

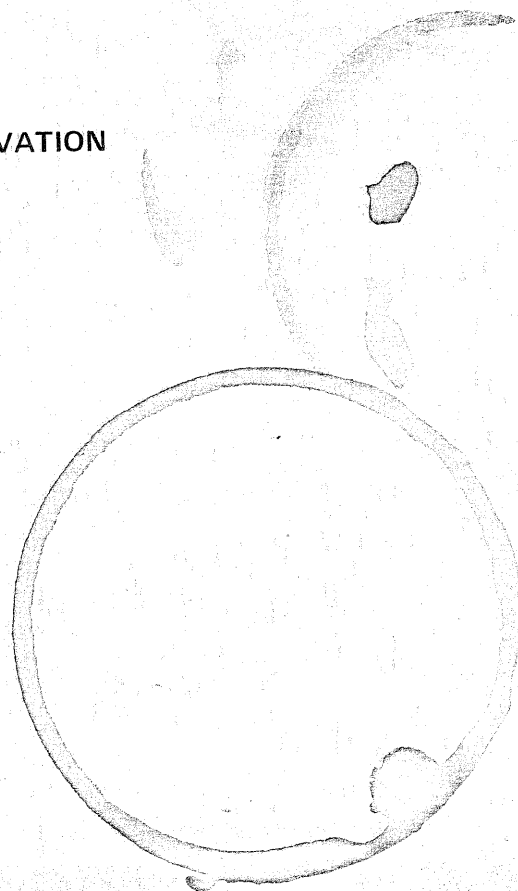
ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

Prepared by the
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

in consultation with the
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Submitted to
GOVERNOR NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

June 1, 1972



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The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12201

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

We have the honor to transmit herewith the master plan for the management of state lands in the Adirondack Park. The plan, developed in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, is submitted for your consideration and approval in accordance with Section 807 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act.

One thousand copies of a draft of the master plan were distributed to interested parties, including members of the legislature, regional planning organizations, the supervisors of the eighty seven towns within the Park and conservation groups. Although not required by the Act, the Agency held a series of nine public hearings attended by approximately one thousand people in Lake Placid, Lake George, Old Forge, Rochester and the City of New York. Just under two hundred persons testified. A summary of their testimony and copies of their prepared statements are attached. The testimony reflected divergent viewpoints but widespread support for the basic structure of the plan was expressed. Once again, the people of the state have shown their deep concern for the priceless resources of the state lands within the Park.

Following the hearings, a complete review of the master plan was undertaken by the Agency, its staff and representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation and certain modifications were made to reflect views expressed at the hearings.

Submission by the statutory deadline would have been impossible were it not for the tireless efforts of the Agency staff and the task force of the Department of Environmental Conservation during the short nine month period that the Agency has been in existence.

We hope this master plan will meet with your approval. Its implementation will require concerted efforts by all interested state agencies in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., Chairman

James R. Bird

Peter S. Paine, Jr.

Whitman Daniels

Mary F. Prime

Henry L. Diamond

Joseph P. Tonelli

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STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

July 20, 1972

Dear Dick:

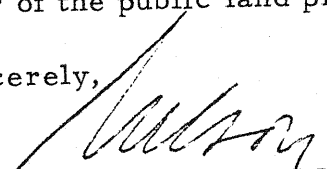
I hereby approve the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, submitted on June 1, 1972 pursuant to Section 807, Article 27 of the Executive Law.

The members of the Adirondack Park Agency are to be commended for this outstanding planning effort. In developing management guidelines which allow full public enjoyment of our unique Adirondack lands while assuring strong protection for the fragile areas of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, the Agency has done a great service for the people of the state.

Under the law, the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, will complete individual management plans to conform with the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan. Commissioner Diamond has been requested to make adequate provision in the Department's annual budget request for implementation of the management practices which have been recommended.

You may be sure of my support in meeting the challenge to carry out the spirit and letter of the public land plan.

Sincerely,



NELSON A. ROCKFELLER

Mr. Richard W. Lawrence, Jr.
Chairman
Adirondack Park Agency
Box 99
Ray Brook, New York 12977

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Map

Attached

“As a man tramps the woods to the lake he knows he will find pines and lilies, blue herons and golden shiners, shadows on the rocks and the glint of light on the wavelets, just as they were in the summer of 1354, as they will be in 2054 and beyond. He can stand on a rock by the shore and be in a past he could not have known, in a future he will never see. He can be a part of time that was and time yet to come.”

from Adirondack Country
by William Chapman White

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 management and use of these lands by all interested state agencies in the future.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

THE LEGISLATIVE MANDATE of the Agency regarding this master plan for state lands is contained in Section 807 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27 of the Executive Law, hereinafter referred to as "the Act") which provides:

§ 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 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.

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 or owned by the State of New York. Applying this definition, the following inventory of state lands exists within the Adirondack Park:

- Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

With the exception of a very small amount of acreage, consisting primarily of lands given or devised to the state for silvicultural or wildlife management purposes (which by statute are not considered as forming part of the forest preserve), the Department's administrative headquarters and certain historic sites, all of these lands form part of the Adirondack forest preserve and are protected by the "forever wild" clause of Article XIV of the state constitution. Slightly over 2,260,000 acres of these lands are administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

- Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.

These consist primarily of the rights-of-way for state and interstate highways within the Park, including administrative headquarters, storage areas and maintenance facilities. Some 1,100 miles of highway rights-of-way are involved.

- Lands under the jurisdiction of other state agencies.

These include a variety of developed uses such as State Police sub-stations, the Ray Brook State Hospital and the Sunmount State School. All are immediately adjacent to public highways, and the total acreage involved is minor, less than 1,000 acres in all.

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. Under Section 805 of the Act, the Agency is required to produce a master plan to guide development on private lands within the Park for submission to the Governor and the legislature in January 1973.

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 per cent of the 6,000,000 acres of land within the Park, the balance, or about 3,500,000 acres 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. In addition, the economy of the entire Adirondack region is vitally affected by the vast acreages of private lands that are devoted to multiple use forestry. To a 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.

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.

Water

The water resources in the Adirondacks are critical to the integrity of the Park. Waters, particularly lakes and ponds, have their carrying capacity from an environmental standpoint just as tracts of public or private land. The use made of state waters has a direct impact on adjacent land holdings.

A genuine need exists to insure that the scale and intensity of water oriented uses is 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 is concerned.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has the power to regulate uses of state waters totally surrounded by state lands and uses of wild, scenic and recreational rivers, but lacks the authority to regulate uses of waters where all or part of the shoreline is in private ownership. 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. This subject is one that will receive careful attention in the private land use and development plan that will be developed pursuant to Section 805 of the Act.

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 over three quarters of 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 landholding which typified the closing decades of the 19th century.

Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution reads 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 2,510,000 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 per cent is contained within the so-called "Blue Line" which 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 1968 there were 127 proposed amendments introduced in the state legislature to change Article XIV, but only sixteen have been successful in passing both the legislature and public referendum. In each of the sixteen successful measures, the forest preserve lands involved were restricted to small acreages and quite precisely delineated. This clearly indicates that the majority of voters in the state, throughout more than three-quarters of 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 which 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 the last fifteen years 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 Milmoie 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 nearly three 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 were:

- the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency;
- the preparation of a master plan for state lands by the Agency;
- 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 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 wished to place a hospital, 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 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 interest.

3. Save for rustic state campsites, a long accepted intensive use of the forest preserve (guidelines for which are recommended elsewhere in this master plan), and boat launching sites, 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 normally acquire lands for these purposes.

4. Highest priority should be given to acquiring fee title to, or restrictive scenic easements coupled with rights of first refusal over, key parcels of private land which threaten the integrity of vital tracts of state land, particularly wilderness, primitive and canoe 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 and other areas of unique value, such as lands near classified or proposed wild, scenic and recreational rivers.

7. Efforts should be made primarily by easement acquisition, to protect the major scenic resources of the Park along travel corridors, with particular attention to the Adirondack Northway.

8. The acquisition of rights-of-way across private lands that effectively prevent access to important blocks of state land should be pursued, except where the state land is subject to or threatened with problems of over-use.

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 which would curtail its use for forestry purposes. However, bulk scenic 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 Agency recommends the following procedures for revisions of the master plan in connection with new acquisitions:

- land acquisitions should be classified as promptly as possible following acquisition and in any case classification will be completed within one year; and
- prior to classification by the Agency, lands acquired by the Department of Environmental Conservation 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 ex-

change. The Perkins Clearing area does, however, present the most egregious example of the checkerboard pattern of public and private ownership in the entire Park, as a mere glance at the map will demonstrate. Severe management problems are presented for both the private landowner and the state. It is highly probable that a well conceived land exchange amendment confined to this specific area would be approved by the voters.

As a result, the Agency recommends that studies be undertaken immediately by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency to see if a land exchange and/or purchases in fee by the state can be worked out between the International Paper Company and the state in the Perkins Clearing area, so that appropriate legislation can be introduced at the 1973 session of the legislature to begin the constitutional amendment process should a land exchange prove feasible. As hereafter reflected in the basic classification system for primitive areas, the block of state land resulting from such an exchange and/or purchase will be added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

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 will 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 campsite 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; or
- the designation of a new travel corridor on, say, wild forest lands.

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 any resulting changes in the master plan submitted to the Governor for his 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 ongoing process and as public use of the state lands expands and changes in years ahead, land use thinking and land use controls must be adjusted accordingly. The Agency recommends that such periodic reviews of the master plan take place every five years, with any one of the interested state agencies involved at liberty to call for such a review at more frequent intervals.

Finally, a word should be said about the need for greater public involvement in the whole process of acquisition, revision and review. While it may not be feasible to conduct public hearings in connection with every minor revision of the master plan, public hearings both within and without the Adirondack Park in connection with important acquisitions, periodic reviews and material changes in the master plan are clearly essential. 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 Park and the nature of the planning process.

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 Adirondaeks as refined by additional field work and analysis by the Agency. In addition, a special Department of Environmental Conservation task force has provided extremely valuable assistance in the formulation of this system.

The basic factor involved has been 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 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 swamps, 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 physical limitations just described, for instance many plants of the boreal, sub-alpine and alpine zones are less able to withstand trampling than species associated with lower elevation life zones. Wetland ecosystems are frequently 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 characteristic 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 of hikers or campers near the nesting habitat of rare and endangered species such as the eagle or spruce grouse; or the problems associated with motorized access to bodies of water with wild strains of native trout.

In addition, any land classification system in the Adirondack Park must take into account certain intangible considerations which have an inevitable impact on the character of land. Some of these are 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 which case, as will be seen, a primitive designation would be required. Others are more concrete—for example the suitability of a given system of lakes and ponds for canoeing or guide boating; 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 must take 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, that of an existing campsite or ski area the designation of an intensive use area. Others relate to such questions as the extent of existing facilities and uses which might make it impractical to attempt to recreate a wilderness or wild forest atmosphere. 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, to an extent, dependent on value judgments which 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.

Seven basic categories result from this classification:

Wilderness

Primitive

Canoe

Wild Forest

Intensive Use

Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

Travel Corridors

If there is a unifying theme to the classification system, it is that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park should 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 and their psychological aspects are not degraded. This theme is drawn, not only from the Act and its legislative history, but also from over three-quarters of 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, with careful planning and management, provide in the future a wide spectrum of outdoor recreational and

educational pursuits in a wild forest setting unparalleled in the eastern half of this country.

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. 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 they are not to be considered as attempts to make constitutional determinations.

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 small scale nature of the map, the location of the classification system boundaries are subject to precise definition on the site by the Adirondack Park Agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and such other state agencies as may be involved.

Definitions

AS USED HEREIN, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

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

2. 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.

3. 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 local environment.

4. Horse Barn — a rustic structure open on at least one side designed to provide temporary shelter for a small number of horses.

5. 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.

6. 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 and horse trails, roads, jeep trails,

state truck trails, snowmobile trails, trail heads, picnic areas and campsites.

7. Jeep Trail — an improved way on which the Department of Environmental Conservation permits general public use by jeeps or other four wheel drive or all terrain vehicles other than snowmobiles.

8. Lean-To — an open front shelter made of natural materials suitable for temporary or 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 local environment.

9. Motor Vehicle — a device for transporting personnel, 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, all terrain vehicles, duffel carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth moving equipment and motorboats.

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

11. Motorized Equipment — machines not designed for transporting personnel, supplies or material, 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.

12. Natural Materials — construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought in to the construction site which 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.

13. 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, which does not comply with the guidelines for such classification specified in the master plan.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. River Area — a river and its immediate environs, including river banks and the land on both sides of the river.

17. Road — an improved way designed for travel by automobiles and;

- (i) either maintained by a state agency or a local government and open to the general public; or
- (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.

18. Snowmobiles — a motor vehicle designed primarily to travel on snow or ice by means of skis, skids, tracks or other devices.

19. Snowmobile Trail — a marked trail designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation on which snowmobiles are allowed to travel when covered by snow or ice.

20. State Truck Trail — 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 fire fighting equipment and not normally open to the public.

21. 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, horse barns, horse hitching posts and rails, fire towers, observer cabins, telephone and electric light lines, mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks and dams.

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

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 untrammelled 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 improvements or permanent human habitation; which is protected and managed so as to preserve 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 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 are the most important wilderness resource in the eastern United States. A majority of these areas contain some structures and improvements or are subjected to uses by the public or by official personnel that are incompatible with wilderness. However, the extent of these non-conforming uses is very modest from the standpoint of the total acreage involved. Their removal is within the control of the Department of Environmental Conservation and can be achieved in the relatively near future.

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; and
 - b) non-conforming uses which may exist will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases by December 31, 1975 on a scheduled basis to be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation.
3. Effective immediately, 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.

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 and individual primitive tent sites with fire rings below 3,500 feet in elevation;
- pit privies;
- foot trails;
- foot trail bridges and ladders constructed of natural materials;
- horse trails, except that any new horse trails will be limited to those which can be developed by conversion of appropriate abandoned roads, snowmobile trails, jeep trails and state truck trails;
- horse trail bridges constructed of natural materials;
- 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.

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 phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases by the December 31, 1975 deadline. These include but are not limited to:

- clusters of more than two lean-tos;
- tent platforms;
- horse barns;
- boat docks;
- storage sheds and other buildings;
- fire towers and observer cabins;
- telephone and electrical lines;
- snowmobile trails;
- roads, jeep trails and state truck trails;
- helicopter platforms;
- buoys.

Ranger Stations

1. No new interior ranger stations will be constructed and all such stations, other than Lake Colden, will be phased out on a scheduled basis determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation, in favor of

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 by December 31, 1975 where possible, or as soon as feasible thereafter, 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 may be retained indefinitely but its status will be periodically reviewed to determine if its 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 maintenance.

3. Use of motorized equipment or aircraft, but not motor vehicles, by administrative personnel may be permitted for a specific major maintenance, rehabilitation, construction or research project involving conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of non-conforming structures, upon the 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, require more frequent work.

5. 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 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 large scale contamination of streams.

Roads, Jeep Trails and State Truck Trails

1. No new roads, jeep trails or state truck trails will be allowed.

2. Existing roads, jeep trails and state truck trails will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases by December 31, 1975 on a scheduled basis to be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation so as to:

- close such roads and jeep trails to motor vehicles as are now 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 phase out period:
- the use of motorized 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 non-conforming uses; and
 - maintenance of such roads will be curtailed and efforts made to encourage revegetation with lower forms of vegetation to permit their conversion to foot trails and, where appropriate, horse trails, and to facilitate future access in emergency situations.

Flora and Fauna

There will be no intentional introduction of species of flora or fauna in wilderness areas which 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.

Recreational Use and Over-Use

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

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

Horseback riding, while permitted in wilderness, will be strictly controlled and limited to suitable locations.

2. Efforts will be made in the individual unit management plans to determine the 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. An intensified educational program to improve public understanding of back country use, including an anti-litter and pack-in pack-out campaign, should be undertaken.

Boundary Alterations and Marking

1. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a public highway, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in its discretion and upon notification to the Agency, to move the boundary up to 500 feet from the highway right-of-way to accommodate trailheads; parking areas; scattered, small scale public camping sites and picnic areas; ranger stations; in limited instances, snowmobile trails; or other structures and improvements not conforming to wilderness guidelines.

2. 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 initial designation under this master plan of fifteen wilderness areas scattered throughout the Adirondacks. One of these areas meets wilderness standards today. Seven contain relatively trivial non-conforming uses and seven have somewhat more extensive non-conforming uses. These areas encompass just under 1,000,000 acres or about forty-five per cent 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 description of each designated wilderness, identifying the principal features and facilities of the area and specifying the non-conforming uses which will be removed during the phase out period is contained in Chapter III. 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) which 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 December 31, 1975, and/or (b) which 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. One where the goal is clearly upgrading to wilderness at some future time when the non-conforming uses can be removed, and/or acquisition of private tracts accomplished and, secondly where the possibility of eventual wilderness classification is 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 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 could never attain wilderness standards or larger tracts with non-conforming uses, such as a railroad or major public highway, that are essentially permanent, but where 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 expansion of non-conforming uses will be permitted;
- b) those non-conforming uses which may exist that can be removed by December 31, 1975 will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases by that date on a scheduled basis to be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation;
- c) those non-conforming uses that cannot be removed by December 31, 1975 but whose eventual removal is anticipated will be phased out on a reasonable timetable as soon as their removal becomes feasible.

3. Effective immediately, 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.

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 December 31, 1975; 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.

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 permanent retention of such stations may be provided for as determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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 addition, 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 prior to December 31, 1975; or
- b) in primitive areas not destined to become wilderness, whose presence is of a permanent character.

3. Use of motorboats on the Oswegatchie River by the public or administrative personnel from October 1 to December 15 may be permitted at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation pending any future reclassification of the Oswegatchie Primitive Area or redesignation of the river as a wild river.

Roads, Jeep Trails and State Truck Trails

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

- continued use of existing roads, jeep trails and state truck trails by administrative personnel will be permitted, to the extent necessary to reach and maintain structures and improvements whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be carried out by December 31, 1975, or, in the case of primitive areas not destined to become wilderness, whose presence is of a permanent character;
- existing roads, or jeep trails now 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.

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

Flora and Fauna

The same guideline will apply as in wilderness areas.

Recreational Use and Over-Use

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Boundary Alterations and 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 initial designation under this

master plan of sixteen primitive areas scattered throughout the Adirondacks. The objective for twelve of these areas will be to eventually upgrade them to wilderness. One of these areas is unlikely ever to become wilderness, and the status of three areas will require further analysis in the light of future developments and public use patterns. These areas comprise some 80,000 acres or four per cent of the forest preserve within the Park. Quite 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 description of each designated primitive area on the same basis as the descriptions for wilderness is contained in Chapter III. In addition, the eventual goals for the ultimate classification of each area are set forth and non-conforming uses are broken down into those that will be removed by December 31, 1975 and those whose removal is either anticipated but not possible by that date or are of a more or less permanent character.

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 snow-shoeing 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) such non-conforming uses will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases by December 31, 1975 on a scheduled basis to be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

3. Effective immediately, 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.

Structures and Improvements

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

2. In addition, existing state truck trails 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 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.

Roads, Jeep Trails and State Truck Trails

The guidelines specified for wilderness areas will also apply to canoe areas except that use of state truck trails by administrative personnel for purposes designed to preserve or enhance the water or fishery resources of the area will be permitted. Such trails will be closed to public use by means of a gate or other similar methods.

Flora and Fauna

The same guideline will apply as in wilderness areas.

Recreational Use and Over-Use

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

Boundary Alteration and 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 initial designation under this

master plan of only the Saint Regis Canoe Area. Certain private tracts in the Park may also qualify for canoe area designation should they ever be acquired.

The Saint 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 which lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness, primitive or canoe areas and which permits a wide variety of extensive 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, the following guidelines are not to be interpreted so as to prevent silvicultural or wildlife management practices on these lands, provided the other guidelines for wild forest land are respected.

Guidelines for Management and Use

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) non-conforming uses which may exist will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases by December 31, 1975 on a scheduled basis to be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation.
3. Effective immediately, 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 trails open to motorized use.

5. Care should be taken to designate separate areas for incompatible uses such as snowmobiling and ski-touring or horseback riding and hiking.

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

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 Adirondack lean-tos and individual tent sites with fire rings below 3,500 feet in elevation;
- nature and interpretive trails;
- trailhead construction and related parking facilities adjacent to public highways;
- minor diking, cribbing or stream deflectors for fish management purposes;
- cartop boat access sites (i.e. fishing access sites) adjacent to public highways;
- horse trails.

The maintenance and rehabilitation of the following structures and improvements will be allowed 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;
- 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, jeep trails and state truck trails as set forth below;
- snowmobile trails as set forth below;

- fire towers and observer cabins as set forth below.

Ranger Stations

Existing ranger stations may be retained and new ranger stations constructed, but only where necessary for administration of the area and in such a way that will not result in deterioration of the wild forest area involved.

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, motorized equipment and aircraft will be allowed as follows:

- a) by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain and construct permitted structures and improvements, or for other appropriate law enforcement and general supervision of public use;
- b) by the general public, subject to the basic guideline 4 set forth above, but only on:
 - existing public roads;
 - open jeep trails now designated 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;
- c) by snowmobiles on trails specifically designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with the guidelines for such trails specified below.

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

Roads, Jeep Trails and State Truck Trails

1. Continued use of existing roads, jeep trails and state truck trails by administrative personnel will be permitted, to the extent necessary, to reach, maintain and construct permitted structures and improvements.

2. Existing roads or jeep trails, now open to and used by the public for motor vehicle use 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. No new roads or jeep trails will be constructed. No new state truck trails will be constructed unless such construction is absolutely essential to the protection or administration of an area and no alternatives exist and provided that there will be no material adverse effect on the wild forest character of the area.

Snowmobile Trails

Snowmobile trails should be designed and located in a manner which 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 jeep trails or abandoned woods roads as the basis of such new snowmobile trail construction except in rare circumstances requiring the cutting of new trails;
- appropriate opportunities to improve the snowmobile trail system may be pursued 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 are not available and topography permits; and (ii) the acquisition of portions of the Penn Central railroad right-of-way from the Park Boundary at Woodgate to Lake Placid which is recommended;
- deer wintering yards and other important wildlife and resource areas should be avoided by such trails.

Fire Towers

The educational and informational aspects of certain fire towers should be encouraged and wherever possible these fire towers should be retained regardless of their need from a fire control standpoint.

Tent Platforms

The current policy of the Department of Environmental Conservation with respect to the non-renewal and revocation of tent platform permits will be continued, and all such permits will be terminated and tent platforms removed by December 31, 1975.

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 Over-Use

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 which will not materially increase existing motorized uses 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 over-use will not be as serious as in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas, care must nonetheless be taken to avoid over-use, 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 initial designation under the master plan of about 1.2 million acres of wild forest land, comprising approximately 51 per cent 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 fifteen of the largest 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. An intensive use area is further defined to include

campgrounds containing over 20 individual camping sites, developed beaches, launching sites for trailered boats, ski centers, visitor information centers, bobruins, parkways and memorial highways designed to accommodate significant numbers of visitors and their attendant facilities.

These areas provide for congregations and/or accommodations of visitors to the Park and often function as a base for day 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 group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, 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. Wherever possible such facilities should be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems within the Park.

3. Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing intensive use areas before the construction of new facilities is considered.

4. 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.

5. 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. Intensive use facilities should not be expanded beyond the capacity of their sewage treatment system.

Campgrounds

1. The older existing campgrounds will be redesigned, as the Department of Environmental Conservation budget permits, to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities to the environment.

2. The informative campfire programs should be expanded.

3. Future campgrounds will be located so as to encourage public use on presently underutilized tracts of state land. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subjected to or threatened by over-use.

4. Future public campgrounds in the central Adirondacks will be of a rustic nature and be relatively small in size.

Boat Launching Sites

Launching sites for trailered boats should be provided only on large lakes regularly used by motorboats, and where private launching facilities open to the public are inadequate. Such sites should not be provided where the threat of overuse exists.

Ski Areas, Bobruns, Parkways

1. Existing ski centers at Gore and Whiteface should be modernized to the extent physical resources allow.

2. Every effort should be made to insure the permanent operation of the Van Hoevenberg bobsled run by the state or by another appropriate entity.

Visitor Information Centers

1. Visitor information centers should be provided at major highway entrances to the Park and other appropriate locations.

2. These centers will be designed to provide visitors with interpretive information on the various natural resources and points of interest in the Park.

Recreational Use and Over-Use

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 resource. 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 intensive use area to avoid overflow camping on adjacent undeveloped state lands;
- 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. They include 42 campgrounds, one beach not associated with a campground, 22 boat launching sites, two ski centers, a bobrun, a parkway and a memorial highway occupying in all somewhat less than 10,000 acres. These areas are listed in Chapter III.

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 which 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 recently passed by the legislature 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 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 which is partially or predominantly used for agriculture, forest management and other dispersed human activities which 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 which would be less restrictive in nature 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 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.

4. The width of the river area will be determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation, as specified in the individual unit management plans for the river area and will normally be one-half mile from each bank.

Wild Rivers

1. Wild rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas except that no new structures or improvements will be permitted other than: Foot trails, foot trail bridges constructed of natural materials, primitive tent sites with fire rings, and pit privies.

2. Such new structures and improvements will not normally be permitted within 100 feet of the river shore and, except for foot trails and foot trail bridges, will in all cases be permitted only if they are completely screened by vegetation from view of the river itself.

3. 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 that:

- a) access points to the river shore or crossing the river by roads, jeep trails, 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;
- b) other motor vehicle routes in the river area will not be encouraged and, where permitted, will normally be kept at least 500 feet from the river shore;
- c) other permitted structures and improvements will be located so as to be screened from view from the river itself;
- d) 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 and is consistent with the character of the river and river area;
- e) fish barrier dams, minor diking, cribbing and stream deflectors, constructed of natural materials

wherever possible, will be permitted where necessary for fish management purposes.

Recreational Rivers

1. Recreational rivers and their river areas will be administered in accordance with the guidelines for management of wild forest areas except that: Structures, improvements and uses permitted in intensive use areas will be permitted in recreational river areas, provided the scale and intensity of these intensive uses does not adversely affect the recreational character of the river and the river area, and the natural features of the river and its immediate shoreline are maintained.

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

3. Fish barrier dams, cribbing and stream deflectors will be permitted on the same basis as for scenic rivers.

Designation of Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

The application of the above definitions and criteria to rivers on state lands results in the initial designation under this master plan of seventy-one and one-half (71.5) miles of wild rivers, eighty-nine (89) miles of scenic rivers and twenty (20) miles of recreational rivers. Certain 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

A travel corridor is that strip of land constituting the roadbed and right-of-way for state and interstate highways in the Adirondack Park and those state lands immediately adjacent to and visible from these highways.

This category is unique in the classification system in that several state agencies are involved in its administration. For instance, the Department of Transportation has obvious jurisdiction relating to highway construction, design, maintenance and accessory facilities. The Department of Environmental Conservation is involved in the construction and maintenance of many signs, camping or picnic areas, trailheads and similar facilities. In addition, the Education Department is responsible for some interpretive signing; the State Police maintain various buildings in these corridors, and there are also institutional facilities maintained by the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Narcotics Addiction

Control Commission. Careful planning and coordination among all interested agencies is essential to provide distinction to the Adirondack Park highway system.

The importance of the major travel corridors and the principal segments of the local highway network to the integrity of the Park cannot be overemphasized. 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 is important.

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, and the reconstruction of Route 10 from Arietta to Route 8 in Hamilton County. However, there are many areas where more attention to the Park's unique atmosphere is essential. The following guidelines are recommended to achieve this objective.

Guidelines for Management and Use

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 environment.
2. State lands within travel corridors but outside of the right-of-way that are otherwise classified under this master plan will be managed in compliance with the guidelines for the appropriate classification.
3. 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 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 rights-of-way 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.

Signing Policies

A comprehensive plan for all signing on state lands within travel corridors should 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 state signs within these corridors.

Specific elements of this plan should include:

- large 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 landmark and vista signing, pointing out to the traveling public the many and varied natural resources and historic sites of the Park;
- better trailhead signing discernible to the motoring public for foot and horse trails;
- special design standards in the Park for all highway signs that do not relate directly to traffic safety;
- a new policy towards service station sign control along the Adirondack Northway, permitting the erection on the Northway of small national oil company emblems on a single sign indicating the availability of gasoline at each exit, coupled with the removal of the high rise service station signs, which now disfigure this magnificent road;
- coordination between state land signing practices, the Adirondack Park sign law regulating off-premises advertising and whatever on-site sign control policies result from the Agency's land use and development plan for private land following submission to the Governor and legislature in 1973.

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.

Roadside Aesthetics

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

2. These structures or facilities should 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 should 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 revegetated.

4. All future guide rail construction should utilize the new weak post cable system or dark brown treated wooden posts where appropriate.

5. Utility companies should be permitted and encouraged to bury their telephone and electric transmission and distribution lines in the highway right-of-way.

6. A vegetative cover should be maintained on all cut and fill slopes with adequate soil.

Designation of Travel Corridors

The application of the travel corridor definition results in the designation of approximately 1,100 miles of travel corridors. These are enumerated in Chapter III.

In addition to the delineated 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 SEVEN 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 sites; and, particularly interesting natural areas;
- nature preserves, such as habitats of endangered species of plants or wildlife where protection to prevent over-use or destruction of a unique resource may be required;
- 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.

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

3. Where over-use 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, 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

Blue Ridge

This wilderness is located in the towns of Arietta, Lake Pleasant and Indian Lake in Hamilton County. It is roughly bounded on the north by Route 28; on the east by Route 28 and private lands immediately west of this route; on the south by private lands immediately north and west of Cedar River Flow; and on the west by the Lake Kora and Sagamore Lake properties and the South Inlet of Raquette Lake.

The area is dominated by Blue Ridge, a height of land ranging from 2,700 to 3,497 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. The forest cover is typical mixed hardwood-softwood types with the higher elevations predominantly covered with spruce and balsam. Most of the old growth spruce and hemlock suffered heavy damage in the 1950 blowdown affecting the character of the area to this day.

The Blue Ridge wilderness is easily accessible along most of its perimeter except for the west portion south of the Sagamore property where private land prevents public access. A portion of the Northville-Lake Placid foot trail runs from the south boundary northward to the vicinity of Stephens Pond and Lake Durant. Campers from the Lake Durant public campground make use of the trails in that vicinity while the chief use of the foot trails in the Wilson Pond section appears to be by fishermen, hunters and summer visitors to the community of Blue Mountain Lake. With the exception of Sprague Pond near the south boundary of this area, there appears to be little public use from that direction.

Blue Ridge area statistics:

State Lands	43,160	Acres
Bodies of Water (19)	275	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,700	Feet
(maximum)	3,744	Feet
Foot Trails	15.0	Miles
Lean-tos	3	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Jeep Trails	5.5	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	5.5	Miles

Dix Mountain

This area is in the towns of Elizabethtown, Keene and North Hudson, Essex County. It is roughly bounded on the north by Route 73, on the east by the Adirondack Northway, on the south by Blue Ridge Road and on the west by the Elk Lake and Ausable Club lands.

The terrain is rough, rocky and mountainous, with several of the mountain tops exceeding 4,000 feet. Twelve small ponds, with a total surface area of about 115 acres, lie in the wilderness. Vertical cliffs of considerable height are common, particularly in the northern and eastern parts.

Most of the mountains do not have any marked, maintained foot trails leading to their summits, even though excellent views are features of this area.

Some of the most severe and extensive forest fires of the Adirondacks occurred in this area during a prolonged drought period in 1903. As a result, the tops and upper slopes of the mountains not only lost their forest cover but the humus was also consumed and the mineral soil eroded down to bare rock.

The present forest cover consists chiefly of polesize yellow birch, aspen and stunted balsam at the higher

elevations with mixed hardwoods and softwoods on the better soils at lower elevations.

Some of the mountains, such as Dix, South Dix and McComb, have had small landslides in recent years which occur mostly on the near vertical north slopes. This has left a series of prominent bare rock scars on the upper slopes.

There are four trailless peaks in the area, South Dix, East Dix, Hough and McComb that are over 4,000 feet in elevation. The use of areas such as this by the public, without marked and maintained foot trails, is high, as indicated by the registers which are located on the peaks. For example, 370 persons had signed the McComb register during the first nine months of 1969.

Hikers and campers probably outnumber all other recreational users in this area, but there is also substantial use by hunters and fishermen. The hunters seem to frequent the eastern and northern portions.

The Adirondack Trail Improvement Society, with headquarters at St. Huberts, maintains a system of foot trails in the northern and northwestern part of the area with approval of the New York State Environmental Conservation Department. Their trails extend to such mountain tops as Round Top, Noonmark, Bear Den, Dial, Nippetop, Mount Colvin, Blake and Pinnacle.

The steep, rugged terrain, characteristic of nearly the whole area, has been responsible for the region retaining a wilderness atmosphere. This, together with other accompanying features, lends itself well to the classification into which it has been placed.

The Ausable Club lands, bordering on the north, blend with this area quite well because the management of the private lands is compatible with that of the adjacent state lands. The public is allowed use of the Ausable Club holdings to reach adjoining state property. A scenic easement should, however, be acquired over the Club property to insure that present compatible uses are perpetuated.

Public access to the area around the remainder of the perimeter is also good.

Dix Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	46,900	Acres
Bodies of Water (12)	115	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	940	Feet
(maximum)	4,857	Feet
Foot Trails	34.5	Miles
Lean-tos	2	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Jeep Trails	2	Miles

Five Ponds

This wilderness is located in the towns of Fine and Clifton in St. Lawrence County, the town of Webb in Herkimer County and the town of Long Lake in Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north by Cranberry Lake and by the High Falls truck trail which roughly parallels the Oswegatchie River; on the east by the Colton town line and private lands in the vicinity of Grass Pond, Big Deer Pond and Bog Lake; on the south by Stillwater Reservoir; on the west by private lands in the vicinity of Hidden Lake, Brandy Pond, Bear Pond, Upper South Pond (except for a short distance in lot 13 where an access road forms the boundary) and the Oswegatchie Primitive Area.

The terrain is low, rolling and interspersed with many small ponds. Swamp areas and small brooks are numerous. The forest cover varies from pole-size 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. When early logging was in progress, and the Oswegatchie River carried the softwood logs downstream to the saw-mills, it was found impractical to haul the huge logs by horse and oxen from the Five Ponds area out to the landing on Wolf Creek, so that section was not logged. The old growth pine and red spruce stand on the esker between Big Five, Little Five and Big Shallow, Little Shallow and Washbowl 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 the timber was salvaged by a logging contractor.

In addition to these spots, other points of interest to the hiker, camper and fisherman are: High Falls on the Oswegatchie River; Cat Mountain; "The Plains", which are very similar in soil and cover type to that of the Moose River Plains; and the 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, apparently introduced accidentally or otherwise into Cranberry Lake several years ago, virtually eliminated the brook trout population. At the present time, the area is popular with hunters and fishermen who frequent the interior ponds.

The Oswegatchie is a fine canoeing stream and is used as such to reach interior wilderness points of interest. The river itself falls within the Oswegatchie Primitive Area and,

as stated in the guidelines for primitive area, the river will be closed to motor boats except during hunting season.

One of the threats to the area as a wilderness is the Broadhead Gore, which was considered state land from about 1890 until 1947 when the state lost it in a law suit brought by the late Augustus Low. The gore, which contained original growth timber, was logged soon after the law suit and was then sold to the Onondaga Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Although the total acreage in the gore is only about 300, it extends from Mud Lake westward a distance of about eight miles, coming to a dagger-like point in the heart of the wilderness. The acquisition of this gore would be a vital factor in preserving the integrity of the Five Ponds Wilderness.

The lands to the west of the truck trail are currently classified as a primitive area.

The Five Ponds area is accessible to the public from the north and also from the south if one has a boat, but approaches from the east are blocked by posted private lands, and the western boundary in Herkimer County is also restricted by posted private lands.

Five Ponds area statistics:

State Lands	62,780	Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	320	Acres
Bodies of Water (91)	1,350	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,486	Feet
(maximum)	2,460	Feet
Foot Trails	61.4	Miles
Lean-tos	5	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Jeep Trails	4.0	Miles
Fire Towers - unmanned	1	
Observer Cabins	1	
Telephone Lines	6.0	Miles

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 topsoil down to bare rock and leaving the two dominating mountains of the locale, Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge, practically bald. A few pockets on the lower slopes escaped the intense burn and these are now visible as 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 east boundary of Route 9, a few miles south of Elizabethtown, to the top of Giant Mountain, a horizontal distance of about six miles, the elevation change is about 4,000 feet, which represents the greatest differential in elevation per horizontal mile of any wilderness area.

Because of the great difference in temperature 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.

Only two small ponds are in the area, but each one is rather unique because of its 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 about five acres. The lovely little tarn near the summit of Rocky Peak Ridge has been referred to locally by a number of different names, but recently a sign was erected at the pond with the name "Lake Marie Louise". It is reminiscent of the subalpine lakes of the western United States. The sharp col, referred to as Gusty Gap, between Giant Mountain and Rocky Peak Ridge is another attractive feature of the area.

Many small brooks cascade down from the upper slopes and one in particular, Roaring Brook, has a scenic waterfall which may 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 good with trailheads available on each of the four sides.

Giant Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	22,100 Acres
Bodies of Water (2)	6 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	700 Feet
(maximum)	4,627 Feet
Foot Trails	12.5 Miles
Lean-tos	1

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 Penn Central Railroad right-of-way; on the south by private lands along Route 28 and by the woods road leading to the Copper Lake property; and on the west by Pine Creek and a Conservation Department maintained foot trail from Pine Creek to Pine Lake, East Pine Pond and Big Otter Lake.

The terrain is low rolling hills with many beaver meadows and swamps.

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, mixed hardwood and softwood stands of trees relatively small in diameter predominate. The exceptions are the scattered individual white pine trees just north of the truck trail which were not cut in the last logging operation. Some of these trees exceed 100 feet in height and are more than 40 inches in diameter. The probable reason they escaped the loggers was that the last cut was for hardwoods, and the scattered pine represented insufficient revenue in relation to the logging costs to justify felling and hauling.

Numerous woods roads on the state lands adjacent to the wilderness in the town of Greig are used by hunters and fishermen with jeeps, doodle-bugs and farm tractors. The proposed boundary line recognizes these established uses.

One problem posing a threat to the wilderness integrity of this area is the invasion of snowmobiles which can enter across the perimeters from nearly any direction (there being few natural barriers). Snowmobiling at night is quite prevalent, making regulation enforcement more difficult for the Environmental Conservation Department personnel available.

Public access from the north and south is nearly all blocked by private lands. The same is true for most of the

east and west boundaries except at the state truck trail entrance near Thendara and the Big Otter jeep road from the west.

Ha-de-ron-dah area statistics:

State Lands	26,600 Acres
Bodies of Water (59)	350 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,440 Feet
(maximum)	2,340 Feet
Foot Trails	27.3 Miles
Lean-tos	7

Non-conforming Uses:

State Truck Trails	6.5 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	2.3 Miles
Fire Towers - unmanned	1
Observer Cabins	1
Telephone Lines	1.8 Miles

High Peaks

This is the largest proposed wilderness area and is located in three counties and six towns; the town of Harrietstown in Franklin County, the towns of North Elba, Keene, North Hudson 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 old Haybridge Road that runs from Cold Brook to Averyville, the Adirondack Loj property at Heart Lake, the Mount Van Hoevenberg Bobrun facilities and Route 73 near the Cascade Lakes. Private land to the west of Route 73 forms the east boundary. The southern boundary is formed by privately owned lands, including the Ausable Club, Finch Pruyn, National Lead Company and the State University College of Forestry's Huntington Wildlife Forest. This wilderness is bounded on the west by Long Lake and the Raquette River.

The topography ranges from small areas of low-lying swampland (e.g., along the Raquette and Saranac Rivers) to the highest point in New York State at the top of Mount Marcy. Although there is a considerable variety of topography, it is predominantly high mountain country.

Like the topography, the forest cover also varies from pole-size hardwoods to mature, large diameter hardwood and softwood stands to the spruce-fir of the subalpine.

Forest fires near the turn of the century were intense enough in some locations, like the Cascade Range, to destroy both vegetation and topsoil, leaving bare rock which will require many more years for enough soil to develop to support a forest cover. 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 are above the timber line and a number of other mountain tops are at or close to timber line. 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 peak region and close observation of unique plant associations. Over-use threatens the continued existence of some of these associations.

The range trail, which traverses a series of mountain summits from Mount Marcy to Keene Valley, has long been considered the most rugged and the most scenic trail in the state. This trail traverses eight of the mountain peaks in this area that exceed 4,000 feet in elevation.

The western portions of the area receive substantially less public use than the Mount Marcy region and afford one of the greatest senses of remoteness obtainable in the Adirondacks.

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

Campers and hikers find numerous scenic spots such as Wanika Falls, Indian Falls, Indian Pass, the Duck Hole, Avalanche Pass, and Panther Gorge, in addition to the many mountain peaks, a satisfying reward for the effort expended in hikes to these locations.

Hikers and mountaineers probably outnumber all other groups. Ski touring and snowshoeing through the area, particularly the northeast sector, have been on the increase in recent years. Winter mountaineering is also expanding. During the Christmas-New Year holiday, it has become common to find all the lean-tos at Lake Colden filled and overflowing with winter campers.

Probably the most heavily used trails in the entire Adirondacks are those to Mount Marcy from Adirondack Loj via Indian Falls or Lake Colden. The heavy public use at Marcy Dam and Lake Colden threatens to destroy the wilderness character of these sections if appropriate management systems are not applied now. The number of lean-tos at these two locations exceed wilderness guidelines, and the ranger station at Marcy Dam will be phased out in

accordance with the policy of achieving peripheral control. However, 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. New means of supply and communications with this station, complying with wilderness guidelines, will have to be developed when the telephone line and current administrative snowmobile access are discontinued before December 31, 1975.

In addition to the phase out of non-conforming structures, it may well be necessary to limit public use of the eastern portion of the High Peak area during certain periods.

Each of the interior private parcels 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 very restrictive easements should be purchased on these parcels.

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

High Peaks area statistics:

State Lands	219,570	Acres
Private Inholdings (10)	4,530	Acres
Bodies of Water (122)	9,392	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,040	Feet
(maximum)	5,344	Feet
Foot Trails	174.0	Miles
Horse Trails	52.3	Miles
Lean-tos	49	
Impoundments	2	
Non-conforming Uses:		
State Truck Trails	19.3	Miles
Jeep Trails	35.1	Miles
Fire Towers — unmanned	2	
Observer Cabins	2	
* Ranger Cabins	5	
Horse Barns	4	
Tent Platforms	4	
Telephone Lines	4.5	Miles
Lean-tos above 3,500 feet	10	
Lean-to Clusters	2	

Hoffman Notch

This area is 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

*Non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled.

Sand Pond Mountain tract donated to the state by Finch, Pruyn & Company for fish and wildlife management and 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 with three north-south ridges in excess of 3,000 feet dominating the area: Blue Ridge, Texas Ridge and Washburn Ridge.

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

The forest cover ranges from second growth hardwoods of sapling and pole-size to nearly solid conifer stands of near mature size at the higher elevations. On some of the better soil sites 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 development, but their proposal was defeated in the referendum of 1967. Subsequent studies by independent experts have revealed that the Mountain is not basically suited for a major ski center.

Three fairly extensive Department of Environmental Conservation snowmobile trails, one running from north to south through Hoffman Notch, one running from Big Pond northward, then eastward, and another extending from Loch Muller northward by Bailey Pond to Washburn Ridge, will require phased removal to attain wilderness standards. Similar snowmobile trail mileage on state lands classified as wild forest in the general vicinity should be provided as an alternative.

Public access to the area is good, and its present use comes chiefly from hunters, fishermen and snowmobile operators.

Hoffman Notch area statistics:

State Lands	35,200	Acres
Bodies of Water (8)	141	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	960	Feet
(maximum)	3,693	Feet
Foot Trails	27.5	Miles
Non-conforming Uses:		
Jeep Trails	2.5	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	17.5	Miles

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 Memorial Highway and the west branch of the Ausable River form the east boundary; the Saranac Lake-Lake Placid Road, Route 86, forms the south boundary; and the Saranac River forms the west boundary.

McKenzie Mountain, sometimes referred to as Saddle-back, and Moose Mountain, sometimes called St. Armand Mountain, dominate the 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, but few ponds are 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, however, in the wilderness.

The area is densely forested with softwoods with spruce and balsam predominating above the 2,500 foot level, and mixed hardwoods and softwoods predominating at the lower elevations.

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

In the 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 terrain which has effectively prevented motor vehicle penetration in most places.

In the early days when logging was at its peak in the Adirondacks, a road was constructed from the vicinity of the present Whiteface Toll Gate, southwestward on about 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 horse-drawn sleds to transport logs to the head of Red Brook, where a small pool of water, known as Lake Stevens, formed the start of one of the longest log flumes in the eastern United States. This flume ran for many miles down to the Ausable River and thence to the vicinity of Keeseville. Although the old road is gradually being taken over by second growth

hardwoods, its location will probably remain in evidence for many years.

The attractiveness of the area is enhanced by excellent views which may be obtained from the top of McKenzie Mountain and Moose Mountain. There are numerous spring-fed brooks, mostly on the north slopes of 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 has maintained a foot trail from the vicinity of Wolf Pond near Route 86 to the top of McKenzie Mountain. The Lake Placid Shore Owners Association trail over private lands along the west shore of Lake Placid is open to those who obtain the association's permission to use it. After leaving private land this trail winds its way to the tops of Moose, McKenzie, Tamarac and Colburn Mountains.

Public access to the area is relatively good from all sides, but because a town road in the vicinity of Lincoln Brook ends on private land, there have been some problems with access in that location.

The area is used to a considerable extent by hikers to climb the mountains, by fishermen to try their luck in the small brooks and by hunters chiefly during the big game season.

McKenzie Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	35,200	Acres
Private Inholdings (3)	100	Acres
Bodies of Water (8)	22	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,463	Feet
(maximum)	4,869	Feet
Foot Trails	14.2	Miles
Horse Trails	4.0	Miles
Lean-tos	1	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Snowmobile Trails	6.0	Miles
Tent Platforms	4	

Pepperbox

The Pepperbox Wilderness lies totally within the town of Webb in Herkimer County. Stillwater Reservoir and the Beaver River form the southern boundary, while the survey line between John Brown's tract and Watson's East Triangle generally forms the northern boundary. The west boundary is the county line, and the east boundary is partially the old jeep road to Raven Lake and partially the state land boundary.

The terrain is generally flat with a few small rolling hills. Swampland predominates with spruce, fir and red maple. Alder swamps, marsh and beaver flows are also common. The drier sites are vegetated with pole-size 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 classed as wilderness primarily because of the wetland ecosystems involved. The flora and fauna associated with moist ecosystems, such as found in the Pepperbox, seem to exhibit more species diversity than any others in the Adirondacks. Birdlife and small mammals seem to be especially abundant. The protection afforded wilderness tracts will insure an outdoor laboratory of significant biological importance.

The only non-conforming structure known to exist is the remnant of the deserted Beaver Lake Mountain fire tower. There is very little human use of the area at present, except for light hunting. Access is moderately difficult because of the distance from public roads and the lack of a trail system. 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.

Pepperbox area statistics:

State Lands	14,600	Acres
Bodies of Water (40)	352	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,360	Feet
(maximum)	2,168	Feet

Non-conforming Uses:

Foot Trails	1.5	Miles
Jeep Trails	0.5	Miles
Fire Towers — unmanned	1	

Pharaoh Lake

The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness straddles the Essex-Warren County line in the towns of Ticonderoga, Hague, Horicon and Schroon. The county road along the east shore of Schroon Lake forms the western boundary. The state land boundary forms most of the remaining perimeter except for a portion of Route 73 on the north and a stretch of Route 8 on the south.

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 configura-

tion 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 raged over most of the region in the past. As a result of this and the dry sites, much of the tree growth is coniferous with some white birch mixed in. The white pine-white birch type 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 covelike pockets of the unburned area in the northeast.

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

Non-conforming uses and structures include: A town road, passable only to four wheel drive vehicles, penetrates into Pharaoh Lake; motorboats are using the lake; snowmobile trails have been designated on the fringes of the area; and a ranger station and horse barn are located near the lake.

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, limitations on public use may be needed to protect the fragile character of the area. The ranger cabin could be relocated either on the edge of the presently designated area or at the point where the existing town road crosses Mill Brook, which would necessitate a minor future revision in the master plan.

Pharaoh Lake area statistics:

State Lands	43,340	Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	160	Acres
Bodies of Water (35)	1,037	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	860	Feet
(maximum)	2,551	Feet
Foot Trails	36.0	Miles
Horse Trails	8.0	Miles
Lean-tos	15	
Impoundments	1	

Non-conforming Uses:

Jeep Trails	8.5	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	5.3	Miles
Fire Towers — manned	1	
Observer Cabins	1	
*Ranger Cabins	1	
Horse Barns	1	
Telephone Lines	3.0	Miles

Pigeon Lake

This area lies in the town of Webb, Herkimer County, and the towns of Long Lake and Inlet, 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 by 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 Penn Central railroad tracks.

The terrain is 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 swampland along the courses of Sucker Brook and Beaver Brook.

The forest cover runs from heavy to mature or near mature mixed softwoods and hardwoods, with some dense spruce-balsam types near the summit of West Mountain and in the swamplands.

Old growth white pine in the vicinity of Pigeon Lake and a few other places adds to the wilderness atmosphere.

Wilderness classification is based on the size, absence of motor vehicle roads, forest cover, and general remoteness from man-made disturbances.

It 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 fishermen 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 Brown Tract Ponds to provide a more compatible situation for canoes and other non-motorized boats utilized by the

campers. This site makes a fine jumping off place for wilderness users.

Pigeon Lake area statistics:

State Lands	50,800	Acres
Bodies of Water (64)	1,380	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,700	Feet
(maximum)	2,900	Feet
Foot Trails	26.3	Miles
Lean-tos	4	
Non-conforming Uses:		
State Truck Trails	1.5	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	3.8	Miles
Fire Towers — unmanned	1	
Observer Cabins	1	
Telephone Lines	2.5	Miles

Sentinel Range

This area is in the towns of Wilmington, 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 make up the principal part with five small ponds situated near the north and northwest boundaries.

Sentinel Mountain and the general northeast quarter of the area are characterized by bare rock out-cropping that resulted from forest fires more than a half century ago. The terrain is steep and rugged, with some vertical cliffs facing north and northeast.

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

Good views may be obtained from the top of Sentinel and Pitchoff Mountains, but forest cover restricts the view on Kilburn Mountain, Stewart Mountain, Slide Mountain and Black Mountain. There is an excellent view of the Wilmington Notch-Whiteface Mountain section from a lean-to site on the south side of Copperas Pond.

More than thirty years ago 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 trail was reported to have been little used for skiing, but is maintained as a foot trail. The lean-to was eliminated because of deterioration and lack of use.

The north portion of this area around the ponds is used to a considerable extent by campers and fishermen. Hunters use the area to a lesser extent.

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.

Sentinel Range area statistics:

State Lands	23,000	Acres
Bodies of Water (5)	77	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,375	Feet
(maximum)	3,893	Feet
Foot Trails	13.1	Miles
Lean-tos	1	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Jeep Trails	0.7	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	3.5	Miles
Tent Platforms	2	

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 Johnsbury and Thurman in Warren County. It is one of the largest wilderness areas, extending about 18 miles from north to south and about 13 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 by Route 8 on the east; by Route 8 on the south; and by Route 8, International Paper Company lands and Indian Lake on the west.

The topography consists of relatively low rolling hills with a few mountain summits like Bullhead, Eleventh, Puffer and South Pond Mountains above the 3,000 foot level.

In addition, the area contains a large number of beaver meadows and swamps.

Most of the area was heavily logged over a half century ago and some sections, particularly in the southeast part, were burned over in forest fires. However, much of the forest cover has been reestablished 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 hemlock 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 protected from wheeled motor vehicle use by administrative policies and the Sacandaga River, swamps and other natural barriers. However, the old woods roads which penetrated the area from a number of locations during the logging days are rather easy avenues of entrance for motor vehicles, particularly snowmobiles. It may be anticipated that because of this, motor vehicle trespass could be more troublesome than in some of the other areas.

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

While some of the streams in this area are low-lying and discolored by decaying vegetative material from beaver ponds, there are also attractive swift flowing waters such as County Line Brook and Peaked Mountain Brook.

Thirteenth Lake has a small sand beach at the north end which makes a very desirable spot for picnics, bathing and camping. There are also other desirable camping spots on this lake.

Siamese Ponds area statistics:

State Lands	107,740	Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	160	Acres
Bodies of Water (67)	1,090	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,280	Feet
(maximum)	3,472	Feet
Foot Trails	35.8	Miles
Lean-tos	4	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Snowmobile Trails	2.5	Miles

Silver Lake

This area is located in the towns of Lake Pleasant, Benson, Wells and Arietta in Hamilton County and 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 and the Piseco Outlet.

The terrain is relatively low with rolling hills and only four mountain tops that exceed 3,000 feet elevation. There is a considerable acreage of conifer swamp and some beaver meadows along the streams.

The forest cover is chiefly mixed hardwoods and softwoods with some stands of nearly pure hemlock in large diameter sizes. 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 swamp area along streams and at the higher elevations around the mountain tops, the forest cover runs predominantly to spruce and balsam.

The famous Northville-Placid Trail has its terminus at the southern edge of the area and runs through the center in a northerly direction, crossing the northern boundary near Piseco Lake. This trail was established by the Adirondack Mountain Club in 1922 but it was later turned over to the Department of Environmental Conservation for marking and maintenance. Although this trail has some use by hikers, the foot trail from the vicinity of Hamilton Lake to the top of Hamilton Mountain is a more popular trail.

Silver Lake is the principal attraction near the center of this area, chiefly for brook trout fishermen. Mud Lake, Rock Lake and Loomis Pond are also popular trout fishing spots. Big Eddy on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River and Cathead Mountain also attract 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.

Silver Lake area statistics:

State Lands	106,650	Acres
Private Inholdings (3)	1,450	Acres
Bodies of Water (48)	512	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	820	Feet
(maximum)	3,250	Feet
Foot Trails	14.5	Miles
Lean-tos	2	
Non-conforming Uses:		
Jeep Trails	12.0	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	1.3	Miles
Fire Towers — unmanned	1	
Observer Cabins	2	
Telephone Lines	5.0	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 area and private lands in the vicinity of Little Moose Lake, Squaw Brook, Snowy Mountain and Squaw Mountain; on the east by Route 30, lands of International Paper Company and

the Spruce Lake-Piseco Lake trail; on the south by private lands north of Route 8 and the South Branch of West Canada Creek and an access road to private lands; on the west by West Canada Creek and private lands east of Honnedaga Lake.

The terrain ranges from swamp flats and rolling hills to steep mountains such as Snowy. Water drains from the area into three basins, 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 which are most frequented by fishermen are West Canada Lake, Spruce Lake and Cedar Lakes. The Indian River from its source to the South Branch of the Moose River is a designated wild river under this plan.

The forest cover consists chiefly of mixed hardwood-softwood types with large diameter trees of both types on the more fertile soils. There is also considerable acreage in spruce-balsam swamp and beaver meadows.

Among the spots which attract hikers and campers in addition to the previously mentioned lakes are T Lake Falls and T Lake Mountain, West Canada Creek, Panther Mountain, Snowy Mountain and Cedar River.

Many campers from the three public campsites on Piseco Lake and the campsite at Lewey Lake, as well as those in the Moose River Recreation Area, 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 fishermen. Hikers in increasing numbers are climbing the mountains and using the foot trails.

The perimeter is accessible to the public except in the extreme northeast section where state land borders private posted property along Squaw Brook, and along a portion of the west border which forms a common boundary with the Adirondack League Club that is also posted.

West Canada Lake area statistics:

State Lands	160,320	Acres
Private Inholdings (2)	1,630	Acres
Bodies of Water (168)	2,090	Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,390	Feet
(maximum)	3,899	Feet
Foot Trails	52.8	Miles
Lean-tos	10	
Impoundments	1	

Non-conforming Uses:

State Truck Trails	7.0	Miles
Jeep Trails	7.3	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	16.0	Miles
Fire Towers — unmanned	1	
Observer Cabins	1	
* Ranger Cabins	2	
Helicopter Platforms	1	
Telephone Lines	22.5	Miles

Wilderness Statistical Totals

State Lands	997,960	Acres
Private Inholdings (21)	8,350	Acres
Bodies of Water (748)	18,189	Acres
Foot Trails	546.4	Miles
Horse Trails	64.3	Miles
Lean-tos	104	
Impoundments	4	

Non-conforming Uses:

State Truck Trails	34.3	Miles
Jeep Trails	78.1	Miles
Snowmobile Trails	63.7	Miles
Fire Towers:	9	
manned	1	
unmanned	8	
Observer Cabins	9	
* Ranger Cabins	8	
Tent Platforms	10	
Helicopter Platforms	1	
Horse Barns	5	
Telephone Lines	45.3	Miles
Lean-tos above 3,500 feet	10	
Lean-to Clusters	2	

PRIMITIVE AREAS

Ampersand

This area consists of a small belt of forest preserve between the Ampersand road and Ampersand Brook in the Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County. It extends from the Ampersand Lake property westward to Stony Creek and thence 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 Stony Creek, where the town road ends, and this primitive area could then be added to the High Peaks Wilderness.

*Non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled.

Ampersand Brook is a picturesque white water stream once renowned for its excellent brook trout fishing. Heavy fishing pressure has reduced the catches in recent years.

Ampersand area statistics:

State Lands	770 Acres
Bodies of Water (2)	13 Acres
Foot Trails	0.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Roads (Private Access)	3.5 Miles
Jeep Trails	0.8 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	3.5 Miles
Telephone Lines	3.5 Miles

Bald Ledge

This area consists of an appendage from the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness in the town of Ticonderoga, Essex County. It is severed from the wilderness by a road used periodically to harvest timber from an adjacent private parcel.

Once the road is no longer necessary, this area can be added to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, particularly should the private land between this tract and the wilderness appendage north of this tract be acquired.

Bald Ledge area statistics:

State Lands	500 Acres
*Jeep Trails	0.5 Miles

Buell Brook

This area is in the towns of Indian Lake and Lake Pleasant, Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north by private lands south of the Cedar River; on the east by private lands along Squaw Brook; on the south by an access road running from the Cedar River to the vicinity of Onion Hill along Little Squaw Brook; and on the west by the Cedar River Flow and private lands immediately east of the Cedar River.

It is mountainous, with a number of small brooks and one very small natural pond near the 3,000 foot level.

The area was donated to the state by Finch Pruyn Company with the exception of a small parcel near the center of the area and the right to use and repair the access road extending from the north to the excepted lot.

The company land bordering this area on three sides is leased to hunting clubs who post the lands, thereby

*Permanent nonconforming uses or nonconforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled.

preventing public access from the entire perimeter except where it borders other state land on the south and along Cedar River Flow.

At some future time, if the private inholding and access roads become state property, this area should be added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

Buell Brook area statistics:

State Lands	10,840 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	10 Acres
Bodies of Water (1)	5 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	2,140 Feet
(maximum)	3,786 Feet
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Roads (Private Access)	4.5 Miles

Crane Pond

This area is in the town of Schroon, Essex County, and is bounded on the north by Route 73 and private lands lying immediately south of that route; on the east by the common boundary between state land and the Pyramid Lake property; on the south by Crane Pond and the Crane Pond town road; on the west by the state land boundary.

All or part of the area could logically become part of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness if all or a section of the Crane Pond town road, which now dead ends at Crane Pond some two miles into the area, was closed to motor vehicles.

The terrain consists of several low hills, the highest less than 1,700 feet in elevation, with three small ponds in the northeast quarter, Crane Pond in the southeast and the outlet of Crane Pond, a trout brook, passing through the southwest quarter.

The forest cover is composed of mixed hardwoods and softwoods with some small patches of clear hemlock and a scattering of large diameter white pine. Although the entire area was logged in the past, sufficient time has elapsed to allow the development of a good stand of timber which contributes to its primitive character.

The addition of all, or a major portion of this block of land to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness in the future would protect Crane Pond, an attractive body of water now used chiefly by trout fishermen, campers, picnickers, and bathers, in a pristine condition and would provide additional buffering for the portions of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness now receiving extremely heavy use.

Three basic options are possible: Keep the Crane Pond road open for its entire length; terminate the road a short distance to the west of Crane Pond at the start of the Goose Pond trail and provide a new trailhead at that point; or

terminate the road in its entirety and provide a new trailhead at the boundary of the state land.

A choice among these options should await evaluation of future use patterns in this area and the adjacent Pharaoh Lake Wilderness area.

Crane Pond area statistics:

State Lands	2,800 Acres
Bodies of Water (4)	205 Acres
Foot Trails	3.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Roads (incl. snowmobile trail)	2.1 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	3.5 Miles
Telephone Lines	2.1 Miles

Fort Noble Mountain

This area is in the town of Ohio, Herkimer County and the town of Morehouse, Hamilton County. It consists of the state land west of the trail to the Fort Noble Mountain fire tower, north of the South Branch of West Canada Creek and south of the watershed divide between the South Branch and the North Branch of West Canada Creek. This area should be made a part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness once the need for the fire tower ceases to exist.

Fort Noble area statistics:

State Lands	450 Acres
Foot Trails	1.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Fire Towers	1
*Observer Cabins	1
*Telephone Lines	1.5 Miles

Hudson Gorge

This primitive area is in the town of 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.

Three foot trails, one extending from the Northwoods Club property to the river bank south of Dunk Pond, one Department of Environmental Conservation trail from Huntley Pond to Blue Ledge and another from OK Slip Pond to the river near OK Slip Brook, are the only trails near this portion of the Hudson River. There are no public roads or other man-made access routes to this section of the

river and in the past relatively few people were successful in navigating the waters by either canoe, boat or raft. These factors have served to retain this portion of the river and its immediate surroundings in a near wilderness condition.

Although there are no established foot trails which parallel this section of the Hudson River, the three above mentioned trails, particularly the Blue Ledge trail, receive considerable use.

Private lands border about 2 miles of the approximately 10 mile river section included in this area.

The river has furnished some excellent fishing. In addition to this, the public is attracted to the scenic Blue Ledge and OK Slip Falls. The latter is probably the highest vertical waterfall in the Adirondacks. Both of these spots are on private lands.

Many individuals have failed in their attempt to run the rapids of the Hudson by canoe, boat or raft in the high water periods. 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 this type of use of the area is experiencing a rapid growth. Even under the best conditions, canoes or rafts are badly damaged and frequently broken in two, which makes it a rather expensive and hazardous venture.

The area is classified as primitive because of the substantial private inholdings and their critical relationship to the river gorge. The long range goal should be upgrading to wilderness as soon as the private lands can be acquired or the use to which they can be put permanently restricted.

Hudson Gorge area statistics:

State Lands	17,100 Acres
Private Inholdings (2)	2,900 Acres
Bodies of Water (13)	218 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,200 Feet
(maximum)	2,558 Feet
Foot Trails	10.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Jeep Trails	2.5 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	2.3 Miles

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. The 3,694 foot Hurricane Mountain dominates the area.

Spectacular views are afforded the hiker who scales Hurricane of the Giant Mountain and High Peak regions to

the south as well as the Champlain Valley and the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east. There are two demanding and one relatively easy trail to Hurricane permitting access by all types of hikers. The novice mountaineer can also hike the fairly open circuit trail from Big Crow Mountain across Weston Mountain, down to Lost Pond and back to the starting point in a comfortable day with time to enjoy the panorama of the High Peaks to the southwest.

The fire tower on Hurricane Mountain is an essential communication link to the Department of Environmental Conservation at present. Should it be replaced by other means of fire patrol and communications in the future its removal would make wilderness classification possible.

Hurricane Mountain Area statistics:

State Lands	12,800 Acres
Bodies of Water (1)	10 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,400 Feet
(maximum)	3,694 Feet
Foot Trails	10.8 Miles
Lean-tos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	
Jeep Trails	1.2 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	2.0 Miles
*Fire Towers	1
*Observer Cabins	1
*Telephone Lines	2.8 Miles

Jay Mountain

This area lies within the towns of Jay and Lewis in Essex County. It is bounded by the Glen road on the south and private land boundaries elsewhere except where the road west of Mt. Fay severs an appendage of state land.

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 soil erosion. The vistas from Jay, Saddleback and Slip Mountain 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 Glen road, a rough gravel road not plowed in the winter, separates this area from the Hurricane Mountain area. A drive along this gravel road offers both attractive views of the upland region above Keene Valley and access to lovely stands of white birch on the Lewis slopes.

The area is classed as primitive because it is below the normal minimum acreage for wilderness and, more importantly because it is felt that the area does not offer the feeling of remoteness to necessary for a wilderness experi-

ence. Should further study indicate the latter factor can be attained the area could be redesignated in future plan revisions. No nonconforming uses prevent a wilderness classification.

Jay Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	7,100 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,435 Feet
(maximum)	3,600 Feet
Foot Trails	1.0 Miles

Johns Brook

This area is in the town of Keene in Essex County. It consists of the right-of-way across state lands to several private parcels in the High Peaks Wilderness. 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.

Non-conforming Uses:

*Roads (Private Access)	1.3 Miles
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Oswegatchie

This area is in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County, and is bounded on the north by the state land boundary; on the east by the Inlet town road and the state truck trail east of the Oswegatchie River; on the south by the Herkimer County line and on the west by the state land boundary except near Tamarack Creek where it crosses state land by keeping east of that creek.

The terrain is relatively low rolling hills with five small ponds in the east and south part of the area.

Intense logging and some early forest fire damage, chiefly in the eastern half, have left a forest cover of second growth mixed hardwoods. However, there is a definite exception to the forest cover in the vicinity of Griffin Rapids along the Oswegatchie River where virgin softwood and hardwood stands remain.

The 1950 hurricane did considerable damage to the mature softwoods in certain spots and a log salvage operation was conducted between Inlet and Big Otter Pond and immediately south. The present jeep trail in that location resulted from this activity. Although officially closed to public motor vehicle use, the cable gate has been breached on a number of occasions in the past.

An old logging railroad bed, now used as a snowmobile and jeep trail, runs from the vicinity of Star Lake to a private inholding at Buck Pond. There are also snowmobile trails in the north and northeastern portions.

Because of the attractiveness of the Oswegatchie River as a wild canoe route and the relative rarity of these routes in the Adirondacks today, the river should be closed to motorboats except during the big game hunting season in the fall. Should experience indicate that motorized use of the river during the hunting season is minor, serious consideration should be given to closing the river entirely to public motorized use.

Should experience indicate that the state truck trail is no longer necessary for administrative access to the area, for example, if fall motorboat access were to prove an adequate substitute, the wilderness boundary should be moved to the east bank of the Oswegatchie River or, if motorized access could be dispensed with entirely, to the Post Henderson Road. If the private holding at Buck Pond were acquired some time in the future, the balance of the area to the west of that road could also be designated as wilderness. Choices among these options must await further analysis of public use patterns in the area and/or possible future acquisitions.

Oswegatchie Area Statistics:

State Lands	16,920 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	30 Acres
Bodies of Water (5)	51 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,350 Feet
(maximum)	3,000 Feet
Foot Trails	12.1 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*State Truck Trails	10.5 Miles
*Jeep Trails (including snowmobile)	9.3 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	7.2 Miles
Tent Platforms	2

Pillsbury Lake

This area is in the towns of Arietta and Lake Pleasant in Hamilton County. It consists of a number of lots interspersed in checkerboard arrangement with International Paper Company lots and typifies the most unmanageable ownership pattern in the Adirondacks.

A land exchange with International Paper Company and the State of New York would provide a solid block of state land which should then be added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

The major use of state lands here is hunting and fishing with some camping, particularly at Pillsbury Lake. Hikers enroute to such interior spots as Cedar Lakes and West Canada Lake also utilize these lands.

This area is designated a primitive area to insure that uses made of the area will permit wilderness classification once the land ownership problem is overcome. Because of land ownership patterns, the state truck trail should remain open to the private land fee title holder and state administrative personnel to the current boundary of the West Canada Lake Wilderness until the whole area becomes wilderness.

Pillsbury Lake Area Statistics:

State Land	3,330 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	5,620 Acres
Bodies of Water (5)	96 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	2,300 Feet
(maximum)	3,597 Feet
Foot Trails	7.8 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*State Truck Trails	3.0 Miles
*Fire Towers	1
*Observer Cabins	1
*Telephone Lines	1.8 Miles

Sacandaga

This minor area is in the town of Wells in Hamilton County. It consists only of the Whitehouse road and its right of way in lots 362 and 382 of the Benson Tract. Should the private lands west of this section be acquired by the state, this road should be terminated in lot 382 and the right of way as well as the acquisition should become part of the Silver Lake Wilderness.

Non-conforming Uses:

*Roads (Public)	.7 Miles
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Valcour Island

This Lake Champlain island lies in the towns of Peru and Plattsburgh in Clinton County. This 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. The island should never be reclassified to wilderness because of its size and the existence of such structures as the lighthouse and the Seaton house, which could, if acquired in the future, provide an interpretive building and an ecological research station, respectively. Any interpretive program for the island should stress both its historical significance and its special natural features.

The 1971 Valcour Island report prepared for the Thousand Islands State Park Commission by the National Audubon Society should prove extremely valuable in planning the long range management of the island. The two more restrictive management options in this report would, with some minor modification, meet primitive area management guidelines and tie in well with the more intensive uses of state lands on the adjacent mainland.

Valcour Island Area Statistics:

State Lands	940 Acres
Private Inholdings (6)	160 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Ranger Cabins	1
Abandoned Cabins	9

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.

Wakely Mountain Area Statistics:

State Lands	120 Acres
Foot Trails	1.0 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Fire Towers	1
*Observer Cabins	1
*Telephone Lines	1.0 Miles

West Canada Mountain

This area is in the town of Morehouse in Hamilton County. It is surrounded by private lands on the north, east and west. The southern boundary is the access road to the Miller Camp vicinity.

At some future time, if the right-of-way reverts to the state, this area should be added to the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

West Canada Mountain Statistics:

State Lands	2,000 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,900 Feet
(maximum)	2,985 Feet
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Roads (Private Access)	3.3 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 between 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.

Non-conforming Uses:

*Roads (Public)	1.0 Miles
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Primitive Area Statistical Totals:

State Lands	75,670 Acres
Private Inholdings (11)	8,720 Acres
Bodies of Water (31)	598 Acres
Foot Trails	48.7 Miles
Lean-tos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	
*State Truck Trails	13.5 Miles
*Roads (Public)	3.8 Miles
*Roads (Private Access)	12.6 Miles
Jeep Trails	14.3 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	18.5 Miles
*Fire Towers	4
*Observer Cabins	4
*Ranger Cabins	1
Abandoned Cabins	9
Tent Platforms	2
*Telephone Lines	12.7 Miles

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled.

CANOE AREA

Saint Regis

This area is in the town of Santa Clara in Franklin County. It is bounded on the north by the William Rockefeller property, on the east by the Santa Clara town line, on the south by the Penn Central Railroad tracks, and on the west by the Santa Clara town line.

Although relatively small in size, 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. However, the use of outboard motors on St. Regis Pond, Turtle Pond, Long Pond, and occasionally on Big Fish Pond, when transported in by aircraft, has spoiled the tranquil wild atmosphere of these waters. None of the ponds is so large that a canoe cannot be paddled, or a guideboat cannot be rowed, across the greatest length of the largest one in a matter of minutes.

The terrain is dominated by the numerous ponds and is relatively low in elevation. St. Regis Mountain in the north and East Pond Mountain in the western part of the area are the only two high spots.

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 swampy spots, most of the forest cover was either burned off or very heavily damaged. This has resulted in pole-size 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 near 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 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, boating, canoeing and ski touring. Snowmobile trails will be phased out under the canoe area guidelines, as will the use of motorboats by the public on all waters within the area.

The state truck trail will be retained for administrative use relating to fish and water resource enhancement.

Public access to the area is restricted from the north and west by private posted land.

Saint Regis Area Statistics:

State Lands	18,100 Acres
Bodies of Water (58)	1,452 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,560 Feet
(maximum)	2,873 Feet
Foot Trails	11.0 Miles
Horse Trails	5.5 Miles
Lean-tos	3
State Truck Trails	7.0 Miles

Non-conforming Uses:

Snowmobile Trails	15.4 Miles
Fire Towers	1
Observer Cabins	1
Tent Platforms	21
Telephone Lines	1.0 Miles

WILD FOREST AREAS

THOSE AREAS CLASSIFIED as wild forest are generally less fragile, in ecological terms, than the wilderness and primitive areas. Because the resources of these areas can withstand more human impact, these areas should form the base for 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 the constitutional constraints, those types of outdoor recreation that afford enjoyment without destroying the wild forest atmosphere should be encouraged. Many of these areas are under utilized. For example the crescent of wild forest area 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.

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.

Black River

This area includes the state lands primarily in Herkimer County, south of Route 28, north of Route 8 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 swamp areas with second growth hardwoods on the more fertile soils and spruce-fir combinations along water courses is 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 fishermen to the area. South Lake is a favorite fishing, hunting and boating spot.

Blue Mountain

This area is located in Hamilton and western Essex Counties. It is bounded by Route 30 on the west and south, the 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 the short but steep hike to the summit from the picturesque hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. Tirrell Pond nestles to the northeast of Blue Mountain and, due to relatively easy access, affords an excellent opportunity for day use or primitive camping for family groups and novice hikers.

The ridge from East Inlet Mountain to the Fishing Brook Range represents a wild block of forest preserve unbroken for over ten miles except for a crossing of the Northville-Placid trail.

Cranberry Lake

This area is located in southern St. Lawrence County in the Towns of Clifton, Colton and Fine.

It provides a considerable amount of snowmobiling opportunity in the winter in a setting offering the snowmobiler a sense of remoteness.

A public campsite on the northeastern shore line permits exploration of the interesting flows of Brandy Brook, East Inlet and Sucker Brook. Trails connecting these and several interior brook trout ponds permit fishing, camping and hunting on a variety of wild forest land.

Boreal forest is visible along Route 3 traversing the western tract where one can glimpse interesting bog and scattered great pines. A stop and short hike into this spruce-fir forest will often reward the birdwatcher with sighting of species normally found only much further north in Canada.

De Bar Mountain

This area is in the northern section of the Park primarily in the Towns of Brighton and Duane, Franklin County. The summit of DeBar Mountain once permitted Verplanck

Colvin to triangulate Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence River. It also offers the broadest distance view in the Park of the high peaks country to the south. Trails traversing the mixed hardwood — softwood forest preserve lead from Meacham Lake Campground on the west and from the DeBar Mountain wildlife management area on the west.

Hays and Hatch Brooks and the Osgood River provide trout fishing opportunity and the slopes of Sable, East and DeBar mountains offer a challenge to the big game hunter.

Ferris Lake

This area is located in the southwestern corner of the Park. It consists of those state lands south of Route 8 and west of Route 10.

Numerous small ponds, lakes and streams are distributed throughout the area where both trout and pan fish attract fishermen throughout the season. It is also a very popular area with big game hunters.

One of the last old Adirondack dirt 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.

Hammond Pond

This area is located in the towns of Crown Point, Moriah, North Hudson and Schroon in Essex County. Bounded by Route 9 on the west and north, and extending south to Paradox Lake, its eastern and southern boundaries border private lands.

Owl Pate and Hail Mountain provide great distance views and exceptionally fine overlooks may be had from the many rocky bluffs and ledges dominating the area.

Access is open to hunters and other recreationists from the Tracey Road, North Hudson-Moriah Road and Route 9. The Sharp Bridge public campground offers trail access to East Mill Brook and the interior. Many ponds offering scenic fishing opportunity 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 north cool slopes give way to oak, ash, basswood and pine on the southerly exposures.

Independence River

This western Adirondack area lies in Lewis and Herkimer Counties south of the Beaver River and north of Route 28.

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, 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.

Jessup River

This area is located in Hamilton County in the towns of Arietta and Lake Pleasant. Bounded on the north by the "saddle" of Indian Lake, this wild forest land extends easterly to Sacandaga Lake and southerly to Piseco.

Access is from Route 30 and the Perkins Clearing road which traverse the area and from the Moffit Beach and Lewey Lake Campgrounds.

Long popular with hunters, trappers and fishermen, the interspersed private woodlands with state ownership have made this area a top producer of fish and wildlife. The Jessup and Miami Rivers have long been known as good trout producers.

Numerous logging roads and trails are open to foot travel. The Pillsbury Mountain summit, from which a vast view of lakes and forest may be obtained, offers a particularly enjoyable hike.

Lake George

The wild forest tracts of land associated with this well-known section of the Park straddle the Warren-Washington county line. 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 73 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, as well as the oak - pine and northern hardwood types. The 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.

Moose River Plains

This area lies between Route 28 and the West Canada Lake Wilderness in Hamilton and Herkimer counties.

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 in that the Department of Environmental Conservation maintains an extensive road system and provides numerous scattered individual camping sites along this system. This provides a type of outdoor recreation intermediate between that of the developed campground and back country camping. Heavy use of the road system is made in the winter months by snowmobiles, a use that may not be compatible with the wintering deer population and which may therefore require reassessment.

Hunting, fishing, camping and snowmobiling make this one of the truly four season recreational areas of the Park.

Saranac Lakes

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.

Sargent Ponds

Easterly of Raquette Lake, lying north of Route 28 and west of Route 30 lies a labyrinth of boreal swamp forest.

Much of this great spruce-balsam-white cedar tract borders the Raquette River, Marion River and Boulder Brook.

Known to many canoeists, hunters and fishermen, this wild forest area offers intimate sightings of Adirondack wildlife and bog plants. The trail to Sargent Ponds courses through stands of old growth forest. Many of the picturesque tall pines along the Marion River may be glimpsed from the highway.

Public campgrounds on Raquette Lake, Forked Lake and Lake Eaton plus the Deerland Road to the Raquette River provide varied access and recreational opportunity to users of this parcel.

Shaker Mountain

This area is located south of the Silver Lake Wilderness between Routes 10 and 30 in Fulton County. It is near the population centers of Albany, Schenectady and Amsterdam, but remains comparatively little used by the public. 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 trails 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 blowdown 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, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and campers, and it is capable of absorbing a considerable degree of public use.

Vanderwhacker Mountain

The Vanderwhacker tract lies both east and west of Route 28N in western Essex County.

The three primary attractions of the area are the lakes and ponds, the Boreas River 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. It is also possible to trace the course of the Hudson River from this peak and gain an appreciation of that river's majesty.

The Boreas River, a scenic river designated by this plan, is one of the most beautiful of the Adirondack rivers. White

water stretches interspersed with stillwaters, provide the 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. These are plant and birdlife communities of unusual interest, particularly in the more boreal forms.

Wilcox Lake

This area lies south of Route 8 and east of Route 30 in the vicinity of the Hamilton, Warren and Saratoga County line convergence and is capable of withstanding considerably more use without destruction of the physical resource or the wild forest atmosphere.

It is an area of rolling hills with a considerable number of attractive brook trout streams. Numerous old log roads provide easy access by foot in the summer and snowmobiles, skis or snowshoes in the winter. At present the snowmobile trails on this tract probably represent the greatest mileage to be found on any one state parcel in the Park.

INTENSIVE USE AREAS

Campgrounds

Alger Island	Limekiln Lake
Ausable Point	*Lincoln Pond
Brown Tract Pond	Little Sand Point
Buck Pond	Luzerne
Caroga Lake	Meacham Lake
Cranberry Lake	Meadowbrook
Crown Point	Moffit Beach
Eagle Point	Nicks Lake
Eighth Lake	Northampton Beach
Fish Creek Ponds	Paradox Lake
Forked Lake	Point Comfort
Golden Beach	Poke-O-Moonshine
Hearthstone Point	Poplar Point
*Hinckley	Putnam Pond
Indian Lake Islands	Rogers Rock
Lake Durant	Rollins Pond
Lake Eaton	Sacandaga
Lake George Battleground	*Schroon Manor
Lake George Islands	Sharp Bridge
Lake Harris	*Taylor Pond
Lewey Lake	Wilmington Notch

Boat Launching Sites

(Does not include sites at campgrounds)

Cranberry Lake	Seventh Lake
Fort Ticonderoga	South Creek

Horicon	South Bay
Lake Placid	Stillwater Reservoir
Long Lake	Town of Day
Mossy Point	Tupper Lake
Northville	Upper Chateaugay Lake
Port Henry	Upper Hudson River
Raquette River	Valcour
Saranac Inn	Westport
Second Pond	Willsboro Bay

Ski Centers, Bobrun, Parkways, Beaches

Gore Ski Center	Mount Van Hoevenberg Bobrun
Whiteface Ski Center	Whiteface Memorial Highway
Prospect Mountain Parkway	Lake George Beach

* Uncompleted

WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

Wild Rivers

Cold River — approximately fourteen miles from The Duck Hole to the confluence with the Raquette River and the entire three mile length of Ouluska Pass Brook.

Hudson River — approximately ten and one-half miles from the confluence of the Cedar River to the confluence with the Boreas Rivers

Indian River — approximately thirteen miles from Brook Trout Lake to the confluence with the South Branch of the Moose River.

Opalescent River — approximately four and one-half miles from Flowed Lands to the state land boundary.

East Branch of the Sacandaga River — approximately eleven and one-half miles from Botheration Pond to a point one-half mile above the confluence with Cook Brook.

West Branch of the Sacandaga River — approximately seven miles from the confluence of the Piseco Lake outlet to the confluence with Dugway Creek.

West Canada Creek — approximately eight miles from Mud Lake to the Old Mitchell Dam site.

Scenic Rivers

Ampersand Brook — approximately three and one-half miles from the state land boundary to the confluence with the Raquette River.

Boreas River — approximately eleven and one-half miles from Cheney Pond to the confluence with the Hudson River.

Bouquet River — approximately six miles of the North Fork from the headwaters on Dial Mountain to the bridge

on Route 73. Approximately five and one-half miles of the South Fork from the headwaters to the bridge on Route 73.

Cedar River — approximately five miles just north of the hamlet of Indian Lake where both banks are owned by the state.

Hudson River — approximately nine miles from the hamlet of Newcomb to the confluence with the Cedar River and approximately four miles from the confluence with the Boreas River to a point one mile north of the hamlet of North River.

South Branch of the Moose River — approximately six and one-half miles from the east boundary of state land just north of Woodhull Mountain downstream to the state boundary near the confluence with the Middle Branch of the Moose River.

Osgood River — approximately eight miles from the outlet of Osgood Pond to the state land boundary east of Forestmere Lakes.

Oswegatchie River — approximately fourteen miles of the mainstream from the Hamilton-Herkimer county line to Wanakena.

Otter Brook — approximately eight miles from Lost Pond to the confluence with the South Branch of the Moose River.

Rock River — approximately eight miles from Lake Durant to the confluence with the Cedar River.

Recreational Rivers

West Branch of the Ausable River — approximately five miles from the state boundary along the River Road east of Big Cherry Patch Pond downstream to the state boundary immediately west of High Falls.

South Branch of the Moose River — approximately fifteen miles from the east boundary of state land immediately west of Little Moose Lake to the west boundary of state land near Rock Dam.

TRAVEL 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

Route	Terminal	Approximate Mileage
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
72	Northern Park Boundary to Route 30	20
73	Lake Champlain to Route 86	63 ^h
86	Jay to Route 30	34
99	Merrillville to Route 30	18
149	Southern Park Boundary to Southeastern Park Boundary	5
190	Northern Park Boundary to Route 374	8
192	Bloomington to Route 30	9
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
903	Crown Point Bridge to Route 22	4
	Subtotal	1187 miles
	Minus dual designations	81
	Total	1106 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

VISTAS – POTENTIAL SCENIC PULL-OFFS

Town	Location
Altamont	At intersection of road east of Sunmount State School and State Routes 3 and 30
Altamont	Approximately 1.5 miles west of Faust on State Route 3
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	75 miles southwest of Whallon Bay (Lake Champlain) on Lake Shore Road
Fine	Two vistas approximately 1.25 miles south of hamlet of Fine
Harrietstown	Approximately 0.5 miles north of inter- section 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 over- looking Lake Snow
Johnsburg	3 miles south of hamlet of North Creek
Johnsburg	3 miles south of North River on Barton Mine Road
Johnsburg	1 mile east of Chatiemac Lake south of Gore Mountain by 2 miles

Town	Location
Johnsburg	Approximately 0.5 miles southeast of Bakers Mills
Keene	Intersection of Routes 73 and 9N
Lake Pleasant	On southeast shore of Lake Pleasant
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 Rd. and Chateaugay Branch of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad
Saranac	Two miles northwest of Clayburg on Clayburg to Standish Road
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
Wilmington	2.5 miles north of hamlet of Wilmington
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
 Black Mountain Peak

Blue Mountain Summit
 Bog River Falls
 Bushnell's Falls
 Buttermilk Falls
 Cascade Falls
 DeBar Mountain Summit
 East Canada Falls
 Falls Brook
 Fort Noble Mountain
 Hadley Mountain Summit
 Hanging Spear Falls
 High Falls
 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

GEOLOGICAL

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
 John Brown Farm

Burnt Shanty Clearing
Calamity Brook Monument
Fort Crown Point Ruins
Fort George & Battleground
Fort St. Frederick Ruins
French Louie's Camp
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 Hardwoods
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
Whitehouse Hardwoods

**Tabulation of Jeep Trails and Snowmobile Trails
State Land Master Plan (June, 1972)**

Wilderness Areas

Blue Ridge Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 5.5 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 5.5 miles

Dix Mt. Wilderness - Jeep Trails: 2 miles

Five Ponds - Jeep Trails: 4 miles

Giant Mountain Wilderness – None

Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness – Snowmobile Trails: 2.3

High Peaks Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 35.1 miles

Hoffman Notch Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 2.5 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 17.5 miles

McKenzie Mt. Wilderness – Snowmobile Trails: 6 miles

Pepperbox Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 0.5 miles

Pharaoh Lake Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 8.5 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 5.3 miles

Pigeon Lake Wilderness – Snowmobile Trails: 3.8 miles

Sentinel Range Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 0.7 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 3.5 miles

Siamese Ponds Wilderness – Snowmobile Trails: 2.5 miles

Silver Lake Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 12 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 1.3 miles

West Canada Lake Wilderness – Jeep Trails: 7.3 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 16 miles

Wilderness Totals - Jeep Trails: 78.1 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 63.7 miles

Primitive Areas

Ampersand Primitive Area – Jeep Trails: 0.8 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 3.5 miles

Bald Ledge Primitive Area – Jeep Trails: 0.5 miles

Buell Brook Primitive Area – None

Crane Pond Primitive Area – Snowmobile Trails: 3.5 miles

Fort Noble Mountain Primitive Area – None

Hudson Gorge Primitive Area – Jeep Trails: 2.5 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 2.3 miles

Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area – Jeep Trails: 1.2 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 2 miles

Jay Mountain Primitive Area – None

Johns Brook Primitive Area - None

Oswegatchie Primitive Area – Jeep Trails: 9.3 miles (including snowmobile)
Snowmobile Trails: 7.2 miles

Pillsbury Lake Primitive Area – None

Sacandaga Primitive Area – None

Valcour Island Primitive Area – None

Wakely Mountain Primitive Area – None

West Canada Mountain Primitive Area – None

Primitive Area Totals - Jeep Trails: 14.3 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 18.5 miles

St. Regis Canoe Area – Snowmobile Trails: 15.4 miles

Total Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas:

Jeep Trails: 92.4 miles
Snowmobile Trails: 97.6

