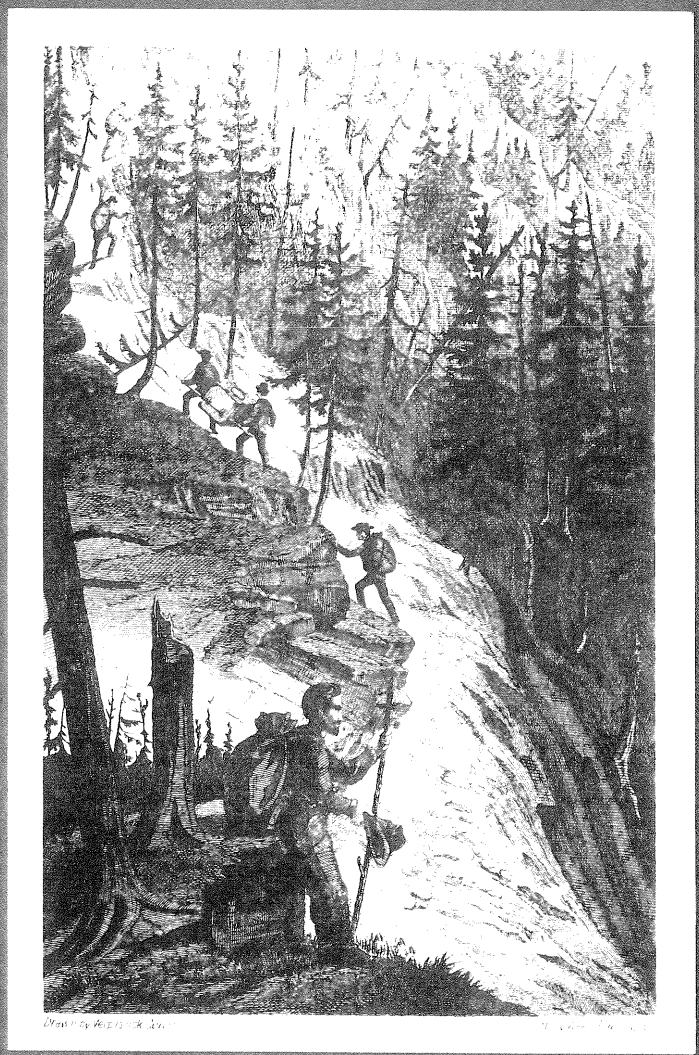
STATE OF NEW YORK

ADIRONDACK PARK



STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

Forest Preserve Centennial Edition

STATE OF NEW YORK

ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

This reprinting of the 1979 State Land Master Plan was published by the Adirondack Park Agency to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the New York State Forest Preserve.

JANUARY 1985

STATE OF NEW YORK
Mario M. Cuomo, Governor

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Dear Friends of the Adirondacks:

We in New York State are indeed fortunate to be able to talk about a major environmental treasure in our midst. We are extremely lucky to have the Adirondack portion of the Forest Preserve in its splendor to extol. And even though the Forest Preserve came about, in part, as a result of rationales for its preservation that were not the same as those of our generation, we are glad to have the wild places of our six million-acre Park on any terms.

Most New Yorkers know immediately of the value of the Forest Preserve to the State. It contributes to a special kind of high quality rural life for people in the North Country. The wonders of its forests, its lakes, its rivers and mountains, its flora and its fauna make it a grand setting within which to live and work. Further, because of its "uncivilized character," it is an attraction for tourists from all over the world; and its presence is always a source of pride to citizens throughout the State of New York. And part of its uniqueness is the fact that the Forest Preserve is intermixed with private lands and intersts that give it a special cultural setting, presenting varied hamlet centers with diverse social backgrounds in conjunction with productive private farms, tourist lodges and camps, major summer and winter sports facilities and the significant forest products industry.

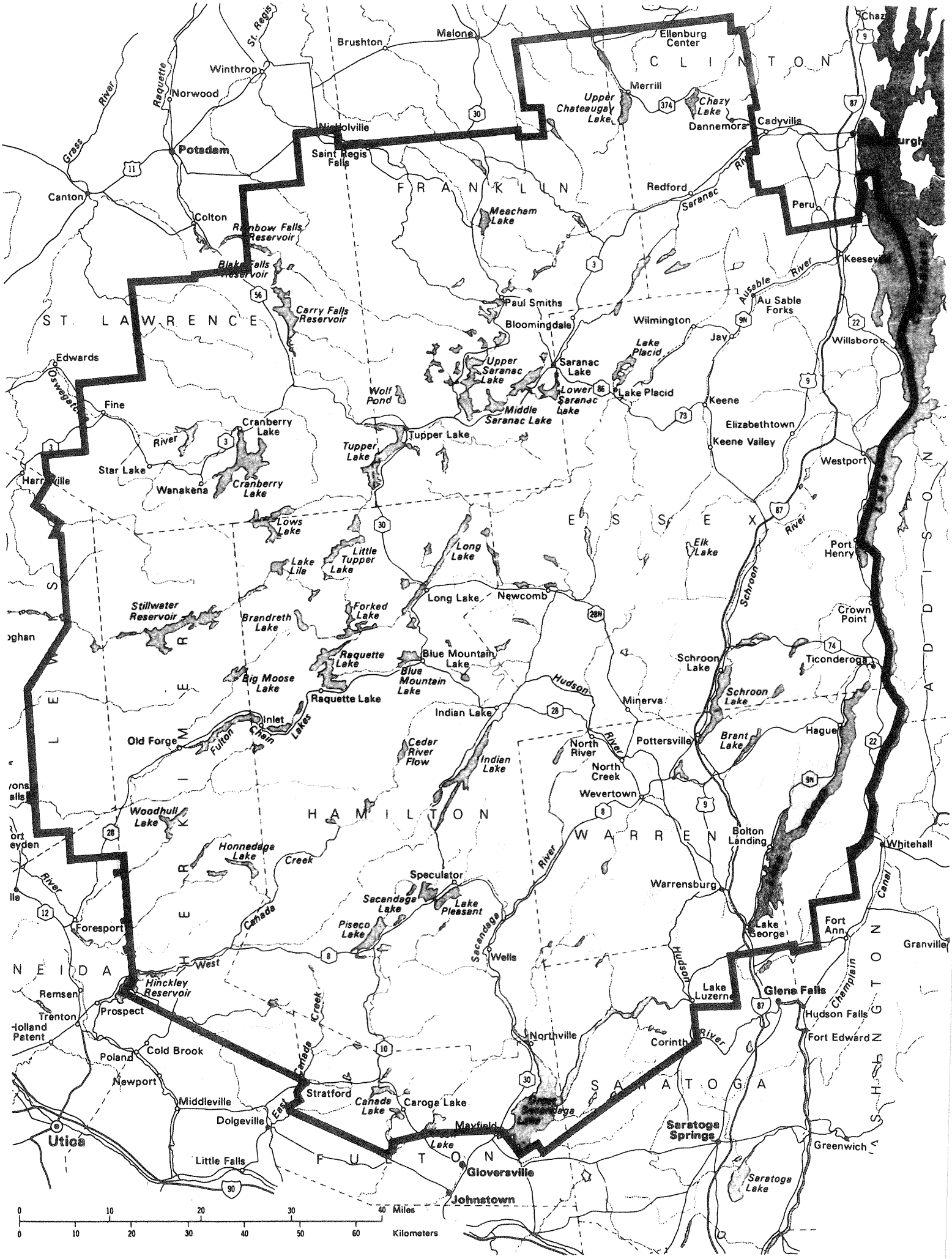
The enclosed special Centennial edition of the State Land Master Plan is simply an example of how New Yorkers value the Forest Preserve, for the Master Plan itself attempts to lift up and show forth the diversity and richness of the public land mix in the Park, a mix devoted to both sports and wilderness values. In this particular case, the Master Plan tries to show a diversity of the public land use and wilderness areas of the Park, and although the present reprint is not up to date, it is, in spite of its deficiencies, a signal that the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation, along with interested citizens of the state, are always in the process of updating their programmatic understanding of the State lands.

The presentation of this specific Centennial edition of the State Land Master Plan is very appropriate for this year because, again, it highlights how important the people of the State of New York feel the Forest Preserve is to both their heritage and their future. In fact, it could be argued that there is no more vital document to be presented continuously to the public, to be continuously revised and talked about and celebrated, than the State Land Master Plan itself. For in how many ways do we in the State have an opportunity of showing off the greatness of the Adirondack Park? As you read it over again this time, or as you make use of its designations and descriptions, if you come across ideas as to how it can be improved, please let us know. In this way, we as a public agency can continue our work of environmental supervision of this portion of the precious Forest Preserve within the Adirondack Park. After all, it's your Forest Preserve and Park.

Best to you,

Herman F. Cole, Jr.

Chairman


C L I N T O N
F R A N K L I N
S T . L A W R E N C E
E S S E X
H A M I L T O N
W A R R E N
S A R A T O G A
F U L T O N
Ellenburg Center
Merrill
Upper Chateaugay Lake
Chazy Lake
Dannemora
Cadyville
Malone
Brushton
Winthrop
Norwood
Potsdam
Saint Regis Falls
Nicholville
St. Regis
Raquette
Grass River
Canton
Colton
Rainbow Falls Reservoir
Blake Falls Reservoir
Carry Falls Reservoir
Meacham Lake
Redford
Saranac
Peru
Keeseville
Ausable River
Au Sable Forks
Paul Smiths
Bloomingdale
Wilmington
Jay
Lake Placid
Willsboro
Upper Saranac Lake
Saranac Lake
Lower Saranac Lake
Middle Saranac Lake
Wolf Pond
Edwards
Oswegatchie
Fine
Cranberry Lake
River
Tupper Lake
Star Lake
Wanakena
Harrisville
Keene
Keene Valley
Elizabethtown
Westport
Lows Lake
Little Tupper Lake
Lake Lila
Long Lake
Elk Lake
Port Henry
Schroon River
Stillwater Reservoir
Brandreth Lake
Forked Lake
Newcomb
Crown Point
Schroon Lake
Ticonderoga
Raquette Lake
Blue Mountain Lake
Big Moose Lake
Hudson
Minerva
Indian Lake
Old Forge
Inlet
Fulton Chain Lakes
Cedar River Flow
Indian Lake
North River
Pottersville
Brant Lake
Hague
North Creek
Wevertown
Woodhull Lake
Honnedaga Lake
Creek
Speculator
Bolton Landing
Whitehall
Warrensburg
Sacandaga Lake
Lake Pleasant
Piseco Lake
Canada Creek
Sacandaga River
Lake George
Fort Ann
Granville
Forestport
Wells
Hudson River
Champlain Canal
Remsen
Hinckley Reservoir
Trenton
Prospect
Holland Patent
Lake Luzerne
Glens Falls
Hudson Falls
Fort Edward
Northville
Corinth
Poland
Cold Brook
Newport
Middleville
Stratford
East Canada Creek
Canada Lake
Caroga Lake
Dolgeville
Utica
Little Falls
Mayfield Lake
Gloversville
Johnstown
Saratoga Springs
Greenwich
Saratoga Lake
Adirondack
Shaker
0 10 20 30 40 Miles
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 Kilometers

The Forest Preserve
A Centennial Perspective

The Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves were created by the New York State Legislature on May 15, 1885. The law stated: "The lands now or hereafter constituting the Forest Preserve shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private." This year we celebrate the Centennial of that statute.

The year the Preserves were created the Adirondack Forest Preserve consisted of 681,374 acres of State land. Today that Preserve consists of nearly 2.5 million acres of State land in the twelve Adirondack counties. Legislation creating the Adirondack Park was passed in 1892 to concentrate Preserve acquisitions within the original "Blue Line." The Blue Line has been expanded over the years to delineate the nearly six million acre Adirondack Park as we now know it.

The decade following the enactment of statutory protection for the Preserve was marked by widespread public revelation of mismanagement, scandal, and outright corruption on the part of various forestry commissions charged with its care. The people, represented in the Constitutional Convention in 1894, could no longer place their trust in public officials, and made protection of the Preserve part of the fundamental charter of their governance. They included the Forever Wild clause in the Constitution, adding that "nor shall the timber theron be sold, removed or destroyed."

The first two sentences of the "forever wild" clause of the New York State Constitution are the strongest preservation law in the Nation. Not one word has been changed since their adoption on January 1, 1895.

Almost a century of constitutional protection for the Forest Preserve has resulted in a natural ecosystem of remarkable stability. The people of the State, through their elected government, have provided a political stability which is reflected in the wild lands thus protected.

The overriding reason for the creation of the Forest Preserve in 1885 was the preservation of the remaining forests and the protection of watersheds. This action by the Legislature had followed years of debate when some looked upon this mountainous area as containing an inexhaustible supply of timber, fish, and game, and others saw the need to maintain the watersheds in the headwaters of the major rivers by allowing natural processes to predominate.

The continued flow of the Hudson, Mohawk, and Black rivers from their headwaters in the Adirondacks and their value for transportation and commerce demonstrate the merit of the Forest Preserve philosophy. Recognition of the added benefits of outdoor sports and recreation came later. The uplift of spirit brought by undisturbed forests inspired some of the creators of the Forest Preserve and continues to inspire those who visit the Preserve today or view it from afar.

The contrast between the Adirondack region a century ago and today could not be more pronounced. By 1885, much of the land had been logged, several species of animals had been hunted to extinction, large tracts had burned, sometimes in fires so severe that organic topsoils were consumed. In defense of strengthening the "forever wild" clause and incorporating it in the constitution, one of its sponsors, David McClure, pleaded:

> The hills, rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun—the venerable woods—rivers that moved in majesty—and the complaining brooks that make the meadows green, these for years had been neglected by the people of the State and the great men of our State, the men of public spirit generally, had forgotten that it was necessary for the life, the health, the safety, and the comfort not to speak of the luxury of the people of this State, that our forests should be preserved.

By the time the "forever wild" clause was written, the Great Northern Wilderness that greeted the first

explorers of the 1700s was, in most cases, a highly disturbed ecosystem. With the exception of 45,000 acres of virgin forest isolated from logging by the reconstruction of Stillwater Reservoir in 1893, the early Forest Preserve contained only small stands of untouched forest. The mature boreal forest with a dynamic mosaic of age and type had become patchy even-aged stands of young forest.

The last native moose was reportedly killed near Raquette Lake in 1861, and wolves, lynx, and mountain lions were extirpated by the turn of the century. With the loss of natural predators and opening of the forest through logging, the deer population surged to fill the niche originally occupied by moose.

Beaver had been so heavily trapped for their fur that they had all but disappeared by 1900. Many of the best trout streams were clogged with slash and sunken logs, eliminating miles of spawning beds. Lack of forest cover left the streams too warm for trout to inhabit.

But the seeds that lay dormant beneath the cleared lands and charred stumps burst to life once the devastation stopped. The seedlings of 1885 are now towering mature trees, members of an evolving community well on its way to becoming a primeval forest again.

The establishment of the Forest Preserve made possible the re-creation of a wilderness. Most of the time this has been a natural process, but people have intervened to speed up the regrowth. In the 1930s, millions of trees were planted, hastening the return of forest cover.

As a primeval forest returned to nearly half the Adirondack Park, the wildlife best suited to that environment again began to flourish. The deer population dropped and stabilized at a level close to pre-logging numbers. Moose began returning in 1980 and now there are even reports of calves being produced.

Ravens, absent for half a century, returned to the Park in the mid 1960s, and began to nest again on Adirondack cliffs. Beaver are again recycling the forests in a natural succession of ponds, marshes, and new forest, providing an ever varied habitat.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has released several dozen bald eagles and peregrine falcons to help those species to reinhabit their former range in the Adirondacks. Cold water fisheries are being reinvigorated through the Department's stocking program.

To be sure, some recent Forest Preserve acquisitions are just scrub brush and aspen groves which will need another hundred years to revert to the ancestral forest types. And, setbacks to the natural process may occur: windstorms, insect epidemics, or fires. Windstorms, such as the "blowdown of 1950," are the most likely natural catastrophe. Unlike a century ago, wild fire potential in the Adirondacks is almost nonexistent as the mature forest expands and little dry fuel is available. The diversity of a natural forest makes insect outbreaks less likely.

However, today there is a new threat. In a sad and ironic illustration of the interdependence of ecosystems, the continued existence of the Forest Preserve may be threatened as never before in its hundred year history. Airborne pollutants from both local and distant sources have left hundreds of unspoiled Adirondack lakes so acidic they cannot support fish life. If fish are gone from the food chain, beaver, fisher, marten, fox, weasel, and avian life, which depend on them will soon disappear. There is a growing body of evidence that tree growth may be similarly affected by industrial pollutants, and that recent observation of hundreds of acres of dead red spruce stands at high elevations does not demonstrate a natural successional phenomenon.

With the exception of this threat, the resiliency of nature has made the forests and wildlife in the Adirondacks more stable than they have ever been since white man first entered the region. If we solve the air pollution threat, the second century of the Preserve will continue to provide mature forests with the most dynamic, diverse, yet stable foundation to serve the many concerns of the people of the State.

The benefits of the Forest Preserve derive from the natural forests. Numerous attempts have been made to open parts of the forest preserve to timber harvesting, some to provide for scientific forestry, some for the benefit of wildlife management. Threats may still come, but the strength of the laws and the continued voting wisdom of New Yorkers assures that these laws will continue to protect the Forest Preserve as a natural treasure.

Years of study, planning and public discussion led to the State Land Master Plan which insures that the tenets of the Forest Preserve will be held. The plan also makes possible the widest possible enjoyment of that treasure without altering or diminishing its natural qualities.

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"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 preservation, 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 was originally contained in then Section 807 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27 of the Executive Law, hereinafter referred to as "the Act") which is set forth in Appendix I.

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

State Ownerships

While the Act does not define the term "state lands," the Agency has interpreted it to mean land held in the name of, owned by or under long-term lease to the State of New York or a state agency. 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, certain historic areas, and certain, so-called "Bond Program Public Campsites" lands which the Department has administratively classified as non-forest preserve (assuming that such statutory and administrative classifications are constitutional), 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. Approximately 2,300,000 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. These lands also include approximately 120 miles of the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad right-of-way.

Lands under the jurisdiction of other state agencies:

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

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

Private Ownerships

LAND

The Act clearly recognizes the unique land ownership pattern within the Adirondack Park—the intermingling of public and private lands in a checkerboard pattern — and mandates the Agency to reflect in this master plan the actual and projected uses of private lands within the Park. In 1973 the Legislature enacted, in Section 505 of the Act, the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan to guide development on private lands within the Park.

This mixture of public and private lands is a distinguishing feature of the Adirondack Park. At the present

time, state ownerships account for some forty percent of the 6,000,000 acres of land within the Park, the balance, or about 3,700,000 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. The siting of new state intensive use areas and the expansion of existing areas also must take into full account the existence of similar and possibly competing private recreational facilities and should not be competitive with such private facilities. In addition, the economy of the entire Adirondack region is vitally affected by the vast acreages of private lands that are devoted to multiple use forestry. To a much lesser extent, mining on private lands is also important to the area's economic well-being.

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

The state has also acquired over the years a variety of conservation easements and less-than-fee interests in private lands that serve an important public purpose, in either providing public access to state lands or in preserving the natural character of the private land burdened by the easement for the benefit of other state lands in the Park. These less-than-fee interests are an important element in the relationship between state and private lands. The more important of these interests are described in Appendix II to this Master Plan.

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

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

A comprehensive study of Adirondack lakes and ponds should be conducted by the Department of Environmental Conservation to determine each water body's capacity to withstand various uses, particularly motorized uses and to maintain and enhance its biological, natural and aesthetic qualities. First emphasis should be given to major lakes and ponds totally surrounded by state land and to those on which state intensive use facilities exist or may be proposed. The importance of the quality of these resources cannot be overemphasized.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has the power to regulate uses of state waters totally surrounded by state lands and uses of wild, scenic and recreational rivers running through state land, but lacks the authority to regulate uses of waters where all or part of the shoreline is in private ownership. The Agency has the authority to regulate motorized use of wild, scenic and recreational rivers and their river corridors on private lands. Regulations exercising this authority have been promulgated by the Agency. Existing power and authority of the state or local governments over state waters should be reviewed with consideration given to legislative needs to more accurately define authority over these waters.

Public Concern for the Adirondack Park

The people of the State of New York have shown a deep and abiding concern for the management and use of state lands in the Adirondacks for 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 landholdings, 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 2,600,000 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 Adi-

rondack acreage, better than ninety percent is contained within the so-called "Blue Line" that delineates the boundaries of the public and private lands constituting the Adirondack Park today. The enormous tracts of forest preserve provide a public resource for recreation in a wild setting that is unique in the eastern half of the United States and complements the more developed facilities of the excellent state park system in the rest of the state.

Between 1895 and 1978 there were over 130 proposed amendments introduced in the state legislature to change Article XIV, but only seventeen have been successful in passing both the legislature and public referendum. In each of the seventeen successful measures, the forest preserve lands involved were restricted to small acreages and were 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 that define the limits and applicability of Article XIV. By and large these legal rulings have taken a conservative attitude towards the scale and character of developments permitted on the forest preserve.

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

In the last twenty 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 Milmoe and R. Watson Pomeroy. More recently the public has recognized that if the character of the Adirondack forest preserve is to be retained in the face of a growing population, better transportation facilities and the soaring demand for outdoor recreation, not only will past management practices on the forest preserve require reassessment, but also the integrity of the Adirondack Park as a whole must be assured. Thus attention to other critical state ownerships, such as the major travel corridors, and appropriate controls over development on private lands are as important to the future of the forest preserve today as the passage of the forever wild amendment was 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 are:

- —the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency;
- —the preparation by the Agency of a master plan for state lands;
- —the classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use";
- —a set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody and control of state lands under the master plan, with particular emphasis on stricter controls over proposed wilderness and primitive areas; and,
- —the preparation of a land use and development plan for all private lands within the Park.

Acquisition Policy Recommendations

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

1. Future state acquisitions within the Adirondack Park should generally be restricted to the acquisition of forest preserve lands. Where special state purposes are such that non-forest preserve land might be acquired (assuming such acquisitions to be constitutionally permissible) the amount acquired for other than forest preserve purposes should be kept to the minimum necessary. Thus, should the state acquire a 100-acre tract on which it 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 (assuming such acquisitions to be constitutionally permissible) within the Park where:

- —the tract is not contiguous to a public highway; or,
- —the tract is of a native forest character, i.e., stocked with any size, native tree species with twenty-five percent crown cover. (Plantations are not considered to be native forest land); or,
- —the tract involved consists of more than 150 acres; or,
- —the tract is contiguous to existing forest preserve land; or,
- —the tract is within one-half mile of a block of forest preserve land of over 1,000 acres; or,
- —the tract lies at an elevation greater than 2,500 feet; or,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Land Exchange

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

The Perkins Clearing area represents 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. A land exchange amendment addressing the

Perkins Clearing problem passed two successive legislatures and was approved by the voters in November 1979. Legislation will be offered by the Department of Environmental Conservation for action in the 1981 Legislature to effect the exchange.

Plan Revision and Review

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

- —the proposed construction of a new campground on land previously classified as wild forest; or,
- —the upgrading of a primitive area to a wilderness area as a result of the removal of non-conforming uses and/or of the acquisition of an inholding of private land; or,
- —the designation of a new wild, scenic or recreational river.

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

Revisions will be undertaken as needs dictate and may be requested by the Agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation or any other interested state agency. Requests from local governments or responsible private persons or organizations for plan revision will be given due and fair consideration. Such revisions will be made by the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and will be the subject of public hearings within and without the Park. Any resulting changes in the master plan will be submitted to the Governor for 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 on-going process and, as public use of the state lands expands or changes in years ahead, land use controls may require re-analysis. The Agency will undertake annual reviews of the master plan to address such issues as the classification of recent acquisitions, reclassification resulting from the removal of non-conforming uses, modest boundary adjustments, minor technical changes, clarification or corrections and similar matters. Major reviews of the master plan will take place every five years by the Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, as required by statute, and with other interested state agencies. Any state agency may call for such a review at more frequent intervals. In keeping with this recommendation, starting in 1976, the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies, conducted an in-depth review of the master plan leading to various modifications therein, which were the subject of seven public hearings both within and without the Park and extensive consultation with a wide variety of interest groups in late 1978 and early 1979 and which were submitted to the Governor on April 20, 1979, and approved by him on October 24, 1979.

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

Unit Management Plan Development

Section 816 of the Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the master plan. Those plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan. Unit management plans will contain:

- —an inventory, at a level of detail appropriate to the area, of the natural, scenic, cultural, fish and wildlife (including game and non-game species) and other appropriate resources of the area and an analysis of the area's ecosystems;
- —an inventory of all existing facilities for public or administrative use;
- —an inventory of the types and extent of actual and projected public use of the area;
- —an assessment of the impact of actual and projected public use on the resources, ecosystems and public enjoyment of the area with particular attention to portions of the area threatened by overuse; and,
- —an assessment of the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the area with particular attention to portions of the area threatened by overuse in light of its resource limitations and its classification under the master plan.

Each unit management plan will also set forth a statement of the management objectives for the protec-

tion and rehabilitation of the area's resources and ecosystems and for public use of the area consistent with its carrying capacity.

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

- —actions to minimize adverse impacts on the resources of the area;
- —the rehabilitation of such portions of the area as may suffer from overuse or resource degradation;
- —the regulation of public use such that the carrying capacity of the area is not exceeded;
- —the preservation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats of the area;
- —the preservation and management of the fish and wildlife resources (including game and non-game species) of the area;
- —the preservation and management of the lakes, ponds, rivers and streams of the area, with particular attention to all proposed or designated wild, scenic and recreational rivers;
- —the preservation and management of special interest areas such as the habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species and areas with the potential for the reintroduction of extirpated species, unique geological areas and historic areas or structures;
- —the identification of needed additions or improvements to, and plans for providing for further appropriate public use of, the area consistent with its carrying capacity;
- —the removal of non-conforming uses; and,
- —the identification, in intensive use, historic and appropriate portions of wild forest areas accessible by automobile, of measures that can be taken to improve access to and enjoyment of these lands, and associated structures and improvements, by the physically handicapped.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department of Environmental Conservation will complete all unit management plans before the next five-year review of the master plan in 1984 and should commit the necessary resources for that purpose.

Special Historic Area Unit Management Plans

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

Interpretation and Application of the Master Plan

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

In this regard, it is well to remember that the legislature has established a two-tiered structure regarding state lands in the Adirondack Park. The Agency is responsible for long-range planning and the establishment of basic policy for state lands in the Park, in consul-

tation with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Via the master plan, the Agency has the authority to establish general guidelines and criteria for the management of state lands, subject, of course, to the approval of the Governor. On the other hand, the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies with respect to the more modest acreage of land under their jurisdictions, have responsibility for the administration and management of these lands in compliance with the guidelines and criteria laid down by the master plan.

In accordance with its administrative and management responsibilities, the Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with the duty to prepare, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans for the units of land classified in the master plan. The unit management plans are a mechanism to refine and apply the general guidelines and criteria in the master plan to specific conditions on the ground, at a level of detail appropriate to administration and management. When finally adopted by the Department, these unit management plans will assist significantly in resolving questions of interpretation and application of the master plan.

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

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

- The Agency will be responsible, as a policy matter, for general interpretations of the master plan itself either on its own initiative, at the request of any interested state agency, or, for state agencies other than the Department of Environmental Conservation, in connection with its review of state projects under Section 814 of the APA Act.
- The Agency will be responsible for determining whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation (or other appropriate state agencies) will be responsible for the application of the master plan and individual unit management plans with respect to administration and management of the state lands under its jurisdiction.
- The Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation or other appropriate state agencies will enter into memoranda of understanding designed to implement these guidelines in actual practice.

II Classification System and Guidelines

Basis and Purpose of Classification

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

A fundamental determinant of land classification is the physical characteristics of the land or water which have a direct bearing upon the capacity of the land to accept human use. Soil, slope, elevation and water are the primary elements of these physical characteristics and they are found in widely varied associations. For example, the fertility, erosiveness and depth of soil, the severity of slopes, the elevational characteristics reflected in microclimates, the temperature, chemistry, volume and turnover rate of streams or lakes, all affect the carrying capacity of the land or water both from the standpoint of the construction of facilities and the amount of human use the land or water itself can absorb. By and large, these factors highlight the essential fragility of significant portions of the state lands within the Park. These fragile areas include most lands above 2,500 feet in altitude, particularly the boreal (spruce-fir), sub-alpine and alpine zones, as well as low lying areas such as 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 the 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 frequently are finely balanced and incapable of absorbing material changes resulting from construction or intensive human use. In addition, wildlife values and wildlife habitats are relevant to the characteristics of the land and sometimes determine whether a particular kind of human use should be encouraged or prohibited, for example the impact of snowmobiles on deer wintering yards, the effect of numbers of hikers or campers near the nesting habitat of rare, threatened or endangered species like the bald eagle or spruce grouse, or the problems associated with motorized access to bodies of water with wild strains of native trout.

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

factors would dictate that the limitations of wilderness management are essential.

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

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

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

Nine basic categories result from this classification:

Wilderness

Primitive

Canoe

Wild Forest

Intensive Use

Historic

State Administrative

Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

Travel Corridors

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 must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context and their social or 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. Insofar as forest preserve lands are concerned, no structures, improvements or uses not now established on the forest preserve are permitted by these guidelines and in many cases more restrictive management is provided for. Obviously, these guidelines are subject to any future legal rulings further restricting uses of the forest preserve and they are not to be considered as attempts to make determinations as to the constitutional appropriateness of any such structures, improvements or uses. From a constitutional perspective this master plan should be regarded as constitutionally neutral in character.

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

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

While care has been employed in compiling and depicting the information shown on the map forming part of this master plan, it should be emphasized that, due to possible base map inaccuracies and the large scale of the map, the location of the classification system boundaries are subject to precise definition on the site by the Adirondack Park Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and such other state agencies as may be involved.

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

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

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

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

6. **Fireplace**—a permanent structure constructed of stone and cement designed to contain and control camp fires.

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

8. **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.

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

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

11. **Horse Barn**—a rustic structure open on at least two sides designed to provide temporary shelter for a small number of horses.

12. **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.

13. **Improved Crosscountry Ski Trail**—a marked and maintained path for cross country ski use designed for competitive or intensive use conditions which may be constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.

14. **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, cross country ski trails, improved cross country ski trails, trail heads, picnic areas and individual primitive tent sites.

15. **Jeep Trail**—a partially-improved way on which is permitted motorized access by jeep or other four-wheel-drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles or motorbikes, other than snowmobiles, either for the administration of state lands or for general public access.

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

17. **Leanto Cluster**—more than two leantos within sight or sound of each other and generally separated by a distance of less than one-quarter mile.

18. **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, motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment and motorboats.

19. **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.

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

21. **Natural Materials**—construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought into

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

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

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

24. **Primitive Tent Site**—an undeveloped primitive tent site providing space for not more than three tents, which may have an associated pit privy and fire ring, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people on a temporary or transient basis, and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment.

25. **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.

26. **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.

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

28. **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;
(ii) maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also be open to the general public for all or a segment thereof; or,
(iii) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation or other state agency and open to the public on a discretionary basis.

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

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

31. **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 for public use of motorized vehicles.

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

33. **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, leantos, pit privies, picnic tables, horse barns, horse hitching posts and rails, fire towers, observer cabins, telephone and electric light lines, mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks and dams.

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

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

36. **Wetlands**—any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh.

37. **Wildlife Management Structure**—a structure or device designed solely for inventory or research purposes or for the protection or restoration of endangered species, including but not limited to animal enclosures or exclosures, traps, raptor hacking towers, nesting towers or boxes, that does not materially alter the natural character or resource quality of the land and that is made of natural materials wherever possible.

WILDERNESS

Definition

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

Significant portions of the state lands within the Park are in a wilderness or near-wilderness condition today. These areas constitute nearly one-third of all designated federal and state wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains and 90% of the designated wilderness in the twelve northeastern states. At the time of the original enactment of this master plan, a majority of these areas contained some structures and improvements or were subjected to uses by the public or by official personnel that were incompatible with wilderness. However, the extent of these non-conforming uses was very modest from the standpoint of the total acreage involved. Since 1972 a substantial proportion of those non-conforming uses have been removed by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The remainder can be removed 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;

b) any remaining non-conforming uses that were not removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline provided for in the original version of the master plan will be removed as rapidly as possible;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Structures and improvements

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

—scattered Adirondack leantos, not including leanto clusters, below 3,500 feet in elevation:

—primitive tent sites below 3,500 feet in elevation that are out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or leanto:
(i) where physical and biological conditions are favorable, individual unit management plans may permit the establishment, on a site specific basis, of primitive tent sites between 3,500 and 4,000 feet in elevation; and,
(ii) where severe terrain constraints prevent the attainment of the guideline for a separation distance of generally one-quarter mile between primitive tent sites, individual unit management plans may provide, on a site-specific basis, for lesser separation distances, provided such sites remain out of sight and sound from each other, are consistent with the carrying capacity of the affected area and are generally not less than 500 feet from any other primitive tent site;

—pit privies;

—foot trails;

—cross country ski trails;

—foot trail bridges and, where absolutely necessary, ladders constructed of natural materials;

—horse trails, except that any new horse trails will be limited to those that can be developed by conversion of appropriate abandoned roads, snowmobile trails, jeep trails or state truck trails;

—horse trail bridges constructed of natural materials;

—horse hitching posts and rails;

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

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

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

—peripheral visitor registration structures.

2. All other structures and improvements, except for interior ranger stations themselves (guidelines for which are specified below), will be considered non-conforming. Any remaining non-conforming structures that were to have been removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed, will be removed as rapidly as possible. These include but are not limited to:

—leanto clusters;

—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; and,

—buoys.

Ranger stations

1. No new interior stations will be constructed and all remaining 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 as soon as feasible, as specified in the individual unit management plans.

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

3. Due to heavy existing and projected winter use in the Eastern High Peak area and the presence of the most rugged terrain in the Adirondacks, the Lake Colden station 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 administration, maintenance or research.

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

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

5. Irrespective of the above guidelines, use of motorized equipment or aircraft, but not motor vehicles, for a specific major research project conducted by or under the supervision of a state agency will be permitted if such project is for purposes essential to the preservation of wilderness values and resources, no feasible alternative exists for conducting such research on other state or private lands, such use is minimized, and the project has been specifically approved in writing by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation after consultation with the Agency.

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

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

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 that were to have been closed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed will be closed as rapidly as possible. Any non-conforming roads, jeep trails or state truck trails resulting from newly classified wilderness areas will also be phased out as rapidly as possible and in any case will be closed by the end of the third calendar year following classification. In each case the Department of Environmental Conservation will:

- —close such roads and jeep trails to motor vehicles as may be open to the public;
- —prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles; and,
- —block such roads and trails by logs, boulders or similar means other than gates.

3. During the 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.

Flora and fauna

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

Recreational use and overuse

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

- —hiking, mountaineering, tenting, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowshoeing, ski touring, 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. Each individual unit management plan will seek to determine the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the wilderness resource. Where the degree and intensity of permitted recreational uses threaten the wilderness resource, appropriate administrative and regulatory measures will be taken to limit such use to the capability of the resource, Such administrative and regulatory measures may include, but need not be limited to:

- —the limitation by permit or other appropriate means of the total number of persons permitted to have access to or remain in a wilderness area or portion thereof during a specified period;
- —the temporary closure of all or portions of wilderness areas to permit rehabilitative measures.

3. An intensified educational program to improve public understanding of backcountry use, including an anti-litter and pack-in, pack-out campaign, should be undertaken.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

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

2. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a water body accessible to the public by motorboat, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan, to provide, on a site-specific basis, for the location of small, unobtrusive docks made of natural materials on

such shorelines in limited instances where access to trailheads or the potential for resource degradation may make this desirable.

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

DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

The application of the wilderness definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under this master plan of fifteen wilderness areas scattered throughout the Adirondacks. As of the effective date of this master plan, ten of these areas meet wilderness standards, Two contain relatively minor non-conforming uses and three have somewhat more extensive non-conforming uses. These areas encompass approximately 1,000,000 acres or about forty-five percent of the forest preserve within the Adirondack Park. Virtually every Adirondack ecosystem is represented in these wilderness areas, from the alpine, sub-alpine and boreal (spruce-fir) communities of the higher mountains through various mixtures of hardwoods at the middle elevations to the lowland lakes and ponds and a variety of wetland environments—truly an unparalleled spectrum of wilderness resources for this and future generations of New Yorkers.

These areas are identified and their boundaries delineated on the map forming part of this master plan. A general description of each designated wilderness, identifying the principal features and facilities of the area and specifying the non-conforming uses that were not removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline or that exist as a result of recent acquisition, 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) contains structures, improvements, or uses that are inconsistent with wilderness, as defined, and whose removal, though a long term objective, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline, and/or, (b) contains, or is contiguous to, private lands that are of a size and influence to prevent wilderness designation; or,**
2. **Of a size and character not meeting wilderness standards, but where the fragility of the resource or other factors require wilderness management.**

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

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

The second type includes smaller tracts that 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 expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted.

(b) Any remaining non-conforming uses that were to have been removed by the original December 31, 1975 deadline but have not been removed will be removed as rapidly as possible.

(c) Those non-conforming uses that cannot be removed by a fixed deadline but whose eventual

removal is anticipated will be phased out on a reasonable timetable as soon as their removal becomes feasible.

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

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

3. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Structures and improvements

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

2. In addition, existing structures and improvements

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

(b) in the case of areas not destined to become wilderness, whose retention is compatible with the character of the area and whose removal is not essential to protect the resource,

will also be permissible, in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

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

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 specified by the Department of Environmental Conservation in a duly adopted unit management plan.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

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

2. In 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 by a fixed deadline; or,

(b) in primitive areas not destined to become wilderness whose presence is of a permanent character;

in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

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 effected by a fixed deadline or, in the case of primitive areas not destined to become wilderness, whose presence is of a permanent character; and,

—existing roads or jeep trails now open to the public may remain open for motor vehicles at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conser-

vation 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;

in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

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 overuse

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

DESIGNATION OF PRIMITIVE AREAS

The application of the primitive definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under this master plan of nineteen primitive areas scattered throughout the Adirondack Park. The objective for fifteen of these areas is to eventually upgrade them to wilderness. One area is destined to be upgraded to wilderness in part and the ultimate classification of the balance of each such area will require further analysis in light of future developments. One area is unlikely to become wilderness in the absence of large-scale land acquisition. One area can never attain wilderness standards, and the status of one area will require further analysis in light of future developments. These areas comprise some 67,000 acres or 3.5 percent 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 general description of each designated primitive area is contained in Chapter III. Each description specifies the goal for ultimate classification and non-conforming uses for each area.

CANOE

Definition

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. 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.

5. No new structures or improvements in canoe areas will be constructed except in conformity with finally

adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures and improvements, or the removal of non-conforming uses.

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

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

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

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

Structures and improvements

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

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

3. Any remaining non-conforming uses that were to have been removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed will be removed as rapidly as possible.

Ranger stations

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

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

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

Roads, 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 as specified in duly adopted unit management plans. 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 overuse

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

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

DESIGNATION OF CANOE AREAS

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

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

WILD FOREST

Definition

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

1. The primary wild forest management guideline will be to protect the natural wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the wild forest atmosphere.

2. In wild forest areas:

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

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

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

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

3. 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 by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the master plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972.

5. Care should be taken to 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 the wild forest areas are inadequate, appropriate measures may be undertaken to provide improved access to encourage public use consistent with the wild forest character.

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

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

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

10. Any new, reconstructed or relocated leantos, primitive tent sites and other conforming buildings and structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, fishing and waterway access sites and similar water-related facilities, will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such leantos, ranger stations, storage sheds, horsebarns and similar structures will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.

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

Structures and improvements

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

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

—nature and interpretive trails;

—trailheads adjacent to public highways;

—stream improvement structures for fishery management purposes;

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

—horse trails; and,

—picnic tables.

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;

—small fireplaces in fire-sensitive areas;

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

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

—telephone and electrical lines to service permitted administrative structures;

—buoys;

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

—ranger stations as set forth below;

—roads, 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; and,

—wildlife management structures.

Ranger stations

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

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

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

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

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

(b) by the general public, subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above, but only on:
—existing public roads;
—open jeep trails now or hereafter 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; and,

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

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

Roads, jeep trails and state truck trails

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

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

3. Established roads or jeep trails in newly-acquired state lands classified as wild forest may be kept open to the public, subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above, at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation, provided such use is compatible with the wild forest character of the area.

4. No new roads or jeep trails will be constructed in wild forest areas nor will new state truck trails be constructed unless such construction is absolutely essential to the protection or administration of an area, no

feasible alternative exists and no deterioration of the wild forest character or natural resource quality of the area will result.

Snowmobile trails

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

- —the mileage of snowmobile trails lost in the designation of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas may be replaced in wild forest areas with existing jeep trails or abandoned wood roads as the basis of such new snowmobile trail construction, except in rare circumstances requiring the cutting of new trails;
- —wherever feasible such replacement mileage should be located in the same general area as where mileage is lost due to wilderness, primitive or canoe classification;
- —appropriate opportunities to improve the snowmobile trail system may be pursued subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above, where the impact on the wild forest environment will be minimized, such as (i) provision for snowmobile trails adjacent to but screened from certain public highways within the Park to facilitate snowmobile access between communities where alternate routes on either state or private land are not available and topography permits and, (ii) designation of new snowmobile trails on established roads or jeep trails in newly acquired state lands classified as wild forest; and,
- —deer wintering yards and other important wildlife and resource areas should be avoided by such trails.

Fire towers

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

Tent platforms

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

Small groupings of primitive tent sites

Small groupings of primitive tent sites designed to accommodate a maximum of 20 people per grouping under group camping conditions may be provided at carefully selected locations in wild forest areas, even though each individual site may be within sight or sound and less than approximately one-quarter mile from any other site within such grouping, subject to the following criteria:

- —such groupings will only be established or maintained on a site specific basis in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan for the wild forest area in question;
- —such groupings will be widely dispersed (generally a mile apart) and located in a manner that will blend with the surrounding environment and have a minimum impact on the wild forest character and natural resource quality of the area;
- —all new, reconstructed or relocated tent sites in such groupings will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers and major streams and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public environment and use thereof.

Fishing and waterway access sites

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

- —Adequate public hand launching facilities or private facilities open to the public are not available to meet a demonstrated need.
- —The physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the water body or other water bodies accessible from the site will not be exceeded.
- —The site and attendant water uses will be compatible with the state and private land use classifications and attendant management guidelines and land use controls surrounding the water body.
- —The site will be located in a manner to avoid adverse impact on adjacent or nearby state and private lands.
- —Motor size limitations or the prohibition of motorized use as appropriate to the carrying capacity water body are provided for.
- —There will be no adverse impacts on the physical, biological or scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land.

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

Flora and fauna

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas, although exceptions may be made by the Department of

Environmental Conservation in accordance with sound biological management practices, particularly where such practices will improve the wildlife resources.

Recreational use and overuse

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

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

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

DESIGNATION OF WILD FOREST AREAS

The application of the wild forest definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under the master plan of about 1.2 million acres of wild forest land, comprising approximately 52 percent of the forest preserve within the Adirondack Park. A wide variety of terrain and ecosystems is represented in these areas.

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

Chapter III contains a general description of 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. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campgrounds and day use areas

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

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

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

2. All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the High Peaks wilderness, or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.

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

- —avoid material alteration of wetlands;
- —minimize extensive topographic alterations;
- —limit vegetative clearing; and,
- —preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the intensive use area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Any new, reconstructed or relocated buildings or structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, primitive tent sites not a part of a campground (which will be governed by the general guidelines for such sites set forth elsewhere in this master plan) boat launching sites, fishing and waterway access sites, boathouses, and similar water-related facilities, will be set back a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.

Campgrounds

1. All campgrounds will be of a rustic nature without utility hookups and other elaborate facilities customarily provided by private campgrounds. Each individual site will retain the natural character of the surrounding forest and contain only a fireplace or fire ring, a space for a single vehicle with trailer if needed, picnic table, and appropriate tents. All facilities and appurtenances are to be constructed of natural materials to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the natural environment. Where a campground involves the shoreline of a lake, pond, river or major stream any new, reconstructed or relocated camping sites will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the shoreline and so as to avoid intruding on its natural character or public enjoyment and use thereof.

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

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

4. The informative campfire programs at campgrounds should be reinstituted and then expanded.

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

Boat launching sites

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

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

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

- —adequate public or private boat launching facilities open to the public are not available to meet a demonstrated need;
- —the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the lake, or a portion of the lake, or other water bodies accessible from the site will not be exceeded;
- —the boat launching site or attendant water uses will be compatible with the state or private land use classifications and attendant management guidelines as land use controls surrounding the water body;
- —the boat launching site is located in a manner to avoid adverse impact on adjacent or nearby state and private lands;
- —motor size limitations appropriate to the carrying capacity of the lake are provided; particularly for lakes with embayment or shoreline configurations providing the character of small lakes; and,
- —there will be no adverse impacts on physical, biological or scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land.

3. Existing boat launching sites that do not meet the above guidelines may be retained but their status will be

periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate.

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

Ski areas, the Mt. Van Hoevenberg winter sports facilities

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

2. The Mt. Van Hoevenberg intensive use area should be maintained as a winter sports facility meeting international standards for bobsled, luge, biathlon and improved crosscountry skiing under developed, competitive conditions.

Visitor information centers

1. Visitor centers should be provided on or near major travel corridors in the Park.

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

Recreation use and overuse

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

- —the prohibition of overnight camping within a specified distance of a designated campground to avoid overflow camping on adjacent, undeveloped state lands; and,
- —the temporary closure of all or portions of a designated intensive use area to permit rehabilitative measures.

DESIGNATION OF INTENSIVE USE AREAS

The intensive use areas are delineated on the map forming part of this master plan and are described in Chapter III. They include (i) day use areas, which include: boat launching sites, the two ski centers at Gore and Whiteface, one beach not associated with a campground, all of the facilities at the Mount Van Hoevenberg intensive use area, the Prospect Mountain Parkway and the Whiteface Memorial Highway, and, (ii) 43 campgrounds (certain of which have associated day-use facilities which are considered a part of the campground) occupying, in all, approximately 6,000 acres of which only approximately 1,500 acres are currently developed.

HISTORIC

Definition

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

- **–state historic sites;**
- **–properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places;**
- **–properties recommended for nomination by the Committee on Registers of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation;**

and that are of a scale, character and location appropriate for designation as an historic area under this master plan.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

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

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

3. Construction and development activities in historic areas will:

- —avoid material alteration of wetlands;
- —minimize extensive topographical alterations;

—limit vegetative clearing; and,

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

4. Each historic area will be designed, managed and interpreted in conformity with a special historic area unit management plan for the area, filed with and approved by the Agency after public hearing as being consistent with this master plan. Special unit management plans will be prepared in consultation with the Agency for the two existing historic areas as soon as possible. No new structures or improvements at existing or proposed historic areas will be constructed prior to the approval of such special unit management plans. Such structures and improvements will conform to this master plan and special historic area unit management plans.

DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC AREAS

Two historic areas, Crown Point and John Brown's Farm, result from the application of the above criteria and are delineated on the map forming part of this master plan. Two possible additions to these two areas are: that portion of the Lake Champlain bottom lying between the southwestern end of Valcour Island and the western shoreline of the Lake, and Camp Topridge.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Definition

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

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

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

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

—avoid material alterations of wetlands;

—minimize extensive topographical alterations;

—limit vegetative clearing; and,

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

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

DESIGNATION OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

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

WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

The Adirondack Park contains many rivers which, with their immediate environs, constitute an important and unusual resource. Classification of those portions of rivers that flow through state land is vital to the protection of existing free flowing streams. The classification system and the recommended guidelines specified below are designed to be consistent with and complementary to both the basic intent and structure of the legislation passed by the legislature in 1972 creating a wild, scenic and recreational rivers system on both state and private lands.

Definitions

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

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

Basic guidelines

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

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

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

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

Wild rivers

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

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

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

4. Motorboat usage of wild rivers will be prohibited.

Scenic rivers

1. Scenic rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for the management of wild forest areas and with the following additional guidelines.

2. Access points to the river shore or crossings of 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.

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

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

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

—fishing and waterway access sites;

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

— motor vehicle bridges crossing the river.

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

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

Recreational rivers

1. Recreational rivers and their river areas will be administered in accordance with the guidelines for management of wild forest areas and with the following additional guidelines:

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

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

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

— fishing and waterway access sites;

— docks;

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

— snowmobile trails, roads, truck trails and jeep trails; and,

— motor vehicle bridges crossing the river.

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

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

DESIGNATION OF WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

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

TRAVEL CORRIDORS

Definition

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

This category, together with the state administrative category with which it is closely associated, 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, and is also responsible for the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad line. The Department of Environmental Conservation is involved in the construction and maintenance of many signs, campgrounds, 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 Department of Corrections. 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 over-emphasized. The lands adjacent to these highways are the most visible to the traveling public and frequently determine the image and entire atmosphere of the Park for many visitors. In

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

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

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

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.

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

Signing policies

1. A comprehensive plan for all signing on state lands within travel corridors will be prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency jointly with the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and other interested state agencies by no later than December 31, 1981, with the objective of achieving uniformity and a high quality of design for all signs within these corridors.

This plan will include:

- —a comprehensive visitor information program designed to inform the traveling public of the availability of state and private services and facilities, which minimizes the need for the erection of additional signs along travel corridors and ensures compliance with the Agency's private sign standards;
- —wooden park entrance signs of the rustic style now used by the Department of Environmental Conservation at all major entrances to the Park, with more modest signs of similar style at minor entrances;
- —particular consideration to modest landmark and vista signing, pointing out to the traveling public the many and varied natural resources and historic sites of the Park;
- —special design standards in the Park for all highway signs that do not relate directly to traffic safety; and,
- —a plan for the removal of existing service station, food, lodging and campsite signs visible from the Northway that do not comply with the Agency's private sign standards, coupled with a plan to provide standardized means for directing the traveling public to these facilities that does not involve the erection of additional signs on the Northway itself and is consistent with the comprehensive visitor information program for the Park.

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

Scenic vistas

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

Trailheads

The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Transportation should provide modest

trailhead parking areas at or near the beginning of important public foot and horse trails. The size of the facility will be governed by the carrying capacity of the land use area involved and will be consistent with finally adopted unit management plans.

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

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

Roadside aesthetics

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

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

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

4. All future guide rail construction will utilize the new weak post cable system, dark brown treated wooden posts or self-oxidizing rails where appropriate.

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

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

DESIGNATION OF TRAVEL CORRIDORS

The application of the travel corridor definition results in the designation of approximately 1,220 miles of travel corridors, of which approximately 1,100 are highway and 120 miles make up the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad.

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

—special interest areas deserving of public attention, such as:
scenic areas, places of geologic interest providing information on the formation of the Adirondacks or unusual mineral deposits or rock formations, historic buildings, structures or sites not part of a designated historic area, and particularly interesting natural areas;

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

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

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

3. Where overuse or destruction of unique and fragile resources is a threat, special measures will be taken to protect their integrity, such as prohibiting motorized access to the area, where such access would otherwise be allowed, re-routing foot and horse trails, or discouraging overnight camping to reduce public pressures.

Illustrative examples of certain areas requiring special management are set forth in Chapter III.

III Area Descriptions and Delineations

WILDERNESS

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, which affects the character of the area even to this day.

The Blue Ridge wilderness is easily accessible along most of its perimeter. 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.

Approximately 5.5 miles of jeep trails and 5.5 miles of snowmobile trails, open when this Plan was originally adopted, have been closed. A modest stream-gauging station was placed in 1978 at the confluence of the East Inlet and Lost Brooks on the former Sagamore property, now part of this wilderness. This facility is a non-conforming use and will be removed within three years of the classification of this parcel.

Blue Ridge area statistics:

State Lands	44,393 Acres
Bodies of Water (19)	455 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,700 Feet
(maximum)	3,744 Feet
Foot Trails	15.0 Miles
Leantos	3
Non-conforming Uses:	
Stream Gauging Station	1

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 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 pole-size 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 that are located on the peaks.

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 Department of Environmental Conservation. Their trails extend to such mountain tops as Round Top, Noonmark, Bear Den, Dial, Nippletop, Colvin, Blake and Pinnacle.

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

The state recently purchased in fee 9,182 acres from the AuSable Club. Approximately 3,269 acres have become part of the Dix Mountain Wilderness as a result, including the following summits: Noonmark, Bear Den, Dial, Colvin, and Pinnacle. The state was given a conservation easement on the remaining AuSable Club lands generally below 2,500 feet in elevation, limiting the future development potential of these lands while permitting the public to cross lands still held in fee by the Club, on foot, to reach the peaks. Future land use of these private lands will certainly be compatible with adjacent state lands.

Approximately two miles of jeep trails have been closed bringing this area into full compliance with wilderness standards.

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

Dix Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	50,190 Acres
Bodies of Water (12)	115 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	940 Feet
(maximum)	4,857 Feet
Foot Trails	36.5 Miles
Leantos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	None

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, a portion of the Oswegatchie River, the road leading to Inlet and private lands; on the east by the Colton town line and private lands in the vicinity of Gull Lake, a road leading to Gull Lake and the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad; on the south by Stillwater Reservoir; on the west by private lands and lands classified as wild forest in the former Schuler Tract.

The state has signed an agreement to purchase 15,850 acres in the towns of Webb and Long Lake, 8,635 acres of which will become part of this wilderness upon acquisition. The remainder of this tract lies on the opposite side of the railroad and road leading to Partlow Lake and will become the new Lake Lila Primitive Area. The state will also accept the gift of a conservation easement over 6,646 acres of land surrounding Nehasane Lake as well as fee interest subject to a 50-year estate over 3,664 acres in the vicinity of Gull Lake. This latter parcel will eventually become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness.

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 sawmills, it was found to be 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 ponds is an example of this virgin timber. The pure pine stand at Pine Ridge along the Oswegatchie is another well known spot where examples of original growth timber may be seen. However, portions of the Pine Ridge stand were completely blown down in the 1950 hurricane and 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 popula-

tion. 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 Broadhead Gore was acquired by the state in 1976. This parcel was considered state land from about 1890 to 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 gore was only about 300 acres in size, it extended from Mud Lake westward a distance of about eight miles, coming to a dagger-like point in the heart of the wilderness.This acquisition offers significant additional protection to the Five Ponds Wilderness.

In 1975 the Oswegatchie River was classified as a wild river by the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, and in 1977 was closed to motorboat use. The fire truck trail that once served High Falls from Wanakena was closed in 1976. Within the former Oswegatchie Primitive Area, approximately 7.2 miles of snowmobile trails were closed and two tent platforms were removed. This action made possible the reclassification of the Oswegatchie Primitive Area, 16,920 acres in size, to wilderness, an addition to the Five Ponds Area. This wilderness now fully complies with wilderness standards as no non-conforming uses exist.

The Five Ponds area is accessible to the public from the north and also from the south if one has a boat, from the east in the Lake Lila Primitive Area and the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad. However, the western boundary in Herkimer County is restricted by posted private lands.

Five Ponds area statistics:

State Lands	92,635 Acres
Private Inholdings (2)	350 Acres
Bodies of Water (95)	1,452 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,486 Feet
(maximum)	2,460 Feet
Foot Trails	100.1 Miles
Leantos	5
Non-conforming Uses:	None

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 dominant mountains of this area, Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge, practically bald. A few pockets on the lower slopes escaped the intense burn and are easily distinguishable as they now contain old growth white-pine and hemlock stands with some mixed hardwoods.

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

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

From the eastern boundary of Route 9, a few miles south of Elizabethtown, to the top of Giant Mountain, 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 temperatures and soil conditions between these two elevations, the forest cover type ranges from stunted spruce, balsam and white birch near the mountain tops to excellent quality oak, maple, basswood and white ash at the lower elevations. There are also some excellent stands of hemlock on the Keene Valley side near the AuSable River.

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 a sign appeared in the early '70s 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 excellent, with trailheads available on each of the four sides.

This area fully complies with wilderness standards.

Giant Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	22,104 Acres
Bodies of Water (2)	6 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	700 Feet
(maximum)	4,627 Feet

Foot Trails	12.5 Miles
Leantos	1
Non-conforming Uses:	None

HA-DE-RON-DAH

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

It is bounded on the north by private lands in the vicinity of North Pond, Hitchcock Pond, Moose Pond and the headwaters of the Independence River; on the east by private lands along the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad right-of-way; on the south by private lands along Route 28 and by the wood road leading to the Copper Lake property; and on the west by Pine Creek and a Department of Environmental Conservation maintained foot trail from Pine Creek to Pine Lake, East Pine Pond and Big Otter Lake.

The terrain consists of 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 former 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 wood 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 present 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 difficult for the Department of Environmental Conservation personnel.

Public access from the north and south is nearly all blocked by private lands. The same is true for most of the eastern and western boundaries except at the state truck trail entrance near Thendara and the Big Otter jeep road from the west.

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

Ha-de-ron-dah area statistics:

State Lands	27,050 Acres
Bodies of Water (59)	610 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,440 Feet
(maximum)	2,340 Feet
Foot Trails	33.8 Miles
Leantos	7
Non-conforming Uses:	None

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, which runs from Cold Brook to Averyville, the Adirondack Loj property at Heart Lake, the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Recreation Center and Route 73 near the Cascade Lakes. Private land to the west of Route 73 forms the eastern 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 Environmental Science and 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 region.

Forest fires near the turn of the century were intense enough in some locations, such as 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 timberline and a number of other mountain tops are at or close to timberline. The subalpine and alpine vegetation on the tops of these mountains has been of interest to many people, including students of botany, ecology and zoology, as well as recreationists willing to hike to the mountain tops for superb views of the High Peak region and close observation of unique plant associa-

tions. Overuse 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 throughout 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 leantos at Lake Colden filled and overflowing with winter campers.

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 near Marcy Dam, Lake Colden and in the John's Brook Valley threatens to destroy the wilderness character of these sections if appropriate management systems are not applied now. The number of leantos and individual primitive tent sites at Marcy Dam and Lake Colden exceed wilderness guidelines. 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.

Use of snowmobiles to supply the cabin has been discontinued. The telephone line still exists although it is a non-conforming use. Since the original master plan called for the development of alternative means of communication in this area prior to December 31, 1975, this should be accomplished in the immediate future.

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 Peaks area during certain periods.

Each of the remaining 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.

The state recently acquired 9,182 acres of land in fee from the AuSable Club. Approximately 5,910 acres have become part of the High Peaks Wilderness, including the following summits: Haystack, Little Haystack, Basin, Saddleback, Sawtooth, Gothics, Armstrong, Upper Wolfjaw and Lower Wolfjaw mountains. In addition, the state was given a conservation easement over lands generally below 2,500 feet in elevation, limiting future development on land retained by the AuSable Club, and a foot trail easement allowing the public to cross club lands to reach the Peaks.

Fee title or conservation easements should be acquired by the state on other key parcels of privately held land adjacent to this wilderness.

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

A very minor change in the boundary of this area was made in 1979 in recognition of a small segment of a public road near Walton Brook in the Town of Keene. Also in 1979, two sub-lots adjacent to the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Recreation Area consisting of approximately 260 acres were reclassified from wilderness to intensive day use in recognition of a crosscountry ski trail that has been mechanically maintained in this area since 1966.

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

High Peaks area statistics:

State Lands	226,435 Acres
Private Inholdings (10)	4,530 Acres
Bodies of Water (112)	1,392 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,040 Feet
(maximum)	5,344 Feet
Foot Trails	238.4 Miles
Horse Trails	52.3 Miles
Leantos	49
Impoundments	2
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Ranger Cabins	2
Horse Barns	4
Telephone Lines	7.5 Miles
Leanto Clusters	2
Roads (public)	1 Mile

HOFFMAN NOTCH

This area lies in the towns of Schroon, North Hudson and Minerva in Essex County. It is bounded on the north

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

by private lands lying south of the Blue Ridge Road and the Sand Pond Mountain tract donated to the state by Finch, Pruyn and Company for fish and wildlife management 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 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, 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, totaling 17.5 miles, 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 Baily Pond to Washburn Ridge, were removed, as was the 2.5-mile jeep trail. This area now contains no non-conforming uses.

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

Hoffman Notch area statistics:

State Lands	36,045 Acres
Bodies of Water (8)	141 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	960 Feet
(maximum)	3,693 Feet
Foot trails	30.0 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

McKENZIE MOUNTAIN

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

McKenzie Mountain, sometimes referred to as Saddleback, and Moose Mountain, sometimes called St. Armand Mountain, 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 and rugged terrain which effectively prevented motor vehicle penetration prior to its wilderness designation in 1972.

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 from there toward 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 the excellent views that 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.

Approximately six miles of snowmobile trails have been closed and four tent platforms removed from this area. The recently acquired drive-in theater site adjacent to Route 86 has been added to this wilderness. The site is being used as a vehicle parking and storage facility for the 1980 Winter Olympics; such use is therefore non-conforming and must be discontinued. The area must be rehabilitated as promptly as possible, but in any event by the third year following classification of this parcel.

McKenzie Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	35,298 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
Leantos	1
Non-conforming Uses:	
Vehicle Parking and Storage Area	1

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 western boundary is the county line, and the eastern 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 crosscountry 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 are especially abundant. The protection afforded wilderness tracts will insure an outdoor laboratory of significant biological importance.

The only non-conforming structure within the area, the remnant of the deserted Beaver Lake Mountain fire tower, has been removed and the jeep trail, 2.5 miles in length, closed. This area now fully complies with wilderness guidelines. 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
Foot Trails	2.0 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

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; to the north, private land and Route 74 form the boundary. The state land boundary forms most of the remaining perimeter except for 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 configuration, it can provide a wilderness experience to relatively large numbers of people. In addition, the numerous crystal-clear ponds, vistas resulting from rock outcrops and severe fires, and intriguing geographic names such as Grizzle Ocean, Thunderbolt Mountain, Oxshoe Pond and Desolate Brook, make this one of the most appealing of all Adirondack areas.

Fires have burned over most of the region in the past. 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, which penetrates to Mill Brook from the south, the fire tower, observer cabin and telephone lines. The road leading to Mill Brook should be terminated near the private land boundary to the south. As of 1979 the fire tower, observer cabin and telephone lines have not been removed, pending completion of the Department of Environmental Conservation's evaluation of the need for such facilities.

This area has recently been expanded by the reclassification of the Crane Pond Primitive Area to wilderness, with the exception of the Crane Pond Road right-of-way itself. The snowmobile trail, 3.5 miles in length leading from Route 74 to the Crane Pond Road, was closed in 1975 by the Department, making this reclassification possible.

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 following non-conforming uses have been removed from the area: 8.5 miles of jeep trails, 5.3 miles of snowmobile trails, and one ranger cabin.

Pharaoh Lake area statistics:

State Land	46,039 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	117 Acres
Bodies of Water (39)	1,242 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	860 Feet
(maximum)	2,551 Feet
Foot Trails	48.0 Miles
Horse Trails	8.0 Miles
Leantos	15
Impoundments	1
Non-conforming Uses:	
Fire Towers (unmanned)	1
Observer Cabins	1
Horse Barns	1
Telephone Lines	3.0 Miles
Road (public)	1 Mile

PIGEON LAKE

This area lies in the town of Webb, Herkimer County, and the towns of Long Lake and Inlet in Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north by Stillwater Reservoir and large blocks of private land in the vicinity of Rose Pond, Shingle Shanty Pond and Upper Sister Lake; on the east by a private road from Brandreth Lake to North Point and 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 Remsen to Lake Placid railroad tracks.

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

The forest cover runs 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 area's 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.

The state truck trail, 1.5 miles in length, and the snowmobile trail, 3.8 miles in length, have been closed; the fire tower, observer cabin and telephone lines have all been removed. No non-conforming uses now exist in this area.

Pigeon Lake area statistics:

State Lands	51,055 Acres
Bodies of Water (64)	1,498 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,700 Feet
(maximum)	2,900 Feet
Foot Trails	27.8 Miles
Leantos	4
Non-conforming Uses:	None

SENTINEL RANGE

This area is located 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 dominate the area and five small ponds are situated near the northern and northwestern boundaries.

Sentinel Mountain and the general northeastern quarter of the area are characterized by bare rock outcropping 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 that regenerated after the forest fires. There are mixed hardwood and softwood stands, primarily along brooks on the eastern slopes. The remainder of the area has a mixed hardwood-softwood cover with some small pockets of white pine between ledges near the northern boundary.

Good views may be obtained from the top of Sentinel and Pitchoff Mountains, but forest cover restricts the view of Kilburn Mountain, Stewart Mountain, Slide Mountain and Black Mountain. There is an excellent view of the Wilmington Notch-Whiteface Mountain section from a leanto 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 leanto 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 leanto was eliminated because of deterioration and lack of use.

The northern 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.

In 1979, a very minor change in the eastern boundary of this area was made to more accurately reflect the location of a public road.

The jeep trail, 0.7 miles in length, has been closed and two tent platforms have been removed from this area. The only remaining non-conforming use includes the Old Military Road, a former town road 3.5 miles in length, which is not generally passable by motorized vehicles but has not yet been appropriately barricaded as required by wilderness guidelines.

Sentinel Range area statistics:

State Lands	23,137 Acres
Bodies of Water (5)	77 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,375 Feet
(maximum)	2,893 Feet
Foot Trails	13.8 Miles
Leantos	1
Non-Conforming Uses:	
Jeep Trail	3.5 Miles

SIAMESE PONDS

The Siamese Ponds area is located in the towns of Lake Pleasant, Wells and Indian Lake in Hamilton County and the towns of Johnsburg and Thurman in Warren County. It is one of the largest wilderness areas, extending about 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 southeastern part, were burned over in forest fires. However, much of the forest cover has been re-established and in some locations there are excellent quality stands of both hardwoods and softwoods. On most of the higher elevations, except those in severely burned spots, spruce and 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 that 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 that 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 northern end that makes a very desirable spot for picnics, bathing and camping There are also other desirable camping spots on this lake.

A portion of the eastern shoreline of Indian Lake, formerly classified as intensive use, has been reclassified to become a part of this wilderness. A very minor change in the western boundary of this area was made in 1979

resulting in the creation of the Dug Mountain Primitive area, in recognition of a legal, private right-of-way that separates this area from the remainder of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

Remaining non-conforming uses include the John Pond Road, the road running along the eastern shoreline of Thirteenth Lake, and 2.5 miles of snowmobile trails.

Siamese Ponds area statistics:

State Lands	108,503 Acres
Private Inholdings (1)	106 Acres
Bodies of Water (67)	1,090 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,280 Feet
(maximum)	3,472 Feet
Foot Trails	35.8 Miles
Leantos	4
Non-conforming Uses:	
Snowmobile Trails	2.5 Miles
Roads (public)	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 as well as 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 size. 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.

In 1979 Great Lot 121 consisting of approximately 200 acres was reclassified from wilderness to become the Cathead Mountain Primitive Area, in recognition of two private rights-of-way and a telephone line running through this lot.

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

Silver Lake area statistics:

State Lands	106,997 Acres
Private Inholdings (3)	1,450 Acres
Bodies of Water (48)	512 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	820 Feet
(maximum)	3,250 Feet
Foot Trails	26.5 Miles
Leantos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	None

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, 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 that 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 that 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 campsites at Lewey Lake, as well as those in the Moose River Recreational 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 mountain and using the foot trails.

Enforcement problems stemming from the remoteness of the area have been encountered in attempts to prevent snowmobile penetration into the wilderness area. Physical barriers should be erected within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest area at key locations to diminish this problem.

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

In 1979, a 700-acre tract of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest area was re-classified to become part of this wilderness. This tract lies to the west and south of Indian Lake. This reclassification creates an additional non-conforming use within the area: 1.3 miles of Department of Environmental Conservation maintained road leading from Indian Lake trailhead to the Indian River corridor boundary, 1/2 mile from the river. At present, this road continues beyond the river corridor boundary for a distance of 2.5 miles. A barrier should be erected at the Indian Lake trailhead as soon as possible to eliminate these non-conformities.

Also in 1979, the western boundary was modified due to the identification of a private right-of-way adjacent to the West Canada Mountain Primitive Area.

West Canada Lake area statistics:

State Lands	160,183 Acres
Private Inholdings (2)	1,630 Acres
Bodies of Water (168)	2,180 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,390 Feet
(maximum)	3,899 Feet
Foot Trails	67.1 Miles
Leantos	10
Impoundments	1
Non-conforming Uses:	
Snowmobile Trails	3.8 Miles
*Ranger Cabins	1
Helicopter Platforms	1
Telephone Lines	7.5 Miles
Roads (public)	3.8 Miles

WILDERNESS STATISTICAL TOTALS:

State Lands	1,034,935 Acres
Private Inholdings	8,380 Acres
Bodies of Water (755)	11,144 Acres
Foot Trails	701.5 Miles
Horse Trails	64.3 Miles
Leantos	94
Impoundments	4
Non-conforming Uses:	
Snowmobile Trails	6.3 Miles
Fire Towers:	
unmanned	1
Observer Cabins	1
*Ranger Cabins	3
Helicopter Platforms	1
Horse Barns	5
Telephone Lines	18 Miles
Leanto Clusters	2
Vehicle Parking and Storage Area	1
Stream Gauging Station	1
Roads (public)	8.3 Miles
Jeep Trail (abandoned public)	3.5 Miles

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

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 together with the private inholding should then be added to the High Peaks Wilderness.

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

Ampersand area statistics:

State Lands	700 Acres

Bodies of water (2)	13 Acres
Foot Trails	0.5 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Roads (Private)	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 Pharoah 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 Pharoah 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
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Roads (private)	.5 Miles

BUCK POND

This area lies in the town of Fine, St. Lawrence County, and consists only of the private right-of-way following a very rough wood road providing access for all terrain vehicles to an inholding of private land at Buck Pond. This primitive corridor and the private inholding are surrounded by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. Should this inholding be acquired by the state this jeep trail should be terminated at the northwestern state land boundary, and the right-of-way as well as the acquisition should become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

Buck Pond area statistics;

Non-conforming Uses:	
*Jeep Trail	8.5 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.

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

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 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	10.900 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)	4.5 Miles

CATHEAD MOUNTAIN

This area consists of one Great Lot (121) in the town of Benson, Fulton County, containing two rights-of-way to an inholding of private land as well as a telephone line to the state operated fire tower on Cathead Mountain, lying within the inholding. Should this inholding be acquired by the state, two options are available depending upon the need then for the Cathead Mountain fire tower: (i) either the fire tower and the telephone line could be removed, the roads closed and the whole area be added to the Silver Lake Wilderness area, or, (ii) the fire tower, telephone line and the access road to the tower, if found to be necessary, could remain and the primitive area be enlarged to include an appropriate, small acreage surrounding the Cathead Mountain tower.

Cathead Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	206 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Jeep Trails	1.0 Miles
*Telephone Line	.5 Miles

CRANE POND

This area, in the town of Schroon, Essex County, consists of an existing town road right-of-way which provides access to the northern part of the Pharoah Lake Wilderness, one of the three most heavily used wilderness areas within the Park, due to its accessibility and proximity to the Northway. The corridor runs from the

end of Alder Meadow Road to the end of the town road, just west of Crane Pond. The trails to Goose Pond, Pharaoh Mountain and Pharoah Lake all begin along this primitive corridor. The road is in poor condition and is suitable primarily for four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Should the level of use of this wilderness area result in a continuation of existing management problems and resulting resource degradation, the road corridor should be terminated either at the state land boundary at the end of Alder Meadow Road or at an intermediate point, such as the Goose Pond Trailhead, and the corridor wholly or partially reclassified to wilderness. A decision on such future reclassifications should await an assessment of public use trends and their resource impact, which should be addressed in the unit management plan for the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, but the long term goal should be eventual reclassification of the entire corridor to the wilderness.

One sub-lot previously included within the Crane Pond Primitive Area on its western side has in 1979 been reclassified to wild forest, as this lot was essentially detached from the remaining primitive area. The remainder of the original Crane Pond Primitive Area, with the exception of the above mentioned corridor, became part of the Pharoah Lakes Wilderness in 1979.

Crane Pond area statistics:

Non-conforming Uses	
*Roads (public)	2.1 miles
*Snowmobile Trails	2.1 miles
*Telephone Lines	2.1 miles

DUG MOUNTAIN

This is a small appendage of state land adjacent to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area in the village of Speculator, Hamilton County. It is bounded on the north, west and south by private lands. The private lands to the north constitute a virtual inholding within the wilderness. This appendage is separated from the wilderness by a private road approximately 600 feet in length leading to the private holdings in the north. In the event that the private lands ever are acquired by the state, the road should be closed, and this area together with the private inholdings reclassified to wilderness.

Dug Mountain Area Statistics:

State Lands	60 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
*Roads (private)	.2 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 Mountain fire tower, north of the South Branch of West Canada Creek, and south to 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 that parallel this section of the Hudson River, the three above mentioned trails, particularly the Blue Ledge trail, receive considerable use.

Private lands border about two miles of the approximately ten-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 may be badly damaged and frequently broken in two, which makes it a rather expensive and hazardous venture.

Non-conforming uses that were closed include 2.5 miles of jeep trails and 2.3 miles of snowmobile trails.

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

The area is classified as primitive because of the substantial private inholdings and their critical relationship to the river gorge, This area should be upgraded to wilderness as soon as the private lands can be acquired or their uses limited so as to be compatible with the adjacent state lands.

Hudson Gorge area statistics:

State Lands	17,170 Acres
Private Inholdings (2)	2,900 Acres
Bodies of Water (13)	218 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,200 Feet
(maximum)	2,558 Feet
Foot Trails	13 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

HURRICANE MOUNTAIN

This area is located in the towns of Elizabethtown, Jay, Keene and Lewis, Essex County. It is predominantly steep, rocky ground with thin soils. Hurricane Mountain, 3,694 feet in elevation, dominates this area.

Spectacular views are afforded the hiker who scales Hurricane of the Giant Mountain and High Peaks 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, the area should be reclassified as wilderness. In 1976, a snowmobile trail 2.0 miles in length was closed. A recent acquisition created an additional non-conforming use: 0.5 miles of jeep trails.

Hurricane Mountain area statistics:

State Lands	13,449 Acres
Bodies of Water (1)	10 Acres
Elevation (minimum)	1,400 Feet
(maximum)	3,694 Feet
Foot Trails	12.8 Miles
Leantos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	
*Jeep Trails	1.7 Miles
*Fire Towers	1
*Observer Cabins	1
*Telephone Lines	2.8 Miles
Roads (public)	.2 Miles

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

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 natural resource degradation. The vistas from Jay, Saddleback and Slip mountains make the climb to the vantage points well worthwhile. The AuSable Valley can be seen as well as the Champlain Valley and the High Peaks.

The 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 lower slopes.

The area is classified as primitive because it is below the minimum acreage required for wilderness designation. Should the Glen Road ever be closed or should additional private land acquisition adjacent to this area occur, the reclassification of this area to wilderness would be possible. No non-conforming 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
Non-conforming Uses:	None

JOHNS BROOK

This area is in the town of Keene in Essex County. It consists of the private right-of-way across state lands to several private parcels in the High Peaks Wilderness. 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)	1.3 miles
Ranger Cabin	1

LAKE LILA

This area lies in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. It is bounded on the west by the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad line and by a road leading to a private inholding encompassing Gull Lake, Deer Pond and Partlow Lake (an inholding that is scheduled to pass to state ownership in fifty years), which form the eastern boundaries of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, and to the north, south and east by private lands.

This is a remote area that has been maintained in an essentially primitive state by its former private owners, other than for periodic logging and the construction of a single camp. Lake Lila itself is the largest lake in the Adirondack Park totally surrounded by forest preserve and due to its size and shoreline configuration offers excellent opportunities for canoeing and primitive camping under essentially wilderness conditions. In addition the lake environs contain critical wildlife habitat and the lake itself is a potentially important coldwater fishery. Public access is obtained via a public right-of-way along a private road to a point a short distance from the eastern shoreline.

The area is classified as primitive because of its remoteness and near wilderness character and because it does not include the acreage necessary for wilderness classification. In addition, the area contains two quasi-permanent, non-conforming uses; the private roads leading to two private inholdings and the railroad line.

The lands lying westerly of the railroad track and east of the private road leading to the Gull Lake, Deer Pond and Partlow Lake inholding should become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area when the inholding passes into state ownership in 50 years time. Due to the presence of the railroad line, it is unlikely that the balance of the area could ever become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness area, even if the remaining private inholding were to be acquired by the state.

However, possible future acquisitions coupled with the elimination of the private road might at some future time permit reclassification to a new wilderness area. Alternatively, should additional acquisition with the requisite water bodies takes place, the area has potential for becoming a significant new canoe area.

Lake Lila statistics:

State Lands	7,215 Acres
Bodies of Water (3)	1,414 Acres
Non-conforming uses:	
*Roads (private)	4.5 Miles
*Railroad	2.0 Miles
Camp and associated outbuildings	

PILLSBURY LAKE

This area lies in the towns of Arietta and Lake Pleasant in Hamilton County. It consists of a number of lots interspersed in a checkerboard arrangement with International Paper Company lots and reflects the most unmanageable ownership pattern for both the state and private owner in the Park. A constitutional amendment to allow for a land exchange of some 8,500 acres between International Paper Company and the state has been passed by two successive legislatures and approved by the voters.

The major use of state lands here is hunting and fishing, with some camping on the portions of interior lakes in state ownership. Hikers also use these lands enroute to the interior of the West Canada Lake Wilderness. However, motorized public access to the area via the International Paper Company wood roads is not permitted as the company lands are leased to private clubs.

The area is designated a primitve area to insure, depending on the final configuration of the exchange, that uses made of the area allow the following options:

1) the addition of the area and the lands acquired in the exchange to the West Canada Lake Wilderness area;
2) reclassification of the area and the lands acquired in the exchange to wild forest;
3) retention of the area and the lands acquired in the exchange as a primitive area; or,
4) an appropriate combination of all three classifications.

The determination of the appropriate classification of the area must resolve such questions as: the need for the state to retain the Pillsbury Mt. fire tower, the appropriate point at which the present state truck trail/ private road should be closed; the desirability of continued float plane access to Whitney Lake; potential impacts on the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area; and general resource considerations.

Any land exchange ultimately approved by the legislature should make provision for motorized public access from Route 30 to the boundary of the consolidated state lands over the private road system on the lands to be retained or acquired by International Paper Company.

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	4.1 Miles
*Telephone Lines	1.8 Miles

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

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

VALCOUR ISLAND

This Lake Champlain island lies in the towns of Peru and Plattsburgh in Clinton County. The island is designated primitive to insure its protection in a near natural state. The unique vegetation and wildlife of the island, in particular, are in need of such protection. The wildness of the rocky east shore, complete with unusual wind and water rock sculptures, also deserves preservation. This island should never be reclassified to wilderness because of its size, the existence of such structures as the lighthouse, and the area's proximity to a heavily developed shoreline as well as the U.S. Air Force Base in Plattsburgh.

The recent state acquisition of the former Seaton property at the southern end of the island increases the area's suitability for water-oriented recreational uses. Any interpretive program for the island should stress both its historical significance and its special natural features.

Valcour Island area statistics:

State Lands	1,075 Acres
Private Inholdings (4)	25 Acres
Non-conforming Uses:	
Former Seaton House and Associated Outbuildings	1
*Storage Sheds	2

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.

In 1979 a boundary adjustment was made expanding this area to include a previously unrecognized, private right-of-way adjacent to the West Canada Wilderness Area.

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

West Canada Mountain statistics:

State Lands	2,935 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 through state lands designated as a part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness to private tracts totally surrounded by the designated wilderness. Should these inholdings ever be acquired by the state, the road should be closed and this area made a part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

Non-conforming uses:	
*Roads (private)	1.0 miles

PRIMITIVE AREA STATISTICAL TOTALS:

State Lands	64,780 Acres
Private Inholdings	8,555 Acres
Bodies of Water	1,756 Acres
Foot Trails	37.6 Miles
Leantos	2
Non-conforming Uses:	
*State Truck Trails	4.1 Miles
*Roads (public)	3.0 Miles
*Roads (private)	22.5 Miles
Jeep Trails	12.0 Miles
Snowmobile Trails	5.6 Miles
*Fire Towers	3
*Observer Cabins	3
*Ranger Cabins	1
*Telephone Lines	13.2 Miles
*Railroad	4.5 Miles

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

CANOE AREA

SAINT REGIS

This area is in the town of Santa Clara in Franklin County. It is bounded on the north by private property, on the east by the Santa Clara town line, on the south by the Remsen to Lake Placid 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. The area is now closed to motor vehicles, motorboats and aircraft in conformity with the master plan guidelines, thereby restoring the tranquil, wild atmosphere of these waters. 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 nearly mature, which escaped the burn because of their location. There are also some spots near the ponds where white pine escaped the fires, and these large shoreline trees add to the scenic attractions.

All of the 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, a use which has dramatically expanded in recent years due to the growing popularity of the sport and the master plan restrictions on snowmobile use. 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. The fire tower, observer cabin and telephone lines have not yet been removed pending the Department of Environmental Conservation's evaluation of the need for this facility. Approximately 15.4 miles of snowmobile trails in this area have been closed, and twenty-one tent platforms removed.

Public access to the area is restricted from the north and west by private posted land but is readily available on the south and east.

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
Leantos	3
State Truck Trails	7.0 Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	
Fire Towers (manned)	1
Observer Cabins	1
Telephone Lines	1.0 Miles

WILD FOREST AREAS

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

tics 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 covered with second growth hardwoods on the more fertile soils and spruce-fir combinations along water courses are typical in this southwestern corner of the Park. Mohawk Valley population centers such as Rome, Utica and Herkimer are within short driving distance, and big game hunting pressure in the fall season is heavy. The streams attract many trout 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 a 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 shoreline 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 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 distant 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, it extends south to Paradox Lake, and its eastern and southern boundaries border private lands.

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

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 offer scenic fishing opportunities and have defined but unmarked trails leading from highways. A great variety of flora and fauna reflect an overlap of forest types where beech, birch, maple and hemlock on the cool, northern slopes give way to oak, ash, basswood and pine on the southerly exposures.

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 and Second, Third and Fourth creeks provide contrasting wildlife habitats. An extensive network of trails, both foot and snowmobile, link Pine Lake, Big Otter Lake and the Independence River with the Stillwater Road in the north.

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 Moffitt Beach and Lewey Lake Campgrounds.

Long popular with hunters, trappers and fishermen, the interspersion of private woodlands with state ownership has made this area a top producer of fish and wildlife. The Jessup and Miami Rivers have long been known as good trout 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 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 primitive tent sites. 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 Route 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, crosscountry 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-Saratoga county lines' 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 by 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 state parcel in the Park.

INTENSIVE USE AREAS

CAMPGROUNDS

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

*Uncompleted

DAY USE AREAS

Ski centers, parkways, beaches, Mt. Van Hoevenberg Winter Recreation Center

Gore Mountain Ski Center	Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Recreation Area
Whiteface Mountain Ski Center	Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway
Prospect Mountain Parkway	Lake George Beach

BOAT LAUNCHING SITES

The following lakes are approximately 1,000 acres or more in size and are therefore eligible for further analysis to determine their suitability for boat launching ramp construction.

Name of Water	Number of Acres
Lake Champlain	281,600
Lake George	28,160
Great Sacandaga Lake	26,656
Cranberry Lake	6,976
Carry Falls Reservoir	6,458
Tupper Lake	6,240
Stillwater Reservoir	6,195
Raquette Lake	5,274
Upper Saranac Lake	5,056
Indian Lake	4,365
Schroon Lake	4,128
Long Lake	4,090
Piseco Lake	2,848
Lake Placid	2,803
Hinckley Reservoir	2,784
Upper Chateaugay Lake	2,605
Little Tupper Lake	2,381
Lower Saranac Lake	2,285
Fourth Lake (Fulton Chain)	2,138
Chazy Lake	1,606
Sacandaga Lake	1,600
Lake Pleasant	1,440
Middle Saranac Lake	1,376
Union Falls Flow	1,376
Brant Lake	1,376
Peck Lake	1,370
Big Moose Lake	1,286
Blue Mountain Lake	1,261
Forked Lake	1,248
Meacham Lake	1,203
Woodhull Lake	1,158
Abanakee Lake	1,018
Lake Clear	1,000

The following lake chains contain lakes less than 1,000 acres in size, but the combined acreage of lakes within these chains exceeds approximately 1,000 acres. These lakes, if listed below, are eligible for further consideration to determine their suitability for boat launching ramp construction because they are connected by navigable waterways and the aggregate acreage of each chain exceeds 1,000 acres. These chains may contain additional lakes less than 1,000 acres in size which are not listed. Such lakes have been determined to be unsuitable for boat launching ramp construction.

Saranac Chain:

Middle Saranac
Lower Saranac
Second Pond
First Pond
Lake Kiwassa
Lake Flower
Oseetah Lake

Tupper Chain:

Tupper Lake
Simon Pond
Raquette Pond

St. Regis Chain:

Upper St. Regis Lake
Lower St. Regis Lake

Chateaugay Chain:

Upper Chateaugay
Lower Chateaugay

Fulton Chain:

First Lake
Second Lake
Third Lake

Rainbow Chain:

Lake Kushaqua
Rainbow Lake

Indian Chain:

Indian Lake
Lewey Lake

Upper Saranac Chain:

Square Pond
Fish Creek Pond

HISTORIC AREAS

CROWN POINT HISTORIC AREA:

This area includes the Fort Crown Point Ruins and the Fort St. Frederic Ruins. The actual historic area is designated on the official map forming a part of this master plan and includes 385 acres.

JOHN BROWN'S FARM HISTORIC AREA:

This area includes John Brown's farmhouse, his grave, a barn, a pond and that area actually farmed by Brown, approximately 65 acres. This area is designated on the official map forming a part of this master plan and consists of the northern one-fourth of Great Lot 95.

Lands to be Included in the STATE ADMINISTRATIVE classification:

FRANKLIN

Altamont—Sunmount Developmental Center—DMH
Brighton—Topridge—OGS
Duane—Maintenance Area Rt. 458, "Meacham Lake"—DOT
Duane—Maintenance Area Rt. 3, Vermontville—DOT
Harrietstown—State Armory
Harrietstown—Maintenance Area Rt. 86, Lake Clear Jct.—DOT
Santa Clara—Wawbeek Maintenance Area—DOT

ESSEX

Elizabethtown—Rt. 9N—Essex County Stonehouse Maintenance Area—DOT
Lake Placid—Maintenance Area, Rt. 86—DOT
Lake Placid—Maintenance Area, Behind DEC—State Police Facilities—DOT
Lewis—West of Exit 32, Maintenance Area—DOT
Minerva—Maintenance Area, Rt. 28N—DOT
North Elba—Camp Adirondack—DCS
North Elba—Ray Brook Headquarters
North Hudson—Maintenance Area, Exit 30—DOT
Schroon—Schroon Lake Sewage Treatment Plant—EFC
Schroon—Horseshoe Brook Pumping Station, Utility—EFC
Schroon—Int. Rts. 9, 73/Maintenance Area, Residency Office—DOT
Severance—Maintenance Area—Int. Rts. 9 & 73—DOT
Stowerville—Maintenance Area—2 mi. west of I. 87—DOT
Ticonderoga—315 Champlain Ave., State Armory, Div. Military, Naval Affairs
Underwood—Maintenance Area—Rt. 9—DOT
Westport—N. Main Street, Sewage Treatment Plant—EFC
Westport—Pumping Station No. 1, Washington Avenue—EFC
Westport—Pumping Station No. 2, S. Main Street—EFC

HAMILTON

Arietta—Maintenance Area—Rt. 10, 1.5 mi. north of Fulton County -DOT
Indian Lake—Maintenance Area, Residency—DOT
Hoffmeister—Maintenance Area, Rt. 8—DOT
Long Lake—Maintenance Area, Rts. 28N, 30—DOT
Long Lake—Maintenance Area Rt. 28, Raquette Lake Patrol
Long Lake—Maintenance Area SH 5189, Long Lake Patrol
Wells—Hamilton County Sub-headquarters

FULTON

Northampton—Maintenance Area SH 362—DOT
Northampton—DEC, Northville—DEC
Rockwood—Maintenance Area Rts. 10 and 29—DOT

CLINTON

Ausable—Maintenance Area, Rt. 9N—I-87—DOT
Dannemora—Correctional Facility—Dept. of Correctional Services
Dannemora—Correctional Facility—DCS
Dannemora—Clinton East Annex—DCS
Dannemora—Surplus Property—OGS
Dannemora—Adk. Correctional Treatment & Evaluation Center
Dannemora—ROW—SH 5186, Vacant Land—DOT
Saranac SH 1398 Moffittsville/Franklin, Maintainance Area—DOT

WARREN

Lake George—"Residential Bldg. Location"/I-87—DOT
Chester SS Rt. 8, Maintenance Area—DOT
Chestertown—Maintenance Area—I-87, Exit 25 on Rt. 8—DOT
Warrensburg—Parking Lot SH 5157 Warrensburg—Chestertown—DOT
Warrensburg—Maintenance Area near I-87/Lake George—Warrensburg—DOT
Warrensburg—Warren County Storehouse Site
Warrensburg—DEC office—DEC
Warrensburg—Warren County Residency on Rt. 9
Queensbury—DOT properties—DOT

ST. LAWRENCE

Colton—Town of Colton Maintenance Area—Rt. 3—DOT
Fine—St. Lawrence Power Radio Tower
Fine—Radio Tower Site—PASNY
Hopkinton—White Hill Radio Towers

WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM

in the Adirondack Park

RIVER	Number of Miles Classified WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Ampersand Brook		8.0	
Ausable—Main Branch			22.0
Ausable—East Branch		9.0	28.3
Ausable—West Branch			34.5
Black		7.8	
Bog		7.3	
Boreas		11.5	
Bouquet			47.7
Bouquet—North Fork		6.0	
Bouquet—South Fork		5.5	
Blue Mountain Stream (Tributary of Middle Branch of the Grasse River)		9.0	
Cedar	14.3	15.0	11.0
Cold	14.0		
Deer		6.2	
East Canada Creek		20.9	
Grasse—Middle Branch		14.5	
Grasse—North Branch		25.4	
Grasse—South Branch		38.9	5.2
Hudson	10.5	13.0	58.6
Independence		26.0	0.5
Indian (Trib. of Hudson River)			8.3
Indian (Trib. of Moose River—South Branch)	13.0		
Jordan		18.0	
Kunjamuk	8.0	10.4	
Long Pond Outlet		16.0	
Marion		5.0	
Moose—Main Branch		15.8	
Moose—South Branch		38.9	
Opalescent	11.0		
Oswegatchie—Main Branch	18.5		
Oswegatchie—Middle Branch	14.5	23.4	
Oswegatchie—West Branch		7.0	6.1
Otter Brook		10.0	

RIVER	Number of Miles Classified WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Ouluska Pass Brook	3.0		
Piseco Outlet	4.2		
Raquette		33.8	39.0
Red		9.7	
Rock		6.9	1.2
Round Lake Outlet		2.7	
St. Regis—East Branch		14.5	6.1
St. Regis—Main Branch		15.5	25.0
St. Regis—West Branch		35.0	5.5
Sacandaga—East Branch	11.5		14.0
Sacandaga—Main Branch			31.0
Sacandaga—West Branch	18.7		17.8
Salmon			12.3
Saranac			60.4
Schroon			66.7
West Canada Creek	8.0	17.0	11.0
West Canada Creek—South Branch	5.9		9.7
West Stony Creek		7.7	8.7
TOTALS	**155.1**	**511.3**	**539.5**
TOTAL MILES CLASSIFIED **1205.9**			

TRAVEL CORRIDORS

RAILROAD LINES:

Remsen to Lake Placid	122 miles

HIGHWAYS:

Route	Terminal	Approximate Mileage
I-87	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	91
3	Western Park Boundary to Northeastern Park Boundary	107[a]
8	Southwest Park Boundary to Hague	109
9	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	92[b]
9L	Southeastern Park Boundary to Route 9	13
9N	Southern Park Boundary to Keeseville	124
10	Southern Park Boundary to Route 8	23
22	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	76[c]
28	Southwestern Park Boundary to Route 9	100[d]
28N	Blue Mountain Lake to North Creek	47[e]
29A	Southern Park Boundary to Southwestern Park Boundary	18[f]
30	Northern Park Boundary to Southern Park Boundary	151[g]
56	Northern Park Boundary to Sevey	15
58	Western Park Boundary to Fine	5
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

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

190	Northern Park Boundary to Route 374	8
192	Bloomingdale 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**

SCENIC 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
Danmemora	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 1/4 mile west of West Hill School
Essex	1.5 miles northeast of Whallonsburg on Christian Road
Essex	0.75 miles southwest of Whallon Bay (Lake Champlain) on Lake Shore Road
Fine	Two vistas approximately 1.25 miles south of hamlet of Fine
Harrietstown	Approximately 0.5 miles north of intersection of State Routes 86 and 192-A
Hopkinton	Whites Hill
Indian Lake	On State Route 30 overlooking Lake Abanakee
Indian Lake	2.5 miles east of Lake Abanakee overlooking Lake Snow
Johnsburg	3 miles south of hamlet of North Creek
Johnsburg	3 miles south of North River on Barton Mine Road
Johnsburg	1 mile east of Chatiemac Lake south of Gore Mountain by 2 miles
Johnsburg	Approximately 0.5 miles southeast of Bakers Mills
Keene	Intersection of Route 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 Road and Chateaguay Branch of the Delaware and 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
Pokamoonshine Summit
Prospect Mountain
Pulpit Rock
Raquette Falls
Red Rock Bay
Rocky Falls
St. Regis Mountain Summit
Sleeping Beauty
Sliding Rock Falls
Twitchell Creek Gorge
Vanderwhacker Mountain Summit
Wakely Mountain Summit
Wanika Falls
Whiteface Mountain Summit

GEOGRAPHICAL

AuSable River Delta
Balanced Rock
Chimney Mountain
Colden Dike
Giant Mountain Slides
Ice Cave Mountain
McComb Mountain Slide
Moose River Rock Dam
Rainbow Lake Esker
Rogers Rock
Round Mountain Exfoliating Dome
Six Mile Creek Esker

HISTORIC

Axton Plantation
Burnt Shanty Clearing
Fort George & Battleground
French Louie's Camp
Mother Johnson's Boarding House
Long Lake—Round Pond Canal
Prospect Mountain Inclined R.R.
Riparius Bridge
Rondeau's Hermitage
Roosevelt Plaque
Scott's Pond Lumber Dam
Scott Clearing and Lumber Dam
Lake Stevens Flume Route
Valcour Island

NATURAL

Baxter Mountain
Bloomingdale Bog
Boreas Hardwood
Buckhorn Lake Hardwoods
Chubb River Marsh
Church Pond
Five Ponds Esker
Griffin Rapids Virgin Timber
The Gulf
Moose River Plains
Oseetah Lake Marsh
Oswegatchie Plains
Otter Pond Virgin Timber
Owl's Head—Red Pine Area
Pharaoh Lake Red Pine
Piseco Lake Hardwoods
Pine Orchard
Pine Ridge
Peninsula Nature Trail
Raquette River Delta
South Inlet—Raquette Lake
Tongue Mountain
Wanika Falls Hardwoods
Whiteface Mountain—Red Pine Area
Whitehouse Hardwoods
Valcour Island

APPENDIX I

Section 816 Master plan for management of state lands

1. The department of environmental conservation is hereby authorized and directed to develop, in consultation with the agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the master plan for management of state lands heretofore prepared by the agency in consultation with the department of environmental conservation and approved by the governor. Such management plans shall conform to the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan. Until amended, the master plan for management of state lands and the individual management plans shall guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack Park.

2. The master plan and the individual management plan shall be reviewed periodically and may be amended from time to time, and when so amended shall as amended henceforth guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack Park. Amendments to the master plan shall be prepared by the Agency, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, and submitted after public hearing to the governor for his approval.

3. The agency and department are hereby authorized to develop rules and regulations necessary, convenient or desirable to effectuate the purposes of this section.

Formerly Section 807, added L. 1971, c. 706, Section 1; renumbered 816 and amended L. 1973, c. 348, Section 1. Section 807 read as follows:

Section 807. Master Plan for management of state lands

1. In order to further carry out the purposes of this article as described in section eight hundred one, the agency shall prepare and submit to the governor for his approval on or before June first, nineteen hundred seventy-two, a master plan developed in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, for management of state lands, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, located in the Adirondack Park. Such plan shall (1) classify such lands according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use and provide general guidelines and criteria for the management and use of lands within such classifications, and (2) reflect the actual and projected uses of private lands within the park as those uses may be more fully characterized in the development of the land use and development plan provided for in section eight hundred five of this article.

2. Upon approval of such plan by the governor, the department of environmental conservation is hereby authorized and directed to develop, in consultation with the agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the master plan and such management plans shall conform to the 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.

APPENDIX II

Significant conservation easements within the Adirondack Park

1. Town of Keene, Essex County
   Lot 66 TWP 1 & 2
   40 acres—Harold B. Burton—Gift

2. Eagle Nest Corporation (1974)
   Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County
   TWP 34 Lots 270—279,-259—269, 436—484
   Harold Hochschild—800+ acres—Gift

3. Elk Lake—1963
   Town of North Hudson, Essex County
   TWP 44 & 49 Elk Lake Islands and Perimeter of Elk Lake, Samuel Bloomingdale ± acres Gift

4. AuSable Club—1978
   Twp 48
   Towns of Keene and North Hudson, Essex County
   7,000 ± acres—Adirondack Mountain Reserve—Gift

5. Nehasane 1979
   Town of Webb,
   6646 Acres
   Webb Family—Gift

6. Northway Scenic Easements, Essex County
   a. Town of Chesterfield
      Essex 162, 35.28 acres—1964—66—Purchase
   b. Town of Lewis
      Essex 163.1—67.86 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Essex 163.2—43.63 acres—1964—66—Purchase
   c. Town of Westport
      Essex 164.1—10.50 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Essex 164.1A—64.20 acres—1964—66—Purchase
   d. Town of North Hudson
      Essex 166.3—0.07 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Essex 166.3a—0.164 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Essex 166.4—0.07 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Essex 166.4a—0.164 acres—1964—66—Purchase
   e. Town of Schroon
      Essex 167—18.36 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Essex 168—4.05 acres—1964—66—Purchase

7. Northway Scenic Easements, Warren County
   a. Town of Chester
      Warren 62.5—1.0 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Warren 62.7—0.93 acres—1964—66—Purchase
      Warren 62.8—2.66 acres—1964—66—Purchase
   b. Town of Lake George
      Warren 65.1—6.78 acres—1964—66—Purchase
   c. Town of Warrensburg
      Warren 64.1—3.66 acres — Purchase
      Warren 64.2—9.96 acres — Purchase

Other Less Than Fee Interests

Nehasane, 1979
Town of Webb
3664 acres, subject to a 50-year estate retained by the Webb Family

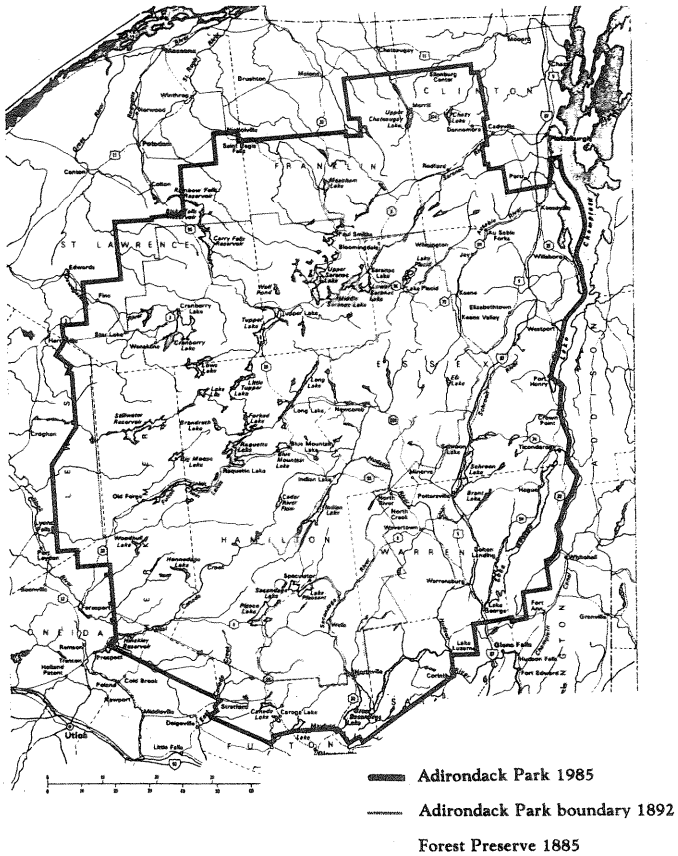
PUBLIC FISHING RIGHTS EASEMENTS

Stream	Equivalent* Miles	County
Ausable River, E. Branch	12.40	Essex
Ausable River, W. Branch	4.52	Essex
Chubb River	.67	Essex
Bouquet River	15.81	Essex
Bouquet River, N. Branch	8.29	Essex
Spruce Mill Brook	4.29	Essex
Chateaugay River	1.00	Franklin
Hatch Brook	1.04	Franklin
St. Regis River	2.72	Franklin
East Branch	2.50	Franklin
Ozonia Lake Outlet	.70	Franklin
Dexter Lake Outlet	.25	Franklin
Salmon River (Clinton)	4.65	Clinton
North Branch	.45	Clinton
Saranac River, N. Branch	10.36	Clinton
Alder Brook	.51	Clinton
" "	.14	Franklin
Cold Brook	.99	Clinton
Saranac River, S. Branch	3.64	Clinton
Schroon River	7.15	Essex
True Brook	2.71	Clinton
East Canada Creek	3.50	Fulton
Sprite Creek	.27	Fulton
Hague Brook	.19	Warren
Hudson River	.73	Warren
Gilead Brook	.02	Warren
Mill Creek	5.03	Warren
Schroon River	.11	Warren
West Brook	.25	Warren
Grasse River		
North Branch	5.75	St. Lawrence
Little River (Trib. of Oswegatchie)	4.70	St. Lawrence
Sucker Lake Outlet	.65	St. Lawrence
Trib # 12	.25	St. Lawrence
St. Regis River	.62	St. Lawrence
Twin Lakes Outlet	1.54	St. Lawrence
Black Creek	.31	St. Lawrence
Black River	.20	Herkimer
Little Black Creek	2.39	Herkimer
Beaver Brook	.27	Herkimer
East Canada Creek	.3	Herkimer
Trammel Creek	.45	Herkimer
West Canada Creek	.15	Herkimer
Fish Creek (Trib. of Black River)	5.37	Lewis
Independence River & Tribs.	25.71	Lewis
Otter Creek & Tribs.	19.94	Lewis
Oswegatchie River,		
West Branch	13.19	Lewis
Jakes Pond Outlet	.28	Lewis
Hogs Back Creek	.28	Lewis
Compos Creek	1.00	Lewis
TOTAL	178.29	

*Mileage is calculated based upon easements held on each bank.

Progress in Programs and Planning Essential to the Forest Preserve and the State Land Master Plan

Land Acquisition



At its creation in 1885, the Adirondack Forest Preserve contained 681,374 acres. The story of its growth to the present 2.5 million acres is a fascinating one — and a testimony to the high regard the Forest Preserve has had in the minds of the people of New York State. A number of laws to appropriate funds for land acquisition have passed the legislature, and the people of the State have voted special bond acts designed to provide funds to increase the Forest Preserve.

The first specific appropriation for the Forest Preserve was voted in 1890, a sum of $25,000. Successive appropriations totalling $3.85 million permitted yearly purchases so that by 1910, the Forest Preserve contained a total of 1.4 million acres.

In 1910, the first bond issue provided $7.5 million which added 245,000 acres to the Preserve in the next decade. A portion of a $5 million 1924 bond issue was used to add 273,000 acres to the Preserve in the next two decades. In 1960, $2.6 million was voted for land acquisition as part of a larger bond issue for Park and Recreation Land. By this time, the Preserve had grown to encompass over 2.1 million acres within the Blue Line. The Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972 included $44 million for the addition of lands within the Adirondack Park, permitting the Forest Preserve lands to grow to a total of 2.5 million acres. The moneys from the Bond Act have not all been spent.

Over the years, the State has acquired important wetlands and wildlife habitat, fragile alpine summits, and other environmentally sensitive areas. The State has also obtained some of the best of recreation land, most of the mountains over 3000 feet, miles of canoe routes, and a wide variety of lakes and ponds. In the past decade such important tracts as Nehasane with its beautiful Lake Lila, Dunhams Bay on Lake George with its vital wetlands, Santanoni Preserve south of the High Peaks, the Wilderness Lakes tract near Stillwater Reservoir, and part of the Sagamore properties near Raquette Lake have been acquired. In 1978 the State purchased from the Adirondack Mountain Reserve all lands above 2,500 feet on the nine high peaks still privately owned. The State also acquired easements guaranteeing public access to those peaks.

Among the smaller parcels purchased, some have provided significant accesses to the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness, the east side of Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, and Auger Falls on the Sacandaga River. Among the environmentally important parcels acquired were most of the remaining private lands on Valcour Island in Lake Champlain to preserve the heron rookery. Lampson Falls in St. Lawrence County, was a special scenic acquisition. Residents have benefited also from the purchase of a tract on the east shore of Tupper Lake.

Land Classification

The State Land Master Plan mandated by the Adirondack Park Agency Act classified lands in the Forest Preserve in 1972. Each year, the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, recommends classification of recent acquisitions to the Governor for approval.

As of 1979, there were 1,035,000 acres classified as Wilderness, 64,780 acres as Primitive, 18,100 acres as Canoe, and approximately 1.33 million acres as Wild Forest. This equates to 45% Wilderness, 52% Wild Forest.

Since 1979 a total of 50,464 acres have been added to the Forest Preserve. Of that total, 741 acres have been classified as Intensive Use areas, 24,598 as Wild Forest, 6,117 acres as Primitive and 2,182 as Wilderness.

With the recommended classification of much of the Perkins Clearing exchange land as Wilderness, 32.9% of the total 50,465 acres acquired since 1979 will have that designation while 53.2% of the new land will be in the Wild Forest category.

This will result in classifications of 54.6% of the total of Forest Preserve lands as Wild Forest, and 43.4% as Wilderness. The remaining two percent is a combination of Primitive, Canoe, Intensive Use, Historic, and State Administrative classifications.

Unit Management Planning

The Department of Environmental Conservation established a "Policies and Procedures Manual" through which it proposed to undertake Unit Management Planning as mandated and outlined by the Adirondack Park Agency Act. (See page 13.) These policies and later amendments to them, including the "fast-track" process, described procedures for completing the plans. As part of the process, DEC has called for public assistance in gathering inventory information, in advising the Department about goals and objectives for management, and in assessing the impact of plans on surrounding areas. Public input can take the form of written information or attendance at informational meetings or hearings which are a part of unit management planning. This partnership of the public with the Department in the preparation of the plans is an essential ingredient of the planning process.

To date, a number of plans are underway and a few have reached final draft form for review by the Adirondack Park Agency. Each plan, with detailed maps, inventories, and management objectives and actions has been or will be available to the public for comment.

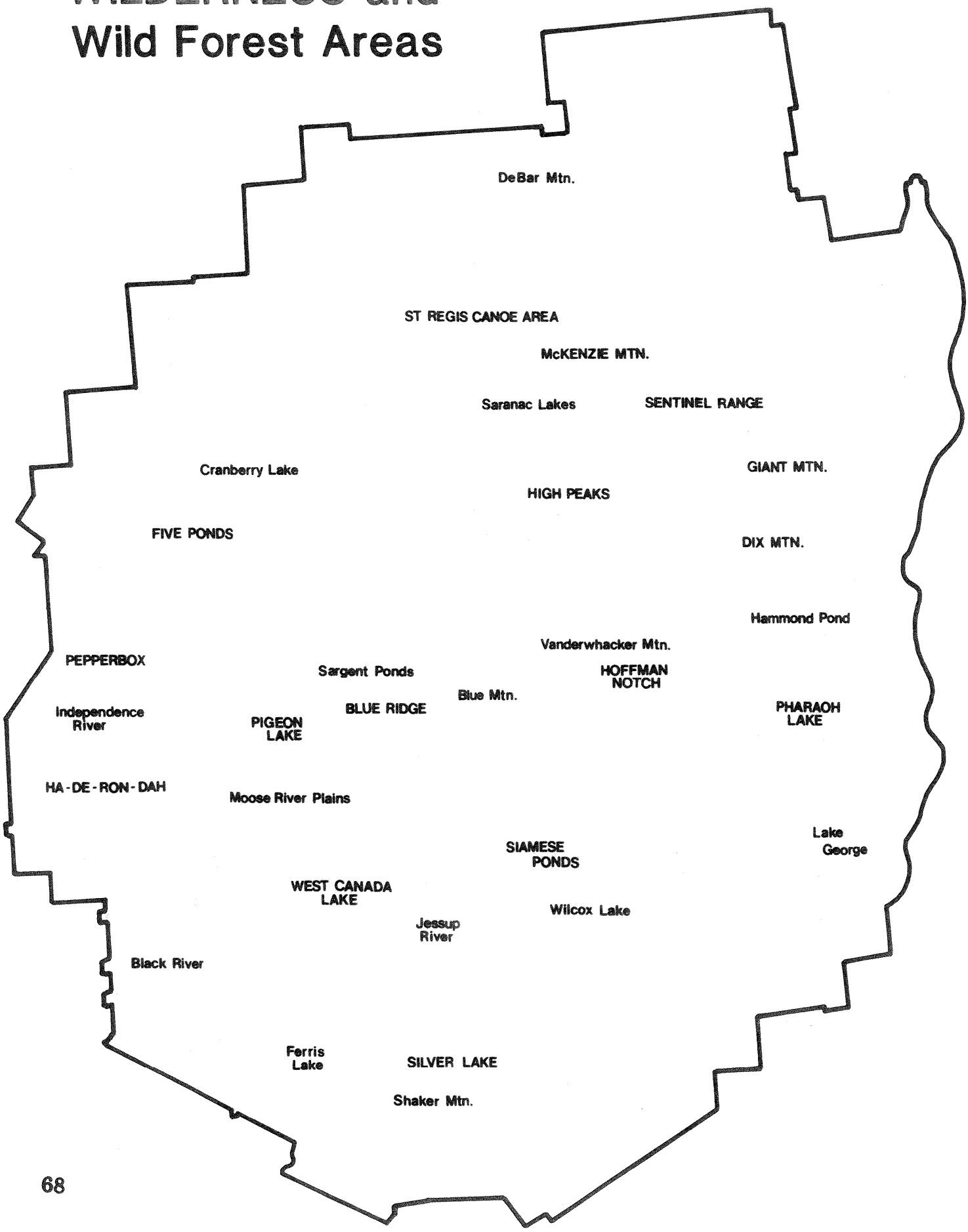
Plans completed or nearing completion include Lake George Battlefield Park, Pepperbox Wilderness Area, Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Area, Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area, Five Ponds Wilderness, Buck Pond Primitive Corridor, Independence River Wild Forest Area, Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Area, Grasse River Wild Forest, Jessup River Wild Forest Area, and Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area.

Plans which have been recently initiated are Fulton Chain Wild Forest, Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area, Hammond Pond Wild Forest, Crane Pond Primitive Corridor, Bald Ledge Primitive Area, Hudson Gorge Primitive Area, Blue Mountain Wild Forest, the High Peaks Wilderness Area, and Ampersand and John's Brook Primitive areas.

A generic plan for Intensive Use Areas which includes campgrounds is underway and will provide the basis for plans for all 49 of those areas.

For additional information contact your regional DEC Office or write Bureau of Preserve Protection and Management, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233.

WILDERNESS and Wild Forest Areas

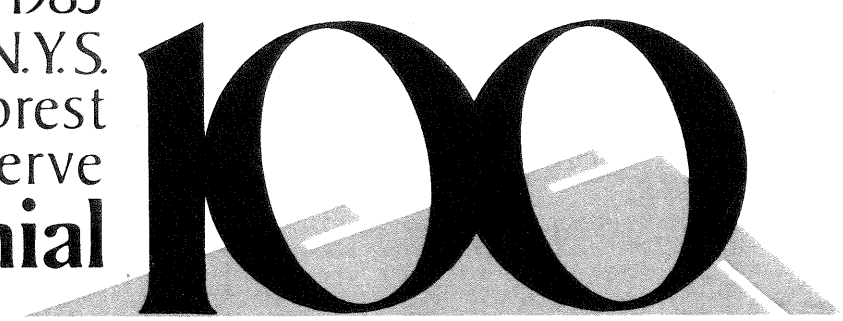


STATE OF NEW YORK
Mario M. Cuomo, Governor

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
Herman F. Cole, Jr., Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Henry G. Williams, Commissioner

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Forest
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