

STATE OF NEW YORK  
**ADIRONDACK PARK  
STATE LAND  
MASTER PLAN**

**APPROVED NOVEMBER 1987**

**UPDATED 2001**

STATE OF NEW YORK  
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*The June, 2001 reprinting of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan is the text of the 1987 Master Plan, with revisions to area descriptions undertaken pursuant to land acquisitions and classification / reclassification actions completed by approval of the Governor subsequent to 1987. These revisions - twelve approved in the year 2000, and two approved in the year 1988 - consist of the following additions, amendments, and deletions to the Master Plan's area descriptions:*

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>William C. Whitney Wilderness Area</i>                  | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Alder Creek Primitive Area</i>                          | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Alice Brook Primitive Area</i>                          | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Bear Pond Primitive Area</i>                            | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Hitchens Ponds Primitive Area</i>                       | <i>Added May 18, 1988</i>       |
| <i>Lows Lake Primitive Area</i>                            | <i>Added May 18, 1988</i>       |
| <i>Nehasane Primitive Area</i>                             | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Partlow Lake Primitive Area</i>                         | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Tied Lake Primitive Area</i>                            | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <i>Camp Santanoni Historic Area</i>                        | <i>Added August 25, 2000</i>    |
| <i>Little Tupper Lake Headquarters Administrative Area</i> | <i>Added February 8, 2000</i>   |
| <br>   |                                 |
| <i>Pepperbox Wilderness Area</i>                           | <i>Amended February 8, 2000</i> |
| <i>Five Ponds Wilderness Area</i>                          | <i>Amended February 8, 2000</i> |
| <br>   |                                 |
| <i>Lake Lila Primitive Area</i>                            | <i>Deleted February 8, 2000</i> |

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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. Insofar as forest preserve lands protected by the "forever wild" provisions of Article XIV, §1 of the Constitution are concerned, the provisions of the master plan are intended to be constitutionally neutral. While obviously no structure, improvement or use held to be unconstitutional is permitted by this Master Plan, no inference as to the constitutional appropriateness or inappropriateness of any given structure, improvement or use should be drawn from whether it is allowed or prohibited in a particular land classification. This master plan is not intended to make constitutional determinations regarding unresolved issues under Article XIV, which are properly a matter for the Attorney General and ultimately the courts. The guidelines set forth in Chapter II allow certain structures, improvements and uses in some land classifications and prohibit certain of them in other classifications.

If there is a unifying theme to the master plan, it is that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded. This theme is drawn not only from the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27

of the Executive Law - "The Act") and its legislative history, but also from a century of the public's demonstrated attitude toward the forest preserve and the Adirondack Park. Fortunately the amount and variety of land and water within the Adirondack Park provide today and will provide in the future, with careful planning and management, a wide spectrum of outdoor recreational and educational pursuits in a wild forest setting unparalleled in the eastern half of this country.

## LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

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

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

## STATE OWNERSHIPS

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

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

**Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation:**

Substantially all of the approximately 2,400,000 acres of land administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation form part of the Adirondack forest preserve and are protected by the "forever wild" clause of Article XIV, §1 of the State Constitution. A small amount of acreage also administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation is considered non-forest preserve. This consists of:

- lands in the Towns of Altona and Dannemora which are expressly excluded from Article XIV, §1 by the terms of the Constitution;
- lands given or devised to the State for silvicultural or wildlife management purposes which by statute are not considered part of the forest preserve;
- the Department's administrative headquarters;
- certain historic areas;
- certain lands acquired under the 1960 and 1962 Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act and other lands which have been administratively classified by the Department as non-forest preserve lands.

Nothing in this master plan should be interpreted as supporting the

constitutionality of such legislative or administrative classifications of land as non-forest preserve.

**Lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation:**

These consist 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, which is not presently an operational railroad.

**Lands under the jurisdiction of other state agencies:**

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

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

## **PRIVATE OWNERSHIPS**

### **Land**

The Act clearly recognizes the unique land ownership pattern within the Adirondack Park -- the intermingling of public and private lands in a checkerboard pattern -- and mandates the Agency to reflect in this master plan the actual and projected uses of private lands within the Park. In 1973 the Legislature enacted, in Section 805 of the Act, the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan to guide development on private lands within the Park.

This mixture of public and private lands is a distinguishing feature of the Adirondack Park. At the present time, state ownerships account for some forty percent of the 6,000,000 acres of land within the Park, the balance, or about 3,600,000 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 acreage of private lands that are devoted to multiple use forestry. To a much lesser extent, mining on private lands is also important to the area's economic well-being.

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

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

### **Water**

The water resources of the Adirondacks are critical to the integrity of the Park. The protection of the major watersheds of the state was a major reason for the creation of the forest preserve and continues to be of significant importance. Waters, particularly lakes and ponds, have their carrying capacity from a physical, biological and social

standpoint just as do tracts of public or private land. The use made of state waters also has a direct impact on adjacent land holdings.

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

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

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

## **PUBLIC CONCERN FOR THE ADIRONDACK PARK**

The people of the State of New York have shown a deep and abiding concern for the management and use of state lands in the Adirondacks for 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 land-holdings, which typified the closing decades of the 19th century.

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

**THE LANDS OF THE STATE, NOW OWNED OR HEREAFTER ACQUIRED, CONSTITUTING THE FOREST PRESERVE AS NOW FIXED BY LAW, SHALL BE FOREVER KEPT AS WILD FOREST LANDS. THEY SHALL NOT BE LEASED, SOLD OR EXCHANGED, OR BE TAKEN BY ANY CORPORATION, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, NOR SHALL THE TIMBER THEREON BE SOLD, REMOVED OR DESTROYED.**

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

Article XIV protects both the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves, and covers in all some 2,700,000 acres of state lands in the twelve Adirondack counties and four Catskill counties both within and without the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. However, of the Adirondack acreage, better than ninety percent is contained within the so-called "Blue Line" that delineates the boundaries of the public

and private lands constituting the Adirondack Park today. The enormous tracts of forest preserve provide a public resource for recreation in a wild setting that is unique in the eastern half of the United States and complements the more developed facilities of the excellent state park system in the rest of the state.

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

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

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

stewardship of the Department and its predecessors has few equals.

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

In the last thirty years increasing attention has been focused on the Adirondack forest preserve. Pioneering studies were undertaken in the late 1950's and early 1960's by the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources under the successive chairmanships of Senators Wheeler Milmoie and R. Watson Pomeroy. More recently the public has recognized that if the character of the Adirondack forest preserve is to be retained in the face of a growing population, better transportation facilities and the soaring demand for outdoor recreation, not only will past management practices on the forest preserve require reassessment, but also the integrity of the Adirondack Park as a whole must be assured. Thus attention to other critical state ownerships, such as the major travel corridors, and appropriate controls over development on private lands are as important to the future of the forest preserve today as the passage of the forever wild amendment was nearly three generations ago.

These new problems were highlighted by Governor Rockefeller in naming the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks in 1968 to assess and make recommendations for the future use of both state and private lands within the Adirondack Park. The Commission's report,

issued in December, 1970, is the most comprehensive study ever made of the Adirondack Park. Among its major recommendations are:

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

## **ACQUISITION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

100-acre tract on which it wished to place a hospital, a prison, an office building or another facility only that part of the tract, say twenty-five acres, that is actually necessary for the facility should be classified as non-forest preserve.

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

- the tract is not contiguous to a public highway; or,
- the tract is of a native forest character, i.e., stocked with any size, native tree species with twenty-five percent crown cover (plantations are not considered to be native forest land); or,
- the tract involved consists of more than 150 acres; or,
- the tract is contiguous to existing forest preserve land; or,
- the tract is within one-half mile of a block of forest preserve land of over 1,000 acres; or,
- the tract lies at an elevation greater than 2,500 feet; or,
- the proposed use of the tract will materially alter the surrounding environment; or,
- the tract is of significant scenic, ecological or geologic value or interest.

3. Save for (i) the two existing alpine skiing centers at Whiteface and Gore mountains and the Mt. Van Hoevenberg area; (ii) rustic state campsites, a long accepted intensive use of the forest preserve;

(iii) 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, (i) key parcels of private land, the use or development of which could adversely affect the integrity of vital tracts of state land, particularly wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and (ii) key parcels which would permit the upgrading of primitive areas to wilderness areas.

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

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

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

document.

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

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

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

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

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

approval). The following procedures for revisions of the master plan will be followed in connection with new acquisitions:

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

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

## **LAND EXCHANGE**

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

## **PLAN REVISION AND REVIEW**

The Act states that if amendments are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Major reviews of the master plan will take place every five years by the Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, as required by statute, and with other interested state agencies. Any state agency may call for such a review at more frequent intervals. In keeping with this recommendation, starting in 1976, the Agency, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies, conducted an in-depth review of the master plan leading to various modifications therein, which were the subject of seven public hearings both within and without the Park and extensive consultation with a wide variety of interest groups in late 1978 and early 1979 and which were submitted to Governor Carey on April 20, 1979, and approved by him on October 24, 1979. In 1984/85 the Agency, in consultation with the Department of

Environmental Conservation, undertook a similar review and consultation process. Proposed modifications to the master plan were the subject of similar consultation with a wide variety of interest groups as well as two public hearings within and without the Park and were submitted to Governor Cuomo on September 22, 1986 and approved by him on November 4, 1987.

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

## **UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Section 816 of the Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the master plan. Due to the widely dispersed nature of certain wild forest areas, the Department may establish for unit management planning purposes, individual sub-units of wild forest units which because of location, physical features, ecological systems and use patterns can be managed as an individual unit. In accordance with

statutory mandate, all plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan and cannot amend the master plan itself. Unit management plans will contain:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the identification of needed additions or improvements to, and plans for providing for further appropriate public use of, the area consistent with its carrying capacity;

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

- the identification, in intensive use, historic and appropriate portions of wild forest areas accessible by motor vehicles, of measures that can be taken to improve access to and enjoyment of these lands, and associated structures and improvements, by

the physically handicapped.

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

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

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

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

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

each adopted unit management plan.

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

The Department of Environmental Conservation in the past three years has made significant progress in getting the unit management planning process underway. This progress should be continued so that all unit management plans will be completed before the next five-year review of the master plan in 1989/90. The Department of Environmental Conservation 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 a dozen 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 arise from time to time. This is particularly the case in the context of those guidelines that are quite general in character. During

the public hearings and consultations preceding the 1978/79 revision of the master plan, there was considerable public comment on the need to clarify the relationship of the Agency to the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies on matters of interpretation and application of the guidelines of the master plan.

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

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

Department, these unit management plans will assist significantly in resolving questions of interpretation and application of the master plan.

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

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

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

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

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

-- The Agency and the Department

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

## **II. CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND GUIDELINES**

### **BASIS AND PURPOSE OF CLASSIFICATION**

THE ACT REQUIRES the Agency to classify the state lands in the Park according to "their characteristics and capacity to withstand use." This section of the master plan will describe the factors which the Agency has taken into account in formulating the classification system set forth in the balance of this chapter and will explain the basic purpose of the system and the guidelines for management and use which follow. This classification system reflects the work of the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks as refined by additional field work and analysis by the Agency at the time the master plan was first prepared in 1972. In addition, a special Department of Environmental Conservation task force set up in 1972 provided extremely valuable assistance in the formulation of this system. More than a dozen 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, subalpine and alpine zones are less able to withstand trampling than species associated with lower elevation life zones. Wetland ecosystems frequently are finely balanced and incapable of absorbing material changes resulting from construction or intensive human use. In addition, wildlife values and wildlife habitats are relevant to the characteristics of the land and sometimes determine whether a particular kind of human use should be encouraged or prohibited, for example the impact of snowmobiles on deer wintering yards, the effect of numbers 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**

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

Guidelines for the lands falling within each major classification and various special management guidelines for unique resources within these major classifications are set forth in the remaining portions of this chapter. Insofar as forest preserve lands are concerned, no structures, improvements or uses not now established on the forest reserve are permitted by these guidelines and in many cases more restrictive management is provided for. Obviously, these guidelines

are subject to any future legal rulings further restricting uses of the forest preserve and, as already noted, they are not to be considered as attempts to make legal determinations on unresolved issues regarding the constitutional appropriateness of any such structures, improvements or uses.

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

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

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

Transportation and such other state agencies as may be involved. Similarly, acreage and mileage statistics in this plan are not the product of actual surveys and may vary when compared to data from other sources.

## DEFINITIONS

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

- 1. Aircraft**--a device for transporting people or material that travels through the air and is propelled by a non-living power source contained on or within the device.
- 2. All Terrain Bicycle**--a non-motorized bicycle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails.
- 3. All Terrain Vehicle**--a motor vehicle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails. The term includes jeeps or other four wheel drive automobiles, dirt or trail bikes and all forms of "ATVs", "ATCs", and "ORVs", but excludes snowmobiles.
- 4. Boat Launching Site**--a site providing for the launching of trailered boats, with ramp and attendant parking facilities.
- 5. Campground**--a concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access, not meeting the standards for individual, primitive tent sites or lean-tos, which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day-use facilities. Campgrounds are commonly known as "campsites" by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

**6. 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.

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

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

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

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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.

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

**14. 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.

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

**16. 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.

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

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

**19. Motor Vehicle**--a device for transporting people, supplies or material, incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance

for traveling on or adjacent to land and water or through water. The term includes such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, motorbikes, dirt or trail bikes, any type of all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment and motorboats.

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

**21. Motorized Equipment**--machines not designed for transporting people, 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.

**22. 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.

**23. 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.

**24. 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.

**25. Primitive Tent Site**--a designated tent site of an undeveloped character 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.

**26. 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.

**27. 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.

**28. 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.

**29. Road**--an improved or partially improved way designed for travel by automobiles and which may also be used by other types of motor vehicles except snowmobiles, unless the way is a designated snowmobile trail; and is,

(i) either maintained by a state agency or a local government and open to

the general public;

(ii) maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also be open to the general public for all or a segment thereof; or,

(iii) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation or other state agency and open to the public on a discretionary basis.

**30. Snowmobiles**--a motor vehicle designed solely for travel on snow or ice by means of a combination of tracks and a ski or skis.

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

**32. 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.

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

wherever possible.

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

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

**36. 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.

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

**38. 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 whenever possible.

## WILDERNESS

### Definition

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

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

acreage involved. Since 1972 all but a few of those non-conforming uses have been removed by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

## GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

### Basic guidelines

1. The primary wilderness management guideline will be to achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent.
2. In wilderness areas:
  - a) no additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted;
  - b) any remaining non-conforming uses that were not removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline provided for in the original version of the master plan will be removed by March 31, 1987;
  - 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 lean-tos or primitive tent sites planned for shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from view from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean-tos will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.

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

## Structures and improvements

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

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

-- primitive tent sites below 3,500 feet in elevation that are out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or lean-to:

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

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

-- pit privies;

-- foot trails;

-- cross country ski trails;

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

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

- peripheral visitor registration structures; and,

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

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 by March 31, 1987. These include but are not limited to:

- lean-to clusters;
- tent platforms;

- horse barns;
- boat docks;
- storage sheds and other buildings;
- fire towers and observer cabins;
- telephone and electrical lines;
- snowmobile trails;
- roads and state truck trails;
- helicopter platforms; and,
- buoys.

### **Ranger stations**

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

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

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

## **Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft**

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

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

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

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

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

Agency.

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

7. In light of the special circumstances involving Whitney Lake in the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area, seasonal float plane use from spring ice-out to and including June 15 and from October 15 to fall or winter ice-in may be allowed on that lake, by, and subject to permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation for an interim period ending no later than December 31, 1993. Such permits shall require annual reporting of all flights and the number of passengers to and from Whitney Lake. During the winter of 1988-89 the Department shall determine, from the use trends indicated, whether Whitney Lake should then be closed to float plane use for either or both seasonal periods or whether such use should be allowed to continue until the final deadline of December 31, 1993.

8. 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 the reasons therefor and file it with the Agency.

## **Roads, snowmobile trails and state truck trails**

1. No new roads, snowmobile or state truck trails will be allowed.
2. Existing roads 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 by no later than March 31, 1987. Any non-conforming roads, snowmobile 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 snowmobile trails to motor vehicles as may be open to the public;
  - prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles; and,
  - block such roads and trails by logs, boulders or similar means other than gates.
3. During the 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 and trails 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.

## **All terrain bicycles**

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

## **Flora and fauna**

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

## **Recreational use and overuse**

1. The following types of recreational use are compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of such use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself:
  - hiking, mountaineering, tenting, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowshoeing, ski touring, birding, nature study, and other forms of primitive and unconfined recreation.

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

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

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

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

3. 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, ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use, and, in limited instances, snowmobile trails.

2. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a water body accessible to the public by motorboat, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan, to provide, on a site-specific basis, for ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use or for the location of small, unobtrusive docks made of natural materials on such shorelines in limited instances where access to trailheads or the potential for resource degradation may make this desirable.

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

### **Designation of Wilderness Areas**

The application of the wilderness definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under this master plan of sixteen wilderness areas scattered throughout the Adirondacks. As of the effective date of this revision of the master plan, eleven of these areas meet wilderness standards, and five (Five Ponds, High Peaks, Pharaoh Lake, Siamese Ponds and West Canada Lake) have a few remaining non-conforming uses. These areas encompass approximately 1,016,000 acres or about forty-three percent of the forest preserve within the Adirondack Park. Virtually every Adirondack ecosystem is represented in these wilderness areas, from the alpine, sub-alpine and boreal (spruce-fir) communities of the higher mountains through various mixtures of hardwoods at

the middle elevations to the lowland lakes and ponds and a variety of wetland environments -- truly an unparalleled spectrum of wilderness resources for this and future generations of New Yorkers.

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

## **PRIMITIVE**

### **Definition**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Guidelines for Management and Use

### Basic guidelines

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

2. In primitive areas:

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

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

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

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

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

3. 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 non-conforming uses.

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

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

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

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

### **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 by no later than March 31, 1987.

### **Ranger stations**

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

### **Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft**

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

2. 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 an essentially permanent character; in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

### **Roads, snowmobile 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, snowmobile 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 an essentially permanent character; and,

-- existing roads now legally open to the public may remain open for motor vehicles at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation pending

eventual wilderness classification, if their continued use will not adversely affect the character of the resources of the primitive area or impinge upon the proper management of an adjacent wilderness area;

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

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

### **All Terrain Bicycles**

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

### **Flora and fauna**

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

### **Recreational use and overuse**

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

### **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 24 primitive areas scattered throughout the Adirondack Park. The objective for 22 of these areas is to eventually upgrade them to wilderness. Two areas (Valcour Island and Schuyler Island) are extremely unlikely to attain wilderness standards. These areas comprise some 61,400 acres or 3 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 by March 31, 1987.

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

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

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

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

## **Structures and improvements**

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

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

3. The St. Regis Mountain fire tower and observer cabins may be retained so long as retention is considered essential by the Department of Environmental Conservation pending ultimate removal upon final implementation of the aerial surveillance program and modernization of the Department of Environmental Conservation's communication system. The overhead telephone lines serving the fire tower and observer cabin will be promptly replaced with an on-ground line which may be retained until alternative method(s) of maintaining communication become feasible.

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

## **Ranger stations**

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

## **Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft**

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

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

## **Roads, snowmobile trails and 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 truck trails will be closed to public use by means of a gate or other similar methods.

## **All Terrain Bicycles**

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

## **Flora and fauna**

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

## **Recreational use and overuse**

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

## **Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking**

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

## **Designation of Canoe Areas**

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

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

## **WILD FOREST**

### **Definition**

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

To the extent that state lands classified as wild forest were given or devised to the state for silvicultural or wildlife management purposes pursuant to statutory provisions specifying that these lands will

not form part of the forest preserve (if such provisions are constitutional), the following guidelines are not to be interpreted to prevent silvicultural or wildlife management practices on these lands, provided that other guidelines for wild forest land are respected.

## **Guidelines for Management and Use**

Those areas classified as wild forest are generally less fragile, ecologically, than the wilderness and primitive areas. Because the resources of these areas can withstand more human impact, these areas should accommodate much of the future use of the Adirondack forest preserve. The scenic attributes and the variety of uses to which these areas lend themselves provide a challenge to the recreation planner. Within constitutional constraints, those types of outdoor recreation that afford enjoyment without destroying the wild forest character or natural resource quality should be encouraged. Many of these areas are under-utilized. For example the crescent of wild forest areas from Lewis County south and east through Old Forge, southern Hamilton and northern Fulton Counties and north and east to the Lake George vicinity can and should afford extensive outdoor recreation readily accessible from the primary east-west transportation and population axis of New York State.

### **Basic guidelines**

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

2. In wild forest areas:
  - (a) No additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted.
  - (b) Any remaining non-conforming uses that were to have been removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed will be removed by March 31, 1987.
  - (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 snowmobile trails open to motorized use by the public in wild forest areas that conformed to the master plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972.
5. Care should be taken to 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 lean-tos, primitive tent sites and other conforming buildings and structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, fishing and waterway access sites and similar water-related facilities, will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean-tos, ranger stations, storage sheds, horse barns and similar structures will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.
11. All pit privies, seepage pits or leach fields will be located a minimum of 150 feet from any lake, pond, river or stream.

## Structures and improvements

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

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

- nature and interpretive trails;

- trailheads adjacent to public highways;

- stream improvement structures for fishery management purposes;

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

- horse trails; and,

- picnic tables.

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

- horse barns;

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

- boat docks, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;

- small fireplaces in fire-sensitive areas;

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

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

- telephone and electrical lines to service permitted administrative structures;

- buoys;

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

- ranger stations as set forth below;

- roads, and 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, snowmobiles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be allowed as follows:

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

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

-- existing public roads;

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

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

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

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

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

## **Roads, jeep trails and state truck trails**

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

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

4. No new roads will be constructed in wild forest areas nor will new 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 roads 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 general area as where mileage is lost due to wilderness, primitive or canoe classification;

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

lands classified as wild forest; and,

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

### **All terrain bicycles**

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

### **Fire towers**

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

### **Tent platforms**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Fishing and waterway access sites**

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

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

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

-- The site and attendant water uses will be compatible with the state and private land use classifications and attendant

management guidelines and land use controls surrounding the water body.

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

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

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

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

### **Flora and fauna**

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

### **Recreational use and overuse**

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

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

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

## **Designation of Wild Forest Areas**

The application of the wild forest definition and criteria described above results in the current designation under the master plan of about 1.2 million acres of wild forest land, comprising approximately 53 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 17 wild forest areas in the Park.

## **INTENSIVE USE**

### **Definition**

**An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for**

**intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas.**

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

## **Guidelines for Management and Use**

### **Basic guidelines**

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

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

use within the Park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. No new structures or improvements at any intensive use area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such

area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements.

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

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

## **Campgrounds**

1. All campgrounds will be of a rustic nature without utility hookups and other elaborate facilities customarily provided by private campgrounds. Each individual site will retain the natural character of the surrounding forest and contain only a fireplace or fire ring, a space for a single vehicle with trailer if needed,

picnic table, and appropriate sites. All facilities and appurtenances are to be constructed of natural materials to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the natural environment. Where a campground involves the shoreline of a lake, pond, river or major stream any new, reconstructed or relocated camping sites will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the shoreline and so as to avoid intruding on its natural character or public enjoyment and use thereof.

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

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

4. The informative campfire programs at campgrounds should be reinstated 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 material adverse impacts on physical, biological or

scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land.

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

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

### **Ski areas, the Mt. Van Hoevenberg area**

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

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

### **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 downhill ski centers at Gore and Whiteface, one beach not associated with a campground, all of the facilities at the Mount Van Hoevenberg 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. The Lake George Islands Campground, Hearthstone Point Campground, Rogers Rock Campground, Lake George Battleground Campground, Lake George Beach, Prospect Mountain Highway, and Mossy Point boat launch are all located within the Lake George Park.

# HISTORIC

## Definition

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

- state historic sites;**
- properties listed on the 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 and the state has committed resources to manage such areas primarily for historic objectives.**

## Guidelines for Management and Use

### Basic guidelines

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

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

3. Construction 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.

## STATE ADMINISTRATIVE

### Definition

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

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

### Guidelines for Management and Use

#### Basic guidelines

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

the Adirondack Park.

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

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

- avoid material alterations of wetlands;
- minimize extensive topographical alterations;
- limit vegetative clearing; and,
- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the state administrative area.

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

### Designation of State Administrative Areas

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

## **WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS**

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

### **Definitions**

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

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

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

## **Guidelines for Management and Use**

### **Basic guidelines**

1. No river or river area will be managed or used in a way that would be less restrictive in nature than the statutory requirements of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Article 15, title 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law, or than the guidelines for the management and use of the land classification within which the river area lies, but the river or river area may be administered in a more restrictive manner.

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

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

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

### **Wild rivers**

1. Wild rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas except that

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

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

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

4. Motorboat usage of wild rivers will be prohibited.

### **Scenic rivers**

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

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

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

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

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

-- fishing and waterway access sites;

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

-- motor vehicle bridges crossing the river.

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

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

## Recreational rivers

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

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

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

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

-- fishing and waterway access sites;

-- docks;

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

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

--motor vehicle bridges crossing the river.

5. All other new, reconstructed or relocated conforming structures and improvements (other than individual lean-tos and primitive tent sites which are

governed by the regular guidelines of the master plan) will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of the river and will in all cases be reasonably screened by vegetation or topography from view from the river itself.

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

## Designation of Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

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

## TRAVEL CORRIDORS

### Definition

**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, the rebuilding of Routes 30 and 28 between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, the rebuilding of Route 30 between Blue Mountain Lake and South Pond and the rebuilding of Route 73 between Keene and the Adirondack Loj Road. However, there are many areas where more attention to the Park's unique atmosphere is essential. The following guidelines are intended to achieve this objective.

## **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. In addition, no new structures or improvements within the travel corridor but outside of the right-of-way will be constructed except in conformity with a finally adopted unit management plan whether for the travel corridor or the underlying land classification. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance or rehabilitation of conforming structures or improvements or the removal of non-conforming uses.
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, 1987, with the objective of achieving uniformity and a high quality of design for all signs within these corridors.

This plan will include:

-- a comprehensive visitor information program designed to inform the traveling public of the availability of state and private services and facilities, which minimizes the need for the erection of additional signs along travel corridors and

ensures compliance with the Agency's private sign standards;

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

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

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

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

2. The elements of the plan referred to above will be incorporated in travel corridor unit management plans, prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation, prior to December 31, 1989.

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

## **Scenic vistas**

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

## **Trailheads**

The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Transportation should provide modest trailhead parking areas at or near the beginning of important public 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, 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 AREAS

### 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 blow down, 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 has since been removed.

### Blue Ridge area statistics:

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| State Lands          | 45,736 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (19) | 275 Acres    |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 1,700 Feet   |
| (maximum)            | 3,744 Feet   |
| Foot Trails          | 15.0 Miles   |
| Lean-tos             | 3            |
| Non-conforming Uses: | None         |

### 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 92 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, in 1978 and 1980, purchased in fee 9,311 acres from the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. 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 Adirondack Mountain Reserve 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 rough roads have been closed bringing this area into full compliance with wilderness standards.

Public access to the area is generally easily gained.

#### **Dix Mountain area statistics:**

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| State Lands          | 45,208 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (12) | 92 Acres     |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 940 Feet     |
| (maximum)            | 4,857 Feet   |
| Foot Trails          | 36.5 Miles   |
| Lean-tos             | 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 southwest by the Pepperbox Wilderness Area and on the west by private lands and the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest. In the vicinity of Young's Road the wild forest and wilderness boundary is the Streeter Lake snowmobile trail. Land south and east of this boundary will be classified wilderness upon acquisition of inholdings.

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

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 lawsuit brought by the late Augustus Low. The gore, which contained original growth timber, was logged soon after the lawsuit and was then sold to the Onondaga Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Although the gore was only about 300 acres in size, it extended from Mud

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 1979 the state purchased 15,850 acres in the towns of Webb and Long Lake, 8,635 acres of which became part of this wilderness upon acquisition. The remainder of this tract lies on the opposite side of the railroad and road leading to Partlow Lake and became the Lake Lila Primitive Area. In 2000, approximately 1,340 acres of the Lake Lila Primitive Area lying westerly of the railroad were added to the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The state also accepted the gift of a conservation easement over 6,646 acres of land surrounding Nehasane Lake as well as fee interest subject to a 50-year estate over 3,664 acres in the vicinity of Gull Lake. This latter parcel will eventually become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness.

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

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; Alder Bed Flow on the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River; Cat Mountain; "The Plains," which are very similar in soil and cover type to that of the Moose River Plains; and 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 were apparently introduced accidentally or otherwise into Cranberry Lake several years ago, with adverse impacts to the brook trout population. At the present time, the area is popular with hunters and fishermen who frequent the interior ponds.

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

ultimately replaced by primitive tent sites.

The Five Ponds area is accessible to the public from the north and also from the south if one has a boat or canoe, from the east from the Lake Lila Primitive Area and along the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad. The area can also be reached from the southwest via the Raven Lake primitive corridor, and from the east, by boat or canoe, via the newly acquired Bog River/ Low's Lake tract. The western boundary in Herkimer County is accessible from the Bear Pond Road in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest.

The Mt. Electra observation tower was removed in September 1989, and this wilderness area now complies with wilderness standards.

**Five Ponds area statistics:**

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| State Lands          | 117,978 Acres |
| Private Inholdings   | 1,064 Acres   |
| Bodies of Water (99) | 1,964Acres    |
| Elevation            |               |
| (minimum)            | 1,486 Feet    |
| (maximum)            | 2,489 Feet    |
| Foot Trails          | 57.9 Miles    |
| Lean-tos             | 14            |
| Non-conforming Uses: |               |
| Roads                | 1.5 Miles     |
| Gravel Pit           | 1             |

**GIANT MOUNTAIN**

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

During 1903 one of the major forest fires of the Adirondacks swept over the greater part of this area, burning the 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          | 22,768 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (2)  | 5 Acres      |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 700 Feet     |
| (maximum)            | 4,627 Feet   |
| Foot Trails          | 12.5 Miles   |
| Lean-tos             | 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 prior to the State acquiring this area in the early 1900's. Some of these trees exceed 100 feet in height and are more than 40 inches in diameter. The probable reason they escaped 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 horse 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          | 26,528 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (59) | 602 Acres    |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 1,440 Feet   |
| (maximum)            | 2,340 Feet   |
| Foot Trails          | 35 Miles     |
| Lean-tos             | 2            |
| Non-conforming Uses: | None         |

## HIGH PEAKS

This is the largest 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 area 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 Peaks region and close observation of unique plant associations. 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 O' the Clouds, 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 and winter camping continue to be highly popular.

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 promptly applied. The number of individual primitive tent sites at Marcy Dam and Lake Colden exceed wilderness guidelines. While the lean-to cluster at Lake Colden has been removed, the cluster at Marcy Dam remains as a non-conforming use and will be removed by March 31, 1987.

The ranger station at Marcy Dam will be phased out in accordance with the policy of achieving peripheral control. Due to the expected degree of use of the Lake Colden area, particularly in the winter months, wilderness guidelines permit the indefinite retention of the Lake Colden station. The ranger cabin at Raquette Falls on the extreme western boundary of this wilderness may be considered a peripheral control facility as the river is open to motorboats, though the cabin's continued usefulness will be subject to periodic review.

The overhead telephone line to Marcy Dam will be replaced by an on-ground line as has already been done from Marcy Dam to Colden. Since the original master plan called for the development of alternative means of communication in this area prior to December 31, 1975, this remaining overhead line and poles will be removed by March 31, 1987.

The South Meadows road is a town maintained public road which still extends

about a mile east into the wilderness from the Adirondack Loj road. This non-conforming use should have been closed a decade ago. This road will be closed by March 31, 1987 and appropriate parking facilities provided within the 500 foot limit. Closure of the road should enhance the wilderness character of the South Meadows area which is frequently used as a jumping-off point for trips into the remoter portions of the Eastern High Peaks.

In addition to the required phase-out of non-conforming improvements and structures, the level of public use in the eastern portion of the High Peaks area has attained levels where trail erosion, soil compaction and generalized resource problems are readily apparent and becoming more severe. Group camping in the Lake Colden/Flowed Lands area has already been restricted in peak periods by the Department of Environmental Conservation and this measure has been generally accepted by users. Future measures to control or limit public use in particular areas and at given times of year are inevitable. In particular a peripheral control system for the Adirondack Loj/South Meadows corridor must be developed promptly.

In 1978 and 1980, the state acquired 9,311 acres of land in fee from the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. Approximately 6,039 acres have become part of the High Peaks Wilderness, including the following summits: Haystack, Little Haystack, Basin, Saddleback, Sawtooth, Gothics, Armstrong, Upper Wolfjaw and Lower Wolfjaw mountains. 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 Adirondack Mountain Reserve, and a foot trail easement allowing the public to cross club lands to reach the Peaks. 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.

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, one lean-to cluster, and ten lean-tos 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 an improved cross country 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             | 192,685 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    |
| Lean-tos                | 84            |
| Impoundments            | 2             |

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Ranger Cabins*       | 2         |
| Horse Barns          | 4         |
| Telephone Lines      |           |
| Overhead             | 3.5 Miles |
| On-ground line*      | 4.0 Miles |
| Lean-to Clusters     | 1         |
| Roads (public)       | 1 Mile    |

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

**HOFFMAN NOTCH**

This area lies in the towns of Schroon, North Hudson and Minerva in Essex County. It is bounded on the north by private lands lying south of the Blue Ridge Road and the Sand Pond Mountain tract donated to the state by Finch, Pruyn and Company for fish and wildlife management 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          | 36,231 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (8)  | 156 Acres    |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 960 Feet     |
| (maximum)            | 3,693 Feet   |
| Foot trails          | 30.0 Miles   |
| Non-conforming Uses: | None         |

**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 lands.

The high and precipitous mountains in this area are generally similar in character to the Hurricane range and require careful management in order to avoid natural resource degradation. The vistas from Jay, Saddlebrook 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 primitive 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.

Although this area is below 10,000 acres in size and was originally classified as a primitive area, the area is sufficiently large to provide a sense of remoteness and to be maintained in an unimpaired condition and therefore it was reclassified as wilderness in 1985. Should the Glen Road be closed this area could be extended to encompass all or a major portion of the Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area depending on the status of the fire towers and related phone lines on Hurricane Mountain.

**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        |

**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 blow down 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 the area.

Lincoln Brook and French Brook, with their tributaries originating high on the northwest slopes of Esther Mountain and Whiteface Mountain, are crystal clear trout streams with many scenic spots along their courses.

The Adirondack Mountain Club originally maintained a foot trail from the vicinity of Wolf Pond near Route 86 to the top of McKenzie Mountain. The trail was relocated in 1984 to start at the pull-off east of the Saranac Lake Golf Course on Route

86 and is now maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation. 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 former drive-in theater site adjacent to Route 86 was added to this wilderness in 1979. After temporary use as a vehicle parking area and storage area for the 1980 Winter Olympics, this area is now being allowed to revegetate.

**McKenzie Mountain area statistics:**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| State Lands            | 37,616 Acres |
| Private Inholdings (3) | 100 Acres    |
| Bodies of Water (8)    | 28 Acres     |
| Elevation              |              |
| (minimum)              | 1,463 Feet   |
| (maximum)              | 4,869 Feet   |
| Foot Trails            | 14.2 Miles   |
| Horse Trails           | 4.0 Miles    |
| Lean-tos               | 1            |
| Non-conforming Uses:   | None         |

**PEPPERBOX**

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

In 2000, approximately 7,935 acres of lands acquired in 1998 and lands classified wild forest were classified wilderness and added to this unit. This area included the West Branch of the Oswegatchie River, Tied Lake, and Buck Pond. There are also three inholdings within this area that, if ever acquired, should be included in this unit.

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 because of its remoteness and also due to the extensive 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. Bird life 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 rough road, 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          | 22,560 Acres |
| Private Inholding    | 875 Acres    |
| Bodies of Water (46) | 270 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. Part of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area lies within the Lake George Park.

Pharaoh Lake, an extremely attractive

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

Fires have burned over most of the region in the past. 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 road, which, though closed pursuant to the Highway Law, still penetrates to Mill Brook from the south, the fire tower, observer cabin and telephone lines. The road leading to Mill Brook will be terminated near the private land boundary to the south by March 31, 1987. The fire tower and observer cabin will also be removed by the March 31, 1987 final deadline. The telephone line is in the process of being dismantled.

This area was expanded in 1979 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. Due to the ease of access provided by the Crane Pond Road, the level of use of the northwestern section of this wilderness, including Crane Pond itself, has reached levels where long-standing management and resource problems have worsened. Some 25 tent sites ring Crane Pond and this road now constitutes a significant intrusion into the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness whose retention can no longer be justified -- hence the reclassification of the road corridor to wilderness. A separate unit management plan addressing the former Crane Pond Road primitive corridor will be completed by March 31, 1987 and will establish the process and schedule for closing the road either in phases or as a single action. In any case, closure at the State land boundary at Alder Meadow will be completed, with suitable parking facilities provided at that location, by December 31, 1988.

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

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

**Pharaoh Lake area statistics:**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| State Land             | 45,883 Acres |
| Private Inholdings (1) | 1.12 Acres   |
| Bodies of Water (39)   | 1,100 Acres  |
| Elevation              |              |
| (minimum)              | 860 Feet     |
| (maximum)              | 2,551 Feet   |
| Foot Trails            | 62.8 Miles   |
| Horse Trails           | 14.1 Miles   |
| Lean-tos               | 14           |
| Impoundments           | 1            |
| Non-conforming Uses:   |              |
| Fire Towers (unmanned) | 1            |
| Observer Cabins        | 1            |
| Horse Barns            | 1            |
| 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 swampland.

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          | 50,100 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (64) | 1,300 Acres  |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 1,680 Feet   |
| (maximum)            | 2,900 Feet   |
| Foot Trails          | 41.7 Miles   |

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Lean-tos             | 5         |
| Horse trails         | 1.6 Miles |
| 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 lean-to site on the south side of Copperas Pond.

More than thirty years ago a ski trail was constructed from the west boundary to

South Notch, and a lean-to was constructed at the terminus in the Notch. The trail was reported to have been little used for skiing, but is maintained as a foot trail. The lean-to was eliminated because of deterioration and lack of use.

The 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. In 1985, 1,120 acres were added to the area extending the eastern boundary, in part, to the East Branch of the AuSable River.

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

**Sentinel Range area statistics:**

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| State Lands          | 23,252 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (5)  | 74 Acres     |
| Elevation            |              |
| (minimum)            | 1,375 Feet   |
| (maximum)            | 2,893 Feet   |
| Foot Trails          | 13.8 Miles   |
| Lean-tos             | 1            |
| Non-Conforming Uses: | None         |

**SIAMESE PONDS**

The Siamese Ponds area is located in the towns of Lake Pleasant, Wells and Indian Lake in Hamilton County and the towns of Johnsburg and Thurman in Warren County. It is one of the largest wilderness areas, extending about 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 Old Farm Clearing road running along the eastern shoreline of Thirteenth Lake, and some 3 miles of snowmobile trails on these roads. These non-conforming uses will be removed by March 31, 1987.

### Siamese Ponds area statistics:

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| State Lands             | 112,524 Acres |
| Private Inholdings (10) | 81.9 Acres    |
| Bodies of Water (33)    | 945 Acres     |
| Elevation               |               |
| (minimum)               | 1,280 Feet    |
| (maximum)               | 3,472 Feet    |
| Foot Trails             | 32.95 Miles   |
| Lean-tos                | 4             |
| Non-conforming Uses:    |               |
| Snowmobile Trails       | 3 Miles       |
| Roads (public)          | 3 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-Lake 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            | 105,270 Acres |
| Private Inholdings (3) | 1,450 Acres   |
| Bodies of Water (48)   | 569 Acres     |
| Elevation              |               |
| (minimum)              | 820 Feet      |

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| (maximum)            | 3,250 Feet |
| Foot Trails          | 26.5 Miles |
| Lean-tos             | 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 lands of the Jessup River Wild Forest Area, private lands north of Route 8, the South Branch of West Canada Creek and an access road to private lands; 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. Unfortunately acid rain poses a growing threat to fishing in many of the water bodies in this area. 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 Recreation Area, utilize the foot trails in the area to reach points of special interest. Since the Moose River tract was purchased by the state, there has been increased use of the foot trail from that area to Brook Trout Lake and vicinity by both hunters and fishermen. Hikers in increasing numbers are climbing the mountain and using the foot trails.

Enforcement problems stemming from the remoteness of the area have been encountered in attempts to prevent snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle penetration into the wilderness area. Physical barriers 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 the late 1970's the Cedar Lake ranger cabin and associated telephone lines were removed. The West Canada Lake ranger station is scheduled for removal by March 31, 1986. The phone line to the cabin has

been dismantled and a helicopter platform in the same general area has recently been removed.

In 1979, a 700-acre tract of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest Area was reclassified to become part of this wilderness. This tract lies to the west and south of Indian Lake. As a result of this reclassification, a barrier was erected on the Department of Environmental Conservation maintained road at the Indian Lake trailhead and the road was closed beyond that point.

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

In 1984, 14,458 acres were added to the wilderness as a result of the Perkins Clearing land exchange. This land was previously classified as primitive, wild forest and resource management. Five more lakes and the remainder of Whitney Lake were added to the Wilderness, as were one lean-to and 11 miles of trail.

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

**West Canada Lake area statistics:**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| State Lands            | 156,695 Acres |
| Private Inholdings (2) | 1,630 Acres   |
| Bodies of Water (168)  | 2,460 Acres   |
| Elevation              |               |
| (minimum)              | 1,390 Feet    |
| (maximum)              | 3,899 Feet    |
| Foot Trails            | 78.3 Miles    |
| Lean-tos               | 11            |
| Impoundments           | 1             |
| Non-conforming Uses:   |               |
| Ranger Cabins*         | 1             |

Lake with Seasonal Float Plane  
Access\*\*

## **WILLIAM C. WHITNEY**

This wilderness area is located in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. It is bounded on the east by County Route 10, on the south by lands of Whitney Industries, on the west by private lands owned by International Paper and the Brandreth Park Association, on the northwest by the Remsen to Lake Placid Railroad right-of-way, and on the north by other private land holdings. This wilderness encompasses approximately 14,700 acres of land acquired from Whitney Industries in 1998, as well as the reclassified portions of the former Lake Lila Primitive Area lying south of the Remsen to Lake Placid Railroad right-of-way.

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

The lands within the William C. Whitney Area are almost entirely forested, with the newly acquired lands having been

significantly impacted by recent timber harvesting and both the former Whitney lands and the former Lake Lila Primitive Area lands having been heavily impacted by blow down. The area falls within an ecological transition zone between temperate deciduous forest and boreal forest and is dominated by northern hardwoods, mixed woods, pine, and spruce flats.

The vast expanses of the area are important to the larger species of mammals, most notably white-tailed deer, black bear, and moose. Other species of mammals known to inhabit the area include beaver, river otter, fisher, coyote, bobcat, pine marten, red fox, gray fox, and snowshoe hare. According to the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas, the area abounds with bird life with 125 species of birds breeding within or adjacent to the area. Little Tupper Lake is the natal home to a genetically unique strain of brook trout that has proven itself to be superior in terms of longevity, survival, growth, and reproductive capability. The Little Tupper Lake strain of brook trout is present in Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond, and Bum Pond.

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

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

permit to Whitney Lake will be discontinued no later than December 31, 1993.

**William C. Whitney area statistics:**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| State Lands                                    | 20,560 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (12)                           | 4,286 Acres  |
| Foot Trails                                    | 20 Miles     |
| Non-conforming Uses:                           |              |
| Road (private easement expires April 30, 2000) | 6 Miles      |

**WILDERNESS STATISTICAL TOTALS:**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| State Lands                             | 1,016,979 Acres |
| Private Inholdings                      | 7,817 Acres     |
| Bodies of Water (755)                   | 11,147 Acres    |
| Foot Trails                             | 689.9 Miles     |
| Horse Trails                            | 70.4 Miles      |
| Lean-tos                                | 144             |
| Impoundments                            | 3               |
| Non-conforming Uses:                    |                 |
| Fire Towers:                            |                 |
| Unmanned                                | 1               |
| Observer Cabins                         | 1               |
| Ranger Cabins*                          | 2               |
| Horse Barns                             | 5               |
| Telephone Lines                         | 7.5 Miles       |
| Above ground                            | 3.5 Miles       |
| Ground lines                            | 4.0 Miles       |
| Lean-to Clusters                        | 1               |
| Roads (public)                          | 5 Miles         |
| Lake with Seasonal Float Plane Access** |                 |

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

\*\*Seasonal float plane access subject to Department of Environmental Conservation

## PRIMITIVE AREAS

### ALDER CREEK

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

#### Alder Creek area statistics:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Road*                | 1.2 Miles |

### ALICE BROOK

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

#### Alice Brook area statistics:

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |                       |
| Snowmobile Trail*    | Indeterminate Mileage |

## 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 |
| Roads (public)*      | 0.8 Miles |
| Telephone Lines*     | 3.5 Miles |

### BALD LEDGE

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

Once the road is no longer necessary this area can be added to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, particularly should the private

land between this tract and the wilderness appendage north of this tract be acquired.

**Bald Ledge area statistics:**

State Lands 500 Acres  
Non-conforming Uses:  
Roads (private)\* .5 Miles

**BARTLETT**

This area is in the towns of Jay, Wilmington and Keene in Essex County and consists of the right-of-way of Bartlett Road, a rough public road, not plowed in the winter, as it crosses the eastern portion of the Sentinel Range Wilderness Area. Should this road ever be closed or abandoned, this area should be added to the Sentinel Wilderness Area.

**Bartlett area statistics:**

Non-conforming uses:  
Road (public) 1.3 Miles

**BEAR POND**

This area lies in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, and consists of two rights-of-way, following rough roads, to provide access to two inholdings deep within the Five Ponds and Pepperbox Wilderness Areas. The main fork of this primitive area, the Bear Pond Road, provides access to an inholding at Bear Pond and the westerly fork provides access to an inholding at Twin Ponds. To avoid problems of motorized trespass on wilderness lands, this primitive corridor should be gated to public access in the immediate vicinity of the turn-off to "Old Upper South Pond Road," and access beyond this point limited to private access only. Should the inholdings be acquired by

the State, they should be added to the Five Ponds Wilderness and the Pepperbox Wilderness Areas and the status of this primitive corridor and the Bear Pond Road evaluated to determine if it should remain open to the public access as described above.

**Bear Pond area statistics:**

Non-conforming Uses:  
Roads\* 3.4 Miles

**BEAVER RIVER**

This area, located in the town of Webb, consists of a 200 foot setback from the Beaver River extending across the southerly edge of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. The deed transferring title to the State of New York reserved to the grantor rights to mine gravel in this area. While these rights have not been exercised, the possibility that they may precludes this area from being included in the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. If these reserved rights should be acquired by the state the area should become part of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area.

**Beaver River area statistics:**

Non-conforming Uses:  
Gravel Extraction Rights\*

**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 road providing access for all terrain vehicles to an inholding of private land at Buck Pond deep within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. This primitive corridor and the private inholding are surrounded by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area and public access by

motor vehicles or snowmobiles along this primitive corridor has created problems of all-terrain vehicles and snowmobile trespass on wilderness lands beyond the Buck Pond in-holding. To address this problem, this road should be gated at an appropriate point determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation and private access only allowed beyond this point. Should this inholding be acquired by the state, which should be a matter of highest priority, this road should be terminated at the northwestern state land boundary, and the right-of-way as well as the acquisition should become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, thereby precluding future motorized access.

**Buck Pond area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Roads (public)*      | 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.

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 within the Silver Lake Wilderness Area as well as a telephone line for 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, until such time as the tower is no longer needed at which time the area should be

added to the Silver Lake Wilderness.

**Cathead Mountain area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| State Lands          | 206 Acres |
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Roads (private)*     | 1.0 Miles |
| Telephone Line*      | .5 Miles  |

**CHATIEMAC LAKE**

This area is located in the town of Johnsbury, Warren County, and consists of the right-of-way of Chatiemac Road, a town road. The road provides access through the eastern edge of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area to a private inholding at Chatiemac Lake. Should this inholding ever be acquired, the road should be abandoned and made part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area.

**Chatiemac Lake area statistics:**

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |          |
| Road (public)*       | .5 Miles |

**DUG MOUNTAIN**

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

**Dug Mountain area statistics:**

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| State Lands          | 60 Acres |
| Non-conforming uses: |          |
| Roads (private)*     | .2 Miles |

**FORKS MOUNTAIN**

This area in the town of Wells includes the fifty-foot wide corridor of the snowmobile trail which cuts across the southern tip of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness between the Teachout Road on the East Branch of the Sacandaga and the state land boundary on the Sacandaga River. Efforts should be made to relocate this important trail in the Hamilton County snowmobile trail system so that this area can become part of the wilderness area.

**Forks Mountain area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| State Lands          | 5 Acres   |
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Snowmobile Trail*    | 2.2 Miles |

**GOOSENECK POND**

This area includes a 100 foot wide corridor between the state land boundary and the outlet of Gooseneck Pond in the town of Ticonderoga. Gooseneck Pond is the town's water supply. It includes the access road, the control valve and the retaining dike at the north end of the lake and is intended solely for the purpose of the town maintaining the dike and control valve. If the town ceases to use Gooseneck Pond as a water supply, the road should be closed and the area added to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness.

**Gooseneck Pond area statistics:**

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| State Lands | 1 Acre |
|-------------|--------|

Non-conforming uses:  
 Road (private)\* .1 Mile

**HAGUE BROOK**

This area is located in the town of Hague, Warren County. It is bounded on three sides by private land and on the northeast by the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area. It contains a private access road to a parcel of private land lying between this area and the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area to the northwest. The owner of this inholding also has deeded rights to use unspecified roads within the area. As such roads are for the sole use of the owner of the inholding and are not open to the public, appropriate steps should be taken to gate the useable roads to prevent unauthorized public motorized access. At such time as the roads are no longer needed for access to the private parcel, this area will become part of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area and the road(s) permanently closed.

**Hague Brook area statistics:**

State Land 210 acres  
 Non-conforming Uses:  
 Roads (private)\* indeterminate

**HITCHENS POND**

This area lies in the Towns of Piercefield and Colton, St. Lawrence County. It includes Lows upper and lower dams and the intervening waters, and adjacent state lands to the southern edge of Otter Brook Road on the north, the western edge of the extension of NYS Route 421 to the Otter Brook Road on the east, the western edge of the road to Lows lower dam on the southeast, and to a depth of 1,000 feet from the Bog River and the railroad tracks, whichever is greater, to the south.

This area begins the access to a wilderness canoe route leading from the Bog River at Lows lower dam into Lows Lake above Lows upper dam and across Lows Lake to its western shore in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The route is connected by a carry to the upper reaches of the Oswegatchie River. The primitive area contains extensive wetlands adjacent to the Bog River and Hitchins Pond and important wildlife habitat, including nesting loons, and eagle and osprey habitat. Preservation of the wild character of this canoe route without motorboat or airplane usage (and with only limited access by motor vehicles as noted below) is the primary management goal for this primitive area.

The area is classified as primitive because of the essentially permanent nature of certain major non-conforming uses which preclude wilderness classification, including two large dams and the Remsen to Lake Placid Railroad line.

The two large dams, referred to as Lows upper dam and Lows lower dam, are of a scale and character incompatible with a wilderness designation. The dams are essential to preserving the canoe route and important wetland habitat and should be maintained for that purpose indefinitely. Maintenance of the dams will require periodic use of motor vehicles and heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and cranes, which means that the existing road to the upper dam must also be maintained for administrative purposes related to dam inspection and repair.

The road to the upper dam will be gated at the eastern edge of the primitive area. The owners of the large inholding lying between the Lows Lake Primitive Area and the Five Ponds Wilderness will be allowed to exercise their deeded access rights until such time as that inholding is acquired (see

Lows Lake Primitive Area). While such private motor vehicle access continues, administrative access by motor vehicles by the State will be permitted as may be necessary for appropriate administration of the State lands in the area. After such private rights of access are extinguished, administrative access by motor vehicles will be limited to dam inspection and repair.

In addition to the dams and the road, the area is bisected by the Remsen to Lake Placid Railroad line which is currently not in use. This rail travel corridor, until permanently abandoned and the rails removed, would also preclude wilderness classification for this area even if dams were not there.

The area is, therefore, considered to be an essentially permanent primitive area unlikely to be reclassified as wilderness.

**Hitchens Pond area statistics:**

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| State Lands          | 2,022 Acres |
| Bodies of Water      | 182 Acres   |
| Non-conforming Uses: |             |
| Private Roads*       | 1.9 Miles   |
| Railroad*            | 1.5 Miles   |
| Dams*                | 2           |

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

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

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 by conservation easement so as to be compatible with the adjacent state lands. Pursuit of these acquisitions or easements should be a matter of highest priority.

**Hudson Gorge area statistics:**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| State Lands            | 17,170 Acres |
| Private Inholdings (2) | 2,900 Acres  |
| Bodies of Water (12)   | 283 Acres    |
| Elevation              |              |
| (minimum)              | 1,200 Feet   |
| (maximum)              | 2,558 Feet   |
| Foot Trails            | 2.5 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. On the north this area is separated from the Jay Wilderness Area by the Glen Road, a rough farm road not plowed in the winter. Should this road ever be closed or abandoned, all or a major portion of this area could be consolidated with the Jay Wilderness, depending on the status of the fire tower and phone lines.

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 currently 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 entire area should be reclassified as wilderness. In 1976, a snowmobile trail 2.0 miles in length was closed. An acquisition created an additional non-conforming use: 0.5 miles of rough road. If this area alternately attains wilderness standards, this road should be closed at the state land boundary.

**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   |
| Lean-tos             | 2            |
| Non-conforming Uses: |              |
| Fire Towers*         | 1            |
| Observer Cabins*     | 1            |
| Roads (public)*      | 2.95 Miles   |

**JOHNS BROOK**

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

Adirondack Mountain Club and associated cabins. Should these holdings and/or the right-of-way ever be acquired by the state, this area should be made part of the High Peaks Wilderness, the lodge and cabins removed, the road closed and the ranger cabin phased out.

**Johns Brook area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Roads (private)*     | 1.3 Miles |
| Ranger Cabin*        | 1         |

**LOWS LAKE**

This area is located in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County. It is bounded on the east by the road to Lows upper dam and the upstream edge of the dam, on the south by Bog River Flow, and the west and north by private land.

This area is an integral part of the Lows Lake - Bog River - Oswegatchie wilderness canoe route, and continues the water access to the western portion of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area which begins in the Hitchins Pond Primitive Area immediately downstream. The area shares numerous important wildlife habitats with the Five Ponds to the west and the Hitchens Pond Primitive Area to the east. Preservation of the wild character of this canoe route without motorboat or airplane usage (and with only limited access by motor vehicles as noted below) is the primary management goal for this primitive area.

The area is classified as primitive in part because of its relatively small size but especially due to the impact of a large inholding of private land on the north shore, which separates the area from the Five Ponds Wilderness. A road providing deeded access to this inholding also runs through

this primitive area. If this inholding should be acquired by the State (which should be given highest priority), the road will be closed, and the intervening area classified as wilderness, and this primitive area will then become part of the expanded Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

In addition there are two detached areas located in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County and the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County consisting of private rights-of-way. The first is 1.6 miles in length and provides access (the legal nature of which is unclear) to a five-acre inholding on the north shore of Lows Lake. This primitive corridor and the inholding are surrounded by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. Should the inholding be acquired (which should be given the highest priority) or the access rights extinguished, the area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The second detached area is 1.3 miles in length and is a retained deeded right of access across lots 12 and 13, Township 37, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase to private lands north of Bog Lake. Should the private land served by this access be acquired or the deeded rights otherwise extinguished, the area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

**Lows Lake area statistics:**

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| State Lands          | 1,042 Acres |
| Water                | 61 Acres    |
| Non-conforming Uses: |             |
| Roads*               | 5.5 Miles   |

**NEHASANE**

This area lies in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County and consists of the private right-of-way providing access from the end

of the Charley Pond Road to the private land holdings at Nehasane Lake. This road is approximately 4.8 miles in length with the first 0.2 miles open to public use of motor vehicles to provide access to the Lake Lila trailhead. The road is gated at this trailhead and access beyond is limited to private access to the inholdings. Should, at some point in the future, the private lands to the west and southwest be acquired by the State extinguishing deeded access rights, the primitive area will be terminated at the Lake Lila trailhead parking lot.

This primitive area also contains the Nehasane Railroad Station, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including one acre of land surrounding the building and the short (0.1 mile) access road servicing the station. In the event that the station itself is relocated or removed, the one acre surrounding it and the access road will become wilderness.

**Nehasane area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Roads (2)*           | 4.9 Miles |
| Railroad Station*    | 1 Acre    |

**PARTLOW LAKE**

The Partlow Lake Primitive Area is a 2.6 mile, privately owned roadway which connects the Nehasane Primitive Area with the private lands encompassing Gull Lake, Deer Pond and Partlow Lake to the west. This inholding is scheduled to pass to State ownership in the year 2029 at which time this primitive area will become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

**Partlow Lake area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |           |
| Roads (1)            | 2.6 Miles |

**SACANDAGA**

This 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.

**Sacandaga area statistics:**

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Non-conforming Uses: |         |
| Roads (public)*      | 7 Miles |

**SCHUYLER ISLAND**

This Lake Champlain island lies in the town of Chesterfield in Essex County and is designated primitive to insure protection of its relatively fragile resources. Although a small island, lacking the unique flora and fauna of Valcour Island (which is also classified primitive), Schuyler Island is more remote than Valcour Island and has lower levels of public use. The island requires careful protection consistent with primitive area guidelines.

**Schuyler Island area statistics:**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| State Lands          | 178 Acres |
| Non-conforming Uses: | None      |

**TIED LAKE**

This area lies in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County and consists of the private right-of-way, following a rough road, providing access to an inholding of private land deep in the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. To avoid problems with motorized trespass on wilderness lands this primitive

corridor should be gated to public access in the immediate vicinity of Tied Lake and access beyond that point limited to private use. Should the private inholding be acquired by the State, the inholding should be added to the Pepperbox Wilderness Area and the status of the road reviewed to determine if the road should remain open to public use as described above.

**Tied Lake area statistics:**

Non-conforming Uses:  
Road\* 2.5 Miles

**VALCOUR ISLAND**

This Lake Champlain island lies in the towns of Peru and Plattsburgh in Clinton County. The island is designated primitive to insure its protection in a near natural state. The unique vegetation and wildlife of the island, in particular, are in need of such protection. The wildness of the rocky east shore, complete with unusual wind and water rock sculptures, also deserves preservation. This island is not suitable for reclassification to wilderness because of the area's proximity to a heavily developed shoreline including the U.S. Air Force Base in Plattsburgh, as well as the presence of such essentially permanent structures as the lighthouse.

Recent state acquisitions of the former Seaton property at the southern end of the island and the lighthouse on the northeastern shoreline increases the area's suitability for water-oriented recreational uses. Any interpretive program for the island should stress both its historical significance and its special natural features.

**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  
Lighthouse\* 1

**WANAKENA**

This area is located in the town of Fine, St. Lawrence County. The Wanakena Water Company which supplies water to the hamlet of Wanakena has reserved rights along the former state truck trail to lay and maintain water lines to a spring which serves as the water supply for the hamlet of Wanakena. As use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment may be required by the hamlet to maintain its water supply, this corridor is classified as primitive to permit access by town officials for this purpose only. Public motorized use of this corridor should be prohibited and other official use permitted only in conformity with wilderness guidelines. The truck trail should be gated at the commencement of the primitive corridor as it enters the wilderness and permanently blocked at the termination of the primitive corridor. The ultimate goal for the primitive corridor is to become part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area when an alternate water supply for Wanakena is developed.

**Wanakena area statistics:**

Non-conforming Uses:  
Roads (private)\* 1.0 Miles

**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, 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 Lake Wilderness Area.

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

**West Canada Mountain area statistics:**

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| State Lands             | 2,935 Acres |
| Elevation               |             |
| (minimum)               | 1,900 Feet  |
| (maximum)               | 2,985 Feet  |
| Non-conforming Uses:    |             |
| Roads (private access)* | 3.3 Miles   |

**WILDERNESS LAKES**

This area in the town of Webb, Herkimer County, has predominantly rolling terrain with many small lakes. It is located

north of the Stillwater Reservoir and is adjoined on the east by the Five Ponds Wilderness, on the west by the Pepperbox Wilderness, on the north by private lands and by State lands classified Wild Forest, and on the south by Stillwater Reservoir.

A private road leads to a 10 acre private inholding on Raven Lake.

When the State purchased the bulk of this land in 1982, the seller retained timber cutting rights for an eight year period and was required by the State to construct up to 12 miles of gravel roads. Upon full title vesting in the State, whether at the expiration of these rights, their prior purchase, or by other means, the entire Primitive Area will be added, automatically and without further Agency action, to the Pepperbox and/or Five Ponds Wildernesses. The exact boundary between the two wilderness areas will be chosen in accordance with the consultatory procedures outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation. In the event that, at that time, the private inholding on Raven Lake remains, a primitive corridor for private access only will remain along the access road to it.

**Wilderness Lakes area statistics:**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| State Lands            | 6,676 Acres |
| Private inholdings (1) | 14 Acres    |
| Bodies of Water (20)   | 489 Acres   |
| Elevation              |             |
| (minimum)              | 1,690 Feet  |
| (maximum)              | 2,280 Feet  |

**Non-conforming Uses:**

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Roads (private)* | 2.6 Miles             |
| Roads (logging)* | Indeterminate Mileage |

## **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.

### **Wilmurt Club Road area statistics:**

Non-conforming uses:

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Roads (private)* | 1.0 Miles |
|------------------|-----------|

### **PRIMITIVE AREA STATISTICAL TOTALS:**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| State Lands             | 61,400 Acres |
| Private Inholdings      | 2,945 Acres  |
| Bodies of Water         | 2,214 Acres  |
| Foot Trails             | 16.8 Miles   |
| Lean-tos                | 3            |
| Non-conforming Uses:    |              |
| State Truck Trails*     | 4.1 Miles    |
| Roads (public)*         | 17.3 Miles   |
| Roads (private)*        | 22.5 Miles   |
| Jeep Trails             | 12.0 Miles   |
| Snowmobile Trails*      | 4.3 Miles    |
| Fire Towers*            | 2            |
| Observer Cabins*        | 2            |
| Ranger Cabins*          | 1            |
| Lighthouse*             | 1            |
| House and Outbuildings* |              |
| Telephone Lines*        | 5 Miles      |
| Railroad*               | 2 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 peripheral ponds are quite easily accessible via one or two short carries making a unique wilderness canoeing experience available to many people.

The terrain is dominated by the numerous ponds and is relatively low in elevation. St. Regis Mountain in the north and East Pond Mountain in the western part of the area are the only two high spots. The character of the terrain also makes the area ideally suited for cross country skiing in winter months.

Much of the area was burned over in forest fires, probably the most extensive one occurring in the summer of 1903. Therefore,

except for the 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 interior ponds have brook trout, and stocking and pond reclamation efforts by the Department of Environmental Conservation have been carried on regularly for many years.

The chief use now made of the area is for fishing, camping, 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 and under the canoe area guidelines the fire tower and observer cabin may be retained pending final implementation of the aerial surveillance program and modernization of the Department of Environmental Conservation's communications system. The overhead phone lines serving the fire tower and observer cabin should be replaced by alternative measures of communication, which could include an on-ground line, as soon as feasible to eliminate the intrusive

character of the above ground lines and poles. Approximately 15.4 miles of snowmobile trails in this area have been closed, twenty-one tent platforms removed and motorboat use by the public prohibited.

Due to the relative ease of access to the peripheral ponds, public use has accelerated rapidly in recent years to a point where measures to control access are likely to be required at least during peak periods. The precise regulations which may be appropriate should be addressed in a unit management plan for the area. The one remaining non-conforming use, the 1/4 mile spur road leading from the Floodwood Road to the south shore of Long Pond, will be blocked near the Floodwood Road and a small parking area provided at that point by no later than March 31, 1987.

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           | 18,231 Acres |
| Bodies of Water (58)  | 1,452 Acres  |
| Elevation             |              |
| (minimum)             | 1,560 Feet   |
| (maximum)             | 2,873 Feet   |
| Foot Trails           | 11.0 Miles   |
| Horse Trails          | 5.5 Miles    |
| Lean-tos              | 3            |
| State Truck Trails    | 7.0 Miles    |
| Non-conforming Uses:  |              |
| Fire Towers (manned)* | 1            |
| Observer Cabins*      | 1            |
| Telephone Lines*      | 1.0 Miles    |
| Road                  | .25 Miles    |

\*Non-conforming uses of an essentially permanent character whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

## **WILD FOREST AREAS**

Because wild forest areas include many various-sized scattered parcels, as indicated on the map, only the largest tracts are described to illustrate the largely untapped resources available in this category. No statistics are presented, and the narrative deals with general areas rather than specific parcels. Future revisions of the master plan should provide more detailed information about state lands in the wild forest category.

## **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-Lake 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 sightings of species normally found only much further north in Canada.

## **DEBAR 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 the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area and west of Route 10. Both Route 8 and Route 10, as well as the Powley-Piseco Road, provide easy access to the area.

The attractiveness of this area lies in its numerous ponds, lakes and streams which attract fishermen throughout the season. The area is popular with big game hunters and many of the ponds and lakes are connected by an existing snowmobile trail system following old logging roads. While there are no trails, except the tract to the fire tower on Kane Mountain, these old logging

roads also make easy walking routes and their potential use in a designated hiking (and cross country skiing) trail network for the area should be considered in the unit management plan for this area, as should the potential for camping on the larger ponds and lakes. Another feature of the area is its mountain summits, particularly Rooster Hill, Good Luck Mountain and Tomany Mountain and its cliff tops which provide vistas not readily found in the southern Adirondacks.

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 and measures taken to insure roadside camping does not detract from the character of the area or adversely affect the resources of the road corridor.

## **FULTON CHAIN**

This unit is located in Herkimer County, town of Webb, Township 8, John Brown's Tract, Macombs Purchase. It is divided into four main sections by three strips of privately-owned lands, one of which includes lands near the Fulton Chain of Lakes. The unit is roughly bordered on the north by the Razorback Pond Outlet, the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area and private lands adjacent to Silver and Twitchell Lakes; on the east by the Big Moose Road, Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area, private lands near Big Moose Lake and the Village of

Eagle Bay; on the south by the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, the South Shore Road and private lands adjacent to the Fulton Chain of Lakes and on the west by private lands and the west boundary of Township 8. The unit also includes DeCamp or Treasure Island, which comprises two small islands of Forest Preserve between the First and Second Lakes of the Fulton Chain. A permanent easement across private lands connects this wild forest to Razorback Pond and the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area.

This unit has high recreational potential due to its location within short driving distances from the populated Mohawk Valley. Uses include hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, horse-back riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and sight-seeing, the latter drawing many visitors to the Rondaxe Mt. Fire Tower during the fall foliage season.

### **GRASSE RIVER**

This 1,274 acre unit is located in St. Lawrence County, Town of Clare and borders both the Main (a designated Study River) and North (a Scenic River) Branches of the Grasse River. The Adirondack Park Blue Line forms the western boundary of this unit. Access to the unit is by means of the Downerville Road from the north and the gated Lampson's Mill Road from the south. The primary points of interest are Lampson Falls and canoeing on the Main Branch of the Grasse River.

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

Tracey Road, North Hudson-Moriah Road and Route 9 provide abundant access for hunters, fishermen and other recreationists. The Sharp Bridge public campground offers trail access to East Mill Brook and the interior. While most trails in the area remain unmarked, the abundant access to this area could provide recreational opportunities similar to those found in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness area to the south for those who do not require the solitude of the wilderness setting. This would relieve some of the use pressure on the Pharaoh Lake area.

### **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. A separate 2,240 acre parcel borders the West Canada Lake Wilderness. It was established through the classification of the Perkins Clearing land exchange and includes the summit of Pillsbury Mountain and 0.7 miles of the Old Military Road.

Access is from Route 30 and the (Perkins Clearing) Jessup River road, which traverse the area, and from the Moffitt Beach and Lewey Lake Campgrounds.

Long popular with hunters, trappers and fishermen, the interspersed 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.

Most of the Lake George Wild Forest area lies within the Lake George Park. The Lake George Park, lying wholly within the Adirondack Park, was established by State law in 1961. The boundaries of the Lake George Park are more or less contiguous with the watershed of the Lake, an arrangement which is designed to facilitate coordinated management of the use of land as it impacts water quality.

Mountains rising steeply on either side of the lake provide many views of rugged beauty. The area west of the lake is accessible by Routes 9N and 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. 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 Routes 3 and 30, this southern Franklin County area offers a broad network of streams, lakes and ponds for water-oriented recreation. Boating access sites, camping areas and portages are convenient for the day user and the long distance traveler alike. The Fish Creek Ponds and Rollins Pond campgrounds offer a base camp for some users of the area.

Ampersand Mountain, just south of Route 3 in the High Peaks Wilderness, provides a superb view of this area as a reward for a three-mile hike through majestic stands of hemlock and northern hardwoods.

## **SARGENT PONDS**

Easterly of Raquette Lake, lying north of Route 28 and west of Route 30, lies a labyrinth of boreal swamp forest. Much of this great spruce-balsam-white cedar tract borders the Raquette River, Marion River and Boulder Brook.

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

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

## **SHAKER MOUNTAIN**

This area is located south of the Silver Lake Wilderness between Routes 10 and 30 in Fulton County. It is near the population centers of Albany, Schenectady and Amsterdam, but remains comparatively little used by the public. Most of the area was heavily logged prior to state acquisition and there are a considerable number of old log roads, chiefly in the southern half, where most of the hills are low and gently sloped. These woods trails make comfortable hiking trails that can be enjoyed by all ages.

A number of small ponds afford some attractive camping sites. The second growth hardwoods that predominate allow easy foot travel both on and off the old woods roads and foot trails. This is in contrast to much of the state lands north of the area where the 1950 blow down and subsequent dense

softwood reproduction has made travel off maintained foot trails quite difficult.

This tract offers great potential to serve the wild forest recreational needs of New York's hikers, horsemen, 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 designated scenic river, is one of the most beautiful of the Adirondack rivers. White water stretches interspersed with stillwaters provide a variety of scenes to hold one's appreciation. The Wolf Pond, Durgin Brook and Lester Flow sections of the upper Boreas are well known to bird clubs. 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 convergence of the Hamilton-Warren-Saratoga county lines and in addition to

Routes 8 and 30 can be reached from numerous town roads in all three counties. This area 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 and open summits 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. In contrast, there are few trails marked for hiking and cross country skiing. Opportunities may also exist to create a fairly extensive large trail system in this area. Measures need to be taken to eliminate illegal use of motor vehicles occurring within this unit.

## 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  
Lake Durant  
Lake Eaton  
Lake George Battleground  
Lake George Islands  
Lake Harris  
Lewey Lake  
Limekiln Lake  
Lincoln Pond  
Little Sand Point  
Luzerene  
Meacham Lake  
Meadowbrook  
Moffitt Beach  
Nicks Lake  
Northampton Beach  
Paradox Lake  
Point Comfort  
Poke-O-Moonshine  
Poplar Point  
Putnam Pond  
Rogers rock  
Rollins Pond  
Sacandaga  
Scaroon Manor\*  
Sharp Bridge  
Taylor Pond  
Tioga Point  
Wilmington Notch

\*Uncompleted

## DAY USE AREAS

### Ski centers, parkways, beaches

Mt. Van Hoevenberg Winter Recreation Area  
Gore Mountain Ski Center  
Whiteface Mountain Ski Center  
Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway  
Prospect Mountain Parkway  
Lake George Beach  
Lake George Battlefield Park  
Hinckley Day Use Area

### BOAT LAUNCHING SITES

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

| <b>Name of Water</b>       | <b>Number of Acres</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 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                  |

| <b>Name of Water</b> | <b>Number of Acres</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 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**

### **CAMP SANTANONI**

Camp Santanoni Historic Area is 32.2± acres in size and located north of New York State Route 28N in the Town of Newcomb in Essex County. It consists of three clusters of buildings (the Gate House Complex, the Farm Complex and the Main Camp Complex) and the 4.7-mile access road connecting them. Camp Santanoni, one of the oldest and largest great camps, was created by Robert C. Pruyn in 1892. The 12,900± acre Santanoni Preserve was acquired by the State of New York in 1972 as part of the Forest Preserve. The three building complexes and the road are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **CROWN POINT**

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**

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.

## **STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS**

### **Lands included in the State Administrative classification:**

#### **FRANKLIN**

Altamont -- Sunmount Developmental Center - DMH  
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  
Harrietstown -- Wawbeek Maintenance Area - DOT  
Santa Clara -- Adirondack Fish Hatchery

#### **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 State Office Complex  
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  
Wilmington -- Atmospheric Sciences Research Center

## **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  
Long Lake -- Little Tupper Lake Headquarters, Rt.10, 4 mi. west of Rt. 3  
Wells -- Hamilton County Sub-headquarters

## **FULTON**

Northampton -- Maintenance Area SH 362 - DOT  
Northampton -- DEC, Northville - DEC  
Rockw 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, Maintenance 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. LAWERENCE**

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**

**Number of Miles Classified**

| <u>River</u>   | <u>Wild</u> | <u>Scenic</u> | <u>Recreational</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 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 (Trib. of<br>Middle Branch, 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 --<br>South Branch)               | 13.0        |               |                     |
| Jordan   |             | 18.0          |                     |
| Kunjamuk   | 8.0         | 10.4          |                     |
| Long Pond Outlet   |             | 16.0          |                     |

## Number of Miles Classified

| <u>River</u>                      | <u>Wild</u>   | <u>Scenic</u> | <u>Recreational</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 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          |                     |
| 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                 |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                     | <b>155.1</b>  | <b>511.3</b>  | <b>539.5</b>        |
| <b>TOTAL MILES CLASSIFIED</b>     | <b>1205.9</b> |               |                     |

These mileage statistics include all designated rivers and therefore include 2411.8 miles of shoreline. Most recreational river shoreline and some wild and scenic river shoreline is privately owned.

## 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                   |
| 458                            | Northern Park Boundary to Route 30                   | 20                  |
|                                | Route 9N to Route 86                                 | 26(h)               |
| 74                             | Route 9 to Lake Champlain                            | 30                  |
| 86                             | Jay to Route 30                                      | 34                  |
| 99                             | Merrillville to Route 30                             | 18                  |
| 149                            | Southern Park Boundary to Southeastern Park Boundary | 5                   |
| 190                            | Northern Park Boundary to Route 374                  | 8                   |
| 192                            | Bloomingtondale 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                   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                |  | <b>1187 Miles</b>   |
| <b>Minus dual designations</b> |  | <b>87</b>           |
| <b>Total</b>                   |  | <b>1106 Miles</b>   |

(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

## 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                                     |
| Dannemora     | 1 mile northeast of hamlet of Standish on road from Standish to Lyon Mountain                              |
| Ellenburg     | Approximately 6.5 miles north of Upper Chateaugay Lake and approximately 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          | Approximately 1.25 miles south of hamlet of Fine   |
| Harrietstown  | Approximately at intersection of State Routes 86 and 192-A   |
| Hopkinton     | Whites Hill  |
| Indian Lake   | On State Route 30 overlooking Lake Abanakee  |
| Indian Lake   | 2.5 miles east of Lake Abanakee overlooking Lake Snow  |
| Johnsburg     | 3 miles south of hamlet of North Creek   |
| Johnsburg     | 3 miles south of North River on Barton Mine Road   |
| Johnsburg     | Approximately 0.5 miles southeast of Bakers Mills  |
| Keene         | Intersection of Route 73 and 9N  |
| Lake Pleasant | On southeast shore of Lake Pleasant  |
| Newcomb       | On State Route 28N approximately 0.75 miles south of Campsite Road   |
| Newcomb       | 3 miles east of hamlet of Newcomb on State Route 28N   |
| North Elba    | 0.5 miles east of Village of Lake Placid on State Route 86   |
| North Elba    | Near intersection of State Route 73 and Heart Lake Road in North Elba                                      |
| Ohio          | Intersection of West Canada Creek Road and State Route 8 at hamlet of Nobleboro                            |
| Santa Clara   | Two miles west of Keese Mill on Keese Mills Road   |
| Santa Clara   | On State Route 30 at Pelky Bay on Upper Saranac Lake   |
| Saranac       | 3.25 miles east of Picketts Corners near Hardscrabble Road   |
| Saranac       | 2 miles southeast of hamlet of Saranac on Burnt Hill Road  |
| Saranac       | At intersection of Chazy Lake Road and Chateaugay Branch of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad               |
| Saranac       | Two miles northwest of Clayburg on Clayburg to Standish Road   |
| Willsboro     | 1.5 miles south of Willsboro on County Route 22-M  |

**TOWN****LOCATION**

Willsboro  
Westport

4.5 miles northeast of Willsboro on County Route 27 on Willsboro Point  
4.0 miles north of Westport

**SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS****Illustrative Special Interest Areas****SCENIC**

Ampersand Mountain Summit  
Arab Mountain Summit  
Azure Mountain Summit  
Bald (Rondaxe) Mountain Summit  
Bar Mountain Summit  
Black Mountain Peak  
Blue Mountain Summit  
Bog River Falls  
Bushnell's Falls  
Buttermilk Falls  
Cascade Falls  
East Canada Falls  
Falls Brook  
Fort Noble Mountain  
Hadley Mountain Summit  
Hanging Spear Falls  
High Falls  
Hurricane Mountain Summit  
Indian Falls  
Kane Mountain Summit  
Miller's Falls  
Opalescent Flume  
Paradise Bay  
Poke-O-Moonshine Summit  
Prospect Mountain  
Pulpit Rock  
Raquette Falls  
Red Rock Bay  
Rocky Falls  
St. Regis Mountain Summit  
Sleeping Beauty  
Sliding Rock Falls  
Twitchell Creek Gorge  
Vanderwhacker Mountain Summit

Wakely Mountain Summit  
Wanika Falls  
Whiteface Mountain Summit

**GEOGRAPHICAL**

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

**HISTORIC**

Axton Plantation  
Burnt Shanty Clearing  
Fort George & Battleground  
French Louie's Camp  
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 plans shall be reviewed periodically and may be amended from time to time, and when so amended shall as amended henceforth guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack park. Amendments to the master plan shall be prepared by the agency, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, and submitted after public hearing to the governor for his approval.

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

**Formerly Section 807, added L. 1971, c. 706, Section 1; renumbered 816 and amended L. 1973, c.348, Section I.**

**Section 807 read as follows:**

## Section 807. Master Plan for management of state lands

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

2. Upon approval of such plan by the governor, the department of environmental conservation is hereby authorized and directed to develop, in consultation with the agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the master plan and such management plans shall conform to the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan. Until amended, the master plan for management of state lands and the individual management plans shall guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack park.

3. The master plan and the individual management plans shall be reviewed periodically and may be amended from time to time in the same manner as initially adopted, and when so amended shall as amended henceforth guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack Park.

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

# APPENDIX II

## Significant state-held 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  
7200 acres -- Adirondack Mountain Reserve -- Gift
  
5. Nehasane 1979  
Town of Webb,  
6600 Acres  
Webb Family -- Gift
  
6. Alder Brook -- 1984  
Town of Franklin, Franklin County  
TWP 10, Old Military Tract, Lots 12, 26-29, 50, 56, 66, 68, 69-72,  
91-94, 110, 111  
Donald Stone -- 2770 acres -- gift
  
7. Paul Smiths College -- 1985  
Town of Brighton, Franklin County  
TWP 18, Grant Tract I, Macombs Purchase  
Lots 56-58, 66  
623 acres -- purchase
  
8. 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

9. 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

- 1) Nehasane, 1979
  - Town of Webb
  - 3664 acres, subject to a 50 -year estate retained by the Webb Family
- 2) Warrensburg Fish Hatchery
  - Town of Warrensburg
  - Right of Reversion
- 3) Crown Point Fish Hatchery
  - Town of Crown Point
  - Right of Reversion

## Public Fishing Rights Easements

| Stream                              | Equivalent*<br>Miles | County       |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Ausable River, E. Branch            | 12.04                | 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      |
| Alder Brook                         | .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, N. Branch             | 5.75                 | St. Lawrence |
| Little River (Trib. of Oswegatchie) | 4.70                 | St. Lawrence |
| Sucker Lake Outlet                  | .65                  | St. Lawrence |
| 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     |

| <b>Stream</b>                     | <b>Equivalent*<br/>Miles</b> | <b>County</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Fish Creek (Trib. of Black River) | 5.37                         | Lewis         |
| Independence River & Tribs.       | 25.71                        | Lewis         |
| Otter Creek & Tribs.              | 19.94                        | Lewis         |
| Oswegatchie River, W. Branch      | 13.19                        | Lewis         |
| Jakes Pond Outlet                 | .28                          | Lewis         |
| Hogs Back Creek                   | .28                          | Lewis         |
| Compos Creek                      | 1.00                         | Lewis         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>178.29</b>                |               |

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