

BUREAU OF  
FOREST PRESERVE  
MANAGEMENT

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# INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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October 1986



INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

New York State / Department of Environmental Conservation

Mario Cuomo  
Governor

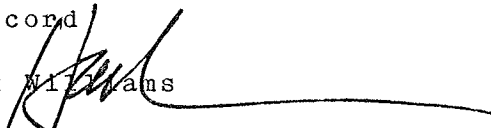
Henry G. Williams  
Commissioner





MEMORANDUM FROM  
**HENRY G. WILLIAMS**, *Commissioner*  
New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

OCT 20 1986

TO: The Record  
FROM: Hank Williams   
SUBJECT: Unit Management Plan  
Independence River Wild Forest

The final Unit Management Plan for the Independence River Wild Forest, which has been developed in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, is consistent with guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack State Land Master Plan, involved citizens participation, is consistent with the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, rules, regulations and policy, and projects stated management objectives of such area for a five-year period, accordingly is hereby approved and adopted.

cc: Mr. Marsh



## Independence River

### Wild Forest

#### Unit Management Plan

The Independence River, once the facilitator of great log drives, now the provider of a sense of tranquility, forms the axis of this unit. The forests, perched north and south, work silently to recapture a natural balance, after two centuries of man's consumptive intrusions.

Task Force Leader:

Scott K. Gray III, Lowville

Region 6 Staff Contributors:

R. Van Wie, Operations

J. Manion, Lands & Forests

T. Perkins, Lands & Forests

E. Smith, Wildlife

W. Gordon, Fisheries



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## INTRODUCTION-GENESIS

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 but among its major recommendations were:

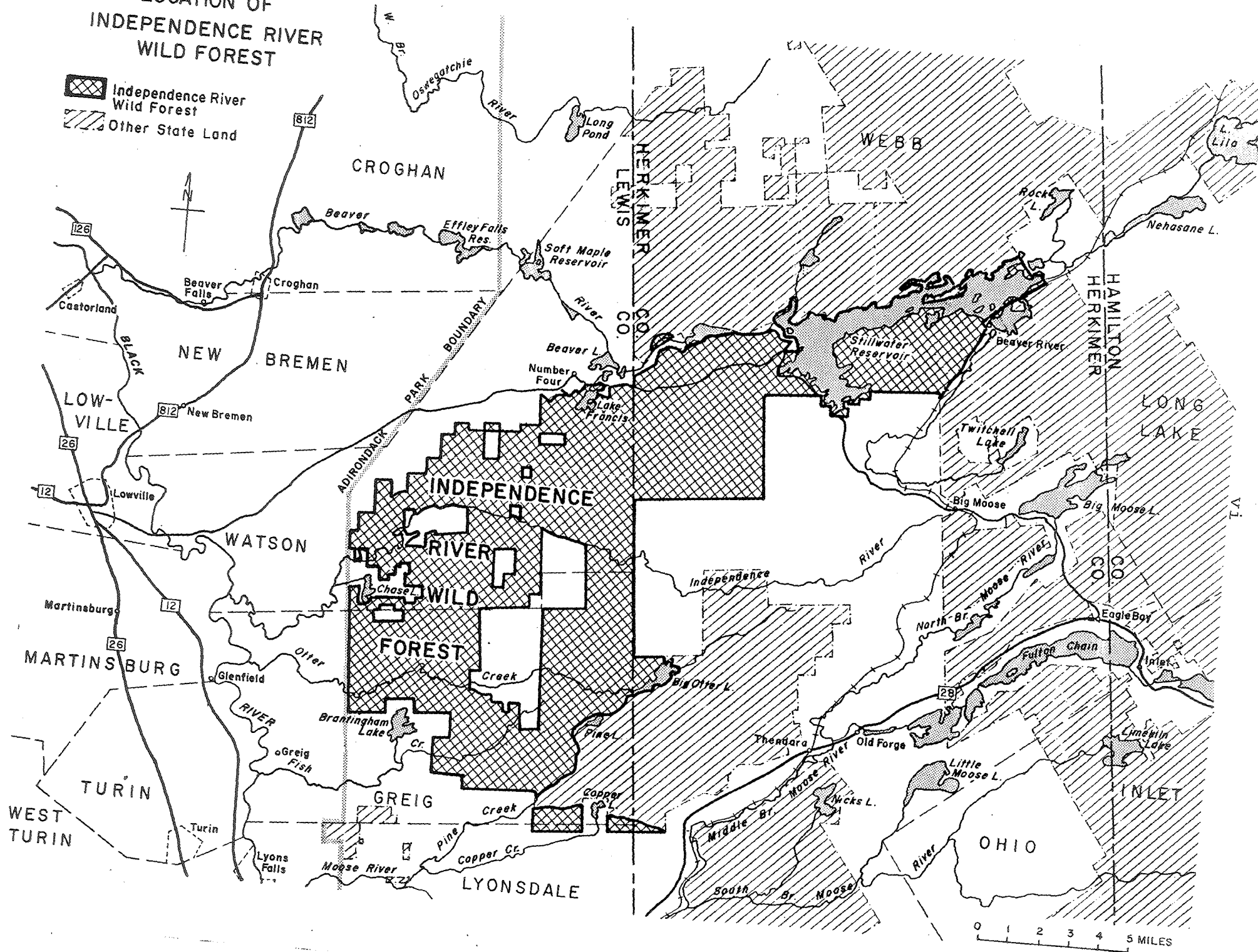
- The creation of the Adirondack Park Agency;
- The preparation of a Master Plan for State-owned lands by the Agency;
- The classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use", and
- A set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody and control of State-owned lands under the Master Plan with particular 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. The Independence River Unit Plan has been prepared by the NYSDEC with the Adirondack State Land Master Plan setting the parameters and local citizens providing additional review.

# LOCATION OF INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST

 Independence River  
Wild Forest  
 Other State Land



Independence River  
Wild Forest  
Unit Management Plan

**I. Introduction**

**A. Area Description**

**1. General Location**

The Independence River Wild Forest is described as that Western Adirondack Forest Preserve acreage lying north of New York State Route 28 and south of the Beaver River. It touches the Adirondack Park Boundary on the west and sprawls 25 miles easterly to the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area bordering on the Stillwater Reservoir. Included are lands in Watson's West Triangle, Brantingham Tract, Macomb's Purchase, and John Brown's Tract, encompassing both Lewis and Herkimer Counties. U.S.G.S. 15½ minute quadrangle maps required to cover this unit are: Big Moose, Lowville, Mc Keever, Number Four and Port Leyden.

**Bounded by:**

North: Number 4 Road; Beaver River; Stillwater Reservoir;  
West: Exterior Forest Preserve Boundaries in the Towns of Greig, Lyonsdale and Watson; and Adirondack Park Boundary.  
South: Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Area; East: Railroad Tract from Big Moose to Beaver River Station, International Paper Company lands.

## 2. Acreage

### Lewis County

Town of Watson	26,157.32
Town of Greig	25,598.95
Town of Lyonsdale	256.00

### Herkimer County

Town of Webb	<u>21,545.00</u>
Grand Total	73,557.27 acres

The westerly two-thirds of the area is heavily checkerboarded with private land, with approximately 12,000 acres being totally surrounded or bordered on three sides by State lands.

## B. History

Acquisition of lands in this Unit in Lewis County began in 1882 with the transfer of title through tax sale of 48 acres in Lot 240 in the Town of Watson. The Copper Lake Tract was purchased in 1919 and the bulk of the land area was added to the Preserve in the 1950's and later. The Herkimer County parcels were acquired in four transactions beginning with the easterly portion in 1896, from William S. Webb,; the Reservoir impoundment was appropriated in 1898 and two other large parcels were acquired from the Fisher Forestry and Realty Company in 1931 and 1958. See Section VIII for a map showing acquisition by tracts.

The entire area has an extensive history of logging which occurred around the turn of the century. High-grading practices led to a preponderance of beech and a scarcity of hemlock, still apparent in the residual stands. Logs were floated down the Beaver River to one of the largest mills in New York State in 1899 located in Castorland, New York, just outside the Park boundary. Railroad main lines and spurs known as the Glenfield and Eastern were built by Keystone Chemical Company in 1928 to transport pulp and logs from the Brantingham Lake area and tied the southwestern portion of the Independence River Unit to a huge band mill in Glenfield. A number of mills were located within the Unit itself, including one on the Steam Mill Road and one at Beaches Mill Pond.

It is interesting that the Stillwater Reservoir impoundment is related to the need to regulate water in the Black River for canal purposes. In 1851 a study commission concluded that the Reservoir was needed to maintain a constant flow of water throughout the prime travel route of the Black River Canal system.

In 1881 a law was passed authorizing the impoundment "To restore the Black River its natural supply of water". The autumn of 1887 ushered in the completion of the first dam which, in the spring of 1888, inundated some 1,594 acres of William Seward Webb's land. An 1892 piece of legislation authorized the raising of the dam five feet and the work was finished in 1893.

At this time, W. S. Webb filed a lawsuit claiming that the impoundment had isolated some 66,000 acres of land making it unavailable for timber harvest. The suit eventually resulted in the largest acquisition and addition to the Forest Preserve ever made; some 47,326 acres of unharvested land were acquired from Webb in 1896.

On May 7, 1919 the Black River Regulating District was created as a unit under the Superintendent of Public Works and this unit soon finalized plans to enlarge the Reservoir again. Work resumed in 1923 and was completed in 1925 raising the dam another 19 feet to the current elevation of 1,679.3 feet. This flooded an additional 2,957.84 acres, bringing the total water area to 6,700 acres.

The dam is currently under the control of the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation through its combined regulating district created in 1959 - The Board of the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District. Pursuant to

Environmental Conservation Law 15-1507, since 1925 the District has paid rent on lands inundated to the 1660.3 foot elevation (3,092 acres valued at \$8 per acre and rented annually at 6% of value or \$1,484.16) and has paid taxes on the land between 1660.3 and 1679.3 (3,364.5 acres.)

A 1891 map of the "Great Forest" depicting the proposed Adirondack Park shows denuded and burned areas at Stillwater, Sunday Creek, Francis Lake, Burnt Creek, Otter Creek, and the north shore of Big Otter Lake. A number of large fires occurred in the southern third of the area in the early 1900's, changing species composition and creating a variation of forest types within the Unit. The Dutch elm disease was responsible for nearly eliminating elm from this Unit.

The Otter Creek area in the eastern part of the Town of Greig once supported a spruce sawmill owned by Alfred Dolges, employing up to 20 men and producing fine quality piano sounding boards and flooring. Below that mill was a second sawmill owned by Charles Partridge. Further downstream a tannery, 350 feet long, owned by the Botchford brothers, utilized 4,000 cords of bark per year. The bark mill went out of business in 1889 due to a dwindling supply of hemlock bark. Species composition was altered as northern hardwoods and spruce-fir replaced much of the hemlock component. Otter Creek was also the scene of early river log and pulp drives with the first driving dam at Big Otter Lake. A second hemlock tannery mill was located on the Chases Lake outlet in

1871, and sawmills could be found at Sperryville and the outlet of Francis Lake. Before the turn of the century, spruce gum was sought after by "pickers". Hough's History (4) recites pickers coming out of the woods in 1887 with 25 to 100 lbs. of gum. A hotel was built on the north shore of Big Otter Lake in the late 1800's and visitors were brought in from Glenfield by stagecoach.

The Number Four area in the Town of Watson, was an early concentration point for "sports" who came into the Beaver Lake resort area for summer camping, fishing and hunting. Clarence Fisher, a well known lumberman and landowner, held large tracts of land in this area and later conveyed two large parcels in Lewis County to New York State as additions to the Forest Preserve. The most recent significant conveyance from the Fisher Estate included most of Francis Lake, one of the most scenic lakes in Lewis County.

The hamlet of Beaver River on the northeasterly bounds of this unit is unique and it has been inaccessible by road since the construction of the Stillwater Dam. Access at present is by barge or boat from the hamlet of Stillwater. Noridgewock IV Hotel and the old Railroad Station and connection rail-line, are part of the local atmosphere of this remote and secluded corner of the Unit. The line was originally built before 1900 by Dr. William Seward Webb of Nehasane Park. It was once known as "The Golden Chariot Route" because it hauled private cars for vacationing millionaires en route



to their Adirondack "Camps". It became the Adirondack Division of New York Central, which dropped passenger service in 1965.

When Penn Central abandoned the line in 1972, New York State took over the trackage. Adirondack Railway Company proposed a plan to operate it as a tourist line and in 1977 was granted a 30-year lease. Extensive rehabilitation was followed by its debut in the fall of 1979, with a limited number of runs including transportation to the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid. The lease has since been reviewed by the Department of Transportation and the line is once again idle. If the lease is cancelled, DEC will acquire the right-of-way and evaluate its possible recreational uses.

There are two interesting survey markers located near jeep roads, or trails, making them quite accessible. The first is a County line marker on the Herkimer-Lewis boundary, just north of Big Otter Lake on the north edge of the jeep trail leading to the Old Hotel site. It reads: 1899, Number 18, 7.40 miles. The second monument is located approximately 400 feet east of the flow road leading from Grassy Point to Beaver River Station. Carved into a large boulder is found the following: 1878 Station Mark 38A, T&C (Totten and Crossfield line) V.C. (Verplank Colvin - reknowned Adirondack Surveyor).

## II. Resource and Public Use Inventory Overview

### A. Natural Resources

#### 1. Physical

a. Geology - Old precambrian sedimentary rocks now called the Grenville series were uplifted by massive batholithic intrusions of granites and syenitic gneisses. Subsequent erosion cycles have left almost entirely igneous material; Grenville remnants occur now as metamorphosed marble schist and quartzite, with complex rocks at the igneous contacts. The entire area has been glaciated leaving a mantle of relatively coarse non-calcareous till and outwash. These deposits have greatly altered the pre-glacial drainage and formed numerous lakes and swamps.(2)

Some detailed geological data (see Appendix C) was gathered in anticipation of the installation of a dam at Sperryville before the land was acquired as an addition to the Forest Preserve.

The glacial ponds are common in the westerly third of the area where sands were deposited many centuries ago in the bottom of glacial lakes. Bedrock outcroppings are more common in the Panther Pond, Fourth Creek areas and along the southeasterly border of the unit.

Mineral potential is lacking in the entire area. The granites are not generally susceptible to weathering and consequent release of nutrients.

**b. Soils** - Soils in this area are characterized by Colton Sands on the west border, with the predominant type being Herman-Becket-Ridgebury in the interior portions.(2) There are also pockets of peat, occasional Rockland and scattered shallow areas of gneiss and granite. Some of the sands were cleared for farming and later abandoned. See Appendix D for Soils Map.

Soils may be grouped into the following major components in descending order of occurrence:

- 1) Herman Becket-Ridgebury soils, sometimes deep soils in glacial till. In a belt extending along the Lewis-Herkimer County line, a layer of silt 6" to two feet thick covers coarse, loamy to sandy till like that of the Becket. Most of the central portion of this unit is composed of this soil - approximately 65%. These soils are not suited to heavy traffic without capital expenditures.
- 2) Adams Colton droughty sands predominate along the westerly border covering approximately 20% of the area. These sands characterize areas that were cleared for agriculture and abandoned when winds removed the topsoil, leaving large areas of depleted subsoils

severely lacking in potassium and nitrogen. The well-drained nature of these soils makes them adaptable to heavier useage without significant deterioration. However, once the vegetative cover is removed, they are slow to revegetate except where spirea roots are present. Numerous jeep trails occur on these soils.

3) Rock outcrop areas are present on the easterly bounds of the unit and comprise approximately 10% of the area.

4) There are limited pockets of peat and shallow areas of gneiss and granite which comprise the final 5% of the unit.

c. Terrain - Hough's History (4) describes this area as "The eastern slopes appear rising by insensible degrees until lost in the blue level range of the forests of Herkimer County." These Adirondack foothills range in elevation from 1,100 feet in the Brantingham Lake area on the west to 2,300 feet south of the Stillwater Reservoir on the east. The sand barren areas near Chases Lake, with level expanses and numerous frost pockets, clothed in splashes of spirea brush, provide a unique contrast to more typical hardwood forests to the east. Numerous small ponds dot the western quarter while large wetlands and beaver impoundments inundate parts of the central area. While there are no "mountains" to climb, the rapidly changing land forms make this a singularly interesting area for the hiker.

d. Water - This unit contains an abundance of water resources. Over 80 individual ponds and lakes, ranging from less than 1/2 acre to 6,200 acres provide a wide range of aquatic environments. From the fisheries standpoint, 35 waters listed in Appendix F-2 are considered either significant fishing waters, potential fishing waters or officially numbered aquatic habitats which do not currently include fishable populations of game or pan fish. There are about 125 miles of streams in this unit of which 25 streams (100.1 miles) are significant fisheries. Rainfall averages 25" to 30" per year throughout the unit.

The largest aquatic feature of this wild forest is the Stillwater Reservoir, which is nine miles long, two miles wide and has 70 miles of shoreline. The reservoir covers almost 6,200 acres when full and is a major water control facility for the Black River system. Severe variation in water level, from full pool in spring to maximum drawdown in fall, are annual occurrences. Despite this, in recent years, the reservoir has sustained increasingly heavy use year round.

Francis Lake, in Lewis County, and Big Otter Lake, in Herkimer County, are the only other large lakes within the unit.

Chemical conditions are generally satisfactory in most waters to support a fishery although low pH is becoming more

significant as the acid precipitation problem continues to exert its influence. This is especially true in areas of carbonate-poor geology, where low alkalinities render waters more sensitive to acid ion inputs. See Appendix I for detailed pH data by specific waters.

A 1980 report by Bloomfield et.al. (11) warns that Stillwater Reservoir fish at the higher trophic levels, particularly small mouth bass and splake, have yielded elevated levels of mercury. "Small mouth bass in Stillwater Reservoir display a slightly greater increase in mercury accumulation with age compared to Cranberry Lake." (The other Adirondack water with higher than average mercury levels.) "More mercury may be available to the fish in Stillwater Reservoir via food composition or increased mercury availability in the environment." Related to this is the "Health Advisory" inside the cover of the 1983-84 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fish, Small Game Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide which advises "eat no more than one meal per month" of splake.

During the summer of 1984 the Department of Health Utica Office, tested the water near the boat launch site, Rock Island, Big Burnt Lake, Little Rapids and others. The report indicates there are no serious problems but advised boiling all drinking water. The water is safe for swimming. There is no quality data available of other waters within the unit with the exception of pH values.

e. Wetlands - Wetlands occur throughout the unit.

They are inventoried, mapped and protected under the 1975 NYS Fresh Water Wetlands Act by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. The inventory for this area was completed in 1983 and is reflected on detailed 7½ minute quad. centered photos (APA 1924). Tentative and final wetland maps and related hearings are not anticipated before FY 1986-87 for this area.

The recent APA inventory using the Cowardin National Wetlands Inventory and Classification portrays information useful in describing the wetland cover types and hydrological regimes. This information can be used to assess general wetland values which also depend on other information such as wildlife use, rare plant species, fish spawning, etc. 1:80,000 scale black and white panchromatic photo reproductions of the following maps cover this unit: Soft Maple, Stillwater, Big Moose, #4, Stillwater Mt. , Copper Lake and Beaver River.

The cove wetlands identified by the Adirondack Park Agency and Cornell in 1973 based on 1968 photography, are generally found in relationship to major drainages including Fish Creek, Little Otter Creek, Crooked Creek, Upper Chases Inlet, Sunday Lake, Lizzard Springs Brook, Mud Lake and Big Creek. Perhaps the largest conglomeration of wetlands interspersed with small oases of uplands, occurs in the relatively remote area between

Stoney Lake and Burnt Creek. It is here that overland travel is made difficult due to the profuse interspersion of wetlands supplemented by heavy beaver activity.

Second Creek, Pine Creek, Mike's Pond, Beaver Meadow Creek and Burnt Creek all contribute to this considerable juxtaposition of wetland forms. These wetlands are important and beneficial to wildlife as they present a break in the solid forest cover and provide nesting sites for waterfowl and furbearers.

## 2. Biological

a. Vegetation - There is a unique change in vegetative types as one proceeds from the western edges of this unit, easterly into the interior (Appendix G). The Colton Sands which predominate the area north of Otter Creek and west of Half Moon Lake, Fish Pond and Partridgeville, display



remnants of agricultural activity and fire. As a result of both, large acreages of open spirea with occasional aspen, black cherry, pin cherry and shadbush (about 10% of the unit) present a contrast to the vegetative forms found deeper in the interior. Pioneer species, especially red maple, white pine, big tooth and trembling aspen, dominate the forest cover on the Colton Sands. Small ponds are bordered with red spruce, balsam fir and tamarack, with occasional black spruce being found in the natural bogs. Much of the level sands were predominantly white pine. The balance of the unit is more typically Adirondack. Northern hardwoods, primarily beech, sugar maple and yellow birch dominate the forest. Black cherry and red maple are also abundant while lesser quantities of basswood, white ash and hemlock are present. The drainages and wetlands contain masses of common alder often in association with red spruce, balsam fir, black spruce, tamarack and white pine. Gray birch is found scattered in the western third of the unit, and striped maple, although representing little volume, is common throughout. (Appendix G.)

The former New York State champion balsam fir is located in this unit, adjacent to the Beach Mill Pond Foot Trail at its intersection with Nickel Creek. In 1976, it measured 6'8" in circumference at breast height and 96' tall.

Lesser vegetation commonly found includes witch hopple viburnum, evergreen wood fern, Christmas fern, red stemmed dogwood, bracken fern, wild raisin, winterberry and lowbush blueberry. Wetlands shrubs include leather leaf, Labrador tea, sheep laurel, and pinkster.

Vegetation is affected by a relatively short growing season of only 120 days. Growth is extremely slow in the once-cleared sand plains where poor air drainage creates numerous frost pockets, which stymie nearly all vegetation except spirea.

**b. Wildlife** - Principal species in the unit include the white-tailed deer, black bear, snowshoe hare, eastern coyote, bobcat, beaver, muskrat, fisher, otter, mink, ruffed grouse and raccoon (See Appendix H-2). Conditions for high deer populations are better than usual for the Central Adirondacks, particularly in the western portion of the Independence River Wild Forest unit. This is due to fairly low elevations, moderate snowfall and juxtaposition with nearby logged lands outside of the Forest Preserve. Important deer wintering areas occur within the unit in association with softwood cover (see Appendix H). Undoubtedly, the greatest public use of the unit is by deer and bear hunters and those seeking trout. Their higher success levels continue to be related to the ease of accessibility from key Forest Preserve access roads.

No known endangered species occur within the unit. Only the pine marten appears to be rare, of those animals associated with the Adirondacks, although suitable habitat is present. Black ducks and wood ducks nest throughout the area and geese are common during migration periods. Loons nest at Stillwater Reservoir, Francis Lake, Stoney Lake, Big and Little Otter Lakes. Although Stillwater Reservoir has the largest number of nesting loons in the Adirondacks, fledging success is poor because of fluctuating water levels. Osprey may be found at possibly one site per season with two former known nests on the Stillwater north shore. Eagles may be sighted but there is only one significant habitat report of possible nesting on the west boundary.

The New York State Breeding Atlas has indicated 120 species as possibly, probably or confirmed nesting within the blocks that cover the Independence River Wild Forest. A summary sheet is included in Appendix H and copies of the specific survey blocks are on file in the Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, New York. Further field work during the summer of 1984 may identify additional species or change the status from possible or probable to confirmed. The Atlas has attempted to identify those species of birds actually breeding and nesting. Additional species undoubtedly utilize the area during spring and fall migration.

The Independence River Wild Forest is located primarily in deer management unit 25 with the small section south of Stillwater Reservoir being in DMU 28 (See appendix H-4). Deer management unit 25 is comprised of 839.36 sq. miles or 537,190 acres of land area. Approximately 31.87 of the DMU can be proportioned to the Independence River Wild Forest as follows:

Adult Buck Take

	Year 1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	
DMU 25	648	698	675	701	846	714
IRWF @.138	90	97	93	97	117	99

Whitetail deer are common in this unit. This unit is located in the Western Adirondack Foothills Ecological Zone. The Zone is characterized by an elevation of 1200' to 2000', low soil productivity, 120"-140" of snowfall and 105 to 135 days of growing season.

Bobcats occur in the zone but are scarce. The unit is at a lower elevation and has somewhat milder winters than the Central Adirondacks Ecological Zone. Habitat is also suitable for moose. However, moose are not resident, and along with the wolf, are considered extirpated. It is probable that this species will move into the unit in the future. Occasional unsubstantiated reports of transient lynx, puma and wolf are received but re-introduction of extirpated species is not recommended in

this more accessible unit. Reintroduction is being considered in the adjacent Five Ponds Wilderness.

There is a Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative Area on the east edge of this unit at Twitchell Creek.

The parking area and day use - camping area is maintained by DEC and provides additional overnight camping for day users and hunters. International Paper Company is the host landowner.

c. Fish - Lakes and ponds in the management unit provide a

variety of fishing opportunities. Brook trout are the primary game species in many smaller ponds, while brown trout, splake, pickerel and panfish are present in a limited number of waters. Stream fisheries include 24 waters which support wild trout populations and three stocked trout waters. The quality of these fisheries range from fair to excellent in a wide variety of settings. (See Appendix I for specific pond and stream data.) The fisheries resource in this area is supported mainly by native fish species. Two exotic species, the brown trout and the splake, play a significant role in the overall fishery of this unit. They are found, as both stocked populations and introduced, naturally reproducing populations, in all presently suitable habitats within this management unit.

### 3. Visual

Perhaps nowhere in the Adirondack Park are myriad scenes of water interspersed with forest and wetland more evident than in this unit. The Independence River is classified as a scenic river from Little Independence Pond downriver to the Sperryville Bridge and then a recreational river to the Park boundary. (Appendix F). The Gleasman's Falls area, just east of Second Creek, on this river provides a series of waterfalls dropping 60 feet in three tenths of a mile, wedged between sheer 75 feet high rock cliffs. It is well worth the hike from Beaches Mill Pond

Parking Lot to see. The confluence of Fourth Creek and the Independence is scenic and there is a handsome white water gorge 800 feet long about three tenths of a mile upriver from Fourth Creek. The Otter Creek - Big Otter Lake, and particularly the Stillwater Reservoir also provide spectacular Adirondack scenery. Some find Chases Lake spirea plains equally unique and scenic in their own way due to their failure to regenerate tree growth after several decades. The recently acquired Francis Lake has few equals with large old growth white pine ringing the north shoreline. A pleasing view of the northerly part of the area may be had by climbing the Number Four Tower during periods when it is active. The drive from Number Four to Stillwater is particularly scenic and after crossing into Herkimer County, old growth yellow birch, hard maple and beech abound on both sides of the Town Road. Other scenic areas include Shingle Mill Falls on Otter Creek, Poison Brook and Fish Creek Beaver Meadow, and the Long Pond - Florence Pond areas with associated bogs.

#### 4. Unique/Historical Areas

No truly unique areas are known to exist in the unit. The historical significance is in perspective with other management units which provided great quantities of forest products, around the turn of the century, and were the scene of monumental river log and pulp drives. The

Stillwater Road is part of an early east-west route which knifed through the Park from the St. Lawrence River to Lake Champlain, as far back as 1864. There are several interesting gravel eskers east of Sunday Lake, near Evies and Lond Pond, and numerous small bogs south of Lizzard Springs Brook. Catspaw Lake has a number of floating bogs off shore and due to shoreline springs, never completely freezes over. Pitcher Pond, a clear water pond, is perched 15 foot above Little Otter Creek with only a narrow esker retaining it.

#### **B. Man-Made Facilities**

Even though this is a wild forest, numerous man-made facilities exist. The major structures are two lean-tos, two observer cabins, one fire tower, one ranger's cabin and garage, toilet facilities unit at the boat launch site and parking lot at Stillwater; nine major bridges including two on the Independence River and one each on Otter Creek and the Beaver River with approximately 100 feet spans. One additional bridge below Stillwater Dam on the Raven Lake Road is actually on Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation lands but provides the only current foot access to the southeast corner of the Pepperbox Wilderness. The bridge will be maintained by Creative Forest Enterprises until the lease expires in 1990. Many gravel roads enter the area from the north and west. Some of these cross private lands before entering Forest Preserve lands. Appendix L contains a listing and description of facilities.



### **C. Cultural**

The Forest Preserve area in the sand flats near Chases Lake was originally farmed by Hungarian immigrants and some of the old furrows are still visible. Lands located in Townships 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the John Brown's Tract were named after the John Brown who participated in the Revolutionary War, founded Brown University, and served as the Governor of Rhode Island. Francis Lake was named after another and related Governor of Rhode Island, John Brown Francis.

### **D. Economic**

The economy interwoven with this unit and adjoining sparsely settled private land is dependent upon summer camps, tourist trade, camping, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, boating and hiking.

#### **1. Impact of State Ownership on Private Land**

In some cases, property values are increased and land may be advertised and sold by pointing out that it is adjacent to public land. The availability of uncut winter softwood refuge areas on State lands often improves deer survival and later hunting on cut-over adjacent private lands. Recreational opportunities are vastly improved for neighboring residents and landowners. The impact of no taxable improvements on State lands may increase the tax load for other owners in that town, assuming that the State land would otherwise have been divided and improved, but also assuming that the additional property owners required no new services. See Appendix P for summary of taxes paid on the lands in Lewis Co. There are occasional

complaints from landowners regarding poor manners on the part of the public.

## 2. Impact of Private Lands on State Holdings

Private lands are generally either indiscriminately cut over or the forests are managed to some degree. This increases the feeding potential and variety of wildlife that inhabit both land categories, and helps to sustain a larger deer herd, which in turn draws more hunter dollars into the area. Cutting strategies may produce increased administrative costs for the management of adjacent Forest Preserve lands, including the processing of Crossing Permits and the need to have well identified property lines. Adjacent camps are often the source of rubbish deposited on State land and attempted exclusive uses including erection of small buildings and storage of property on State land, developing illegal access roads, mowing State land and similar offenses. Domestic animals from residences near the western boundary have some negative impact on wildlife. Some private inholdings block access to more distant Forest Preserve lands. The overall impact is minor.

## E. Public Use of the Area

The current public use of the area is generally for consumptive purposes. Very little back-packing and hiking take place without the goal of taking fish or game. The Stillwater Reservoir area is the only exception and does receive heavy shoreline camping use during late spring,

summer and early fall. There are 46 designated campsites on the shoreline and islands 26 of which are actually within this unit. Over 15,000 camper days utilize the Reservoir annually. The Boat Launch Site at Stillwater also draws large numbers of boaters and is the embarking point for camp owners at Beaver River Station. Snowmobile use of the Stillwater area after freeze-up is also exceptionally heavy. There have been up to 200 cars crammed into the parking lot on peak weekends.

The balance of the area is more in keeping with "day use" activities due to easy accessibility.

The Pine Lake lean-to and Big Otter Lake get heavy use during the early spring trout fishing season, summer, and again during the first two weeks of deer season (about 250 persons per year based on register tallys and observations of the ranger stationed at Brantingham.). The Independence River in the confined Sperryville area, is utilized by about 200 persons per year for camping picnicing and fishing. The Panther Pond lean-to gets only occasional use (about 75 persons per year), although it is located on a most attractive foot-trail network. Some camping pressure occurs at Payne Lake (75 persons per year), and Francis Lake gets light day use from canoers and car top fishing excursions. The balance of use in the area comes from deer hunting and fishing pursuits and generally light use of the crisscrossing snowmobile trails which divide the unit into small segments.

Use counts for the last 10 years have shown an average of about 1,000 snowmobile trips per winter. Camping permits indicate about 200 persons per year use the interior, excluding Stillwater, for overnight camping exceeding three nights.

Unauthorized use by ATVs is heavy between Brantingham and Chases Lake and generally occurs on most snowmobile trails and some foot trails. The Big Otter Lake Road is badly rutted in wet areas and several bypasses occur.

**F. Capacity of Resource to Withstand Use**

This unit receives relatively light user pressure with the exception of the Stillwater Shoreline area and popular sites at Payne Lake, Sperryville, Big Otter Lake, and the spring fishing season and fall hunting season at the Pine Lake lean-to. The characteristics of the area are such that with the exception of Stillwater, the overall use could probably be multiplied several times before the resource capacity is reached.

Camping at Stillwater Reservoir is now confined to designated sites (See appendix L-6) to protect the balance of the shoreline. The New York State Department of Health finds that bacteria counts are measureable but not serious, and recommends boiling the water for drinking.

The Sand Flats area between the Beaches Mill Pond and Brantingham is particularly resilient to heavy use. The well-drained Colton Sands will support a variety of trail

systems without significant degradation. Moving easterly into the area, however, a soil type change is encountered and roads and trails, without graveling, are deeply rutted in wet areas by repeated travel by jeeps and all-terrain vehicles. This is particularly evident on the Big Otter Lake Road, the easterly end of the Florence Pond Road and the Emmett Hill Road.

Present use levels are low, but acceptable in both major fisheries in this area. In the future, higher use could be accepted in most of the waters, especially the remote smaller ponds and small streams. It should be noted that the physical character of the unit serves to spread use among the various waters, and maintains use levels well below the point where exploitation would become a serious factor in the quality of the fisheries resource. Wildlife populations within the unit can withstand normal harvest under current hunting regulations and current public use. One exception may occur. Several major deer wintering areas occur in this unit including Cleveland Lake, Brantingham-Partridgeville, and Big Otter Lake. Snowmobile activity in these yards may cause stress in deer during severe winter conditions. The Big Otter Lake Road is proposed for closing, east of the county line and will provide less snowmobile related stress to deer wintering near the northwesterly shore of the lake.

### III. Management and Policy

#### A. Past Management

The management prerogatives on Forest Preserve lands are generally limited to those which are constitutionally permissible as outlined under Section I, Article XIV of the State Constitution. 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 obstrusive signs.

Nearly all of the applied land management in this unit prior to 1963 had been oriented toward fire protection and law enforcement as provided by a staff of forest rangers and seasonally employed observers. The Number Four and Stillwater Mountain Fire Towers and cabins were constructed in the mid-1930's to provide early fire detection. The ranger staff was effective in discouraging timber trespass, littering and illegal uses of the Forest Preserve while maintaining a fire control vigilance.

The 1950 blowdown, which created severe fire danger conditions, led to an Attorney General's opinion that the down material could be sold to lessen the fire hazard. This opinion gave rise to Chapter 6 laws of 1951 allowing controlled salvage of wind damaged trees. Construction of low standard access roads followed, which were utilized for

blowdown removal and subsequently were closed. However, approximately 72 miles of jeep trails (See appendix L-1-3,4) in existence when the land was acquired are still actively used by the public for recreational access. Management efforts in the past have been directed at preventing the extension of these trails into new areas and allowing other unnecessary trails to revert to natural cover.

Boundary line maintenance efforts were generally directed at painting lines adjacent to active logging jobs on private lands resulting in long intervals of maintenance. Roadsides were posted as sign availability permitted.

Active fisheries management began with the biological survey in 1931. Subsequent activities have included stocking, reclamation, enactment of special regulations, tagging studies, growth/survival studies, and creel census studies.

Past wildlife management has not involved intensive surveys, studies or other management. Deer and bear harvest data have been obtained from DEC deer check stations and from reports sent by successful hunters. Harvest of important furbearers has been determined by mandatory pelt tagging and reporting. Furbearer biological data has been obtained through examination of carcasses provided by cooperating trappers. Reports of rare or endangered species are solicited from DEC personnel and other reliable observers.

Nearly all other past management was performed in reaction

to the need for permits for road widening, power and phone line establishment, and maintenance; crossing to private land for the removal of forest products, burning of brush, temporary camping for deer hunters during the fall season, and shoreline camping at the Stillwater Reservoir.

As the unit began to develop some sense of contiguity as lands were purchased, trail systems could be laid out to provide recreational access. Key purchases from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation in 1954, Burdick in 1955, Black River National Bank in 1956, Maloney in 1957, Fisher in 1958, Acee in 1962, Kovach in 1963, and Haller in 1965, supplemented the Snell Purchase of 1919 to provide over 50,000 acres of contiguous lands. Although these holdings were still interspersed with private lands, many possibilities for linear recreation were beginning to unfold. Further and dominating impetus mushroomed in October of 1983 when the Rules and Regulations were amended to allow snowmobiles on designated trails, and connecting lakes and ponds, when covered with ice or snow.

The popularity of snowmobiling resulted in a policy permitting the development and maintenance of an extensive trail network in this unit. Trails were budgeted for and projects were accomplished using forest rangers as supervisors of seasonal laborers. These efforts resulted in nearly 100 miles of marked snowmobile trails by 1970. Foot trails were added, tying the snowmobile trail system in with



Lost Lake and Panther Pond. Lean-tos were built at Pine Lake and Panther Pond to accommodate overnight users. The Independence River itself was designated a scenic river within the confines of this unit. Two trails, the Steam Mill Trail and the Beach Mill Pond Trail proved too difficult to negotiate with snowmobiles and were converted to foot trails in 1977.

The Stillwater area has received increasingly heavier pressure during the last two decades. Snowmobiles have given it heavy use when the Flow is frozen during the winter. Summer campers, boaters and canoeists have increased sharply during the last 10 years with the installation of the boat launch site and accompanying parking area and chemical toilets. As more private camp lots were sold at Beaver River Station there has been increasingly longer-term use of the parking lot by those private landowners. The forest ranger at Stillwater has acted in an educational and protective capacity, issuing mandatory camping permits for primitive camping and providing recreation guidance and information.

In 1971, aerial detection contracts were issued and two fixed wing flights, Six-Hotel and Six-Kilo, now provide supplementary fire detection information during critical fire weather periods.

The development of Field Services and the Operations Unit in 1972 relieved the forest ranger force of construction and

recreational development and maintenance responsibilities.

Trail maintenance interior projects and rehabilitations since that date have come from the Operations Unit based on work plans and budgets developed by the regional forester.

Trailhead parking areas have more recently been constructed by Operations on the Steam Mill Road, Partridgeville Road and Sand Pond Road, which provide a variety of recreational users with parking adjacent to multi-purpose trails.

Management efforts in the last decade have been curtailed due to lack of funding and the remaining skeleton Operations' Staff have concentrated on policing and garbage pickup in heavily used areas, blowdown removal, signing and occasional mowing of trail systems, installation of minor snow-mobile bridges, and the maintenance of bridges, major wooden signs, gates, support posts, lean-tos and pit privies.

The land acquisition programs supported by the 1960 and 1972 Bond Programs have been responsible for continuing consolidation, improved access, and in the case of the Francis Lake property acquired in 1979, additional multi-recreational opportunities.

## **B. Goals**

### **1. Land Management**

#### **a. Sustain and Protect the Wild Forest Setting**

In accordance with the State Land Master Plan, this unit will be managed to protect the natural wild forest setting, although it lacks a sense of remoteness throughout most of

the western half in Lewis County. This setting is subject to several interacting public recreational uses involving motorized foot, or horse access. The dominating forces will be natural as associated with the plant communities present and their interrelationship with land forms and water systems. Delicate wetland ecosystems need protection from non-compatible intrusions.

## **2. Wildlife Management**

Maintain all native wildlife species at levels compatible with their environment and make these species reasonably accessible in a wild forest atmosphere.

## **3. Fisheries Management**

Perpetuate the unique, high quality fishing experience provided in this management unit and develop the capabilities of all appropriate unit waters to provide angling diversity.

## **4. Public Use Management**

### **a. Provide For a Variety of Recreational Pursuits Which Are Compatible With the Spirit of the Wild Forest Concept as Stated in the State Land Master Plan**

The wide variety of recreational potential in this unit is unique due in part to an abundance of readily-accessible land. This is further magnified by the ability of the westerly portion, with Colton Sands predominating, to withstand use. Trail systems and jeep trails provide the user with ease of penetration to allow for compatible uses which should continue to be encouraged.

b. Segregate and Further Refine the Trail and Road Systems to Protect the Non-Motorized Oriented Wild Forest Users' Experiences from Encroachment by Those Allowable Motorized Pursuits

Current use patterns allow some overlap of jeep trails and snowmobile trails used for foot travel in the summer. Others allow penetration by jeeps and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on trails not capable of handling nor desirable or necessary for that traffic. Access systems should inherently meet the access goals without negative impact on the lands or waters traversed.

c. Provide for the Special Needs of the Stillwater Reservoir Area to Retain the Natural Beauty of the Shoreline which Currently Attracts Significant Use

This area is contiguous with three wilderness areas including the Pepperbox, Five Ponds and Pigeon Lakes Units. Special attention needs to be given in monitoring and planning to protect the adjacent units from degradation while continuing to provide acceptable levels of use of the Stillwater area, based on its capacity to withstand use.

5. Water Quality Management

a. Maintain productive environments within the unit as habitat for fish, to protect critical elements of habitats essential to the maintenance of fish populations, and to

preserve the aquatic environments within the area.

b. Control and minimize erosion and sedimentation resulting from man's activities within the unit and extending outside to riparian limits.

### **C. Objectives: Long and Short Term**

#### **1. Land Management Objectives**

##### **Long Term:**

a. Sustain an annual detection system for early fire warning and adequately protect the plant-soil community from fire.

b. Maintain a staffing of four forest rangers on the east, west, and north bounds for a continuous on-site evaluation, public education and control of land management concerns.

c. Acquire 16 key parcels totalling 2,450 acres to consolidate this unit, help facilitate access, and reduce administrative costs. (a 3.3% increase from current size)

d. Improve the level of maintenance on 18.2 miles of jeep trails and roads, 26.1 miles of foot trails, and 97 miles of snowmobile trails by providing adequate gravel, surface drainage, and stream crossings to control erosion and improve access.

e. Improve the boundary line maintenance program by shortening the rotation cycle of painting and signing to five years.

##### **Short Term:**

a. Identify jeep trails which should be closed to jeep

and ATV travel due to excessive rutting and their failure to provide the public with meaningful access. Soil types, aesthetics and fragile ecosystems will play a role in this decision-making.

## **2. Public Use Management Objectives**

### **Long Term:**

- a. Promote camping in accordance with the rules and regulations the state land master plan, including the enforcement of the permit system, with emphasis on teaching the public to carry out what they carried in, to eliminate burying debris. Monitoring sites will assist in protecting and rehabilitating the resource.
- b. Revitalize the Western Adirondack's Search and Rescue Team to be maintained at full strength for the protection and well-being of the using public in this and adjacent wilderness areas.
- c. Provide for an active publicity effort to keep the public abreast of the values, limitations and opportunities available in this unit, including the distribution of updated pamphlets, brochures and maps.
- d. Identify and monitor existing informal camping sites.

### **Short Term:**

- a. Make all road and trail systems visible, and

safe to travel by providing adequate trailhead parking, signing, and appropriate levels of maintenance and policing from the Operations Unit. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying access and easement locations at pertinent road, trail and waterway points. Easements for administrative use only should be so identified.

b. Maintain public use control at Stillwater to insure that island, shoreline and primitive camping uses do not exceed the ability of the sites to recover.

c. Develop a system and signing procedure which will designate those roads where motorized vehicle travel will be allowed.

### 3. Wildlife Management Objectives

#### **Long Term:**

a. Provide harvest programs which will maximize recreational opportunities but will perpetuate game animals and furbearers found in this unit.

b. Monitor for the presence of rare or endangered wildlife species and improve habitat where possible.

#### **Short Term:**

a. Improve the identification of legal access to all sides of the area for the benefit of wildlife users with emphasis on foot travel. (A brochure and map will greatly improve public knowledge).

b. Eliminate where feasible, snowmobile trails passing through or

immediately adjacent to critical deer winter concentration areas in the unit.

#### **4. Fisheries Management Objectives**

##### **Long Term:**

- a. Perpetuate all existing species of fish and attempt to restore extirpated native species of fish within the management unit by the application of sound management policies.
- b. Maintain and improve fish habitat in streams and lakes in accordance with policies outlined in the Adirondack park State Land Master Plan, using techniques including liming, stream bank planting, in-stream devices for bank stabilization, flow concentration and the production of shelter, cover or spawning habitat.

##### **Short Term:**

- a. Produce diverse and satisfactory fishing opportunities to meet the anticipated annual demand as outlined in "A Comprehensive Outline for Fisheries Management in the Adirondack Zone" (Pfeiffer 1979) (7) by the application of accepted management practices including stocking, reclamation, imposition of various season and bag limits, and promoting additional use of certain existing fisheries.
- b. Lime traditional brook trout pond fisheries in accordance with DEC policy to create acceptable chemical conditions for the production of satisfactory fish populations.



5. Water Quality Management Objectives

Long Term:

a. Insure that logging operations on interspersed private tracts are in compliance with Article 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law, including the wild, scenic and recreational river law and all phases of the Stream Protection Law, and that timber harvesters are encouraged to follow the Timber Harvesting Guidelines (6).

Short Term:

- a. Insure that where jeep trails cross streams, those streams will be adequately protected to prevent siltation.
- b. Continue to coordinate efforts with the Department of Health to monitor water quality at Stillwater Reservoir.

#### IV. Projected Use and Management Proposed

##### A. Facilities Development or Removal

##### 1. Campground Evaluation

The acquisition of the Francis Lake Property was originally conceived as the first step in establishing a campground which is truly in the Western Adirondacks. This is the last picturesque lake in Lewis County which has not been significantly sub-divided and whose size and location lend themselves to campground development. The only other public campground in the entire County, Whetstone Gulf State Park, is outside the Park and located on a different travel corridor. A campground here would undoubtedly receive moderately heavy use by fall big game hunters.

Francis Lake should have a detailed evaluation made of it during the ensuing five-year plan period to determine if it can be planned and managed as a campground in concert with the inherent beauty of the lake. This evaluation if positive, would serve as the base for budgeting in the succeeding five-year plan. If the preliminary study is positive, it would be submitted to the Adirondack Park Agency with a request for a State Land Master Plan amendment reclassifying the desired area to intensive use.

##### 2. Trailhead Parking Development

There are specific areas receiving considerable public

use where congestion occurs and limited parking either creates a hazard or has a negative impact on the immediately adjacent forest. The development or upgrading of small parking areas with minimal crushed gravel surfacing would alleviate stress and provide a needed public service. The size and location of these parking areas can influence the fall hunting pressure by helping to distribute hunters in underutilized areas.

The following trailhead parking areas will facilitate these needs and solve existing parking problems in this unit:

<u>County</u>	<u>Road</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Prime Use</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Herkimer	Dam Road- Raven Lake Road	Stillwater Dam	Pepperbox Wilderness	8 cars
Herkimer	Stillwater	McCarthy Rd.	Snowmobilers	6 cars
Herkimer	Basket Factory	End of jeep trail	General Rec.	4 cars
Lewis	Smith Jeep Trail	Pine Creek	General Rec.	6 cars
*Lewis	#4 Road	Smith Road	Snowmobilers	12 cars
Lewis	Half Moon Road	Tuttle Creek	General Rec.	4 cars
Lewis	Mt. Tom Rd.	E. of Fish Trail	General Rec.	6 cars
Lewis	Catspaw Jeep Trail	Catspaw Lake	Fishing	4 cars
Lewis	Patridge- ville Rd.	10 Mile Crossing	General Rec.	12 cars
Lewis	Otter Lake Jeep Trail	Otter Lake	General Rec.	8 cars

\*Would require acquisition.

<u>County</u>	<u>Road</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Prime Use</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Lewis	Shingle Mills Rd.	0.1 mile South of Otter Creek	General Rec.	4 cars

### 3. Snowmobile Trail Development

The Hinchling Pond Trail ties in with the Stoney Lake Road at a point where the road is plowed and snowmobilers then must go east or west on a plowed road. The trail at this point could be extended northerly to tie in with the Fish Pond, Long Pond, Evies Pond network. This would also eliminate the need to cross private land at Upper Chases Lake. However, this trail should only be established if an easement can be obtained to tie the system in with the Bailey Road near Beaver Meadow Creek to permit through travel.

The possibility of a trail through International Paper Company lands beginning on the Moose River Road at Twitchell Creek and running westerly to the Basket Factory Road and McCarthy Road via Sunday Lake, will be explored. This would give snowmobilers the option of staying off plowed town roads.

### 4. Snowmobile Trail Removal

A number of trails are seldom used and their continued maintenance serves no useful purpose. In addition, stretching the few man days available on those surplus trails detracts from the possibility of doing a

satisfactory job on the balance of the trails. The following trails or spurs will be scheduled for elimination:

a. Big Otter Lake Outlet to former Hotel site. (This will provide a better buffer for the adjacent wilderness and deer yard.) 1.3 mile

b. Pine Creek Loop from Drunkard Creek corridor to Pine Creek to Spring Hill intersection. (This loop is seldom used. Its removal will also help eliminate illegal motorized travel by ATV's from the "Tin Camp" into the Mud Hole area once the snowmobile trail is no longer maintained.) The northerly segment will be retained as part of a new foot trail spur to the Mud Hole.

3.2 miles

c. Abbey Trail to Copper Lake. This trail now has two gates on it west of the State boundary and legal access is lost. Although this segment has not been signed for several years, it will be officially dropped.

1.4 mile

d. All trails south of the Stillwater Road and east of the McCarthy Road except the Basket Factory road and for a route, if negotiated, with International Paper Company through to the Big Moose Road.

5.8 miles

e. The loop from the Smith Road Southerly across Pine, Third and Snake Creeks is seldom used and will be eliminated. 1.7 miles

f. Access on the Fish Trail has been lost. This trail from the Stony Lake Road north and along fourth a. to its intersection with the Panther Pond loop at the east bridge trail connection should be dropped unless legal access is proven.

4.1 miles

TOTAL 17.5 miles

## 5. Foot Trail Development

a. Independence River along the north shore from Fourth Creek easterly to the snowmobile trail. This is a very scenic part of the Independence River upriver from the Fourth Creek intersection which would be well served by a foot trail. This was also suggested in the study report (Appendix M) done for the purpose of classifying the river.

approx. distance: 1.3 mile

b. Drunkard Creek to Mud Hole Pond. This trail would utilize portions of an existing snowmobile trail as well as a currently heavily-used bushwack trail and provide a direct access for fishermen and hunters. This would also help to deter illegal motorized use coming from the "Tin Camp Area" into the Mud Hole, since the new route would be shorter and quite direct. Little actual construction work would be necessary. approx. distance: 3.0 miles

c. The Fish Trail segment lost to snowmobiling should be relocated onto State land for 0.5 miles from the proposed parking lot to utilize the existing Independence River

bridge and tie in with the foot trail.

approx. distance 1.7 miles

**6. Foot Trail Conversion**

Steam Mill Parking Lot to spring Hill (Five Corners).

This trail remains relatively unused. It was originally opened as a foot trail and later converted to a snowmobile trail but the terrain was too difficult to accommodate snowmobiles. It was again reduced to foot trail status but

serves a very limited public, since it parallels the Steam Mill Jeep Trail which provides easy access to the same area. It will be converted (the westerly portion) to a nordic ski trail with a potential loop as far east as Fish Creek. It will be tied in with proposed trailhead parking at the Ten Mile Crossing-Partridgeville Road intersection. The balance of the trail to the Spring Hill intersection will be allowed to revert to natural conditions.

approx. distance: 5.39 miles

#### 7. Nordic Ski Trail Development

This will be done in conjunction with converting the western part of the foot trail at item 6 (about 2.6 miles). New development required to make a loop:

4.5 miles

#### 8. Jeep Trail Removal

##### a. Otter Lake Road

In order to provide an adequate buffer to the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness Area, in the vicinity of Big Otter Lake and indeed the Lake itself, jeep and ATV travel needs to be terminated at a trailhead parking site, perhaps near the westerly end of Big Otter Lake. This will also prevent the continuing decline in the area due to the development of "herd path" type jeep trails as mud holes and swamp areas are continually being by-passed with new routes. See Appendix Report by Forest Ranger



D. King (L-6). Only a short carry will then be required to put small non-motorized boats on Big Otter Lake. Miles eliminated: 1.3 mile

b. If lot 60 north of the Independence River is acquired, the so-called Fish Trail Jeep Road should be closed to motorized public travel to eliminate motorized fording of the Independence River. Landowners in lot 60 are currently fording the river by jeep or illegally crossing the snow-mobile bridge using ATV's. and this is the only known non-bridged crossing of the entire classified length:  
1.8 mile

c. Mount Tom Road

An easement across the Mt. Tom Road was acquired by appropriation in 1968, including the right to travel the road by jeep. However, public travel across private land causes additional road deterioration and rutting. A number of streams have no culverts and are wet mud holes. Public motor vehicular travel will be stopped at the Mt. Tom Club's west line until such time as funds might be made available to share in the maintenance and rehabilitation of this road, should that be desirable.

d. Sand Flats Area

In addition, a maze of jeep roads in the Sand Flats areas between Brantingham Lake and Crystal Lake will

44a.

gradually be reduced by developing a signing system designating those trails which are open to jeep travel. Many of these roads generally serve no specific destination but rather serve as temptations for continuing Jeep and ATV herd path meanderings.

## B. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities

### Maintenance

The following facilities require annual maintenance at the support levels indicated:

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Contractual</u>	<u>Total M.D.</u>	<u>Equip. Charge Back</u>	<u>Material</u>
Lean-to	2 each		20	\$ 50	\$ 100
Fire Towers	2 each		10	75	200
Observer Cabins	2 each		20	75	200
Telephone Lines	.25 mile		2	25	25
Ranger Headquarters	1		10	50	200
Boat Docks	4		6	25	240
Impoundments	3		4	25	50
Foot Trails	24.6 miles	(includes signs and bridges)	125	1200	500
*Snowmobile Trails	106.9 miles	(includes signs and bridges)	300	2000	2000
Jeep Trails and Roads	14.1 miles		100	2000	1400
Boat Launch Site	1		4	50	550
Toilet Facilities	1	100	20	50	500
Boundary Line Maintenance	36 miles		180	500	1000

\*Includes trails which double as jeep trails but need only maintenance to suffice for snowmobile use.

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Contractual</u>	<u>Total M.D.</u>	<u>Equip. Charge Back</u>	<u>Materials</u>
Trailhead Parking Lots	6		15	50	60
Gates and Barriers	12		12	50	200
Major Signs	15		20	100	400
Trail Registers	7		7	25	100
General Policing and Clean-up			<u>60</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>200</u>
Contract Plowing Stillwater P.L.		<u>\$1000</u>			
Total required per year for maintenance**		\$1100	915	6850	7925

\*\*Includes a permanent three man crew: one labor-supervisor, two construction equipment operators, and a seasonal crew of three laborers (one for six months and two for three months).

### Rehabilitation

1. Bridges- The Poison Creek and Fish Creek bridges on the Steam Mill Road and Sunday Creek Bridge on the Basket Factory Road need new headwalls, stringers and plank.  
\$15,000
2. Parking - The dock at Beaver River Station at the Grassy Point landing is under permit and was just repaired by property owners at a cost of \$5000. The adjacent parking area on State lands used in conjunction with the dock and the six mile landing need

to be evaluated for long term parking impact.

3. Impoundments - Rehabilitation of the dam at Big Otter Lake should be evaluated during this plan period for fisheries improvements and if desirable, should be reconstructed during the succeeding plan period.

#### 4. Foot Trails

a. Beach Mill Pond Trail. A major bridge and beaver pond by-pass may be needed, just west of Pine Creek. Relocate if required. \$6000

b. Trails to Evies and Long Pond require stabilization to prevent recurrent erosion between the road and ponds. \$1000

#### 5. Snowmobile Trails

a. Panther Pond East corridor to Emmett Hill Road and the East Bridge trail. - Major brushing is required.

\$3500

b. Pine Lake - Otter Lake Loop from Otter Creek, Silvermine trailhead parking lot. This loop requires major brushing. \$4800

#### 6. Jeep Roads and Trails

a. Halfmoon Jeep Road - Mud holes require gravel into Burnt Creek 1.5 miles \$3000

b. Confusion Flats Jeep Road - Mud holes require gravel for the entire length. 2.5 miles \$8000

c. Smith Jeep Road - Requires gravelling and culvert replacement from trout pond gate to trailhead parking area north of Pine Creek. 1.6 miles \$12000

d. Stoney Lake Road - From Stoney Lake to trailhead parking on Mt. Tom Road needs gravel and culvert replacement

0.5 mile \$6000

e. Basket Factory Road - resurface to trailhead parking.

3.2 mi. \$27000

f. Fill mudholes Evies Pond Road \$3500

g. Fill mudholes Florence Pd Rd. and repair bridge over Little Otter Creek outlet \$5000

h. Fill mudholes and construct parking lot on Basket Factory Road \$27,000

7. Trailhead Parking - Complete surfacing of the second Stillwater lot. \$2000

8. Gates - The existing cable gates at the following locations need to be replaced with iron frame gates and reflectorized and signed:

a. Mount Tom Road at Mount Tom west line. \$1000

b. Fish Trail at Independence River\* \$1000

\* This will become a barrier if the courts fail to support a public easement on the Fish Trail.

9. Barriers - More permanent barriers are required to prevent motorized vehicle entry other than snowmobiles, at the following points:

a. Independence River north side to stop eastbound traffic from the Fish Trail.

48a.

- b. Ten Mile Crossing Road at the Silvermine trail intersection both north and south sides.
- c. Silvermine Trail north from the Partridgeville Road.
- d. Railroad bed east of Brantingham Lake, both ends.
- e. North Crossover snowmobile trail at McCarthy Road.
- f. Emmett Hill Road spur at County line.
- g. Big Otter Lake Road at proposed trailhead parking.
- h. Basket Factory Road at road terminus.

10 each at \$200 = \$2000

**10. Designated Sites** - The loss of the FWMA cooperation area on the Big Moose Road has resulted in a lack of parking and camping opportunity for fall hunting. A designated site system on the Basket Factory Road and Smith Road will be identified to fill this need. Ten sites will be designated on each road.

In addition to the Rehabilitation Projects listed above, there are a number of outstanding surveys required to handle

the identification of State boundaries. Since they were never originally established, or have been lost due to lack of maintenance over the years, they require survey at this time. Due to a lack of staffing, the regional survey unit has been unable to complete these surveys unless they involve a trespass. One alternative would be to include them in the rehabilitation budget. However, since a functional regional survey staff is needed on a full-time basis for the sustenance of all Department lands, it is more logical to adequately staff that unit and insure that boundaries fall into the maintenance category.

#### C. Public Use Management and Controls

With the notable exception of the Stillwater Reservoir Area, public use of this unit is light in terms of user days (See IIE). This is supported by recently installed trail registers and observations made by forest rangers. There is a keen interest in big game hunting and seasonal use by deer hunters does occur. The Stillwater Reservoir provides a unique and valuable waterway access for early big game hunters. Further documentation of use levels would be desirable through the employment of a park ranger through the end of the deer season. The following uses will require individual evaluation:

##### 1. Camping - excepting Stillwater Reservoir

Camping is relatively well distributed throughout the



area to take advantage of the trout fishery. Camping related to backpacking is very light and primarily occurs along the boundary of the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness Unit on the Southeast. Limited short-term camping occurs along the Independence River from Sperryville to Wilson Bridge and at Payne Lake. Longer-term camping requiring a permit occurs almost exclusively in relation to hunters establishing camps for the deer season. The Fish and Wildlife Coop. area on the Big Moose Road is no longer available for public use, creating a problem for fall hunters. A designated campsite system of 10 sites each on the McCarthy Road and Smith Road will alleviate that loss. Continuing efforts need to be made to educate the public to carry out camping litter. This effort can include signs, personal contacts, warnings, pamphlets, and media presentations.

## 2. Camping - Stillwater Reservoir

As with other high use areas, peak weekends and good summer weather draw the near capacity crowds. The forest ranger's efforts to separate camping parties and request carry out of litter have been most effective to date. A notable increase in use has triggered re-evaluation of the shoreline and a designated site system for all sites within 150 feet of water was instigated in 1984. (See Appendix L-8). The advantage the area currently has to lessen resource impact is the early drawdown to maintain a continuous hydropower source. This automatically increases

the size of non-vegetated beach which attracts campers away from the vegetated sites. Those sunny, exposed sand beaches also make ideal camping for early fall big game hunters. The resident ranger plays an important role in

distributing campers and resulting hunting pressure. The ranger stationed at Stillwater needs an assistant from April thru November to maintain the kind of vigilance required to continue to promote good camping manners and protect the resource.

### 3. Snowmobiling

Heaviest use occurs in the Stillwater area where riders come in from the Old Forge - Big Moose area where trails are groomed. Use of the balance of the trail systems is relatively light since most riders prefer groomed trails. Some litter occurs from snowmobilers and their occasional use of foot trails or cross country travel is noted. An adequate staffing of forest rangers with scheduled patrol can help minimize these problems. Cooperation with the Towns of Greig, Watson and Webb is extremely important in order to get key trailhead parking lots plowed for snowmobilers' use in the winter months.

### 4. Boating

The only significant motor boating occurring within the unit is at Stillwater Reservoir. The local ranger has maps available which point out the desired routes to avoid shoals. These routes should be incorporated in any final unit map which may be made available for public use. The Reservoir offers one of the few areas where motor boats can be used for access to both wild forest and wilderness for remote camping during the big game season.

All other waters within the unit (excepting Woods Lake which is two-thirds on International Paper Company lands) are considered too small or undesirable for motor boats. Rules and regulations should be promulgated prohibiting motorized boats on all lakes and ponds that are totally State-owned.

#### **5. Motorized Off-Road Vehicles**

Heavy use by jeep, doodlebugs, ATVs, and trail bikes is already being experienced in the Sand Flats area between the Beach Mill Pond and Brantingham Lake. Numerous sandy trails crisscross this area and open sandy hillsides seem to present challenges for trail bikes and ATVs to leave the trails. The off-trail assaults are occasionally damaging fragile plant life and instigating erosion. Warning signs have been erected at strategic places but are not always helpful. The main trails should be designated for motorized use and publicity efforts increased to encourage limiting travel to the designated and signed routes only. This would generally shrink the number of miles of trail needing patrol and observation and concentrate use south of Chases Lake where numerous opportunities exist.

#### **D. Fish and Wildlife**

##### **1. Fish**

With regard to regulation of public use as it affects fish resources within the management unit, season lengths,

minimum size limits and creel limits are set to allow maximum opportunity while guarding against over-harvest. Imposition of special restrictive regulations in certain waters provide a higher level of control on use and raise the quality of opportunity available to fishermen.

Levels of use anticipated in area fisheries are as described in "A Comprehensive Plan for Fish Resource Management in the Adirondack Zone," Pfeiffer, M.H. 1979 (7). Anticipated management activities within the unit are listed for each water in Appendix I. Implementation of these activities will depend upon staffing levels, budget constraints and assessment of the need for each project in terms of cost to benefit ratio.

Temiscamie X domestic hybrids will be used to maintain fisheries in brook trout waters affected by acid precipitation. This strain of trout has demonstrated superior ability to withstand low pH (12).

## 2. Wildlife

The regulation of public use affecting wildlife species has traditionally been through manipulation of season lengths and bag limits to insure maximum recreational opportunity while still guarding against over harvest. The completion of Ecological Zone studies in the late 1970's has resulted in the development of Deer Management Units (Appendix H-3) and Furbearer Management Units (Appendix H-4) based upon Ecological factors. The Independence River Wild Forest includes parts

of DMU 28 (Central Adirondack Foothills or transition). It is entirely in FMU 4. Using the ecological zone concept, different seasons for different species will evolve as management techniques become more refined. Public utilization of wildlife species within the unit can be greatly influenced by the development of new or closure of existing access facilities such as trailhead parking areas, jeep, snowmobile and foot trails. Identification of all access points, and public lands and rights-of-way is of particular importance in insuring equitable recreative opportunity as well as achieving better distribution of recreational users.

#### **E. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers**

The Independence River is classified as scenic from its source to the former Sperryville Bridge site and recreational from the Sperryville Bridge site down river to the Adirondack Park boundary (Appendix M). It enters this unit at mile 15 and leaves it 200 feet west of the former Sperryville Bridge. Within the unit there are is one bridge span on a Town Road - Wilson's Bridge on the Bailey Road. There is a river ford at mile 19.8 which services private camps north of the river in Lot 60. The only other crossings within the unit are DEC snowmobile bridges at mile 17.4 and a foot trail bridge at mile 19.4. Existing foot and snowmobile trails make the river easily accessible. Acquisition of Lot 60 would eliminate all fords within the unit.

54a.

The only new management activity proposed for this river corridor is a connecting foot trail on the north side between the fish trail and the east bridge trail. Snowmobile trails and bridges, individual campsites and town roads all occur within the corridor which will be defined as 1/4 mile from mean high water mark when on State lands.

#### F. Fire Management

Fire protection within this unit is the responsibility of the NYS DEC under provisions of Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. DEC is charged with maintaining an approved fire protection system for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, including fire management personnel, facilities and equipment. This unit contains parts of three different ranger districts, namely:

6709 Towns of Greig, Lyonsdale and Watson	Lewis County
6711 Town of Webb (part)	Herkimer County
6713 Town of Webb (part)	Herkimer County

There are two fire towers directly serving this unit, one stand-by unit at Number Four scheduled for removal in 1985, on the north bounds, and one on International Paper Company lands on Stillwater Mountain, south of the Stillwater Reservoir. In addition, the Gomer Hill Tower, on the Tug Hill Plateau, has an excellent view of the western part of this unit. Two aerial detection flight routes serve as the primary system and cover the unit when the fire danger warrants - Six Hotel contracted through the Lowville Office and Six Kilo handled by the Herkimer Office. Fire wardens supplement the ranger force and are available for larger fires on a volunteer basis. Volunteer fire companies have also provided important assistance work when called upon.



Fire weather data is provided through a forest fire danger rating station monitored and read by a fire weather observer. Weather data is used in decision-making both for flight intensity and in making fire attack or woods closure decisions. The station is maintained from April through November.

Early action needs to be taken to prevent any fire from uncontrolled spreading. The interspersed private holdings contain numerous camps and buildings, often occupied, which will benefit from quick fire response. Portions of this unit are quite accessible but the upgrading of key jeep trails (see IV-B) will facilitate early control and minimal damage to both the resource and property. Forest ranger staff needs to maintain a readiness both in terms of training and appropriate equipment and tools.

The use of mechanized equipment for fire suppression should be conservative during periods of low fire danger. The decision to utilize such equipment during periods of high fire danger should be the prerogative of DEC fire management personnel and the Regional Forester.

Prevention efforts to reduce man-caused fires must be continued by further educating the public and enforcing existing fire laws including top-logging, and brush removal adjacent to both highway and railroad rights-of-way. Smokey Bear programs, which educate youngsters in fire prevention,

need to be reinforced with adequate staffing and promotional materials.

## **G. Administration**

### **1. Staffing**

#### **a. Land Management**

It is essential that the existing ranger districts be kept intact and ranger vacancies filled expeditiously as they occur. The permanent ranger force forms the core of land managers needed to control public use, manage fire and monitor environmental impact. There is also a direct relationship in the ability of these rangers to function adequately based on vacant adjacent ranger districts. Adjacent ranger district vacancies sap the man day inputs required by the subject rangers and can cause the entire system to break down.

The Operations staffing required to handle the public use facilities within the unit (see IV-B Maintenance) is now well below minimum. Any expansion of public services as proposed in this plan, land ownership boundaries, should be accompanied by increased Operations staffing. Operations, within their personnel and financial limitations, carries out annual work plans developed by Lands and Forests staff.

The current overhead, including associate foresters and forest ranger III's, is adequate to handle the administration of this unit. However, the total Forest Preserve within the Region may have enough workload to

justify a plan coordinator once the individual unit plans are complete.

It would be desirable to have a park ranger, assigned to adjacent wilderness areas, spend some time in this unit to obtain better use figures.

It is also vital that sufficient survey staff be maintained within the Region to handle boundary and title problems as they occur on this and adjacent units, and particularly to complete existing outstanding survey requests. They are now unable to handle administrative surveys and boundaries are deteriorating.

**b. Fisheries**

Fish Management activities will be performed by Regional permanent and seasonal personnel. Anticipated activities would not require additions to staff under present workloads and priorities.

**c. Wildlife**

Wildlife management activities will be performed by Regional permanent and seasonal personnel. Anticipated activities require that all vacancies be filled without delay in order to handle current workloads.

**2. Budgeting**

Since this unit overlaps the Lowville and Herkimer Region 6 Lands and Forests sub-offices, a coordinated effort is required. Herkimer will continue to budget through the Regional Forester for staff and rehabilitation

of the facilities as required to support Herkimer County. The Lowville sub-office will budget for staff and rehabilitation of facilities in Lewis County. A cooperative effort will be made with the Operations Unit in preparing required rehabilitation projects for the needs of this unit in both Counties.

The Operations Unit will prepare a budget request for maintenance personnel both permanent and seasonal to support the facilities in this unit (see IV-B). Their budgeting efforts also will address the supplies and materials, equipment and charge back costs as needed to carry out the perpetual maintenance effort, and to support any approved rehabilitation or capital projects. Lands and Forests and Fish and Wildlife will need to provide aggressive support in the budgeting process.

Routine management activities related to fish and wildlife are prepared by regional staff assigned to those bureaus. This includes permanent and seasonal personnel, supplies and materials, as well as travel. Rehabilitation projects related to fish and wildlife needs are prepared by the respective bureau staff and in consultation with Operations as required.

New projects will generally be approved at the Division level before funding is submitted in the Department Budget.

### 3. Education

Continuing educational efforts need to be made in fire prevention (Smokey Bear etc.) fire protection (burning permits) and resource protection. Scheduled Smokey Bear visits in nearby schools have proven very effective for

youngsters in getting the prevention message across. Spring publicity articles remind landowners in the fire towns that burning permits for brush disposal are required. However, additional effort needs to be made to educate the public to reduce littering and carry out what they carry in on recreational excursions. The addition of a part time park ranger would be most helpful in education on an encounter basis.

A facilities map and brochure on this unit is essential to facilitate full public enjoyment of the many features and facilities which are found here. It would also provide a way of presenting some brief readable messages to help protect the Unit's beauty and fragility for future generations to enjoy.

Other educational programs traditionally carried on through bureaus need to be continued and would include legislative and public hearings; meetings with organized groups, publications, brochures, outdoor events, and related activities.

## **H. Problem Areas**

### **1. Accessibility**

Access to most of this unit is exceptionally good and will improve with improved trailhead parking and upgrading of key jeep trails (see IV-B). The accessibility situation is currently limited by Operation's units lack of staffing and funding to meet the work plan needs.

Proper funding of the Operations maintenance effort also will sustain the quality and recreational experience on existing trails.

There are, however, three trails which currently cross private land where the legality of the crossing needs clarification. They are:

- a. From the Cleveland Lake Road on the Cleveland Lake Club property, northerly to the State line.
- b. From the Stoney Lake Road at Upper Chases Lake, northeasterly to the State line.
- c. From the Stoney Lake Road, just east of Stoney Lake, northeasterly on the so-called Fish Trail to the State boundary.

Title investigations should be made on these trails to guarantee continuing public use in the future and provide a basis for decision-making regarding current trails.

## 2. Trespass

The key to preventing trespass on State lands in this unit lies in adequate ranger staff to patrol and educate, and a combined effort by Lands and Forests and Operations to clearly sign and identify boundary lines. Boundaries should be signed and painted at intervals not exceeding five years. A vigorous boundary program will also minimize

intrusions onto private land by recreational users of the Forest Preserve.

There are increasing incidents of illegal cutting of fuelwood and other products on State land which are not related to boundary identification. The decreasing forest ranger staff will lead to additional and bolder episodes of intentional illegal harvest. The theft of signs is also partially related to a reduced enforcement capability.

The large number of trail bikes, and ATV's, owned by the public residing adjacent to this unit, is related to increasing incidents of illegal trail use, off trail and cross country use. Adequate levels of patrol, signing, and public education can all help to reduce this kind of trespass.

### 3. Land Titles

There are currently three known land title questions in this unit. The first is in relation to the Francis Lake acquisition where the question of the use of the so-called "Winter Road" and location of a dock on Lot 25 is being litigated. The second also involves the recently acquired Francis Lake property, in the Northwest corner of Township Three where a question regarding the survey has been raised by the adjacent owner, Gadziella. The third involves the question of the title to the original dam site at Stillwater Reservoir and the extension of that 1898 appropriation onto Allds Island (Van Sickle Island).



(Title is not listed as Forest Preserve and the Black River Regulating District is unsure if they should have administration of that parcel as well as the flowed area, or if it should be DEC.) The entire question of jurisdiction between DEC and the Black River Regulating District over lands at Stillwater needs to be settled. All of these questions should be vigorously pursued to achieve early decisions.

There are five surveys required to complete the establishment of boundaries in this unit.

1. Francis Lake - Lynch line.	.25 mile
2. Pipe line lot, south bounds.	3.00 miles
3. 1240' elevation contour at Wilson Bridge.	2.25 miles
4. Yancey exception Watson lots 113, 114.	2.50 miles
5. Allds Island.	<u>.25 mile</u>
Total	8.25 miles

#### 4. Environmental Problems

Light littering in the more popular camping areas is a current problem. This can be controlled with the staffing and financial commitments already outlined. The site compaction problems at the heavily used island and shoreline sites at Stillwater cannot be totally reversed but the potential spread of this problem can be controlled by confining camping to the recently designated resilient sites.

by confining camping to the recently designated resilient sites. Continuing and periodic inspection of campsites, while in use, is essential to identify rehabilitation or closure needs, control illegal tree cutting, tree abuse, and prevent illegal burying of litter. Plans were formulated and implemented in for the summer of 1984 to go to designated sites on the Reservoir. Camping will still be allowed on sites over 150 feet from water and roads. This will require additional funding for enforcement.

Trail bikes and ATV's are now present in sufficient numbers to warrant concern. They often violate gates and signs to use trails developed for snowmobiling and occasionally foot trails. They also utilize any open, sandy areas and hillsides they can find creating occasional erosion problems. An educational and enforcement effort and finalization of ATV laws could help reduce environmental damage.

The many miles of sand jeep trails in the Chases Lake area provide tempting places for garbage and litter dumping. Their extensive nature and poor condition makes routine patrol and enforcement difficult.

Erosion problems also occur on jeep trails which do not have sufficient sub-base to withstand 4 x 4 travel. Where mud holes occur, the common practice is to go around that hole, sometimes creating additional trail mileage, damaging flora causing erosion and leaving new rutting. Much of this can be improved by funding the level of normal maintenance

requested in each year's work plans. The closing of the Big Otter Lake Jeep Trail, at the outlet will allow one of the most seriously abused jeep trail systems to begin to recover.

Heavy mortality is occurring among tree species in this unit. Beech bark disease is rampant. Falling trees are clogging trails rapidly. Heavy losses were experienced with tamarack in recent years and unexplained mortality in red spruce approaches 75%. There are indications that there may be necrobiotic environmental linkages, particularly in the spruce, with acid rain, climatic changes, defoliation, increasing air pollution, and heavy metals accumulation in the forest floor. (10).

From the fish management viewpoint, one major environmental problem is making a serious impact upon this unit - acid rain. This situation is currently under intensive study but no practical solution appears to be forthcoming. "Acidity status of lakes in the Adirondack Region of New York in Relation to Fish Resources," Pfeiffer, M. H. and Festa, P. J. (1980) gives an overview of the problem and covers much of the recent work that has been done in assessing the extent of lake acidification.

Present pH and acidity threat status are included in Appendix F for streams and in I for ponds, where available. Further investigations are required before accurate pH

determination can be obtained for all waters. However, in the case of stream pH's, the smaller tributaries must be assumed to have pH's similar to the mainstreams which are all considered to be critical or threatened during the spring run-off period.

Remedial action at this time is restricted to liming of key ponded waters. Exorbitant costs and limited effective duration for such treatments precludes an intensive liming program throughout the unit.

Two large projects, the "Acid Pond Study" and the "Biological Survey of New York Watersheds" have started. Both are expected to provide valuable additional management data for this and other unit management plans. The former project is being funded by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation, and the latter by Return a Gift to Wildlife.

## I. Land Acquisition

### 1. Trailhead Parking

A small acquisition of land for a parking lot adjacent to the Number Four Road, just east of the Smith Road, would be desirable. This would provide off road parking at this point and eliminate dangerous parking conditions now occurring on the road shoulder. The unplowed Smith Road is a prime access route into the northern snowmobile trail complex.

2 acres ±

### 2. Access

Should title investigations reveal any title problems on

either the Fish Trail or Evies Pond Road (see IV H-3), which impede access, then acquisitions should be made to insure continued public use. The acquisition of remaining Fisher easements should also be completed. An easement is needed through Lot 245 to tie the trail system together between the Bailey Road and the Stoney Lake Road.

### 3. Recreational Development

a. Renewed efforts should be made to acquire the balance of the shoreline at Francis Lake to enhance the management potential and alternatives for public use. 122 acres

b. An easement and necessary canoe carry trails through Nehasane Park are essential to facilitate canoe travel to and from Lake Lila into Stillwater Reservoir and points west. Chapter 643 of the highway laws of 1853 declared the Beaver River a public highway from Albany Lake (15 miles above the middle 1/3rd line) to the mouth of the Beaver River. However, carry point easements need to be acquired through Nehasane upriver and through Niagara Mohawk Power corporation lands down river to open the River for canoeing.

c. An easement through International Paper Company lands on the Big Moose Road to the Basket Factory Road would result in a snowmobile trail which avoids plowed roads.

#### 4. Consolidation

The consolidation of existing State holdings would be desirable from both an administrative and protection point of view. Funds should be made available to acquire holdings under 500 acres in size, when and if they are offered for sale. The following additions would reduce boundary problems, enhance management decision-making, and provide better protection of existing forest resources:

##### a. Herkimer County - Town of Webb

1. Range 13, Parts of Lots 7, 8, 9 between the Big Moose Road and the Stillwater Reservoir, including the privately owned portion of Island #2. This would insure total ownership of the shoreline and islands in this vicinity. (Now International Paper Company).

Webb total proposed  $\frac{80 \text{ acres}}{80 \text{ acres}} \pm$

2. Acquire the Niagara Mohawk easement to extinguish gravel rights between pipeline lot and the Beaver River.

##### b. Lewis County - Town of Watson

1. Township 3, Lot 9, Range 13, 14 Trout Pond Club.  
Surrounded four sides. 320 acres  $\pm$
2. Watsons West Triangle, Lot 60. Surrounded four sides. Includes frontage on the Independence River and elimination of a ford. 105 acres  $\pm$
3. Watsons West Triangle, Lot 37. Surrounded four sides. 113 acres  $\pm$

4. Watsons West Triangle, Lots 113, 114. Surrounded four sides. 232 acres ±
  5. Watsons West Triangle, Lots 263, 264. Surrounded three sides and fourth by Lowville Municipal Watershed. 104 acres ±
  6. Watsons West Triangle, Lots 246, 247. Surrounded three sides. Includes the Independence River on the South and all of Cleveland Lake. 135 acres ±
  7. Watsons West Triangle, Lots 56, 57, 81, 82. Surrounded three sides and includes the Northern two thirds of Stoney Lake. 340 acres ±
  8. Watsons West Triangle, Lot 257. Surrounded three sides and includes balance of the Southwest shoreline of Upper Chases Lake and Calfhead Pond. 92 acres ±
  9. Watsons West Triangle, Lots 225, 240, 241, 256, 270. Surrounded three sides and includes Hinchings Pond, Little Punkey Pond and Parsons Pond. 467 acres ±
- Watsons (total proposed) 1908 acres ±
- (includes easement and recreational development)

**c. Lewis County - Town of Greig**

1. Macombs Purchase, Lot 10, surrounded four sides. Includes the balance of Little Otter Lake. 57 acres ±
2. Macombs Purchase, Lot 9, surrounded three sides. Includes part of the East shore of Sand Pond. 182 acres ±
3. Macombs Purchase, Railroad Bed, fee in Lots 68, 83, 86 and easement in lots 84 and 85. 5 acres ±

4. Macombs Purchase, Lot 102, surrounded three sides.

208 acres±

5. John Browns Tract, Lot 6, Range 13, surrounded four sides, including frontage on Otter Creek. 10 acres±

Greig Total Proposed 462 acres±

Unit Grand Total Proposed 2450 acres±

#### J. State Land Management Plan Amendments Required

The description of the unit on Page 56 of the plan, dated April 20, 1979, should be revised to read "The Sand Plain depressions North from Brantingham Lake to Crystal Lake offer many unique bird and plant life associations."

There does not appear to be any provision for campgrounds in a Wild Forest Unit. However, Francis Lake has been proposed for study and evaluation for possible campground development. If the preliminary study recommended in this five year period is positive, the study will be submitted to the Adirondack park Agency with a request for a State Land Master Plan amendment reclassifying the desired area to intensive use.

#### K. State Environmental Quality Review Requirements

Any reconstruction or development within the confines of this unit must take into account environmental factors to insure that such development does not degrade the resource. Each management option will involve the consideration of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and where necessary, proper administrative steps will be taken. The SEQR requirements will be carefully met in the evaluation of



potential campground development at Francis Lake. None of the items listed under Part IV involving proposed management are considered to result in significant environmental impact. A negative declaration may be found in Appendix S.

**I. Relationship of Management of Area to Forest Preserve and Adjacent Area**

The economic impacts of adjacent area relationships have been covered in Part II-D. Interaction on a management basis with adjacent Wilderness Areas is treated as follows:

**1. Pepperbox Wilderness Unit**

This unit lies on the north side of the Beaver River. Access into the Pepperbox is totally dependent upon trailhead parking in the Independence Unit. Adequate parking facilities and bridges now exist at the southwest corner of the Pepperbox but not at the southeast near the Stillwater Dam. To cover these needs, a small eight car parking lot should be constructed near the dam. In addition, the bridge below the dam, which represents the only foot crossing available at that point, was built and has been maintained by owners at the "Wilderness Lakes Tract" (now Creative Forest Enterprises). The bridge has recently been repaired and the public is crossing it on foot along with the private owners of the timber rights and the Raven Lake exception who use motorized equipment. Gating of the Raven Lake road requires that the users park in the Independence River unit.

**2. Five Ponds Wilderness Unit**

The northerly shore of the Stillwater Reservoir, east of

the Wilderness Lakes Tract, is classified as wilderness, with the exception of the peninsula on the south shoreline of the East Branch of the Beaver River. It may be difficult for the public to understand that regulations are different on different parts of the shoreline. It will require a strong effort on the part of the ranger in residence at Stillwater to keep the public informed.

### 3. Pigeon Lake Wilderness

The same comments are appropriate here as in the Five Ponds Unit. The railroad bed is a very effective boundary here. Snowmobile usage on the north side of the tracks has been under study for several years and alternatives have been related to the viability of the railway itself and the avoidance of the Pigeon Lake Unit.

### 4. Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness Area

The recommendation to discontinue motor vehicle traffic beyond the outlet of Big Otter Lake is directly related to the protection of this wilderness unit. In addition, the upgrading of the Steam Mill Road within the Independence Unit, has provided much improved access within reasonable walking distance of the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness Unit west bounds. The decision to prohibit motorboats but allow float planes on Big Otter Lake, as agreed upon in previous negotiations on the Ha-de-ron-dah boundaries, would also protect this wilderness which bounds on the east shore of the lake. The

elimination of the so-called Pine Creek Snowmobile Trail loop, will help to prevent the intrusion of motor vehicles into the "Mud Hole" area of the Ha-de-ron-dah from that corner. The continuing maintenance of the Pine lake lean-to in the Independence Unit, provides the only permanent shelter in the vicinity of the western edge of the Ha-de-ron-dah.

The evaluation of the possible rehabilitation of the old impoundment on Big Otter Lake could lead to restoration which would improve the fisheries.

#### **M. Proposed Regulations**

1. With the exception of Stillwater Reservoir, all lakes and ponds in this Unit are considered too small to justify outboard motors for either recreational or fishing purposes. It is proposed that regulations be promulgated to prohibit outboard motors on all waters which are entirely bounded by Forest Preserve lands.
2. Big Otter Lake is remote and currently served by a very rough jeep trail. In conjunction with the proposed restrictions on outboard motors, Big Otter Lake will not be closed to float plane landings, thus allowing reasonable utilization of a lake within a wild forest but bounding on a wilderness area. This will provide wilderness seekers and the handicapped with a unique opportunity.

4. Regulations need to be promulgated to clearly define where ATVs may operate in conjunction with open jeep trails and jeep roads. Currently proposed changes will require designating, by signing, all routes where motor vehicles will be permitted.

## V. Schedule for Implementation

The following schedule will be applied over the five year plan period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
I	1. Lime Pitcher Pond.	\$300
	2. In-depth analysis to determine fish stocking policy for Francis Lake.	
	3. Maintenance stocking as per Appendix I.	
	4. Gravel parking lot #2 at Stillwater Boat Launch site.	\$2000
	5. Inventory and monitor nesting locations and activity of all rare and endangered species present in the Unit.	Cost Unknown
	6. Evaluate six mile and Grassy Point landing to resolve parking problems and remove abandoned vehicles from State land	\$500
	7. Repair bridge over Fish Creek and Poison Creek on the Steam Mill Road.	\$10,000
	8. Replace cable gate with frame gate on Mt. Tom West line.	\$1000
	9. Establish and identify the end of the jeep trail at Independence River south and north side, Emmett Hill Road at the County line, and Big Otter Lake Road, below the outlet. Upgrade the access path from the Big Otter parking lot to the lake.	\$2000
	10. Survey Francis Lake-Lynch line (.25 mile).	
	11. Develop and publish a map and brochure on this unit to educate users and facilitate public use.	Unknown
	12. Conduct an evaluation of Francis Lake to determine future plans for its shoreline management, and desirability for a public campground.	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
	13. Rehabilitate the bridge over Sunday Creek or the Basket Factory Road.	\$5000
	14. Initiate negotiations with International paper Company for snowmobile trail easement and acquisition of small parcels between the Big Moose Road and Stillwater Reservoir.	
	15. Initiate negotiations with Nehasane area landowners and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation for canoe route carry easements on the Beaver River.	
	16. Promulgate rules and regulations to close all lakes and ponds, totally within the unit, to motor boats.	
	17. Remove the cable bridges hazardous to the public over the Independence River down river from the Fish Trail and on the Beaver River upriver from the Moshier Generating Station.	\$500
	18. Plan more intensive coliform bacteria analysis at Stillwater Reservoir in cooperation with DOH.,	
	19. Officially drop snowmobile trails as per Appendix L-3 and revise the snowmobile trail bulletin accordingly.	
	20. Complete resurfacing of the Smith Road to to the Pine Creek terminus, gravel 6 car parking lot and identify ten designated campsites.	\$15,500
	21. Add a trail register at Drunkard Creek parking on the Steam Mill Road.	\$100
	22. New Foot trail from proposed parking on Mt. Tom Rd. to connect existing foot trail.	\$2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
II	1. Lime Evies Pond.	\$900
	2. Maintenance stocking as per Appendix I.	
	3. Construct eight car parking area below the Stillwater Dam.	\$2000
	4. Begin to identify and monitor currently used camping sites other than those at Stillwater by hiring a short term park ranger.	\$3000
	5. Gravel, mud holes on the McCarthy Jeep Trail, add a 6 car parking lot at terminus. Identify ten designated campsites.	\$27,000
	6. Construct a new foot trail from Fourth Creek easterly along the north side of the Independence River to the snowmobile trail and East Bridge. (Includes bridge over Fourth Creek @ \$3000).	\$6000
	7. Construct 12 car parking lot at 10 mile crossing road. Intersection to accommodate snowmobilers and skiers.	\$4000
	8. Stabilize trails from Evies Pond Road parking area to Long and Evies Ponds.	\$1000
	9. Establish and identify the end of the open jeep trail and beginning of the Silvermine Trail at the intersection with the Balsam Flats Road and on the railroad bed east of Brantingham.	\$500
	10. Continue biological and acid pond surveys using specially funded projects.	
	11. Complete boundary line survey of State Boundary on Aalds Island (.25 mile) and complete Miscellaneous Title Investigation of overlapping jurisdictions on Stillwater Reservoir.	
	12. Establish connecting foot trail from proposed Mt. Tom Road parking to the Fish Trail just east of the State line.	\$2500
	13. Close roads listed in appendix L-3 by ditching and planting backslope.	\$1000

78.

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 14. | Fill mud holes and grade Evies Pond Rd.  | \$3,500 |
| 15. | Establish link-up trail from Sunday Lake jeep trail to the Basket Factory Road, to replace the longer existing trail, which requires a bridge over Sunday Creek. | \$2,500 |
| 16. | Complete demolition of foundations and remove camp remains at Halfmoon Lake.   | \$500   |

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
III	1. Lime Long Pond.	\$3000
	2. Maintenance stocking as per Appendix I.	
	3. Field evaluation of Beach Mill Pond Foot Trail to determine bridge needs west of Pine Creek at Beaver Pond.	
	4. Rehabilitate Panther Pond and East Bridge snowmobile trails from Pine Creek to Emmett Hill Road to the East Bridge.	\$3500
	5. Gravel major mud holes in Confusion Flats Jeep Trail.	\$8000
	6. Complete boundary line survey on Yancey Exception Lots 113, 114 Watson (2.5 miles)	
	7. Establish and identify the end of the open jeep trail on the Basket Factory Road and Panther Pond trail north crossover at the McCarthy Road intersection.	\$500
	8. Initiate a study to determine if loon and osprey nesting and survival can be enhanced in the unit.	Unknown

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
IV	1. Maintenance fish stocking as per Appendix I.	
	2. Survey the south bounds of the Pipeline Lot - (3.00 miles).	
	3. Re-surface Mt. Tom Road from Stoney Lake to trailhead parking area east of the Fish Trail. (0.5 mi.)	\$6000



79.

4. Rehabilitate the Pine Lake-Otter lake  
Snowmobile Trail Loop \$4800
5. Construct 12 car trailhead parking area  
at the intersection of the Stillwater  
Road and McCarthy Road if a parking area  
cannot be acquired adjacent to the #4 Rd. \$4000
6. Begin conversion of Steam Mill Foot  
Trail to Nordic Ski System. \$6000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
V	1. Lime Cleveland and Payne Lakes	\$1200
	2. Maintenance stocking as per Appendix I.	
	3. Establish foot trail from Drunkard Creek trailhead parking to the mud hole utilizing the snowmobile trail where feasible.	\$4000
	4. Evaluate big Otter Lake Outlet for possible rehabilitation of the original impoundment	Staff
	5. Fill mudholes on the Halfmoon Rd. and add a 4 car parking lot at road terminus at Burnt Creek	\$5000
	6. Survey 1240' evaluation boundary at Wilson Bridge (2.25 miles).	
	7. Construct six car trailhead parking area on Mt. Tom Road East of Fish Trail. (move this to year I if the fish trail remains blocked).	\$4000
	8. Establish four car parking area at Catspaw Lake.	\$2500
	9. Establish four car parking area (0.1 mile) South of Otter Creek on Shingle Mills Falls Road.	\$2500
	10. Fill mud holes, repair bridge and fill potholes on Florence Pond Road.	\$5000
	11. Initiate an inventory of wildlife which inhabit the unit.	Unknown

VI. Appendix

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## Appendix B

### Legal Description Independence River Wild Forest

Beginning at a point on the Lewis-Herkimer County Line, being the Northeast corner of Lot 5, Range 9, Township 3, John Brown's Tract, Town of Watson; thence Southerly along the County line 442 chains + to the Southeast corner of Lot 7, Range 9; thence Easterly 80+ chains to the outlet of North Pond; thence Southerly down the outlet to Big Otter Lake; thence easterly, Southerly and Southwesterly around the shore of Big Otter Lake to the Foot Trail-Snowmobile Trail over the outlet. Thence Southwesterly along the Foot Trail-Snowmobile Trail to and along the Foot Trail running Southwesterly along the shore of Pine Lake to the bridge over Eight Foot Creek; thence down Eight Foot Creek to its intersection with Pine Creek. Thence Southwesterly down Pine Creek to its intersection with the West line of Range 1 Lot 5, Township 1 of the Brantingham Tract. Thence North 6° 30' East approximately 23 chains to the Southeast corner of Lot 162, Town of Greig; thence South 86° 18' West, 208.48 chains to the Southeast corner of Lot 158. Thence North 1° 31' West 46.28 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 158; thence South 84° 56' West, 84.67 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 138; thence Northerly 98.01 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 120. Thence North 85° 19' East, 41.10 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 120; thence North 1° 31' West, 51.12 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 103; thence Westerly 83.11 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 833 thence North 5° 04' West 54.44 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 83; thence South 84° 56' West 76.26 chains to an iron pipe; thence South 55° 17' East 44.35 chains to the centerline of the

Partridgeville Road; thence North 77° 24' East down the centerline of that road 4.87 chains; thence 55° 07' East 8.50 chains to the Southeast corner of Lot 80; thence South 86° West 94.53 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 79 on the Adirondack Park Boundary; thence Northerly along the Park Boundary being the West line of Lots 79, 61, 43, 25 and 7, 257.75 chains to an iron pipe in the line between the Towns of Watson and Greig; thence North 82° West 9.34 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 293 in the Town of Watson; thence North 8° East 68.25 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 294; thence South 81° 53' East, 21.83 chains to a point; thence South 25° 51' West, 36.67 chains to an iron pipe; thence South 81° 26' East 1.63 chains to the centerline of the Sand Pond Road; thence Southeasterly along the centerline 6.48 chains to a point; thence South 8° 34' East 6.20 chains to an iron pipe thence Easterly 4.98 chains to the centerline of the Sand Pond Road thence Easterly and Northeasterly up the Sand Pond Road and Chases Lake East Shore Road, 22.37 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 282; thence Easterly along the North bounds of Lots 282, 269 and 255 90.54 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 255; thence South 5° 34' East, 18.42 chains to an iron pipe; thence North 85° 04' East 30.61 chains to an iron pipe; thence North 5° 17' West 18.55 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 224; thence South 82° 18' East 33.73 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 224; thence North 81° 24' West 65.35 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 242; thence North 7°, 00' East, 24 chains + to a point in the Southwest shore of Upper Chases Lake; thence Northerly along the West shore to the North line of Lot 242; thence South 82° 19' East about 30+ chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 242; thence North 8° 30' East 34.19 chains to

the Northwest corner of Lot 227; thence North  $82^{\circ} 01'$  West 32.46 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 244; thence South  $7^{\circ}$  West 15.59 chains, thence North  $80^{\circ} 45'$  West 6.98 chains; thence South  $9^{\circ} 08'$  West, 18.75 chains; thence North  $83^{\circ} 13'$  West 20.38 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 271; thence North  $7^{\circ} 13'$  East 47.03 chains to the centerline of the Stoney Lake Road; thence Westerly on the centerline to a point in the Westerly line of Lot 285; thence North  $8^{\circ} 27'$  East 14.59 chains; thence South  $82^{\circ} 07'$  East 1.86 chains; thence North  $11^{\circ} 23'$  East 3.22 chains; thence down the centerline of the Sperryville Road South  $75^{\circ} 43'$  West 2.27 chains thence North  $7^{\circ} 53'$  West 1.75 chains to the River bank. Thence North  $59^{\circ} 51'$  East 3.00 chains to the centerline of the Sperryville Road; thence up the centerline North  $12^{\circ} 47'$  West 3.76 chains; thence North  $7^{\circ} 53'$  East 33.74 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 286; thence North  $81^{\circ} 37'$  West 13.52 chains to the road centerline; thence South  $16^{\circ} 09'$  East along the centerline 30.59 chains to Sperryville; thence North  $87^{\circ} 12'$  West along the Sperryville Road centerline 2.73 chains, thence North  $7^{\circ} 12'$  West 1.70 chains; thence South  $84^{\circ} 54'$  West 0.85 chains; thence South  $2^{\circ} 48'$  East, 1.54 chains to the centerline of the Sperryville Road; thence North  $87^{\circ} 12'$  West along the centerline of the Sperryville Road 6.96 chains, thence around the cemetery, North  $4^{\circ} 37'$  East 4.00 chains; North  $89^{\circ} 08'$  West 3.25 chains; South  $2^{\circ} 29'$  West 3.98 chains back to the Sperryville Road; thence North  $87^{\circ} 31'$  West along the Sperryville Road centerline 4.45 chains; thence North  $9^{\circ}$  East 29.92 chains; thence North  $81^{\circ} 37'$  West 12.87 chains to the Southwest corner of Lot 298; thence Northerly 66.21 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 299. Thence South  $81^{\circ} 43'$  East 31.38 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 299; thence North  $8^{\circ} 02'$  East 39.82 chains to

the Northwest corner of Lot 289; thence South  $82^{\circ} 43'$  East 32.19 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 289; thence Northerly 69.94 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 278; thence South  $81^{\circ} 57'$  East 30.53 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 278; thence South  $7^{\circ} 22'$  West 46.69 chains to the centerline of the Beach Mill Pond Road; thence North  $65^{\circ} 56'$  East along the centerline of that road 21.21 chains; thence South  $80^{\circ} 58'$  East 10.33 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 263; thence North  $8^{\circ} 30'$  East 42.76 chains; thence South  $82^{\circ} 19'$  East 30.90 chains; thence North  $7^{\circ} 43'$  East 24.40 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 234; thence South  $82^{\circ} 43'$  East 31.94 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 234; thence Northerly along the West lines of Lots 218, 219, 69.42 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 219; thence South  $82^{\circ} 15'$  East 31.39 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 219; thence North  $8^{\circ} 27'$  East 32.40 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 201; thence Easterly along the North lines of Lots 201 and 181, 59.57 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 181; thence South  $10^{\circ} 05'$  West 31.96 chains; to the Northeast corner of Lot 180; thence South  $81^{\circ} 40'$  East 65.17 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 137; thence North  $8^{\circ} 31'$  East, 32.10 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 115; thence South  $81^{\circ} 29'$  East, 34.11 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 115, thence South  $8^{\circ} 31'$  West 32.10 chains to the Southeast corner of Lot 115; thence South  $80^{\circ} 49'$  East 53.30 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 65; thence North  $8^{\circ} 48'$  East 32.79 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 40; thence South  $81^{\circ} 12'$  East 68.01 chains to the Northeast corner of Lot 14; thence Northerly 85.83 chains to the Northwest corner of Lot 12, Range 14, Township 3; thence North  $84^{\circ} 35'$  East 4.27 chains to the centerline of the Smith Road; thence Southerly

along the centerline of the Smith Road 3.06 chains; thence South 56° 53' East 21.77 chains; thence South 60° 52' East 5.98 chains; thence North 33° 55' East 25.62 chains; thence North 84° 35' East, 22.03 chains; thence North 56° 40' East, 16.44 chains to the centerline of the Number Four Road. Thence North 33° 20' East 1.00 chains along the centerline of the Number Four Road; thence South 56° 40' East 24.77 chains; thence North 33° 31' East 19.33 chains; thence South 50° East 18.47 chains; thence North 40° East 20.00 chains to the centerline of the Stillwater Road, thence South 50° East 7.50 chains to the Northeast corner of Village Lot 7; thence North 33° 36' East .99 chains to the centerline of the Stillwater Road; thence Easterly along the centerline of the Stillwater Road .35 chains to the Northerly corner of Lake Lot #3; thence South 20° 30' East 8.58 chains to Francis Lake. Thence Easterly along the shore 3.14 chains, thence North 14° West 6.88 chains to the centerline of the Stillwater Road; thence Easterly along the centerline 31.80 chains +, thence South 22° 14' West 16.24 chains; thence North 84° 34' East 7.53 chains; thence South 44° 09' West 2.31 chains, thence North 83° West .97 chains to the lake shore; thence Southerly along the lake shore about 5 chains; thence South 75° East 8.09 chains; thence South 62° 07' East 35.26 chains; thence North 0° 12' West 29.73 chains to the centerline of the Stillwater Road; thence Easterly along the centerline of the Stillwater Road to the Herkimer County Line; thence Northerly 36.36 +; thence North 61° 30' East 20.54 chains to the centerline of Sunday Creek; thence up the creek 19.44 chains; thence North 16° 04' East 21.97 chains +; thence North 07° 34' East 14.46 chains; thence North 41° 48' East 5.79 chains; thence North 70° 48' East 12.19 chains; thence North 78° 56' East 1.60 chains; thence North 87° 05' East 9.79

chains; thence North 45° 55' East 12.67 chains; thence North 23° 27' East 14.46 chains; thence North 43° 54' East 3.94 chains; thence North 64° 22' West 8.52 chains; thence North 44° 46' East 6.59 chains; thence North 54° 52' East 1.97 chains; thence North 64° 58' East 4.57 chains; thence South 74° 54' East 19.71 chains; thence South 15° 06' West 8.40 chains; thence South 74° 54' East 10.92 chains; thence North 15° 06' East 8.40 chains; thence North 56° 36' East 17.40 chains; thence North 33° 24' West 6.47 chains to a point 25' from highwater at the Moshier Flow; thence Easterly following a contour line 25' back from high water approximately 188.14 chains to the line between Township 4 and 5; thence continuing Northeasterly 25' above high water approximately 54.55 chains; thence South 35° 35' East 3.64 chains to the centerline of the Raven Lake Road; thence Easterly along the centerline of the Raven Lake Road 7.94 chains; thence South 39° 09' East 0.47 chains; thence North 66° 56' East 2.05 chains to a point on the edge of the 50 foot wide public easement along the Dam Road; thence Southeasterly along the edge of the R.O.W. 66.23 chains; thence South 5° 47' East 3.15 chains to the Southwest corner of cottage lot 32; thence North 84° 13' East 2.79 chains to the Southeast corner of cottage lot 22; thence South 5° 47' East 1.24 chains to the centerline of the Stillwater Road; thence Southwesterly along the centerline of the Stillwater Road 27.41 chains to the centerline of the Big Moose Road; thence South 47° 14' East 3.01 chains; thence North 84° 09' East approximately 31.82 chains to the Reservoir; thence Southerly and Easterly along the shore of the Reservoir approximately 27 miles to the East bounds of State land lot 45 near Little Rapids; thence South 25° 46' East 15.83 chains; thence South 23° 32' East 3.83 chains to



the Northerly boundary of the railroad; thence Westerly along the North bounds of the railroad approximately 140 chains to the West line of lot 52; thence North 25° 45' West approximately two chains to the Northwest corner of lot 52; thence South 65° 27' West 31.06 chains; thence South 66° 56' West 4.54 chains; thence South 66° 12' West 3.03 chains; thence South 66° 14' West 9.59 chains; thence South 23° 57' East 26.43 chains to the edge of the railroad fee; thence Southwesterly along the railroad fee 208+ chains to the East bounds of Township 6; thence North 8° East 10 chains+ Northeast corner lot 1R 13; thence North 84° 30' West 197.32 chains; thence South 5° 30' West 6.80 chains; thence North 84° 30' West 18.29 chains; thence South 5° 30' West 11.08 chains; thence North 84° 30' West 24.44 chains; thence North 5° 30' East 7.41 chains; thence North 84° 30' West 13.68 chains; thence South 5° 30' West 21.06 chains; thence South 84° 30' East 9.45 chains; thence South 5° 30' West 22.68 chains; thence North 84° 30' West 41.50 chains; thence North 5° 30' East 31.16 chains; thence North 84° 30' West 28.63 chains; thence 5° 32' East 23.04 chains; thence North 84° 30' West 165.93 chains along the line between Townships 5 and 6 to a point in the line between Townships 3 and 6; thence approximately South 8° West 457.80 chains to the Southeast corner of Range 1, Lot 6; thence South 81° 29' West 330.94 chains to the place of beginning.

Also including the Forest Preserve in the Town of Greig, Lyonsdale and Webb, South of the Abbey Road - Copper Lake Road being described as follows: Beginning in the North bounds of the old Abbey Road on the West side of Copper Lake, on the West bounds of Range 1 Lot 4, and running South 8° 10' West about 61 chains, thence South 80° 30' East 115.79 chains; thence North 7° 50' East about 69 Chains to

the North bounds of the Abbey Road. Also that portion on the East side of Copper Lake beginning in the North bounds of the Copper Lake Road and running thence South 7° 50' West about 45 chains; thence South 80° 30' East 54.25 chains to the Lewis County - Herkimer County Line; thence continuing Easterly approximately 94 chains; thence Northerly approximately 8 chains to a point in the North bounds of the Copper Lake Road; thence Westerly along the North bounds of the Copper Lake Road to the place of beginning.

Also including at Stillwater Reservoir, Town of Webb, all of that land on the Peninsula at the East end of the Reservoir on the North shore in lots 37, 38, 44 and 45 lying South of the North branch of the Beaver River.

Also including at Stillwater Reservoir all inundated lands and islands or parts of islands considered to be under DEC jurisdiction.

Also including in the Town of Webb at Moshier Power Generating Station, the area North of the pipeline lot described as follows: Beginning at a 3" pipe, filled with concrete, at a point South 49° East 0.95 chains from the centerline of the Beaver River; thence North 28° 04' East 48.25 chains; thence North 57° 59' East 45.37 chains; thence North 89° 40' East 16.38; thence North 44° 46' East to the South shore of the river at mean high water; thence proceeding Northwesterly and Southwesterly along the South shore of the Beaver River to a point in the North bounds of the so-called transmission line lot; thence South 49° 09' East to the place of beginning. Also including the parking lot at Sunday Creek and foot trails acquired by easement from Niagara Mohawk as shown on Map #2865.

Also including at the Hamlet of Stillwater, lots 9, 11, 13, 17,

18 and the two points acquired as part of the Adirondack Timber and Mineral Company appropriation, as well as part of Allds Island.

Excluding from the above descriptions the following described private holdings:

Greig: Lots 8 and 9 at Sand Pond; Northeast quarter of Lot 11 at Little Otter Lake; Lots 15 thru 18; Lots 33 thru 36; Lots 51 thru 54; Lots 68 thru 72 (except a small parcel South of the main line Keystone Railroad); the Northern parts of Lot 86 above the South boundary of the old Railroad, and parts of Lots 87 and 88 above the following line: Beginning in the centerline of the Partridgeville Road and running thence Easterly 16 chains; thence South 3° 21' East 12.54 chains; thence North 87° 09' East 30.73 chains; thence South 2° 59' East 17.04 chains; thence North 86° 52' East 4.38 chains; thence North 2° 20' West 17.02; thence North 87° 14' East 23.93 chains. Also excluding Lots 89, 90, 107 and 108; 10 acres in Lot 6, Range 13, Township 2 known as Huzzy's Clearing; and Lots 10 thru 12 in Ranges 12 thru 14.

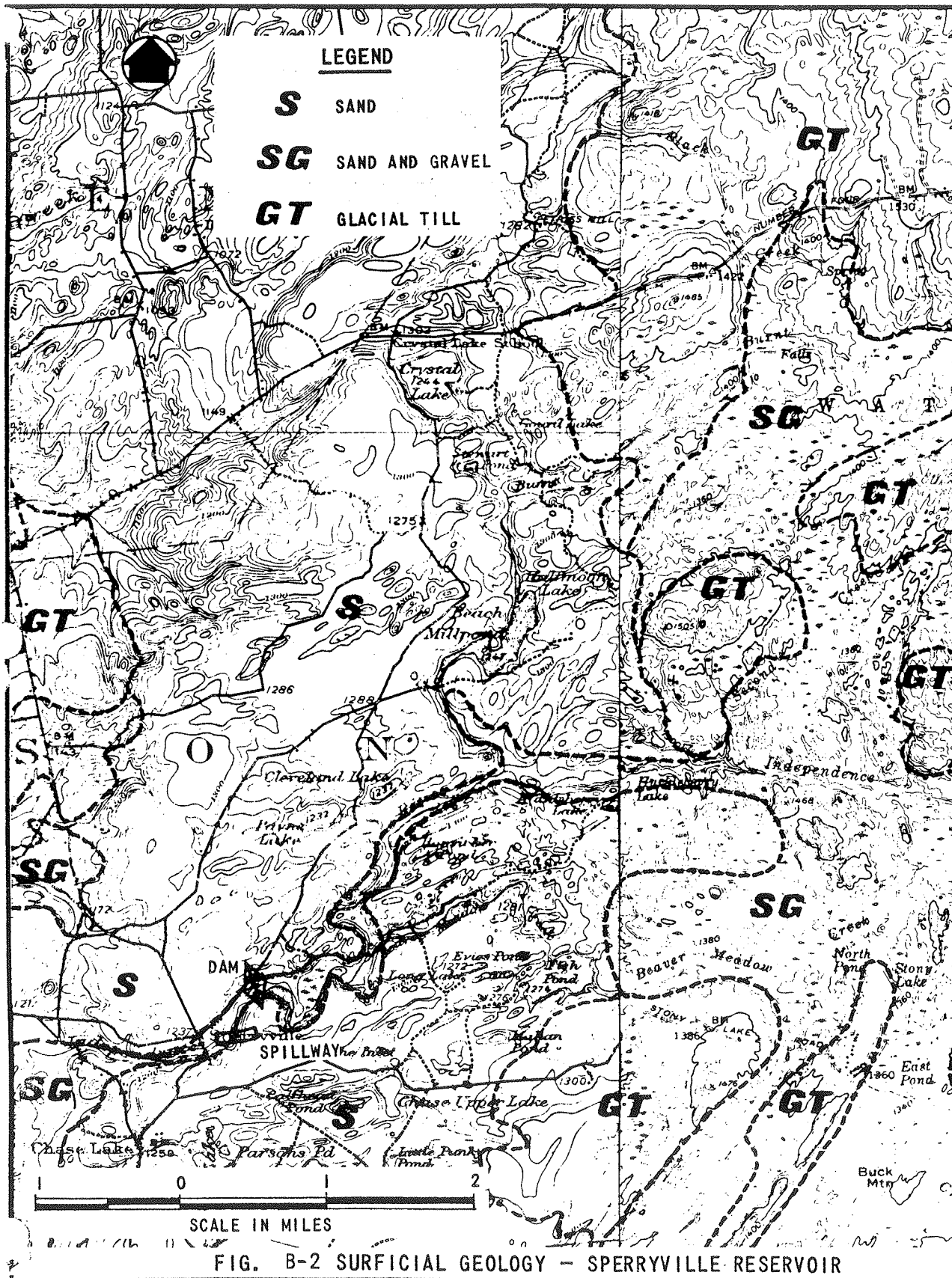
Watson: Sand Pond exception in Lots 269 and 255 beginning 18.82 chains from the Southwest corner of Lot 269; thence North 5° 26' East 5.25 chains; thence North 85° 24' East 17.10 chains; thence South 4° 36' East 5.17 chains; thence to point of beginning. Also camp lots at Sperryville beginning in the centerline of the Bailey Road; thence South 29° 57' East 2.69 chains; thence North 62° 05' East 2.17 chains; thence South 32° 25' East 2.36 chains; thence North 53° 26' East 4.15 chains; thence North 31° 48' West 5.00 chains to the centerline of the Bailey Road, thence Southwesterly along the Bailey Road 7.20 chains; thence North 18° 48' West 5.25 chains; thence South 58° 12' West 3.00 chains; thence South 18° 48' East 5.25 chains to the centerline of the

Bailey Road. Also excluding a 3.05 acre strip .625 chains wide beginning South 82° 18' East 15.88 chains from the Southwest corner of Lot 299 and running Northwesterly thru Lot 299 for access to the private land in Lot 300.

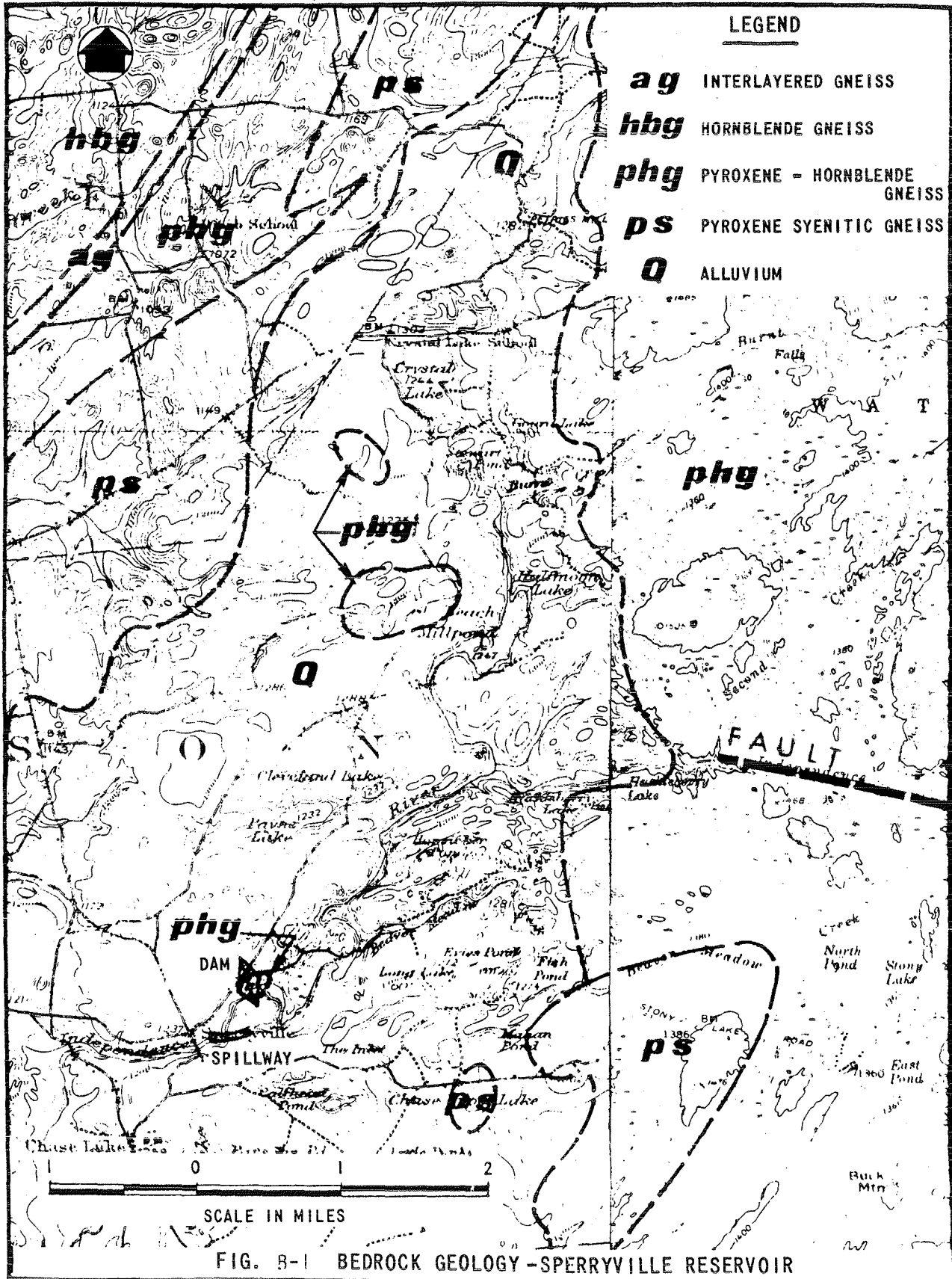
Lot #1. Lots 80 thru 82 and 56 thru 57 at Stoney Lake; Mt. Tom Glub South of the Independence River in Lots 1 thru 3, Ranges 12 thru 14. Huckelberry Lake Area, Lots 174, 175, 194, 195, 213 (North of Beaver Meadow Creek), 214, 229 thru 231, 245 thru 247 excepting State owned flow lines to an elevation of 1,240 feet; Lots 113, 114, 37, 60 and the Trout Pond Club in Lot 9, Ranges 13 and 14.

Webb: Islands in Stillwater Reservoir including Rapshaw (Williams), Chicken (Griffin), Canfield (Tax Map Parcel #12), part of Allds (Van Sickle - Tax Map Parcels 8, 9 and 11), and that part of island #1 near Twitchell Creek owned by International Paper Company.

Appendix C-1  
 Surficial Geology  
 Sperryville Area



Appendix C-2  
Bedrock Geology  
Sperryville Area



Appendix F-1  
Stream Inventory  
Independence River Wild Forest

Water	Key	County	Town	Quad.	Miles	Ph	Acid* Threat
Sunday Cr.	0.19-40-20	Herk.	Webb	No.4	6.5		
Twitchell Cr.	0.9-40-P 493-32	Herk.	Webb	Big Moose No.4	0.3	4.19	C
Lizard Sp. Brook	0.19-40-20-2	Herk.	Webb	No.4	5.5		
Independence River	0.19-57	Herk. & Lewis	Webb & Watson	No. 4 & Crys- taldale	12.0	4.63	C
Beaver Meadow Creek	0.19-57-5	Lewis	Watson	Crystalldale	5.0		
Burnt Creek	0.19-57-7	Lewis	Watson	Crystalldale	5.0		
Second Creek	0.19-57-8	Lewis	Watson	No. 4	2.0		
Third Creek	0.19-57-9	Lewis	Watson	No. 4	4.0		
Pine Creek	0.19-57-9-1	Lewis	Watson	No. 4	5.0		
Fourth Creek	0.19-57-10	Lewis & Herk.	Watson & Webb	No. 4	3.0		
Fifth Creek	0.19-57-10-3	Lewis & Herk.	Watson & Webb	No. 4	3.0		
Hitchcock Creek	0.19-57-10-6	Herk.	Webb	No. 4	3.1		
Otter Creek	0.19-60	Lewis	Greig	Brant. & McKeever	7.0	5.58	T
Little Otter Creek	0.19-60-5	Lewis	Greig	Brant.	5.0		
Crooked Cr.	0.19-60-6	Lewis	Greig	Brant. & McKeever	6.0		
Tommy Roaring Brook	0.19-60-12	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	2.5		
Fish Creek	0.19-70	Lewis	Greig	McKeever & Brantingham	2.5		

S = Satisfactory > 6.0

T = Threatened 5.0 to 6.0

C = Critical < 5.0

Water	Key	County	Town	Quad.	Miles	Ph	Acid* Threat
Beaver R.W.Br.	0.19-40-P493-24	Herk.	Webb	No.4	4.6		
Slough Brook	0.19-40-P449-1	Herk.	Webb	No.4	1.6		
Hay Creek	0.19-57-10-3-2	Herk.	Webb	No.4	1.7		
8 Foot Cr.	0.19-81-7-1-10-2	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	1.0		
Burnt Creek	0.19-57-7	Lewis	Watson	No.4	4.0		
Little Pine Cr.	0.19-60-6-1	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	2.2		
Mud Lake Stream	0.19-40-P493-T28	Herk.	Webb	Big Moose	1.1		
Big Creek	0.19-40-P493-T29	Herk.	Webb	Big Moose	3.4		
Catspaw L. Outlet	0.19-60-T4	Lewis	Greig	Port Leyden	0.4		
Goose Pd. Outlet	0.19-60-T14	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	0.5		
West Pd. Outlet	0.19-60-T15	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	1.0		
Green Pd. Inl.&outl.	0.19-40-20-1	Herk.	Webb	No.4	1.6		
Francis L. Outlet	0.19-40-P449-2 P450-2	Lewis	Watson	No.4	1.0		
Chases L. Inlet	0.19-57-4-P597-1	Lewis	Watson	Lowville	1.5		
Upper Chase Lake Inlet	0.19-57-4-P597-1 P602-1	Lewis	Watson	Lowville	2.5		
Brantingham Inlet	0.19-70-4-P689-2	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	2.4		
Stony Creek	0.19-81-7-7	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	3.1		
Little Pine L. Outlet	0.19-81-7-1 P-701-2	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	3.9		



Water	Key	County	Town	Quad.	Miles	Ph	Acid* Threat
Pine Creek	0.19-81-7-1	Lewis	Greig & Lyonsdale	McKeever	4.0		
Drunkard Cr.	0.19-81-7-1-4	Lewis	Greig	McKeever	2.0		

#### Abbreviations

ST - Brook Trout - *Salvelinus fontinalis*  
 BT - Brown Trout - *Salmo trutta*  
 BHC - Bullhead - *Ictalurus nebulosus*  
 YP - Yellow Perch - *Perca flavescens*  
 RB - Rock Bass - *Ambloplites rupestris*  
 SmB - Smallmouth Bass - *Micropterus dolomieu*  
 PKS - Pumpkinseed Sunfish - *Lepomis gibbosus*  
 PKL - Chain Pickerel - *Esox niger*  
 Splake - Brook Trout & Lake Trout - *Salvelinus fontinalis* X *Salvelinus namaycush*  
  
 NSA - Natural reproduction supports population  
 Stocked/Wild - Population of wild fish is augmented by stocking  
 STY - brook trout yearling  
 BTY - brown trout yearling

Appendix F-2  
Lake and Pond Inventory  
Independence River Wild Forest

Key*	NAME	COUNTY	TOWN	QUAD.	Acreage		101- 1000 +	Year Last Survey
					0- 10	10- 100		
P451	Francis Lake	Lewis	Watson	No. 4			120	1983
P473	Sunday Pond	Herk.	Webb	No.4		15		1956
P493	Stillwater Res.	Herk.	Webb	Big Moose			6205	1977
P524	Mud Lake	Herk.	Webb	Big Moose	3			-
P576	Woods Lake	Herk.	Webb	Big Moose		50		1973
P601	Calfhead Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	3			1966
P602	Chase Lake Upper	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville		20		1971
P607	Cork Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	5			1969
P608	Evies Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	6.5			1979
P610	Long Lake	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville		13.5		1979
P611	E. Spectacle Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	3/4			1931
P612	W. Spectacle Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	1			1931
P613	Mahan Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	3			1954
P614	Crawford Fish Pd.	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	None - dam out			
P619	Cleveland Lake	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville		13		1979
P620	Payne Lake	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville		19		1979
P624	Beach Mill Pd.	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	None - dam out			

\*This designation is taken from the "Official Compilation of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations" as the only positive identifier for surface waters in New York State.

Lake and Pond Inventory  
Independence River Wild Forest

Key*	NAME	COUNTY	TOWN	QUAD.	Acreage 0- 10- 10 100		101- 1000 +	Year Last Survey
P626	Gourd Lake	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	2			-
P627	Stewart Pond	Lewis	Watson	Low- ville	4			-
P630	Bills Pond	Lewis	Watson	No.4		12		1931
P631	Mike's Pond	Lewis	Watson	No.4	4			
P632	Panther Pond	Lewis	Watson	No.4		15		1968
P635	Fifth Cr. Pd.	Herk.	Webb	No.4	2			1968
P638	Lennon Pond	Herk.	Webb	No.4	8			-
P662	Catspaw Lake	Lewis	Greig	Port Leyden		15		1966
P662d	Pitcher Pond	Lewis	Greig	Port Leyden	5			1979
P66	Little Otter Lake	Lewis	Greig	Port Leyden		40		1978
P664a	Florence Pd.	Lewis	Greig	Port Leyden	3.5			1977
P664c	Long Pond	Lewis	Greig	Port Leyden	2			-
P667	East Pond	Lewis	Greig	No.4	3			1931
P669	Unnamed	Lewis	Greig	No.4	9			-
P674	Goose Pond	Lewis	Greig	McKee- ver	1			-
P675	West Pond	Herk.	Webb	McKee- ver	5			-
P676	Big Otter Lake	Herk.	Webb	McKee- ver			200	1973
P694	West Pine Pond	Lewis	Greig	McKee- ver	6			1973

Appendix G Forest Cover Types Independence River Wild Forest  
Histogram listing for file INDPOVL\*

This image has 518 ROWS , 587 COLUMNS

This is a GIS data file

T VARIABLE name is INDEPENDENCE RIVER W.F. LANDCOVER

DATA VALUE =====	NUMBER OF POINTS =====	NUMBER OF ACRES =====	% =====	DESCRIPTION =====
0	223200.	223207.219	0.00 %	Background
1	38349.	38350.242	47.42 %	Hardwood
2	11243.	11243.363	13.90 %	Mixed Hardwood
3	15003.	15003.486	18.55 %	Mixed Conifer
4	3050.	3050.099	3.77 %	Conifer
5	524.	524.017	.65 %	Wet Conifer
6	345.	345.011	.43 %	Brush
7	0.	0.000	0.00 %	Open Wetland
8	259.	259.008	.32 %	Grassland
9	0.	0.000	0.00 %	Barren land
10	0.	0.000	0.00 %	Barren/Dry
11	0.	0.000	0.00 %	Shallow Water
12	12093.	12093.391	14.95 %	Water

TOTAL NON-ZERO POINTS = 80866.  
TOTAL NON-ZERO ACREAGE = 80868.61  
Percentages are Based on NON-ZERO points

\* APA GIS Data Base File. INDPOVL printout dated 6/1/84.



APA GIS Data Base File. INDPOVL. Printout dated 6/1/84.

# APPENDIX H

## Breeding List for Independence River Wild Forest

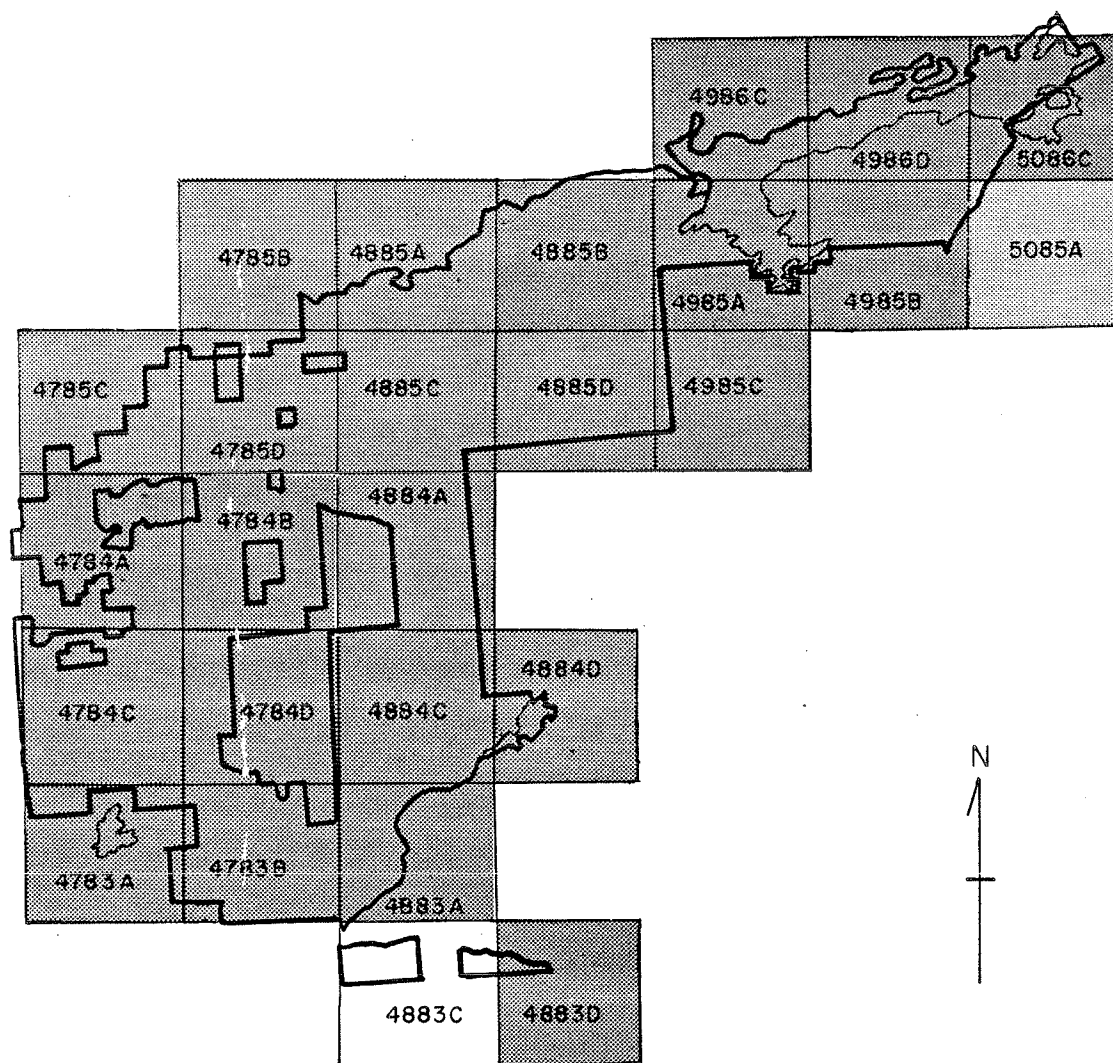
--Occurrence--

### Name

Loon, Common	Confirmed	Phoebe, Eastern	Confirmed
Heron, Great Blue	Probable	Flycatcher, Yellow-	
Bittern, American	Possible	bellied	Probable
Mallard	Confirmed	Flycatcher, Alder	Possible
Duck, Black	Confirmed	Flycatcher, Least	Confirmed
Duck, Wood	Confirmed	Pewee, Eastern Wood	Confirmed
Merganser, Hooded	Confirmed	Flycatcher, Olive-sided	Confirmed
Merganser, Common	Confirmed	Swallow, Tree	Confirmed
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	Possible	Swallow, Rough-winged	Possible
Hawk, Cooper's	Confirmed	Swallow, Barn	Confirmed
Hawk, Red-tailed	Confirmed	Jay, Gray	Possible
Hawk, Red-Shouldered	Probable	Jay, Blue	Confirmed
Hawk, Broad-Winged	Confirmed	Raven, Common	Probable
Hawk, Marsh	Possible	Crow, Common	Confirmed
Osprey	Possible	Chickadee, Black-capped	Confirmed
Kestrel, American	Confirmed	Chickadee, Boreal	Confirmed
Grouse, Ruffed	Confirmed	Nuthatch, White-	
Pheasant, Ring-necked	Confirmed	breasted	Confirmed
Kildeer	Possible	Nuthatch, Red-breasted	Confirmed
Woodcock, American	Confirmed	Creeper, Brown	Confirmed
Sandpiper, Upland	Possible	Wren, House	Probable
Sandpiper, Spotted	Confirmed	Wren, Winter	Confirmed
Gull, Herring	Confirmed	Catbird, Gray	Confirmed
Dove, Mourning	Probable	Thrasher, Brown	Confirmed
Owl, Screech	Probable	Robin, American	Confirmed
Owl, Great horned	Probable	Thrush, Wood	Confirmed
Owl, Barred	Confirmed	Thrush, Hermit	Confirmed
Owl, Saw-whet	Possible	Thrush, Swainson's	Confirmed
Whip-poor-will	Probable	Veery	Probable
Nighthawk, Common	Probable	Bluebird, Eastern	Confirmed
Swift, Chimney	Confirmed	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Confirmed
Hummingbird, Ruby-th.	Probable	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	Confirmed
Kingfisher, Belted	Confirmed	Waxwing, Cedar	Confirmed
Flicker, Common	Confirmed	Starling	Confirmed
Woodpecker, Pileated	Possible	Vireo, Solitary	Confirmed
Woodpecker, Red-headed	Possible	Vireo, Red-eyed	Confirmed
Sapsucker, Yellow-	Confirmed	Vireo, Philadelphia	Possible
bellied		Warbler, Black & white	Confirmed
Woodpecker, Hairy	Confirmed	Warbler, Blue-winged	Confirmed
Woodpecker, Downy	Probable	Warbler, Nashville	Confirmed
Woodpecker, Black-backed		Warbler, Yellow	Possible
three-toed	Confirmed	Parula, Northern	Possible
Kingbird, Eastern	Confirmed	Warbler, Magnolia	Confirmed
Flycatcher, Great	Probable	Warbler, Black-throated	Confirmed
Crested		Blue	

Warbler, Yellow-rumped	Confirmed
Warbler, Black-throated	
Green	Confirmed
Warbler, Cerulean	Possible
Warbler, Blackburian	Confirmed
Warbler, Chestnut-sided	Confirmed
Warbler, Blackpoll	Possible
Warbler, Pine	Possible
Ovenbird	Confirmed
Waterthrush, Northern	Probable
Warbler, Mourning	Probable
Yellowthroat, Common	Confirmed
Warbler, Canada	Probable
Redstart, American	Confirmed
Bobolink	Possible
Meadowlark, Eastern	Confirmed
Blackbird, Red-winged	Confirmed
Oriole, Northern	Confirmed
Blackbird, Rusty	Probable
Grackle, Common	Confirmed
Cowbird, Brown-headed	Probable
Tanager, Scarlet	Confirmed
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Confirmed
Bunting, Indigo	Probable
Finch, Purple	Confirmed
Siskin, Pine	Probable
Goldfinch, American	Confirmed
Towhee, Rufous-sided	Probable
Sparrow, Vesper	Probable
Junco, Dark-eyed	Confirmed
Sparrow, Chipping	Confirmed
Sparrow, Field	Confirmed
Sparrow, White-throated	Confirmed
Sparrow, Lincoln's	Confirmed
Sparrow, Swamp	Confirmed
Sparrow, Song	Probable
Sparrow, Sory	Confirmed

# Independence River Wild Forest Breeding Bird Atlas Project



## ATLAS BLOCKS

- Data included on summary
- Incomplete data included on summary

0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES



APPENDIX H-2  
INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST

WILDLIFE INVENTORY

COMMON WILDLIFE

Black bear	Ursus americanus
White-tail deer	Odocoileus virginianus
Coyote	Canis latrans
Raccoon	Procyon lotor
Fisher	Martes pennanti
Otter	Lutra canadensis
Beaver	Castor canadensis
Mink	Mustella vison
Varying Hare	Lepus americanus
Red squirrel	Sciurus hudsonicus
Eastern chipmunk	Tamias striatus

COMMON BIRDLIFE

Ruffed grouse	Bonasa umbellus
Woodcock	Philohela minor
Wood duck	Aix sponsa
Black duck	Anas rubripes
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
Common loon	Gavia immer
Great blue heron	Ardea herodias
+Northern raven	Corvus corax

LESS-COMMON WILDLIFE

Bobcat	Lynx rufus	- scarce
Lynx	Lynx canadensis	- possible occasional wanderer
Moose	Alces americana	- occasional wanderer
Red fox	Vulpes fulva	- scarce
Gray fox	Urocyon cinereoargenteus	- scarce
Muskrat	Ondatra zibethica	- scarce

LESS COMMON BIRDLIFE

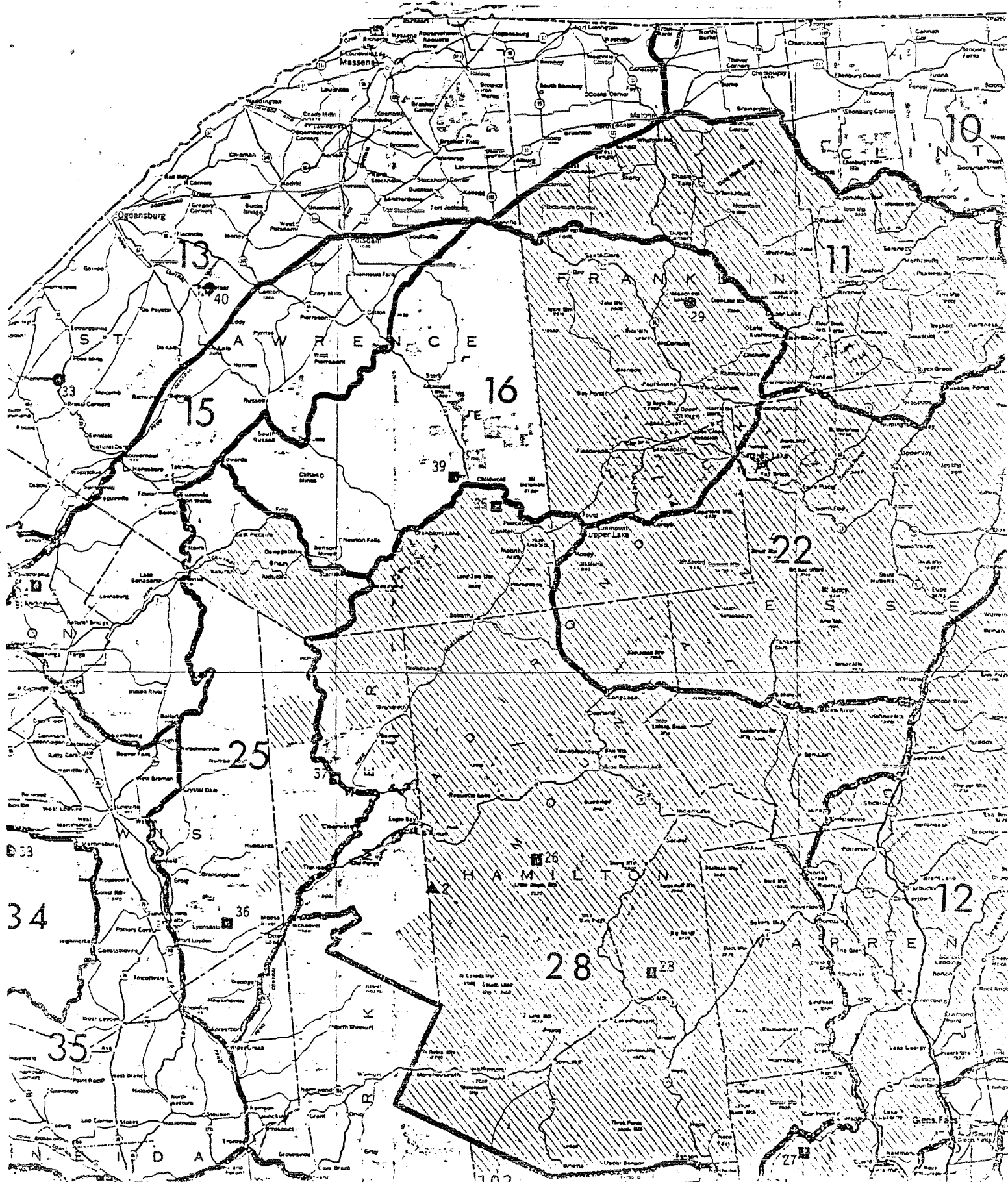
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	- scarce
Turkey vulture	Cathartes aura	- scarce

ABUNDANCE UNKNOWN

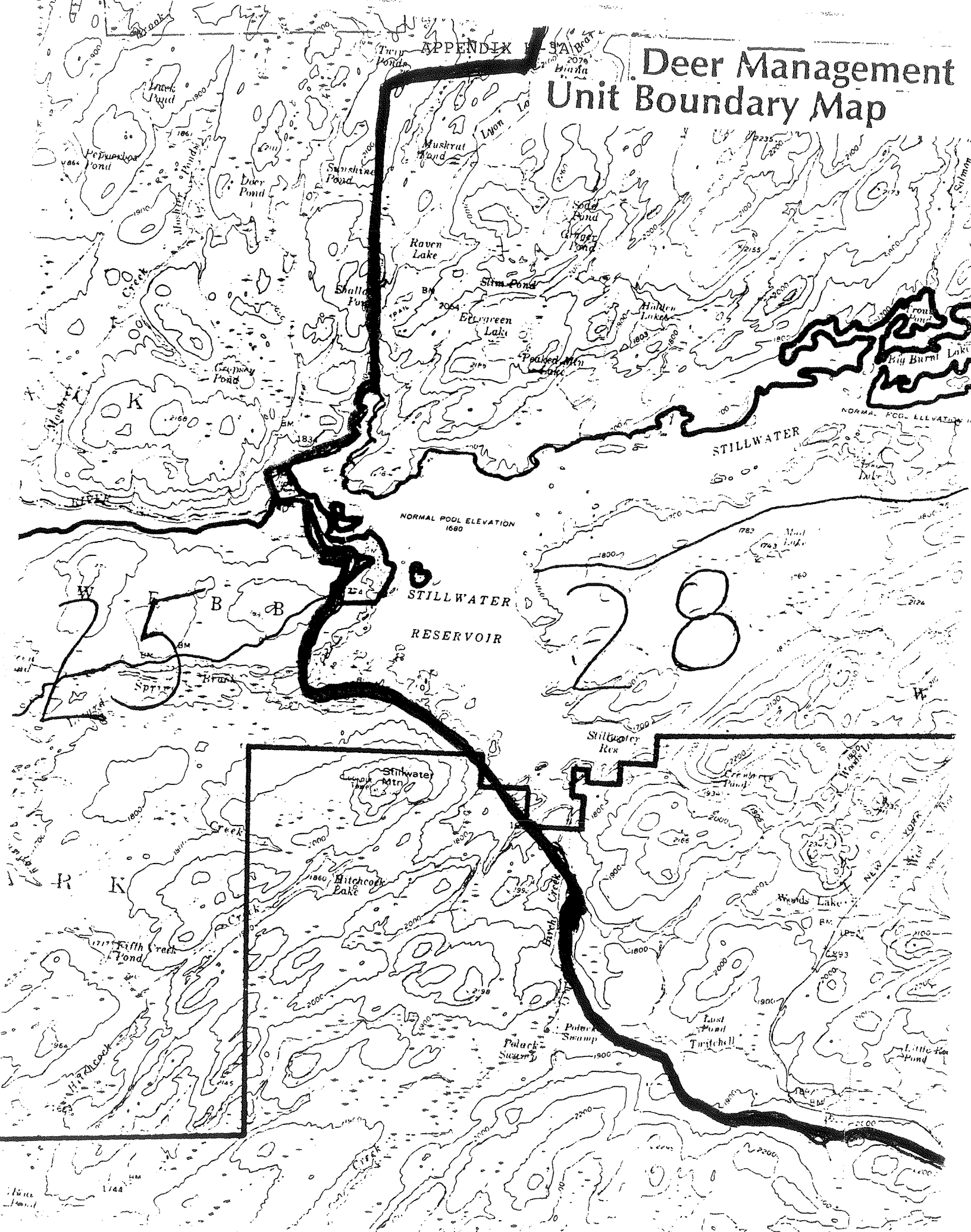
Marten	Martes americana
* Bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus
** Golden eagle	Aquila chrysaetos

- \* Endangered Species - NYS and USDI
- \*\* Endangered Species - NYS
- + Special Concern Species - NYS

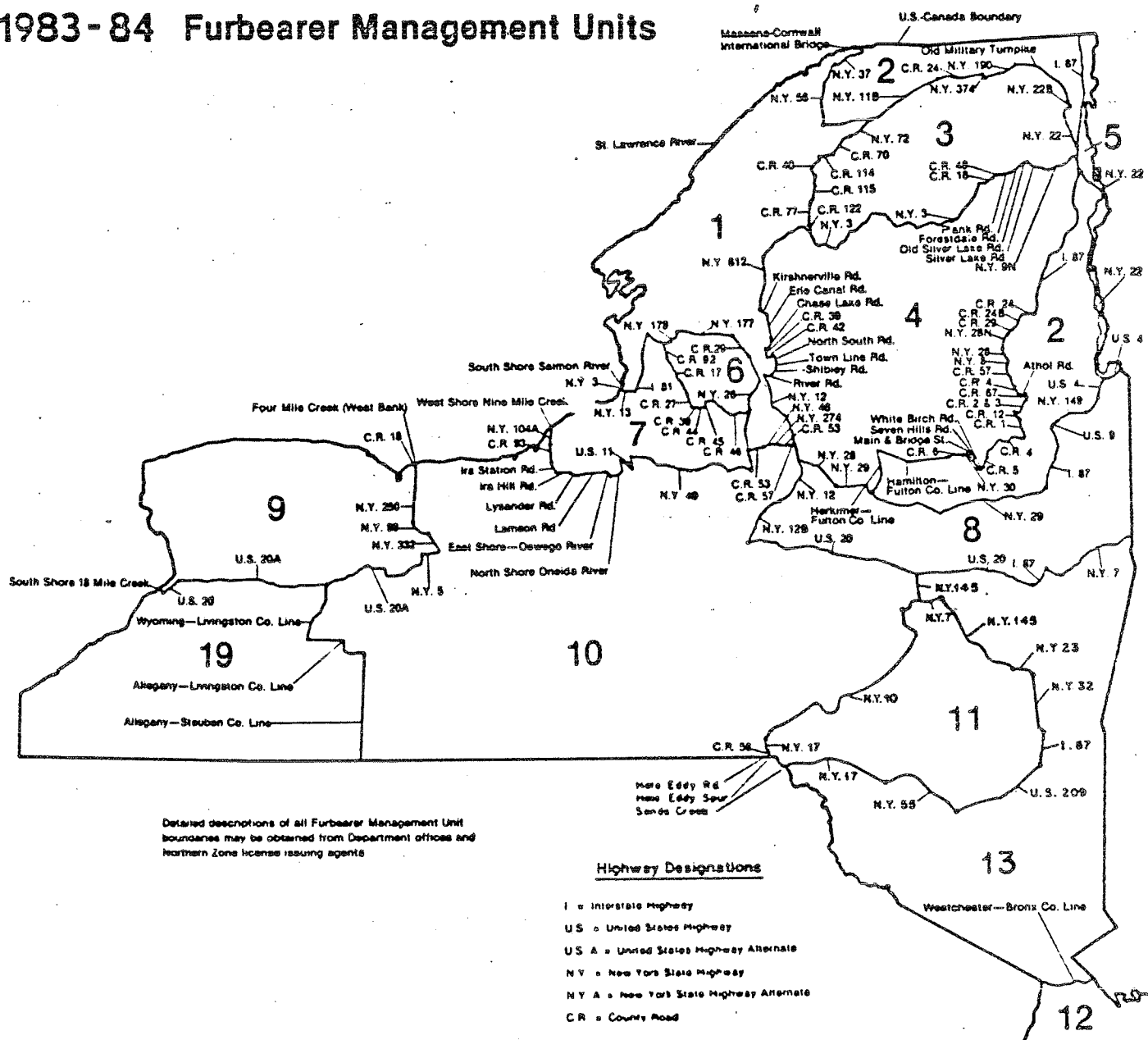
# 1983 Deer Management Unit Boundary Map



# Deer Management Unit Boundary Map



## 1983-84 Furbearer Management Units



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WATERSHED KEY #	STREAM NAME	TOWN	COUNTY	MILES	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES/STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
Number 4 Quad:										
0.19-40-20	Sunday Creek	Webb	Herkimer	6.5		ST stocked/wild		2100 STY/yr	Same	Access adequate
0.19-40-20-2	Lizard Sp. Brook	Webb	Herkimer	5.5		ST NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-57-8	Second Creek	Watson	Lewis	2.0		Non-trout		None	None	Access adequate
0.19-57-9	Third Creek	Watson	Lewis	4.0		ST NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-57-9-1	Pine Creek	Watson	Lewis	5.0		ST NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-57-10	Fourth Creek	Watson & Webb	Lewis & Herkimer	3.0		ST NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-57-10-3	Fifth Creek	Watson & Webb	Lewis & Herkimer	3.0		----- Insufficient Data -----				Access adequate
0.19-57-10-6	Hitchcock Creek	Webb	Herkimer	3.1		ST NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-40-P493-24	Beaver River, W.Branch	Webb	Herkimer	4.6		ST stocked		500STY/yr.	Same	Access adequate
0.19-40-P449-	Slough Brook	Webb	Herkimer	1.6		ST stocked		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-57-10-3-2	Hay Creek	Webb	Herkimer	1.7		----- Insufficient Data -----				
0.19-57-7	Burnt Creek	Watson	Lewis	4.0		ST NSA (marg.)		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-40-20-1	Green Pd. Inl. & Outlet	Webb	Herkimer	1.6		----- Insufficient Data -----				

WATERSHED KEY #	STREAM NAME	TG	COUNTY	MI	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARK
<u>Number 4 Quad Continued:</u>										
0.19-40-P449-2 P450-2	Francis Lake Outlet	Watson	Lewis	1.0		----- Insufficient Data -----				
<u>Big Moose and Number 4 Quad:</u>										
0.9-40-P 493-32	Twitchell Creek	Webb	Herkimer	0.3	pH 4.19, acid	ST, Acid		None	Same	Access adequate
<u>Crystal Dale and Number 4 Quad:</u>										
0.19-57	Independence River	Webb & Watson	Herkimer & Lewis	12.0	pH 4.63, acid	ST, Acid		None	Same	Access adequate
<u>Crystal Dale:</u>										
0.19-57-5	Beaver Meadow Cr.	Watson	Lewis	5.0		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-57-7	Burnt Creek	Watson	Lewis	5.0		ST, NSA (marg.)		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
<u>Brantingham &amp; McKeever:</u>										
0.19-60	Otter Creek	Greig	Lewis	7.0	pH 5.58, threatened acid	BT, ST, stocked/ wild		3500 BTY & 1600 STY below T-12	Same	Access adequate
0.19-60-6	Crooked Creek	Greig	Lewis	6.0		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-70	Fish Creek	Greig	Lewis	2.5		BT, ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
<u>Brantingham:</u>										
0.19-60-5	Little Otter Creek	Greig	Lewis	5.0		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate

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WATERSHED KEY #	STREAM NAME	TC	COUNTY	MIS	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECI STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMAR
<u>McKeever:</u>										
0.19-60-12	Tommy Roaring Brook	Greig	Lewis	2.5		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-81-7-1-0-2	8 Foot Creek	Greig	Lewis	1.0		----- Insufficient Data -----				
0.19-60-6-1	Little Pine Creek	Greig	Lewis	2.2		ST, NSA (marg.)		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-60-T14	Goose Pd. Outlet	Greig	Lewis	0.5		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-60-T15	West Pd. Outlet	Greig	Lewis	1.0		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-70-4- P689-2	Brantingham Inlet	Greig	Lewis	2.4		----- Insufficient Data -----				
0.19-81-7-7	Stony Creek	Greig	Lewis	3.1		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-81-7-1 P-701-2	Little Pine L. Outlet	Greig	Lewis	3.9		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-81-7-1	Pine Creek	Greig & Lyonsdale	Lewis	4.0		ST, NSA (marg.)		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
0.19-81-7-1-4	Drunkard Cr.	Greig	Lewis	2.0		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate
<u>Big Moose:</u>										
0.19-40- P493-T28	Mud Lake Stream	Webb	Herkimer	1.1		ST, NSA		Regulation	Same	Access adequate

WATERSHED KEY #	STREAM NAME	TOWNSHIP	COUNTY	MI	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
<u>Big Moose Continued:</u>										
0.19-40- P493-T29	Big Creek	Webb	Herkimer	3.4		----- Insufficient Data -----				
<u>Port Leyden:</u>										
0.19-60-T4	Catspaw L. Outlet	Greig	Lewis	0.4		----- Insufficient Data -----				
<u>Lowville:</u>										
0.19-57-4- P597-1	Chases L. Inlet	Watson	Lewis	1.5		----- Insufficient Data -----				
0.19-57-4- P597-1 P602-1	Upper Chase Lake Inlet	Watson	Lewis	2.5		----- Insufficient Data -----				
<u>Abbreviations:</u>										
ST	Brook Trout - <u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u>									
BT	Brown Trout - <u>Salmo trutta</u>									
BHC	Bullhead - <u>Ictalurus nebulosus</u>									
YP	Yellow Perch - <u>Perca flavescens</u>									
RB	Rock Bass - <u>Ambloplites rupestris</u>									
SmB	Smallmouth Bass - <u>Micropterus dolomieu</u>									
PKS	Pumpkinseed Sunfish - <u>Lepomis gibbosus</u>									
PKL	Chain Pickerel - <u>Esox niger</u>									
Splake	Brook Trout & Lake Trout - <u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u> X <u>Salvelinus namaycush</u>									
NSA	Natural reproduction supports population									
Stocked/Wild	Population of wild fish is augmented by stocking									
STY	Brook trout yearling									
BTY	Brown trout yearling									



WATERSHED KEY	POND NAME	TOWN	COUNTY	ACRES	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES/STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
Number 4 Quad:										
P451	Francis Lake	Watson	Lewis	120	pH 6.2	Pk1, YP, GS	1983 survey	Maintain resi- dent (NSA) warm water species. Regulation	Same, plus Possible tiger mus- kellunge intro- duction	Warmwater lake
P473	Sunday Pond	Webb	Herkimer	15	pH 6.38 7/82	ST, BHC, YP, PKS	1956 survey	Regulation	Possible liming or reclama- tion pro- ject.	Survey to access current status.
P630	Bills Pond	Watson	Lewis	12		Insufficient data	1931 survey	None	Survey to assess needs.	Low priority
P631	Mike's Pond	Watson	Lewis	4		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Low priority
P632	Panther Pond	Watson	Lewis	15		Non-chem. un- suited	1968 survey	None	Lime & stock	Low priority
P635	Fifth Cr. Pd.	Webb	Herkimer	2	pH 4.13 8/79	YP, PKS	1968 survey	None	None	Small-low priority acid
P638	Lennon Pond	Webb	Herkimer	8		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Low priority
P667	East Pond	Greig	Lewis	3	pH 4.9 8/76	ST, BHC	1931 survey	None	Survey to access	Small-low priority

WATERSHED KEY	POND NAME	TOWN	COUNTY	ACRES	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES/STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
Number 4 Quad Continued:										
P669	Unnamed	Greig	Lewis	9		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Small-low priority
Big Moose Quad:										
P493	Stillwater Reservoir	Webb	Herkimer	6205	pH 5.07	Splake, SmB, YP, RB	1977 survey	Regulation, Stocking Splake	Possible Refuge liming to restore smallmouth bass fishery and continue present splake policy	Non-fishing use of this water is very high.
P524	Mud Lake	Webb	Herkimer	3		Insufficient data		None	Survey to determine status	Low priority
P576	Woods Lake	Webb	Herkimer	50	Ph 5.12 5/82	ST	1973 survey	acid	Lime application/stocking	Low priority
Lowville Quad:										
P601	Calfhead Pond	Watson	Lewis	3		None reported	1966 survey	None	None	Small-low priority
P602	Chase Lake Upper	Watson	Lewis	20	Ph 6.31	PKL, BHC, YP, PKS	1971 survey	Regulation	Regulation	Warmwater lake

WATERSHED KEY	POND NAME	TOWN	COUNTY	ACRES	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES/STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
Lowville Quad	Continued:									
P607	Cork Pond	Watson	Lewis	5	pH 5.00	ST	1969 survey	Regulation	Regulation	Small-low priority
P608	Evies Pond	Watson	Lewis	6.5	pH 6.09 6/82	ST	1979 Survey	Regulation/ Stocking STF	Maintenance liming, stocking Regulation Lime in 1985 if needed	Popular traditional brook trout fishery
P610	Long Lake	Watson	Lewis	13.5	Ph 6.3 6/82	ST	1979 survey	Regulation/ Stocking STF	Maintenance liming, stocking Regulation Lime in 1986 if needed	Popular traditional brook trout fishery
P611	E. Spectacle Pond	Watson	Lewis	3/4		BHC	1931 survey	None	None	Small-low priority
P612	W. Spectacle Pond	Watson	Lewis	1		BHC	1931 survey	None	None	Small-low priority
P613	Mahan Pond	Watson	Lewis	3	(1956) pH 5.2, acid	None-acid	1954 survey	None	None	Small-low priority
P614	Crawford Fish Pd.	Watson	Lewis	None- dam out				None	None	Dam out
P619	Cleveland Lake	Watson	Lewis	13	pH 4.89 6/82	ST	1983 survey	Regulation/ Stocking STF	Maintenance liming, stocking Regulation limed '82 relime '88	Popular traditional brook trout fishery

WATERSHED KEY	POND NAME	TOWN	COUNTY	ACRES	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES/STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
<u>Lowville Quad Continued:</u>										
P620	Payne Lake	Watson	Lewis	19	pH 7.25 6/82	ST	1983 survey	Regulation/ Stocking STF	Maintenance liming, stocking Regulation Limed '82, re-line '88	Popular traditional brook trout fishery
P624	Beach Mill Pd.	Watson	Lewis	None- dam out				None	None	Dam out
P626	Gourd Lake	Watson	Lewis	2		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Low priority
P627	Stewart Pond	Watson	Lewis	4		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Low priority
<u>Port Leyden Quad:</u>										
P662	Catspaw Lake	Greig	Lewis	15		PKL, BHC, PKS	1966 survey	Regulation	Regulation	Warmwaer Lake
P662a	Pitcher Pond	Greig	Lewis	5	pH 5.45 6/82	ST	1984 survey limed in 1984	Regulation/ Stocking STF	Lime in '89 Regulation, stocking,	Popular traditional brook trout fishery
P664	Little Otter Lake	Lewis	Greig	40	pH 6.0 8/84	BT, BHC, PKS	1984 survey limed in 1984	Regulation/ Stocking BTF	Regulation, stocking, possible reclamation, liming forage enhance- ment	Low use at present. Occas. large brown trout

WATERSHED KEY	POND NAME	TOWN	COUNTY	ACRES	WATER QUALITY	MAJOR FISH SPECIES/STATUS	PAST	MANAGEMENT PRESENT	FUTURE	REMARKS
Port Leyden Quad Continued:										
P664a	Florence Pd.	Greig	Lewis	3.5	pH 6.00	None-Chem. un- sulted, poor oxygen	1977 survey	None	None	Small-low priority
P664c	Long Pond	Greig	Lewis	2		None-bog pond unsulted		None	None	Dystrophic bog pond
McKeever Quad:										
P674	Goose Pond	Greig	Lewis	1		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Small-low priority
P675	West Pond	Webb	Herkimer	5		Insufficient data		None	Survey to assess needs	Small-low priority
P676	Big Otter Lake	Webb	Herkimer	200	pH 6.60 7/81	ST, BHC, PKS, CMS	1973 survey	Regulation/ Stocking STF	Regulation, stocking, possible liming, forage en- hancement	Occasional large brook trout reported
P694	West Pine Pond	Greig	Lewis	6		BHC	1973 survey	None	None	Small-low priority
Abbreviations:										
ST - Brook Trout - <u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u>				SmB - Smallmouth Bass - <u>Micropterus dolomieu</u>				STY - brook trout yearling		
BT - Brown Trout - <u>Salmo trutta</u>				PKS - Pumpkinseed Sunfish - <u>Lepomis gibbosus</u>				BTY - brown trout yearling		
BHC - Bullhead - <u>Ictalurus nebulosus</u>				PKL - Chain Pickerel - <u>Esox niger</u>						
YP - Yellow Perch - <u>Perca flavescens</u>				Splake - Brook Trout & Lake Trout - <u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u> X <u>Salvelinus namaycush</u>						
RB - Rock Bass - <u>Ambloplites rupestris</u>				NSA - Natural reproduction supports population						
				Stocked/Wild - Population of wild fish is augmented by stocking						

# Appendix L-1

## Inventory of Facilities & Improvements

Name of Unit: Independence River Wild Forest

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Units</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Lean-tos	Panther Pond w/fireplace & privy	1	Good
	Pine Lake w/fireplace & privy (both are 15' X 12' w/5 person capacity).	1	Fair
Fire Towers	Number Four 7' X 7' Cab on 80' tower	1	Good
	Stillwater Mt. (On Int. Paper Co. land) 7' X 8' Cab on 56' tower.	1	Good
Observer Cabins	Number Four 16' X 20' 3 Room w/porch & pit privy plus woodshed.	1	Good
	Stillwater 16' X 18' 3 Room w/porch & pit privy plus woodshed.	1	Good
Telephone lines	Number Four Road to #4 Tower	.25 miles	Good
Ranger Headquarters	Stillwater 28' X 40' wood frame residence and office.	1	Good
	Stillwater 16' X 24' pole shelter	1	Good
	Stillwater 28' X 40' garage wood frame	1	Good
	Stillwater 16' X 24' boathouse.	1	Good
Boat Docks	Stillwater 10' X 20' wood on styrofoam.	3	Fair
	Beaver River Station @ Grassy Point(permit)	1	Good
Impoundments	Big Otter Lake Outlet, stone & timber.	1	Poor
	Francis Lake Outlet - earthen & concrete.	1	Good
	Half Moon Lake Outlet	1	Fair
Total		3	

Marked..	Foot Trails- <u>Description</u>	<u>Total Units</u>
Herkimer County	Stillwater Mt. Tower Trail	1.2 Red
	(0.8 is on Inter. Paper Co. land)	
	Moshier at Sunday Cr. to Pepperbox.	0.3 Red
	Moshier at Sunday Cr. to Ind.Riv. W.F.	0.3 Blue
Lewis County	Beach Mill Pond to Smith Road.	10.2 Yellow
	Steam Mill Parking Lot to Otter L.Rd.	9.8 Red
	Pine Lake Trail	<u>2.8</u> Yellow
	Total	24.6 miles

Marked Snowmobile Trails:

Herkimer County	Basket Factory Rd. and trail	5.5 miles
	McCarthy Road to Lennon Ponds gate	5.5 miles
	McCarthy crossover	2.8 miles
	East Loop and Stillwater spur	3.5 miles
Herkimer-	North crossover Tr.	3.1 miles
Lewis County	Emmett Hill Road	2.3 miles
	Otter Lake Outlet to Hotel Site	1.2 miles
Lewis County	Panther Pond Loop	9.2 miles
	Smith Road	3.2 miles
	Lean-to Spur	1.0 miles
	East Bridge Trail	2.3 miles
	Stoney Lake Road to Fish Trail	3.2 miles
	Mt. Tom Road fish Trail to 10 Mile Rd.	4.8 miles
	10 Mile Crossing Road-Balsam Flats Rd.	2.2 miles
	Silvermine Trail	5.6 miles
	Cleveland Lake Trail	1.0 miles
	Old #4 Trail	1.6 miles
	Evies pond Rds.	2.5 miles
	Hinchings Pond Trail	2.5 miles
	Blue Jog & Tip Rds.	0.9 miles
	Hiawatha Trail	0.5 miles
	Confusion Flats Road	2.4 miles
	Florence Pond Loop	3.3 miles
	Pitcher Pond Rd.	1.4 miles
	Erie Canal Trail	1.3 miles
	Catspaw Lake-Blueberry Trail-Glenfield	
	Railroad Trail	7.7 miles
	Big Otter Lake Road	3.6 miles
	Pine L.-Otter Lake Trail	4.8 miles
	Pico Mountain Trail	4.1 miles
	Steammill Road	3.8 miles
	Spring Hill - Pine Creek Loop	4.6 miles
	Abbey Trail to Copper Lake	<u>1.5 miles</u>
	TOTAL	105.9 miles

## Gravel Pits \*

### Active Herkimer County

- |                       |       |                                 |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1. McCarthy Rd.       | 2 Ea. | Deed rights to Lennon Pond Club |
| 2. Basket Factory Rd. | 1 Ea. | Administrative use by DEC       |

### Lewis County

- |                          |       |  |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| 1. Smith Rd.             | 2 Ea. | Deed rights to Trout Pond Club           |
| 2. Halfmoon Rd.          | 1 Ea. | Administrative use by DEC                |
| 3. Stony Lake Rd.        | 1 Ea. | Administrative use by DEC                |
| 4. Ten Mill Crossing Rd. | 1 Ea. | Deed rights to balsam Flats Club et. al. |
| 5. Big Otter Lake Rd.    | 1 Ea. | Administrative use by DEC                |

## Roads (subject to private rights)

Herkimer County	Raven Lake Road (Dam Road to bridge)	0.3 miles
	McCarthy Road (No. 4 Rd. to Stateline E)	5.5 miles
	Emmett Hill Rd. (McCarthy Rd. to County Line)	2.1 miles
Herkimer and Lewis County	Copper Lake Rd. (across DeCamp and Snell Purchases)	2.0 miles
Lewis County	Gerrard Road (N. E. Corner Lot 21 across Thisse to State land)	0.1 miles
	Slayko Rd. (No. 4 Rd. across Thisse to State land)	0.3 miles
	Summer Road (No. 4 Rd. to Thisse Camp)	0.3 miles
	Smith Road (No. 4 to Trout Pond East line)	2.5 miles
	Half Moon Rd. (No. 4 Rd. to State line)	0.5 miles
	Yancey Road (Halfmoon Rd. to Yancey Gate)	0.2 miles
	Cleveland Lake Rd (end of Town Road to gate - State land only)	0.1 miles
	Evies Pond Rd. (Stoney Lake Rd. to State line)	0.3 miles
	Diamond Rd. (Beach Mill Rd. northerly to State line)	0.4 miles
	Stoney Lake Rd. (End town maintenance to Fish Trail)	3.2 miles
	Joslyn Rd. (Stoney Lake Rd. easterly to State line)	0.2 miles
	Thesier, Ross & Burnham Rds. (Stoney Lake Rd. Easterly to State line)	0.1 miles
	Fish Trail (Stoney Lake Rd. to East line lot 60)	2.3 miles
	Mt. Tom Rd. (Fish Trail to Mt. Tom Eastbounds)	3.0 miles
	Hinchings Pond Rd. (Sand Pond Rd. to West Line lot 224)	1.4 miles

\*See facilities map for location.



Bull Rd. (Hinchings Pond Rd. to Bull gate)	0.8 miles
Branaugh Rd. (Hinchings Pond Rd. southerly to Branaugh gate)	0.2 miles
Eight Rd. (Confusion Flats easterly to Blue line)	0.2 miles
McCann Rd. (Confusion Flats Road south to McCann Camp)	0.1 miles
Balsam Flats Road (Partridgeville Rd. @ 10 mile to county line)	7.0 miles
Harris Road (Balsam Flats Road south and east to county line)	0.1 miles
Black Hawk Rd. (Partridgeville Rd. south to camp in lot 38 notch)	0.2 miles
O'Hara Road (Partridgeville Rd. south to last State line crossing)	0.1 miles
Steam Mill Road (end of Town road Easterly to State line)	<u>0.4 miles</u>
ROADS TOTAL	34.0 miles

Open Jeep Trails (\*indicates annual maintenance by Operations)

Herkimer County

- \*1. Basket Factory Rd. (Stillwater Rd. to 2nd Sunday Cr. crossing) 2.4 mile
- 2. East Loop Road (Basket Factory Rd. East to knoll North of swamp) 1.5 mile
- 3. Sunday Lake Road (McCarthy Road East to Sunday Lake) 0.5 mile

Herkimer & Lewis County

- \*1. Big Otter Lake Road (Partridgeville Road Extension Easterly to lake @ Hotel/site) 5.0 mile

Lewis County

- 1. Francis Road (#4 Road to turnaround) 0.3 mile
- \*2. Smith Road (Trout Pond East line to Pine Cr.) 1.3 mile
- 3. Burnt Creek Rd. (Crystal Lake Rd. Southeasterly to Burnt Cr.) 0.5 mile
- 4. Zehr Road (From Beach Mill Road Northerly to State line) 0.3 mile
- 5. Back Road (From Beach Mill Rds. to Payne Lake) 0.5 mile
- 6. Payne Lake Road (Cleveland Lake Rd. Northerly to Payne Lake) 0.2 mile
- 7. Old #4 Road (Cleveland Lake Road South to Bailey Road) 1.6 mile
- 8. Proceeding Road (McPhilmey Road Southeast to Bailey Road) 0.6 mile
- 9. Elbow Road (Bailey Road North to River Elbow) 0.2 mile
- \*10. Evies Pond Road (Pat Brown line Northeasterly to Evies Pond) 0.5 mile
- 11. Fish Pond Road (Evies Pond Road Easterly to Fish Pond) 0.9 mile
- 12. Dragline Road (Evies Pond Northwesterly to peat bog) 0.7 mile
- 13. Useless Road (Stoney Lake Northerly to Fish Pond) 0.7 mile
- 14. Tip Road (Sand Pond Road at Southern tip Chases Lake Southerly to Blue Jog Road) 0.2 mile
- \*15. Confusion Flats Road (Sand Pond Road Southerly to Blue Line at Casslerville) 2.4 mile
- 16. Blue Jog Road (Confusion Flats Road Westerly to Blue Line) 0.4 mile
- 17. Hiawatha Road (Confusion Flats Road Northeasterly to Blue Line) 0.6 mile
- 18. Eight Road (Little Otter Creek Road Northwesterly to common corner lots 8,9,26,27) 0.2 mile
- 19. Little Otter Creek Road (Florence Pond Road Northerly and Easterly to Little Otter Creek) 1.9 mile
- 20. Lake Spur (Little Otter Creek Road Northerly to Little Otter Lake) 0.2 mile
- 21. Bank Road (Little Otter Creek Road Southerly to Florence Pond Road) 0.2 mile
- \*22. Florence Pond Road (Confusion Flats Road Easterly to Loop and Long Pond Spur) 3.3 miles
- 23. Grownin Road (Florence Pond Road to Florence Pd. Road) 0.3 miles
- 24. Extra Road (Confusion Flats Road Easterly to Little Otter Cr.) 0.8 miles
- 25. Pitcher Road (Confusion Flats Road @ Confusion Corners Southerly to Pitcher Pond) 1.2 miles
- 26. Nothing Road (Short cut Road to Pitcher Road) 0.2 miles
- 27. Short Cut Road (Confusion Flats Road Easterly to Pitcher Pond Road) 0.6 miles
- 28. Catspaw Lake Rd. (Van Arnam Rd. Easterly to Partridgeville Rd.) 1.9 miles
- 29. Shingle Mill Falls Rd. (Partridgeville Road Northerly to dead end) 0.4 miles
- 30. Blueberry Trail (Shingle Mill Falls Rd. Westerly to open plains) 0.3 miles
- \*31. Steam Mill Rd. (State boundary Easterly to Drunkard Cr. P.L.) 3.5 miles
- \*32. Halfmoon Rd. State Boundary to Burnt Creek 1.0 miles

Jeep Trails Total Miles 37.3 miles

# Trailhead Registers

Stillwater Dam @ Beaver River Bridge	1	
Stillwater Boat Launch	1	
Mashia Parking Lot @ Sunday Creek	1	
Beach Mill @ Burnt Creek	1	
Panther Pond @ Smith Road	1	
Pine Lake Trail @ Huzzy's	1	
Steam Mill Trail @ Steam Mill P.L.	<u>1</u>	
Total Trailhead		7 Registers

## Boat Launch Site 200 Car Parking Lot

Stillwater Reservoir 1 Unit

## Toilet Facilities

Stillwater Reservoir 22' X 24' Chemical Latrine 8 unit  
Wood Frame. (Good condition) 1 Unit

## Boundary Lines

Herkimer County - Copper Lake	3.50 miles	
Big Otter Lake	4.80 miles	
Stillwater-Sunday Lake	<u>51.40 miles</u>	59.70 miles
Lewis County - Independence River North	39.11 miles	
Independence River South	34.52 miles	
Greig West	30.30 miles	
Greig East	<u>17.11 miles</u>	121.04 miles
Total boundary line		180.74 miles

## Trailhead Parking Lots

Moshier Road at Sunday Creek	12 car - 1 Lot
Beaches Mill Pond	6 car - 1 Lot
Sand Pond Rd. @ Confusion Flats Rd.	6 car - 1 Lot
Otter Cr. @ Huzzy's North side	6 car - 1 Lot
Otter Cr. @ Huzzy's South side	12 car - 1 Lot
Steam Mill Road	6 car - 1 Lot
Steam Mill Road @ Drunkard Cr. Terminus	<u>6 car - 1 lot</u>
	7 Lots

## Gates

Panther Pond Loop at Smith Road	1
Smith Road at Pine Creek	1
Mt. Tom East and West	2
Balsam Flats Road at 10 Mile Road	1 (barrier)
Raven Lake Road at Beaver river	1
Fish Trail at Independence River S.	1
Beach Mill Pond Parking Lot	1 (barrier)
Half Moon Lake Road at Burnt Creek	1
Half Moon Lake Road at Tuttle Creek	1
Pine Lake Road	1
Steam Mill Foot Trail	1 (barrier)
Steam Mill Road at Drunkard Creek	1

Total 10 Gates/2 Barriers

## Bridges, Major

Sunday Cr. foot bridge, 2 concrete piers 51' span X 3' wide.	- 1
Beaver River @ Moshier Rd. (foot) Modified suspension-2 piers 95' span X 4'W.	- 1
Basket Factory Rd.- Sunday Cr. 35' X 10' timber	- 1
Independence River @ Fish Tr. (snowmobile) treated timber 2 concrete piers 94' span X 6' wide	- 1
Independence River @ Balsam Flats (snowmobile) treated timber piers & 3 concrete piers 105' span x 6' wide.	- 1
Otter Creek @ Catspaw Lake (snowmobile) 3 concrete piers, 101' span X 6' wide, w/railing.	- 1
Big Otter Lake Outlet (snowmobile) treated timber	- 1
Steam Mill Rd. Poison Br. (Jeep) 20'L.X12'W..RR 60#	- 1
Steam Mill Rd. Fish Cr. (Jeep) 16'L. X 12'W. R.R. 60#.	- 1

Total Major Bridges - 9

## Bridges, Secondary

### Panther Pond Loop (snowmobile)

Pine Creek	2
Third Creek	1
Fourth Creek (spur to Independence River)	4

### Beech Mill Foot Trail

Burnt Creek	1
Nickel Creek	1
Second Creek	1
Pine Creek	1
Third Creek	2
Snake Creek	1

Bridges, Secondary cont'd.

Sand Pond Road to Stoney Lake Road	6
Little Otter Creek (Jeep) 20' X 12' Stringer	1
Silvermine Snowmobile Trail	
Crooked Creek et al.	7
Catspaw Lake Outlet (Snowmobile)	2
Otter Lake Road @ Tommy Roaring Brook (snowmobile)	1
Railroad Loop Brantingham (snowmobile)	2
Steam Mill Foot Trail	
Fish Creek	1
Eight Foot Creek	1
Pine Lake	1
Pine Lake Road (Snowmobile)	
Pine Lake Inlet and others	5
Pico Mountain Road (snowmobile)	1
Fish Creek	1
Eight Foot Creek	1
Steam Mill Road (Jeep)	
Emerson Br. (Jeep)	1
Drunkard Creek (snowmobile)	1
Mudhole Loop (snowmobile)	
Drunkard Creek tributaries et al.	<u>14</u>
Total	59 Secondary Bridges

Signs, Major

Stillwater Boat Launch Site	1
Adirondack Park Boundary "Entering" signs	7
Public Easement Signs	
Hinchings Pond Road	2
Stoney Lake Road - Mt. Tom Rd.	4
Trailhead Parking	
Sunday Creek (Niagara Mohawk)	<u>1</u>
	15 Signs

# Appendix L-3

## Summary Facilities Changes

### Webb

	<u>Drop</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Upgrad</u>
1. Jeep Trails			
Big Otter Lake Trail Northeasterly from outlet bridge.	1.3		
Basket Factory Trail.			3.1
2. Snowmobile Trails			
Basket Factory Trail Extension	2.5		
East Loop	1.5		
Mc Carthy Crossover	1.8		
Sunday Lake Trail		0.8	
International Paper Co. (by permission only)		3.0	
3. Facilities			
Parking Lot @ Stillwater Dam		X	
Parking Lot @ End of Basket Factory Road		X	
Parking Lot @ Stillwater and Mc Carthy Road(if acquisition falls)		X	

### Watson

1. Jeep Trails			
Back Trail	0.6		
Proceeding Trail	0.5		
Dragline Trail	0.2		
Useless Trail	0.8		
Smith Road			3.7
Halfmoon Road			1.5
Mt. Tom Road			0.5
Evies Pond Road			0.6
Shingle Mill Falls Trail			0.4
2. Snowmobile Trails			
Panther Pond West side of loop (Snake Creek to Smith Rd	4.5		
Fish Trail to East Bridge Rail	4.1		
3. Foot Trails			
Fish Trail		1.7	
Independence View Trail		1.3	
4. Facilities			
Parking Smith Road @ Number Four (requires acquisition)		X	
Parking Smith Road @ Pine Creek		X	
Parking Mt. Tom @ Crooked Creek		X	
Parking Half Moon Road @ Burnt Creek		X	

# Summary Facilities Changes Cont's.

## Greig

	<u>Drop</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Upgrac</u>
1. Jeep Trails			
Extra Trail (West Portion)	0.2		
Nothing Trail	0.2		
Bank Trail	0.2		
Grownin Trail	0.2		
Confusion Flats Trail			2.5
Steam Mill Trail			3.5
Florence Pond Trail			2.8
2. Snowmobile Trails			
Florence Pond North Loop	0.6		
Pine Creek Loop South part	3.2		
Abbey Trail	1.4		
3. Foot Trails			
Steam Mill Trail (Ski Trail intersection to Spring Hill)	2.8		
Drunkard Creek to Mudhole		3.0	
4. Ski Trail			
Steam Mill P.L. to 10 Mile P.L. and Loop		4.5	
5. Facilities			
Parking Lot @ 10 Mile Road		X	
Parking Lot @ Catspaw Lake		X	
Parking Lot @ Shingle Mills Falls		X	
Parking Lot @ Big Otter Lake		X	

## Grand Totals

## Total Miles

Jeep Trails Dropped	4.2 Miles
Jeep Trails Maintenance Upgraded	18.6 Miles
Snowmobile Trails Dropped	19.6 Miles
Snowmobile Trails Added	3.8 Miles
Foot Trails Dropped	2.8 Miles
Foot Trails New	6.0 Miles
Ski Trails New	4.5 Miles
Parking Lots New	7 each
Registers New	1 each

## New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## MEMORANDUM

Copy 1/2

FROM: P. Hartmann  
D. King  
SUBJECT: By-pass Trespasses Near Big Otter Lake

DATE: June 27, 1980

While on foot patrol in the Big Otter Lake area over the weekend of June 21-22-23 it was evident that four wheel drive and trail bike misuse is occurring along the old Dolgeville road in the form of by-passes around mud holes.

I suspect that the problem will increase unless something is done to correct the situation.

While talking to a four wheeler at the old hotel site I was informed that some of the four wheelers like to get back there and "Baj" to see what their rigs can do. He said that he would pass word on to 30 or 40 friends that the by-passes are off limit.

Perhaps the road should be blocked off at the dam site or at the county line. I don't know the status of the road - if it has to remain open to the public for vehicle use or not.

length of by-passdistance of by-pass from original road

70 feet  
90  
90  
100  
100  
50  
140  
100  
35  
200  
200  
180  
360  
1715 feet total

10 feet  
6  
20  
50  
50  
10  
30  
20  
8  
20  
20  
10  
200

Copy: Mac  
I have the sketch  
the areas. I  
Dist. 6 has  
along road.

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County

Handrickson  
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management plan  
the bridge site?

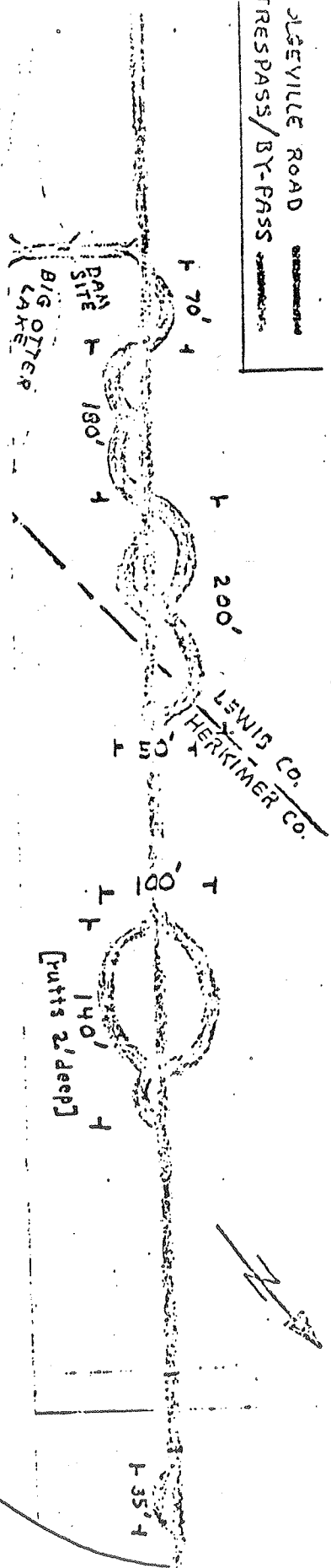
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JUL 1 1980

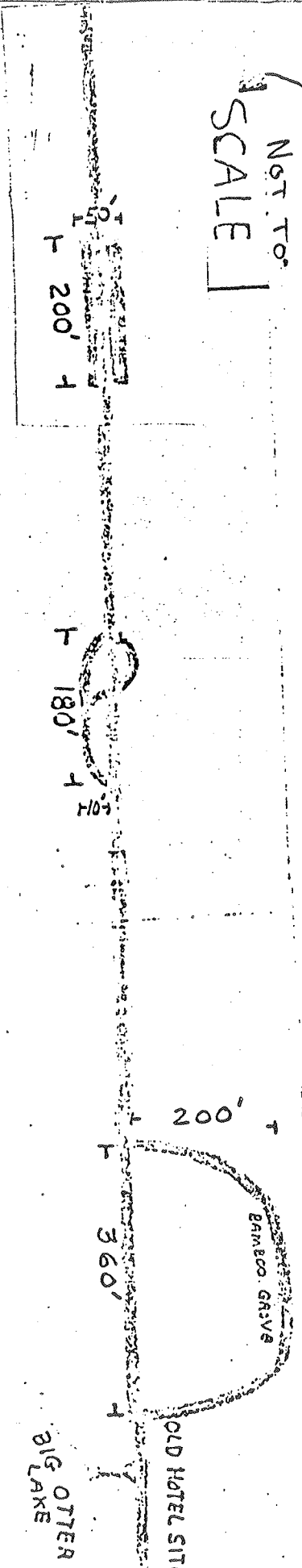
NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION - R. CLARK  
HERKIMER



LEWISVILLE ROAD  
TRESPASS/BY-PASS



NOT TO  
SCALE



## Appendix L-5

### Private Rights & Easements

#### 1. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

- a. Electric service line along Stillwater Road.
- b. Electric service line along Partridgeville Road.
- c. Electric service line along Sand Pond Road, and Hinchings Pd. Rd. to Little Otter Lake.
- d. Electric service line along Stoney Lake Road.
- e. Electric service line along Sperryville - Bailey Roads.
- f. Gravel rights between the pipeline lot and 200 feet North of the Beaver River.
- g. Right to repair, remove, or extend electric distribution facilities across Forest Preserve Proposal 1-A containing 17,764.66 acres shown on Map #3450.

#### 2. Continental Telephone Company

- a. Buried cable along Stillwater Road.
- b. Buried cable along Flow Road (Six Mile Road).
- c. Buried cable Sperryville-Bailey Road to last residence East of Sperryville.
- d. Buried cable Sand Pond Road to Sand Pond, Hinchings Pd Rd. to Little Otter Lake.
- e. Service line Partridgeville Road.
- f. Buried cable on Stoney Lake Road to Upper Chases Lake.

#### 3. Roads

- a. Ten Mile Crossing Road (Balsam Flats Road) including right to take gravel from existing pits and cut trees for repair of bridges and culverts, see L 253 P 137.
- b. Stillwater Road included right to widen, straighten and repair and open and use adjacent gravel pits for construction and maintenance. See Lewis L 246 P 24, Herkimer L 494 P 94, L 506 P 390; L 507 P 79; L 507 P 447.
- c. Big Moose Road 50' wide strip containing 15.5 acres reserved out in fee.  
See L 303 P 467.

- d. Raven Lake to Kettlehole Pond and Stillwater Dam, see L 303 P 467.
- e. Raven Lake road with right to maintain and take gravel adjacent thereto for access for ten acre Roscoe Reeder exception on Raven Lake - now reportedly being conveyed to Reeder et al by heirs of Fisher and also reserved to Creative Forestry, Inc. for the exercise of the eight year cutting rights on the adjacent Wilderness Lake Tract.
- f. McCarthy Road (Ash Hill Road) to Lennon Ponds Club and Cherry Creek Road over Hitchcock Creek and spur to former Emmett Hill Camp and County line, including the right to cut trees for bridge and culvert maintenance on the four rod strip, and the right to use existing gravel pits along the road. See L 507 P 79.
- g. Summer Road to Nick Thisse camp on Francis Lake. Wheel track width implied.
- h. Smith Road from Number Four Rd. to Trout Pond Club, now two rods wide from Number Four Rd. to State land, with the right to maintain, repair and take gravel. See L 247 P 199.
- i. Fish Trail. Owners in Lot 60 have been acknowledged right to cross because of public use prior to State title and they may maintain the road within the width of the wheel tracks.
- j. Mt. Tom Road from Stoney Lake to the Mt. Tom property "with the right to take timber and gravel for the repair of said road doing as little damage as possible." See L 246 P 331.
- k. Yancey Road from the Half Moon Lake Road Easterly to the Yancey line-width of wheel tracks implied and based on

prior use.

- l. Little Otter Lake Road from Hinchings Pond Road to property boundary, by prior use, width of wheel tracks implied.
  - m. Hinchings Pond Road from Sand Pond Road to private land in lot 240 by prior use; width of wheel tracks implied.
  - n. Branaugh Club Rd., 50' width reserved in deed across Lot 269, L 400 P 44.
  - o. O'Hara Road from Partridgeville Rd. South to camps in Lot 90 by prior use; width of wheel tracks implied.
  - p. Black Hawk Rd. from Partridgeville Road South to notch in Proposal 1426 (Acee) by prior use; width of wheel tracks implied.
  - q. Copper Lake Road. The Snell conveyance of 1919 excepted access from the John Brown Tract Road to the East.
  - r. Joslyn Road to Stoney Lake camp prior use, wheel track with implied.
  - s. Ross, Buanham and Thesier Roads to Stoney Lake camps, prior use, wheel track width implied.
4. Black River-Hudson River Regulating District
- a. Right to take earth, sand and gravel adjacent to the Dam and Kettlehole flow for Dam Construction, see Herkimer L 292 P 269.
  - b. Right to construct and maintain landings and buildings for a ferry across Stillwater Reservoir in the vicinity of Dunbar Island see Herkimer L 292 P 26.
  - c. The right to construct, operate and maintain phone lines necessary for the operation or construction of

the reservoir or for fire protection.

- d. The obligation, in connection with the right to flow lands owned by Ne-Ha-Sa-Ne Park Association, Little Rapids Park and Brandeth Tract, to "construct and maintain a suitable boom carrying a substantial wire fence at least three feet high across the reservoir on the common State boundary and will post and enforce such rules and regulations". See Herkimer L 287 P 32.
- e. Other rights of jurisdiction including the maintenance of outflow of the Dam and resulting water level in the reservoir.

## DESIGNATED CAMPING SITES - STILLWATER RESERVOIR

DECEMBER 1, 1983

<u>Site No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Maximum Capacity</u>
1.	Kettle Hole	9
2.	The Lagoon	6
3.	Evergreen Landing	6
4.	Peaked Mt. Outlet	6
5.	West end of Long Island	6
6.	East end of Long Island	6
7.	Island 19	6
8.	Lone Pine Point	
9.	North Shore	6
10.	Island 26	6
11.	Halstead's	9
12.	Popple Point	9
13.	Rockwell Point	
14.	Shallow Cut	9
15.	Smokey Bear Stump	6
16.	Hemlock Knoll	6
17.	Island 33	6
18.	Dave Con Key Point	6
19.	High Knoll - Big Burnt	6
20.	Sand Island	6
21.	Dead Man's Curve	6
22.	N. shore - Narrows	6
23.	Osprey Point	6
24.	Gun Harbor Entrance	6
25.	North Branch	9
26.	North Point - East End	
27.	Fox Island	9
28.	Loon Island	6
29.	Bay Island Point	6
30.	Picnic Point	9
31.	Picnic Point West	9
32.	Hat Point	6
33.	Spruce Island	9
34.	Twin Pine Island	9
35.	Sandy Point	6
36.	Island 16	6
37.	Little Burnt Point	
38.	Gull Nest Point	6
39.	Melody Island	6
40.	Devil's Hole	6
41.	Island 2 South	9
42.	Island 2 North	9
43.	Sein's Knoll	6
44.	Tower Trail	9
45.	Loon Hollow	6
46.	Raven Point	6

8, 13, 26 + 37 are group sites

# NEW YORK STATE WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM

Field Investigation Summary

PROPOSED ADDITION

## *The Independence River*

The statute mandated the study of approximately 23 miles of the Independence River from Little Independence Pond to the Adirondack Park boundary. Field investigation showed the actual mileage of this stretch to be 28.0 miles. The investigation also included an additional mile upstream to Little Diamond Pond as a logical extension of the study.

The Independence River is located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County and the Town of Watson, Lewis County. It flows in a generally westerly direction. Mileposts were delineated on maps starting at zero at Little Diamond Pond and following downstream to Mile 29.0 at the Adirondack Park boundary. The drainage basin includes approximately 90 square miles within the Park.

The river is tea-colored from decaying vegetation, and possibly the presence of iron, but the quality of the water is apparently high.

### a. Flow Characteristics

At its headwaters, the outlet of Little Diamond Pond, the river was only about 10 feet wide and less than a foot deep during field studies in early May. Where the Independence leaves the Park, the river was nearly 75 feet wide and 2½ feet deep. A U. S. Geological Survey water gaging station is maintained on the Independence River just outside the Park at Donnattsburg. The following data has been recorded there:

Maximum Discharge — 3,450 cubic feet per second (cfs), May 20, 1969

Minimum Discharge — 18 cfs, September 17, 1948 and August 4 and 5, 1949

Average Discharge — 182 cfs

The river flows from a maximum elevation of 2,003 feet at Little Diamond Pond to 1,140 feet at the Park boundary for a total drop of 863 feet in 29 miles for an

average gradient of 0.57%. The gradient is interrupted by many flat stillwater sections, particularly between Mile 2.0 and 3.0 (Little Independence Pond), 5.0 and 7.0, 11.0 and 12.0, 13.5 and 16.0 (Balsam Flats), 20.2 to 20.5 and 22.0 to 24.0. These stretches are canoeable, but the river as a whole is not, due to many shallow rifts. In total, approximately 20 percent of the river can be classified stillwater, 42 percent moderate flow, and 38 percent rapids or rifts.

The streambed is predominantly large rocks, although the stillwater bottoms are of sand and some silt. The river banks give evidence of a 4 foot variation between flood stage and mean high water mark.

### b. Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 44% of the river bank is state-owned Forest Preserve and the remaining 56% is private.

Most of the Forest Preserve involved is designated Wild Forest by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. However, between Mile 9.0 and 11.5 the state land on both sides of the river is classified Wilderness, being a portion of the Ha-da-ron-dah Wilderness.

Predominant land uses on the private land along the river are timber management and hunting and fishing club uses. International Paper Company is the sole private owner from the headwaters to 9.0. The Three-Lakes Club, Independence River Club, Huckleberry Lake Club, Mt. Tom Club, and lands owned by Whittlesey, Ambrose and Loomis make up the bulk of the remaining private lands from 9.0 to 28.5. Various individual camp owners own the private lands from 28.5 to the Park boundary at 29.0.

### c. Access

Public road access is available only at the Bailey Road crossing at Mile 26.5 and just south of Sperryville at 28.5.



Both of these roads are gravel town roads. Public foot access is available wherever state land touches the river, although there are no maintained trails. Public access is also available during the winter months on numerous snowmobile trails in the Lewis County portion of the river area.

Private logging and camp access roads cross the river at 5.5, 13.0 and 19.8 and parallel the river between 12.0 and 13.5. Additionally, several woods roads and skidways run near the river, but none are open to the public and few are passable by private vehicles.

#### d. Structures

Public bridges cross the river at Mile 26.5 and 28.5. Private bridges cross at 0.9, 5.5 and 13.0, and a private road fords at 19.8. Another bridge at 5.2 is in disrepair and not now usable. A private footbridge crosses at 8.2. A state snowmobile trail bridge crosses the river at 19.4 with another such bridge scheduled for construction at 17.4.

There are no impoundments on the river, although the remains of an old log dam can be seen at Mile 12.0.

Private camps are located within sight of the river at the following mileages: 8.2, 11.5, 13.6, 13.7, 20.2, 28.6 (two), and between 28.8 and 29.0 (eight). Additionally, two camps at 20.3 are set back some distance from the river and an abandoned log camp is found at 2.8.

#### e. Proposed Impoundments

The Black River Basin Regional Water Resources Planning Board has identified a potential dam site just upstream from Sperryville at approximately Mile 27.7. The resulting reservoir would cover approximately 2,000 acres. However, the Board feels this proposed impoundment is probably not feasible.

#### f. Land Use Areas

Of the private land in the river corridor approximately

73% is classified Resource Management (15 principal buildings per square mile), 22% is Rural Use (75 p.b./sq. mi.) and 5% is classified Moderate Intensity Use (500 p.b./sq. mi.) by the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.

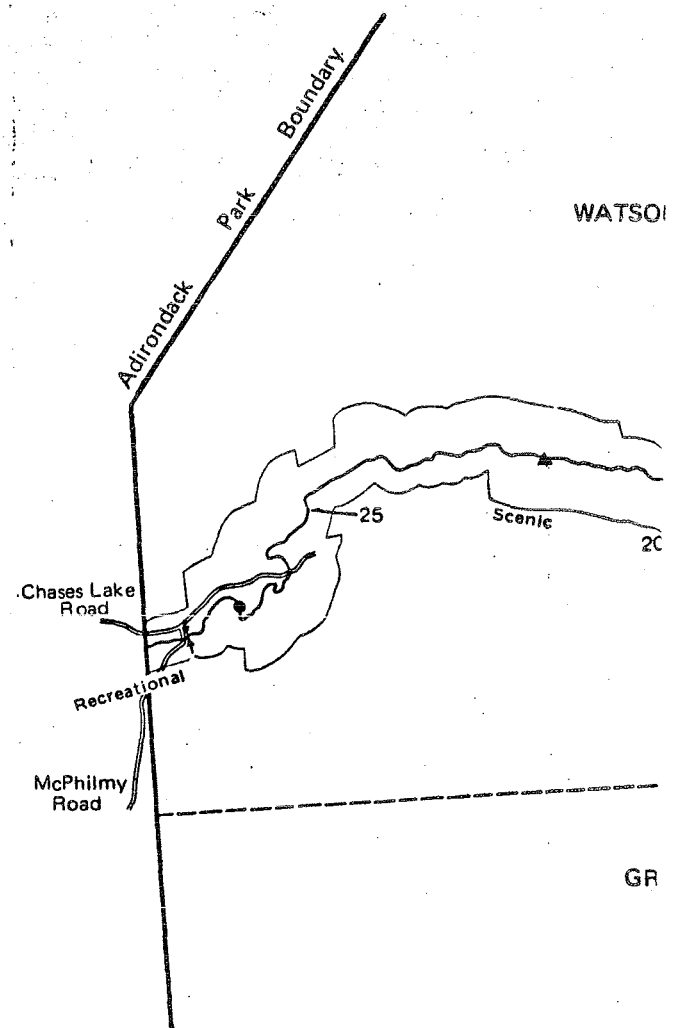
#### g. Physiography

The general topography of the river area varies from rolling to steep, except along the stillwater portions with their alder and spruce-fir flats.

A small waterfall and gorge occurs between Mile 10.4 and 11.2 in the Ha-da-ron-dah Wilderness. The river's deepest gorge, encompassing Gleasman's Falls, is located between 21.4 and 21.8.

#### h. Vegetation

As might be expected along a 29 mile transect of the Adirondacks, the vegetation varies considerably. Boreal spruce-fir forests grow along the forested swamps and on





North and east aspects of the headwaters section. The remainder of the land within the river corridor is generally forested with northern hardwoods: predominantly hard and soft maple, beech and yellow birch. The lower section of the river, from approximately Mile 25.0 to 28.0 contains some open stands of aspen and black cherry and some brushlands indicating the land was previously used for agriculture or was subject to fire. The stillwater portions of the river are characterized by surrounding flats of alder phasing into spruce and fir farther from the river. The north facing slopes along the middle portion of the river are characterized by prominent stands of hemlock and spruce. On the open flats of the lower portion, swale grass meadows and black cherry-hazelnut-spirea-alder associations are common.

#### i. Wildlife

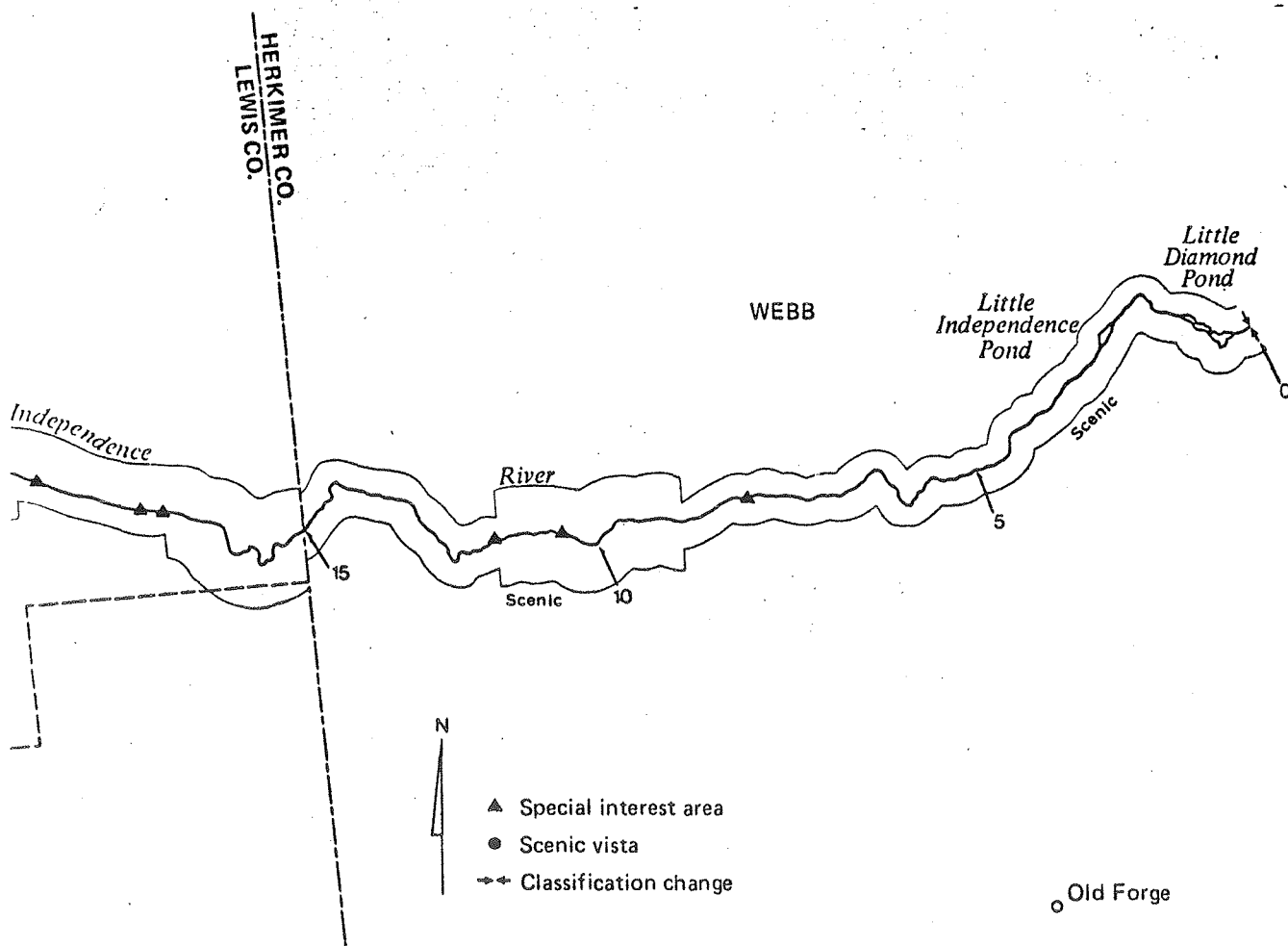
Both brown and brook trout are found in the river. Natural spawning appears to be adequate from the headwaters to at least Mile 25.0. Below Mile 25.0 fishing pres-

sure is heavier and the Department of Environmental Conservation stocks both brook and brown trout.

Most common Adirondack mammals and birds are found in this area. Black duck and mallard were observed nesting in marshy stillwater portions of the river. There was abundant evidence of beaver and deer in the river corridor. Major winter concentrations of deer appear to occur along the north banks of the lower half of the river. Additionally, Balsam Flats is one of the most important deer wintering areas in the west central Adirondacks. The deer apparently range from Balsam Flats downstream along the banks continuously for several miles.

#### j. Special Interest Areas

The first special interest area is at the confluence of Fourth Creek at Mile 19.0 where a huge white pine log is stranded high and dry, apparently cut nearly a century ago. Log drives were common in the early logging days on most Adirondack streams. This particular log is about 50 inches



in diameter, a good indication of the size of trees harvested in those days. This area also contains pink azalea and a stand of large diameter, old-growth red spruce and hemlock.

Another special interest area is the gorge and small waterfall between 10.4 and 11.2 where the river narrows to 30 feet for a distance of 800 feet with vertical rock faces on both banks rising to nearly 100 feet. Here the rock faulting creates shade and humidity conditions that sustain a luxuriant growth of lichens, mosses, liverworts, and ferns.

There is a flume-like gorge and Gleasman's Falls, upstream from the confluence of Second Creek at 21.6. In this gorge, a spectacular cascade of water drops approximately 60 feet in a series of falls averaging 15 feet in height. Remaining points of interest include a waterfall at 8.1 and a falls and gorge from 17.5 to 17.8.

#### k. Scenic Vistas

The only vista identified was from the esker on the north bank at Mile 27.3, which affords a downstream view of the river.

#### l. Proposed Facilities

The lower corridor of the river, below Mile 26.0, contains ideal topographic and soil conditions for horse trails. This area is predominantly state-owned and is close to private pasture land, providing potential for a commercial riding stable. The esker above the river at 27.3 offers an



outstanding scenic route for either a horse trail or foot trail.

It is also recommended that a foot trail be constructed along the north bank of the river from 14.0 to the Sperryville Bridge at 28.5.

#### m. Proposed Acquisition

The Department of Environmental Conservation has previously recognized that fee title should be purchased on the small tract of private land between Mile 20.0 and 21.0 to protect the integrity of surrounding state lands.

To provide for the foot trail recommended from 14.0 to 28.5 an access easement would need to be negotiated along the private road leading from Brantingham Lake to Balsam Flats and along approximately .6 of a mile of private land south of Cleveland Lake between 24.7 and 25.3.

#### Recommended Classification

Based upon the above described characteristics, the Adirondack Park Agency finds 29.0 miles of the Independence River, from its headwaters at Little Diamond Pond to the Adirondack Park boundary, to be a worthy addition to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System in the following manner:

Mile 0-28.5 — *Scenic River*

Mile 28.5-29.0 — *Recreational River*

The ½ mile of Recreational River would tie in with the Department of Environmental Conservation's recommendation for a Recreational River classification on the section downstream of the Park boundary.

The recommended river area is ¼ mile from each bank on private land, with the exception of the inholding on the north shore between Mile 20.0 and 21.0, where the boundary should be ½ mile from the river. Along state land the recommended river area is ½ mile from each bank.

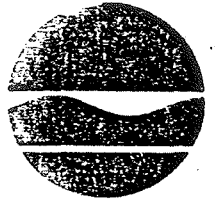


A report prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation and cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to Section 15-2715 of Title 27 of the State Environmental Conservation Law.

Cartography by Margaret L. Baldwin, N.Y.S. Office of Planning Services



## New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Henry G. Williams  
Commissioner

Identifying No. NR-34

SEQR  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

May 25, 1984

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

The Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment.

TITLE OF ACTION: Independence River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

SEQR STATUS: Type I (X) applicable threshold(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Unlisted ( )

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: The authority for program actions in the Independence River Wild Forest Area is granted by the provisions of Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, various opinions of the Attorneys General and the State Land Master Plan. Such actions involve the overall preservation, protection and management of the lands constituting the Independence River Wild Forest Area. Actions include boundary line surveying and marking, fire suppression, pond liming and stocking, search and rescue operations, maintenance or rehabilitation of existing facilities, relocation of some trails and parking sites and elimination or installation of others, including clearing not over one acre of trees, construction of a foot bridge, research activities, patrolling and surveillance activities, public information and education, and public use control systems. All actions are carried out in accordance with applicable statutes and are designed to protect the natural environment and maximize the benefits that accrue to the People of the State.

LOCATION: The Independence River Area is located on the western side of the Adirondack Park, within the Towns of Webb, Herkimer County and Watson, Greig and Lyonsdale in Lewis County. Specifically, the area is bounded by the Beaver River and Stillwater Reservoir on the North, the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area on the East, the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness on the South and the Adirondack Park boundary on the West. See the attached location map.

## REASONS SUPPORTING THIS DETERMINATION:

### Fisheries

#### 1. Outboard Motors -

The Prohibition on outboard motors on all waters totally state owned, is expected to eliminate additional sources of fossil fuel pollution on relatively small bodies of water inside the area. Further, nesting waterfowl will have a better chance for survival with the potential for pursuing boats significantly reduced. The occasional float plane visits at Big Otter Lake will still provide ingress into this relatively remote area by recreationists and the handicapped, without significantly altering the wild forest recreational experience for others.

#### 2. Liming -

The addition of lime to improve ph levels will also improve the sport fisheries potential. Ponds will be limed by air, where no open roads lead to the waters, to preclude any impact on adjacent vegetation. Liming will be done in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Liming Plan, under their direction.

### Acquisition

Acquisition of smaller inholdings will eliminate the need to keep some roads open and reduce the overall impact of motorized travel, particularly where roads are improved to withstand such travel. The acquisition of lands in Lot 60 in Watsons West Triangle would be especially valuable in eliminating the only ford, within the unit, of the Independence River which is classified as a Scenic River under Article 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Other acquisitions which involve water frontage would permanently forestall subdivisions of delicate shorelines. Acquisitions providing improved access would begin to shift motorized uses to major corridors and provide further justification for eliminating little used side loops.

## Facilities

### 1. Trailhead parking -

In all cases, the planned parking will remove existing visitors from the road shoulders, ditch lines, and impacted forest openings and relocate them into small areas designed to physically support motor vehicles. Bushwack parking impacts will be reduced. Opportunities to educate the public will also be improved since registers and rules and regulations can be installed in the parking area. This will ultimately result in improved disbursement of users and a better understanding of the need to be careful with fire, and to pack out refuse. Most parking lots will utilize existing openings but in aggregation will not require removal of more than one acre of mature trees. The impact of that is judged as smaller than current bushwack parking and will not significantly increase the number of visitor days in the unit.

### 2. Gates and barriers -

The installation of key gates or barriers will reduce illegal intrusions by unauthorized motorized vehicles and protect sensitive areas. No measureable impact will result from the physical installation of the gates themselves.

### 3. Bridges -

When bridges become impassible, the public then begins to by-pass the bridge and ford the subject stream. Proper maintenance of key bridges on major access routes will provide insurance that those streams will be protected while insuring continuing public access.

### 4. Maintenance of jeep roads and trails -

Specific trails outlined for maintenance provide the minimum required routes for public ingress to continue into the Forest Preserve for permitted purposes. When maintenance ceases, the public then begins to create their own by-passes around mud holes and poorly drained or rutted areas. The result is an increase in damage to plants, shrubs, and small trees, and additional rutting parallel with the main route. Adequate maintenance to include keeping culverts open, road crowning, and graveling where required to harden surfaces, will prevent erosion and reduce the need and temptation to use and develop herd path by-passes. Improved levels of maintenance on key roads will also help to redistribute public use away from those heavy use areas readily accessible from public highways.

### 5. New trails -

Where new trails are proposed, they will follow old logging and main haul roads, nearly completely eliminating the need to cut any material over 3" in diameter. They will also result in

better serving the public needs and provide better alternatives to replace those trails proposed for closure. They will be carefully located on higher well drained routes which can withstand and support normal trail traffic.

#### Camping.

The redistribution of campers by the use of designated sites at Stillwater Reservoir will begin to protect the shore line during the 1984 season. No camping will be permitted on the small islands, under this plan, and the chosen sites have the physical attributes to hold up under normal camping uses. The sites will be in conformance with the one quarter mile separation distance and the camping experience will be improved for all users. A registration system will insure that campers are advised about guidelines for disposing of human waste, promote the use of backpacker cooking stoves to lessen fire and environmental concerns, and eliminate the burying of litter. The overall negative impact being experienced during the last few years of increasing use, will be reversed with this system.

#### General

All individual actions are of minor extent and size, and are carried out in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the State Land Master Plan and applicable statutes, allowing the Department little discretionary power. In addition, these actions are covered in the Programmatic EIS entitled Forest Preserve Interior Recreation Management Program. Thus, maximum protection is provided to the resources of the Independence River Wild Forest Area with little or no adverse environmental impact.

SEQR - Negative Declaration

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact Person:

Address: Scott Gray III  
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
RD #3, Box 22-A  
Lowville, NY 13367

Phone: (315)376 3931

COPIES OF THIS NOTICE SENT TO:

Environmental Notice Bulletin (Room 509)  
Division of Regulatory Affairs (Room 514)  
Appropriate Regional Director(s)  
Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the  
action will be principally located  
Applicant (if any)  
Other involved agencies (if any)



## STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

10/24/79

## WILD FOREST

### Definition

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

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

### GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE

#### Basic guidelines

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

2. In wild forest areas:

- (a) No additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted.
- (b) Any remaining non-conforming uses that were to have been removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed will be removed as rapidly as possible.
- (c) Non-conforming uses resulting from newly classified wild forest areas will be removed as rapidly as possible and in any case by the end of the third year following classification.
- (d) Primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the third year following adoption of the unit management plan for the area.

3. Effective immediately, no new non-conforming uses will be permitted in any designated wild forest area.

4. Public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will not be any material increase in the mileage of roads and trails open to motorized use by the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Structures and improvements

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

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

- nature and interpretive trails;
- trailheads adjacent to public highways;
- stream improvement structures for fishery management purposes;
- fishing and waterway access sites adjacent to public highways and complying with the criteria set forth below;
- horse trails; and,
- picnic tables.

The maintenance and rehabilitation of the following structures and improvements will be allowed but new construction will not be encouraged:

- horse barns;
- small scale dams, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;
- boat docks, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;
- small fireplaces in fire-sensitive areas;
- storage sheds and similar rustic buildings for use of administrative personnel;
- small-scale electronic communication and relay facilities for official communications;
- telephone and electrical lines to service permitted administrative structures;
- buoys;
- small-scale water supply facilities under permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation;
- ranger stations as set forth below;
- roads, jeep trails and state truck trails as set forth below;
- snowmobile trails as set forth below;
- fire towers and observer cabins as set forth below; and,
- wildlife management structures.

### Ranger stations

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

### Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

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

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

- (a) by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain or construct permitted structures and improvements, for appropriate law enforcement and general supervision of public use, or for appropriate purposes, including research, to preserve and enhance the fish and wildlife or other natural resources of the area;
- (b) by the general public, subject to basic guideline 4 set forth above, but only on:
  - existing public roads;
  - open jeep trails now or hereafter designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation; and,
  - on rivers, lakes and ponds now or hereafter designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation as suitable for such motorized uses; and,
- (c) by snowmobiles on trails now or hereafter designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with basic guideline 4 set forth above, and with the guidelines for such trails specified below.

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

### Roads, jeep trails and state truck trails

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

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

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

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

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

### Snowmobile trails

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

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

### Fire towers

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

### Tent platforms

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

### Small groupings of primitive tent sites

Small groupings of primitive tent sites designed to accommodate a maximum of 20 people per grouping under group camping conditions may be provided at carefully selected locations in wild forest areas, even though each individual site may be within sight or sound

and less than approximately one-quarter mile from any other site within such grouping, subject to the following criteria:

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

### Fishing and waterway access sites

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

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

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

### Flora and fauna

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

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

### Recreational use and overuse

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

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

3. Although the nature of most wild forest areas indicates that potential recreational overuse will not be

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

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### DESIGNATION OF WILD FOREST AREAS

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

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

Chapter III contains a general description of fifteen of the largest wild forest areas in the Park.

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### INDEPENDENCE RIVER

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

A balance of private lands interlaced with forest preserve tracts characterize this area of gentle hills and flat lands.

The sand plain depressions north from Brantingham Lake to the Independence River offer many unique bird and plant life associations.

Numerous bogs and beaver meadows along the drainage of Beaver Meadow Creek and Second, Third and Fourth creeks provide contrasting wildlife habitats. An extensive network of trails, both foot and snowmobile, link Pine Lake, Big Otter Lake and the Independence River with the Stillwater Road in the north.

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# APPENDIX P

## TAX PAYMENTS - LEWIS COUNTY - HERKIMER COUNTY

### INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST

TOWN	1984 ASSESSMENT	TAX RATES	TOTAL TAXES
Greig (Cty/Twn)	383,920	129.838541	49,847.61
School-South Lewis	383,920	114.5993	43,996.96
			<u>93,844.57</u>
Lyonsdale (Cty/Twn)	15,000	216.716928	3,250.75
School-South Lewis	15,000	175.6327	2,634.49
			<u>5,885.24</u>
Watson (Cty/Twn)	881,550	80.949031	71,360.62
School-Lowville	38,070	80.8698	1,479.77]
School-South Lewis	683,800	60.4275	41,320.32]= 49,637.84
School-Beaver River	103,440	66.10361	<u>6,837.75]</u>
			120,998.46
Lewis County/Town...\$124,458.98			
Lewis County School \$ 96,269.29			
Webb-Cty/Town		Herkimer County/Town...\$131,705.23	
Webb-School - Webb & Forestport		Herkimer County School \$ <u>69,422.31</u>	
Grand Total			421,855.81

Average Annual Tax Per Acre = Approximately \$5.68\*

\*Taxes in Webb were prorated because tax parcel lines don't match unit boundaries.

## VII Bibliography

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## VIII Graphics

## Property Map List

## Herkimer County

## Town of Webb

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Date Acq.</u>	<u>Liber/Page</u>	<u>Pro.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Map #'s</u>
1. William Seward Webb	1896				6987,2467
2. Mary L. Fisher	7/19/1898				R421,9096
3. Waldorf Forest Company	7/19/1898			369.5	R421,9096
4. Adirondack Timber and Mineral	7/23/1898	L.232P.264		348.8	R421,9096
5. Lyon De Camp	3/ /1909				682
6. Taggart Paper Company	1/23/1909	L.240P.204		11897	R450
7. C & R Fisher and F. Jackson	3/ 1/1932	L.303P.467		6564.65	R480
8. Fisher Forestry & Realty	8/20/1956	L.504P.269	1269	8213.0	3478
9. Fisher Forestry & Realty	2/24/1959	L.529P. 60		148	9921-2
10. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation	10/ /1968			*below	2865
11. Black River Regulating District	8/29/1977	transfer		1.73	3474
12. D & S Jackson	1979		1725	455.0	9921-1
				0.26	9921-2
				*Parking Lot and Trail Easement	

## Lewis County

## Town of Greig

1. S. Burdick	9/28/1955	L.234P.187	1258	5750.0	2799
2. M. Maloney	8/16/1957	L.246P.132	1290	3656.91	3450
3. M. Acee	11/21/1962	L.273P.175	1462	972.0	2754
4. J. Kovach	12/10/1963	L.279P.334	1494	150.88	3964
5. J. Kovach	11/14/1963	L.278P.52	1476	247.02	3955
6. R. Haller	5/18/1965	L.285P.436	1594	424.76	3450
7. G. Zigment (Steam Mill Road)	9/ /1967		100	Easement	2859
G. Fitzgerald (Steam Mill Rd.)	9/ /1967		100A	Easement	2859
L. Zimmer (Steam Mill Rd.)	9/ /1967		100B	Easement	2859

## Town of Greig &amp; Lyonsdale

1. C. R. Snell	3/10/1919	L.132P.404		4298.48	1811
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## Town of Greig &amp; Watson

1. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.	7/30/1954	L.230P.590,593	1-A	11834.38	3450
2. Fisher Forestry & Realty	10/25/1958	L.253P.137	1299	11416.00	R 127-A
3. Branaugh Boys Club	7/79	L.400P. 44	136	368.62	9868

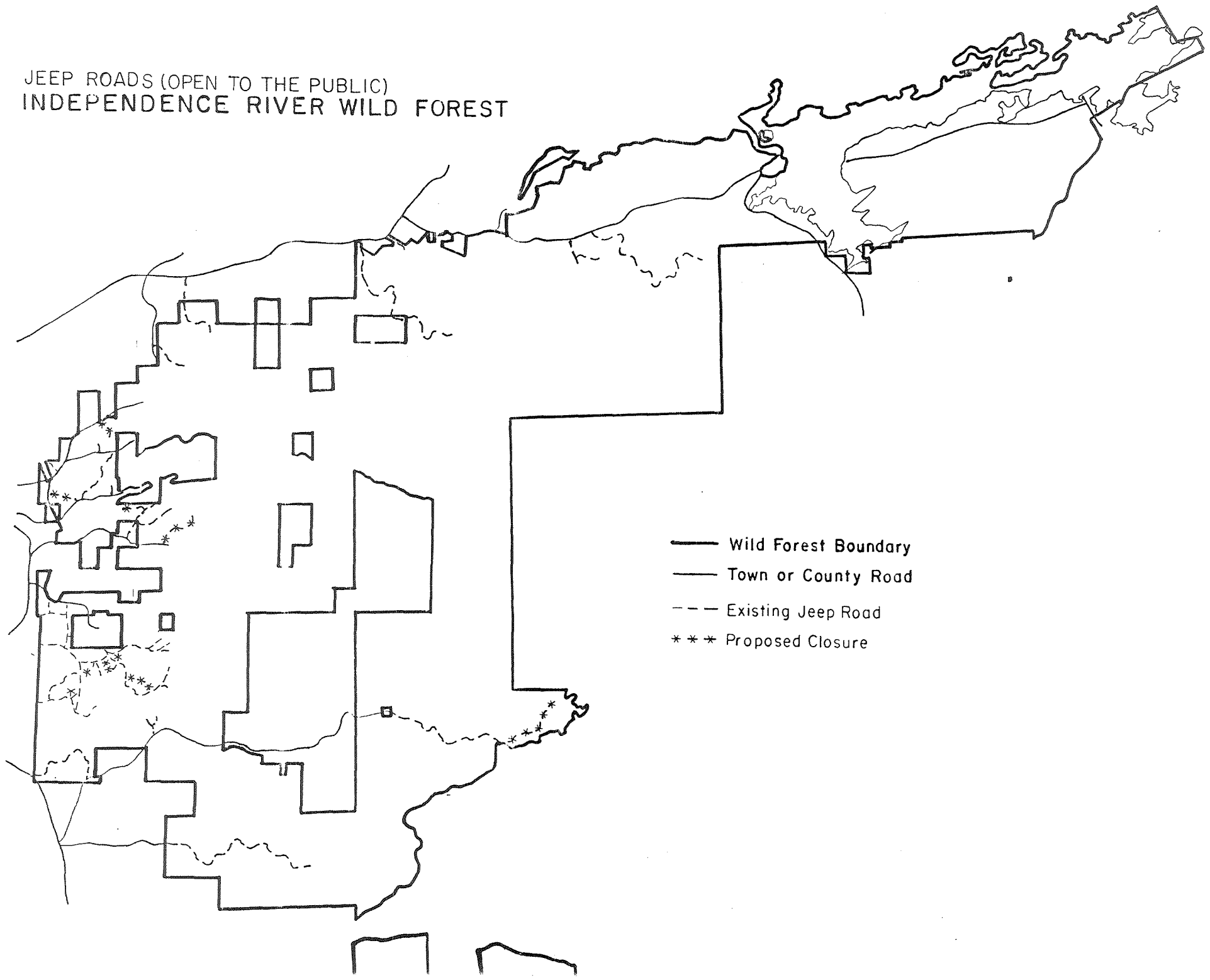
Lewis County

Town of Watson

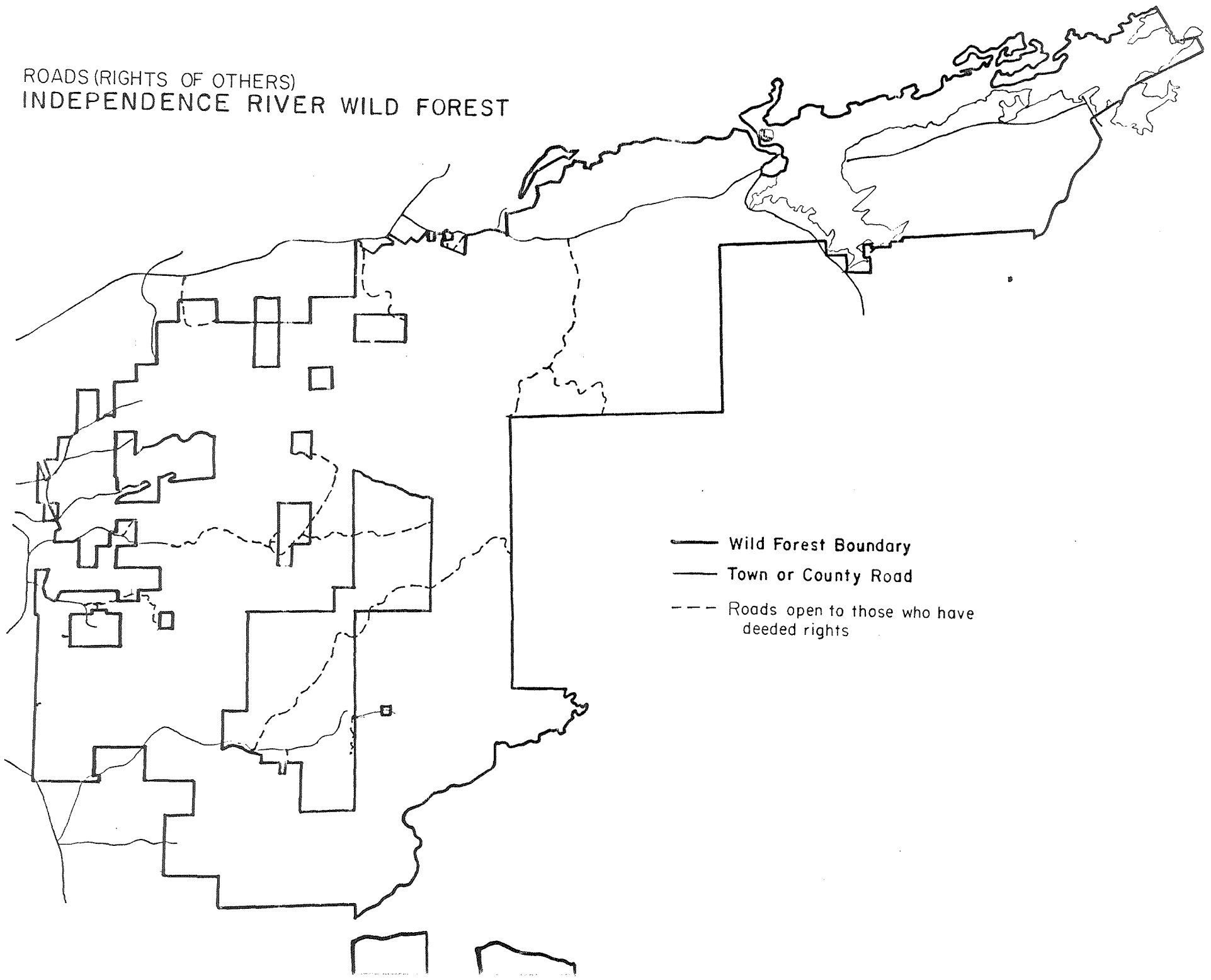
<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Date Acq.</u>	<u>Liber/Page</u>	<u>Pro.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Map#'s</u>
			Tax		
1. Tax Sale Lot 240	6/8/1982	L.630P.431	Sale	48.00	3450
2. Black River Nat. Bank	9/15/1956	L.240P.330	1261	3314.43	3450
3. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.	1956	L.240P.161	1262	156.85	3450
4. Fisher Forestry & Realty Co.	10/25/1958	L.253P.137	140)	4.36	9367
5. W. Hough (Hinchings Pd. Rd.)	2/ /1966		98	Easement	2909
6. R. Alexander et.al (Mt. Tom Rd.)	6/ /1968		102	Easement	7326
P. Luchéinger (Mt. Tom Rd.)	6/ /1968		103	Easement	7342
N. Burnham et al. (Mt. Tom Rd.)	6/ /1968		104	Easement	7343
7. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.	3/27/1973	L.330P.95	4718	30.00	3450
8. Sheldon & Bradish	3/ /1978	L.385P.139	137	99.72	2195
9. Sheldon & Bradish	2/ /1979	L.396P.193	137.1	116.29	2195
10. S. Lynch	12/ /1979	L.404P.201	129.1	22.40	9367
11. Fisher & Todd	12/28/1979	L.405P. 89	128	2566.0	9367
12. E. Jones	3/12/1980	L.407P.63	118	434.42	8987A
13. S. Lynch	2/ /1981	L.415P157	129.2	0.66	9367
			129.3	2.60	9367



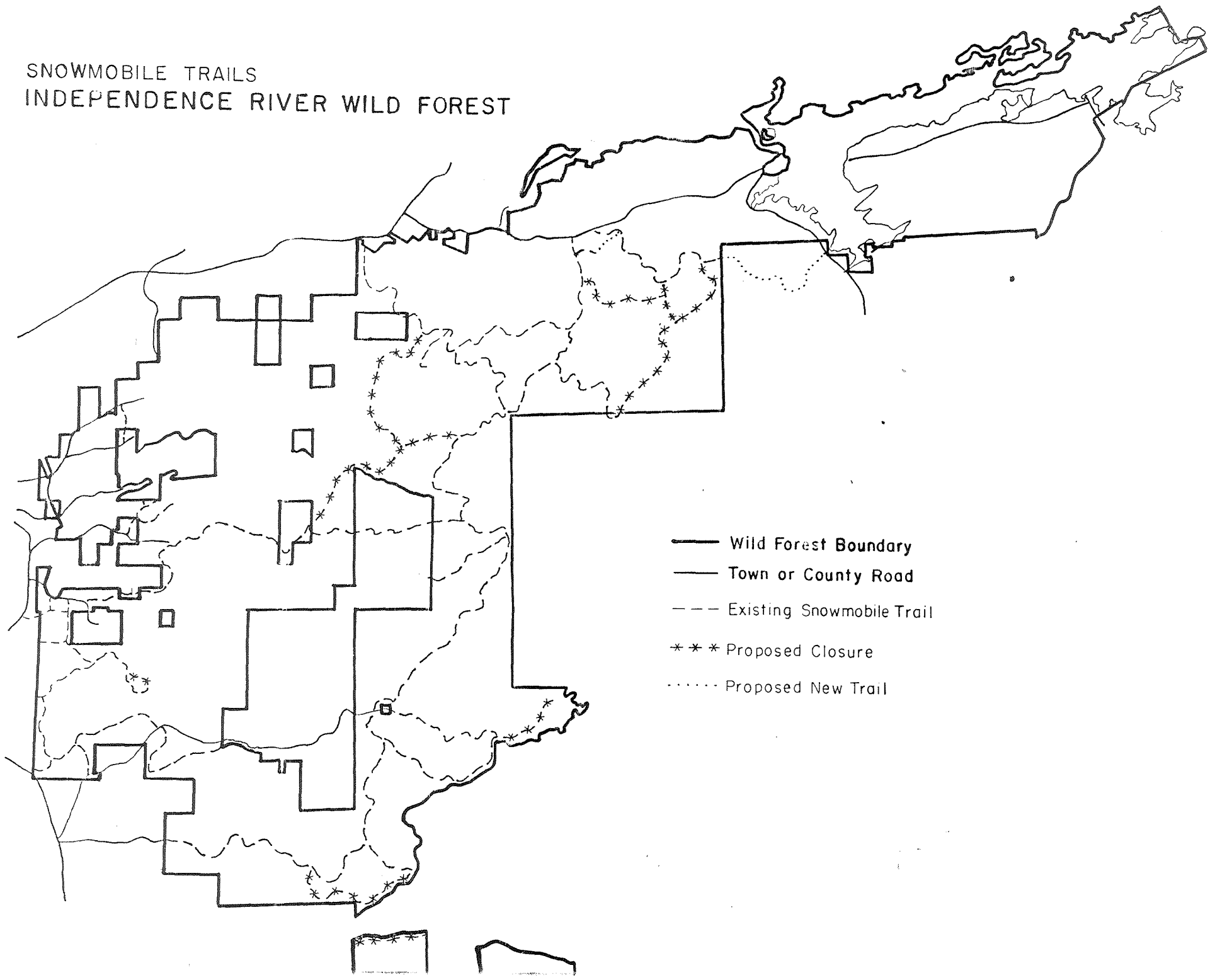
JEEP ROADS (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)  
INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST



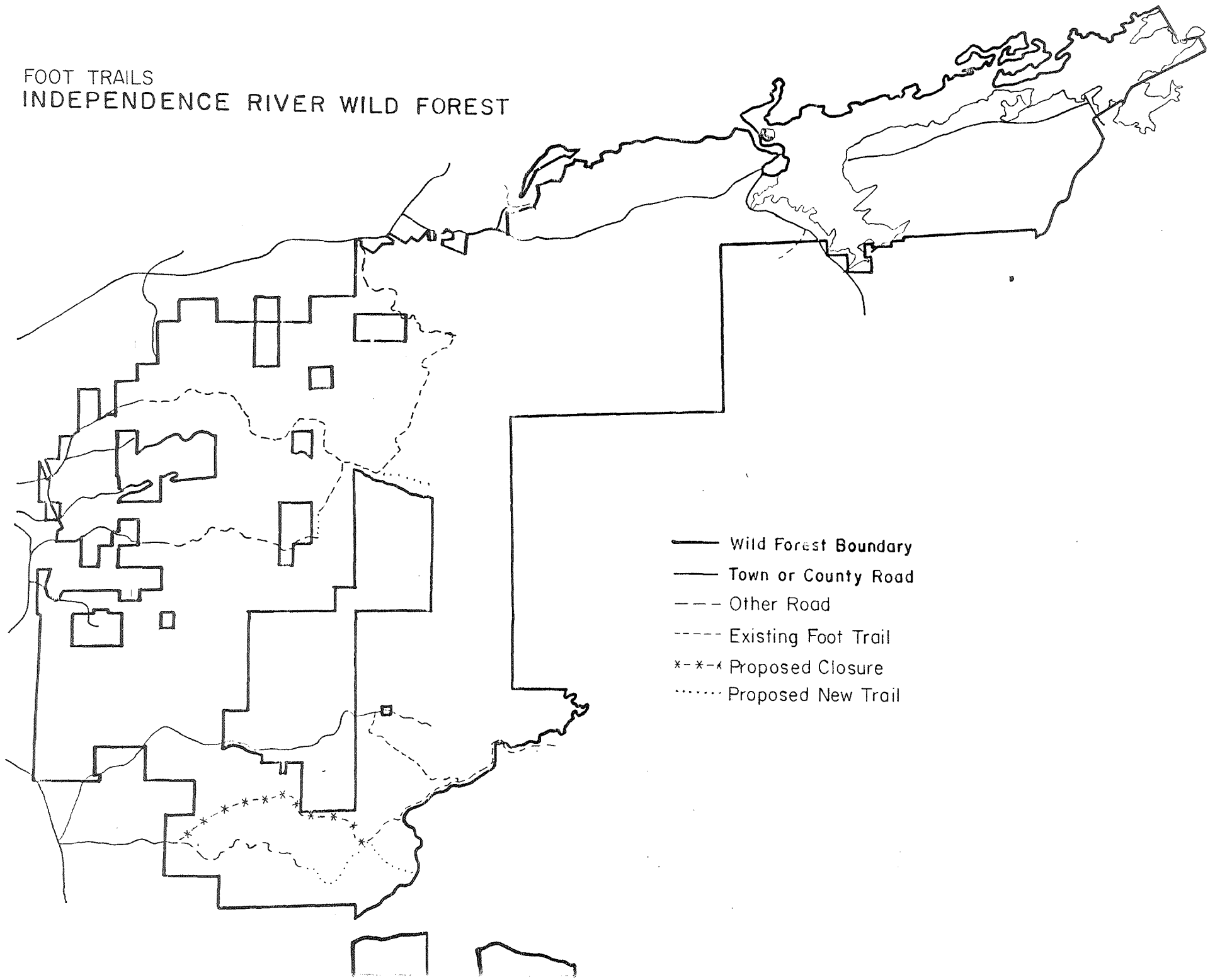
ROADS (RIGHTS OF OTHERS)  
INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST



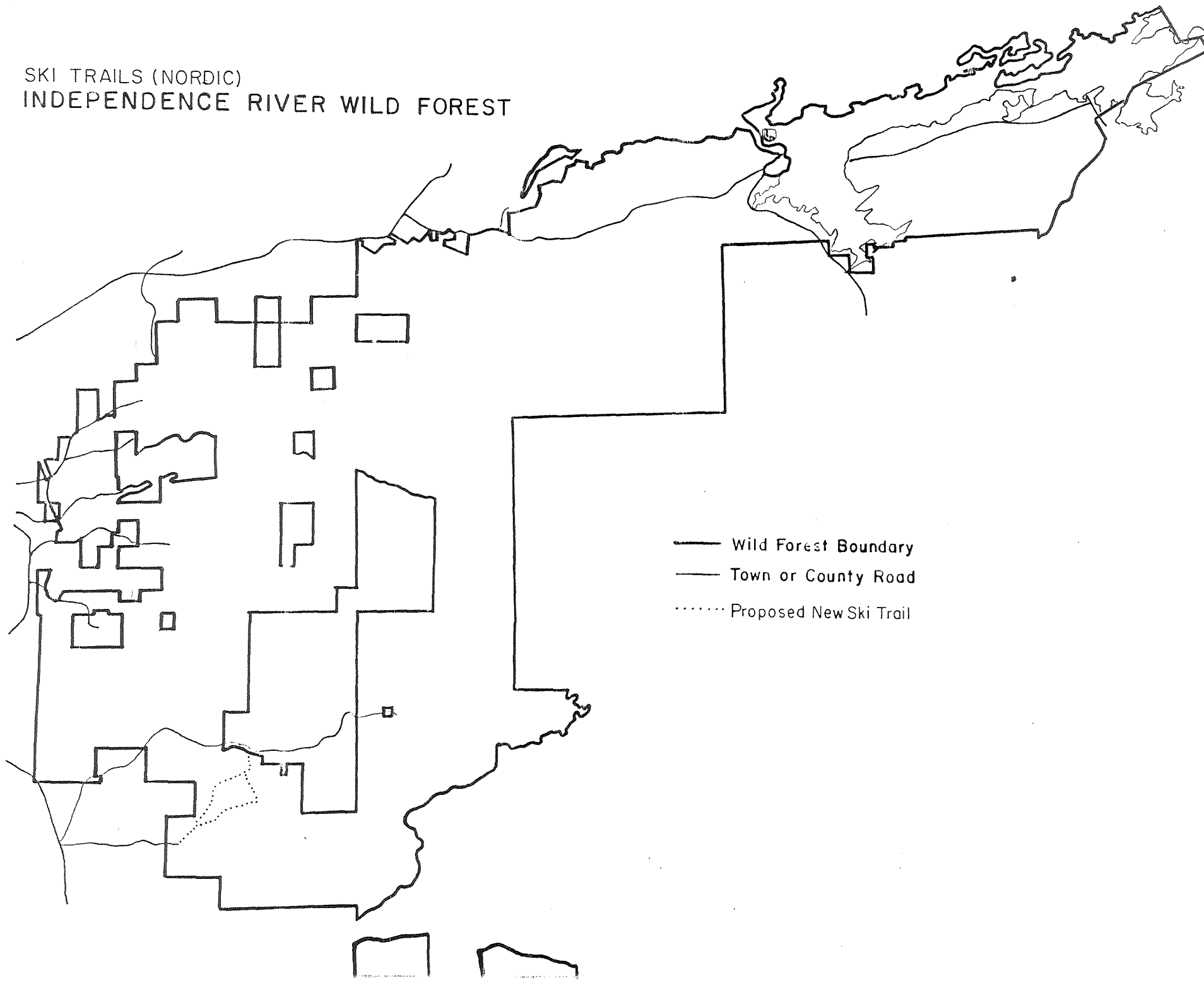
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS  
INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST



FOOT TRAILS  
INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST

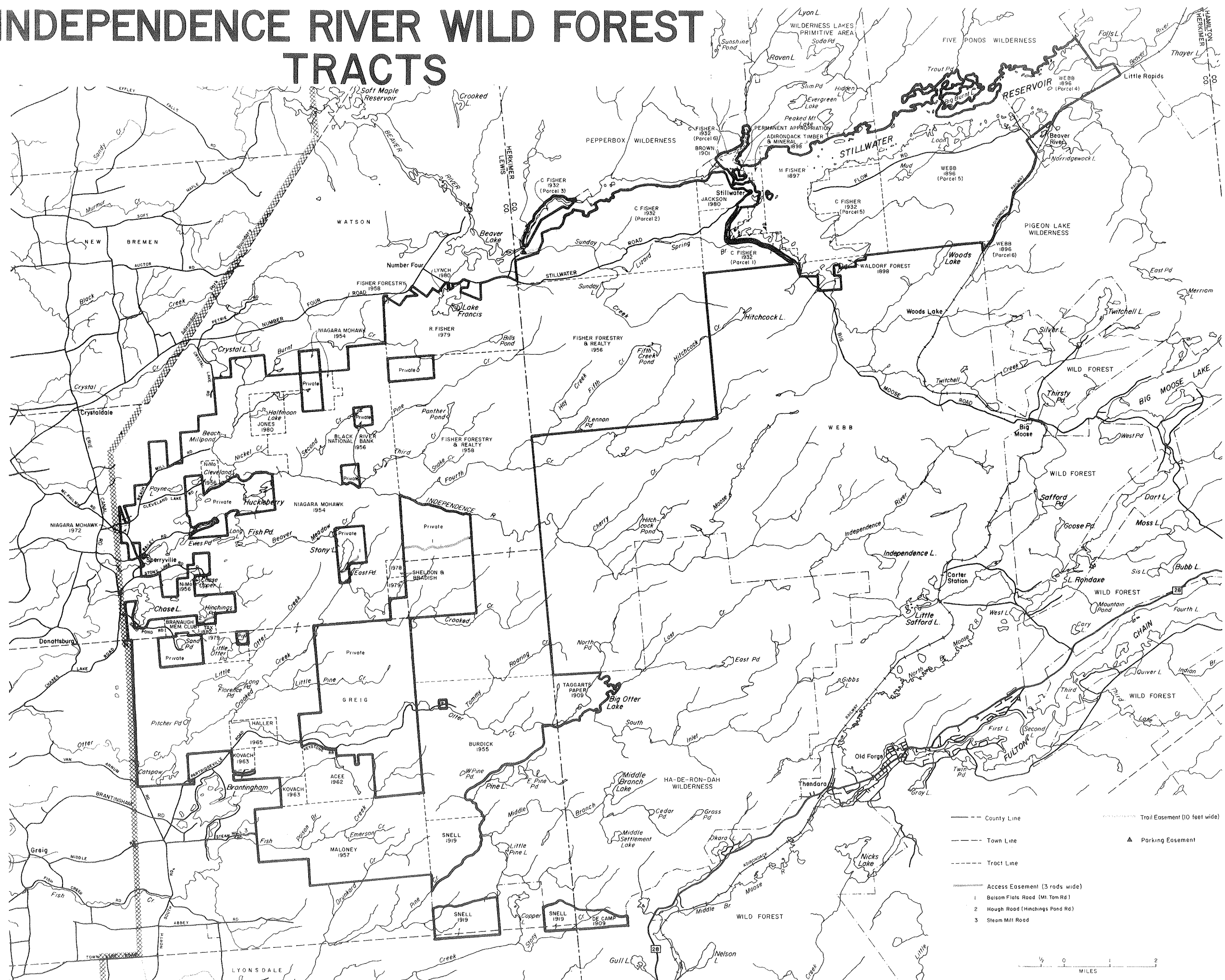


SKI TRAILS (NORDIC)  
INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST

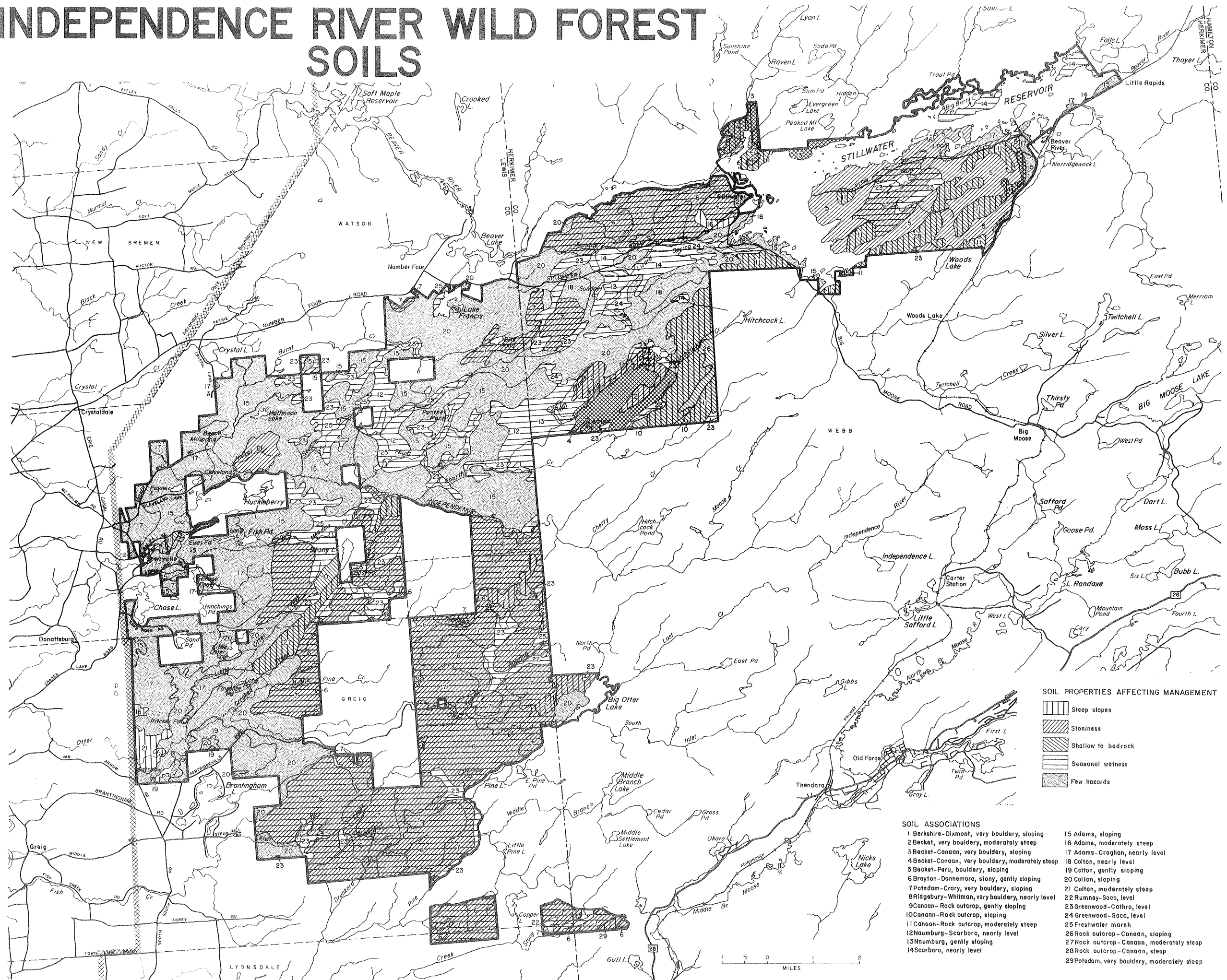




# INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST TRACTS

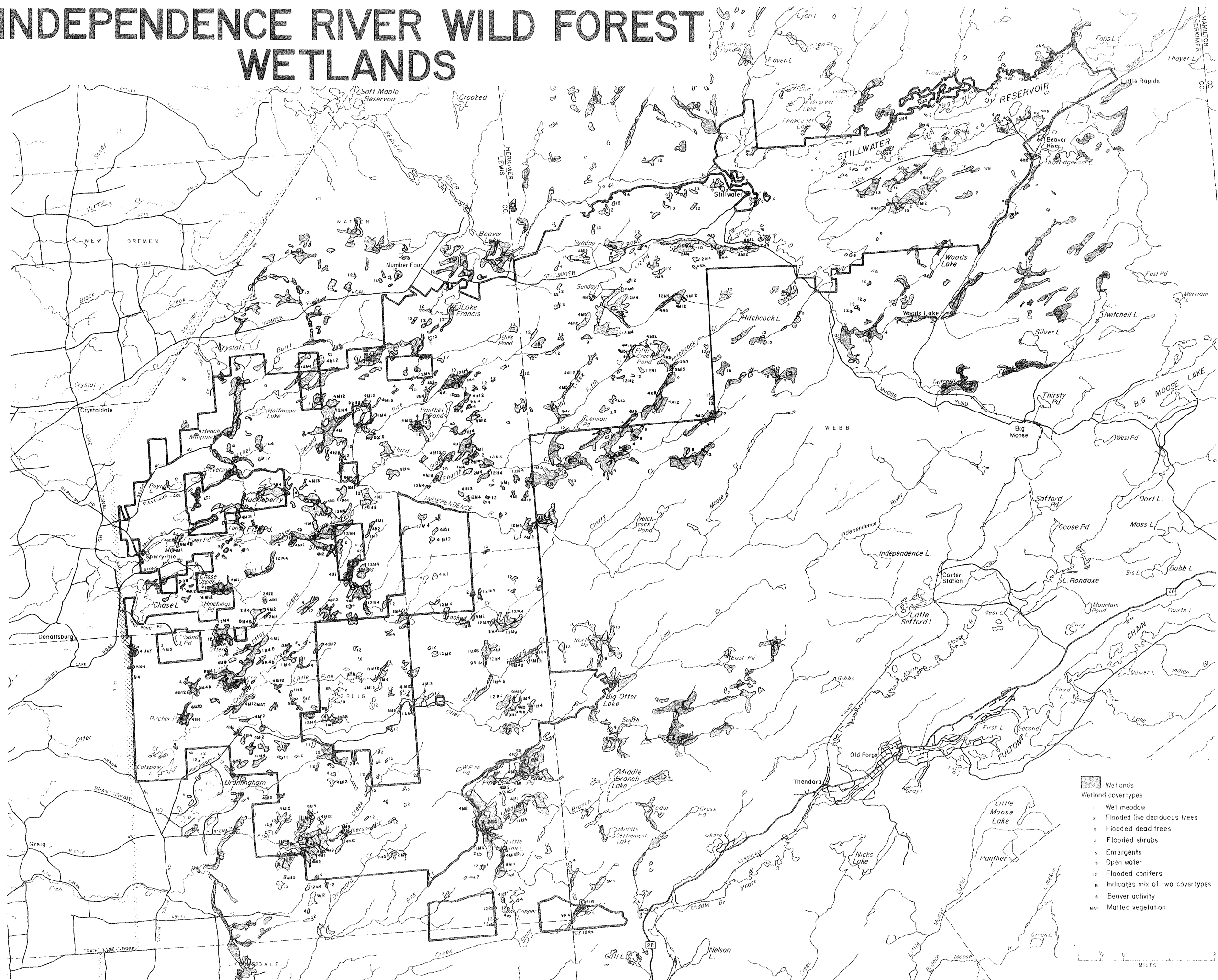


# INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST SOILS





# INDEPENDENCE RIVER WILD FOREST WETLANDS



[illegible]