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# MIDDLE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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**October 1988**

*New York State/Department of Environmental Conservation*



MIDDLE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

New York State/ Department of Environmental Conservation

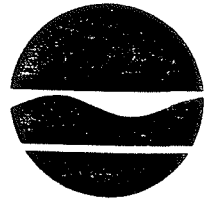
Mario Cuomo  
Governor

Thomas C. Jorling  
Commissioner



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

*New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation*



TO: The Record  
FROM: Thomas C. Jorling *(Signature)*  
RE: Unit Management Plan  
Middle Mountain Wild Forest

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The Unit Management Plan for the Middle Mountain Wild Forest has been completed. It is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, involved citizen participation, is consistent with the State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law, rules, regulations and policy. The Plan includes management objectives for a five-year period and is hereby approved and adopted.

cc: L. Marsh



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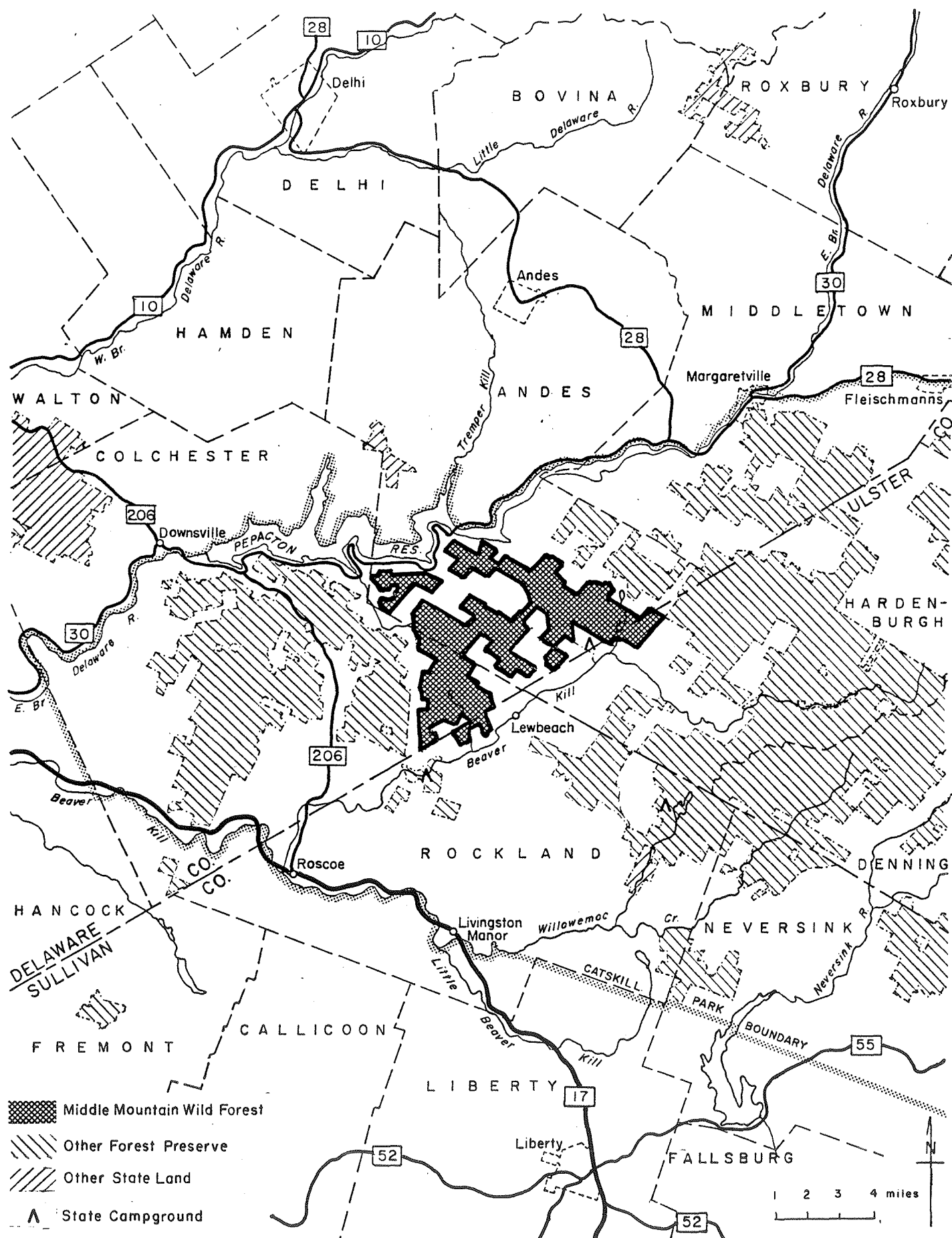
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# LOCATION OF MIDDLE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST





# I. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

## A. General Location

This wild forest is part of the Catskill Forest Preserve in the Towns of Colchester and Andes, Delaware County; in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan County and in the Town of Hardenburg, Ulster County. This unit is bounded on the west by Holiday-Berry Brook Road, on the north by Pepacton Reservoir, on the east by the Barkaboom Road and on the south by the Beaver Kill.

There are 5 sections of Forest Preserve land in this unit. Below is the acreage for each town:

- 1) 2,802± acres in the Town of Colchester, Delaware Co.
- 2) 6,564± acres in the Town of Andes, Delaware Co.
- 3) 273± acres in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan Co.
- 4) 685± acres in the Town of Hardenburg, Ulster Co.

10,131± acres - Total

## B. Description

### 1. General

Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit is a rugged mountainous area. The majority of the land is moderate to steep in grade. The highest elevation is Middle Mountain at 2,975 feet above sea level. Other mountain tops in this unit include Cabot, Beech Hill, Mary Smith, Touchmenot and Hunt Hill.

This unit's forest cover ranges from open brushy type fields to old mature forests. According to the report produced by Syracuse University for the Temporary State Commission to

Study the Catskills, the northern hardwood forest type occupies 84.9% of the Catskill Forest Preserve. Sugar maple, American Beech and yellow birch are the main species in this type. Red oak, red maple, black birch, basswood and other hardwood species are common associates in this unit. Eastern hemlock, a conifer, is found in clumps or scattered individually throughout the hardwood forests as a common associate. As Forest Preserve land was acquired, plantation species such as red pine, white pine, white spruce, Norway spruce, scotch pine and northern white cedar were planted on any open land.

The soils in this unit have limited drainage. Hardpan is generally 12" to 24" from the soil surface. The ground is very stony and in places the glaciers deposited large, shale, block type rocks.

Big Pond and Huggins Lake are two large, attractive bodies of water. Several small brooks and streams drain this area and all the water from this unit flows into the Delaware River.

## 2. Wildlife

The Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit lies within the Delaware Hills ecological subzone. The extensive northern hardwood forest with scattered coniferous cover provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species, specifically those that favor mature to old growth forest stages.

There has never been a formal inventory of animal life on this unit. However, Chambers, in his handbook, "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management" (1983),

compiled an extensive listing of wildlife presumed to reside within the Delaware Hills ecological subzone (See Appendices B-E) and further qualified his listing by categorizing by forest type, forest stage and special habitat needs. Based on Chambers' criteria, 51 species of mammals, 105 species of birds and 35 species of reptiles and amphibians likely reside on the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit.

Records compiled for the Breeding Bird Atlas (NYSDEC in cooperation with the Federation of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs) indicated that as of the end of the 1983 breeding season, 30 species of birds were recorded as probable breeders and 27 species were confirmed as breeding either on the Middle Mountain area or on adjacent lands(See Appendix F).

White-tailed deer are abundant. Hunting information from the Town of Andes for the years 1980-84 show that the average harvest per year was 5.30 bucks per square mile of deer range. Extrapolating from this information and assuming the deer population is uniformly distributed, the average pre-hunting season total deer population has been approximately 700 within the unit.

The Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit is within the Northern Catskill Black Bear Range. Bears are not common in the area, however, conditions are suitable to allow an annual bear hunting season. Local people occasionally observe black bear.

### 3. Fisheries

The unit is drained by 25 tributary streams totaling

about 11 miles including 11 direct or secondary tributaries to Pepacton Reservoir, 10 direct or secondary tributaries to the Beaver Kill, two tributaries to Big Pond and one tributary to Huggins Lake. Both 51.2 acre Big Pond and 19.2 acre Huggins Lake are in the Beaver Kill drainage. One additional tributary, within the unit and the Beaver Kill drainage, feeds Little Pond which is outside the unit boundary.

Big Pond is being managed for warm water and cold water fish and is being stocked with up to 500 spring yearling rainbow trout each year. The pond contains self-sustaining populations of brook trout, brown trout, chain pickerel, golden shiners, white suckers, brown bullheads, pumpkinseeds, largemouth bass and yellow perch. Trout stocking is necessary as natural reproduction does not provide adequate numbers of trout to support a fishery. American eel are also present in Big Pond. Huggins Lake has populations of brook trout, golden shiners, satinfish shiners and brown bullhead.

The fishes indigenous to streams in this part of the State and normally found in similar habitats are also found in the tributary system of the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit. The generally mountainous topography features moderate gradient tributaries that are subject to damming by beavers. The beaver dams create small trout ponds of varying duration. The tributaries support resident populations of brook and brown trout and also serve as spawning and nursery areas for the Beaver Kill and Pepacton Reservoir.

## II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND SYSTEMS

### A. Barriers

Earth barrier - Mary Smith Hill Road

2 Gates - Big Pond

Gate - Huggins Lake Road

### B. Pit Privies

None

### C. Trail Heads - Maintained Parking

1. Holiday and Berry Brook Road

2. Mary Smith Hill Road

3. Beech Hill Road

### D. Trail Heads - Without Maintained Parking

Beech Hill Road

### E. Bridges - Car

Post road at Big Pond

### F. Fireplaces

None

### G. Foot Trails - (12.8 miles - See Appendices F & G)

1. Mary Smith Trail - Holiday and Berry Brook to Mary Smith Hill Road.

2. Middle Mountain Trail - Mary Smith Hill Road to Beech Hill Road.

3. Touchmenot Trail - Beech Hill Road to Little Pond Campsite.

4. Little Pond Trail - Northwest corner of Little Pond to Touchmenot Trail.

5. Administrative Jeep Trail from Berry Brook Road to Huggins Lake.

H. Snowmobile Trails

None

I. Lean-tos

None

J. Road - Administrative

Administrative road from Berry Brook Road to  
Huggins Lake.

K. Roads - Public Roads

1. Holiday and Berry Brook Road
2. Gulf Brook Road
3. Mary Smith Hill Road
4. Beech Hill Road
5. Barkaboom Road

Road - Private

Post Road

L. Trail Registers

None

M. Dams

1. At Big Pond
2. At Huggins Lake

N. Telephone and Electric Lines

East Delaware Aqueduct

## 0. Signing - Foot Trails

Sign No.	Arrow Marker	Legend	Miles	Location
42	L. Arrow R. Mkr.	Middle Mt. Trail		Mary Smith Hill Parking Area
		Middle Mt. Vista	1.1	
		Beech Hill Road	2.0	
		Little Pond Campsite	5.4	
43	R. Arrow R. Mkr.	Middle Mt. Vista	.9	Beech Hill Rd. Mary Smith Hill Side
		Mary Smith Hill Rd.	2.0	
		Holiday Brook Rd.	5.3	
		Pelnor Hollow Lean-to	8.8	
44	L. Arrow R. Mkr.	Touchmenot Trail		Beech Hill Rd. Little Pond Side
		Beaverkill Vista	1.8	
		Little Pond Campsite	3.4	

## III. SPECIAL CONSTRAINTS & ISSUES AFFECTING THE PLANNING AREA

### A. General Constraints

This unit management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by Article XIV of the State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Title 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York and established policies for the administration of the lands involved. The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan is utilized as a guide and, therefore, a constraint.

#### ARTICLE XIV OF THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION-WILDLIFE

Cutting or burning of trees or other vegetation to modify habitat is not permissible within the Forest Preserve under the "forever wild" constraints of Article XIV of the State Constitution. Natural succession is allowed to progress toward ecological climax on Forest Preserve lands. Some wildlife populations will not be as large under these conditions as if habitat manipulation was allowed.

The Forest Preserve concept provides a strategy of land management that does not any particular species or group of species, but rather places emphasis on the protection of natural processes.

B. Applicable Laws and Rules and Regulations-Wildlife & Fisheries  
Wildlife

Deer Management is governed by the objectives of statewide deer management, State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL 11-0907) and Deer Management Unit 60 (ECL 11-0913, RR 1.21). The entire Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit is within DMU 60. The management objective for this unit is to carry a relatively large deer population resulting in an optimum harvest of 3.0 bucks per square mile of deer range. Regulated hunting with the use of Deer Management Permits provides the best method of deer population control. If deer populations are allowed to rise above the objective level, then many deer are subject to starvation, particularly during severe winters.

Fisheries

Fishing in the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Area is regulated by statewide seasons, size and creel limits specified in 6NYCRR10.1 as authorized by 11-1303-7 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York. Special rules and regulations apply to Big Pond and include a five fish creel limit and a 9 inch total length minimum size limit with all year fishing, including ice fishing, permitted as specified in 6NYCRR10.3(13) (i).

## C. Overuse Problems and Special Issues

### 1. General

Big Pond, a recent acquisition, is an attractive roadside body of water located along the east side of the Barkaboom Road. Just south of the pond was the site of Camp Beaverkill. The old buildings that were once Camp Beaverkill have been buried or removed. The heaviest public use has been in the vicinity of this old camp property. According to the Forest Preserve rules and regulations, camping is prohibited within 150 feet of a stream or lake unless otherwise designated by a sign. Since the Little Pond Campground, a State facility, is just a short distance to the south and provides adequate camping opportunities in this area, it is best at present to maintain the current rules and regulations around Big Pond and prohibit camping near the vicinity of the old Camp Beaverkill building sites and near the freshwater wetlands on the north end of Big Pond. On the west side of the pond there are two private in-holdings. There is an old log road around the east edge of the pond and its closest point to the water's edge is  $\pm$  40 feet. This old road could be maintained as a hiking trail for users. This Big Pond area may be a camping hot spot in the next few years and if there is a need for additional regulated public camping, Big Pond would be an ideal location.

Huggins Lake, an old Boy Scout property, is located in a secluded valley. The heaviest use to date has

occurred during the big game season. Law enforcement have had problems with illegal use of all terrain vehicles in this area. These motor vehicles are used for access to and from to the Huggins Lake valley.

Tompkins Falls located along the Barkaboom Road attracts bathers during the warmer summer weekends. The area is not very large, but does receive public use.

Mary Smith Hill Road is a popular spot to camp during the big game hunting season. Fire rings are located all along this road where it traverses through Forest Preserve lands.

#### D. Critical Habitats

##### 1. Plants

There are no known endangered or threatened plant species on this unit. However, within the Forest Preserve or on any State lands, no person shall deface, remove, destroy or otherwise injure in any manner whatsoever any tree, flower, shrub, fern, moss, or other plant, rock, fossil or mineral found or growing on State land, excepting under permit from the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the Assistant Commissioner for State Museum and Science Service, pursuant to Section 233 of the Education Law as amended by Chapter 1214 of the laws of 1958.

##### 2. Endangered Wildlife

None of the currently listed endangered or threatened species (ECL RR 182.5) are known to reside on the area. The bald eagle and Peregrine falcon (both endangered) may pass

through the area during migration. Bald eagles are observed on Pepacton Reservoir (located immediately to the north of this unit) almost every winter. Although the Indiana myotis (bat), an endangered species, is listed as a resident of the Delaware Hills ecological subzone, it has not been reported in the Middle Mountain Wild Forest. There are seven species considered to be of "special concern" which may be observed within the unit. These species are the Cooper's hawk, barn owl, common nighthawk, eastern bluebird, spotted turtle, Jefferson salamander and spotted salamander. The National Audubon Society's Blue List (indicating species for which there appear to be non-cyclical population declines or range contractions) includes the sharp-shinned hawk, ruby-throated hummingbird, hairy woodpecker and yellow warbler, all of which may reside on the unit.

### 3. Deer Winter Concentration Areas

At least three deer winter concentration areas are known to exist within the unit (Significant Habitat Nos. 112,113,157). Winter deer range supplied with an adequate supply of food is extremely important to the deer population in this unit. A very high deer population is very susceptible to winter mortality because of the short supply or the lack of young hardwood vegetation (the main deer winter food supply) in this unit. In recent years deer concentration activity has been noticeably reduced chiefly because of the lack of persistent snow cover.

#### 4. Wetlands

Four wetlands have been identified in or partially within the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit. One of these wetlands is large enough (12.4 acres) to be considered a protected wetland under ECL Article 24 (the Freshwater Wetlands Law). The presence of these wetlands provides ecological diversity to this unit and creates a greater variety of wildlife habitat.

#### 5. Fisheries

The tributaries to the Beaver Kill and Pepacton Reservoir are important trout spawning and nursery areas for the wild trout inhabiting those waters. Maintenance of good water quality in tributary streams is essential for continued high quality trout fisheries in the receiving waters.

Huggins Lake is proposed as an additional refuge for the Tunis Lake strain of brook trout. Its function in that role and as a provider of a quality brook trout fishery, is dependent on maintaining good water quality.

#### E. Primary Public Use

The primary public uses of this area are hunting, fishing and hiking.

#### F. Land Acquisition

Where feasible, land acquisition projects should be pursued to consolidate Forest Preserve and to provide access to Forest Preserve lands.

#### G. Scenic Vistas

Hiking trail vistas will be maintained. A minimum

amount of cutting will be permitted to maintain the vistas which are located at Mary Smith Hill, Middle Mountain and Cabot Mountain.

The maintenance of these vistas or the creation of new vistas is permitted by a decision issued by the State Attorney General on January 17, 1935.

#### H. Trail Proposal

Because of recent Forest Preserve land acquisitions in Delaware and Ulster County, Department of Environmental Conservation now has access from the western part of the Catskil Park to the eastern part of the Catskill Park. Department of Environmental Conservation in Region 4 and Region 3 are planning a foot trail linking the western trails to those in the east. This new section of foot trail would start in the vicinity of Little Pond Campground, head in an easterly direction and end at the Balsam Lake Mountain Trail. This trail would traverse the Middle Mountain Wild Forest and Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest Units.

The general location of this trail would be as follows: Touchmenot Mountain to Big Pond, Big Pond to Alder Lake and Alder Lake to Balsam Lake Mountain Trail. In the last stretch of this trail to the east, the trail would have to traverse around a piece of private land and, in doing this, the trail would be located along the Mill Brook Ridge. The length of the trail at the top of the ridge would be about two miles. The total length of this

proposal is about eight miles.

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference submitted a proposed route for the Finger Lakes Trail in the Catskill Park. Their proposal includes using the existing foot trails in the Cherry Ridge Campbell Mountain Unit and the Middle Mountain Unit as well as the new proposed foot trail from Touchmenot Mountain to Balsam Lake Mountain.

#### IV. IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are proposed for the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan:

- A. Maintain or improve water quality in all 25 tributary stream systems and their respective watersheds in this wild forest.
- B. Maintain present facilities, structures and systems within this unit and coordinate activities between units.
- C. Connect the western foot trails in the Catskill Park with those in the east.
- D. Supervise public use and educate the public on the appropriate uses of Forest Preserve lands.
- E. Annually establish hunting, fishing and trapping seasons and bag limits that include those species found on the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit.
- F. Actively pursue fee title acquisition of private lands or easements that provide public access to or consolidation of Forest Preserve land in this unit.
- G. Control illegal practices through enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law and Department of

Environmental Conservation Rules and Regulations.

- H. Perpetuate fish as part of the wild forest environment and balance this with the sport angling opportunity within the unit.

V. IDENTIFICATION OF THE NEEDS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives listed in Part IV are based on the following needs:

A. Water Quality

1. New York City's Pepacton Reservoir is the recipient of 11 direct or secondary tributary stream systems.
2. The Beaver Kill, a world renowned fishing stream is fed by 10 direct or secondary tributaries.
3. The Forest Preserve users use water for cooking and drinking and for cleaning themselves and their cooking and eating utensils.
4. Fish, wildlife and flora are dependent on good water quality for their continued existence.

B. General Maintenance

General maintenance on facilities, structures and systems is needed:

1. For the safety of the using public.
2. For the aesthetic and spiritual benefit of the using public.
3. For the protection of the Forest Preserve from the using public.

C. Recreational Facilities

Hikers need a safe, marked route between the trails in the western Catskills and those in the east.

D. Education and supervision is needed:

1. To maintain the scenic beauty and to educate the public on the appropriate uses of the Forest Preserve so that past abuses will be diminished.
2. For the enforcement of Rules and Regulations.

E. Hunting, fishing and trapping regulations are established and enforced:

1. To protect fish and wildlife during critical life history periods.
2. To provide for an equitable distribution of fish and wildlife among users.

F. Land Acquisition

Land acquisition is needed:

1. To increase access to Forest Preserve land.
2. To consolidate Forest Preserve land between separate parcels.
3. To enhance recreational access and use and to reduce boundary line maintenance.

G. Law Enforcement

Illegal practices in this unit must be prevented.

H. Fisheries management is needed to:

1. Mitigate acidification of trout ponds through neutralization.
2. Assure adequate trout spawning habitat.
3. Eliminate competitive fish species from trout ponds and stock trout.

## VI. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Relative to the special issues in Part III and the objectives and their needs in Parts IV and V, the following proposed management actions should be carried out for the next five years:

### A. Repair the dam structures at Huggins Lake and Big Pond.

#### 1. Huggins Lake

- a. The deterioration of concrete indicates that the spillway is not structurally sound.
- b. The shallow depth (two feet) at the entrance to the box culvert has caused reductions in the spillway capacity because of the accumulation of debris and the building of beaver dams at the entrance.
- c. The existing structure does not have sufficient capacity to discharge the design flood without overtopping the dam.

A box inlet drop structure is recommended for the replacement spillway at this site. This structure would cost \$12,000 (1980 estimate) to build and would include a box inlet, a 32 foot long culvert of 48 inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe and a means of dissipating energy at the outlet of the culvert. Sloped trash racks would be installed at the box inlet.

At the same time the spillway is being replaced, the earth portion of the dam will have to be built up to the proper grade and seeded in order to prevent

erosion. Project cost estimate - Construction Cost - \$12,000; Maintenance Cost - \$1,000 (1980 estimate).

2. Big Pond

a. The old stone dam has partially breached.

b. The 42 inch corrugated metal pipe has rusted and is clogged with debris.

It is recommended that the corrugated metal pipe be removed and back filled with stones. The crest of the stone dam will remain the same (approximately at the top of the corrugated metal pipe) and the width will be at least 18 feet wide.

All side slopes should be gentle, allowing no more than one vertical rise for every two feet of horizontal distance. Cost estimate (1987): \$3,000.

- B. 1. Develop the proposed new trail which is described in Part III, Section H. This trail proposal and layout will be coordinated with Region 3 and the Balsam Lake Mountain Unit Management Plan.

The length of this trail within the Middle Mountain Wild Forest would be approximately 2.5 miles.

2. The local Lew Beach snowmobile club has rallied support for a snowmobile trail within this unit.

If a proposal is eventually submitted, that meets Department policy guidelines, an amendment to the existing plan could be made, rather than wait five years for a plan update. The procedure for an amendment is to take the proposal before the public

for their support and acceptance. If the proposal is finalized near the time of the five year update of this plan, then the proposal will be included as part of the update.

C. Scenic vista maintenance will be included as part of the annual trail maintenance costs under the work plan for trail crews, regardless of whether maintenance is done by Department of Environmental Conservation crews or by crews from outside organizations.

D. Signs will be placed at Big Pond to prohibit camping near the old Camp Beaverkill site and the freshwater wetland site.

E. Parking Improvement

The parking area at the south end of Big Pond near the old Camp Beaverkill site will be improved to accommodate 10 cars. This parking area will be designed with definite boundaries, probably large rocks. This parking area will be designated the trail head for the new trail which will connect the Balsam Lake Mountain Trail with the Little Pond Trail. In the winter, trailhead parking has previously been permitted at Little Pond. Because of problems with snow removal and to avoid the potential for vandalism at campground facilities, this practice will be discontinued. Another parking area will be provided in the winter on Barkaboom Road, just west of the dam at Big Pond.

F. Establish a trail register on the new trail, 400 feet in from the trail head at the south end of Big Pond.

#### G. Boundary Line Maintenance

Boundary lines must be maintained to identify ownership and to reduce boundary disputes. There is a total of 54.4 miles of boundary to maintain on a recurring five year cycle.

#### H. Trail Facilities Maintenance

Continue annual maintenance on the 10.9 miles of foot trail, post 1.9 miles of the administrative jeep trail from Berry Brook to Huggins Lake as a foot trail and expend approximately 0.5 person days annually in pruning and clearing at the three recommended sites for scenic vistas (Part III, Section G).

#### I. Litter Maintenance

Remove litter as necessary to maintain the beauty of the Forest Preserve.

#### J. Land Acquisition

Acquire by fee title or easement, available parcels of private land that will help fulfill the management objective of providing access to and the consolidation of Forest Preserve lands.

#### K. Barrier Maintenance

3 Gates - repair or replace one gate annually

#### L. Fishery Management Maintenance

It may be necessary to:

1. Construct a spawning structure at Huggins Lake.
2. Reclaim Huggins Lake as a trout water.
3. Lime Huggins Lake and/or Big Pond.
4. Stock Huggins Lake and Big Pond.

Construction of spawning boxes, liming and pond

reclamation are covered in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Habitat Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Fish and Wildlife, ID #000-5014.

Stocking and liming are covered in the Final Programmatic EIS on Fish Species Management Activities of the DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife, ID #000-5022.

M. Supervision

One person will educate and supervise the public at this Forest Preserve Unit and the two adjoining units.

N. Law Enforcement

Specific recommendations for increasing law enforcement to prevent illegal practices in this unit are beyond the scope of this plan. However, additional law enforcement personnel will be needed to adequately enforce DEC Rules and Regulations and the Environmental Conservation Law.

## VII. BUDGET SUMMARY

### 1) Estimated Cost To Implement UMP

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Foot trail layout & construction	\$1250	(one time)
Signing Big Pond restricted area	700	Year #1
Parking Improvement (Big Pond)	1500	Year #1
One Trail Register	400	Year #1
Spawning Structure - In conjunction with repair of Huggins Lake Dam)	2500	(one time)
Land Acquisiton - When it occurs		
Asst. Forest Ranger (1/3 time)	4500	Annually

### 2) Recurring Annual Maintenance Costs

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Repair Dam Structures Huggins Lake (\$17,000 est.) and Big Pond (\$3,000 est.)	\$20,000	(one time)
Boundary Line Maintenance	840	(annually)
Trail Facilities Maintenance	800	(annually)
Litter Maintenance	1,000	(annually)
Barrier Maintenance	150	(annually)
Spawning Structure	500	(annually)
Signs - New	500	(annually)

### 3) Cost Summary

a. Plan Project Costs -	Total 5 Years	\$28,850
b. Maintenance	Dams -	20,000
	Other -	18,950
	Total 5 Years	\$67,800

## LIST OF REFERENCES

- (1) S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York -- Forest Resources of the Catskill Region.
- (2) Broughton, J.G., Fisher, D.W., Isachsen, Y.W.; Rickard, L.V. -- Geology of New York.
- (3) Catskill Report #15, 9/76 -- Rare and Endangered Plants in the Catskills.
- (4) Department of Environmental Conservation, 1985 -- State Land Master Plan Catskill Region.
- (5) Department of Environmental Conservation, 1987 -- Cherry Ridge Campbell Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.
- (6) Department of Environmental Conservation, 1987 -- Kaaterskill Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.
- (7) Department of Environmental Conservation, 1987 -- Slide Mountain Panther Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan.
- (8) Chambers, Robert E. -- Integrating Timber And Wildlife Management.

A Positive Declaration had been issued on the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan on August 14, 1985. Prior to the preparation of the Unit Management Plan, the Department had expected the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Subsequently, in preparation of the draft plan it was found that there were no significant environmental impacts. Accordingly, the Department has prepared a Negative Declaration which is reproduced on the next two pages.



Identifying # NG002110-46

SEQR  
Negative Declaration  
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project # \_\_\_\_\_

Date August 11, 1987

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:

Adopt the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

SEQR Status:    Type I    ☒  
                         Unlisted    ☐

Description of Action:

This plan sets forth management actions for the 10,130 acre unit of Forest Preserve located in the Towns of Colchester and Andes in Delaware County; the Town of Hardenburgh in Ulster County and the Town of Rockland in Sullivan County. The area is forested and mountainous. Management activities planned for this unit include: general maintenance of facilities, structures and systems, including dams and scenic vistas; construct 2.5 miles of a new foot trail; improve trail head parking to include 10 cars; acquire land to provide access to and the consolidation of Forest Preserve land; and to construct a trout spawning structure. This unit management plan will direct all management activities within the Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit for a period of five years from the date of adoption. The presiding authority for this unit management plan is Article XIV of the N.Y.S. Constitution, Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, various opinions of Attorneys General and the Catskill State Land Master Plan.

Location: (Include the name of the county and town. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended)

Town of Colchester - Delaware Co.  
Town of Andes - Delaware Co.  
Town of Hardenburgh - Ulster Co.  
Town of Rockland - Sullivan Co.

## Reasons Supporting This Determination:

The actions in this wild forest management plan are of minor extent and size. Management activities such as general maintenance of facilities, structures and systems, including scenic vistas and dam maintenance; construction of foot trails; increasing parking for public access; land acquisition for access and consolidation will have a very minute impact on the environment. In addition, maintenance of facilities, structures and systems are covered in the programmatic EIS entitled, Forest Preserve Interior Recreation Management Program, Joseph LaSpisa, 1981.

This wild forest unit will be managed under the constraints set forth in the Catskill State Land Management Plan, Article XIV of NYS Constitution and Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

## For Further Information:

Contact Person: Richard Weir  
Address: NYS DEC  
Stamford, NY  
Phone No.: (607) 652-7364

## Copies of this Notice Sent to:

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York  
12233-0001

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation  
Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be  
principally located

Applicant (if any)

Other involved agencies (if any)

Appendix B . Status and occurrence of New York reptiles in the Catskill Peaks and Delaware Hills subzones as listed in "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1983).

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>
Common Snapping Turtle	
Stinkpot	
Spotted Turtle	Special Concern
Wood Turtle	Special Concern
Eastern Painted Turtle	
Northern Water Snake	
Northern Brown Snake	
Northern Redbelly Snake	
Eastern Garter Snake	
Eastern Ribbon Snake	
Eastern Hognose Snake	
Northern Ringneck Snake	
Northern Black Racer	
Eastern Smooth Green Snake	
Black Rat Snake	
Eastern Milk Snake	
Northern Copperhead	
Timber Rattlesnake	Threatened

\*Status = Status in New York State

Appendix C      Status and occurrence of New York amphibians in the Catskill Peaks and Delaware Hills subzones as listed in "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1985).

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>
Jefferson Salamander	Special Concern
Blue-Spotted Salamander	Special Concern
Spotted Salamander	Special Concern
Red-Spotted Newt	
Northern Dusky Salamander	
Mountain Dusky Salamander	
Redback Salamander	
Slimy Salamander	
Four-toed Salamander	
Northern Spring Salamander	
Northern Red Salamander	
Northern Two-lined Salamander	
Longtail Salamander	
American Toad	
Northern Spring Peeper	
Gray Treefrog	
Bullfrog	• Hunted
Green Frog	
Wood Frog	
Pickerel Frog	

\*Status = Status in New York State

Appendix   D  . Status and occurrence of New York breeding birds in the Catskill Peaks and Delaware Hills subzones as listed in "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1983).

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>
Great Blue Heron		Pileated Woodpecker	
Green-Backed Heron		Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	
Mallard	Hunted	Hairy Woodpecker	Blue List
American Black Duck	Hunted	Downy Woodpecker	
Wood Duck	Hunted	Eastern Kingbird	
Common Merganser	Hunted	Great Crested Flycatcher	
Hooded Merganser	Hunted	Eastern Phoebe	
Northern Goshawk		Willow Flycatcher	
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	Blue List	Alder Flycatcher	
Cooper's Hawk	Special Concern	Least Flycatcher	
Red-Tailed Hawk		Eastern Pewee	
Red-Shouldered Hawk	Threatened	Tree Swallow	
Broad-Winged Hawk		Bank Swallow	
Peregrine Falcon	Endangered	Rough-Winged Swallow	
American Kestrel		Barn Swallow	
Ruffed Grouse	Hunted	Cliff Swallow	
Wild Turkey	Hunted	Purple Martin	
American Woodcock	Hunted	Blue Jay	
Common Snipe	Hunted	American Crow	Hunted
Mourning Dove		Black-Capped Chickadee	
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo		Tufted Titmouse	
Black-Billed Cuckoo		White-Breasted Nuthatch	
Barn Owl	Special Concern	Red-Breasted Nuthatch	
Common Screech Owl		Brown Creeper	
Great Horned Owl		House Wren	
Barred Owl		Winter Wren	
Whippoorwill		Gray Catbird	
Common Nighthawk	Special Concern	Brown Thrasher	
Chimney Swift		American Robin	
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Blue List	Wood Thrush	
Belted Kingfisher		Hermit Thrush	
Common Flicker		Swainson's Thrush	

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>
Gray-Checked Thrush		Brow-Headed Cowbird	
Veery		Scarlet Tanager	
Eastern Bluebird	Special Concern	Northern Cardinal	
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher		Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	
Golden-Crowned Kinglet		Indigo Bunting	
Cedar Waxwing		Purple Finch	
Yellow-Throated Vireo		American Goldfinch	
Solitary Vireo		Rufous-Sided Towhee	
Red-Eyed Vireo		Savannah Sparrow	
Warbling Vireo		Grasshopper Sparrow	Special Concern
Black & White Warbler		Vesper Sparrow	Special Concern
Worm-Eating Warbler		Northern Junco	
Golden-Winged Warbler	Blue List	Chipping Sparrow	
Nashville Warbler		Field Sparrow	
Yellow Warbler	Blue List	White Throated Sparrow	
Magnolia Warbler		Swamp Sparrow	
Black-Throated Green Warbler		Song Sparrow	
Black-Throated Blue Warbler			
Blackburnian Warbler			
Chestnut-Sided Warbler			
Cerulean Warbler			
Blackpoll Warbler			
Ovenbird			
Northern Waterthrush			
Louisiana Waterthrush			
Mourning Warbler			
Common Yellowthroat			
Yellow Breasted Chat			
Hooded Warbler			
Canada Warbler			
American Redstart			
Red-Winged Blackbird			
Northern Oriole			
Common Grackle			

\*Status = Status in New York State

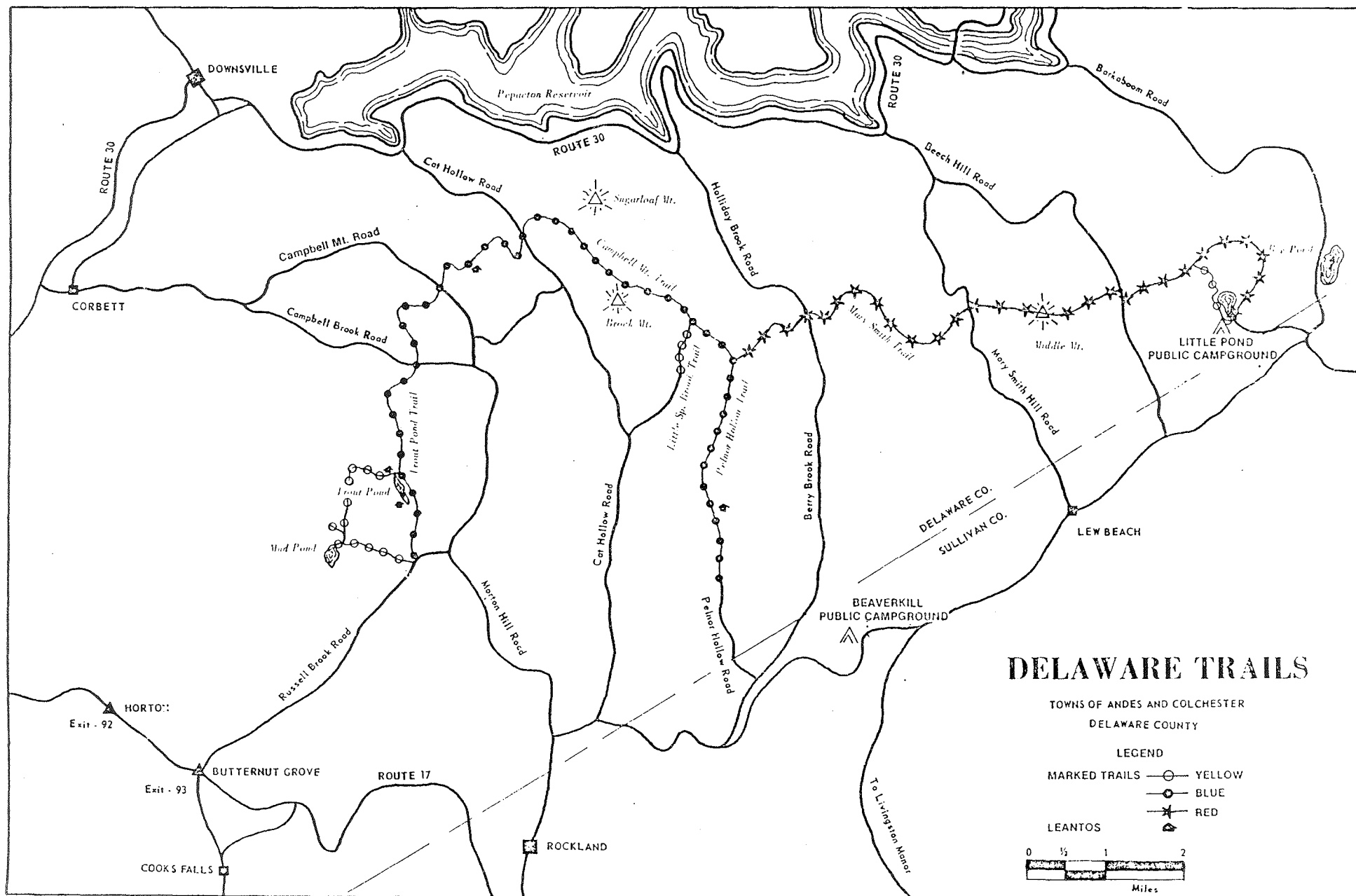
Appendix E . Status and occurrence of New York mammals in the Catskill Peaks and Delaware Hills subzones as listed in "Integrating Timber and Wildlife Management Handbook" (Chambers, 1965).

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>
Virginia Opossum	Hunted/Trapped	Eastern Chipmunk	
Masked Shrew		Gray Squirrel	Hunted
Smoky Shrew		Red Squirrel	
Longtail Shrew		Southern Flying Squirrel	
Northern Water Shrew		Northern Flying Squirrel	
Least Shrew		Beaver	Trapped
Shorttail Shrew		Deer Mouse	
Star-nose Mole		White-footed Mouse	
Hairytail Mole		Eastern Woodrat	Threatened
Little Brown Myotis		Southern Bog Lemming	
Keen Myotis		Boreal Red-Backed Vole	
Indiana Myotis	Endangered	Meadow Vole	
Small-footed Myotis	Special Concern	Yellownose Vole	
Silver-haired Bat		Pine Vole	
Eastern Pipistrelle		Muskrat	Trapped
Big Brown Bat		Meadow Jumping Mouse	
Lat		Woodland Jumping Mouse	
Hoary Bat		Porcupine	
Black Bear	Hunted	Snowshoe Hare	Hunted
Raccoon	Hunted/Trapped	Eastern Cottontail	Hunted
Fisher	Trapped	White-tailed Deer	Hunted
Shorttail Weasel	Trapped		
Longtail Weasel	Trapped		
Mink	Trapped		
River Otter	Trapped		
Striped Skunk	Hunted/Trapped		
Coyote	Hunted/Trapped		
Red Fox	Hunted/Trapped		
Gray Fox	Hunted/Trapped		
Bobcat	Hunted/Trapped		
Woodchuck	Hunted		

\*Status = Status in New York State

List of Bird Species by Breeding Category for the Area In and Adjacent to Middle Mountain Wild Forest. Breeding Bird Atlas Project- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs

<u>Possible</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Common Merganser	Killdeer	Mallard
Great Blue Heron	American Woodcock	Wood Duck
Turkey Vulture	Rock Dove	Red-Tailed Hawk
Broad-Winged Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Red-Shouldered Hawk
Cooper's Hawk	Black-Billed Cuckoo	Ruffed Grouse
Mourning Dove	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Turkey
Great Horned Owl	Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	Chimney Swift
Screech Owl	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Flicker
Spotted Sandpiper	White-Breasted Nuthatch	Hairy Woodpecker
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	Common Crow	Eastern Kingbird
Belted Kingfisher	Hermit Thrush	Eastern Phoebe
Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Least Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher	Tree Swallow
Eastern Wood Pewee	House Wren	Barn Swallow
Swainson's Thrush	Yellow-Throated Vireo	Cliff Swallow
Golden-Crowned Kinglet	Black & White Warbler	Blue Jay
Yellow-Throated Vireo	Magnolia Warbler	Black-Capped Chickadee
Parula Warbler	Black-Throated Blue Warbler	Brown Creeper
Pine Warbler	Black burnian Warbler	House Wren
Common Grackle	Canada Warbler	Winter Wren
Cardinal	Nashville Warbler	Gray Catbird
Swamp Sparrow	Black-Throated Green Warbler	American Robin
	Mourning Warbler	Wood Thrush
	Bobolink	Veery
	Brown-Headed Cowbird	Eastern Bluebird
	Indigo Bunting	Starling
	American Goldfinch	Cedar Waxwing
	Rufous-Sided Towhee	Solitary Vireo
	Pine Siskin	Red-Eyed Vireo
	White-Throated Sparrow	Yellow Warbler
		Yellow-Rumped Warbler
		Chestnut-Sided Warbler
		Ovenbird
		Common Yellowthroat
		Louisiana Waterthrush
		American Redstart
		House Sparrow
		Red-Winged Blackbird
		Northern Oriole
		Common Grackle
		Scarlet Tanager
		Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
		Purple Finch
		Dark-Eyed Junco
		Chipping Sparrow
		Field Sparrow
		Song Sparrow



## Appendix H

### Delaware Trails

The Delaware Trails are a system of interconnected trails running through the Forest Preserve lands south of the Pepacton Reservoir in the Towns of Colchester and Andes in Delaware County.

From Route 17, westbound, Exit 93 at Cooks Falls, eastbound Exit 92 at Horton, turn northeasterly on Russell Brook road at Cooks Falls and proceed up Russell Brook approximately 5 miles to start of trail on the left. Parking areas are available on and off the Russell Brook Road.

Miles	Russell Brook-Trout Pond-Mud Pond Loop
0.00	Junction of Russell Brook Road and Trout Pond Trail. Follow blue markers up old road.
1.40	Trout Pond inlet, leanto, and trail junction. Follow yellow markers west behind leanto.
3.15	Junction with old road. Mud Pond 0.25 miles to the right. Russell Brook Road 1.00 miles to the left.
4.15	Russell Brook Road.

Miles	Trout Pond Trail Description—Blue Markers
0.00	Junction of Russell Brook road and trail up Trout Pond outlet. Follow blue markers upgrade along old tote road alongside Trout Pond outlet.
0.90	Trout Pond dam and outlet leanto at far end of dam.
1.40	Trout Pond inlet and Trout Pond leanto. Trail turns right.
3.30	Campbell Brook road. Trail crosses road.
5.40	Campbell Mt. road, end of Trout Pond Trail, beginning of Campbell Mt. Trail, parking area.

Miles	Campbell Mountain Trail—Blue Markers
0.00	Junction of Campbell Mt. road and Trout Pond Trail (south). Parking area.
1.10	Campbell Mt. leanto.
2.40	Cat Hollow road, room for parking along road. Trail continues upgrade across road to top of Brock Mt.
4.10	Trail junction, end of Campbell Mt. Trail, start of Little Spring Brook Trail and Pelnor Hollow Trail.

Miles	Little Spring Brook Trail—Yellow Markers
0.00	Junction of Campbell Mt. Trail (blue) and Pelnor Hollow Trail (blue). Follow yellow markers southerly along old Little Spring Brook road.
0.60	State land ends and trail ends. Continue down town road 1.1 mile to Cat Hollow road.

Miles	Pelnor Hollow Trail—Blue Markers
0.00	Junction of Campbell Mt. Trail (blue) and Little Spring Brook Trail (yellow). Trail leaves old Little Spring Brook road in a southeasterly direction.
0.80	Junction with Mary Smith Trail (red) to east.
3.10	Pelnor Hollow leanto.
4.00	State land ends and trail ends. Continue down town road 1.5 miles to Berry Brook road.

Miles	Mary Smith Trail—Red Markers
0.00	Junction with Pelnor Hollow Trail 0.8 mile south from old Little Spring Brook Road.
1.20	Holiday Brook Road and parking area on east side of road. Trail continues easterly across road.
4.50	Mary Smith Hill road and end of trail. Town road leads northerly to Route 30 and southerly to hamlet of Lew-beach.

Miles	Middle Mt. Trail—Red Markers
0.00	Junction of Mary Smith Trail (red) and Mary Smith Hill Road. Trail goes steeply uphill in an easterly direction.
0.90	Middle Mt. summit.
2.00	Beech Hill Road and end of trail. Turn right on road to continue on Touch-Me-Not Trail (0.25 miles).

Miles	Touch-Me-Not Trail—Red Markers
0.00	Junction with Beech Hill Road 0.25 miles south of Middle Mt. Trail. Trail goes east.
1.90	Trail junction. Yellow trail to right leads to Little Pond Campground (1.6 miles).
3.50	Little Pond Campground.

Miles	Little Pond Trail—Yellow Markers
0.00	Old road at west end of Little Pond Campground. Follow yellow markers along edge of pond.
0.20	Trail junction. Trail right follows edge of pond back of campground. Proceed uphill to left on yellow trail.
1.60	Junction with Touch-Me-Not Trail. Left on red trail to Beech Hill Road, 1.9 miles. Right on red trail returns to campground, 1.6 miles.

### Elevation of Major Peaks in Catskills

("T" indicates a marked trail is available)

Slide	T4204	Big Indian	T3700
Hunter	T4040	Friday	3694
Blackdome	T3990	Rusk	3680
Blackhead	T3937	Kaaterskill High Peak	3660
Thomas Cole	T3935	Twin	T3640
Westkill	T3880	Balsam Cap	3623
Graham	3868	Fir	3620
Cornell	T3860	North Dome	3610
Doubletop	3860	Balsam	T3600
Table	T3847	Bearpen	3600
Peekamoose	T3843	Eagle	3600
Plateau	T3840	Indian Head	T3573
Sugarloaf	T3800	Sherrill	3540
Wittenburg	T3780	Halcott	3537
Balsam Lake	T3723	Vly	3529
Lone	3721	Windham High Peak	T3524
Panther	T3720	Rocky	3508