



**New York State**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

Division of Lands and Forests

# **Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan**

**June 2005**

**New York State**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation**

George E. Pataki, Governor  
Denise M. Sheehan, Acting Commissioner

# **Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan**

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June, 2005

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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# **PREFACE**

It is the policy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to manage state lands for multiple benefits to serve the people of New York State. This Unit Management Plan is the first step in carrying out that policy. The plan has been developed to address management activities on this unit for the next 10 year period, with a review due in 5 years. Some management recommendations may extend beyond the 10 year period.

Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities.

## **The Unit Management Planning Process**

New York State's management policy for public lands follow a multiple use concept established by New York's Environmental Conservation Law. This allows for diverse enjoyment of state lands by the people of the state. Multiple use management addresses all of the demands placed on these lands: watershed management, timber management, wildlife management, rare plant and community protection, recreational use, and aesthetic appreciation.

In this plan, an initial resource inventory and other information is provided, followed by an assessment of existing and anticipated uses and demands. This information is used to set goals and management objectives. Management action tables provide an estimated cost and timetable for accomplishing these objectives.

# Table of Contents

PREFACE .....	ii
The Unit Management Planning Process .....	ii
CANANDAIGUA HIGHLANDS UNIT LOCATION MAP .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	2
History of State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas .....	2
History of Canandaigua Highlands Management Area .....	3
Pre European History .....	3
Post European Settlement .....	4
INFORMATION ON THE UNIT .....	7
Identification .....	7
Geography .....	7
Climate .....	8
Adjacent Land - Existing Uses .....	8
Geology .....	8
Surface Geology .....	8
Bedrock Geology .....	10
Mineral Resources .....	11
Oil and Gas .....	11
Mining .....	13
Wind .....	14
Vegetative Types and Stages .....	14
Fish, Wildlife and Habitat .....	15
Cooperative Agreements, Partnerships and Volunteers .....	16
Wetlands and Water Resources .....	16
Aquifers .....	16
Wetlands .....	17
Streams .....	17
Ponded Waters .....	17
Waterfalls .....	17
Significant Plants and Plant Communities .....	17
Roads .....	18
Recreation .....	19
Archaeological Resources .....	20
Historic Sites .....	21
NEEDS, ISSUES AND POLICY .....	22
Funding .....	22
Summary of Identified Issues .....	23
Access .....	23
Vegetation Management .....	23
Water Resources .....	23
Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat .....	24
Fish Management .....	24

Public Recreation and Use .....	24
Oil And Gas Leasing .....	25
Cooperative Agreements .....	25
Open Space Conservation .....	26
Aesthetics .....	26
Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation .....	26
Current Known Illegal Use .....	26
Policy .....	27
State Laws .....	27
Federal Law .....	28
<b>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>29</b>
Vision .....	29
Access .....	29
Timber and Vegetation Management .....	31
Watershed and Wetlands Protection .....	33
Fish and Wildlife Habitat .....	34
Public Recreation and Use .....	36
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Its Influence on Management Actions for Recreation and Related Facilities .....	37
The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines .....	38
Unit Maintenance and Facilities Management .....	40
Land Acquisition .....	41
Mineral Resources .....	41
Procedures for Oil & Gas Procurement .....	42
Surface Use for Evaluation of Mineral Resources .....	43
Procedures for Mineral and Rock Procurement .....	44
Archaeological and Historic Resources .....	45
<b>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT .....</b>	<b>47</b>
Initial Mailing .....	47
Second Mailing .....	47
Public Meeting .....	47
Final Notice .....	47
<b>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>61</b>
Appendix A : Animals on Canandaigua Highlands Unit .....	61
Birds .....	61
Mammals .....	65
Reptiles and Amphibians .....	67
Resident Fish Species .....	68
Appendix B : Public Comment .....	69
Public Meeting Responses .....	69
Written Comments .....	71
Initial Mailing Responses .....	72
Appendix C : Taxes .....	78
Appendix D : Facilities .....	79
Appendix E : Timber Management .....	81

Stands Designated Protection Management .....	81
Stands Designated Even Aged .....	81
Stands Designated Uneven Aged .....	82
Stands Designated Plantation Management .....	82
Stands Designated Open Land .....	83
Stands Designated Seedling / Sapling .....	83
Appendix F : Water Resources .....	85
Ponded Waters .....	85
Appendix G: Maps .....	86
Access / Location and Streams, Ponds and Wetlands .....	86
Recommended Exclusions from Surface Occupancy for Mineral Extraction .....	89
Gas Well and Gravel Mine Locations .....	91
Appendix H: Wildlife Harvest .....	93
Waterfowl Banding - High Tor Wildlife Management Area - 1991 to 2002 .....	93
Appendix I: Bedrock Cross Section .....	94
Appendix J: SEQR .....	95
GLOSSARY .....	99

## List of Tables

Acreage of State Land .....	7
Towns of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit .....	8
Surficial Geologic Material .....	10
Vegetative Types and Stages for Italy Hill State Forest .....	14
Vegetative Types and Stages for High Tor Wildlife Management Area .....	15
Management Objectives and Actions for Access .....	29
Management Objectives and Actions for Watershed and Wetlands .....	34
Management Objectives and Actions for Fish and Wildlife and Habitat .....	36
Management Objectives and Actions for Recreation .....	39
Management Objectives and Actions for Maintenance and Facilities .....	40
Management Objectives and Actions for Land Acquisition .....	41
Management Objectives and Actions for Archaeological and Historical Sites .....	46
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SUMMARY .....	48
Appendix A : Animals on Canandaigua Highlands Unit .....	61
Appendix D : Facilities .....	79
Appendix E : Timber Management .....	81
Appendix H: Wildlife Harvest .....	93



GEORGE E. PATAKI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

DENISE M. SHEEHAN  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

APR 22 2005

MEMORANDUM


TO: The Record

SUBJECT: Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan

DATE:

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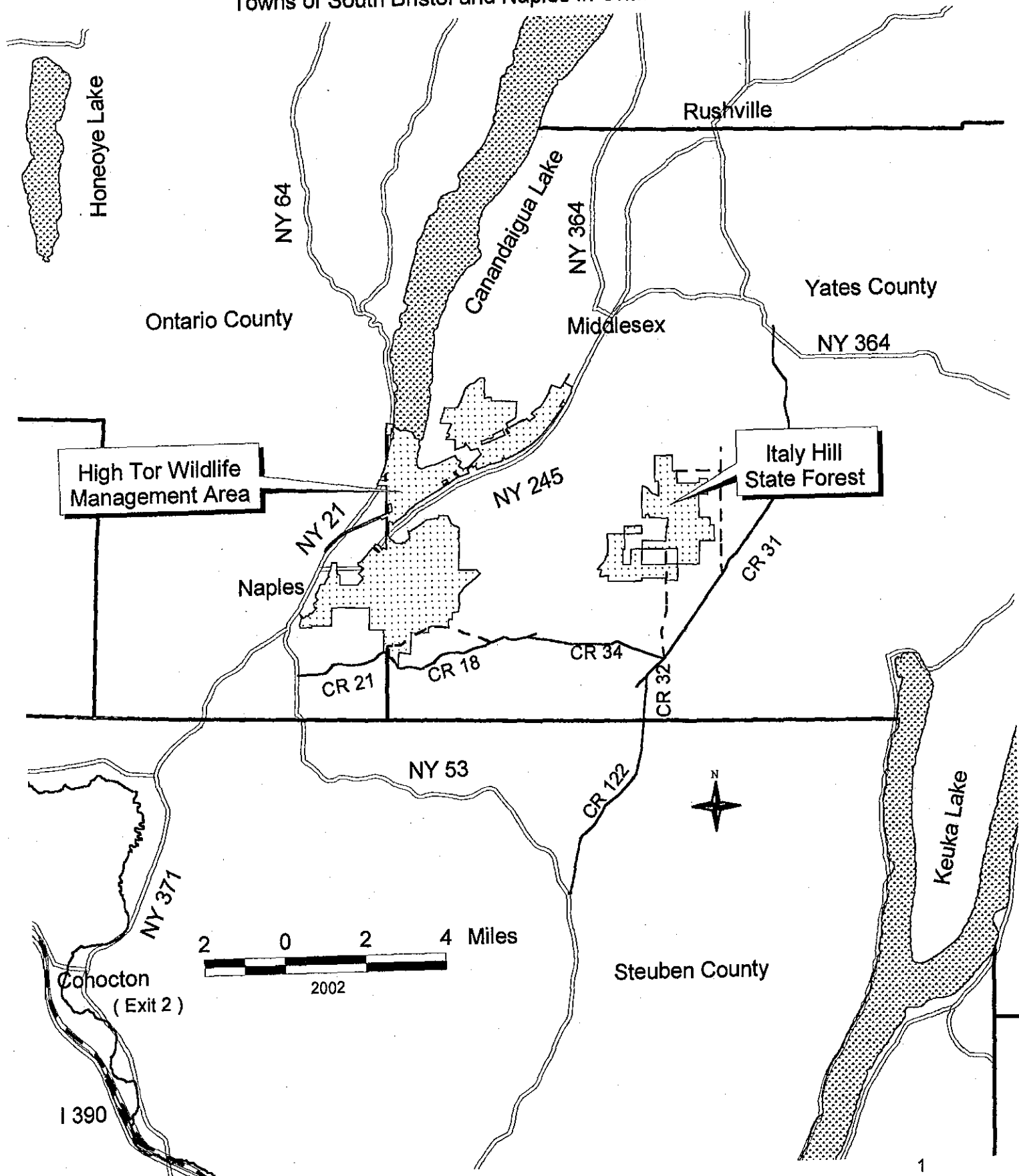
The unit management plan for the "Canandaigua Highlands State Forests" has been completed. The Plan is consistent with Department policy and procedure, involved public participation and is consistent with the Environmental Conservation Law, and Department rules and regulations. The plan includes management objectives for a ten year period and is hereby approved and adopted.

  
Denise Sheehan, Acting Commissioner



# Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan Location Map

Towns of Middlesex, Italy and Jerusalem in Yates Co.  
Towns of South Bristol and Naples in Ontario Co.



For additional maps see pages 86 - 92.

# INTRODUCTION

## History of State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas

Forest lands outside the Adirondack and Catskill regions owe their present character, in large part, to the impact of pioneer settlement. Following the close of the Revolutionary War, increased pressure for land encouraged westward expansion. Up to 91% of New York woodlands were cleared for cultivation and forage.

Early farming efforts met with limited success. As the less fertile soils proved unproductive, they were abandoned, and settlement was attempted elsewhere. The stage of succession was set and new forests of young saplings reoccupied the ground once cleared.

The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth the legislation which authorized the Conservation Department to acquire land by gift or purchase for reforestation purposes. These state forests consisting of not less than 500 acres of contiguous land, were to be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes". This broad program is presently authorized under Article 9, Title 5, of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law.

In 1930, Forest Districts were established, and the tasks of land acquisition and reforestation were started. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was begun. Thousands of young men were assigned to plant millions of trees on the newly acquired state forests. In addition to tree planting, these men were engaged in road and trail building, erosion

control, watershed restoration, forest protection, and other projects.

During the war years of 1941-1945, little was accomplished on the reforestation areas. Plans for further planting, construction, facility maintenance, and similar tasks had to be curtailed. However, through postwar funding, conservation projects once again received needed attention.

The Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act of 1960 and the Environmental Quality Bond Acts of 1972 and 1986 contained provisions for the acquisition of state forest land. These lands would serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forestry, and recreation.

Wildlife management areas in New York, like state forests, have a varied history of acquisition. Many were gifted to the New York state by the federal government or other cooperating public or private organization. Some parcels were purchased with Bond Act funds or Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program funds. The latter which is commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act, is a federal fund supported by hunters and shooters from their purchase of firearms and ammunition.

Today there are nearly 720,000 acres of state forests and over 200,000 acres of wildlife management areas throughout the state. The use of these lands is important to the economy and the health and well-being of the people of the state.

# History of Canandaigua Highlands Management Area

## Pre European History

by G. Peter Jemison, Historic Site Manager for  
Ganondagan State Historic Site, Victor NY.

The ONONDOWAHGAH (Seneca Nation) traces its birthplace to the east shore of Lake Canandaigua. The name we have for ourselves in Seneca literally translates "the people of a great hill." The hill of our origin I am convinced is South Hill, lying at the southeast end of Canandaigua Lake. Stories concerning our birthplace speak of our people emerging from a cleft in the hill.

This description of emergence from the earth is not unlike that of the Hopi or Zuni people. They have remarkably similar descriptions of their beginnings. The Seneca people believe we originate as a people on Turtle Island or North America. We don't believe the Bering Strait land bridge provided our access to this continent from Asia. Our earliest stories after our emergence from the earth describe great beasts of the type that roamed North America after the last ice age.

We believe we came from this continent, our origins are here in North America. Not only did we originate in North America, we are from the western Finger Lakes, specifically Canandaigua Lake.

The possibility exists that we come from an earlier group of people who moved from a southerly direction north into what is present day New York State. Here we dispersed and eventually became the nations today known as the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy). The Seneca Nation is the Keeper of the Western Door and one of the Elder Brothers of the confederacy. The other members include the

Cayuga Nation, Onondaga Nation, Oneida Nation, Mohawk Nation and the last to join, the Tuscarora Nation. This confederacy of Indian Nations was founded on the message of Peace, Power and Righteousness about a thousand years ago.

When the people emerged from South Hill they were then known as the Onondowahgah. Archaeologists have tried to fix the date of our origin as 950 AD. We however, hold to a much earlier date. Based on artifacts discovered in the Genesee River Valley there has been continuous occupation of this region dating back more than 7000 years.

The earliest written account describing the origin of the Seneca people appears in a history written by David Cusick, Tuscarora, titled "Ancient History of the Six Nations". Additional research was done by Dr. Arthur C. Parker, who was part Seneca, he directed the institution that became the Rochester Museum and Science Center and earlier the New York State Museum. His careful analysis of the artifacts from Bare Hill and South Hill both located on Lake Canandaigua led him to conclude that South Hill was more closely linked to the Seneca Nation. Bare Hill known in Seneca as Genundewah produced artifacts from a cultural group Parker describes as Algonkin. South Hill which the Seneca call Nundawao is located at the head of Lake Canandaigua and has produced Seneca artifacts.

Dr. Parker was further persuaded that Nundawao the earliest Seneca town existed just south of South Hill in a bowl of land not far from Naples, New York. By his account the descriptions of the Seneca Nation's hill of origin all pointed to South Hill. In the Seneca language we call ourselves Onondowahgah or people of the great hill. Therefore, the great hill associated with the Seneca Nation Dr. Parker concluded must be South Hill.

The Seneca Nation of Indians and the Tonawanda Band of Seneca lived in the areas of

Canandaigua Lake from Bare Hill south, and include Vine Valley, South Hill, West River Naples, High-Tor, and Italy Hill State Forest. Some of this area is now managed by the NYS DEC. There remain to this date archaeologically sensitive areas along Canandaigua Lake on both the west and east shore. At the time of the construction of New York State Route 245, NYS DOT produced maps relating to the construction that identified specific sites known to archaeologists working on the project.

South of South Hill is possibly the oldest Seneca town site in New York State. That area continues to be of importance to the Seneca Nation today. Clark Gully, is in our view, a sacred site because it relates directly to our place of origin. A geographic feature resembling a bowl shape located south of South Hill and Clark Gully is also significant culturally.

Jare Cardinal is contracted by the Seneca Nation of Indians' Tribal Historic Preservation Office and is currently researching the Seneca occupation of the area, and is the basis for some of the information presented above. These notes were compiled from maps provided the by New York State Historic Preservation Office at Peebles Island, Waterford, New York. These descriptions absent the proper maps or more legible maps, and maps such as those Harrison Follett drew tell only part of the story.

## Post European Settlement

It is known that the upland portion of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit was almost completely forested when the Parrish family, first European settlers of the area, arrived in 1789. Parrish Gully (aka Conklin gully) on High Tor Wildlife Management Area was named after this family.

The high ground of both High Tor and Italy

Hill were not settled until the 1800's. Members of Hatch family, early pioneers to Ontario County from Connecticut, settled Hatch Hill (now part of High Tor). Maps show a home was built there by 1830. However, even then, much of High Tor was indicated as "Unknown Owners", no mans land.

By the Civil War, the top of South Hill was cleared for agriculture. There was a thriving settlement called West River near the present cemetery along Rt. 245. All traces of this village are no longer visible. Hatch Hill was similar to South Hill but dating of present vegetation and hummock and hollow soil relief, suggests some of the area was cleared and pastured, but never plowed. By 1850 some pastures were beginning to revert back to trees. Woodland areas were heavily exploited for lumber, charcoal, and wood alcohol. As late as 1950's, a log flume to send wood down off Hatch Hill to Naples was still visible.

In the middle of the 1800's, the Kennedy family was the first family to settle much of the area now known as Italy Hill State Forest. Farmers on Italy Hill and the Town of Jerusalem, prospered. They grew hay for horses in New York City and beans which was a staple food for maritime ship crews. They used a trolley line ("down the hill" to Branchport and the main rail line) to ship their products. By the late 1800's only the steepest slopes of Italy Hill were forested, the remainder having been cleared for agriculture. The Industrial Revolution combined with soils poorly suited to long-term agriculture, began another change. By 1900, many farms in the upland areas of Ontario and Yates Counties were abandoned. Over time these areas reverted back to forest land. Oak/chestnut forests were dominant.

In 1904, a fungal disease called chestnut blight was discovered in New York, having been accidentally imported from Europe. Within 30 years, it spread across the nation and virtually eliminated the American Chestnut. Evidence of American Chestnut can still be seen in the form

of stumps and sprouts from root systems of chestnut. Overhead, the holes left by the death of the chestnuts has been filled by Red Maple, White Ash, hickories, beech and oaks.

### **High Tor Wildlife Management Area**

In the early 1930's one of the major landowners of the area attempted to give his land to the State to be managed as an area for wildlife. The State declined the offer since there were no monies available in the budget for managing the land involved. However, the federal government purchased land from several owners, through the Federal Resettlement Act, accumulating about 3,000 acres, at prices ranging from four to eighteen dollars per acre.

Over a number of years, the federal government shuttled responsibility for the project from one government branch to another until the area was finally leased to the State of New York in April of 1941. The State administered the land as a game management area, through the Conservation Department.

The lease was to run for ninety-nine years, but in October, 1962, the State accepted the High Tor Wildlife Management Area as a gift from the Federal Government.

Since that time, additional acreage has been acquired as funding became available.

The original 855.5 acres of the South Hill Unit was purchased in 1965.

Since 1965, additional acquisition has taken place on all three units of the management area. Most noteworthy are additions in the West River Unit. Approximately 50 percent of these purchases were funded by the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act. The remainder were purchased by a wide variety of funding sources, including federal funds.

### **Italy Hill State Forest**

In response to the decline of agriculture, and the demand that abandoned and eroding farmlands be returned to productive activity, the New York State legislature passed the "Reforestation Law of 1929". Shortly afterwards, the nation plunged into the Great Depression, accelerating the abandonment of agricultural lands.

The New York State Conservation Dept. began acquisition of Italy Hill in 1936. Although many of the properties were mostly abandoned farm land few areas of this state forest were planted with conifers. The property was far from the nearest Civilian Conservation Corps camp (Allegany County or Schuyler County). It was not practical in the 1930's to drive to this property, when there were many other closer state forests in need of tree planting. These old fields are still in the process of natural succession, going from brush to pioneer hardwoods. Poor soils account for the slow progression back to forest.

On October 5, 1943, Italy Hill was in the news as the crash site of a B-25 bomber. The plane was returning to Macon, Ga. from Rochester, NY but failed to clear the top of the hill. The ground was not visible due to a dense fog. Six soldiers were killed. "Less than 20 minutes before his [Lieut. Willard E. Wilder] death, this young Rochester man had circled the summer home of his parents [Bristol Hills], Mr. & Mrs. Willard Wilder, Sr., in the hill dropped a note to them as they watched from their dooryard, dip his wings on the salute, and turned southward into the heavy low-hanging clouds. Dropping down beneath the clouds as he crossed Italy Valley, according to eye witnesses he tipped the nose of the plane up into a climb as he neared the cloud covered hills on the eastern side but blinded by thickness of the fog, appearances indicate he did not climb enough and crashed into the side of the hill." (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Oct. 5, 1943)

Tragically, Italy Hill was the site of another air crash on the evening of December 12, 1996. A Mercy Flight helicopter carrying an injured hunter from nearby private land failed to clear

the treetops at the height of ground. The pilot, paramedic, and hunter did not survive. There are plans to place a memorial at this site.

# INFORMATION ON THE UNIT

## Identification

The approximately 8214 acre Canandaigua Highlands Unit is comprised of one state forest and one wildlife management area. For management purposes, each state forest is consecutively numbered in the order in which they were purchased in each county.

Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan includes the following:

**Table 1     Acreage of State Land**

NAME	STATE FOREST NUMBER	ACREAGE
Italy Hill State Forest	Yates Reforestation Area #1	1899
High Tor Wildlife Management Area		6315

## Geography

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit is situated in the Towns of Italy, Jerusalem, and Middlesex in Yates County, and the Towns of Naples and South Bristol in Ontario County. Canandaigua Lake, (approximately 10,560 acres and 15.8 miles in length) lies immediately north and west of the West River and South Hill segments of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area. The Village of Naples lies immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the Hatch Hill section of High Tor Wildlife Management Area.

The Cities of Canandaigua, and Geneva, along with the Villages of Bath, Dansville and Penn Yan lie within a 25 mile radius of all parcels. The largest population center for the region, the City of Rochester, is located

approximately forty-five miles to the north-northwest. The primary access to this unit is via State Routes - 21, 53, and 245.

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit lies near the northern edge of the Allegheny Plateau. Elevations range from approximately 2,082 feet on the Italy Hill State Forest, to approximately 686 feet on the High Tor Wildlife Management Area, at the point West River empties into Canandaigua Lake.

The hilltop topography of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit is characterized by north-south ridges with deep valleys in between. Two large gullies transect portions of the High Tor parcel, Parrish/Conklin Gully located on the Hatch Hill segment of High Tor, and Clark Gully, on South Hill.

**Table 2     Towns of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>
Italy Hill State Forest	Italy, Jerusalem
High Tor Wildlife Management Area	Naples, South Bristol, Italy, Middlesex

## Climate

The average summer temperature is 69° F while the average winter temperature is 26° F. Precipitation averages 30 inches per year, with approximately 64 inches of snow fall each year. Precipitation is often well distributed throughout the year and is usually adequate for the growing season which is about 135 days. In some years there are periods of no rain, interspersed with sudden heavy rainstorms resulting in heavy run off. These averages are modified locally by variations in elevation and proximity to Canandaigua Lake. Prevailing winds are from the northwest between December and July and from the southwest from August to November.

Climatic data is supplied from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service.

## Adjacent Land - Existing Uses

The land adjacent to the Canandaigua Highlands Unit is largely owned by private landowners. There are a few parcels owned by the counties and local municipalities, these are largely tax delinquent properties.

Agriculture, forestry, and recreation are major land uses. Although agriculture is traditionally the most common land use, it appears to be declining on the uplands. Agriculture of all types, in the valley bottoms, and grape growing on the valley sides remains strong.

Forest land now occupies approximately 60% of the land area of the five towns covered by this management plan, while agriculture accounts for 30% of the total. The remaining 10% is split between wetlands, open water, residential, and commercial and industrial uses. The average number of acres per private ownership appears to be declining.

## Geology

### Surface Geology

#### Background

Most surface geology in the Finger Lakes region of western New York was influenced by the processes of glaciation that occurred during the Pleistocene Epoch. Ice sheets from the last glaciation episode (Wisconsinan glaciation episode) retreated from the area approximately ten thousand (10,000) years ago, leaving behind numerous sedimentary deposits and surficial features; including elongated scour features. Some filled with water and are now call the Finger Lakes.

Most soils and sediments in the region are related to past glacial activity, and subsequent weathering and erosion processes over the last 20,000 years. The underlying parent rocks (rocks that were subjected to the processes of glaciation, weathering and erosion) of this region are sedimentary rocks; specifically shale, sandstone and minor limestone that were



deposited in shallow seas that existed in this region during the Devonian Period of the Paleozoic Era, approximately 370 million years ago. Any post Devonian rocks have been eroded from the region. The presence of rounded igneous and metamorphic clasts are indicative of past glacial activity transporting material into the region from the Canadian Shield to the north.

### **Canandaigua Highlands Unit**

The resulting surface geology of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area and the Italy Hill State Forest includes glacial till as the dominant deposit in the area. It is located extensively throughout the area, with exceptions being topographically low areas and escarpments subjected to erosion. Bedrock outcrops and subcrops of Devonian shales, siltstones, sandstones and minor limestones are located intermittently on the sides and crests of ridges and hills in the area. Most likely due to the erosion of overlying glacial till, causing the exposure of the bedrock. Kame and moraine deposits of sand and gravel are located intermittently in topographically low areas, and are the result of glacial meltwater river systems. Lacustrine sediments have filled the low areas of Italy Valley, and recent alluvium deposits and swamp deposits have accumulated in recent topographical depressions such as stream channels and the south end of Canandaigua Lake.

Further information on the surface geology of the region is provided by the: *Surficial Geologic Map of New York, New York State Museum - Geologic Survey - Map and Chart series #40, 1986.*

### **Soils**

Detailed soil information is contained in the *Soil Survey of Ontario and Yates Counties*, published by USDA, Soil Conservation Service in July of 1958.

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit contains a number of soil associations, predominately within two the *Lordstown - Manlius* and the *Mardin- Fremont-Volusia* associations. In addition a small acreage of the *Carlilse-Muck* association exists.

General association descriptions follow:

#### **Lordstown-Manlius**

Shallow to moderately deep, strongly acidic soils that developed in loose glacial till deposited over sandstone and shale bedrock. They are well-drained, low in fertility and shallow to moderately deep over bedrock. The slopes are moderate to steep. Where the shale bedrock is near the surface, the low supplies of moisture limit plant growth.

#### **Mardin- Fremont- Volusia**

Shallow to moderately deep soils. Moderate to poorly drained, very strongly acidic soils developed in glacial till consisting mainly of sandstone and shale. The slopes are flat to moderate. The soils are low in fertility.

#### **Carlilse-Muck**

Nearly neutral organic soil derived from woody peat. The upper 20 inches is so thoroughly decomposed that few of the original plant parts can be identified. The soil is permanently wet except where it has been drained. The topography is flat.

**Table 3 Surficial Geologic Material**

Name:	Surficial Material:
High Tor Wildlife Management Area	Glacial till, bedrock (shales and silts of the Devonian West Falls Group), swamp, recent alluvium & minor kame deposits.
Italy Hill State Forest	Glacial till, bedrock (shales and silts of the Devonian West Falls Group), kame deposits, till moraines and lacustrine silts and clays.

## Bedrock Geology

### Background

Bedrock underlying the Finger Lakes region is inclusive of sedimentary rock units deposited in association with ancient seas and their marine-fluvial-deltaic environments of deposition during the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian Periods of the Paleozoic Era.

Younger bedrock units deposited during the post-Devonian Periods (such as Mississippian and Pennsylvanian Periods) have been subsequently eroded away by erosional and glacial processes.

Underlying the Paleozoic rocks are pre-Paleozoic Era rocks or Pre-Cambrian rocks generally considered to be composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks. These rocks are generally referred to as "basement" rocks.

### Canandaigua Highlands Unit

Rock units (bedrock) outcropping or subcropping at the surface in the High Tor Wildlife Management Area and Italy Hill State Forest of the Finger Lakes region are shales, siltstones, sandstones and intermittent limestones of the Genesee, Sonyea, and West Falls Groups that were deposited during the Upper Devonian Period (approximately 350 - 400 million years ago).

Further information on the bedrock geology of the region is provided by the: *Geologic Map of New York - Finger Lake Sheet - New York State Museum and Science Service - Map and Chart #15, 1970.*

Subsurface information pertaining to the bedrock (that does not outcrop) has been acquired through four (4) wells drilled into the subsurface during the exploration for oil and natural gas reserves in and around the High Tor Wildlife Management Area and Italy Hill State Forest. These wells were drilled to depths of approximately 7,000 feet into the subsurface and tested the Trenton / Black River Formations that were deposited during the Ordovician Period, over 450 million years ago.

The Belden & Blake Corp. - NYS Yates Reforestation #1 well (API# 31-123-22757) encountered the top of the Devonian Onondaga Limestone at 2,040 feet, intermittent Silurian Syracuse salt beds between 2,380 feet and 3,028 feet, top of the Silurian Medina Sandstone at 3,769 feet, top of the Ordovician Queenston Shale at 3,925 feet, top of the Trenton Limestone at 5,828 feet and the top of the Black River Limestone/Dolomite at 6,580 feet into the earth. (See also Appendix I)

### Structure

Regional structure of the area is a homocline that dips (is becoming deeper) to the south-southwest at an average dip angle of

approximately one (1) degree or deepens 100 feet per each mile traveled to the south-southwest. The *Geologic map of New York - Finger Lakes Sheet #15, 1970*, depicts progressively older rock units outcropping farther to the north, confirming the southerly dip of strata in the region.

Linements, faulting and anticlinal/synclinal structures in the region generally trend in a northeast to southwest direction. North-south trending faults have also been identified in the region. These structures are thought to be due to compressional stress and resulting strain associated with plate tectonics and the opening of the Atlantic Ocean Basin that began at the end of the Paleozoic Era. Structural reference is available at the *Preliminary Brittle Structures Map of New York, New York State Museum-Map and Chart Series No.31E, 1974*.

## Mineral Resources

### Oil and Gas

#### Introduction

Article 23, Title 11 Section 23-1101 of the Environmental Conservation Law and State Finance Law authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to make leases on behalf of the State for exploration, production and development of oil and gas on State lands. Proposals to lease parcels of Department of Environmental Conservation regulated State lands for this purpose will be considered following public notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB), and in local newspapers.

Oil and natural gas are valuable resources which can provide energy and revenue, as well as the opportunity for improvements to the existing infrastructure of these areas (such as improving safe and restricted access through upgrading existing roads, culverts and gates)

and creation of open space to enhance habitat diversity. As with any other human activity on State lands, oil and natural gas exploration and development can impact the environment. Most impacts are short term and occur during the siting and drilling phases of a well.

In the Italy Hill State Forest, New York state manages the surface estate through the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests. The surface estate on Hi Tor WMA is managed through the NYS DEC Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. In both areas, the mineral estate is managed through the NYS DEC Division of Mineral Resources. The federal government owns a 75% interest in the mineral estate under approximately half of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area acreage; this interest is managed by the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

For more information on the procedures of gas leasing, see the Mineral Resources section on page 40.

#### Historical Drilling & Production

The drilling of the first commercial oil and natural gas well in the United States occurred in northwestern Pennsylvania during the middle 1800's. The results of this drilling activity carried over into neighboring New York State. Eventually this activity extended into western New York and areas surrounding what is now Italy Hill State Forest and High Tor Wildlife Management Area.

Natural gas was produced in the area during the late 1800's and early 1900's from the Hamilton Group (shale) that was deposited during the Middle Devonian Period. Natural gas has also been produced from younger Upper Devonian Shales in these same areas. Devonian gas production was from stratigraphic intervals between 500 feet and 1,500 feet from the surface at Rushville Field approximately seven

(7) miles north of Italy Hill State Forest and from Naples Field on the southwest flank of High Tor Wildlife Management Area. Two wells were drilled in Naples Field that are currently part of the southwest portion of High Tor Wildlife Management Area. Gas production rates from these wells were less than 10 mcf/gpd (thousand cubic feet of gas per day). There are no active wells in either field.

Gas was also produced in the area during the late 1980's and early 1990's from the Medina Sandstone / Queenston Shale intervals that were deposited during the late Ordovician and early Silurian Periods approximately 430 million years ago. Medina / Queenston gas production was from stratigraphic intervals between 2,500 feet and 3,000 feet from the surface at Penn Yan Field approximately twelve (12) miles east of Italy Hill. Gas production rates from these wells were recorded initially at approximately 100 mcf/gpd. There are no commercial wells currently in this field.

Due to the low volumes of gas produced from these wells it is unlikely that under current economic conditions the above formations would be targeted for commercial gas production in either parcel.

These fields are shown on the *New York State Gas Field Map - Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Mineral Resources, 1986*

### **Recent Activity**

#### *Drilling & Production*

Gas is currently being produced in the area from the Trenton / Black River formations that were deposited during the Middle Ordovician Period approximately 450 million years ago. Production began in 1998 and is located approximately five (5) miles south of Italy Hill State Forest and High Tor Wildlife Management Area at Glodes Corners Road Field and Pine

Hill Field respectively. There are 17 wells combined in the two (2) fields. Most wells were drilled to a depth of approximately 7,500 feet from surface and have averaged between 500 - 1,000 mcf/gpd from the Trenton / Black River stratigraphic interval at approximately 7,000 feet to 7,500 feet.

#### *Exploration & Drilling*

Exploration for gas in the Trenton / Black River Formations expanded into areas on and between Italy Hill State Forest and High Tor Wildlife Management Area in 1998.

To date, only one (1) vertical well and one (1) sidetrack well have been drilled on Italy Hill State Forest (Belden & Blake - NYS Yates RA #1 & #1A wells). These wells were dry holes and have been plugged and abandoned.

Located between High Tor Wildlife Management Area and Italy Hill State Forest are three (3) vertical wells and four (4) sidetrack wells on private land. (See Appendix G, "Gas Well and Gravel Mine Locations").

The Belden & Blake - Mulligan #1 & #1A wells, Belden & Blake - Costanza #1, #1A & #1B wells and Belden & Blake - Watson #1 well have been plugged and abandoned. The Belden & Blake - Watson #1B well is currently shut in.

All of the above wells were drilled to a total depth of 6,500 feet to 7,000 feet from surface.

#### *Drilling Permits*

There were two (2) wells previously permitted on Italy Hill State Forest (Belden & Blake - NYS Yates Reforestation #2 & #3 wells) and one well was permitted between the two areas (Belden & Blake - Fehrenbacher #1). These wells were proposed to test the Trenton/Black River Formations. The drilling permits for these wells on State lands expired in 2002 prior to any operations being conducted.

The Belden & Blake - Fehrenbacher #1 well is currently temporary abandoned. (see Appendix G).

#### *Leasing Activity*

The State owns 100% of the mineral estate of Italy Hill State Forest. Leases on this mineral estate were executed on February 3, 1998 between the NYSDEC as "lessor" and Belden & Blake Corp. as "Lessee", that granted Belden & Blake Corporation all oil and gas rights under Parcel A (1,068.89 acres) and Parcel B (830.74 acres) of the Italy Hill State Forest, Yates County, Towns of Italy and Jerusalem. These leases expired February 3, 2003.

High Tor Wildlife Management Area is approximately 6,300 acres, and the mineral estate is owned by the State and Federal government. The State owns 100% of the mineral estate under approximately 3,247 acres in the area. The State owns an undivided 25% mineral interest under the remaining 2,853 acres (approximately) and the federal government (administered by the Bureau of Land Management) owns the other undivided 75% mineral interest. Leases on the State's 100% mineral estate were executed on January 13, 1998 between the NYSDEC as "Lessor" and Belden & Blake Corp. as "Lessee", that granted Belden & Blake Corporation oil and gas rights to the State's 100% mineral estate under the High Tor Wildlife Management Area, Ontario and Yates County, Towns of Naples and Italy. These leases expired on January 13, 2003.

#### *Future Leasing Activity*

Due to recent drilling and production activity in western New York, the State may again receive requests to nominate these lands for leasing. In the event of this occurrence, the procedures outlined in the Minerals section on pg. 40 will be used.

*For further information contact the NYSDEC*

*Mineral Resource staff, Region 8, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9591.*

## **Mining**

### **Gravel & Hard Rock**

Gravel and hard rock resources in the areas surrounding and including High Tor Wildlife Management Area and Italy Hill State Forest are limited. There are no mining contracts, permits, or operations on any areas in this unit management plan. Under Article 7 of the New York Consolidated Laws / Public Lands, any citizen of the United States may apply for permission to explore and/or extract any mineral on State lands. However, the department has no plans to consider or approve any commercial mining application(s) pertaining to any lands covered by this unit management plan. NYS DEC will occasionally mine small quantities of gravel for use on state facilities such as access roads or parking lots.

Only gravel mining occurs close to state lands, and operations are located one (1) mile south of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area along County Road 21 and one (1) mile west of High Tor Wildlife Management Area along County Road 36 on the west side of the village of Naples.

Surface geology maps of New York indicate the northern portion of Italy Hill State Forest has an area of approximately 300 acres that hold kame deposits of sand and gravel. The same maps indicate kame and kame moraine deposits along the south and southwest margins of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area, in the vicinity of a commercial gravel mining operation along County Road 21 mentioned above.

## Wind

There is the potential for generating electricity with windmills in the area of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. There are currently no windmills for power generation on the Unit. However, the department lacks the legal authority to lease or otherwise make available the lands covered by this unit management plan for commercial wind power generation.

## Vegetative Types and Stages

Canandaigua Highlands Unit vegetation is dominated by wetland vegetative types on lowlands and pole / small sawtimber sized natural hardwood forests on the uplands. Hardwood species include the oaks, maples, hickories, ash, aspen, birches, beech, and apple.

The softwood component is well balanced. Plantation species such as red pine and Norway

spruce, white spruce, and Scotch pine are well represented. White pine and hemlock comprise most of the natural conifer stands, while some natural stands of red pine do occur. Many of the hardwood forests have a softwood component of white pine and hemlock.

Secondary vegetative types include transition hardwood forests on some upland portions of the Unit. Many former agricultural fields have been replanted to conifers or reverted back to "pioneer" forest types. There is a significant area of blueberries and other heath type shrubs on Italy Hill State Forest. This is a unique feature in this area. Management actions are proposed in this plan to assure the long term survival of this community.

The following tables (Tables 4 and 5) list vegetative types and stages for the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. These records are estimated from the most recent inventories available. Depending on the area, inventory data was taken sometime between 1987 and 2002.

**Table 4 Vegetative Types and Stages for Italy Hill State Forest**

Vegetative Type	Acres by Size Class				% of Total
	0 -5 in	6 - 11 in	12+ in	other	
Natural Forest Hardwood	281	323	421		53.9%
Natural Forest Conifer	449	361	6		42.9%
Plantation		1			<0.1%
Wetland				20	1.0%
Ponds					
Open/Brush				29	1.5%
Other (Roads, Parking lots, etc.)				8	0.4%
Total (Acres)	730	685	427	57	1899

**Table 5 Vegetative Types and Stages for High Tor Wildlife Management Area**

Vegetative Type	Acres by Size Class				% of Total
	0 -5 in	6 - 11 in	12+ in	other	
Natural Forest Hardwood	554	1363	1503		54.2%
Natural Forest Conifer		197	109		4.8%
Plantation	21	126	198		5.5%
Wetland				1400	22.2%
Ponds				143	2.3%
Open/Brush				553	8.8%
Other (Roads, Parking lots, etc.)				148	2.3%
Total (Acres)	575	1686	1810	2244	6315

## Fish, Wildlife and Habitat

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit lies along the northern edge of the Appalachian Plateau and the wildlife found here is a product of it's history. A large portion of the area is reverted farm lands from the 1930's. These 60-year old forested areas join other stands of trees that were never completely cleared.

The wildlife resources found here are associated with the oak hickory forest dominating the slopes and ridges. Over 90 species of birds are known to nest in or near the area. In 2002, High Tor Wildlife Management Area was designated a New York State Bird Conservation Area by Governor Pataki. Grasslands are maintained in the Middlesex Valley to provide habitat for bird species in decline, largely due to decreasing habitat in the northeastern United States. As much of the area is becoming a forest of large poles and older age classes, emphasis has been placed on creating habitat for wildlife associated with early successional stages. Threatened or Endangered birds are listed as part of Appendix A.

Maintaining early successional stages is accomplished by aggressive vegetative management. With large tracts of forest environment, mammals such as gray and red squirrels, whitetail deer, raccoon, red and gray fox, coyote, beaver, and opossum are quite common. A number of wildlife species not commonly found in western New York are reestablishing themselves after long absences, these include the black bear, ravens, and river otter. The potential for other species like bald eagles and osprey is good.

Many fish species annually visit the wetlands of West River to reproduce. Naples Creek supports a noted run of rainbow trout in the spring – a product of good water quality afforded by the forested slopes. The wetland serves as a nursery for many young fish. The large wetlands is also home to many species of vertebrates besides fish. Several frog and turtle species are easily observed. Large salamanders are found making annual spring treks to vernal pools in forested areas and include such as species as the spotted and the Jefferson salamanders. While beaver and muskrat are

commonly found, River Otters were introduced in the fall of 2000, as part of an otter restoration program to central and western NY.

Beginning in the summer of 1991, the Bureau of Wildlife has annually undertaken an effort to capture and band ducks along the West River Unit of High Tor. This endeavor is part of a statewide project to mark waterfowl in order to better understand the range and longevity aspects of individual species. This project has been undertaken every year with the exception of 2000, and has resulted in the banding of more than 3200 ducks. Annual capture results are list in appendix H and indicate a high predisposition (64%) toward wood ducks, as might be expected. Mallards make up almost all of the rest of the species captured (35%) with the remaining 1% being primarily American Black Ducks. Continuation of this project is advocated but is dependant entirely on staffing levels and obligatory work loads. This unit is particularly appealing due to the presence of a extensive amount of wood duck habitat along both West River and Naples Creek.

## **Cooperative Agreements, Partnerships and Volunteers**

High Tor Wildlife Management Area and the Italy Hill Forest receive assistance in accomplishing land area enhancement programs from a wide array of public groups and individuals. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference maintains hiking trail on both tracts of public land. YOASTA club (Yates Ontario Area Snowmobile Trail Association) maintains snowmobile trails on the state forest, but snowmobiling is not allowed on the wildlife management area by regulation. Both organizations are covered under an Adopt-a-Natural-Resource agreement with NYS DEC.

Enhancement or restoration of habitat for wildlife species on High Tor Wildlife Management Area have been accomplished

through partnerships with organizations like the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), Ducks Unlimited, The Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, The Ruffed Grouse Society, New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT), and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force. The NWTF has also acquired acreage and gifted that land to the area. It is expected that future wildlife enhancement efforts will continue for both land areas.

Volunteers have played key roles in providing services or carrying out program activities that simply would not have been done otherwise. Whether maintaining trails, bluebird nesting structures, or just simply keeping a vigilant eye in the neighborhood for those that are lost or need help, volunteers have served the people of New York State well.

The terrain of both areas is rugged and at times unforgiving. Annually, rock and ice climbers, hikers and others, find themselves in need of help. The men and women from the Ontario County High Angle Rope Rescue Team and Mercy Flight Helicopter rescue, and local fire departments, along with NYS DEC Forest Ranger staff have made a number of life saving rescues. New Yorkers are indebted to such individuals for efforts that often go unnoticed and unheralded.

## **Wetlands and Water Resources**

### **Aquifers**

The West River portion of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area is underlain by two aquifers, the only aquifers associated with the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. The 1500 acre surface wetland plays a major role in water filtration for the users of the Canandaigua Lake water.



## **Wetlands**

The West River portion of the Unit is dominated by two Class I New York State wetlands MS-1 (392 acres) and MS-2 (1103 acres). These two wetlands, acquired with 1972 Bond Act Monies, are robust naturally occurring wetlands having diverse vegetative plant communities, ranging from expansive tracts of cattail, flooded red maple, button bush and red ash. This area is the home to many year round species of wildlife, as well as seasonal visitors.

Both wetlands have been enhanced by the digging of over 5 miles of level ditching. This activity not only enhanced the wetlands, it assured water in various portions of the marsh after Canandaigua Lake is drawn down during winter months.

One state regulated wetland, PR-1 can be found on the Italy Hill State Forest, stand C-6. This is a twenty acre deciduous swamp, Class III wetland. Maps showing NYS regulated wetlands are available from NYS DEC Offices.

Maps produced by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wetlands Inventory indicate the presence of 20 or more smaller wetlands which may be protected under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These wetlands vary in character from scrub-shrub, forested, emergent, and are both seasonal and permanent saturation. A number of these wetlands are man-made, having constructed dikes and/or control structures.

## **Streams**

This unit is located within the southwestern portion of the Finger Lakes drainage basin. Naples Creek and West River are two large streams flowing through High Tor Wildlife Management Area that drain the Naples and Middlesex Valleys. Naples Creek is renowned for its run of rainbow trout and also smelt. Tannery Creek which empties into Naples Creek

supports brook trout. West River and surrounding marsh serves as a nursery for many warm water species. Fishing for crappie and perch in West River is a late winter-early spring event. Together these streams account for large volume of the runoff into Canandaigua Lake. Numerous permanent as well as intermittent drainages serve to drain the steep hills seasonally and during significant precipitation events. Annually, any of these drainages can flush enough rock, soil or other debris into road culverts and bridges to impair road structures as well as travel.

## **Ponded Waters**

Numerous ponds and shallow potholes have been developed throughout High Tor Wildlife Management Area in an effort to provide habitat for wildlife species. Twenty ponds have been constructed with man-made dikes, four of which have concrete control structures to discharge water. At least 5 potholes have been dug to provide water to breeding amphibians and reptiles, as well as water for other vertebrates during the drier months of the year.

## **Waterfalls**

Although fed by intermittent streams, five different waterfalls can be observed on the High Tor Wildlife Management Area and one in the northeast section of Italy Hill State Forest. Three are located in Clark Gulley, one in Parish/Conklin Gulley and one in an unnamed ravine just west of the State boat launch at Woodville.

## **Significant Plants and Plant Communities**

The Canandaigua Highland Unit contains several significant plants and plant communities according to the Natural Heritage Program data

base. A natural ecological community may be considered "significant" by the Heritage Program if it is either rare in New York State, or an outstanding example of a more common natural community. Outstanding examples of flood plain forest and a rare perched swamp, White Oak Swamp, exist within the unit and are both classified as significant plant communities. There are also two rare plants in the unit. If additional rare plants or significant communities are found on the unit they will be reported to the Natural Heritage Program and appropriate management strategies will be formulated to protect maintain or expand them.

## Roads

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit is accessed by state, county and town roads (see location map, page 1). State and town maintained asphalt and gravel roads comprise the majority of access routes. Some portions of the town roads are seasonal and are not maintained for winter travel.

The road system maintained by NYS DEC provides for both public and administrative access to the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. The roads are constructed to standards that will provide reasonably safe travel and keep maintenance costs at a minimum. There are three types of NYS DEC maintained roads - public forest access roads, and haul roads and access trails - each provide different levels of access, depending on the standards to which they are constructed.

Public access roads are constructed and maintained to accommodate motor vehicle traffic, they are permanent, unpaved roads. They may be designed for all-weather use depending on their location and surfacing. These roads provide primary access within a Unit. The standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided for in

the Forest Road Handbook.

Haul roads are permanent, unpaved roads but are not designed for all-weather travel. They are constructed primarily for the removal of forest products and provide only limited access within the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. Public motor vehicle use is not allowed, but pedestrian travel is encouraged. All administrative roads are gated and warning signs are posted. The standards for these roads are those of Class C roads as provided for in the Forest Road Handbook.

Access trails may be permanent, unpaved and do not provide all-weather access within the Unit. These trails are originally designed for removal of forest products and may be used to meet other management objectives such as recreational trails. These trails are constructed according to Best Management Practices.

NYS DEC maintains 11.9 miles of roads on the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. A number of these roads also are utilized as trails.

High Tor Wildlife Management Area contains 11 miles of roads, most of which are haul roads. At the top of South Hill, a half mile section of public access road from South Hill Road ends in a turn around/parking lot which provides a beautiful overlook of the West River Valley. The remainder of the roads are used as travel corridors for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Many hiking trails and portions of the Finger Lakes Trail connect to the administrative roads and provide additional routes of travel. Additionally, 17 miles of roads and trails are designated routes, open by permit only, for motor vehicle access by persons with qualifying disabilities.

The Italy Hill State Forest has a 0.9 mile stretch of haul road that starts at the West Lightening Corners parking lot and ends at the Belden&Blake-NYS #1 well.

Thirty parking lots are maintained throughout Canandaigua Highlands Unit. (See Appendix D)

## Recreation

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit provides recreational opportunities within an hour drive of metropolitan Rochester, and less than a half-hour drive from the villages of Dansville, Bath and Penn Yan and the cities of Canandaigua and Geneva. Consequently, recreational use is seasonally concentrated and varied.

### Recreation Opportunities Include:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Trapping
- Hiking
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Mountain biking
- Snowmobiling (Italy Hill State Forest only)
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Picnicking
- Bird and wildlife watching
- Berry and apple picking
- Photography
- Nature study

Different regulations apply to state forests and wildlife management areas. For example, overnight camping is permitted anywhere on state forests as long as it is not within 150 ft. of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond, or other water source. For groups of less than 10 people and for up to 3 days, no permit is required, longer stays and/or larger groups are allowed to camp with a permit obtained from the NYS DEC Forest Rangers, at the Bath suboffice. Overnight camping is not allowed on Wildlife Management Areas, except by permitted organized groups. Contact the Avon NYS DEC office for a permit. Irregardless of location,

camping sites must be kept neat, clean, and in sanitary condition.

No demand for the designation of ATV trails on the unit was received during either the issue identification mailing or the comment period for the draft plan. In addition, the presence of significant wetland acreage in the High Tor Wildlife Management Area and the typically steep nature of much of both the Italy Hill State Forest and the High Tor Wildlife Management Area are not conducive for the establishment of ATV trails. Similarly, there was no public demand for the establishment of horse trails on the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. Depositing or leaving rubbish or waste material is prohibited. Cutting, removing, or destroying any living, or standing dead trees or plants is prohibited. Users are requested to extinguish all fires completely. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are allowed only during legal season, consult the NYS DEC Hunting and Trapping, and the Fishing Regulations Guides for seasons, hours, and bag limits.

### Hunting

Hunting is popular on all state lands in the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. Both small and big game hunting opportunities exist. White-tailed deer is the primary big game species. Archery, muzzleloading, and shotgun seasons open annually in the fall. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. Also prohibited are any equipment that damages the trees; this includes screw in steps, eye hooks etc. Small game include; wild turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant, woodcock, squirrels, cottontail rabbit, and waterfowl. Trapping of furbearers is also encouraged.

### Fishing

Naples Creek is a premier Rainbow trout run in the spring. The large wetland complex, creeks and ponds on High Tor provide many fishing opportunities for both warm and cold water species. The 1996 Clean Water / Clean

Air Bond Act funded several aquatic habitat improvements on Naples Creek and tributaries. Fishing opportunities are limited at Italy Hill State Forest.

### **Trails**

There are numerous trails, old roads, old railroad beds and pipelines in the Canandaigua Highlands Unit to explore, some of these trails are currently marked and mapped, others are not. The Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail passes through both High Tor Wildlife Management Area and Italy Hill State Forest. The Finger Lakes Trail is maintained by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. Also, the Lehigh Valley Rail Trail is a 9.5 mile trail of abandoned railroad that parallels the West River and can be accessed from State Route 21, State Route 245, Parrish Flats road, Sunnyside Drive, Cayward Cross road or the West River Marina.

All trails in this unit can also be used for mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing (however motorized vehicle use is prohibited). No snowmobiling is allowed on High Tor Wildlife Management Area. There is a snowmobile trail crossing from one end of Italy Hill State Forest to the other, which is maintained as part of the "Adopt a Natural Resource" by the YOASTA Club (Yates Ontario Area Snowmobile Trail Association).

### **ATV Trails / People with Disabilities Access**

The only ATV trails that exist are for persons with disabilities - pursuant to NYS DEC Commissioners Policy #3 (CP-3). Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the NYS DEC. For further inquiries contact the NYS DEC office in Bath. (See Appendix D and G)

## **Archaeological Resources**

There are several known (or suspected) pre-European settlement archaeological sites on this Unit or within close proximity. It is well documented that Native Americans, present during the Woodland period (about 1000 BC to 750 AD), had occupied the valleys encompassed by the unit. There is also evidence of occupation during the Archaic (10,000 BC to 1,000 BC) and Paleo-Indian periods (Pre-10,000 BC), although this evidence is somewhat more scattered. It is assumed the uplands were used for hunting grounds, during the Woodland period. However, it is unlikely settlements were located on these upland areas during this period.

### **Archaeological Site Protection**

The archaeological sites located within this land unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. Should any actions be proposed which would impact these sites they will be reviewed in accordance with SHPA. Consultation will be given with the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law.

### **Archaeological Research**

The archaeological sites located on this land unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property will be made available for appropriate research. All future archaeological research conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Extensive excavations are not contemplated as part of any research program in order to assure that the sites are available to future researchers who are likely to have more advanced tools and techniques as well as different research questions.

## **Historic Sites**

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit has

numerous abandoned house/barn foundations as well as remnants of stone, stump and rail fences, all evidence of prior land occupation and uses. High Tor also has building sites, such as that opposite the Woodville boat launch, which are likely linked to the grape industry. The land clearing, farming and occasional fires contributed to the current mix of vegetation on the area. The fires and clearcutting favored the oak species. Abandoned farmland has reverted to pioneer hardwood species such as aspen and maple. Some areas were planted with conifers.

# NEEDS, ISSUES AND POLICY

This plan strives to manage the diversity of the Canandaigua Highland Unit biological and social resources for multiple use to serve the needs of the people of New York State. In order to manage the Canandaigua Highland Unit for multiple use, NYS DEC must manage the ecosystem in a holistic manner while reconciling the many and sometimes conflicting demands on the ecosystem. This must be done within the framework of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), rules and regulations, and NYS DEC policies and procedures.

On the Canandaigua Highland Unit, many issues including public needs form the basis for the objectives and management actions set forth in this plan. The NYS DEC recognizes that planning must be done today to ensure effective management in the future.

## Funding

Funding for the management of NYS DEC lands is primarily derived from:

- Capital construction account (State General Fund monies)
- Rehabilitation & improvement account (State General Fund monies)
- Stewardship - Special Revenue Other (SRO) account. State forests only. Note: The primary source of revenue for the SRO account is from commercial sales of forest products listed above.
- Services in lieu of payment during commercial sales of forest products. (These services are limited to the specific location where the sale occurs.)
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This account is primarily funded from real estate transfer tax and other appropriations by the legislature. This fund may be used for a wide variety of

projects including habitat enhancement for plants and animals, recreational facilities and forestry improvements such as pre-commercial thinning, artificial regeneration, and control of invasive species.

- Conservation Fund. Wildlife Management Areas only. A state fund consisting primarily of income from the sale of sporting licenses, fines from penalties from fish and wildlife law violations, sale of products off lands administered by the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, and Return a Gift to Wildlife donations. Revenues attributable to the sale of oil and gas leases and timber harvest from Wildlife Management Areas are deposited into the Conservation Fund.
- Wildlife Restoration Program Funds. These are federal funds commonly referred to as Pittman-Robertson Funds. This is a federal program established from money received from excise taxes on the sale of sporting guns and ammunition.

Regional allocations from these accounts must be shared by all NYS DEC lands within the region. There is no specific budget established to manage an individual site. Funding is distributed based on priorities for all areas within the region. Tasks listed in the work schedule in this plan are contingent upon available funding and commitments associated with higher priority projects within the region.

Cooperative partnerships using the "Adopt-A-Natural-Resource-Program" with private conservation organizations or other interested parties can be used to complete projects on the Canandaigua Highland Unit. These partnerships are a valuable supplemental source for providing needed services.

## Summary of Identified Issues

### Access

It is NYSDEC policy to provide appropriate public and operational access to the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. Access is a necessity for both public use and land management. However, restrictions on access may positively contribute to the natural character of state lands.

This was noted through the variety of public comments received prior to the preparation of this plan. Some requested increased off-road parking, especially during deer season and at the Brink Road entrance; others expressed concerns about illegal vehicular access, private land used for parking and walking to get to state lands, and garbage left on private lands. One comment requested increased handicap access and another requested service roads be mowed twice a year.

Staff identified the need to upgrade/repair/finish existing roads, control erosion and examine the need for additional parking. The status of abandoned roads also needs to be determined.

### Vegetation Management

Plant communities are by nature dynamic and ever-changing. Young tree stands get older, and species composition changes with time. Disturbances from fire, wind, insects, disease, timber harvest, and other land-use practices have been an important part of the history of New York forests and have determined the composition and structure of today's forests. By applying different forest management or silvicultural practices, land managers can affect change in vegetative types and stages and associated use by wildlife.

The production of forest products is a clearly stated goal in the Reforestation Law of 1929 and is consistent with the proposed management actions in the Italy Hill State Forest part of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. But, it too is challenged by conflicting opinions. Some public expressed a desire for managing significant portions of the unit as mature forest reserves allowed to return to pre-settlement conditions to offer different views and promote a more tranquil environment. One comment proposed that NYS DEC balance forest management practice protocols to include a significant increase in even-age cutting. Others believe that clearcutting is permissible, within reason, offering views of wildlife and other areas. Some comments requested continued use of the roadways left by loggers for emergency vehicles, bicycling or hiking, but asked loggers to repair, clean and better drain the roadways. Logging as an alternative for prescribed burns was also mentioned.

There is about 29 acres of blueberries on Italy Hill State Forest, the continuation of which may require special management. Activities such as prescribed burning and or mowing the area to encourage the continued growth may be needed.

Other timber issues include: dealing with plantations which are declining; reducing the deer herd to take the pressure off the seedlings needed to reproduce the oak and other species that are favorite deer food; dealing with introduced insects or diseases.

### Water Resources

The Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) dictates that among other purposes, the State Forests within the Canandaigua Highland Unit be managed for watershed protection.

This is consistent with Wildlife Management Area objectives, sound conservation practices and public desires. Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality are used for all silvicultural practices on state lands. These require specific conservation practices which protect soils and water quality during timber harvest. Well-managed water resources have multiple benefits, including quality fish and wildlife habitats, aesthetically pleasing sites, ground water protection, and flood water retention.

Many public comments asked to keep the canals open in the West River (and across from Sunnyside Rd. and in swamp areas) by re-digging and dredging and to develop more canals for spring and summer fishing. One comment asked for a posted speed limit and others asked NYS DEC to study water quality and to give water quality the highest consideration in managing the unit.

## **Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat**

Broad public support was noted for healthy wildlife populations as a source of a variety of recreations. The public asked for continued development of small game habitats and the maintenance of early successional habitats. Recommendations include: maintaining present use of High Tor for public hunting and fishing as a primary uses for state lands, as opposed to use as a bird sanctuary. Others believed such use of the area could coincide with bird watching. One comment requested the area be used for quality deer management and trophy bucks. Some comments asked for the state land to be restocked with turkeys, grouse, rabbits, pheasants, bears, while another asked the State to release fisher and possibly marten.

## **Fish Management**

The Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources is charged by the Environmental

Conservation Law to maintain and improve the fisheries resource and develop and administer measures for making the resource accessible for the people of the state. Comments requested the maintenance of the area for fishing. Staff identified the need to maintain/improve marina/boat launches on Sunnyside and West River.

## **Public Recreation and Use**

Public comments received include a general encouragement to continue to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, biking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, boating and horseback riding.

A few comments asked to continue strict limits on motorized vehicle use on state lands, and that such use only be permitted by individuals who are allowed to use motorized vehicles due to special circumstances. A few comments stated that snowmobiles and four wheelers should be allowed on the trails. One asked for individual bike trails; another asked to ban bicycles. One comment asked to widen trails.

New and improved lean-to's and trail improvements were requested. One comment asked for the Donley Road right-of-way to be reclaimed as part of the High Tor trail system, including a footbridge across the stream with a gate at the end of the current Donley Road to prevent illegal vehicular access, and a trail to link up with the existing trail just east of the four ponds to increase hiking and skiing opportunities.

Another recommendation was to close down or restrict a small picnic area on Brink Hill Rd. as people wander into adjacent private property and creates a potential for fire and vandalism.

One comment asked when camping is allowed, and wanted better dissemination of



information about the unit and garbage cans in the parking areas. Another asked for improved policing of illegal camping, fires, and vehicle access.

The popularity of High Tor Wildlife Management Area also has a human impact. The wide variety of recreational opportunities and activities by user groups has resulted in many emergencies. These emergencies have included: searches for lost persons, forest fires, hunting accidents and rescue operations for injured hikers, bicyclists and rock climbers. The local, state and volunteer organizations that respond to these incidents are challenged by the difficult terrain and remote areas that these emergencies typically occur in. Access to these areas by emergency personnel to provide for a timely response to any incident is critical.

Currently the village of Naples is developing a recreational park comprised of athletic fields, trails and other recreational activities. The area will be used by the local and area populations including school districts and competitive regional sports events concentrating human activity immediately adjacent to the High Tor Wildlife Management Area. There is a strong need to work cooperatively with the village so users of the recreational park and users of High Tor are not in conflict, especially with regards to human health and safety. For example, access trails across the Wildlife Management Area must not encourage large numbers of youth to travel through areas where hunting or trapping activity has traditionally occurred. At the same time, opportunities exist to dovetail educational or nature trails on the Naples park property into existing facilities on the Wildlife Management Area. These mutually beneficial endeavors need to be done to meet the needs of existing users of the Wildlife Management Area as well as the expected users of the Naples park property.

## Oil And Gas Leasing

Public comments varied on oil and gas leasing. Some stated that they would rather not see gas leasing; others asked DEC to give thought to the impacts of both oil and gas drilling, and one asked for mineral extraction with proper safeguards. One comment asked that the core holes from the seismic mapping be repaired or filled in.

## Cooperative Agreements

Additional funding would be required to optimally enhance the lands and facilities of this Unit. Public comments suggest that present conditions may be acceptable, although some support parking lot improvements and adding outhouses, for example. There is a need to identify additional funding and actively search out cooperative agreements and partnerships to maintain roads and trails and other facilities in the Canandaigua Highlands Unit.

NYS DEC's formal cooperative program, called the Adopt-a-Natural-Resource Stewardship Program, encourages individuals and groups to undertake activities that meet management needs of state-owned natural resources. Multiple benefits of such partnerships have been identified, serving as a means to complete work that helps preserve, maintain and enhance natural resources at minimal cost to the New York State. It is also an opportunity for organizations, groups and individuals to show support for conservation efforts, large and small. Such efforts may involve the cleanup of vandalism, litter pickup, establishment or maintenance of nature trails, providing interpretive services for school groups and other citizens, management of fish and wildlife habitats and other positive benefits to the site and natural resources.

One commentator volunteered to help maintain trails. Canandaigua Lake Watershed

Management offered to help the state acquire some parcels of land. Another asked the State to develop alliances with local farmers to plant patches of wildlife crops on state lands, construct paddy fields, dikes and spillways to create prime waterfowl areas.

## **Open Space Conservation**

New York State has been a leader in recognizing the value of open, undeveloped land. In September 2002, Governor Pataki issued a plan prepared by NYS DEC and the NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation, entitled, "**Conserving Open Space in New York State**". <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/osp/toc2002.html> is the web site this document can be viewed at, and as new versions are written during the lifetime of this Unit Management Plan they will also be posted on NYS DEC's web site.

The Open Space Plan of 2002 characterizes the need for perpetuation, in a grand sense, of open space and natural landscapes as, "The quality and character of the lives of the people of New York depend upon the quality and character of the land on which we live. These lands shape the way we spend our leisure time, affect the long term strength of our economy, determine whether we have clean air and water, support the web of living things of which we are a part, and affect how we think about ourselves and relate to other New Yorkers." NYS DEC will consider the purchase of selected parcels from willing sellers when funding becomes available.

One comment asked DEC to consider the

## **Current Known Illegal Use**

- ATV and dirt bike use
- Off road driving
- Dumping / littering

acquisition of nearby or adjacent parcels of land with habitat and water quality value, one along Parrish Flats Rd and the other at the northeastern edge of High Tor along State Route 245 and Caward Cross Rd. Another comment asked about enlarging the boat launch on State Route 245 for additional parking by purchasing additional land.

## **Aesthetics**

In addition to providing open space and a place to experience wildlife and wild land, public lands should also be pleasing to the eye and soul. Scenic vistas, the use of natural materials, and attention to quality design and maintenance are important components of effectively managing the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. The challenge is to attract users to the site without destroying what has drawn them there in the first place. One person asked for the restoration and propagation of "antique" plantings such as apples, lilac and roses perhaps in a simple botanical garden.

There was opposition to the construction of wind-power generation (windmills) on the Canandaigua Highlands Unit.

## **Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation**

The public comments supported the protection and enhancement of historic and cultural resources, readily identifiable as valued parts of the common heritage of New York's citizens.

- Vandalism
- Construction of permanent blinds and/or tree stands
- Harvest of ginseng
- Cultivation of marijuana
- Poaching
- Underage drinking
- Illegal Camping

## **Policy**

The laws, regulations, and policies listed below provide broad guidelines within which this plan is prepared. The Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York is available to the public at local libraries, NYS DEC offices, from private vendors, and at [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/index.htm/](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/index.htm/) on the internet.

## **State Laws**

State Finance Law

State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) - Article 14 PRHPL

### **Environmental Conservation Law (ECL)**

ECL Article 8	- Environmental Quality Review
ECL Article 9	- Lands and Forests
ECL Article 11	- Fish and Wildlife
ECL Article 15	- Water Resources
ECL Article 23	- Mineral Resources
ECL Article 24	- Freshwater Wetlands
ECL Article 33	- Pesticides
ECL Article 51	- Implementation of Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972
ECL Article 71	- Enforcement

### **New York Code Rules and Regulations (6NYCRR)**

Title 6

Chapter I	- Fish and Wildlife
Chapter II	- Lands and Forests
Chapter III	- Air Resources
Chapter IV	- Quality Services
Chapter V	- Resource Management Services
Chapter VI	- State Environmental Quality Review
Chapter VII	- Subchapter A
	- Implementation of EQBA of 1972

## Chapter X - Division of Water Resources

### **NYS DEC Policies**

Public Use  
Temporary Revocable Permits  
Motor Vehicle Use  
Timber Management  
Unit Management Planning  
Pesticides  
Prescribed Burns  
State Forest Master Plan  
Inventory  
Acquisition  
Road Construction  
Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities Policy (CP-3)  
Best Management Practices (Water quality)  
General Freshwater Wetlands Permit for Wildlife Management Area Management Activities  
Bureau of Fisheries Fish Stocking Policies  
Archaeological Site Protection  
Archaeological Research  
Adopt a Natural Resource  
Memorandum of Understanding with BLM for FYO 2004/2005 (leasing of gas wells)  
etc.

### **Federal Law**

Americans with Disabilities Act  
Federal Wetland Law 404 - Water quality  
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)  
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)  
General Stormwater SPDES Permit.  
etc.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Vision

The vision of this plan is to ensure the biological integrity, improvement and protection of the Canandaigua Highland Unit. This shall be done within the multiple use concept of management, which strives to serve the needs of the people of New York State by providing a broad based, biologically diverse ecosystem. Management will be considered over a broad geographical area, not only to ensure the biological diversity and protection of the ecosystem, but also to optimize the many benefits to the public that these lands provide.

NYS DEC lands within Canandaigua Highland Unit are unique compared with most private properties in the surrounding landscape. Private landowners have differing management objectives and property size is generally much smaller. State lands provide large expanses open to public recreation. State land management planning horizons extend over a very long time frame. This allows for a commitment to provide healthy and diverse ecosystems and to manage and enhance unique vegetative types.

To achieve the vision, this plan will provide specific management goals with measurable planning objectives. The objectives will be augmented and supported by a plan of action and a timetable.

## Access

The existing access to the unit is adequate in most cases. Exceptions include the need to expand administrative access on High-Tor north of Hatch Hill, and emergency access to some of the prominent gullies. Mercy Flight has requested that the landing pad near Parish Gully be widened for increased safety. The need for additional parking lots in some areas has also been determined.

Restricted motor access to administrative roads by gates and signs will continue. The costs to upgrade administrative roads to public access are prohibitive; in addition many public comments indicate no interest in such actions. Access restrictions are needed to maintain the "backwoods character" of the land. NYS DEC reserves the right to limit access to state lands when public safety issues occur.

There are several town roads with in the unit which have not been maintained by the town for many years, the status of abandonment or not needs to be established for these roads.

### Management Objectives and Actions for Access

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Identify need for additional access	1.0	Survey site(s)	As Needed
	1.1	Receive public comments	On-Going
	1.2	Solicit public comments	Every 10 yrs
2. Construct identified additional access routes	2.0	Construct access roads.	As Needed
	2.1	Extend administrative road on High Tor north of Hatch Hill	By 2014

	2.2	Emergency access trails to gullys	As Needed
	2.3	Repair of Pulver Rd.	One Time
3. Maintain roads	3.0	Inspect culverts	Bi-Annually
	3.1	Replace inoperable culverts	As Needed
	3.2	Public access roads - grade and maintain surface.	Bi-Annually
	3.3	Administrative access roads - grade and maintain surface.	Every 5 yrs
	3.4	Mow road right of way.	Annually
	3.5	Establish status of town roads such as: Dunn Rd. Northrup Hill Rd. etc.	ASAP
4. Construct identified additional parking areas.	4.0	Develop lot on Brink Rd at Finger Lakes Trail head	One time
	4.1	Identify additional parking needs	As Needed
	4.2	Construct parking lots.	As needed
5. Maintain parking areas.	5.0	Litter removal	As Needed
	5.1	Maintain all parking areas.	As Needed
	5.2	Maintain curbing	As Needed
	5.3	Maintain regulations signs	Annually
	5.4	Mow all parking areas	As Needed
	5.5	Plow some parking areas	As Needed
6. Control access.	6.0	Identify the need for gates and signs.	As Needed
	6.1	Construct gates and post signs	As Needed
	6.2	Maintain gates and signs.	Annually
	6.3	Enforce NYS DEC policies	On-Going
	6.4	Stabilize and block motorized access to old town road on the face of of South Hill	By 2005
7. Identify state property boundary lines.	7.0	Survey, paint, blaze, and post boundaries.	Every 5 yrs
	7.1	Identify and resolve boundary encroachment issues.	As Needed
	7.2	Repair and replace area signs.	On-Going
8. Enhance emergency and rescue of Injured or lost individuals	8.0	Increase the width of Mercy Flight landing site along Parish/Conklin Gully	By 2004
	8.1	Develop emergency vehicle access to Parish/Conklin Gully	By 2006

## Timber and Vegetation Management

Management objectives will strive to maintain a balance of vegetative types and vegetative stages. This balance is intended to produce marketable forest resources and to enhance wildlife diversity and abundance. Presently, Italy Hill State Forest has a well balanced mix of vegetative types and stages, with the exception of permanent openings. During state ownership, natural regeneration and tree planting since 1900 has resulted in the loss of open lands. On High Tor Wildlife Management Area a distribution that favors older age forests exists. Efforts over the last 20 years have been made to more equitably redistribute acreage in all stages of forest structure, but more needs to be done to reach a better balance. Forest species composition, as well as structure will be evaluated to meet wildlife species needs and appropriate silvicultural action taken accordingly. Due to their position on the landscape as well as their soils both units are unduly subject to natural calamities such as ice storms and forest health problems. All management needs to be done considering past natural events.

In order to create a better distribution of the vegetative stages over the entire unit, forest products will be sold. The harvests will be accomplished using a variety of silvicultural techniques such as altering rotation length, converting even-age stands to uneven-aged stands, establishing protection areas to maintain and enhance diversity, and protecting ecologically sensitive areas such as stream banks, wetlands, and steep slopes from intensive management. Protection areas receive special consideration whenever management activities are planned which may impact these areas. Examples include: increased use of erosion control devices, seasonal harvest limitations, restrictions of type and/or size of harvesting equipment, and restricted skid trail layout. Some protection areas are restricted from all harvest of forest products. These practices may also be employed on other areas not designated as protection forest whenever site or vegetation protection is needed. Examples are: Poorly drained soils, slopes over 15%, presence of historical or archeological features, recreational use, wildlife considerations, and preparation for forest regeneration.

All timber sales are planned and marked with tree marking paint by the forestry staff of NYS DEC. After marking is complete, a minimum bid is determined based on the estimated volume of the trees marked by the foresters. All sales with a minimum bid over \$500, or with high demand, will be publicly bid. All sales will be administered by a state forester, using standard "DEC Sale of Forest Products" contracts. All payments are received in advance of harvesting. Revenue contracts over \$10,000 require a performance bond, sales under \$10,000 may require a performance bond at the discretion of regional staff. The logging is periodically monitored by NYS DEC staff for the duration of the operation. The performance bond is returned after all conditions of the sale have been satisfied.

Forest ecologists have identified conifers as an important component of the ecosystem. The establishment of conifers mostly through natural regeneration, and very limited planting, has created a significant conifer component on Italy Hill State Forest at about 43%, but High Tor only has about 5% in natural conifer stands and about 6% in plantations. A 10% conifer component is generally considered adequate in western New York. Natural regeneration should continue to supply the necessary coniferous component.

Similarly, oak and chestnut are desirable tree species to have on the Unit, however, recent management and disease have discriminated against these species. The objective is to maintain and enhance these species in the Unit by using current knowledge of oak silviculture and employing new silvicultural techniques that develop from research. Difficulties with oak and conifer regeneration have led to shade tolerant species such as sugar and red maple becoming well-established. These species will challenge land managers abilities to meet vegetative goals. Should a treatment to control chestnut blight, or resistant trees be developed, efforts

would be made to bring back the chestnut to the area. White tailed deer play a major role in the success and failure of managing conifers, oak and chestnut and liberal harvest via hunting needs to be encouraged.

Forest regeneration has been so complete on Italy Hill State Forest that a need exists to create at least a small portion of the Unit as grassland. Forest openings and grasslands are limited in availability especially on the Italy Hill State Forest but provide benefits to many of the wildlife species that are in decline in New York. Although these environs represent a very small acreage, use by wildlife is inversely proportionate to availability. The grassy vegetation provides valuable habitat for many popular game species and rare protected species of animals such as Henslow's sparrow. Clearing and reseeding through timber harvest contracts and additional service work can accomplish the establishment of grasslands. These fields and openings are also areas people can readily observe wildlife. Once these sites are established they need care via mowing, liming, fertilization or seeding. Cool and warm season grasses established near high quality wetlands further multiplies the benefits to wildlife species.

Considerable acreage of wetlands environs can be found on the unit. The distribution of aquatic environs is currently heavily skewed to the Wildlife Management Area. The West River wetlands are very rich and diverse, meeting the needs of a very wide array of fish and wildlife resources. Growing demands for water from Canandaigua Lake and the drainage system by a burgeoning human populations require constant vigilance and wetland enhancement practices to ensure water is available to wetland creatures needs.

Italy Hill also has two areas of reverting fields which contain a component of blueberries and related shrubs. Maintenance of these areas using a combination of prescribed fire and mowing is recommended on approximately 29 acres. This shrub community is uncommon in western New York and should be maintained. Fire lines and/or personnel to mow the area and cut down the trees that are over shadowing the shrubs will be needed to enhance these areas.

Some levels of insect, disease and natural disaster are recognized as being a beneficial factor in shaping our vegetation. Various endemic and epidemic occurrences of insect, diseases, fires and storms periodically impact the vegetative communities of the Canandaigua Highland Management Unit. Infestations of introduced insects such as Gypsy Moth and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid are of present concern and bear persistent monitoring. Native insect species such as Pear Thrips and Fall Cankerworms are cyclic in population and may be expected to impact vegetation at some time in the future as they have in the past. The professional foresters of NYS DEC will continue to observe the effects of these factors which influence the vegetation on the unit. Management actions may then be able to lesson undesirable impacts.

A forest inventory is recommended at a minimum of every 10 years.

See appendix E for a listing of forest management plans, by stand number.

#### **Management Objectives and Actions for Vegetation**

(percent based on forest acreage)

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Maintain knowledge of forest stands.	1.0	Perform State Forest and Wildlife Management Area inventory.	Every 10 yrs
2. Maintain healthy vegetation	2.0	Practice Integrated Pest Management	On-Going



	2.1	Reduce deer population, to reduce damage to the low growing vegetation.	Annually
<b>3. Italy Hill State Forest</b>			
Develop the following vegetative balance:			
2% openings	3.0	Develop about 20 total acres of grassland	2004-2014
	3.1	Maintain with a 3 yr rotation of mowing	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr.
	3.2	Enhance about 29 acres of blueberry shrub community	By 2014
	3.3	Maintain with prescribed burns and mowing	Annually
18% Protection forest	3.4	Protect 352 acres.	On-Going
2% Uneven Age silviculture, at a 20 yr cutting cycle.	3.5	Regenerate an average of 2 acres/yr.	Annually
78% Even Age silviculture, at 100 yr rotation.	3.6	Regenerate an average of 4 acres/yr.	Annually
at 40-60 yr rotation	3.7	Thin an average of 5 acres/yr.	Annually
	3.8	Non commercial regeneration 3 acres/yr	Annually
<b>4. High Tor Wildlife Management Area</b>			
Develop the following vegetative balance:			
6% openings	4.0	Establish 30 acres warm season grass	2005
	4.1	Maintain about 400 acres of grasslands	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr.
	4.2	Maintain with prescribed burns and mowing	As Needed
22% Wetland	4.3	Enhancement of wetlands (see Fish and Wildlife Habitat)	As Needed
4% Shrub land	4.4	Maintain shrub land	As needed
6% Protection forest	4.5	Protect 400 acres	On-Going
2% Uneven Age silviculture, at a 20 yr cutting cycle.	4.6	Regenerate an average of 6 acres/yr	Annually
60% Even Age silviculture, at 125 yr rotation	4.7	Regenerate an average of 30 acres/yr	Annually
at 40-60 yr rotation	4.8	Thin an average of 60 acres/yr	Annually
	4.9	Non commercial regeneration 3 acres/yr	Annually

## Watershed and Wetlands Protection

Compliance with the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act (ECL Article 24) and the Water Resources Law (ECL Article 15, Title 5) is required by NYS DEC when conducting management activities or construction projects that involve regulated activities within protected wetlands, water bodies, or streams. Timber Harvesting Guidelines which are mandatory for all silvicultural practices on state lands, require specific conservation practices which protect soils and water quality. The ECL dictates that among other purposes State Forests within this Unit be managed for watershed protection. This is also clearly consistent with Wildlife Management Area objectives and sound conservation practices and public desires.

Regulated activities within protected wetlands, streams and waterbodies include such things as clear-

cutting vegetation and construction of ponds or road crossings. Normal maintenance and repair of existing structures is generally exempt from permit requirements. Well-managed water resources have multiple benefits, including quality fish and wildlife habitats, aesthetically pleasing sites, ground water protection, and flood water retention.

The need for small dug-outs and a larger wetland development were elicited in the objectives for "Fish and Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat".

<b>Management Objectives and Actions for Watershed and Wetlands</b>			
Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Protect water and wetland resources	1.0	Utilize Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality on timber sales, gas well site construction, etc.	On-Going
	1.1	Control erosion through proper road maintenance.	On-Going
	1.2	Comply with the Water Resources Law and Freshwater Wetlands Acts.	On-Going
	1.3	Comply with General Stormwater SPDES Permit.	On-Going
	1.4	Use erosion control measures in standard agricultural lease agreements on Wildlife Management Areas	On-Going

## Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The fish and wildlife goals for the unit are (1) to maintain and enhance habitat for wildlife species; (2) to provide public access for activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, skiing and other compatible outdoor recreational pursuits; (3) provide information about fish and wildlife resources; (4) to promote and demonstrate stewardship practices that enhance and maintain wildlife species to be applied on private lands.

Through timber sales and various forest manipulation a balanced age and species composition will be sought to benefit the widest array of endemic wildlife species. A landscape approach will attempt to optimize the distribution of seedling-sapling, pole timber and saw timber classes throughout the natural forested and coniferous stands. This effort will take into account the current distribution of various age stands and forest types. Such an approach should best ensure that bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species associated with all ages of the forested stands can be found on the area. Trees bearing cavity sites will be left throughout the forested stands at a level of at least three per acre to provide nesting and resting sites for various species.

Creation and maintenance of small ponds and dugouts in appropriate upland sites has met with great success in the past. Continuing maintenance of existing, and construction of new vernal pools and shallow watering ponds should maximize utilization by a wide array of wildlife species, especially amphibians such as the Jefferson and spotted salamander. Recently, experimental exclusion devices have been constructed along Route 21 near Woodville cooperatively with the Department of Transportation to protect migrating amphibian and reptile populations. Such endeavors will be evaluated and recommendations made for use by the public and road maintenance organizations.

Coniferous and hardwood stands meet seasonal and annual needs of various wildlife species. It is expected that both areas will see increasing difficulty in establishing new trees because of deer population densities. Existing stands will soon reach ages that are over mature and enter into a state of decline. The lack of young stands being reestablished will have adverse impacts on numerous species, including deer. Emphasis shall be placed on opportunities that lead to the establish of vegetation that meets species needs.

Efforts to enhance and maintain neotropical bird populations will be applied on a landscape basis. For example, early successional forests need to be continually created to meet the needs of numerous warbler species. There is also a need to maintain mature forest habitat for species like scarlet tanagers that are found in mature forest cover. Grasslands will be maintained and established, on the Wildlife Management Area, where the greatest potential exists to manage these species. Specific vegetation structure will be protected or enhanced as needed. Existing great blue heron rookeries will be left undisturbed. Overstocked conifer plantations will be thinned to encourage use by Coopers hawk and goshawk. Additionally, over 200 bluebird boxes and waterfowl nesting structures are maintained with the help of local volunteers. Such partnership endeavors with the local community have been very successful in maintaining a successful nest box program as well as meeting educational and public use goals.

West River is one of western New York's largest and most diverse natural wetlands. The hydrology of the wetland has and will be greatly affected by human use in the watershed. Burgeoning human development continues to place increasing demands on Canandaigua Lake and adjoining wetlands. Wetland enhancement, such as constructing level ditches with financial assistance of waterfowl organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and the Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, have temporarily assured there will be water throughout portions of the marsh. Similar enhancements may be needed to offset increasing human demands. Given the quality and extensiveness of the West River Wetlands, nesting platforms will be erected for osprey. Historically a bald eagle nest overlooked the south end of Canandaigua Lake, and it is reasonable to expect that the recovering eagle population will soon establish a nest in the area.

Wildlife surveys of ruffed grouse, and more recently forest salamanders, will continue to be conducted on the Wildlife Management Area to evaluate the impacts of habitat management for these species as well as their status. Waterfowl banding is conducted annually to meet statewide waterfowl banding commitment. Continuation of this project is advocated but is dependant entirely on staffing levels and obligatory work loads.

Numerous organizations and individuals have contributed to enhancing natural resources on High Tor Wildlife Management Area over the last twenty years. Such activities have and will continue to be expanded involving the whole unit. Activities range from trail development and maintenance (Finger Lakes Trail ), fire protection and rescue (local individuals), habitat development for early successional wildlife species (Ruffed Grouse Society), and numerous others. Many of these activities are found being applied to private lands once actually viewed by the public.

Interpretive signs have been placed for public use on the Wildlife Management Area for nearly 20 years and will continued to be used. These signs are quite useful in explaining various activities and their benefits in the absence of interpretive staff. Opportunities to meet with area users groups to provide information concerning land stewardship and the many challenges will be sought.

### Management Objectives and Actions for Fish and Wildlife and Habitat

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Manage habitats for endemic wildlife species and public use	1.0	Conduct all forms of woody vegetation management to achieve balance forest structure. (See Vegetation Management)	As needed
	1.1	Develop and maintain small water holes, 1 per 160 acres to act as amphibian activity centers.	As opportunities arise
	1.2	Retain and regenerate conifers in natural forests and plantations.	On-Going
	1.3	Maintain and enhance nesting habitat for avian species	On-Going
	1.4	Maintain and establish forest openings	Annually
	1.5	Establish two nesting platforms for osprey	By 2005
	1.6	Maintain 200 bluebird and waterfowl nesting structures	Annually
	1.7	Identify and maintain nesting habitat for goshawk, Cooper hawks, great blue heron, and grassland birds, etc.	Every 3 years
	1.8	Level ditch channels and open water in West River Wetlands	As opportunities arise
2. Monitor populations	2.0	Monitor reproductive populations of ruffed grouse, and forest salamanders; etc.	Annually
	2.1	Maintain waterfowl banding activities	Annually
	2.2	Establish a MAPS station (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) on High Tor.	One Time
	2.3	Band songbirds using the MAPS station	Annually
3. Promote stewardship practices that can be applied to private land	3.0	Via partnership with DOT evaluate effectiveness of herpetological exclusionary structures	2003-2006
	3.1	Participate in field trips of area users such as NYFOA, FLT, etc	On-Going
4. Provide information about natural resources	4.0	Provide area of study and support for bird conservation area	As needed
	4.1	Provide signs describing management actions.	Annually

## Public Recreation and Use

One goal of the NYS DEC management is to provide suitable opportunities for the public enjoyment of

compatible recreational pursuits in a natural setting. NYS DEC is charged under Environmental Conservation Law with guaranteeing that the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment is attained without unnecessary degradation or other undesirable or unintended consequences. The public has an undeniable stake in identifying both "beneficial uses" and "undesirable consequences." Recreational program opportunities for people with disabilities will be planned in perspective with those available elsewhere in the region on NYS DEC lands. For a list see Appendix D.

Wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and trapping, is a dominant and important use of the NYSDEC lands in the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. Users are encouraged to adhere to standards of equitable distribution, humane treatment, fair chase, ethics and the maintenance of the variety and quality of use. Additional recreational pursuits will continue to be allowed to the extent that they are compatible with habitat integrity, wildlife use and financial resources. Wildlife viewing is also encouraged in an environmentally responsible manner.

Currently the village of Naples is developing a recreational park comprised of athletic fields, trails and other recreational activities. The area will be used by the local and area populations including school districts and competitive regional sports events concentrating human activity immediately adjacent to High Tor Wildlife Management Area. There is a strong need to work cooperatively so that users of the new recreational site and existing users of High Tor Wildlife Management Area are not in conflict, especially with regards to human health and safety. For example, access trails across High Tor Wildlife Management Area must not encourage large numbers of youth to travel through areas where hunting or trapping activity has traditionally occurred. At the same time opportunities exist to dovetail educational or nature trails on the Naples property into existing facilities on the Wildlife Management Area. These mutually beneficial endeavors need to be done to meet the needs of existing users of the High Tor Wildlife Management Area as well as the expected users of the Naples property.

Administrative and public access roads combined with existing logging roads and gas pipelines form an excellent network to access recreational opportunities.

In keeping with current State Forest policy, camping and day use picnicking are acceptable recreational uses of Italy Hill State Forest. There are no plans for increased recreational facilities at this location. Dispersed recreation will continue to be encouraged over the entire Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan area.

## **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Its Influence on Management Actions for Recreation and Related Facilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA applies to the Department and requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to its services and programs, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden to the Department. Since recreation is an acknowledged public accommodation program of the

Department, and there are services and activities associated with that program, the Department has the mandated obligation to comply with the ADA, Title II and ADA Accessibility Guidelines, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA requires a public entity to thoroughly examine each of its programs and services to determine the level of accessibility provided. The examination involves the identification of all existing programs and services and a formal assessment to determine the degree of accessibility provided to each. The assessment includes the use of the standards established by Federal Department of Justice Rule as delineated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG, either adopted or proposed) and/or the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, as appropriate. Each Unit Management Plan prepared by the Department will outline a proposed assessment process and a schedule for completing the assessment. This activity is dependent on obtaining an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit. The assessment will also establish the need for new or upgraded facilities or assets necessary to meet ADA mandates. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible. The facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the "Management Actions" section.

## **The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public agencies to employ specific guidelines which ensure that buildings, facilities, programs and vehicles as addressed by the ADA are accessible in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has issued the ADAAG for this purpose. The Department of Justice Rule provides authority to these guidelines.

Currently adopted ADAAG address the built environment: buildings, ramps, sidewalks, rooms within buildings, etc. The Access Board has proposed guidelines to expand ADAAG to cover outdoor developed facilities: trails, camp grounds, picnic areas and beaches. The proposed ADAAG is contained in the September, 1999 Final Report of the Regulatory Negotiation Committee for Outdoor Developed Areas.

ADAAG apply to newly constructed structures and facilities and alterations to existing structures and facilities. Further, it applies to fixed structures or facilities, i.e., those that are attached to the earth or another structure that is attached to the earth. Therefore, when the Department is planning the construction of new recreational facilities, assets that support recreational facilities, or is considering an alteration of existing recreational facilities or the assets supporting them, it must also consider providing access to the facilities or elements for people with disabilities. The standards which exist in ADAAG or are contained in the proposed ADAAG also provide guidance to achieve modifications to trails, picnic areas, campgrounds (or sites) and beaches in order to obtain programmatic compliance with the ADA.

### *ADAAG Application*

Current and proposed ADAAG will be used in assessing existing facilities or assets to determine compliance to accessibility standards. ADAAG is not intended or designed for this purpose, but using it to establish accessibility levels lends credibility to the assessment result. Management recommendations in each UMP will be proposed in accordance with the ADAAG for the built environment, the proposed ADAAG for outdoor developed areas, the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, and other appropriate guiding documents. Until such time as the proposed ADAAG becomes an adopted rule of the

Department of Justice, the Department is required to use the best information available to comply with the ADA; this information includes, among other things, the proposed guidelines.

There is the potential for generating electricity with windmills in the area of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. There are currently no windmills for power generation on the Unit. However, the department lacks the legal authority to lease or otherwise make available the lands covered by this unit management plan for commercial wind power generation.

#### Management Objectives and Actions for Recreation

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Identify additional recreation needs.	1.0	Receive public input.	On-Going
	1.1	Monitor use patterns	On-Going
	1.2	Assess user satisfaction from comments received.	On-Going
2. Coordinate with volunteer groups to construct and/or maintain existing and/or future recreational facilities	2.0	Identify resources and/or volunteer groups to form additional partnerships.	On-Going
	2.1	Assist the Finger Lakes Trail Conference sponsors in maintenance and enhancement of the Bristol Hill Branch trail	On-Going
	2.2	Provide resources or utilize opportunities as needed to maintain and enhance existing trail(s)	On-Going
	2.3	Minimize conflicts between hikers, bikers, and other users	On-Going
	2.4	Construction of a leanto on High Tor Wildlife Management Area by the Hornell area BOCES.	By 2004
3. Determine feasibility and/or compatibility of proposed additional recreational opportunities.	3.0	In house review of proposed projects	As Needed
	3.1	Negotiate with sponsoring volunteer groups.	As Needed
	3.2	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups to provide additional recreation.	As-Needed
4. Provide additional recreational opportunities.	4.0	Maintain and improve access for persons with disabilities.	On-Going
	4.1	Provide technical support for volunteer groups.	As-Needed
	4.2	Construct barriers to discourage motorized use of skid trails and abandoned roads after logging operations.	As Needed
	4.3	Develop boardwalk at West River Marina for wildlife viewing and fishing opportunity (ADA compatible)	By 2006

	4.4	Construct other new facilities as appropriate.	As Needed
5. Advocate wildlife-based recreation	5.0	Encourage hunting and trapping according to State regulations.	On-Going
6. Maintain existing and future recreational facilities.	6.0	See Maintenance and Facilities	On-Going
7. Increase awareness of public recreation opportunities.	7.0	Provide brochures and maps for users.	Update Every 5 yrs
	7.1	Place kiosks at parking areas	By 2014
	7.2	Update maps and brochures to reflect new facilities/trails/acquisitions	As Needed
8. Enhance visual appeal	8.0	Create and maintain scenic vistas.	As-Needed
	8.1	Establish a litter-free environment by promoting carry in/carry out policy.	On-Going
	8.2	Remove litter from state land.	As-Needed
9. Enhance and maintain 7 mile railroad trail on High Tor Wildlife Management Area	9.0	Mow and clear trail of woody debris	Annually
	9.1	Upgrade drainage and trail surface	By 2014

## Unit Maintenance and Facilities Management

The goal is to maintain the facilities on the unit to ensure its integrity and character. This must be done with the resources available. See also the "Access" and "Recreation" sections.

### Management Objectives and Actions for Maintenance and Facilities

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Maintain constructed ponds/potholes.	1.0	Inspect for problems.	Annually
	1.1	Repair dikes, control boxes, etc	As Needed
	1.2	Mow dikes/dams	Every 3 yrs
	1.3	Excavate bottom of ponds.	As Needed
2. Solicit volunteer groups to help maintain facilities	2.0	Promote Adopt a Natural Resource Program.	On-Going
	2.1	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups.	On-Going
3. Maintain existing and future recreational facilities.	3.0	Identify needed maintenance	On-Going
	3.1	Do the needed maintenance, as money allows.	On-Going
	3.2	Enhance law enforcement efforts.	On-Going



## Land Acquisition

Certain parcels will be considered for purchase if they; contain rare, endangered or threatened species in New York; protection of wetlands; improve access; or consolidate public ownership by eliminating inholdings. It should be clearly understood that NYS DEC intends to acquire these parcels from **willing** sellers as funding becomes available.

### Management Objectives and Actions for Land Acquisition

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Provide improved access to the Unit.	1.0	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
	1.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
2. Consolidate public ownership by eliminating inholdings.	2.0	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
	2.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
3. Enhance recreational opportunity.	3.0	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
	3.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going
4. Protect significant ecological areas.	4.0	Identify land acquisition needs.	On-Going
	4.1	Acquire by fee simple or easment desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	On-Going

## Mineral Resources

Any party desiring to procure minerals, rocks or oil & gas resources from the mineral estate under state lands included in this unit management plan must obtain consent (such as a lease contract) from the appropriate state entity administering those resources. The party must also obtain appropriate consent to access the surface estate (temporary revocable permit).

Any activity involving the procurement of oil and gas resources from state lands in this unit management plan are administered by the NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources. The procurement of minerals and rocks (inorganic substances) on these same state lands are administered by the Office of General Services. All activity associated with mining minerals and rocks, and oil & gas drilling including production are regulated by the NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources.

The State owns the mineral estate under both areas, except the federal government owns a 75% interest in the mineral estate under approximately half of High Tor Wildlife Management Area. This interest is managed by the US Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The surface estate is managed through the NYSDEC Division of Lands and Forests or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine. In the event the surface estate is to be used in the evaluation and/or extraction of

mineral resources from state lands a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) must be obtained from the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests prior to conducting any operations. It should be noted that if the mineral estate is under a lease agreement, only the lessee, or entities authorized by the Lessee, will be issued a TRP for these purposes. It is NYS DEC policy to recommend excluding drilling in areas with sensitive habitats (stream banks, wetlands, steep slopes, rare communities etc.) or intensive recreational use. Sites to be excluded from drilling and/or other surface occupancy for mining, are listed in appendix G, Maps "Recommended Exclusions for Surface Occupancy." Any proposal for the extraction of mineral resources other than oil and gas would require SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) review.

There are no mining contracts, permits, or operations on either area. NYS DEC will occasionally mine small quantities of gravel for use on state facilities such as access roads or parking lots. Proposals for commercial mining of rock or gravel will not be considered on the Canandaigua Highlands Unit.

There is the potential for generating electricity with windmills in the area of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit. There are currently no windmills for power generation on the Unit. Proposals for windmills will not be considered on the Unit.

## **Procedures for Oil & Gas Procurement**

In the event a party has an interest in exploring and developing oil and gas reserves under lands administered by the NYS DEC. The NYS DEC will receive requests to nominate specific lands for leasing of the mineral rights. Prior to leasing, on lands where 100% of the mineral estate is owned by New York State, a thorough review of the lands nominated for leasing is conducted to determine:

- 1.) Which areas can be leased with full rights granted (100% surface entry and no special conditions required),
- 2.) Which may require special environmental and safety conditions, and
- 3.) Which may be leased with no surface-disturbance/entry conditions (non-drilling clause).

This review is conducted by the area's land manager (Division of Lands and Forests or Division of Fish and Wildlife) in coordination with the Division of Mineral Resources. A tract assessment is then conducted that identifies sensitive resources of the unit. These resources include certain management strategies, wetland, riparian zones, steep slopes, recreational trails and areas, unique ecological communities, habitat of rare and endangered species, archeological and cultural sites and scenic vistas and view sheds.

In those areas where the mineral estate is owned by both the State and the Federal Government (approximately one half (½) of High Tor Wildlife Management Area). New York State through the NYS DEC, Division of Mineral Resources and the Federal Government through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will jointly prepare a planning analysis / environmental assessment (PA/EA) pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This will provide basis for the State and BLM decisions whether or not to offer oil and gas leases.

A public meeting will be held to provide information about natural gas development specific to the Unit and receive comments. A 30-day public comment period will follow. The Department will consider all comments prior to making a decision. If the Department decides to pursue leasing, the site specific conditions

for limiting impacts on natural resources will be drafted by the Division of Mineral Resources in coordination with the Division of Lands & Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine and incorporated into contract documents. These conditions will include but not be limited to criteria for site selection, mitigation of impacts and land reclamation upon completion of drilling. A number of factors are considered. Riparian areas, steep slopes, significant recreation areas, presence of rare, threatened or endangered species or unique ecological communities, are all areas which may be excluded from surface disturbance. Certain land management strategies, such as reserves, where timber harvesting is precluded, which may be incompatible with oil and gas well development, may result in exclusion from surface disturbance. This determination is made as part of the tract assessment process on a case by case basis. Individual tract proposal reviews for each forest within this Unit have been completed, and determinations deciding which areas would be excluded from surface disturbance (should leasing be initiated) have been made. Included in the appendix are maps depicting these areas. Any parcel designated as a non-surface entry lease will no longer be subject to the process detailed above due to the prohibition of surface disturbance(s).

If it is determined that oil and gas exploration and development can proceed on these State minerals, a lease sale may be conducted. The DEC Division of Mineral Resources is the oil and gas leasing agent for these state lands. Lease sales are then conducted through a competitive bid process administered by the Division of Mineral Resources and in accordance Article 23, Title 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law and State Finance Law.

Revenues from State Reforestation Areas and Multiple Use Areas (State Forests) are deposited into the General Fund while revenues from Wildlife Management Areas are deposited into the Conservation Fund.

In the event leases are granted and the drilling of a well is desired by the lessee on the leased property, an Application for Permit to Drill, Deepen, Plug Back or Convert a Well Subject to the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law (form 85-12-5) must be submitted to the Division of Mineral Resources. Site-specific impacts will then be identified by NYS DEC staff during review process and inspection of the proposed well site. The Generic Environmental Impact Statement On the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (Draft, 1988) is used to guide the Department in determining whether the proposal will have a significant impact on the environment. Conditions are then attached to the drilling permit as well as the Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) which covers the mitigation and/or control of surface disturbances.

In the event underground pipelines are planned to transport gas and/or oil across state lands; the Division of Mineral Resources in conjunction with the Division of Lands and Forests, and Division of Fish and Wildlife will coordinate with the mineral estate lessee to determine the best route for the pipeline(s).

Once the proposal is approved, a drilling permit with site specific conditions is issued by the Division of Mineral Resources along with a Temporary Revocable Permit issued by either the Division of Lands and Forests or Fish and Wildlife. These permits are administered by their respective programs and are designed to prevent and/or mitigate environmental impacts. Site inspections are conducted by the Division of Mineral Resources to ensure compliance with Article 23 of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6NYCRR Part 550-559. The Division of Lands and Forests or Fish and Wildlife will also inspect the site to ensure compliance with the TRP.

## **Surface Use for Evaluation of Mineral Resources**

In the event a party desires to use the surface estate to conduct geophysical (such as a seismic survey),

geochemical and/or surface sampling procedures on Department lands prior to, or after leasing they must first obtain a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) for the access and use of state lands. If the area is subject to a lease agreement, only the lessee, or parties authorized by the lessee, can be issued a TRP for these purposes. A TRP can be applied for through the NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, New York 14810.

For further information contact the NYSDEC Mineral Resource staff, Region 8, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9591. Additional contacts include; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-Division of Mineral Resources- Bureau of Oil and Gas Regulation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233 and U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Land Management-Milwaukee Field Office, P.O. Box 631, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 450, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

## Procedures for Mineral and Rock Procurement

In the event a party desires to explore and procure minerals and/or rock (including salt) from state lands, they must be issued a permit, consent or lease from the New York State General Services Office, under Article 7 of the New York Consolidated Laws / Public Lands. The appropriate consents must be obtained from the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Land Management for properties owned by the Federal Government.

There are no mining contracts, permits, or operations on any areas in this unit management plan. Under Article 7 of the New York State Consolidated Laws, any citizen of the United States may apply for permission to explore and/or extract any mineral on State lands. However, the department has no plans to consider or approve any commercial mining application (s) pertaining to any lands covered by this unit management plan.

### Management Objectives and Actions for Mineral Resources

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Decide to approve or not approve extraction of mineral resources	1.0	Nominated properties for oil and gas are reviewed by Division of Mineral Resources and Division of Lands and Forests and Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine per above process. Mining minerals are reviewed by Office of General Services instead of the Division of Mineral Resources.	As Needed
If leasing is permitted...			
2. Execute consent contracts	2.0	Division of Mineral Resources conducts lease sale of oil or gas through competitive bid process.	As Needed
	2.1	Office of General Services executes the contract(s) for mining minerals.	As Needed
3. Regulate operations; and access surface estate to extract mineral resources.	3.0	Division of Lands and Forests reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a "Temporary Revocable Permit"	Every Time

	3.1	Division of Mineral Resources reviews proposed operation and issues "Drilling Permit" or "Mining Permit".	Every Time
	3.2	DMR inspects & regulates operations, production and administers royalty payments to State.	Every Time
4. Monitor reclamation & well plugging	4.0	Division of Mineral Resources enforces Rules and Regulations pertaining to plugging procedures.	Every Time
	4.1	Division of Mineral Resources and Division of Lands and Forests monitors and enforces surface reclamation	Every Time
5. Administer mineral estate	5.0	Division of Mineral Resources monitors lease, production and royalty payments for oil and gas, Office of General Services does the same for mining minerals.	Every Time
6. Pipeline access and construction	6.0	Granted and directed by terms of lease agreement administered by Division of Minerals.	Every Time
	6.1	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a "Temporary Revocable Permit" (TRP)	Every Time
	6.2	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine enforce TRP provisions.	Every Time

## Archaeological and Historic Resources

The archaeological sites located within this land unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. Should any actions that would impact these resources be proposed they will be reviewed in accordance with SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law.

The archaeological sites located on this land unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property may be made available for appropriate research. All future archaeological research to be conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 716-945-9427.

**Management Objectives and Actions for Archaeological and Historical Sites**

Management Objectives	Mgt. Action	Management Actions	Frequency of Action
1. Preservation of historical and archaeological resources.	1.0	Avoid any activity which may disturb any historical and/or archaeological resources.	On-Going
	1.1	Comply with state historic preservation act.	On-Going
	1.2	Consultation with the Seneca Nation of Indians Historical Preservation Office.	On-Going

# **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

## **Initial Mailing**

Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan's citizen participation activities commenced with a March 22, 2002 mailing outlining management plan objectives. An attached mailer requested address corrections and a preliminary round of public comments due April 22, 2002.

The initial mailing's targeted audience consisted of previously identified:

- adjacent property owners,
- local government officials,
- recreational groups,
- forest industry groups,
- wildlife groups and
- other general environmental groups.

Based on those returned and other public comments received, the mailing list was amended to add other interested parties and/or correct outdated names and addresses.

The public comments received from the initial mailing is listed in Appendix B, with a summary in the Summary of Identified Issues section starting on pg. 22.

## **Second Mailing**

Upon completion of the draft Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan, a second fact sheet was sent to those on the updated mail list, including the media, summarizing objectives of the draft plan, listing local document repositories and announcing a public meeting. Repositories included local libraries, the Bath and Avon NYS DEC offices and on the Internet. A notice was posted in the Environmental Notices Bulletin (ENB) two weeks prior to the meeting.

## **Public Meeting**

One public meeting was held near the Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management area to present the draft plan and receive comments on it. Following the end of a 30-day public comment period, modifications based on public comment were made and a responsiveness summary was added to Appendix B to the final plan.

## **Final Notice**

Commentators and those on the updated mail list will receive a notice of availability of the final plan. Document repositories will again be identified and any significant modifications based on public comment will be noted.

## MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SUMMARY

Priority codes:

C=Critical, Necessary to ensure public health and safety; To stabilize structures so as to not lose the money and time invested in them; Mandated by legislation.

H=High, Necessary for public use, and/or to improve habitat or other natural resources. Often this will be for new projects.

L=Low, Important for the enhancement of public use, habitats or other natural resources.

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Access	1.0	Survey Site(s)	L	As Needed	10 Work Days		
	1.1	Receive public comments	C	On Going	10 Work Days		
	1.2	Solicit public comments	C	Every 10 yrs	15 Work Days		
	2.0	Construct access roads.	L	As Needed			\$10-\$25 per linear foot of road.
	2.1	Extend administrative road on High Tor north of Hatch Hill	H	One Time	\$32,000		
	2.2	Emergency access trails to gullys	C	As Needed			\$5-\$20 per linear foot of trail.
	2.3	Repair of Pulver Rd. (Italy Hill State Forest)	H	One Time	\$25,000		
	3.0	Inspect culverts	C	Bi-Annually	20 Work Days		



Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Access	3.1	Replace inoperable culverts	C	As Needed	\$50,000		
	3.2	Public access roads - Grade and Maintain surface.	H	Bi-Annually	15 Work Days		
	3.3	Administrative access roads - Grade and Maintain surface.	H	Every 5 years	40 Work Days		
	3.4	Mow road right of way.	H	Annually	60 Work Day		
	3.5	Establish status of town roads such as: Dunn Rd. Northrup Hill Rd. etc.	L	ASAP	3 Work Days		
	4.0	Develop lot on Brink Rd at Finger Lakes Trail head (High Tor WMA)	L	One Time	\$2,000		
	4.1	Identify additional parking needs	L	As Needed			
	4.2	Construct parking lots.	L	As Needed	\$2,000 per lot		
	5.0	Litter removal	L	As Needed			
	5.1	Maintain all parking areas.	C	As Needed	\$7,000		
	5.2	Maintain curbing	H	As Needed	\$4,000		
	5.3	Maintain regulation signs	C	Annually	\$7,500		
	5.4	Mow all parking areas	H	As Needed	70 Work Days		

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Access	5.5	Plow some parking areas	L	As Needed	\$1500		In 2003, Naples Maint. Shop and Bassett Rd. parking lots.
	6.0	Identify the need for gates and signs.	C	As Needed	10 Work Days		
	6.1	Construct gates and post sign	C	As Needed	20 Work Days		
	6.2	Maintain gates and signs.	H	Annually	\$10,000		
	6.3	Enforce NYS DEC Policies	C	On-Going	\$250,000		
	6.4	Stabilize and block motorized access to old town road on the face of South Hill	L	By 2005	\$1,000		
	7.0	Survey, paint, blaze, and post boundary lines.	H	Every 5 yrs	260 Work Days		
	7.1	Identify and resolve boundary encroachment issues.	H	As Needed			Unable to predict costs.
	7.2	Repair and replace area signs.	H	On-Going	\$8,000		
	8.0	Increase the width of Mercy Flight landing site along Parish/Conklin Gully	C	By 2004	\$1,000		
	8.1	Develop emergency vehicle access to Parish/Conklin Gully	C	By 2006			Unable to predict costs.

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Vegetation	1.0	Perform State Forest and Wildlife Management Area inventories.	C	Every 10 yrs	120 Work Days		
	2.0	Practice Integrated Pest Management	C	On-Going	20 to 50 Work Days		
	2.1	Reduce deer population, to reduce damage to the low growing vegetation.	H	Annually	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
Vegetation (Italy Hill State Forest)	3.0	Develop about 20 total acres of grassland	L	2004-2014	20 Work Days		
	3.1	Maintain with a 3 yr rotation of mowing	H	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	\$3,000		
	3.2	Enhance about 29 acres of blueberry shrub community	H	By 2014	\$9,000		
	3.3	Maintain with prescribed burns and mowing	H	Annually	\$6,000		
	3.4	Protect 352 acres.	H	On-Going	--	--	
	3.5	Regenerate an average of 2 acres/yr. (uneven aged, 20 yr cutting cycle)	H	Annually		\$2,000	Based on \$100/Acre
	3.6	Regenerate an average of 4 acres/yr. (even aged, 100 yr rotation)	H	Annually		\$28,000	Based on \$700/Acre
	3.7	Thin an average of 5 acres/yr.	H	Annually		\$5,000	Based on \$100/Acre
	3.8	Non commercial regeneration 3 acres/yr	L	Annually	\$4,500		Based on \$150/Acre

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Vegetation (High Tor Wildlife Management Area)	4.0	Establish 30 acres warm season grass	H	2005	\$6,000	--	Based on \$200/Acre
	4.1	Enhance about 400 acres of grasslands	H	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	\$80,000		
	4.2	Maintain with prescribed burns and mowing	H	As Needed	\$10,000		
	4.3	Enhancement of wetlands (see Fish and Wildlife Habitat)	H	As Needed			
	4.4	Maintain shrub land (about 253 acres total)	L	As Needed	\$19,000		Based on \$150/Acre, ½ treated during the 10 yrs
	4.5	Protect 400 acres.	C	On-Going	--	--	
	4.6	Regenerate an average of 6 acres/yr (Uneven aged, 20 yr cutting cycle)	H	Annually		\$9,000	Based on \$150/Acre
	4.7	Regenerate an average of 30 acres/yr (even aged, 125 yr rotation)	H	Annually		\$165,000	Based on \$550/Acre
	4.8	Thin an average of 60 acres/yr	H	Annually	--	\$60,000	Based on \$100/Acre
	4.9	Non commercial regeneration 3 acres/yr	L	Annually	\$4,500		Based on \$150/Acre
Watershed and Wetlands	1.0	Utilize Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality on timber sales, gas well site construction, etc.	C	On-Going	--	--	
	1.1	Control erosion through proper road maintenance.	C	On-Going	\$30,000	--	See Access
	1.2	Comply with the Water Resources Law and Freshwater Wetlands Acts.	C	On-Going	--	--	

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Watershed and Wetlands	1.3	Comply with General Stormwater SPDES permit.	C	On-Going	--	--	
	1.4	Use erosion control measures in standard Agricultural lease agreements on Wildlife Management Areas	C	On-Going	--	--	
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	1.0	Conduct all forms of woody vegetation management to achieve balance forest structure. (See Vegetation Management)	H	As needed	--	--	See Vegetation Management
	1.1	Develop and maintain small water holes, 1 per 160 acres to act as amphibian activity centers.	L	As opportunities arise	--	--	Most of these will be constructed as part of a timber sale.
	1.2	Retain and regenerate conifers in natural forests and plantations.	L	On-Going	--	--	Most of this will be part of a timber sale
	1.3	Maintain and enhance nesting habitat for avian species	L	On-Going	--	--	Most of this will be part of a timber sale
	1.4	Maintain and establish forest openings	L / H	Annually			See Vegetation Management, this will be part of a timber sale
	1.5	Establish two nesting platforms for osprey	H	By 2005	\$1,000		
	1.6	Maintain 200 bluebird and waterfowl nesting structures	H	Annually	100 Work Days and \$14,000		

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	1.7	Identify and maintain nesting habitat for goshawk, Coopers hawks, great blue heron, and grassland birds, etc.	H	Every 3 years			This will occur as part of the Vegetative Management of the forest.
	1.8	Level ditch channels and open water in West River Wetlands	L	As opportunities arise	\$3.50-\$4.50 per foot.		
	2.0	Monitor reproductive populations of ruffed grouse, and forest salamanders, etc.	L	Annually	60 Work Days		
	2.1	Maintain waterfowl banding activities	L	Annually	250 Work Days and \$5,000		
	2.2	Establish a MAPS station (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) on High Tor.	L	One Time			
	2.3	Band songbirds using the MAPS station	L	Annually			
	3.0	Via partnership with DOT evaluate effectiveness herpetological exclusionary structures	H	2003-2006	10 Work Days		
	3.1	Participate in field trips of area users such as NYFOA, FLT, etc	L	On-Going			Unable to predict costs.
	4.0	Provide area of study and support for bird conservation area	L	As needed			Unable to predict costs.

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
	4.1	Provide signs describing management actions.	L	Annually	\$2,000		
Public Recreation and Use	1.0	Receive public opinion.	C	On-Going	10 Work Days		
	1.1	Monitor use patterns	C	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	1.2	Assess user satisfaction from comments received.	H	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	2.0	Identify resources and/or volunteer groups to form additional partnerships.	L	On-Going	10 Work Days		
	2.1	Assist the Finger Lakes Trail Conference sponsors in maintenance and enhancement of the Bristol Hill Branch trail	H	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	2.2	Provide resources or utilize opportunities as needed to maintain and enhance existing trail(s)	C	On-Going			Unable to predict costs.
	2.3	Minimize conflicts between hikers, bikers, and other users	H	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	2.4	Construction of a leanto on High Tor Wildlife Management Area by the Hornell area BOCES.	L	By 2004	?		
	3.0	In house review of proposed projects.	L	As Needed	10 Work Days		

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Public Recreation and Use	3.1	Negotiate with sponsoring volunteer groups.	L	As Needed	10 Work Days		
	3.2	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups to provide additional recreation.	L	As-Needed	10 Work Days		
	4.0	Maintain and improve access for persons with disabilities.	C	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4.1	Provide technical support for volunteer groups.	L	As-Needed	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4.2	Construct barriers to discourage motorized use of skid trails and abandoned roads after logging operations.	C	As Needed	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4.3	Develop boardwalk at West River Marina for wildlife viewing and fishing opportunity (ADA compatible)	L	By 2006	\$5,000		
	4.4	Construct new facilities as appropriate.	L	As Needed	\$1,000 to \$100,000		
	5.0	Encourage hunting and trapping according to State regulations.	C	On-Going	--	--	
	6.0	See Maintenance and Facilities	--	On-Going	--	--	
	7.0	Provide brochures and maps for users.	H	Update Every 5 yrs	50 Work Days		
	7.1	Place kiosks at parking areas	H	By 2014	\$6,000		



Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Public Recreation and Use	7.2	Update maps and brochures to reflect new facilities/trails/acquisitions	L	As Needed	30 Work Days		
	8.0	Create and maintain scenic vistas.	L	As-Needed	\$5,000		
	8.1	Establish a litter-free environment by promoting carry in/carry out policy.	H	On-Going	\$2,000		
	8.2	Remove litter from state land.	L	As-Needed	150 Work Days and \$15,400		
	9.0	Mow and clear trail of woody debris	L	Annually	30 Work Days		
	9.1	Upgrade drainage and trail surface	L / C	By 2014	\$35,000		
Unit Maintenance and Facility Management	1.0	Inspect for problems. (Ponds and Potholes)	C	Annually	10 Work Days		
	1.1	Repair dikes, control boxes, etc.	C	As Needed	\$20,000 per Each.		
	1.2	Mow dikes/dams	H	Every 3 yrs	60 Work Days		
	1.3	Excavate bottom of ponds.	C	As Needed	\$10,000 per Each.		
	2.0	Promote Adopt a Natural Resource Program.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	2.1	Enter into agreements with volunteer groups.	L	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Unit Maintenance and Facility Management	3.0	Identify needed maintenance	L	On-Going	20 Work Days		
	3.1	Do the needed maintenance, as money allows.	C	On-Going	\$1,000 to \$100,000		
	3.2	Enhance law enforcement efforts.	C	On-Going	--	--	
Land Acquisition	1.0	Identify land acquisition needs. (Access)	H	On-Going	3 Work Days		
	1.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	H	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	2.0	Identify land acquisition needs. (Eliminate in holdings)	H	On-Going	1 Work Day		
	2.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	H	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	3.0	Identify land acquisition needs. (Recreation)	H	On-Going	3 Work Days		
	3.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	H	On-Going	?		Unable to predict costs.
	4.0	Identify land acquisition needs. (Ecological)	H	On-Going	3 Work Days		
	4.1	Acquire desired properties from willing sellers as funding permits.	H	On-Going	--		Unable to predict costs.

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Mineral Resources	1.0	Nominated properties for oil and gas are reviewed by Division of Mineral Resources and Division of Lands and Forests and Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine per above process. Mining minerals are reviewed by Office of General Services instead of the Division of Mineral Resources.	C	As Needed	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	2.0	Division of Mineral Resources conducts lease sale through competitive bid process.	C	As Needed	--	--	Unable to predict costs or income.
	2.1	Office of General Services executes the contract(s) for mining minerals.	C	As Needed	--		Unable to predict costs or income.
	3.0	Division of Lands and Forests reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a "Temporary Revocable Permit"	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
	3.1	Division of Mineral Resources reviews proposed operation and issues "Drilling Permit" or "Mining Permit".	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
	3.2	DMR inspects & regulates operations, production and administers royalty payments to State.	C	Every Time	--	--	Unable to predict costs or income.
	4.0	Division of Mineral Resources enforces Rules and Regulations pertaining to plugging procedures.	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.

Management Action Item			Priority Code	Frequency of Action	Est. 10 yr Cost	Est. 10 yr Income	Comments
Mineral Resources	4.1	Division of Mineral Resources and Division of Lands and Forests monitors and enforces surface reclamation	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
	5.0	Division of Mineral Resources monitors lease, production and royalty payments for oil and gas, Office of General Services does the same for mining minerals.	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
	6.0	Granted and directed by terms of lease agreement administered by Division of Minerals.	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
	6.1	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine reviews proposed operations and if approved, issues a "Temporary Revocable Permit" (TRP)	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
	6.2	Division of Lands and Forests and/or Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine enforce TRP provisions.	C	Every Time	--		Unable to predict costs.
Archaeological and Historic Resources	1.0	Avoid any activity which may disturb any historical and/or archaeological resources.	C	On-Going	--	--	Unable to predict costs.
	1.1	Comply with state historic preservation act.	C	On-Going	?	?	Unable to predict costs.
	1.2	Consultation with the Seneca Nation of Indians Historical Preservation Office.	C	On-Going	--	--	Unable to predict costs.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix A : Animals on Canandaigua Highlands Unit

### Birds

By common name, scientific name & protective status

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECT FEDERAL	PROTECT NYN
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	MBTA	Protected
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	MBTA	Game Species
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	MBTA	Protected
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	MBTA	Protected
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	MBTA	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	MBTA	Protected
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	MBTA	Protected
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	MBTA	Protected
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	MBTA	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	MBTA	Protected
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	MBTA	Protected
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	MBTA	Protected
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	MBTA	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	MBTA	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	MBTA	Protected
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	MBTA	Protected
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	MBTA	Protected
Brewster's Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i> x <i>V. chrysoptera</i>	MBTA	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	MBTA	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	MBTA	Protected
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	MBTA	Protected
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	MBTA	Protected

Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	MBTA	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	MBTA	Protected
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	MBTA	Protected
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	MBTA	Protected
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	MBTA	Protected
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	MBTA	Protected
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	MBTA	Protected
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	MBTA	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	MBTA	Protected
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	MBTA	Protected
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	MBTA	Protected
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	MBTA	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	MBTA	Protected
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	MBTA	Protected
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	MBTA	Threatened
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	MBTA	Protected
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	MBTA	Game Species
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Unprotected	Unprotected

House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	MBTA	Protected
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	MBTA	Protected
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	MBTA	Protected
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris	MBTA	Protected
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	MBTA	Protected
Louisiana Waterthrush	Seiurus motacilla	MBTA	Protected
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	MBTA	Threatened
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	MBTA	Game Species
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	MBTA	Protected
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	MBTA	Protected
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	MBTA	Protected
Mourning Warbler	Oporornis philadelphia	MBTA	Protected
Nashville Warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	MBTA	Protected
Northern Oriole	Icterus galbula	MBTA	Protected
Northern Waterthrush	Seiurus noveboracensis	MBTA	Protected
Orchard Oriole	Icterus spurius	MBTA	Protected
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapillus	MBTA	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	MBTA	Protected
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	MBTA	Protected
Purple Martin	Progne subis	MBTA	Protected
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	MBTA	Protected
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	MBTA	Protected
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Melanerpes carolinus	MBTA	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	MBTA	Protected
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Ring-necked Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	Unprotected	Game Species
Rock Dove	Columba livia	Unprotected	Unprotected
Rufous-sided Towhee	Pipilo erythrophthalmus	MBTA	Protected
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	MBTA	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	MBTA	Protected
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	Unprotected	Game Species
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	MBTA	Protected
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	MBTA	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Screech-Owl	Otus asio	MBTA	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea	MBTA	Protected
Sora	Porzana carolina	MBTA	Game Species
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	MBTA	Protected
Solitary Vireo	Vireo solitarius	MBTA	Protected
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularia	MBTA	Protected

Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Unprotected	Unprotected
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	MBTA	Protected
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	MBTA	Protected
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Unprotected	Game Species
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	MBTA	Protected
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	MBTA	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	MBTA	Protected
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	MBTA	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	MBTA	Protected
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	MBTA	Protected
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	MBTA	Protected
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	MBTA	Game Species
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	MBTA	Protected
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	MBTA	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	MBTA	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	MBTA	Protected
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	MBTA	Protected

Species	Status	Possible		Probable		Confirmed		Total Occurrences
		1980-85	2000-04	1980-85	2000-04	1980-85	2000-04	
American Bittern	Special Concern	1		1				2
Cooper's Hawk	Special Concern	2	3	1				6
Northern Goshawk	Special Concern	1						1*
Northern Harrier	Threatened	1	1	1		1		4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Special Concern	4	1					5
Yellow-breasted Chat	Special Concern	1						1
Horned Lark	Special Concern	2		1			1	4



Species	Status	Possible		Probable		Confirmed		Total Occurrences
Common Nighthawk	Special Concern	1						1
Grasshopper Sparrow	Special Concern	1	1	2				4
Henslow's Sparrow	Threatened	1		1				2
Vesper Sparrow	Special Concern	5						5
Golden-winged Warbler	Special Concern	1	1					2
Cerulean Warbler	Special Concern			1				1
Red-headed Woodpecker	Special Concern	1						1

\*Confirmed nesting on the High Tor WMA between Breeding Bird Atlases - Early 1990's. M.L. Allen, B.D. Penrod

## Mammals

By common name, scientific name & protective status

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	PROTECTIVE STATUS STATE	OCCUR- RENCE
Virginia Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginians</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	UN	Game species	Res.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	PROTECTIVE STATUS STATE	OCCUR- RENCE
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Mink	<i>Mustel vison</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	UN	Game species	Trans.
White-tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota morax</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	UN	Game species	Poss.
Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hunsonicus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	UN	Game species	Poss.
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Southern Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionokys gapperi</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennylvanicus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Woodland Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	UN	UN	Pos. Res.
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus ingignis</i>	UN	UN	Res.
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	UN	Game species	Res.

## Reptiles and Amphibians

By common name, scientific name & protective status

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	PROTECTIVE STATUS STATE	OCCUR- RENCE
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	UN	UN-spec.	Res.
Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	UN	UN-spec.	Poss. Res.
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	UN	UN-spec.	Res.
Red-spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	UN	UN-spec.	Res.
Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	UN	UN-spec.	Res.
Mountain Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	UN	UN	Res.
American Toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Spring Peeper	<i>Hyla crucifer</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Pickerel Frog	<i>Rana palustris</i>	UN	Game species	Poss. Res.
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	UN	Game species	Res.
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	UN	Game sp-spec.	Poss. Res.
Coal Skink	<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Northern Water Snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Brown Snake	<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	UN	UN	Res.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	PROTECTIVE STATUS STATE	OCCUR- RENCE
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Eastern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Smooth Green Snake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	UN	UN	Res.
Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe obsoleta</i>	UN	UN	Poss. Res.
Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	UN	UN	Res.

### Resident Fish Species

By common name and scientific name

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Brook Trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Stoneroller	<i>Campostoma anomalum</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Common Shiner	<i>Notropis cornutus</i>
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
Blacknose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>
Creek Chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>
Fathead Minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>
Northern Hogsucker	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>

Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
Black Crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
Johnny Darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>
Mottled Sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdi</i>
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>
Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
Brook Stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i>
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>

## Appendix B : Public Comment

### Public Meeting Responses

Written and verbal comments on the draft plan were received during the October 15, 2003 public meeting held at the Naples Fire House. Written comments were accepted until November 14, 2003. A summary of the comments and DEC responses follows:

#### Trail and Recreational Issues

Question: On the maps Route 245 was listed as Route 254.

Answer: Thank you for spotting that error, it has been corrected.

Question: What about replacing the existing outhouse? The existing one hasn't been vandalized.

Answer: The outhouse (and other facilities) will be replaced after it is in bad shape and is becoming a safety hazard.

Question: On page 38, there is a proposed lean-to on High-Tor, but there are rules on High Tor - no camping unless it's a bonafide group and they need to have a permit. What are the rules? Should it be listed on the Finger Lakes trails maps?

Answer: Only organized groups with a permit are allowed to camp. The lean-to will be placed for use by permitted camp groups and for hikers to retreat from foul weather.

Question: On page 71, a comment on the trails, "cutback" should read "outback inn". Finger Lakes Trails may be able to help if DEC has logs and move it [the lean-to] 100 yards east to the state boundary.

Answer: The correction has been made. It could be possible to move the leanto location onto the state land from the county land as part of the adopt-a-natural resource with the Finger Lake Trail Conference, it is unknown at this time if NYS DEC would be able to provide logs for the new construction. It is more likely that the FLTC would have to provide them.

Question: Didn't the county propose to give the state the land?

Answer: There was talk of an offer to sell Yates County owned forest land to the state a few years ago. According to section 219 of county law or 09-0717 of environmental conservation law:

The board of supervisors shall have power to purchase, acquire, or accept by gift lands for purposes of reforestation and/or lease for the purpose of aiding in discovering and removing oil and/or gas from such reforested land .... the board of supervisors of any county in its discretion may convey to the state of New York without charge any lands or rights or interests therein at any time or in any manner acquired by the county for the purposes of this subdivision and which the environmental conservation commissioner shall deem proper to acquire under the provisions of section 3-301 [FN1] of the environmental conservation law ...

It should also be noted that the state reimbursed the county up to 50% of the cost of the purchase of reforestation lands. After Yates county was reminded of the law, it has not pursued the issue further.

Question: Biking is allowed on all High-Tor trails. There are a couple of areas that due to environmental damage, should be limited. One is the old road to Rt 245 with switchbacks; the second is Brink

Rd, the wet area. Most mountain bike organizations agree. Could signs go up?

One idea is enforcement to separate the trails, for example, in Letchworth Park, biking club volunteers tell people that the trails are closed to bikers. There also were blackout periods.

Answer: Contacts with organized mountain biking groups are being sought to enlist their help in managing sensitive trail areas. Placement of signs prohibiting use of steep trails where hikes conflict or erosion problems may occur are being pursued.

Question: A management goal is working to reduce conflict with user groups. What about a parallel trail, another access to avoid the wet area?

Answer: That is one of the goals, but another is to manage for good quality wildlife habitat for the animals to live in. Turning the hillside into many parallel trails (one for each user group) would not be good for some species of wildlife, would increase maintenance required, increase conflicts with timber management, and increase the chances for soil erosion. The trail could be moved out of the wet area, or a small section limited to a certain type of use for part or all of the year, or if no other option will work, a new trail could be constructed.

### Timber Management Issues

Question: On the new road between the blue and orange trails, the new swale across the road drains right across the trail. [it is a logging access road for timber sales]

Answer: The new access road on High Tor Wildlife Management Area may have slightly altered drainage patterns especially in the first 500 feet of road. This area is seasonally wet. The department will investigate the extent of the problem and correct any problems created by the road.

### Landowners Concerns (Also see Law Enforcement)

Question: I mow the shared driveway on the south side of the gully. Why doesn't DEC mow and take care of it? If the roadway was opened, it would help emergency services.

I own a flat parking lot. There's a booklet that says there's plenty of parking all over. [People shouldn't be parking on my lot.] There's no place to park in the summer. It can be congested.

[Finger Lake Trails agreed to check on the Freeman books and 50 Hikes in Western New York ]

Parkers have said there's a sign that says no hunting, no fishing, but the sign doesn't say there's no parking.

Answer: Emergency services are desirable from this location but DEC does not own the parking lot or access to the southern rim of Parrish Gully. Comments from the landowner indicate a willingness on his part to consider acquisition or a cooperative agreement. Staff will follow up on these options.

### Law Enforcement and Safety Issues

Question: Regarding mountain bikes, on the south side of Parrish gully trail, who is liable?

Answer: The user/operator is ultimately responsible for their actions.

### Minerals Issues

Question: Regarding minerals, isn't High Tor complicated by the feds still owning? Is there a possibility of parts of High-Tor being explored for minerals?

Answer: Yes, it definitely complicates the process, and yes, the sections not partially owned by the Federal government could be leased out using the procedures explained earlier in this document.

## Road Issues

Question: Use \$25,000 to fix Pulver Rd. What is it's priority? There is a continual problem of maintaining gullies, the ditches on both sides. Should do some erosion control to divert the water.

Answer: \$25,000 is the estimated cost to rehabilitate Pulver Rd. back to a usable condition. It is unlikely there will be adequate funding in the near future to accomplish this. It will take \$3000.-\$5000 to stabilize the road and prevent erosion. Erosion control is top priority and as soon funding can be allocated water bars, regrading and other measures will be taken to stabilize the road.

## Other

Question: In the history section of High Tor, there's a Parrish family dating back to the 1700's, but somewhere the gully name got changed to Conklin. Where did that change come from and how can you get it changed back to Parrish? Who is Conklin? Someone mentioned that Conklin might have been the name of the surveyor. Everything should be changed to Parrish.

Answer: We included the name Conklin because that is the way it is labled on the USGS maps. Many hikers and emergency personnel know the gully by that name. Within this document the gully is called Parish/Conklin Gully so everyone can identify the place. It is more important to us to make sure everyone is on the same page rather than correct the history of the local name.

## **Written Comments**

The following two additional letters were received during the 30 day comment period after the public meeting:

10-15-2003

You need to clean out Naples Creek from Parish Rd. bridge to Canandaigua Lake main channel at West River is blocked w/ silt, logs, etc. (very shallow)! Please do this

R. Love

P.S Wrong route number, correctly is 247!!

From: " " < @ rochester.rr.com >  
To: <r8ump@gw.dec.state.ny.us>  
Date: 11/9/03 6:58PM  
Subject: Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan

These comments are made in response to the NYS DEC draft Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan. My review of the draft Plan focused solely on that portion which relates to the Italy Hill State Forest. I own property which abuts the Forest's boundaries on two sides. I am pleased that DEC has conducted a process to create a plan that will protect the Forest over the next 10 years. I also appreciated speaking by phone with you and Ms. Vera. Our conversation provided me a better understanding of the document.

Generally, I found the draft Plan, as it relates to the Italy Hill Forest, to be weak. The historic review is inadequate, given the rich amount of historic records describing the development of Italy Hill by Peter Pulver and his family in the 1840's. The section by Mr. Jemison reviewing the settlement of Native Americans in the Canandaigua area seems to be dropped into the draft without connecting it to Italy Hill history. Surely,

someone could have secured pertinent and relevant information from the Yates County Historical Society that would have added significantly to the document.

The Draft Plan recommendations should be more complete. For example, the draft indicates that Forest regeneration is so complete that there is a need for a "small portion" to be established as grassland. Yet, the draft does not identify where that small portion should or could be. Nor is "a small portion" defined. Additionally, for example, a "critical" recommendation calls for avoiding activity that would disturb historic resources. Yet, such resources are not identified in the plan, let alone plotted.

Another disconnect in the draft is the identification of the "high" priority goals with unrealistic financial resources to implement them. For example, a recommendation calls for the "repair" of Pulver Road, but there is no description of where the repair might be or what it may entail. And, only \$25,000 is recommended to implement this road repair. Further, for example, a "high" recommendation calls for additional land acquisition yet only \$5,000 is allocated. These "disconnects" weaken the Draft and convey a sense that DEC is not really committed to fulfilling the spirit and intent of the Plan.

The above notwithstanding, I offer these recommendations:

- The use of State Forest for windpower generation (windmills) should be strictly prohibited. The size (heights and breadth) would be so intrusive and disruptive to the Forest that all measures should be taken by the State to ensure that none are constructed.
- The State should work closely with nonprofit groups such as the Finger Lakes Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy to expand protected open space adjacent to the State Forest.
- All efforts should be expended to ensure strict monitoring and enforcement of harvesting, clean-up and restoration by loggers.
- The draft Plan should be amended to better describe and "flesh-out" some of the proposed goals, especially related to additional land acquisition, protection of historic resources and improvement of Pulver Road.
- Additional financial resources should be proposed for "high" and "critical" goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Canandaigua Highlands Plan.

### **Initial Mailing Responses**

The following Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan public comments were received as a result of an initial March 22, 2002 mailing to a previously identified audience including adjacent property owners, local government officials, recreational groups, forest industry groups, wildlife groups and other general environmental groups and the local media.

#### **Hunting and Fishing**

From the Ruffed Grouse Society---We would continue to like data pertaining to even-age cutting, etc.

I feel that the High Tor wildlife management area and Italy Hill state forest should be managed for hunting and fishing. I live on Italy Hill in Branchport, NY so this land is my back yard. I also represent two gun clubs,



Branchport R&G club in Branchport, 135 members and Delchenego R&G club in Sidney, NY Delaware Co. 53 members. At both clubs we talked about the use of our state land now and in the future. We feel that hunting and fishing should be the primary uses for these lands. We have heard of talk about a bird sanctuary on the state land. We do not think this would be consistent with the current use of these lands.

Set aside the Italy Hill state forest for or the lower section of High Tor for quality deer management and trophy bucks...and without a management fee. Or, ...package [it] into quality deer management and charge a special hunting fee.

No further restricting re: hunting opportunities, bird watching can coincide with hunting.

I feel that the present use of High Tor for public hunting and the present condition of the land is being well managed and should continue unchanged as there are fewer places for wildlife to live and sportsmen to hunt every year.

Both of these areas are hunted very hard because it is state land which is fantastic, but I believed it should be replenished every few years.

I'd rather pay a few dollars more for my turkey permit and have it go to re-stocking of turkeys, grouse, rabbits, pheasants, bears. We pay for hunting and fishing licenses to our state. Our state should help make sure there is game to pursue.

Insure continued access for hunting, fishing and trapping.

#### Water

We would like to see a dredging put into effect of West River for two reasons, it keeps the sportsmen using the area and it keeps the bugs and weeds down.

Keep the canals in the west river open-wonderful place to paddle, watch the wildlife a posted speed limit would be nice. When the water is high enough the big engine motorboats like to whiz thru.

The waterfowl canals have filled in considerably since they were dug. Are there any plans for re-digging them? I'm talking about the canals across from Sunnyside Rd.

Clean canals in swamp areas, becoming silt filled year round use for canoeists.

The very first project is to be opening and dredge West River from Naples Creek entrance to Canandaigua Lake. This area is plugged up with trees, silt and etc. This causes water level to back-up and flood Parish Road in Naples at times. You can't get a boat through there.

Flood Italy Valley. The plans were drawn up about 1948.

#### Water Quality, Habitat and Land Acquisition

Please add water quality to the list of areas to be studied. Also, please review and consider the acquisition of additional tracks of land that have had habitat and water quality value. Two areas could be the parcel along Parrish Flats Rd and the parcel at the north eastern edge of High Tor along 245 and Caward Cross Rd. My group (Canandaigua Lake Watershed Management) would be willing to help in this process.

It is critical that NYSDEC balance their forest management practice protocols to include a significant increase in even-age cutting. As early successional forest habitat are in sharp decline throughout the Northeast, even aged management will be necessary to restore these important habitats and the wildlife species they support. The Ruffed Grouse Society will be happy to provide input and expertise into your management plan development so please provide a review when prepared.

Develop alliance with local farmers to plant patches of wildlife crops on state lands (areas have little or no farm crops.) Develop/construct paddy fields then dikes and spillways to create prime waterfowl areas. Buckwheat could be planted in summer and flooded in fall. Area along 245 and west avenue would be well suited.

Release fisher and possibly marten in the highland unit. Work closely with The Nature Conservancy in their work to conserve/preserve large tracts of the Bristol Hill and make them contiguous with either High Tor or Italy Hill.

Acquisition of adjacent parcels as funding allows.

Continued development of small game habitats.

It is important to maintain the early successional habitats. The diversity of the area is excellent.

Restoration and propagation of "antique" plantings such as apples, lilac, roses, etc. Perhaps the creation of a simple botanical garden showcasing many of these soon-to-be-lost varieties would be possible.

I would very much like and enjoy as a sportsman the High Tor area, especially familiar with the West River land along route 245, which I canoe in the summer (when navigable, canals need to be deepened) and waterfowl view and hunt in the fall. I grew up around the Tonawanda State area which was part of my families property. During the early 70's the DEC built a series of dikes and water control spillways which allowed planting areas with grain/buckwheat in the summer and flooding these areas in fall which created great habitat and feed for waterfowl well into December. The area between 245 and South Hill Road could be developed in similar fashion. The close proximity of Canandaigua Lake and West River would prove to be a prime nesting, viewing and hunting waterfowl area. I and countless other people spend a lot of time fishing the large canal, 2 miles north of Naples, that runs from the West River perpendicular to Route 245. Families bring their kids and it is a high use area. It would be nice to develop a few more canals similar for spring and summer fishing. One area that comes to mind is the parking/turnaround lot on Sunnyside which overlooks the lake, a walk down the hill and open the existing canal to the West River (that would be a great place to make use of an underused area) Although state workers do an above average job of trimming golden rods and grassy/brush areas and general maintenance of the land, there are little or no farm crops/ 1 acre food plots scattered in a variety of area would enhance wildlife. I love the area, keep up the good work.

The DEC is doing a good job on managing their state land for hunting and fishing and trapping. I am interested in the state boat launch on Route 245. You had sent me an offer of \$40,000 which I accepted about 5 years ago. Before that, I sold you swampland bordering the west river and boat launch. I think the property would be an advantage for you to own. The boat launch gets a lot of people at it in the spring fishing and in the summer with fishermen and boaters. You could use this property to enlarge the marina for more parking. There are also lots of hunters using this for duck hunting, deer hunting and also hikers. The house that comes with it could be sold to tear down or used for other things of your choosing.

Private farm lease is OK.

Water quality considerations were not sufficiently addressed in previous unit management plans. We ask that the protection of water quality in the good management of these watershed lands be given highest consideration.

#### Public Access

People using private land to park, walk, garbage use to get to state lands. We have 25 acres that border state lands and this is an on-going problem.

Increased off-road parking (major problem during deer season).

I hunt High Tor a lot and have shot many deer there, including some real nice bucks. The things that a lot of hunters have said to me were, boy, I wish we had more parking space. One place they mentioned most was the Brink Road entrance. I think that overall NYS has some of the best overall hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities in the eastern United States. The seasons are long and the bag limits are liberal.

Continue/expand handicap access

Yates County Federation of Conservation Clubs desires access to this land remain open to the public for general use, including hunting, and fishing and unencumbered by any prospects for development commercial or otherwise. We favor actions that promote habitat for fish and wildlife and enable the public to utilize these resources in both consumptive and non-consumptive ways.

#### Gas Leasing

Rather not see gas leasing.

The impact of fossil oil and gas drilling are of concern.

Really give serious thoughts to gas leasing.

Mineral/gas/oil extraction is OK with proper safeguards.

#### Logging

Logging is OK, but it would be nice if they left the roadways they put in (all deep ruts now) could be used by emergency vehicles or able to walk on or ride bikes on. And if they would not drain the roads they do put in, onto the trail. The clearcut areas offer great spots to watch wildlife and usually offer great views. Just don't overdo them. The mature wood are wonderful areas, offering different views, and generally promote a more tranquil environment, something most hikers are looking for.

Timber management with supervision, including prescribed burns, for wildlife management.

I also wonder if logging should be used as alternatives for prescribed burns if needed.

Seems like the loggers just cut and go. They should have to clean the mess they make.

I'd like to see the Department consider managing significant portions of the unit as mature forest reserves that are allowed to return to pre-settlement conditions.

When harvesting trees, a review of how the contractor leaves the property should be made, access roads should be repaired, trash removed from site. Logging that has occurred on both properties over the past approximately

10 years has had negative impact on the quality of these areas due to the condition the logged sites have been left in after work has been completed.

### Hiking Trails/Recreation

Keep motorized vehicles out of the other areas. It would be nice if the bikes could have their own trails. They do a lot of damage to the hiking trails and wreck the tranquility hikers are looking for. It would be nice if the service roads could be mowed twice a year (before budget cuts) (lyme disease) It might encourage walkers to do a bit more exploring. (Wait a minute, I won't be able to have those spots all to myself! Maybe that's not a good idea.) They are wonderful areas. Please keep them as they are. With the increase of urban sprawl, both the wildlife and we need these areas.

As coordinators of the BHB we are very interested in both High Tor and the Italy Hill state forest. We would be glad to help in any way to help make the trail better.

Continued insistence on "soft impact" use with a total ban on motorized vehicles and bicycles.

Restrict motor vehicles, except for handicap and official use. Wide trails are great, expand them. Should be multi-use, 365 days/year.

Continuing to maintain strict limits on motorized vehicle use on state lands. Also when individuals are allowed to use motorized vehicles due to special circumstances, no other party member they are with should be allowed to use that vehicle.

Snowmobiles should be allowed to use the trails and possibly 4-wheelers they definitely don't do as much damage as logging trucks do and would add to the recreation.

In addition, there is one specific project that we feel would significantly enhance the use of that portion of High Tor north of Conklin Gorge. Forty years ago it was quite easy to hike or ski across the gorge using the old Donley Road right-of-way. Today it is quite difficult to hike or ski across due to the erosion of the streambed, fallen trees, and the deterioration of the railbed. A second problem with the current situation is that the open right-of-way between our driveway and the gorge is regularly used for illegal vehicular access, resulting in ongoing damage. We would like to see the Donley Road right-of-way reclaimed as part of the High Tor trail system, including a footbridge across the stream,. A gate at the end of the current Donley Road would prevent illegal vehicular access and a trail that linked up with the existing trail just east of the four ponds would greatly add to hiking and skiing opportunities.

Our property at 3962 Brink Hill Rd., next to our property is a picnic area (High Tor) This area is a problem for fire and vandalism. The picnic area is rather small and people wander on posted property. This should be closed and restricted.

Camping allowed? Why's and why not. Updated info @ bulletin in parking areas. Garbage cans in parking areas?

One thing a lot of people complain about is no snowmobiling in High Tor. They say they have to pay a \$5.00 trail fee when they register their sleds. Not everyone is rich enough to be able to afford to go to the Adirondacks to ride. Well, I guess I've talked enough. Hope some of this might help you.

In High Tor, at campsite 2, I would like to see a lean-to built by 2005. Some work also needs to be done to

improve trail through several wet locations. In Italy Hill, replacement of outback inn shelter should be considered by 2007. A standard lean-to should be fine. All this work could be accomplished with FLTC and DEC pooling resources.

#### Enforcement

Increased enforcement of good practices for timber harvest and other third party activities. For example, the timber marshaling areas on Donly have never been reclaimed nor have the core holes from the seismic mapping been repaired or filled in.

Improved policing of illegal camping, fires, vehicle access.

#### Miscellaneous

The encroachment of development is also of concern.

From Ontario County Planning--- Not sure what I would be commenting on so as a first step, I would be interested in reviewing any project scope you might have drafted.

I am interested in entire management plan.

Please send me more information on the location of the state land you are talking about. Also, I would like more information on your objectives and the laws of riding snowmobiles or 4 wheelers on the state land. I have just recently moved to this residence and am unfamiliar with your plans and rules for the land.

Please keep me informed on any progress of this plan.

I am very interested in attending meetings on this proposed plan I would be willing to help in any way that I can.

I am very interested in the land use plan, both as an adjacent landowner and as a participant in comprehensive planning for Naples. This type of land is important for Naples since recreation and tourism is a key factor in future planning. Would like to participate in your planning process.

I own property in the Town of Naples and will be moving there permanently in late June 2002. I am interested in your development plan for the Canandaigua Highlands Unit, but cannot comment until after I move there! From your maps, I may be an adjoining landowner. I am also an active environmentalist and have been involved in land-use planning here in New Jersey.

## Appendix C : Taxes

School and Town general taxes for 1999

Italy Hill State Forest    \$22,426.18

High Tor Wildlife Management Area    \$119,340.46

## Appendix D : Facilities

### Administrative Access Road

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1.	High Tor Wildlife Management Area	11.0
7.	Italy Hill State Forest	<u>0.9</u>
	Total	11.9

### Ponds/pot Holes

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	25 potholes/ 6 ponds
2.	Italy Hill	<u>-</u>
	Total	25 potholes/ 6 Ponds

### Unpaved Parking Lots

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	19
2.	Italy Hill	<u>3</u>
	Total	22

### Leanto

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	-
2.	Italy Hill	<u>-</u>
	Total	0

### Area Signs

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	9
2.	Italy Hill	<u>2</u>
	Total	11

### Metal Gates

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	14
2.	Italy Hill	<u>2</u>
	Total	16

### Erosion Control Structures

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	5
2.	Italy Hill	<u>-</u>
	Total	5

### People with Disabilities Access Trails

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Name</u>
1.	High Tor	17	
2.	Italy Hill	<u>-</u>	
	Total	9	Trails

### Regulation Signs

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	19
2.	Italy Hill	<u>0</u>
	Total	19

### Out Houses

	<u>Site</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	High Tor	2
2.	Italy Hill	<u>0</u>
	Total	2

A NYS DEC maintenance shop is located on High Tor along NY State Route 245.



## Appendix E : Timber Management

### Stands Designated Protection Management

#### Italy Hill State Forest Yates RA#1

Stand	Acres
C - 1	261
A - 13	61
C - 6	20

#### High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Stand	Acres
A-18	16
C-10	54

### Stands Designated Even Aged

#### Italy Hill State Forest Yates RA#1

Stand	Acres
A - 1	37
A - 2	65
A - 5	20
A - 7	7
A - 8	5
A - 10	6
A - 12	24
B - 2	14
B - 3	2
B - 4	35
B - 6	6
B - 7	4
B - 9	46
B - 10	32
B - 11	19
B - 12	50
B - 13	90
B - 15	24
B - 16	6
B - 17	11
B - 18	22
B - 20	15
B - 23	6
B - 24	8
B - 25	6
B - 26	13
C - 2	20

C - 5	27
C - 8	7
C - 9	12
C - 11	24
C - 14	3
C - 15	32
D - 1	11
D - 4	29

#### High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Stand	Acres
A-1	9
A-11	3
A-12	2
A-15	12
A-16	180
A-20	5
A-3	7
A-5	42
B-1	19
C-1	159
C-11	20
C-12	14
C-13	2
C-16	5
C-17	12
C-19	28
C-2	37
C-29	3

C-3	21
C-5	26
C-7	44
C-8	20
C-9	14
D-2	27
D-42	33
D-50	47
D-52	2
D-9	4
E-1	69
E-10	8
E-12	37
E-15	28
E-16	53
E-17	13
E-2	72
E-20	41
E-22	26
E-23	26
E-24	38
E-25	29
E-26	30
E-27	18
E-28	64
E-29	5
E-31	11
E-32	34
E-6	24
E-7	77
E-8	16

E-9	16
F-1	15
F-17	41
F-18	82
F-19	35
F-20	66
F-3	2
F-4	12
F-5	3
F-6	11
F-9	4
G-1	19
G-10	5
G-15	3
G-2	90
G-3	83
G-4	42
G-5	18
G-6	21
G-7	5
G-8	13

G-9	8
H-1	43
H-11	21
H-14	6
H-15	7
H-18	6
H-3	43
H-6	36
H-7	20
H-8	17
H-9	14
I-3	3
I-5	3
I-8	15
J-1	23
J-11	12
J-17	24
J-18	20
J-19	15
J-2	51
J-20	10

J-21	5
J-22	6
J-23	15
J-24	8
J-27	7
J-3	7
J-30	14
J-36	7
J-39	4
J-5	30
J-50	9
J-51	3
J-52	22
J-53	13
J-55	8
J-56	21
J-6	22
J-60	17
J-70	156
J-8	55

### Stands Designated Uneven Aged

#### Italy Hill State Forest Yates RA#1

Stand	Acres
A - 4	30

#### High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Stand	Acres
A-10	3
A-13	32

A-14	1
A-17	95
A-6	21
C-4	43

### Stands Designated Plantation Management

#### Italy Hill State Forest Yates RA#1

Stand	Acres
D - 5	1

#### High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Stand	Acres
A-9	15
C-6	21
E-11	10

E-13	11
E-3	12
E-4	15
E-5	7
F-12	7
F-14	11
F-16	27
G-13	2
G-14	38
H-10	26
H-2	11
H-5	23

I-1	30
I-2	6
I-6	4
I-7	1
J-10	9
J-13	11
J-28	4
J-29	2
J-33	1
J-9	20

## Stands Designated Open Land

### Italy Hill State Forest Yates RA#1

Stand	Acres
C - 4	29
D - 6	20

### High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Stand	Acres
A-950	1
B-940	3
B-941	3
B-942	6
B-950	10
C-940	94
C-941	6
C-950	10
C-951	43
C-952	3
C-953	8

D-940	37
D-941	15
D-942	31
D-943	35
D-944	16
D-945	18
D-950	2
D-951	7
D-952	2
D-954	3
D-955	12
D-956	4
D-957	3
D-958	2
E-940	10
E-941	3
E-950	1
E-951	1
F-940	1
F-941	4

F-942	1
F-943	8
F-950	4
G-940	11
G-941	2
G-950	2
H-940	19
H-941	4
H-942	1
H-950	53
H-951	3
I-940	4
J-940	9
J-941	5
J-942	6
J-943	3
J-950	15
J-951	1
J-952	8

## Stands Designated Seedling / Sapling

### Italy Hill State Forest Yates RA#1

Stand	Acres
A - 3	17
A - 6	35
A - 9	45
A - 11	11
B - 1	10
B - 5	53
B - 8	41
B - 14	39
B - 19	24
B - 21	48
B - 22	26
C - 3	20
C - 4	38
C - 7	30
C - 10	7

C - 12	65
C - 13	49
D - 2	43
D - 3	35
D - 6	95

### High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Stand	Acres
A-19	74
A-2	3
A-4	9
A-8	6
B-2	6
C-14	4
C-18	7
C-22	20
C-24	17

C-25	117
C-27	22
D-12	2
D-20	7
D-32	13
D-36	7
D-39	2
D-40	2
D-43	2
D-47	4
D-49	2
E-14	3
E-18	2
E-19	8
E-21	4
E-30	5
F-10	4
F-11	10
F-13	10

F-15	14
F-2	3
F-7	4
F-8	4
G-12	6
H-12	5
H-13	7

H-16	7
H-17	4
H-4	24
J-12	28
J-14	5
J-34	12
J-35	2

J-4	9
J-40	10
J-41	1
J-54	25
J-7	12

## Appendix F : Water Resources

### Streams

Italy Hill State Forest - None

High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Name	Key	Miles	Class	Fisheries Resource
Naples Creek	P286-18-2	1.5	C(T)	Trout
Tannery Creek	P286-18-9	0.5	C	Trout

Note: West River runs adjacent and through the unit along State Rt. 245- between Naples and Middlesex. This stream is noted for its' warm water fishery and is supplemented by intermittent flow from Clark, Parish/Conklin gullies as well as flow from other gullies within the unit.

### Ponded Waters

Italy Hill State Forest- None

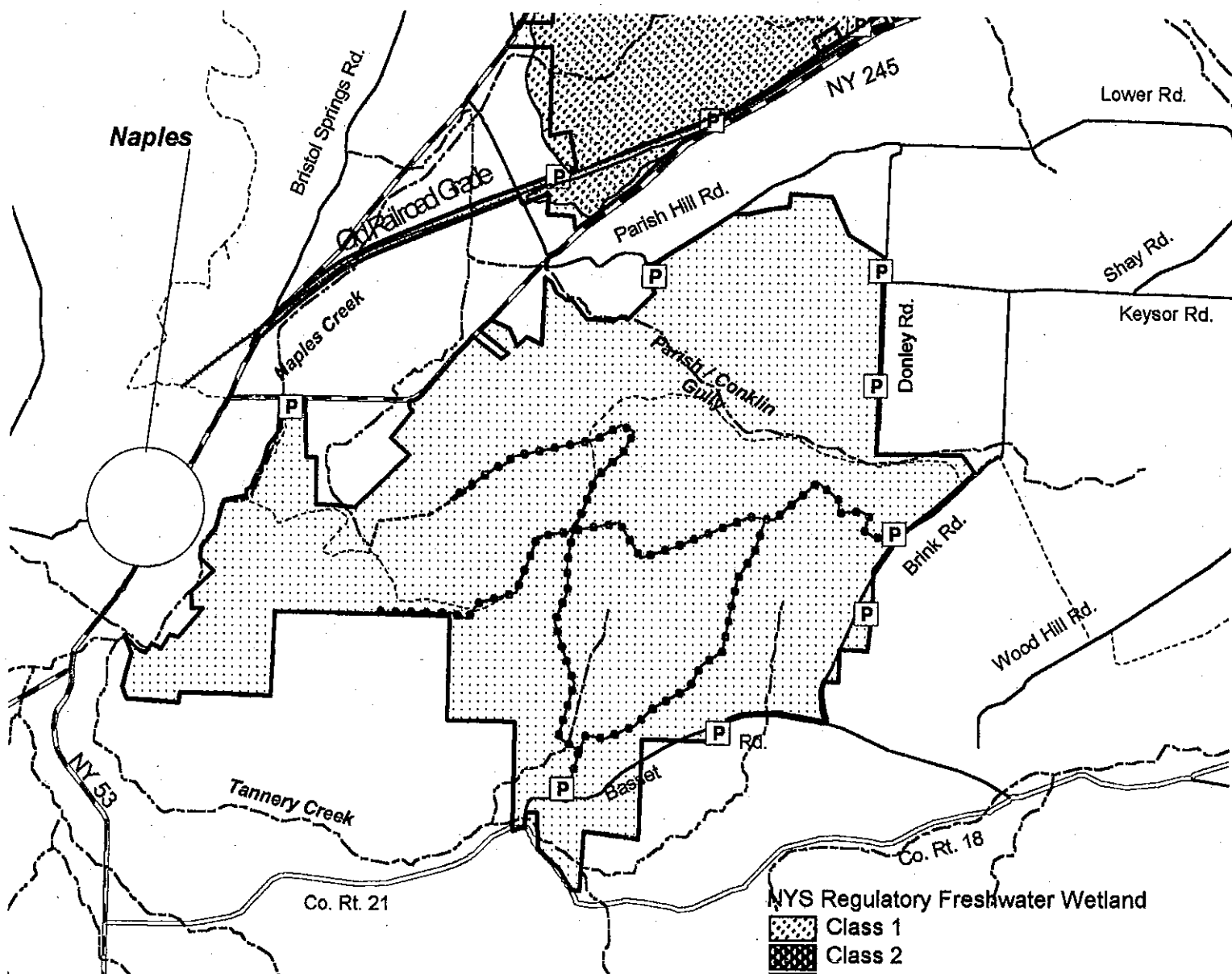
High Tor Wildlife Management Area

Compartment A, B, and G - None

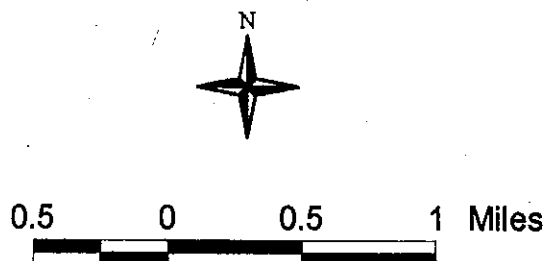
Compartment C-	Stand #	Acres
	24	less than 1
	941	"
	951	"
Compartment D-	2	"
	50	"
	940	"
	941	"
Compartment E-	28	8
	31	less than 1
	951	"
Compartment F-	9	2
	10	3
	13	less than 1
	915	3
Compartment H-	6	8
	7	1.5
	950	less than 1
Compartment I-	1	less than 1
Compartment J-	8	less than 1
	9	"
	13	"
	55 (2ponds)	"
	941	"
	950	"

# Appendix G: Maps

## Access / Location and Streams, Ponds and Wetlands



### High Tor Wildlife Management Area Hatch Hill Area



#### NYS Regulatory Freshwater Wetland

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Uncoded
- Parking Lots

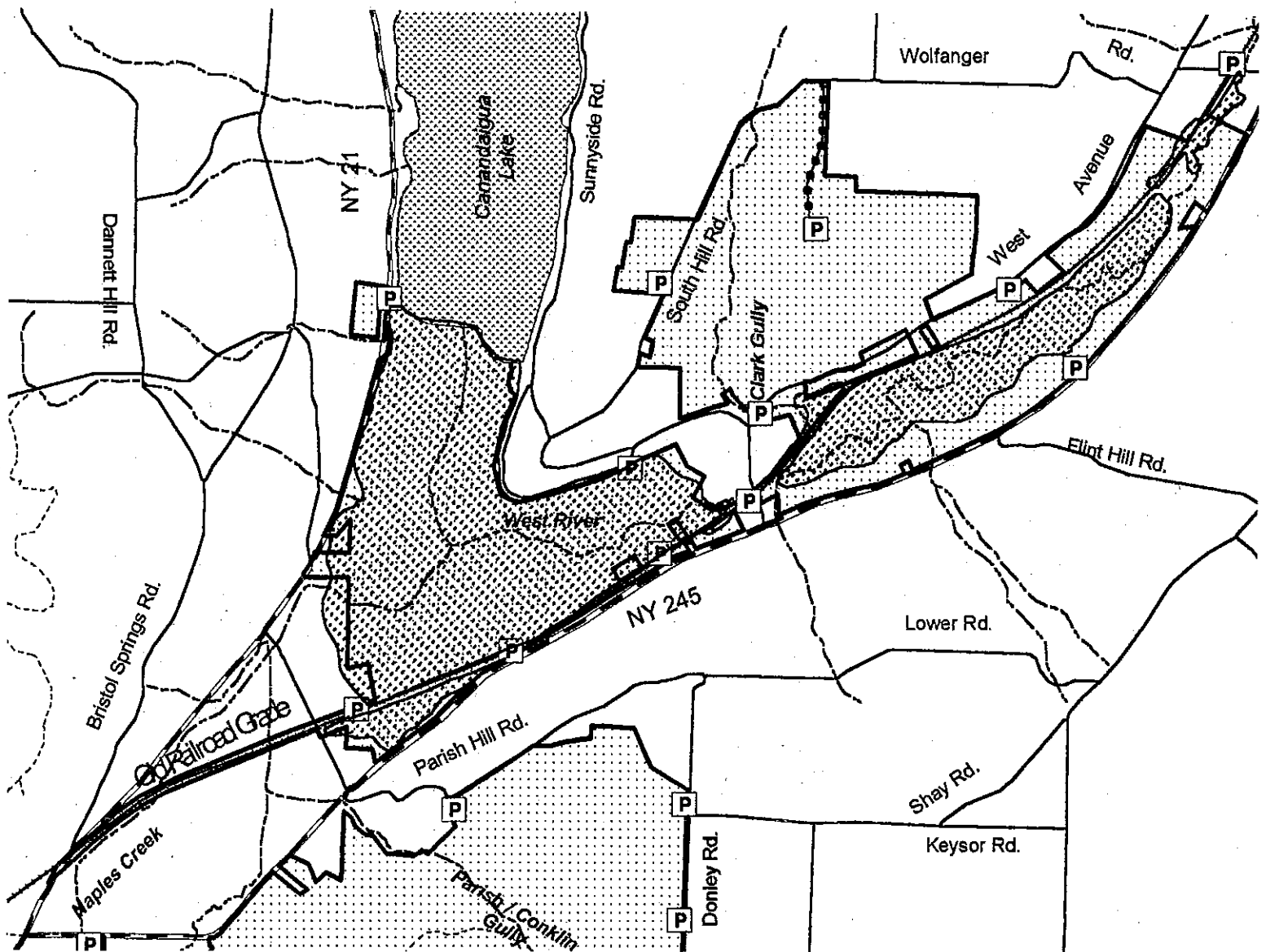
#### Roads

- Trail
- Access road / Impaired Mobility Trails
- State Roads
- Secondary Roads
- County roads
- Abandoned Railroad Lines

#### Major Waterbody

- Water
- Streams
- Finger Lakes Trail
- Wildlife Management Area

# High Tor Wildlife Management Area South Hill and Wetland Area



## NYS Regulatory Freshwater Wetland

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Uncoded
- Parking Lots

## Roads

- Trail
- Access road / Impaired Mobility Trails
- State Roads
- Secondary Roads
- County roads
- Abandoned Railroad Lines

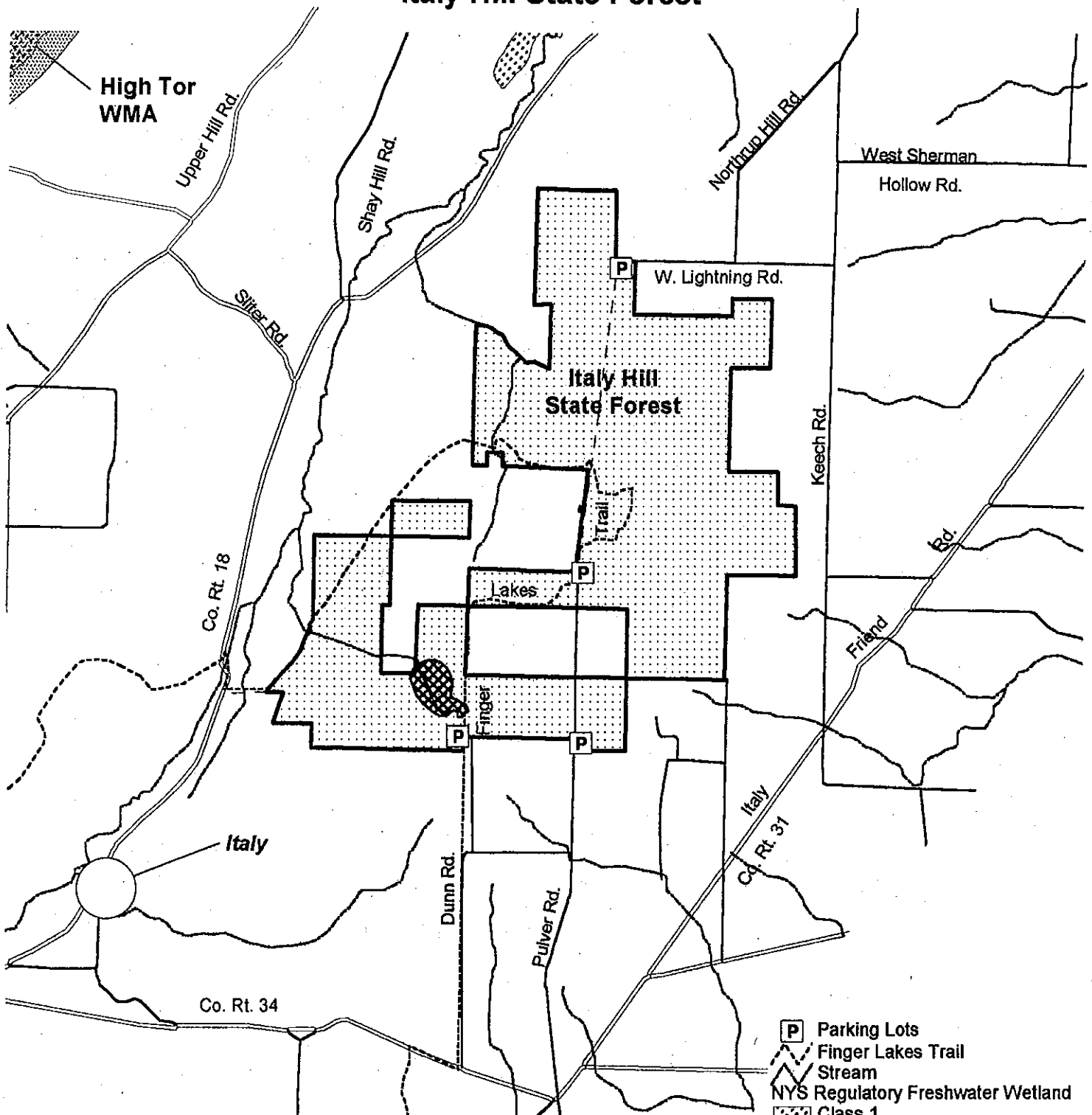
## Major Waterbody

- Water
- Streams
- Finger Lakes Trail
- Wildlife Management Area



0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

# Italy Hill State Forest

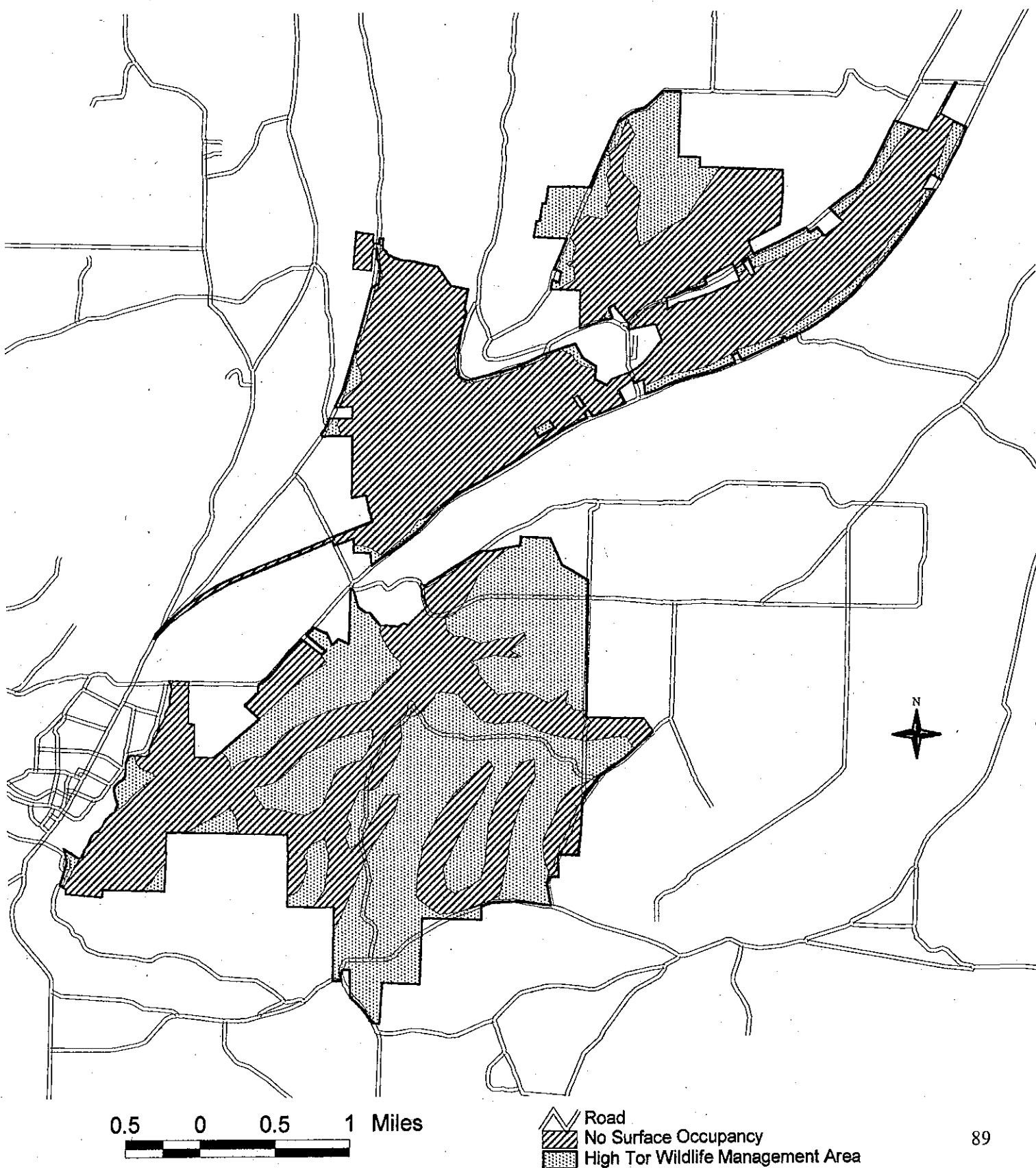


- Parking Lots
- Finger Lakes Trail
- Stream
- NYS Regulatory Freshwater Wetland
- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Uncoded
- Roads**
- Major Road
- Secondary Road
- Access Road
- Public Land**
- State Forest
- Wildlife Management Area

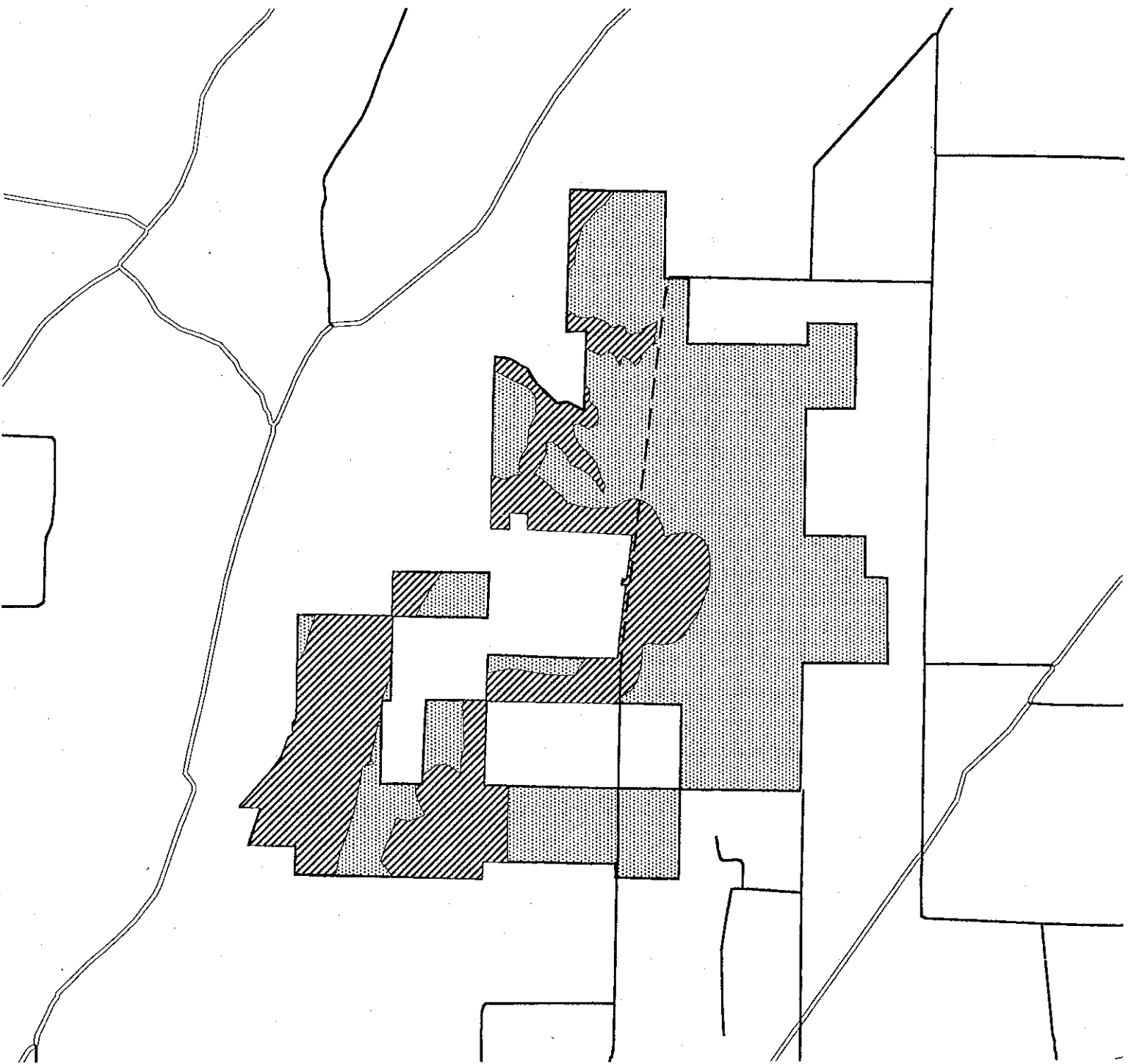


# Recommended Exclusions from Surface Occupancy for Mineral Extraction






## High Tor Wildlife Management Area




# Italy Hill State Forest



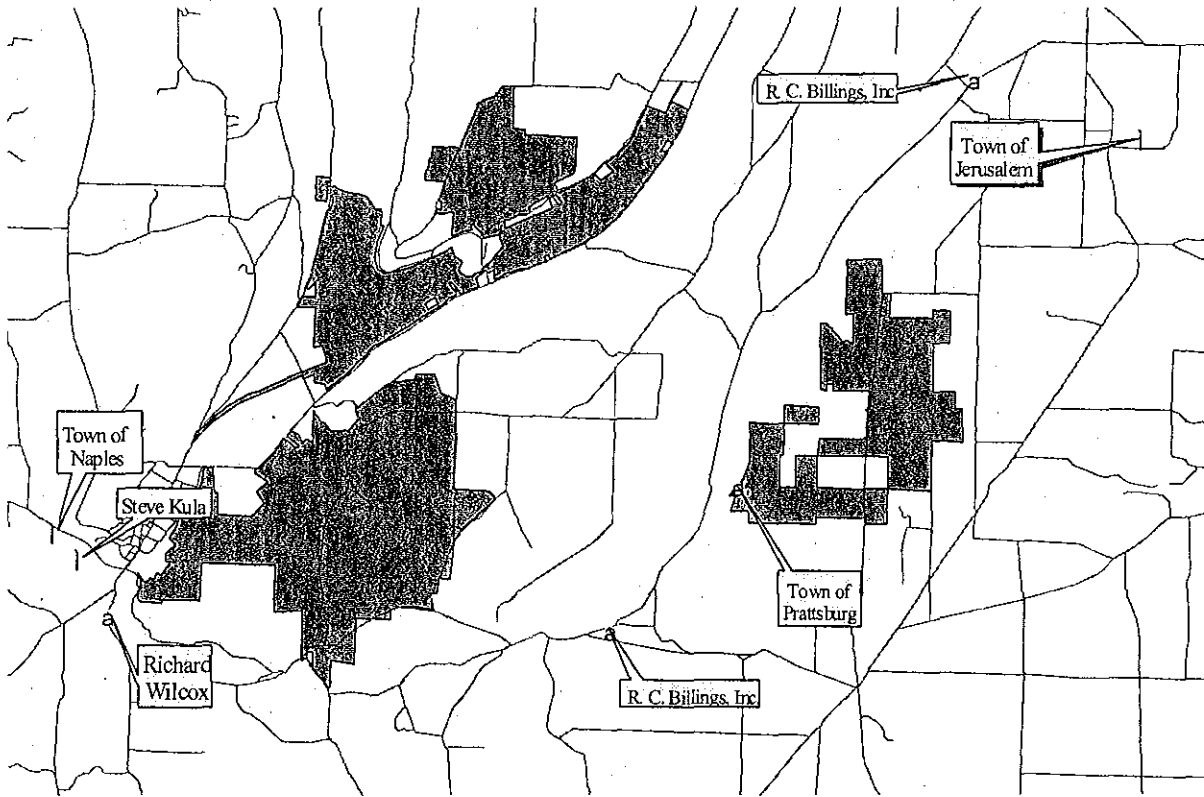
## Roads

-  County Rd.
-  Town Rd.
-  Access Rd.
-  No Surface Occupancy
-  State Land

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles



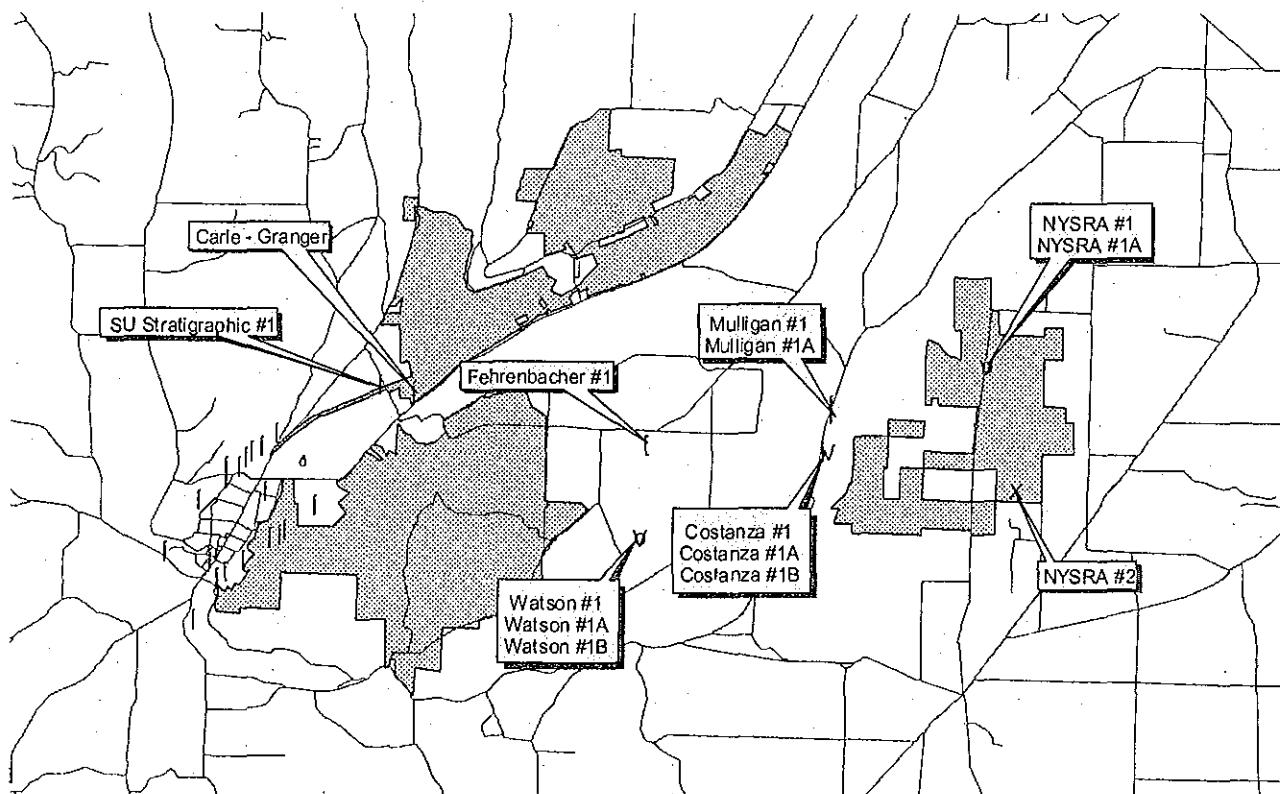
Gas Well and Gravel Mine Locations



Pit Name	Type
Town of Jerusalem	Active
Steve Kula	Active
Town of Naples	Active
R.C. Billings	Reclaimed
Town of Prattsburg	Reclaimed
R.C. Billings	Reclaimed
Richard Wilcox	Reclaimed

Gravel Mine  
Location and Status





Well Name	Status
Carle - Granger	Abandoned, Plugged
Costanza #1	Abandoned, Plugged
Costanza #1 - A	Abandoned, Plugged
Costanza #1 - B	Abandoned, Plugged
Fehrenbacher #1	Temporarily Abandoned
Mulligan #1	Abandoned, Plugged
Mulligan #1 - A	Abandoned, Plugged
NYS Yates RA #1	Abandoned, Plugged
NYS Yates RA #1-A	Abandoned, Plugged
NYS Yates RA #2	Permit Expired - No Ops
NYS Yates RA #3	Permit Expired - No Ops
SU Stratigraphic #1	Abandoned, Plugged
Watson #1	Abandoned, Plugged
Watson #1 - A	Temporarily Abandoned
Watson #1 - B	Shut In

Wells located along the West River Valley and just outside the Village of Naples are part of the Granby and Hemenway development. It is believed that all wells are abandoned and plugged.



## Appendix H: Wildlife Harvest

Calculated Legal Deer Take in the Towns within the Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan Area (Italy, Jerusalem, Naples, South Bristol, and Middlesex)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Deer</u>		
1982	3536	1992	3564
1983	3723	1993	3672
1984	4612	1994	3139
1985	2260	1995	3147
1986	1967	1996	4112
1987	2886	1997	4755
1988	3298	1998	4337
1989	3535	1999	4576
1990	3284	2000	5127
1991	3116	2001	4786

## Waterfowl Banding - High Tor Wildlife Management Area - 1991 to 2002

Year	Wood-duck	Mallard	American Black Duck	Mallard/Black Duck Hybrid	Other	Banded	Repeats (a)	Recaptures (b)	Totals	# Trips
1991	429	123	8	0	0	560	189	0	749	26
1992	162	74	1	0	0	237	37	2	276	28
1993	339	45	3	0	0	387	143	1	531	29
1994	258	22	1	0	0	281	53	0	334	21
1995	243	67	0	1	0	311	287	10	608	10
1996	4	310	2	2	1	319	325	11	655	12
1997	149	250	4	0	1	404	454	19	877	16
1998	33	153	0	0	0	186	114	14	314	15
1999	132	24	0	0	0	156	140	4	300	6
2000 (c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	22	54	2	1	0	79	40	1	120	6
2002	287	8	0	0	0	295	332	0	627	22
Totals	2058	1130	21	4	2	3215	2114	62	5391	191

a) Repeats are birds that are captured on more than one occasion during the same year.

b) Recaptures are birds that have been banded in previous years or at other locations.

c) No Banding was undertaken during 2000.

16.83 = Average # of Birds Banded Per Visit.

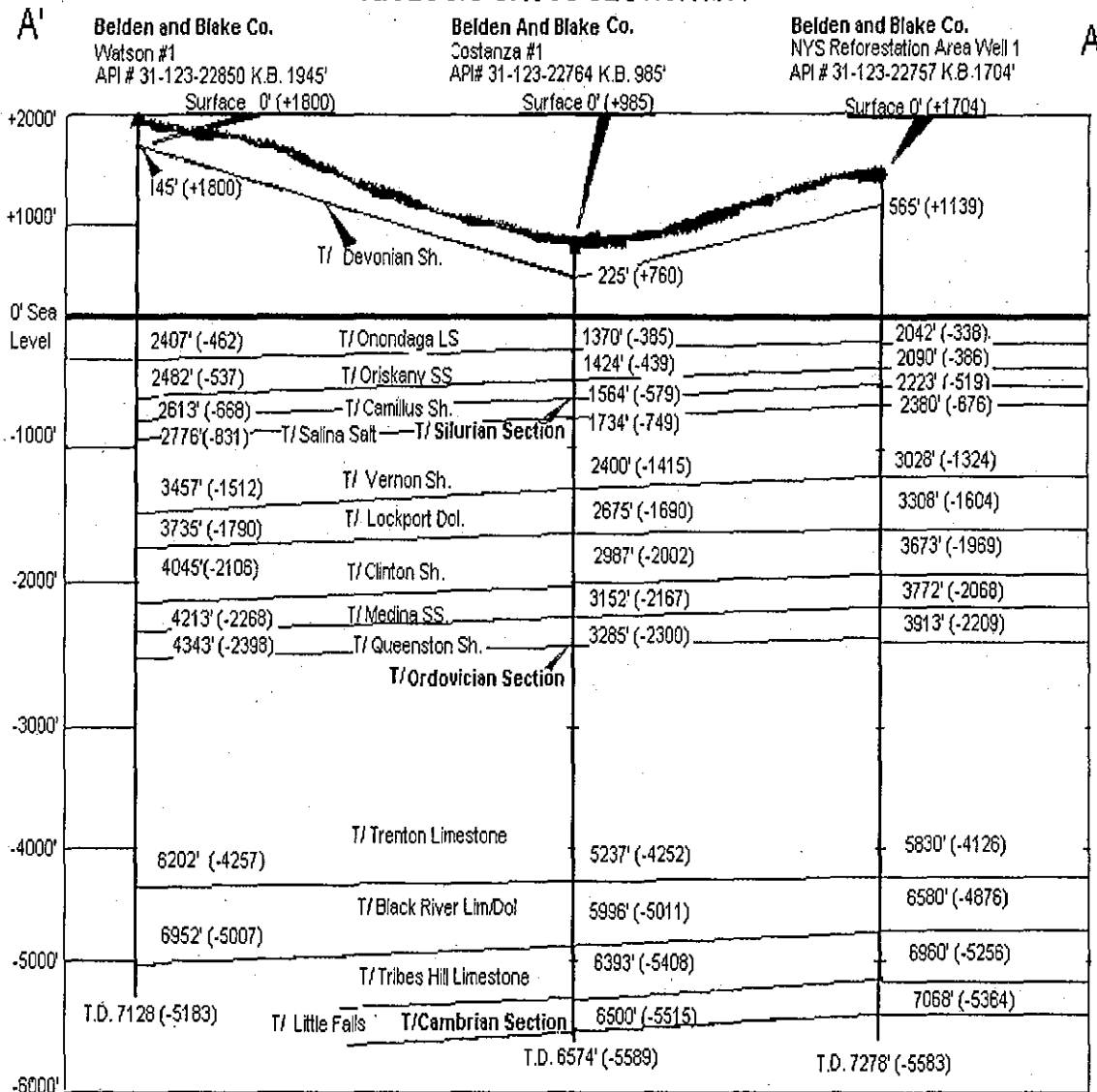
28.23 = Average # of Birds Captured Per Visit.

292.27 = Ducks Banded Per Year of Operation.

490.09 = Ducks Captured Per Year of Operation.

# Appendix I: Bedrock Cross Section

## CANANDAIGUA HIGHLANDS UNIT GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTION A-A'



## Appendix J: SEQR

12-12-79.(3/99)-9c

SEQR

**Appendix I**  
**State Environmental Quality Review**  
**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
**Notice of Determination of Non-Significance**

Identifying # 2004-SLM-8-169

Date January 14, 2004

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant environmental impact and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:** Adoption of the Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan

**SEQR Status:** Type 1   X    
Unlisted       

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:**        Yes  
  X   No

**Description of Action:**

The Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan sets forth the proposed goals, objectives, management actions and associated costs for the management of 8,214 acres on 2 parcels of state land in Yates and Ontario Counties. It includes Italy Hill State Forest and High Tor Wildlife Management Area. The plan details management activities for a 10-year period, from 2004 - 2014. Public participation has been sought via mailings and a public meeting on October 15, 2003. Full consideration for public input has been sought prior to completion of the final draft.

Management activities planned for this unit include: The general maintenance and improvement of the facilities, public access to the state land, and managing the vegetation and wildlife, including the creation and maintenance of open fields and logging an average of 113 acres per year. Other activities include the construction of one forest access road on High Tor Wildlife Management Area north of Hatch Hill. One parking lot will be constructed on Brink road at the Finger Lakes trailhead on the High Tor Wildlife Management Area, and more if needed, to increase public safety and access. Other projects include construction of a lean-to on the High Tor Wildlife Management Area, the creation and maintenance of up to 52 small water hole amphibian activity centers, and designating trails for recreational use. Best management practices for the control of erosion, and integrated pest management for the control of insects will be followed.

Acquisition of adjoining land from willing sellers will be sought, when possible. All forestry gas or other mineral activity will be monitored. Endangered and threatened species will be protected. Historical and archaeological resources will be protected.

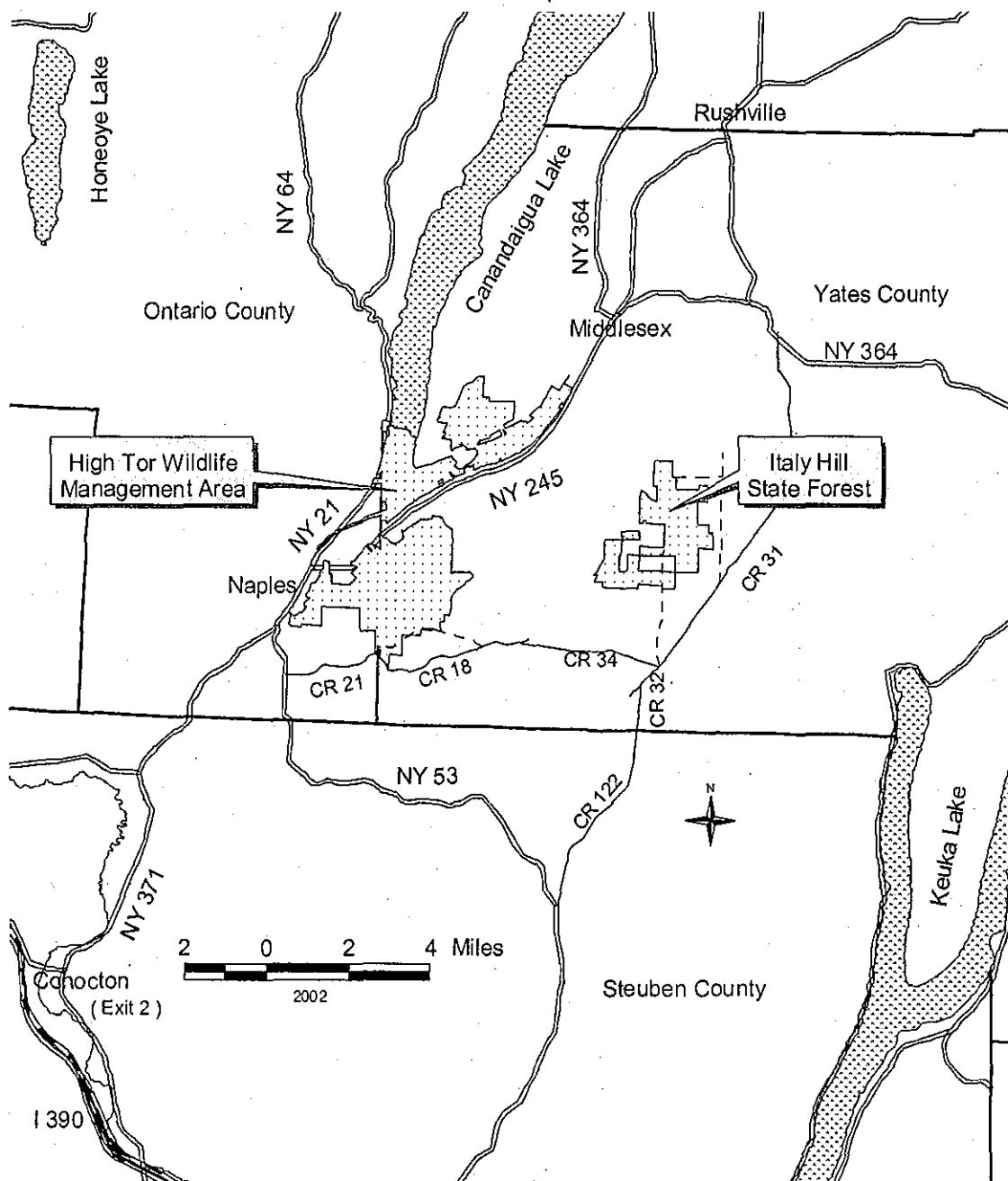
**Location:**

Canandaigua Highlands Unit: Italy Hill State Forest, Towns of Italy and Jerusalem in Yates County, High Tor Wildlife Management Area, Towns of Italy and Jerusalem in Yates County and Naples and South Bristol in Ontario County.

**Canandaigua Highlands Unit Management Plan Location Map**

Towns of Middlesex, Italy and Jerusalem in Yates Co.

Towns of South Bristol and Naples in Ontario Co.



For additional maps see pages 82-88 of the plan.



**Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

(See 617.7(a)-(c) for requirements of this determination; see 617.7(d) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

Activities planned for the unit will be covered by the following Programmatic/Generic Environmental Impact Statements:

State Forest Commercial Products Sales Program, Habitat Management Activities, Wildlife Habitat Management on State Forest Land, Red Pine Plantation Clearcut Program, New York State Open Space Plan, and the State Forest Recreation Management Program, Generic Environmental Impact Statement On the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (Final, 1992)

Activities which would require a site specific environmental review (SEQR) include: prescribed fire, site preparation with herbicide, and clearcuts larger than 40 acres. In addition, if after the public review process, activities are added to the plan to provide better management of the unit and are not covered by this Negative Declaration or cited Programmatic/Generic Environmental Impact Statements, DEC will undertake a site specific environmental review for such activities.

Activities in the plan will be performed in accordance with the standards and policies and procedures set forth in the following DEC documents:

Continuous Forest Inventory Handbook, State Forest Multiple Use Management Plan, Unpaved Forest Road Handbook, and the Timber Management Handbook.

In addition, activities in the plan will be guided by the Environmental Conservation Law, best management practices, the expertise of foresters and biologists, and the views expressed by the participating public.

Construction of new facilities shall include the construction of an administrative access road and one or more parking lots. These projects will be placed so as to minimize short and long term impacts, i.e. level ground and reasonable slope, culverts, ditches etc. to control drainage and erosion. These projects will entail: clearing of brush and some trees, grading, ditching, installation of culverts, and graveling. This will improve public access and safety.

The aesthetic resources will be protected by law enforcement activities, screening of logging activities, and by limiting disturbance in sensitive areas. Scenic views will be preserved by the removal of screening vegetation. There will be a favorable impact on energy resources, since timber management will produce fuelwood. The noise impact of construction and logging will occur so briefly as to be inconsequential.

Small water hole amphibian activity centers are constructed by scooping out soil in a suitable location, such as near a spring or on soil that will hold water. They are at least 6 foot deep, and vary in size and shape from 10 feet up to 40 feet. They are left to fill naturally with water and animals such as salamanders and frogs.

Archaeological and historical impacts will be minimized by disturbing the ground

as little as possible. Any construction, forestry or minerals activities will incorporate the use of best management practices, including but not limited to such considerations as: locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill; locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes; use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips; locating trails to minimize grade; laying out trails on existing old roads or cleared or partially cleared areas; using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes; constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream; limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow; avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist; and using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings. Parking lots or other structures will be located on flat, stable, well-drained sites in areas that require a minimum amount of tree cutting. Construction will be limited to periods of low or normal rainfall. The size of the parking lots will be the minimum necessary for the intended use. Wherever possible, wooded buffers will be used to screen parking lots from roads. These actions will not have significant impacts on the environment.

**If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed, and identify comment period (not less than 30 days from date of publication in the ENB)**

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Gretchen Cicora

Address: NYS DEC  
7291 Coon Road  
Bath, NY 14810

Telephone Number: (607) 776-2165 Ext. 29

For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice is sent to:

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of

Other involved agencies (if any)

Applicant (if any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin - NYS DEC - 625 Broadway - Albany, NY 12233-1750 (Type One Actions Only)

# GLOSSARY

**Alluvium** - Clay, silt, sand, gravel or similar material deposited by running water.

**Anticlinal** - rock layers that are folded so that the layers are inclined away from each other (like the legs of a capital A).

**Bedrock** - Hard lithified or consolidated rock units that underlie the unconsolidated or partially-consolidated surface (geology) sediments and soils deposited during recent sedimentation and glacial sedimentation.

**Buffer Strips** - A strip of vegetation used to protect sensitive areas from soil erosion and siltation.

**Canadian Shield** - the stable portion or nucleus of the North American continent, primarily igneous and metamorphic rocks, located primarily in northeastern Canada, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

**Clast** - A fragment of rock

**Classified Water Bodies** - A system whereby water bodies are protected under Environmental Conservation Law.

**Conifer** - Needle bearing trees.

**Conifer/Conifer Hardwood Forest** - A forest stand in which either of the two leading species is a conifer.

**Conifer Stand** - A forest stand containing 50% or more conifer species.

**D.B.H.** - (diameter at breast height) - The diameter of a tree at roughly breast height or 4½ feet from the ground.

**Defoliated** - Complete, or almost complete removal of leaves from a living tree.

**Dip** - The angle that strata (rock layers) or planar features deviate from horizontal.

**Dug-Out** - A 500 square foot by 3 feet deep pot hole constructed of earth and containing water.

**Early Successional Wildlife Species** - Animal species which require early vegetative stages such as grass, brush, Aspen.

**Ecological Diversity** - The number of species living in an ecosystem.

**Ecological Subzone** - A geographic area containing fauna and flora which are adapted to that particular area.

**Ecosystem** - A complex of living organisms and their environment.

**Erosion** - To wear away by the action: water, wind, or ice.

**Even Aged** - A forest in which all of the trees are essentially the same age.

**Faulting** - a fracture or crack that has had movement parallel to the fracture's surface

**Fluvial** - pertaining to sediments deposited by stream or river actions

**Fragipan** - An impervious subsurface soil layer (sometimes known as "hardpan") which restricts rooting and internal soil drainage.

**Glacier / Glacial** - a large mass of ice and snow that is moving on the land's surface

**Hardwood Forest** - A forest stand in which each of the two predominant species by percent is a hardwood.

**Hardwoods** - Broadleaved trees.

**Herbaceous Opening** - A non-forest vegetative type consisting of grasses and forbs.

**Homocline** - geologic structure that is dipping or inclined in one direction and at the same angle of inclination

**Kame** - a short ridge, hill, or mound of stratified glacial deposits

**Lacustrine** - sediments deposited in association with the processes within a lake

**Large Coarse Woody Debris** - The accumulation of dead woody material, both standing and fallen, which occurs in a forest stand.

**Lean-To** - A small, open fronted, log shelter used for overnight camping.

**Linements** - linear trends of weakness or fractures in the earth's crust

**Log Landing** - An area to which logs are skidded and then loaded for removal.

**MCFGPD** - thousand cubic feet of gas per day

**Moraine** - sediment that is accumulated due to the actions of a glacier

**Multiple Use** - A management philosophy by which many uses are derived for a specific land area.

**Natural Regeneration** - The regrowth of a forest stand by natural means.

**Natural Forest** - A forest established by natural regeneration.

**No Entry / No Surface Occupancy Lease** - A lease to explore and develop underground mineral resources without any surface disturbance. Above ground facilities and equipment to remove mineral resources must be located off the subject property.

**Oak Opening** - a globally rare plant community, also known as an oak savannah. The community is composed of native prairie grasses and associated plants usually surrounded by oak/hickory forests. Oak Openings are maintained by periodic burning. Historically, fires were set by Native Americans or caused by lightning strikes. Oak Openings can be variable in size, from just an acre to several thousand acre complexes.

**Off - Site** - The species are growing (or at least have been planted) where these species would not ordinarily be found, due to unfavorable site conditions.

**Plantation** - A forest established by planting.

**Pole Sized** - A young tree with a D.B.H. of 6 to 11 inches.

**Pre-Commercial** - To do a stand treatment when the trees are too small to sell for profit, requiring the payment of someone to do the work.

**Protection Management** - An area which required special management considerations. (Special cutting regimen, short rotation, long rotation, or no treatment.)

**Regeneration** - To reestablish a forest stand.

**Rotation** - The length of time between the establishment and the harvest of a forest stand.

**Sawtimber Sized** - A tree with a D.B.H. of 12 inches or greater.

**Seedling/Sapling Sized** - A young tree with a D.B.H. of less than 6 inches.

**Selective Harvesting** - Removal of the mature timber, usually the oldest or largest trees.

**Shade Intolerant** - Tree species that require full sunlight to survive past the seedling stage.

**Shade Tolerant** - Tree species that can survive in the shade cast by older trees.

**Sidetrack Well** - an inclined well that is drilled from a predetermined depth within an existing well

**Site** - Site is defined as a group of features (such as slope, aspect, soil type, etc.) which characterize a given area of land.

**Silviculture** - The establishment, development, care, and reproduction of forest stands.

**Softwoods** - Needle bearing trees, conifers

**Species Diversity** - The occurrence of a variety of plants and animals.

**Stand** - A group of plants with similar characteristics that are treated as a single unit in a management plan.

**Stand Analysis** - A systematic method of evaluating stands to determine the need for treatment.

**Stand Treatment** - Work done in a stand which is directed towards the management of the stand.

**State Forest** - Lands owned by the state of New York and administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation which are managed for the establishment and maintenance of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes.

**Stratigraphic** - the layering and sequence of mapable rock units.

**Surficial** - of, or relating to, the surface

**Sustained Yield** - The maintenance of a continuous flow of a particular product.

**Synclinal** - rock layers that are folded so that the layers are inclined towards each other (like the letter V)

**Till** - unstratified glacial deposits consisting of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders

**Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP)** - A permit to use state forest land for a specific purpose for a prescribed length of time.

**Top Lopping** - The cutting of limbs from the tops of felled trees to reduce fire danger and improve visibility. On state forests top lopping of conifers is required by law.

**Uneven Aged** - A forest containing trees of two or more age classes.

**Unique Area** - A parcel of land owned by the state acquired do to its special natural beauty, wilderness character, geological, ecological or historical significance for the state nature and historic preserve, and may include lands within a forest preserve county outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

**Vegetative Stage** - A description of a plant community based on the age of the component plants.

**Vegetative Type** - A description of a plant community based on species composition.

**Vernal Pool** - A small body of water that is present in the spring, but dries up by mid-summer.

**Vertical Well** - a well that is straight into the ground or is 90 degrees from horizontal.

**Water Hole** - A laid up stone cistern built by C.C.C. volunteers and originally used for water for fire protection purposes.

**Watershed** - The land area from which a stream receives its water.

**Wetland** - Land or area saturated and sometimes partially or intermittently covered with water.

**Class I, II, III or IV** - The designation placed upon a mapped wetland by NYS DEC as required by 6NYCRR. The four classes rank wetlands according to their ability to perform wetland functions and provide wetland benefits. Class I is the most critical.

**Yield** - The production of a commodity such as; forest products, water, or wildlife.