

Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

---

# Unit Management Plan for

Five Ponds Wilderness Area  
Buck Pond Primitive Corridor  
Parker's Island Primitive Corridor  
Raven Lake Primitive Corridor  
Tomar Pond Primitive Corridor  
Wanakena Primitive Corridor

---

BUREAU OF  
FOREST PRESERVE  
MANAGEMENT

April 1994



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
MARIO M. CUOMO, Governor      LANGDON MARSH, Acting Commissioner



UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA

BUCK POND PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

PARKER'S ISLAND PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

RAVEN LAKE PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

TOMAR POND PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

WANAKENA PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

HAMILTON COUNTY  
HERKIMER COUNTY  
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

MARIO CUOMO, GOVERNOR  
GOVERNOR

LANGDON MARSH  
ACTING COMMISSIONER



**MEMORANDUM FROM**

**LANGDON MARSH, Acting Commissioner**

**TO: The Record**

**RE: Unit Management Plan  
Five Ponds Wilderness Area**

**DATE: April 6, 1994**

A revised Unit Management Plan for the Five Ponds Wilderness Area has been completed. The Plan is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department rules, regulations and policies. The Plan includes management objectives for a five-year period and is hereby approved and adopted.

*Langdon Marsh*



## IN MEMORIAM

Since the inception of the original plan in July 1987, two persons with close association to the management of this area have died.

**Anne Munro** (d. March 15, 1988), a life member of the Sierra Club and the Adirondack Mountain Club, was one of the nine individual representatives on the Citizen's Advisory Committee who donated considerable time and effort to help the professional staff develop the initial plan. Her quiet manner belied her effectiveness.

**Tom Nolan** (d. February 6, 1992) died from a snowmobile accident three days after his twenty-sixth birthday. As one of the three members of the trail crew, his contributions were directly concerned with the day to day management of the area. He was an integral part of this essential group.

## DEC TASK FORCE

John Kramer - Task Force Leader (1987, 1993)  
Bruce Coon - Lands & Forests (1993)  
William Gordon - Fisheries (1987, 1993)  
David Gray - Lands & Forests (1993)  
Roger Hutchinson - Lands & Forests (1993)  
Joseph Kennedy - Lands & Forests (1993)  
John Manion - Lands & Forests (1987)  
James Papero - Lands & Forests (1993)  
Terry Perkins - Lands & Forests (1987, 1993)  
H. Robert VanWie - Operations (1987, 1993)  
Bernard Siskavich - Lands & Forests (1993)  
Edward (Ted) Smith - Wildlife (1987, 1993)

## OTHER DEC CONTRIBUTORS

Margaret Baldwin (1987, 1993)	Leigh Blake (1987)
Thomas Brown (1987, 1993)	David Chapman (1987)
Bruce Coon (1987)	Bernard Davies (1993)
Kenneth Didion (1993)	Elmer Erwin (1987)
Rod Fraser (1987)	Eric Fried (1987)
Jean Gawalt (1993)	David Gray (1987)
Scott Gray (1987)	Phil Hulbert (1993)
Roger Hutchinson (1987)	Thomas Kapelewski (1987)
Cathy Munger (1987, 1993)	Peter Nye (1993)
Dennis Perham (1987, 1993)	Carol Reschke (1993)
Denise Richardson (1993)	Dave Riordan (1993)
Walton Sabin (1993)	Bernard Siskavich (1987)
Dave Smith (1993)	Denise Townsend (1993)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	vi
LOCATION MAP	vii
ACQUISITION HISTORY MAP	viii
I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
A. UNIT LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS	1
B. ACCESS	4
C. HISTORY	4
MAP - RAILROADS AND ROADS OF THE CRANBERRY LAKE REGION 1900-1920	7
II. <u>RESOURCE AND PUBLIC USE INVENTORY OVERVIEW</u>	8
A. NATURAL RESOURCES	8
1. Physical	8
a. Geology	8
b. Soils	8
GEOLOGICAL MAP	9
c. Terrain	10
d. Water	10
e. Wetlands	12
2. Biological	12
a. Vegetation	12
b. Wildlife	15
c. Fisheries	16
3. Visual	18
4. Unique	19
5. Wilderness	19
B. EXISTING FACILITIES	19
C. CULTURAL	22
D. ECONOMIC	22
E. PUBLIC USE OF THE AREA	22
F. CAPACITY OF THE RESOURCE TO WITHSTAND USE	25



III. <u>MANAGEMENT AND POLICY</u>	29
A. PAST MANAGEMENT	30
B. MANAGEMENT ZONES	31
MANAGEMENT ZONE MAP	32
C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	36
1. Land Management	36
2. Wildlife Management	37
3. Fisheries Management	38
4. Public Use Management	39
MAP - LOOP TRAIL AROUND CRANBERRY LAKE	41
MAP - HIGH FALLS LOOP RELOCATION	42
MAP - NEW FISH POLE POND TRAIL	44
MAP - AREAS C & D CANOE CARRIES	46
5. Water Quality Management	47
IV. <u>PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED</u>	49
A. PROJECTS TO BE DROPPED	49
B. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REMOVAL	49
1. Foot Trail Development	49
TRAILS MAP	50
2. Pit Privy Installation	51
3. Parking Lot Development	51
4. Area Identification	51
5. Leantos	51
6. Mt. Electra Fire Tower	52
7. Bicycle Use	52
8. Middle Branch Footbridge/Grassy Pond Trail	52
C. MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES	53
1. Foot Trails	53
2. Lean-tos	53
3. Pit Privies	54
4. Designated Campsites	54
5. Major Bridges	54
6. Parking Lots	54
7. Boundary Lines	54
8. Signs	54
9. Trail Registers	55
D. PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLS	55
1. Camping	55
2. Hiking	55

E.	FISH AND WILDLIFE	56
1.	Fisheries	56
a.	Annual Stocking	56
b.	Pond Liming	56
c.	Survey and Inventory	58
2.	Wildlife	58
F.	WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS	59
	STATE DESIGNATED RIVERS MAP	60
G.	FIRE MANAGEMENT	61
H.	ADMINISTRATION	61
1.	Staffing	61
2.	Volunteers	62
3.	Budgeting	63
4.	Education	64
I.	PROBLEM AREAS	64
1.	Former Truck Trails	64
2.	Land Titles	65
3.	Environmental Problems	65
4.	Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers	66
5.	Vehicle Protection	66
6.	Public Motorized Use	66
7.	Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail	66
8.	Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge	66
9.	Vandalism	67
10.	Ground Fires	67
11.	Wanakena Primitive Corridor	67
12.	Raven Lake Primitive Corridor	67
J.	LAND ACQUISITION	67
K.	STATE LAND MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS REQUIRED	68
L.	STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT REQUIREMENT	68
M.	RELATIONSHIP OF MANAGEMENT AREA TO FOREST PRESERVE AND ADJACENT AREAS	68
N.	PROPOSED REGULATIONS	68
0.	<u>SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION</u>	69

<u>BIBLIOGRAPHY</u>	71
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
APPENDIX A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	78
APPENDIX B FORMALIZED VOLUNTEER EFFORTS	92
OSWEGATCHIE RIVER INVENTORIES	95
ASSISTANT FOREST RANGER REPORTS	121
TRAILHEAD NOTICES	132
APPENDIX C GUIDELINES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND CANOE AREAS	134
FISH SPECIES	140
LAKE AND POND INVENTORY	141
RIVER AND STREAM INVENTORY	148
CHRONOLOGY OF CRANBERRY LAKE, STILLWATER RESERVOIR AND BOG RIVER FLOW FISHERIES	149
APPENDIX D BREEDING BIRD ATLAS KEY	158
BREEDING BIRD SPECIES	159
REPORTED FURBEARER TAKE	163
CALCULATED DEER/BEAR KILL	164
SIGNIFICANT HABITAT MAP	165
APPENDIX E PUBLIC COMMENTS	166
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP INDEX	170
MAP SECTIONS	171
FACILITIES MAP	INSERT

## BACKGROUND

In 1972, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller approved the Adirondack Park Agency Master Plan for State-owned lands in the Adirondack Park. This culminated many years of work by several legislative study groups and, ultimately, the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks, appointed by the Governor in 1968.

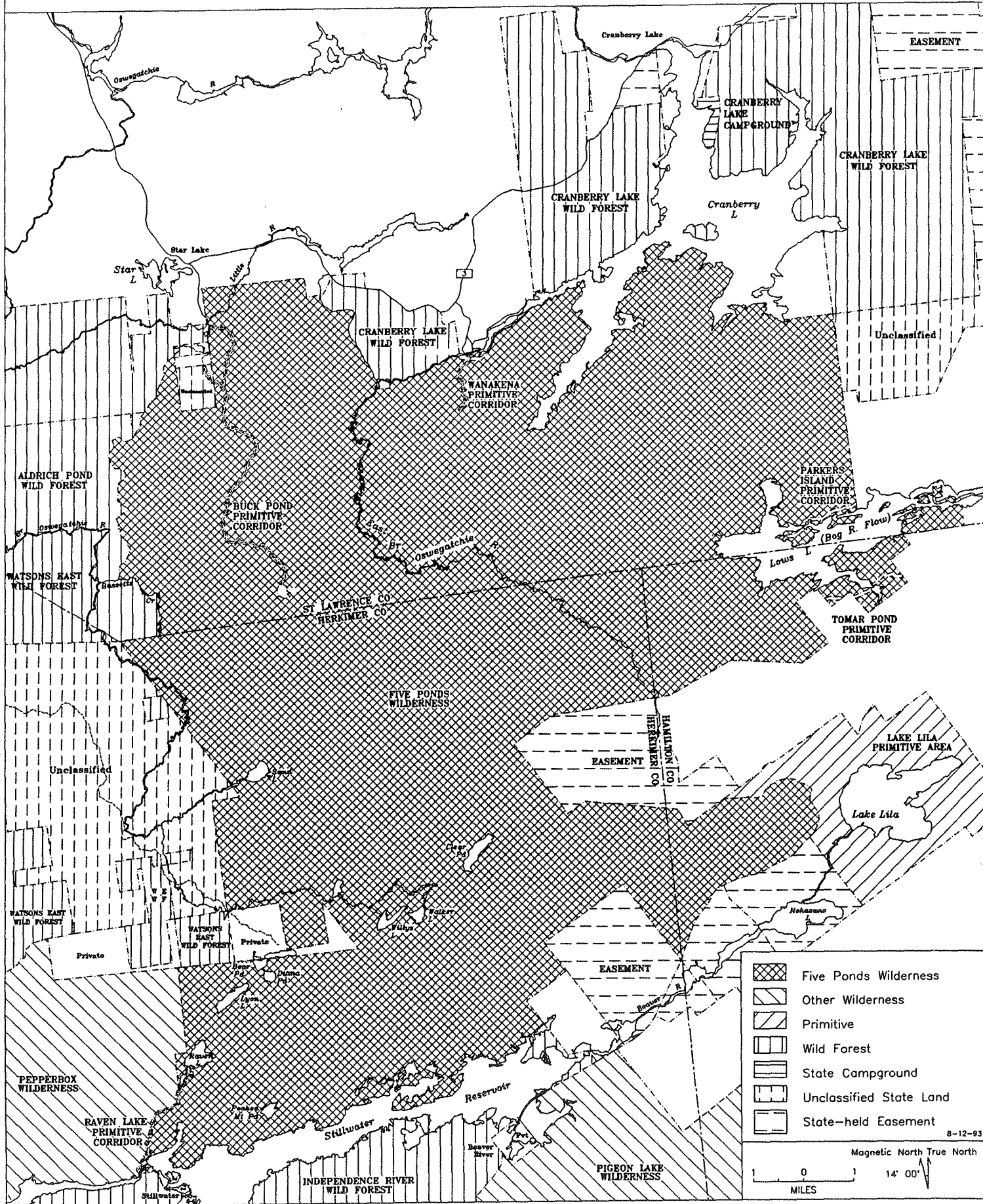
The Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks made nearly 200 specific recommendations regarding the Adirondack Park. Among its recommendations were:

- The creation of the Adirondack Park Agency.
- The preparation of a Master Plan for State-owned lands by the Agency.
- The classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use" and
- A set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody, and control of State-owned lands under the Master Plan with emphasis on proposed wilderness and primitive areas.

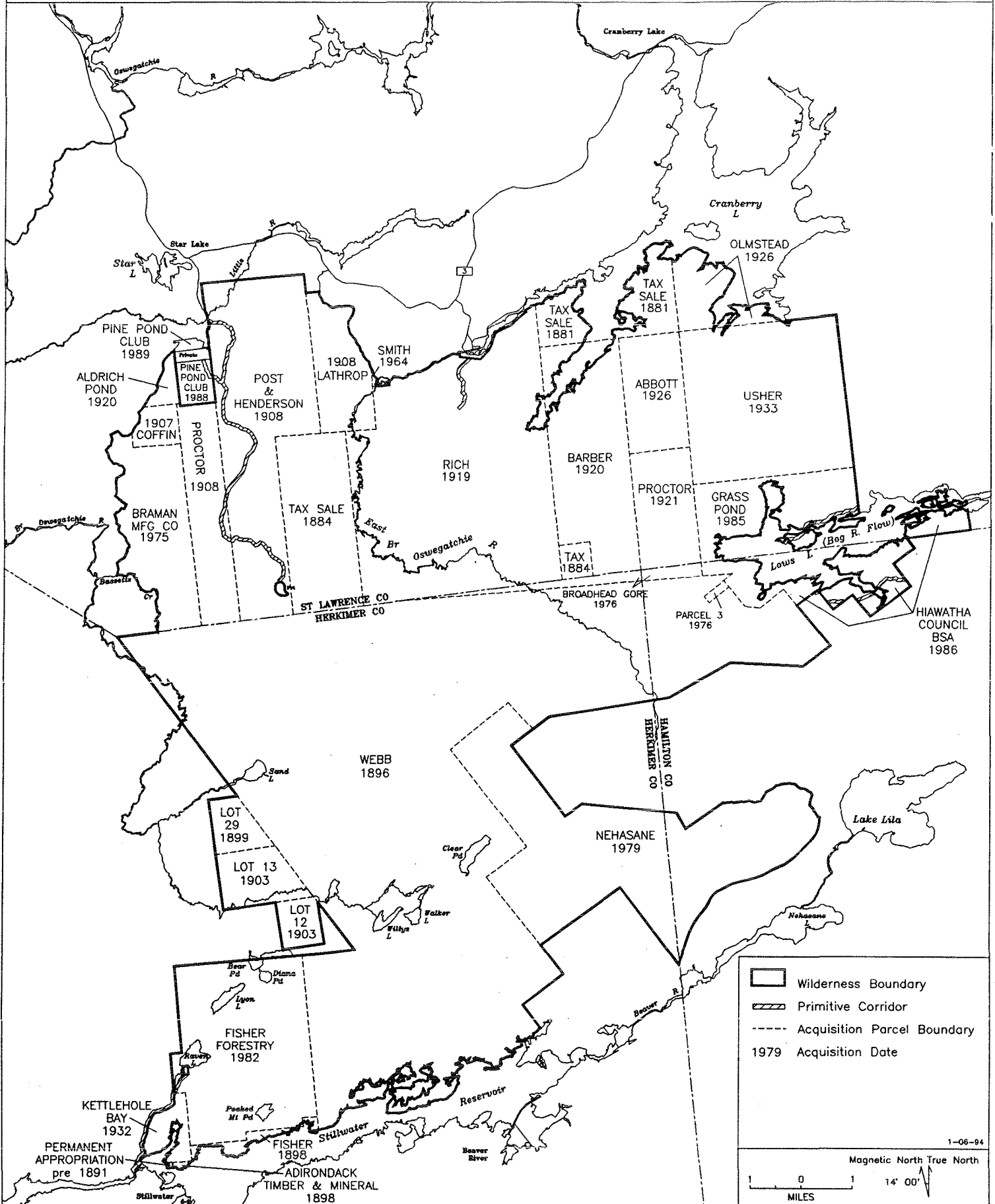
The Temporary Study Commission also prepared legislation in final draft form, not only establishing the agency, but providing a comprehensive framework for land use, both public and private.

The final legislative mandate provided for the Agency's Master Plan for State-owned lands in the Adirondack Park. A revised Master Plan, in accordance with Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, Article 27 of the Executive Law, was signed by Governor Hugh Carey on October 24, 1979 and another revision on November 4, 1987 was signed by Governor Mario Cuomo. The Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan was prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in July 1987 with the State Land Master Plan setting the parameters and interested citizens providing additional review. This revision is a scheduled update of that plan.

# LOCATION OF FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS



# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS ACQUISITION HISTORY



I. INTRODUCTION

A. UNIT LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

1. Five Ponds Wilderness Area

This area is described as those contiguous Western Adirondack forest preserve lands in the Towns of Clifton and Fine in St. Lawrence County, Town of Webb in Herkimer County and Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County, lying generally between Cranberry Lake to the north and Stillwater Reservoir to the south. It is bounded by the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest to the north, the Lake Lila Primitive Area to the southeast, the Independence River Wild Forest to the south, the Pepperbox Wilderness Area, Watsons East Triangle Wild Forest and Aldrich Pond Wild Forest to the west. The lands comprising this area were obtained as follows:

<u>Date of Conveyance</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Cumulative Acreage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
8/10/81	1,572	Tax Sale	1,572	Tax Sale of 1877
10/31/84	3,386	Tax Sale	4,958	Tax Sale of 1881/two tracts
Pre-1891	7	Dam Site	4,965	Jurisdiction claimed by Hudson River/Black River Regulating Dist.
1/16/96	40,379	Webb	45,344	
1898	28	Adirondack		
		Tim & Min	45,372	Appropriated for Stillwater Res.
1898	209	Mary Fisher	45,581	Appropriated for Stillwater Res.
5/8/99	658	Lot 29	46,239	From W. Webb
5/7/03	500	Lot 12	46,739	From Rackett Falls Land Co.
11/5/03	1,053	Lot 13	47,792	From Int. Paper & Tax Sales
5/16/07	664	Coffin	48,456	
1/30/98	1,857	Lathrop	50,313	
4/5/08	4,307	Post &	54,620	
4/15/08	2,288	Henderson	56,908	
4/15/08	2,426	Proctor	59,334	Town of Fine Tract
3/1919	11,208	Rich	70,542	Two Tracts
3/31/20	3,258	Barber	73,800	
4/24 &				
11/24/20	242	Aldrich Pond	74,042	Lots 7, 8, & 12
1/27/21	2,000	Proctor	76,042	Town of Clifton Tract
11/18/26	551	Olmstead	76,593	From Anna Abbott
11/22/26	2,000	Abbott	78,593	From Anna Abbott
3/1/32	434	Kettlehole		
		Bay	79,027	
7/3/33	5,831	Usher	84,858	From Emporium Forestry
1/14/64	12	Smith	84,870	
4/2/75	2,414	Braman Mfg.	87,284	From Schuler Farms
4/6/76	314	Broadhead		
		Gore	87,598	Including Parcel 3

<u>Date of Conveyance</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Cumulative Acreage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
6/6/79	8,605	Nehasane	96,203	
11/12/82	5,905	Fisher Forestry	102,108	Former Wilderness Lakes Primitive Area
8/1/85	1,800	Grass Pond	103,908	From Yorkshire Timber
4/8/86	3,322	Hiawatha BSA	107,230	

The legal description of these lands, taken from the Adirondack Land Map, is as follows:

Hamilton County (8,179 acres)

Long Lake	T & C Purchase T37, 38, Tria. N. of 38, 51	8,179
-----------	---	-------

Herkimer County (52,202 acres)

Webb	T & C Purchase T38, 42, 43, 51	39,875
	John Brown Tract T5, E $\frac{1}{2}$	3,533
	Middle $\frac{1}{2}$	6,002
	W $\frac{1}{2}$	581
	Watson's East Triangle, Lot 12	500
	Lot 13	1,053
	Lot 29	658
		<u>52,202</u>

St. Lawrence County (46,849 acres)

Clifton	GT2, T1	17,312
Colton	GT2, T2	1,033
Fine	GT3, T14 T15	5,746
		<u>22,758</u>
		46,849

## 2. Buck Pond Primitive Corridor

Location - Northwestern part of area. South of Star Lake.

Length - Approximately 8.5 miles

Status - Open road 7.5 miles (unmaintained). Restricted to administrative use and access for owners of Buck Pond the last 1.0 mile. Poor condition due to lack of maintenance.



3. Parker's Island Primitive Corridor\*

Location - Southeastern part of area. West of Sabattis. North of Lows Lake.

Length - 8,686.88 feet (1.6 miles).

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for owners of Parker's Island.

4. Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

Location - Southwestern part of area. Separates this area from the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. North of hamlet of Stillwater.

Length - 9,724.78 feet (1.84 mile)

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for owners of Raven Lake lot and for the Black River Regulating District.

5. Tomar Pond Primitive Corridor\*

Location - Southeastern part of area. West of Sabattis. South of Lows Lake.

Length - 9,314.95 feet (1.8 miles)

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for owners of inholding.

6. Wanakena Primitive Corridor

Location - Northern part of area. South of Wanakena.

Length - 2,608 feet (.5 mile)

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for the Wanakena Water Company. Maintained.

- \* These two corridors, although classified in 1988 as part of the Low's Lake Primitive Area, are included in this plan because they physically enter the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The plan for the remainder of the area will be included with the adjacent Hitchins Pond Primitive Area and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

## B. ACCESS

The only motorized public access to the interior of this area is the first 7.5 miles of the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor which has historically been used mostly during hunting season. This use has declined significantly since the inception of the planning process in 1987. The likely reason for this is the lack of maintenance by the Department.

Developed foot access is provided to the northern part of the area with the Wanakena Loop Trail being available at two trailheads in the hamlet of Wanakena and the Boundary Line Trail being available from the Youngs Road south of the hamlet of Star Lake.

Motorized boat access is available at three trailheads on Cranberry Lake (Janack's Landing, Sixmile Creek Trail, Darning Needle Pond Trail) and one trailhead on Stillwater Reservoir (Red Horse Creek Trail). Canoe access is available at these trailheads as well as at the Esker Canoe Carry Trail on the western shore of Lows Lake, and the canoe launch at Inlet.

## C. HISTORY

Relevant historical occurrences that affected these lands are as follows:

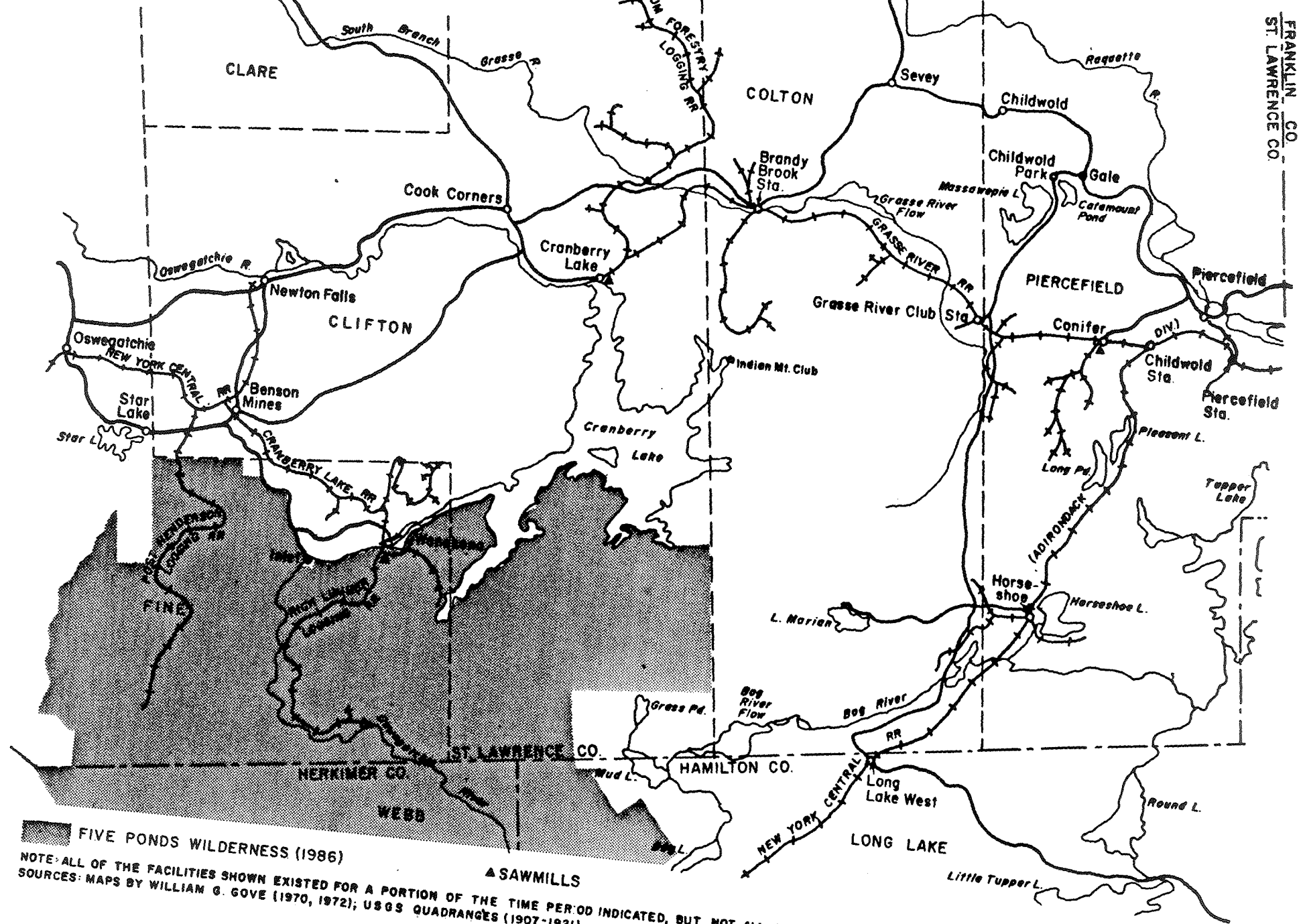
- 1653 Probably the first traverse of the area by a white man, the French Jesuit Joseph Poncet, over the Indian trail later followed by the Albany Road (Jamieson, 1963).
- 1772 Totten and Crossfield Purchase first surveyed. The Webb and Nehasane tracts are within this area.
- 1792 Macomb's Purchase finalized for the sale of 3,635,200 acres. This is the largest single land grant ever made in New York and includes all of those tracts in St. Lawrence County.
- 1812-1815 The Albany Road was constructed from the vicinity of Johnstown to Russell. The present Inlet Road is a remaining portion of that road and the road from Partlow to Gull Lake is probably another remnant. The portion in between was long ago abandoned due to little use.
- 1858 Joel Headley describes a canoe trip up the Bog River to Mud Lake (Low's Lake) which consisted of nine carries. (Headley 1982)
- 1859 The last moose was legally shot near Bog Lake by a hunter from the Town of Fine. (Jamieson and Morris 1991).
- 1860c. The trapper, George Muir, built his cabin at Gull Lake. (Pilcher 1979).
- 1866c-1906. Philo Scott hosted and guided sportsmen at his camp on Big Deer Pond. Irving Bacheller, his patron, commemorated Philo (or Fide) in a novel, a poem, and in a memoir (Bacheller, 1904, 1906, 1938).

- 1867 The first dam was built at the foot of Cranberry Lake. It was a wooden structure 13 feet high which roughly doubled the size of the original lake.
- 1873 Verplanck Colvin first surveyed the Cranberry Lake area. He was guided in the Five Ponds area by the trapper George Muir. (Colvin, 1873).
- 1877 The tax sale of this year resulted in State acquisition of title to the first tract in the present Five Ponds Wilderness Area. This tract is on both sides of Dead Creek Flow and is partially within the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest.
- 1882 The original Stillwater Reservoir dam was begun by the State to compensate for the diversion of water from the Black River basin to feed the Erie Canal. (Martin 1960).
- 1884 The Inlet House was built by George Sternberg in the vicinity of the present state parking lot at Inlet (Two Towns - Two Centuries, 1976).
- 1888 The Stillwater Reservoir was flooded, inundating 1,594 acres of private lands. (VanValkenburg, 1979)
- 1892 Gifford Pinchot, the forester who pioneered scientific forestry in this country, examined the Nehasane forest lands for William Webb and devised a plan for a systematic harvest of the property (Pinchot, 1970 and Graham, 1978). His cutting rules are still basic to rational timber harvest today.
- 1892 On October 12, the final spike on the Adirondack and St. Lawrence Railway was set, linking existing lines at Remsen and Malone. On October 24, the first train ran through Tupper on schedule, from New York to Montreal. (Simmons 1964, Harter 1979, Donaldson 1977).
- 1893 The Stillwater Reservoir dam was raised to a height of "not less than five feet vertically" in compliance with legislation passed the previous year (VanValkenburgh, 1985). This resulted in a lawsuit by William Webb for the resulting loss of land and access to his holdings north of the reservoir.
- 1894 The last known wolf in this area was killed by George Muir near his camp at Gull Lake.
- 1896 The Webb Purchase was consummated as the result of a lawsuit initiated in 1893. This acquisition of 74,584.62 acres is the largest single state acquisition to date. A condition of this sale was the construction of a foot trail by Dr. Webb from Crooked Lake to an existing trail (Albany Road) north of Gull Lake to keep users of the Red Horse Creek Trail on State lands. (Fisheries, Game and Forest Com. 1896).
- 1898 As a result of his work at Nehasane, Gifford Pinchot published "The Adirondack Spruce" which is a classic text on scientific forest management still relevant today. (Pinchot 1970)

- 1898c. The Post and Henderson Company established a large sawmill in Benson Mines. Later, the operation was expanded to a location on the Little River, east of Star Lake and the logging railroad which forms the basis for part of the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor was built (about 1905, according to Palmer).
- 1902 The Rich Lumber Company built the hamlet of Wanakena and began logging its 16,000 acre forest.
- 1903 The purchase of "Lot 13" represented the final purchase of an unharvested forest on this area.
- 1904 The Partlow Lake Railroad was built from Partlow five miles north to Sylvan Lake (Partlow Milldam)(Marleau, 1986). Although the 1905 New York Central Mohawk Division Employee's time table shows two passenger and two freight stops each way in 1905, the stop was removed soon thereafter (Harter, 1979).
- 1909 A fire tower was constructed on Cat Mountain - one of the first towers to be constructed in the State. It was a wooden structure manned for 23 years by John Janack, who lived most of the year in a small cabin at Janack's Landing with his wife and eleven children (Cranberry Lake, 1845-1959).
- 1911-1913 Emporium Forestry Company built the Grass River Railroad from Childwold Station to Cranberry Lake.
- 1912 The Rich Lumber Company completed the harvest of its lands and moved its operations to Vermont. The company donated 1,800 acres of its land for the creation of the New York State Ranger School.
- 1916 The first concrete dam was constructed at Cranberry Lake, resulting in a much larger impoundment.
- 1917-1927 The Emporium Forestry Company sawmill operated in Cranberry Lake, producing approximately 200 million board feet of quality hardwood lumber.
- 1923 Robert Marshall, one of the founders of the Wilderness Society, attended forestry summer camp at Barber Point and wrote "Weekend Trips in the Cranberry Lake Region". Four of these trips are described verbatim in Appendix A.
- 1925 The Stillwater Reservoir was enlarged by raising the existing dam 19 feet (Martin 1960).
- 1950 On November 25, strong winds blew down sufficient acreage of timber to necessitate a salvage operation over the next few years. Damage was the heaviest in stands of old growth white pine.

This listing represents a brief sketch of the history of the area which should be supplemented with the references noted in the bibliography for a more thorough understanding.

# RAILROADS AND ROADS OF THE CRANBERRY LAKE REGION 1900-1920



FRANKLIN CO.  
ST. LAWRENCE CO.

■ FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS (1986)

NOTE: ALL OF THE FACILITIES SHOWN EXISTED FOR A PORTION OF THE TIME PERIOD INDICATED, BUT NOT ALL AT THE SAME TIME.  
SOURCES: MAPS BY WILLIAM G. GOVE (1970, 1972); USGS QUADRANGES (1907-1921)



## II. RESOURCE AND PUBLIC USE INVENTORY OVERVIEW

### A. Natural Resources

#### 1. Physical

##### a. Geology

The broad geological features of this area are illustrated on the following page. The Childwold Terrace, which encompasses a portion of the northern part of this area, was mapped by connecting the successive 200 foot contours directly across all depressions except those of major size. Maximum relief within this terrace is 400 feet or less. Major river valleys descend about 12 to 25 feet per mile and the area contains an abundance of sand plains and swamps. The greater portion of this area is in the Adirondack Mountain section, which is an area of generally greater relief caused by domal uplift. Detailed geological descriptions may be found in Buddington, 1962, Dale, 1935 and Jamieson, 1978.

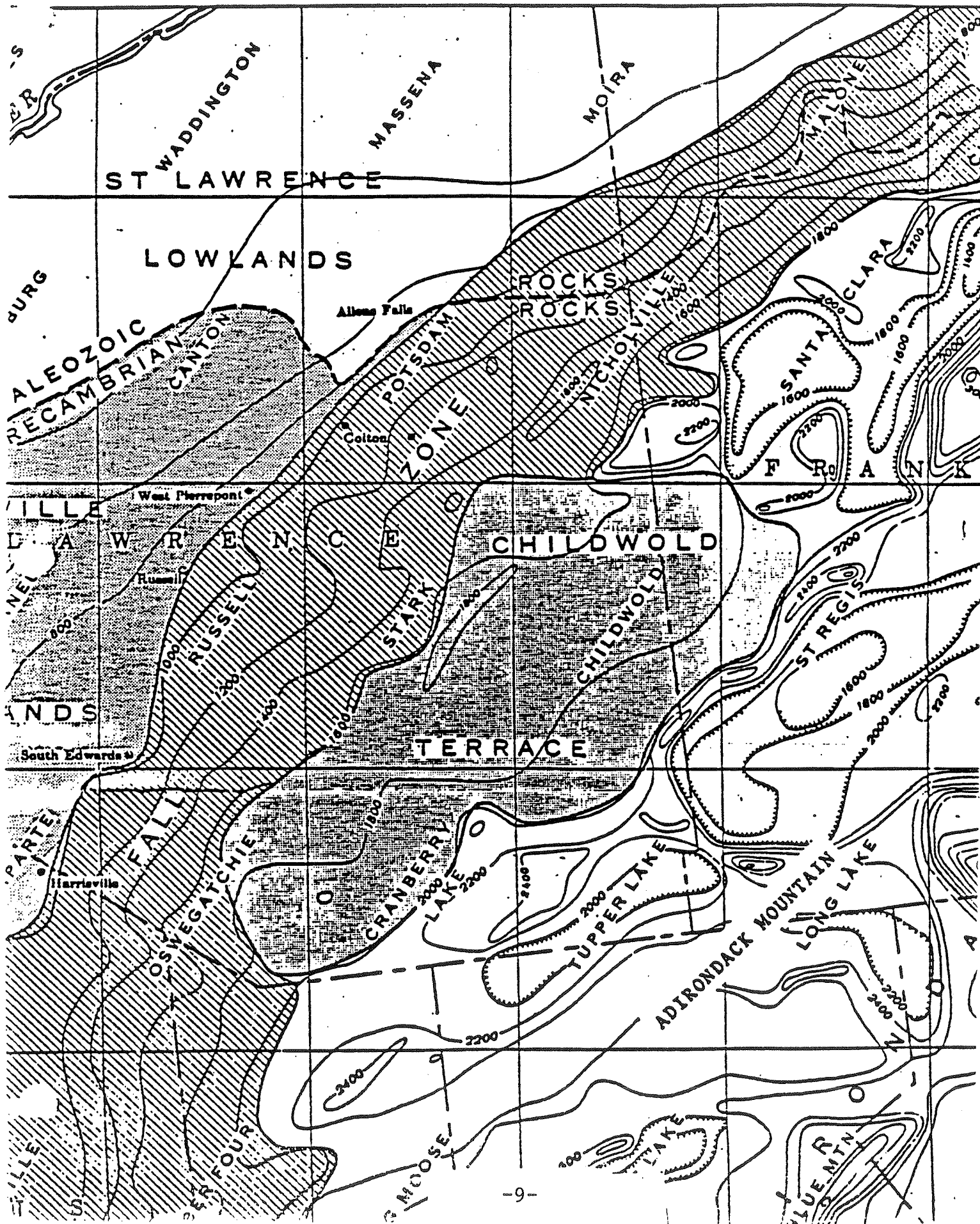
Wolf Mountain is the western most component of the Mt. Marcy Cross Range, which has a generally eastward trend. The slope of the crests in this range decline toward the west. The range, although crossed by the Raquette River, forms the divide from which the headwaters of the Saranac and Ausable Rivers flow northeast and the Hudson flows south (Buddington, 1962).

Eskers are a prominent feature of the terrain within this area; especially the Cranberry Lake Esker from West Flow (where it is triple) to a point south of Nicks Pond, and the Five Ponds Esker, which bisects those ponds and continues southwest to separate Rock and Sand Lakes. The latter reaches a maximum height of 150 feet from its base and is one of the best developed eskers in the Adirondacks (Jamieson, 1978). It is identified in the State Land Master Plan as a natural special interest area.

There are two iron ore deposits within this area which are known as the Dead Creek anomaly and the Grass Pond anomaly (Leonard and Buddington, 1964).

##### b. Soils

The soils in this area cover a wide range of types and associations. Along stream courses and marshy areas they are deep, poorly drained and highly organic. This gives way to gently sloping areas of poor to well-drained bouldery shallow soils with rock outcropping. Included here are large areas of light sand to gravelly soils. The upper slopes are steep with shallow soils and large areas of exposed bedrock and rock outcropping.



A general soils map has been prepared for this area. It should be noted that these broad classifications are of very limited use in the public use management aspect of wilderness management; however, they are of significant use in the determination of ecological evaluations which later revisions of this plan will consider more fully. Young's ambitious study in 1934 is also still very relevant in this context.

c. Terrain

Elevations range from 1486' at Cranberry Lake to 2489' at Summit Mountain. Topography is generally flat in the northern portion with steep slopes occurring with changes of elevation. The southern portion is generally much steeper.

There are 19 named elevations within the area as follows:

<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TRACT</u>
1767	Streeter Mountain	Coffin
1836	Francis Hill	Braman Mfg. Co.
1920	Round Hill	Proctor (Fine)
1920	Greenfield Mountain	Webb
2022	Panther Mountain	Webb
2040	Partlow Mountain	Webb
2081	Tomar Mountain	Webb
2101	Threemile Mountain	Rich
2121	Roundtop Mountain	Rich
2180	Sitz Mountain	Webb
2232	Indian Mountain	Usher
2240	Mt. Frederick	Nehasane
2260	Cat Mountain	Barber
2260	Webb Mountain	Nehasane
2290	Nehasane Mountain	Nehasane
2300	Mt. Electra	Nehasane
2340	Grass Pond Mountain	Grass Pond
2406	Wolf Mountain	Usher
2489	Summit Mountain	Nehasane

d. Water

The waters of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area drain into one of three major New York State watersheds. These are the Black River on the south via Stillwater Reservoir, the Oswegatchie River on the north and west via the Middle Branch and Cranberry Lake, and the Raquette River on the east via Lows Lake and the Bog River.

Water dominates much of the interior of this area with 12 named rivers and streams, and 105 ponds and lakes (2,612 acres) of significant size (2 acres or more). These are indicated on the topographic map while the lesser drainages are indicated on the wetlands map. Inventories of the Lakes and Ponds, and Streams of the area are in Appendix C. The Adirondack



Lakes Survey 1984-87 Reports (ALSC Data), contains additional information on these waters.

Water quality in the Five Ponds area is generally good, although increasing acidification is evident. Baker, et al, 1990, reported waters with low pH and alkalinity are concentrated in the western-south western Adirondacks, which largely encompasses the Oswegatchie-Black River watersheds. Based on ALSC data, sixty-five or 62 % of the area's lakes and ponds are considered acidified, with pH levels below 5.0. An additional 27 (26 %) are considered acid threatened with pH levels ranging from 5.0 to 6.0. In general, area waters lying south and west of the Five Ponds cluster are the most acidified, while ponds lying to the north appear less affected by acidification. Current pH (acidity) data for bodies of water in this unit are included as part of Appendix C.

The acidity problem is compounded by several factors, including the continuous deposition of acid precipitation from outside sources and the inherent low fertility and acid buffering capacity of the area's waters. Unless the acidification problem is addressed and corrected (beyond the scope of this plan), further reductions in native Adirondack fish populations are expected in the Five Ponds area. The Division of Fish and Wildlife's pond liming program has targeted a few of the area's waters for treatment to restore satisfactory pH levels. Their remoteness interferes with the program however, by limiting the Department's capability to make improvements. This is due to logistical problems associated with transporting large quantities of lime to the waters and legal constraints imposed by the State Land Master Plan.

Much of the access to this area is by water. From Cranberry Lake in the north, trails lead from Chair Rock, West and Dead Creek Flows. From Inlet there is relatively easy canoe access on the Oswegatchie River which can also be accessed from the Bog River to the east by means of the Canoe Carry Trail. The only trailhead on the southern end of the area is accessible by boat on the north shore of Stillwater Reservoir.

The Oswegatchie River (from the Partlow Mill Dam downstream approximately 18.98 miles to the State Land Boundary near Inlet) and the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River from its entry into the unit downstream from Alder Bed Flow are designated as Wild Rivers under the Wild Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River from the outlet of Walker Lake approximately 4 miles downstream is designated a Scenic River under the same law. Both of these rivers have floodplains of varying widths with rapid fluctuations of water levels.

e. Wetlands

A wetland is defined as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh. They are inventoried, mapped and protected under the 1975 NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act by DEC and the APA. More intensive mapping is available from the APA for all of this area except the Newton Falls and Cranberry Lake quadrangles. Identification of the cover types indicated on this map are found in Cole and Fried, 1981.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

There are over 49,000 acres of old growth forest within this area, most of which has never been harvested. Generally, those tracts shown on the acquisition history map on page viii as having been purchased up to 1903 fall within this category as well as parts of some adjacent stands which were purchased shortly thereafter.

Relevant studies of the old growth component of this forest include:

Young (1934) examined the interrelationships between soil structure and plant communities in the Cranberry Lake watershed. Two plots were established in the westerly part of the 1881 tax sale parcel at the end of Dead Creek Flow while eleven plots were established in the easterly part.

Roman (1980) established 71 plots in the 1896 Webb Tract to measure vegetative composition and environmental factors.

A permit was issued to P.L. Marks at Cornell University on June 21, 1981 to establish plots to measure the frequency, size and sources of openings created by overstory mortality in the old growth forest within this area. The department has been unable to obtain any information concerning this effort.

Leopold, Reschke and Smith (1988) discuss the result of a 1987 inventory of old growth forests based upon ten identified stands of which two are within this area.

Woods and Cogbill (1990) established two plots on the Five Ponds Esker and three on the northwestern slope of Partlow Mountain to measure old growth.

Harvesting on the remaining lands began around the turn of the century when red spruce was cut for pulpwood. The sawmills and logging railroads later built by the Post and Henderson, Rich and Emporium Companies enabled these companies to harvest large volumes of sawtimber after which the lands were sold to the state. It should be noted that there never was a significant market for low grade hardwoods which resulted in a significant

acreage of high-graded timber. Some firsthand descriptions of these areas as they appeared in 1922 (Marshall 1923) are contained in Appendix A.

The pattern of harvest on the northern part of the area was paralleled on the Nehasane Tract to the south where Dr. Webb enlisted the aid of Gifford Pinchot and Henry Graves in 1898 to develop a management plan primarily for the sustained harvest of red spruce (Graham 1978, Graves 1899 and Pinchot 1970). Although the book written by Pinchot in 1898 as a result of this effort (Pinchot 1970) remains as a classic text on the silviculture of this species, the failure of the landowner to follow the plan completely resulted in a diminution of the spruce component (Chandler 1919). Westveld (1953) updates these early efforts by tying silvicultural treatment to forest climax types.

A large part of the 40,000 acre Webb Tract old growth consists of a red spruce-yellow birch type which is classified as forest cover type 30 in Eyre (1980). The mature spruce in this stand is dying of causes which might be explained in Holstein, Thier and Schmid (1991), Miller Weeks and Cooke (1989) and Shortle and Smith (1988).

Timber inventories and type maps exist for all parcels obtained since 1975 as a result of the appraisals necessary for their purchase. In addition, historical cruise figures are available for the Fisher Forestry and Hiawatha BSA tracts.

Two notable exceptions exist to the generally forested nature of this area. The Plains is located on the Rich Tract north of High Falls. Early residents of the Town of Fine traveled the Albany Road to cut hay there and later residents grazed sheep there (Two Towns-Two Centuries 1976 and Keith, 1976). The other open area is described in Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission (1896) as a 425 acre area north of Salmon Lake in the Webb Tract. Both areas are being inhabited by tree species at a noticeable rate. Relevant studies of the Plains include:

Bray (1915, 1921, 1930) describes it as a true sand delta and provides a vegetative species inventory and soils description.

Curran (1974) expanded on the Bray studies to provide an extensive examination of the history and plant composition of the area.

Bonkougou, Raynal and Geis (1983) conducted a dendrochronological study of white pine, larch and black cherry to identify past environmental factors which contributed to its development.

The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) has recent records for the following rare plant species occurring within the general area:

bog aster (R/T)	<u>Aster nemoralis</u>
Pickering's reedgrass (R/R)	<u>Calamagrostis pickeringii</u>
cypress clubmoss (T/E)	<u>Lycopodium sabinifolium</u>
Farwell's winter milfoil (U/T)	<u>Myriophyllum farwellii</u>

Cutler (1975) reported two additional rare species:

meadow horsetail (R/T)	<u>Equisetum pratense</u>
northern panic grass (R/R)	<u>Panicum boreale</u>

Note: E - Endangered, R - Rare, T - Threatened, U - Unprotected

In addition, he reported the presence of hairy willow milfoil (Epilobium ciliatum) which is only rare in one subspecies and is fairly common in another.

The NYNHP has historical records of the following rare plants within the general area:

swamp aster (U/?)	<u>Aster radula</u>
balsam willow (U/T)	<u>Salix pyrifolin</u>

Mitchell, Sheviak and Dean (1980) reported on the presence of sitka clubmoss (Lycopodium sitchense) within the area; however, the NYNHP has determined that the plant is actually Savin-leaved or cypress clubmoss (Lycopodium sabinifolium). A rare plant abstract for this species was included in the appendix of the original unit management plan (July 1987) which noted that these two species are often confused. Beitel (1979) and Lellinger (1985) help clarify the differences between them.

Studies which generally examined plant species in the area include:

Welch (1921) described the vegetation on Buck Island to the north of this area which was burned in 1845.

Griffin and Morrison (1957) compiled a species list and key to the woody plants of the region.

Barrett, Ketchledge and Satterlund (1961) compiled a list of plants in the Cranberry Lake region.

Curran (1974) provides an extensive report of vascular plants found on the Plains.

Cutler (1975) contains a list of 460 vascular plant species identified by the author.

The only known exotic tree species is Scotch pine, which is found in plantations east of the Plains and along the Inlet Road and the Dead Creek trail. As both of these areas were heavily cut at one time, the presence of these trees indicates an early attempt to reforest the area.

Three areas in the Webb Tract were designated natural areas by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and are generally described in the November 1960, Journal of Forestry.

The State Land Master Plan identifies the following as natural special interest areas:

Griffin Rapids Virgin Timber  
Oswegatchie Plains  
Otter Pond Virgin Timber  
Pine Ridge

b. Wildlife

The area is located in two ecological zones, the Western Adirondack Foothills and Central Adirondack (Will, Stumvoll, Gotie & Smith, 1982). The western portion contains lower elevations with milder winters resulting in better conditions for wildlife than the Central Adirondack Zone. Wildlife mammals known to exist within the unit include: white-tailed deer, black bear, river otter, fisher, coyote, bobcat, varying hare, mink, muskrat, raccoon, red fox, marten and moose. In addition, the first confirmed sighting of a calf moose in Region 6 occurred during the summer of 1983 in the Five Ponds area by two forest rangers. Historic deer wintering areas that occur within the unit are shown on the Significant Habitat Map in Appendix D.

The Five Ponds Wilderness Area and associated corridors contain all or parts of 27 breeding bird blocks. Cooperators working with the New York Breeding Bird atlas have identified 84 species as confirmed breeders. An additional 45 species have been identified as probable or possible breeders. The Bald Eagle, an endangered species, is listed as a possible nester in one block. Threatened species occurring within the unit include Red-shouldered Hawk and Osprey. Special concern species included: Vesper Sparrow, Least Bittern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Cooper's Hawk, Common Raven and Common Loon. Game bird species occurring within the unit include: American Black Duck, American Crow, American Woodcock, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Sora Rail and Wood Duck. A complete listing from the Breeding Bird Atlas (Andrle and Carroll, 1988) and a map of the blocks is contained in Appendix D.

Parts of the area, particularly in the vicinity of Grass Pond and Bog Lake, have habitat that historically contained spruce grouse, a threatened species. While not confirmed by the Breeding Bird Atlas (Andrle and Carroll, 1988), the potential exists for spruce grouse to reoccupy the area. The Spruce Grouse Recovery Team is currently developing a plan to evaluate the potential for restoration of this species which might possibly occur within this area.

The common loon, a special concern species, utilizes many of the water areas that still support fish life. During a 1984-85 survey (Parker, 1986), it was determined that Stillwater Reservoir had the highest number of breeding pairs of this species (15) in the state while Lows Lake had the second highest (6).

### c. Fisheries

Historically, this area was known for its brook trout fisheries, and was regarded as one of the best areas in the Adirondacks by guides and fishermen alike. (For further information about the natural history of the area see "A Biological Survey of the Oswegatchie and Black River Systems", 1932, Pfeiffer 1979, and the Chronology of the Cranberry Lake, Stillwater Reservoir and Bog River Flow Fisheries in Appendix C). Presently 69 ponds (66% of the area's ponded waters) are fishless, largely due to low pH. This is substantially higher than the 24% fishless rate reported for the Adirondack region (Baker et al. 1990). Of the area's 69 fishless waters, 17 are known to have historically (pre-1960) supported fish populations. This figure is probably low because historical data is limited or not available for the area's remaining 52 fishless waters. Survey reports for 1931 and the 1950's and 1960's for most of these indicate they were not studied because of small size, inaccessibility and/or posting. Recent survey reports (ALSC 1984-1987) indicate many of these waters are suitable fish habitat except for impacts from acidification. Baker et al. (1990) reported that high elevation fishless lakes (> 1900 feet), like those in the FPW tributary to Stillwater Reservoir have significantly ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) lower pH levels than high elevation lakes with fish. This suggested that low pH plays an important role in the absence of fish from some lakes. Prior to the 1950's when acidification was first detected in Adirondack waters, it is believed that brook trout, reported as widespread in the region's waters (Greeley 1931, George 1980), with or without other native Adirondack fish species (eg. white sucker, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, northern redbellied dace) inhabited all suitable waters in the FPW.

Today the bulk of the acidified FPW waters lie in the southern half of the area, which is almost devoid of fish life. In contrast, most of the ponds in the area's northern half are not as severely acidified and therefore contain fish life and support native or stocked brook trout fisheries.

At this time, 20 of the area's interior lakes and ponds are managed for brook trout (See Appendix C - Lake and Pond Inventory). Ten are stocked annually, while the remaining 10 waters contain naturally spawning brook trout populations. Four of the 10 lakes with spawning populations (Salmon, Witchhopple, Sand and Wolf), were stocked annually as part of their past management. Along with several other waters, they were dropped from the stocking list in the early 1970's because of acid conditions. Their brook trout populations did not disappear as anticipated, but have maintained themselves at levels adequate for their survival. This is probably due to the presence of spring upwellings or tributaries which provide habitat for the resident trout during spawning and refuge during periods of severe acid depression. This is the case with Sand Lake, where many wild brook trout fingerlings were observed in a July, 1992 survey of its tributary stream. In addition, the larger of the above lakes (Salmon and Witchhopple) contain remnant populations of lake trout and splake which likely have immigrated upstream from Stillwater Reservoir where they are stocked.

Tamarack Pond, once an important fishery, appears to have lost its naturally spawning brook trout population. This is despite lime treatments in 1978 and 1990 which have been successful at maintaining satisfactory pH conditions. This pond's trout are considered a heritage Adirondack strain by the DEC (Keller 1979).

Besides trout, the interior waters of the Five Ponds Wilderness also contain a variety of warmwater fish species. These include both native Adirondack and introduced fish species. Species present, by category, and their relative abundance within the ponded waters of the FPW are listed on Table 1. For comparison, Adirondack Region-wide abundance estimates for each species are also given. Note that almost all species (both native and non-native) are present in Five Ponds waters at substantially lower rates relative to the Adirondack Region. This documents the severe impact acidification has on the unit's aquatic ecosystems.

Table 1 - Relative abundance of native and non-native fish species found in lakes and ponds within the Five Ponds Wilderness given as percent of waters where each species was confirmed. Percent of 1,469 ALSC lakes Adirondack Region wide is also given for the same species for comparison.

Waters supporting:	Five Ponds Wilderness		Adirondack Region
<u>Native Adirondack Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
brook trout	23	27%	52%
lake trout	2	2%	2%
brown bullhead	20	19%	57%
white sucker	13	12%	51%
pumpkinseed	8	8%	45%
creek chub	8	8%	39%
northern redbelly dace	7	7%	19%
<u>Non-native Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
yellow perch	7	7 %	31 %
golden shiner	10	9 %	50 %
splake	2	2 %	3 %

Current survey data are lacking for most of the area's rivers and streams. The status of the area's lotic ecosystems is believed to be similar to that of its lakes and ponds however, in that the distribution, diversity and abundance of native fish species have been impacted by the effects of acid precipitation (See Appendix C - Stream Inventory). Like the ponded waters, many of the area's rivers and streams to the south and west (most of them small unnamed outlet and tributary streams), contain limited or no fish life due to elevated acidity levels, particularly during the spring snow melt (Colquhoun et al. 1981).

For example, a 1991 DEC survey of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River, approximately two miles west of the Five Ponds boundary, revealed strikingly low diversity and abundance of aquatic life. Electrofishing yielded no fish in 200 feet of stream. A search for aquatic macroinvertebrates found 2 or 3 crayfish and little evidence of insect life. The river's pH and alkalinity at the time of the survey were 5.94 and 1.5 ueq/l respectively. The pH is believed to be even more depressed during the spring and following heavy rains. Historic data indicates the upper stretches of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River once supported native brook trout.

Streams to the north appear less impacted. Although current survey data are not available, they are believed to still support fish species such as brook trout, white sucker and associated minnow species. This is supported by recent surveys/observations of the upper Oswegatchie and Robinson Rivers, which both drain to the north. The population of brook trout indigenous to the Robinson River (tributary to the Oswegatchie River above High Falls), has been identified as a genetically distinct Adirondack strain, representative of the Oswegatchie River Watershed (Perkins 1991). Native brook trout populations found in the unit's other unstocked, remote streams are also believed to be unique Adirondack strains, but they have not been analyzed for genetic characteristics.

Bordering the Five Ponds Wilderness Area are three large water bodies. These are Cranberry Lake, Bog River Flow and Stillwater Reservoir. Their sizes are 6,975, 6,195 and 2,845 acres respectively. These support combinations of coldwater and warmwater aquatic communities which add diversity to the fish fauna of the FPW area. All three are impounded by man-made dams which greatly influence their physical character.

Cranberry Lake supports important smallmouth bass and brook trout fisheries. Stillwater offers angling for smallmouth bass and splake. The Bog River Flow has a native brook trout population, which has been supplemented with stocking. Since 1987, when the flow was last surveyed, largemouth bass have been illegally introduced. Reports suggest they are now well established. (For more information see Chronologies of Cranberry Lake, Stillwater Reservoir and Bog River Flow Fisheries in Appendix C).

### 3. Visual

For many of the users of this area, much of its aesthetic appeal may be attributed to the three man-made water impoundments which border it - Cranberry Lake to the north, Low's Lake to the east, and Stillwater Reservoir to the south.

There are few broad vistas within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area; however, scenic vistas exist across many of the ponds. Other notable scenery include: the panoramic view from the summits of Cat Mountain and Grass Pond Mountain, the dense witchhopper bloom in late May in the hardwood forest on the west shore of Cat Mountain Pond, High Rock rising out of a boreal swamp and overlooking it, Sliding Rock Falls on Six-Mile Creek, Sliding Falls on the Robinson River, High Falls, any number of bends in the Oswegatchie, the big



spruce on the trail from Wolf Pond to Sand Lake. The tall pines in various locations, present a significant visual impact, especially in the Tax Sale tract across the Flow from the Ranger School, along the new Plains Trail, the Five Ponds Esker, the double esker east of Nicks Pond and Pine Ridge on the Oswegatchie about 2.3 miles above High Falls.

High Falls and Sliding Rock Falls are designated as scenic special interest acres in the State Land Master Plan.

#### 4. Unique

This area has some of the best remote wilderness opportunities in the Adirondack Park as that part of the area between High Falls and Stillwater Reservoir is generally trailless. This general area also contains the largest contiguous acreage of unharvested timber in the northeast (approximately 50,000 acres).

#### 5. Wilderness

In a wilderness management plan the interrelationships between the previously described natural resource inventories and all other component parts of the resource should be summarized as components of the total wilderness resource. In the early planning stages it is only feasible to identify existing data and concentrate on the more imminent influence of public use, deferring this exercise to later revisions.

A basis for the identification of the wilderness resource was developed by Department professionals in 1981. Entitled "Ecosystem Elements," it consists of a checklist of environmental considerations to be used in such instances.

### B. EXISTING FACILITIES

#### Designated Campsites (with pit privy) (8)

Oswegatchie River (21, 25, 41)	3
Bog River Flow (23, 29, 31, 32, 1)	5

#### Designated Campsites (without pit privy) (111)

Oswegatchie River	37
Bog River Flow	28
Cranberry Lake	17
Stillwater Reservoir	24
Other	5

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (14)

Cage Lake Springhole	Olmstead Pond
Griffin Rapids	Cowhorn Pond
High Falls (2)	Janacks Landing
Big Shallow	Salmon Lake
Little Shallow	Trout Pond
Wolf Pond	Cage Lake
Sand Lake	

Foot Trails (50.21 miles)

High Falls Loop Trail (13.0 miles) Red - Wanakena to High Falls and back  
Sand Lake Trail (7.8 miles) Blue  
Wolf Pond-Buck Pond Trail (3.86 miles) Yellow  
Clear Pond (1.2 miles) Red - Cowhorn Junction to Clear Pond  
Big Deer Pond Trail (2.1 miles) Yellow - Cowhorn Junction to  
Big Deer Pond  
Loop Trail (1.75 miles) Yellow - Cowhorn Junction to High Falls  
Loop  
Cat Mountain Trail (1.3 miles) Red - Loop Trail to top of Cat  
Mtn.  
Janack's Landing Trail (.2 mile) Yellow - Janack's Landing to  
High Falls Loop  
Six Mile Creek Trail (4.2 miles) Blue - West Flow to Cowhorn  
Junction  
Olmstead Pond Loop Trail (3.15 miles) Yellow - Six Mile Creek Trail to  
Spectacle Pond, Simmons Pond, Olmstead Pond and back to the Six Mile  
Creek Trail  
Cowhorn Pond Trail (.2 mile) Yellow - Six Mile Creek Trail  
to Cowhorn Pond  
Darning Needle Pond Trail (2.4 miles) Yellow - Chair  
Rock Flow to Darning Needle Pond  
Boundary Line Trail (.6 mile) Yellow - Youngs Road to Buck Pond  
Primitive Corridor  
Red Horse Creek Trail (5.0 miles) - Trout Pond to Clear Lake  
Canoe Carry (Esker) Trail (3.45 miles) - Lows Lake to Oswegatchie River

Canoe Route (1)

Lows Lake to Inlet

Trailheads (6)

Inlet - 2.6 miles from New York State Route #3 at end of Inlet Road -  
for canoe route (trail register, ample parking, pit privy)  
At the hamlet of Wanakena at the western end of High Falls Loop Trail  
(trail register, adequate parking next to tennis courts maintained by Town  
of Fine)  
One-half mile east of Wanakena - easterly end of High Falls Loop Trail  
(parking lot expanded in 1991, trail register at junction with  
Janack's Landing Trail)

Stillwater Ranger Headquarters (trail register, boat launch, parking lot)

NOTE: Although located in the Independence River Wild Forest, this trailhead is an important point of embarkation for the Red Horse Creek Trail and an important source of information on the public use of this part of the area.

Beginning of Raven Lake Primitive Corridor (trail register).  
Youngs Road at head of Boundary Line Trail (undeveloped parking)

#### Toilet Facilities (23)

Pit privy at each of 14 lean-tos  
8 Designated Campsites  
Inlet trailhead

#### Parking Lots (3)

End of the Inlet Road (Smith Tract)  
Easterly end of the High Falls Loop Trail  
Juncture of Youngs Road and Boundary Line Trail (undeveloped parking)

#### Barrier - Removable (1)

Beginning of Wanakena Primitive Corridor

#### Barrier - Permanent (3)

End of Wanakena Primitive Corridor  
End of Raven Lake Primitive Corridor  
Easterly end of High Falls Loop Trail

#### Gates (3)

Beginning of Raven Lake Primitive Corridor  
Approximately one (1) mile from the end of the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor  
Beginning of the Parker's Island Primitive Corridor

#### Trail Signs (43)

#### Major Bridges (3)

Sand Lake Trail (Oswegatchie River) - 65'  
High Falls Loop (Glasby Creek) - 21'  
Sixmile Creek - 20'

## C. CULTURAL

In 1912 the Rich Lumber Company donated an 1800-acre portion of its forest for the creation of the New York State Ranger School. This school, which commenced operation in the fall of 1912, was the first in the nation to offer an education in forest management for forestry technicians. Over the past 80 years the students have had the opportunity to rehabilitate their portion of the forest while being able to observe the effects of natural succession on the remaining portion, which is in State ownership in both this area and the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. The tax sale parcel on Inlet Flow that falls both within this area and the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest offered students an opportunity to observe an unharvested forest up to the blowdown of 1950 and, since then, a forest which still contains some sections not affected significantly by harvest. The contribution of this forest to the education of forest managers has been very significant.

## D. ECONOMIC

A significant economic factor concerned with the management of this forest is the annual cost of ownership familiar to most private owners - the tax bill. As illustrated in the original plan, this expenditure amounted to approximately \$722,933.08 or an average of \$7.60/acre for the 1981-1982 school tax year and the 1982 general tax year. The annual cost of maintenance on this land (boundary lines, trails, bridges, etc.) and administration (patrols, management plan, etc.) is not as easily identified, but would probably add another \$1.00/acre to the annual cost of ownership. To attempt to apply these costs to an economic evaluation of this area would be meaningless without supporting data. Therefore, these figures have not been updated.

The economic significance of this area could also be estimated if significant public usage data were available. For example, Pfeiffer, 1979 uses an estimate of \$9.41 spent per angler trip in 1978 based on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Associated Recreation. Current brook trout pond angler expenditures derived from Kretser and Klatt, 1981, are estimated to be \$42 per day in 1992. Similar data developed for other forms of outdoor recreation could also be applied to this evaluation. To date, the only usage data available are the names, addresses and miscellaneous comments contained in the trail registers. It is anticipated that the area manager will develop more significant data to form the basis for an economic evaluation to be included in the next revision of this plan.

## E. PUBLIC USE OF THE AREA

Long before these lands were obtained by the State, an accepted recreational use was by squatters who held no title to the lands on which they built their camps. In its Second Annual Report for the year 1896, the Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission recognized the occupancy of forest preserve lands as a major issue encompassing 98 cases in each of which there was a building of some kind. Three-fourths of these cases involved occupancy which occurred prior to state ownership. One of these documented cases involved a lawyer and former member of the Assembly from Albany, who built his camp on the southwest shore of Salmon Lake probably as

early as 1868. This would have been 22 years before William Webb obtained title to the property and 28 years before he sold it to the State. Marleau (1986) documents many other cases of early occupancy of these lands while explaining the pattern of development.

This use continues today with the discovery of occasional illegal camps on the area and, most blatantly, in the presence of floating camps on nearby Cranberry Lake. Although this is not an acceptable practice under modern concepts of wilderness use, a more severe impact on the management of the area is caused by the habit of littering the sites and abandoning them when the user loses interest. Fortunately, the practice has fallen off in recent years but tons of debris remain on the area as a reminder of this abuse.

Camping is heaviest along the shorelines of the three reservoirs ringing the area and along the Oswegatchie River. Designated campsites have been established in these areas to aid the user, reduce the impact on the land and facilitate maintenance. Many of the interior ponds which also receive significant camper use have either a lean-to or designated campsite as well.

Hiking on maintained trails is heaviest along the High Falls Loop with High Falls being the primary objective. Significant use of this trail is also made to access the Sand Lake Trail. The Sixmile Creek Trail is also heavily used as it provides access to several trout ponds and is used by persons wishing to visit Sliding Falls. The Loop Trail connects this trail to the High Falls Loop and provides access from both trails to the heavily used Cat Mountain Trail. The Wolf Pond-Buck Pond Trail, Buck Pond Corridor and Boundary Line Trail receive light hiking use but are retained to provide alternate access to the Sand Lake Trail should the remaining foot bridge across the Oswegatchie River become unusable. The Clear Pond, Big Deer Pond, Darning Needle Pond and Olmstead Pond Loop trails primarily provide fisherman access while the historic Red Horse Creek Trail provides the only maintained foot access from the south. Hiking on unmaintained trails (paths) and bushwhacking also represent significant uses of the area.

The purchase of the Bog River Flow area in 1986 and the development of the Canoe Carry Esker Trail in 1987 provided an unique canoe route through the area which is being increasingly used. This use is anticipated to increase further as existence of the route becomes better known.

The area offers ample opportunity for deer and bear hunting for those sportsmen who desire a wilderness hunting experience. Waterway access via Cranberry Lake, the Oswegatchie River and Stillwater Reservoir provide important access corridors. The Oswegatchie River from Inlet to High Falls is particularly attractive to muzzleloader hunting parties desiring a primitive experience. Continued funding for maintenance and rehabilitation of boat launch sites, parking areas and boat access sites is imperative to continued public use by sportsmen.

The estimated harvest of white-tail deer between 1954 and 1991 from the Five Ponds Wilderness Area is shown in Appendix D. Using the New York State Deer Calculation Program which proportions town data, it has ranged from a low of 54 in 1971 to a high of 589 in 1967. Antlerless permits, or "doe permits" as they were previously called, were issued between 1957 and 1970 which contributed to the record total harvest in 1967. A wilderness tract hunt was held in 1954 which produced an

estimated 520 deer. It should be prefaced that these data are estimates only and in reality the actual harvest could be somewhat less because of the more difficult access.

Based upon the ten-year average harvest of Black Bears (1982 to 1991) from the four towns bordering the area, it is estimated that 9 bears are taken annually.

Public use of the area by trappers and hunters of furbearers is believed to be low because of the difficulty of reaching the interior of the area during the winter months. The New York State Furbearer Calculation Program proportions the harvest of furbearers based upon pelt sealing data by township. The Five Ponds Wilderness Area contains parts of the following towns: Clifton (21%), Fine (26%), Webb (17%) and Long Lake (3%). Since 1971, the annual harvest has averaged 110 beaver, 2 bobcat, 5 coyote, 10 Fisher and 8 Otter. The complete furbearer take from 1958 through 1990 is shown in Appendix D.

Brook trout pond fishing is very popular on the Five Ponds area. Quantitative data regarding the number of anglers who use the area's waters is not currently available. In general, fishing pressure is highest on the most accessible waters, with some remote interior waters receiving relatively little use. Pfeiffer (1979) estimated annual use of Adirondack brook trout ponds at 10 angler-days per acre in 1979. He predicted an increase to 13 angler-days per acre by 1992. These estimates are believed to be reliable, although they may be a little high for the more remotely located and less productive angling waters.

Gordon (1993), based on a survey of 24 western Adirondack waters, reported 1992 angler use of brook trout ponds at 6.0 angler-days per year. Angler use of the 24 ponds ranged from zero trips (for an acidified, fishless, remote water) to 35 trips/acre/year (for a limed, stocked, accessible water). Of the 24 waters surveyed during 1992, 10 are located in designated wilderness areas. Due in part to remote locations, angler use of these wilderness waters averaged low at 3.8 days per acre per year. Six of the 10 wilderness waters are included in the Five Ponds area. These waters and their respective 1992 angler use rates are as follows: Rock Lake (0.0), Sand Lake (1.7), Olmstead Pond (2.3), Big Five Pond (0.0), Simmons Pond (5.1), and Wolf Pond (0.0). Based on Pfeiffer's (1979) and Gordon's (1993) estimates, the area's 600 acres of productive ponded trout waters provide a combined total of 6,000 and 2,300 angler-days of recreation, respectively, per year.

Based on 1992 data (Gordon, 1993), angler use of the area's 65 acidified-fishless waters is near zero. The DFW plans to lime a few of these waters in the near future, to reverse their acidification trend, and restore their ecosystems to more historic chemical and biological conditions. Limed ponds will be re-stocked with a heritage Adirondack strain of brook trout, and one or more additional native Adirondack fish species. The eventual return of these waters as brook trout fisheries will add to the above use estimate in proportion to the size of the waters treated.

Angling occurs at a moderate rate on the Oswegatchie River (Wanakena to Inlet), where it is stocked annually with brook trout. This section of the river is also popular as a travel corridor. Other streams in the area receive little (if any) angling pressure due to their remoteness, or low potential as fisheries.

Winter use of the area is very light, with some skiing along the High Falls Loop and the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor and an occasional winter camper at High Falls or the vicinity of the Five Ponds.

#### F. CAPACITY OF THE RESOURCE TO WITHSTAND USE

Although overuse has not been a particularly major problem on this area, some examples of management activities undertaken to mitigate the impact of camping include:

1. High Falls - This natural attraction is the goal of many hikers and canoeists who end up camping there. Because there were only two lean-tos to accommodate them, these persons ended up camping in the trails, next to the falls and, in one extreme case reported to the Canton office, on the rock in the river at the top of the falls. A large area below the falls had become denuded of understory due to heavy camping use. To reduce the impact of this unrestrained use on an otherwise scenic attraction, the professional staff designated 44 campsites on the Oswegatchie River in 1988. Part of the reason for doing so was to inform canoeists of the presence of alternate campsites while another objective was to limit the number of sites at the falls. Inspections of the area indicate that user acceptance is very good. Camping in the trails and at the falls is no longer evident and the denuded area below the falls is beginning to recover.
2. Janack's Landing - Use of this heavily used landing as a campsite had resulted in unnecessary congestion and messy conditions. When the professional staff designated campsites on the shore of Cranberry Lake in 1989, two sites other than the lean-to were designated in the vicinity and the landing was posted against camping. The "no camping" signs were removed by vandals within a few days and quickly replaced. Otherwise, public acceptance of this change has been positive.
3. Bog River Flow - To ensure that this unique area would not suffer from overuse, the professional staff decided to prohibit the issuance of group camping permits in 1989. Heavy use of certain campsites, especially along Grass Pond, resulted in the installation of 7 pit privies in 1990 and an increase in designated campsites at that time from 21 to 40 to spread out the use of the area.
4. Cranberry Lake - When the 46 campsites were designated along the shore of Cranberry Lake in 1989, the professional staff did not target any of the sites within this wilderness to receive pit privies so that group camping would not be encouraged at these sites.
5. Cowhorn Pond - The lean-to on this pond attracts a group of campers who leave very large amounts of garbage behind. Thanks to Boy Scout volunteers, the area is kept from becoming a dump. The removal of this lean-to will become necessary should the garbage situation become too severe to be contained.

6. Olmstead Pond Loop - The development of this loop trail in 1988 has resulted in increased fishing pressure on Simmons, Spectacle and Olmstead Ponds which has also resulted in increased camping on these ponds. Designated campsites have been established on the ponds, but they are being heavily littered as at Cowhorn Pond. The situation will be monitored by the professional staff to determine appropriate management actions.

7. Indirect Controls - One of the basic tenets of wilderness management (Hendee et al. 1990, pp. 414, 473) is the principle of indirect control of public use. Basically, this proposes that the managers will develop activities to channel public use into desired patterns without heavy reliance on the authoritarian approach. As this principle had been adopted as a public use objective of this plan, the professional staff used it in the reduction of camping use at Janack's Landing and High Falls as follows:

a. Fire rings and other human debris were removed.

b. The former sites were posted against camping with small plastic discs. (Although this is somewhat authoritarian, it was necessary to inform the user public.)

c. Adjacent designated sites were heavily marked to show alternatives to users.

d. Abandoned sites were made less hospitable by digging small holes and scattering natural debris.

e. Abandoned areas were planted with coniferous trees to encourage regeneration.

8. Campsite Inventories - The detailed inventories contained in Appendix B have been developed by the professional staff and volunteers to provide the basic data necessary for the determination of carrying capacity. They will be upgraded and updated whenever possible.

Trail erosion is minimal because the topography, for the most part, is flat to gently rolling hills with fair drainage except along the Oswegatchie River and some wetlands. Some management activities undertaken to minimize the impact of trail use within this area include:

1. Buck Pond - Cage Lake Springhole - This poorly located trail crossed 220 feet of mud flat and was in danger of being washed out by the river on the east side of the Oswegatchie. To the west were 520 feet of mud flat, 8 log bridges over wetlands and another 55 foot mud flat before reaching high ground. The abandonment of this trail has removed from maintenance a trail which could never have been maintained under wilderness constraints and could have represented a serious safety hazard due to the lack of adequate maintenance.



2. High Falls - Clear Pond - This trail was abandoned because its location in a spruce swamp and remoteness made minimal maintenance under wilderness constraints too costly. The improved conditions at High Falls could be a result of this abandonment.

3. High Falls Loop - Erosion control structures constructed by Adirondack Mountain Club volunteers on the Leary Trail segment in 1990 and along the wet section north of Sand Hill Junction in 1991, have contributed to the ability of this trail system to withstand heavy use. The new Plains Trail segment should receive similar treatment.

4. Cat Mountain - Adirondack Mountain Club volunteers installed erosion control structures on a steep segment of this trail in 1991 to help it withstand heavy use.

Currently, statewide angling regulations allow daily harvest limit of ten (10) brook trout, any size, from April 1 to September 30. Angling regulations are intended to preserve fish populations by preventing over-harvest. This daily limit (10) is somewhat liberal, and may not serve well with pond brook trout. A reduction in the daily limit to 5 is proposed for the Five Ponds area waters starting October 1, 1993. The season dates which protect spawning populations from exploitation during the fall spawning and winter periods will remain the same. More than angling regulations, factors which work to limit use in the Five Ponds Wilderness include the remote locations of its waters and the seasonal nature of angling on coldwater ponds. The overall fishing intensity on area waters is generally very light (Gordon 1993).

At this time fish populations in the FPW are more severely limited by acidification, degradation of spawning habitat and competition from introduced fish species, than from angling exploitation. These limitations are particularly troublesome where the area's few remaining native brook trout populations are concerned. These need protection from further losses if they are to be preserved. Waters which are not capable of supporting their trout fishery through natural recruitment (due to the limitations noted above) need annual stocking to preserve their brook trout populations and the quality angling experience they can provide.

Waters supporting brook trout fisheries are monitored periodically by biological survey. In addition their status is gaged by voluntary reports from anglers. When a decline in a fishery is detected, special (more restrictive) regulations are sometimes instituted as a means of protecting the remaining stocks. When a decline is related to some other limiting factor, such as acidification, a strategy including lime treatments may be recommended.

As an example, Tamarack Pond was limed in 1978, to preserve its native brook trout population. The treatment was successful. A 1985 survey (ALSC Data) sampled 15 brook trout ranging from 4 to 15 in. The pH that summer was satisfactory at 6.1. Since 1985 its population has sharply declined and may now be lost. Surveys in 1991 and 1992 did not collect any brook trout. Theories as to the cause include increased angler exploitation related to drastically improved access via the Bog River Flow starting in 1987, and spawning habitat degradation due to beaver dams on the outlet (ie. elevated pond water levels). In 1990 Tamarack Pond was re-limed to raise its pH which had declined to 6.0 (May 1989) and a no-fishing regulation went

into effect to protect any remaining brook trout stocks. The pond is being monitored intensively to detect trout survival. One more survey is planned for 1993. If the loss of this population is confirmed, the pond will likely be stocked with another heritage strain of brook trout to reestablish a population.

The case of Tamarack Pond is unusual, as angler over-exploitation is not believed to be a major threat to trout in wilderness waters. Under existing angling regulations, stocked brook trout populations in the Five Ponds area are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of angler use. Spawning populations will receive protection via the proposed harvest regulation change to 5 fish per day.

There are ample wildlife resources available within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area to meet the current demand. Most hunting pressure is concentrated within one to one and one-half miles of a road or access corridor such as the Oswegatchie River. The designation of campsites along the shore of Cranberry Lake, Stillwater Reservoir and the Oswegatchie River helps distribute hunting pressure. Therefore, potentially the area would accommodate twice the number of recreational users without having any adverse impacts upon the resources.

### III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

As the primary impetus of an initial wilderness management plan is on the public use management of the area, it is appropriate to consider the types of users and the impact of wilderness management from their perspectives. Those who "use" wilderness areas might be listed in one of the following categories:

1. Those who never enter or see a wilderness area, but gain satisfaction from knowing that such areas do exist.
2. Those who see the wilderness from afar or from the periphery and take pleasure from the naturalness they observe.
3. Those who venture into the interior of the wilderness seeking the solitude, quiet enjoyment and uplifting of spirit that should be found there and depend on a self-sufficiency to see them through.
4. Those who enter the wilderness to experience the wilderness that is there but prefer to utilize man-made facilities to ease their passage.
5. Those who go into the wilderness primarily as a social excursion seeking the company of others and facilities where they might congregate.

While it may be those in the third category to whom the more stringent wilderness management concepts are directed, it is probably those in the first and second categories who are the real wilderness purists. Thus, the creation, continuation and restrictive management of wilderness areas is not to satisfy an elite few but, rather, a larger segment of the user public than might have been thought of as a direct beneficiary. It is, however, the users in the third and fourth categories who, regardless of their mental or physical limitations, are self-sufficient; that is, they go into the interior bringing the needs for their existence with them. They seek solitude, either alone or in the company of a few selected companions, and a measure of self-discovery. It is these users for whom the public use management of this area is primarily directed.

"Users" in the fifth category are not really seeking wilderness or the experience of it. Therefore, the accommodation of user group 5 is not a goal in the management of this unit. The needs of this group are primarily being addressed in the present management of the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Aldrich Pond Wild Forest and Independence River Wild Forest.

Certain users in all five categories can, as a result of the information in this plan, use this area in a different context by expanding their knowledge of the area and, consequently, satisfying their intellectual needs.

## A. PAST MANAGEMENT

Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law provides specific care, custody and control mandates directed at protecting the forest preserve from encroachment, illegal cutting or removal of vegetative or other material components, fire and misuse. These custodial functions have been performed by the forest rangers and limited seasonal labor.

Prior to designation as a wilderness area, trail crews of various sizes were able to drive into the interior of the area on either the High Falls or Dead Creek Truck Trail and could operate chainsaws, brushsaws and other mechanized equipment whenever needed to develop amenities thought to be needed and desired by the user public. When budgets were good, the large crews were able to develop many of the deteriorating trail hardening structures, essential and nonessential bridges and lean-tos presently on the area. Trail location was never a problem of any significance because enough resources could be directed into poorly located trails to provide for continued use and beaver activity had not become well established.

Wilderness designation required the professional staff to change the emphasis of management from this unstructured attempt to serve a small number of active users to a more highly defined branch of forest management within a philosophical framework (Nash 1982; Sax 1980) to serve a much larger public (see III Management and Policy). The basis for the newly emerging field of wilderness management began with the Federal Wilderness Act of 1964 and guidelines were found in Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 1989; Hendee, Stanke and Lucas 1990; Egsley, Passineau and Driver 1990; Kovalickey 1971; Hendee and Harris 1970; Lucas 1985; Stankey 1982; Stankey, Cole, Lucas, Peterson and Trissell 1985; Wager 1964, Werner, Leonard and Crevelling 1985. As a result of this new emphasis, the two former truck trails were designated nonconforming (Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 1989, p.17) and the crew consequently lost motorized use of them. Supporting department policy also prohibited the use of motorized equipment (chainsaws and brushsaws) beyond the period April 1 to May 24 to minimize the effects of these activities on the wilderness experience of users. These changes and beaver activity have encouraged the department to abandon trails which cannot be maintained and to replace them with more maintainable alternatives. Also, poorly located trail sections have been relocated and nonessential structures abandoned to contribute to maintenance efficiency as well as to contribute to the wilderness experience of active users.

The replacement of tasks which were formerly accomplished by mechanized labor with hand labor has also made reliance on volunteer labor more essential, resulting in a new emphasis on participatory management.

Active management of the fisheries in this unit began with the Biological Survey of 1931. Subsequent activities have included stocking, reclamation, enactment of special regulations, tagging studies, growth/survival studies and angler surveys.

## B. MANAGEMENT ZONES

To provide a rationale for the public use management of this area, four zones have been created in consideration of the following:

1. Past use.
2. Compatibility of existing and proposed use patterns with the principles of wilderness management and environmental factors.
3. Grouping of related uses.
4. Separation of conflicting uses.
5. Efficiency of management and allocation of resources based on use levels and user needs.

### ZONE A (CANOE ROUTE ZONE)

Description: The Oswegatchie River from Inlet upstream to the 3.5 mile canoe carry trail (Esker Trail) near Beaverdam, to Big Deer Pond to Low's Lake, including the shoreline campsites along Low's Lake and Grass Pond, and the short canoe carry between sites 19 and 23 (Anvil Trail) on Lows Lake.

Discussion: Because zoning is based on the use of the area, planning for this zone addresses only the high ground immediately adjacent to the river that might be utilized by canoeists, the Esker and Anvil canoe carry trails and the shoreline of Low's Lake and Grass Pond. Management of this zone is directed toward accommodating user group four.

#### Facilities Present

Canoe Carry Trails (3.55 miles)

Esker Trail	3.45 miles
Anvil Trail	.1 mile

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (4)

Griffin Rapids  
Cage Lake Spring Hole  
High Falls (2)

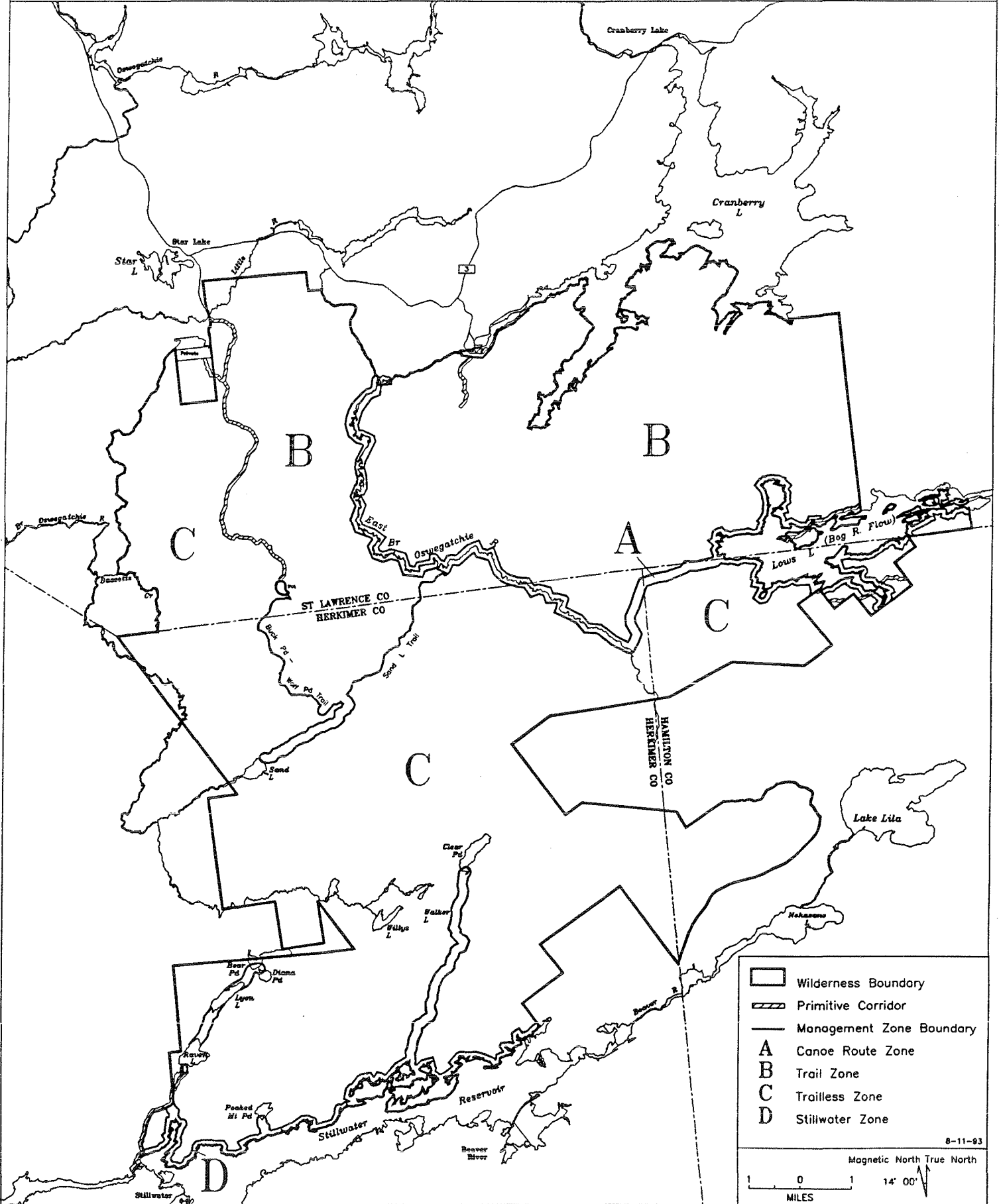
Pit Privies (2)

High Falls

Campsites (with pit privy) (8)

Canoe Carry/Oswegatchie River Sites 1, 21, 25, 41  
Lows Lake Sites 23, 29, 31, 32

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT ZONES



Campsites (without pit privy) (64)

Esker Trail/Oswegatchie River (39)  
Lows Lake (25)

Campsites (special regulations) (3)

Lows Lake Landings (Virgin Timber, Moose Bay and Boone's)

Trail Register (1)

Inlet

Bridges (1)

Sand Lake Trail

Parking Lot (1)

Inlet

Special Management Area (1)

High Falls

ZONE B  
(TRAIL ZONE)

Description: The area north of the shoreline of Lows Lake, to the Esker Trail, to the Oswegatchie River, to the Sand Lake Trail to Sand Lake; Wolf Lake to Buck Pond Trail, Buck Pond Primitive Corridor to unclassified parcel south of the Youngs Road.

Discussion: This area provides most of the day use within the wilderness outside of Zone A. Management will be directed toward continuing that use by user group four.

Facilities Present

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (8)

Cowhorn Pond  
Olmstead Pond  
Janack's Landing  
Big Shallow Pond  
Little Shallow Pond  
Wolf Pond  
Sand Lake  
Cage Lake

Campsites (without pit privy) (25)

Cranberry Lake - 17  
Olmstead Loop - 4  
High Falls Loop  
Janacks Landing Trail  
Nicks Pond  
Glasby Pond

Foot Trails (41.91 miles)

High Falls Loop	13.0 miles
Cowhorn Junction	1.75 miles
Sand Lake Trail	7.8 miles
Wolf Pond-Cage Lake Trail	3.86 miles
Cat Mountain Trail	.7 mile
Janack's Landing Trail	.2 mile
Sixmile Creek Trail	4.2 miles
Olmstead Pond Loop	3.15 miles
Big Deer Pond Trail	2.1 miles
Cowhorn Pond Trail	.2 mile
Boundary Line	.6 mile
Darning Needle Pond Trail	2.4 miles
Otterbrook Trial	.75 miles
Clear Pond Trail	1.20 miles

Trail Registers (3)

Sixmile Creek Trail  
Janack's Landing  
Wanakena Primitive Corridor

Parking Lots (2)

High Falls Loop (Eastern end)  
Boundary Line Trail

Special Management Areas (6)

Sliding Rock  
Five Ponds Esker  
Griffin Rapids Virgin Timber  
Oswegatchie Plains  
Otter Pond Virgin Timber  
Pine Ridge



ZONE C  
(TRAILLESS ZONE)

Description: The remainder of the presently classified area, between Zones B and D.

Discussion: Present planning concentrates on the provision of minimal maintenance in this zone to encourage a higher degree of user self-reliance than needed in Zone B to accommodate user group three. Existing trails will be neither maintained nor identified by the Department, but volunteers will be allowed to clear them through the adoption process.

ZONE D  
(STILLWATER ZONE)

Description: All of the shoreline of Stillwater Reservoir within this area for a distance of 150 feet from the high water line and a strip of land 150 feet from both sides of the Red Horse Creek Trail and the proposed Wilderness Lakes Canoe Carry Trail System.

Discussion: This zone is being created in recognition of the unique public use resource presented by Stillwater Reservoir. The establishment of 24 of the 46 designated campsites along the reservoir within this zone underscores its importance as a significant portion of this resource. The historic Red Horse Creek Trail further complements this public use. Management of this zone will be directed toward accommodating user group four.

Facilities Present

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (2)

Trout Pond  
Salmon Lake

Designated Campsites (24)

Stillwater campsites 1-19, 21-25

Foot Trail (5.0 miles)

Red Horse Creek Trail

Trail Register (1)

Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

Gate (1)

Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

## C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The overall goal of this plan is to develop the management of this area within professionally developed concepts of wilderness management while being guided by the following principles (Hendee, Stankey and Lucas, 1990, p. 181):

1. Manage wilderness as one extreme on the environmental modification spectrum.
2. Manage wilderness as a composite resource, not as separate parts.
3. Manage wilderness and sites within, under a nondegradation concept.
4. Manage human influences, a key to wilderness protection.
5. Manage wilderness to produce human values and benefits.
6. Favor wilderness-dependent activities.
7. Guide management with written plans that state objectives for specific areas.
8. Set carrying capacities as necessary to prevent unnatural change.
9. Focus management on threatened sites and damaging activities.
10. Apply only the minimum regulations or tools necessary to achieve wilderness area objectives.
11. Involve the public as a key to the acceptance and success of wilderness management.
12. Monitor wilderness conditions and experience opportunities as a key to long-term wilderness management.
13. Manage wilderness in coordination with management of adjacent lands.

The following objectives attempt to address principle 7 of this goal:

### 1. Land Management

a. Continue those custodial functions necessary for the support of public ownership.

(1) Improve boundary line maintenance records for the systematic development of work plans and the maintenance of essential records.

(2) Develop comprehensive annual work plans to guide the trail crew.

(3) Develop a wildfire plan to include strategies for detection, suppression and prevention.

b. Obtain sufficient natural resource data to support a comprehensive revision of this unit management plan in 1999.

(1) Inventory the vegetation of this forest to quantitatively identify the forest cover.

(2) Develop an on-going procedure to monitor for the presence of wildlife species, especially bird species.

(3) Maintain resource inventory data for all waters and update as appropriate.

(4) Develop an identification of the total wilderness resource (ecosystem).

c. Protect the integrity of State ownership by surveying the boundaries of the private lots on Cranberry Lake and the forest preserve boundary along the South Shore Road.

d. Respect the importance of fallen timber (coarse woody debris) within the old growth forest component of this area by allowing for only minimal removal as necessary for foot trail access. Salvage operations following severe blowdown and removals for other construction activities will not be allowed within the old growth.

## 2. Wildlife Management

Wildlife management in wilderness areas falls within the framework of statewide regulations, season lengths and bag limits. The lack of human intrusion and disturbance is beneficial to most wilderness species, including many rare and endangered. Wildlife management activities within wilderness areas generally will be limited to improving knowledge of the wildlife resources of the area through:

(1) Inventory the wildlife species which inhabit the area, categorizing them as:

Wilderness-dependent wildlife  
Wilderness-associated wildlife  
Common wildlife found in wilderness  
Common wildlife not usually associated with wilderness  
Rare or endangered species

(2) Monitor for the presence of rare or endangered species.

(3) Encourage the development of research projects to study the unique habitats and wildlife species of the area.

(4) Encourage hunting and trapping as part of a larger wilderness experience, not just as a quest for game.

(5) Encourage non-consumptive uses of the wildlife resources.

(6) Manage and enhance species identified as endangered, threatened or special concern in the area.

(7) Monitor human activities within the area and determine if negative impacts exist concerning wildlife. Take appropriate management actions.

The Citizens Advisory Committee recommended, in its 1983 report, the development of a comprehensive plan to consider the reintroduction, management and control of the following wildlife species: Moose, Lynx, Eagle, Peregrine

Falcon, Eastern Timber Wolf, Eastern Cougar, Wolverine and Pine Marten. (The Bureau of Wildlife position is that the wolverine was never native to this state.)

The social acceptability should be determined for each species prior to expending any resources of the development of a comprehensive plan. The Moose, Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Pine Marten already exist in small numbers in the Adirondacks. The Lynx has been introduced through the efforts of the Syracuse Environmental Science and Forestry College. Public informational meetings have been held on the topic of Moose reintroduction, and it was decided not to undertake the initiative. Further evaluation for each proposed species should be conducted prior to undertaking any additional restoration projects.

### 3. Fisheries Management

#### a. Goals

The "Guidelines for Fisheries Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas" (Appendix C) form the foundation for the following goals for Five Ponds Wilderness Area waters:

(1) Preserve, enhance and restore the unit's natural aquatic ecosystems with the primary purpose of perpetuating indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis. Aquatic resource management, including survey and inventory, stocking of game and non-game fishes and pond liming, will be necessary to achieve this goal.

(2) Provide angling as part of a larger wilderness experience emphasizing quality over quantity of use.

The above guidelines also stipulate the following:

2a. Fish species other than indigenous Adirondack species will not be stocked.

2b. Waters found naturally barren of fish will not be stocked.

2c. Maintenance liming may be continued on Tamarack Pond and other selected area waters as indicated in the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters (Simonin 1990). Limings will only be for the purposes of restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish species.

b. Objectives

(1) Maintain stocking on ponds and streams to retain their brook trout fishery. Based on revised survey data and water-by-water review, modify current stocking levels or add previously stocked waters to the annual program.

(2) Survey one to five unit waters per year to maintain resource management database.

(3) Partially mitigate the substantial loss of brook trout and other native fish species by liming and re-establishing fish populations in a limited number of waters.

4. Public Use Management

a. Develop positive guidelines for public use to enhance the quality of the wilderness user's experience:

(1) Promote the concept of user self-reliance.

(2) Apply indirect user control whenever practicable (Hendee, Stankey and Lucas, 1990, pp. 414, 473).

(3) Minimize the amount of user regulation necessary to achieve management goals. (Principle 10)

b. Recognize the lack of appropriate facilities and detrimental effects of camping by large groups by discontinuing the issuance of group camping permits on this area. This activity should be supported by proposed department policy prohibiting the practice on all wilderness areas. (Principle 8).

c. Ensure compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1989) general requirements for the separation of campsites from sight and sound (p. 17) and requirement for the screening of campsites from wild rivers (p. 35) by inventorying all sites and taking appropriate management actions.

d. Develop a safety plan to allow for the search and rescue program required by Section 9-0105.18 of the ECL while recognizing the changing situation caused by the imposition of wilderness constraints to consider the following:

(1) Promote the concept of personal responsibility for safety in all appropriate brochures and communications.

(2) Provide first aid training for all DEC employees who enter the area in the normal course of their duties.

(3) Post notices at trailheads of bridges removed and trails which have had signs removed and for which maintenance has been reduced (See Appendix B).

(4) Provide for the use of DEC, military (Plattsburgh AFB, Fort Drum) and State Police helicopters for rescue whenever feasible.

(5) Coordinate rescue strategies with local rescue squads.

(6) Articulate specific guidelines for the type and degree of response.

e. Provide a public use strategy which respects past, present and potential use of the area and conforms to the objectives of wilderness management while separating conflicting uses in a positive manner.

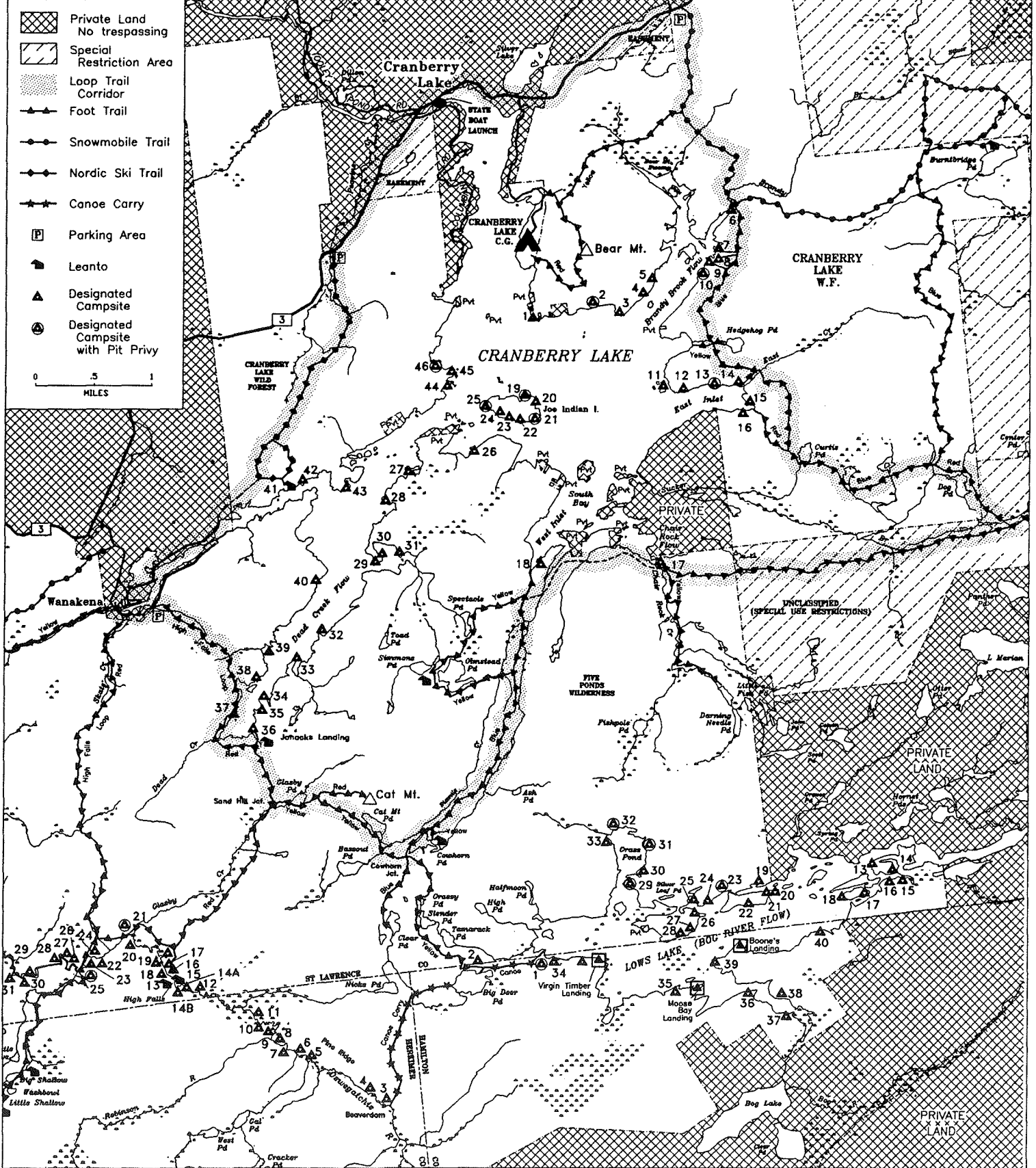
(1) Develop management zones to guide public use management decision-making (previously described in Section III B).

(2) Develop management activities that will enhance the public use potential of each zone as follows:










ZONE A: These stretches of the Oswegatchie and Bog Rivers represent a unique public use resource that allows canoeists of modest accomplishment to experience river/lake camping and canoeing in a wilderness setting. This opportunity will be maximized by the implementation of the following objectives:

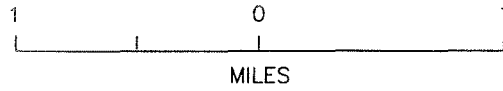
- A1. Enhance the overnight camping experience on the Oswegatchie River by conducting a major cleanup/maintenance effort.
- A2. Enhance the overnight camping experience on the Bog River Flow by improving campsite development.
- A3. Improve sanitary conditions by establishing 9 more pit privies at sites 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 39 to improve water quality by reducing fecal runoff.
- A4. Develop the following facilities to the degree indicated:
  - a. Maintain all lean-tos and pit privies on the Oswegatchie River as necessary to continue their useful life. The Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act mandates their removal when replacement becomes necessary.
  - b. Maintain the Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) bridge as long as possible to continue safe travel from Wanakena to the southern part of Zone B.



# LOOP TRAIL AROUND CRANBERRY LAKE



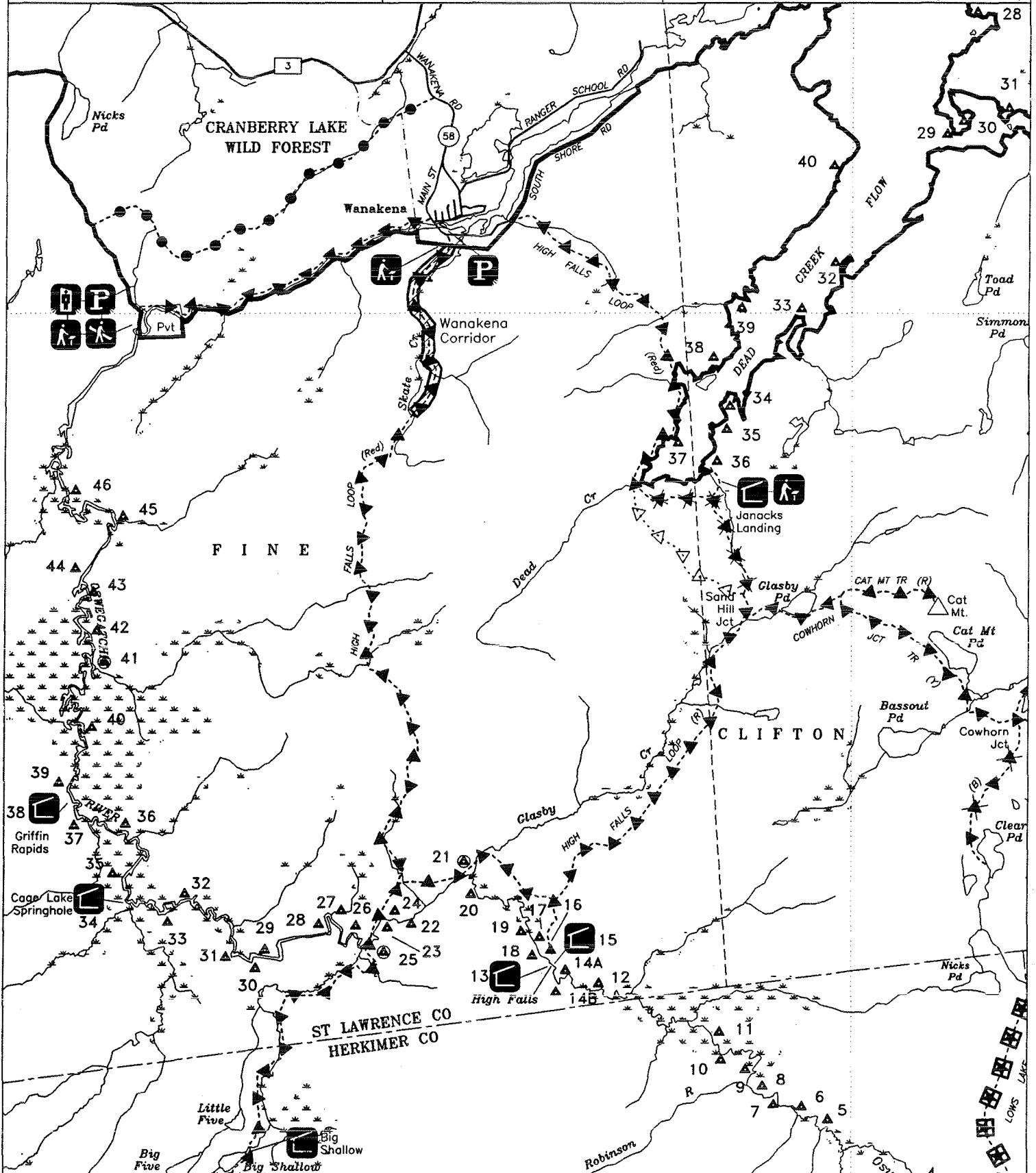
# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS HIGH FALLS LOOP RELOCATION

-  Existing Leanto
-  Existing Trail Register
-  Designated Campsite
-  Designated Campsite with Pit Privy
-  Existing Parking Lot
-  Existing Pit Privy
-  Existing Canoe Launch
-  Existing Foot Trail
-  Existing Canoe Carry



-  New Foot Trail
-  Abandon Foot Trail

3-15-94





A5. Develop new canoe routes to complement this zone whenever the opportunity arises:

a. From Stillwater Reservoir to the headwaters of the Oswegatchie when the 50-year private use reservation of the Gull Lake tract expires (10/11/2028).

b. From Tupper Lake to the Bog River Flow when the unit management plan for the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest is completed.

c. From Grass Pond to Cranberry Lake with completion of the Fishpole Pond Trail.

Special Management Area - High Falls has been designated as a special management area. Activities to enhance its unique qualities are explained in Section II, F1.

ZONE B: This zone contains the majority of facilities and provides most of the day use opportunity within this area. Combined with Zones A and D, most of the hunting and fishing opportunity also occurs in these zones.

B1. Enhance opportunities for hikers.


a. Provide a vital link between the trail system on this area and the extensive system on the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest through the construction of a 2.1 mile South Bay Trail between the Sixmile Creek Trail and Chair Rock Flow and utilization of the Otterbrook Trail which is an old logging road in reasonably good condition. Completion of this trail will result in a 50-mile route around Cranberry Lake.


b. Relocate the mile section of the High Falls Loop Trail between Dead Creek and Sand Hill Junction southerly to higher ground to provide a drier base and eliminate the need for unnecessary bridge maintenance. The Janacks Landing Trail will be abandoned with boat access available in the vicinity of Campsite 37.


c. Extend the previously proposed Fishpole Pond Trail to Grass Pond, the Parker's Island Primitive Corridor and the summit of Grass Pond Mountain to both extend hiking opportunities and to facilitate maintenance.


The Big Deer Pond Trail has presented a maintenance problem due to the fact that it has to be cleared during that short period of time before May 24 when a boat can be launched on Lows Lake. Usually, the Esker Trail and a few campsites are all that can be worked on at that time and this trail has consequently been neglected. In 1992 the Adirondack Mountain Club cleared it for the first time in several years and in 1993 an ADK member volunteered to maintain it. Abandonment of this trail by the department will not prohibit its continued maintenance by volunteers.


# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS NEW FISHPOLE POND TRAIL

 Existing Leanto


 Existing Trail Register

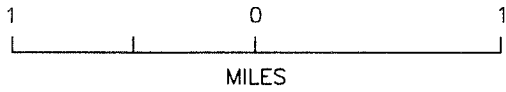
 Designated Campsite



 Designated Campsite with Pit Privy

 "Boy Scout Landing"

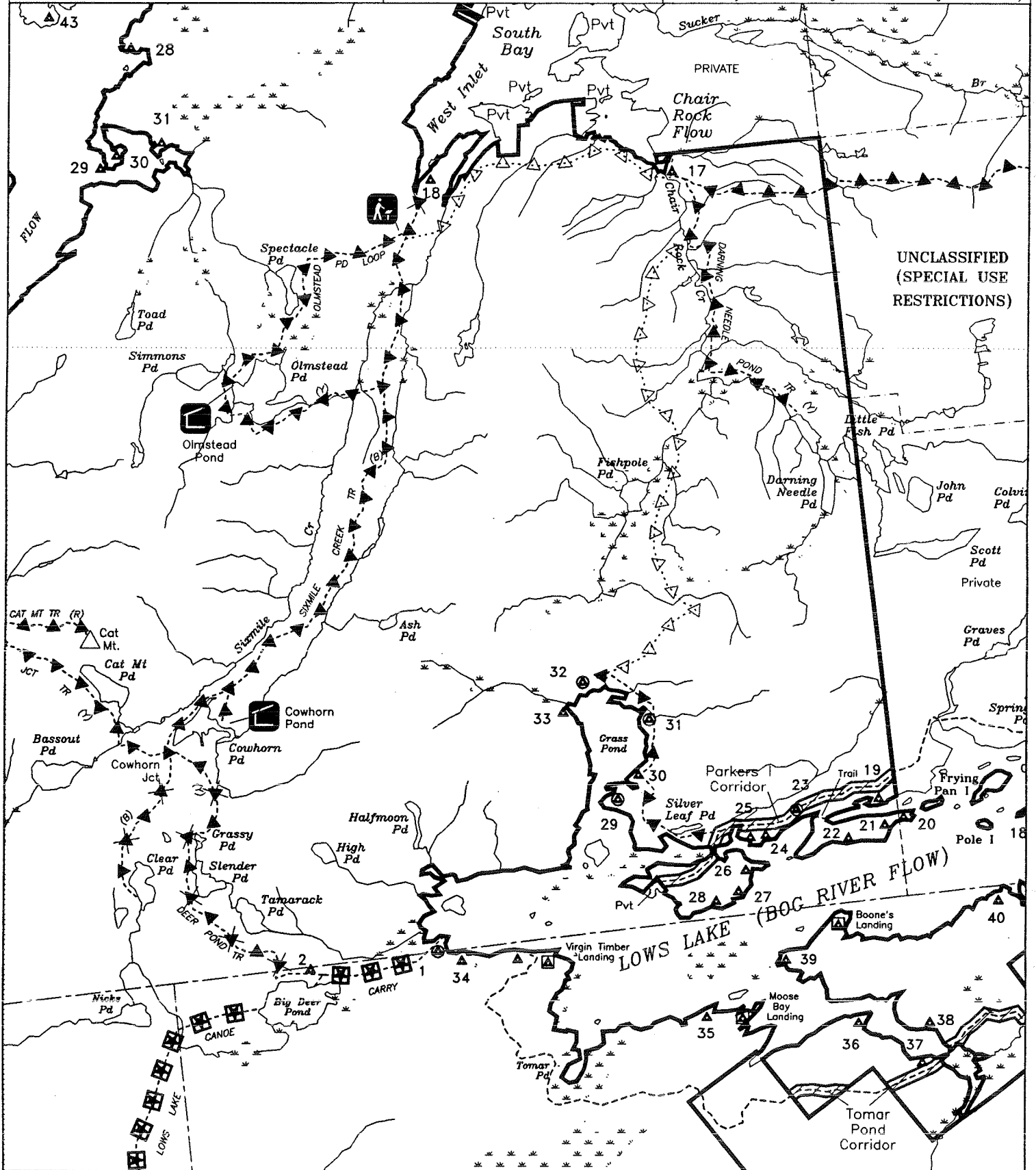
 Existing Foot Trail

 Existing Canoe Carry



 New Foot Trail  
 Abandon Foot Trail

3-15-94



In contrast, the new Fishpole Pond Trail will be maintainable for a longer period of time because it will not be necessary to wait until the ice is out of Lows Lake. It also offers the following advantages:

1. It will reduce the travel distance from Lows Lake to Cranberry Lake by about 1.7 miles to allow for a shorter canoe carry.
  2. It accesses the shore of Grass Pond instead of the muddy, shallow western shore of Lows Lake.
  3. It accesses 15 campsites on Grass Pond/Lows Lake instead of one on Big Deer Pond and one on Lows Lake.
  4. It accesses two mountains.
- d. Provide annual maintenance on all trails if possible within existing constraints.
  - e. Rehabilitate the Olmstead Pond Loop and the Boundary Line Trail.
  - f. Continue maintenance of the Wolf Lake-Cage Lake Trail.
  - g. Develop the Boundary Line Parking Lot to accommodate 9 cars.

B2. Reduce extraneous trail maintenance to free limited resources for more usable and maintainable trails by abandoning maintenance on the following:

- a. Clear Pond Trail (1.2 miles)
- b. Big Deer Pond Trail (2.1 miles)
- c. Janacks Landing Trail (0.2 mile)

B3. Enhance the overnight camping opportunity for persons in user group four:

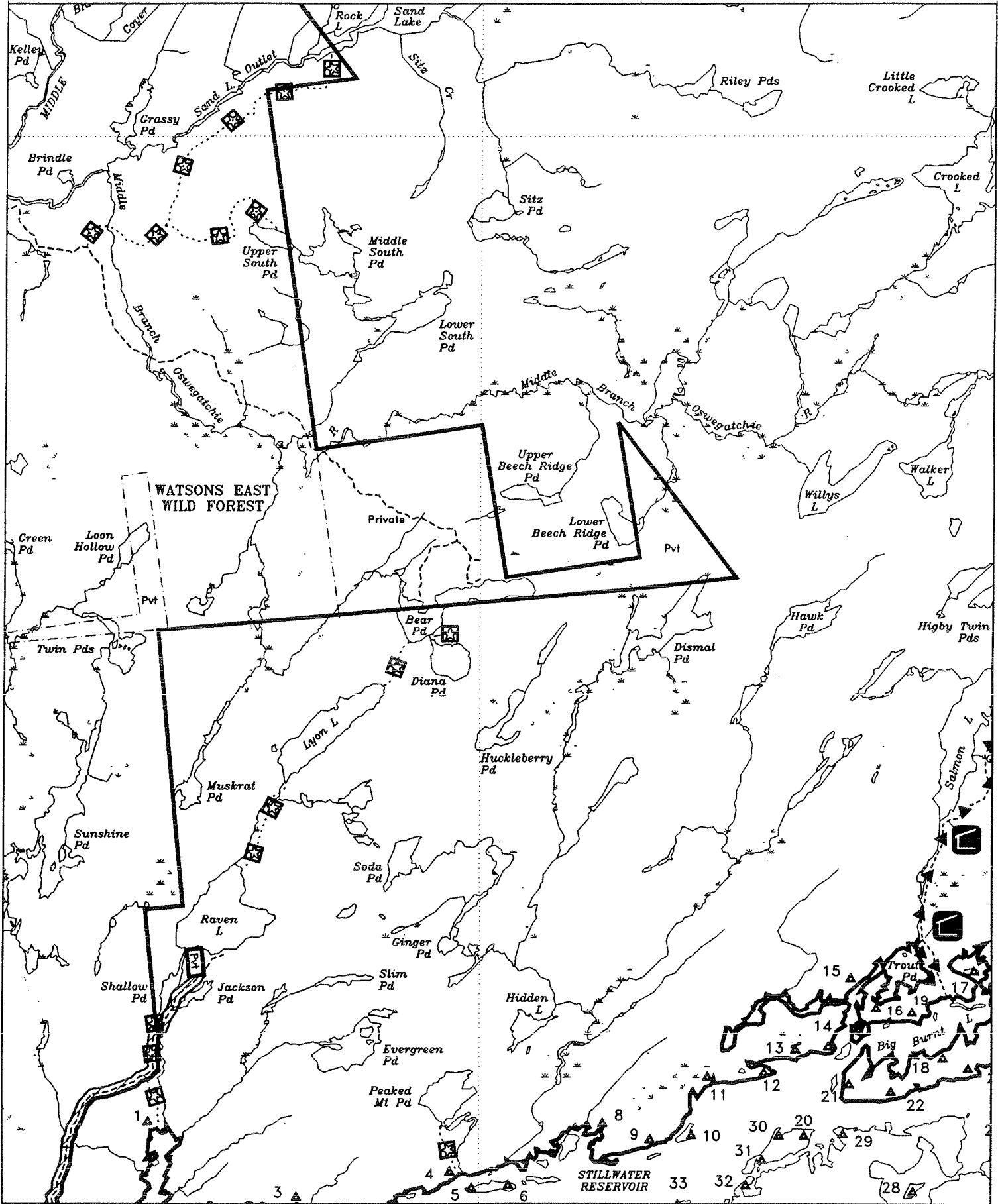
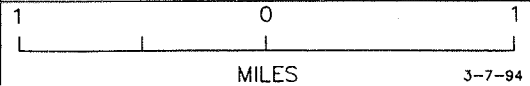
- a. Designate campsites as necessary especially in the vicinity of High Falls while reducing the number of sites within sight of the falls.
- b. Provide information on the location of these sites on the trail map.

Special Management Areas - None of the special management areas require special treatment at this time.

B4. Improve sanitary conditions by establishing 3 pit privies at campsites 30, 33 and 34.

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREAS C & D CANOE CARRIES

--- [Symbol] --- Proposed Canoe Carry



ZONE C: This zone contains the portion of the area that offers the greatest opportunity for solitude and for user reliance on wilderness skills.

- C1. Provide for a high degree of user self-reliance.
  - a. Leave the area trailless and do not designate campsites.
  - b. Require the practice of low impact camping.
  - c. Remove all references on existing signs to areas within this zone.

ZONE D: This shoreline of Stillwater Reservoir and adjacent foot trail represents a unique public use resource which primarily serves user group four. The need to control campsite abuse along the shoreline of Stillwater Reservoir led to the designation of 46 campsites by the local forest ranger in 1984. Information concerning this activity has been published and is also posted at Stillwater. The opportunity for these users to further utilize this area will be further enhanced by the implementation of the following objectives:

- D1. Encourage public use of the unique fishery resource of Clear Lake by continuing maintenance of the Red Horse Creek Trail on an annual basis.
- D2. Designate campsites along the Red Horse Creek Trail as necessary to minimize the environmental impacts of indiscriminate campsite use:
- D3. Expand zone D into the Fisher Forestry Tract through the construction of canoe carry trails (Wilderness Lakes Canoe Carry System) beginning at the Kettlehole to Shallow Pond/Raven Lake to Lyon Lake to Bear Pond to Diana Pond and Stillwater Reservoir to Peaked Mountain Lake with appropriate designated campsites.
- D4. Improve sanitary conditions by establishing 24 pit privies at campsites 1-19 and 21-25 to improve water quality by reducing fecal runoff.

## 5. Water Quality Management

- a. Reduce the direct impact of human activities on water quality.
  - (1) Accelerate assistant ranger contact with users in water areas to inform them of the impact of polluting activities especially on the Oswegatchie River and Stillwater Reservoir.
  - (2) Improve user awareness of the impact of polluting activities by addressing the subject in appropriate brochures and other forms of communications.

- (3) Establish pit privies whenever practicable to reduce incidences of unsanitary surface runoff.
- b. Reduce the impact of facility use and development on water quality by minimizing sedimentation caused by erosion.
- (1) Inventory and evaluate all erosion control measures on present facilities.
  - (2) Identify additional control structures needed on present facilities.
  - (3) Allow for the possible need for erosion control structures on future developments, especially new trails and primitive campsites.

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

A. PROJECTS TO BE DROPPED

1. Sand Lake to Wolf Pond/Cage Lake Trail (1.5 mile)

The professional and operations staff investigated the route of this proposed trail and located it on good ground with one major ( $\pm 20'$ ) stream crossing. However, time was never available to mark the route and take the necessary tree count due to an abundance of more needed projects and the remoteness of the area. The large beaver dam across Wolf Lake Outlet will provide an adequate bridge to justify retention of the original trail for many years.

2. Nordic Ski Trails (4.9 miles)

The development of the Sternberg Road and Alice Brook ski trails was never a strong proposal and it is being dropped until public acceptance of developed ski trails has been determined on the Peavine Swamp system. The professional staff has learned from the construction of this system that the utilization of old roadbeds for ski trails is an undesirable restriction to their location which negates the primary reason for the location of these two trails.

3. Round Hill Horse Trail (2.2 miles)

The professional and operations staffs investigated this route and determined that poorly drained soils were encountered too often to allow for horse use without major construction and maintenance which are impossible with wilderness constraints.

B. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REMOVAL

1. Foot Trail Development

Rehabilitate

Olmstead Pond Loop	3.15 miles
Boundary Line Trail	<u>.60</u> miles
	3.75 miles

Develop

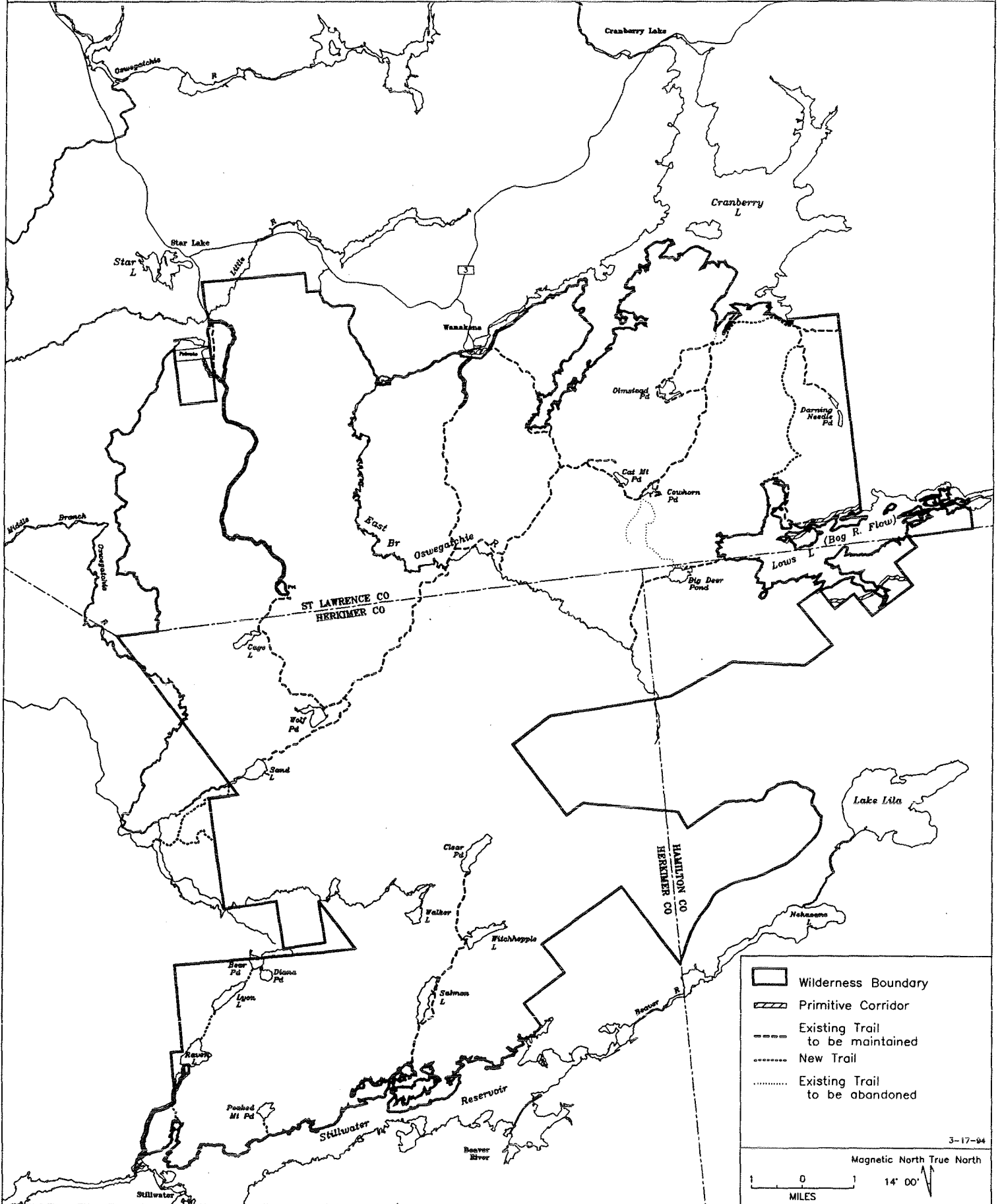
South Bay Trail	2.30 miles
Fishpole Pond Trail	<u>5.50</u> miles
	7.80 miles

Remove (from maintenance)

Clear Pond Trail	1.00 miles
Big Deer Pond Trail	2.10 miles
Janacks Landing Trail	<u>.20</u> miles

3.30 miles

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS TRAIL SYSTEM



3-17-94



2. Pit Privy Installation (33)

Bog River Flow Campsites 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 39  
Stillwater Campsites 1-19, 21-25

3. Parking Lot Development

Boundary Line (Youngs Road) - Develop to a 9 car capacity

4. Area Identification

To promote the proposed types of use of each zone, signs shall be provided as follows:

Zone A: No new wooden signs are anticipated. Designated campsites have been numbered with wooden markers.

Zones B and D: The same degree of signing that presently exists will be continued, with the upgrading of signs that are in poor condition and the removal of references to areas in Zone C.

Zone C: Signs are neither present nor proposed for this zone.

5. Leantos

Although leantos represent a unique Adirondack structure to which strong emotional attachment is common, improvements in camping equipment since they were first introduced have made these once needed structures merely items of convenience.

The 1983 Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized the existence of these structures as an issue to be addressed in the planning effort and proposed several divergent recommendations (FPWA, 1987). A final decision on this matter was deferred by the department pending further evaluation. In the meantime, over 100 designated campsites were established to provide a needed service for many of the user public and to serve as a tool to help protect areas of overuse.

Four of the fourteen leantos on this area must be removed when they can no longer be maintained because of their location in the corridor of a wild river. It is anticipated that the Cage Lake Springhole leanto will be the first of these and that it will likely remain for at least ten more years. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (p. 17) permits retention of the remaining leantos.

Within the past two years, the professional staff has addressed leanto management on this area by rehabilitating eight leantos through the use of helicopters.

The existence of these unnecessary structures within this wilderness detracts from the goal of this plan in that they:

1. Detract from the criteria of naturalness and solitude that are the distinguishing qualities of classified wilderness (Hendee, Stanley and Lucas 1990, p. 109).

2. Provide focus for the establishment of garbage dumps (Cownhorn Pond especially).

3. Undermine the objective of promoting user self reliance.

4. Attract persons in user group five (See III Management and Policy).

5. Create sanitary problems by concentrating use.

6. Undermine the objective of prohibiting camping use by large groups by attracting such groups.

For these reasons, new lean-tos will not be considered for this area. Although the existing lean-tos present management problems, they will be retained until they can no longer be maintained with heavy reliance on volunteer maintenance assistance unless early removal is warranted by excessive user abuse.

6. Mt. Electra Firetower

This nonconforming facility was removed September 25-27, 1989.

7. Bicycle Use

Bicycles will be allowed on the Buck Pond and Raven Lake Primitive Corridors.

8. Middle Branch Footbridge/Sand Lake/Upper South Pond Trail

Although not actually on this area, a bridge and trail are proposed on adjacent unclassified forest preserve lands to the west to complement this management plan. A 60' footbridge is proposed to cross the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River at the former bridge site on the Upper South Pond Road with canoe carries along former trails to Sand Lake and Upper South Pond.

C. MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES

Annual maintenance will consist of the following:

1. Foot Trails (56.36 miles)

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Continued Maintenance</u>	<u>New Maintenance</u>
<u>Zone A</u>		
Esker	3.45	
Anvil	.10	
<u>Zone B</u>		
Cowhorn Junction	1.75	
Cat Mountain	2.50	
Sixmile Creek	4.20	
Olmstead Pond Loop	3.15	
Sand Lake	7.80	
Wolf Pond/Buck Pond	3.86	
Boundary Line	.60	
Cowhorn Pond	.20	
Darning Needle Pond	2.40	
Fishpole Pond	5.50	
High Falls Loop	13.00	
South Bay	2.10	
Otterbrook	.75	
<u>Zone D</u>		
Red Horse Creek	5.00	
Total Miles	<u>48.01</u>	<u>8.35</u>

NOTE: Department Policy allows the use of chainsaws for routine maintenance only during the period April 1 to May 24 regardless of weather conditions.

2. Leantos (14)

To be maintained by volunteers and phased out when in need of replacement.

Griffin Rapids	Big Shallow	Janack's Landing
Cage Lake Springhole	Little Shallow	Cage Lake
High Falls (2)	Wolf Pond	Cowhorn Pond
	Sand Lake	Salmon Lake
	Olmstead Pond	Trout Pond

3. Pit Privies (59)

	<u>Continued Maintenance</u>	<u>New Maintenance</u>
Each Leanto	14	
Oswegatchie River Campsites 21, 25, 41	3	
Bog River Flow Campsites 23, 29, 31, 32	4	
Canoe Carry	1	
High Falls	2	
Bog River Flow Campsites 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 39		9
Stillwater Campsites 1-19, 21-24		23
Cranberry Lake Campsites 30, 33,	<u>34</u>	<u>3</u>
	24	35

4. Designated Campsites (120)

Cranberry Lake (17)  
 Olmstead Loop (4)  
 High Falls Loop (1)  
 Janacks Landing Trail (1)  
 Oswegatchie River/Esker Trail (42)  
 Bog River Flow (29)  
 Stillwater Reservoir (24)  
 Nicks Pond (1)  
 Glasby Pond (1)

5. Major Bridges (3/106')

Sand Lake Trail (65')  
 Glasby Creek (21')  
 Sixmile Creek (20')

6. Parking Lots (3)

High Falls Loop (Eastern End)  
 Boundary Line (Youngs Road)  
 Inlet

7. Boundary Lines

Undetermined

8. Signs (44)

9. Trail Registers (5)

Inlet  
Sixmile Creek Trail  
Janack's Landing  
Wanakena Primitive Corridor  
Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

D. PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLS

1. Camping

The 95 campsites designated by the professional staff in zones A and B and the 24 campsites designated by the forest ranger in zone D are anticipated to fill most of the need for such facilities. Only a small number of additional sites in zones B and D are anticipated. Throughout the remainder of the area, low impact camping will be promoted.

2. Hiking

Throughout the area are many unofficial trails (paths) which are kept open by users. These may be formerly maintained trails, special use (hunting or fishing) or shortcuts (Dobson Trail). These paths can present a safety problem when inexperienced hikers use them, especially when department markers are used. Due to the unreliability of maintenance, the department is reluctant to identify them and, consequently, add to this potential problem.

Two levels of hiking use are being recognized:

Zones B and D: Maintained trails will cater to the wilderness user who prefers such trails. Amenities such as trail hardening and nonessential bridges will be reduced, however.

Zone C: No trails will be maintained by the Department. Trail signs and markers are unnecessary due to the higher level of skills required of the users of this zone.

E. FISH AND WILDLIFE

1. Fisheries

a. Annual stocking of brook trout to maintain fisheries in the following waters:

<u>Watershed No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Stocking</u>
p318 OW	Fishpole Pond	500 ST FF
p319 OW	Darning Needle Pond	500 ST FF
p327 OW	Cowhorn Pond	1,000 ST FF
p328 OW	Olmstead Pond	1,000 ST FF
p329 OW	Cat Mountain Pond	500 ST FF
p334 & 335 OW	Spectacle Ponds	500 ST FF
p336 OW	Simmons Pond	200 ST FF
p357 OW	Glasby Pond	200 ST FF
p361 OW	Clear Pond	700 ST FF
p344 OW	Cage Lake	1,100 ST FF
SL 25	Oswegatchie River	
	Wanakena to Inlet	2,000 ST SY
	Inlet to High Falls	800 ST SY

(ST= brook trout, SY= spring yearling, FF= fall fingerling)

All stocking done by air, except Oswegatchie River, Wanakena to Inlet. Stocking policies are subject to change based on revised survey and inventory data.

b. Pond Liming

ORGANIZATIONAL AND DELEGATION MEMORANDUM #91-31 POLICY: FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND CANOE AREAS (Appendix C) states that maintenance liming may be continued as a mitigation measure on Tamarack Pond to protect and maintain its indigenous fish species. Tamarack Pond was limed in 1978 and 1990. It is not expected to need liming again during the five-year scope of this plan. Should its pH decline quicker than anticipated, re-liming will be initiated.

The policy also allows other wilderness waters to be incorporated into the DFW pond liming program within the guidelines of the DFW Liming Policy and incorporated into the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on liming. New limings will be for the purpose of re-establishing indigenous fish communities in those waters. All candidate waters (Table 2) will be field checked by DEC and APA staff to determine their jurisdictional status relative to wetlands permits. If needed, these permits will be obtained before individual treatments.

Over the next five years (life of this plan) up to six Five Ponds waters are scheduled for lime treatment. Once treated, a water will become part of the DFW liming program, which requires annual water chemistry

monitoring. As per policy, re-treatment will be scheduled when summer pH drops below 6.0 (or ANC below 25 ueq/l).

In general, these waters will be treated with agricultural lime at a rate of one ton per surface acre. Treatment will be from the air using the NYS helicopter and bucket delivery system. Treatments will occur during periods of low public use (between Labor Day and Memorial Day). Once treated the waters will be stocked with a heritage strain of brook trout. In addition to brook trout, some of these waters will be stocked with one or more other fish species indigenous to the Five Ponds area (eg. northern redbelly dace, creek chub, pumpkinseed or brown bullhead). In some cases non-trout species will become established via migration from nearby waters due to the improved water quality of the limed pond. It is anticipated that stockings will result in naturally reproducing, self-sustaining fish populations. In waters where brook trout do not become self-sustaining, annual stocking will be needed to maintain the population.

A list of the potential FPW liming candidates and their pertinent chemical/physical parameters (relative to Division of Fish and Wildlife liming policy requirements) follows.

Table 2.

Name	p#	Size (ac)	pH	Flush Rate (#/year)	Mean D.O. (ppm)	Color (Pt-Co)
Willy's Pond	p210	60	4.68	1.0	8.0	10
Walker Lake	p214	38	4.77	0.9	8.0	?
Streeter Fishpond	p353	13	5.09	1.0	5.0	40
Lyon Lake	p498	80	4.58	0.8	6.2	20
Evergreen Lake	p500	45	4.73	0.5	8.0	20
Peaked Mt Pond	p502	37	4.78	1.6	5.8	20
Hawk Pond	p504	34	4.73	1.2	8.0	15
Hidden Lake	p505	18	4.92	0.7	10.4	15
Soda Pond	p511	21	4.72	0.9	8.1	10
Summit Pond	p527	13	4.80	1.2	5.0	5
Little Rock Pond	p534	50	4.75	0.6	8.0	?

Note, all of the above waters are critically acidified and represent seriously degraded Adirondack ecosystems. All have acceptable flush rates (<2 per year) and satisfactory oxygen levels ( $\geq 5$  ppm). None of the waters is known to be a bog pond. They do not have established sphagnum accumulation on more than 50 % of their shorelines, and their Pt-Co color readings are less than 75. Five of these waters have been inspected by APA staff for wetland jurisdiction determinations. Three of these (Willys, Walker and Hawk) have been judged non-jurisdictional, while the other two (Little Rock and Summit) have been judged jurisdictional but issuable. The others will be inspected before any management action occurs.

Bear Pond (p196) located on the southwestern boundary of the Five Ponds wilderness (in close proximity to many of the proposed liming candidates),

was limed during February, 1992 by the members of the Bear Pond Club. Prior to liming, a field investigation with APA staff determined a Wetlands Permit was not needed for this project. Pre-treatment, its pH was 4.48 (1984 ALSC). In June, 1992, its pH was 6.5. It will be re-limed when its summer pH drops below 6.0.

In May, 1992, Bear Pond was stocked with approximately 1,200 spring fingerling, and 105 mixed age Horn Lake strain brook trout which is a recognized Adirondack heritage strain (Keller 1979). Additional stockings of Horn Lake fish are planned for 1993 and 1994. Bear Pond represents the first recent attempt at reestablishing a self-sustaining brook trout population in a formerly acidified-fishless western Adirondack water. An October 1992 netting survey indicated the trout from the first stocking had excellent survival. Their condition appeared to be good with several of the females handled ripe with eggs. Bear Pond will serve as a future brood stock water if the Horn Lake stocks become well established and if eggs are needed for additional stocking of this strain. Regardless of egg take considerations, perpetuation of selected heritage brook trout strains in their native and in additional refuge waters, is an important part of DEC's statewide management of brook trout (Keller 1979).

#### c. Survey and Inventory

Effective management decisions should be based on up-to-date survey data. Most ponded waters within the Five Ponds Wilderness were surveyed by the ALSC between 1984 and 1987, thereby providing an excellent baseline data source. Any FPW waters scheduled for management action (ie. stocking or liming) in this plan, not previously surveyed using ALSC water chemistry standards, will be.

Within the scope of this plan, all ponds with naturally spawning brook trout populations and stocked waters not surveyed since 1990 will be surveyed to monitor survival, growth and abundance of trout. Data will be used to evaluate either their population status or annual stocking policies. All limed waters will be surveyed pre and post treatment to monitor water chemistry changes and fish population status.

## 2. Wildlife

Public use management and control of wildlife users is conducted within the framework of statewide regulations, season lengths and bag limits. The Five Ponds contains parts of Wildlife Management Unit 23 and 24 and Deer Management Units 25 and 28.



F. WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

For the purpose of compliance with the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Article 15, Title 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law, the corridor widths of the following rivers shall be 1/2 mile from the mean high water mark:

Middle Branch Oswegatchie River:

Scenic River (approximately 4 miles) from Walker Lake to State land boundary line.

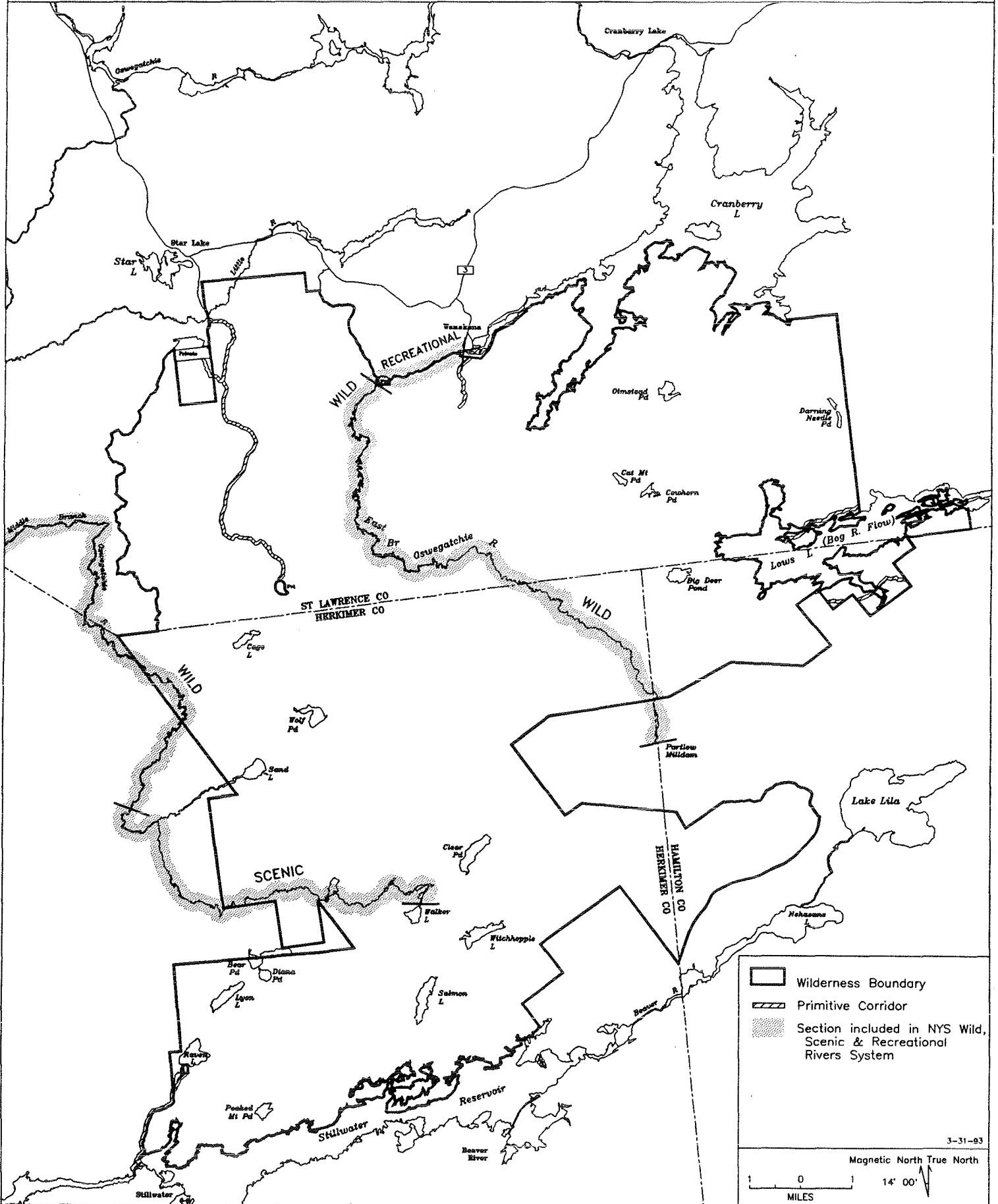
Wild River (approximately 2.5 miles) vicinity of Alder Bed Flow.

Main Branch Oswegatchie River

Wild River (approximately 18.5 miles) State land boundary line near Partlow Milldam to State land boundary line above Inlet.

Recreational River (approximately 2.3 miles) State land boundary line above Inlet to Wanakena.

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS STATE DESIGNATED RIVERS



## G. FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire protection within this area is provided for by Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The unit lies in the following ranger districts:

<u>District</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>
Fine	Fine
Cranberry Lake	Clifton and Fine
Long Lake	Long Lake
Stillwater	Webb

Fire control maintenance facilities are located in the hamlets of Cranberry Lake and Stillwater. The road which enters the Braman Manufacturing Company tract, the International Paper Company main logging road into Bear Pond and the Webb Access Road to Gull Lake, the five primitive corridors and the Adirondack Railroad bed southwesterly from Lake Lila offer emergency access to the periphery of the area. Emergency float plane landings could also be made on Bear Pond, Salmon Lake, Witchopple Lake, Clear Lake, Negro Lake and Grass Pond to bring in suppression equipment and personnel.

Until the wildfire plan is prepared in 1994, fire suppression activities will be commensurate with the degree of hazard or damage that might be expected from the fire while protecting the character of the area and the lands and facilities of contiguous private owners.

## H. ADMINISTRATION

### 1. Staffing

Funding for the "trail crew" in St. Lawrence County has improved somewhat during recent years. However, duties for the crew on other areas have increased as well so that there is little time for amenities. In Herkimer County, the five-mile foot trail, 24 campsites and two lean-tos are still maintained by personnel borrowed from other projects funded by the Bureau of Forest Protection and Fire Management.

The original plan included a proposal for a professional area manager and included a list of duties for the position. The item is still necessary to allow the professional staff adequate time to devote to other duties and to provide the necessary amount of professional time to fully implement this plan, especially in the development of safety and wildfire plans, educational efforts and the coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts to upgrade this plan in areas other than public use management.

An essential element in wilderness management is the position of wilderness ranger described in "Wilderness Management" (Hendee et al. 1968) as follows:

Many management actions...need to be carried out by wilderness rangers. The wilderness ranger...is a specialist who patrols the wilderness during its use season...Wilderness rangers...gather field data on resource conditions,

use, and visitor actions; influence visitor behavior by suggestions, advice, and information, enforce regulations; perform emergency trail repairs; ...direct or do cleanup;...and give emergency assistance...Wilderness rangers are, in effect, people managers, and they are the agency's prime contact with the public.

For several years this area has utilized three persons with the title of assistant ranger to perform these tasks in varying degrees with the exception of enforcing regulations. Included in Appendix B are all of the reports submitted by those individuals working in St. Lawrence County since the original plan was approved in 1987.

## 2. Volunteers

Volunteer assistance in the management of this area has had a long tradition. One of the first documented efforts was by Dr. Edwin Ketchledge of the College of Forestry who enlisted the aid of four forestry students in the summer of 1974 to map, photograph and evaluate 144 abandoned campsites within this area and, to a lesser extent, within the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. This well prepared report not only allowed the Department to initiate a cleanup of the area at that time, but still serves as a historical record of use to the professional staff today, especially in the establishment of designated campsites.

Appendix B contains a record of documented volunteer efforts beginning with Dr. Ketchledge's 1974 effort, the 1983 citizens advisory committee effort and annual contributions by individuals, the ADK professional crew, the Adirondack Laboratory and groups working under the sponsorship of the Sierra Club, ADK and the Community College of the Finger Lakes from 1987 to the present. In most of these instances, the volunteers coordinated their efforts with those of the trail crew and usually provided the professional staff with invaluable reports to allow for more efficient maintenance of the area.

Benefits derived from these volunteer efforts include:

1. Work accomplished. In many cases the work would never be accomplished by employees because of staff limitations and the labor intensive nature of the work.
2. Articulate reports. These necessary ingredients for professional management have been lacking due to manpower constraints. (Refer to Appendix B)
3. Participatory management. The ability to allow interested persons to actively participate in the management of the area produces a more knowledgeable user group, a sense of land stewardship within that group and the benefit of a wider perspective on management options.
4. Illegal camp location. This unanticipated benefit has surfaced a few times and is a welcome contribution to the management effort.

The professional staff has attempted to expand the adoption program from lean-tos to campsites and trails, but has so far had little success. This will become a project for the area manager.

Much volunteer work such as litter removal and trail maintenance has been done by unknown persons who the trail crew refer to as "gremlins" (Dodge 1991). The overall significance of their contribution is hard to evaluate because many of these efforts remain undiscovered. Although their overall contribution is generally positive, some negative results which could occur might include:

1. Illegal tree cutting
2. Development of unmaintainable structures which become a safety hazard.
3. Wasted effort on trail sections scheduled for abandonment.
4. Wasted crew time spent traveling to a job which has already been done.

### 3. Budgeting

Upon final approval of this plan, estimated project expenses to be incurred by its implementation will be budgeted as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
1994	Area Manager	30,000
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	10,000
	Bog River Flow Campsite Development	5,000
	Oswegatchie River Cleanup/Campsite Development	15,000
	Fire Ring Bases	5,000
	Olmstead Pond Loop Rehabilitation	7,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	2,400
	Fisheries Survey & Inventory (FSI)	1,900
	Pond Liming	20,000
	Total	\$ 96,300
	1995	High Falls Loop Relocation
Area Manager		31,500
Trail & Facility Maintenance		11,000
Bog River Flow, Cranberry Lake & Stillwater Privies		10,000
Boundary Line Parking Lot		8,000
Wilderness Lakes Canoe Carry Trails		10,000
Fishpole Pond Trail		20,000
Brook Trout Stocking		2,800
FSI		1,500
Pond Liming		20,000
Middle Branch Bridge/Grassy Pond Trail		8,000
Total	\$127,800	

1996	Area Manager	33,000
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	12,000
	Boundary Line Maintenance and Records	15,000
	South Bay Trail	15,000
	Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge	40,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	3,000
	FSI	1,800
	Pond Liming	20,000
	Total	\$139,800
1997	Area Manager	34,500
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	13,000
	Wildlife and Vegetative Inventories	20,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	3,000
	FSI	1,000
	Total	\$ 71,500
1998	Cranberry Lake and South Shore Road Surveys	20,000
	Area Manager	36,000
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	15,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	3,000
	FSI	1,000
	Total	\$ 75,000

#### 4. Education

Although the development of a brochure to inform the user public of the goals and objectives of this plan is still a viable project it will likely be deferred until after the area manager is obtained because of time constraints on the professional staff. The area manager is also necessary to educate department personnel in the principles of wilderness management applied toward the management of this area so that they will be better able to advise the user public.

Copies of this plan have been distributed to interested persons to provide them with a more thorough understanding of the area and its management and the trailhead notices contained in Appendix B have been posted in the Sixmile Creek, Dead Creek Flow and Wanakena Primitive Corridor trail registers to alert the user public concerning management activities.

#### I. PROBLEM AREAS

##### 1. Former Truck Trails

The former Dead Creek and High Falls truck trails were constructed on the abandoned railroad beds of the Rich Lumber Company by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) during an era of abundant manpower and resources despite strong accusations of illegality (VanValkenburgh 1970, pp. 172-175). Over the years, the Conservation Department was able to obtain funding to keep them maintained for administrative motor vehicle use until 1972, when the original Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prohibited the continued use of motor vehicles on them except for "cases of sudden, actual and ongoing emergencies" in an attempt

to guide the management of the area within the framework of wilderness management. Development of the unit management plan for this area in 1987 resulted in a focus for the changing use of these facilities.

Today the former Dead Creek Truck Trail is the easternmost two-mile segment of the High Falls Loop Foot Trail. Beaver flooding, a washed culvert and vegetative growth are slowly changing its character to the point where it is either a good trail or a poor road, depending on the perspective of the observer. In 1991 the steel barrier was removed from the beginning of the trail and replaced with more natural appearing boulders to conform with Adirondack Park SLMP guidelines (p. 19). At that time, the approach to the former road was removed to provide for increased parking space and it was replaced with steps.

At the western end of the High Falls Loop Foot Trail, the first 1/2-mile of the former High Falls Truck Trail is still being maintained as a road because, as the Wanakena Primitive Corridor, it must be available for use by the Wanakena Water Company. It is maintained as a foot trail a short distance further to the former Leary Trail and from the end of this trail to High Falls. The 5.6-mile segment between the ends of the former Leary Trail is obstructed by three beaver ponds and some blowdown, but is sporadically maintained by "gremlins" enough to be a hikeable path.

The condition of both roadbeds after 20 years of neglect is a tribute to the quality of the work of the CCC's. However, because the transition from road to trail is so gradual, users and department personnel are reluctant to foresee the change and adjust to it. As recently as the fall of 1992, the High Falls Truck Trail was cleared to High Rock so that motor vehicles could be used in a search for a lost hunter. Until such time as the safety and wildfire plans are developed, the expectancy that these former roads will be usable will remain and more reasonable access routes will not be investigated.

## 2. Land Titles

The Wanakena Water Company has the legal right to maintain its lines which enter this area for approximately one mile. This has been addressed with the establishment of the Wanakena Primitive Corridor. The water company has exercised this option with a major reconstruction project which began during the winter of 1992-93.

## 3. Environmental Problems

The presence of mercury in the fish of Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir as previously mentioned in this plan is a significant occurrence which will require continual monitoring.

Because they are a part of the natural process, occurrences such as the spruce decline (if not caused by acid precipitation), vegetative succession of the Plains and beaver activity are not considered as problems to be altered by direct human intervention. A noteworthy exception to this reasoning might be the control of fires which is an issue which will hopefully be addressed by Department policy.

#### 4. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act

A large section of the Main Branch of the Oswegatchie River has been classified as a wild river within this area. This classification will result in the removal of the four lean-tos in Zone A when they will need replacement (Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 1989, p. 35).

#### 5. Vehicle Protection

Users who leave their vehicles at trailhead parking lots are very vulnerable to vandalism and theft, especially at the Inlet parking lot which is at the end of a dead-end road. Beyond continuing to allow people to camp near these lots, requesting more law enforcement patrols and providing for increased assistant ranger presence, there are no known remedies for the problem.

#### 6. Public Motorized Use

The snowmobile trail on the adjacent Aldrich Pond Wild Forest reaches its southernmost terminus in the vicinity of the Copperbolt Corner. An unofficial trail has been used by snowmobile and ATV operators to cross a small corner of this wilderness and cross the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River. The extensive road system on the lands previously owned by International Paper and recently purchased by the State of New York allows them to pursue a lengthy trip, generally from Star Lake to Belfort. Continued maintenance of this trail south of Bassett's Creek will likely be curtailed in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

#### 7. Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail

The reclassification of the Oswegatchie Primitive Area to wilderness in 1976 resulted in the loss of the Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail which followed the route of the former Sternberg Road and linked the Youngs Road with the Inlet Road. As this trail provided a vital link in a major snowmobile route, there has been recent user interest in obtaining an amendment to the State Land Management Plan to allow the restoration of this use. Should this effort succeed, \$20,000 will be budgeted for the restoration of this trail.

#### 8. Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge

The southern end of this remaining bridge across the Oswegatchie River is anchored precariously to an eroding river bank. When it next washes out the site will have to be abandoned because there will be nothing to anchor it to. Alternative bridge sites will be investigated and a new bridge will be budgeted; however, the relocation of this bridge under wilderness conditions may not be possible.

Alternate hiking access to the Sand Lake Trail is available along the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor at Star Lake and is being developed with the establishment of the Middle Branch Footbridge/Sand Lake/Upper South Pond Trail southwest of Sand Lake. Should the Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail be rebuilt, it would also provide hiking access from Wanakena to the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor.



## 9. Vandalism

An unique form of vandalism has been experienced on this area in that pranksters have obtained department trail markers and have been posting abandoned trails with them. Consequently, unsuspecting users have been lured into following these unmaintained trails until they meet an obstacle which they are unprepared for. It is hoped that the pranksters will run out of markers before someone gets hurt.

## 10. Ground Fires

Although the staff is always careful to dig through the duff and place sand in the bottom of fire rings at designated campsites, campers are constantly moving the fire rings. Often these are placed on top of the duff so that it is burned. Ground fires caused by this practice are a problem of significant environmental concern.

To alleviate this problem before a major catastrophe occurs, every effort will be made to place fireproof bases for fire rings at as many of the 117 designated campsites as possible. Concurrently, the public will be advised of the function of these bases.

## 11. Wanakena Primitive Corridor

In October, 1992, the boulders at the end of the Wanakena Primitive corridor were removed so that heavy equipment could be used to reclaim the former truck trail for motorized use to aid in a search for a lost hunter. These boulders must be replaced to conform with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1989, p. 19).

## 12. Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

This 2.1 mile road begins at the northern shore of Moshier Reservoir, bisects a small portion of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area for .23 mile, crosses lands of the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District and a private parcel for .03 mile and serves as the boundary between this area and the Pepperbox Wilderness Area for the remaining 1.84 miles.

Access to this road is by a logging bridge on the lands of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation which was built in 1968-1970 and used to log the Fisher Forestry Tract until 1990. The bridge is deteriorating with lack of maintenance by its users. Public use of it is limited to hiking and bicycling primarily. Barring a major washout, these uses will likely continue until the next revision of the plan.

## J. LAND ACQUISITION

No specific land acquisition projects are available at this time because the statewide land acquisition list has not been finalized.

K. STATE LAND MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

None necessary at this time unless the restoration of the former Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail is pursued.

L. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT REQUIREMENT

This revision is a Type II action that is covered under 6NYCRR Part 617.13(d)(15), routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities.

M. RELATIONSHIP OF MANAGEMENT OF AREA TO FOREST PRESERVE AND ADJACENT AREAS

As the management of zones A, B and D is directed toward the accommodation of user group four with fewer amenities than are provided on adjacent wild forest lands, these areas serve as a transition to the untamed lands of zone C which are managed for user group three. This exposure is necessary to allow users the opportunity to test their skills in wilderness use without having to become totally independent of man-made facilities as is necessary in the adjacent Pepperbox Wilderness Area to the southwest.

The development of the canoe carry trails and campsites in zone A presently allows people in user group four to enter the Bog River Flow in the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest and continue to experience preferred amenities while traveling to Inlet.

The acquisition of the Otterbrook lands to the east of this area provided an existing trail linkage with the eastern parcel of the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest and with the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Development of the Fishpole Pond and South Bay trails will provide greatly expanded trail linkage for the accommodation of user group four.

N. PROPOSED REGULATIONS

None needed.

## V. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following schedule is included as a general guide. It should be noted that unforeseen factors such as the availability of abundant non-budgeted labor provided by volunteers and by program such as the Youth Conservation Corps as well as budget constraints and other developments will necessitate deviations from this schedule.

### 1994

1. Budget for an area manager.
2. Upgrade the 32 campsites on the Bog River Flow.
3. Implement the major cleanup and campsite development on the Oswegatchie River.
4. Rehabilitate the Olmstead Pond Loop.
5. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
6. Conduct biological surveys of Toad Pond and Salmon Lake to assess native brook trout populations.
7. Conduct stream survey to evaluate Oswegatchie River stocking policy.
8. Construct and place fire ring bases at designated campsites.
9. Replace the permanent barrier (boulders) at the end of the Wanakena Primitive Corridor.

### 1995

1. Install 10 pit privies at Bog River Flow campsites, 3 privies at Cranberry Lake campsites and 24 privies at Stillwater campsites.
2. Develop the Boundary Line Parking Lot to accommodate 9 cars.
3. Develop the canoe carry trails and designated campsites in expanded zone D.
4. Develop the Fishpole Pond Trail.
5. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
6. Biological surveys of Fishpole, Darning Needle and Cat Mountain Ponds to assess stocking policies.
7. Lime Evergreen Lake, conduct post liming water chemistry, commence stocking.
8. Construct the Middle Branch Bridge/Sand Lake/Upper South Pond Trail.
9. Relocate that section of the High Falls Loop Trail between Dead Creek and Sand Hill Junction.

### 1996

1. Develop boundary line maintenance records and maintain all lines.
2. Develop the South Bay Trail.
3. Develop the safety and wildfire plans.
4. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
5. Biological surveys of Witchhopple and Negro Lakes to assess native trout populations.
6. Lime one or two waters (See liming candidate waters list). Conduct post liming water chemistry and commence stocking.
7. Monitor waters limed previous years.

### 1997

1. Develop wildlife and vegetative inventories. The New York Natural Heritage Program could hopefully initiate these by adding them to similar surveys of DEC Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state.
2. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
3. Biological surveys of Glasby and Cowhorn ponds to assess stocking policies.
4. Lime one or two waters (See liming candidate waters list). Conduct post liming water chemistry and commence stocking.
5. Monitor waters limed previous years.

### 1998

1. Revise this plan.
2. Monitor limed waters.
3. Initiate plans for re-limings based on water chemistry status.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A Biological Survey of the Oswegatchie and Black River Systems. Supplement to Twenty-First Annual Report, 1931. State of New York Conservation Department Biological Survey (1931), No. VI. Burlington Printing Company. New York. 1932.
- Adams, Charles C. Notes on the Relation of Birds to Adirondack Forest Vegetation. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse. Roosevelt Wildlife Bulletin. Vol. 5, No. 2. Feb., 1929.
- Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation. Adirondack Lakes Survey - 1984 Report. NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. July, 1985.
- Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) 1984-1987 Reports. Vol. 1-18. NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.
- Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Adirondack Park Agency, Raybrook. 1989.
- Allen, R. S., W. Gove, K. F. Maloney and R. F. Palmer. Rails in the North Woods. North Country Books. Lakemont, New York. 1973.
- Andrle, Robert F. and Janet R. Carroll (eds.). The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Cornell University Press. Ithaca and London. 1988.
- Applications of Soils Information in Forestry. A compilation of the Papers presented at the Joint Winter Meeting, New York Section, Society of American Foresters and Empire State Chapter, Soil Conservation Society of America, Syracuse, New York, January 23-24, 1964.
- Bacheller, Irving. Silas Strong, Emperor of the Woods. New York. 1906.
- Bacheller, Irving. "Him an' Me," Harper's Weekly, Dec. 10, 1904.
- Bacheller, Irving. "The Most Remarkable Character I Have Known," in From Stories of Memory. New York. 1938.
- Baker, J. R., S. A. Gherini, S. W. Christensen, C.T. Driscoll, J. Gallagher, R. K. Munson, R. M. Newton, J. H. Reckhow and C. L. Schofield. Adirondack Lakes Survey: An Interpretive analysis of fish communities and water chemistry, 1987-1987. Adirondacks Lakes Survey Corp., Ray Brook, New York, 1990.
- Barrett, J. W., E. H. Ketchledge and D. R. Satterlund. Forestry in the Adirondacks. State University of New York College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York. 139 pp. 1961.
- Beahan, Larry. "Another Way in to Five Ponds," Adirondack. October/November 1989.
- Beitel, J.M. The Club Mosses Lycopodium sitchense and L. sabinifolium in the Upper Great Lakes Region. Mich. Bot. 18:3-13. 1979.

- Bloomfield, J. A., S. O. Quinn, R. J. Scrudato, D. Long and A. Richards. Atmospheric and Watershed Inputs of Mercury to Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence County, New York. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. 1979.
- Bonkougou, G. J. E., D. J. Raynal and J. W. Geis. "Tree Population Dynamics in Relation to Climate and Forest History in the Oswegatchie Plains, Northern New York." Vegetatio. 54:37-59, 1983.
- Bray, William L. Development of the Vegetation of New York State. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse. Tech. Pub. 3. 1915.
- Bray, William L. History of Forest Development on an Undrained Sand Plain in the Adirondacks. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse, Tech. Pub. 13. Vol. XXI, No. 2, June 1921.
- Bray, William L. The Development of the Vegetation of New York State. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse. Tech. Pub. 29. Vol. III, No.2, March 1930.
- Buckman, R. E. and R. L. Quintus. Natural Areas of the Society of American Foresters. Society of American Foresters. Washington, D.C. 1972.
- Buddington, A. F. Regional Geology of the St. Lawrence County Magnetite District, Northwest Adirondacks, New York. U.S. Geological Survey Prof. Paper 376. 1962.
- Burnett, Jim. Adirondack Snow Flurries. Halstead Publishing Co. Inc., Box 617, Cranberry Lake, NY. 1987.
- Chandler, B. A. "Results of Cutting at Ne-Ha-Sa-Ne Park in the Adirondacks." Journal of Forestry. 17:378-385, 1919.
- Chase, Alston. Playing God in Yellowstone. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovitch, Pub. 1987.
- Clarke, John M. Geology of the Northern Adirondack Region. NYS Museum Bulletin No. 95. Albany, N.Y. 1904.
- Cole, N. B. and E. Fried. Freshwater Wetlands Inventory. Division of Fish and Wildlife, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. 1981.
- Colquhoun, J.R., J. Symula, M. Pfeiffer and J. Feurer. Preliminary report of stream sampling for acidification studies - 1980. NYSDEC, Sept. 1981.
- Colquhoun, J., W. Kretser and M. Pfeiffer. Acidity Status Update of Lakes and Streams in New York State. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. April, 1984.
- Colvin, Verplank. Report on the Topographical Survey of the Adirondacks for the Years 1873 and 1879. Albany.
- Cranberry Lake 1845-1959. Edited by Albert Fowler. Hemlock Press. Alburdis, Pennsylvania. 1959.
- Cranberry Lake from Wilderness to Adirondack Park. Edited by Albert Fowler. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York. 1968.

- Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. April, 1985.
- Curran, Raymond P. Vegetational Development of the Plains of Oswegatchie. MS Thesis. SUNY ESF. Syracuse. 1974.
- Cutler, Lewis M. Studies of the Flora and Vegetation of the Cranberry Lake Watershed, New York. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Master's Thesis. August, 1975.
- Dale, Nelson C. Geology of the Oswegatchie Quadrangle. New York State Museum Bulletin 302. Albany, New York. 1935.
- Dodge, Martin C. "Stewards of the Wilderness." The Conservationist. September/October 1991.
- Easley, A. T., J. F. Passineau and B. L. Driver, compilers. The Use of Wilderness for Personal Growth, Therapy and Education. USDA Forest Service. Rocky Mtn. Forest and Range Exp. Sta., Fort Collins, Col. Gen. Tech. Rep. RM-193. July, 1990.
- Eyre, F. H. (ed.). Forest Cover Types of the United States and Canada. Society of American Foresters, Washington, D.C. 1980.
- Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission. First Annual Report. Wynkoop, Hallenbeck, Crawford Co. 1896.
- Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. July 1987.
- George, C. J. The Fisheries of the Adirondack Park. NYS DEC, August. 1980.
- Gordon, W. H. Region 6 Adirondack Brook Trout Angler Use Survey, 1992. NYS DEC Administrative Report. March, 1993.
- Graham, Frank. The Adirondack Park. Alfred A. Knopf. New York. 1978.
- Graves, Henry S. Practical Forestry in the Adirondacks. U.S. Forest Service, Bulletin 26. 1899.
- Greeley, J.R. A biological survey of the Oswegatchie and Black River system. Chapter II. Fishes of the Area. State of New York Conservation Department Annual Report. 1931
- Griffin D. and J. L. Morrison. Woody Plants of the Cranberry Lake Region of New York State. State University of New York College of Forestry. Syracuse, New York. 15 pp. 1957.
- Harter, Henry A. Fairy Tale Railroad. North Country Books. Sylvan Beach, New York. 1979.
- Hendee, J. C., G. H. Stankey and R. C. Lucas. Wilderness Management. 2nd Ed., Rev. North American Press. Golden, Col. 1990.

- Hendee, J. C. and Robert W. Harris. "Foresters' Perception of Wilderness-User Attitudes and Preferences." Journal of Forestry. December, 1970.
- Holstein, Edward H., R. W. Thier and J. M. Schmid. The Spruce Beetle. USDA Forest Service. Forest Insect and Disease Leaflet 127. Revised February 1991.
- It's Been 100 "Dam" Years of Cranberry Lake. Compiled by L. P. Plumley. Ferguson Printing, Gouverneur, New York. 1967.
- Jamieson, Paul. "Adirondack Eskers." Adirondack Life. November/December, 1978.
- Jamieson, Paul and Donald Morris. Adirondack Canoe Waters: North Flow. The Adirondack Mountain Club. Glens Falls, New York. 1991.
- Jamieson, Paul. "The Oswegatchie Highlands." Adirondack, May-June 1963.
- Johnson, Arthur H. Red Spruce Decline in High Elevation Forests of the Northern Appalachians: Evidence of Climatic Influence. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia. 1985 (unpublished).
- Keith, Herbert F. Man of the Woods. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York. 1976.
- Keller, W. T. Management of Wild and Hybrid Brook Trout in New York Lakes, Ponds and Coastal Streams. NYSDEC, Oct. 1979.
- Kendall, W. C. and W. A. Dence. The Fishes of the Cranberry Lake Region. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse. Roosevelt Wildlife Bulletin, Vol 5, No. 2. February, 1929.
- Kovalickey, Thomas J. "The Wilderness Ranger Concept," Naturalist. 22(3):14-15, 1971.
- Kretser, W.J. and L.E. Klatt. Final Report: 1976-77. New York Angler Survey. NYS DEC Administrative Report. 1981. 187 pp plus appendix.
- Kudish, Michael. Where Did the Tracks Go. The Chauncy Press. Saranac Lake, New York. 1985.
- Lane, David F. "The Oswegatchie Country." Adirondack, July-August 1949.
- Lellinger, D.B. A Field Manual of the Ferns and Fern-Allies of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. 389 p. 1985.
- Leonard, B. F. and A. F. Buddington. Ore Deposits of the St. Lawrence County Magnetite District, Northwest Adirondacks, New York. U.S.G.S. Survey Prof. Paper 377. 1964.
- Leonard, R. E., J. M. McBride, P. W. Conkling and J. L. McMahon. Ground Cover Changes Resulting from Low-Level Camping Stress on a Remote Site. U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Northeast Forest Experiment Station. Research Paper NE-530. 1983.



- Leopold, Donald, Carol Reschke and Daniel S. Smith. "Old-Growth Forests of Adirondack Park, New York." Natural Areas Journal. Vol. 8(3), 1988.
- Lucas, Robert C. Visitor Characteristics, Attitudes and Use Patterns in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, 1970-1982. U.S.D.A. Forest Service Intermountain Research Station. Research Paper INT-345. June 1985.
- Manley, Atwood and Margaret Manley Mangum. Frederick Remington and the North Country. E.F. Dutton. New York. 1988.
- Marleau, William R. Big Moose Station. Marleau Family Publishing Company., R.R. Box 30B, Big Moose Station, Eagle Bay, New York. 1986.
- Marshall, Robert. Weekend Trips in the Cranberry Lake Region. 1923. (Manuscript on file at Moon Library, SUNY-ESF or Adirondack Museum Library, Blue Mountain Lake)
- Martin, Roscoe C. Water for New York. Syracuse University Press. Syracuse, New York. 1960.
- McIntyre, J.W. Biology and Behavior of the Common Loon with Reference to its Adaptability to a Man-Altered Environment. PhD. Thesis. University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. 1975.
- Miller-Weeks, Margaret and Robert Cooke. Symptomology and Trend of Tree Condition of Red Spruce and Balsam Fir in the Northeastern United States, 1985-1988. USDA Forest Service. Durham, NH. 1989.
- Mitchell, R. S., C. J. Sheviak and J. K. Dean. Rare and Endangered Vascular Plant Species in New York State. Prepared by The State Botanist's Office, NYS Museum. Albany. 1980.
- Nash, R. Wilderness and the American Mind. 3rd Ed. Yale University Press. New Haven. 1982.
- O'Shea, Peter V. "Five Pond's Secrets." Adirondac. April, 1985.
- Palmer, Richard F. Logging Railroads in the Adirondacks, Part II. The Northern Logger and Timber Processor. March, 1970.
- Parker, Karl E. The Common Loon in New York State. NYS DEC Wildlife Resources Center. Delmar, NY. October 1986.
- Pearce, John. The Effect of Deer Browsing on Certain Western Adirondack Forest Types. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse, New York. Roosevelt Wildlife Bulletin. Vol. 7, No. 1. October, 1937.
- Pepperbox Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. February, 1985.
- Perkins, D.L. Geographic Distribution of Genetic Variability within and Among Wild Brook Trout Populations of Four River Basins of Northeastern North America. Masters Thesis, Cornell University. Jan. 1991.

- Pfeiffer, Martin H. A Comprehensive Plan for Fish Resource Management Within the Adirondack Zone. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. 1979.
- Pfeiffer, M. and P. Festa. Acidity Status of Lakes in the Adirondack Region of New York in Relation to Fish Resources. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. 1980.
- Pilcher, Edith. "Nehasane." Adirondack Life. September/October, 1979.
- Pinchot, Gifford. Breaking New Ground. Harcourt Brace and Co. New York 1947.
- Pinchot, Gifford. The Adirondack Spruce. The Critic Co., New York. 1898. Reprinted by Arno Press. 1970.
- Reed, Frank A. Lumberjack Sky Pilot. North Country Books, Old Forge, New York. 1965.
- Rosevear, Francis B. Colvin in the Adirondacks: A Chronology and Index. North Country Books, Utica, New York. 1992.
- Reschke, Carol. Ecological Communities of New York State. New York Natural Heritage Program. NYS DEC, Latham, NY. 1990.
- Roman, J. R. Vegetation-Environment Relationships in Virgin, Middle Elevation Forests in the Adirondack Mountains, New York. PhD Thesis, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. 1980.
- Sax, Joseph L. Mountains Without Handrails: Reflections on the National Parks. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. 1980.
- Schoenfeld, C. and J. Hendee. Wildlife Management in the Wilderness. The Boxwood Press. Pacific Grove, California. 1978.
- Shortle, Walter C. and Kevin T. Smith. Aluminum-Induced Calcium Deficiency Syndrome in Declining Red Spruce. Science. May, 1988.
- Silloway, Perley M. Relation of Summer Birds to the Western Adirondack Forest. NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse. Roosevelt Wildlife Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 4. March, 1923. pp. 397-483.
- Simonin, H. Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. NYSDEC, Oct. 1990.
- Stankey, George H. "The Role of Management in Wilderness and Natural-area Preservation." Environmental Conservation. Summer 1982. pp 149-155.
- Stankey, G. H., D. N. Cole, R. C. Lucas, M. E. Petersen and S. S. Frissell. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) System for Wilderness Planning. U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. Gen. Tech. Rep. INT-176. January, 1985.

- Titus, James R. and Larry W. VanDruff. Response of the Common Loon to Recreational Pressure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Northeastern Minnesota. The Wildlife Society. Wildlife Monograph No. 79. Louisville, Kentucky. October 1981.
- Two Towns - Two Centuries. Compiled and edited by Jeanne Reynolds and Bessie Decosse. MRS Press, Gouverneur, New York. 1976.
- U.S. Dept. of the Interior. 1972. National Survey of Hunting and Fishing 1970. Resource. Publication 95. U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bur. of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. 108 pp.
- U.S. Dept. of the Interior. 1977. National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife-associated Recreation 1975. Addendum. New York. U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 77 pp.
- VanValkenburgh, N. J. The Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondack Museum. Blue Mountain Lake, New York. 1979.
- VanValkenburgh, N. J. Land Acquisition for New York State. The Catskill Center. Arkville, New York. 1985.
- Wagar, J. Alan. The Carrying Capacity of Wild Lands for Recreation. Forest Science Monograph 7. The Society of American Foresters. Washington, D.C. 1964.
- Welch, F. A Preliminary Survey of the Woody Plants of Buck Island (Cranberry Lake). Empire Forester 7:32-35. 1921.
- Werner, R. G., R. E. Leonard and J. O. Crevelling. Impact of Backcountry Recreationists on the Water Quality of an Adirondack Lake. U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. Research Note NE-326. 1985.
- Westveld, Marinus. "Ecology and Silviculture of Spruce-Fir Forests of Eastern North America." Journal of Forestry 51:422-430. 1953.
- Will, G., R. Stumvoll, R. Gotie and E. Smith. The Ecological Zones of Northern New York. New York Fish and Game Journal. Vol. 29, No. 1, January, 1982.
- Windt, Tom. "Canoeing in the Headwaters of the Oswegatchie." Adirondac. June 1987.
- Woods, Kerry D. and Charles V. Cogbill. Upland Old-Growth Forests of the Adirondacks. Edited by Carol Reschke. New York Natural Heritage Program. Latham, NY. 1990.
- Young, V. A. Plant Distribution as Influenced by Soil Heterogeneity in the Cranberry Lake Region of the Adirondack Mountains. Ecol. 15:154-196. 1934

BOG RIVER TRIP  
June 10-11, 1922  
(Marshall, 1923)

Early Saturday afternoon I got started along the Chair Rock Creek trail with my pack basket, having a rather indefinite plan of climbing Graves' mountain and visiting the Bog River country. As the trail of the Creek was good, and from there to Darning Needle Pond was a first rate road, though perhaps a bit confusing due to many other branching lumber roads, I was soon at the foot of Darning Needle. Almost directly beyond the head of this pond my first objective seemed to rise, but I was soon to relearn the fact that no distance is short through a slash.

An old lumber road led to the East of Darning Needle for half its length, and then followed up a brook to Little Fishpond, one of the ugliest bodies of water it has ever been my misfortune to see. I had been told there was a good trail around this slashy waterhole. I guess the trail was good enough, but the water came well above my knees. Beyond the pond lay a number of burned, rolling hills, the highest of which gave a good view toward Cranberry to the North, and Scott Pond and Graves Mountain immediately to the South. Unfortunately, somewhere on this hill I lost my map, which fact I did not notice until I had gotten all the way to the other side of the pond. This was decidedly inconvenient, but could not be remedied without a big waste of time.

The ascent of Graves Mountain from Scott Pond was neither steep nor difficult, even though the brush was thick and the pack beginning to feel heavy. I had chosen a good route, striking for a rocky ledge which led to the summit. Suddenly, when about three quarters of the way up, I noticed my camera was missing. Then I recalled that at the base of the mountain I had rested and tightened my belt. It must have been here that I left the camera. Leaving my pack on the ledge, I tried to retrace my trailless journey, feeling that I did not have one chance in a hundred to find what I lost, but luck was with me, and soon I noticed a mountain ash in blossom, which appeared to be the same as one I had admired while resting. Taking my bearings from it, I soon found the missing camera.

As I reascended I noticed heavy clouds were rolling up from the Southwest. I hastened upward, and by 5:30 stood on the peak whose rocky summit had so attracted the early explorers.

What a wild view lay spread out before me! Vast areas of low land stretched on all sides, partly covered by virgin forest, but mostly be second growth, and open spaces with only grass and ferns. Southeast lies a great barrier of water, stretching for miles, Bog River. Due to the construction of a dam, the river overflows much of the lowland around, and is really much broader than the map indicates. Under the influence of the heavy clouds and the approaching evening, it was not hard to understand why the early writers called this the gloomiest region in the Adirondacks. There is not a sign of house or road in the entire prospect, except miles away, at Long Lake West. But what is that moving column of smoke over there to the East? A railroad train as sure I live. It is no use trying to dream of the olden days, for that train has blotted them out.

After forty minutes I commenced the descent of the steep South side. I was amazed at two things. First, I saw many ripe strawberries under the shade of the ferns, which formed the principal vegetation of the mountains. This was the earliest I had ever seen the delicious fruit in the Adirondacks. Second, I found White Pine reproduction high upon the steep mountain, where the soil was very shallow, and no seed trees were in sight.

I came out at the foot of Graves Pond, and followed down the outlet until I came to a place which was suitable for camping. Darkness was rapidly approaching, and before I had entirely finished supper night had entirely set in. The wild spot, ten miles from the nearest occupied house, the cold brook close at hand, and the soft bed of ferns under the open sky, make a pleasant camp site. It was not long before I wrapped myself in my blankets, and fell to sleep.

I was awakened around two in the morning by rain, which was not unexpected. So I ducked my head under the covers, and fell to sleep again, hoping that the blankets would not wet through before morning.

It was not yet five when I recommenced my journey, after a light breakfast hastily gotten in the rain. Following down the right bank of the brook, I soon came upon a very large buck, taking a drink. He stared at me for some time, as if wondering why anyone should want to enter his private slash.

Soon I reached the slough of the Third Pond, where the brook enters into Bog River. Beyond was a plateau, about 50 feet above the surrounding lowland, treeless, and covered mainly by ferns. It was strange, open country, different from any I had ever seen before, and looked to be an ideal place for game. I walked over to the southern edge of the flat to get a look over the Bog River Country, and was greatly delighted to see three deer calmly feeding at the pond below. Two were on the opposite shore, while one was standing on a very peculiar island consisting merely of a complete outer ring about 25 feet wide surrounding a pool of water perhaps 200 feet in diameter. I was intensely watching this interesting display of wild life when I was startled by a loud snort almost directly in back of me, and wheeled around to see a doe within 50 feet of me, stamping her foot as if in great danger at my intrusion. While I was looking at her a snort of the other side caused me to turn around in time to see another doe go plunging through high ferns. I waited around more than half an hour at this interested deer resort, and saw two more appear on the opposite shore. Finally, with considerable reluctance, I set out through the ferns for Spruce Grouse Pond, seeing two more deer on the way. The country was, literally speaking, all out by runways. I now began to comprehend why some of my Saranac Lake friends regarded this burned, barren country as a hunter's paradise.

My next objective was Grass Pond, and as I had lost my map and was not sure just where it lay, I calculated that the best and most interesting way to reach it would be to go right over the top of Grass Pond Mountain. The climb was only about 700 feet, but it was quite steep, and very slashy, and my pack with the rainsoaked blanket was heavy, so despite the cold, damp morning, I perspired considerably before reaching the bare summit.

The view was superb. The low, fast moving clouds added an element of wildness lacking on a perfect day. The entire length of Bog River could be seen, from Grass Pond to Hitchings. While the view toward Cranberry was not as good as from Grave's Mountain, the prospect toward Mud Lake, Grass Pond, and the virgin woods to the southwest more than made up for this shortcoming. Neither the cold or a sudden, violent hailstorm could drive me away, and it was a most delightful hour I spent enjoying for the first time the finest mountain view in the Cranberry region.

When I finally left the sun had broken through the clouds. I made a steep descent to Grass Pond, and frogged the shoreline to the houses on the upper end. The houses were deserted, but not so the lake. Two loons made the bare side of the mountain vibrate with their shrill cry, and indicated why the pond was called by some Echo. A beaver was swimming about two hundred years away, while slightly further a deer was feeding. It was certainly a pleasant spot, and I resolved to return before long.

I took the low road back to Fishpole Pond. This is the poorer and harder to follow of the two old tote roads leading between the two ponds. The big swamp I am told is a favorite place for hunters to get lost. Certainly there are enough side roads and trails to confuse anyone.

Fishpole is a low pond, but it has a shoreline unmarred by fire or axe, which makes it prettier than most of the other ponds in the region. I followed along the shore until I came to the road which leads to Bushee's deserted camp, a few hundred feet away, and from there right down the West side of the Fishpole outlet to the Darning Needle trail. From here I had a leisurely and uneventful hour's journey to camp.

HORNET POND TRIP  
July 30, 1922.

(Marshall, 1923)

It was a beautiful July morning that Roy Sahm, Bill Osborn and I started for Grass Pond Mountain. We followed the well known trail to Grass Pond, about seven miles in length. This leads first to Pigs Ear Flow, then to Chair Rock Creek, where it leaves the bay just beyond the high bridge, and turns off to the left. From here it follow Chair Rock Creek in a general way to a point where a lumber road crosses the brook to the right. Here we nailed up one of Bill's signs. This road brings you out, after two miles, at Bushee's old lumber camp, where you strike another road. Taking it to the right brings you to Fishpole; to the left you soon come to a bridge over the outlet of the pond, which you cross, and then follow another old lumber road along the crest of the ridge to a big swamp. From here on there are so many branch lumber roads it is impossible to describe the way. But with a map one can find it easily enough.

Near Grass Pond, by a group of double-header rollways, the trail up Grass Pond Mountain branches off. We were delighted to find it had gotten much use since we cut it out. When we got above timberline (caused by fire) we opened a large can of red paint we had brought along, and blazed the trail with it. The view from the summit was magnificent, the weather being perfect. We stayed on top forty minutes, and gazed with delight on this unrivaled view of the Bog River watershed.

It was just noon when we started down through the bad slash, heading for the big slough on the Third Pond of Bog River. We ate lunch at a little brook at the foot of the mountain. After crossing a low bridge we came out on the characteristic open flat.

Here we picked up the Long Lake West Trail, and were soon thereafter informed by frequent signs that we were on the A.A. Low Preserve. We got a very good view of Graves Mountain. We crossed the head of the slough on a beaver dam, and after a little difficulty picked up the trail on the other side. It soon branched in three, the left hand fork going to Graves Pond, the right to Bog River, while we kept the center trail which passed by Spring and Three Pound Pond, on its way to Long Lake West. We took a couple of side trips to the right to catch another glimpse of Third Pond, and one of Second and First. We also walked off trail to the left to see Spring Pond. They were all far from inspiring. At Second Pond we were surprised to hear the chug-chug of a motor boat, and see a party of young men and girls land. But the slash held more attraction for us, so we hastened on. Soon we left the trail for good, and cut across a burned flat, now densely overgrown. Here we found in the two Hornet Ponds and Three Pound Pond probably as ugly a trio of bodies of water as were ever grouped within half a mile of each other. Nothing but slash, backed by hills, burned to the bare rock, surrounded them. Yet, I have been told by a guide who has fished and hunted much in this section, that they furnish the best trout angling he ever knew.

It was about three o'clock when we left these ponds and cut through the notch in the hills for Otter Pond. Here the going was particularly rough. Roy, who had done little walking during the summer, stood the hard traveling remarkably well.

There were many deer tracks here, and we saw a couple of those animals. Just before Otter Pond we struck a good trail which evidently came from Graves Pond and led to Iron Pond. To the left, at the center of the pass, was a big cliff which, as I recall it, must have been two or three hundred feet high. Otter and Iron Ponds were better than the others we had been seeing, but there wasn't anything very good about frogging the slash along the shores of the latter. When this ended at Lake Marian we anxiously looked for a trail, and after a little difficulty found one leading directly up the hill to the left. This brought us, after fifteen minutes, to the houses of Lake Marian Association. Evidently the members were making good use of the great weather, for we counted no less than ten boats on the lake.

At the main building we received faulty instructions in regard to the trail to Cranberry, and proceeded. We soon found we were wrong, so we cut again by compass, as Bill and I had done eight weeks before. The woods did not furnish particularly delightful traveling. They had been entirely lumbered, and partly burned, so that slash was bad. Old lumber roads, helped us a little bit, but most of the time it was a case of bucking the brush. Finally, after an hour and a half, we reached the Sucker Brook tote road. Here, at seven-thirty, we hastily ate supper, and then rushed over the rough way as fast as we could, coming out on the main Horseshoe-Cranberry Road at Proulx's First Camp just before dark. From here it was an easy half hour's walk home.



FIVE PONDS TRIP  
August 12-13, 1922

(Marshall, 1923)

The Five Ponds trip was the only one I had definitely planned before coming to Camp, for, along with everyone else, I had been told of the virgin timber and the white pines of that region. In fact, practically everyone in the class had planned that trip, but no one except Os Brown and Hank Clark had carried their plans through. Finally, on the third last week end Bill Osborn and I determined to make the trip we had almost taken the third week.

It was 9:30 one bright Saturday morning when we paddled away from Camp. It was very pleasant on the calm lake, so we took our time, and did not reach Cat Mountain Landing until two hours later. After putting up our canoe we set out on the High Falls Trail. Nothing of interest occurred on the way, except that a bag of rice at the bottom of one the packs burst open, and its contents trickled all over the landscape. The Plains was a decidedly hot place at noon, and when we finally came to the boiling spring which Bill rightly remarked looked like a pot of boiling wheatina, we welcomed the refreshing drink. Shortly later we came to the old railroad grade, and turned to the right. After following it about a mile we saw a dim trail leading off through a hollow to the left. Just beyond was a low hill. This trail soon brought us out to ford on the Oswegatchie, which we were able to cross without getting wet above the shins.

Across the river were a few old lumber cabins by which the trail led. We followed it through the slashed land, checking upon the topographic features as we went. After twenty-five minutes we entered virgin timber, and realized that we must be in Herkimer County. It is no use trying to describe the beauty of an unmarred spruce flat forest. Suffice it to say that we thoroughly enjoyed every one of the 14.7 minutes it took us to traverse this stretch of timber to Big Shallow. After depositing our packs at the Camp site on the foot of this tarn, we set out to explore the Five Ponds.

Big Shallow, as its name implies, hasn't very much water. It is oval in shape, and about 300 yards along its greater axis. To the right a very steep hill rises, covered with large spruce and pine. The latter average about two feet in diameter. All along the shores of the pond is a magnificent coniferous growth.

Little Shallow lies about an eighth of a mile South of Big Shallow, just across a low ridge. It is as long as the latter, but narrower. A bend makes it impossible to see the full length. Beaver are doing a great deal of damage here.

The Washbowl is the smallest pond of the five. It is almost round, and is a good illustration of a pond filling in. The soil near the edge of the water is extremely toxic, and as a result the vegetation is greatly dwarfed. Gradually, as one goes back from the margin, the trees become larger, giving what is known as an amphitheatre effect. This pond is located between the two Shallows, but a trifle East of them.

A long, narrow, knife-edge ridge, about 150 feet high, separates the Fives from the Shallows. It is covered with a great growth of spruce and white pine. So dense is the shade under the canopy of this forest, that bushes, ground cover, and even reproduction are entirely wanting. At one place, however, a windfall had cleared about quarter of an acre, and here conditions were reversed. We crossed this ridge and descended to the lower end of Big Five.

We both agreed that Big Five was the finest pond of all. It was surrounded by virgin timber, as the others were, but in addition was tucked away in a little ravine with steep hills rising from the very shore at either side. At the far end, to complete the vista, rose Panther Mountain. The pond is narrow, but the longest of this group.

Little Five is more or less triangular. The most impressive thing about it is the white pines. They are finer around this tarn than any of the others. The hills rise steeply on all three sides. The beaver had done much damage here, and this alone prevents the pond from being perfect. There is now a fringe of dead timber all along the shoreline. These rodents had cut softwoods as well as hardwoods. They gnawed down one paper birch 14 inches in diameter. Deer signs were also very plentiful, one of the tracks being so big we suspected it might have been made by an elk.

We took our time on these explorations, and so it was 6:30 before we reached Camp again. While I was cooking supper Bill pushed out in a leaky scow to try to snare some members of the order pisces. He failed, however, to take in anything but the scenery, so we had a troutless supper. But I defy anyone to beat that meal of macaroni, eggs, bread and jam.

It was so pleasant, as we laid down to reflect, that we were in the heart of a tract of virgin timber about 40 miles square, absolutely unmarred by man. And yet, we could not help regretting that there should be so very few of such tracts left, due to the almost criminal lack of foresight of our legislatures of the 19th century.

During the night we were awakened once or twice by the splashing of deer in the pond, and frequent loud snorts close at hand. But these were very welcome disturbances.

Next morning we left camp at seven o'clock, heading southward, with the motto of "Wolf Pond or bust". We climbed the sharp ridge which divided the Five Ponds, and followed it. Soon we came to a place where almost all the old trees were gone, but where a young crop of white pine had taken their place. This we judged was the site of an old windfall. The ridge extended for about a mile beyond Big Five, and then gradually flattened out. Here we crossed the stream which is the outlet of Wolf Pond, and the inlet of Big Five, and climbed the hill on the other bank. Somewhere on this hillside we knew was Lone Duck Pond, for which we were looking. So we proceeded carefully through a forest which was not of the hardwood slope type. The yellow birches were of particularly large size, many being three feet in diameter. In one of these old fellows was a black animal which looked big enough to be a young bear. It was about four feet long. Actually, it was by a large margin the biggest porcupine I ever saw.

Lone Duck Pond looked as if it hadn't been visited by anything since the glacier left, except the one bird after which it was named. It has a remarkable variety of trees along its small shoreline, including beech, yellow and paper birch, hard and soft maple, ash, cedar, hemlock, balsam, spruce, tamarack and white pine, not to mention many different shrubs. We soon left it with reluctance, and followed the top of the hillside, keeping the main brook in sight or sound. On top of the hill the land was very flat. There was a great deal of raspberry and witch hobble which we at first supposed was caused by lumbering, but which absence of stumps indicated must have arisen from an ancient fire or windfall. We hoped to be able to see Muir Pond across this flat, but could not. However, we soon struck its outlet. We would have liked to have followed it to the pond, but decided we would not have time. So we followed the stream down, and soon reached the naturally broad swamp, made even bigger by beaver, at the foot of Wolf Pond.

If there is any wilder body of water in the Adirondacks of a size equal or greater than that of Wolf, I should like to hear about it. This pond lies in the very heart of that tract of virgin timber referred to above. No trail penetrates to it, the old one shown on the map being now almost entirely overgrown. The only sign of civilization along its two miles of shoreline is the moldering remains of a trapper's leanto. The land all around is flat, so there is not even a prominent feature by which you can tie yourself to well known territory. The nearest habitation is 7 miles North on an air line at Inlet. Nehasane and the railroad are 11 miles East as a bird would fly, while the Beaver River settlements are 15 miles to the South. To the West is lumbering country in which the nearest permanent dwelling is 16 miles distant, Jerden Falls. But as one would actually have to travel, these distances would be greatly increased.

We followed along the North shore of the pond to the main inlet. The tree formation was different than any I had ever seen in the Adirondacks. Instead of the characteristic close, compact forest, the trees, entirely white pine and tamarack, grew as if in a park, standing about 25 or 30 feet apart, with very large crown, and relatively short boles. In the open spaces between them, on the very sandy soil, grew grasses, sedges, ferns, raspberries, and heaths. A careful examination of the ground indicated an ancient fire which must have occurred before the white race ever entered the Adirondacks, for the trees were at least 150 years old.

Finally, we decided we would have to return, after more than an hour spent at this remote pond. We headed for the south end of the Knife Ridge, and struck it just about right. As we cut across country we found the park type of forest even more accentuated than around the pond. The line of demarcation between it and the spruce flat type was very sharp. After returning to Camp, I was much interested in finding the following quotation from Colvin, written 45 years before, in regard to the same region: - "The ridge was almost singular. Open and picturesque with superb white pine trees here and there upon it, with numerous deer paths deeply stamped, leading through its carpeting of moss and whortleberry bushes, the beautiful lake on the one side, and the shallow winding river on the other, made it far more entrancing than the choicest ramble of guarded park."

We followed up the ridge till we saw Big Five below us. We could not resist the temptation of visiting it again, for perhaps the last time in years, or forever. Then we crossed the ridge, and descended to our Camp on Big Shallow, after a great morning.

After a good lunch, we set out on our return journey to camp, 15 miles away. The trip back was thoroughly enjoyable, as well as thoroughly uneventful. It took us four and a half hours. Darkness was almost at hand when we landed on the beach after the best trip of the summer.

NEHASANE TRIP  
August 26-27, 1922.

(Marshall, 1923)

The last weekend trip of the summer was one of the first I had planned. I was going to follow the old Military Road from High Falls to Nehasane, and return by train and the Horseshoe Trail.

It was about nine o'clock on an autumnlike Saturday morning that I set out on the squally lake in a canoe left by the Rangers. No need to go into details about the seven-mile journey toward Wanakena. As a paddler, I'd grade about number six common anyway, but with a hurricane from the southwest dead against me, progress, like a face in a Turkish harem, was invisible. Every stroke of the paddle seemed to put me in exactly the same spot as before, or perhaps a bit behind. Yet, somehow, I finally found myself standing at the Ranger School, with the borrowed canoe safely beached.

There is a good dirt road from the Ranger School to Wanakena, beaten hard by the feet of generations of Rangers seeking the delights of the city. This Paris of the Upper Oswegatchie failed to hold me for very long, and crossing the river, I started out on the trail to High Falls. This first followed an old railroad grade by a dreary looking pond. Ed Hamill's wonderful array of ball-tossers were soon encountered, preparing for the final battle of the season by loading bricks on a wagon for the cabin. My watch, having paid the penalty of a twenty-foot drop, they gave me the time, which was high noon. The grade led up the valley of Skate Creek through as ugly country as can be imagined. After a mile, the direct trail to the Falls branched off to the left. In three miles it crossed two young mountains, heavily lumbered, and joined the trail across the Plains near the Boiling Spring. And gosh, didn't that water taste great! A pack, a hot day, a steep slope and a lumbered country form a great combination to promote thirst. Not long after the spring the trail ran into the grade again, having cut off about 8 or 10 miles.

Turning to the left, I soon reached the Falls. Here was a sight to soothe sore eyes, but mine weren't sore. However, I was sorry that the I.M.C. and Sunset Inn friends were not here, for a dozen maidens were sporting on the rocks. I made my way straight to the one man there, who was of a safe age. We had a very interesting conversation in regard to the ecology of the Plains and he described the Moose River Plains, the only other similar formation in the Adirondacks.

After this pleasant conversation, I crossed the Oswegatchie on a newly constructed bridge. I found a little difficulty at first picking up the trail shown plainly enough on the map. It was not until reaching the virgin timber of Herkimer that I was sure of being right. Here the trail forked. The most plain branch to the right said: "Beaver River 18 miles". The one to the left seemed to have no designation, but finally I made out dimly on a young spruce, "Old Albany Trail".

There now ensued a delightful walk through the virgin forest. Only a subdued light filtered through the dense crowns of the dark spruce and hemlock. There was little undergrowth. The old trail underfoot was the last connecting link with the pioneers of a century ago. Its ancient moss-covered logs had borne the hunters and trappers of that distant day when the North Woods were one unbroken stretch of luxuriant forest, where the wolf, the panther, the moose, and the deer lived and died without once being frightened by that most blood-thirsty of all creatures, termed man.

The trail had been roughly blazed, and had been cut out here and there. Sometimes both blazes and trail were plain. At other places either one or the other distinctly showed the way. But there were many spots where it appeared as if the right of way had not been brushed out since the original constructors had come through in 1815. I was glad at such places that I had my map, for I could travel as indicated by it, feeling confident of picking up the trail in a short time. Soon the Robinson River, a wild, tumbling stream, seeming to come from an unknown region, was crossed. It was certainly a temptation to follow it up, and let Stem Analysis, and Camp, and civilization take their course without my presence.

Just beyond the river the trail seemed to end, and upon confidently reaching for my map, I discovered that it was gone. This was a rather disappointing discovery, for I know that with the limited time and the dim trail the chances of ever reaching Gull Lake were poor. Then a vision flashed in my mind of a hunter of the century before, who had lost the trail, groping aimlessly through the unknown forest fifty miles from the edge of civilization through a dismal, impenetrable wilderness. What a change a hundred years made even in this unmarred forest, for all I had to do any time I wanted to get out of the woods was to cut due East by compass to the railroad but 10 miles away.

After much difficulty I picked up the trail again at the top of the hill above the river. Soon I saw Gull Pond through the trees, an almost perfect little pond. I followed along its shore to the southwest end, and then cut through the woods for about 300 yard to West Pond, which was almost as fine as its neighbor. There was a camp site along the trail right next to Gull Pond, which would have made a wonderful place to stop for the night, but I wanted to make Gull Lake so that I might spend the evening chatting with George Muir, the last of the great hunters; George Muir who had killed 67 of the 108 panthers, and 39 of the 98 wolves slain since 1870.

After one or two more difficult place, I again caught the gleam of water through the trees, and knew I must be seeing Crocker Pond. It was some distance from the trail, but I cut over to it. While also surrounded by fine timber, the pond itself was not as fine as the other two. It seemed to have little water and much mud.

Just across the brow of the hill half a mile beyond, I met my Appomattox. Here the trail ran into the cutover land of the Webb preserve, and effectually lost itself. Try though I did for half an hour, I could not pick it out from among the old logging roads. But there was a big valley below where I figured Gull Lake must lie. I descended to it and found only a shallow brook. "This is too small for the outlet of so big a lake," I reasoned, "so I will follow it down." This was

beautiful theory, and I expected momentarily to come out on the shore of my dreams. The only trouble was that I missed my guess. Gull Lake and the old hunter were across the next broad bridge. I realized this after half an hour. But by this time the sun had long set behind the rugged hill to the West, and it was too dark to travel further.

As my stomach was out of order, as a result of the strain placed on it by some of the concoctions of my fellow timber cruisers, I did not bother about cooking supper, but just ate a few pieces of bread and butter. When the short meal was over twilight was also gone.

I spread my blankets on the wood sorrel leaves which had never before been disturbed by man. As I dropped off to sleep it was a sad sound that came to my ears from the treetops above and the brook below, and the wind and the water seemed to unite to blow taps for the millions of acres of primeval forest that had gone, while about at attention stood some of the few surviving veteran acres of the Grand Forest of the Adirondacks.

I awakened next morning before sunrise. While leisurely eating a light breakfast I decided on my plans for the day. If Gull Lake was really in the next valley, as I now supposed, it was out of the question to visit it and return that day. There was just a possibility that it might still be below me. So I determined to follow down the brook another mile, and if nothing showed up then to cut for the railroad, which I knew I was sure to reach eventually by traveling East.

Gull Lake did not show up, so I left the brook and headed a little South of East. Suddenly I was startled by the whistle of a locomotive ahead. It didn't sound to be more than a mile away, though I knew it must be six or seven by air line. Three more times during that long morning as I approached the tracks I heard that whistle, and each time it sounded further away.

For quite a while my trailless course led through pleasant virgin timber. I crossed several brooks, flowing in a northerly direction to the Oswegatchie. Then I suddenly came across some white signs telling the world that the private property of W. Seward Webb and the Ne-ha-sa-ne Park Association lay just beyond and that trespassing was forbidden. These signs continued for miles in an East and West line. I followed them over several rolling hills, soon entering a section which had been logged for softwood. Then, upon crossing a hill, I found myself out of the forest looking over a great, open, waste area of ferns, grass blackberries, raspberries, fallen trees, and here and there dense thickets of fire cherry, aspen and birch. This was all the result of some little spark escaping from a locomotive on the tracks several miles away.

The open character of the land gave me a fine opportunity to take in the topography. I could pick out the valley where I figured the railroad must lie. When I reached it after a long time, there was no sign of tracks. So I figured it must be beyond the next hill, but it wasn't, nor behind the next, or the next, or the next. While the traveling wasn't bad, it was tantalizing to have the objective keep continually moving further away. It was not as easy walking as it would have

been without a pack, either. The streams were all dried up, so a drink was out of the question, and the sun was very hot in the open. What an awfully monotonous country it was! Every hill just like the last one. The only relief was in the occasional sight of Grass Pond Mountain to the North, and some distant mountains toward Long Lake ahead. But there's no use to go into details about this endless journey. I had long ago made up my mind that I would never reach anywhere, when I came to signs of fairly recent lumbering in a marsh which the fire had not reached. This was encouraging, but the sluggish stream in the center was not. It was too wide to jump, especially with a pack, and too muddy to ford. Tested with a four-foot stick, the mud was bottomless. I didn't care to chance slipping up to my neck in the slime, with no one apt to come that way till doomsday, so I trudged up stream for some distance, and finally crossed on a beaver dam. Just beyond, to my great joy, was a good tote road. It led in a direction which was parallel to the tracks, but I knew it must lead somewhere, so I followed it North. Twice it seemed destined to go right back to the slash from whence I came, but it changed its mind. I shall never forget the pleasure I felt when, after hours of seemingly aimless travel, I at last saw the gleam of steel through the trees which told me that somewhere had been reached.

I knew I was a short distance North of Nehasane and Lake Lila, so, leaving my pack, I walked down the tracks a mile, almost to the station, and then descended to the shore. Lila is the sixteenth largest lake in the Adirondacks, and quite nice looking. It was distinctly worth seeing. However, perhaps the most interesting part about it is that four topographical sheets join right in its center. A railroad is not an ideal pathway for a pedestrian, but it seemed like the finest boulevard compared with the scene of my morning's travels. My first stop was Robinwood, three miles from Nehasane. Here I met one of the employees of the Robinwood estate, who invited me to visit the two lakes on the property, Bog and Anne. They were certainly nothing to rave about. I liked Bog the better of the two. I left him at 2:30, and was soon pounding the ties again, pack on back. I stopped once on the four miles to Long Lake West to eat a late lunch of bread, butter and cheese.

The country around Long Lake West was certainly barren. The fire of 1908 had burned over acres right down to bed rock. There didn't seem to be many people in town, and all those I did see were sleeping. However, I managed to get a mighty welcome drink of water. The five miles to Horseshoe were dull, without mistake. After six miles of tie-walking, I began to tire of the highway, for which I had so yearned a few hours before. Seventeen miles of pack-basket travel was also beginning to scratch my back. About the only joys on those five miles were five mileposts. Even a side trip through the swamp to Hitchings Pond did not bring much pleasure, for the pond was so terribly ugly. There was so much bare rock, it looked like a good place for a penitentiary.

It was 5:15 as I walked by the Horseshoe Station, and left the tracks at last. As the sky was now overcast, I figured that it would be dark in two hours, so I knew I would have to do some real hustling if I wanted to make Camp. I hit upon a pace of almost five miles an hour, and maintained it. If I could reach Curtis Pond by dark I knew there would be little trouble getting out. But I didn't relish the idea of traveling the treacherous road East of that point at night. I checked in at Pine Pond, High Grass Meadow, and Center Pond with plenty of light, ahead of schedule.



But at the Second Camp it was growing dusky, while at Irish Pond there was just a streak of scarlet on the western clouds, and the daylight was almost gone. Night had completely settled in shortly after passing Curtis, but I didn't care. The remaining 2½ miles were easy, though I made them at a slower pace. It was 7:51 when I pulled up at Tent 10, after a 59 mile day, 34 of which had been made with a pack.

I saw a lot of beautiful scenery, but there wasn't a better part of the trip than the great macaroni supper I cooked myself, to break my diet of 50 hours. It was a fitting climax to the last trip of the summer.

Formalized Volunteer Efforts  
on the  
Five Ponds Wilderness Area

1974

During the summer, four forestry students, under the direction of Dr. Edwin Ketchledge, mapped, photographed and evaluated 144 campsites within this area to enable department personnel to initiate an effective cleanup. Also provided were thoughtful management recommendations.

1983

Twenty-one individuals contributed varying amounts of time and expense to attend five citizen advisory meetings from February 4 to May 13. Their effort produced a report which identified relevant issues to be addressed in the management of the area.

1987

During the week of September 13-19, the Plains Trail was relocated with two miles of new construction by 11 Sierra Club volunteers under the direction of John Kolp assisting the Operations trail crew.

Between October 29 and November 1 a group of students from the Community College of the Finger Lakes, led by Martin Dodge, removed all blowdown and much brush from the Sand Lake Trail.

1988

In April, John Blaser offered to adopt the Wolf Pond leanto and actually cleaned and reported on the leantos at Griffin Rapids, Wolf Pond, Sand Lake, Big Shallow and Cage Lake Springhole as well as several campsites on the Oswegatchie River.

During the week of September 11-17, the Olmstead Pond trail was extended two miles by 14 volunteers under the direction of John Kolp working with the Operations trail crew.

1989

Between April 15-20, John Blaser canoed the Oswegatchie River and spent about 10 hours cleaning campsites. He provided the professional staff with a detailed report of conditions on the river.

Between October 7-9, John Blaser, utilizing the inventory of 44 campsites along the Oswegatchie River established by professional and operations staff on July 17-19, reinventoried sites 23 through 44, discovering one which was missed and cleaning 11 sites.

The ADK became active in the adoption of leantos on this area and 5 were adopted.

1990

Between April 7-12, John Blaser cleaned and inventoried all campsites and leantos up to campsite 23 and the Wolf Pond leanto. He numbered site 31 which had previously been missed and renumbered all downstream sites.

On May 5 and 6, seven pit privies (5 within this area) were erected by 7 ADK volunteers on Bog River Flow.

From May 13-17 a group of 14 Sierra Club volunteers under the direction of John Kolp made the canoe trip from Lows Lake to Inlet. They cleaned and improved many campsites and other amenities and provided the professional staff with a detailed inventory utilizing the 1989 inventory as a guide.

From July 15-20, an ADK crew of 6 volunteers and a leader made substantial water drainage improvements to the Leary Trail.

From July 18-26, a group of 12 boy scouts and leaders led by John Skabry completed 120 hours of campsite cleanup and vandal repairs along the Oswegatchie River utilizing the map prepared for the campsite inventory.

During the summer months, two students working under the direction of Dr. John Riebesell of the Adirondack Laboratory rehabilitated and inventoried 19 campsites on the Oswegatchie River, established 4 campsites on the Olmstead Pond Loop and worked on the Cat Mountain trail.

Between August 31 - September 3, John Blaser cleaned all the leantos on the Sand Lake trail and provided a detailed report of facility and trail conditions.

Between September 19-22, John Blaser inspected, cleaned and inventoried campsites 21-41 on the Oswegatchie River.

During the first weekend of November, eight students from the Community College of the Finger Lakes, led by Martin Dodge, cleared the Sand Lake Trail (Dodge 1991).

Eight (8) leantos were adopted on this area by ADK volunteers.

1991

From July 15-19, an ADK crew of 11 volunteers and one leader established water drainage improvements at the large wet spot in the trail between the Janack's Landing register and Sand Hill Jct. and improved the Cat Mountain trail.

During the summer months, two students working under the direction of Dr. John Riebesell of the Adirondack Laboratory, improved campsites at Olmstead Pond, Simmons Pond, and High Falls, developed and installed informational sign boards at High Falls and along the Olmstead Pond loop and designated a campsite at Glasby Pond in coordination with the professional staff.

During the week of August 4, John Riebesell maintained and inventoried the Oswegatchie River campsites.

From August 25-29, John Blaser maintained campsites 25-45 on the Oswegatchie River and the four leantos on the Sand Lake trail. His report of this trip is included in this appendix.

Ten(10) leantos were adopted on this area by ADK volunteers.

### 1992

During the week of July 12-18, an ADK/Sierra Club group of twelve (12) volunteers brushed out the Big Deer Pond trail.

Eleven (11) leantos were adopted on the area by ADK volunteers.

### 1993

From May 10 to May 14, four volunteers, led by Don Kumpon, cleared the Sand Lake Trail to Big Shallow, removed blowdown from Oswegatchie River campsites and from the river.

Fourteen (14) leantos were adopted on the area by ADK volunteers.

The Big Deer Pond Trail was adopted by an ADK volunteer.

## OSWEGATCHIE CANOE ROUTE

## CAMPSITE INVENTORY

July 17-19, 1989

Sites were numbered with reversed orange snowmobile trail markers. The numbers in parenthesis correspond with the 1984 Canoe Campsite Inventory.

1. Lows Lake Trailhead. Established two months ago. Has been used. clean.
2. Big Deer Pond. Not numbered or designated. Needs complete development (leveling and fire ring) to encourage campers to camp off the trail at the Big Deer Pond canoe launch.
3. R of trail near the river. Wooden bench and table. Shovel bottom. No fire ring or stones.
4. R bank. Short land distance from #3. Cleaned by crew two months ago. Growing in with grassy weeds. Bag of garbage. Shovel bottom. No fire ring or stones.
5. R bank. No site present. Needs complete development. Numbered, but not designated. Trail flagged. Needs minor brushing and fire ring.
6. R bank. Already designated. Heavily used. 2 pole bunks with chicken wire. Large garbage dump with a bear den in the side. Fire ring. Needs heavy cleanup with garbage dump filled. Potentially a very good site.
7. L bank. Spruce stand with a large white pine with a wooden sign on it saying "Big Pine". Old site not used for a while. Fire ring. Needs general cleanup.
8. R bank. Below small rapids with large rocks. Already designaed. Pole structures. Clean. Needs a fire ring. Rocks present. Minor cleanup only.
9. L bank. (39) Spruce stand. Flat rock on bank . Fire ring. Hasn't been used much. Needs minor cleanup only.
10. L bank. (38) On ridge. Fire ring. Table and bench. Nice site. Relatively clean. Left rake.
11. R bank. (37) Camp Johnny. Very grassy. Fire ring. Relatively clean. Needs mowing and minor trash removal.
12. R bank. (35) On knoll above river next to old foot trail. Very grassy. Needs mowing and fire ring construction. Rocks present. Numbered, but did not designate.
13. L bank. (31) Leanto. Rake in poor condition. Removed fire ring between former bridge and leanto and posted the spot against camping.

14. R bank. (34) Can canoe to this site in backwater before former bridge site. Marked trail to it from former bridge site. Relatively clean.
15. R bank. (33) leanto. Very clean. NOTE: Removed fire rings and posted against camping at a site along the foot trail between the leanto and the former bridge site and at the former trail junction to Pine Ridge. Posted a small site next to the falls and below the falls against camping.
16. R bank. Below falls to R of canoe carry trail. Some minor cleanup needed.
17. R bank. (30) Below falls. In sight of 16, but designated because of the traditional heavy use of this general area. Should be out of sight of the falls.
18. L bank. (29) Within sight of leanto. Clean.
19. L bank. (28) Designated. Clean. Needs erosion control at landing.
20. L bank. Small. Hasn't been used in a long time. No fire ring or rocks. Needs complete development.
21. R bank. (27) Carters Landing. Picnic table. Fire ring. Pit privy bottom. Clean. Spring clear, but didn't taste good. Left a rake.
22. L bank. (25) Before Five Ponds bridge. Large, Clean. Springs off hills to east.
23. L bank. (24) Small site next to trail. Left a rake.
24. R bank. (23) On hill above bridge. Clean.
25. L bank. (21, 22) Back from river. Pit privy. Porkies have eastern plywood siding. Former bridge site. Both sites designated and being used by the same group. Did not designate site 21 as there was too much blow down in it.
26. R bank. (20) Poor landing. Fire hole in tent site. Needs raking and fire ring. No stones.
27. R bank. (19) Below rapids. Deep hole. Plastic, 2 x 4's. Old fire ring. Poor landing. Looks like a fisherman's site. Needs good cleanup.
28. R bank. (17) Ross Rapids. Head of rapids close to former truck trail. Fire ring. Small site. Relatively clean.
29. R bank. (16) Grassy. Not used much. Fire ring good.
30. L bank. (15) Camp Betsy. Lots of metal trash. Deer carrier. Very grassy. No fire ring. No rocks. Looks like a hunter's camp.

31. L bank
- ~~291.~~ R bank. (14) Large tamarack at site. Fire ring. Excellent site. Just needs general cleanup.
- ~~332.~~ L bank. (13) Relatively clean. Fire ring. Rooty ground.
- ~~433.~~ L bank. (12) Cage Lake Springhole. Designated campsites on either side of the leanto as well. Relatively clean. Leanto floor and deacon log. Dangerous tree to L of leanto and in camping area to L.
- ~~534.~~ L bank. (11) Small site. No fire ring. No rocks. A better site might be developed in a grassy area a short distance upstream.
- ~~635.~~ R bank. (10) Already designated. Swimming beach. Good table. Fire ring. Needs general cleanup.
- ~~736.~~ L bank. (9) New York Landing. Needs general cleanup.
- ~~837.~~ L bank. (8) Griffin Rapids. Also designated campsite to left of leanto. Relatively clean.
- ~~938.~~ L bank. Approximately 100' below the leanto. Better landing. Site of former leanto. Needs minor cleanup.
- ~~039.~~ R bank. (7) Small site. No fire ring. No rocks. Relatively clean.
- ~~140.~~ R bank. (6) High Rock. Relatively clean except for the vicinity of the pit privy.
- ~~241.~~ R bank. (5) Nice location. Needs minor cleanup. Fire ring.
- ~~342.~~ R bank. (4) Good beach. No fire ring. No rocks. Needs brushing. Good potential.
- ~~43.~~ L bank. (3) Needs minor cleanup.
- ~~544.~~ R bank. (2) Fire ring. Good site. Needs minor cleanup.

General comments: These sites were amazingly clean with the major exceptions of sites 6 and 30.

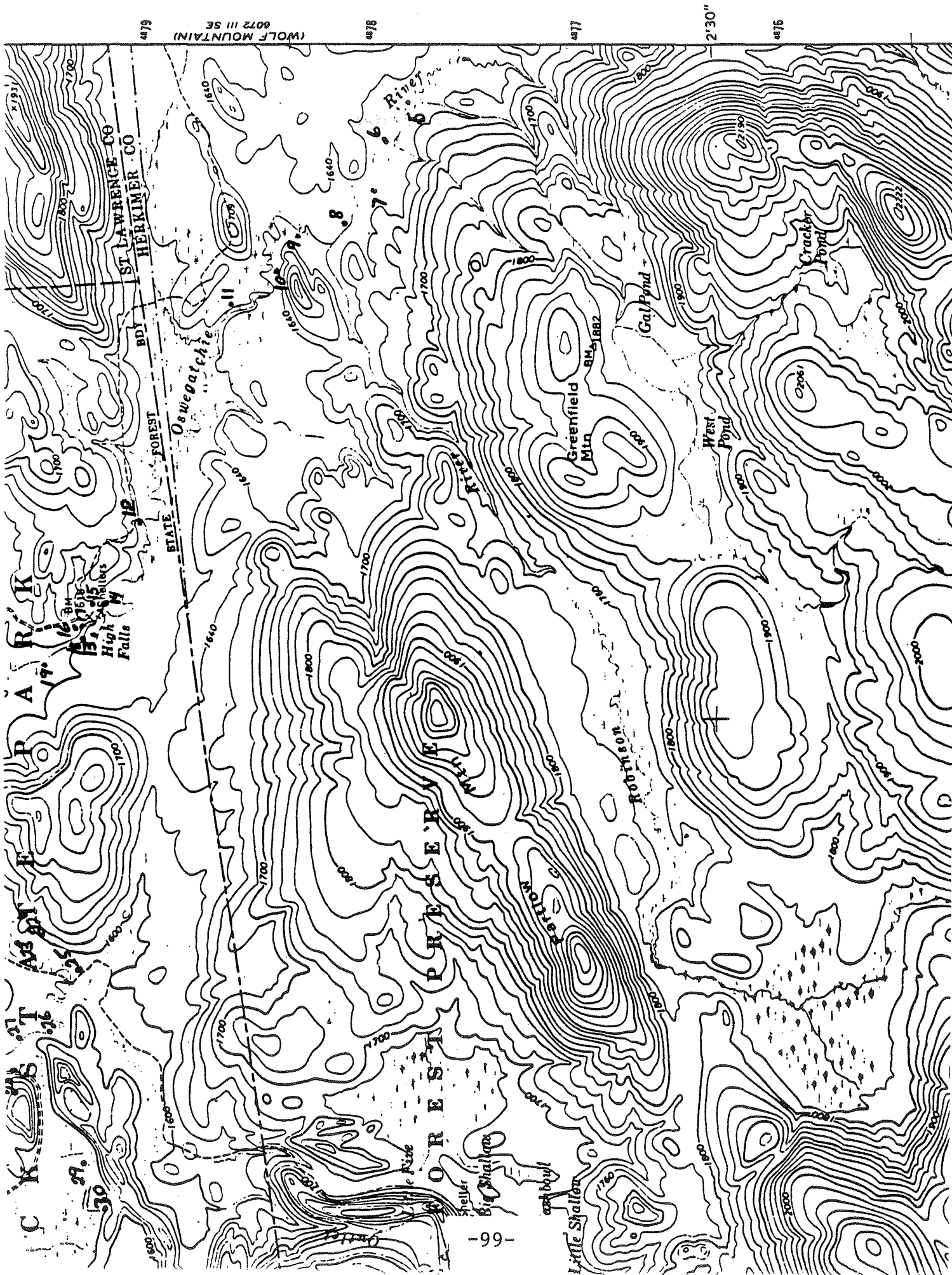
JK/bd  
8/89



4880  
 4875  
 4870  
 4865  
 2'30"

(FIVE PONDS)  
 6072 III SW





(WOLF MOUNTAIN)  
6072 III SE

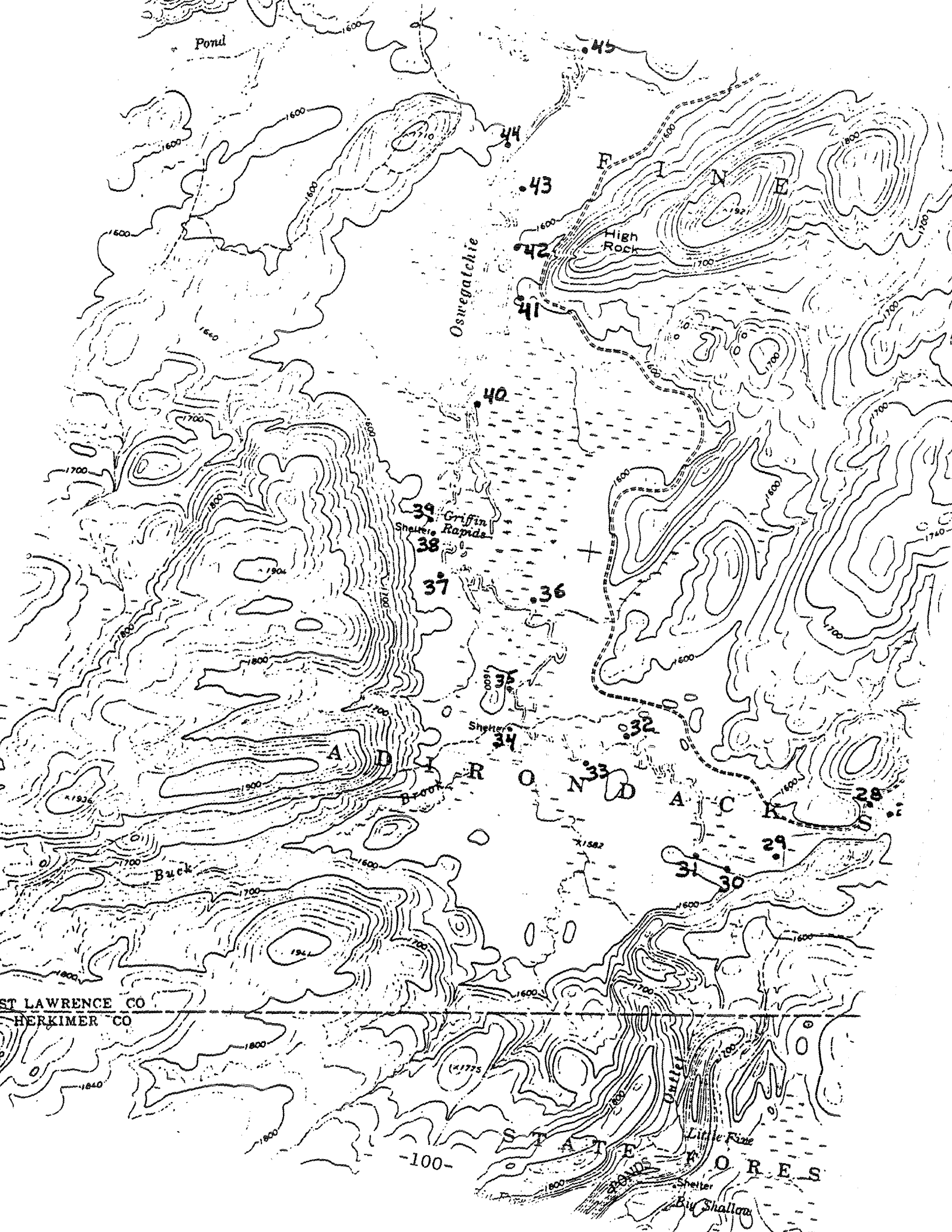
4879

4878

4877

2'30"

4876



Pond

F I N E

High Rock

Ossegetachie

39 Griffin Rapids  
Shelter

A D I R O N D A C K

Buck

ST. LAWRENCE CO  
HERKIMER CO

S T A T E F O R E S T

-100-

Little Pine

Big Shallow

April 19, 1990

Mr. John G. Kramer  
 Associate Forester  
 Department of Environmental Conservation  
 30 Court Street  
 Canton, New York 13617

Dear John:

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with you last week in Cranberry Lake. In a sense I guess it was fortunate that conditions were not ideal, since I would have stayed in and we probably wouldn't have met.

As I mentioned during our conversation, overall the river campsites seemed to be in good condition with a few exceptions. However, there was some snowcover so that in some cases close inspection was not possible. The following report reflects my findings during the period of April 7 through 12. The report is given with an "upstream" travel perspective. The new numbering system for river sites is also used.

### Oswegatchie River Campsites

- 46 (possible site): This exists on the left bank, in small conifers, where the river touches the bank before turning towards "Sam's Curve" (see map location). There is some blowdown to be cleared. I did not designate or number the site. Hunters utilized the site last Fall.
  - 45: Clean, numbered site and designated camping area. Firering was in good shape.
  - 44: Camped at this site on trip downstream. Dismantled saplings cut and nailed to trees for hunting camp shelter (noted last Fall). Clean, good firering, grill present.
  - 43: Numbered site on large white pine below actual landing/camping area. Designated camping area on smaller sapling at actual site. Good site, will have beach in low-moderate water levels, overlooks marsh. Nice tent site immediately back in small conifers, smaller one just beyond. Left rocks last Fall, constructed firering from these rocks. Site appears to have been used last Fall.
  - 42 Large site, numbered site and designated camping area. Firering present and in good shape. This was an abused site cleaned last year. I designated a camping area closer to the river under the pines as opposed to back in the abused section of the site. The designated area has also received use.
- Hunting Camp:** This was one which I reported last Fall. Area seems clean, although snowmel may reveal some trash. Large amounts of firewood cut and stacked (trees had been cut in the area using chain saws). Area was also trenched and this is evident. I would recommend inspection and some possible cleanup when snow is gone.
- 41 (High Rock): Numbered site, camping area already designated. Clean, privy has good seat, but no sides. Firering in good condition. Campsite on top of rock not designated, but shows evidence of use - clean, firering present.

RECEIVED  
 APR 23 1990  
 NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
 CONSERVATION - REGIONAL  
 OFFICE - CANTON

- 39: Poor location during high water levels (flooded). Present site could only be used seasonally at low water levels. Perhaps a more suitable area could be located along backwater area on upstream end. This is a nice area and a site is needed at this point on the river. Firering present. Numbered and designated camping area. Suggest area inspection for alternative campsites.
- 38: (Griffin Rapids leanto): Numbered site, removed trash from leanto and surrounding area. Fireplace in good shape as is leanto. Small table inside leanto. Firewood left in leanto. Privy seat totally rotted, needs replacement. Recommend register be left at leanto to monitor use.
- 37: Numbered site, camping area designated. Table on site, firering. Seemed clean.
- 36: Numbered site, camping area designated. Did not inspect.
- 35: Numbered site, camping area designated. Firering and wood on site.
- 34: (Buck Brook-Cage Lake Springhole) Leanto clean, in good shape. Surrounding area needs close inspection for trash. Firewood in leanto. Saplings used by hunters on front of leanto were removed and thrown in camping area to rear-left of leanto (when facing it). Dead trees in that area which could be cut to make area safe for camping (it's a beautiful site). Removed box of trash from inside leanto. Table inside leanto. Privy in good shape, but nearing capacity-should be limed. Suggest register to monitor use. Much wildlife present. Designated camping area to rear-right of leanto.
- 33: Numbered site, camping area designated. Clean.
- 32: Great location. Numbered site, designated camping area. Area seems clear after hunting camp. The nearby marsh contains much wildlife.
- 31: Numbered site, designated camping area. Needs good cleanup after hunting camp. Metal trash. Firering good. Wood supply present.
- 30: Numbered site, designated camping area. Needs good cleanup following hunter use. Metal trash. Firering good. Wood supply present.
- 29: Nice site on bend in river. Numbered site and designated camping area. Firering and wood supply present.
- Spring: Located on left riverbank, at the bend, fairly close to river, between sites #29 and #28. Easy landing. Water quality seems good. Spring is audible from river.
- 28: Note correct map location (along rapids). Site is numbered and designated. Wood supply present. May need light cleanup.
- 27: Excellent location. Part of one dead tree is down. Suggest that other trees be cut down and removed to make site safe (superior to relocating site). Numbered and designated. Firering good.
- 26: Numbered and designated. Large metal trash need to be removed. Fireplace good, left firewood. Privy has no sides, but good seat. Completed light cleanup. Nice location.

**Illegal Camp:** Located across beaverflow at 230 SW of site #25. White canvas/plastic/wood structure, privy. Appears to be trappers' camp. Beaver carcasses and traps present. Large amounts of food stored inside structure, bunk beds with sleeping bags, tables, clothing and metal wood stove inside. Site is badly abused and trashed. Many trees cut. Appears to be permanent setup, used for many years. Canoe stored nearby. Took pictures. Very upsetting to see this kind of abuse by users. Structure will need to be dismantled. Major cleanup operation due to the amount of materials present. This is the worst abuse I've seen since I've visited the Oswegatchie!

### Trail to Five Ponds/Wolf Pond

**Trail to Big Shallow** in fairly good shape. Some blowdown (nothing major) on trail. One tree in trail just beyond crossing of outlet of Big Shallow (in the glen). Sections of trail are poorly marked (additional markers advised).

**Big Shallow leanto** has large pieces of metal trash which need to be removed or buried. Cleaned out firering and buried contents (ash). Rebuilt firering. Removed down branches from leanto roof. Cut and stacked wood inside. Raked inside of leanto. Cleared edges of leanto. Deacon log shows evidence of rotting (holes/cracks). Privy is unstable (tried to support with rocks) and beginning to rot. Nearing capacity. Needs lime. Suggest possible relocation/repairs. Removed some trash. Fire grill present. Overall leanto condition good. Suggest register be placed to monitor use.

**Little Shallow Leanto** is in good shape. Stack of firewood near firering which is also good. Privy is in good shape. Again, suggest register.

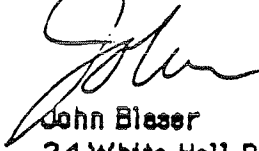
**Trail to Wolf Pond/Sand Lake** is in worse shape than earlier sections. Poor marking at beaverflow crossing following Little Shallow. Blowdown has completely destroyed the stream crossings here (necessitates crossing on logs/dams/high spots). Needs repair. Other sections of trail need marking to facilitate use when footpath is not visible. Signs intact at junction. Trail to Sand Lake impassable without snowshoes. Left shovel/rake on trail to Sand Lake about .75 miles further on (by large yellow birch on left side of trail). Trail to Wolf Pond leanto is poorly marked from 1800 ft. elevation to upgrade leading to leanto.

**Wolf Pond Leanto** is in good condition. Cleared down limbs from leanto roof and vicinity. Cleaned out and buried firering contents. Picnic table present. Campers cut boughs (from down limbs) and placed inside of leanto. Rake, shovel and broom present. Sign to Cage Lake was destroyed by blowdown. Tied signpost to small trees at trail junction and re-nailed sign to post. Sign for Wenakene nailed to leanto partially damaged, but still readable. Privy surrounded by substantial blowdown. Cut and cleared what I could. Needs more work with large saw to clear remainder. Privy nearly full. Used all the lime in privy. Walked about .5 mile of Cage Lake trail - some blowdown. Left register for Wolf Pond and register for Sand Lake (with note requesting hikers to take it to Sand Lake) on leanto shelf. Need to return to get register to Sand Lake, clear remaining blowdown near or relocate privy.

As I mentioned in our conversation in Cranberry Lake, the overall condition of the river sites was good. I guess I was so tired that the illegal camp slipped my mind (how, I'll never understand since it was so upsetting to see it). I regret, because of conditions, I was unable to get to Sand Lake or the upper river sites. I have two weekends in May (5-7, 12-14) which I will probably use to return to the river and get upstream above High Falls. I would anticipate using the first set of days for that purpose. The other set I would like to use for the Bog River/Low's Lake if possible. Let me know if I can be of assistance in either case

It was nice to meet you and a pleasure to be of assistance. I will forward the pictures of the illegal camp near site #25 when they are developed. I would like to know what you intend to do about the situation. You can contact me until Memorial Day weekend at the current address and phone numbers. After that I will be moving to a new apartment. Thanks for all your help.

Yours truly,



John Blaser  
24 White Hall Road  
Eastchester, NY 10709  
(914) 961-7842 (home)  
(914) 793-6130 (work)

attachment

## CAMPSITE UPGRADING

May 15-19, 1990

Attached are John Blaser's latest inventory of sites 26 through 45 and the original DEC inventory with the new numbering sequence initiated by John. To help you in your planning, the following projects could be done in addition to the general cleanup at each site:

Site

2. Completely develop the site off of the trail. Stones for a fire ring should be on site.
3. and 4. Locate stones for fire rings.
5. Completely develop the site-clear a landing and trail, some pruning, fire ring, tent site leveling.
6. Major cleanup. Dump trash in open pit and fill.
8. Fire ring. Rocks available.
12. A trail is needed from the river. Perhaps from the back-water upstream. Clear a tent site with the maul.
14. Note that there are two sites - 14a and 14b.
16. This is the former site 17 and is the only site in the vicinity.
17. This is a new site downstream from the canoe launch on the R bank. There is a yellow marker on a log. Needs a number. A short distance downstream from this site and away from the river is another site which needs a lot of cleanup. There is a trail from this site to the former truck trail.
19. Erosion control at landing.
20. Fire ring. No rocks.
22. If you go 100' upstream from this site and another 100' from the river you will discover springs coming out of the hillside which could be dug out.
28. and 29. There is another spring between these sites on the R bank at the bend of the river.
39. Could use more rocks in the fire ring.
40. Look for a better campsite location in the vicinity.

## OSWEGATCHIE RIVER CAMPSITE INSPECTION 6-10 August 1991

These notes supplement the information on the campsite evaluation forms. (When there is an "\*" on the "Etc." line under "improvements, the additional improvements are listed here.) In addition to the tasks noted, I cleaned up most of the sites (except sites 8 and 30) and relettered the number disks at many sites where the black number had weathered away.

Site Description

---

Jeff Cooper checked sites 1 (Lows Lake) and 2 (Big Deer Pond) on 6 August and cleaned up a blowdown near the Lows Lake end of the carry.

Wednesday, 7 August

- 3 Grill, 2 sitting logs, shovel bottom, 3 tent areas (each about 10 feet by 10 feet). Tree had fallen across part of original site: graded around uprooted roots to make depression for fire--roots act as reflector. Installed directional marker from carry trail.
- 4 2 log benches, shallow fire pit, shovel bottom. Raked and mowed site. Installed new campsite marker. Only one good pine branch for hanging food nearby. Installed directional marker from carry.
- 7 beaver dams between sites 4 and 5
- 5 Very overgrown. Mud flat at landing due to low water. Tree seems to have fallen across original site. Debranched tree and pulled up enough bracken, blueberries, raspberries, etc., to make space for one tent in front of log. Removal of old stump or tree trunk would enlarge site. Mow next year!
- 6 6 grates, 2 tent sites, bench, table, sitting log, griddle, fry pan, rake, garbage pit with chaise lounge frame and new bear hole, shovel bottom. Cleaned up fire ring and threw some logs on garbage pit. No sign of chicken wire from bunks we dismantled last year. Installed "camp here" marker.
- 2 beaver dams between sites 6 and 6A
- 6A Replaced "8" disk with "6A." (There was a "camp here" marker at this site when we checked the river campsites in 1990. At the time, we thought we had missed site 7 and that this was site 8, so we had marked it as site 8.) Put up second "6A" disk on live tree since old disk was on base of dead tree near river. Pulled up some raspberries and young maples and raked site. Nice bluff with easy trail from river. 2-3 small, almost-level tent sites (one in old fire pit), bucket.

(Turn right through shallow channel immediately after passing site 6A. Wider channel straight ahead is dead end.)



- 2 beaver dams between sites 6A and 7
- 7 Big Pine site. Metal roof over (empty) firewood pile, sign. Rebuilt fire ring, raked site, picked up litter.
- 1 beaver dam and 1 rocky area between sites 7 and 8
- 8 Just below rocky area. I missed this site because the markers were down, and I had to hike back to it from the upper rapids. Unfortunately, it turned out to be one of the messier sites on the upper river, and I didn't have a garbage bag. 2 grates, hunk of metal, corn-on-the-cob scattered around site, pile of litter, small table. Picked up some litter and threw on pile. Put up new number disk and "camp here" marker.
- 2 beaver dams and "upper rapids" between sites 8 and 9 (second beaver dam is at upper end of rapids). Easy carry route on east bank if 5-6 downed trees were sawed out.
- 9 Rock landing, little sign of use, second tent site available, lots of string. Needs mowing.
- 10 3 grates, table with metal legs. Rearranged fire ring, raked site, picked up litter. Campers had burned logs in middle: sawed up two and stacked.
- 2 beaver dams plus double log jam (had to line canoe through) between sites 10 and 11
- 11 Camp Johnny. Grate, garbage pit. Raked site (and camped).

Thursday, 8 August

- 2 log jams just below Camp Johnny--canoe floated through after I got out--good footing. Noticeable stream enters on right just beyond log jams--probably Nicks Pond outlet.
- 3 beaver dams between site 11 and undesignated site (stream enters on left between second and third dams)
- \*\* Rocky site on east bank between county line and site 12 has been used. Fire ring, pieces of metal (old stove?), several old fire sites (including one in middle of best tent site).
- 1 beaver dam (mostly a log jam) between undesignated site and site 12
- 12 Trail from river could be mowed. Picked up litter.
- 3 beaver dams and one shallow log between site 12 and High Falls
- HF High Falls. Party of 11-12 at site below falls. (Jeff Cooper checked sites at High Falls.)

- 19 Adjacent to flooded area. Board, 2 tent sites (1 is grassy area near flooding).
- (20) I missed site 20--according to my 1990 notes, it is just below site 19 and farther upstream than the location marked on my map.
- 1 beaver dam between site 19 and potential sites
- \*\* Flat, blueberry-covered rock on east bank is a potential site. Large pines surrounded by alder swamp.
- \*\* Upstream side of first large rock on west bank has view of hill over river--a potential site.
- 1 beaver dam between potential sites and site 21
- 21 Carters Landing. Table, outhouse, fireplace, some litter. (Left litter for Jeff.)
- "Left-hand rapids" (need to make sharp left-hand turn half-way through rapids). Possible carry route on southeast bank.
- 22 Furnace still in woods along path to spring. Spring flowing. Concrete fire base, grate, plank bench. Put up new disk along river and installed directional marker along Five Ponds trail.
- Rapids under Five Ponds trail bridge
- (23) Eight canoes piled up in tiny clearing with "23" disk along Five Ponds trail on west side of bridge. Possible fire ring rocks tossed in woods on left side of trail. Couldn't tell much about site because it was buried under canoes. Would John Kramer really mark this site?
- 24 Stone fire ring against rock, plank bench. On knoll on east bank of river at bridge. Removed a misplaced "25" marker and installed "24" marker.
- 25 Concrete fire base, 2 grates, sauce pan, plank bench, rake, shovel, oil furnace, small oil drum with fiberboard on top for table, 2 smaller tent sites, "If you carry it in..." sign, blue trail markers. Installed directional markers and "camp here" disk at main site.
- 26 Access path goes up and down through gully. Put fire ring back together, raked a bit, picked up litter. Nice little site. Space for 2-3 additional small tents.
- 27 Plank bench, grassy--could stand mowing. Larger area available if mowed. On large pool just below small rapids. Alders behind site.
- 28 Oil drum stove, grate, sitting logs around fire. Nice site by rapids. Put up "camp here" disk. Found a flashlight.

## Small rapids

- 29 4 log seats. Needs mowing. Picked up litter, installed "camp here" disk, pulled up some shrubs.
- (I like the stretch of river from site 21 to site 29)
- 30 Beautiful Camp Betsey. Box, oil stove, litter. Put up number disk; didn't bother with a "camp here" disk--no one will want to. Left site as is. Very overgrown!
- 31 Plank bench, "If you carry it in..." sign. Cleaned wet grass out of fire ring, removed metal stand, raked site. Marker doesn't show up well from river.
- 1 beaver dam, 1 log between sites 31 and 32
- 32 2 log seats, 1 table-high log, 1 split-log seat, grate, dead tree leaning across access path. Camped here.

Friday, 9 August (rain)

- 33 Raked ashes out of two old fire pits and filled with fresh litter, removed ashes from fire ring, raked site, picked up litter, removed sheet of black plastic. Number disk needs to be relettered (couldn't do it in the rain).
- 34 Cage Lake Springhole Leanto. Raked, picked up some litter. Half of deacon log is missing. Seat loose from base in outhouse. Adjacent site about 20 feet by 20 feet with many roots and remains of fire (no ring) in one corner.
- 35 Very small site on bank with large flat area available if moved. Grate. Picked up a few pieces of litter.
- 36 Wood table, 2 wood stools.
- 2 beaver dams between sites 36 and 37
- 37 Table, 4 log stools, 2 pieces of waffleboard, remains of second table.
- 38 Griffin Rapids Leanto. Fireplace, grate, table, new outhouse and badly-chewed old one. Large tent site (approx 20 feet by 20 feet) with fire ring and two smaller tent sites adjacent to leanto on upstream side. Outside latch broken off of new outhouse. Plastic covering dirt floor of leanto. Picked foil out of fireplace. Spent afternoon waiting for rain to stop. Stayed here.
- 39 Just downriver from leanto. Grassy tent site and gently sloping (campable) area between fire ring and river. Rebuilt fire ring and picked up some litter.

Saturday, 10 August (off-and-on light drizzle)

- 40 On secondary channel  
1 beaver dam between sites 40 and 41
- 41 High Rock. New outhouse and mangled old one, remains of fireplace, .  
stone fire ring, sitting log. Picked up some litter.
- 42 Plank bench, pieces of plywood. Removed metal tray and picked up some  
litter.
- 43 Steep sand bank--hard landing. Picked up litter.
- 44 Wood tripod over fire ring, sitting bench. Picked up litter.
- 45 Picked up litter  
1 beaver dam between site 45 and Inlet.

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River August 1991

Site

Characteristic	3	4	5	6	6A	7	8	9	10
Approximate size (pace off)	3x				3x	+2 sm			2x
Length (ft)	10	15	10	12/10	8	10	10	10+	10+
Width (ft)	10	10	7	10/6	5	10	10	10	10
Vegetative cover (F= pines D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	M	F/S	F/S	F/S	S/D	F/S	F/S/D	F/S	S/D/F
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)		M,R	R	R	R	R	N	R	R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	50'	20'	20'	25'	40'	10'	50'	10'	15'
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, F= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	F	F	F	F	F	N	F	N	F
Other sites	F	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	Y	F	F	F	F	N	F	N	F
Fire ring (S= stone, F= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	F	F	F	S	1/2S	S	1/2S	S	S
Other "improvements":									
Table				Y			sm		Y
Outhouse									
Etc. (*= see notes)	*	*		*		*			
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y-	Y	Y	Y	Poor	Y	Y-	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H*	H	H	M	H	H
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	M	M	M	M	M	M	S	R	S
							grassy	grassy	grassy
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water	X		X	X					X
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	1.5	2 sm	1		1	6		3	1.5
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)		W	SW	SE	SW	SW			
Much litter/debris							Some		
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level		+/-					X		
Very small site			X						

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River August 1991

Site

Characteristic	11	12	19	21	22	24	25	26	27
Approximate size (pace off)									
Length (ft)	+sm		2x						
Width (ft)	20	8	10	20	30	12	25	10	10
Vegetative cover (P= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)									
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)									
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)									
Distance from trail/canoe route									
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route									
Other sites									
Lake/river (if present)									
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)									
Other "improvements":									
Table				X					
Outhouse				X					
Etc. (*= see notes)	*			*	*	*	*		*
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M	H	M	H	M	M	M	M	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y-	Y	High	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M+
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H*	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	H
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	S	G/R	S/M	S/M/R	M/S	S	S	S	S
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water		X	X		X				X
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	2		2			1	1		1
Limited area for sanitation			X						?
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)	S			SE				W	
Much litter/debris							*		
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level									
Very small site									X

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River August 1991

Characteristic	Site									
	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
Approximate size (pace off)										
Length (ft)	15	8	20	20	12	10/8		5	10	
Width (ft)	8	5	10	10	12	8/5		5	10	
Vegetative cover (F= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	overgrown +sm Leanto Larger if mowed Larch Larger if mowed S/P/D/P/S/D D S/D S/D S F S D/S									
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	R	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	R	R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	10'	20'	30'	100'	10'	10'	10'	10'	50'	
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):										
Trail/canoe route	N	P	P	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	
Other sites	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	N	P	P	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	S	N	S	S	S	S	on grnd	S	
Other "improvements":										
Table							X		X	
Outhouse	X						X			
Etc. (*= see notes)	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M+	L	L	M-	M	L+	M	H	M	
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-	
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M	M	L	L	M?	M	M	M	M	
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	M-	M	M	M+	H	H	H	H	H	
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H	H	L	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	R	S	M	S/M	S/M	S	S	S	S	
Hazards/Concerns										
Steep/slippery access to water	X	X	wet			X		X	X	
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)		1.5	4	1	0.5	2	1	1	2	
Limited area for sanitation						X				
Poor drainage										
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)						across river	up river	across river		
Much litter/debris			X							
Erosion due to previous use										
Potential impact on plants/wildlife										
Site not level										
Very small site								X		

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location:

Site

Characteristic	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Approximate size (pace off)	2x	Leanto			+sites		2x		3x
Length (ft)	10		15	20	20	25	10	15	10
Width (ft)	10		10	15	20	10	10	15	8
Vegetative cover (F= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)					H= hemlock	Larch			
	S/D	H/D	H/D/S	S/F/D	F/D	D/F/S	F/S	F/S/D	F/S
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	R	R/M	R/M	R	R	R	R	R	R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	10'	50'	25'	10'	100'	100'	25'	15'	15'
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	N	P	P	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Other sites	Y	39	38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	N	P	P	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Other "improvements":									
Table	X	X							
Outhouse		X			X				
Etc. (*= see notes)	*	*			*	*			
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M	L	L	L	M	M	L	M-	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-	Y	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	L	L	L	M	M+	M-	M	M	M
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	S	S/R	S	S	R	S	S	S/R	S/R
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippy access to water	X	X			X		X		
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)			2	3				2	
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)					across river		up river		across river
Much litter/debris									
Erosion due to previous use		bank							
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level									
Very small site									

dry  
beaver  
pd adj



CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River sites accessible by trail,  
August 1991

Characteristic	1	2	14A	14B	17	17B	18	HF*	21
Approximate size (pace off)									
Length (ft)	45	30	20	25	35	25	25	20	20
Width (ft)	15	20	15	15	25	10	10	10	15
Vegetative cover (P= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	S	M/S/D	S	S	M	P	P	D	P
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	L/M	L			R/F	R			R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	L	L	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	40'	15'	50'	100'	100'	150'	150'	100'	50'
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	P	N	P	P	P	Y	Y	P	N
Other sites	Y	Y	P	P	Y	P	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	P	P	P	P	P	N	Y	Y	N
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Other "improvements":									
Table	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Outhouse	N	N	Y	near	near	near	near	near	Y
Etc. (*= see notes)	grate	grate	N	grate	grate	bench	pipe	N	
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M+	M	M	M	L	M	H	M	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M-	L+	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	M	M	H	M	M	H	H	H	M
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud R= rock, G= gravel)			R	R	R	shrub			
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water									
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	1	1	4	2	4	1	2	1	0
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)	E	N				S			S
Much litter/debris									
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level	M	X		X	X				
Very small site	narrow								

Evaluation of campsites in eastern half of Five Ponds Wilderness Area,  
August 1991

Key to sites

- 18 (High Falls)  
HF\* Unnumbered site east of junction of trail and canoe carry at High Falls  
COW-L Cowhorn Pond leanto  
COW-T Two level tent sites behind Cowhorn Pond leanto. Has downhill grade by  
fire area. No real access to water by campsite.  
OLM-L Campsites adjacent to Olmstead Pond leanto  
OLM-W Northwest Olmstead Pond campsite (designated 1990)  
OLM-N North Olmstead Pond campsite (designated 1990)  
SPEC Spectacle Pond campsite (designated 1990). Trash pit, billy can  
present.  
GLAS Glasby Pond campsite (designated 1991). Shovel bottom and old railroad  
tie bracket present. Nice level tent site.

Notes

Evaluations performed by Jeff Cooper.

Jeff's campsite dimensions often include the entire camping area, while mine  
(JR) refer only to the area suitable for pitching a tent.

Site \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristic	COW-L	COW-T	OIM-L	OIM-W	OIM-N	SPEC	GLAS		
Approximate size (pace off)									
Length (ft)	66	50	15	25	20	20	40		
Width (ft)	40	36	10	20	15	10	30		
Vegetative cover (P= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	S	S	M	P	P	M	D		
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L/M		
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		
Distance from trail/canoe route	0.2mi	0.3mi	150'	150'	150'	0.1mi	150'		
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Other sites	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Lake/river (if present)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N		
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	N	S	S	S	S	S		
Other "improvements":									
Table	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
Outhouse				N	N	N	N		
Etc. (*= see notes)			grate	grate	N	seat	grate	*	
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M	M	L	M	H	H	H		
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M	M	H	H	M	L	M		
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	L	M	L	L	M	L	L		
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	M+	H	M	H	L	M	H		
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)									
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water			X	X			X		
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	1	2	2	2	0	1	1		
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)	S	SW		S		W	E		
Much litter/debris			X		X				
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level		X			X	X			
Very small site			X			X			

Report on the Oswegatchie River, the Five Ponds Trail  
and the leantos at Big Shallow, Little Shallow, Wolf Pond and Sand Lake  
August 25-29, 1991

<u>Location/Site No.</u>	<u>Work Performed/Comments/Recommendations</u>
+5	Site is clean, firering good, added rocks to firering
Straight of the Woods	Large blowdown across river. Passable in high water, but difficult in low water. Debris accumulates upstream of tree. Recommend removing additional section.
44	Clean, firering good.
43	Clean, firering good.
42	Clean, firering good. Large site, excellent view of marsh. Bench constructed on site. Large wood/plastic frame on site. Placed near river and notified trail crew.
41 (High Rock)	Occupied, could not inspect.
40	Clean, firering good. Evidence of use.
39	Clean, firering good.
38 (Griffin Rapids)	Table constructed. Fireplace good. Removed old foam pad and plastic.
37	Firering good, several table constructed out of plywood and particle board. Clean, evidence of use.
36	Table and stool constructed. Removed foil from firering, which is in good condition.
35	Small site, difficult landing. Clean, not much use. Needs additional rocks for fire-ring.
34 (Cage Lake Springhole Leanto)	Deacon log rotting, about half gone. Plywood table constructed. Firering good. Site generally clean. Removed piece of sheet metal. Privy half full, put in some organic material. Piece of privy door missing.
33	Clean, firering good.
32	Cleaned tin foil from firering, which is good condition. Site clean. Excellent site for large party. Nice location near small marsh.

(continued)

- 31 Clean, firering good. Large site, suitable for 2-3 tents.
- 30 Site needs major (group) cleanup effort. Wood storage box, metal stove need to be removed. Removed litter. Site is overgrown. Should vegetation be cut back in spring?
- 29 Clean, firering good, small site suitable for one tent.
- 28 (Ross Rapids) Clean, firering good. Woodstove on site. Spring between this site and site #27 not flowing.
- 27 Clean, firering good. Bench constructed.
- 26 Clean, firering good.
- 25 Large pieces of metal need to be removed (by a group). Privy is badly damaged. Should be replaced or removed. This is an excellent site which would benefit from some attention. Removed litter.
- Trail to Big Shallow Condition of trail generally good. Section of trail where it begins to parallel stream should be more clearly marked.
- Big Shallow leanto Leanto in generally good condition. Roof intact. Added additional rocks to fireplace. Removed litter. Small amount of metal trash needs to be removed (will do in spring). Raked inside and outside of leanto. Spring was dry. Privy in terrible condition. Badly rotted and nearly full. Requires replacement as soon as possible to prevent site from being abused by campers who do not practice correct sanitation procedures. Left register. Rake and shovel on site.
- Little Shallow leanto Site was terribly abused. Privy dragged down from location behind leanto and used as woodshed. Picked up trash littered about the site. Firering was dismantled and another built next to leanto. Rebuilt original one. Table constructed using privy roof. Military-style cot left in leanto. Raked inside and outside of leanto. Left firewood. Shovel and rake on site. Site needs privy. Left register.
- Trail between Little Shallow and Wolf Pond/Sand Lake Junction Large blowdown on trail shortly after trail leaves outlet stream. Recommend clearing.

(continued)

## Wolf Pond leanto

Leanto in good condition. Several references in register to problem with bears. Raked inside and outside of leanto. Picked up scattered trash. Firing needs some additional rocks. Sign to Cage Lake/Five Ponds Trail Junction missing. Recommend attaching new sign to side of leanto. Some metal trash on site. Should it be buried or will a group pack it out? Rake, broom and shovel on site.

## Sand Lake leanto

New roof and privy are fantastic! Great improvement to site. Highest commendations to trail crew for their work. Remains of old privy need to be addressed - bury, remove or burn? Sides of leanto need to be stained - I could do it in the spring if it isn't already done. Raked inside/outside of leanto. Removed scattered litter. Sleeping bag was left in leanto, needs to be removed. Cleaned fireplace and added rocks. Register on site along with rake and shovel.

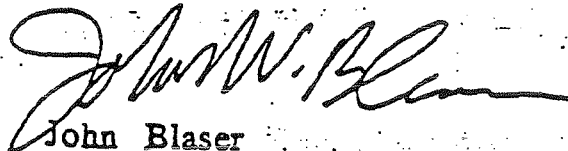
Conclusions:

As you will note from my report, there are several sites in the area which require the attention of the trail crew and/or a volunteer group. On the river, sites #30 and #25 require the removal/disposal of large metal objects which are beyond my ability to do independently. The privys at Big Shallow and Little Shallow require immediate attention. Based on my experience with the users of the area, it will not take long for these sites to become trashed through improper sanitation procedures. Since these two sites get a lot of use, it would be wise to make this a priority task. The installation of privys at these sites could be combined with the cleanup of both sites, since both have large, metal trash to be removed.

Future Efforts:

I anticipate making a trip to the area in April of 1992. During this time I will inspect the lower river sites, visit the leantos if trail conditions permit and make a visit to the upper river (which I haven't done for two years now). I would like to continue assisting the DEC in my current role, concentrating my efforts on the river sites and the leantos at Big and Little Shallow, since they seem require the most attention at this point. If there are other items which you feel are more important or need to be addressed, please let me know.

Cordially yours,



John Blaser  
27 Fisher Avenue  
Tuckahoe, NY 10707

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS

ASST. FOREST RANGER REPORT  
May 1 to Sept. 4, 1986  
by

GREGORY J. POIRIER

INTRODUCTION

This report is a summarization of my activities and observations as an Asst. Forest Ranger in the Five Ponds Wilderness from May 1 to September 4, 1986.

PUBLIC USE

Registration booth data from the following booths: High Falls Truck Trail, Janacks Landing and Six Mile Creek Trail were picked up at about three week intervals. Approximately two-thirds of users signed the registers.

Early in the season (May to mid-June) most of the campers came just to fish. The following areas were the most popular destinations: Cowhorn Pond, Glasby Pond and Olmstead Pond.

Later in the season (mid-June to Sept.) High Falls was the most common destination for campers, dayhikers and canoeists. On most Saturday evenings camping areas in the immediate vicinity of High Falls were at full capacity. Approximately 30 to 40 people could be found here on the weekends.

The most commonly used route to High Falls was the Oswegatchie River. Second most popular route was for boaters to leave their boats at Janacks Landing, then hike across the Plains to High Falls and return in the evening to their boats. Most overnite backpackers chose to follow the High Falls Truck Trail and Leary Trail to High Falls.

The next most common destination for day use is Sliding Rock on Six Mile Creek. Boaters would leave their boats at West Flow and hike to go swimming and picnicking.

Another common destination for dayhikers was Cat Mt. with equal numbers starting in Wanakena at the Dead Creek Truck Trail and boaters starting from Janacks Landing.

The following areas were popular spots for campers (in order from most used to least): High Falls, Janacks Landing, Olmstead Pond, Cowhorn Pond, Griffin's Rapids, Cage Lake Spring Hole and the lean-tos at Big and Little Shallow Ponds.

Most overnite backpackers prefer to go in on one trail and come out on a different trail, hence trails that make a loop (came back to the starting point) are popular. Most used are the Loop Trail and the Plains Trail

Another route that would be more popular, if maintained, would be the Five Ponds, Wold Pond and Cage Lake loop. Several backpackers have expressed their disappointment that this trail is not maintained. On two separate occasions I have ferried hikers across the Oswegatchie River at Cage Lake Spring Hole.

Peak use was in August with the 4th of July and Labor Day weekends receiving high use.

Littering was generally infrequent with some exceptions, it was a common practice to leave leftover food at Cowhorn Pond and High Falls lean-tos which wildlife would scatter all over. In a few areas plastic was also left in the woods. At High Falls people would leave the area with their campfire still burning. It helped alot to be present Sunday before people left.

Eighty percent of the people I encountered had some negative comment on the conditions of the trails, particularly where bridges were absent.

Several people liked to hike with their dogs, in a few instances the unleashed dogs were aggressive and a menace to others.

Use of Lows Lake has increased this year over last years use.

Most of the users were from the Watertown and Syracuse regions. More people this year than last year were from Fort Drum.

### TRAIL CONDITIONS

As mentioned previously most users were disappointed with the trail conditions. Most problems relate to bridges or lack of bridges. Twice this summer I fell through bridges. The first time I merely got wet, but the second time I almost had an eight inch spike go through my leg -- fortunately only my pants were torn.

At least once this year trails were free of blowdowns, but heavy rainfall this summer brought down a lot of trees. It became



impossible for one person to remove all the blowdowns.

### SPECIFIC TRAILS

- High Falls Truck Trail: Trail is probably impassable to motor vehicle due to washouts, lots of blowdowns across route, needs brushing out, three beaver dams flooding near Glasby Creek.
- Leary Trail: Several small stringer over mudholes are out, several large hardwoods across trail, trail was brushed out in June.
- Five Ponds Trail: Section just before Oswegatchie River crossing is flooded, several small bridges need to be repaired or removed, relatively free of brush and blowdowns.
- Five Ponds to Wolf Pond: Some bridges need to be removed or repaired, large blowdowns across trail, relatively free of brush.
- Wolf Pond to Sand Lake: Either a bridge built or the trail relocated upstream at the crossing of Streeter Fishpond's outlet as the outlet plumes down a 30 foot falls below the trail crossing and is hazardous in wet weather, a few wet areas are along the trail.
- Wolf Pond to Cage Lake: Crossing of Wold Pond's outlet is very wet, possibly relocate trail to west side of Wold Pond.
- High Falls Bridge: This bridge is showing signs of deterioration. Several planks are rotted underneath bridge. Could soon become very dangerous.
- Plains Trail: Bridge at crossing of Glasby Creek near Boiling Springs is unsafe. Relocating trail south of Glasby Creek would eliminate two wet, dangerous and unnecessary crossings of Glasby Creek.
- Dead Creek Truck Trail: Good condition.
- Janacks Landing to Cowhorn Jct.: Several need work particularly around Glasby Pond where several hard paths exist to avoid mudholes. Several large hardwoods across trail from Cat Mt. Jct. to Cowhorn Jct.
- Cat Mt. Trail: Good condition.
- Cowhorn Jct. to High Falls: Trail was brushed out and blowdown removed in May. Both crossings of Nicks Pond's outlet are wet and swampy. Relocating trail north of this outlet would eliminate stream crossings and swamps and also reduce a lot of erosion.

- Cowhorn Jct. to Big Deer Pond: Blowdown and brush were removed in early summer but several recent and large blowdowns are present.

- Six Mile Creek Trail: Area one-quarter mile south of west flow is very muddy and eroded, generally trail is in good condition.

- Olmstead Pond Trail: Couple of muddy areas before crossing of ponds outlet. Trail needs brushing out.

- Ash Pond Trail: Several large blowdowns across trail. Trail gets very little use.

### SUMMARY

Most wilderness users were glad to see a ranger, as I was able to provide a source of information on trails, places to see and rules.

Some trails in this wilderness should be designated and maintained for horses as several people were interested in using horses.

Most trails are inadequately maintained. I was usually the only person working on the trails and most projects are beyond the ability of one person working alone. If the trails were in better condition it would surely enhance the public's image of the DEC, as the public feels that it should be getting more for its tax dollar.

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS  
ASST. FOREST RANGER'S REPORT

June 11 to October 21, 1988

by  
Gregory J. Poirier

Introduction

This report is a summarization of my activities and observations as an Assistant Forest Ranger in the Five Ponds Wilderness from June 11 to October 21, 1988.

Public Use

Registration page sheets from the following registers: High Falls Truck Trail, Six Mile Creek Trail, and Janack's Landing were removed and handed into my supervisor throughout the season.

Generally, I would cover anywhere from 5 to 20 miles of trail each day, which would vary according to the amount of trail maintenance work completed and the number of people encountered on the trail. river and in campsites.

On any given day during July-August I would encounter an average of 20 people a day hiking the trail, canoeing, and camping. Of these approximately 60% were staying one night or more. Of the total number of people encountered over the season (927 total), approximately 10% were staying one week or more, with the longest stay being three weeks.

On any weekend night (Friday-Saturday) it was almost certain that the following lean-tos would be in use: High Falls, Janacks Landing, Cowhorn Pond, and Olmstead Ponds.

Use dropped off immediately after Labor Day, picking up again on weekends with the opening of early bear season and the fall foilage color change.

Sixty-five percent of users lived within a three hour drive from Wanakena, 20% within a 3 to 6 hour drive, with the remaining being from the NYC metropolitan

area, other states and countries (one couple from England).

Why did people chose the Five Ponds area to recreate in? Main reasons were for the solitude and the chance to observe wildlife. A number of people were looking for some place more remote and less crowded than the High Peaks.

The public voiced concern on the following issues:

-- 138 people felt that the High Falls bridge should be replaced.

-- 79 people believed that the red trail from High Falls to Clear Pond should be maintained since their main reason for coming to the area was to hike the "loop".

-- 43 people mentioned that the High Falls Truck Trail should be maintained for motor vehicle access in the event of an emergency.

Since these concerns were mentioned to me without asking for any opinion, I feel these numbers would be much higher if every person encountered were asked what they thought of these items.

In the future I would recommend that survey question sheets be made up that would provide the public use information needed for management decisions. The Assistant Forest Ranger could ask the people the specific information needed, and any additional comments could be obtained at that time.

#### Trails and Facilities

Generally all lean-tos are in fair to good condition and do not need any major repairs.

Most outhouses are in very poor condition, with the wooden seat structure haven been chewed away by porcupines, the only outhouse in good condition is the new one at Olmstead Pond which was replaced in September. I would recommend replacing the wooden seat unit with either a stainless steel or plastic unit (the plastic unit being more durable and vandal resistant).

All trails are in need of stringer bridges, waterbars and other erosion control work.

#### Specific Trails

- High Falls Truck Trail - good condition some flooding at first crossing of Skate Creek; beyond junction of Leary Trail lots of blowdown and flooding.
- Wolf Pond to Cage Lake - very overgrown and difficult to follow.
- Cowhorn Jct. to High Falls - in good condition and the crossings of Nicks Ponds outlet are dry and can be made on some large logs.

All other trails not mentioned are in need of erosion control work and could be brushed out.

#### Summary

Most wilderness users were glad to see an Assistant Forest Ranger, as I was able to provide a source of information on trails, places to see and rules.

I would like to see the Red Trail from Cowhorn Jct. to High Falls maintained as it is a popular and well used route enabling the recreationist to make a nice loop trip in the Five Ponds Wilderness.

GP/bd

10/28/88

Assistant Ranger Report:  
Five Ponds Wilderness Area  
by  
Eric J Fickbohm

RECEIVED  
SEP 20 1990  
NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION - REGION 6  
LANDS & FORESTS - CANTON

Sub. to the desk of  
Bernard J. Siskavich  
09/11/90

Number of people encountered by myself wile on duty patrolling the Five Ponds wilderness area. May 21 through August 27,1990.

	May	June	July	Aug.	Totals
Campers	79	74	115	176	444
Day Hikers	30	6	29	33	98
Mtn. Bikes	0	0	2	0	2
Totals	109	80	146	209	544

A more accurate figure of the exact number of people using the area, could be closely estimated by calculating the registration books.

Given the expansiveness of the Five Ponds wilderness area, it would be difficult if not impossible to patrol it entirely in five days. Instead I divided the area into two sub-areas, east and west. The west sub-area consisting of the Leary trail, Five Ponds, Wolf Pond, Sand Lake, Cage Lake, and High Falls through Janack's landing. The east sub-area also consisting of High Falls and Janack's landing [since these tended to be high use areas], plus Cat mtn., Cat mtn. Pond to Cowhorn Pond, north to Cranberry Lake, south to Clear Pond and Lows Lake including the canoe carry. I tried to patrol alternate areas every other week.

The overall trail conditions in the area I would consider quite good. The threat of naturally occurring obstacles, such as deadfalls and beaver flooding has to be expected when using this area. The only section of trail I would consider bad is the yellow trail from Wolf Pond to Cage Lake. I would estimate this trail gets the least amount of use in the area [an estimated two groups besides myself this summer]. Besides the numerous deadfalls and flooding, this trail is so overgrown in many areas as to make it nearly impossible to determine trail whereabouts.

Garbage left behind by campers I'm sorry to report is a reality. Especially at High Falls and along the Oswegatchie River. It would seem to be a minority of the people who initially leave the trash. Most of the campers are clean and



considerate, many taking not only their own garbage out but also garbage that others left before them. Also many thanks should be given to the Boy Scout Troops that spent time cleaning up campsites and trails this summer. It would seem that the people that complain the most about the trash lying around, are the ones that do the least about it.

The people using the area seemed for the most part well versed in low impact camping and wilderness safety. I was only called twice to assist misdirect people and had no accident calls.

The job I had was of great experience. I worked diligently to be an asset to the Forest Ranger and to uphold the proper D.E.C. image. I felt very fortunate to have the job due to the scarcity of funds and limited full time manpower in the organization.

YOU ARE ENTERING THE FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA.  
THESE LANDS ARE MANAGED AS WILDERNESS. THE AMENITIES  
THAT ARE PROVIDED ARE MINIMAL AND ALLOW YOU TO RELY UPON  
YOUR OUTDOOR SKILLS.

SOME RECENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF WHICH YOU  
MIGHT NOT BE AWARE ARE:

1. THE PLAINS TRAIL HAS BEEN RELOCATED SOUTHERLY  
TO THE BASE OF THREEMILE MOUNTAIN.
2. THE FORMER HIGH FALLS TRUCK TRAIL IS NOT BEING  
MAINTAINED AS A FOOT TRAIL BETWEEN THE BEGINNING  
AND END OF THE LEARY TRAIL.
3. THE HIGH FALLS AND CAGE LAKE SPRINGHOLE BRIDGES  
HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
4. THE TRAIL FROM BUCK POND TO CAGE LAKE SPRINGHOLE  
HAS BEEN ABANDONED.
5. THE FORMER LOOP TRAIL FROM CLEAR POND TO HIGH  
FALLS IS BEING ABANDONED.
6. THE ASH POND TRAIL IS BEING ABANDONED.

NYS DEC FORESTRY OFFICE  
30 COURT STREET  
CANTON, NY 13617

YOU ARE ENTERING THE FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA. THESE LANDS ARE MANAGED AS WILDERNESS. THE AMENITIES THAT ARE PROVIDED ARE MINIMAL AND ALLOW YOU TO RELY UPON YOUR OUTDOOR SKILLS.

SOME RECENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF WHICH YOU MIGHT NOT BE AWARE ARE:

1. THE PLAINS TRAIL HAS BEEN RELOCATED SOUTHERLY TO THE BASE OF THREEMILE MOUNTAIN.
2. THE FORMER HIGH FALLS TRUCK TRAIL IS NOT BEING MAINTAINED AS A FOOT TRAIL BETWEEN THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE LEARY TRAIL.
3. THE HIGH FALLS AND CAGE LAKE SPRINGHOLE BRIDGES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
4. THE TRAIL FROM BUCK POND TO CAGE LAKE SPRINGHOLE HAS BEEN ABANDONED.
5. THE FORMER LOOP TRAIL FROM CLEAR POND TO HIGH FALLS IS BEING ABANDONED.
6. THE ASH POND TRAIL IS BEING ABANDONED.
7. THE OLMSTEAD POND TRAIL HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SIMMONS POND, SPECTACLE POND, AND BACK TO THE SIXMILE CREEK TRAIL TO FORM A LOOP.
8. THE LEARY AND NEW PLAINS TRAILS ARE NOW MARKED WITH RED TRAIL MARKERS.

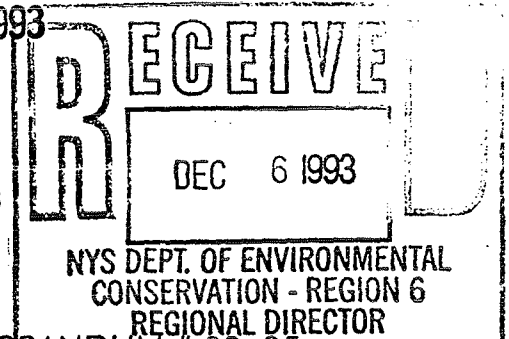
NYS DEC FORESTRY OFFICE  
30 COURT STREET  
CANTON, NY 13617

MEMORANDUM FROM  
**THOMAS C. JORLING**, Commissioner

New York State  
 Department of Environmental Conservation



DEC 02 1993



TO: Executive Staff, Division and Regional Directors

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling *[Signature]*

RE: ORGANIZATIONAL AND DELEGATION MEMORANDUM # 93-35  
 POLICY: FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND  
 CANOE AREAS—AMENDED 11/02/93

## BACKGROUND

Fisheries management in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks has a strong foundation in law, policy, tradition and resource planning. The New York State Legislature has directed DEC to efficiently manage, maintain and improve the fish resources of the State and make them accessible to the people of New York. This includes a mandate to develop and carry out programs and procedures which prompt both natural propagation and maintenance of desirable species in ecological balance and lead to the observance of sound management practices to achieve those goals (ECL Section 11-0303).

Similarly, the State Land Master Plans for the Adirondack and Catskill Parks adopt the principle of resource management and provide strong guidance for fish management (APA 1987, DEC 1985). The primary management guideline for wilderness, primitive and canoe areas is to "achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent." While these plans recognize these areas as places "where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain," they are also defined as areas which are protected and managed so as to "preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, its natural conditions...". Thus, opportunities to manage ecosystems have been preserved in these Master Plans and are conducted in a manner to meet plan guidelines. Fish management practices, such as fish stocking, pond reclamation, pond liming, barrier dam construction and maintenance, and resource survey and inventory, are permitted when conducted within guidelines for wilderness, primitive and canoe area management and use.

For more than a decade, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has managed ecosystems consistent with legal mandates and professional concerns, with sensitivity for wilderness values and with the intent of providing unique recreational experiences. The

-2-

Master Plans set no numerical standards on use intensity but indicate that fishing is "compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself."

Important precepts contained in a Division of Fish and Wildlife position paper on wilderness area management have guided the Department's fish management programs in such areas since 1977 (Doig 1977). The position paper recognizes fishing as: a legitimate activity in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas which should be considered as part of a larger experience not just a quest for fish; where quality includes the expectation of encounter with unique fish and wildlife in natural setting, aesthetic surroundings, and limited contact with other persons. It directs management activities at species which are indigenous to or historically associated with the Adirondacks and Catskills. It provides that fish populations will be managed on a self-sustaining basis, but permits maintenance stocking to be used where unique, high quality recreational fishing experiences can be provided without impairing other objectives. It further directs that fish management activities should be compatible with area characteristics, conducted in an unobtrusive manner and restricted to the minimum means necessary to accomplish management objectives.

The formal traditions of fisheries management in New York State are rooted 120 years in the past, dating back to 1868 when the New York Commission of Fisheries was created (Shepherd et al. 1980). The elements of New York's fisheries program have evolved both in emphasis and priority with shifts being dictated by need, experience and availability of funding as well as the evolution of fishery science. Formal goals for the Fish and Wildlife program have been in existence for more than a decade and remain the foundation for DEC's modern fish and wildlife program activities. They are:

- perpetuate fish and wildlife as a part of various ecosystems of the state;
- provide maximum beneficial utilization and opportunity for enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources; and
- manage these resources so that their numbers and occurrences are compatible with the public interest.

Goals for each program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife have been described in DEC's 1977 Division of Fish and Wildlife Program Plan. Environmental impacts of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's fish species and habitat management activities are discussed in programmatic environmental impact statements prepared by Shepherd et al. (1980) and Odell et al. (1979), respectively.

The evolution of fisheries management in New York State and the Adirondack zone has been discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980) and Pfeiffer (1979). Program goals,

-3-

objectives, policies and management strategies for lake trout including guidelines for stocking were developed by Plosila (1977). The strategic plan recognizes the importance of native Adirondack lake trout stocks and the considerable importance of these lake trout resources to the entire State. In 1979, a strategic plan for the management of wild and hybrid strains of brook trout was completed (Keller 1979). Preservation of native strains in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains was a major component of that plan. Pfeiffer (1979) established goals, objectives and strategies for the management of broad classes of Adirondack fishery resources and significantly enunciated the importance of angling in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and guidelines for fisheries management within these areas. The latter were consistent with those formulated earlier by Doig (1977). The philosophical and scientific underpinnings for trout stream management in New York with application to management of wilderness, primitive and canoe area trout streams, was completed in 1979 (Engstrom-Heg 1979 a). A recent draft plan for intensification of management of brook trout in 47 Adirondack ponds has been developed by DEC Regions 5 and 6 (Miller, 1986).

Salmonid stocking by the Division of Fish and Wildlife is guided by policies and criteria presented in Engstrom-Heg (1979 b). The evolution of DEC's criteria for establishing salmonid stocking policies in New York has been reviewed by Pfeiffer (1979), while the general objectives of fish stocking are discussed in Shepherd et al (1980) and Engstrom-Heg (1979).

Liming of acidified waters by the Division of Fish and Wildlife is presently guided by the draft policy and criteria established by Wich (1987). A final generic environmental impact statement for DEC's liming program is being prepared following extensive public review of the draft statement. It will include a revision of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's liming policy and criteria (Simonin 1990). Findings and the Commissioner's decision for the liming program are being completed.

The history of pond reclamation in New York has been discussed by Pfeiffer (1979). Reclamation goals are discussed in Shepherd et al (1980), while general policy guidance and rules and regulations covering the use of piscicides including rotenone, are provided in Part 328 of 6NYCRR. Fish barrier dams, which are frequently associated with pond reclamation, are permitted when constructed or maintained in accordance with SLMP guidelines.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to state the Department's policies on fisheries management in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

## POLICY GUIDELINES

Legally established goals for the Forest Preserve recognize that fish and wildlife are integral to the values society places on the Preserve. Charges include management to "foster the wild Adirondack environment and all the flora and fauna historically associated there with" and, "encouragement of indigenous species presently restricted in numbers." Fisheries management activities are essential to achieve these goals and to perpetuate unique opportunities for high quality wilderness, primitive and canoe area fishing experience provided within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Specific guidelines for fisheries management activities are as follows:

1. The primary purpose of aquatic resource management in wilderness primitive and canoe areas is to perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems, including perpetuation of indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis.
2. Angling is recognized as a compatible recreational pursuit in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas. Aquatic resource management will emphasize the quality of the angling experience over quantity of use.
3. Aquatic resources in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas will be protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, their natural conditions. Aquatic resource management, including stocking of game and nongame fishes and pond reclamation, may be necessary to achieve and perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems.
4. Brown trout, rainbow trout, splake and landlocked Atlantic salmon are coldwater fish species historically associated with the Adirondack Park. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye are warmwater species historically associated with the entire Adirondack and Catskill Parks and indigenous to some lowland areas. These species may be included in the management and stocking regime of specific waters in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas in instances when indigenous fish communities cannot be protected, maintained, or restored in those waters. Fish species, other than indigenous species and species historically associated with the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, will not be stocked in the waters of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.
5. Waters found to be naturally barren of fish species will not be stocked. Waters which are self-sustaining or which otherwise would be self-sustaining except that they have been compromised by human-caused disturbances may be stocked consistent with these guidelines.
6. Pond reclamation will be practiced as appropriate to prepare or maintain waters in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas but only for the restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish communities.

7. The Unit Management Plan for each wilderness, primitive, or canoe area shall identify aquatic resource management actions on a water-body-specific basis through analysis of unit inventory data adequate to support the actions.
8. In those instances where a Unit Management plan has not yet been approved for a given wilderness, primitive, or canoe area, aquatic resource management actions to stock waters may be continued in waters so managed before December 31, 1989, consistent with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan. Waters reclaimed prior to December 31, 1989 may be reclaimed subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan. New waters may be stocked, reclaimed or limed only to prevent significant resource degradation, subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan.
9. Liming to protect and maintain indigenous fish species may be continued as a mitigation measure for acid rain in Horn Lake (PO4854) and Tamarack Pond (PO6171). As UMP's are completed, new waters may be limed in accordance with the provisions of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Liming Policy presented on pages 2-7 of the Final GEIS on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. As provided in the Liming Policy, no naturally acidic waters or bog waters will be limed. All limed waters will be relimed in accordance with the provisions of the Liming Policy. Any water that must be relimed more than three times in ten years, except for original sources of heritage strains, will be allowed to reacidify.
10. All aquatic resource management activities in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas will be consistent with guidelines for use of motor vehicles motorized equipment, and aircraft as stated in the State Land Master Plan.



LITERATURE CITED

- APA, 1988. Adirondack Park state land master plan.
- Forest Preserve Centennial Edition. Published by Adirondack Park Agency in 1985: 68 pp.  
DEC, 1895.
- Catskill Park stat land master plan. DEC Administrative Report: 103 pp. Doig, H. 1977.  
Position paper on wilderness area management.
- DEC, Division of Fish and Wildlife Administrative Report: 2 pp. Engstrom-Heg, R. 1979  
a. A philosophy of trout stream management in New York.
- DEC Administrative Report: 24 pp. Engstrom-Heg, R. 1979b. Salmonid stocking criteria  
for New York's fisheries program.
- DEC Administrative Report: 36 pp. Keller, W.T. 1979. Management of wild and hybrid  
brook trout in New York lakes, ponds and coastal streams.
- DEC Administrative Report: 40 pp. Miller, W.W. 1986. Draft Adirondack brook trout  
fishery management operational plan.
- DEC Administrative Report: 33 pp. Odell, D., M. Loeb, N. Dickinson, J. Dell and C.  
Pell. 1979.
- Final programmatic environmental impact statement on habitat management activities of the  
Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- DEC Administrative Report: 107 pp. Pfeiffer, M.H. 1979. A comprehensive plan for fish  
resource management within the Adirondack zone.
- DEC Administrative Report: 207 pp. Plosila, D.S. 1977. A lake trout management program  
for New York State.
- DEC Administrative Report 66 pp. Shepherd, W., E. Dietach, C. Parker, T. Pelchar, J.D.  
Sheppard, J. Dell, P. Neth 1980.
- Final programmatic environmental impact statements on fish species management activities of  
the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife
- DEC Administrative Report: 138 pp. Simonin, H. 1990.
- Final generic environmental impact statement on the New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation program of liming selected acidified waters.
- DEC Administrative Report: 231 pp. Wich, K.F. 1987. Draft Division of Fish and Wildlife  
liming policy.
- DEC Policy Memorandum FW 87-: 5 pp.

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA  
FISH SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abbrev.
Blacknose dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	BlkD
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	ST
Brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	BB
Common shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>	CS
Creek chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	CC
Golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>	GS
Lake trout	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>	LT
Northern redbelly dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i>	RbD
Pearl dace	<i>Margariscus margarita</i>	PD
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	PS
Slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	SS
Splake	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> X <i>S. namaycush</i>	SPL
White sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>	WS
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	YP

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY N & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P171 R	Tanarack Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Fine	17	ST,PS,CC	Satisfactory - 7.0 (91)	1990 DEC Limed: 1978,1990	NSA Brook trout Status uncertain Closed to angling	Lime as needed Monitor ST Potential stock w/heritage strain
P172 R	High Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Fine	7	None	Acid threat - 5.16 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P189 OW	Rock Lake	Oswegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	54	None	Acidified - 4.97 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P190 OW	Emerald Lake	Oswegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acidified - 4.69 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P191 OW	Sand Lake	Oswegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	72	ST,BB,WS	Acidified - 4.99 (84)	1992 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P192 OW	Sitz Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.72 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P195 OW	Muskrat Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	17	None	Acidified - 4.43 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P196 OW	Bear Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	78	None	Satisfactory - 6.30 (92)	1985 ALSC Limed 1992	Stocked Horn Lake strain ST - 1992	NSA, Lime as needed Brood stock water
P197 OW	Diana Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	27	None	Acidified - 4.61 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P198 OW	Lower South Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	38	None	Acidified - 4.78 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P199 OW	Middle South Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	48	None	Acidified - 4.71 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P200 OW	Upper South Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acidified - 4.73 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P201 OW	W Beechridge Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acidified - 4.66 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P202 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acidified - 4.66 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P203 OW	E Beechridge Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	23	None	Acidified - 4.63 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P204 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	10	None	Acidified - 4.53 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHD	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P205 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	17	None	Acidified - 4.68 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P206 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	3	None	Acidified - 4.3 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P207 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	7	None	Acidified - 4.56 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P208 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	8	None	Acidified - 4.59 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P209 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acidified - 4.7 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P210 OW	Willys Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	60	None	Acidified - 4.68 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P211 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	1	None	Acidified - 4.64 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P212 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	2	None	Acidified - 4.69 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P213 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	5	None	Acidified - 4.57 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P214 OW	Walker Lake	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	38	None	Acidified - 4.77 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P286 OW	Pine Pond	Oswegatchie SE	St. Lawrence	Fine	4	RbD,CC	Acid threat - 5.06 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P287 OW	Mud Pond	Oswegatchie SE	St. Lawrence	Fine	7	BB	Acidified - 4.82 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	
P290 OW	Little Otter Pond	Oswegatchie SE	St. Lawrence	Fine	Small	Unknown	Warm	DEC	None	
P318 OW	Fish Pole Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	15	ST,CC,WS, GS,RbD	Acid threat - 5.94 (84)	1984 ALSC	Stocked ST 500 PF	Same
P319 OW	Darning Needle Pd	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	24	ST,SPL,GS, CC,WS	Satisfactory - 6.04 (84)	1984 ALSC	Stocked ST 500 PF	Same
P320 OW	Little Fish Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	5	None	Acid threat - 5.29 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	

-142-

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P325 OW	Indian Mountain Pd	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	12	None	Acidified - 4.95 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P326 OW	Ash Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	5	None	Acidified - 4.85 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P327 OW	Cowhorn Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	22	ST,CC,PS, WS,RbD	Satisfactory - 6.42 (85)	1985 ALSC	Stocked ST 1000 FF	Same
P328 OW	Olmstead Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	51	ST,GS	Satisfactory - 6.08 (91)	1991 DEC	Stocked ST 1600 FF	Same
P329 OW	Cat Mountain Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	21	ST,BB	Acid threat - 5.21 (85)	1985 ALSC	Stocked ST 500 FF	Same
P330 OW	Bassout Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	23	BB	Acidified - 4.86 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	
P331 OW	Unnamed Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	3	BB	Acid threat - 5.48 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P332 OW	Unnamed Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton		Unknown	Unknown	None	None	
P333 OW	Toad Pond	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	7	ST,RbD	Acid threat - 5.28 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P334 OW	North Spectacle Pd	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	6	BB	Acid threat - 5.62 (91)	1984 ALSC	Managed with South Spectacle Pd P335	Same
P335 OW	South Spectacle Pd	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	6	ST	Acid threat - 5.57 (91)	1991 DEC	Stocked ST 400 FF	Same
P336 OW	Simmons Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	16	ST	Acid threat - 5.73 (91)	1991 DEC	Stocked ST 200 FF	Same
P338 OW	Unnamed Pond	Newton Falls	St. Lawrence	Fine	7	YP,GS,BB	Satisfactory - 7.39 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P340 OW	Otter Pond	Five Ponds	St. Lawrence	Fine	43	YP,BB,WS, GS,CC	Acid threat - 5.07 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P344 OW	Cage Lake	Osevegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	43	ST	Acid threat - 5.48 (90)	1990 DEC	Stocked ST 1100 FF	Same
P345 OW	Big Shallow Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	10	ST,WS,BB,CC	Satisfactory - 7.08 (91)	1991 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P346 OW	Washbowl Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	5	None	Acidified - 4.40 (91)	1986 ALSC	None	

-143-

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P347 OW	Little Shallow Pd	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	6	ST,WS,BB	Satisfactory - 6.88 (91)	1991 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P348 OW	Little Five Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	6	ST,PS,BB,CC	Satisfactory - 6.48 (91)	1986 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P349 OW	Big Five Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	13	ST,PS,WS	Satisfactory - 6.44 (91)	1991 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P350 OW	Lone Duck Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acid threat - 5.29 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	
P351 OW	Huir Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.39 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P352 OW	Wolf Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	70	ST,PS,BB	Acidified - 4.68 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P353 OW	Streeter Fish Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acid threat - 5.09 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Lime & stock heritage strain ST
P354 OW	Lower Riley Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.45 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P355 OW	Upper Riley Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acidified - 4.46 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P356 OW	Unnamed Pond	Five Ponds	St. Lawrence	Clifton	4	None	Acidified - 4.80 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P357 OW	Glasby Pond	Five Ponds	St. Lawrence	Clifton	9	ST,BB	Acidified - 4.98 (85)	1985 ALSC	Stocked ST 300 FF	Same
P359 OW	Nicks Pond	Wolf Mountain	Herkimer	Webb	15	ST,WS,BB,PS, GS,CC,BkD	Satisfactory - 6.63 (86)	1986 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P360 OW	Big Deer Pond	Wolf Mountain	Hamilton	Long Lk	56	BB,PS,CC,RbD	Satisfactory - 6.39 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P361 OW	Clear Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	15	ST,BB,WS, RbD,CC,PS	Satisfactory - 7.13 (91)	1991 DEC Limed 1990	Stocked ST 700 FF	Same
P362 OW	Grassy Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	3	None	Acidified - 4.79 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P363 OW	Slender Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	13	None	Acid threat - 5.23 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Possible stock heritage strain ST

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P364 OW	West Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.86 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P365 OW	Oven Lake	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	52	None	Acidified - 4.62 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P366 OW	Grassy Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	29	None	Acidified - 4.61 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P368 OW	Hitchens Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	11	None	Acidified - 4.69 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P369 OW	Toad Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	24	None	Acidified - 4.64 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P370 OW	Unnamed Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	2	None	Acidified - 4.39 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P371 OW	Unnamed Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	11	None	Acidified - 4.49 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P372 OW	Little Crooked Lk	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	18	None	Acidified - 4.77 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P373 OW	Crooked Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	117	None	Acidified - 4.85 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P374 OW	Covey Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acidified - 4.34 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P375 OW	Cracker Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	19	None	Acidified - 4.88 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P376 OW	Gal Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acid threat - 5.06 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P496 B	Raven Lake	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	115	None	Acidified - 4.87 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P497 B	Unnamed Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	9	None	Acidified - 4.59 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P498 B	Lyon Lake	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	80	None	Acidified - 4.58 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Lime & stock heritage strain ST
P499 B	Slim Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	16	None	Acid threat - 5.66 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P500 B	Evergreen Lake	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	45	None	Acidified - 4.73 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Lime & stock heritage strain ST

-145-

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P501 B	Unnamed Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acid threat - 5.08 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P502 B	Peaked Mt Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	37	None	Acidified - 4.78 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P503 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	Small	None	Unknown	None	None	
P504 B	Hawk Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	34	None	Acidified - 4.73 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P505 B	Hidden Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	18	None	Acidified - 4.92 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P506 B	Unnamed Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	2	None	Acidified - 4.70 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P508 B	Ginger Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	15	None	Acid threat - 5.16 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P510 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	9	None	Acidified - 4.56 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P511 B	Soda Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	21	None	Acidified - 4.72 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P512 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	6	None	Acidified - 4.43 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P513 B	Huckleberry Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	21	None	Acidified - 4.71 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P515 B	Dismal Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	53	None	Acidified - 4.55 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P517 B	Salmon Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	110	ST,LT,YP,BB, PS	Acid threat - 5.42 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Potential stock
P518 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	17	YP,BB,GS	Acid threat - 5.19 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P520 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	3	Unknown	Unknown	None	None	

-146-



## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P521 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	13	BB,YP,GS	Acid threat - 5.03 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P522 B	Higby Twin Pond E	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	16	None	Acidified - 4.78 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P523 B	Higby Twin Pond W	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acidified - 4.83 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P524 B	Mud Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	3	None	Acid threat - 5.11 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P525 B	Clear Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	99	ST (Rare)	Acid threat - 5.09 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P526 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	5	None	Acidified - 4.84 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P527 B	Summit Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acidified - 4.80 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P528 B	Witchhopple Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	93	YP,ST,WS,BB, GS	Acid threat - 5.67 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Potential stock
P529 B	Negro Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	119	LT,ST,BB,GS, YP,WS	Satisfactory - 6.06 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout NSA Lake trout	Same
P530 B	Beaverdam Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	52	YP,BB,GS	Acid threat - 5.11 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P531 B	Wilder Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	10	None	Acidified - 4.86 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P534 B	Little Rock Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	50	None	Acidified - 4.75 (82)	1972 DEC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P540 B	Buck Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	7	RbD	Acid threat - 5.73 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Potential stock

DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation, ALSC - Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation, NSA - Natural Spawning Adequate  
Watershed: B - Black, OW - Oswegatchie, R - Raquette River

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - STREAM INVENTORY July 1992

KEY #	STREAM NAME	WATERSHED	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE		MANAGEMENT COMMENTS
					USGS QUAD 15 <sup>a</sup>	(MILES)	
SL-25	Oswegatchie River	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence/ Herkimer	Fine/ Webb/Long Lake	Cranberry Lake	10.0	Stocked: Brook trout (2800 per year)
SL-25-73-26	Middle Branch Oswegatchie River	Oswegatchie	Herkimer	Webb	Number Four	6.0	Acid Impacted
SL-25-101-24	Tamarack Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Oswegatchie	5.0	
SL-25-101-25	Alice Brook	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Oswegatchie	4.5	
SL-25-P309-11	Chair Rock Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Clifton	Cranberry Lake	2.0	
SL-25-P309-12	Six Mile Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Clifton	Cranberry Lake	4.9	
SL-25-P309-18	Dead Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Cranberry Lake	1.3	
SL-25-P309-23	Skate Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Cranberry Lake	1.2	
SL-25-124	Buck Brook	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Cranberry Lake	3.1	
SL-25-128	Glasby Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine/Clifton	Cranberry Lake	3.0	
SL-25-132	Robinson River	Oswegatchie	Herkimer	Webb	Cranberry Lake	5.9	Remote NSA Brook trout, unique genetic strain
ONT-19-40-P493-19-P539-2	Alder Creek	Black	Hamilton	Long Lake	Big Moose	3.5	

## APPENDIX C

CHRONOLOGY OF CRANBERRY LAKE FISHERY

- 1867 First dam completed, raising level of lake.
- 1875 Virgin brook trout fishery similar to "unfrequented parts of Canada" (Vann).
- 1880's Lake becomes famous as the home of large and numerous speckled trout.
- 1895-1900 Stream fishing for speckled trout begins.
- 1905-1915 Town regulations prohibiting stream fishing for trout.
- 1905-1915 Night fishing begins on a perceptible scale.
- 1915 Judge Vann's letter states 20x the number of fishermen are visiting the lakes as in 1895 due to two railroads, a dozen hotels and one hundred cottage owners.
- 1922 Request to Roosevelt Wildlife Station to conduct fisheries survey.
- 1923-1925 Roosevelt Study conducted.
- 1924 Preliminary Roosevelt report issued.
- 1925 Tributary streams except the Oswegatchie River closed to trout fishing.
- 1929 Roosevelt study report issued. 9" size limit and 10 fish creel limit proposed. A more effective warden system proposed to stop late season illegal netting of trout in the Oswegatchie Flow. No other species other than speckled trout should be planted and none should be planted in the lake. In addition to speckled trout the following species were noted; brown bullhead, white sucker, long-nosed sucker, red-bellied minnow, horned dace, common shiner, black-nosed dace, chub minnow, pumpkinseed sunfish and sculpin.
- 1930-1940 Reintroduction of beaver into Adirondacks changes hydrology of Cranberry Lake tributaries. Six Mile Creek had over a dozen beaver dams restricting the movement of spawning speckled trout.

- 1931 Biological survey finds a "fair abundance of large specimens" of speckled trout, although locals claim fishing is poor. Also notes 1925 study says beavers on Oswegatchie destroyed speckled trout spawning beds. Annual stocking policy is 40,000 STF (6:) in lake and tributaries. Brown trout have been taken at Wanakena. In Cranberry Lake the following species and relative abundances were:
- Abundant: Brown bullhead, minnows, white and fine-scaled suckers, common shiner horned dace, pumpkinseed.
- Common: Speckled trout
- Fairly Common: Fine-scaled dace, fathead minnow
- Rare: Lake chub, black-nosed dace, Nachtrieb's minnow, red-bellied dace, golden shiner, Hankinson's minnow, northern sculpin.
- Benthic productivity was moderate: 6 g/m in July and 1 g/m in August. Gut analysis showed:
- Speckled trout: pumpkinseed and common shiner  
 Brown Bullhead: white sucker, insects, crayfish  
 White sucker: zooplankton insects, silt  
 Pumpkinseed: insects, tubificids
- In summary, between 369,300 speckled trout were planted in Cranberry Lake between 1921 and 1930. Also some records as of 1931 of lake trout and whitefish stocking, although none had been caught.
- C. 1935 Outboard motors come into use on Cranberry Lake.
- C. 1940 Use of live bait for taking speckled trout prohibited.
- 1940-1950 Conservation Department attempts to remove beaver dams on several tributaries.
- C. 1945 Yellow perch accidentally introduced into lake from baitfish.
- C. 1950 Speckled trout virtually extinct in the lake. Small trout still found in tributaries and a few ponds.
- 1952 Speckled trout stocking discontinued, 40,000 rainbow trout yearling stocking began.

1955

In May and August netting checks were made to check to relative abundance of brook trout, rainbow trout and yellow perch. Many large yellow perch were caught by anglers in spring along with brook trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon. August gill nets yielded perch, suckers, bullhead and a few rainbow trout. May netting yielded perch, suckers, bullhead with some pumpkinseed, speckled trout, and one each of common shiner, rainbow trout and golden shiner.

## May Trap Nets (1.2m, 1.8m)

yellow perch:	43	pumpkinseed:	6
fine-scaled sucker:	96	common shiner:	8
white sucker:	202	golden shiner:	1
speckled trout:	3	brown bullhead:	25

## May Gill Nets (3, 275m total)

yellow perch:	69	brown bullhead:	59
fine-scaled sucker:	121	rainbow trout:	5
white sucker:	230	pumpkinseed:	4
speckled trout:	6	common shiner:	1
golden shiner:	2		

## August Gill Nets (2, 215m total)

yellow perch:	23
fine-scaled sucker:	4
white sucker:	6

Cranberry Lake Rod and Gun Club wants continuation of rainbow trout stocking but no more speckled trout fingerlings in the lake proper. Abundances reported were:

Abundant:	Yellow perch, fine-scaled sucker
Fairly common:	white sucker, brown bullhead, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, speckled trout, rainbow trout
Present:	Atlantic salmon, creek chub

Stocking policy changed to 20,000 rainbow trout yearlings and 20,000 brown trout yearlings. Recommendation that if trout fishing doesn't improve, smallmouth bass might be stocked.

1959 June gill nets yielded (600m):

brown trout:	3	golden shiner:	149
white sucker:	472	rainbow trout:	7
brown bullhead:	114	fine-scaled sucker:	15
yellow perch:	69	speckled trout:	1
pumpkinseed	23	rock bass:	3

1960-1962 About 80,000-100,00 small mouth bass fry were planted in lake per year. Smallmouth bass adults were present prior to 1960 and the Oswegatchie River was suspected to be the spawning area.

1961 Bag and common seines yielded 8 young of year and some yearling smallmouth, 90 yellow perch yearlings, 70 juvenile pumpkinseed, 2 white sucker yearlings, 20 juvenile creek chub and 50 golden shiner yearlings. On August 10th, a few days previous to stocking, a mortality of several thousand was noted for smallmouth bass fingerlings along shore.

1962 July seining yielded 50 young of year smallmouth bass and 10 juvenile creek chub. Visual observation led observes to believe that the young of year smallmouth (1:) were not entirely from previous days planting because of their presence all around lake. 1966 survey says splake also stocked in 1962 (?).

1963 No stocking of smallmouth bass done. Many young of year noted. A 11 cm smallmouth planted in 1960 had grown to 39 cm when recaptured. Length-age data for smallmouth bass were:

II	25 cm - 29 cm	
III	30 cm - 38 cm	
VI	36 cm - 37 cm	(salvage fish)

Trapnets yielded:

smallmouth bass:	43
white sucker:	118
pumpkinseed:	28
rock bass:	18
brown bullhead:	78
yellow perch:	4

1964 Seining in August yielded young of year and yearlings of smallmouth bass, yellow perch, rock bass, golden shiner, pumpkinseed and banded killifish. Smallmouth bass fingerlings abundant for fourth straight year. Probably original 1960 fingerling planting started spawning this year at age 4. Splake stocked (15,170).

1965 June gill nets yielded:

smallmouth bass:	7
white sucker	102
yellow perch:	70
brown bullhead:	170
golden shiner:	1
fine-scaled sucker:	2
rock bass:	13
pumpkinseed:	10

Thousands of bass fry seen along shore. Large crayfish noted in nets. No splake recaptured.

1966 Six gill nets set in June yielded:

white sucker:	297
fine-scaled sucker:	192
yellow perch:	110
brown bullhead:	24
rainbow smelt:	17

This is the first and last report of smelt (?).

1967 Four trap nets yielded (May):

smallmouth bass:	57
white sucker:	222
fine-scaled sucker:	14
brown bullhead:	68
rock bass:	13
yellow perch:	47
pumpkinseed:	29

No splake trapped, but bass were tagged. Several large bass were taken. 29 were greater than 1 kilogram in weight and 19 were greater than 40 cm. Largest specimen was 48 cm and 2 kilograms.

1968 Bureau of Fish regional personnel recommended splake policy be dropped as of 1969. No more stocking of any game fish.

- 1969 Two gill nets (370m) yielded in June:
- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| yellow perch:       | 12  |
| smallmouth bass:    | 19  |
| brown bullhead:     | 23  |
| white sucker:       | 106 |
| fine-scaled sucker: | 1   |
| pumpkinseed:        | 8   |
| rock bass:          | 16  |
| golden shiner:      | 2   |
- No splake captured. First smallmouth collected for mercury.
- 1972 Hook and line gear in June yielded 24 smallmouth bass. Largest was 40 cm and 823 g. Mercury analysis done.
- 1974 More smallmouth collected for mercury analysis.
- 1975 September gill nets yielded:
- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| white sucker:    | 37 |
| pumpkinseed:     | 9  |
| smallmouth bass: | 12 |
| brown bullhead:  | 10 |
| rock bass:       | 6  |
- More smallmouth collected for mercury analysis.
- 1976 370m of gill net set in July yielded:
- |                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| smallmouth bass: | 40  |
| white sucker:    | 250 |
| yellow perch:    | 5   |
| pumpkinseed:     | 15  |
| rock bass:       | 10  |
- 1978 October gill netting (45 m) yielded abundant white sucker and brown bullhead. Rock bass, pumpkinseed and golden shiner were common with only several small yellow perch and one creek chub. These fish were analyzed for mercury.
- 1979 July gill netting (900 m) yielded abundant white sucker, brown bullhead, six smallmouth bass, five yellow perch and five brook trout. August gill netting (60 m) yielded two white sucker, two rock bass, one pumpkinseed and one smallmouth bass. Six shore seines yielded 3 young of year smallmouth bass, 57 yellow perch of year and yearlings and 10 banded killifish. These fish were analyzed for mercury. This netting represents the first time in twenty years that speckled trout were captured in the lake proper.



This corresponds with anecdotal evidence from anglers that speckled trout have been reappearing in lake spring holes in the last five years.

1979 Bloomfield et al. (1979) documented mercury in fish from Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir. It was hypothesized that the acidity of the watershed is causing an increase in the availability of mercury in the biota. At present there is no specific health advisory regarding human consumption of fish from the lake.

1983 June gill netting (similar in effort to the 1979 work yielded abundant white sucker and brown bullhead, several smallmouth bass from several year classes, few yellow perch and seven brook (speckled) trout.

The brook trout ranged from a very small yearling to over four pounds. This coupled with angler reports of good fishing through the summer in traditional springhole areas suggests a significant brook trout fishery in Cranberry Lake could be developing. Stocking of brook trout is scheduled to continue.

1987 May gill netting survey yielded abundant brown bullhead, white sucker, rock bass and golden shiner. Only 4 brook trout were netted in the effort suggesting poor survival of stocked fish. Smallmouth bass and yellow perch catches were also low at 17 and 31 respectively.

1991 Northern pike reported in Cranberry Lake. Special regulation allowing their harvest at any size and in any number instituted as an attempt to slow the growth of their population.

1992 June electrofishing survey. Ninety-eight smallmouth bass were collected in 3.7 hours of sampling, indicating the population is stable. A moderate density of bass <10 in. suggest the population has made a come-back from declining levels reported in the mid-1970's. Nine largemouth bass were also collected, suggesting their recent introduction into the lake. No northern pike were collected. Rock bass, pumpkinseed and white sucker were also common in the catch.

## CHRONOLOGY OF STILLWATER RESERVOIR FISHERY

1893 Stillwater is a 6,195 acre impoundment of the Beaver River. The purposes for impounding were: Flood control, hydropower production and maintenance of downstream water needs.

Several natural lakes were inundated by the impoundment, namely: Loon, Trout and Big Burnt Lakes.

In the early years of impoundment, a coldwater fishery existed on Stillwater. Up to 40,000 brook trout and lake trout were stocked annually.

1946 Lake trout stocking dropped due to low return.

1952 Rainbow trout stocking policy established (24,000 per year). This yielded poor results.

1963 Brook trout stocking deleted due to widespread establishment of yellow perch in the impoundment. Splake stocking initiated.

1970's Smallmouth bass became established in the impoundment.

1975 Intensive survey efforts over five years concluded splake population restricted to the inundated ponds during periods of summer stratification. This is an area of approximately 160 surface acres. Splake stocking policy was adjusted accordingly.

1979 Bloomfield et al. (1979) documented mercury in fish from Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir. It was hypothesized that the acidity of the watershed is causing an increase in the availability of mercury in the biota. At present a health advisory exists for Stillwater which limits human consumption of splake to one meal per month.

1991 Electrofishing survey in the Big Burnt and Trout Pond area found an excellent smallmouth bass population along with an occasional trout. Current stocking policy stands at 1,500 yearling splake. When available surplus brook trout are also stocked in the reservoir.

## CHRONOLOGY OF BOG RIVER FLOW FISHERY

Early 1900's Upper Lows dam developed, creating 2,895 acre impoundment. The flooding inundated several lakes, including Lows Lake, and Mud, Grass and Tomar Ponds. The impounding also created First, Second and Third Ponds along the Bog River channel just above the dam.

Brook trout and other fish species native to the river and ponds expanded into the impoundment. The brook trout fishery generally maintained itself, but some stocking did occur. Some other species became particularly abundant. It was reported that thousands of pounds of white suckers and shiners were trapped and removed from the flow annually to reduce their numbers.

1985 Access to the flow was acquired by New York State as part of the purchase of 2,000 plus acres of forest preserve.

ALSC surveyed First, Second, Tomar and Grass Ponds. Except for Tomar Pond, all contained brook trout, with Grass Pond yielding the highest catches. White sucker were extra abundant in all waters, with a total of 535 sampled by 13 nets. Common shiner, brown bullhead and pumpkinseed were also very common.

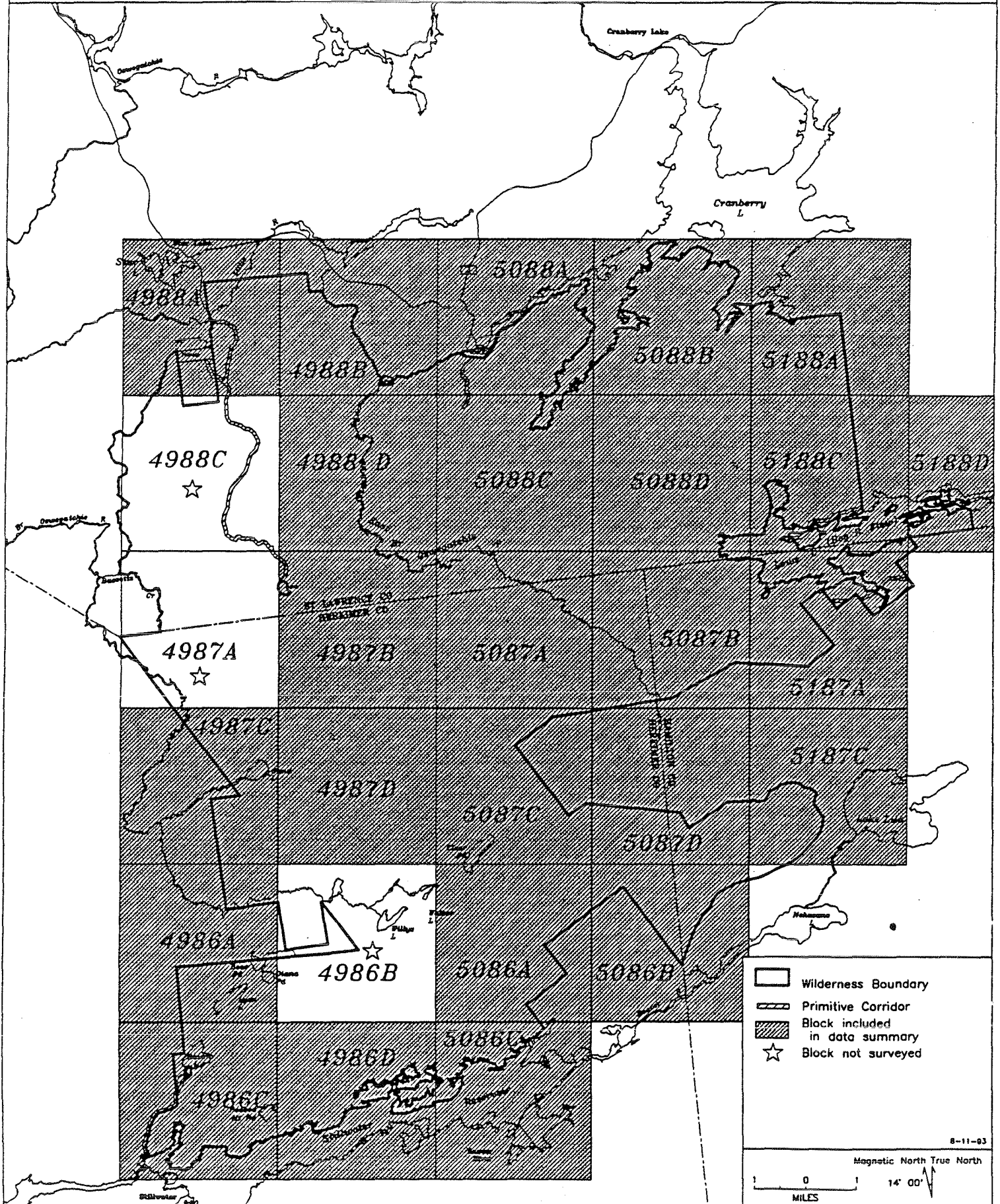
1987 Additional survey effort, focusing on the main impounded area of Lows Lake, led to the conclusion that brook trout inhabit the entire flow at moderate to low densities.

1990 Increased levels of angler effort reported in the flow due to recent public access. 15,000 fall fingerling brook trout (Little Tupper strain) were stocked in both 1988 and 1990 to supplement the low density native stocks.

Largemouth bass reported and confirmed in the flow. A few bass were observed on nests during June near Parker's Island.

1991 High densities of nesting largemouth bass observed.

### FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS KEY



PAGE : 1

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alinorum</i>	0 OF 23	4 OF 23	5 OF 23	9 OF 23
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	4 OF 23	1 OF 23	4 OF 23	9 OF 23
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	4 OF 23	3 OF 23	7 OF 23	14 OF 23
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	5 OF 23	8 OF 23
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	5 OF 23	13 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	10 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	15 OF 23
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	9 OF 23
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	8 OF 23	12 OF 23
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	3 OF 23	3 OF 23	10 OF 23	16 OF 23
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	2 OF 23	4 OF 23	9 OF 23	15 OF 23
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	5 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23	9 OF 23
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	12 OF 23	6 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	9 OF 23	11 OF 23	1 OF 23	21 OF 23
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	5 OF 23	13 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	6 OF 23	9 OF 23	4 OF 23	19 OF 23
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	4 OF 23	10 OF 23	8 OF 23	22 OF 23
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	4 OF 23	4 OF 23
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	5 OF 23	1 OF 23	11 OF 23	17 OF 23
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	4 OF 23	5 OF 23	10 OF 23	19 OF 23
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	6 OF 23
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	2 OF 23	10 OF 23	7 OF 23	19 OF 23
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	2 OF 23	5 OF 23	13 OF 23	20 OF 23
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	4 OF 23	9 OF 23	4 OF 23	17 OF 23
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	2 OF 23	1 OF 23	14 OF 23	17 OF 23
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	4 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23	11 OF 23
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23

PAGE : 2

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	7 OF 23	6 OF 23	4 OF 23	17 OF 23
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	10 OF 23	4 OF 23	1 OF 23	15 OF 23
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	7 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	9 OF 23
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	3 OF 23	8 OF 23
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	6 OF 23	12 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	12 OF 23	5 OF 23	3 OF 23	20 OF 23
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	11 OF 23	15 OF 23
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	3 OF 23	6 OF 23	3 OF 23	12 OF 23
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	3 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	6 OF 23
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	9 OF 23	14 OF 23
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	0 OF 23	9 OF 23	9 OF 23	18 OF 23
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23	9 OF 23
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23	7 OF 23
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	12 OF 23	13 OF 23
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	0 OF 23	7 OF 23	11 OF 23	18 OF 23
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	3 OF 23
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	6 OF 23	5 OF 23	8 OF 23	19 OF 23
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	8 OF 23	7 OF 23	6 OF 23	21 OF 23
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	3 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	6 OF 23
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	7 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	10 OF 23
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	5 OF 23	8 OF 23
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23

PAGE : 3

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	5 OF 23	8 OF 23	7 OF 23	20 OF 23
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	6 OF 23	6 OF 23	4 OF 23	16 OF 23
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	3 OF 23	14 OF 23	4 OF 23	21 OF 23
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	7 OF 23
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	1 OF 23	8 OF 23	8 OF 23	17 OF 23
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23	12 OF 23
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	5 OF 23
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	1 OF 23	14 OF 23	4 OF 23	19 OF 23
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	7 OF 23	10 OF 23
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	1 OF 23	7 OF 23	8 OF 23	16 OF 23
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	4 OF 23	6 OF 23
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	1 OF 23	8 OF 23	11 OF 23	20 OF 23
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	0 OF 23	6 OF 23	12 OF 23	18 OF 23
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	2 OF 23	14 OF 23	5 OF 23	21 OF 23
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	4 OF 23	4 OF 23	15 OF 23	23 OF 23
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	9 OF 23	12 OF 23	1 OF 23	22 OF 23
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	1 OF 23	4 OF 23
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	6 OF 23	6 OF 23
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	2 OF 23	10 OF 23	4 OF 23	16 OF 23
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	5 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23	17 OF 23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	0 OF 23	10 OF 23	4 OF 23	14 OF 23
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	1 OF 23	4 OF 23	10 OF 23	15 OF 23
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	13 OF 23	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	18 OF 23
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	2 OF 23	6 OF 23	5 OF 23	13 OF 23

PAGE : 4

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Javannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	3 OF 23	8 OF 23	10 OF 23	21 OF 23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	5 OF 23
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	3 OF 23	12 OF 23	6 OF 23	21 OF 23
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	7 OF 23	8 OF 23	6 OF 23	21 OF 23
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	6 OF 23	8 OF 23	6 OF 23	20 OF 23
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	3 OF 23	12 OF 23	5 OF 23	20 OF 23
Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	8 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23	20 OF 23
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	4 OF 23	4 OF 23
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	2 OF 23	7 OF 23	8 OF 23	17 OF 23
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	3 OF 23	2 OF 23	6 OF 23	11 OF 23
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	15 OF 23	3 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1 OF 23	14 OF 23	4 OF 23	19 OF 23
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	3 OF 23	1 OF 23	5 OF 23	9 OF 23
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	2 OF 23	7 OF 23
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23	6 OF 23
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	6 OF 23	11 OF 23
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	8 OF 23	6 OF 23	7 OF 23	21 OF 23
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	11 OF 23	9 OF 23	1 OF 23	21 OF 23



Reported Furbearer Take for Five Ponds Wilderness Area  
 Land Area (Square Miles): 165.7  
 Approximate Reported Take

Year	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Fisher	Otter
1958	182	0	0	5	9
1959	0	0	0	8	8
1960	0	0	0	0	6
1961	0	0	0	7	5
1962	0	0	0	6	5
1963	0	0	0	0	4
1964	0	0	0	2	5
1965	7	0	0	10	4
1966	106	0	0	9	5
1967	120	0	0	7	6
1968	151	0	0	9	7
1969	89	0	0	15	5
1970	30	0	0	11	4
1971	62	0	0	14	4
1972	142	0	0	11	5
1973	97	0	0	8	6
1974	113	0	0	13	9
1975	153	0	0	19	9
1976	142	0	0	9	11
1977	74	1	0	0	7
1978	144	3	0	17	9
1979	187	2	11	32	11
1980	114	1	4	12	10
1981	56	1	5	9	7
1982	114	2	6	8	8
1983	82	1	7	0	8
1984	95	1	7	0	6
1985	126	1	4	18	7
1986	123	1	5	9	13
1987	129	3	2	8	9
1988	84	2	3	8	8
1989	98	1	2	5	9
1990	56	1	1	1	3

TOWNS SELECTED FOR FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA

COUNTY	TOWN	PERCENT	AREA (SqMi)
ST LAWRENCE	CLIFTON	21	29.4
ST LAWRENCE	FINE	26	44.6
HERKIMER	WEBB	17	79.2
HAMILTON	LONG LAKE	3	12.5
TOTAL			165.7

## CALCULATED DEER KILL FOR FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA

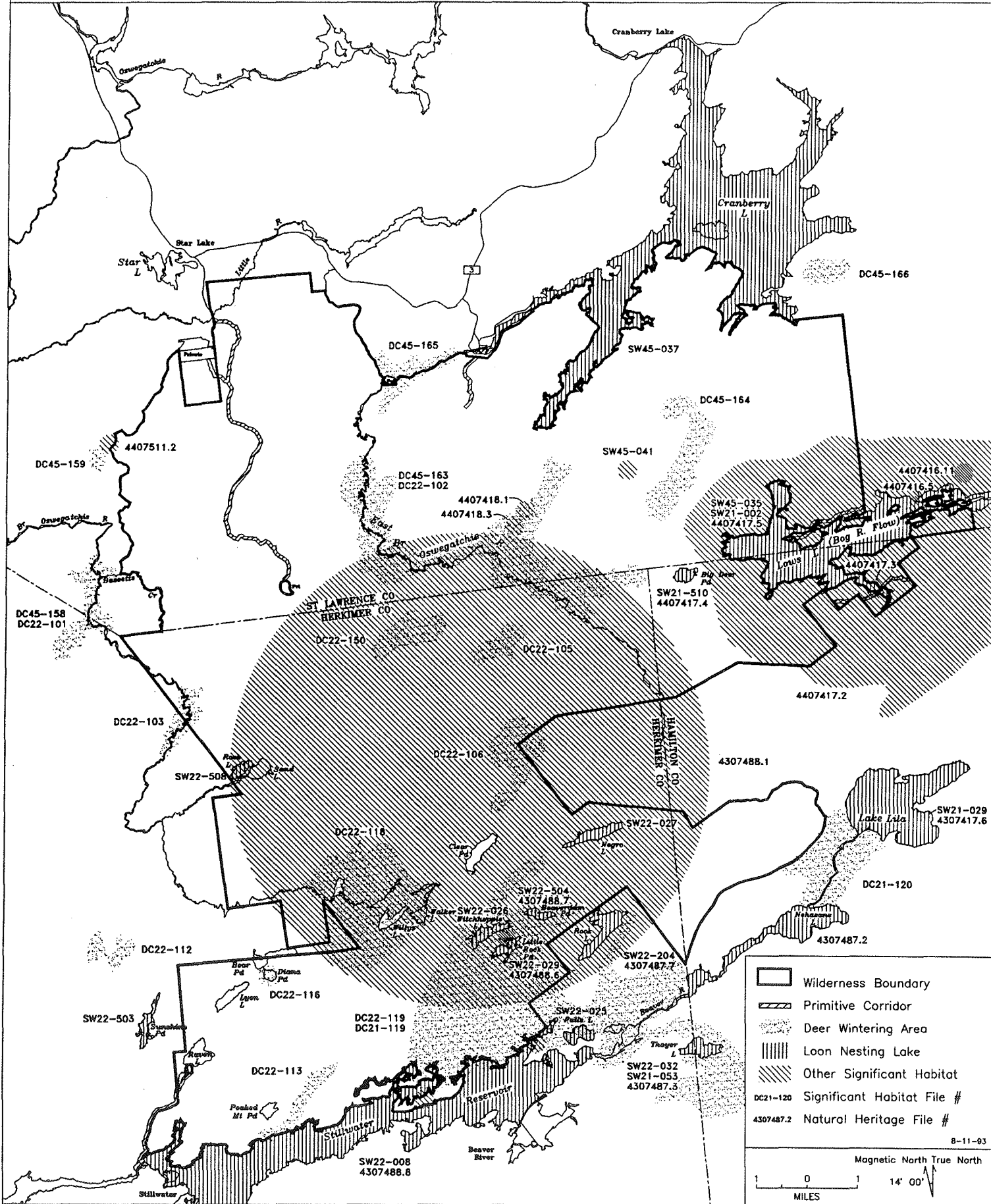
LAND AREA (SQUARE MILES): 165.7

YEAR	APPROXIMATE CALCULATED KILL						TOTAL	AD FEMA/		AD MALE/ SQ MI
	AD MALE	FN MALE	AD FEMA	FN FEMA	AD	MALE		AD	MALE	
1954	371	26	99	24		520	0.27		2.2	
1955	237	0	1	0		238	0.00		1.4	
1956	209	1	0	0		210	0.00		1.3	
1957	253	14	35	13		315	0.14		1.5	
1958	247	8	30	7		292	0.12		1.5	
1959	234	60	180	55		529	0.77		1.4	
1960	221	17	131	15		384	0.59		1.3	
1961	200	31	140	28		399	0.70		1.2	
1962	213	26	148	24		411	0.70		1.3	
1963	200	29	130	27		386	0.65		1.2	
1964	211	28	117	25		381	0.55		1.3	
1965	274	39	156	36		505	0.57		1.7	
1966	250	46	200	42		538	0.80		1.5	
1967	289	52	200	48		589	0.69		1.7	
1968	268	56	203	52		579	0.76		1.6	
1969	175	42	166	38		421	0.95		1.1	
1970	85	14	64	13		176	0.76		0.5	
1971	54	0	0	0		54	0.00		0.3	
1972	72	0	0	0		72	0.00		0.4	
1973	94	0	0	0		94	0.00		0.6	
1974	108	0	0	0		108	0.00		0.7	
1975	132	0	0	0		132	0.00		0.8	
1976	151	0	0	0		151	0.00		0.9	
1977	125	0	1	0		126	0.00		0.8	
1978	98	1	0	0		99	0.00		0.6	
1979	83	1	1	1		86	0.02		0.5	
1980	141	1	2	1		145	0.02		0.9	
1981	147	1	1	1		150	0.01		0.9	
1982	140	3	4	3		150	0.03		0.8	
1983	152	3	4	2		161	0.02		0.9	
1984	182	3	4	2		191	0.02		1.1	
1985	197	4	4	3		208	0.02		1.2	
1986	208	5	7	4		224	0.03		1.3	
1987	198	3	7	2		210	0.03		1.2	
1988	231	4	11	4		250	0.05		1.4	
1989	190	4	12	3		209	0.06		1.1	
1990	171	4	12	3		190	0.07		1.0	
1991	184	6	27	6		223	0.15		1.1	

Ten Year Harvest of Black Bears  
from Towns of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area

TOWN	1991	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	AVG.
Clifton (StLa)	3	5	8	5	9	4	8	8	7	17	7.4
Fine (StLa)	9	9	11	9	13	1	8	3	2	14	7.9
Webb (Herk)	24	24	34	32	27	33	24	18	15	23	25.4
Long Lk (Hami)	28	23	20	43	16	47	17	18	15	40	26.7

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS SIGNIFICANT HABITATS



	Wilderness Boundary
	Primitive Corridor
	Deer Wintering Area
	Loon Nesting Lake
	Other Significant Habitat
	DC21-120 Significant Habitat File #
	4307487.2 Natural Heritage File #

8-11-93

Magnetic North True North

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

MILES

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Although every relevant public comment concerning the November 1993 draft of this plan was considered in the preparation of this edition, the following comments need clarification beyond that which could be incorporated into the text. The replies are offered as a clarification of the reasoning underlying the decisionmaking process and should not be misconstrued as criticism:

History

Appendix A makes interesting reading, but it provides no more useful information than any other historical report may have. It should be deleted from the report completely.

Reply. We know of no other historical account of this area which contains as much information on this area as it appeared following its greatest period of human intervention. First person accounts are a valuable tool in determining forest history which is an essential component of rational decisionmaking.

Area Expansion

Has a merger of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area with this area been considered?

Reply: The department is studying the relationship of all adjacent areas with the Five Ponds Wilderness Area as component parts of the Oswegatchie Great Forest. This merger will be considered in that study.

High Falls Loop Relocation

Moving the trail will only create an additional trail in the wilderness area.

Reply: The intent is to provide a maintained trail which will be on dry, maintainable ground to eliminate the need for unnecessary bridges and drytread. The abandoned trail section will then revert to the status of a path.

Pond Liming

Some management activities (eg. unnatural influences such as pond liming), are contrary to SLMP guidelines for wilderness.

Reply: Natural resource management in NYS wilderness, primitive and canoe areas has a strong foundation in law, policy,

tradition and resource planning. Relative to fish and wildlife, the purpose of such management, as set by law for Forest Preserve lands, is to 'foster the wild Adirondack environment and all the flora and fauna historically associated there with' and the encouragement of 'indigenous species presently restricted in numbers'. Often management in wilderness involves unnatural activities (eg. pond liming) which are perceived as an intrusion on the natural setting. Where needed and justified, however, their application is essential to achieve goals. Where acidification (via acid rain or other environmental stress) has resulted in notable losses of historic Adirondack fish fauna (eg. brook trout and associated fish species), liming is needed to restore degraded habitat to a more natural condition where reestablished fish populations can survive. This plan calls for liming, as a mitigation measure, a limited number of degraded (presently fish-less) wilderness waters for the purpose of restoring a self-sustaining populations of heritage strain Adirondack brook trout. These actions, conducted in accordance with department policies and regulations, are permissible management as established by the State Land Master Plan. (See further Appendix C - Organizational and Delegation Memorandum #91-31 Policy Fishery Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas).

#### New Trail

A foot trail linking Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir (Sand Lake to Raven Lake Primitive Corridor) would be a great recreational resource.

Reply: The following considerations would have to be addressed:

1. The trail would represent a major incursion through zone C which is a trailless area managed for persons in user group three (Section III Management and Policy).
2. It would be dependent on the Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge (Section IV, I8).
3. Long term maintenance responsibility for the bridge over the Beaver River would have to be assumed if foot access to the hamlet of Stillwater is the goal. (Section IV, I12)
4. It would be very difficult to maintain.

#### Extirpated Species

Efforts should continue to re-introduce species to their historic ranges in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The 1983

Citizens Advisory Committee called for a comprehensive plan for the re-introduction, management and control of the moose, lynx, peregrine falcon, eastern timber wolf, eastern cougar, wolverine and pine marten. At a minimum a feasibility plan should be developed for re-introducing those species which have not returned to the area.

Reply: The species listed in whole or part have been addressed, studied, or discussed previously for the Adirondack Eco-System. Animal species do not recognize the boundaries of wilderness areas or wild forest and will move about freely until they find their niche, therefore any programs for reintroduction would need to be addressed over a much bigger area, such as the entire Adirondack Park.

Comments on the following pertain to the species listed.

Moose has already been extensively examined through the public meeting and Environmental Impact Review process. The conclusion reached after extensive review and public input was to increase monitoring of the moose that come in on their own and not pursue an active reintroduction program.

Lynx Attempts at restoration have been carried out by SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in the high peaks of the Adirondacks during the early 1990's. At this point it does not appear that any successful reproduction or establishment of a self-sustaining population has occurred. Wide ranging dead lynx were reported as far away as Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

Peregrine Falcon has already been reintroduced into the high peaks region of the Adirondacks which probably contains the best habitat. I feel that if suitable habitat existed within the Five Ponds -- it will eventually be chosen by natural selection.

Eastern Timber Wolf The question of reintroduction of carnivores into NYS was examined back in the early 1980's. Fish and Wildlife Director Ken Wich's January 1981 letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in summary stated:

"Before more intensified biological studies are undertaken, it would be appropriate to conduct a public attitude survey concerning large carnivores and their possible restoration to NYS...In Summary, it is presently felt that a program to restore the puma to NYS would have a greater chance of succeeding than a similar program for the wolf.

Dr. Robert E. Henshaw in 1979 examined the question, "Can the wolf be returned to New York?" In part his conclusions stated: "...There is little public acceptance of canids in the Adirondack Park now."

In 1980 development of a policy statement on the potential restoration of the timber wolf in NY State identified five questions that must be answered before any re-establishment efforts be attempted in New York:

1. Does sufficient habitat with an adequate prey base exist in the Adirondacks?
2. Is replacement of the coyote, or addition of a second large canid predator desirable?
3. How will livestock depredations be handled?
4. What are public attitudes and how can they be brought to bear as a positive force for wolf re-establishment?
5. Will a wolf population be able to successfully establish itself given the presence of eastern coyotes?

Answers to these questions will require a public attitude survey, extensive habitat analysis, publicity campaigns, and a research project on the eastern coyote in New York. Only then can it be decided if the timber wolf could, or should be returned to New York State.

Eastern Cougar I do not believe that there is any self-sustaining remnant population of cougars in the Adirondacks. The mirage of scattered sitings over the last decade more than likely can be attributed to intentional releases or escapes from captivity. The recent 3-month-old cougar kitten shot by a bobcat hunter in Saratoga County showed a tooth wear pattern and wear on the pads of the feet which would indicate it has been in captivity and then released.

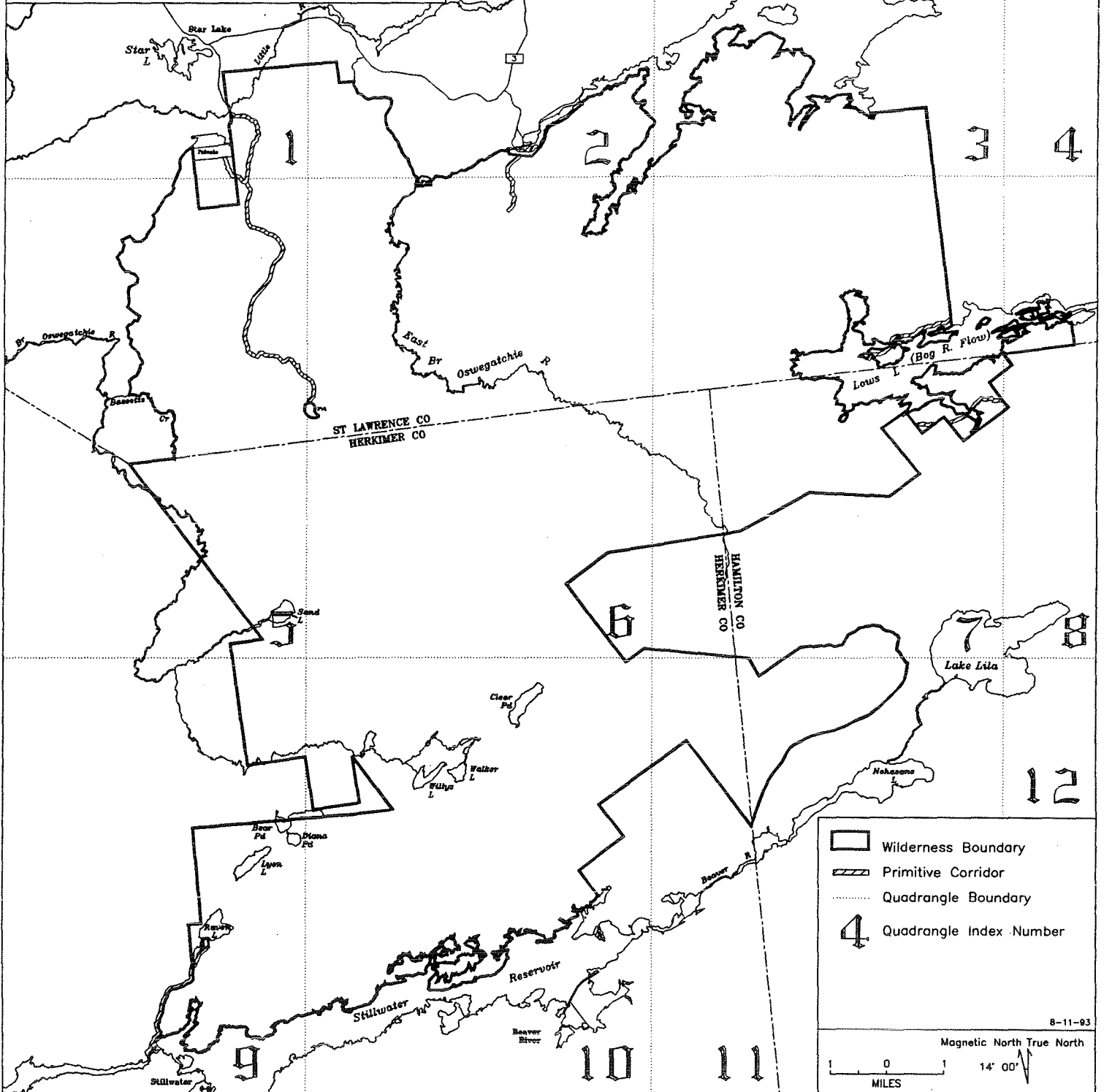
Wolverine I do not believe historically every occurred in Adirondacks and should be dropped from consideration.

Pine Martin already exists and given a sufficient red squirrel and rodent population will expand its range when conditions are right for it.

Rainer Brocke, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, has feasibility studies on the reintroduction of extirpated species including the cougar, into the Adirondack Park. If the St. Lawrence County EMC would like a copy of that study it can be obtained directly by contacting the Huntington Forest at Newcomb.

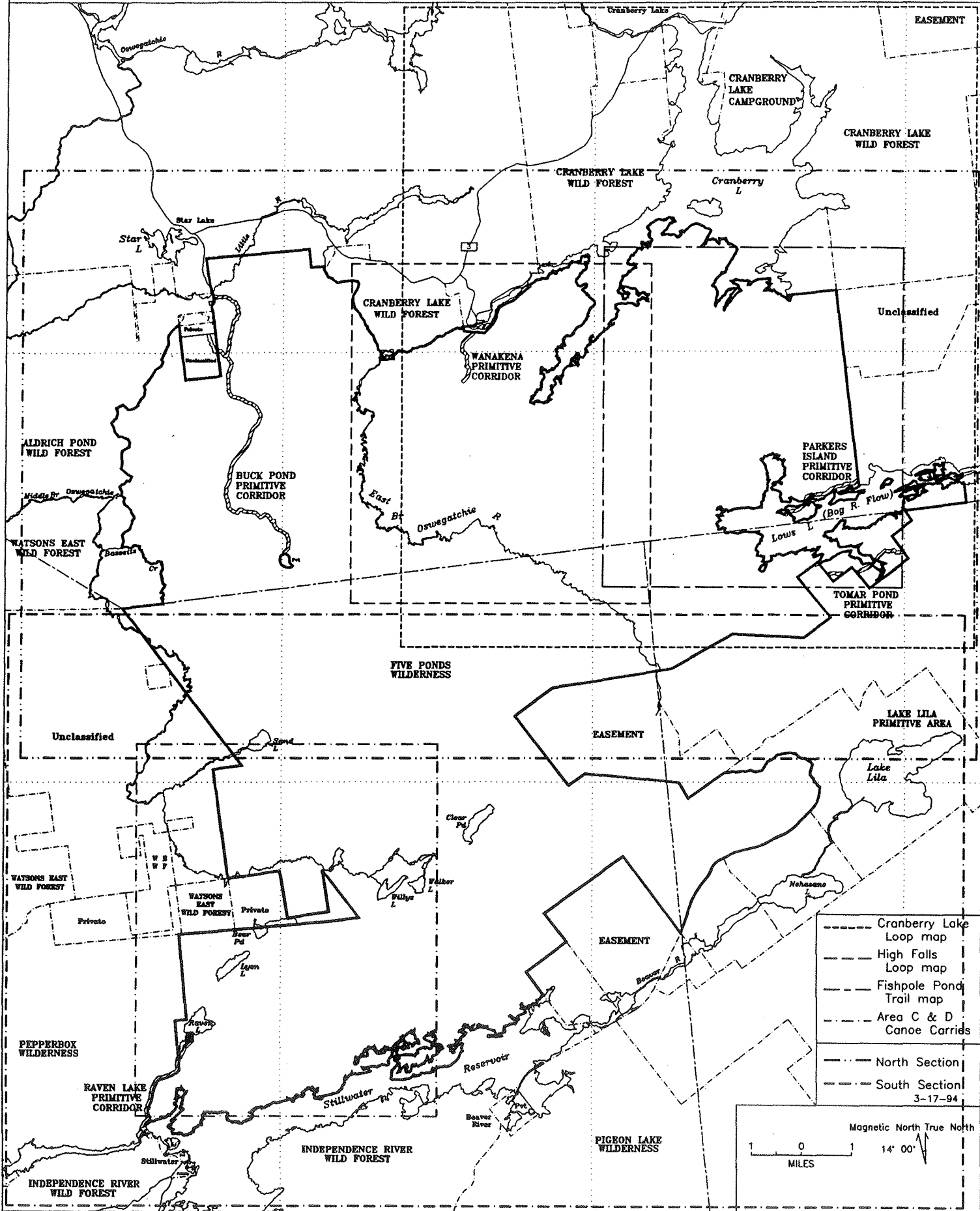
# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP INDEX

Index #	USGS 7.5' x 15' 1:25,000	USGS 15' 1:62,500	USGS 7.5' 1:24,000	NYS DOT 7.5' 1:24,000
1	-----	-----	Oswegatchie	Oswegatchie
2	-----	-----	Newton Falls	Newton Falls
3	-----	-----	Cranberry Lake	Cranberry Lake
4	Piercefield	Tupper Lake	-----	Long Tom Mt.
5	-----	-----	Oswegatchie SE	Oswegatchie SE
6	-----	-----	Five Ponds	Five Ponds
7	-----	-----	Wolf Mountain	Wolf Mountain
8	Little Tupper L	Tupper Lake	-----	Sabattis
9	Stillwater	Number Four	-----	Stillwater
10	Beaver River	Big Moose	-----	Beaver River
11	Beaver River	Big Moose	-----	Nehasone Lake
12	Forked Lake	Raquette L	-----	Brandreth Lake





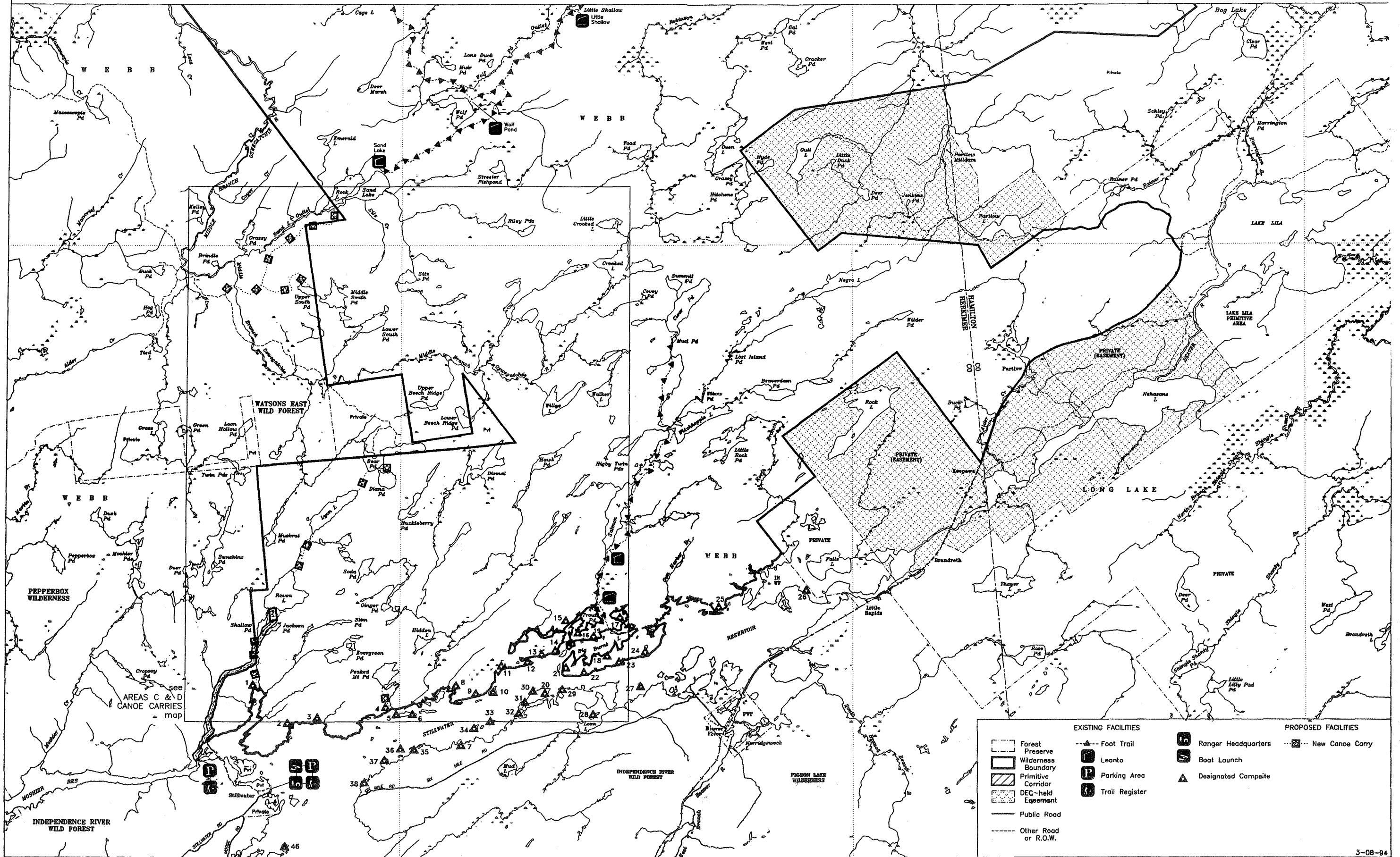
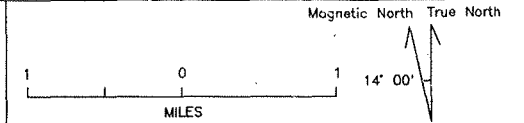
# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS MAP SECTIONS





# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS (South Section)

# FACILITIES PROPOSALS

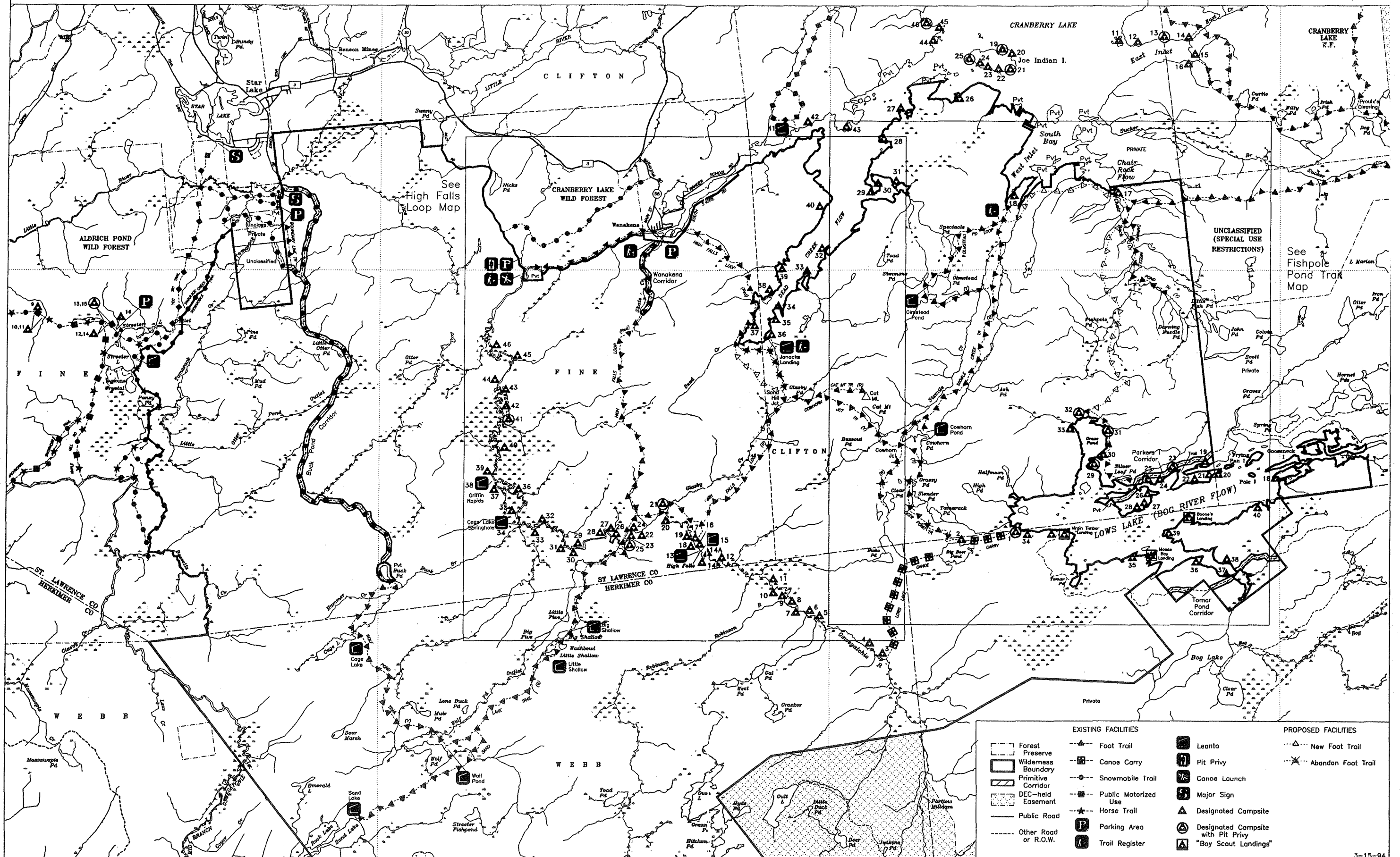
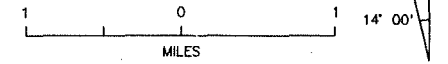


EXISTING FACILITIES		PROPOSED FACILITIES	
	Forest Preserve Boundary		Ranger Headquarters
	Wilderness Boundary		Boat Launch
	Primitive Corridor		Designated Campsite
	DEC-held Easement		Parking Area
	Public Road		Trail Register
	Other Road or R.O.W.		New Canoe Carry
	Foot Trail		

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS (North Section)

# FACILITIES PROPOSALS

Magnetic North True North



EXISTING FACILITIES		PROPOSED FACILITIES	
Forest Preserve	Foot Trail	Leanto	New Foot Trail
Wilderness Boundary	Canoe Carry	Pit Privy	Abandon Foot Trail
Primitive Corridor	Snowmobile Trail	Canoe Launch	
DEC-held Easement	Public Motorized Use	Major Sign	
Public Road	Horse Trail	Designated Campsite	
Other Road or R.O.W.	Parking Area	Designated Campsite with Pit Privy	
	Trail Register	"Boy Scout Landings"	