addition, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and their environs often present special physical problems.

Biological considerations also play an important role in the structuring of the classification system. Many of these are associated with the physical limitations just described; for instance many plants of the boreal, subalpine and alpine zones are less able to withstand trampling than species associated with lower elevation life zones. Wetland ecosystems frequently are finely balanced and incapable of absorbing material changes resulting from construction or intensive human use. In addition, wildlife values and wildlife habitats are relevant to the characteristics of the land and sometimes determine whether a particular kind of human use should be encouraged or prohibited, for example the impact of snowmobiles on deer wintering yards, the effect of numbers or hikers or campers near the nesting habitat of rare, threatened or endangered species like the bald eagle or spruce grouse, or the problems associated with motorized access to

bodies of water with wild strains of native trout.

In addition, another significant determinant of land classification involves certain intangible considerations that have an inevitable impact on the character of land. Some of these are social or psychological – such as the sense of remoteness and degree of wildness available to users of a particular area, which may result from the size of an area, the type and density of its forest cover, the ruggedness of the terrain or merely the views over other areas of the Park obtainable from some vantage point. Without these elements an area should not be classified as wilderness, even though the physical and biological factors would dictate that the limitations of wilderness management are essential.

In such cases, as will be seen, a primitive designation would be required. Other classification determinants are more concrete, for example the suitability of a given system of lakes and ponds for canoeing or guideboating, the ability of larger bodies of water to provide for adequately distributed motorboat use, or the accessibility of a tract of land to a public highway, and its attractiveness, permitting the development of a campground or other intensive use facility.

Finally, the classification system takes into account the established facilities on the land, the uses now being made by the public and the policies followed by the various administering agencies. Many of these factors are self evident: the presence of a highway determines the classification of a travel corridor; the presence of an existing campground or ski area requires the classification of intensive use. The extent of existing facilities and uses which might make it impractical to attempt to recreate a wilderness or wild forest atmosphere is also a consideration. This is not to imply that when present uses or facilities are degrading the resource they should be continued, but their presence cannot be ignored. The unique mixture of public and private land within the Park also requires that account be taken of facilities and uses being made on contiguous or nearby private lands. Thus a large private inholding subject to or threatened by some form of intensive use might prevent the designation of an otherwise suitable tract of state land as wilderness.

The above described factors are obviously complex and their application is, in certain instances, subjective, since the value of resource quality or character cannot be precisely evaluated or measured. Nonetheless, the Agency believes that the classification system described below reflects the character and capacity to withstand use of all state lands within the Adirondack Park in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

Nine basic categories result from this classification:

Wilderness
Primitive
Canoe
Wild Forest
Intensive Use
Historic
State Administrative
Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers
Travel Corridors

The Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Travel Corridors classifications are essentially corridor overlays to the basic land classification(s) through which the corridor passes.

Guidelines for the lands falling within each major classification and various special management guidelines for unique resources within these major classifications are set forth in the remaining portions of this chapter. Insofar as forest preserve lands are concerned, no structures, improvements or uses not now established on the forest preserve are permitted by these guidelines and in many cases more restrictive management is provided for. Obviously, these guidelines are subject to any future legal rulings further restricting uses of the forest preserve and, as already noted, they are not to be considered as attempts to make legal determinations on unresolved issues regarding the constitutional appropriateness of any such structures, improvements or uses.

In addition, the designation of state administrative areas and historic areas in the master plan should not be taken as lending weight to the constitutional appropriateness of the general treatment of these lands by the state, either legislatively or administratively, as non-forest preserve. These new classifications seek only to reflect, in terms of land use, what has long existed in the Park irrespective of constitutional questions. A constitutional amendment should, however, be considered which would put the propriety of these non-forest preserve types of land uses beyond question and provide a modest land bank to permit future acquisitions of these types of lands by the state.

Nothing in the guidelines for lands falling within each major classification shall be deemed to prevent the Department of Environmental Conservation, or any other state agency administering such lands, from providing for more restrictive management where necessary to comply with constitutional requirements or to protect the natural resources of such lands.

While care has been employed in compiling and depicting the information shown on the map forming part of this master plan, it should be emphasized that, due to possible base map inaccuracies and the large scale of the map, the location of the classification system boundaries are subject to precise definition on the site by the Adirondack Park Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and such other state agencies as may be involved. Similarly, acreage and mileage statistics in this plan are not the product of actual surveys and may vary when compared to data from other sources.

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. Administrative Road – an improved way maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for the principal purpose of facilitating administration of state lands or of allowing access for firefighting equipment and not normally open for public use of motor vehicles. This type of road has been called a State Truck Trail in older editions of this Plan.

2. Aircraft – a device for transporting people or material that travels through the air and is propelled by a non-living power source contained on or within the device.

3. All Terrain Vehicle – a motor vehicle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails. The term includes jeeps or other four wheel drive automobiles, dirt or trail bikes and all forms of "ATVs", "ATCs", and "ORVs", but excludes snowmobiles.

4. Beaver Control Structure – a device used to reduce impacts to human infrastructure caused by beavers while maintaining suitable habitat for beavers. Beaver control structures maintain water flow or regulate water levels.

5. Bicycle – a non-motorized, human-powered, cycle designed or used for cross country travel on roads or trails.

6. Bicycle Trail – a marked trail, designated for travel by bicycles, located and designed to provide access in a manner causing the least effect on the local environment.

7. Boat Launching Site – a site providing for the launching of trailered boats, with ramp and attendant parking facilities.

8. Campground – a concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access, not meeting the standards for individual, primitive tent sites or lean-tos, which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day-use facilities. Campgrounds are commonly known as "campsites" by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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

10. Day-Use Area – a developed facility designed to accommodate a significant number of visitors on a day-use basis only. The term includes such facilities as beaches, parkways, memorial highways, the Mt. Van Hoevenberg area, the alpine ski centers at Whiteface and Gore Mountains, boat launching sites and similar facilities.

11. Electric-assisted Bicycle – a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor with an output of less than seven hundred fifty watts (one horsepower) whereby such electric motor engages only when the operator is pedaling and disengages or ceases to function when such bicycle's

brakes are applied, the operator stops pedaling, or such bicycle achieves a speed of twenty miles per hour or more.

12. Fireplace – a permanent structure constructed of stone and cement designed to contain and control camp fires.

13. Fire Ring – a temporary cluster of rocks designed to contain and control camp fires which may contain, in fire sensitive areas, a cement slab.

14. Fish Barrier Dam – a man-made device or structure used to prevent the upstream or downstream movement of fish for the purpose of protecting a high-value native fishery.

15. Fishing and Waterway Access Sites – a site for fishing or other water access with attendant parking facilities which does not contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats.

16. Foot Trail – a marked and maintained path or way for foot travel located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment.

17. Horse Barn – a rustic structure designed to provide temporary shelter for a small number of horses.

18. Horse Mounting Platform – a rustic structure constructed of natural materials and designed for mounting a horse.

19. Horse Trail – a path marked and maintained for travel by horses, located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the local environment.

20. Improved Cross Country Ski Trail – a marked and maintained path for cross country ski use designed for competitive or intensive use conditions which may be constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.

21. Improvement – any change in or addition to land, which materially affects the existing use, condition or appearance of the land or any vegetation thereon, including but not limited to foot, horse, and bicycle trails, roads, administrative roads, snowmobile trails, cross country ski trails, improved cross country ski trails, trail heads, picnic areas and individual primitive tent sites.

22. Lean-to – an open front shelter made of natural materials suitable for transient residence, constructed according to a standard Department of Environmental Conservation plan and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment.

23. Lean-to Cluster -- more than two lean-tos within sight or sound of each other and generally separated by a distance of less than one-quarter mile.

24. Motor Vehicle – a device for transporting people, supplies or material, incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on or adjacent to land and water or through water. The term includes such vehicles as automobiles,

trucks, jeeps, motorbikes, dirt or trail bikes, any type of all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment and motorboats, but does not include wheelchairs.

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

26. Motorized Equipment – machines not designed for transporting people, supplies or materials, or for earth moving but incorporating a motor, engine or other non-living power source to accomplish a task. The term includes such machines as chain saws, brush saws, rotary or other mowers, rock drills, cement mixers and generators.

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

28. Non-Conforming Use – a structure, improvement or human use or activity existing, constructed or conducted on or in relation to land within a given classification that does not comply with the guidelines for such classification specified in the master plan.

29. Peripheral Visitor Registration Structure – a primitive structure of natural materials open on at least one side and not designed for human habitation, located at the periphery of units of state land, and intended to provide information and, where appropriate, control of access to such lands.

30. Primitive Tent Site – a designated tent site of an undeveloped character not to exceed 1,200 square feet in size, which may have an associated pit privy and fire ring, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people on a temporary or transient basis, and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment.

31. Rail Trails – trails developed within a railroad corridor where tracks have been removed to accommodate modes of travel other than rail car, including snowmobiles, horses and bicycles, but excluding public use of ATVs, automobiles, and other motor vehicles.

32. Rails-with-trails – trails within a railroad corridor that run alongside railroad tracks.

33. Railbed – the hardened surface, under or formerly under the railroad tracks.

34. Ranger Stations or Ranger Cabins – enclosed buildings constructed or maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation, suitable for human habitation and manned seasonally or year-round by administrative personnel to facilitate administrative control of lands and public use thereof under the jurisdiction of the Department.

35. River – a flowing body of water, or a stream or a section, portion or tributary thereof, including a river, stream, creek, run, kill, rill, branch or lake.

36. River Area – a river and its immediate environs, including river banks and the land on both sides of the river up to a distance of at least one-quarter mile but not more than one-half mile.

37. Road – 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,

(i) either 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.

38. Roadbed – the part of the road on which vehicles travel.

39. Snowmobiles -- a self-propelled vehicle equipped with a motor, originally manufactured and designed solely for travel on snow or ice, steered by skis or runners and supported in whole or in part by one or more skis, belts, or tracked cleats.

40. Snowmobile Trail – a marked trail of essentially the same character as a foot trail designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation on which, when covered by snow and ice, snowmobiles are allowed to travel and which may double as a foot trail at other times of year.

41. Stream Improvement Structure for Fisheries Management Purposes – a structure and/or improvement, including but not limited to, fish barrier dams, small rock or log dams, fish passage structures, minor diking, cribbing, bank stabilization and stream deflectors and other structures or improvements designed solely for fisheries management purposes which do not materially alter the natural character or resource quality of the water body, and which are made of natural materials wherever possible.

42. Structure – any object constructed, installed or placed on land to facilitate land use, including but not limited to bridges, buildings, ranger stations or ranger cabins, sheds, lean-tos, pit privies, picnic tables, horse barns, horse hitching posts and rails, fire towers, observer cabins, telephone and electric light lines, mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks and dams.

43. Tent Platform – a platform, with or without walls and other attachments, erected as a base for tenting or similar camping activity.

44. Trail Head – a point of entrance to state land which may contain some or all of the following: vehicle parking, trail signs and peripheral visitor registration structures.

45. Wetlands – any land annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, fen or marsh, which is (i) one acre or more in size, or (ii) located adjacent to a body of water, including a permanent stream, with which there is free interchange of water at the surface, in which case there is no size limitation, and which (iii) meet the technical definition of 578.3l of the Adirondack Park Agency Rules and Regulations.

46. Wheelchair – consistent with applicable law and regulation, a wheelchair is defined as a manually-operated or power-driven device designed primarily for use by an individual with a mobility disability for the main purpose of indoor or of both indoor and outdoor locomotion.

47. Wildlife Management Structure – a structure or device designed for inventory or research purposes or for the protection or restoration of threatened or endangered species or species of special concern, including but not limited to animal enclosures or exclosures, traps, bat mine or cave gates, raptor hacking towers, nesting towers or boxes, that does not materially alter the natural character or resource quality of the land and that is made of natural materials whenever possible.

WILDERNESS

Definition

A wilderness area, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man–where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A wilderness area is further defined to mean an area of state land or water having a primeval character, without significant improvement or permanent human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, its natural conditions, and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least ten thousand acres of contiguous land and water or is of sufficient size and character as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

Significant portions of the state lands within the Park are in a wilderness or near-wilderness condition today. These areas constitute nearly 20% of all designated federal and state wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains and 85% of the designated wilderness in the eleven northeastern states. At the time of the original enactment of this master plan, a majority of these areas contained some structures and improvements or were subjected to uses by the public or by official personnel that were incompatible with wilderness. However, the extent of these non-conforming uses was very modest from the standpoint of the total acreage involved. Since 1972 all but a few of those non-conforming uses have been removed by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

1. The primary wilderness management guideline will be to achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent.

2. In wilderness areas:

a) no additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted;

b) any remaining non-conforming uses will be removed;

c) non-conforming uses resulting from newly-classified wilderness areas will be removed as rapidly as possible and in any case by the end of the third year following classification; and,

d) primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the end of the third year following adoption of a unit management plan for the area.

3. No new non-conforming uses will be permitted in any designated wilderness area.

4. Construction of additional conforming structures and improvements will be restrained to comply with wilderness standards for primitive and unconfined types of recreation and to permit better maintenance and rehabilitation of existing structures and improvements.

5. No new structures or improvements in any wilderness area will be constructed except in conformity with finally adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance or rehabilitation of conforming structures or improvements, minor trail relocation, or the removal of non-conforming uses.

6. All conforming structures and improvements will be designed and located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.

7. All management and administrative action and interior facilities in wilderness areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally-sound use of such areas and for their own health, safety and welfare.

8. Any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos or primitive tent sites planned for shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from view from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean- tos will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.

9. All pit privies will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river, or stream or wetland.

Structures and improvements

1. The structures and improvements listed below will be considered as conforming to wilderness standards and their maintenance, rehabilitation and construction permitted:

-- scattered Adirondack lean-tos, not including lean-to clusters, below 3,500 feet in elevation;

-- 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:

(i) where physical and biological conditions are favorable, individual unit management plans may permit the establishment, on a site-specific basis, of primitive tent sites between 3,500 and 4,000 feet in elevation, and,

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

-- pit privies;

-- foot trails;

-- cross country ski trails;

-- foot trail and cross country ski trail bridges constructed of natural materials and, where absolutely necessary, ladders constructed of natural materials;

-- horse trails, except that any new horse trails will be limited to those that can be developed by conversion of appropriate abandoned roads, snowmobile trails, or administrative roads;

-- horse trail bridges constructed of natural materials;

-- horse mounting platforms, constructed of natural materials;

-- horse hitching posts and rails;

-- existing or new fish barrier dams, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;

-- existing dams on established impoundments, except that, in the reconstruction or rehabilitation of such dams, natural materials will be used wherever possible and no new dams will be constructed;

-- directional, informational and interpretive signs of rustic materials and in limited numbers;

-- peripheral visitor registration structures;

-- wildlife management structures on a temporary basis where essential to the preservation of wilderness wildlife values and resources; and,

-- beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity threatens to cause damage to:

(i) trailheads, parking areas, fishing and waterway access sites, picnic areas, ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use;
(ii) adjoining roads or railroad corridors;
(iii) adjoining private lands or private right-of-way; or
(iv) trails within 500 feet of a public highway right-of-way.

Beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity may render ineffective fish barrier dams.

Bridges and trail relocations should be a priority solution for management of beaver-related impacts.

2. All other structures and improvements, except for interior ranger stations themselves (guidelines for which are specified below), will be considered non-conforming and will be removed. These include but are not limited to:

-- lean-to clusters;
-- tent platforms;
-- horse barns;
-- boat docks;
-- storage sheds and other buildings;
-- fire towers and observer cabins;
-- telephone and electrical lines;
-- snowmobile trails;

-- roads and administrative roads;
-- helicopter platforms; and,
-- buoys.

Ranger stations

1. No new interior stations will be constructed and all remaining interior stations, other than Lake Colden, will be phased out on a scheduled basis determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation, in favor of stations or other facilities at the periphery of the wilderness areas at major points of access to provide needed supervision of public use. This phase-out should be accomplished as soon as feasible, as specified in the individual unit management plans.

2. New methods of communication and supply, complying with wilderness guidelines, will be employed with respect to all ranger stations maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation after December 31, 1975.

3. Due to heavy existing and projected winter use in the Eastern High Peak area and the presence of the most rugged terrain in the Adirondacks, the Lake Colden station together with an associated on-ground line (i.e., a line laid on or just under the ground surface which rapidly becomes covered by leaves) for telephone communication may be retained indefinitely but their status will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual removal is feasible.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

1. Public use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be prohibited.

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

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

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

5. Irrespective of the above guidelines, use of motorized equipment or aircraft, but not motor vehicles, for a specific major research project conducted by or under the supervision of a state agency will be permitted if such project is for purposes essential to the preservation of wilderness values and resources, no feasible alternative exists for conducting such research on other state or private lands, such use is

minimized, and the project has been specifically approved in writing by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation after consultation with the Agency.

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

7. Irrespective of the above or any other guidelines in this master plan, use of motor vehicles by administrative personnel to remove non-conforming structures or improvements after the phase-out period will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Agency. This work must occur during the off-peak seasons.

8. Written logs will be kept by the Department of Environmental Conservation recording use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft. The Department will prepare an annual report providing details of such motorized uses and the reasons therefore and file it with the Agency.

Roads, snowmobile trails and administrative roads

1. No new roads, snowmobile or administrative roads will be allowed.

2. Any non-conforming roads or snowmobile trails resulting from newly classified wilderness areas will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in any case will be closed by the end of the third calendar year following classification. In each case the Department of Environmental Conservation will:

-- close such roads and snowmobile trails to motor vehicles as may be open to the public;

-- prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles; and,

-- block such roads and trails by logs, boulders or similar means other than gates.

3. During the phaseout period the use of motor vehicles by administrative personnel for transportation of materials and personnel will be limited to the minimum required for proper interim administration and the removal of nonconforming uses.

Bicycles

1. Public use of bicycles will be prohibited.

2. Administrative personnel will not use bicycles for day-to-day administration. Use of bicycles may be permitted for specific major administrative research, maintenance, rehabilitation or construction projects involving conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of non-conforming structures in the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Flora and fauna

There will be no intentional introduction in wilderness areas of species of flora or fauna that are not historically associated with the Adirondack environment, except: (i) species which have already been established in the Adirondack environment, or (ii) as necessary to protect the integrity of established native flora and fauna. Efforts will be made to restore extirpated native species where such restoration appears feasible.

Recreational use and overuse

1. The following types of recreational use are compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of such use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself:

-- hiking, mountaineering, tenting, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowshoeing, ski touring, birding, nature study, and other forms of primitive and unconfined recreation.

Access by horses, including horse and wagon, while permitted in wilderness, will be strictly controlled and limited to suitable locations and trail conditions to prevent adverse environmental damage.

2. Each individual unit management plan will seek to determine the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the wilderness resource. Where the degree and intensity of permitted recreational uses threaten the wilderness resource, appropriate administrative and regulatory measures will be taken to limit such use to the capability of the resource. Such administrative and regulatory measures may include, but need not be limited to:

-- the limitation by permit or other appropriate means of the total number of persons permitted to have access to or remain in a wilderness area or portion thereof during a specified period;

-- the temporary closure of all or portions of wilderness areas to permit rehabilitative measures.

3. Educational programs continue to improve public understanding of backcountry use, including an anti-litter and pack-in, pack-out campaign, should be undertaken. Additional efforts should be undertaken where appropriate.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

1. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a public highway, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan, to locate within 500 feet from a public highway right-of-way, on a site-specific basis, trailheads, parking areas, fishing and waterway access sites, picnic areas, ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use, and, in limited instances, snowmobile trails.

2. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a water body accessible to the public by motorboat, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan, to provide, on a site-specific basis, for ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use or for the

location of small, unobtrusive docks made of natural materials on such shorelines in limited instances where access to trailheads or the potential for resource degradation may make this desirable.

3. Special wilderness area boundary markers will be designed and installed at major access points to enhance public recognition of wilderness boundaries and wilderness restrictions.

Designation of Wilderness Areas

The application of the wilderness definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under this master plan of twenty wilderness areas scattered throughout the Adirondacks. These areas encompass approximately 1,186,399 acres or about forty-six percent of the forest preserve within the Adirondack Park. Virtually every Adirondack ecosystem is represented in these wilderness areas, from the alpine, sub-alpine and boreal (spruce-fir) communities of the higher mountains through various mixtures of hardwoods at the middle elevations to the lowland lakes and ponds and a variety of wetland environments – truly an unparalleled spectrum of wilderness resources for this and future generations of New Yorkers.

These areas are identified and their boundaries delineated on the map forming part of this master plan. A general description of each designated wilderness, identifying the principal features and facilities of the area and specifying the non-conforming uses that were not removed by the original December 31, 1975 deadline or that exist as a result of recent acquisition and, in each case, remain in existence is contained in Chapter II. These descriptions also point out certain resource concerns that may be particularly relevant to the administration of the area and the preparation of the individual management plans by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

PRIMITIVE

Definition

A primitive area is an area of land or water that is either:

1. Essentially wilderness in character but, (a) contains structures, improvements, or uses that are inconsistent with wilderness, as defined, and whose removal, though a long term objective, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline, and/or, (b) contains, or is contiguous to, private lands that are of a size and influence to prevent wilderness designation; or,

2. Of a size and character not meeting wilderness standards, but where the fragility of the resource or other factors require wilderness management.

The definition recognizes two basic types of primitive areas: (i) where the ultimate goal is clearly to upgrade the area to wilderness at some future time, however distant, when the non-conforming uses can be removed and/or acquisition of private tracts is accomplished, and, (ii) where eventual wilderness classification is impossible or extremely unlikely.

An example of the first type would be the existence of a fire tower and

associated structures and improvements (observer cabins, telephone lines, etc.) whose precise date of removal cannot be ascertained until the new aerial surveillance program of the Department of Environmental Conservation is fully implemented and communication systems modernized. Another example would be a private or minor public road traversing a tract otherwise suitable for wilderness designation or separating such an area from a designated wilderness. Finally, an extensive private inholding or a series of smaller private inholdings whose eventual acquisition is desirable but cannot now be provided for, might so affect a potential wilderness area as to require primitive designation.

The second type includes smaller tracts that are most unlikely to attain wilderness standards, such as a small island in close proximity to a highly developed shoreline, or larger tracts with non-conforming uses, such as a railroad or major public highway, that are essentially permanent, but where in each case the high quality or fragility of the resource requires wilderness management.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. The primary primitive management guideline will be to achieve and maintain in each designated primitive area a condition as close to wilderness as possible, so as to perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is relatively unapparent.

2. In primitive areas:

(a) No additions or expansions of non--conforming uses will be permitted.

(b) Any remaining non-conforming uses will be removed.

(c) Those non-conforming uses of essentially a permanent nature whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline will be phased out on a reasonable timetable as soon as their removal becomes feasible.

(d) Non-conforming uses resulting from newly classified primitive areas will be removed as rapidly as possible, except for those described in c above, and in any case by the end of the third year following classification.

(e) Primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the third year following adoption of the unit management plan for the area.

3. No new, non-conforming uses will be permitted in any primitive area.

4. Upon the removal of all non-conforming uses, a designated primitive area that otherwise meets wilderness standards will be reclassified as wilderness.

5. Construction of additional conforming structures and maintenance of existing facilities and improvements will follow the guidelines for wilderness areas.

6. No new structures or improvements in primitive areas will be constructed except in conformity with finally adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements or the removal of non-conforming uses.

7. All conforming structures and improvements will be located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.

8. All management and administrative actions and interior facilities in primitive areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally sound use of such areas and for their own health, safety and welfare.

9. Any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos or individual primitive tent sites located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean-tos will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.

10. All pit privies will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river, stream or wetland.

Primitive Recreational Trail

In the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the Pine Lake Primitive Area only, former all-season roads capable of withstanding such use may be designated as Primitive Recreational Trails for use by foot, horse, horse and wagon, bicycle, ski, snowshoe and other non-motorized recreational activities. The Department may maintain a Primitive Recreational Trail by periodic, but not usual or routine, use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment for specific major maintenance, rehabilitation or construction purposes during off-peak seasons, unless extraordinary conditions, such as a fire, major blow-down, or flood mandate more frequent work or work during peak periods.

Structures and improvements

1. All structures and improvements that conform to wilderness guidelines will be acceptable in primitive areas.

2. In addition, existing structures and improvements

(a) whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline, or,

(b) in the case of areas not destined to become wilderness, whose retention is compatible with the character of the area and whose removal is not essential to protect the resource, will also be permissible, in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

3. Non-conforming uses, other than those that meet the criteria in section 2 above, will be removed.

4. Beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity threatens to cause damage to primitive recreational trails.

Ranger stations

Ranger stations will be subject to the same guidelines as in wilderness areas, except that in areas not destined to become wilderness or in other special situations the indefinite retention of such stations may be provided for as specified by the Department of Environmental Conservation in a duly adopted unit management plan.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

1. All uses of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft permitted under wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in primitive areas.

2. In the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas, use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment will be permitted as described under “Primitive Recreational Trail”.

3. Additionally, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft by administrative personnel will be permitted to reach and maintain existing structures, improvements or ranger stations:

(a) whose eventual removal is anticipated but cannot be removed by a fixed deadline; or,

(b) in primitive areas not destined to become wilderness whose presence is of an essentially permanent character; in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

Roads, snowmobile trails and administrative roads

1. The guidelines specified for wilderness areas will also apply to primitive areas, except that:

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

-- existing roads now legally open to the public may remain open for motor vehicles at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation pending eventual wilderness classification, if their continued use will not adversely affect the character of the resources of the primitive area or impinge upon the proper management of an adjacent wilderness area;

-- existing snowmobile trails now legally open to the public may remain open for snowmobiles at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation pending eventual wilderness classification if their continued use will not adversely affect the character or resources of the primitive area or impinge upon the proper management of the adjacent wilderness; in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

2. Upon the closure of any road, snowmobile trail or administrative road, such routes will be effectively blocked as provided in the wilderness guidelines.

Bicycles

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas except that bicycles may be used:

(a) on existing roads legally open to the public and on administrative roads specifically designated for such use by the Department of Environmental Conservation as specified in individual unit management plans; and,

(b) on former all-season roads in the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, as described above under "Primitive Recreational Trails."

Flora and fauna

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Recreational use and overuse

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Designation of Primitive Areas

The application of the primitive definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under this master plan of 44 primitive areas scattered throughout the Adirondack Park. The objective for many of these areas is to eventually upgrade them to wilderness. Some areas are extremely unlikely to attain wilderness standards. A wide variety of terrain and ecosystems is represented in the designated primitive areas, though not to the same degree as with wilderness.

All primitive areas are identified and their boundaries delineated on the map forming part of this master plan.

A general description of each designated primitive area is contained in Chapter III. Each description specifies the goal for ultimate classification and non-conforming uses for each area.

CANOE

Definition

A canoe area is an area where the watercourses or the number and proximity of lakes and ponds make possible a remote and unconfined type of water-oriented recreation in an essentially wilderness setting.

The terrain associated with parcels meeting the above definition is generally ideally suited to ski touring and snowshoeing in the winter months.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. The primary canoe area management guideline will be to protect the quality of the water and fishery resources while preserving a wilderness character on the adjacent lands.

2. In designated canoe areas that contain non-conforming uses:

(a) No additions or expansions of such non-conforming uses will be permitted.

(b) Any remaining non-conforming uses that were to have been removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed will be removed by March 3l, 1987.

(c) Non-conforming uses resulting from newly classified canoe areas will be removed as rapidly as possible and in any case by the end of the third year following classification.

(d) Primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the third year following adoption of the unit management plan for the area.

3. No new non-conforming uses will be permitted.

4. Construction of additional conforming structures and improvements and maintenance of existing facilities will be on the same basis as in wilderness areas but with particular emphasis on the water and fishery resources.

5. No new structures or improvements in canoe areas will be constructed except in conformity with finally adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures and improvements, or the removal of non-conforming uses.

6. All conforming structures and improvements will be designed and located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.

7. All management and administrative actions and interior facilities in canoe areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally sound use of such areas and for their own health, safety and welfare.

8. Any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos or individual primitive tent sites located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean-tos will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers, or major streams.

9. All pit privies will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river, stream or wetland.

Structures and improvements

1. All structures and improvements that conform to wilderness guidelines will be permitted in canoe areas.

2. In addition, existing administrative roads may be used and maintained by administrative personnel in conformity with the guideline specified below.

Ranger stations

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

1. All uses of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft permitted under the wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in canoe areas.

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

Roads, snowmobile trails and administrative roads

The guidelines specified for wilderness areas will also apply to canoe areas except that use of administrative roads by administrative personnel for purposes designed to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources of the area will be permitted as specified in duly adopted unit management plans. Such administrative roads will be closed to public use by means of a gate or other similar methods.

Bicycles

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas except that bicycles may be used on existing roads legally open to the public and on administrative roads specifically designated for such use by the Department of Environmental Conservation, as specified in individual unit management plans.

Flora and fauna

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Recreational use and overuse

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas with special emphasis on canoeing, fishing, ski touring and snowshoeing.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Designation of Canoe Areas

The application of the canoe area definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under this master plan of only the St. Regis Canoe Area. Certain private tracts in the Park may also qualify for canoe area designation should they ever be acquired.

The St. Regis area is depicted on the map forming part of this master plan. It is described in narrative form in Chapter III on the same basis as the wilderness and primitive descriptions with an inventory of both the conforming and non-conforming structures and improvements in the area.

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.

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

Guidelines for Management and Use

Those areas 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. For example the crescent of wild forest areas from Lewis County south and east through Old Forge, southern Hamilton and northern Fulton Counties and north and east to the Lake George vicinity can and should afford extensive outdoor recreation readily accessible from the primary east-west transportation and population axis of New York State.

Basic guidelines

1. 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.

2. In wild forest areas:

(a) No additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted.

(b) Any remaining non-conforming uses will be removed as soon as practicable.

(c) Non-conforming uses resulting from newly classified wild forest areas will be removed as rapidly as possible and in any case by the end of the third year following classification.

(d) Primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the third year following adoption of the unit management plan for the area.

3. No new non-conforming uses will be permitted in any designated wild forest area.

4. Public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will not be any material increase in the mileage of roads and snowmobile trails open to motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the master plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972.

5. Care should be taken to minimize conflict of incompatible uses.

6. When public access to and enjoyment of the wild forest areas are inadequate, appropriate measures may be undertaken to provide improved access to encourage public use consistent with the wild forest character.

7. No new structures or improvements in wild forest areas will be constructed except in conformity with a finally adopted unit management plan. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor maintenance of conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of non-conforming uses.

8. All conforming structures and improvements will be designed and located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.

9. All management and administrative actions and interior facilities in wild forest areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally sound use of such areas and for their own health, safety and welfare.

10. Any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos, primitive tent sites and other conforming buildings and structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, fishing and waterway access sites and similar water-related facilities, 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. Any such leantos, ranger stations, storage sheds, horse barns and similar structures will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.

11. All pit privies, seepage pits or leach fields will be located a minimum of 150 feet from any lake, pond, river or stream.

Structures and improvements

1. All structures and improvements permitted under the guidelines covering wilderness areas will be allowed in wild forest areas. In addition, the structures and improvements listed below will be allowed and their maintenance, rehabilitation and construction permitted:

-- small groupings of primitive tent sites below 3,500 feet in elevation, subject to the guidelines set forth below;

-- nature and interpretive trails;

-- trailheads adjacent to public highways;

-- stream improvement structures for fishery management purposes;

-- fishing and waterway access sites adjacent to public highways and complying with the criteria set forth below;

-- bicycle trails;

-- horse trails; and,

-- picnic tables.

The maintenance and rehabilitation of the following structures and improvements will be allowed to the extent essential to the administration and/or protection of state lands or to reasonable public use thereof but new construction will not be encouraged:

-- horse barns;

-- small scale dams, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;

-- boat docks, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;

-- small fireplaces in fire-sensitive areas;

-- storage sheds and similar rustic buildings for use of administrative personnel;

-- small-scale electronic communication and relay facilities for official communications;

-- telephone and electrical lines to service permitted administrative structures;

-- buoys;

-- small-scale water supply facilities under permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation;

-- ranger stations as set forth below;

-- roads, and administrative roads as set forth below;

-- snowmobile trails as set forth below;

-- fire towers and observer cabins as set forth below; and,

-- wildlife management structures; and,

-- bridges, constructed of natural materials whenever possible, following a minimum requirements approach analysis that fundamentally protects the wild forest character of the area.

-- beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity threatens to cause damage to stream improvement structures for fisheries management purposes. In addition to bridges and trail relocations mentioned in wilderness, right-sized culverts should be a priority solution for beaver-related impacts.

Ranger stations

Existing ranger stations may be retained and new ranger stations constructed, but only where absolutely essential for administration of the area, no feasible alternative exists, and no deterioration of the wild forest character or natural resource quality of the area will result.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

1. All uses of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft permitted under wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in wild forest areas.

2. In addition, the use of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be allowed as follows:

(a) by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain or construct permitted structures and improvements, for appropriate law enforcement and general supervision of public use, or for appropriate purposes, including research, to preserve and enhance the fish and wildlife or other natural resources of the area;

(b) by the general public, subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above, but only on:

-- existing public roads;

-- Department of Environmental Conservation roads now or hereafter designated as open for public use by motor vehicles by the Department of Environmental Conservation; and,

-- on rivers, lakes and ponds now or hereafter designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation as suitable for such motorized uses; and,

(c) by snowmobiles on snowmobile trails now or hereafter designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with basic guideline 4 set forth above, and with the special guidelines for such trails specified below.

(d) by all-terrain vehicles but only on existing public roads or administrative roads open to such vehicles, as specified in (b) above.

3. The Department of Environmental Conservation may restrict, under existing law and pursuant to authority provided in this master plan, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft by the public or administrative personnel where in its judgment the character of the natural resources in a particular area or other factors make such restrictions desirable.

Roads and administrative roads

1. Continued use of existing roads, snowmobile trails and administrative roads by administrative personnel in wild forest areas will be permitted, to the extent necessary, to reach, maintain and construct permitted structures and improvements.

2. Existing roads or snowmobile trails, now open to and used by the public for motor vehicle use in wild forest areas, may continue to be so used at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation, provided such use is compatible with the wild forest character of an area.

3. Established roads or snowmobile trails in newly-acquired state lands classified as wild forest may be kept open to the public, subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above and in the case of snowmobile trails to the special guidelines for such trails set forth below, at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conser-

vation, provided such use is compatible with the wild forest character of the area.

4. No new roads will be constructed in wild forest areas nor will new administrative roads be constructed unless such construction is absolutely essential to the protection or administration of an area, no feasible alternative exists and no deterioration of the wild forest character or natural resource quality of the area will result.

Snowmobile trails

Snowmobile trails should be designed and located in a manner that will not adversely affect adjoining private landowners or the wild forest environment and in particular:

-- the mileage of snowmobile trails lost in the designation of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas may be replaced in wild forest areas with existing roads or abandoned wood roads as the basis of such new snow mobile trail construction, except in rare circumstances requiring the cutting of new trails;

-- wherever feasible such replacement mileage should be located in the general area as where mileage is lost due to wilderness, primitive or canoe classification;

-- appropriate opportunities to improve the snowmobile trail system may be pursued subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above, where the impact on the wild forest environment will be minimized, such as (i) provision for snowmobile trails adjacent to but screened from certain public highways within the Park to facilitate snowmobile access between communities where alternate routes on either state or private land are not available and topography permits and, (ii) designation of new snowmobile trails on established roads in newly acquired state lands classified as wild forest; and,

-- deer wintering yards and other important wildlife and resource areas should be avoided by such trails.

Bicycles

Bicycles may be permitted, in the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation, on roads legally open to the public and on administrative roads, bicycle trails, foot trails, snowmobile trails and horse trails deemed suitable for such use as specified in individual unit management plans.

Fire towers

The educational and informational aspects of certain fire towers should be encouraged and wherever feasible these fire towers should be retained where consistent with their need from a fire control and communications standpoint.

Tent platforms

The Department of Environmental Conservation having removed all tent platforms previously existing under Department permit, erection of new tent platforms will be prohibited.

Small groupings of primitive tent sites designed to accommodate a maximum of 20 people per grouping under group camping conditions may be provided at carefully selected locations in wild forest areas, even though each individual site may be within sight or

sound and less than approximately one-quarter mile from any other site within such grouping, subject to the following criteria:

-- such groupings will only be established or maintained on a site specific basis in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan for the wild forest area in question;

-- such groupings will be widely dispersed (generally a mile apart) and located in a manner that will blend with the surrounding environment and have a minimum impact on the wild forest character and natural resource quality of the area;

-- all new, reconstructed or relocated tent sites in such groupings will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers and major streams and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.

Fishing and waterway access sites

Fishing and waterway access sites may be provided on any body of water irrespective of its size where the current or projected need for access clearly warrants such a site. Such sites will comply with the following management guidelines:

-- Adequate public hand launching facilities or private facilities open to the public are not available to meet a demonstrated need.

-- The physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the water body or other water bodies accessible from the site will not be exceeded.

-- The site and attendant water uses will be compatible with the state and private land use classifications and attendant management guidelines and land use controls surrounding the water body.

-- The site will be located in a manner to avoid adverse impact on adjacent or nearby state and private lands.

-- Motor size limitations or the prohibition of motorized use as appropriate to the carrying capacity of the water body are provided for.

-- There will be no adverse impacts on the physical, biological or scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land.

Any proposal to create a new fishing or waterway access site will be accompanied by an adequate demonstration that the above guidelines can be complied with.

Flora and fauna

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas, although exceptions may be made by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with sound biological management practices, particularly where such practices will improve the wildlife resources.

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 Master Plan 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 should 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.

Designation of Wild Forest Areas

The application of the wild forest definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under the master plan of about 1.3 million acres of wild forest land, comprising approximately 51 percent of the forest preserve within the Adirondack Park. A wide variety of terrain and ecosystems is represented in these areas.

All wild forest areas are identified and their boundaries delineated on the map forming part of this master plan.

Chapter III contains a general description of 27 wild forest areas in the Park.

INTENSIVE USE

Definition

An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas.

These areas provide overnight accommodations or day use facilities for a significant number of visitors to the Park and often function as a base for use of wild forest, wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. The primary management guideline for intensive use areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

2. All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on

surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.

3. Construction and development activities in intensive use areas will:

-- avoid material alteration of wetlands;

-- minimize extensive topographic alterations;

-- limit vegetative clearing; and,

-- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the intensive use area.

4. Day use areas will not provide for overnight camping or other overnight accommodations for the public.

5. Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing intensive use areas and the complete development of partially developed existing intensive use areas before the construction of new facilities is considered.

6. Additions to the intensive use category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest areas, and only in exceptional circumstances from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas.

7. Any request for classification of a new acquisition or reclassification of existing lands from another land use category to an intensive use area will be accompanied by a draft unit management plan for the proposed intensive use area that will demonstrate how the applicable guidelines will be respected.

8. No new structures or improvements at any intensive use area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements.

9. Since the concentrations of visitors at certain intensive use facilities often pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream.

10. Any new, reconstructed or relocated buildings or structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, primitive tent sites not a part of a campground (which will be governed by the general guidelines for such sites set forth elsewhere in this master plan) boat launching sites, fishing and waterway access sites, boathouses, and similar water related facilities, will be set back a minimum of 150 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.

Campgrounds

1. All campgrounds will be of a rustic nature without utility hookups and other elaborate facilities customarily provided by private campgrounds. Each individual site will retain the natural character of the surrounding forest and contain only a fireplace or fire ring, a space for a single vehicle with trailer if needed, picnic table, and appropriate sites. All facilities and appurtenances are to be constructed of natural materials to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the natural environment. Where a campground involves the shoreline of a lake, pond, river or major stream any new, reconstructed or relocated camping sites 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 shoreline and so as to avoid intruding on its natural character or public enjoyment and use thereof.

2. The maximum size of future campgrounds in the Park will be in the range of 75 to 150 individual camping sites depending on site constraints, resource considerations and impacts on nearby lands.

3. The older, existing campgrounds will be rehabilitated and reconstructed as soon as possible to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities with the environment and will comply with the provisions of this master plan. In particular, priority should be given to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Fish Creek Campground.

4. Educational programs at campgrounds should be encouraged.

5. Future campgrounds will be located so as to encourage public use on presently underutilized tracts of state land.

Boat launching sites

Launching sites for trailered boats will only be provided by the state on Adirondack lakes in conformity with the following management guidelines:

1. Boat launching sites will only be provided on large lakes regularly used by motorboats. A large lake is defined as a lake approximately 1,000 acres or more in area. A list of lakes meeting these criteria (including smaller lakes in interconnected lake chains aggregating 1,000 acres or more which are regularly used by motorboats) is set forth in Chapter III. The fact that a lake is set forth on this list does not necessarily mean that additional boat launching sites on that lake are needed or desirable.

2. Boat launching sites will only be provided on the above lakes where:

-- adequate public or private boat launching facilities open to the public are not available to meet a demonstrated need;

-- the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the lake, or a portion of the lake, or other water bodies accessible from the site will not be exceeded;

-- the boat launching site or attendant water uses will be compatible with the state or private land use classifications and attendant management guidelines as land use controls surrounding the water body;

-- the boat launching site is located in a manner to avoid adverse impact on adjacent or nearby state and private lands;

-- motor size limitations appropriate to the carrying capacity of the lake are provided; particularly for lakes with embayment or shoreline configurations providing the character of small lakes; and,

-- there will be no material adverse impacts on physical, biological or scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land.

3. Existing boat launching sites that do not meet the above guidelines may be retained but their status will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate.

4. Any proposals to create a new boat launching site will be accompanied by an adequate demonstration that the above guidelines can be complied with.

Moose River Plains Camping Area

The history of use and character of this camping area is unique in the Adirondack Park, and it is to be managed according to special management guidelines within the Intensive Use Area classification. These guidelines and criteria allow for camping opportunities intermediate between primitive camping and camping in public campgrounds. The Camping Area does not provide the types of facilities normally associated with Intensive Use Area Campgrounds. While drive-in camping and site separation distances of less than one-quarter mile are generally provided, the Camping Area is largely primitive in character and does not include facilities such as bathhouses, water supply, paved roads and similar amenities. Some facilities are designed to provide universal access for persons with disabilities. Individual camping sites will be located or restored to be adequately screened from roads, water bodies and other camping sites. Most camping sites may include space for a single vehicle with a trailer, a tent site if needed, a pit privy, picnic table and small fireplace or fire ring. Those sites within the corridors of rivers classified “Scenic” are required

to be managed as primitive tent sites according to Wild, Scenic and Recreational River guidelines and criteria of this Master Plan.

The area is a continuous corridor two tenths of a mile wide, one-tenth mile either side of the centerline of 23.9 miles of roads formerly part of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest Area. Specifically, it includes 17.3 miles of the Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road from Wakely Dam to the intersection with Rock Dam Road, 4.3 miles of Rock Dam Road, 1.2 miles of Loop Road and a total of 1.1 miles of four, shorter spur roads in the areas of Bradley Brook, Helldiver Pond, Lost Ponds and camping sites #53 to #55. The Camping Area initially provides 116 individual camping sites, with approximately 33 sites that will be relocated due to environmental concerns. Intensive Use camping areas may contain up to 150 individual camping sites, and more sites

may be added in the future to this area through additional, careful design efforts.

Use of the entire Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road for public motor vehicle access from Inlet and Indian Lake to the Moose River Plains Camping Area is essential and should be preserved, as should the road's gravel surface and its wild, forested corridor free of extensive roadside clearings. Driving this and the other interconnected, winding roads of the Plains for tens of miles through Forest Preserve is, for some, a highly valued recreational experience in itself – one reminiscent of earlier times when such roads were common in the Adirondacks and the eastern U.S. Heavy recreational use of the road system is made in winter

months by snowmobilers, some aspects of which may have negative effects on the wintering deer population (possibly including negative physiological effects and habituation to feeding) that deserve assessment.

Ski areas and Mt. Van Hoevenberg

1. Existing downhill ski centers at Gore and Whiteface should be modernized to the extent physical and biological resources allow. Cross country skiing on improved cross country ski trails may be developed at these downhill ski centers.

2. Mt. Van Hoevenberg should be maintained as a year-round sports facility meeting international standards for such sports as bobsled, luge, biathlon and cross country skiing on improved cross country ski trails under developed, competitive conditions.

Recreation use and overuse

Where the degree and intensity of permitted recreational uses are endangering the physical or biological resources of an area, appropriate administrative and regulatory measures will be taken to limit such use to the capability of the resources. Such administrative and regulatory measures may include, but need not be limited to:

-- the prohibition of overnight camping within a specified distance of a designated campground to avoid overflow camping on adjacent, undeveloped state lands; and,

-- the temporary closure of all or portions of a designated intensive use area to permit rehabilitative measures.

Designation of Intensive Use Areas

The intensive use areas are delineated on the map forming part of this master plan and are described in Chapter III. They include (i) day use areas, which include: boat launching sites, the two downhill ski centers at Gore and Whiteface, one beach not associated with a campground, all of the facilities at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, the Prospect Mountain Parkway and the Whiteface Mountain Veterans' Memorial Highway, and, (ii) campgrounds (certain of which have associated day-use facilities which are considered a part of the campground). The Moose River Plains Camping Area is unique in the Adirondack Park and will be managed to restore and maintain the wild forest setting of the drive-in camping opportunities provided there. The Lake George Islands Campground, Hearthstone Point Campground, Rogers

Rock Campground, Lake George Battleground Campground, Lake George Beach, Prospect Mountain Highway, and Mossy Point boat launch are all located within the Lake George Park.

HISTORIC

Definition

Historic areas are locations of buildings, structures or sites owned by the state (other than the Adirondack Forest Preserve itself) that are significant in the history, architecture, archeology or culture of the Adirondack Park, the state or the nation; that fall into one of the following categories;

-- state historic sites;

-- properties listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places, and National Historic Landmarks; and;

-- properties determined eligible for State/National Register listing by the New York State Historic Preservation Office; and that are of a scale, character and location appropriate for designation as an historic area under this master plan and the state has committed resources to manage such areas primarily for historic objectives.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. The primary management guidelines for historic areas will be to preserve the quality and character of the historic resources, that is, to the greatest extent feasible, in a setting and on a scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

2. All historic areas will be designed, managed and interpreted so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings.

3. Construction, development, and preservation activities in historic areas will:

-- avoid material alteration of wetlands;

-- minimize extensive topographical alterations;

-- limit vegetative clearing; and,

-- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the historic area.

4. Each historic area will be designed, managed and interpreted in conformity with a special historic area unit management plan for the area, filed with and approved by the Agency after public hearing as being consistent with this master plan. Special unit management plans will be prepared in consultation with the Agency for the two existing historic areas as soon as

possible. No new structures or improvements at existing or proposed historic areas will be constructed prior to the approval of such special unit management plans. Such structures and improvements will conform to this master plan and special historic area unit management plans.

Designation of Historic Areas

Five historic areas, Crown Point, John Brown's Farm, Camp Santanoni, Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower and St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower result from the application of the above criteria and are delineated on the map forming part of this master plan.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE

Definition

State administrative areas are areas where the state provides facilities for a variety of specific state purposes that are not primarily designed to accommodate visitors to the Park.

This category, like the travel corridor category with which it is closely associated, contains a wide variety of developed uses related directly to the activities of many state agencies. It includes the administrative offices of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of State Police and the Adirondack Park Agency itself as well as the Department of Environmental Conservation fish hatcheries, Department of Transportation offices and maintenance and storage sites, the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center at Whiteface Mountain, the Sunmount Developmental Center, the Adirondack Correctional Facility, the Dannemora Correctional Facility, the Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility, Camp Gabriels and several sewage treatment plants operated by the Environmental Facilities Corporation. All of these facilities are in close proximity to public highways and are generally in developed areas of the Park.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. The primary management guideline for state administrative areas should be to provide facilities for the administration of state lands or programs in a setting and on a scale that is, to the greatest extent feasible, in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

2. All state administrative facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. Whenever possible, such facilities should be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems within the Park.

3. Construction and development activities in state administrative areas will:

-- avoid material alterations of wetlands;

-- minimize extensive topographical alterations;

-- limit vegetative clearing; and,

-- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the state administrative area.

4. Additions to the state administrative category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest or intensive use areas (assuming such acquisitions or reclassifications to be constitutional) and not from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas.

Designation of State Administrative Areas

State administrative areas are listed in Chapter III and those of an appropriate scale are designated on the map forming part of this master plan.

WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

The Adirondack Park contains many rivers which, with their immediate environs, constitute an important and unusual resource. Classification of those portions of rivers that flow through state land is vital to the protection of existing free flowing streams. The classification system and the recommended

guidelines specified below are designed to be consistent with and complementary to both the basic intent and structure of the legislation passed by the legislature in 1972 creating a wild, scenic and recreational rivers system on both state and private lands.

Definitions

A wild river is a river or section of river that is free of diversions and impoundments, inaccessible to the general public except by water, foot or horse trail, and with a river area primitive in nature and free of any man-made development except foot bridges.

A scenic river is a river or section of river that is free of diversions or impoundments except for log dams, with limited road access and with a river area largely primitive and undeveloped, or that is partially or predominantly used for agriculture, forest management and other dispersed human activities that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of the river and its shore.

A recreational river is a river or section of river that is readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have development in the river area and that may have undergone some diversion or impoundment in the past.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. No river or river area will be managed or used in a way that would be less restrictive in nature than the statutory requirements of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Article l5, title 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law, or than the guidelines for the management and use of the land classification within which the river area lies, but the river or river area may be administered in a more restrictive manner.

2. Rivers will be kept free of pollution and the water quality thereof kept sufficiently high to meet other management guidelines contained in this section.

3. No dam or other structure impeding the natural flow of a river will be constructed on a wild, scenic or recreational river, except for stream improvement structures for fisheries management purposes which are permissible on recreational and scenic rivers only.

4. The precise boundaries of the river area will be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation, will be specified in the individual unit management plans for the river area or the unit of state land through which the river flows, and will normally be one-half mile from the mean high water mark of the river, but in any case will not be less than one-quarter mile.

Wild rivers

1. Wild rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas except that no new, reconstructed or relocated structures or improvements will be permitted other than: foot and horse trails, foot trail bridges constructed of natural materials, primitive tent sites with fire rings, and pit privies. Existing lean-tos in wild river areas may be maintained for the balance of their useful lives. Such lean-tos will not be reconstructed or replaced and will ultimately be phased out in favor of primitive tent sites as specified in individual unit management plans.

2. Such structures and improvements, other than foot and horse trails and foot trail bridges, will be located so as to be completely screened by vegetation or topography from view from the river itself.

3. The wild character of the river and its immediate shoreline will be preserved and enhanced.

4. Motorboat usage of wild rivers will be prohibited.

Scenic rivers

1. Scenic rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for the management of wild forest areas (except where such rivers flow through wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, where the more restrictive guidelines of the particular area will apply) and with the following additional guidelines.

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

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

4. The natural character of the river and its immediate shoreline will be preserved.

5. The following structures and improvements may be located so as to be visible from the river itself:

-- fishing and waterway access sites;

-- foot and horse trails and foot and horse trail bridges crossing the river; and,

-- motor vehicle bridges crossing the river.

6. All other new, reconstructed or relocated conforming structures and improvements (other than individual lean-tos, primitive tent sites and pit privies which are governed by the regular guidelines of the master plan) will be located a minimum of 250 feet from the mean high water mark of the river and will in all cases be reasonably screened by vegetation or topography from view from the river itself.

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

Recreational rivers

1. Recreational rivers and their river areas will be administered in accordance with the guidelines for management of wild forest areas (except where such rivers flow through wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, where the more restrictive guidelines of the particular area will apply) and with the following additional guidelines:

2. Where a recreational river flows through an intensive use area, structures, improvements and uses permitted in intensive use areas will be permitted, provided the scale and intensity of these intensive uses do not adversely affect the recreational character of the river and the river area.

3. The natural character of the river and its immediate shoreline will be preserved and enhanced.

4. The following structures and improvements may be located so as to be visible from the river itself:

-- fishing and waterway access sites;

-- docks;

-- foot and horse trails and foot and horse trail bridges crossing the river;

-- snowmobile trails, roads, and truck trails; and,

--motor vehicle bridges crossing the river.

5. All other new, reconstructed or relocated conforming structures and improvements (other than individual lean-tos and primitive tent sites which are governed by the regular guidelines of the master plan) will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of the river and will in all cases be reasonably screened by vegetation or topography from view from the river itself.

6. Motorboat use of recreational rivers may be permitted, as determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Designation of Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

The application of the above definitions and criteria to rivers on state lands in the Park results in the current designation under this master plan of 155.1 miles of wild rivers, 511.3 miles of scenic rivers, and 539.5 miles of recreational rivers. A significant amount of private lands not covered by this master plan are included in these mileage figures. A brief description of these rivers and their classification is set forth in Chapter III.

TRAVEL CORRIDORS

Definition

Those lands within the Adirondack Park constituting either a highway corridor or a railroad corridor and those state lands immediately adjacent to and visible from these corridors.

A highway corridor is the roadway, roadbed, surface, and lands owned in fee, easement or by right-of-way for the maintenance and use of state or interstate highways.

A railroad corridor is the fee, easement, or right-of-way lands that include the Remsen-Lake Placid railbed or any future acquisition that may be considered for classification as a travel corridor, existing (1) for the operation of rail cars, and/or (2) to serve as a rail trail.

This category is unique in that the beds of these travel corridors are hardened and the natural topography has been significantly altered. In contrast to the majority of classification categories set forth in this master plan, these travel corridors were designed for and can withstand a higher degree of public use.

This category, much like the state administrative category, is also unusual in that several state agencies may be involved in its administration. For instance, the Department of Transportation has obvious jurisdiction relating to highway construction, design, maintenance and accessory facilities, and is also responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, management and operation of railroad and accessory facilities within railroad corridors. The Department of Environmental Conservation is involved in the construction and maintenance of many signs, campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads and similar facilities adjacent to the travel corridor, as well as management, construction and maintenance of rail trails within those railroad corridors, or portions thereof. In addition, the Education Department is responsible for some interpretive signing; the State Police maintain various buildings in these highway corridors; and there are also institutional facilities maintained by the Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Corrections. Careful planning and coordination among all interested agencies is essential to provide distinction to the travel corridors of the Adirondack Park.

The importance of the major travel corridors and the principal segments of the local highway network to the integrity of the Park cannot be over-emphasized. The lands adjacent to these highways are the most visible to the traveling public and frequently determine the image and entire

atmosphere of the Park for many visitors. In addition, due to the heavily forested character of the Park, scenic vistas from these travel corridors are relatively rare and their protection and enhancement are important.

Considerable portions of travel corridors run through private lands within the Park. While this plan is concerned with state lands, it is important for the state to set an example for the private sector in creating a park-like atmosphere through appropriate construction and signing standards, while protecting the natural resources of the Park.

In many instances, the design and construction of major highways and the treatment of their immediate environs by state agencies has been enlightened. Obvious examples are the Adirondack Northway, which won two national awards as America's Most Scenic Highway, the reconstruction of Route 10 from Arietta to Route 8 in Hamilton County, the rebuilding of Routes 30 and 28 between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, the rebuilding of Route 30 between Blue Mountain Lake and South Pond and the rebuilding of Route 73 between Keene and the Adirondack Loj Road. However, there are many areas where more attention to the Park's unique atmosphere is essential. The following guidelines are intended to achieve this objective.

On lands established as travel corridors that originally served as operating railroads, recreational uses such as rail trails may exist alongside of, or in place of, traditional railroad transportation use. Jurisdiction over segments of a travel corridor where a railroad is intended to operate, including segments containing rails-with-trails, should be with the Department of Transportation. Jurisdiction over segments of the travel corridor which are intended to be converted to a rail-trail should be with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Nothing in this master plan regarding travel corridors shall supersede state and federal laws, rules or regulations. Compliance with all state and federal highway, transportation, and safety standards shall remain necessary regardless of the provisions herein.

Basic guidelines

1. The primary travel corridor guideline will be to achieve and maintain a park-like atmosphere on state lands within the travel corridor that complements the total Adirondack Park.

2. No new structures or improvements in any travel corridor will be constructed except in conformity with an adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation, relocation and/or reconstruction of conforming structures or improvements and is not intended to hinder compliance with any state or federal regulations.

3. Since the concentrations of visitors at certain travel corridor facilities may pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the

private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high-water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream.

4. State lands adjacent to and visible from the highway corridor and railroad corridor are a travel corridor overlay and shall be managed in compliance with the guidelines for the appropriate classification. In addition, no new structures or improvements within the travel corridor but outside of the right-of-way will be constructed except in conformity with a finally adopted unit management plan whether for the travel corridor or the underlying land classification. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance or rehabilitation of conforming structures or improvements or the removal of non--conforming uses.

5. The Department of Transportation should employ its influence over highways under the jurisdiction of various local governments to try and achieve similar objectives for the other highway corridors within the Park.

HIGHWAY CORRIDORS

Design and construction

1. Highway construction within the Park will concentrate on the improvement of the existing highway network to provide a modern system of two-lane highways with appropriate passing lanes, and significant acquisitions of new highway corridors will be avoided wherever feasible.

2. All road designs and standards will consider the need for compatibility with a park environment to be of equal importance with speed between communities.

3. Additional four-lane, limited access highways will not be located within the park.

Signing policies

1. A comprehensive plan for all signing on state lands within travel corridors will be prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency jointly with the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and other interested state agencies, with the objective of achieving uniformity and a high quality of design for all signs within these corridors.

This plan will include:

-- a comprehensive visitor information program designed to inform the traveling public of the availability of state and private services and facilities, which minimizes the need for the erection of additional signs along travel corridors and ensures compliance with the Agency's private sign standards;

-- wooden park entrance signs of the rustic style now used by the Department of Environmental Conservation at all major entrances to the Park, with more modest signs of similar style at minor entrances;

-- particular consideration to modest landmark and vista signing, pointing out to the traveling public the many and varied natural resources and historic sites of the Park;

-- special design standards in the Park for all highway signs that do not relate directly to traffic safety; and

-- a plan for the removal of existing service station, food, lodging and campsite signs visible from the Northway that do not comply with the Agency's private sign standards, coupled with a plan to provide standardized means for directing the traveling public to these facilities that does not involve the erection of additional signs on the Northway itself and is consistent with the comprehensive visitor information program for the Park.

2. The elements of the plan referred to above will be incorporated in travel corridor unit management plans, prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Department of Transportation.

3. All state signs other than highway signs relating directly to traffic safety shall comply with the standards for private signs promulgated by the Agency pursuant to its statutory authority.

Scenic vistas

The Department of Transportation or the Department of Environmental Conservation should provide modest pull-offs with appropriate signing along the Park's travel corridors at important scenic vistas where traffic safety permits. The current inventory of forty such vistas, which may require further revision, is reflected on the map forming part of this master plan.

Trailheads

The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Transportation should provide modest trailhead parking areas at or near the beginning of important public trails. The size of the facility will be governed by the carrying capacity of the land use area involved and will be consistent with finally adopted unit management plans.

Trailheads should be located so as to have the minimum adverse effect on the surrounding environment and, wherever feasible, the parking area will be screened from view from the highway.

Trailhead construction or rehabilitation should be carefully considered in connection with highway rehabilitation and preservation projects.

Roadside aesthetics

1. All administrative and maintenance structures or storage areas of any state agency will be designed and constructed to harmonize with the character of the Park.

2. These structures or facilities will be located in developed areas of the Park wherever possible or they should be screened from the motoring public's view.

3. Sand, gravel and other borrow pits and stockpiling areas will not be located in travel corridors unless they are screened from public view from the highway. As these excavations are abandoned they will, wherever possible, be back-sloped and re-vegetated.

4. All future guiderail construction will be done in accordance with federal and state engineering and safety regulations and guidelines. Consistent with such guidelines and to the maximum extent practicable, all guiderail construction and installation will support Adirondack Park branding

and will use context sensitive design and materials.

5. Utility companies will be permitted and encouraged to bury their telephone and electric transmission and distribution lines in the highway corridor.

6. Vegetative cover will be maintained on all cut and fill slopes except in areas of rock outcroppings or where gabions or retaining walls are essential.

RAILROAD CORRIDORS

1. Public use of all-terrain vehicles and other motor vehicles, except snowmobiles, is prohibited. Existing private rights will not be affected by this prohibition. Other acceptable motorized uses may include, but are not limited to:

-- administrative personnel and utility companies where necessary to reach, maintain or construct permitted structures and improvements; and

-- appropriate law enforcement and general supervision of public use.

2. Pesticide use for vegetation management will be allowed, to be specified in a finally adopted unit management plan.

3. Tree cutting and other vegetation management practices aimed at protecting and preserving scenic vistas will be allowed, but must be done carefully and justified in an adopted unit management plan.

4. Primitive tent sites and lean-tos or any other type of overnight accommodation will not be sited on state lands within 150 feet of the railroad corridor.

5. Additions to the travel corridor category should come from new acquisitions by the State of railroad corridors with existing tracks.

6. The removal or reinstallation of railroad track in a railroad corridor will be identified as a management objective in a unit management plan. A change in use of a railroad corridor from railroad operations to use as a rail trail, or from use of a rail trail to railroad operations, including the removal or reinstallation of railroad tracks or any other activities related thereto, shall only occur in conformity with an adopted unit management plan for the corridor.

Structures and Improvements

Rail and rail trail structures and improvements should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact on surrounding state lands and nearby private lands. Preferably, they will also feature design aspects typical of or reminiscent of railroad architecture and design. Rail trails may be constructed using non-natural materials. Signage should be minimal and not obtrusive and limited to state purposes.

The following structures and improvements are conforming:

-- Train depots and stations – original or as reconstructed on original sites;

-- Bathroom facilities, including pit privies, portable toilets, and larger bathroom buildings;

-- Parking areas, rest areas, trailheads, and trailhead registration and informational kiosks;

-- Road and railroad-crossing structures, lights, signals and signage important to or necessary for safety purposes, including tunnels and bridges;

-- Bridges, culverts and other drainage structures made of natural or non-natural materials;

-- Boardwalks, fencing or railings, observation decks and platforms designed to minimize adverse impacts on wetlands;

-- “Whistle stop” and other markers, including mileage markers;

-- Interpretative or historical kiosks within village limits, or in other locations along the corridor, when carefully reviewed for aesthetic and natural resource impacts;

-- Bicycle racks, electric-assisted bicycle racks, ski racks and other basic structures used for the purpose of temporarily storing or securing recreational equipment, made primarily from natural materials;

-- Picnic tables and benches; and

-- Lighting designed to illuminate the corridor within an incorporated village and to maintain the dark skies of the Adirondack Park.

Railroad Corridors with rails

1. The railroad corridor will be managed for the operation of rail cars and other compatible modes of transportation and recreational uses, including snowmobile use.

2. The State should study the full potential value of the railroad travel corridor as an asset to the Park and its communities, especially with respect to tourism and the environmental benefits of modern rail lines and recreational uses. The State should manage the railroad corridor to maximize these benefits and protect the natural resources of the Park.

Trails may parallel the existing railroad tracks, subject to an approved unit management plan.

Railroad Corridors without rails

1. Bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing and other non-motorized means of travel, as well as snowmobiling and riding electric-assisted bicycles are conforming uses.

2. The Department of Environmental Conservation will evaluate whether to preserve and/or restore historic railroad structures remaining in the railroad corridor in accordance with a historic preservation plan that is compliant with the State Historic Preservation Act and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. This will enable the public to learn the history of the railroad and the importance of Adirondack railroads to the history and culture of the Park and the United States.

3. The Department of Environmental Conservation will seek to maximize the recreational and environmental benefits of any rail trail by providing year-round opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor recreational travel within the railroad corridor, as well as the opportunity to commute between homes and workplaces. To minimize user conflicts, rail trails may feature

multiple trails within the railroad corridor and alongside each other.

Designation of Travel Corridors

The application of the travel corridor classification results in the designation of approximately 1,220 miles of travel corridors, of which approximately 1,100 are highway corridors and 119 miles are railroad corridor.

In addition to the delineated highway corridors, the Department of Transportation has a considerable degree of influence over other highways under the jurisdiction of various local governments. This influence, coupled with the example of the state highway network, can have a very positive effect on the Park's appearance and atmosphere.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The nine previously described classifications reflect the minimum management constraints for the lands affected. Certain parcels of land often require special management to reflect unusual resource or public use factors. Examples of these include:

-- special interest areas deserving of public attention, such as:

-- scenic areas, places of geologic interest providing information on the formation of the Adirondacks or unusual mineral deposits or rock formations, historic buildings, structures or sites not part of a designated historic area, and particularly interesting natural areas;

-- nature preserves, such as habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species of plants or wildlife where protection to prevent overuse or destruction of a unique resource may be required; and,

-- lakes and ponds whose size, character, inaccessibility, or fishery resources require special protective measures.

Guidelines for Management and Use

1. In no instance will the management of any of these lands be less restrictive than that of the major land classification in which they lie, but more restrictive measures may be employed where desirable. Specific unit management plans should be developed for appropriate special management areas, either independently or as part of the unit management plan for the major land classification in which they lie.

2. Special interest areas will receive appropriate publicity and particular attention will be given to interpretive signing.

3. Where overuse or destruction of unique and fragile resources is a threat, special measures will be taken to protect their integrity, such as prohibiting motorized access to the area, where such access would otherwise be allowed, re-routing foot and horse trails, or discouraging overnight camping to reduce public pressures. Illustrative examples of certain areas requiring special management are set forth in Chapter III.

III. AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS

WILDERNESS AREAS

BLUE RIDGE

This area is located in the Towns of Arietta, Lake Pleasant, Long Lake and Indian Lake in Hamilton County. The area is roughly bounded on the north by Route 28; on the east by Route 28/30 and private lands; on the south by Cedar River Road and private lands immediately north and west of Cedar River, Wakely Mountain Primitive Area and Moose River Plains Wild Forest; and on the west by the Lake Kora and Sagamore Lake properties and the Moose River Plains Wild Forest.

The area is dominated by Blue Ridge, a height of land ranging from 2,700 to 3,683 feet in elevation and running in a general east-west direction for a distance of more than six miles. On the lower north slopes of the ridge there are a number of attractive little trout ponds with foot trails leading to them from Route 28/30. The forest cover is a typical mix of hardwoods and softwoods, with the higher elevations predominantly covered with red spruce and balsam fir. Most of the old growth spruce and hemlock in the northwestern part of the area suffered heavy damage in the 1950 blow down, which affects the character of the area even to this day. Parts of the blowdown area were affected by subsequent, legislatively authorized, salvage logging. Also, a microburst in 1995 felled trees across the northern third of the area. Nevertheless, large portions of the Wilderness exhibit the characteristics of old growth forest, having been largely untouched by windstorms and logging.

The Blue Ridge Wilderness is easily accessible along most of its perimeter. A portion of the Northville-Lake Placid foot trail runs north from Wakely Pond past Stephens Pond and Lake Durant. A major rerouting in 2009 moved six miles of trail from along Cedar River Road to a new trail along the southern boundary of the Wilderness. Campers from the Lake Durant public campground make use of the trails in the vicinity while the chief use of the foot trails in the Wilson Pond section appears to be by anglers, hunters and summer visitors to the community of Blue Mountain Lake. Most use near the south boundary of this area is concentrated along the Northville-Lake Placid trail and around Sprague Pond.

Great Camp Sagamore, a National Historic Landmark, stands on the west shore of Sagamore Lake at the western boundary of the Blue Ridge Wilderness. An area of the Wilderness around Sagamore Lake is included in the Historic Great Camps Special Management Area. The area was designated to recognize the historic connection between the Great Camps and the Forest Preserve.

Approximately 5.5 miles of jeep trails and 5.5 miles of snowmobile trails have been closed. A modest stream-gauging station which was installed in 1978 at the confluence of the East Inlet and Lost Brooks on the former Sagamore property has been removed.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Blue Ridge area statistics:

State Lands	47,856 Acres
Bodies of Water (38)	346 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,676 Feet
(maximum)	3,744 Feet
Foot Trails	23 Miles
Lean-tos	3
Non-conforming Uses:	
Blue Mountain Cemetery Access Road	

FIVE PONDS

This area is located in the Towns of Fine, Clifton, Colton and Piercefield in St. Lawrence County, the Town of Webb in Herkimer County and the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County. The lands of this unit are bounded on the north by Cranberry Lake, a portion of the Oswegatchie River, and the road from NYS Route 3 leading to Inlet and private lands; on the northeast by the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest and the southern edge of Otter Brook Road; on the southeast by the 2.4 mile road from the Otter Brook Road to the Lows Upper Dam and the 2.2 mile road from the road to the Lows Upper Dam (providing deeded access to a large inholding on the north shore of Lows Lake owned by the Boy Scouts and private lands) and south across Lows Lake to easement lands near Long Pond and down to and including Bog Lake and Clear Pond; on the south by private lands in the vicinity of Gull Lake, and the Stillwater Reservoir; on the southwest by the Pepperbox Wilderness; and on the west by Watson’s East Triangle and Aldrich Pond Wild Forests. In the vicinity of Young's Road in Star Lake the Wild Forest and Wilderness boundary is the Tamarack Creek snowmobile trail and the South Access Trail from Youngs Road. Land south and east of this boundary will be classified Wilderness upon acquisition of inholdings.

In 1975, the Oswegatchie River was classified as a wild river by the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, and in 1977 was closed to motorboat use. The fire truck trail that once served High Falls from Wanakena was closed in 1976. Within the former Oswegatchie Primitive Area, approximately 7.2 miles of snowmobile trails were closed and two tent platforms were removed. These actions made the reclassification of the Oswegatchie Primitive Area possible, adding 16,920 acres to the Five Ponds Area.

The Broadhead Gore was acquired by the State in 1976. Prior to that, this parcel was considered State land from about 1890 to 1947 when the State lost it in a lawsuit brought by the late Augustus Low. The Gore, which contained original growth timber, was logged soon after the lawsuit and was then sold to the Onondaga Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Although the Gore was only about 300 acres in size, it extended from Mud Pond westward a distance of about eight miles, coming to a point in the Wilderness. This acquisition offers significant additional protection to the Five Ponds Wilderness.

In 1979 the State purchased 15,850 acres in the Towns of Webb and Long Lake, 8,635 acres of which became part of this Wilderness. The remainder of the tract lies on the opposite side of the railroad and the road leading to Partlow Lake which became the Lake Lila Primitive Area. In 2000, approximately 1,340 acres of the Lake Lila Primitive

Area lying westerly of the railroad were added to the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The State accepted the gift of a conservation easement over 6,646 acres of land surrounding Nehasane Lake, as well as fee interest subject to a 50-year estate over 3,664 acres in the vicinity of Gull Lake. This latter parcel is due to become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness in 2029.

In 1982 the State purchased 6,676 acres of land in the Town of Webb, seller's retained timber cutting rights were extinguished in 1990. This land was classified as Primitive and named Wilderness Lakes. Upon expiration of the timber rights, the Primitive Area was merged into the Five Ponds Wilderness. A private inholding remains and the ROW associated with the private road is a Primitive Area.

In 2000, approximately 13,220 acres of land acquired in Watson's East Triangle and land classified Wild Forest as part of the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest were reclassified Wilderness and added to the Five Ponds Wilderness. This area contains the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River, Brindle Pond, Grassy Pond and Upper South Pond. The area also contains an inholding on the north shore of Bear Pond, which, if acquired, should be added to this unit.

In 2005, 1,100 acres of land acquired in the vicinity of Bog Lake and Clear Pond were classified Wilderness and added to the Five Ponds Wilderness providing a more direct Wilderness canoe route to Lows Lake from the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor and the waters of Lake Lila in the William C. Whitney Wilderness.

The terrain is low, rolling and interspersed with many small ponds. Wetlands and small brooks are numerous. The forest cover varies from hardwoods in the sections that were heavily logged and burned more than forty years ago to virgin pine and spruce stands.

This is one of the few locations in the northeastern United States where stands of virgin timber can be found. Early logging efforts avoided the area because it was found to be impractical to haul huge logs by horse and oxen out to the landing on Wolf Creek. The old growth pine and red spruce stand on the esker between Big Five, Little Five and Big Shallow, Little Shallow and Washbowl ponds is an example of this virgin timber. The pure pine stand at Pine Ridge along the Oswegatchie is another well-known spot where examples of original growth timber may be seen. However, portions of the Pine Ridge stand were completely blown down in the 1950 hurricane and, pursuant to legislation, the timber was salvaged by a logging contractor. Additional pines on Pine Ridge and the esker through the Five Ponds were blown down in the 1995 Derecho.

In addition to these spots, other points of interest to the hiker, camper and angler are: High Falls on the Oswegatchie River; Alder Bed Flow on the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River; Cat Mountain; "The Plains," which are very similar in soil and cover type to that of the Moose River Plains; and numerous, clear, spring-fed ponds, most of which support brook trout. The Oswegatchie River was long considered the top brook trout stream in the State,

with catches of three to four pound brook trout common during the summer months. This distinction was lost when perch were, apparently, introduced accidentally into Cranberry Lake in 1945. Despite the adverse impacts to the brook trout population, the area is popular with hunters and anglers who frequent the interior ponds.

The Oswegatchie is a fine canoeing stream and is commonly used as such to reach interior wilderness points of interest. The river has received increasing use in recent years and care must be taken that such use does not result in resource degradation. The existing lean-tos on the river will be phased out and ultimately replaced by primitive tent sites.

The Five Ponds area is accessible to the public from the north and also from the south if one has a boat or canoe. The area can also be reached from the southwest via the Raven Lake Road and from the east, by boat via the Bog River/ Low's Lake tract. The western boundary in Herkimer County is accessible from the Bear Pond Road in the Watson's East Triangle Wild Forest.

The Mt. Electra observation tower was removed in September 1989, bringing this area into compliance with Wilderness standards

In 2009, portions of the lands belonging to the former Lows Lake Primitive Area were reclassified to Wilderness and added to the Five Ponds Wilderness. In light of the Wilderness and Primitive classifications of the land surrounding Lows Lake and Bog River, DEC will manage the waters as Wilderness, precluding both public and administrative use of motor vehicles, motorboats and aircraft to the extent prohibited by the Wilderness classification. Public float plane use will be eliminated December 31, 2011.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in1994.

Five Ponds area statistics:

State Lands	124,710 Acres
Private Inholdings (7)	13,092 Acres
Bodies of Water (263)	3,460 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,386 Feet
(maximum)	2,489 Feet
Foot Trails	68 Miles
Lean-tos	14
Non-conforming Uses:	
Gravel Pit	1

GIANT MOUNTAIN

This area lies in Essex County, in the Towns of Elizabethtown and Keene, and is roughly bounded by Route 9N on the north; by Route 73 on the west and south; and Route 9 on the east.

During 1903, one of the major forest fires of the Adirondacks swept over the greater part of this area, burning the top-soil down to bare rock and leaving the two dominant mountains of this area, Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge, practically bald. A few pockets on the lower slopes escaped the intense burn and are easily distinguishable as they now contain old growth white pine and hemlock stands with some mixed hardwoods.

The topography of the area is steep and rocky with a considerable number of vertical or near vertical cliffs. A number of landslides have occurred on the west side of Giant Mountain, exposing bare rock. Numerous small brooks cascade down from the upper slopes.

The tops of the higher mountains are still bare rock but aspen, white birch, balsam and spruce are slowly filling in the upper slopes.

From the eastern boundary of Route 9, a few miles south of Elizabethtown, to the top of Giant Mountain, the elevation changes about 4,000 feet in a horizontal distance of approximately six (6) miles. This represents the greatest differential in elevation per horizontal mile of any Wilderness area in the Park.

Because of the great difference in temperatures and soil conditions between these two elevations, the forest cover type ranges from stunted spruce, balsam and white birch near the mountain tops, to excellent quality oak, maple, basswood and white ash at the lower elevations. There are also some excellent stands of hemlock on the Keene Valley side near the Ausable River.

Two of the three small ponds are rather unique because of their location and attractiveness. Giant's Washbowl lies in a small depression near the 2,300 foot level on the lower south slope of Giant Mountain and has a surface area of slightly over five acres. A lovely little tarn near the summit of Rocky Peak Ridge, known as Lake Marie Louise, is reminiscent of the subalpine lakes of the western United States. The sharp col between Giant Mountain and Rocky Peak Ridge, referred to as Gusty Gap, is another attractive feature of the area.

Many small brooks cascade down from the upper slopes. One in particular, Roaring Brook, has a scenic waterfall and can be seen from Route 73, about one mile north of Chapel Pond. A number of similar brooks in the area provide scenic spots as well as trout fishing pools.

The primary users of the area are hikers who frequent it during all seasons of the year to enjoy the excellent views from numerous vantage points on the tops and sides of the mountains. Hunters also make considerable use of the area.

Access to the State lands around the perimeter is excellent, with trailheads available on each of the four sides.

A 2002 addition to the area in the Town of Keene created a 1.25 acre inholding with an access road.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2004.

Giant Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	23,688 Acres
Bodies of Water (2)	7 Acres
Inholdings (1)	1.25 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	580 Feet
(maximum)	4,627 Feet
Foot Trails	33 Miles
Lean-tos	1
Non-conforming Uses:	
Road (private)	0.23 Miles

HA-DE-RON-DAH

This area is located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, and the Town of Greig, Lewis County.

It is bounded on the north by private lands in the vicinity of North Pond, Hitchcock Pond, Moose Pond and the

headwaters of the Independence River; on the east by private lands along the Remsen to Lake Placid Railroad right-of-way; on the south by private lands along Route 28 and by the wood road leading to the Copper Lake property; and on the west by Pine Creek and a Department of Environmental Conservation maintained foot trail from Pine Creek to Pine Lake, East Pine Pond and Big Otter Lake. The present Wilderness boundary was established recognizing the well-established motorized access in the adjacent Independence River Wild Forest.

The terrain consists of low rolling hills with many beaver meadows and wetlands.

Although the area is forest covered, extensive forest fire damage in the southern half has resulted in much of it now being covered with brush, pin cherry, aspen and bracken fern.

In the northern half, a mix of relatively small diameter hardwood and softwood stands predominate. The exceptions are the scattered individual white pine trees just north of the former truck trail which remained following the last logging operations prior to the State acquiring this area in the early 1900's. Some of these trees exceed 100 feet in height and are more than 40 inches in diameter. The probable reason they escaped logging operations was that the final cut was for hardwoods. The scattered pines represented insufficient revenue in relation to the logging costs to fell and haul them.

Public access from the north and south is nearly all blocked by private lands. The same is true for most of the eastern and western boundaries except at the Big Otter Trail entrance near Thendara and the Big Otter Lake road in Independence River Wild Forest from the west.

The following non-conforming uses have been removed from this area: 6.5 miles of a truck trail, 2.3 miles of snowmobile trails, one fire tower, one observer cabin and 1.8 miles of telephone line. This area now fully complies with Wilderness standards.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1995.

Ha-De-Ron-Dah area statistics:

State Lands	24,892 Acres
Bodies of Water (43)	405 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,437 Feet
(maximum)	2,353 Feet
Foot Trails	35 Miles
Lean-tos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	None

HIGH PEAKS

This area is the Park’s largest Wilderness area and it is located in three counties and seven Towns: the Town of Harrietstown in Franklin County, the Towns of North Elba, Keene, North Hudson, Elizabethtown and Newcomb in Essex County and the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County. It is roughly bounded on the north by Route 3, the Kelly Road, which runs from Oseetah Lake to Averyville Road, the Adirondack Loj property at Heart Lake, the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Intensive Use Area and Route 73 near the Cascade Lakes. The Adirondack Northway, Route 73, and private lands in the Towns of Keene and North

Hudson form the eastern boundary. The southern boundary is formed by State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Huntington Wildlife Forest, Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, Great Camp Santanoni Historic Area, and private lands in the Towns of Newcomb and North Hudson. Much of these private lands along the southern boundary are actively managed for forest products and are encumbered by conservation easements held by the State. This Wilderness is bounded on the west by Long Lake and the Raquette River.

Topographic features vary dramatically. Extensive low-lying wetlands in the vicinity of Marcy Swamp and Boreas Ponds contrast with precipitous mountain crags, many exceeding 4,000 feet in elevation. The broad dome of Mount Marcy, the highest point in New York State, rises above a rugged collection of steep granitic peaks on all sides. Scoured bedrock slides on every aspect are the result of vegetation and soil swept away in catastrophic landslides.

Like the topography, the forest cover also varies. It ranges from young hardwoods, to mature, large diameter hardwood and softwood stands, to the spruce-fir of the subalpine region and the alpine meadows above timberline.

Forest fires near the turn of the 20th century were intense enough in some locations, such as the Cascade Range and the Dix range, to destroy both vegetation and topsoil, leaving bare rock. It will take many years for enough soil to develop to support a forest. However, the greater part of this area is predominantly forested with mixed hardwoods and softwoods. The higher elevations at and near most mountain tops have thick stands of stunted balsam with some spruce, white birch and yellow birch.

The tops of Mount Marcy and Algonquin Peak are above the timberline and a number of other mountain tops are at, or close to, timberline. The subalpine and alpine vegetation on the tops of these mountains has been of interest to many people, including students of botany, ecology and zoology, as well as recreationists willing to hike to the mountain tops for superb views of the High Peaks region and close observation of unique plant associations. Overuse threatens the continued existence of some of these associations. The Department has a long-standing partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Adirondack Mountain Club which places stewards on a number of these alpine summits to educate hikers, interpret the alpine ecology, and monitor plant populations. This partnership has significantly improved conditions on a number of the high peaks.

Evidence of old road beds is found on the periphery of the unit and penetrating some of the river valleys. As they are reclaimed by natural forces, their presence continues to diminish. Some of the old road beds are maintained as foot trails and horse trails. Trails located at higher elevations in the interior are typically steep, wet, and rugged. These are some of the most scenic and popular Wilderness foot trails in the Northeastern United States. Outside of the most popular routes through the Great Range, the Macintyre's, and Mount Marcy, the

regularity of human encounters decreases significantly. Opportunities for solitude in a wild and remote landscape are available for those who seek it out.

Many crystal-clear streams cascade from the mountain slopes, providing numerous scenic waterfalls, deep pools and brook trout fishing opportunities. Such streams as the North and South Forks of the Bouquet River, Opalescent River, Johns Brook, Klondike Brook, Marcy Brook, Cold River, Moose Creek and Cold Brook are photographers' favorites. Lake Tear of the Clouds, the source of the Hudson River, lies at about 4,300 feet above sea level on a flank of Mount Marcy.

Hikers and mountaineers probably outnumber all other user groups. Skiing and snowshoeing throughout the area had increased in popularity in the late 1960's through the 1980's, and is currently experiencing resurgence in popularity. Winter mountaineering and winter camping continue to be highly popular. Hunting in this rugged and remote area offers a unique challenge. Anglers who prize wild waters are enticed by protected, remote locations.

The most heavily used trails in the entire Adirondacks are those to Mount Marcy from Adirondack Loj via Marcy Dam or Lake Colden. The heavy public use near Marcy Dam, Lake Colden and in the John's Brook Valley threatens to destroy the wilderness character of these sections. Management recommendations adopted in the 1999 Unit Management Plan (UMP) have identified appropriate management actions to minimize or eliminate many of the threats to the resource. Subsequent to the adoption of the UMP for this unit in 1999, the Department developed a comprehensive campsite plan for the busiest areas in the unit.

The ranger station at Marcy Dam will be phased out in accordance with the policy of achieving peripheral control. Due to the expected degree of use of the Lake Colden area, particularly in the winter months, Wilderness guidelines permit the indefinite retention of the Lake Colden station. The ranger station at Raquette Falls on the extreme western boundary of this Wilderness is considered a peripheral control facility as the Raquette River is open to motorboats. While the necessity to retain the Lake Colden and Raquette Falls ranger stations has been identified in the existing UMP for the area, their continued usefulness will be subject to periodic review.

An on-ground telephone line exists between The Garden Parking Lot and the Johns Brook Ranger Station to provide reliable communication. All other on and above ground telephone lines in the unit have been removed. Adequate communication is now possible between other stations using the Departments' VHF radio network or the existing private land cellular network. At such time as cellular coverage is available at the Johns Brook Ranger Station, the remaining lines will be removed from this area.

South Meadows Road is a town maintained public road which extends about a mile east into the Wilderness from Adirondak Loj road. This road should be closed to conform to Wilderness guidelines. The Department of Environmental Conservation has committed to work with the Town of

North Elba towards this closure. Closure of South Meadows Road will enhance the wilderness character of the South Meadows area, which is frequently used as an access point into the north and central portions of the Wilderness Area.

The level of public use in the most popular areas within the Wilderness has attained levels where trail erosion, soil compaction and generalized resource problems are readily apparent. Group camping in the Lake Colden/Flowed Lands area has already been restricted in peak periods by the Department of Environmental Conservation and this measure has been generally accepted by users. Measures to control or limit public use in particular areas were adopted in 1999 through the Unit Management Plan.

In 1978 and 1980, the State acquired 9,308 acres of land in fee from the Adirondack Mountain Reserve (AMR). Approximately 6,039 acres have become part of the High Peaks Wilderness, including the following summits: Haystack, Little Haystack, Basin, Saddleback, Sawtooth, Gothics, Armstrong, Upper Wolfjaw and Lower Wolfjaw mountains. Approximately 3,269 acres became part of the former Dix Mountain Wilderness (now High Peaks Wilderness) including the following summits: Noonmark, Bear Den, Dial, Colvin, and Pinnacle. The State received, by gift, a conservation easement on the remaining AMR lands, limiting future development while permitting public access across AMR property to reach adjacent State land.

A number of remaining interior private parcels (generally located in the John's Brook Valley) could pose a threat to the surrounding State lands, if the owners or future owners decide to establish any one of several non-compatible land uses that might serve their particular interests.

Fee title or conservation easements should be acquired by the State on other key parcels of privately held land within or adjacent to this Wilderness as outlined in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan.

The following non-conforming uses have been removed from the area: 19.3 miles of administrative roads, 35.1 miles of jeep trails, two fire towers, two observer cabins, two ranger cabins telephone lines, four tent platforms, two lean-to clusters, and ten lean-tos above 3,500 feet in elevation.

A minor change in the boundary of this area was made in 1979 recognizing a small segment of a public road near Walton Brook in the Town of Keene. Also in 1979, two sub-lots adjacent to Mt. Van Hoevenberg consisting of approximately 260 acres were reclassified from Wilderness to Intensive Use in recognition of an improved cross country ski trail that has been mechanically maintained in this area since 1966.

In 2009 New York State acquired 6,806 acres from the Open Space Conservancy, Inc. (OSC). These lands were classified as Wilderness and included in the High Peaks unit. Within this addition are 3 inholdings: one parcel contains a fire tower on the summit of Mt. Adams, the second contains remnants of two fire tower observer cabins, and the third is a shoreline parcel along Upper Preston Pond with a small log cabin. Each of these inholdings will be subject to a conservation easement held by the State of New York. The State holds a

purchase option for the Upper Preston Pond parcel. A fourth private parcel, which adjoins the Tahawas/Henderson Lake tract, includes the Masten House on Henderson Lake. DEC will manage the waters of Henderson Lake as Wilderness.

In 2016, New York State acquired from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) the 20,543 acre Boreas Ponds tract, the 6,060 acre MacIntyre East Tract, and the 7,368 acre MacIntyre West tract. These lands were classified as a mixture of Wilderness, Wild Forest and Primitive. The location of the Boreas Ponds tract between the High Peaks and the former Dix Mountain Wilderness areas provided a unique opportunity to combine the Dix Mountain Wilderness Area with the High Peaks Wilderness area.

Public access to the perimeter of the area is generally good.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1999.

High Peaks area statistics:

State Lands	272,143	Acres
Private Inholdings (10)	4,265	Acres
Bodies of Water (198)	2,654	Acres
Elevation		
(minimum)	860	Feet
(maximum)	5,344	Feet
Foot Trails	277	Miles
Horse Trails	48	Miles
Lean-tos	75	
Impoundments	2	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Ranger Cabins*	2	
(Marcy Dam and Lake Colden)		
Miles		
Roads (public)	1	Mile

*Non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

HOFFMAN NOTCH

This area is located in the Towns of Schroon, North Hudson and Minerva in Essex County. It is bounded on the north by private lands lying south of the Blue Ridge Road and the Sand Pond Mountain tract donated to the State by Finch, Pruyn and Company for fish and wildlife management, silvicultural research and experimentation purposes; on the east by the Adirondack Northway and private lands immediately west of the Northway; on the south by private lands lying north of the Loch Muller Road; and on the west by the jeep road and trail that extends from Irishtown along Minerva Stream northward to the Blue Ridge Road near Cheney Pond.

The area is mountainous and rugged, dominated by three north-south ridges in excess of 3,000 feet: Blue Ridge, Texas Ridge and Washburn Ridge.

Sixteen bodies of water are located within the area. Cheney Pond, a former flow created for the purpose of driving logs down the Boreas River, lies adjacent to the area.

The forest cover ranges from second growth hardwoods saplings to nearly solid conifer stands of near mature size at the higher elevations. On some of the better soil, exceptionally large diameter hardwoods occur.

Hoffman Mountain, which is the highest point in the area and a part of the Blue Ridge Range, was selected by Town of Schroon officials as a potential

ski area, but their proposal was defeated in the 1967 referendum. Subsequent studies by independent experts have revealed that the mountain is not suited for a major ski center.

Three fairly extensive Department of Environmental Conservation snowmobile trails, totaling 17.5 miles, were removed: one running north to south through Hoffman Notch; one running from Big Pond northward, then eastward; and another extending from Loch Muller northward by Baily Pond to Washburn Ridge. A 2.5-mile jeep trail was also removed, bringing this area fully into compliance with Wilderness standards.

Public access to the area is easily gained, and its present use comes chiefly from hunters and anglers.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2012.

Hoffman Notch area statistics:

State Lands	38,234 Acres
Private Inholding (1)	3 Acres
Bodies of Water (30)	247 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	900 Feet
(maximum)	3,700 Feet
Foot trails	15 Miles

Non-conforming Uses: None

HUDSON GORGE

This Wilderness Area is in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva, Essex County, and the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County. It encompasses the wildest and most remote section of the Hudson River, as well as a spectacular white water gorge.

There are two foot trails within this area that have long been designated for public use by the Department. From the south, a trail leads from Route 28 to Whortleberry Pond, with short spur trails to Ross and Big Bad Luck Ponds. From the north, a trail begins on Northwoods Club Road and ends at Blue Ledge on the Hudson River. There are no public roads or other access routes to this section of the Hudson River. In the past relatively few people were successful in navigating the waters by canoe, boat or raft. These factors had served to retain this portion of the river and its immediate surroundings in a near wilderness condition. River access has significantly increased with the development of commercial rafting since the early 1980's.

Although no established foot trails parallel this section of the Hudson River, the two above-mentioned trails, particularly the Blue Ledge Trail, receive considerable use. Unlike the majority of the Adirondack Park, much of the underlying bedrock in this area is calcareous, which is reflected by the species and natural communities that occupy these lands and waters. The river corridors along the Hudson and Cedar Rivers, along with limey cliffs and wetlands, feature a diversity of bryophytes and vascular plants that may be unmatched in the Park. In addition to its biological diversity, Blue Ledge provides dramatic cliffs enjoyed by those who run the river or hike to the river or ledges. Opportunities for good fishing are available along the river and at several interior ponds.

The distance between Newcomb and North River is the most dramatic white water trip in the Adirondacks, if not the State as a whole, and one of the most demanding and hazardous. Since

the early 1980's, commercial white water rafting, utilizing a release from the Lake Abanakee dam which permits rafts to gain access via the Indian River, has increased dramatically on the lower portion of this route. This type of use has reached about the maximum level consistent with the carrying capacity of the resources of the river banks and wild character of the river and care should be taken not to exceed present use levels.

This area was originally classified as Primitive because of substantial private inholdings in the vicinities of the confluence of the Hudson and Indian Rivers, and Blue Ledge and the critical relationship of those lands to the river gorge. The area was upgraded to Wilderness in 2013 after most of the private lands – including their entire river frontage – were acquired.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Hudson Gorge area statistics:

State Lands	22,906 Acres
Bodies of Water (52)	419 Acres
Foot Trails	7 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

HURRICANE MOUNTAIN

This area is located in the Towns of Elizabethtown, Jay, Keene and Lewis, Essex County. It is predominantly steep, rocky ground with thin soils. Hurricane Mountain, 3,694 feet in elevation, dominates the area. On the north the area is separated from the Jay Wilderness Area by the Jay Mountain Road, a rough road not plowed in the winter. Should the road ever be closed or abandoned, all or a major portion of this area could be consolidated with the Jay Wilderness.

Spectacular views of Giant Mountain and High Peaks regions to the south, as well as the Champlain Valley and the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east, are afforded the hiker who scales Hurricane. There are three trails to Hurricane Mountain, permitting access by all types of hikers. Hikers can also traverse the fairly open circuit trail from Big Crow Mountain across Weston Mountain, down to Lost Pond and back to the starting point while enjoying the panorama of the High Peaks to the southwest.

In 2010, 13,948 acres of the area were reclassified as Wilderness from Primitive when 0.5 acres of land associated with the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower was reclassified to Historic.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2010.

Hurricane Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	14,222 Acres
Bodies of Water (1)	4 Acres
Inholdings (2)	41 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	810 Feet
(maximum)	3,694 Feet
Foot Trails	13.7 Miles
Lean-tos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	None

JAY MOUNTAIN

This area lies within the Towns of Jay and Lewis in Essex County. It is bounded by the Jay Mountain Road on the south and private land boundaries elsewhere, except where the road west of Mt. Fay severs an appendage of State lands.

The high and precipitous mountains in this area are generally similar in character to the Hurricane Range and require careful management in order to avoid natural resource degradation. The vistas from Jay, Saddleback and Slip Mountains make the climb to the vantage points well worthwhile. The Ausable Valley can be seen as well as the Champlain Valley and the High Peaks.

The Jay Mountain Road, a seasonally maintained road, separates this area from the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness. A drive along this rough gravel road offers both attractive views of the upland region above Keene Valley and access to lovely stands of white birch on the lower slopes.

Although this area is below 10,000 acres in size and was originally classified as a Primitive Area, it is large enough to provide a sense of remoteness and to be maintained in an unimpaired condition and therefore was reclassified as Wilderness in 1985. Should the Jay Mountain Road be closed, this area could be extended to encompass all, or a major portion, of the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2010.

Jay Mountain area statistics:

State lands	7,896 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,420 Feet
(maximum)	3,600 Feet
Foot Trails	3 Miles

Non-conforming Uses: None

LITTLE MOOSE

This area lies in Hamilton County, in the Towns of Arietta, Morehouse and Lake Pleasant. To the north it is bounded by the Moose River Plains Intensive Use Camping Area (along the Limekiln Lake – Cedar River Road) and the South Branch of the Moose River; to the west by the Moose River Plains Wild Forest near the Otter Brook Road; and on the south and east by the Moose River Plains Wild Forest corridor along the routes of the former Otter Brook Truck Trail and former Wilson Ridge Road. The area does not include Little Moose Lake, its boundary looping around the lake and crossing its outlet just west of where the outlet – the South Branch of the Moose River – begins at the lake.

Comprised almost entirely of the slopes of Little Moose and Manbury Mountains, this Wilderness exists between the upper reaches of the South Branch of the Moose River and that river's first major tributary, Otter Brook. Both these rivers are designated "Scenic" rivers. The terrain is predominantly steep and rugged, the only notable areas of exception being some wetland flats in the upper river area of the South Branch of the Moose River. Sly Pond, at an elevation of 2,872

feet above sea level, is more than 1,000 feet higher than nearby Beaver Lake or Icehouse Pond down in the Moose River Plains and is one of the highest water bodies in the Adirondacks. Nearly 800 feet upslope from Sly Pond is the 3,634-feet summit of Little Moose Mountain, the highest point in the area. Some restricted but rewarding views are afforded from a small ledge near the spruce-fir forested summit. The spruce-fir forest here, which also encompasses the higher elevations of nearby Manbury Mountain, is potential breeding habitat for the Bicknell's thrush.

While the entire perimeter of the area is accessible via either the Forest Preserve road network of the Moose River Plains or the mountain bike trail of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest corridor, the South Branch of the Moose River on the north and west lacks foot bridges and can be challenging to cross, and no foot trails lead into the area from the corridor. Public use of this area is low and the opportunities for solitude very high.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Little Moose area statistics:

State Lands	12,201 Acres
Bodies of Water (9)	52 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,840 Feet
(maximum)	3,634 Feet
Foot Trails	4.6 Miles
Horse Trails	3.3 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

MCKENZIE MOUNTAIN

This area is located in western Essex County in the Towns of St. Armand, North Elba and Wilmington. In general, the Saranac River and Franklin Falls Reservoir border on the north; the Wilmington- Franklin Falls Road, the Whiteface Mountain Veterans' Memorial Highway and the west branch of the Ausable River form the eastern boundary; the Saranac Lake-Lake Placid Road, Route 86 between Lake Placid and Ray Brook, forms the southern boundary; and the Saranac River forms the western boundary.

McKenzie Mountain, sometimes referred to as Saddleback, and Moose Mountain, sometimes called St. Armand Mountain, are the dominant topographical features of the area.

McKenzie Pond, from which the Village of Saranac Lake obtains its water supply, forms part of the boundary on the west side as does Moose Pond. However, few ponds are fully encompassed within the boundaries of this area. Bartlett Pond, lying at about 2,800 feet altitude on the southeast side of McKenzie Mountain, and Loch Bonnie which is at about 2,900 feet altitude on the southeast side of Moose Mountain, are completely within the Wilderness boundary.

The area is densely forested with softwoods. Spruce and balsam dominate the forests above the 2,500 feet and mixed hardwoods and softwoods dominate the lower elevations.

During the 1950 hurricane, heavy blow down occurred in a number of spots, chiefly in the saddle between Whiteface Mountain and Mount Alton to the west.

In the legislatively authorized timber salvage operation conducted after 1950, log roads were bulldozed along Lincoln

Brook from the north and at the head of Lake Placid from the south. Most of these log roads have now become overgrown with dense, second growth hardwoods.

Although the area is in close proximity to the Villages of Saranac Lake on the southwest and Lake Placid on the southeast, the interior has retained its wilderness atmosphere. This is due to the steep and rugged terrain which effectively prevented motor vehicle penetration prior to its Wilderness designation in 1972.

In the 1800's, when logging was at its peak in the Adirondacks, a road was constructed from the vicinity of the Whiteface Toll Gate southwestward following the 2,400 foot contour for several miles along the side of Esther Mountain and Whiteface Mountain. The road was well built, with culverts and ditches, for horsedrawn sleds to transport logs to the head of Red Brook, where a small pool of water, known as Lake Stevens, formed the start of a log flume that ran approximately three miles to the Ausable River. Once at the river, the logs were floated down to the pulp mill in Ausable Forks. Although the old road is gradually being reclaimed by second growth hardwoods, its location will likely remain in evidence for many years.

The attractiveness of the area is enhanced by the excellent views that may be obtained from the top of McKenzie Mountain and Moose Mountain. Also, there are numerous spring-fed brooks in the area. Lincoln Brook and French Brook, with their tributaries originating high on the northwest slopes of Esther Mountain and Whiteface Mountain, are crystal clear trout streams with many scenic spots along their courses.

The Adirondack Mountain Club originally maintained a foot trail from the vicinity of Wolf Pond near Route 86 to the top of McKenzie Mountain. To avoid private land conflicts, the trail was relocated in 1984 and now begins at the pull-off east of the Saranac Lake Golf Course on Route 86.

Public access to the area is relatively good from all but the northern side. The area is used to a considerable extent by hikers to climb the mountains, by anglers to try their luck in the small brooks and by hunters chiefly during the big game season.

Approximately six miles of snowmobile trails have been closed and four tent platforms removed from this area. The former drive-in theater site adjacent to Route 86 was added to this Wilderness in 1979. After temporary use as a vehicle parking area and storage area for the 1980 Winter Olympics, this area was allowed to revegetate.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

McKenzie Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	37,214 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	184 Acres
Bodies of Water (17)	96 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,320 Feet
(maximum)	4,869 Feet
Foot Trails	18.4 Miles
Lean-tos	1
Non-conforming Uses:	None

PEPPERBOX

The Pepperbox Wilderness lies within the Town of Webb in Herkimer County and the Town of Watson, Lewis County. Stillwater Reservoir and the Beaver River form the southern boundary, while the north bank of the West Branch of the Oswegatchie River generally forms the northern boundary. The western boundary is primarily the county line, and the eastern boundary is the Raven Lake Road Primitive Area and the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

In 2000, approximately 7,935 acres of lands classified Wild Forest were classified Wilderness and added to this unit. This area included the West Branch of the Oswegatchie River, Tied Lake, and Buck Pond. There are three inholdings within this area that, if ever acquired, should be included in this unit.

In 2006, the State acquired the gravel extraction rights in the Beaver River Primitive Area, thus eliminating the non-conforming use of that area. The Beaver River Primitive Area has been reclassified as Wilderness and added to the Pepperbox area.

The terrain is generally flat with a few small, rolling hills. Wetlands predominate along with spruce, fir and red maple. Alder thickets, marsh and beaver flows are also common. The drier sites are vegetated with northern hardwoods. The entire area appears to have been heavily burned over and logged in the past and is not particularly scenic by usual standards. It is, however, ideally suited for snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

Several ponds are found in the area. They are generally of low productivity and some may even be sterile.

The area is classified as Wilderness because of its remoteness and its extensive wetland ecosystems. The flora and fauna associated with wetland ecosystems, such as found in the Pepperbox, exhibit great species diversity. Bird life and small mammals are especially abundant and the protection afforded Wilderness will ensure this areas significant biological importance.

The remnant of the deserted Beaver Lake Mountain fire tower has been removed and the rough road, 2.5 miles in length, has been closed. There is very little use of the area at present, except for some light hunting. Access is moderately difficult because of the distance from public roads and the lack of a trail system except for the trail to Jakes Pond in a portion of the area that was reclassified from Wild Forest to Wilderness in 2000. There is little or no demand for a trail system and this offers an opportunity to retain a portion of the Adirondack landscape in a state that even a purist might call Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1985.

Pepperbox area statistics:

State Lands	23,813 Acres
Bodies of Water (70)	617 Acres
Inholdings (3)	594 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,360 Feet
(maximum)	2,168 Feet
Foot Trails	2.0 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	Utility ROW

PHARAOH LAKE

The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area is located in the Towns of Schroon and Ticonderoga in Essex County and in the Towns of Horicon and Hague in Warren County. The area is bounded on the west by East Shore Road and private land; north by Route 74, the great lot line between Eagle and Pyramid Lakes and private land; east by Bald Ledge Primitive Area, Putnam Pond Public Campground and private land; and south by Route 8 and private land. Part of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area lies within the Lake George Park.

Pharaoh Lake, an extremely attractive body of water, is one of the largest lakes in the Adirondack Park totally surrounded by forest preserve lands. Due to its configuration, it can provide a wilderness experience to relatively large numbers of people. In addition, the numerous crystal-clear ponds, vistas resulting from rock outcrops and severe fires, and intriguing geographic names such as Grizzle Ocean, Thunderbolt Mountain, Oxshoe Pond and Desolate Brook, make this one of the most appealing of all Adirondack areas.

Fires have burned over most of the region in the past. Coupled with the relative dryness of the area, there is a proliferation of conifers mixed with some white birch. The white pine-white birch mixture along the shores of several of the lakes and ponds adds immeasurably to their attractiveness. Stands of some of the best quality Adirondack hardwoods exist in the cove-like pockets of the unburned area in the northeast.

Pharaoh Mountain is the only mountain of significant size, although the smaller hills have very steep sides and cliffs, presenting more of an impression of relief than actually exists.

This area was expanded in 1979 by the reclassification of the Crane Pond Primitive Area to Wilderness, with the exception of the right-of-way Crane Pond Road. The 3.5 miles snowmobile trail leading from Route 74 to the Crane Pond Road, was closed in 1975 by the Department of Environmental Conservation, making this reclassification possible. On December 4, 1989, Environmental Conservation Commissioner Jorling issued an order pursuant to Highway Law 212 closing Crane Pond Road. The closure order was subsequently upheld in State Supreme Court and the Appellate Division, Third Department. The Department and the Agency will work together with local government officials and others to resolve continuing public use issues in the Crane Pond Road corridor.

In 2007, the State acquired a 101 acre parcel along the eastern boundary of the area. This acquisition extinguished a right-of-way, enabling an adjacent parcel of 210 acres to be reclassified from Primitive Area to Wilderness, thus extinguishing the Hague Brook Primitive Area.

Because of the proximity to the Adirondack Northway and the population pressures of the Capital District, the thin soils left on the burned slopes, and the relatively small size of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, restrictive management is necessary to protect the resources in this area. In addition to peripheral control, called for in the guidelines, increasing levels of public use and associated resource impacts

indicate that limitations on public access will be required to protect the fragile character of the area in the future.

The following non-conforming uses have been removed from the area: 8.5 miles of jeep trails, 5.3 miles of snowmobile trails, a fire tower, an observer cabin and telephone lines.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1992.

Pharaoh Lake area statistics:

State Land	44,411 Acres
Bodies of Water (97)	1,612 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	820 Feet
(maximum)	2,556 Feet
Foot Trails	63 Miles
Horse Trails	14 Miles
Lean-tos	13
Impoundments	1
Non-conforming Uses:	
Road (public)	1 Mile

PIGEON LAKE

This area lies in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, and the Towns of Long Lake and Inlet in Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north by Stillwater Reservoir and large blocks of private land in the vicinity of Rose Pond, Shingle Shanty Pond and Upper Sister Lake; on the east by a private road from Brandreth Lake to North Point and Raquette Lake; on the south by private lands along the Uncas Road; and on the west by the Big Moose Road, private lands near Big Moose Lake, Thirsty Pond, Twitchell Lake, Razorback Pond, and the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor.

The terrain consists of low, rolling hills, with the exception of West Mountain near the eastern boundary. There are many brook trout ponds and streams and a considerable expanse of wetlands along the courses of Sucker Brook and Beaver Brook.

The forest cover is composed of mature or near-mature mixed softwoods and hardwoods, with some dense spruce-balsam near the summit of West Mountain and in the wetlands. Old growth white pine in the vicinity of Pigeon Lake and a few other places adds to the wilderness character.

The area is easily accessible to the public from the south, southeast and southwest, but to a lesser extent from the west and north because of posted private lands. The chief attractions for the public are the trout ponds, which entice anglers as well as campers who frequent scenic spots around Cascade Lake, Queer Lake, Constable Pond, Pigeon Lake and Gull Lake. It is also a popular area for hunters during the big game season.

The Department of Environmental Conservation maintains Brown Tract Pond Campground on the southeast perimeter. Motorboats are now banned from operating on the Brown Tract Ponds to provide a more compatible situation for canoes and other non-motorized boats utilized by campers. This site makes a fine starting location for wilderness users.

Lands formerly owned by Anne LaBastille, renowned Adirondack author, long serving APA board member and steadfast advocate for the Forest Preserve were bequeathed to New York State in 2016 and added to this Wilderness area in 2018.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1992.

Pigeon Lake area statistics:

State Lands	49,257 Acres
Bodies of Water (99)	1,668 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,686 Feet
(maximum)	2,928 Feet
Foot Trails	42 Miles
Lean-tos	5
Horse trails	1.6 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Powerline ROW	0.3 Miles

ROUND LAKE

The area is located in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County and in the Towns of Piercefield and Colton, St. Lawrence County. It is bounded on the north by the Bog River; on the east by private lands; on the south by the Sabattis Road; and on the west by the privately-owned Loon Pond tract and the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor. Created in 2006, as the result of re-classifying a portion of the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest and classifying the more recently acquired Round Lake tract, this area provides an important linkage between the William C. Whitney Wilderness and the Eastern Five Ponds Access Primitive Area to the north. This linkage serves to protect important ecological connections as well as primitive recreational opportunities for the public.

Portions of the Bog River and Round Lake Outlet classified as Scenic according to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act of 1975 flow through the area. Round Lake and a number of ponds with large, associated wetland complexes are important water features, including Trout, Little Trout and High Ponds.

The terrain consists of low and rolling hills interlaced with streams and wetlands. Forest cover ranges from predominately moist beech-maple cover in the uplands to complexes of spruce-fir flats, evergreen wetlands and shrub swamps in the lower lying areas.

Round Lake is impounded by a man-made dam. The area around the lake has been logged since the 1800's first as part of Whitney Park and later by International Paper Corporation. This lake formed part of the historic route for floating logs that traveled from Little Tupper Lake into Round Lake, then down the Round Lake Outlet and Bog River into Tupper Lake. A network of logging roads and landings are evidence of the logging activities that occurred on the property prior to State acquisition. The roads also provided access to hunting clubs that leased the property. The cabins built by the clubs have been removed from the property, along with storage facilities and the Sabattis Forest Ranger Station.

This same route now offers a challenging trip for advanced canoeists and kayakers. It features a run through the gorge cut by the Round Lake Outlet down to the Bog River, as well as a series of rapids and carries around rapids and falls on the Bog River below the Lower Dam. In addition to opportunities for boating, the waters of the area provide good fishing and primitive camping opportunities. Foot trails from the Lower Dam and Sabattis Road provide hiking access to Trout Pond. These trails were closed to snowmobile use after the area was reclassified from Wild Forest to Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Round Lake area statistics:

State Lands	10,310 Acres
Bodies of Water (21)	1,126 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,575 Feet
(maximum)	2,277 Feet
Trails	2 Miles
Impoundments	1
Non-conforming uses:	None

SENTINEL RANGE

This area is located in the Towns of Wilmington, Jay, North Elba and Keene, Essex County. It is bounded by Route 86 on the north; Route 73 on the south; and private lands on the east and west.

The Sentinel Range and its slopes dominate the area and five small ponds are situated near the northern and northwestern boundaries.

Pitchoff Mountain and the lower mountains and ridges in the northern and eastern portions of the unit are characterized by bare rock outcropping that resulted from forest fires in the early 1900’s. The terrain is steep and rugged, with some vertical cliffs facing north and northeast.

The eastern slopes of the area have a hardwood forest that regenerated after the forest fires. There are mixed hardwood and softwood stands, primarily along brooks on the eastern slopes. The remainder of the area has a mixed hardwood-softwood cover with some small pockets of white pine between ledges near the northern boundary.

Forest cover restricts the views from the highest summits in the unit. However, good views may be obtained from Pitchoff Mountain and some of the lower mountains on the periphery of the unit. Excellent views of Whiteface Mountain and the Wilmington Notch can be obtained from Copperas Pond.

Circa 1930, a ski trail was constructed from the west boundary to South Notch, and a lean-to was constructed at the terminus in the Notch. The ski trail formed a loop with the adjacent North Notch Ski Trail and was used for the 50 kilometer ski race in the 1932 Winter Olympics. The lean-to in the South Notch was built in 1931 for the Olympics. Both the South Notch and North Notch Trails were very popular ski trails up until World War II. These trails were retained primarily as hiking trails until the early 1990's when abandoned by the Department due to lack of use. The lean-to in the South Notch was removed around this time as well.

The northern portion of this area around the ponds is used to a considerable extent by campers and anglers.

The major portion of the perimeter is readily accessible to the public from highways but has not been as susceptible to penetration as some of the less rugged State land because of its terrain.

In 1979, a very minor change in the eastern boundary of this area was made to more accurately reflect the location of a public road. In 1985, 1,120 acres were added to the area extending the eastern boundary, in part, to the East Branch of the Ausable River.

The jeep trail, 0.7 miles in length, has been closed and two tent platforms have been removed from this area. The Old Military Road, a Town road 3.5 miles in length, has been closed and the area now fully conforms to wilderness standards.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in January 2020.

Sentinel Range area statistics:

State Lands	23,989 Acres
Bodies of Water (9)	114 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	660 Feet
(maximum)	3,880 Feet
Foot Trails	7.1 Miles
Lean-tos	1
Non-Conforming Uses:	None

SIAMESE PONDS

The Siamese Ponds area is located in the Towns of Lake Pleasant, Wells and Indian Lake in Hamilton County and the Towns of Johnsburg and Thurman in Warren County. It is one of the largest Wilderness areas, extending about 23 miles from north to south and about 17 miles from east to west at its widest part.

It is roughly bounded by Route 28 on the north; by private land tracts near Thirteenth Lake, Gore Mountain and Bakers Mills and Route 8 on the east; by Route 8 on the south; and by Route 8, Speculator Tree Farm conservation easement lands and Indian Lake on the west.

The topography consists of relatively low rolling hills with a few mountain summits above the 3,000 foot level, including Bullhead, Eleventh, Puffer and South Pond. In addition, the area contains a large number of beaver meadows and wetlands.

Most of the area was heavily logged nearly a century ago and some sections, particularly in the southeastern part, were burned over in forest fires. Much of the forest cover has been re-established and in some locations there are excellent quality stands of both hardwoods and softwoods. On most of the higher elevations, except those in severely burned spots, spruce and fir predominate, while mixed hardwoods and softwoods cover the remainder of the area.

This large block of State land is unbroken by public roads and has been generally protected from wheeled motor vehicle use. Old roads from logging days, most of which have been brushed in, are still evident.

This area has an approximately 33 square mile trail-less area in its southern region which provides users a unique opportunity to experience a remote experience.

The area is known for its lovely natural features. Some of the more popular attractions are: Thirteenth Lake, Chimney Mountain, Puffer Pond, Siamese Ponds, Auger Falls on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River, the East Branch of the Sagandaga River, and John Pond. Chimney Mountain has ice caves that usually retain snow and ice through the summer months and provide an interesting spot for visitors.

Some of the unique streams and water bodies in this area are tannic and tea-like in color as a result of

surrounding vegetative material, while others are crystal clear. Water bodies range from stagnant ponds and seasonal vernal ponds to swift-flowing waters such as County Line and Peaked Mountain Brooks.

Thirteenth Lake has a small sand beach at the northern end that makes a very desirable spot for picnics, bathing, boating and camping. Additional desirable camping spots can be found around this lake.

A portion of the eastern shoreline of Indian Lake, formerly classified as Intensive Use, has been reclassified and added to this Wilderness. A very minor change in the western boundary of this area was made in 1979, resulting in the creation of the Dug Mountain Primitive Area, a legal, private right-of-way separating it from the remainder of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

Siamese Ponds area statistics:

State Lands	112,901 Acres
Private Inholdings (2)	141 Acres
Bodies of Water (99)	1,318 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,048 Feet
(maximum)	3,472 Feet
Foot Trails	61 Miles
Lean-tos	5
Non-conforming Uses:	None

SILVER LAKE

This area is located in the Towns of Lake Pleasant, Benson, Hope, Wells and Arietta in Hamilton County. It is roughly bounded on the north by Route 8 and private lands near Piseco Lake, Oxbow Lake, Hamilton Lake, Sand Lake and Lake Pleasant; on the east by Route 30; on the south generally by the Hamilton County line; and on the west by Route 10, the West Branch of the Sacandaga.

The terrain is relatively low with rolling hills and only four mountain summits that exceed 3,000 feet elevation. There is considerable acreage of coniferous wetland as well as some beaver meadows along the streams.

The forest cover is chiefly mixed hardwoods and softwoods with some nearly pure stands of large diameter hemlocks. Although the entire area was logged at some time in the past, much of the standing timber, both hardwoods and softwoods, is now at or near maturity. In the wetland area along streams as well as the higher elevations around the mountain tops, the forest cover is predominantly spruce and balsam.

The famous Northville-Lake Placid Trail runs from the southern edge of the area through its center in a northerly direction, crossing the northern boundary near Piseco Lake. This trail was established by the Adirondack Mountain Club in 1922, but was subsequently taken over by the Department of Environmental Conservation for marking and maintenance. Two steel suspension bridges are on this trail, one crosses the West Branch of the Sagandaga River and the second crosses the Hamilton Lake Stream Outlet.

Silver Lake is the principal attraction near the center of this area, chiefly for brook trout anglers. Mud Lake, Rock Lake and Canary Pond are also popular

trout fishing spots. Big Eddy on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River also attracts visitors to the area. Hunters frequent the area during the big game season.

The perimeter of the area is quite accessible to the public except for a few parcels of private, posted land. In 1979 Great Lot 121, consisting of approximately 200 acres, was re-classified from Wilderness to become the Cathead Mountain Primitive Area.

The following non-conforming uses have been removed from the area: 12 miles of jeep trails, 1.3 miles of snowmobile trails, one fire tower, two observer cabins and five miles of telephone lines.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Silver Lake area statistics:

State Lands	107,995 Acres
Private Inholdings (5)	1,748 Acres
Bodies of Water (76)	725 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	807 Feet
(maximum)	3,250 Feet
Foot Trails	21 Miles
Lean-tos	3
Non-conforming Uses:	
Suspension Bridges	2
Powerline ROW	0.2 Miles

WEST CANADA LAKE

This Wilderness is located in the Town of Ohio in Herkimer County and the Towns of Morehouse, Arietta, Lake Pleasant and Indian Lake in Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north by the Moose River Plains Wild Forest area and conservation easement lands in the vicinity of Little Moose Lake, Squaw Brook, Snowy Mountain and Squaw Mountain; on the east by Route 30, Perkins Clearing conservation easement lands and the Northville-Lake Placid trail; on the south by lands of the Jessup River Wild Forest Area, private lands north of Route 8, the South Branch of West Canada Creek and an access road to private lands; and on the west by West Canada Creek and private lands east of Honnedaga Lake.

The terrain ranges from wetlands and rolling hills to steep mountains such as Snowy Mountain. Water drains from the area into three major watersheds: the Hudson, the Mohawk and the Black.

Among the area's chief attributes are its numerous ponds, lakes and streams, most of which support a brook trout population. Although there are many good trout fishing waters in this area, the ones that are most frequented by anglers are Big Rock Lake, Whitney Lake, Phillsbury Lake, Spruce Lake and Cedar Lake. The river area originating at the source of the Indian River to the South Branch of the Moose River is a designated Wild River under the New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. West Canada Creek and Cedar River are also designated rivers. The forest cover consists chiefly of mixed hardwood-softwood species with large diameter trees of both types on the more fertile soils. There is also considerable acreage of spruce-balsam wetlands and beaver meadows.

Among the spots that attract hikers and campers, in addition to the previously mentioned lakes, are the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, West Canada Creek, Snowy Mountain and the eastern shore of Cedar River Flow.

Many campers from the three public campsites on Piseco Lake and the campsites at Lewey Lake, as well as those in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, utilize the foot trails in the area to reach points of special interest. Since the Moose River tract was purchased by the State, there has been increased use of the foot trail from that area to Brook Trout Lake and vicinity by both hunters and anglers.

Enforcement problems, stemming from the remoteness of the area, have been encountered in attempts to prevent snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle penetration into the Wilderness area. Physical barriers have been erected within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest Area at key locations to diminish this problem.

In 1979, a 700-acre tract of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest Area was reclassified to become part of this Wilderness. This tract lies to the west and south of Indian Lake. Also in 1979, the western boundary was modified due to the identification of a private right-of-way adjacent to the West Canada Mountain Primitive Area.

In 1984, 14,458 acres were added to the Wilderness as a result of the Perkins Clearing land exchange. This land was previously classified as Primitive, Wild Forest and Resource Management. Five more lakes and the remainder of Whitney Lake were added to the Wilderness, as were one lean-to and 11 miles of trail.

In 1985, the former Fort Noble Mountain Primitive Area of 450 acres was reclassified to Wilderness as a result of the removal of the fire tower, observers cabin and phone line.

In 1994, 9,925 acres of land were reclassified from the Buell Brook Primitive Area to Wilderness and added to this area.

In 2010, approximately 2,398 acres of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest were reclassified and added to the Wilderness at the same time the Moose River Plains Intensive Use Area was created. These lands included Little Moose Lake and some significant low-elevation wetland complexes in the east and north that extends toward and include some of the shoreline of Cedar River Flow. Following the construction of a parking area, a 2.3 mile section of the Indian Lake Road will be closed allowing the public to drive approximately one half mile from Squaw Lake.

On October 1, 2019, the remaining 14 acres of the Buell Brook Primitive Area will become part of this Wilderness Area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

West Canada Lake area statistics:

State Lands	172,025 Acres
Private Inholdings (4)	2,027 Acres
Bodies of Water (223)	3,364 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,390 Feet
(maximum)	3,899 Feet
Foot Trails	67.2 Miles
Lean-tos	16
Impoundments	1
Non-conforming Uses:	None

WILLIAM C. WHITNEY

This Wilderness Area is located in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. It is bounded on the east by

County Route 10; on the south by lands of Whitney Industries; on the west by private lands; on the northwest by the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor; and on the north by other private land holdings. This Wilderness encompasses approximately 14,700 acres of land acquired from Whitney Industries in 1998, as well as the reclassified portions of the former Lake Lila Primitive Area lying south of the Remsen to Lake Placid Railroad Travel Corridor.

The terrain is comprised of lakes, ponds, wetlands, and low forested hills with a few modest mountains ranging as high as 2,297 foot Antediluvian Mountain. The centerpieces of this area are 2,300 acre Little Tupper Lake and 1,400 acre Lake Lila, respectively, the seventeenth and twenty-second largest water bodies in the Adirondack Park. The area also includes twelve smaller water bodies, including Rock Pond, Bum Pond, Hardigan Pond, Doctors Pond, Antediluvian Pond, and Lily Pad Pond. The area also includes a short section of the Beaver River, Rock Pond Outlet, Salmon Lake Outlet, Charley Pond Outlet, and numerous other small streams and flows. There are extensive wetland complexes within the area, particularly along the western end of Little Tupper Lake and the southeastern portions of Lake Lila.

The lands within the William C. Whitney Area are almost entirely forested, but the newly acquired lands have been significantly impacted by timber harvesting (prior to State acquisition) and both the former Whitney lands and the former Lake Lila Primitive Area lands have been heavily impacted by blow down. The area falls within an ecological transition zone between temperate deciduous forest and boreal forest and is dominated by northern hardwoods, mixed woods, pine, and spruce flats.

The vast expanses of the area are important to larger species of mammals, most notably white-tailed deer, black bear, and moose. Other species of mammals known to inhabit the area include beaver, river otter, fisher, coyote, bobcat, pine marten, red fox, gray fox, and snowshoe hare.

According to the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, the area abounds with bird life, listing 125 species of birds breeding within, or adjacent to, the area. Little Tupper Lake is the natal home to a genetically unique strain of brook trout that has proven itself to be superior in terms of longevity, survival, growth, and reproductive capability. The Little Tupper Lake strain of brook trout is present in Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond, and Bum Pond. Unfortunately, the illegal introduction of bass has diminished the native brook trout population.

The property contains an extensive network of logging roads which provide prime cross-country ski trails. However, the primary access to the interior of this area is by water. The DEC's Little Tupper Lake Headquarters provides direct access to Little Tupper Lake, whereas a 0.25 mile carry to a put-in provides canoe access to Lake Lila. Although it would require a series of difficult carries, it is possible to undertake a point-to-point canoe route between Lake Lila and the Little Tupper Lake Headquarters via Lily Pad Pond, Little Salmon Lake, Hardigan Pond, Rock Pond, and Little Tupper Lake. In light of the Wilderness classification of the surrounding lands, DEC will manage

Little Tupper Lake as Wilderness, precluding both public and administrative use of motor vehicles, motorboats and aircraft to the extent prohibited by the Wilderness classification. All other water bodies are surrounded by lands classified as Wilderness and will be managed accordingly.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

William C. Whitney area statistics:

State Lands	16,041 Acres
Bodies of Water (16)	4,548 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,713 Feet
(maximum)	2,280 Feet
Foot Trails	17.4 Miles
Horse Trails	4.2 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Steele Bridge	1

WILDERNESS STATISTICAL PARK WIDE TOTALS:

State Lands	1,186,865 Acres
Private Inholdings (36)	22,096 Acres
Bodies of Water (1,363)	18,782 Acres
Foot Trails	780 Miles
Horse Trails	71 Miles
Lean-tos	141
Impoundments	5
Non-conforming Uses:	
Ranger Cabins*	2
Roads (public)	2.73 Miles
Steel Bridge	1
Suspension Bridge	2
Gravel Pit	1
Power Line	0.6 Miles

*Non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

PRIMITIVE AREAS

ALDER CREEK

This area lies in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County and consists of a right-of-way to an inholding of private land in the Pepperbox Wilderness. Should problems with motorized trespass on wilderness lands develop, this primitive corridor should be gated at the State land boundary and its use limited to private access. While the inholder has used this right-of-way as access, the legal status of this right-of-way is unclear. At such time as the inholding may be acquired, or at such time as the Department of Environmental Conservation determines that there is no legal right-of-way, this Primitive Area should be added to the Pepperbox Wilderness Area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Alder Creek area statistics:

State Lands 23 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:
Roads (private)* 1.9 Miles

ALICE BROOK

This area is located in the Town of Fine and consists of a fifty-foot wide corridor, which includes a snowmobile trail that cuts across the top of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area between the Youngs Road in Star Lake and the Inlet Road adjacent to Wanakena on the former Sternberg and Post Henderson Roads. Efforts should be made to relocate this important trail in the St. Lawrence County snowmobile trail system so that this area can become part of the Wilderness Area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Alice Brook area statistics:

State Lands 18 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:
Snowmobile Trails
(public)* 3.5 Miles

AMPERSAND

This area consists of a small belt of forest preserve between Ampersand Brook up to and including ampersand Park Road in the Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County. It extends from the Ampersand Lake property westward to Stony Creek and northward to Stony Creek Ponds.

The road, used as access to a large private parcel, prevented this area from being classified as part of the High Peaks Wilderness. Should this parcel become State property at some future time, the road should be terminated at or west of Stony Creek and the Primitive Area together with the private inholding should then be added to the High Peaks Wilderness. Ampersand Brook is a picturesque white water stream once renowned for its excellent brook trout fishing.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1999.

Ampersand area statistics:

State Lands	405 Acres
Foot Trails	0.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	3.5 Miles
Roads (public)*	0.8 Miles

BALD LEDGE

This area consists of an appendage on the eastern side of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness in the Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County. A private road, used periodically during timber harvest on an adjacent private parcel, crosses this area. Once the road is no longer necessary this area can be added to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1992.

Bald Ledge area statistics:

State Lands	513 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	0.5 Miles

BARTLETT

This area is in the Towns of Jay, Wilmington and Keene in Essex County and consists of the right-of-way known as Bartlett Road. This seasonally maintained public road crosses the eastern portion of the Sentinel Range Wilderness Area. Should this road ever be closed or abandoned, this area should be added to the Sentinel Wilderness Area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Bartlett area statistics:

State Lands	8 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
Roads (public)*	1.4 Miles

BEAR POND

This area lies in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, and consists of two rights-of-way, to provide access to two inholdings deep within the Five Ponds and Pepperbox Wilderness Areas. The main fork of this Primitive Area, the Bear Pond Road, provides access to an inholding at Bear Pond and the westerly fork provides access to an inholding at Twin Ponds. To avoid problems of motorized trespass on wilderness lands, this primitive area has been gated to public access in the immediate vicinity of the turn-off to “Old Upper South Pond Road,” and access beyond this point is limited to private access only. Should the inholdings be acquired by the State, they should be added to the Five Ponds Wilderness and the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. The status of this primitive corridor and the Bear Pond Road should then be evaluated to determine if it should remain open to the public access as described above.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2010.

Bear Pond area statistics:

State Lands	19 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	4.2 Miles

BOREAS PONDS

This 11 acre area is located in the Town of North Hudson and includes lands surrounding the dam on the Boreas Ponds and a section of access road extending from the edge of the adjacent Wild Forest Area to the dam. Maintenance of the dam will require periodic use of motor vehicles and heavy equipment, which means that the existing road to the Boreas Ponds dam must also be maintained for administrative purposes related to dam inspection and repair.

Boreas Ponds area statistics:

State Lands:	11 acres
Dams:	1

BOQUET RIVER

This area is located in the Town of Elizabethtown in Essex County. It is bounded on the north and west by private land and on the south and east by State Route 9. A small section of the northwest and northeast boundaries abut the Giant Mountain Wilderness. A gated private road from Route 9 to the northern private property exists.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2004.

Boquet River Statistics:

State Lands	81 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	0.5 Miles

BUCK POND

This area lies in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County, and consists of a private right-of-way following a very rough road. It provides access for all terrain vehicles to an inholding of private land at Buck Pond deep within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. This primitive corridor and the private inholding are surrounded by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area and public access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles along this primitive corridor has created problems with all-terrain vehicles and snowmobile trespass on Wilderness lands beyond the Buck Pond inholding. The road has been gated and closed to public motor vehicle use by the Department of Environmental Conservation and private access only is allowed beyond Youngs Road. Should this inholding be acquired by the State, which should be a matter of highest priority, this road should be terminated at the northwestern State land boundary. The right-of-way and the acquisition should then be included in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, precluding future motorized access.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1994.

Buck Pond area statistics:

State Lands	47 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (public)*	0.6 Miles
Roads (private)*	7.3 Miles

BUELL BROOK

This area is in the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County north of Buell Mountain. The Finch Pruyn Company donated approximately 10,000 acres, creating the original Primitive Area. One small parcel in the center of the area, with its access road extending from the north, was exempted from the donation.

In 1994, 9,925 acres were reclassified as Wilderness, reconfiguring the area as an access corridor to the inholding. When the state acquired the remaining access corridor and inholding on April 15, 2014, it took title subject to a reserved leasehold. One year following termination of the camp leases, no later than October 1, 2019, this area will automatically without further Agency action be reclassified as Wilderness and added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Buell Brook Statistics:

State Lands	15 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)	3.5 Miles

CATHEAD MOUNTAIN

This area consists of the Great Lot (121) in the Town of Benson, Hamilton County, a telephone line for the state operated fire tower on Cathead Mountain, lying within an inholding. Should this inholding be acquired by the State, two options are available depending upon the need then for the Cathead Mountain fire tower: (i) either the fire tower and the telephone line could be removed and the whole area be added to the Silver Lake Wilderness Area, or, (ii) the fire tower and telephone line to the tower, if found to be necessary, could remain and the primitive area be enlarged to include an appropriate, small acreage surrounding the Cathead Mountain tower, until such time as the tower is no longer needed at which time the area should be added to the Silver Lake Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Cathead Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	173 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Telephone Line*	0.5 Miles

CHATIEMAC LAKE

This area is located in the Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, and consists of the right-of-way of Chatiemac Road, a Town road. The road provides access through the eastern edge of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area to a private inholding at Chatiemac Lake. Should this inholding ever be acquired, the road should be abandoned and made part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

Chatiemac Lake area statistics:

State Lands	3 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (public)*	0.5 Miles

DEAD CREEK

The area is located in the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County. It features a low-gradient section of Dead Creek that meanders through alder swamps to its confluence with the Raquette River near Sols Island.

Much of the area is comprised of a large, ecologically significant wetland complex containing a mix of conifer wetlands, conifer scrub and broadleaved

evergreen wetlands, and is considered an important representative example of the Adirondack low elevation boreal landscape. The area is classified as Primitive even though it is unlikely to attain Wilderness standards due to its size. It is considered important to manage the area under Primitive Area guidelines to ensure the protection of its high-quality, fragile wetland complexes in their natural states.

The area provides opportunities for canoeing in winding flat water with the occasional need to carry over a beaver dam.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Dead Creek area statistics:

State Lands	1,182 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	10 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	
Access Road	0.7 Mile
Carriage Road	6.0 Miles

DEER RIVER

This area is a narrow, long river corridor located in the Towns of Duane and Santa Clara, Franklin County. It is bounded on the south by the Red Tavern Road (County Route 14) and private lands; the north by the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park; the northeast by Cole Road; and on the east and west by private lands. This river corridor is lined by low elevation boreal wetlands.

Outstanding opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, hunting and fishing exist in this undeveloped natural area, but it lacks the necessary acreage for Wilderness classification. The portion of the Deer River flowing through this parcel is protected as a Scenic River under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Deer River area statistics:

State Lands	1,864 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Steel bridge	1
Roads (private)*	0.5 Miles

DUG MOUNTAIN

This is a small appendage of State land adjacent to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area in the Village of Speculator, Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north, west and south by private lands. The private lands to the north constitute a virtual inholding within the Wilderness. This appendage is separated from the Wilderness by a private road approximately 600 feet in length leading to the private holdings in the north. In the event that the private lands ever are acquired by the State, the road should be closed, and this area together with the private inholdings reclassified to Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

Dug Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	51 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
Roads (private)*	0.1 Miles

EASTERN FIVE PONDS ACCESS

This area is located in the Towns of Clifton, Colton and Piercefield in St. Lawrence County and in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. The area is comprised of six small, detached corridors providing access to inholdings on the eastern margin of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The area also includes two dams essential to preserving the Bog River-Lows Lake-Osewagatchie River Wilderness canoe route and important wetland complexes associated with the Bog River Flow.

The first area lies in the Towns of Piercefield and Colton, St. Lawrence County. It includes the Lows Upper and Lower Dams and the related access road to the Upper Dam. The area is classified as primitive because of the essentially permanent nature of certain major non-conforming uses which preclude Wilderness classification, including the two large dams and the related road access to the Upper Dam.

The two large dams are of a scale and character incompatible with a Wilderness designation. However, the dams are essential to preserving the canoe route and important wetland habitat and should be maintained for that purpose indefinitely. Maintenance of the dams will require periodic use of motor vehicles and heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and cranes, which means that the existing road to the Upper Dam must also be maintained for administrative purposes related to dam inspection and repair.

The road to the Upper Dam will be gated at the eastern edge of the Primitive Area. The owners of the large Boy Scouts of America inholding on the northern shore of Lows Lake have deeded motorized access rights on this road. While such private motor vehicle access continues, administrative access by motor vehicles by the State will be permitted as may be necessary for appropriate administration of the State lands in the area. If this inholding is acquired by the State (which should be given highest priority) extinguishing the private access rights, administrative access by motor vehicles will be limited to dam inspection and repair.

The second detached area is a 2.2 mile road corridor located in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County. It provides deeded access to a large inholding owned by the Boy Scouts of America on the northern shore of Lows Lake. If this inholding is acquired by the State (which should be given highest priority), the road will be closed, and the intervening area classified as Wilderness. This Primitive Area will then become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The third detached area is a corridor 1.6 miles in length located in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County providing access, (the legal nature of which is unclear) to a five-acre inholding in an area known on the north shore of Lows Lake in the vicinity of the area known as “Parker Island”. This primitive corridor and the inholding are surrounded by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. Should the inholding be acquired (which should be given the highest priority), or the access rights extinguished, the area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The fourth detached area is located in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County and consists of a private right-of-way that follows a road passing between Bog Lake and Clear Pond across lands added to the Five Ponds Wilderness

Area in 2006. The road provides access to two large inholdings within the Five Ponds Wilderness. One parcel is owned in fee by the State with a term-use easement in place to expire in 2029 and the second is a privately-owned, working-forest tract that is encumbered by a conservation easement purchased by NY State. Should this second parcel become acquired by the State, the road should be terminated at the northeastern end of the primitive corridor and the Primitive Area, together with both inholdings, the area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The fifth detached area is a corridor 1.7 miles in length providing deeded access to a large private inholding surrounding Lake Marian located in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County. Should the inholding be acquired by the State the area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The sixth detached area is a corridor 0.7 miles in length providing deeded access to a large private inholding owned by the Sabattis Land Company on the south shore of Lows Lake. The Inholding is located in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County and is encumbered by a conservation easement purchased by NY State. Should the inholding be acquired by the State it will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Eastern Five Ponds Access area statistics:

State Lands	1,697 Acres
Bodies of Water (2)	213 Acres

Non-conforming Uses:

Private Roads*	9.7 Miles
Dams*	2

ESSEX CHAIN LAKES

This area was classified in 2013 and is located in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva in Essex County and the Town of Indian Lake in Hamilton County. The dominant feature of the landscape is the Essex Chain Lakes, a series of eight interconnected lakes. Together with nearby ponds, this tract has eleven lakes and ponds that are interconnected or within portaging distance of each other to provide a six- to seven-mile canoe route.

The northern boundary of the area generally follows the Boots-to-Cornell Road east from its beginning to a point ¼ mile from the west end of Fifth Lake, continuing east from there generally ¼ mile north of Fifth and Sixth Lakes to the Chain Lakes Road (North), then along it to Camp 6 Road. The eastern and southern boundary is the 1/10th- mile wide corridor of Wild Forest and lands pending classification, which follows the former Camp 6 Road south to the Chain Lakes Road (North) and along it before leaving the road and continuing west to the outlet of First Lake. The western boundary of the area follows the outlet of First Lake and an unnamed stream and drainages north to Little Grassy Pond and the boundary of private lands; from there it continues northeast to the beginning of the Boots-to-Cornell Road.

Significant wetlands surround many of the water bodies and are also found throughout the upland area. Both emergent marshes and deepwater marsh wetlands border the Essex Chain

Lakes. These wetlands provide nesting habitat, food and cover for wildlife, stabilize lake sediment and cycle large quantities of nutrients. Deepwater marsh wetlands provide valuable fish spawning and nursery habitat and are a food source for waterfowl and other wildlife. Several emergent and deepwater wetland plants are found in the channels which connect the lakes, including two state protected species.

Rivers in the unit include portions of the Cedar and Rock Rivers. The Rock River is designated Scenic and the Cedar River is designated Wild from the southwest edge of the Primitive Area to the Essex County line, at which place its designation changes to Scenic.

There are permanent restrictions on the land that preclude Wilderness classification. Prior to transferring these lands to the State, The Nature Conservancy granted easements to the Towns of Minerva and Newcomb over portions of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract that will allow for, as permitted by DEC, float plane access to First and Pine Lakes. The easement also grants the Towns access to, and use of materials from, two gravel pits located on the periphery of the property in order to provide gravel to maintain roads, trails and other infrastructure in this Area that may be open for motorized use. These activities would be nonconforming in lands classified as Wilderness. Even across adjacent lands and waters, such as the Essex Chain Lakes other than First Lake, the activities of float plane use in such close proximity to the lakes would significantly detract from the sense of remoteness expected in Wilderness.

Upon resolution of legal and regulatory issues concerning potential recreational uses and resource impacts involving the crossing of the Cedar River with a snowmobile trail, the corridor of Wild Forest and lands pending classification between the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the Pine Lake Primitive Area will be classified Primitive and the two primitive areas will be merged into the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area. If these issues are not resolved so as to allow for such a trail crossing the Cedar River, the lands of the corridor pending classification will be classified as Wild Forest and these two primitive areas will remain as separate areas.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Essex Chain Lakes area statistics:

State Lands	6,208 acres
Bodies of Water (19)	600 acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Camps	
Roads (private)	indeterminate mileage
Float Plane Access*	
1 Lake (First Lake)	

FIRST BROTHER

This area is located in the Town of Horicon, Warren County. It is bounded on the west by Palisades Road and by the north, east, and south by private lands. The northwestern corner of the area abuts the southern boundary of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1992.

First Brother area statistics:

State Lands	97 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	None

FORKS MOUNTAIN

This area is in the Town of Wells, Hamilton County. It includes the fifty-foot wide corridor of the snowmobile trail which cuts across the southern tip of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness between the Teachout Road on the East Branch of the Sacandaga and the State land boundary on the Sacandaga River. Efforts should be made to relocate this important trail in the county snowmobile trail system so that this area can become part of the Wilderness Area.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

Forks Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	16 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Snowmobile Trail (public)*	2.5 Miles

GOOSENECK POND

This area includes a 100 foot wide corridor between the State land boundary and the outlet of Gooseneck Pond in the Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County. Gooseneck Pond is the Town's water supply. It includes the access road, the control valve and the retaining dike at the north end of the lake and is intended solely for the purpose of the Town maintaining the dike and control valve. If the Town ceases to use Gooseneck Pond as a water supply, the road should be closed and the area added to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1992.

Gooseneck Pond area statistics:

State Lands	0.4 Acre
Non-conforming uses:	
Roads (private)*	0.2 Miles

HOFFMAN NOTCH

This area is in the Town of Schroon, Essex County. The 2012 Unit Management Plan for the Hoffman Notch Wilderness identified deeded private water resources exist in the unit. The deeds provide for use of springs and spring houses. Additional rights include motor vehicle access and maintenance of water structures. This Primitive Area was created in the 2018 Classification Action in recognition of these rights. If these rights are extinguished, the area should be added to the Hoffman Notch Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan for the Hoffman Notch Wilderness was adopted in 2012, prior to the creation of the Primitive Area.

Hoffman Notch area statistics:

State Lands	3.9 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Spring Houses	
Roads (private)	0.6 Miles

HURRICANE MOUNTAIN

This area consists of several corridors that cut through the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness in the Towns of Elizabethtown, Jay, Keene and Lewis, Essex County. These include: two Town roads that cross Forest Preserve, the

Jay Mountain Road and the O'Toole Road; two rights-of-way to inholdings near the Hurricane Road in Elizabethtown; and a right-of-way for a power line running through and over the western portion of the Wilderness Area. If any of these corridors are closed, abandoned or acquired by the State, they should be consolidated with the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Hurricane Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	11 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	0.6 Miles
Roads (public)*	2.4 Miles
Power Lines*	1.3 Miles

JOHNS BROOK

This area is in the Town of Keene in Essex County. It consists of the private right-of-way across State lands to several private parcels in the High Peaks Wilderness including Johns Brook Lodge of the Adirondack Mountain Club and associated cabins. Should these holdings and/or the right-of-way ever be acquired by the State, this area should be made part of the High Peaks Wilderness, the lodge and cabins removed, the road closed and the ranger cabin phased out.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1999.

Johns Brook area statistics:

State Lands	154 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	1.1 Miles
Ranger Cabin*	1

MACINTYRE

This area is in the Town of Newcomb, Essex County. The State purchased these lands in 2014 and 2015. The area contains a 50-foot-wide, 1,935 foot long corridor known as Boulder Alley Road across the MacIntyre West parcel and a 50 foot wide, 454 foot long corridor known as the Donnelley's Road across the MacIntyre East parcel. This Primitive Area was created in the 2018 Classification Action in order to recognize these rights. If these rights are extinguished, the area should be added to the High Peaks Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

McIntyre area statistics:

State Lands	11 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)	0.5 Miles

MADAWASKA FLOW – QUEBEC BROOK

The area is located in the Towns of Waverly and Santa Clara, Franklin County. It is bounded on west by the Blue Mountain Road and on the

northwest by the Benz Pond Road. The remaining boundaries abut private lands. Much of the private land is under State-held conservation easement as working forest. Important features include the 330-acre Madawaska wetland complex which provides habitat for rare boreal bird and plant species. The area also provides important recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, while offering visually dramatic openings such as large bogs and meandering rivers with little human development.

Several roads with deeded rights of access exist within the unit. The Madawaska Road and Conversations Corners Road, west of the former railroad bed, are used as a public snowmobile corridor. Future management decisions about this corridor should consider alternatives for achieving and maintaining a condition as close to wilderness as possible in this area. A 100-foot-wide, 3.2 mile long privately owned railroad bed running north to south bisects the unit. It is used by a private hunting club.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Madawaska Flow – Quebec Brook area statistics:

State Lands 5,565 Acres
Private Inholdings (1) 97 Acres
Bodies of Water (5) 57 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:
Roads (private)* 3.0 Miles
Madawaska Road 1 Mile
Conversation Corners Road 2.9 Miles
Snowmobile Trail (private)* 2.3 Miles

NEHASANE

This area lies in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County and consists of the private right-of-way providing access from the end of the Charley Pond Road to the private land holdings at Nehasane Lake. This road is approximately 4.5 miles in length with the first 0.2 miles open to public use of motor vehicles to provide access to the Lake Lila trailhead. The road is gated at this trailhead and access beyond is limited to private access to the inholdings. Should, at some point in the future, the private lands to the west and southwest be acquired by the State extinguishing deeded access rights, the Primitive Area will be terminated at the Lake Lila trailhead parking lot.

This Primitive Area also contains the Nehasane Railroad Station, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including one acre of land surrounding the building and the short (0.1 mile) access road servicing the station. In the event that the station itself is relocated or removed, the one acre surrounding it and the access road will become Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Nehasane area statistics:

State Lands 55 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:
Roads (private)* 4.4 Miles
(public)* 0.2 Miles
Railroad Station* 1 Acre

OK SLIP POND

Located in the Town of Minerva, Essex County, this area includes a 2.6-mile long segment of road that crosses the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and leads to a private inholding surrounding OK Slip Pond. The area includes the road, the distribution power line that serves the inholding and an 11-acre parcel abutting State Route 28 that is occupied by a transmission power line. This road is not open to the public. Should the private inholding ever be acquired by the State, the road should be closed to all motorized use and the lands of this Primitive corridor and the inholding should be classified as Wilderness.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

OK Slip Pond area statistics:

State Lands	19 acres
Non-conforming Uses	
Road (private)*	2.6 miles
Powerlines*	2

PARTLOW LAKE

This area is located in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. It is a 3.1 mile road which connects the Nehasane Primitive Area with the private lands encompassing Gull Lake, Deer Pond and Partlow Lake to the west. The private land owners have a legal right of way to use this road to access their land. This inholding is scheduled to pass to State ownership in the year 2029 at which time this Primitive Area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Partlow Lake area statistics:

State Lands	37 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	None

PINE LAKE

This area is located in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva in Essex County. It was classified in 2013 and includes lands from the TNC/Finch acquisition and a portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest that was reclassified and added to this area. The northern boundary follows the 1/10th-mile wide corridor of Wild Forest and lands pending classification eastward towards and along the Cedar River to where a bridge once crossed the river. The eastern boundary then follows a 1/10th-mile wide corridor of lands pending classification and Wild Forest to the northern boundary of the former Indian River Tract. The southern boundary is the northern boundary of the former Indian River Tract and unnamed streams leading west and north to the Cedar River. The western boundary follows the Cedar River to its confluence with the Rock River and then the Rock River to the 1/10th-mile wide Wild Forest corridor.

Prominent features of this area include Pine Lake and Mud, Clear and Corner Ponds. The easements held by the Towns of Minerva and Newcomb for float plane landings on Pine Lake prevent this area from being designated as Wilderness or Canoe, but it offers a

rare and remote recreational opportunity and its natural resources are sensitive, which requires wilderness management.

Upon resolution of legal and regulatory issues concerning potential recreational uses and resource impacts involving the crossing of the Cedar River with a snowmobile trail, the potential Wild Forest corridor and the unclassified lands between the Pine Lake Primitive Area and the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area will be classified Primitive. If this Wild Forest Corridor is not established, the two Primitive Areas will be merged as the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Pine Lake area statistics:

State Lands	2,569 acres
Bodies of Water (7)	141 acres

Non-conforming Uses:
Floatplane access* 1 Lake (Pine Lake)

POLARIS MOUNTAIN

This area is located on the east side of the Hudson River in the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, including the waters of the river directly adjacent to this land. When the State acquired this land, it took title subject to a reserved leasehold until October 1, 2019. Although the land is owned by the State, the lessees have exclusive motorized use of the existing roads in this area and one-acre parcels surrounding each camp building until October 1, 2018. One year following termination of the camp leases, no later than October 1, 2019, this area will automatically and without further Agency action be reclassified as Wilderness and added to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Polaris Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	895 acres
Bodies of Water (3)	24 acres
Non-conforming Uses	
Camps	
Roads (private)	indeterminate mileage

RAQUETTE-JORDAN BOREAL

The area is located in the Towns of Colton, Hopkinton and Piercefield, St. Lawrence County. It includes three blocks of State lands, formerly classified as Wild Forest, bounded on the west by the Lassiter Main Haul Road and the Raquette River. Also part of this Primitive Area is the State owned lands comprising the Raquette River Corridor from the Colton-Piercefield Town line to the dam at Piercefield Flow. The corridor is generally 500 feet wide from the high water line on both banks of the river.

The Jordan River, classified as Scenic under the NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, flows through significant expanses of this unique area's boreal forest and, as such, has the character of a northern Canadian

river. Certain ecological resources found here are considered to be critical on both a regional and global scale. These include one of the largest representative samples of the lowland boreal forest under protection in the Adirondack Park, old-growth forest, and rare animal species such as the spruce grouse and extra-striped snaketail dragonfly. Hunting, fishing, canoeing and kayaking in a lowland boreal forest setting are some of the outstanding primitive recreational opportunities afforded here.

There are four private lease camps on fee lands on the north side of the Raquette River in the Town of Piercefield. These private rights may be retained by the landowner until 2025.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Raquette-Jordan Boreal area statistics:

State Lands	11,907 Acres
Bodies of Water (4)	44 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	3.1 Miles
Camps	4

RAVEN LAKE ROAD

This area is in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County and consists of a 1.84 mile road to a 8 acre inholding on Raven Lake. This road serves as a part of the boundary between the Pepperbox and Five Ponds Wilderness units. Should the inholding be acquired, the road should be closed and this property added to the Pepperbox Wilderness.

The management of this area is addressed in the 1985 Pepperbox Wilderness Area and 1994 Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plans.

Raven Lake Road area statistics:

State Lands	24 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
Roads (private)*	2.33 Miles

SACANDAGA

This area is in the Town of Wells in Hamilton County, immediately north of the West Branch of the Sacandaga River through the Silver Lake Wilderness. It consists of the West River Road where it crosses Forest Preserve lands from Blackbridge westerly to Whitehouse. Should private lands be acquired by the State, segments of the road that are no longer necessary to access private lands should be incorporated into the Silver Lake Wilderness.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Sacandaga area statistics:

State Lands	11 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (public)*	1.95 Miles

SCHUYLER ISLAND

This Lake Champlain island lies in the Town of Chesterfield in Essex County and is designated Primitive to insure protection of its relatively fragile resources. While a small island and lacking the unique flora and fauna of Valcour Island (which is also classified Primitive), Schuyler Island is more remote than Valcour Island and has lower levels of public use. The island

requires careful protection consistent with Primitive Area guidelines.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2017.

Schuyler Island area statistics:

State Lands	160 Acres
Trails	0.3 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

TAHAWUS

This area is in the Town of Newcomb, Essex County. It is bounded to the south by the Hudson River from the Dam at Henderson Lake east to the bridge on the Upper Works Road extension; on the east along this road; on the north by the road that provides access to the dam; and on the west by the dam itself.

This area was created as the result of an addition to the High Peaks Wilderness Area in 2009. A 6,806 acre parcel was acquired by New York State from the Open Space Conservancy, Inc. (OSC). The boundaries of this parcel abut pre-existing Forest Preserve and most of this acreage was added to the High Peaks Wilderness. A 1.8 acre parcel of this land was omitted from the Wilderness designation due to retained rights to use the dam at Henderson Lake for producing hydroelectric power and to transmit that power. Power is to be transmitted underground, if possible, from the dam along an existing road to the Upper Works Parking lot. The power generated is to be used only for the Masten House parcel or the Adirondack “core area”. Should these rights be extinguished, this parcel should be added to the High Peaks Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Tahawus area statistics:

State Lands	1.4 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
Reserved private right at Henderson Dam for use of this conforming structure for hydro-electric power generation.	
Road to Henderson Lake Dam (private)*	0.1 Mile

TAMARACK CREEK

This area is located in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County. It is bounded on the north by Aldrich Pond Wild Forest and a private road that extends to a private inholding on the western edge of the area; by private lands to the south; and on the west and east edges by the Five Ponds Wilderness. Should the private parcel to the south become State land, that parcel and the Tamarack Creek Primitive Area should be added to the Five Ponds Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Tamarack Creek area statistics:

State Lands	46 Acres
Non-Conforming Uses:	None

TIED LAKE

This area lies in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County and consists of the private right-of-way, following a rough road, providing access to an inholding of

private land deep in the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. To avoid problems with motorized trespass on Wilderness lands this Primitive Area has been gated immediately south of Tied Lake limiting access to private use beyond the lake.

Should the private inholding be acquired by the State, it should be incorporated into the Pepperbox Wilderness Area and the status of the road reviewed to determine if the road should remain open to public use as described above.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2010.

Tied Lake area statistics:

State Lands	12 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	2.5 Miles

TWITCHELL LAKE

This area is located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County and consist of a power line right of way which traverses two parcels in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness. The northern most parcel was acquired in 2016 by the State as a gift from the Anne LaBastille estate. Should this power line ever be removed, this right of way will be added to the Pigeon Lake Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Twitchell Lake area statistics:

State lands:	1.6 Acres
Non-conforming use:	
Power line	0.3 Miles

VALCOUR ISLAND

This Lake Champlain island lies in the Towns of Peru and Plattsburgh in Clinton County. The island is designated Primitive to insure its protection in a near natural state. The unique vegetation and wildlife of the island, in particular, are in need of such protection. The wildness of the rocky east shore, complete with unusual wind and water rock sculptures, also deserves preservation. This island is not suitable for reclassification to Wilderness because of the area's proximity to a heavily developed shoreline as well as the presence of such essentially permanent, historic structures as the lighthouse. The Clinton County Historical Association retains the right to maintain the lighthouse.

State acquisitions of the former Seaton property at the southern end of the island and the lighthouse on the western shoreline increases the area's suitability for water-oriented recreational uses. Any interpretive program for the island should stress both its historical significance and its special natural features.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2017.

Valcour Island area statistics:

State Lands	951 Acres
Federal Inholding (1)	0.1 Acres
Trails	12.6 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Former Seaton House and Associated Outbuilding*	2
Storage Shed*	1
Historic Lighthouse*	1

WAKELY MOUNTAIN

This area is in the Town of Lake Pleasant, Hamilton County. It consists of the State land south of the Wakely Mountain Trail. Once the fire tower on Wakely Mountain is no longer needed, this area should be made part of the Blue Ridge Wilderness. The majority of the telephone line and poles associated with this area are on the ground or no longer exist.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Wakely Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	208	Acres
Foot Trails	0.4	Miles
Non-conforming Uses:		
Fire Towers*	1	
Observer Cabins*	1	

WANAKENA

This area is located in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County. The Wanakena Water Company, which supplies water to the Hamlet of Wanakena, has reserved rights along the former administrative road to lay and maintain water lines to a spring which serves as the water supply for the hamlet of Wanakena. Motor vehicles and motorized equipment are used by the hamlet to maintain its water supply. This gravel road is classified as Primitive to permit access by Town officials for this purpose only. Public motorized use of this corridor should be prohibited and other official use permitted only in conformity with Wilderness guidelines. The truck trail has been gated at the commencement of the Primitive Area as it enters the Wilderness and permanently blocked at the termination of the Primitive Area. The ultimate goal for the Primitive Area is to become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area should an alternate water supply for Wanakena be developed.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1994.

Wanakena area statistics:

State Lands	7 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	1.2 Miles

WEST CANADA MOUNTAIN

This area is in the Town of Morehouse, Hamilton County. It is surrounded by private lands on the north, east and west. The southern boundary is the legal access road to the Miller Camp.

In 1979 a boundary adjustment was made expanding this area to include a previously unrecognized, private right-of- way adjacent to the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area.

At some future time, if the right-of-way reverts to the State, this area should be added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

West Canada Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	3,105 Acres
Water Bodies (2)	7 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (private)*	2.8 Miles

WILMURT CLUB ROAD

This area is in the Town of Morehouse in Hamilton County. It consists of the roadbed and right-of-way passing through State lands designated as a part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness to private tracts totally surrounded by the designated Wilderness. Should these inholdings ever be acquired by the State, the road should be closed and this area made a part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Wilmurt Club Road area statistics:

State Lands	3 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
Roads (private)*	0.9 Miles

WINDING FALLS

The area is located entirely within the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County. It consists of a fifty-foot-wide, 2.6 mile corridor along an existing, old woods road through the Round Lake Wilderness Area. Located between the Hamilton County Line and the Bog River, it provides a potential route for snowmobile travel between the Hamlet of Long Lake and the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor. This corridor crosses the Bog River and Round Lake Outlet, both of which are classified as “Scenic” under the NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The remote quality of this area should be recognized in the consideration of alternatives for locating this snowmobile trail connection.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Winding Falls area statistics:

State Lands:	26 Acres
Non-conforming Uses :	None

PRIMITIVE AREA STATISTICAL PARK WIDE TOTALS:

State Lands		38,222 Acres
Private Inholdings	(3)	107 Acres
Bodies of Water	(42)	1,086 Acres

Foot Trails	13.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Roads (public)*	7.85 Miles
Roads (private)*	63.43 Miles
Roads (State-owned with private access)	Undetermined Miles
Snowmobile Trails*	8.3 Miles
Fire Towers*	1
Observer Cabins*	1
Ranger Cabins*	1
Lighthouse*	1
House and Outbuildings*	
Railroad*	2 Miles
Railroad Station	1
Camps	undetermined
Dams	3
Steel Bridge	1
Power Lines*	3.6
Float Plane Access*	2 Lakes (First and Pine Lakes)

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

CANOE AREA

SAINT REGIS

This area is in the Towns of Santa Clara, Brighton, and Harrietstown in Franklin County. It is bounded on the north by private property and Keese Mills Road; on the east by the Santa Clara Town line, old logging roads and Upper St. Regis Lake; on the south by the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor, and on the west by the Santa Clara Town line.

Its selection as an area for special and restricted management is based on the numerous, closely-spaced ponds which lend themselves to use as canoe or guideboat waterways. Similar to the ponds that are clustered south of the railroad tracks and commonly referred to as the "Fish Creek" area, this region has long been noted for its qualities of clear, spring-fed ponds, short carries and tranquil beauty. The area is now closed to motor vehicles, motorboats and aircraft in conformity with the master plan guidelines, thereby restoring the tranquil, wild atmosphere of these waters. The peripheral ponds are quite easily accessible via one or two short carries making a unique wilderness canoeing experience available to many people.

The terrain is dominated by the numerous ponds and is relatively low in elevation. St. Regis Mountain in the north and Long Pond Mountain in the western part of the area are the only two high spots. The character of the terrain also makes the area ideally suited for cross country skiing in winter months.

Much of the area was burned over in forest fires, probably the most extensive one occurring in the summer of 1903. Therefore, except for the wetlands, most of the forest cover was either burned off or very heavily damaged. This has resulted in stands of hardwoods which have regenerated after aspen, pin cherry, and white birch started rebuilding the humus layer. There are low-lying stands of hemlock and spruce, now mature or nearly mature, which escaped the burn because of their location. There are also some spots near the ponds where white pine escaped the fires, and these large shoreline trees add to the scenic attractions.

All of the interior ponds have brook trout, and stocking and pond reclamation efforts by the Department of Environmental Conservation have been carried on regularly for many years.

The chief use now made of the area is for fishing, camping, canoeing and cross-country skiing. Snowmobile trails have been phased out under the Canoe Area guidelines, as well as the use of motorboats by the public on all waters within the area.

The administrative road will be retained for administrative use relating to fish and water resource enhancement. Approximately 15.4 miles of snowmobile trails in this area have been closed, twenty-one tent platforms removed and motorboat use by the public prohibited.

The ¼ mile spur road leading from the Floodwood Road to the south shore of Long Pond, has been blocked near the Floodwood Road and a small parking area has been provided at that point.

Public access to the area is restricted from the north and west by private posted land but is readily available on the south and east.

In 2010, a half-acre of land associated with the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower was reclassified to Historic.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

Saint Regis area statistics:

State Lands	17,615 Acres
Bodies of Water (52)	1,153 Acres
Elevation	
(minimum)	1,560 Feet
(maximum)	2,873 Feet
Foot Trails	18.4 Miles
Horse Trails	4.9 Miles
Bike Trails	5 Miles
Lean-tos	3
Administrative roads	5.9 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

WILD FOREST AREAS

Because wild forest areas include many various-sized scattered parcels, as indicated on the map, only the largest tracts are described to illustrate the largely untapped resources available in this category. No statistics are presented, and the narrative deals with general areas rather than specific parcels. Future revisions of the master plan should provide more detailed information about state lands in the wild forest category.

ALDRICH POND

This area is bounded on the north by the Oswegatchie River, Star Lake, private lands, the Oswegatchie River and the Adirondack Park boundary; on the east by Youngs Road (County Route 60) and the Five Ponds Wilderness; on the south by the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River; and on west by the Lewis/St. Lawrence County Line and Adirondack Park Blue Line. It is located in the Towns of Fine and Pitcairn in St. Lawrence County, Diana, in Lewis County and Webb in Herkimer County.

Communities, such as Aldrich and Kalurah, once thrived in the area and are now reminders of the region's industrial past. Scotch pine plantations, second growth forests, telephone poles and old roads found along trails are additional signs of the area's human history. Visitor use is most evident during the hunting and fishing seasons. The State lands within the unit afford local residents close proximity to opportunities for many types of recreation, solitude and wild open space. The low hills and moderate grades make use of trails enjoyable for all ages. During winter months, the area receives considerable amounts of lake effect snow from Lake Ontario, making it an optimum location for winter outdoor activities. The Little River flows through this unit and the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River (a designated Wild and Scenic River) flows adjacent to this unit.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1995.

BLACK RIVER

This area includes Wild Forest lands within an area primarily in Herkimer County, south of Route 28, north of Route 8, east of the Adirondack Park boundary and west of the Adirondack League Club holdings. The Black River flows in a generally east-west direction through the middle of the area.

A considerable number of interior, privately-owned parcels exist to which jeep trails extend from the public highways. Relatively low hills interspersed with small wetland areas covered with second growth hardwoods on the more fertile soils and spruce-fir combinations along water courses are typical in this southwestern corner of the Park. Mohawk Valley population centers such as Rome, Utica and Herkimer are within short driving distance, and big game hunting pressure in the fall season is heavy. The streams attract many trout anglers to the area. South Lake is a favorite fishing, hunting and boating spot.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1996.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

This area is located in Hamilton and western Essex counties. It is generally bounded by Route 30 on the west and south, the Indian River and Hudson River on the east and Route 28N on the north.

The terrain varies from gentle around the easily accessible and popular Rock Lake to extremely steep and rugged in the remote Fishing Brook Range.

The 3,759-foot Blue Mountain dominates the landscape for some distance around, offering wide ranging views in all directions for those willing to make a short but steep hike to the summit from the picturesque hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. Tirrell Pond is nestled to the northeast of Blue Mountain and, due to relatively easy access, affords an excellent opportunity for day use or primitive camping. Opportunities for more remote and rugged explorations through some truly wild back country are afforded by long, lower segments of the Rock and Cedar Rivers – designated Scenic and Wild, respectively – just upriver of where they reach the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas.

In 2013, with the addition of the Nature Conservancy/Finch land acquisition, some existing portions of the northeastern section of this unit near the Essex Chain Lakes were reclassified to Primitive and added to the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas. At the same time, a major block of the newly acquired lands north of the lakes, extending from the Cornell Road in the west, eastward to the Hudson River and northward toward Newcomb, was classified as Wild Forest and added to the area. Wild Forest access along the Boots-to-Cornell Road, and then to the south shore of Fifth Lake was established for the sole purpose of providing Universal Access.

Further south, additional land from the Indian River Tract west of the Chain Lakes Road (South) was added to this unit, including the road itself from the edge of the unit northwest to the old boundary of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract. Also in 2013, a 1/10-mile wide corridor following and including the former Camp 6 Road from its beginning at Drakes Mill Road in the north, south to its end at the Cedar River, was classified Wild Forest and added to the area. This corridor separates the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area from the northernmost reaches of the Hudson Gorge Wilderness.

In the event the Pine Lake Primitive Area is merged into the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, the corridor of Wild Forest in this area south of First Lake and north of Pine Lake will be reclassified to Primitive from the boundary of the former Essex Chain Lakes Tract to the outlet of First Lake.

Consistent with Master Plan guidelines for Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers, the waters of the Hudson River in this area shall be free from motorized activity.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1995.

CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS

This area consists of four small islands: Garden, Cole, Sheephead and Signal Buoy. They range in size from 0.08 to 0.82 acres and are located in the Towns of Westport, Crown Point and Ticonderoga in Essex County.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

CHAZY HIGHLANDS

This area is located in portions of eight Towns in Franklin and Clinton Counties. The unit is roughly bounded on the north and east by the Adirondack Park Blue Line boundary; on the south by Route 3; and on the west by Route 26.

The largest contiguous parcel within this area, the 17,190 acre Lyon Mountain Tract, was acquired by the State of New York in 2008. Located in Clinton County in the Towns of Saranac and Dannemora, the tract is entirely bounded by private lands and public roads. Four adjoining privately owned parcels are subject to working forest conservation easements held by New York State. A privately owned rail bed of the former D&H Railroad runs through the eastern portion of the tract.The tract contains a number of existing structures and improvements including the Lyon Mountain Fire Tower, the lifts from the former Lowenburg Ski Area and remnants of commercial forestry operations.

The Lyon Mountain Tract contains a 1,860 acre area above 2,800 feet in elevation that is designated a Bird Conservation Area and should be managed to protect the high elevation habitat these species need for nesting. The southwestern section of this tract contains a large area that is rugged and offers a sense of remoteness and solitude.

An additional 1,629 acres of land located in the Town of Ellenburg was added to this unit in 2010. The topography at this property is generally flat to rolling and provides the best available access to the summit and cliffs of Ellenburg Mountain. The parcel is criss-crossed with a number of small streams which feed Graves Brook, Loomis Brook and eventually, Lake Champlain. Graves and Loomis are known native brook trout waters. The area is well known locally as habitat for big game species.

The Chazy Highlands also contains numerous discontinuous and isolated parcels with little development that afford many opportunities for discovery and solitude. Local residents and visitors who venture off nearby roads onto these lands will find a variety of habitats and natural features, including open wetlands and rolling hills with rock outcroppings that afford scenic views of surrounding lands and fishing access along the North Branch of the Saranac River. They may also encounter bobcat, bald eagle, beaver, porcupine, deer, and other wildlife. While some of this area's State lands fall within the Towns of Dannemora and Altona and are not considered Forest Preserve, they are classified as Wild Forest and managed as such except for silviculture and wildlife management practices.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

CRANBERRY LAKE

This area is located in southern St. Lawrence County in the Towns of Clifton, Colton and Fine. It includes Wild Forest lands within an area bounded on the south by the SUNY ESF Biological Station, Five Ponds Wilderness and the south shore of Cranberry Lake; on the east by the Colton Town line and the Conifer Emporium easement lands; on the north by State Highway 3 and the Oswegatchie River; and on the west by private lands and the Inlet Road. It provides a considerable amount of snowmobiling opportunity in the winter in a setting offering the snowmobiler a sense of remoteness.

Cranberry Lake Public Campground, on the northeastern shoreline of Cranberry Lake, provides a starting point for the greatest concentration of users, permitting exploration by boat of the interesting flows of Brandy Brook, East Inlet and Sucker Brook. Trails, including one to the summit of Bear Mountain, connect these and several interior brook trout ponds for fishing, camping and hunting on a variety of Wild Forest land.

The boreal forest of Peavine Swamp is visible along Route 3 traversing the western tract, where one can glimpse interesting bog and scattered great pines. A short hike into this spruce-fir forest will often reward the birdwatcher with sightings of species normally found only much further north in Canada. A multi-loop cross country ski trail provides a scenic winter opportunity

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1984.

DEBAR MOUNTAIN

The Wild Forest lands within this unit generally fall within the Towns of Waverly, Santa Clara, Duane, Brighton and Franklin in Franklin County. It is bounded on the west by private lands west of the St. Lawrence-Franklin county line and a section of the county line; the north by the Adirondack Park Blue Line; and the east by State Route 3, County Highway 26; and the south by the Tupper Lake Town line, the St. Regis Canoe Area, State Highway 86 and County Highway 55.

Located between the open flat landscape of the St. Lawrence Valley to the north and the high elevations of the High Peaks region to the south, this area consists of low, rounded mountains, hills and ridges which readily provide evidence of the past widespread glaciation of the region. Elevation extremes range from a high of 3,355 feet at the summit of Loon Lake Mountain to a low elevation of 1,299 feet on Long Pond (Town of Waverly). The summit of Debar Mountain once permitted Verplanck Colvin to triangulate Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence River.

Several miles of the river corridors in this unit have been classified under the New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System. Hays and Hatch Brooks and the Osgood River provide trout fishing opportunities and the slopes of Sable, East and DeBar mountains offer a challenge to the big game hunter.

The East and Main Branches of the St. Regis River traverse this area.

These rivers provide an opportunity for paddling in a generally remote setting. The rivers are also lined with extensive wetland systems that provide habitat to a large variety of boreal species.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

FERRIS LAKE

This area is located in the southwestern corner of the Park. It consists of those Wild Forest lands south of Route 8 and the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area and west of Route 10. Both Route 8 and Route 10, as well as the Powley-Piseco Road, provide easy access to the area.

The attractiveness of this area lies in its numerous ponds, lakes and streams which attract anglers throughout the season. The area is popular with big game hunters and many of the ponds and lakes are connected by an existing snowmobile trail system following old logging roads. While there are no trails, these old roads also make easy walking routes and their potential use in a designated hiking (and cross country skiing) trail network for the area should be considered in the unit management plan, as should the potential for camping on the larger ponds and lakes. Another feature of the area is its mountain summits or rock outcroppings, in particular the ledges on Good Luck Mountain and Echo cliffs on Panther Mountain, which provide vistas not readily found in the southern Adirondacks.

One of the last old Adirondack dirt public roads, extending about 17 miles from Route 10 near Piseco Lake to Stratford, cuts through the approximate center of this large block of Forest Preserve. It provides the public with motor vehicle access through practically unbroken forest, quite comparable to some of the Wilderness areas. Many motorists take advantage of the attractive drive over this old winding dirt road, the like of which has become a rare and vanishing facility in the eastern United States. If possible, this road should remain in its current condition and measures taken to insure roadside camping does not detract from the character of the area or adversely affect the resources of the road corridor.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

FULTON CHAIN

This unit is located in Herkimer County, Town of Webb, Township 8, John Brown's Tract, Macombs Purchase. It is divided into five main sections separated by three strips of privately-owned lands, one of which includes lands near the Fulton Chain of Lakes. The unit is roughly bordered on the north by the Razorback Pond Outlet and the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area; on the east by the Big Moose Road, Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area, private lands near Big Moose Lake and the Village of Eagle Bay; on the south by the Third Lake Creek, County Route 118 and private lands adjacent to the Fulton Chain of Lakes; and on the west by private lands and the west boundary of Township 8.

The unit also includes DeCamp or Treasure Island, which comprises two small islands of Forest Preserve between the First and Second Lakes of

the Fulton Chain. A permanent easement across private lands connects this Wild Forest to Razorback Pond and the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area.

This unit has high recreational potential due to its location within short driving distances from the populated Mohawk Valley. Uses include hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, horse-back riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and sight-seeing, the latter drawing many visitors to the Rondaxe Mountain Fire Tower during the fall foliage season. Moss Lake, a former girls summer camp, is also a popular and scenic location for hiking, skiing, and camping.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1990.

GRASS RIVER

This unit is located in St. Lawrence County in the Towns of Clare, Clifton, Colton, Fine and Parishville. It includes the Wild Forest lands bounded on the west and north by the Adirondack Park Blue Line; the south by the Oswegatchie River and Route 3; and on the east by Route 56.

The four Branches of the Grasse River flow through this unit, including the Main (a designated Study River), Middle (a designated Scenic River), South (a Scenic River and Recreational River) and North (a Scenic River). The unit contains numerous scenic rapids and waterfalls that are easily accessible. This concentration of scenic and recreational water resources on Forest Preserve provide a unique outdoor recreational opportunity for visitors and residents of St. Lawrence County.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1990.

HAMMOND POND

This area is located in the Towns of Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Horicon, Keene, Moriah, North Hudson, Schroon, Ticonderoga, and Westport in Essex County. It is generally bounded on the west by Giant, Dix and Hoffman Notch Wilderness Areas; on the south by the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness and NY State Route 74; on the east by Lake Champlain; and on the north by NY State Route 9N. Several isolated Forest Preserve parcels are located in the Towns of Keene and Jay.

Owl Pate and Hail Mountain provide great distant views, and exceptionally fine overlooks may be had from the many rocky bluffs and ledges dominating the area. A ½ mile hike to the Belfry Mountain fire tower offers 360 degree views of the High Peaks, Lake Champlain and beyond. Many ponds offer scenic fishing opportunities and have defined but unmarked trails leading from highways. A great variety of flora and fauna reflect an overlap of forest types where beech, birch, maple and hemlock on the cool, northern slopes give way to oak, ash, basswood and pine on the southerly exposures.

Tracey Road, North Hudson-Moriah Road and Route 9 provide abundant access for hunters, anglers and other recreationists. The Sharp Bridge public campground offers trail access to East Mill Brook and the interior. While most trails in the area remain unmarked, the abundant access to this area could provide recreational opportunities similar to those found in the Pharaoh Lake

Wilderness area to the south for those who do not require the solitude of the Wilderness setting. This would relieve some of the use pressure on the Pharaoh Lake area.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in May 2019.

HORSESHOE LAKE

This area is located in the Towns of Colton, Piercefield and Tupper Lake in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. The unit includes Wild Forest land bounded on the north by the Remsen – Lake Placid Railroad line; the east by Routes 3 and 30; the south by the Hamilton County Line and the Round Lake Wilderness; and the west by the Eastern Five Ponds Access Primitive Area, the South Branch of the Grasse River and the Colton Town Line.

Important biological resources abound in this unit. Several large lakes featuring both shallow and deep waters provide habitat for the Common Loon. Rich marsh communities include rare plant species and provide prime breeding grounds for a variety of birds. Bald Eagles can be spotted in the area throughout the year. Significant headwater bogs drain into waters of Tupper and Horseshoe Lakes, naturally coloring the waters a dark, tannin-stained color.

This unit affords visitors a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The most popular destinations include the Mt. Arab Firetower and Horseshoe Lake. On the 2,500-foot summit of Mt. Arab are the restored firetower and the former observer's cabin. The view from the top offers endless stretches of forests, ponds and lakes and mountain ridges. Easy access to Horseshoe Lake affords an excellent opportunity for fishing and boating. Camping in this area provides an excellent base camp opportunity for wilderness canoe trips into surrounding Wilderness areas. Tupper Lake, nearly 8.5 miles long and with significant extent of Forest Preserve shoreline, also has much to offer visitors.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2002.

INDEPENDENCE RIVER

This western Adirondack area lies in the Towns of Greig, Lyonsdale, Watson and Webb in Lewis and Herkimer counties. It includes Wild Forest lands within an area bounded on the south by Route 28, the Ha-De-Ron-Da Wilderness and the Moose River; the north by the Five Ponds Wilderness, the Pepperbox Wilderness and the Number Four Road; on the east by the western boundary of Township 8 in John Brown's Tract; and the west by the Adirondack Park Blue Line.

A balance of private lands interlaced with forest preserve tracts characterize this area of gentle hills and flat lands.

The sand plain depressions north from Brantingham Lake to the Independence River offer many unique bird and plant life associations.

Numerous bogs and beaver meadows along the drainage of Beaver Meadow Creek and Second, Third and Fourth Creeks provide contrasting wildlife habitats. An extensive network of trails, both foot and snowmobile, link

Pine Lake, Big Otter Lake and the Independence River with the Stillwater Road in the north.

This area has an extensive array of horse trails that comprise much of the Otter Creek Trails network. This network includes a developed overnight assembly area in adjacent State Forest, immediately outside of the Blue Line.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1986.

JESSUP RIVER

This area is located in Hamilton County in the Towns of Arietta, Wells, Indian Lake and Lake Pleasant. It is bounded on the north NYS Rt. 30 and the Blue Ridge Wilderness; the west by the West Canada Lake Wilderness; the south by the Silver Lake Wilderness; and the east by Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

Access is from Route 30 and the (Perkins Clearing) Jessup River Road, which traverse the area, and from the Moffitt Beach and Lewey Lake Campgrounds.

Long popular with hunters, trappers and anglers, the interspersion of private woodlands with State ownership has made this area a top producer of fish and wildlife. The Jessup and Miami Rivers have long been known as good trout streams.

Numerous logging roads and trails are open to foot travel. The Pillsbury and Snowy Mountain summits and associated fire towers, from which vast views of lakes and forest may be obtained, offer particularly enjoyable hikes.

In 1979, the Indian Lake Islands were reclassified to Intensive Use, leaving campsites in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area and campsites in the Jessup River Wild Forest. These campsites are administered through the Department’s campground recreation program during the operating season.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

LAKE GEORGE

This area is located in Essex, Warren and Washington Counties. It is bounded on the east and south by the Park Blue Line; on the north by Pharaoh Lake Wilderness and NY State Route 74; and on the west by NYS Route 9 and the Hudson River. Most of the Lake George Wild Forest area lies within the Lake George Park. The Lake George Park, lying wholly within the Adirondack Park, was established by State law in 1961. The boundaries of the Lake George Park are more or less contiguous with the watershed of the Lake, an arrangement which is designed to facilitate coordinated management of the use of land as it impacts water quality.

Mountains rising steeply on either side of the lake provide many views of rugged beauty. The area west of the lake is accessible by Routes 9N and 74 while the Forest Preserve on the east side is accessible from the Pilot Knob and Hulett's Landing roads. The Tongue Mountain and Island Pond sections form the base for a varied wildlife resource. The moderating influence of the lake on both sides of this peninsula has produced an oak-pine cover type which is more characteristic of the southern

part of the State than of the Adirondacks. Many plant and wildlife species found on Tongue Mountain are rarely found elsewhere in the Park.

The Black Mountain tract on the opposite shore is more precipitous. Spruce and hemlock are common. Recreational enjoyment of the area is enhanced by this diversity of plant and animal associations.

Trails connect the lake at Shelving Rock and Black Mountain Point with interior ponds and the summits of Black Mountain and Sleeping Beauty. The latter provides some exceptional views.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for the Black Mountain section of this area in 1986.

MOOSE RIVER PLAINS

This area is located in Hamilton and Herkimer counties in the Towns of Arietta, Inlet, Lake Pleasant, Long Lake, Morehouse, Ohio and Webb. This area is bounded on the north by Pigeon Lake Wilderness; on the east by Blue Ridge Wilderness; on the south by West Canada Lake Wilderness and Little Moose Mountain Wilderness; and on the west by the boundary of Township Two and Township Three. The scenic "plains" of the Moose and Red Rivers are well-known areas of interest to the public. These zones of herb and grass vegetation contrast vividly with the overall forested nature of the Park. Other scenic points of interest include the Moose River Cliffs, Mitchell Ponds, Lost Ponds, Icehouse and Helldiver Ponds.

The area is unique also for how, in the 1960's, the Department of Environmental Conservation improved the extensive road system and developed numerous individual camping sites along the road. This has provided an outdoor recreational opportunity intermediate between that of a developed campground and typical primitive camping in Wild Forest and Wilderness. In 2010, over 2,900 acres in a corridor along certain roads were reclassified to create the Moose River Plains Camping Intensive Use Area and to facilitate a concentration of roadside camping sites in compliance with this Master Plan. The new Intensive Use camping area, subject to special management guidelines, is intended to maintain this somewhat higher density of camping sites adjacent to and screened from the area's gravel road system.

Also in 2010, approximately 14,667 acres south of the South Branch of the Moose River and south of the Moose River Plains Camping Intensive Use Area were reclassified to Wilderness. Most of these lands formed the new 12,269-acre Little Moose Wilderness, and the remaining acres were added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness. This reclassification excluded a twenty-foot-wide corridor along the routes of the former DEC administrative road (Otter Brook Truck Trail) and former Wilson Ridge Road, retained as Wild Forest expressly to allow for non-motorized, recreational uses such as a mountain-biking, hiking and cross-country skiing. The exclusion of motor-vehicle use and emphasis on development of this long route for mountain biking creates potential for a premier mountain-biking opportunity in the Adirondack Park. No motor-vehicle use should be reestablished along this remote route due to impacts to the significant, surrounding Wilderness. As it is now,

the area's camping, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and mountain biking opportunities make the Moose River Plains one of the truly four-season recreational areas of the Park.

Great Camp Uncas, a National Historic Landmark, stands on the east shore of Mohegan Lake near the northeastern boundary of this Wild Forest. An area around Mohegan Lake is included in the Historic Great Camps Special Management Area. The area was designated to recognize the historic connection between the Great Camps and the Forest Preserve.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2011.

RAQUETTE RIVER

This area is located in the Towns of Colton, Hopkinton, and Parishville, St. Lawrence County. It extends to the north along the Raquette River impoundments to Stark Reservoir and to the south to Jamestown Falls just north of Seveys Corner. It is also bounded on the east by the Raquette-Jordan Boreal Primitive Area and the west by Route 56.

This unit is characterized by flat and gentle sloping terrain, flowing rivers, deciduous and evergreen forests, and numerous wetlands. Prior to the State's acquisition, many of these forested tracts had limited and informal public use. Public access to the lands east of the Raquette River is gained by crossing the river or the reservoir. As the Jordan River (a designated Scenic River) flows through this unit, it meanders through significant areas of boreal forest and has the character of a northern Canadian river. This northwestern region of the Park contains significant low elevation boreal habitat. A canoe carry from Carry Falls Reservoir to the Jordan River allows paddlers to portage rapids and reach flat waters. The Raquette River, above Carry Falls Reservoir, is a designated Scenic River.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

SARANAC LAKES

This area is located in the towns of North Elba and Saint Armand, Essex County and Brighton, Harrietstown, Santa Clara and Tupper Lake, Franklin County. It is bounded on the north by the Tupper Lake Town line, the St. Regis Canoe Area, State Highway 86 and County Highway 55; on the east by McKenzie Mountain Wilderness and the Sentinel Range Wilderness; on the south by the High Peaks Wilderness and the Tupper Lake Town line; and on the west by State Route 30 and the Tupper Lake Town line.

Easily accessible from Routes 3 and 30, this southern Franklin County area offers a broad network of streams, lakes and ponds for water-oriented recreation. Boating access sites, camping areas and portages are convenient for the day user and the long distance traveler alike. The Fish Creek Ponds and Rollins Pond Campgrounds offer a base camp for some users of the area.

Ampersand Mountain, just south of Route 3 in the High Peaks Wilderness, provides a superb view of this area as a reward for a three-mile hike through majestic stands of hemlock and northern hardwoods.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2019.

SARGENT PONDS

This area is located entirely within Hamilton County in the towns of Arietta, Indian Lake, and Long Lake. It is bounded on the south by the Blue Ridge Wilderness, and the southern shore of Raquette Lake; on the west by private lands and the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area; on the north by private lands and the Sperry Pond and Cedarlands Conservation Easement lands and the Hamilton County line; and on the east by Long Lake and State Highway 28N/30.

Known to many canoeists, hunters and anglers, this Wild Forest area contains numerous waterbodies that vary from small interior beaver ponds to portions of shoreline on Blue Mountain Lake, Forked Lake, Lake Eaton, Long Lake, Raquette Lake and Utowana Lake.

The North Point Road provides access to the Upper and Lower Sargent Ponds trails and Buttermilk Falls, a popular destination along this stretch of the Raquette River. The Owls' Head Mountain fire tower and Castle Rock on Blue Mountain Lake provide scenic views of the surrounding lakes and forest.

Public campgrounds on Raquette Lake, Forked Lake and Lake Eaton plus the North Point Road to the Raquette River provide varied access and recreational opportunity to users of this area.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

SHAKER MOUNTAIN

This area is located in the Towns of Bleeker, Caroga, Mayfield and Northampton, in Fulton County and the Town of Benson in Hamilton County. With the exception of snowmobile trails and the trail to the Kane Mountain Fire Tower, this area receives relatively little use. Most of the area was heavily logged prior to State acquisition and there are a considerable number of old log roads, chiefly in the southern half, where most of the hills are low and gently sloped. These woods roads make comfortable hiking trails that can be enjoyed by all ages.

A number of small ponds afford some attractive camping sites. The second growth hardwoods that predominate allow easy foot travel both on and off the old woods roads and foot trails. This is in contrast to much of the State lands north of the area where the 1950 blow down and subsequent dense softwood reproduction has made travel off maintained foot trails quite difficult.

This tract offers great potential to serve the Wild Forest recreational needs of New York's hikers, horsemen, snow-mobilers, cross-country skiers and campers, and is capable of absorbing a considerable degree of public use.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

SPLIT ROCK MOUNTAIN

This area is located in the eastern foothills of the Adirondack Mountains along the western shore of Lake Champlain, in the Towns of Essex and Westport, Essex County. It is

bounded on the east by Lake Champlain, and on the north, west and south by private lands. The area is named for Split Rock Mountain, the predominant feature of the landscape referring to an unusual “split rock” formation and historic landmark found on private land at the northern end of the mountain.

Habitat varies from the open wetlands of Webb Royce Swamp to the precipitous cliffs on the eastern side of Split Rock Mountain. The area also harbors a rich and unique mosaic of flora and fauna. The northernmost breeding population of the New York State endangered timber rattlesnake is found here. All tree species native to New York that are found north of the Mohawk River are represented in this unit. The area provides habitat for representative bird species of the Adirondack Park; eighty percent of the bird species found in the park, including black-crowned night heron and the peregrine falcon, have been documented in this region. Several threatened plant species reside within the unit as well.

The diversity of natural resources and recreational opportunities in this unit attract visitors for a variety of uses, including day hiking, camping, hunting, and wildflower and wildlife observation.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

TAYLOR POND

This area is located in portions of thirteen towns in three counties in the northeastern region of the Adirondack Park. It is bounded on the north and west by Route 3 and the Adirondack Park Blue Line; the east by Lake Champlain; and on the south by Route 9N between Elizabethtown and Westport.

Significant land features in this unit include Poke-O-Moonshine, the southern flank of Trembleau Mountain and Catamount Mountain. Poke-O-Moonshine, with a restored fire tower on its 2,180-foot summit, offers outstanding views of Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains of Vermont. Its granite gneiss cliffs, several hundred feet tall, provide nesting habitat for peregrine falcons and are also a popular rock and ice climbing destination. The open and rocky, 3,168-foot summit of Catamount offers a 360-degree view including Whiteface Mountain, Lyon Mountain, Union Falls and Lake Champlain. Numerous discontinuous parcels and a lack of developed facilities affords many opportunities for discovery and solitude in this unit The Department of Environmental Conservation administers State lands within this area other than Forest Preserve, including the Ausable Marsh, Pauline Murdock and Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Areas, and the Terry Mountain and Burnt Hill State Forests.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2013.

VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN

This area is located in the Towns of Chester, Johnsburg, Keene, Minerva, Newcomb, North Hudson, and Schroon in Essex and Warren Counties. It is generally bounded on the south by the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and State Route 8; on the west by the Hudson River; on the east by State Route 9 and

Schroon Lake; and on the north by the High Peaks Wilderness.

The primary attractions of the area are the lakes and ponds, the Hudson and Boreas Rivers and Vanderwhacker Mountain. The latter, by virtue of its isolated location, provides perhaps the best view of the High Peaks from the south in the Park. From the summit of Vanderwhacker Mountain, it is also possible to trace the course of the Hudson River and gain an appreciation of that river's magnificence.

The Hudson River and the Boreas River within this area are designated as Scenic rivers. White water stretches, interspersed with stillwaters, provide a variety of scenes to hold one's appreciation. The Wolf Pond, Durgin Brook and Lester Flow sections of the Upper Boreas are well known to bird clubs. There are plant and birdlife communities of unusual interest, particularly those featuring boreal species.

Consistent with Master Plan guidelines for Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers, the waters of the Hudson River in this area shall be free from motorized activity.

In 2016, New York State acquired the 20,430 acre Boreas Ponds Tract from The Nature Conservancy. 9,118 acres of land north of the Blue Ridge Road in the vicinity of the Branch River and the Gulf Brook Road were added to the unit. With this addition, new access to the High Peaks Wilderness Area from the south is gained while adding a diversity of recreational opportunities on the Wild Forest lands closer to Blue Ridge Road.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

WATSON'S EAST TRIANGLE

This unit is located within the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, and the Towns of Croghan and Watson Lewis County. The unit is bounded on the north by the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest; the east by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area; the south by the Pepperbox Wilderness Area; and on the west primarily by working forest lands encumbered by conservation easements held by the State.

Numerous roads and trails on State-owned land and adjacent easements provide many opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, big game hunting, fishing, camping and snowmobiling. Visitors have the opportunity for solitude and remoteness in this unit as the result of the close proximity of two large, abutting Wilderness Areas to the east and south. An alternative, less remote, experience in these wild lands is also possible due to the close proximity of rural land use to the west of the unit, including maple sugar farms, working forests, seasonal camps, and the villages of Croghan and Harrisville.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2010.

WHITEHILL

This unit is located in St. Lawrence County and includes Wild Forest lands within an area bounded on the west and north by the Adirondack Park Blue Line; the east by the St. Lawrence-Franklin county line; and on the south by the

West Branch of the St. Regis River, the Stark-Joe Indian Road and Route 56.

Forests consisting of maple, beech, birch, pine and hemlock cover the area's low rolling foothills. The highest point is a 1,600-foot unnamed hill located in the southeastern corner of the unit's main parcel.

A distinguishing feature of the area is Wheeler Marsh. This 1,238-acre wetland is one of the largest in the northern Adirondack region. It provides habitat for a wide array of wildlife and offers views of expansive, open peatlands. The largest natural water body is the 35-acre Clear Pond. Easy access to this pond affords an excellent opportunity for fishing, canoeing and camping.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2006.

WILCOX LAKE

This area is bounded on the south by the Adirondack Park Blue Line; the west by State Highway 30, the Silver Lake Wilderness, and State Highway 8; and east by State Routes 28 and 9.

The Hudson River is the border for the eastern side of the area, which is composed of a collection of smaller detached Forest Preserve parcels. The southern boundary of this area is the Blue Line of the Park and below the Great Sacandaga Reservoir the area is also composed of several smaller detached parcels.

Crane Mountain is the tallest mountain in the area, providing unobstructed views of the region. The Hadley Mountain fire tower provides hikers with endless views across the southeast corner of the Park.

This area is capable of withstanding considerably more recreational use without the destruction of the physical resource or the Wild Forest atmosphere. It is an area of rolling hills and open summits with a considerable number of attractive brook trout streams. Numerous trails provide easy access by foot in the summer and by snowmobiles, skis or snowshoes in the winter.

In addition, and contrast to this well-developed trail system, there is also a large trail-less section north of Wilcox Lake that provides an excellent opportunity for a remote experience.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

WILMINGTON

The area consists of State lands in the Towns of Wilmington, Jay and Keene in Essex County and Black Brook in Clinton County. It is roughly bounded on the north by the Forestdale and Silver Lake Roads; the east by Route 9N; the south by the Sentinel Wilderness and Whiteface Mountain Ski Center; and on the west by Gillespie Drive, Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway and the McKenzie Mountain Wilderness.

The largest contiguous parcel, approximately 6,400 acres, offers scenic rock cliffs overlooking much of the Jay and Sentinel Ranges, camping at the lean-to on Cooper Kill Pond, and hunting access along the Forestdale Road. Other State land parcels provide access for trout fishing on the renowned Ausable River, viewing scenic

waterfalls, rock climbing and mountain biking. Forest types within the unit are especially diverse due to great variation in climate, elevation, and soil conditions. Lying at lower elevations in the rain shadow of Whiteface Mountain, visitors to the Beaver Brook Valley and the Four Peaks tract can find themselves among Jack Pine, Red Cedar and Oak while an amphitheater of Spruce-Fir forests on the high ridges across the Ausable Valley surrounds them. In the winter, cross country skiing, ice climbing, trapping, and snowmobiling are available.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

INTENSIVE USE AREAS

CAMPGROUNDS

Alger Island
Ausable Point
Brown Tract Pond
Buck Pond
Caroga Lake
Cranberry Lake
Crown Point
Eagle Point
Eighth Lake
Fish Creek Pond
Forked Lake
Golden Beach
Hearthstone Point
Indian Lake Islands
Lake Durant
Lake Eaton
Lake George Battleground
Lake George Islands
Lake Harris
Lewey Lake
Limekiln Lake
Lincoln Pond
Luzerne
Meacham Lake
Meadowbrook
Moffitt Beach
Moose River Plains Camping Area*
Nicks Lake
Northampton Beach
Paradox Lake
Piseco Lake
Putnam Pond
Rogers Rock
Rollins Pond
Sacandaga
Scaroon Manor
Sharp Bridge
Taylor Pond
Tioga Point
Wilmington Notch
* Less developed facilities

DAY USE AREAS

Ski centers, parkways, beaches

Gore Mountain Ski Center
Hinckley Day Use Area
Lake George Beach
Lake George Battlefield Park
Mt. Van Hoevenberg
Poplar Point
Prospect Mountain Parkway
Whiteface Mountain Veterans' Memorial Highway
Whiteface Mountain Ski Center

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES

The following lakes are approximately 1,000 acres or more in size and are therefore eligible for further analysis to determine their suitability for initial or additional boat launch ramp construction.

Name of Water	Number of Acres
Lake Champlain	281,600
Lake George	28,160
Great Sacandaga Lake	26,656
Cranberry Lake	6,976
Carry Falls Reservoir	6,458
Tupper Lake	6,240
Stillwater Reservoir	6,195
Raquette Lake	5,274
Upper Saranac Lake	5,056
Indian Lake	4,365
Schroon Lake	4,128
Long Lake	4,090
Piseco Lake	2,848
Lake Placid	2,803
Hinckley Reservoir	2,784
Upper Chateaugay Lake	2,605
Little Tupper Lake	2,381
Lower Saranac Lake	2,285
Fourth Lake (Fulton Chain)	2,138
Chazy Lake	1,606

Name of Water	Number of Acres
Sacandaga Lake	1,600
Lake Pleasant	1,440
Middle Saranac Lake	1,376
Union Falls Flow	1,376
Brant Lake	1,376
Peck Lake	1,370
Big Moose Lake	1,286
Blue Mountain Lake	1,261
Forked Lake	1,248
Meacham Lake	1,203
Woodhull Lake	1,158
Abanakee Lake	1,018
Lake Clear	1,000

The following lake chains contain lakes less than 1,000 acres in size, but the combined acreage of lakes within these chains exceeds approximately 1,000 acres. These lakes, listed below, are eligible for further consideration to determine their suitability for boat launch ramp construction because they are connected by navigable waterways and the aggregate acreage of each chain exceeds 1,000 acres. These chains may contain additional lakes less than 1,000 acres in size which are not listed. Such lakes have been determined to be unsuitable for boat launch ramp construction.

Saranac Chain:

Middle Saranac
Lower Saranac
Second Pond
First Pond
Lake Kiwassa
Lake Flower
Oseetah Lake

Tupper Chain:

Tupper Lake
Simon Pond
Raquette Pond

St. Regis Chain:

Upper St. Regis Lake
Lower St. Regis Lake

Chateaugay Chain:

Upper Chateaugay
Lower Chateaugay

Fulton Chain:

First Lake
Second Lake
Third Lake

Rainbow Chain:

Lake Kushaqua
Rainbow Lake

Indian Chain:

Indian Lake
Lewey Lake

Upper Saranac Chain:

Square Pond
Fish Creek Pond

HISTORIC AREAS

CAMP SANTANONI

Camp Santanoni Historic Area is 35 acres in size and located north of New York State Route 28N in the Town of Newcomb in Essex County. It consists of three clusters of buildings (the Gate House Complex, the Farm Complex and the Main Camp Complex), the garden and orchard area, and a 4.7-mile access road connecting them. Camp Santanoni, one of the oldest and largest great camps, was created by Robert C. Pruyn in 1892. The 12,900± acre Santanoni Preserve was acquired by the State of New York in 1972 as part of the Forest Preserve. The three building complexes and the road are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are in the process of being restored. The Unit Management Plan for this area was adopted in 2016.

CROWN POINT

This 390 acre site contains archaeological remains and ruins from a number of periods and events significant to the history of New York State and the nation including: a number of archaeological sites pre-contact Native American, the standing ruins of Fort Saint Frederic constructed by the French in 1731, and archaeological remains of associated military and civilian occupations. Crown Point was the second post captured by American forces in 1775 (after Fort Ticonderoga) and served as the base for the American fleet that fought in the Battle of Valcour Bay. The property surrounding the sites of the French and British forts was donated to the state in 1910 on the condition that the ruins be preserved in perpetuity. Subsequent acquisitions have expanded the boundaries. Crown Point is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

HURRICANE MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

This area includes the fire tower on Hurricane Mountain and a 0.5 acre square surrounding the fire tower. The fire tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area was reclassified from Primitive to Historic in 2010. The designation does not preclude the Department of Environmental Conservation from determining the fire towers structurally unsound and should be removed, nor does it preclude the DEC from relocating the fire tower to another location consistent with its historic setting. In this event, the area's classification will, without any further Agency action, become part of the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness Area. The Historic Area designation does not require, obligate or anticipate expenditure of State funds for maintenance and restoration of the fire tower. The Unit Management Plan for this area was adopted in 2014.

JOHN BROWN'S FARM

This 114 acre area includes the home, farm, pond, and grave of abolitionist John Brown. John Brown was buried at this site following his 1859 execution in Virginia. The bodies of two of Browns' sons and several of Browns' followers, who were killed in the raid on the Harper's Ferry Armory, were relocated to this site. The property was deeded to the State of New York in 1895 on the condition that it be preserved as a park or reservation. A monument to Brown was erected in 1935. The property is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

This area includes the fire tower on St. Regis Mountain and a 0.5 acre square surrounding the fire tower. The fire tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area was reclassified from Primitive to Historic in 2010. The designation does not preclude the Department of Environmental Conservation from determining the fire towers structurally unsound and should be removed, nor does it preclude the DEC from relocating the fire tower to another location consistent with its historic setting. In this event, the area's classification will revert to Canoe Area. The Historic Area designation does not require, obligate or anticipate expenditure of State funds for maintenance and restoration of the fire tower. The Unit Management Plan for this area was adopted in 2014.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Lands included in the State Administrative classification:

CLINTON

Ausable -- Maintenance Area, Rt. 9N-I-87 - DOT
Dannemora -- Correctional Facility - DCS
Dannemora -- Correctional Facility – DCS
Dannemora -- Clinton East Annex - DCS
Dannemora -- Surplus Property - OGS
Dannemora -- Adk. Correctional Treatment & Evaluation Center
Dannemora – Former Lyon Mtn. Correctional Facility -- DCS
Dannemora -- ROW- SH 5186, Vacant Land - DOT
Saranac SH -- 1398 Moffittsville/Franklin, Maintenance Area – DOT
Saranac -- Vacant, Rt. 3/Saranac River – DCS
Saranac – Cemetery, Douglas Rd. –DCS
Saranac – Cemetery, Ryan Rd. –DCS
Saranac – Vacant, West side of Picketts Corner Rd. – DCS
Saranac – Vacant, East and West sides of Picketts Corner Rd. – DCS
Saranac – Vacant, Picketts Corner Rd. at Barnham Brook Rd. - DCS
Saranac – Route 3 Maintenance Facility - DOT

ESSEX

Crown Point – Maintenance Area, Factoryville Rd. – DOT
Chesterfield – Maintenance Area, Rt. 22 - DOT
Elizabethtown -- Rt. 9N - Essex County Stonehouse Maintenance Area – DOT
Keene – Route 73, Essex County Sub-headquarter - DOT
Lewis -- Maintenance Area West of Exit 32 - DOT
Minerva -- Maintenance Area, Rt. 28N – DOT
Minerva – One acre gravel pit along Chain Lakes Road (South) - DEC
Newcomb – One acre gravel pit along Chain Lakes Road (North) - DEC
Newcomb – One acre gravel pit north of Deer Pond - DEC
Newcomb – One acre gravel pit along Boreas Ponds Road - DEC
North Elba -- Camp Adirondack - DCS
North Elba -- Ray Brook State Office Complex
North Hudson -- Maintenance Area, Exit 30 – DOT
North Hudson – One acre gravel pit at LaBier Flow - DEC
Schroon -- Schroon Lake Sewage Treatment Plant - EFC
Schroon -- Horseshoe Brook Pumping Station, Utility - EFC
Schroon -- Maintenance Area, Rts. 9 and 74 Residency Office - DOT
Severance -- Maintenance Area - Int. Rts. 9 & 73 - DOT
Stowerville -- Maintenance Area - 2 mi. west of I.87 - DOT

Ticonderoga -- 315 Champlain Ave., State Armory, Div. Military, Naval Affairs
Underwood -- Maintenance Area - Rt. 9 - DOT
Westport-- N. Main Street, Sewage Treatment Plant - EFC
Westport -- Pumping Station No. 1, Washington Avenue - EFC
Westport -- Pumping Station No. 2, S. Main Street - EFC
Wilmington -- Atmospheric Sciences Research Center

FRANKLIN

Duane -- Maintenance Area Rt. 458, "Meacham Lake" – DOT
Duane – Reclamation Area Red Tavern Road, Duane Center -- DOT
Franklin -- Maintenance Area Rt. 3, Vermontville - DOT
Harrietstown -- State Armory
Harrietstown -- Maintenance Area Rt. 86, Lake Clear Jct. – DOT & DEC
Harrietstown -- Wawbeek Maintenance Area – DOT
Harrietstown – Crescent Bay Seasonal Headquarters -- DEC
Santa Clara -- Adirondack Fish Hatchery
Tupper Lake -- Sunmount Developmental Center – DMH

FULTON

Northampton -- Maintenance Area SH 362 - DOT
Northampton -- DEC, Northville - DEC
Rockwood 29 – DOT

HAMILTON

Arietta -- Maintenance Area - Rt. 10, 1.5 mi. north of Fulton County - DOT
Hoffmeister Maintenance Area, Rt. 8 – DOT
Indian Lake -- Maintenance Area, Residency – DOT
Indian Lake – Maintenance Area, Rt. 4 - DEC
Long Lake -- Maintenance Area, Rts. 28N, 30 - DOT
Long Lake -- Maintenance Area Rt. 28, Raquette Lake Patrol
Long Lake -- Maintenance Area SH 5189, Long Lake Patrol
Long Lake -- Little Tupper Lake Headquarters, Rt.10, 4 mi. west of Rt. 3
Long Lake – Raquette Lake Water Supply – DEC
Long Lake – Maintenance Area, Sagamore Road – DOT
Long Lake – SUNY Cortland Camp Pine Knot
Wells -- Hamilton County Sub-headquarters – DOT

HERKIMER

Webb – Stillwater Reservoir Field Office, Stillwater Dock Road -- HRBRRD

ST. LAWRENCE

Colton -- Town of Colton Maintenance Area-Rt. 3 - DOT
Colton – Cranberry Lake Maintenance Center - DEC
Fine -- St. Lawrence Power Radio Tower

Fine -- Radio Tower Site – PASNY
Fine -- Ranger School – SUNY ESF
Hopkinton -- White Hill Radio Towers

WARREN

Lake George -- Residential Bldg. Location/I-87 - DOT
Chester SS -- Rt. 8, Maintenance Area – DOT
Chestertown -- Maintenance Area-I-87, Exit 25 on Rt. 8 – DOT
Johnsburg – Maintenance Area, Peaceful Valley Road -DOT
Warrensburg -- Parking Lot SH 5157 Warrensburg-Chestertown - DOT
Warrensburg -- Maintenance Area near I-87/Lake George-Warrensburg - DOT
Warrensburg -- Warren County Storehouse Site
Warrensburg -- DEC Office-DEC Warrensburg-Warren County Residency on Rt. 9
Queensbury -- DOT properties – DOT

WASHINGTON
Dresden – Chubbs Dock Educational Programing Facility - DEC

WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM
in the Adirondack Park

	Number of Miles Classified		
River	**Wild**	**Scenic**	**Recreational**
Ampersand Brook		8.6	
Ausable -- Main Branch			21.7
Ausable -- East Branch		8.8	25.2
Ausable -- West Branch			31.8
Black		6.8	5.8
Bog		6.2	
Boreas		11.4	
Bouquet			42.7
Bouquet -- North Fork		5.9	
Bouquet -- South Fork		5.0	
Blue Mountain Stream (Trib. of Middle Branch, Grasse River)		7.9	

Cedar	13.5	13.0	10.4
Cold		14.5	
Deer		5.7	
East Canada Creek		19.3	
Grasse -- Middle Branch		12.9	
Grasse -- North Branch		25.4	
Grasse -- South Branch		36.1	4.2
Hudson	11.2	11.8	55.1
Independence		24.5	
Indian (Trib. of Hudson River)			7.5
Indian (Trib. of Moose River -- South Branch)	15.1		
Jordan		15.7	
Kunjamuk	7.1	9.1	
Long Pond Outlet		16.3	
Marion		4.4	
Moose -- Main Branch		15.0	11.0
Moose – North Branch		5.3	11.6
Moose -- South Branch		33.6	
Opalescent	10.4		
Oswegatchie -- Main Branch	14.9		
Oswegatchie -- Middle Branch	13.0	22.7	
Oswegatchie -- West Branch		7.2	6.3
Otter River		8.8	
Ouluska Pass Brook	2.3		
Piseco Outlet	3.8		
Raquette		36.0	51.6
Red		8.0	
Rock		6.4	1.3
Round Lake Outlet		2.4	
St. Regis -- East Branch		15.4	6.3
St. Regis -- Main Branch		15.6	23.9
St. Regis -- West Branch		31.5	5.5
Sacandaga -- East Branch	11.3		12.6
Sacandaga -- Main Branch			28.5
Sacandaga -- West Branch	18.1		16.6
Salmon			11.6
Saranac			62.7
Schroon			63.9
West Canada Creek	7.4	17.1	9.1
West Canada Creek -- South Branch	5.7		9.1
West Stony Creek	7.4		7.7
TOTALS	**148.4**	**487.2**	**545.6**

TOTAL MILES CLASSIFIED 1181.1

These mileage statistics include all designated rivers and therefore include 2362.2 miles of shoreline. Most recreational river shoreline and some wild and scenic river shoreline is privately owned.

TRAVEL CORRIDORS

HIGHWAY CORRIDORS

Route	Terminal	Approximate Mileage
I-87	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	91
3	Western Park Boundary to Northeastern Park Boundary	107(a)
8	Southwest Park Boundary to Hague	109
9	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	92(b)
9L	Southeastern Park Boundary to Route 9	13
9N	Southern Park Boundary to Keeseville	124
10	Southern Park Boundary to Route 8	23
22	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	76(c)
28	Southwestern Park Boundary to Route 9	100(d)
28N	Blue Mountain Lake to North Creek	47(e)
29A	Southern Park Boundary to Southwestern Park Boundary	18(f)
30	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	151(g)
56	Northern Park Boundary to Sevey	15
58	Western Park Boundary to Fine	5
458	Northern Park Boundary to Route 30	20
73	Route 9 to Route 86	26(h)
74	Route 9 to Lake Champlain	30
86	Jay to Route 30	34
149	Southern Park Boundary to Southeastern Park Boundary	5
186	Route 86 to Route 30 at Lake Clear	4
192A	Route 192 to Route 86	2
287	Western Park Boundary to Route 8	6
373	Port Kent to Route 9	3
374	Northern Park Boundary to Dannemora	27
418	Warrensburg to Thurman	3
421	Horseshoe Lake to Route 30	6
431	Wilmington to Whiteface Summit	8
185	Crown Point Bridge to Route 22	4

Subtotal	**1165 Miles**
Minus dual designations	**87**
Total	**1078 Miles**

(a) includes 6 miles dually designated as Route 30
(b) includes 4 miles dually designated as Route 8 and 10 miles dually designated as Route 73
(c) includes 25 miles dually designated as Route 9N
(d) includes 11 miles dually designated as Route 30

(e) includes 9 miles dually designated as Route 30
(f) includes 5 miles dually designated as Route 10
(g) includes 9 miles dually designated as Route 8
(h) includes 2 miles dually designated as Route 9N

RAILROAD CORRIDORS

Area Description

Remsen-Lake Placid Corridor

The Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor (RLPTC) is a railroad corridor that enters the southeast corner of the Adirondack Park from Remsen, New York. It includes state-owned parcels, and parcels to be acquired by the State within the corridor, approximately 119 miles long and traverses the following six counties and ten towns:

Oneida Co. – Remsen and Forestport
Herkimer Co. – Webb
Hamilton Co. – Long Lake
St. Lawrence Co. – Piercefield and Colton
Franklin Co. – Tupper Lake, Santa Clara and Harrietstown
Essex Co. – North Elba

The northern section of the railroad corridor passes through the Villages of Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake (as well as the communities of Saranac Inn and Lake Clear) before terminating in the Village of Lake Placid.

About 46 percent of the length of the corridor is flanked on at least one side by State Forest Preserve lands, and about 27 percent of the remaining length is flanked on at least one side by State conservation easement lands. From Old Forge to Tupper Lake, the route passes through some of the most remote territory in New York State. It forms part of the bounds of the Pigeon Lake, Five Ponds, William C. Whitney and Round Lake Wilderness Areas. It also traverses a portion of the Lows Lake Primitive Area and forms almost all of the southern border of the St. Regis Canoe Area. The remaining areas of Forest Preserve adjoining the route are classified Wild Forest, including the Black River, Fulton Chain, Independence River and Saranac Lakes Units.

The railbed, constructed in 1892 by William Seward Webb, was utilized continuously by the New York Central Railroad, and then the Penn Central Railroad, until freight service ceased in 1972. With the exception of a 3000-foot segment in the Village of Saranac Lake and the Lake Placid depot parcel, where there are railroad easements, the railroad corridor was purchased in fee by New York State in 1974 and 1975. In 1977, the State leased the line to the Adirondack Railway Corporation. After bankruptcy of the lessee, and following a long period of litigation, the State acquired the remainder of the lease in

1991. Geographically limited and intermittent scenic railroad service has occurred since 1992, but until that time trains had not traveled on the railroad corridor for more than a decade. The railroad corridor has been designated a snowmobile trail since the 1991-1992 season.

This railroad corridor is generally 100 feet wide, but is wider in some locations, primarily within communities. State ownership terminates in the Village of Lake Placid at Station Street. The Remsen-Lake Placid Railroad was classified as a travel corridor in 1979.

SCENIC VISTAS

Potential Scenic Pull-offs

TOWN	LOCATION
Bellmont	1 mile west of Owl's Head
Bolton	Two on Federal Hill Road
Bolton	One on Coolidge Hill Road
Corinth	Approximately 0.5 miles east of Daly Creek Road and 0.1 miles north of West Mountain Road
Dannemora	0.5 miles west of Village of Dannemora on State Route 374
Dannemora	0.25 miles east of Merrill Road
Dannemora	2.75 miles northeast of Village of Dannemora on French Settlement Road
Dannemora	1 mile northeast of hamlet of Standish on road from Standish to Lyon Mountain
Ellenburg	Approximately 6.5 miles north of Upper Chateaugay Lake and approximately ¼ mile west of West Hill School
Essex	1.5 miles northeast of Whallonsburg on Christian Road
Essex	0.75 miles southwest of Whallon Bay (Lake Champlain) on Lake Shore Road
Fine	Approximately 1.25 miles south of hamlet of Fine
Harrietstown	Approximately at intersection of State Routes 86 and 192-A
Hopkinton	Whites Hill
Indian Lake	On State Route 30 overlooking Lake Abanakee
Indian Lake	2.5 miles east of Lake Abanakee overlooking Lake Snow
Johnsburg	3 miles south of hamlet of North Creek
Johnsburg	3 miles south of North River on Barton Mine Road
Johnsburg	Approximately 0.5 miles southeast of Bakers Mills
Keene	Intersection of State Routes 73 and 9N
Lake Pleasant	On southeast shore of Lake Pleasant
Newcomb	On State Route 28N approximately 0.75 miles south of Campsite Road
Newcomb	3 miles east of hamlet of Newcomb on State Route 28N

North Elba	0.5 miles east of Village of Lake Placid on State Route 86
North Elba	Near intersection of State Route 73 and Heart Lake Road in North Elba
Ohio	Intersection of West Canada Creek Road and State Route 8 at hamlet of Nobleboro
Santa Clara	Two miles west of Keese Mill on Keese Mills Road
Santa Clara	On State Route 30 at Pelky Bay on Upper Saranac Lake
Saranac	3.25 miles east of Picketts Corners near Hardscrabble Road
Saranac	2 miles southeast of hamlet of Saranac on Burnt Hill Road
Saranac	At intersection of Chazy Lake Road and Chateaugay Branch of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad
Saranac	Two miles northwest of Clayburg on Clayburg to Standish Road
Tupper Lake	At intersection of road east of Sunmount Developmental Center and State Routes 3 and 30
Tupper Lake	Approximately 1.5 miles west of the Railroad Station on State Route 3
Willsboro	1.5 miles south of Willsboro on County Route 22-M
Willsboro	4.5 miles northeast of Willsboro on County Route 27 on Willsboro Point
Westport	4.0 miles north of Westport

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Illustrative Special Interest Areas

SCENIC

Ampersand Mountain Summit
Arab Mountain Summit
Azure Mountain Summit
Bald (Rondaxe) Mountain Summit
Bar Mountain Summit
Black Mountain Peak
Blue Mountain Summit
Bog River Falls
Bushnell's Falls
Buttermilk Falls
Cascade Falls
East Canada Falls
Falls Brook
Fort Noble Mountain
Hadley Mountain Summit
Hanging Spear Falls
High Falls
Historic Great Camps
Hurricane Mountain Summit
Indian Falls
Kane Mountain Summit
Miller's Falls
Opalescent Flume
Paradise Bay
Poke-O-Moonshine Summit
Prospect Mountain
Pulpit Rock
Raquette Falls
Red Rock Bay
Rocky Falls
St. Regis Mountain Summit
Sleeping Beauty
Sliding Rock Falls
Twitchell Creek Gorge
Vanderwhacker Mountain Summit
Wakely Mountain Summit
Wanika Falls
Whiteface Mountain Summit

GEOGRAPHICAL

Ausable River Delta
Balanced Rock
Chimney Mountain
Colden Dike
Giant Mountain Slides
Ice Cave Mountain
McComb Mountain Slide
Moose River Rock Dam
Rainbow Lake Esker
Rogers Rock
Round Mountain Exfoliating Dome
Six Mile Creek Esker

HISTORIC

Axton Plantation
Burnt Shanty Clearing
Fort George & Battleground
French Louie's Camp
Historic Great Camps
Mother Johnson's Boarding House
Long Lake--Round Pond Canal
Prospect Mountain Inclined R.R.
Riparius Bridge
Rondeau's Hermitage
Roosevelt Plaque
Scott's Pond Lumber Dam
Scott Clearing and Lumber Dam
Lake Stevens Flume Route
Valcour Island

NATURAL

Baxter Mountain
Bloomingdale Bog
Boreas Hardwood
Buckhorn Lake Hardwoods
Chubb River Marsh
Church Pond
Five Ponds Esker
Griffin Rapids Virgin Timber
The Gulf

Moose River Plains
Oseetah Lake Marsh
Oswegatchie Plains
Otter Pond Virgin Timber
Owl's Head--Red Pine Area
Pharaoh Lake Red Pine
Piseco Lake Hardwoods
Pine Orchard
Pine Ridge
Peninsula Nature Trail
Raquette River Delta
South Inlet--Raquette Lake
Tongue Mountain
Wanika Falls Hardwoods
Whiteface Mountain--Red Pine Area
Whitehouse Hardwoods
Valcour Island

APPENDIX I

Formerly Section 807, added L. 1971, c. 706, Section 1; renumbered 816 and amended L. 1973, c.348, Section I. Section 807 read as follows:

Section 807. Master Plan for management of State lands

1. In order to further carry out the purposes of this article as described in section eight hundred one, the agency shall prepare and submit to the governor for his approval on or before June first, nineteen hundred seventy-two a master plan, developed in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, for management of State lands, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, located in the Adirondack park. Such plan shall (1) classify such lands according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use and provide general guidelines and criteria for the management and use of lands within such classifications, and (2) reflect the actual and projected uses of private lands within the park as those uses may be more fully characterized in the development of the land use and development plan provided for in section eight hundred five of this article.

2. Upon approval of such plan by the governor, the department of environmental conservation is hereby authorized and directed to develop, in consultation with the agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the master plan and such management plans shall conform to the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan. Until amended, the master plan for management of State lands and the individual management plans shall guide the development and management of State lands in the Adirondack Park.

3. The master plan and the individual management plans shall be reviewed periodically and may be amended from time to time in the same manner as initially adopted, and when so amended shall as amended henceforth guide the development and management of State lands in the Adirondack Park.

4. The agency and department are hereby authorized to develop rules and regulations necessary, convenient or desirable to effectuate the purposes of this section.

In 1973, the legislature renumbered and then amended Section 807 to Section 816.

Section 816 Master plan for management of State lands

1. The department of environmental conservation is hereby authorized and directed to develop, in consultation with the agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the master plan for management of State lands heretofore prepared by the agency in consultation with the department of environmental conservation and approved by the governor. Such management plans shall conform to the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan. Until amended, the master plan for management of State lands and the individual management plans shall guide the development and management of State lands in the Adirondack Park.

2. The master plan and the individual management plans shall be reviewed periodically and may be amended from time to time, and when so amended shall as amended henceforth guide the development and management of State lands in the Adirondack Park. Amendments to the master plan shall be prepared by the agency, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, and submitted after public hearing to the governor for his approval.

3. The agency and department are hereby authorized to develop rules and regulations necessary, convenient or desirable to effectuate the purposes of this section.

APPENDIX II

State-held conservation easements within the Adirondack Park*

Name	County (ies)	Town (s)	Acres
Alderbrook Park	Franklin	Franklin	1,158
Bartlett Carry	Franklin	Harrietstown	232
Bluff Point	Hamilton	Indian Lake	82
Burton	Essex	Keene	40
Cedarlands Boy Scout Camp	Hamilton	Long Lake	4,774
Conifer-Emporium	St. Lawrence	Clifton, Colton, Piercefield	19,625
Cranberry Forest	St. Lawrence	Clifton, Colton	7,047
Croghan	Lewis	Croghan, Watson	12,695
Raquette River North	St. Lawrence	Piercefield	13,549
Deer Island (Upper Saranac Lake)	Franklin	Santa Clara	41
Denino	Hamilton	Indian Lake	141
Dillon Park/Sperry Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	15,651
Silver Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	451
Finch Pruyn	6 Counties	25 Towns	25,218
Flat Rock Mountain	Herkimer	Webb	512
Follensby Pond Area	Franklin	Harrietstown, Tupper Lake	8,660
Forked Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	235
Franklin Falls	Essex, Franklin	Franklin, St. Armand	3,682
Grass River	St. Lawrence	Clare, Clifton, Colton	49,776
IP/Lyme Timber	12 Counties	36 Towns	242,243
John Brown Tract	Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida	Webb, Lyonsdale, Forestport	3,078
Lake Placid Shoreline	Essex	North Elba	374
Lassiter	Clinton, St. Lawrence	9 Towns	38,627
Long Pond	St. Lawrence	Clare, Colton	18,387
Loon Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	2,041
Massawepie	St. Lawrence	Piercefield	3,039
Moshier Reservoir	Herkimer	Webb	22
Niagara Mohawk	St. Lawrence	Colton, Parishville, Piercefield	8,475

Norowal Marina (Bolton Town Boat Launch)	Warren	Bolton	0.3
North Lake	Herkimer	Ohio	11,490
Paul Smiths College	Franklin	Brighton, Harrietstown, Santa Clara	7,694
Pine Lake	Hamilton	Morehouse	994
Pollock	Franklin	Santa Clara	1
Raquette River South	St. Lawrence	Piercefield	4,352
Raquette River	Franklin	Harrietstown	5,985
Sabattis Land Company	Hamilton, St. Lawrence	Colton, Long Lake	824
Sable Highlands	Clinton, Franklin	Bellmont, Dannemora, Ellenburg, Franklin, Saranac	84,000
Santa Clara	Franklin	Santa Clara	72,000
Shell Rock	Clinton	Black Brook	806
Split Rock Farm	Essex	Essex	394
Sucker Lake	St. Lawrence	Fine	210
Tahawus	Essex	Newcomb	3,216
Three Lakes	Herkimer	Webb	3,350
Tooley Pond	St. Lawrence	Clare, Clifton	23,964
Trophy Ridge	Hamilton	Long Lake	2,589

Other Less Than Fee Interests

1) Nehasane, 1979
Herkimer County, Town of Webb
3,664 acres, subject to a 50-year estate retained by the Webb Family

2) Warrensburg Fish Hatchery
Warren County, Town of Warrensburg
Right of Reversion

3) Crown Point Fish Hatchery
Essex County, Town of Crown Point
Right of Reversion

4) The Adirondack Mountain Reserve
Essex County, Towns of Keene, North Hudson
6,980 acres, Common Law Conservation Easement

5) Blue Mountain & Utowana Lakes
Hamilton County, Town of Indian Lake
141 acres, Common Law Conservation Easement

6) Eagles Nest
Hamilton County, Indian Lake
946 acres, Common Law Conservation Easement

7) Elk Lake Preserve
Essex County, Town of North Hudson
10,534 acres, Common Law Conservation Easement

8) Nehasane
Hamilton and Herkimer Counties, Towns of
Long Lake and Webb
11,064 acres, Common Law Conservation Easement

9) I-87 Exit 23
Warren County, Town of Lake George
6.3 acres, Scenic Easement

10) I-87 Exit 24
Warren County, Town of Chestertown
16.3 acres, Scenic Easement

11) I-87 Exit 26
Warren County, Town of Chester
4.4 acres, Scenic Easement

12) I-87 Exit 27
Essex County, Town of Schroon
4.1 acres, Scenic Easement

13) I-87 Exit 28
Essex County, Town of Schroon
18 acres, Scenic Easement

14) I-87 Exit 29
Essex County, Town of North Hudson
1.6 acres, Scenic Easement

15) I-87 Exit 31
Essex County, Town of Westport
75.2 acres, Scenic Easement

16) I-87 Exit 32
Essex County, Town of Lewis
115.2 acres, Scenic Easement

17) I-87 Exit 33
Essex County, Town of Chesterfield
35.3 acres, Scenic Easement

* Not all of these lands are open to the public. Please contact the NYSDEC for additional information.

Public Fishing Rights Easements

County	Stream	Mileage*
Clinton	Alder Brook	0.17
	Ausable River	0.15
	Cold Brook	0.45
	North Branch Great Chazy	1.01
	North Branch Saranac River	4.58
	Salmon River	3.38
	Saranac River	3.27
	True Brook	4.14
	Unnamed Water	0.45
Essex	Ausable River	1.15
	Boquet River	21.39
	Chubb River	1.27
	East Branch Ausable River	10.54
	North Branch Boquet River	9.59
	Putnam Creek	1.85
	Schroon River	6.11
	Spruce Mill Brook	3.59
	West Branch Ausable River	3.78
Franklin	Alder Brook	0.20
	Chateaugay River	1.16
	Dexter Lake Outlet	0.32
	East Branch Saint Regis River	2.43
	Hatch Brook	0.53
	Lake Ozonia Outlet	0.77
	North Branch Saranac River	6.39
	Salmon River	2.47
	St. Regis River	2.72
Fulton	East Canada Creek	3.14
	Sprite Creek	0.28
Herkimer	Black River	0.28
	East Canada Creek	0.22

	Little Black Creek	3.69
	Trammel Creek	0.58
	Unnamed Water	0.37
	West Canada Creek	0.11
Lewis	Hogs Back Creek	0.21
	Unnamed Water	0.52
	Unnamed Water	0.21
	West Branch Oswegatchie River	3.11
Oneida	Woodhull Creek	0.40
St. Lawrence	Grasse River	0.67
	Little River	4.62
	North Branch Grasse River	0.46
	St. Regis River	0.79
	Twin Lake Stream	1.36
	Unnamed Water	0.49
	Unnamed Water	0.29
	Unnamed Water	0.46
Warren	Balm of Gilead	0.02
	Hague Brook	0.19
	Hudson River	0.75
	Mill Creek	4.22
	North Creek	1.64
	Schroon River	0.38
	West Brook	0.24
Total		**123.56 Miles**

Mileage is calculated based upon easements held on each bank.

Cover Photo: Adirondack Rail Trail / Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor
Photo Credit: Benjamin Brosseau, Adirondack Park Agency