

Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg
Unit Management Plan Update and Amendment
and Generic Environmental Impact Statement

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Executive Summary

Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP). Concurrent with the development of UMPs is the creation of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) which analyzes the significant impacts and alternatives to each UMP.

This document, prepared by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), is an update and amendment to the 1986 UMP and GEIS for the Mount Van Hoevenberg Recreation Area, now referred to as the Olympic Sports Complex (the "Complex"). As a Unit Management Plan, it satisfies the requirements that such plans contain an inventory of existing resources, facilities, systems and uses, a discussion of management policy, a description of proposed management actions, a discussion of the potential impacts of such actions, a description of mitigating measures and a description of alternative actions. As an environmental impact statement, it meets the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), which are similar to those for UMPs, as well as requirements unique to SEQRA, such as a discussion of growth inducing aspects.

The creation of the UMP requires compliance with SEQRA. The SEQRA aspects of this document are presented as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement. Generic EIS' may be used to assess the environmental effects of a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or an entire program or plan having wide application (6NYCRR617.15(a)(2) and (4)). They differ from site specific EIS' in that they apply to a group of common and related activities which have similar or related impacts. It is the intent of this GEIS to provide sufficient, site specific information for all aspects of the UMP except the snowmaking reservoir, the new racer's facility and the trailhead parking facility. The analysis in this GEIS identifies threshold issues and alternatives at a level of detail sufficient to demonstrate the environmental feasibility of the proposal for the racer's facility and the snowmaking water reservoir. It does not address final design and construction, which will be addressed in a work permit application to the NYSDEC. No additional SEQRA analyses are anticipated to be required for any other management action in this UMP, provided that such actions are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this document. Similarly, no additional UMP approvals are anticipated to be required upon completion of this process.

The Olympic Sports Complex is a year-round recreational, day-use sports facility owned by the State of New York under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Complex is currently managed by ORDA under an agreement with the DEC. The Complex is located off NY Route 73 approximately seven miles southeast of the Village of Lake Placid, in the Town of North Elba, Essex County, New York.

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is a New York State-owned facility operated by the Olympic Regional Development Authority to provide the public with intensive forms of recreation for both the spectator and participant. It is classified

as an "Intensive Use Area" under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and is located on lands which are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg currently benefits winter recreators and competitive athletes involved in bobsledding, luge, cross-country skiing and biathlon sporting activities. Summer recreators at Mount Van Hoevenberg can mountain-bike, horseback ride and hike on the cross-country and biathlon trails, use the biathlon target range, ride wheeled bobsleds and luges, and tour the Complex. It is maintained as a sports facility meeting international standards under developed and competitive conditions.

The facility includes approximately 50 km of cross-country ski trails, three lodges, independent bobsled and luge runs, a biathlon target range and a cross-country ski school program.

The primary motivation behind this UMP is to increase the safety and experience of competitive athletes and recreational users and to maintain the facility as a quality training, conditioning and racing sports complex meeting current international Olympic standards, consistent with Article XIV and the SLMP.

The following specific objectives have been identified for the updated UMP:

1. ORDA will continue to manage the Olympic Sports Complex in an environmentally responsible fashion by complying with all applicable rules and regulations and by maintaining an on-going dialogue with the DEC and APA on matters of environmental concern.
2. ORDA will seek to improve the quality of facilities at the Complex in order to continue to attract competitive and recreational athletes from New York State, the United States and the international sports community, in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.
3. ORDA will seek to develop new summer and other off-season events to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article XIV and the SLMP.
4. ORDA management will seek to establish annual budgets and schedules in support of the proposed capital improvements plan and other management objectives.
5. ORDA will seek to improve equipment reliability in order to reduce the frequency of breakdown, associated staffing requirements and consequent financial drain.
6. ORDA will seek to establish the Olympic Sports Complex as an international caliber facility for competitive events in bobsled, luge, biathlon and cross-country skiing.

The development of the UMP follows a logical sequence which includes an inventory of existing conditions, an analysis of potential improvements, and the creation of the proposed plan which is the subject of this UMP.

The improvements identified in the UMP are proposed to be accomplished in five phases over the next five years. ORDA recognizes that implementation may take longer for a variety of reasons.

Throughout the course of the five phases, progress evaluations will be conducted annually, work compared with the goals and objectives, and the project refocused as deemed necessary by the Olympic Sports Complex and ORDA. The results of this annual review will be a budget for the next phase of work that can be taken to the appropriate agencies for approval prior to the beginning of the work period.

The implementation of the proposed UMP is governed by a variety of laws and regulations. Article XIV of the State Constitution governs the management of forest preserve land in the Adirondack Park. The proposed UMP actions will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV which limits the clearing and creation of development deemed to be incompatible with the use and preservation of the Forest Preserve.

During the preparation of this Generic Environmental Impact Statement, it became clear that the State Constitution Article XIV issues related to the project need to be resolved before certain desirable management actions can be implemented. Each of the proposed management actions has been specified either as those actions which can occur when the UMP is approved and adopted, or those actions which can occur pending resolution of the Article XIV issues.

With regard to Article XIV, it is clear that the New York State Constitution needs to be amended to include specific provision for the facilities at the Complex, including the ski trails, lodges and appurtenances thereto.

The following improvements and upgrades are proposed in this UMP/GEIS.

Management Actions which can take place when UMP is approved and adopted:

Trails

- Maintain cross-country and biathlon ski trails to applicable International Ski Federation (FIS) and International Biathlon Union (IBU) standards
- Continue trail homologation (international standardization)
- In kind replacement of bridges on ski trails
- Construct mini-stadium bridge to increase safety at high speed trail intersection

- Create a longer straightaway at the start/finish at the current cross-country stadium and relocate timing building
- Upgrade trail signage and trail maps

Bobsled/Luge Run

- Construct new combined bobsled/luge track

Biathlon Course Amenities

- Purchase portable scoreboard

Lodges

- Rehabilitate the biathlon lodge as a recreational lodge (includes outside deck, berms and landscaping)

Parking

- Restructure the existing cross-country ski center parking lot to accommodate better traffic flow, drop-off area and parking pods
- Restructure the existing biathlon lodge parking area to improve traffic flow, accommodate parking spaces, and provide overflow parking
- Restructure the existing access to the bobsled/luge area by creating a loop road with a vehicle drop-off zone

Miscellaneous

- Purchase additional grooming equipment
- Maintain and replace security fencing
- Maintain grounds and physical plant (two buildings need roof work, one needs a boiler)
- Replace bridge at existing pump station and replace weir as required by DEC and described within this UMP
- Develop and schedule off-season events such as horse shows and festivals
- Replace wooden snow fencing on trails

Management Actions Pending Article XIV Resolution:

Trails

- Create three connector trails
- Widen trails north of the access road
- Construct a snowmaking system on 7.3 +/- km of ski trails. This includes building a reservoir, a building to house pumps and air compressors and controls, installing a transformer, adding a pump at the existing pump station where bobsled run icing water is currently withdrawn, installing water and air piping with snowmaking gun hydrants and power to run the guns along the trails where snowmaking is planned
- Replace two ski tunnels under the access road
- Construct a destination hut (unheated and unmanned) on the Porter Mountain loop

Lodges

- Build new racer's facility/training center in a location with better drainage to replace the cross-country lodge
- Relocate wax test area to be adjacent to new racer's facility if necessary

Parking

- Pave parking fields with high rate of use
- Pave loop road to bobsled/luge area
- Construct trailhead parking area in conjunction with DEC and DOT

Miscellaneous

- Construct a pole barn for equipment storage

In addition to those above, the improvements identified in the 1986 Unit Management Plan, which remains in effect today, are still valid. Certain of the improvements in the 1986 UMP have been modified and updated in this UMP, while others have been deferred. Many improvements identified in the 1986 UMP have been constructed, while others are under construction. They are identified as part of the five year update, and are noted as already approved in the 1986 UMP. These include land acquisition, scheduling of summer programs, annual review and appropriate modification of facilities with respect to established safety standards, and maintenance of the facility. The status of actions in the 1986 UMP is summarized within this updated UMP in Table 1-1, "Status of 1986 UMP, As Amended, Management Actions."

The final design for the combined bobsled/luge run is provided herein, as well as more specific information regarding the construction phasing plan relative to the specific components of this project.

The SLMP classifies State lands in the Forest Preserve according to their character and capacity to withstand use and sets forth general guidelines and criteria for the management and use of State lands. The SLMP classifies the Olympic Sports Complex as an Intensive Use Area. Intensive Use Areas are provided to allow for a significant number of visitors and a high level of use. The SLMP contains a number of management guidelines, including a recommendation that the Olympic Sports Complex "should be maintained as a year-round sports facility meeting international standards for such sports as bobsled, luge, biathlon and cross-country skiing on improved cross-country ski trails under developed, competitive conditions."

The following potential impacts have been identified from the actions proposed in the UMP.

Vegetation

The trail maintenance, construction of three connector trails, straightaway lengthening at the cross-country stadium and construction of other improvements such as a snowmaking water reservoir will result in the cutting of trees. Approximately 234 trees will be cut as a result of the plan. All vegetative cutting will be conducted in compliance with DEC tree cutting policies and State Constitution Article XIV.

Water and Wetland Resources

An attempt has been made to avoid on-site wetlands in the planning and design of the proposed improvements to the existing facilities. However, some proposed improvements will affect wetlands which are subject to federal regulation enforced by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and possibly subject to state wetland regulations administered by the Adirondack Park Agency.

It should be possible to accomplish all of the necessary improvements under authorization of several of the general permits administered by the ACOE which are known as "nationwide permits." In performing the proposed work, ORDA will comply with the general conditions for nationwide permits. A jurisdictional determination will take place to determine if any of the activities will take place within state-regulated wetlands.

The proposed water withdrawal for the snowmaking system will not have a significant impact on North Meadow Brook or downgradient surface water resources. Optimum stream flow conditions will be maintained.

Soils

Construction of improvements on the Complex has the potential to result in soil erosion. Several measures are identified in the DGEIS to mitigate this impact.

Visual Resources

The proposed improvements will not have a significant impact on existing vantage points from which views of the Olympic Sports Complex exist. No new vantage points are created by development of the proposed management actions.

Fish and Wildlife

No rare, threatened or endangered species will be affected by the project. Fish in North Meadow Brook will not be affected because the volume of water which will be withdrawn for snowmaking is too small to have a significant impact on flows.

Transportation

The proposed improvements will not result in a significant impact on transportation resources.

Community Services

There will be some increase in demand for community services such as fire, police, rescue, solid waste and health care. However, the Complex presently makes very little demand on such services and the increase in such demand is anticipated to be small.

Local Land Use Plans

The proposed actions identified in the UMP are consistent with local planning documents such as the Town of North Elba Local Land Use Code and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Town of North Elba and the Village of Lake Placid. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan has been revised and includes a discussion of ways to make the region a year-round destination, which is also one of the goals of this UMP.

Economics

Actions identified in the proposed UMP will have positive economic impacts through direct construction purchases, payroll and through new hires. In addition, competitors, recreators and spectators drawn to the Olympic Sports Complex will spend money. All such spending will be positively multiplied throughout the community.

Growth Inducing, Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

The proposed UMP is likely to allow the facility to serve the community and continue to stabilize growth in the lodging, housing, restaurant and retail sectors. However, it is anticipated that the proposed UMP will encourage and strengthen more consistent year-round attendance at the Olympic Sports Complex, with attendant consistent year-round use of existing regional lodging, eating and retail establishments. Similarly, the cumulative impacts of all ORDA facilities has been considered which indicates that ORDA has a significant positive economic impact on the Adirondack North Country Region and to the State of New York. In 1994, the direct impact was \$69.5 million,

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List of Abbreviations

ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
cfs	cubic feet per second
d/b/a	doing business as
dbh	diameter at breast height
DEC	Department of Environmental Conservation
DGEIS	Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement
FIS	Federation International de Ski (International Ski Federation)
gpm	gallons per minute
IBU	International Biathlon Union
km	kilometer
mm	millimeter
NYSEF	New York Ski Education Foundation
ORDA	Olympic Regional Development Authority
PPB	Parts Per Billion
UMP	Unit Management Plan
USBA	US Biathlon Association
USOC	US Olympic Committee
USSA	United States Ski Association
SLMP	State Land Master Plan
SPDES	State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

A. General

The Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) is updating and amending the 1986 Unit Management Plan (UMP) and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg in the Town of North Elba, Essex County, New York. This document serves as both the Unit Management Plan and as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement. As a Unit Management Plan, it satisfies the requirements that such plans contain an inventory of existing resources, facilities, systems and uses, a discussion of management policy, a description of proposed management actions, a discussion of the potential impacts of such actions, a description of mitigating measures and a description of alternative actions. As an environmental impact statement, it meets the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), which are similar to those for UMPs, as well as requirements unique to SEQRA, such as a discussion of growth inducing aspects. The document is organized in a logical fashion in order that each section meets SEQRA requirements.

The UMP covers a five year period; consequently, the management actions are presented as a "five-year plan." The UMP will be amended as needed to remain current.

The SEQRA aspects of this document are presented as a generic environmental impact statement. Generic EIS' may be used to assess the environmental effects of a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or an entire program or plan having wide application (6NYCRR 617.15(a)(2) and (4)).

As a GEIS/planning document the analysis of a particular action is completed to the extent data is available that provides a reasoned elaboration of the issues. Some actions will require additional approvals by other agencies or the legislature. This document describes the action and the likely ramifications to the particular site and local or regional environment. Generic Environmental Impact Statements differ from site specific EIS' in that they apply to a group of common and related activities which have similar or related activities. It is the intent of this GEIS to provide sufficient, site specific information for all aspects of the UMP except the proposed snowmaking water reservoir and the new racer's facility. The analysis in this GEIS identifies threshold issues and alternatives at a level of detail sufficient to demonstrate the environmental feasibility of the two projects. It does not address final design and construction, which will be provided in a work permit application to the NYS DEC. No additional SEQRA analyses are anticipated to be required for any other management action in this UMP, provided that such actions are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this document. Similarly, no additional UMP approvals are anticipated to be required upon completion of this process.

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is a New York State-owned facility operated by the Olympic Regional Development Authority to provide the public

with intensive forms of recreation for both the spectator and participant. It is classified as an "Intensive Use Area" under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and is located on lands which are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

B. Project Purpose

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg currently benefits winter recreators and competitive athletes involved in bobsledding, luge, cross-country skiing and biathlon sporting activities. Summer recreators at Mount Van Hoevenberg can mountain-bike, horseback ride and hike on the cross-country and biathlon trails, use the biathlon target range, ride wheeled bobsleds and luges, and tour the Complex. It is maintained as a sports facility meeting international standards under developed and competitive conditions.

The Olympic Regional Development Authority's overall purpose for the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is to institute comprehensive activities utilizing the complex to insure optimum year-round use and enjoyment of the facilities to the economic and social benefit of the Olympic region and to extend opportunity to improve the physical fitness, athletic education and recreational education of the people of New York State and the United States. Management goals and objectives are specified in Section III. C. of this updated UMP.

The proposal to provide snowmaking on $7.3 \pm$ kilometers of ski trails is a necessity in order to maintain the Olympic Sports Complex as a high caliber, state-of-the-art facility which can continue to attract recreational skiers and international and national level competitive athletes. Snowmaking will create consistent conditions and allow more consistent use for training and conditioning which is desired by both professional and amateur athletes alike.

The purpose of the ski trail snowmaking proposal is to increase use of the facility by recreational skiers to what it has been in the past. As indicated by the usage figures provided in Section II. D.2., Inventory of Existing Use, Cross Country, use of the facility trails by recreational skiers has steadily decreased over the years from approximately 23,240 in the 1986/87 season to 7,686 in the 1994/95 season.

The improved biathlon and cross-country trails will also be heavily used by athletes associated with disciplines including Biathlon, Nordic, Combined and Speed Skating.

Of the total United States Ski Association (USSA) cross-country membership, 31.8% and 42.6%, respectively, of all competitors and all masters athletes live within New York and New England. There are many more ski racers who do not buy a USSA license. This information indicates a need for maintenance of suitable racing facilities such as the Olympic Sports Complex for these athletes. The USSA 1996 membership data also indicate that 58.3% of all USSA youth cross-country members live in New York and New England, and an upgraded facility has the potential to serve more of the young national racers than any located anywhere else in the country.

Another goal of this UMP is to establish the biathlon lodge as a recreational ski lodge and the cross-country lodge as a training facility in order to provide the proper amenities and ambiance required to maintain and strengthen use of the facility by athletes, recreators and spectators. The upgrading of the cross-country stadium to existing International Ski Federation Standards, maintenance of cross-country ski trails and the addition of three connector trails is solely to enhance the skiers safety and ski experience.

The need for many of these improvements is outlined in a September 22, 1994 Trail Report (provided in Appendix A, "Documents of Record") from Al Maddox, an FIS representative who has inspected the ski trails at Mount Van Hoevenberg and who has been participating in the course homologation (or international standardization) program, as follows.

"Lake Placid has been designated by the USSA as a willing host for World Cup Races in 1996. Since 1992 World Cup sites have been required to meet minimal technical specifications that will insure a safe competition, a physical and tactical challenge suited to today's elite racers and an infrastructure that can support the needs of the teams, the media and the spectators.

The homologation process has been established to provide a collaborative effort among local organizers and F.I.S. appointed inspectors. Together they share a common objective of maximizing the site's capability in order to deliver the services noted above.

Since 1980 when Lake Placid hosted a very successful Olympic Winter Games, the sport of cross-country skiing has undergone significant changes.

- The emergence of a new technique, "skating" or Free Technique, has dramatically affected the required quality of surface preparation and the standards for minimum widths of trails.
- Relay events now use both techniques in their format, 2 legs Classic and 2 legs Free. These mass start formats also promote pacing strategies that impact on the course design considerations for safety and fair play.
- Pursuit start races were introduced most recently to improve spectator appeal and to determine a combined winner in both techniques. This exciting format can easily put sixty to seventy racers on the course within 5 minutes of the start. A well designed pursuit course should keep the spectator involved often as the course loops back through or near the stadium in order to maximize spectator appeal.
- Speed and more speed has become the focus of a high tech skiing and waxing industry. The effect of new materials and manufacturing technology combined with better training programs continues to place a faster skier on the race course. The

corners on the down hills that were skiable 10 years ago may now require redesign or significant banking in order to provide a safe descent.

- An increase in the number of ski nations especially with the breakup of the Eastern Block has resulted in larger race entries at many of the World Cup Circuit events. A maximum of 100 has been set for the time being but even that can be difficult for narrow trails and small stadiums.
- New requirements for prize money (12000 Swiss Francs per race) and the competition for equipment endorsements further necessitate that race courses present a fair finish with separated lanes in order to minimize interferences, intentional or otherwise.

In another 10 years there are sure to be more changes. Race courses that are suitable today will require upgrading again. It is important to recognize as site developers that cross-country skiing will remain dynamic as it matures in the North American market and as a result, competition facilities that wish to remain at the forefront will need to upgrade and improve their services in a timely manner."

The age of the existing bobsled and luge runs have far reaching ramifications for all competitive users. The bobsled was essentially constructed in 1980 on the original course layout for the 1932 Olympics. The accepted technology in 1978 was to construct the track at grade or below grade. The construction of the track was at grade or below grade with construction fills to depths of 0-5 feet and limited perimeter drainage. The perimeter drainage was not comprehensive and did not completely remove the groundwater from the site. This type of construction inadequately addresses the soil conditions of the site - which include limited soils, perched water tables and trapped drainages. The construction of the track within these soils or at grade in these soils has made the track subject to shifting due to annual freeze/thaw cycles. The freeze depth penetrated below the construction fills which were generally to a depth of 0-5 feet and over the years has caused a portion of the track to become misaligned both vertically and horizontally. This shifting of the track position has exaggerated the joints between segments. This shifting process has also stressed the refrigeration piping system. In some locations the refrigeration tubes are exposed, having broken through the upper layers of concrete.

The physical problems of the track require significant labor inputs in order to keep the track operating at a minimum acceptable level. The process of preparing the track requires that all joints that have shifted become completely covered by ice. To create the ice covering it is necessary to place water and snow (slush) mixtures over the individual joints. Establishing the ice cover over the joint with slush creates a bump in the track which has to be smoothed and tapered to conform to the track alignment. This entire process of covering and smoothing points along the entire 1,500 meters of track requires 18 employees on a daily basis. Creating a track in this fashion is inefficient due to high expenditures for refrigeration effort since the ice coverage becomes thicker with each successive repair. As multiple repairs take place the process becomes one of removing excessive ice thickness that is weak due to lack of

refrigeration capacity to freeze the ice pack and continue to repair thin spots created by wear.

This entire process can only take place in the dead of winter when low temperatures will freeze the excessive ice thickness. In the early season (October to December) it is impossible to set up the tracks for training or racing.

The luge track was constructed in 1978 for the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. In 1989 a number of severely frost damaged luge track foundations were stabilized and in the following year the luge outrun was extended.

The luge track is an elevated structure supported on foundations which extend to approximately 5 feet below grade and rest on native soils but are not anchored to bedrock. Frost penetration into the ground is estimated to be approximately 7 feet below grade or approximately 2 feet below the underside of the foundations. This situation has resulted in extensive frost related movements of sections of the luge track which have created dangerous conditions for athletes using the track when track-sections have moved relative to one another. In the case of the luge track, refrigeration piping is above grade and, therefore, does not contribute to frost development in the soils.

The new luge outrun structure, constructed in 1990, was designed with its foundations anchored to bedrock and, therefore, has experienced no discernible movements. During the previous year, foundation repairs were made to 12 of the 42 track sections to minimize their susceptibility to frost action. Further repairs were not made due to budget restrictions.

On the luge track, Curves 2 and 7 have serious geometry problems. The geometry of existing Curve 2 is such that the men's start had to be lowered to maintain the safety of the sleds through this curve. The International Luge Federation has requested that both curves be rebuilt to maintain their sanctioning of the track.

To overcome the geometry problems, track maintenance personnel utilize varying thickness of ice (sometimes up to 12 inches or more) to smooth out the geometry. This requirement results in excessive manpower demand for ice making and ice maintenance and increases refrigeration costs. Some grinding and patching of the concrete surface has occurred over the years in an attempt to improve the geometry, but these efforts are limited by the embedded refrigeration piping and reinforcing bars which limit the depth of grinding that can be accomplished.

The lack of surface adequate for training causes the United States bobsled and luge teams to have to train in Europe. The US bobsled and luge teams currently use Lake Placid for preseason conditioning prior to their departure to Europe.

The condition of the tracks also make it infeasible to host World Cup or advanced level competitive events. The tracks at this point can only be used for low speed tourist rides and training on the luge run.

All North American teams are at a disadvantage due to the lack of a sufficient number of modern competitive tracks in North America. The only available competitive tracks are the Calgary, Canada and the new Park City, Utah track. This is compared to some eight to ten tracks in Europe. The lack of sufficient competitive tracks in North America causes the entire World Cup season to be held in Europe except for the obligatory pre-Olympic testing of the Park City track.

The establishment of a modern combined run for bobsled and luge in Lake Placid will correct all these deficiencies.

The proposed management actions have regional implications in terms of providing the means to maintain or strengthen attendance at the Olympic Sports Complex, other Olympic Regional Development Authority facilities and the local support facilities which include hotels and other lodging facilities, dining establishments, shops, etc.

The sponsors of international competition, athletes and recreation users expect and must be assured that their patronage at Mount Van Hoevenberg is rewarded by safe use. This is accomplished through exemplary facilities and conditions. Periodic capital expenditures must be anticipated to make necessary changes in accordance with safety codes. It is not anticipated that such changes will cause significant adverse impact on the physical and biological elements in the environmental setting. Implementation of codes and standards will generally complement the environmental setting by protecting against improper acts, water discharge, refuse disposal and erosion.

Day use events should not require new construction or site distress, but will make use of existing facilities within established public use carrying capacities.

Additional water, electricity or sanitary facilities needs, if required, may be prepared on a temporary basis and installed to minimize site impact. Temporary lighting, water and chemical toilets will be removed from the area upon termination of an event. Revenues realized from an event off-set expenditures and will benefit both the Olympic Authority and local commercial interests. Improved utilization of the facilities at Mount Van Hoevenberg will be realized as future summer day use projects are implemented.

The goal of this updated UMP is to offer quality year-round recreation/competition programs on publicly owned lands for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of New York State, the United States and the international sports community. The proposed improvements will help to position the Complex as an economic catalyst to strengthen the private sector and local government economies. The proposed management actions can be accomplished while protecting the natural resource base in accordance with environmental conservation laws and all other applicable laws and regulations of the State of New York.

C. Location of Property

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is located in the Adirondack Park approximately seven miles southeast of the Village of Lake Placid off NY Route 73 in the Town of North Elba, Essex County, as shown on Figure 1-1, "Regional Location Map." A paved access road (NY Route 913Q) about one mile long leads southwest from NY Route 73 to the heart of the area, as shown on Figure 1-2, "Site Location Map." The Complex is also accessible from two hiking trails, the Mr. Van Trail and the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Trail, which lead into the High Peaks Wilderness Complex located to the south of the Olympic Sports Complex.

D. General Facility Description

The Mount Van Hoevenberg land area classified as Intensive Use totals 1593.8 acres as shown on Figure 1-3, "Intensive Use Area Boundary." New York State title to this acreage is divided into three types:

1. Forest Preserve

Lands acquired as Forest Preserve and managed according to Article XIV of the State Constitution amount to 1270.35 acres, as shown on Figure 1-4, "Original Land Acquisition." This includes lands purchased by the State under the 1960 and 1962 Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Acts which were acquired to allow special recreational uses and comprises some 352.58 acres.

2. Permanent Easement

By deed dated November 18, 1965, the State purchased from the Town of North Elba a permanent easement covering 323.45 acres. This easement was acquired for the purpose of developing, operating and maintaining a recreational area and facilities thereon.

3. Other Easement

A temporary easement currently exists to allow segments of cross-country ski trails to cross the privately owned land of Hamilton Corwin and Elizabeth Eldridge in Sub 3 of Lot 8. This easement is shown on Figure 1-5, "Temporary Ski Trail Easement."

E. History of Land Unit

1. Bobsled

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg traces its origins back to 1929 when the State Legislature passed an act authorizing the construction of a bobsled run on Forest Preserve lands situated on the Western Slopes of the Sentinel Range. This legislation was met with much opposition and litigation culminating in the so-called Crane decision which declared the 1929 act unconstitutional. Anticipating such a ruling, the Legislature, in 1930, passed a new statute setting up funds and procedures for the construction of a bobsled run on lands for which an easement might be required; this ultimately resulted in the construction of the bobsled run on a permanent easement acquired by the State from the Town of North Elba on the slopes of Mount Van Hoevenberg.

The bobsled run was used five times for world championship races in addition to the III and XIII Olympic Winter Games. It was approved in 1968 by the Federation Internationale de Bobsleigh et Tobogganing for future international competition. The bobsled run was operated continuously by the State from 1932 until the winter of 1971-72, with the exception of the war years of 1942-45. In 1971, as a result of fiscal restraints, the Mount Van Hoevenberg bobsled run was shut down and did not operate for the 1971-72 winter season.

During 1972, an agreement was reached with the Essex County Committee for Economic Development, an entity funded by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity, to enable the Committee to manage and operate the bobsled run on a year-to-year basis for the purpose of creating and maintaining employment. The run was operated since the winter of 1972-73 until the winter of 1978-79 under the sponsorship of the Committee. In 1978, the Department of Environmental Conservation resumed management of the Complex, operating the facility through an annual appropriation from the Natural Heritage Trust.

The bobsled run originally opened as a 1 1/2 mile course and was shortened in 1936 to the current one mile length. Early on, the average number of operating days per season was 28. To guarantee the 1980 Olympic bobsled event, the full mile (1,557 meters) bobsled run was completely refrigerated, extending function to about 100 days annually. The bobsled run was subsequently shortened to 1,400 meters in 1990.

2. Cross-Country Skiing

In order to stage the Kennedy International Winter Games in 1969, a new and modern cross-country trail system was designed and constructed at Mount Van Hoevenberg. This trail system was the first in the country planned for the competitor, the spectator, and the recreational skier. The cross-country race course constructed in that period provide the excellent trails used by the recreational skier today and at that time met the International Ski Federation (FIS) requirements for Olympic and World Class competitions.

3. Biathlon

Due to the success of holding the 1973 National Biathlon Championships and the World Biathlon Championships on temporary ranges and the enthusiasm which was generated, the Department of Environmental Conservation made plans in the spring of 1973 to construct a permanent biathlon range and trail system. The bridge crossing and other facilities at the biathlon area were upgraded for the 1987 World Biathlon Championships.

4. Luge

In 1978, ground was broken for the construction of the luge run. This project was constructed using Federal Economic Development Administration funds as a part of the development required for the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. The luge run was modified in both 1989 and 1991 in an effort to maintain its international certification.

F. Description of UMP/GEIS Process

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, adopted in 1971, provides guidelines for the preservation, management and use of State-owned lands by State agencies in the Adirondack Park. The Olympic Sports Complex land at Mount Van Hoevenberg is classified under the plan as an "Intensive Use Area." The plan provides that the primary management guideline for Intensive Use Areas is to provide the public opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

Unit Management Plans must conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the State Land Master Plan. The Adirondack Park Agency Act (Section 816) directs the NYSDEC to develop, in consultation with the Agency, individual unit management plans (UMPs) for each unit of land under its jurisdiction that is classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Unit Management Plans are prepared by the NYSDEC in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA).

Mount Van Hoevenberg opened in 1932 and early management was under the direction of the NYSDEC. Management was delegated to the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) on October 10, 1982 through an agreement with NYSDEC which was authorized by Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1984 (Article 8, Title 28, Section 2614, Public Authorities Law). This agreement transferred to ORDA the responsibility for the use, operation, maintenance and management of the recreation area and remains in effect until March 31, 2012. Under the agreement, ORDA is to cooperate with NYSDEC to complete and periodically update the UMP for the recreation area. A UMP for Mount Van Hoevenberg was completed in 1986. This UMP is still in effect as the document by which the sports complex is managed and is implemented pursuant to a 1991 Memorandum of Understanding between the NYSDEC and ORDA.

Concurrent with formulation of the UMP has been the preparation of this GEIS. ORDA has been declared Lead Agency for the SEQRA review and held a scoping session on March 6, 1996.

The UMP and DGEIS were subjected to a public comment period, including a public hearing. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement was declared complete for public review on July 26, 1996. The public hearing was held on August 26, 1996. The comment period was closed on September 9, 1996. The Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement was prepared in response to comments on the DGEIS. The FGEIS was found to be complete by the lead agency on December 14, 1998. The UMP and GEIS were approved and adopted by the Adirondack Park Agency on January 15, 1999. The Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation adopted the UMP and GEIS on March 5, 1999. Refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Record," for the pertinent documentation.

G. Status of 1986 Unit Management Plan

The 1986 UMP for Mount Van Hoevenberg remains in effect today. Many of the improvements proposed under the 1986 UMP have been implemented, with the remaining improvements on-going or pending implementation. Many of these approved improvements are incorporated into this five-year update and are still valid upgrades, repairs or additions to the recreation area. They are identified as part of the five year update, and are noted as already approved in the 1986 UMP. These include land acquisition, scheduling of summer programs, annual review and appropriate modification of facilities with respect to established safety standards, and maintenance of the facility.

Additionally, two projects were approved for which public notices were issued as appropriate. These projects are pending construction, and include construction of a ski bridge in an area known as the mini-stadium which involves a high speed ski trail intersection, and maintenance of approximately 23.2 km of cross-country trails, as shown on Figure 1-6, "Trail Maintenance - Pending". Refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Record," for appropriate documentation.

Refer to Table 1-1, "Status of 1986 UMP, as Amended, Management Actions," and Section IV.C., "Actions Approved in the 1986 UMP/EIS which are a Part of the Foregoing Five-Year Plan."

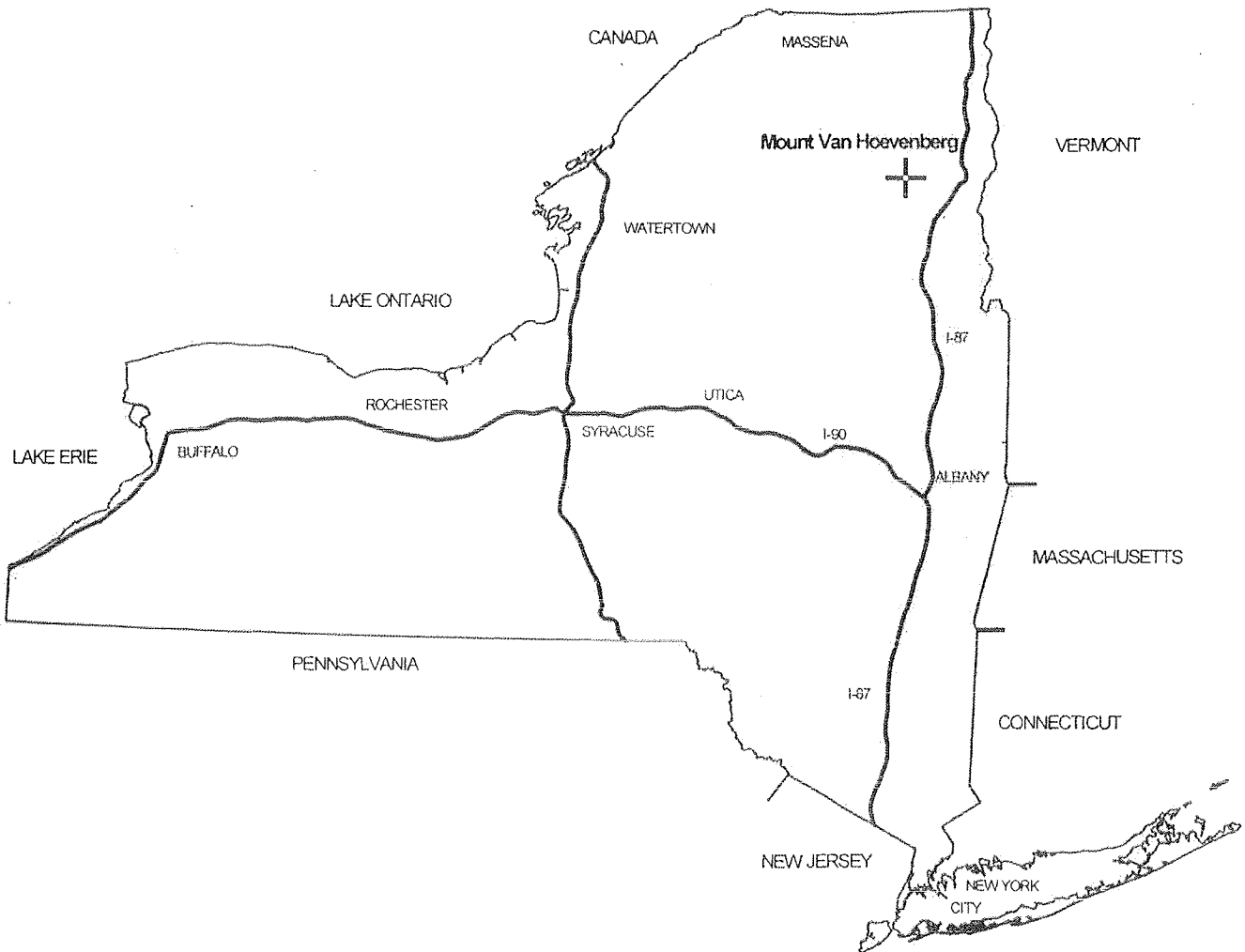
Table 1-1

Status of 1986 UMP, As Amended, Management Actions

Management Actions			Completed	On-Going	Pending Implementation	Deferred	Modified & Updated in UMP, 5-Year Plan
1		Annual review of facility compliance with established safety standards with modification as required.		X			
2		Development and scheduling of summer, or off-season, events.		X			
3		Acquisition of lands where temporary ski trail easement is located and of interior parcels of private land.			X		
4		Maintenance and operation level.		X			
5	a	Construct luge finish building of 280 sf.	X				
	b	Luge Curve 5 building of 200 sf.	X				
	c	Bobrun finish road extension.	X				
	d	Biathlon bridge over access road.	X				
	e	Bobrun deck enclosure.				X (1)	
	f	Cross-country lodge expansion.					X
6		Maintenance of grounds and physical plant.		X			
7		Amendment to State Land Master Plan to pave biathlon trails.				X (2)	
8		Maintain 23.2 km of Cross-Country Trails		X			
9		Build Ski Bridge in Mini-Stadium			X		

5091wt06.doc

1. No longer required due to anticipated new track.
2. Project deleted pending re-evaluation once a State constitutional amendment is approved.



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**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



**OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

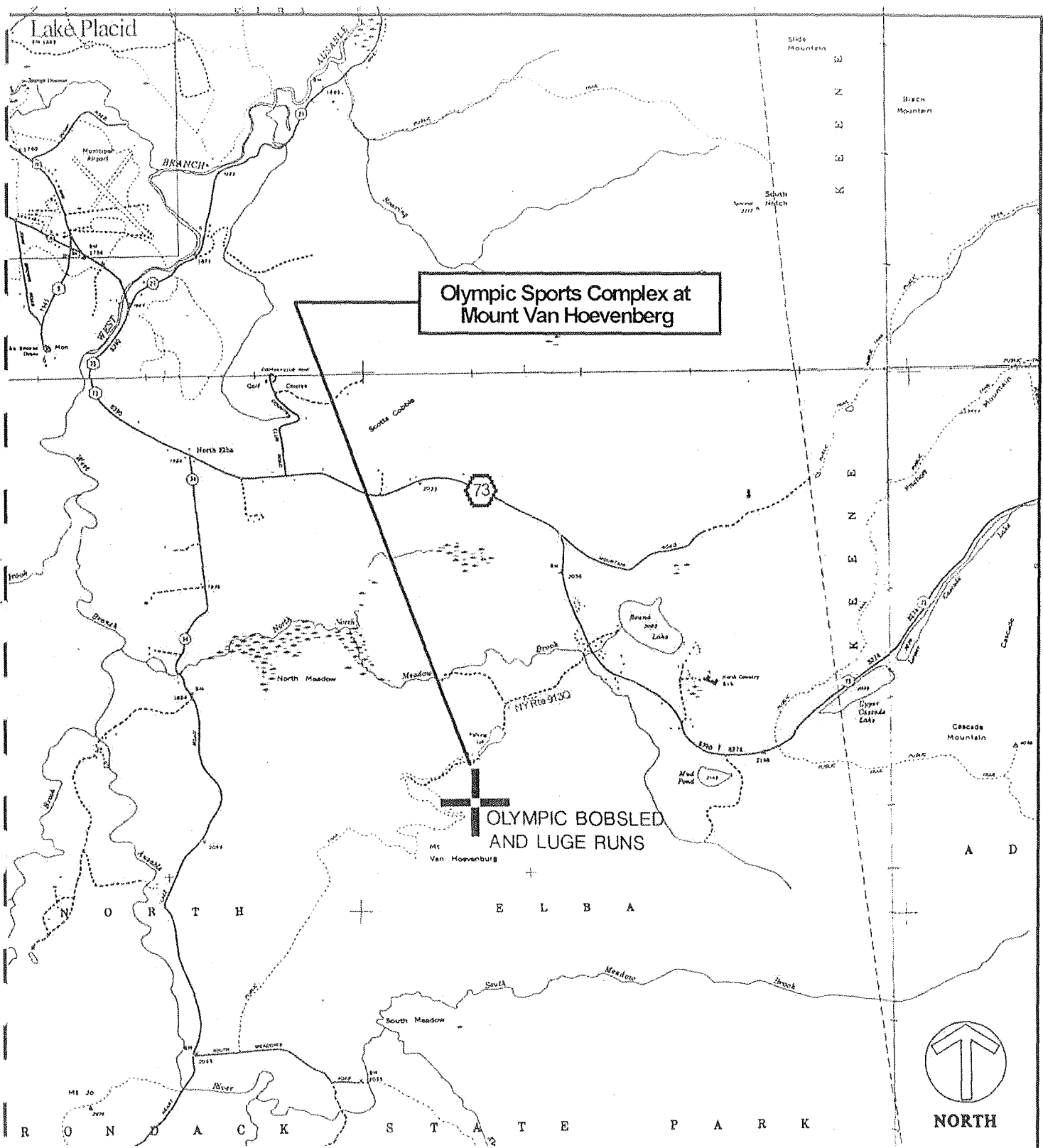
**REGIONAL LOCATION
MAP**

© 1996

DATE: 1-19-96

SCALE: 1" = 60 miles

FIGURE NO. 1-1



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UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

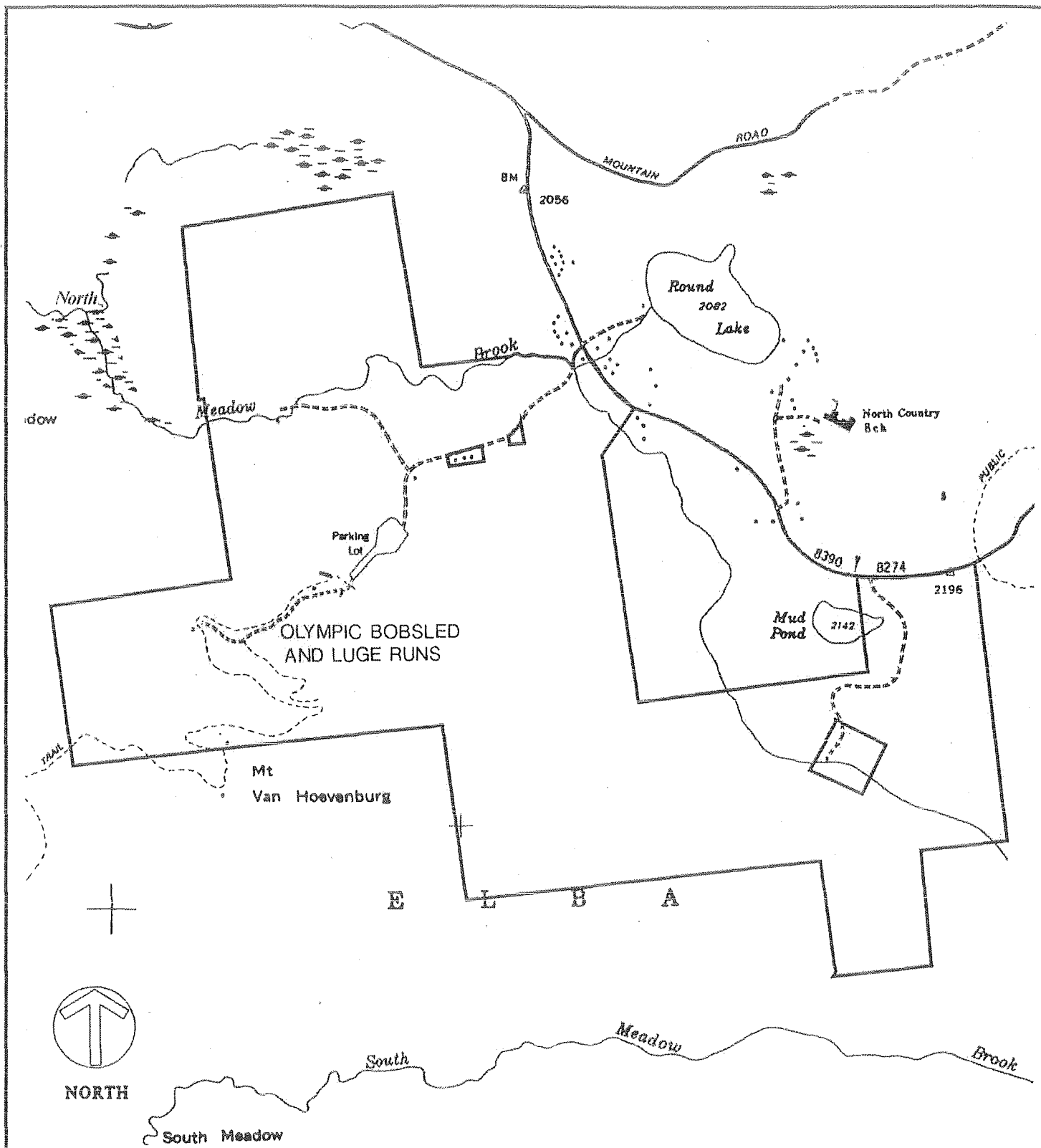
SITE LOCATION MAP

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DATE: 3-8-99

SCALE: 1:50,000

FIGURE NO. 1-2



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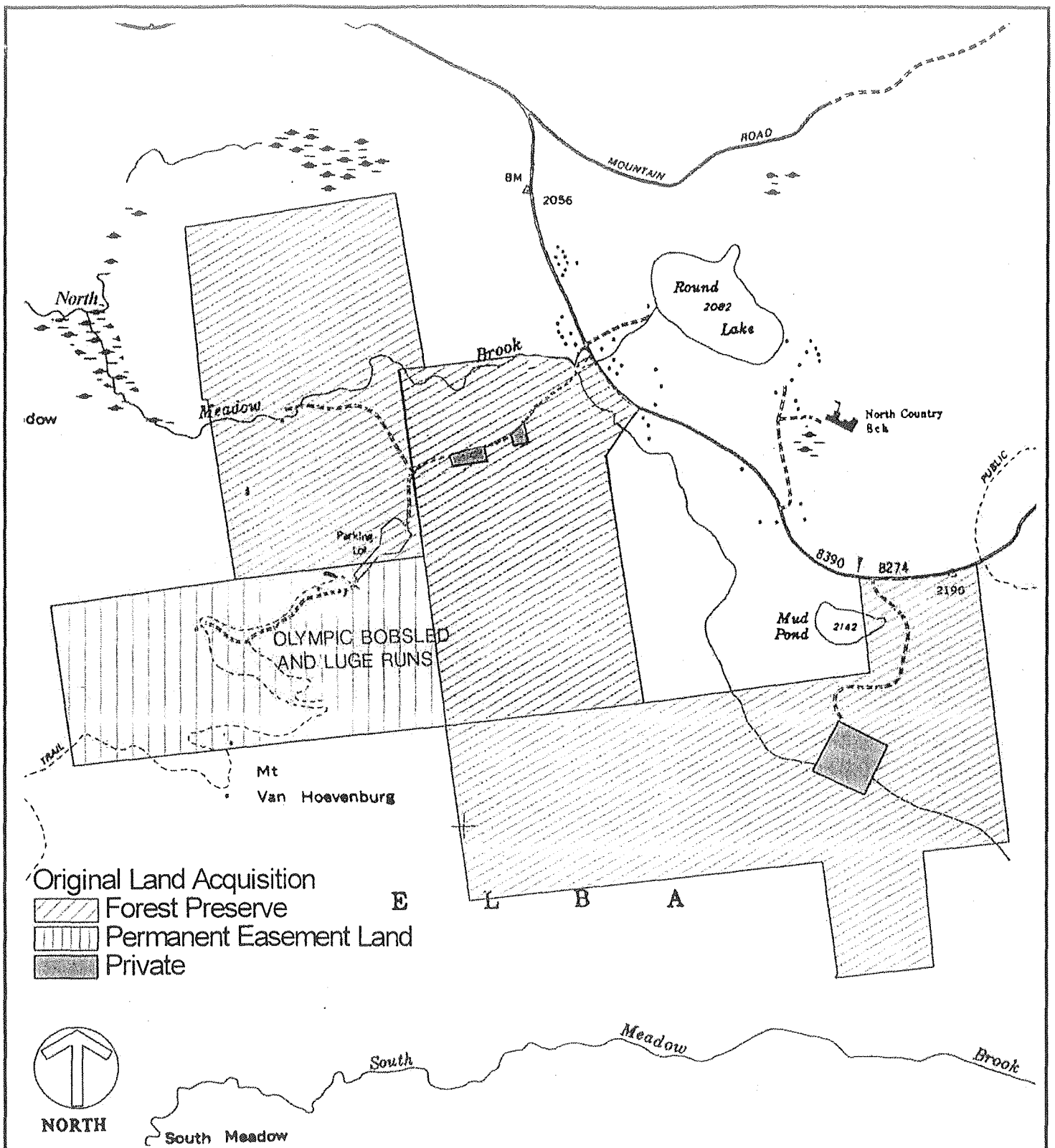
INTENSIVE USE AREA BOUNDARY

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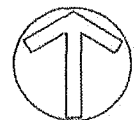
SCALE: 1:24,000

FIGURE NO. 1-3



Original Land Acquisition

-  Forest Preserve
-  Permanent Easement Land
-  Private



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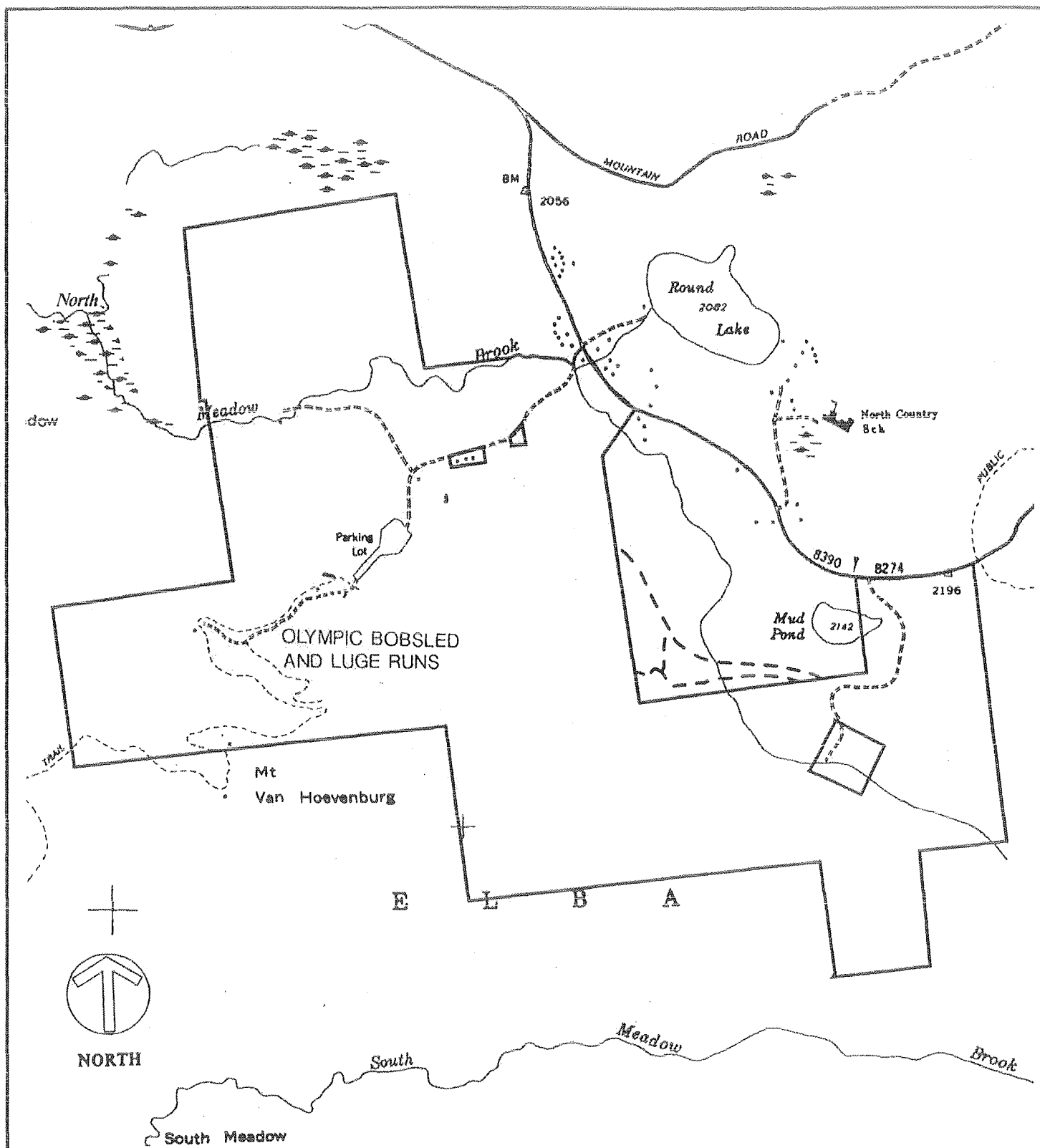
DATE: 3-8-99

SCALE: 1:24,000

FIGURE NO. 1-4

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ORIGINAL LAND
ACQUISITION MAP



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MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



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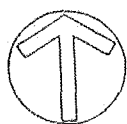
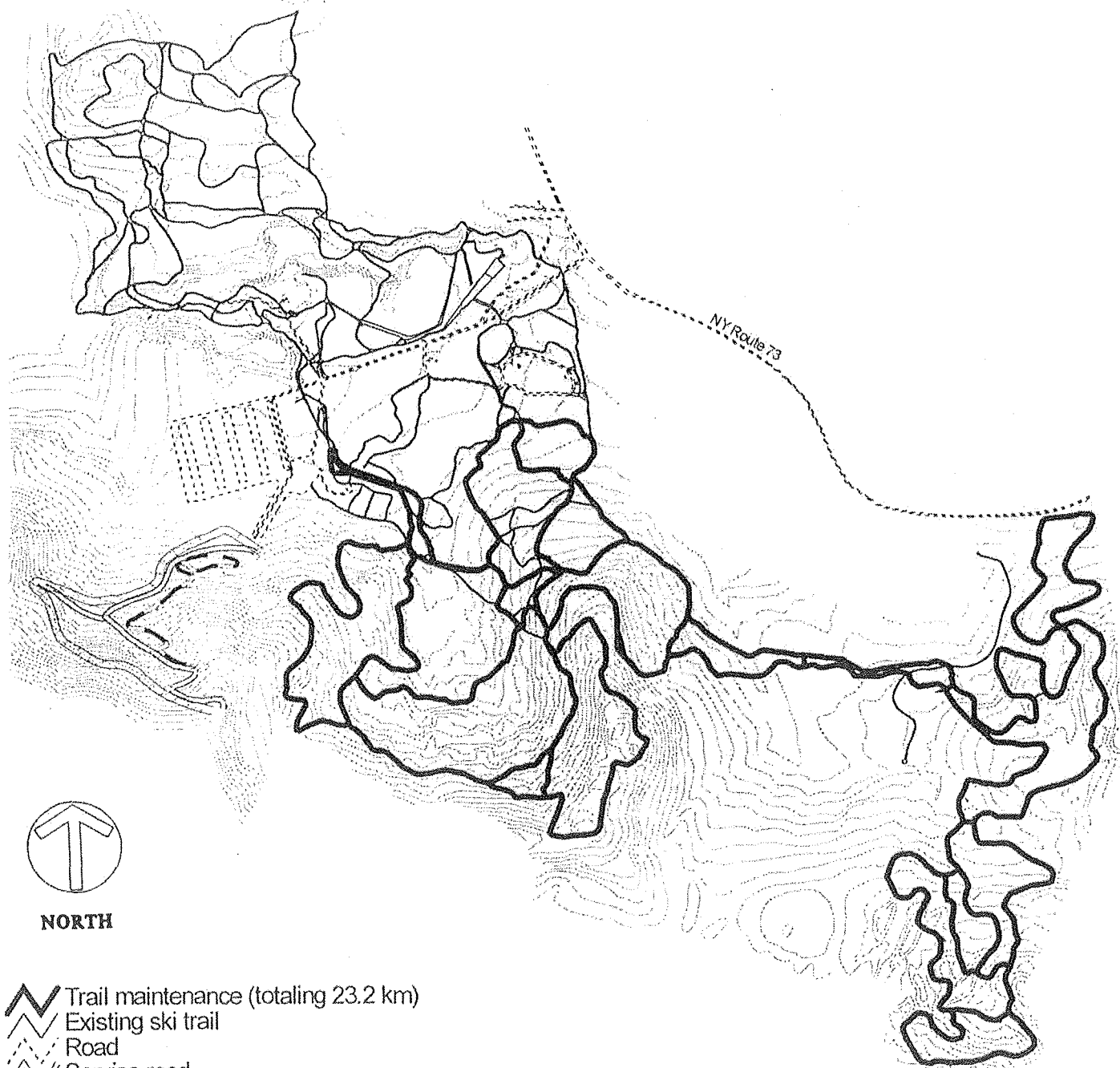
**TEMPORARY SKI
TRAIL EASEMENT**

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DATE: 3-8-99

SCALE: 1:24,000

FIGURE NO. 1-5



NORTH

-  Trail maintenance (totaling 23.2 km)
-  Existing ski trail
-  Road
-  Service road
-  Luge run
-  Bobsled run
-  Contours (5 meters)



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**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE
(PENDING)**



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DATE: 1-19-96

SCALE: 1:20,000

FIGURE NO. 1-6

SECTION II INVENTORY OF EXISTING RESOURCES, FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND USE

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical Resources

a. Geology

Bedrock formations at Mount Van Hoevenberg consist primarily of anorthosite on the upper slopes and gneiss east and north of the bobsled run. Both rock types are very hard crystalline rocks.

The lower slopes of the Complex lie on the sand and gravel lake plain of glacial South Meadows Lake, the highest meltwater lake recognized in the Adirondack Mountains. The beach levels range from 2146 to 2209 feet above sea level. Mount Van Hoevenberg itself is a small bedrock hill which protrudes from the glacial lake plain and was formed where erosion-resistant bedrock knobs called monadnocks are partially buried in glacial drift.

b. Soils

Above an elevation of 2,100 feet or 640 meters soils form a very thin veneer over the bedrock. Below this elevation, soils have been mapped as glacial till, comprised of well-drained, moderately coarse-textured soils, most of which have a sandy fragipan which restricts drainage at a depth of 0.5 to 1.0 meters below the ground surface. This material provides a satisfactory foundation for most types of construction. However, in the design of septic systems or other subsurface drainage structures such as foundation drains, it is necessary to consider the tendency of the fragipans to retard drainage.

Between the existing parking area and North Meadow Brook, a large area of till without fragipan has been mapped. The biathlon and cross-country stadiums are located on this terrain.

The June 1978 soil survey of the Lake Placid Area was used as the basis for the soils map for this UMP, provided in Figure 2-1, "Soils Map." Soil properties are provided in Appendix B, "Soil Survey."

c. Topography and Slope

Topography at Mount Van Hoevenberg ranges from gently rolling in the area of the biathlon and cross-country ski stadium area to steep on the upper slopes of the mountain itself. Elevation ranges from 1,900 to 2,830 feet or approximately 605 to 840 meters above mean sea level, as shown on Figure 2-2, "Existing Conditions."

d. Water Resources

The only major water course in the Olympic Sports Complex is North Meadow Brook which flows approximately 1.2 miles from east to west across the northern part of the area. Figure 2-3, "Surface Water and Wetland Resources," depicts the location of this resource on the site. A small tributary of the brook crosses the southeastern part of the recreation area. The brook is classified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Waters Index as C(T). Class "C" waters are managed for fishing and fish propagation. The water quality shall be suitable for swimming and boating recreation even though other factors may limit the use for that purpose. The (T) designation indicates that the water supports trout habitat.

Stream bed components are dominated by gravel and sand along with limited boulders and rubble. Estimated autumn stream flow is 4 cubic feet per second (cfs) which is considered the minimum flow present in this stream 75% of the time, as reported in the NYSDEC 1986 UMP for the Complex. Peak flows of 25 cfs are possible during rainy periods and may reach 50 cfs for a few days during the spring runoff period.

The calculated minimum average daily flow at the pumphouse on North Meadow Brook projected to occur over a seven day period with a two year return interval (MAD 7/2) is 1.8 cfs. Calculations are provided in Section V.A.2.

Snowmaking water is withdrawn from North Meadow Brook at a point-located approximately 200 feet north of the access road. Water is withdrawn at a rate of 100 gallons per minute for an average of 400 hours each season. Snowmaking was initiated for the 1980 Olympic Games and has continued since that time. Snow is made in the field east of the existing biathlon lodge, about 150 feet from the brook. Snow is then spread out on the trails with grooming equipment. Water is also withdrawn from North Meadow Brook at the existing pumphouse in order to ice the bobsled and luge runs. Water for this use is pumped to a 16,000 gallon underground tank located at the base of the bob sled run.

e. Wetlands

Wetlands within the Olympic Sports Complex are confined to lowlands along North Meadow Brook and its tributaries, and to a few isolated, poorly drained pockets at higher elevations. Those areas associated with North Meadow Brook generally are spruce-fir swamps and alder-dominated shrub swamps. The mountainside pockets have balsam fir, red spruce, jewelweed, cinnamon fern, sensitive fern, sedges, slender mannagrass, mosses, and leafy liverworts.

Figure 2-3, "Surface Water and Wetland Resources," shows the on-site wetlands identified by the Adirondack Park Agency, and mapped with the aid of aerial photographs and field inspections. These are the wetlands which meet the 1-acre minimum size as state-regulated wetlands within the Adirondack Park. Not mapped are other small wetlands in places such as wide spots along intermittently flowing swales,

isolated depressions, and seepy places on slopes, which are too small to come under state wetland regulations, but which may be under federal regulation.

f. Climate and Air Quality

The mean annual temperature is 40°F, with a December average of 20°F and a July average of 66°F. The temperatures are based on the 1993 data gathered at the Lake Placid Airport. January and February are the coldest months with average temperatures of about 15°F. It can be expected that these readings will be representative of the base elevations at Mount Van Hoevenberg. The average temperatures on the summit are expected to be 1 to 2°F colder, due to the decrease in temperature with altitude of 3.5 to 4.5°F per thousand feet of increased altitude.

The annual average precipitation (melted snow and rain) which normally falls uniformly throughout the year is 38 inches.

The prevailing wind direction is northwest in the winter and west-southwest in the summer. Because of the mountain's orientation, it is subject to frequent occurrences of higher winds (greater than 30 mph), especially on the north face, than would be expected on the lower ski slopes of Whiteface Mountain. Based on Whiteface Mountain data, average wind speeds for Mount Van Hoevenberg are estimated to be 8-12 mph for the summer and 17-21 mph for the winter. Gusts seldom reach 100 mph even on the summit of Mount Van Hoevenberg, but occurrences of gusts to 75 mph can be expected at least several times during the winter.

Mount Van Hoevenberg is located within the NYSDEC Region 5, Northern Air Quality Control Region. Monitoring stations located in close proximity to the site are located at Whiteface Mountain (base and summit) and the Village of Willsboro. Monitoring of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Ozone (O₃) and Inhalable Particulates (PM) occur continuously at Whiteface Mountain and manual readings are taken at Willsboro for Total Suspended Particulates (TP). In 1992, the geometric mean for Total Suspended Particulates (at Willsboro Station) was 15 micrograms/cubic meter with the Annual Air Quality Standard being 75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Inhalable Particulates (PM₁₀) had an Annual Arithmetic Mean of 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and did not exceed the standard of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ during the last 3 calendar years. Inhalable Particulates (Sulfate, Nitrate Fractions) taken at Whiteface Mountain (base) indicate that the highest value for the Sulfate fraction was 26.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the Nitrate fraction, also taken at the base of Whiteface Mountain, recorded the highest value of 1.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Sulfur Dioxide, recorded at Whiteface Mountain (lodge) had a running 3-hour average with the maximum highest value of 19.1 PPB (maximum not to exceed 500 PPB more than once per calendar year). The 24 hour average for sulfur dioxide had maximum highest values of 7.0, 6.0 and 5.7 PPB (maximum not to exceed 140 PPB more than once per calendar year).

2. Biological Resources

a. Vegetation

Due to the variety of drainage and elevation conditions, five typical Adirondack forest covertypes are found on the Mount Van Hoevenberg site. Figure 2-4, "Vegetative Covertypes Map," traces the approximate boundaries of these forest types which are described as follows:

Spruce-Fir: Composed of red and black spruce and balsam fir with areas of tamarack or wetland hardwoods such as yellow birch or elm. Found mainly in low, wet areas or high on mountains where soil is shallow.

Spruce-Fir-Pioneer Hardwood: Composed of red spruce, balsam fir, white or gray birch and aspen with occasional pin cherry and yellow birch.

Spruce-Fir-Northern Hardwood: Composed of red spruce, balsam fir, hard and soft maple, beech and yellow birch with occasional associated species such as hemlock, black cherry and white ash. Usually found on lower slopes and is quite often a transition forest type between the spruce-fir type and the northern hardwood type.

Northern Hardwood: Composed of soft and hard maple, beech, yellow birch and associated species such as black cherry, white ash and white pine. Found on well-drained side slopes.

Open: Open field or those areas which have filled with brush species such as spirea but lack significant woody growth.

On a finer scale than mapped in Figure 2-4, it is possible to identify several ecological communities as defined in the classification used by NYSDEC (Reschke, 1990). Under this system, the first three forest types, where found on well-drained sites, would be classified as variants of the spruce-northern hardwood forest community. The northern hardwood forest type is the equivalent of the beech-maple mesic forest community.

Along streams and in wet pockets, forest dominated by spruce and fir would be classified as spruce-fir swamp. Where the soil next to a stream is better drained, the balsam flats community may occur. For much of its length along the Olympic Sports Complex, North Meadow Brook is bordered by a narrow zone of the shrub swamp community, in which speckled alder is dominant. Broader stretches of shrub swamp are associated with the eastern end of Mud Pond and North Meadow Brook in the westernmost part of the Olympic Sports Complex.

b. Wildlife

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is a year round recreation and training facility. Athletes and recreational users run, hike, bike and horseback ride on the Complex's cross-country trails during spring, summer and fall. Winter is the most

active time for the area as cross-country skiers and biathletes participate in intensive training and competition. Also, the public comes to the area to enjoy cross-country skiing and to be spectators at the various events throughout the winter season.

In addition to the recreational uses for which Mount Van Hoevenberg was designed, hunting and trapping are popular activities within the immediate vicinity. Neither the current degree of development nor the influx of winter recreational users have hindered the presence of game species and the enthusiasm exhibited by area sportsmen.

There is no measure available for the number of consumptive and passive users of the wildlife resource on the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Harvest levels and license sales (hunting and trapping) are often used as indicators of the potential number of consumptive users. Since harvest data is collected by township and license sales are tabulated by county, neither offers an appropriate indicator of use on as small a land unit as the Olympic Sports Complex.

The number of passive users could include every visitor that uses the facility. However, specifically, only the visitors using the Nordic cross-country ski trails for leisure, as opposed to competition, may readily enjoy observing wildlife. Some of the summer tourists may also take the time to observe birds while walking along the trails or touring the bobsled and luge runs.

A number of species have been documented to historically occur in the area of the project site and of this number many are likely to commonly occur on the site based upon their habitat preferences. Mammalian species likely to be common on the site include short-tailed shrew, black bear, raccoon, weasel, coyote, red fox, gray fox, woodchuck, eastern chipmunk, red squirrel, beaver, meadow vole, muskrat, porcupine, snowshoe hare, varying hare and white-tailed deer.

A number of avian species are also likely to occur commonly on the site, some throughout the year and some as migrants. Based upon the habitat types found on the site, the avian species most likely to commonly occur on the site at any one time include ruffed grouse, broad-winged hawk, yellow-bellied sapsucker, American robin, red-eyed vireo, brown-headed cowbird, rose-breasted grosbeak, purple finch, dark-eyed junco, white-throated sparrow, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, owls, raven and brown creeper.

The white-tailed deer is a common big game species throughout the Adirondacks. The deer obtain annual nutrition and shelter needs on and off the Olympic Sports Complex parcel. The best summer range may be described as an inter-mix of pioneer forest and brushland. The forest offers protection and shelter while the brushland provides an abundance of food in the form of browse. On the Mount Van Hoevenberg site, the northern hardwood forest is poor habitat for deer because sufficient sunlight does not penetrate to the forest floor to encourage the growth of browse.

However, there is a noticeable increase in the deciduous understory in the spruce-fir-hardwood habitat. There is also an increase in browse along the openings created by

the facilities at the Olympic Sports Complex, including the roads, parking lots, Nordic ski, bobsled and luge routes.

During the latter part of the fall and throughout the winter, deer seek the sheltered portions of their range throughout the Adirondacks, where protection is available from adverse wind, temperature and most importantly, snow depth. The better winter shelter is the conifer and mixed deciduous-conifer covertypes where the crowns of red spruce, white pine, balsam fir, white cedar and hemlock retain the snow and thus diminish snow depths on the ground. One such deer wintering area is located south of the Olympic Sports Complex, along South Meadow Brook. (As per personal communication with Kurt Armstrong, DEC Ray Brook, 9/6/95).

The maintenance of trails and the periodic large number of people that congregate at a spring event does affect the behavior of wildlife. Trimming shrubs to groom cross-country ski trails helps maintain early successional vegetation thereby contributing to more food for herbivores such as snowshoe hare and white-tailed deer. The large crowds at sporting events probably cause a variety of wildlife to seek shelter on the edge of the highly active portions of the site.

c. Fisheries

North Meadow Brook flows westerly into the West Branch of the Ausable River, and a 1.2 mile section flanks the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg to the north.

Water quality in the stream near the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is sufficient to support aquatic organisms. No evidence of floating or settleable solids, toxic wastes, or other substances dangerous to the aquatic community are known to be present in the stream. Sufficient shade provided by the forest cover keeps the area of the stream below 70°F during warm summer months.

Prior to 1980, North Meadow Brook was being stocked annually with 1260 brook trout fingerlings. Stocking was discontinued when the stream was found to be supporting a self-sustaining brook trout population.

Electroshocking fish collection and inventory was conducted on 7/15/92 upstream of the bridge over the ORDA Pumphouse Road. This survey counted 30 brook trout (minimum length of 45 mm and maximum length of 189 mm) and 2 brown trout (minimum length of 104 mm and maximum length of 187 mm). (Information obtained from personal communication with Bill Schoch, Fish Management, DEC Ray Brook, 9/8/95).

d. Unique Areas, Critical Habitats, and Rare Species

A check of the files of the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) of the NYSDEC revealed no records of rare, threatened, or endangered species occurring within the lands of the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg. However, the NHP records did

indicate the occurrence of a rare plant, the cloud sedge, and an endangered bird species, the peregrine falcon, within a mile of the boundaries of the Recreation Area. (Refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Record," for an August 28, 1995, letter from the NYSDEC).

Additionally, the US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that there are no Federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species known to exist in the project impact area (refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Record", for a January 24, 1996 letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service). In the course of studies on the site, biologists of The LA Group, P.C., did not observe any rare, threatened, or endangered species, or critical habitats of such species.

One notable occurrence within the Olympic Sports Complex is that of the largest known red spruce (*Picea rubens*) in New York State. This tree is located on the boundary of the Complex, south of the upper end of the bobsled run. The tree has been documented to be 102 feet tall with a circumference of 7 feet 7 inches and a crown spread of 35 feet.

3. Visual Resources

The existing conditions associated with the Visual Assessment Study are discussed in Appendix C, "Visual Resource Impact Analysis." The decision was made to include the entire Visual Assessment Study in one section in this DEIS in order to provide a comprehensive analysis in a single location.

4. Noise

The only consistent source of noise at the Olympic Sports Complex, which is limited to the winter season, is the snowmaking gun located in the open field about 460 feet south of NY Route 73 and 165 feet north of the complex access road, and the associated grooming equipment which spreads the snow on the ski trails. Snowmaking has occurred at the Olympic Sports Complex since the 1980 Olympic Games in this area. For many years a snow gun which required a portable diesel air compressor was used which was relatively much louder than the snow gun which is now used and has been in use for the past four years. Also, for many years snow was spread on the ski trails with a manure spreader which was pulled with a diesel engine. This piece of equipment was relatively louder than the Piston Bully snow groomer which was put into use during the 1995-96 season. The nearest receptors and their distance and direction relative to the existing snow gun are identified below.

Relative to the existing snow gun, the Mount Van Hoevenberg Bed and Breakfast establishment is located about 660 feet to the north, the South Meadow Farm Bed and Breakfast business is located about 1,150 feet to the southeast, Whispering Pines Campground is 1,400 \pm feet to the north, three residences on the north side of NY Route 73 are 575 \pm feet away (as measured from the nearest residence), the residences owned by the Goff family on the north side of NY Route 73 are 1,230 \pm feet away (as measured from the nearest residence), and the only year-round dwelling on the complex

access road is located $1,970 \pm$ feet to the southwest of the existing snow gun. None of these receptors has complained about the noise from the newer snowgun with the exception of the single year-round resident located at Whispering Pines Campground. Some of the other identified private residences are occupied by ORDA employees, and the two bed and breakfast establishments obtain business from recreational skiers who enjoy the ski trail conditions at the Olympic Sports Complex.

B. Human Resources

1. Transportation

The subject property is bounded to the north and east by NY Route 73 and to the west by Adirondack Loj Road as shown on Figure 1-2, "Site Location Map." NY Route 73 at its most easterly point connects with NY Route 9, which connects two miles south with I-87 at Exit 30. Access from the south is provided by I-87 at Exit 30 with a portion of NY Route 9 and NY Route 73 being utilized to reach the site. NY Route 73 traverses west to connect with NY Route 86 at Lake Placid. NY Route 73 is an asphalt surfaced roadway with a turning lane in both directions at the entrance road to the Olympic Sports Complex. The roadway has paved shoulders approximately 4 feet in width.

Adirondack Loj Road originates at the Adirondack Loj and runs in a north/south direction, intersecting at its northern end with NY Route 73. The roadway is approximately 20 feet wide and paved with a 1 foot wide sand shoulder on both sides.

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is serviced by a 1 mile paved state access road, NY Route 913Q, from NY Route 73. NY Route 73 and approximately 3,000 feet of the access road to the facility are maintained by New York State.

The New York State Department of Transportation indicated that traffic counts had been conducted in the area of the project site. In 1988, 1989, 1992 and 1994 traffic counts were taken, or were estimated from previous actual counts, on NY Route 73 in the area of the Olympic Sports Complex entrance road. Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts (AADT) were as follows:

	Year	AADT
July	1988	2450
May	1989	2550
May	1992	2000
August	1995	3500

The DOT reports that late summer counts usually indicate higher traffic volumes in the Lake Placid area due to the presence of summer visitors.

Accident data for NY Route 73 was obtained from the NYSDOT back to the year 1980. The fourteen years of available data do not indicate any existing traffic hazards at the intersection of NY Route 73 and the site access road.

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is not serviced by public transportation but does routinely host tour buses, group tours and teams who are transported to the Complex on buses.

At the end of the access road, there is one main parking lot and four smaller parking lots screened by vegetation. Total parking capacity in all of these lots is estimated to be about 1,800 cars. Parking facilities at Mount Van Hoevenberg are sufficient for existing activities and the proposed expansions and improvements.

Airports

The Lake Placid Airport is owned and operated by the Town of North Elba and is located one mile south of the Village on NY Route 73. Airport services include air charter, air taxi, air ambulance, scenic flights, tie down, aviation gas, plane repairs, and flight instruction. The longest runway is 4300 ± feet.

The Adirondack Airport near Saranac Lake is a municipality owned and operated airport and is the nearest facility providing scheduled certified air carrier service into the Lake Placid-Saranac region. It is located 16 miles from Lake Placid on NY Route 86 in Lake Clear, just west of Saranac Lake, and can accommodate larger long range jet aircraft (707, 727, and DC-8). Its longest runway is 6500 ± feet.

Rail

Direct railroad service into the Lake Placid area is not available at this time. AMTRAK provides daily passenger train service between New York City and Montreal, with the nearest stop in Westport, approximately 40 miles from the Olympic Sports Complex. Public shuttle service is available from Lake Placid to Westport by Champy Express, an Essex County sponsored bus service.

Bus

Adirondack Trailways provides daily bus service between Lake Placid and New York City and Malone, with many stopping points in between. The Champy Express provides service between Lake Placid and Plattsburgh twice daily. It connects with the afternoon AMTRAK train in Westport.

Ferry

The Lake Champlain Ferry at Essex (north of Westport) offers transportation of cars across Lake Champlain into Vermont at Charlotte from April 1 through January 1. Alternate ferry service on a year-round basis can be found at the ferry terminals in Plattsburgh, New York.

Taxi

Six separate taxi and/or limousine service firms operate in the Village of Lake Placid.

Car Rental

There are two auto rental agencies located in the Village of Lake Placid - Avis and Hertz.

2. Community Services

The New York State Police, Troop B station is located in Ray Brook. The Mount Van Hoevenberg area is located in Zone 3 and is staffed by 17 uniformed officers. This regulatory division maintains 6 marked patrol vehicles (including a 4 wheel-drive Cherokee), 2 snow machines and 2 All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV). Officers perform regular patrols in the area and are also available for special events for security, traffic and emergencies as requested by Mount Van Hoevenberg.

The Lake Placid Volunteer Fire Department serves the Mount Van Hoevenberg site. The Department is located on River Street Extension in the Village of Lake Placid and has a staff of 60 volunteers and 5 full-time drivers and dispatchers. The Department maintains 2 (1,000 gal.) pumpers, an 85' ladder truck, a rescue vehicle, a 300 gallon tanker, a 3,000 gallon tanker, 2 fire boats and ice rescue equipment. All trucks are equipped with fire suppression foam (Class A and AFFF).

The Lake Placid Volunteer Rescue Squad serves the project area and is staffed by 40 volunteer members. The Squad maintains 2 rescue vehicles (1994 McCoy-Miller and 1995 McCoy-Miller). Both vehicles are rigged with Advance Life Support (ALS) equipment including monitors and a Thomas Pack (similar to "Jaws of Life"). Ten members of the Squad are ALS certified and serve as crew chiefs. The Placid Memorial Health Center is the primary emergency facility utilized by the Squad. Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake is the next closest facility.

Both medical facilities are operated by the Adirondack Medical Center. The Placid Memorial Health Center has 24 hour emergency care, out-patient facilities, labs, radiology, physical therapy, sports medicine and dental and health care offices. The Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake is a 98 bed facility that offers full in-patient services including OBGYN and surgical. The two facilities are staffed by a combined 38 active physicians.

The project site is located in the Lake Placid Central School District. The District is composed of an elementary school (K-5), located on Old Military Road and a combined junior high/senior high school located on Main Street. 1995 enrollments for the elementary, middle and high schools are 396, 247 and 253 students, respectively. The proposed project will not increase the number of students enrolled within the District and will not in any way affect the operation of the District or the enrollment figures.

Solid waste from Mount Van Hoevenberg is transported to the North Elba Transfer Station located on Cascade Road. A town-owned construction and demolition debris landfill is also located on Cascade Road. Recyclables are sorted here and are transported to various recycling facilities. The solid waste is transported to the Adirondack Resource Recovery Facility in Washington County.

Electrical energy is presently supplied by Lake Placid Municipal Electric Company via a three-phase 13,200/7,620 volt line.

3. Local Land Use Plans

The Town of North Elba has a total land area of 157 square miles, representing approximately 8 percent of Essex County lands.

The Town is entirely located in the Adirondack Park and contains multiple APA land use classifications. Within the Town of North Elba private land has been classified by the APA as "Hamlet", "Moderate Intensity Use", "Low Intensity Use", "Rural Use" and "Resource Management". State land has also been given APA land use designations; "Wilderness", "Wild Forest", "State Administrative", "Intensive Use", and "Historic" areas have all been classified within the Town of North Elba.

As shown on Figure 2-5, "Land Use Map," the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is bordered to the north by private land designated as "Resource Management" and state lands designated as "Wilderness" and "Wild Forest". East of the project, the land area is designated "Rural Use" and "Wild Forest". West of the Complex, the land is "Resource Management" and south of the Complex is state owned land classified as "Wilderness". The High Peaks Wilderness Complex has been designated in this area. The hiking trails which originate in the High Peaks Wilderness Complex continue on the Olympic Sports Complex intensive use area. The High Peaks Wilderness Complex encloses 226,435 acres and is comprised of three distinct, but interrelated units: (1) the Ampersand Primitive Area, (2) the High Peaks Wilderness, and (3) the Johns Brook Primitive Corridor. The High Peaks Wilderness is the best known wilderness of the Adirondacks; it is the state's largest wilderness and receives the most visitation. The Draft High Peaks Wilderness Complex Unit Management Plan indicates that "winter use is heavy by cross-country skiers because of its important trail connections to the High Peaks interior, Adirondack Loj, and ORDA's Mt. Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex."

The Adirondack Park Agency regulates land uses within the boundaries of each of the above land classifications. The Town of North Elba also regulates land use by the Local Land Use Code most recently revised in 1991. The Local Land Use Code designates residential, business and public and semi-public districts within the Town of North Elba. The remainder of land is classified as rural agricultural following the APA Land Use Classification boundaries and density requirements. The ordinance regulates land uses and area requirements and includes site plan review provisions.

A Comprehensive Land Use Plan was established by the Town of North Elba and the Village of Lake Placid in 1964 and has been updated.

The Land Use Plan addresses the concerns of the public that have been voiced in recent years including;

- Improving the appearance of the main travel corridors into the Village and Town
- Improving circulation and parking within the Village of Lake Placid
- Diversifying the economy so that it is not so heavily dependent on the tourist industry
- Spreading the appeal of the area to make it a year round destination.

The High Peaks Wilderness Complex Unit Management Plan states that DEC and ORDA will work together to consider the feasibility of establishing a parking lot on Olympic Sports Complex property to serve those people accessing the trails leading to Pitchoff, Porter and Cascade Mountains. The existing parking areas for these trailheads are undersized and their proximity to NY Route 73 could potentially compromise the safety of the users. This is identified as a proposed action in Section IV.A.2.c. of this UMP.

4. Historical and Archaeological Resources

There are no known archaeological resources on the site. The 1932 bobsled run originated at an elevation of 880 meters, approximately 800 meters beyond the 1980 start. The 1932 track was formed by an earthen swale and blocks of ice. The 1980 track was built over the lower portions of the original track course. The remains of the 1932 swale track can be found in the woods south of the 1980 start. The historic significance of this location is due to the role that Lake Placid and this site in particular have played in the development of winter sports, including bobsled and luge. The facilities themselves, due to the nature of their original ice and earthen embankment construction, cannot be considered historic facilities.

The upper portion of this run was demolished and the bobsled track itself was entirely rebuilt for the 1980 Olympics, at a new starting point located lower on the mountain than the original start, therefore the track itself is not historic, though its alignment on the ground is. The luge run was built in 1978 and is not an historic resource.

There are no known archaeological or historical resources substantially contiguous to the site. John Brown's farm and grave are on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. This site is located approximately 3.6 miles from the bobsled/luge runs.

C. Man-Made Facilities

1. Inventory of Constructed Facilities

a. Bobsled Run

Description of Facility

The recreational area at Mount Van Hoevenberg offers the first bobsled run in the Western Hemisphere. The run is officially listed as being 1,557 meters long with a vertical drop of 148 meters. There are sixteen curves, the most famous being called Shady and Zig-Zag. The average gradient is 9.5%. The maximum gradient is 14% at the start of the run. See Figure 2-2, "Existing Conditions," for the layout of the bobsled run.

The run was completely rebuilt in 1978-79 for the 1980 Winter Olympic Games and is artificially refrigerated throughout its entire length. Tangent sections of the run are approximately four and a half feet wide. The curved sections of the run reach heights up to fourteen feet. There are protective "lips" on the top of the curves which restrain a sled from leaving the run. The entire run is constructed of concrete with approximately 27 miles of refrigeration piping embedded in the structure.

The refrigeration is accomplished by using an ammonia system. Liquid ammonia is pumped under pressure through below-ground mains and its pressure is reduced allowing it to "boil" into gas. Its heat of vaporization - 317 calories per gram - makes ammonia an ideal refrigerant. The ammonia is then returned through mains to receivers and the cycle is repeated. The entire system is hermetically sealed allowing no ammonia vapor to escape into the atmosphere. However, should a leak develop, the ammonia would be greatly diluted. Its density is approximately half that of air at atmospheric pressure causing the vapors to rise. Compounds would then be formed which would fall with precipitation and would behave much like some commercial fertilizers.

The Mount Van Hoevenberg bobsled run has sufficient wire circuits to accommodate electric timing equipment used for competitions as well as telephones which are used to control the entire run from start to finish. There are camera stations located along the run. At all times a bobsled is visible to an attendant who has telephone communications with the run announcer.

Sleds are carried to the start of the run by trucks using a paved road. The service road is fenced to separate pedestrian traffic.

Spectator Accommodations

Accommodations for spectators include viewing stands at the start, zig-zag and finish curves. A pedestrian walkway parallels the entire one mile length of the run. Up to 10,000 spectators, mostly standing, may be accommodated. Three pedestrian bridges

at strategic locations allow for a complete separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. A public address system is audible for the entire length of the run. Passenger rides are offered to the public from the half-mile and mile start when the run is not in use for competition or for official training. During the summer the public can ride wheeled bobsleds and luge sleds.

Buildings

There are a total of twenty-four buildings on the site which serve various needs at the bobsled run complex. These buildings enable such functions as refrigeration, snow making, water pumping, storage, maintenance, administration, race starting, race timing and announcing, public observation, warm-up, cafeteria and lounge. The lodge dedicated to public use is handicapped accessible. Appendix D, "List of Buildings and Structures," lists the location, purpose and dimensions of these buildings.

Water

Potable water is furnished by means of a drilled well located near the clubhouse. The yield of this well is 25 gpm. Peak consumption is 10,000 gallons/day or 28% of potential yield. There is also a drilled well which yields 6 gpm at the maintenance shop. Peak consumption of this water supply is 250 gallons/day (3% of potential yield).

Water is also taken from North Meadow Brook and pumped to a 16,000 gallon reservoir where it is used to ice the bobsled and luge runs. It requires three hours at a pumping rate of 89 gallons/minute to fill this reservoir.

Sanitary-Wastewater

There are public restrooms in the bobsled mile and half mile start buildings as well as the clubhouse. The disposal systems are as follows:

- Old Mile start - 500 gallon Clivus Mulstrum composting tank with 2 toilets
- Half mile start - 2 portajohns
- Clubhouse - 5,000 gallon septic tank and 32,000 gallon holding tank with 6,400 sq. ft. of tile field. The system was constructed in 1977 with no reports of failure.
- Total public facilities -
 - men's - 3 toilets, 4 urinals, 2 sinks, 1 handicap toilet
 - women's - 3 toilets, 2 sinks, 1 handicap toilet

There are additional restrooms for employees in the sled-shed and maintenance shop. These are each served by individual septic systems comprised of a 500 gallon septic

tank proceeded by 450 sq. ft. of tile field. These systems were constructed in 1960 with no reports of current failures.

b. Luge Run

Description of Facility

This is the only independent luge run in the Western Hemisphere. The luge run is constructed of concrete and rests on piers which protrude above ground. The run is 1,000 meters long with a vertical drop of 96 meters. A separate starting position for the ladies' events is located to provide a run of 749 meters with a vertical drop of 59 meters.

The run has fourteen curves with an average gradient of 9.35%. The maximum gradient is 30%.

The run is refrigerated in a manner similar to that used on the bobsled run, the major difference being that the pressure and return mains lie above the ground rather than being completely buried.

Athletes are carried to the starting positions by trucks using the same road that serves the bobsled run. Control towers allow for 100% surveillance of the athlete during a descent on the run. See Figure 2-2, "Existing Conditions," for the layout of the luge run.

Spectator Accommodation

There are pedestrian walkways along the run which will accommodate up to 8,500 standing spectators.

Buildings

There are nine structures which serve the luge operation. These structures provide such functions as starting, finishing, observation and weighing of sleds. There are, in addition, other buildings which serve both the luge and bobsled runs. These other buildings are inventoried under "bobsled run" and include such functions as refrigeration and maintenance. Appendix D lists the location, purpose and dimension of structures.

Water

Refer to Section II.C.1.a. for association with the bobsled run.

Sanitary-Wastewater

There are two composting toilets at each of the following: men's start house, women's start house and luge finish tower.

c. Cross-Country Skiing

Description of Facility

The cross-country ski trail system at Mount Van Hoevenberg totals approximately 50 kilometers of trails, as shown on Figure 2-2, "Existing Conditions," which require a minimum of 1 foot of snow cover to open. The trail terrain is varied and slopes are between approximately 0 and 35%. While these trails have been designed to meet the public demand and offer varying degrees of difficulty, they also are required to meet Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) specifications for international competition. The existing condition of the trails is such that extensive regrading and maintenance is needed.

The loop or cloverleaf design directs the skiers through the start-finish stadium several times during a race. For spectator viewing, interval times, and food stations, this system is invaluable. For recreational skiers, the system allows great variety of length and degree of difficulty. During competitions, choice of loops can provide a Chief-of-Course with any combination to suit the particular race or class of competition.

A portion of these trails is designated for use in the summer as horse trails, as indicated on Figure 2-6, "Horseback Riding Trail."

Spectator Accommodation

Standing area for spectator viewing will accommodate 5,000 persons at the start-finish line near the Nordic Lodge and along the trails.

Buildings

There are eleven buildings associated with the Cross-Country Ski Trails Complex. These buildings function for ticket sales, race timing, race administration, warming, food service and restrooms. The cross-country lodge is handicapped accessible. Appendix D lists the dimensions and use of each structure.

Water

Potable water is obtained from a 470 foot deep well located behind the lodge. The well has a yield of 25 gallons per minute and consumption is approximately 2,000 gallons per day or 1.4 gallons per minute (5.6% of capacity).

Sanitary-Wastewater

The cross-country ski lodge building contains 2 lavatories, 3 toilets and 4 urinals for men and 2 lavatories and 5 toilets for women. Treatment is by a 2,000 gallon septic tank with 1,620 sq. ft. of disposal field constructed in 1982 and in good condition.

d. Biathlon

Description of Facility

Biathlon competition consists of a combination of cross-country skiing and periodic rifle target shooting during the distance skied.

The biathlon facilities at Mount Van Hoevenberg, located just north of the access road, include over 20 kilometers of trail which has been approved for international competition. The courses were World Cup certified in October 1995 by the International Biathlon Union (IBU). Seven different combinations of loops make it possible to create internationally certified courses for the 7.5 kilometer, 10 kilometer, and 20 kilometer events. The complex of ski trails and firing range have been designed and constructed to complement the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg for use by both the competitor and the recreational skier.

The firing range itself is 50 meters long. Competitors currently shoot small bore .22 caliber rimfire rifles. The firing range faces north for the best shooting light and provides thirty-six targets in the "pits" area. During the winter, this range is reserved for competitive use only as use by the general public would not be compatible with recreational skiing. Range use by the general public is allowed during the summer months.

In direct connection with the range there is a 250 meter (820 feet) start-finish area. The penalty loop connects with the range in this same area. From this start-finish stadium, there are three major loop-type cross-country ski trails, thereby providing recreational skiing for the public during a competition on either system.

Each of these trails is bisected with several cut-off loops which may be used to provide varying length courses as demanded by the competitions. The 20 kilometer course has a vertical difference of 190 meters, a maximum climb of 55 meters, and a total climb of 560 meters.

There is a timing system for use during competitions and a public address system which covers the range and the start-finish area.

Spectator Accommodation

The spectator standing area for viewing at the start-finish line of the biathlon accommodates 3,000 persons.

Buildings

Structures associated with the biathlon total twelve. Functions include event timing, targeting, storage, maintenance, warming and restrooms. The dimensions and usage for each building are shown in Appendix D. The biathlon lodge is handicapped accessible.

Water

The biathlon team building is served by a drilled well yielding 30 gpm. Peak consumption is 2,000 gallons/day or 5% of capacity.

Sanitary-Waste Water

The biathlon team building contains the following accommodations for men: 2 lavatories, 3 toilets and 2 urinals; and for women: 2 lavatories and 4 toilets. Disposal is by a 1,000 gallon septic tank with 850 sq. ft. of disposal field constructed in 1970 and is in good condition.

The maintenance building at the biathlon complex is served by a 500 gallon septic tank and 750 sq. ft. of leach field constructed in 1978 and is in good conditions.

e. Parking

Figure 2-2, "Existing Conditions," shows parking facilities near the bobsled run which are capable of handling 1,275 vehicles (assuming 90% cars, 10% buses). This central parking location provides for the combined parking requirements for the entire complex including cross-country, biathlon, luge and bobsled. Parking is divided into five (5) lots which are numbered for administrative purposes. Additional limited parking is available adjacent to the Biathlon and cross-country lodges and the bobsled/luge run ticket booth. All parking areas consist of sand and gravel with some patches of grass.

f. Access Road

The New York State Department of Transportation has responsibility for maintaining the one mile access road, NY Route 913 Q, from its intersection with NY Route 73 at the entrance to the parking areas. Facility staff maintain the roadway from this point as well as the parking areas and service roads.

g. Electric Distribution

Electrical energy is presently supplied by the Lake Placid Municipal Electric Company via a three-phase 13,200/7620 volt line. Individual major buildings are metered separately. There are six tap lines on the site and they are as follows: 1) three phase primary tap to biathlon; 2) three phase primary tap to cross-country stadium; 3) single phase primary tap to pumphouse; 4) single phase primary tap to clubhouse and sled shed; 5) three phase primary tap to refrigeration plant and maintenance shops; and 6) single phase primary tap to top of bob run. Existing electrical demand is approximately 1,500 kW in winter and 40 kW in the summer.

h. Gravel Pit

A gravel pit is located on "Special Use Land" on the roadway to the water pump house northerly of the biathlon range, as shown on Figure 2-2, "Existing Conditions."

Gravel is removed for on-premise use continuously at all seasons as demand dictates. Approximately 250 tons of gravel is used annually.

i. Equipment Inventory

The ski area owns and maintains equipment ranging from office and computer equipment to furniture, carpentry equipment, trail grooming equipment, vehicles and snowmaking equipment. A complete listing of "Inventory Equipment" is available for review at ORDA headquarters in Lake Placid, New York.

2. Inventory of Systems

a. Management

Mount Van Hoevenberg was built in the early 1930's and was first opened to the public in 1932 for the III Olympic Winter Games. Early management was under the direction of the Bureau of Winter Recreation, Conservation Department (now known as the Department of Environmental Conservation). On October 4, 1982, management was delegated to the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) through an agreement with DEC, authorized by Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1984 (Article 8, Title 28, Section 2614, Public Authorities Law).

This agreement transferred to ORDA the use, operation, maintenance and management of the sports complex. DEC remains the statutory custodian of the state-owned recreation area. Under the agreement, ORDA is to maintain the facility subject to DEC inspections; make capital improvements with DEC's prior written approval; establish a fund for capital improvements; continue the level of prior public recreation; comply with specified prior agreements; and cooperate with DEC in completion of a Unit Management Plan for the use area.

In 1991 DEC and ORDA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding superseding a 1984 memorandum between the parties, establishing methods and procedures by which managerial requirements contained in the underlying DEC/ORDA management agreements are to be complied with, and setting forth requirements for the operation of ORDA facilities and detailing procedures on how Unit Management Plans for each of the ORDA facilities are to be implemented. A copy of the MOU is provided in Appendix E, "Memorandum of Understanding." The MOU, in particular, relates to requirements for notices of management actions described in Unit Management Plans; the need to adhere to the DEC tree cutting policy; and identifies those activities that need to be undertaken which are not described in Unit Management Plans. Additionally, the MOU contains the procedures required for revisions or amendments to Unit Management Plans. Any material modification or amendment to the Unit Management Plan is to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the State Land Master

Plan, and must be made following the same procedure prescribed in the Master Plan for original Unit Management Plan preparation. The MOU specifically provides that a proposed amendment will be presented in its complete form and content, including indication of the specific sections of the existing management plan being amended, and be accompanied by:

- An evaluation of whether or not the proposed amendment will require a re-examination of the inventory and assessment section of the plan.
- If the amendment represents a departure from the goals and objectives stated in the Plan, a discussion of impacts of the new objects on facilities, public use and resources of the unit.
- An assessment of whether or not the proposed amendment is consistent with carrying capacity of the area.
- A schedule for the implementation of proposed management actions.

Any action to amend a Unit Management Plan and the connection with a proposed management action is to be initiated no later than the required site-specific environmental assessment pursuant to SEQRA.

b. Organization

The New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) was created in 1981 by the State Legislature as a public authority to oversee and manage the Olympic facilities in an effort to insure continued use and enjoyment of the facilities by the public. The ORDA Board of Directors is composed of ten members, three of these the Commissioners of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Economic Development, and Parks & Recreation Departments, and the remaining seven appointed by the Governor of the State of New York, three of whom are recommended by the North Elba Town Board. ORDA manages and operates the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg under its agreement with the Department of Environmental Conservation. The staff is led by the Authority's President and Chief Executive Officer.

c. Operations

The Olympic Sports Complex is open from 10 am to 4 pm during the summer and from 9 am to 4 pm during the winter. A watchman is present until 9 pm during the summer. In wintertime there is staff on the site 24 hours a day.

Personnel employed at Mount Van Hoevenberg varies with the season. During the winter season there are approximately 29 permanent and 59 seasonal staff. Table 2-1, "Roster of Staff Positions at Mount Van Hoevenberg," provides further details.

Table 2-2, "Proposed 95-96 Ticket Rates," provides a summary of the 1995-96 season fee structure.

d. Contractual Arrangements

Concessionaire - In accordance with its management agreement with DEC, ORDA has an exclusive cafeteria concession agreement at Mount Van Hoevenberg with Service America Corporation. The agreement was made on April 1, 1992 and is valid until March 31, 2002.

Ski Shop and Ski Rental Operation - In accordance with its management agreement with DEC, ORDA has an exclusive ski shop and ski rental agreement at Mount Van Hoevenberg with Service America Corporation. The agreement was made on April 1, 1992 and is valid until March 31, 2002.

Horseback Riding - ORDA has an agreement with Harvey Goodman and Marleen Goodman, d/b/a XTC Ranch, to operate and conduct a horseback riding operation for use by the general public utilizing designated portions of the existing cross-country trail system and lodge, as well as to operate a rental and tack shop, food service and special events as appropriate.

The horseback riding operation includes trail rides, pony rides, hay rides, riding lessons, junior riding programs and other related activities. The agreement was made in June 1994 and is valid through 1996.

Mountain Bike Rental Operation - ORDA has an agreement with Brian Delaney, d/b/a High Peaks Cyclery, to operate a mountain bike facility which includes trail rental and usage, equipment rental, repair and sales, food and beverages sales, and special events including races, demo days, instruction and other appropriate activities. The agreement was made in June 1994 and is valid through 1996.

D. Public Use of the Olympic Sports Complex

I. Major Events

Major competitive events held at the Olympic Sports Complex from 1982 to 1994 include the following:

- 1983 World Luge Championships
- 1983, 1987, 1988 World Cup Luge, 1993 World Cup Luge Final
- 1983 World Two-Man & Four-Man Bobsled Championships
- 1982-90 US National Luge Championships
- 1982-88 & 1990 US National Bobsled Championships
- 1986 World Junior Nordic Ski Championships
- 1986 World Masters Cross Country Ski Championships
- 1986 & 1987 World Cup Bobsled
- 1987 World Biathlon Championships
- 1991 US National Cross Country Ski Championships
- 1991-92 NYNEX Luge Invitational

Listed below are major 1993-94 events hosted by ORDA at the Olympic Sports Complex:

Cross-Country & Biathlon

December 18	Harry Eldridge Super Series X-C Races
December 30	US Olympic Trials-Nordic Combined (10 K classic)
January 6, 8-9	US Biathlon World Team Trials
January 29	St. Lawrence University Winter Carnival
January 30	NYSEF Jr. Olympic Qualifier
February 5	Sharp's Lake Placid Loppet (25 & 50 K races)
March 4-6	Empire State Games

Luge

December 21	Screening Race #1
January 1-2	US National Championship
January 8	Olympic Alternate Selection Race
January 15	Screen Race #2
January 16	Masters National Championship
January 29-30	Ice Engineers Race
February 5-6	Adirondack Luge Club Challenge
February 19-20	York International Jr. Grand Prix
February 23	Jr. Seeding Race #1
March 5-6	Empire State Winter Games

Bobsled & Skeleton

March 5-6	Empire State Games
-----------	--------------------

1994-95 winter events scheduled at the Olympic Sports Complex include the following:

December	10-11	US Luge-Club Championship
December	17	Harry Eldridge Memorial X-C Ski Race
December	18	US Luge-Masters National Championship
December	31-January 1	2-Man Bobsled Race-Ed Grant Memorial
January	3	US Luge-Senior Seeding Race
January	8	US 2-Man Bobsled Nat'l. Championship and World Team Trials
January	14	US 4-Man Bobsled Nat'l Championship and World Team Trials
January	14-15	Mt. Van Hoevenberg X-C Demo Days
January	14-15	High Peaks Cyclery X-C Marathon
January	19	FIBT 2-Man Bobsled Race
January	22	FIBT 4-Man Bobsled Race
January	21-22	US Biathlon World Team Trials
January	29	4-Man Bobsled Race-Le der le Trophy
January	29	US Luge-Junior Seeding Race #1
January	29	Cross-Country Jr. Olympic Qualifying Race
February	4	Sharp's Lake Placid Loppet (X-C Races)
February	4-5	2-Man Bobsled Race-Bunny Sheffield Memorial
February	5	US Luge-Junior Seeding Race #2
February	11-14	Intercontinental Cup (Nordic Combined)
February	11-12	World Junior Luge Championships
February	11-12	4-Man Bobsled Race-Joe Shectelli Legends Race
February	18-19	US Luge-Junior Nat'l Championship
February	18-19	2-Man Bobsled Race-USBSF Cup
February	22-25	Subaru US Cross-Country Skiing Championship
February	25	Skeleton World Cup
February	26	USBSF Skeleton Nat'l Championship
February	25-26	4-Man Bobsled Race-USBSF Cup
February	26	Empire State Games-Luge Competition
March	3-5	Empire State Winter Games
March	3-5	Geoff Bodine International Invitational Bobsled Competition
March	11-12	2-Man Bobsled Race-US Masters Nat'l Championship and US Women's Nat'l Championship

1995-96 winter events scheduled at the Olympic Sports Complex are as follows:

December	10-11	US Luge-Club Championship
December	28-January 7	US Biathlon National Championships

January	6-7	Skeleton Race-Swiss Acres Cup
January	6-7	2-Man Bobsled US National Championships and World Team Trials
January	9-17	Chevy Truck US Cross-Country Skiing Championships
January	12-13	Skeleton Race-Happy Wanderer Cup
January	12-13	4-Man Bobsled-US National Championships and World Team Trials
January	12-13	Women's Bobsled National Team Selection Race
January	13	Nordic Demo Days
January	20-21	Skeleton Race-Rookie Cup
January	20-21	2-Man Bobsled-Americas Cup
January	21	Luge-Masters National Championships
January	27-28	Skeleton Race-Boeri Cup
January	27-28	4-Man Bobsled-Americas Cup
January	27-28	Women's Bobsled-Americas Cup
January	28	Junior Luge Shoot Out (Elimination Race)
February	3-4	Skeleton Race-Swamy Cup
February	3-4	2-Man Bobsled-Bunny Sheffield Memorial Race
February	4	NYNEX Junior Luge Grand Prix
February	10-11	Skeleton Race-Joe Shectelli Legend Race
February	10-11	2-Man Bobsled-Joe Shectelli Legend Race
February	17-18	Skeleton Race-USBSF Cup
February	17-18	2-Man Bobsled-USBSF Cup
February	18	Junior Luge Seeding Race #1
February	23	Junior Luge Seeding Race #2
February	24	NYNEX Junior National Luge Championships
February	24	World Cup Skeleton
February	24-25	Women's Bobsled-National Championships
February	25	YORK International Team USA Luge Open
February	27-March 3	National Junior Olympics-Nordic Combined
February	29	NYNEX Senior National Luge Championships
March	1-3	Empire State Winter Games
March	2	2-Man Bobsled-Masters and Pee Wee National Championships
March	3-8	Intl. Airlines Ski Fed. World Championships

2. Cross-Country

The total annual number of cross-country skier visits, including usage by the US Olympic Training Center Athletes, is as follows:

Year	Total X-C Skier Visits
1985/86	17,886
1986/87	23,240
1987/88	24,219
1988/89	22,090
1989/90	16,000
1990/91	14,000
1991/92	15,000
1992/93	15,000
1993/94	11,308
1994/95	7,686

Usage by Olympic athletes was provided by the operations manager at the Olympic Training Center, as follows (a user day is defined as one athlete with one day of use at a particular venue).

Cross-Country Skiing Athlete User Days

1990	667
1991	1,112
1992	568
1993	525
1994	477

Nordic Combined Athlete User Days (an Olympic sport combining ski jumping and cross-country skiing)

1990	830
1991	177
1992	346
1993	204
1994	190

The warmer weather and lack of snow were influential in the decreased number of skiers visiting the Complex in 1993/94 and 1994/95. In addition, US Cross-Country National races were held during President's week (the third week in February) of the 1993/94 season, causing fewer trails to be open to the public during this typically high use week. The design carrying capacity of the 50 km of cross-country trails, portions of which are also utilized by biathletes, at Mount Van Hoevenberg is 20 recreational skiers per kilometer per moment, or 1,000 skiers/km/minute. Usage is well below this design standard. Note that in applying this carrying capacity, approximately 20% of

the recreational skiers are not on the cross-country trails at any given moment due to lodge use, meals, rest breaks, loading and unloading.

The cross-country lodge currently has a capacity of approximately 186 people (based on 2800 square foot area at a standard of 15 sf/person). The present size of the cross-country lodge is inadequate to accommodate skiers wanting rest, shelter, food and ski maintenance. During competitive events, athletes are required to use the same lodge facilities as recreational skiers.

3. Biathlon

Information on usage by Olympic athletes was provided by the operations manager at the Olympic Training Center. A user day is defined as one athlete with one day of use at a venue.

Biathlete User Days

1990	1,632
1991	1,910
1992	1,923
1993	1,886
1994	1,607

4. Bobsled

Table 2-3, "Bobsled Sliding Usage by Racers," illustrates the decline in the use of the bobsled by competitors from 5,302 total sleds during the 1987/88 season to 2,732 total sleds during the 1994/95 season. This decline is due to the progressive deterioration of the track relative to other training/racing facilities, to increasingly faster sled designs and the need to use safer tracks, and to the labor-intensive nature of the existing run which requires a staff of 18 for ice maintenance. Refer to Section I.B., Project Purpose, for additional information. The bobsled run sliding usage by racers in 1990-1991 was higher because the Olympics were held the following year and athletes were in training.

The total number of bobsled passenger trips increased to 3,112 trips or 8,067 passengers during the 1994/95 season as compared to 607 trips (1,822 passengers) during the 1983/84 season.

5. Luge Run

Table 2-4, "Luge Run Sliding Usage by Racers," illustrates the use of the luge run by competitors which indicates steady usage of the track. User days are relatively higher in 1992 and 1993 because international competitions were held in those years.

6. Spectators

The operational capacity of facilities for use by spectators standing is estimated as follows: Bobsled run area - 10,000 persons; Luge run area - 8,500 persons; Cross-country ski area - 5,000 persons; Biathlon area - 3,000 persons. These limits were established for the 1980 Olympics based on paved walkways and standing locations which provide satisfactory viewing opportunity. The limits have since proven manageable.

The main parking lot plus five (5) numbered lots at Mount Van Hoevenberg currently have a combined total design carrying capacity for 1,275 vehicles (assuming 90% cars, 10% buses). Conversion factors of 2.5 persons per car and 40 persons per bus are used to determine total persons that can be accommodated by present parking. Even though parking facilities will accommodate 7-8,000 persons, a greater number can be accommodated by shuttle busing as was practiced during the 1980 Olympics. Care in the scheduling of cross-country, biathlon, luge and bobsled events minimizes conflicting demand for use of parking facilities.

7. Summer Use

The establishment of contracts with mountain bicycle and horseback riding concessionaires and the increasing popularity of mountain biking as a sport in particular have contributed to increasing usage of the Olympic Sports Complex during the summer. The provision of wheeled bobsled rides to the public during the summer of 1995 proved to be very popular with the public and are proposed to continue thereby contributing to the year-round economy of the area. There were 2,027 wheeled bobsled passenger rides in July, 1995.

Table 2-1

**Roster of Staff Positions
at Mount Van Hoevenberg**

Permanent Staff Positions	
Number of Positions	Position Title
5	Administration
5	Maintenance Assistant
2	General Mechanic
1	Electrician
2	Refrigeration Mechanic
4	Labor Supervisor
2	Labor 2
1	Senior Ticket Sales Clerk
1	Ticket Sales Clerk
2	Labor Foremen
2	Motor Equipment Mechanic
1	Equipment Operator 1
9	Equipment Operator 2
29	Total

Seasonal Staff Positions*			
Administration		Luge	
Number	Title	Number	Title
1	Ticket Clerk	1	Ski Patrol 2-3
		2	Labor 1
		7	Labor 2
		4	Maintenance Asst.
1	Total	14	Total

Cross-Country		Bobsled Run	
Number	Title	Number	Title
1	Mt. Bike Manager	2	Labor 1
1	Equipment Oper. 1	11	Labor 2
2	Equipment Oper. 2	7	Driver
1	Labor 1	7	Brakeman
2	Range Attendants	1	Ski Patrol 2-3
3	Ski Patrol 2		
1	Ticket Clerk 1		
2	Labor Supervisors		
3	Ski Instructors		
16	Total	28	Total

* Does not include (6) ski shop/snack bar employees hired by concessionaire.

Table 2-2

Proposed 95-96 Ticket Rates

WINTER USE FEES (HOURS 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

Daily Rates

Adult.....	\$10.00
Child (12 years of age and under).....	\$8.00
Child (6 years of age and under)	Free
Senior (62-69 years of age)	\$8.00
Senior (70 years of age and up)	Free
Group Rate (15 or more)	\$6.00

Season Pass

First Family Member/Individual	\$125.00
Second Family Member.....	\$50.00
Children Under 19 Years of Age.....	\$25.00
Individual Child Under 19 Years of Age.....	\$50.00

SUMMER USE FEES (HOURS 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM)

Adults (13-61 years of age)	\$3.00
Juniors (6-12 years of age)	\$2.00
Groups (20 or more)	\$1.50
Children (under 6 years of age)	No Charge
Senior Citizen (over 61 years of age).....	\$2.00

March 20 - June 16 **FREE** Admission

Trolley Ride to the top of the Bobrun offered June 17 - October 9

Open year-round (except Christmas Day)

Closed Mondays (Mid-December to Mid-March)

Summer Bobsled Rides: July 1-September 4 (Sat.-Wed. 10-12 & 1-4 · \$20 pp)

Mountain Bike Center · Horseback Riding Center · Biathlon Range

also offered at Complex

Table 2-3

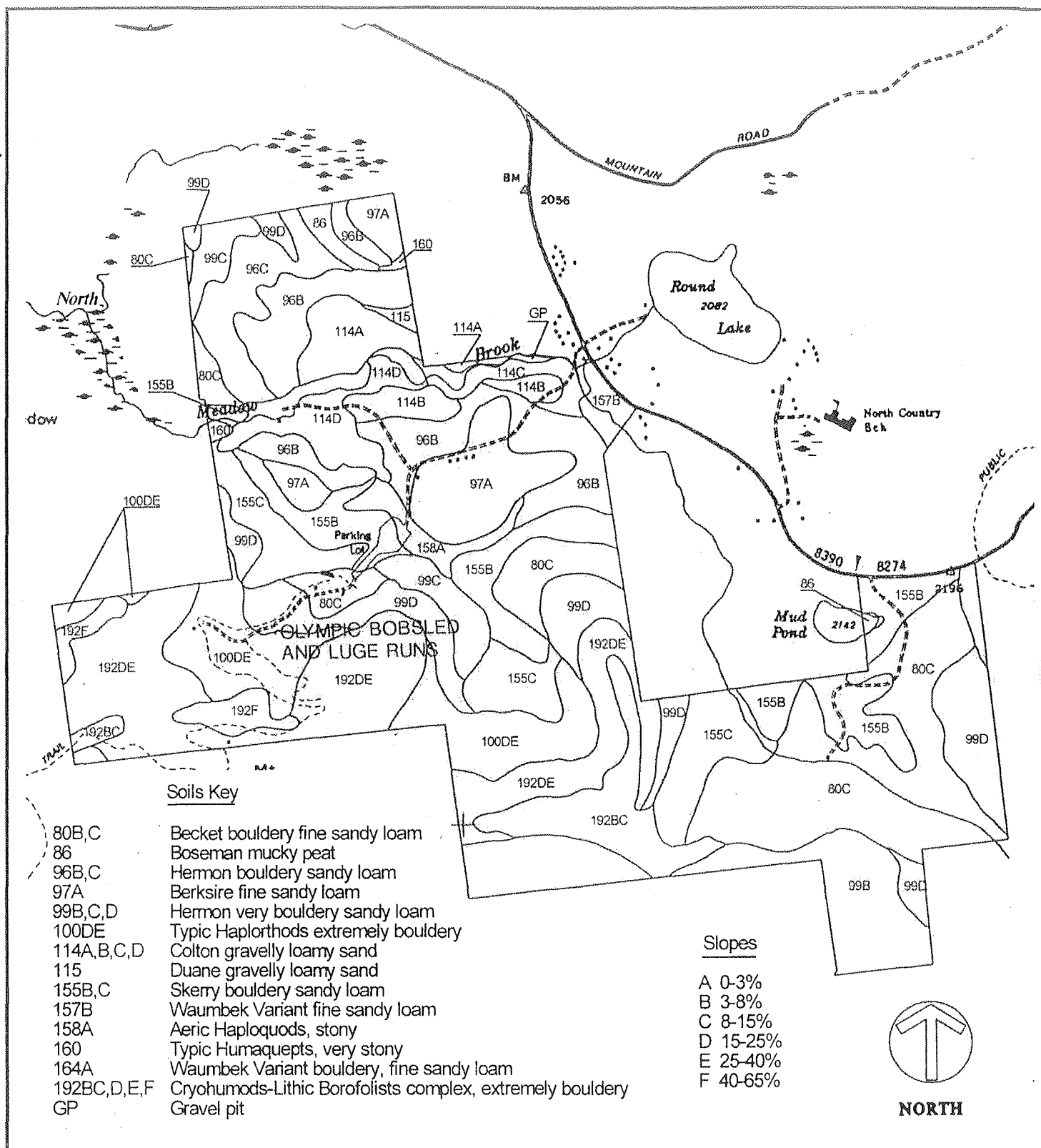
Bobsled Run Sliding Usage By Racers

Year	Number of Sliders	Number of Days
82 - 83	3,343	63
83 - 84	3,435	63
84 - 85	3,808	63
85 - 86	3,254	70
86 - 87	3,230	76
87 - 88	5,302	63
88 - 89	DID NOT USE TRACK	
89 - 90	2,691	81
90 - 91	4,128	69
91 - 92	3,046	72
92 - 93	2,716	66
93 - 94	2,535	69
94 - 95	2,732	66

Table 2-4

Luge Run Sliding Usage By Racers

Year	Number of Sliders	Number of Days
82 - 83	7,508	62
83 - 84	8,313	75
84 - 85	11,796	67
85 - 86	8,184	72
86 - 87	8,998	76
87 - 88	8,068	74
88 - 89	6,957	79
89 - 90	6,382	72
90 - 91 ¹	7,301	58
91 - 92	7,667	73
92 - 93	7,107	67
93 - 94	7,946	69
94 - 95	7,799	88



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**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
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SOILS

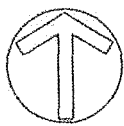
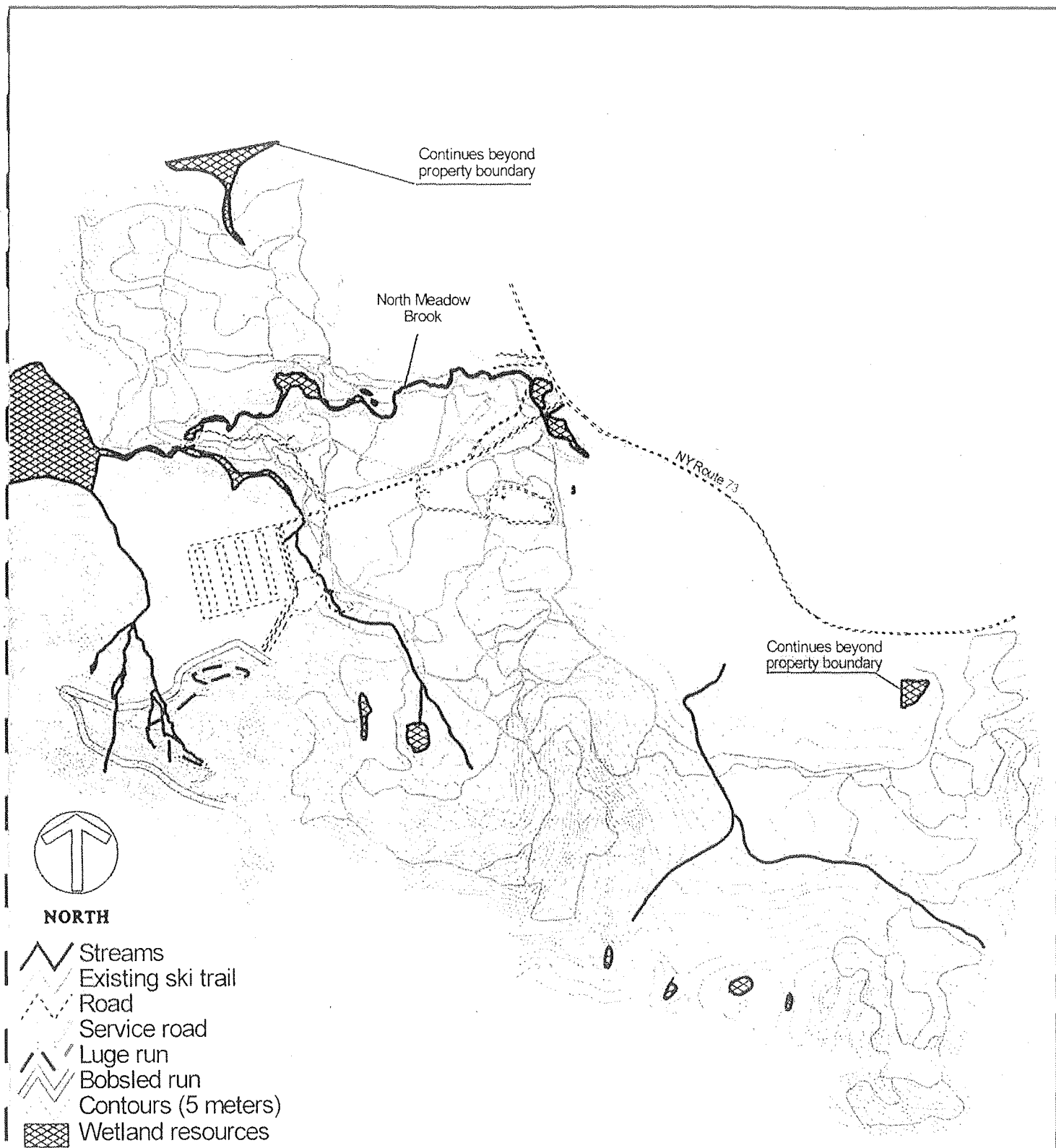
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DATE: 3-8-99

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FIGURE NO. 2-1





NORTH

- Streams
- Existing ski trail
- Road
- Service road
- Luge run
- Bobsled run
- Contours (5 meters)
- Wetland resources



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**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

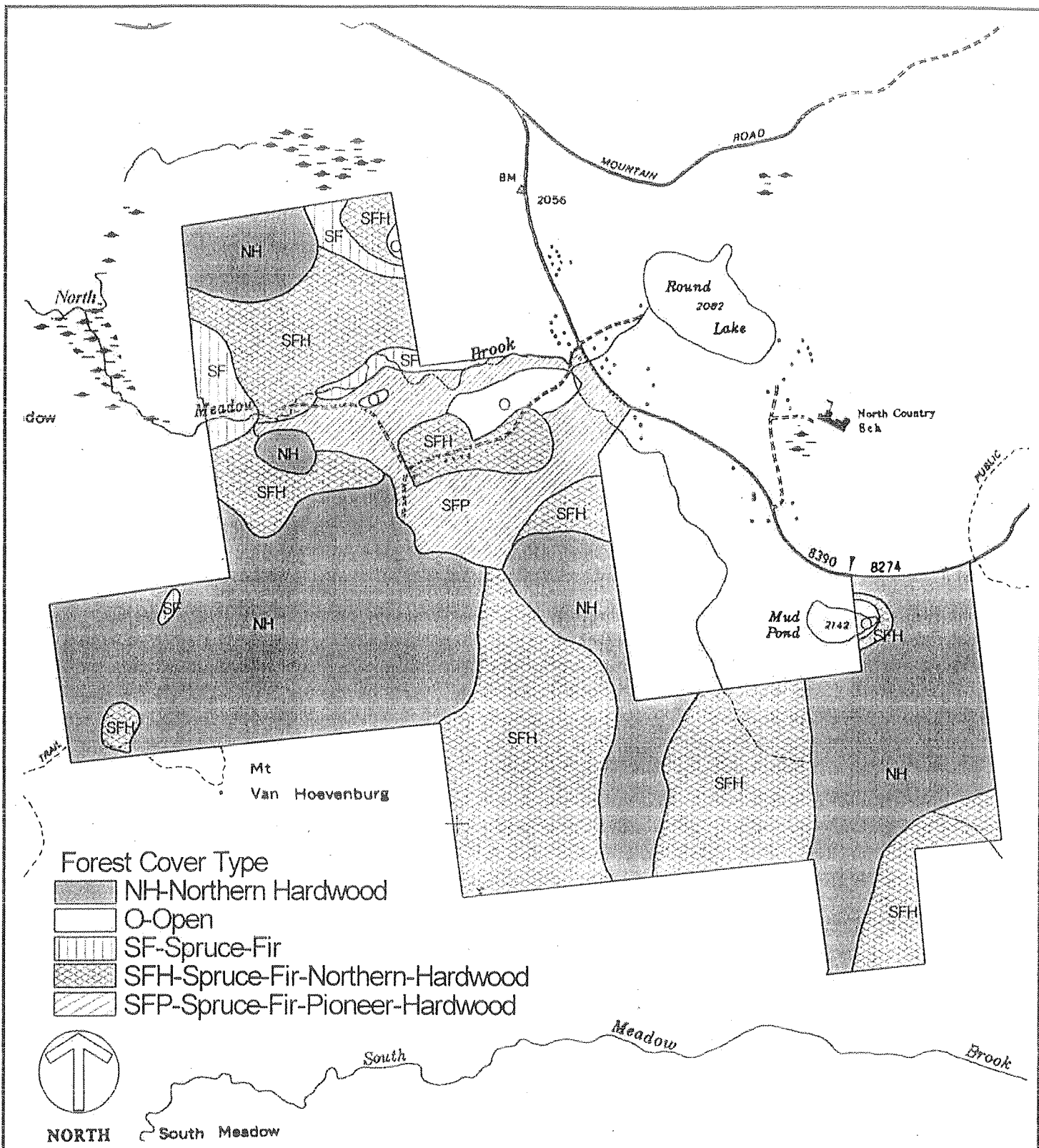
**SURFACE WATER AND
WETLAND RESOURCES MAP**




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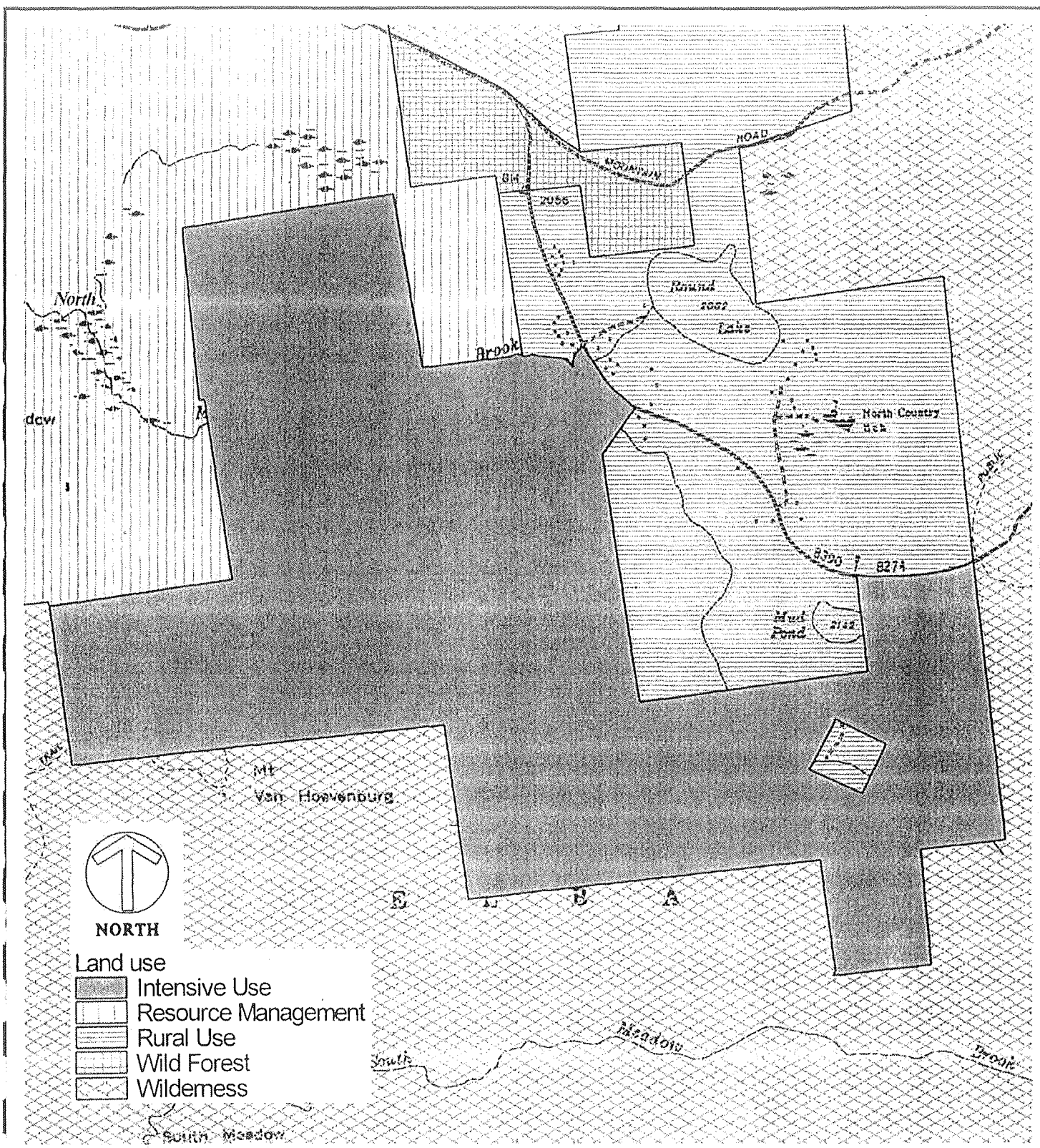
DATE: 1-19-96

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FIGURE NO. 2-3



 <p>the LA group Landscape Architecture and Engineering, P.C.</p>	<p>UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA</p>		
 <p>CLOUGH, HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS</p>	 <p>OLYMPIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY</p>	<p>VEGETATIVE COVERTYPE MAP</p>	
<p>© 1996</p>	<p>DATE: 1-19-96</p>	<p>SCALE: 1:24,000</p>	<p>FIGURE NO. 2-4</p>



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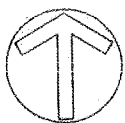
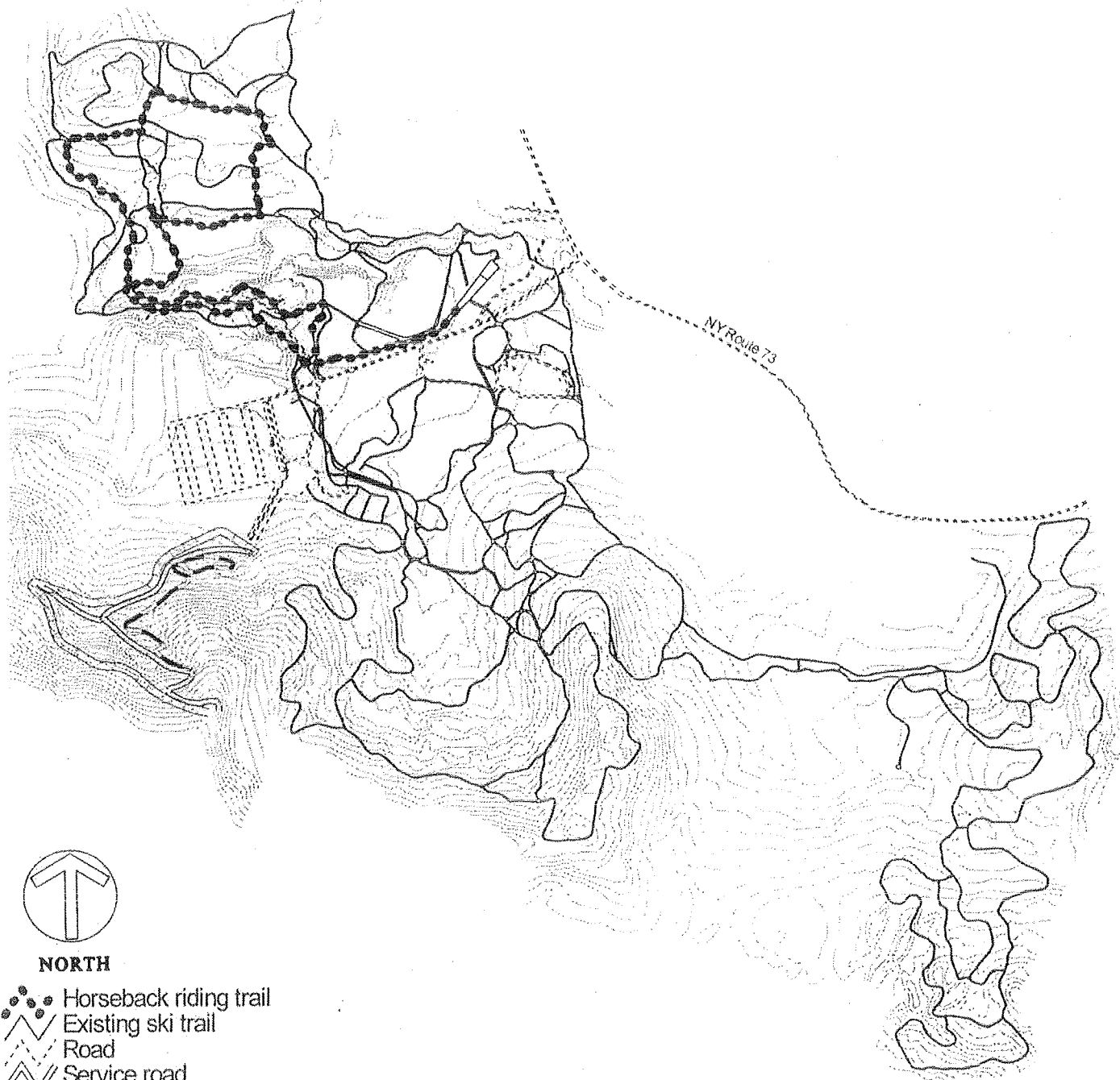
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FIGURE NO. 2-5

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA

LAND USE MAP



NORTH

-  Horseback riding trail
-  Existing ski trail
-  Road
-  Service road
-  Luge run
-  Bobsled run
-  Contours (5 meters)



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**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



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**HORSEBACK RIDING
TRAIL**

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DATE: 1-19-96

SCALE: 1:20,000

FIGURE NO. 2-6

SECTION III MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Orientation and Evolution of Management Philosophy

ORDA's central management goal remains as stated in the 1986 UMP:

The Olympic Region Development Authority shall continue to institute comprehensive activities utilizing the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg to insure optimum year-round use and enjoyment of the facilities to the economic and social benefit of the Olympic region and to extend opportunity to improve the physical fitness, athletic education and recreational education of the people of New York State and the United States pursuant to the Public Authorities Law, the Adirondack Park Agency Act, and the Environmental Conservation Law, in harmony with the Adirondack Park.

Subsequent to adoption of the 1986 UMP it has become evident to Mount Van Hoevenberg management that certain improvements are required to maintain the facility at a level suitable for use by athletes and recreators alike. The cross-country and biathlon trails and the bobsled and luge runs are outdated designs and create significant hazards for users. Mount Van Hoevenberg management has placed an emphasis on facility modernization and improvement in order to achieve the goal stated in the 1986 UMP. Mount Van Hoevenberg management believes that modernizing the facility will improve skier safety, provide a higher quality recreational and competitive experience and increase local and regional economic benefits.

B. Regulatory Issues

Management and operation of the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is affected by a variety of regulatory issues. Such issues influence the nature and scope of permissible activities at the Complex. Significant regulatory issues are as follows:

1. New York State Constitution Article XIV

Article XIV states that Forest Preserve land, as currently fixed by law, either presently owned or acquired in the future by the State, will be kept forever as wild forest lands. As such, Forest Preserve lands cannot be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any public or private corporation. Timber on Forest Preserve land subject to certain expressed exceptions, cannot be removed, sold or destroyed.

It is essential, therefore, that development and tree removal on forest preserve lands at the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Sports Complex be consistent with the mandates of Article XIV as it has been interpreted over the years by the courts and in a series of Attorney General opinions. The leading cases interpreting Article XIV are the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks v. McDonald, 228 A.D. 73 (3d Dept. 1930), affirmed 253 N.Y. 234; and Balsam Lake Anglers Club v. DEC, 199 A.D. 2d 852 (3rd Dept. 1993).

In McDonald, the Appellate Division, in declaring a proposed bobsled run at Mt. Van Hoevenberg unconstitutional, construed the meaning of "forever wild" as used in Article XIV: "Its uses for health and pleasure must not be inconsistent with its preservation of forest lands in a wild state. It must always retain the characteristics of a wilderness. Hunting, fishing, camping, mountain climbing, snowshoeing, skiing or skating find an ideal setting in nature's wilderness." Also, : "No artificial setting is required for any of these purposes. Sports which require a setting which is man-made are unmistakably inconsistent with the preservation of these forests lands in the wild and natural state in which Providence has delivered them."

In large part, McDonald focused on the amount of trees to be cut and removed for the proposed bobsled facility. Dicta within that decision indicates that reasonable cutting of trees is permissible when necessary to enable the public to safely use forest preserve lands, so long as such cutting is "immaterial", i.e., does not detract from the wild forest character of the forest preserve. In other words, the amount of trees that can constitutionally be cut and removed is determined on a case-by-case basis.

McDonald emphasized that the forest preserve is for use by the public:

"The Forest Preserve is preserved for the public; its benefits are for the people of the State as a whole. Whatever the advantages may be of having wild forest lands preserved in their natural state, the advantages are for every one (sic) within the State and for the use of the people of the State. Unless prohibited by the constitutional provision, this use and preservation are subject to the reasonable regulations of the Legislature."

"What regulations may reasonably be made by the Commission for the use of the park by campers and those who seek recreation and health in the quiet and solitude of the north woods is not before us in this case. The Forest Preserve and the Adirondack Park within it are for the reasonable use and benefit of the public, as heretofore stated. A very considerable use may be made by campers and others without in any way interfering with this purpose of preserving them as wild forest lands."

McDonald, then, certainly does not interpret Article XIV as an absolute prohibition but, rather, contemplates considerable use of forest preserve lands by the public, subject to reasonable regulations.

In the Balsam Lake case, the Appellate Division dealt, in part, with the issue of whether to annul a negative declaration (under SEQRA) issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation that the implementation of the Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan would not have a negative impact upon the environment on lands classified as "wild forest" by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan. The unit called for, among other actions, the construction of five new parking lots, the designation of two existing campsites as lawful campsites, the relocation of existing trails and the construction of a new hiking trail, and the construction of a cross-country ski trail loop.

The Appellate Division, in upholding the Department of Environmental Conservation's action, found, in interpreting the Article XIV provision that timber on forest preserve lands cannot be sold, removed, or destroyed, that "(a)lthough this provision would appear...to prohibit any cutting or removal of timber from the forest preserve, the Court of Appeals, noting that the words of the NY Constitution must receive a reasonable interpretation, has construed (in McDonald) this provision as prohibit(ing) (the) cutting or (the) removal of... trees and timber to a substantial extent", and indicated "that only those activities involving the removal of timber 'to any material degree' will run afoul of the constitutional provision."

The Appellate Division, in the Balsam Lake case, specifically found that the addition of the five parking areas and the relocation of certain trails are not improper uses of the forest preserve, nor do they involve unconstitutional amounts of cutting. The Court found that "(t)hese proposed uses appear compatible with forest preserve lands, and the amount of cutting necessary is not unconstitutionally prohibited."

Aside from an easement issue not pertinent here, the Appellate Division further found a rational basis existed for DEC's negative declaration.

In addition to the leading case law discussed above, there have been a series of Attorney General opinions that provide further guidance. In the interest of public safety and in consideration of the development of protective and recreational facilities, it has been necessary for the Department of Environmental Conservation, as the managing authority for Forest Preserve Lands, to periodically ascertain the limitations of legislative intent from the State Attorney General pertaining to the cutting, removal and destruction of trees.

In instances where cutting has not been sanctioned by constitutional amendments, the opinion and interpretation of the State's Attorney General has been sought on allowable cutting activities. One such opinion, dated January 18, 1934, pertaining to ski trail construction state: "ski-trails (cross-country) may be constructed by the Conservation Department in the Forest Preserve when cutting trees to any material degree, will not be necessary and the wild forest character of the Preserve will not be impaired."

In addition, trees may be removed for several other purposes. An Attorney General's opinion dated February 5, 1935 authorizes the removal of trees in the Forest Preserve that endanger public safety.

An Attorney General's opinion dated September 20, 1934 allows the use or removal of vegetation for surveying triangulation stations, where these stations serve as an aid to the conservation work of the State, and where the number of small trees used or removed for the work appear immaterial.

The cutting of trees to establish scenic vistas is addressed in an Attorney General's opinion of January 17, 1935. In this opinion, vistas may be established as long as the work is "carried on with care in order that the tree removal may not be sufficient to pass the point of immateriality." Before the creation of a vista, alternate locations in

the area and alternate methods of achieving the view must be considered. For example, a more sparsely wooded site might be found, or an observation platform erected.

The salvage of windfall timber is authorized when it is determined that it represents a fire hazard in an opinion dated July 26, 1945. Salvaged timber cannot be sold or given away to anyone who may sell it, but it can be used for any project under Department of Environmental Conservation jurisdiction.

A June 24, 1986 Attorney General Opinion (No. 86-F3) addresses the issue of whether the DEC may cut live-standing trees for use in the maintenance of existing trails in the forest preserve. The opinion concludes that: "The carefully planned and supervised selective cutting in the forest preserve of only those few scattered trees necessary for the maintenance of popular and steep trails to lessen soil compaction, erosion and the destruction of vegetation may be conducted consistent with the "forever wild" provisions of the State Constitution, as long as it does not occur to any material degree."

In a recent opinion, February 22, 1996, the Attorney General concluded that DEC may not issue four temporary revocable permits to authorize installation of electrical cable and other equipment on the beds and shorelines of Raquette Lake and Big Moose Lake. Applying the reasoning of McDonald, the Attorney General found that the cable would not serve a public use permitted in the forest preserve, and that it would not benefit the public at large by facilitating the enjoyment of the preserve.

Considering the guidelines established by applicable case law and opinions of the Attorney General it would appear that the management actions proposed in this unit management plan, composed largely of improvement to long-standing existing cross country ski trail facilities, are consistent with the mandates of Article XIV. The proposed tree cutting and vegetative removal, while significant in number, appears reasonable in relation to the overall size of the terrain encompassing the proposed actions, and the substantial public benefit to be derived from the improved outdoor recreational amenities to be provided. As expressed in McDonald, a very considerable use may be made by the public and others without in any way interfering with the purpose of preserving the forest preserve as wild forest lands.

The Olympic Sports Complex Unit Management Plan and supporting DGEIS provide the necessary framework and procedures to ensure compliance with the standards and guidelines discussed above. Adherence to the DEC Commissioner's Tree Cutting Policy (Organization and Delegation Memorandum 84-06) is mandated in the 1991 DEC/ORDA Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of Unit Management Plans. The Memorandum of Understanding requires approval of the DEC Director of the Division of Lands and Forest for the cutting of any vegetation at the State Facilities under ORDA's control. The request for approval to cut trees for the purposes of new construction, expansion or modification of projects must be submitted in writing and include specifically required detailed information. Furthermore, the DEC policy and procedures were amended in 1986 to include the requirement for adequate notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin to the public as to the number of

trees proposed to be cut and the size of the land involved on specific projects. These requirements combine to assure that the test for "carefully planned and supervised selective cutting" will be met.

The reasonableness of these actions is also manifested in Mount Van Hoevenberg's classification as an "intensive use area" in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. It is significant, in this regard, that the Court, in the Balsam Lake case, found proposed campsite facilities on forest preserve lands classified as "wild forest" to be compatible with forest preserve lands, and the amount of cutting necessary not unconstitutionally prohibited. Wild forest areas are considerably more restricted in their contemplated use than are intensive use areas such as Mount Van Hoevenberg. The primary wild forest management guideline is to protect the wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the wild forest atmosphere. An intensive use area, on the other hand, is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public, and where a primary management guideline is "to provide the public opportunities for... cross county skiing under competitive or developed conditions...in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park."

While the State Land Master Plan does not purport to resolve Article XIV issues, this legislatively mandated plan governing the use and development of forest preserve lands within the Adirondack Park by State agencies does provide a sound basis for rational use of these lands through a deliberately conceived plan and regulated implementation process.

Accordingly, it is submitted, the proposed management actions constitute a reasonable use of the forest preserve, serve a public purpose and benefit, are "in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park," and, therefore, are consistent with the mandates of Article XIV of the State Constitution.

Timber cut for construction of proposed improvements on the Olympic Sports Complex will be used on-site or at other locations within the Forest Preserve for firewood, or will be used for such purposes as picnic tables, erosion control, foot bridges, and similar construction projects, as advised in a May 3, 1996 letter from NYSDEC General Counsel, John P. Cahill, provided in Appendix A, "Documents of Record", which was written relative to the Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan. As noted in the Cahill letter, in the alternative, such timber may be pushed off the trails, cut up and lowered to the ground so as to not constitute a fire hazard or threat to public health and safety.

2. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) classifies State Lands in the Forest Preserve according to their character and capacity to withstand use and sets forth general guidelines and criteria for the management and use of state lands. The SLMP

classifies the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg as an Intensive Use Area. Intensive Use Areas are defined as follows:

"An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas."

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

Specific guidelines for management and use which apply to the Olympic Sports Complex include:

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

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

"Construction and development activities in intensive use areas will:

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

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

"No new structures or improvements at any intensive use area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements."

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

There is one SLMP management guideline specific to Mount Van Hoevenberg, as follows:

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

The SLMP provides that Unit Management Plans be developed by the DEC in consultation with the APA for management of state lands. Such management plans shall conform to the general guidelines and criteria set forth in the SLMP. UMPs are also to be amended from time to time. The responsibility for preparation of the Mount Van Hoevenberg UMP has been delegated to ORDA, as discussed below.

3. 1986 Unit Management Plan

The 1986 Mount Van Hoevenberg Recreation Area Unit Management Plan is still in force and governs permissible activities at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Projects approved in the 1986 UMP are discussed in Section I.F.

4. Environmental Conservation Law

Section 9-09031 of the Environmental Conservation Law places the "care, custody and control" of the Olympic Sports Complex with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

5. Olympic Regional Development Authority Act

The Olympic Regional Development Act (Article 8, Title 28, NYS Public Authorities Law) establishes the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and sets forth its responsibilities, functions and duties. The authority operates and manages the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg under an agreement with the Environmental Conservation Department, entered into on October 4, 1982, amended November 10, 1982 and April 1, 1984, pursuant to the Public Authorities Law, Section 2614.

6. DEC - ORDA Memorandum of Understanding

The DEC and ORDA implement their mutual responsibilities for management of the Olympic Sports Complex through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated March 8, 1991. The MOU sets forth mutually agreeable methods and procedures by which managerial requirements are implemented. The MOU also establishes the means by which the existing UMP is implemented. Such means generally involve notification, inspection and review of actions to ensure compliance with the UMP and applicable regulations. A copy of the MOU is found in Appendix E of this UMP.

7. Other Regulations

The Department of Environmental Conservation regulates sanitary waste disposal systems at the Complex and the Department of Health regulates water supply and food service facilities.

Petroleum storage tanks are managed and regulated in compliance with NYSDEC Petroleum Bulk Storage Regulations. Appendix F contains the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan.

A SPDES general permit for stormwater discharges associated with proposed construction activity on Olympic Sports Complex lands will be registered with the NYSDEC and is provided in Appendix G, "Construction Pollution Prevention Plan".

SPDES registrations are in place for the existing inground wastewater treatment systems and these registrations will be maintained.

A Protection of Waters Permit pursuant to Article 15, Title 5 of Environmental Conservation Law is not required for the ski trail bridge maintenance, trail maintenance and related activity or the construction of the snowmaking reservoir because ORDA is a state public corporation. However, as noted in the June 5, 1996 letter from Richard A. Wild of the NYSDEC, provided in Appendix A, "Documents of Record," "measures would still have to be taken to ensure that any work conducted near a surface water will not contravene water quality standards." The snowmaking pond is a specific construction project for which construction plans will be engineered and reviewed as appropriate at a later date. The work plan for the pond will include all proposed mitigation measures to be taken to protect soil and surface water resources.

The Ammonia Spill Plan for the bobsled and luge refrigeration system is provided in Appendix H. A NYSDEC air permit will be required to operate the ammonia gas treatment units (as well as a permit to construct).

Hunting, trapping and fishing at the Complex are restricted pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 190.23.

The borrow pit at the Complex is managed and regulated in compliance with the New York State Mined Land Reclamation Act, where applicable.

Improvements proposed at the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg will affect some wetlands and waters regulated by the state and federal governments. The state wetland regulations are administered by the Adirondack Park Agency. The federal regulations are enforced by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The potential wetland impacts are described and the regulations applicable to the proposed activities are identified in Section V, "Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures".

C. Management Goals and Objectives

ORDA and Olympic Sports Complex management have identified three goals for operation of the facility.

1. To offer quality year-round recreational/competition programs on publicly owned lands for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of New York State, the United States and the international sports community.
2. To position the Complex as an economic catalyst to strengthen the private sector and local government economies.
3. To protect the natural resource base in accordance with environmental conservation laws and all other applicable laws and regulations of the State of New York.

The following specific objectives have been identified to implement the above goals.

1. Environmental Protection

- a. ORDA will continue to manage the Olympic Sports Complex in an environmentally responsible fashion by complying with all applicable rules and regulations and by maintaining an on-going dialogue with the DEC and APA on matters of environmental concern.

2. Public Use

- a. ORDA will seek to improve the quality of facilities at the Complex in order to continue to attract competitive and recreational athletes from New York State, the United States and the international sports community, in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.
- b. ORDA will seek to develop new summer and other off-season events to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article XIV and the SLMP.

3. Management and Operations

- a. ORDA management will seek to establish annual budgets and schedules in support of the proposed capital improvements plan and other management objectives.
- b. ORDA will seek to improve equipment reliability in order to reduce the frequency of breakdown, associated staffing requirements and consequent financial drain.
- c. ORDA will seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing out-dated and aged equipment.
- d. ORDA will seek to improve its economic return by making the mountain more attractive to professional athletes and recreators, and thus increasing ticket sales.

4. Athlete and Recreator Safety and Experience

- a. ORDA will seek to improve skier safety and experience by widening certain cross-country and biathlon trails, improving certain trail intersections, providing a skier bridge at a certain high use trail intersection, and widening the cross-country stadium.
- b. ORDA will seek to improve skier experience by providing snowmaking and nightlighting on certain biathlon and cross-country ski trails.
- c. ORDA will seek to improve skier experience by developing the biathlon lodge as a recreational lodge and by expanding and renovating the cross-country lodge as a training facility.
- d. ORDA will seek to improve the safety and experience of bobsled and luge athletes by providing a state-of-the-art facility to replace the outdated runs.

5. Competitive Events

- a. ORDA will seek to establish the Olympic Sports Complex as an international caliber facility for competitive events in bobsled, luge, biathlon and cross-country skiing meeting international standards for competition.

6. Capital Improvements

- a. ORDA will implement a capital improvements program to achieve the above objectives. Specific elements are discussed in Section IV below.

SECTION IV PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, PHASING, AND PROJECTED USE

This section describes the proposed management actions which form the basis of the amended UMP, the use which is expected to result, and the proposed phasing and scheduling of actions. The actions and subsequent discussion of impacts and mitigating measures in Section V, are described at a sufficient level of detail to proceed without subsequent SEQRA or UMP review, provided they are carried out as substantially described in this document.

A. Proposed Management Actions and Phasing Plan

Overall actions proposed for the Master Plan Update at the Olympic Sports Complex are described in this section. Some of the actions were proposed and approved in the 1986 UMP/EIS but never implemented. They remain unchanged and are to be considered still valid as part of this Master Plan Update. They are included in the Master Plan Update description but will be given further consideration in Section IV.C. as to their SEQRA status.

During the preparation of this Generic Environmental Impact Statement, it became clear that the State Constitution Article XIV issues related to the project need to be resolved before certain desirable management actions can be implemented. Each of the proposed management actions has been specified either as those actions which can occur when the UMP is approved and adopted, or those actions which can occur pending resolution of the Article XIV issues.

With regard to Article XIV, it is clear that the New York State Constitution needs to be amended to include specific provision for the facilities at the Complex, including the ski trails, lodges and appurtenances thereto.

The recommended development program under the Five-Year Plan encompasses the two phases of detailed improvements. This program is based on the Five-Year Plan for the Olympic Sports Complex as shown on Figure 4-1, "Five-Year Master Plan," which graphically illustrates the recommended improvements. Through the course of the work phases, progress evaluations will be conducted annually, work compared with the goals and objectives, and the project refocused as deemed necessary by Olympic Sports Complex and ORDA administration. The results of this annual review will be a budget for the next phase of work that can be taken to the appropriate agencies for approval prior to the beginning of the work period.

The following improvements and upgrades are proposed in this UMP/GEIS.

1. **Management Actions which can take place when UMP is approved and adopted:**
 - a. Trails
 - Maintain cross-country and biathlon ski trails to applicable International Ski Federation (FIS) and International Biathlon Union (IBU) standards
 - Continue trail homologation (international standardization)
 - In kind replacement of bridges on ski trails. Refer to Figure 4-6, "Cross-Country Trail Improvements."
 - Construct mini-stadium bridge to increase safety at high speed trail intersection
 - Create a longer straightaway at the start/finish at the current cross-country stadium and relocate timing building
 - Upgrade trail signage and trail maps
 - b. Bobsled/Luge Run
 - Construct new combined bobsled/luge track. It is anticipated that the lower half of the existing bobsled track will remain in place and operational to provide tourist rides. It is proposed that the upper half of the existing track remain in place and be abandoned, not demolished, both to serve as a landmark in the history of bobsled tracks at the Mt. Van Hoevenberg site and to reduce demolition costs. The upper portion of the existing bobsled run will be abandoned in place and will be allowed to reforest naturally. Refer to Figures 4-7, 4-8 and 4-9, "Combined Bobsled/Luge Site Layout Plan," "Layout Plan – Sheet A" and "Layout Plan – Sheet B," respectively.
 - c. Biathlon Course Amenities
 - Purchase portable scoreboard
 - d. Lodges
 - Rehabilitate the biathlon lodge as a recreational lodge (includes outside deck, berms, and landscaping). Amenities include lockers, fireplace and lounge, ski rental/ski school shop, and ticket sales.

e. Parking

- Restructure the existing cross-country ski center parking lot to accommodate better traffic flow, drop-off area and parking pods. Refer to Figure 4-4, "Cross-Country Ski Center Concept Plan."
- Restructure the existing biathlon lodge parking area to improve traffic flow, accommodate parking spaces, and provide overflow parking. Refer to Figure 4-3, "Biathlon Lodge Parking."
- Restructure the existing access to the bobsled/luge area by creating a loop road with a vehicle drop-off zone. Refer to Figure 4-5, "Bobsled/Luge Area Concept Plan."

f. Miscellaneous

- Purchase additional grooming equipment
- Maintain and replace security fencing
- Maintain grounds and physical plant (two buildings need roof work, one needs a boiler)
- Replace bridge at existing pump station and replace weir as required by DEC and described within this UMP (refer to Section V.A.2.a, and to Appendix A, NYS DEC letter of July 24, 1996).
- Develop and schedule off-season events such as horse shows and festivals
- Replace wooden snow fencing on trails

2. **Management Actions Pending Article XIV Resolution:**

a. Trails

- Create three connector trails (refer to Figure 4-6, "Cross-Country Trail Improvements."
- Widen trails north of the access road
- Construct a snowmaking system on 7.3 +/- km of ski trails. This includes building an 8 million gallon reservoir, a 30' x 60' building to house pumps and air compressors and controls, installing two transformers, adding a pump at the existing pump station where bobsled run icing water is currently withdrawn, and installing water and air piping with snowmaking gun hydrants and power to run the guns along the trails where snowmaking is planned. Refer to Appendix I, "Snowmaking - General Information."

- Replace two ski tunnels under the access road with two new 10' high, 20' wide, 28' long box or arch culverts in order to improve skier safety and ski course fairness (skiers can pass).
- Construct a destination hut (unheated and unmanned) on the Porter Mountain loop. Refer to Figure 4-6, "Cross-Country Trail Improvements."

b. Lodges

- Build new racer's facility/training center (a total of 6,000 +/- square feet) in a location with better drainage to replace the cross-country lodge. Amenities are proposed to include fitness and weight training rooms, lockers, showers, mini-kitchen, telephones, meeting areas, storage, ventilated waxing rooms, and media facilities.
- Relocate wax test area to be adjacent to new racer's facility if necessary

c. Parking

- Pave parking fields with high rate of use
- Pave loop road to bobsled/luge area
- Construct trailhead parking area in conjunction with DEC and DOT to serve those people accessing the trails to Pitchoff, Porter and Cascade Mountains.

d. Miscellaneous

- Construct a 50' x 80' pole barn for equipment storage in the westernmost parking area.

In addition to those above, the improvements identified in the 1986 Unit Management Plan, which remains in effect today, are still valid. Certain of the improvements in the 1986 UMP have been modified and updated in this UMP, while others have been deferred. Many improvements identified in the 1986 UMP have been constructed, while others are under construction. They are identified as part of the five year update, and are noted as already approved in the 1986 UMP. These include land acquisition, scheduling of summer programs, annual review and appropriate modification of facilities with respect to established safety standards, and maintenance of the facility. The status of actions in the 1986 UMP is summarized within this UMP in Table 1-1, "Status of 1986 UMP, As Amended, Management Actions."

The facility managers will continue to maintain trails on-site which connect with two trails which lead to the High Peaks Wilderness Complex to the south. No new trails into the wilderness complex are proposed at this time.

The complex itself is proposed to be upgraded in an on-going program designed to improve the convenience of circulation and parking and improve aesthetics by appropriate landscaping and redesigned access to and appearance of the lodges.

The development and scheduling of future off-season events is proposed to be of the type that maintains the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg as a "Day Use Area" as it has been identified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The selection of events is based on the carrying capacity of the site and the use of existing facilities for parking, lounge, cafeteria, first aid, sanitary and gathering areas. Horseback riding and mountain bike trails are currently available in the summer as are wheeled bobsled and luge rides. The biathlon target range is open to the public in the summer. A trolley provides a tour of the bobsled/luge facility. Horse shows, dog sled races, amateur Olympics, festivals and similar events are proposed to be scheduled in future years.

B. Projected Use

The purpose of the proposed management actions is to upgrade the aging trails, lodges and facilities at the Olympic Sports Complex to current recreational and competitive standards in order to consistently attract both competitive (training and racing) and recreational athletes. The goal is to increase use of the facility at least to usage levels seen in the past, and to allow more consistent trail conditions which would allow more consistent use (i.e. training) of the facility by all types of users. With respect to competitive athletes, it is the goal of this UMP to upgrade the facility and attract racers of both international and national teams to both train and race at Mount Van Hoevenberg. This applies to bobsledders, luge athletes, cross-country racers, biathletes, and telemark skiers.

C. Actions Approved in the 1986 UMP/EIS which are a Part of the Foregoing Five-Year Plan

This section discusses those management actions remaining to be implemented from the approved 1986 UMP/EIS which are compatible with and are part of the Five-Year Plan which was described in Section IV.A.

These actions and their related potential environmental impacts and suggested mitigative measures were discussed in detail in the 1986 UMP/EIS and were subject to a thorough SEQR review. Two projects approved subsequent to the 1986 UMP include construction of a ski bridge at a high speed trail intersection located at the "mini-stadium," and maintenance of approximately 23.2 km of cross-country trails. Public notices were issued for these projects, as appropriate. They are considered, therefore, to be approved actions which can be implemented at any time by ORDA and are not subject to reconsideration under the SEQR process. However, where such improvements result in impacts which are cumulative with those discussed in this UMP/DGEIS, such impacts are considered in Section V.

The following components of the foregoing Master Plan Update which were described in Section IV.A. constitute those actions remaining to be implemented and which are still valid from the 1986 UMP/EIS or subsequent approvals. Table 1-1, "Status of 1986 UMP, as Amended, Management Actions," indicates which management actions approved in the amended 1986 UMP are completed, pending construction or are deferred. These are discussed more specifically as follows.

1. Safety Codes and Standards

Annual examination will be made of facilities to review compliance with provisions of New York State's Health Law, ANSI Safety Standards, and the New York State Safety in Skiing Act. Implementation of any changes or modification of facilities as required will be given the highest priority in the managerial processes to assure the health and safety of patrons.

This work is completed as required and will continue as part of the updated UMP.

2. Summer Program

The development and scheduling of future summer events should be of the type that maintains Mount Van Hoevenberg as a "Day Use Area" as it has been identified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The selection and planning events should be based on the adaptability of the site and use of existing facilities. Existing parking lots, lounge, cafeteria, first aid, sanitary and gathering areas would serve day use events.

This program is on-going and will continue as part of the updated UMP. Refer to Section IV. A.1.g. for specific events proposed.

3. Land Acquisition

The acquisition of lands where the temporary ski trail easement is presently located and interior parcels of private land is a high priority to management and the continued operation of skiing events at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Implementation of this action hinges on the willingness of private land owners at some future time to make their lands available to the State. When private lands are offered to the State, two types of ownership may result: fee title and easement. Under the Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972, proposed acquisitions must be budgeted, appraised and scheduled for processing. Fee acquisition cannot exceed the appraised fair market value of a property. To accelerate acquisitions, it is possible to grant certain continued uses to the grantor of the acquired lands for over a period of several years. Thus, a family can continue to utilize their property while the State owns or gains permanent rights to the property.

Provision was made in 1972 by public referendum to acquire lands for addition to the Forest Preserve. Such lands include adjacent and interior parcels which, when acquired, will consolidate State land holdings to reduce boundary line maintenance and enhance public use, administration and management of State holdings.

An Environmental Impact Statement for the State Environmental Quality Bond Program has been filed by the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The interspersing of State and private owned land at Mount Van Hoevenberg necessitated the construction of Nordic and biathlon ski trails on private land without benefit of a long-term assurance that these ski trails will remain. This lack of long-term assurance could effect the scheduling of international events at Mount Van Hoevenberg.

A review of "Land Acquisition Policy Recommendations" prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency and found in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan does not conflict with the proposed action.

4. Maintenance and Operation Level

During the ensuing five-year period, Olympic Regional Development Authority management of Mount Van Hoevenberg shall continue to provide essentially the same level of recreation opportunity and public service as was conducted during the previous fiscal year. The aforementioned operation level is as inventoried in Section II and III of this Unit Management Plan. ORDA will continue to analyze and review facility utilization. This will include, but not be limited to: revenues generated, population served, relationship of utilization to weather patterns, relationship of utilization to marketing efforts and relationship of utilization to facility development.

Continuation of maintenance and operation level will contribute a stabilizing effect on the Olympic region employment, economics, public use and administration.

A gradual decrease of New York State appropriations for the operation of Olympic venues is possible as earned revenues increase. Increased revenues are expected from ORDA marketing efforts.

Cooperation with local government and chambers of commerce to stabilize and strengthen area economics will continue.

5. Rehabilitation and Modernization

The luge finish building, the luge curve 5 building, the bobsled finish road extension, and the biathlon bridge over the access road have been constructed as described in the 1986 UMP. The enclosure of the bobsled deck has been shelved and is being examined in coordination with the design of a new combined bobsled and luge run. Expansion of the cross-country lodge by 640 square feet is no longer proposed as described in the 1986 UMP and is included as a management action in this updated UMP as a new 6,000 square foot building to replace the existing 3,000 +/- square foot structure. This action can only be implemented pending resolution of Constitution Article XIV issues. At that time, project specifics will be provided in a work permit application to the NYS DEC.

6. Maintenance of Grounds and Physical Plant

Maintenance of grounds and physical plant will continue over the next five years. Typical projects include: replacement of cross-country trail dividers, roadway maintenance, maintenance and replacement of security fencing, etc.

Capital projects over the next five years include the need to replace roofs on two buildings, replace the boiler in the sled shed, renovations to the maintenance garage including wiring, lighting and new hydraulic lift, paving near the sled shed in conjunction with paving of portions of the parking lots, and the purchase of two sled trucks, one plow with a wing, one loader, two Pisten Bully 220 snow groomers, one AEBI Territrac tractor, four Bombardier Scandic snowmobiles and six new bobsled pads.

7. Pave Biathlon Trails

The 1986 UMP was amended to allow approximately 4 km of biathlon trails to be paved and included areas in designated Forest Preserve. The proposal to pave trails located partially in Forest Preserve is subject to approval by the New York State Legislature (two consecutive legislative bodies) and the voters of the state as an amendment to the State Constitution. The trail paving project will only be considered when environmental and Article XIV concerns are satisfied and funds are available.

8. Maintain Cross-Country Trails

As noted in Appendix A, "Documents of Record," DEC letters dated February 22, 1995 and July 15, 1998, the maintenance of approximately 50 kilometers of cross-country ski trails has been approved. This improvement is on-going and will continue throughout the duration of the updated UMP.

9. Build Ski Bridge in Mini-Stadium

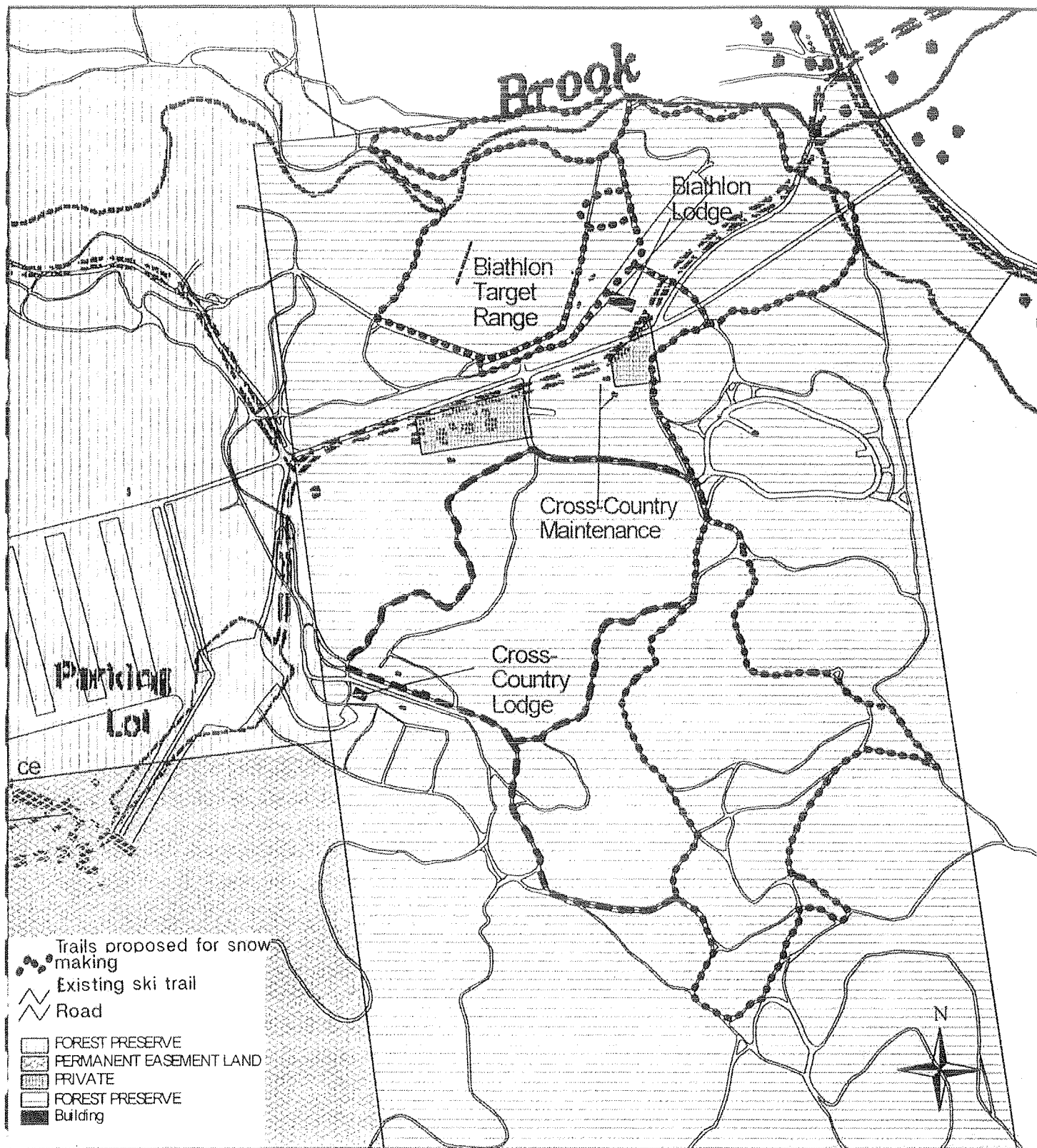
Construction of a ski bridge in the mini-stadium in order to improve safety at a high speed ski trail intersection has been approved by the DEC and is pending. The public notice for this project was published in the DEC Environmental Notice Bulletin on October 26, 1994. Refer to Appendix A for documentation.



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& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA**



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

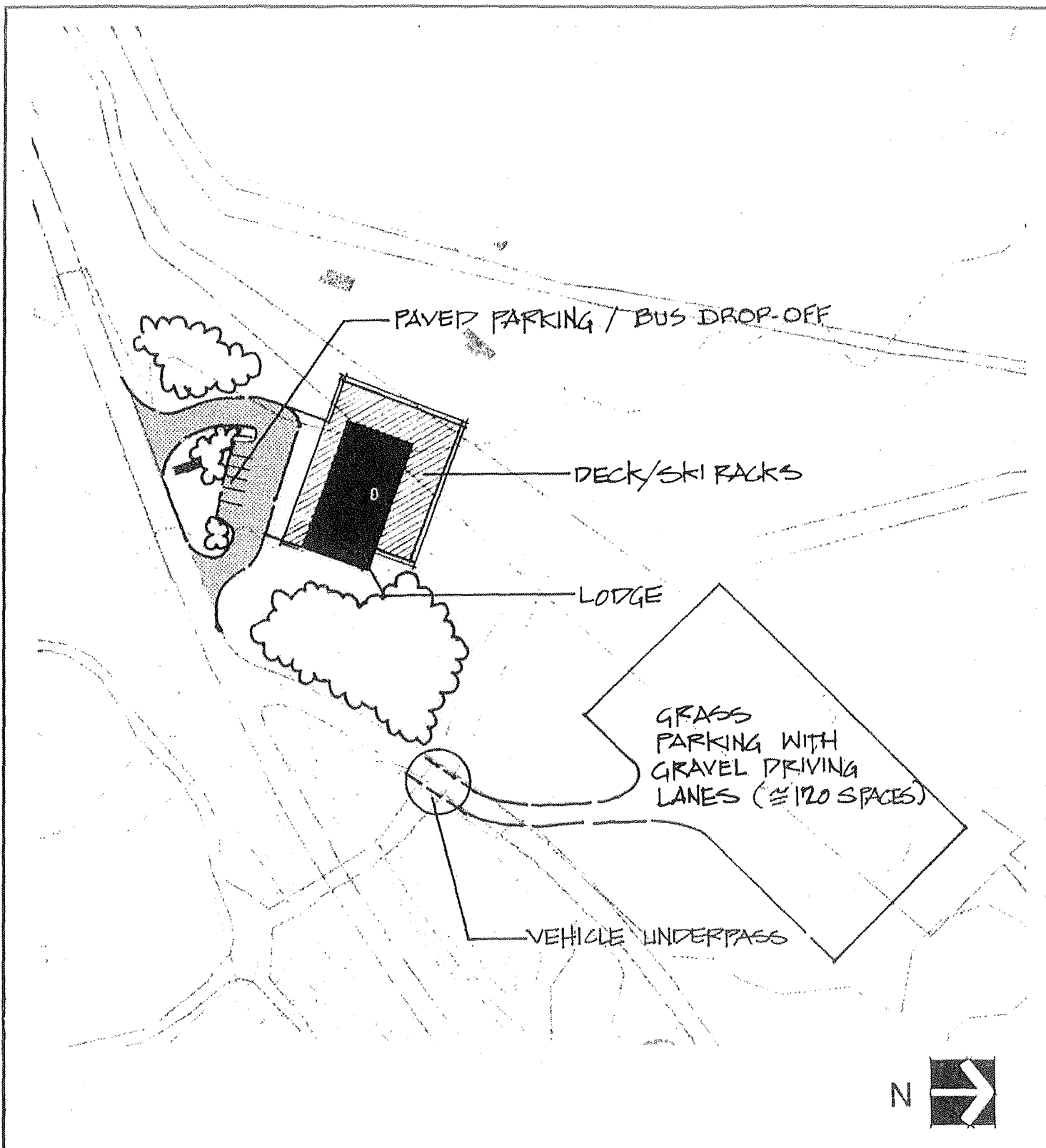
TRAILS FOR SNOWMAKING

© 1996

DATE: 3/8/99

SCALE: 1:7,500

FIGURE NO. 4-2



the LA group

Landscape Architecture
and Engineering, P.C.

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA



**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BIATHLON LODGE PARKING

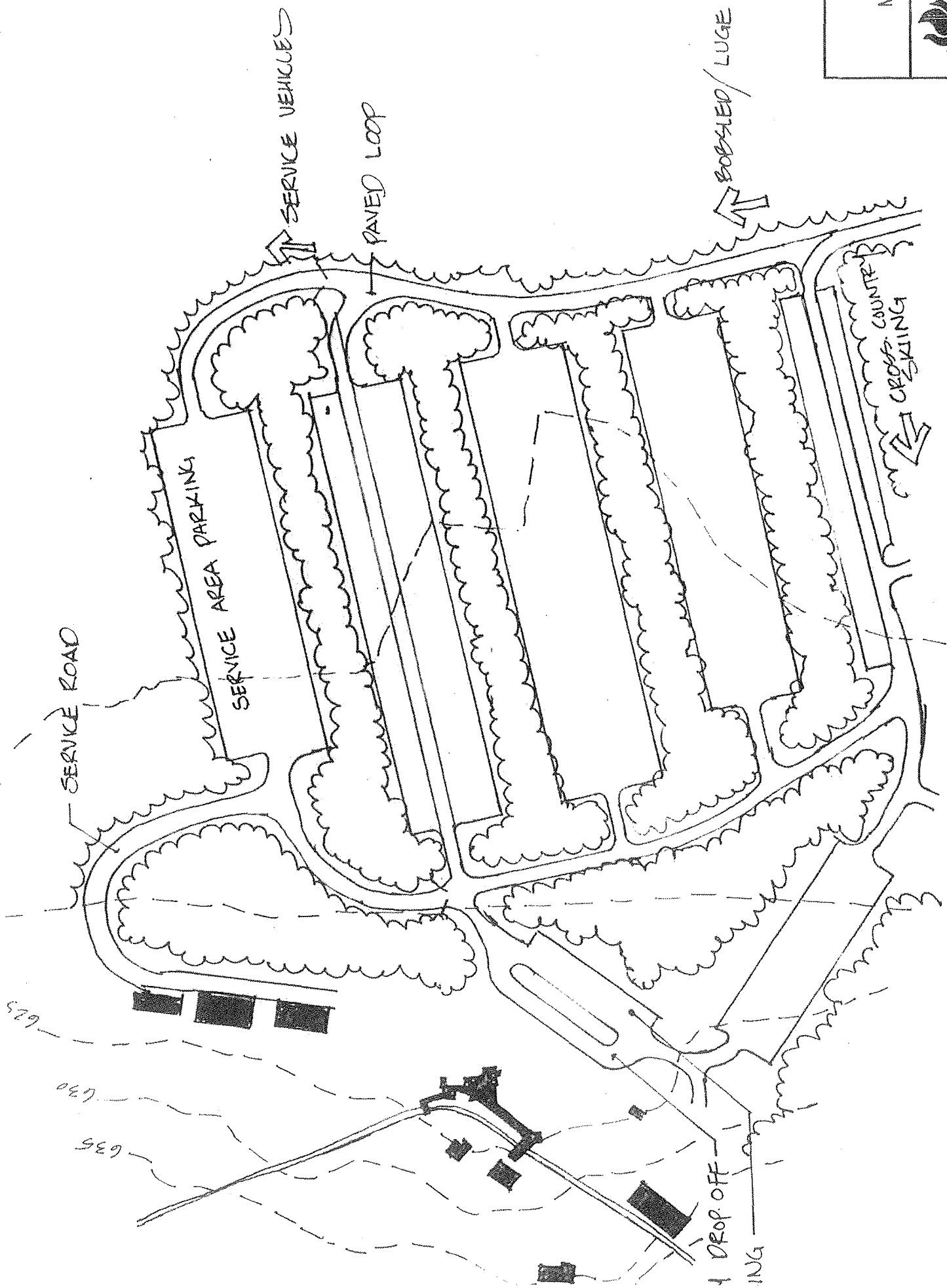
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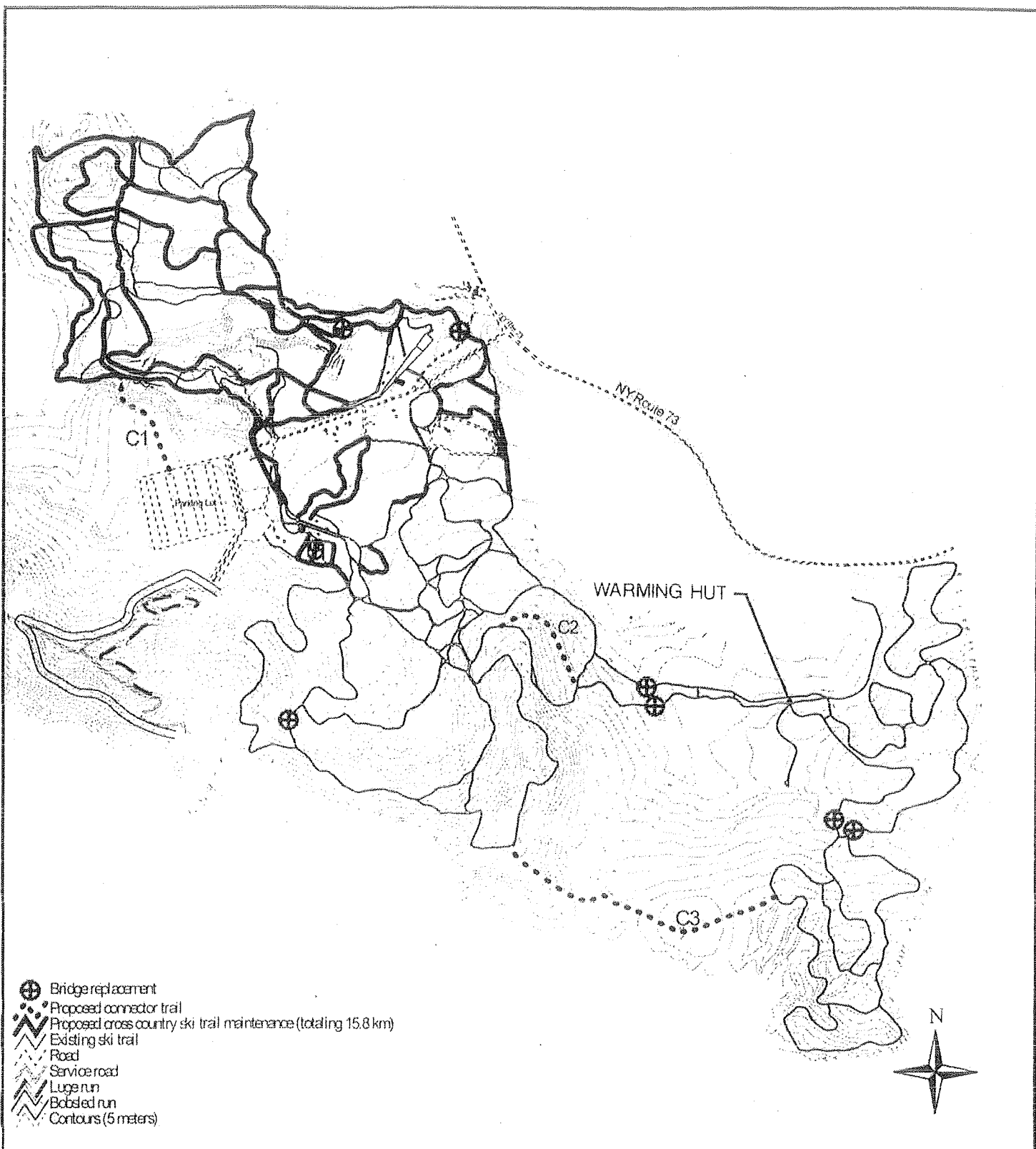
DATE: 3/8/99

SCALE: 1:1,500

FIGURE NO. 4-3







the LA group

Landscape Architecture
and Engineering, P.C.



**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

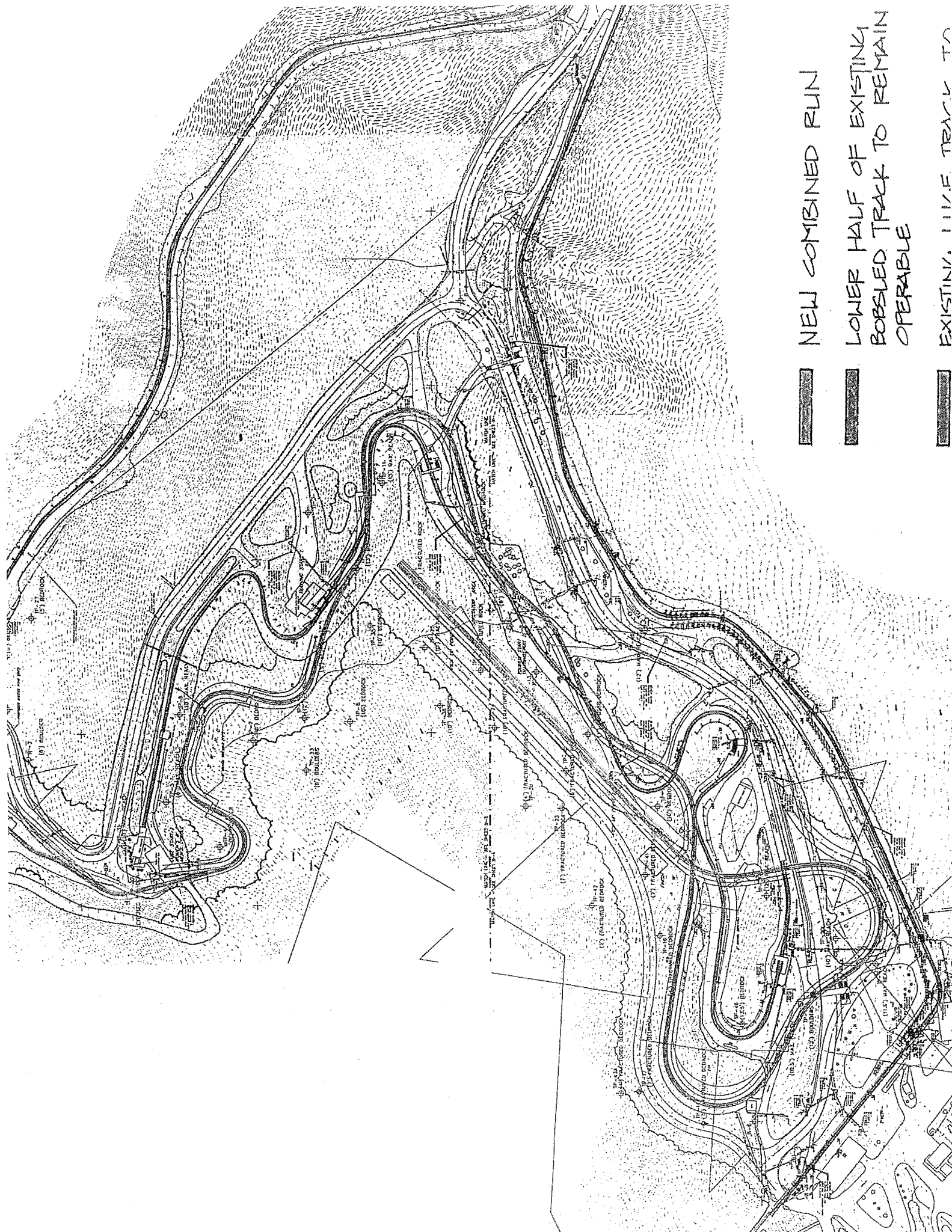
© 1996

DATE: 3/8/99

CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

SCALE: 1:20,000

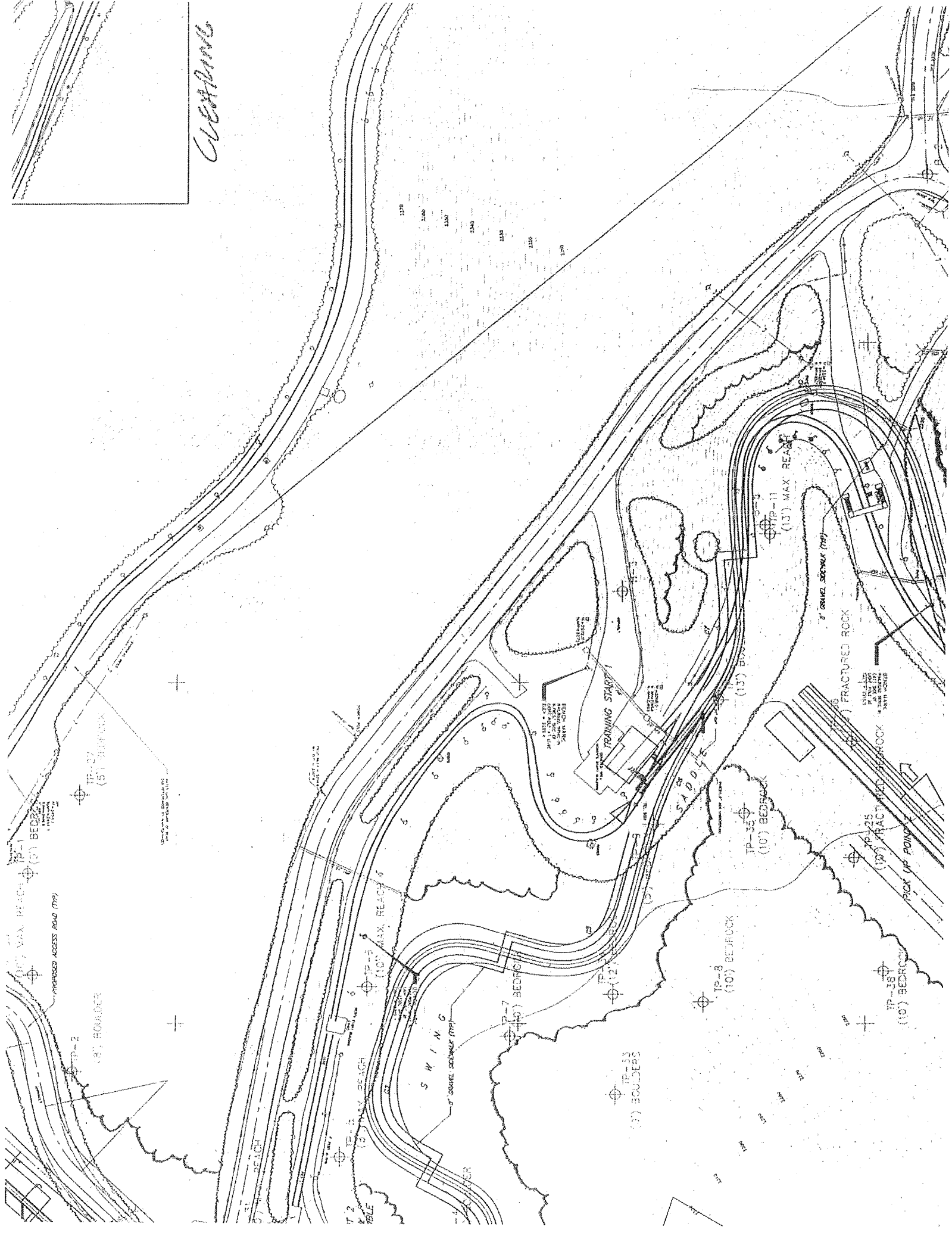
FIGURE NO. 4-6

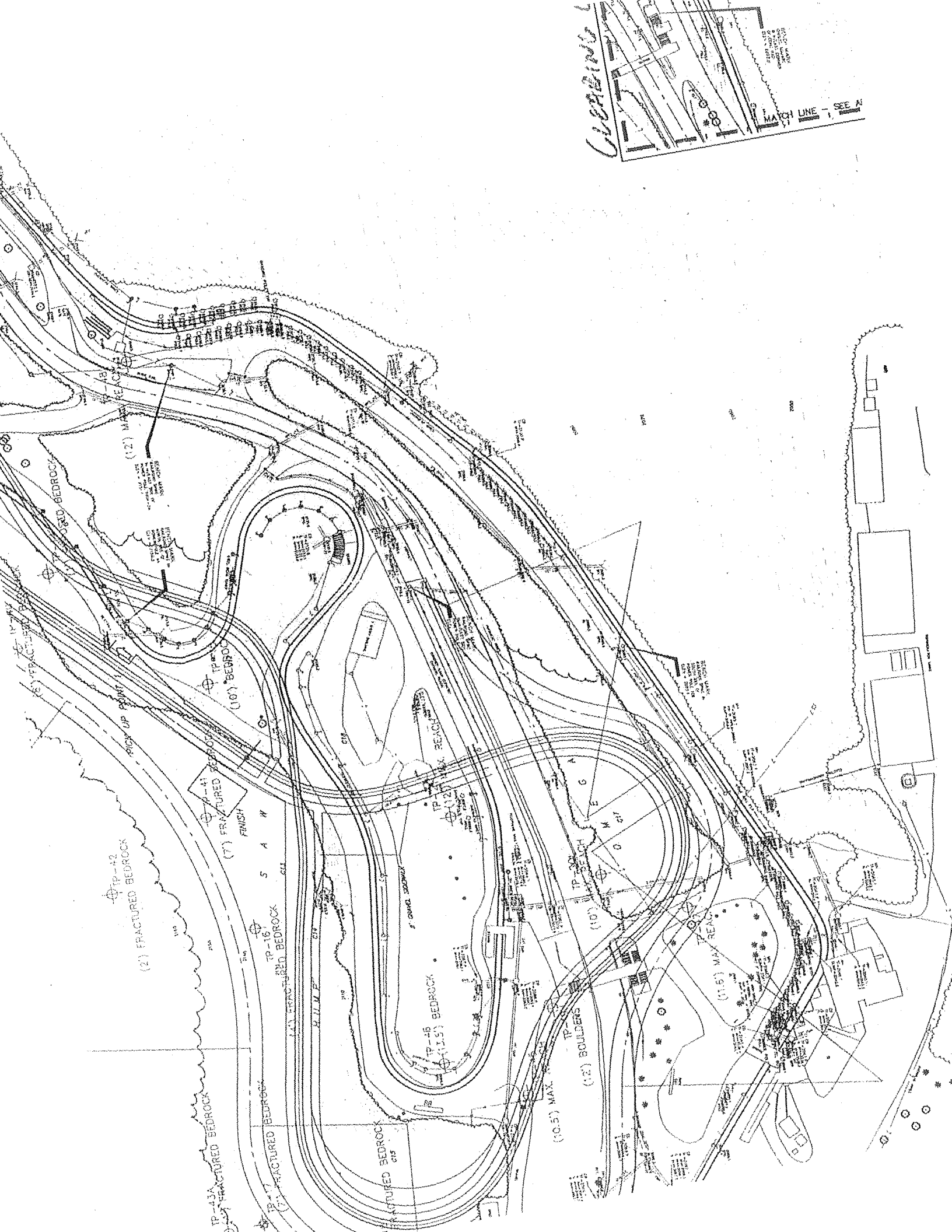


NEW COMBINED RUN

LOWER HALF OF EXISTING
BOBBLED TRACK TO REMAIN
OPERABLE

EXISTING, LIVE TRACK TO





U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
MATCH LINE - SEE A1

TP-42
(2) FRACTURED BEDROCK

TP-43A
(1) FRACTURED BEDROCK

TP-41
(1) FRACTURED BEDROCK

TP-40
(10) BEDROCK

TP-39
(12) MAX BEACH

TP-38
(11.5) BEDROCK

TP-37
(10.5) MAX BEACH

TP-36
(12) Boulders

TP-35
(10) MAX BEACH

TP-34
(11.5) MAX BEACH

MATCH LINE - SEE A1

SECTION V POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This section discusses potential impacts from the proposed management plan actions. Where significant impacts are identified, mitigation measures are proposed.

The evaluation of impacts is divided into those which are site specific. Those which are based on average use and those which are based on peaking characteristics are identified.

Site specific impacts generally relate to natural resource features such as vegetation, soils or visual characteristics. The specific number of trees, soils or viewshed affected is presented for such impacts.

For the most part, the proposed management actions are anticipated to maintain and strengthen attendance at the Complex and allow more consistent use of the facility. Any increase is expected to occur during the off-peak (or summer) season. Horseback riders, mountain bikers, hikers and additional tourists are expected to constitute this increase.

A. Natural Resources

1. Vegetation

a. Impacts

The existing ski trails are proposed to be maintained to current safety and international race course standards and three cross-country connector trails will be established. These are actions that will require the removal of on-site vegetation. The 1998 trail maintenance work was permitted by NYS DEC as noted in the July 15, 1998 work permit, attached in Appendix A.

Additionally, the upgrading of the cross-country stadium area by lengthening the straightaway and relocating the timing building will result in the loss of on-site vegetation, as will creation of a snowmaking reservoir and siting of a pump/compressor storage building.

All vegetative cutting at the Olympic Sports Complex will be performed in compliance with the DEC tree cutting policy. Forest inventory data collected by ORDA employees at the Complex has been used to estimate the magnitude of these impacts in terms of the number of trees to be removed. Appendix J, "Vegetation Impacts," lists the estimated numbers of various species of trees that would be removed in creating new trails, constructing the snowmaking reservoir (including the pump/compressor storage building), upgrading the cross-country stadium and in maintenance of existing trails. These estimates indicate a total of up to 234 trees to be cleared. Table 5-1, "Summary of Vegetation Impacts," summarizes this data.

Connector trail C-1 will be established along an old work road and will not require any cutting of vegetation over 3" dbh. Tree counts required for connector trail C-2 are shown in Table 5-1. Connector trail C-3 will be field located and tree counts will be specified when this trail is delineated.

The potential impacts to existing vegetation from the proposed combined bobsled/luge run are believed to be minimal and consist of limited expansion of the existing clearing as described in Appendix C, "Visual Resource Impact Analysis."

Some cutting of vegetation will be necessary for the new bobsled and luge run. This will be inventoried and will require approval by NYS DEC, in accordance with the MOU concerning tree removals.

Trees lawfully cut can be removed from the premises in any manner deemed feasible by ORDA so long as such method is consistent with the guidelines of the State Land Master Plan, this UMP and Article 8, of the ECL. Virtually all trees which are cut for trail construction and maintenance and other aspects of this proposal will be chipped and used on-site as mulch for erosion control projects.

b. Mitigation Measures

The following measures will be employed to mitigate the potential impacts on vegetation during construction, as noted in the Construction Pollution Prevention Plan provided in Appendix G which will be appended to the SPDES general permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities.

1. Only areas absolutely necessary for maintenance of ski trails and other proposed improvements will be cleared of vegetation. All other areas will be maintained in a natural state.
2. Erosion control measures will be used on cleared areas with disturbed soils to avoid affecting adjacent vegetation by erosion or siltation. Erosion-control devices to be used will include filter fabric fences and staked haybale filters.
3. Upon the completion of clearing of new trails and maintenance of existing corridors, these areas will be seeded with grass mixtures to promote rapid revegetation.
4. To as great an extent as possible, plants used to revegetate disturbed areas and planted as part of landscaping will be species which are indigenous to the region.
5. No clear-cutting of trees to develop panoramic views is proposed. Views will be framed or filtered by existing vegetation.

2. Water and Wetland Resources

a. Impacts

Wetlands

An attempt has been made to avoid on-site wetlands in the planning and design of the proposed improvements to the existing facilities. However, some proposed improvements will affect wetlands which are subject to federal regulations enforced by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and possibly subject to state wetland regulations administered by the Adirondack Park Agency. In the discussion that follows, the potential impacts are described and the regulations applicable to the proposed activities are identified.

This discussion is based on the assumption that Figure 2-3, "Surface Waters and Wetland Resources," accurately depicts the wetlands regulated by state and federal agencies. Representatives of the regulatory agencies have visited the site to observe some of the wetlands where proposed work will take place and to determine the extent of their jurisdiction.

Federal Wetland Regulations

All the necessary improvements are under authorization of three of the general permits administered by the ACOE which are known as "nationwide permits." To some extent, the federal regulations applicable to this project are dependent on whether the wetlands are "in the headwaters" or "below the headwaters" of the stream with which they are associated. The headwaters of a stream are defined as that portion of the stream which has an average annual flow of less than 5 cubic feet per second. Calculations based on the area of this watershed and average annual runoff of streams in this region (Krug et al., 1990) indicate that the headwaters point of North Meadow Brook (i.e., the point at which the average annual runoff is 5 cfs) lies at or slightly upstream from the place where the Olympic Sports Complex entry road, NY Route 913Q, crosses the stream.

Some filling of wetlands may also be involved in the replacement of the thirteen wooden bridges that carry cross-country ski trails over streams. Five of the bridges are over parts of North Meadow Brook which lie below the headwaters. The remaining bridges cross upstream portions of North Meadow Brook and a few of its small tributaries. The existing bridges have wooden decks approximately 14 feet wide and will be replaced with wooden decks 18 feet wide.

The replacement bridges will be in the same locations as the existing bridges and will result in only a few square feet of new disturbance to the riparian wetlands of the streams as a result of the installation of new wing walls. In all of these locations, the streams have relatively steep-sided banks and narrow wetland fringes only a few feet wide. All of the bridges date from 1969, when the cross-country ski trail system was constructed, or from 1973, when the biathlon trails were constructed. Since they were constructed before July 1, 1977, the date when regulations covering discharges into all

waters of the United States, including wetlands, went into effect, these bridges are considered to be previously authorized, currently serviceable structures. Therefore, all work involved in the bridge replacements can be accomplished under federal nationwide permit no. 3, which covers such replacements. No predischARGE notification will be necessary for this portion of the project.

In a few places, the maintenance of ski trails will require removal of some trees within wetlands. The trees will be cut by hand and a grinder will be used to take stumps down to ground level; this will not constitute a fill. In some places, it may be necessary to deposit some fill to maintain an even surface on the ski trail. Such filling will affect regulated wetlands in only a few places. The wetlands in question are headwaters wetlands, and the total area affected will be less than 5000 square feet. Therefore, this work will be carried out under authorization from nationwide permit no. 26, and a pre-discharge notification will not be necessary for this part of the project. If filling is minimized, with minimal conversion of wetlands to upland, it may be possible to accomplish the work under authorization of nationwide permit no. 3.

For the most part, the three new connector trails will have little interaction with regulated wetlands. The trail which will run for 3600 feet between two existing trails in the southeastern part of the site will follow the top of a ridge on which there are several small pocket wetlands. This is designated as connector trail C-3 on Figure 4-6, "Cross-Country Trail Improvements." The exact route of the trail has not been chosen, but the trail will be laid out so as to avoid all wetland areas to the extent practical. To ensure this, an experienced wetland delineator will be part of the process of selecting the route in the field.

Dr. Richard P. Futyma of the LA Group, P.C. met with Kim Copenhaver of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Regulatory Branch on the Mount Van Hoevenberg site on July 23, 1996. The biathlon course area along North Meadow Brook was examined. The wetland that the LA Group, P.C. had delineated in the vicinity of an area known as "the hole", where trail maintenance is proposed, was examined and the ACOE representative was asked to determine whether it qualified as a wetland adjacent to the stream, which is below the headwaters in that section. The ACOE representative decided that there is little opportunity for interchange of water from the stream to the wetland, and therefore, it is non-adjacent. This means that addition of fill to that wetland can be accomplished without a predischARGE notification.

Two of the bridges over North Meadow Brook that are to be replaced were also examined and the ACOE representative saw no problem with using Nationwide Permit no. 3 (NWP 3) to authorize the work. The trail adjacent to North Meadow Brook, a short distance west of "the hole," was also walked. A small wetland swale crossing the trail was found; the ACOE representative examined this and decided that it also is non-adjacent.

In looking at the vicinity of "the hole," it was noticed that there has been some erosion and slumping of the banks of North Meadow Brook. It will need some remediation. The ACOE representative suggested that instead of using rock rip-rap, a rock crib

structure would be a more permanent solution. This work will be done under Nationwide Permit no. 13, which authorizes bank stabilization activities, and will not require a predischARGE notification.

After seeing this part of the proposed trail system work, the ACOE representative said that she had a good idea of what is proposed with regards to bridge repairs and trail widening, and there was no reason to look at any other parts of the trail system. The ACOE representative said that all of the work involving trail widening and bridge replacement could be done under NWP 3 for "repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable structure or fill," provided that the fill in any wetland crossed by the trail is kept to a minimum.

Renovation of the bobsled and luge runs will not affect any regulated wetlands.

All proposed activities which will affect wetlands are authorized under nationwide permits 3, 13, and 26, and will not require a predischARGE notification. In performing the proposed work, ORDA will comply with the general conditions for nationwide permits.

State Wetland Regulations

Under New York state regulations (9NYCRR Part 578), some of the proposed activities which affect federal wetlands could potentially require a permit issued by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). It will first be necessary for APA personnel to determine if any of the activities will take place within state-regulated wetlands.

According to the state wetland map for this area, it appears that maintenance of the ski trails in some places adjacent to North Meadow Brook, as well as in one trail segment on the northeastern slope of Mount Van Hoevenberg, may take place within areas considered to be state-regulated wetlands. Also, the new connector trail in the southeastern part of the site will be situated in the vicinity of a few wetland pockets, which may be regulated by the state.

In some cases, the replacement of ski trail bridges over streams could potentially take place within state-regulated wetlands. However, in a preliminary examination on April 24, 1996 of the bridges over the section of North Meadow Brook downstream of the entrance road, Judy Ross, a wetland biologist with the APA, indicated that they do not lie within regulated wetlands. Nonetheless, disturbance of the stream banks during replacement of the bridges is an activity subject to state regulations for use and protection of waters (6 NYCRR Part 608), which are administered by the DEC. In the case of the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg, submission of a stream disturbance permit application will not be required, but instead, such activities will be subject to review by NYSDEC as outlined in the ORDA-DEC Memorandum of Understanding, provided in Appendix E of this document. Refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Records," for a June 5, 1996 letter from Richard A. Wild, NYSDEC, to Holly E. Elmer of the LA Group, P.C., indicating the above.

These proposed changes to the trail system involve deposition of fill, grading, clearcutting of trees, and erection of structures within wetlands, all of which are regulated activities, and for which a permit from the APA may be required. Criteria for determining whether a permit should be issued depend on the value rating of the wetland in question. It appears that these wetlands will be assigned value ratings of 2 or lower (i.e., 3 or 4). Therefore, the most stringent criteria for permit issuance applicable to this project are the following (9NYCRR §578.10(2)): "the proposed activity (i) would result in minimal degradation or destruction of the wetland or its associated values; and (ii) is the only alternative which reasonably can accomplish the applicant's objectives; or (iii) alternatively to subparagraph (ii), is the only alternative which provides an essential public benefit."

The trail maintenance activities and bridge replacements both meet the first criterion for minimal degradation because they involve upgrading trail facilities which already exist. In any one place, the trail maintenance activities will affect only a small amount of wetland. Also, in light of the need to maintain the trails and widen bridges to meet FIS and IBU standards for competition courses, the specific changes proposed are the only alternatives which can accomplish the applicant's objectives.

The proposed connector trails will be routed so as to avoid passing through state-regulated wetlands. However, it may be necessary to route some trail sections through the 100-foot-wide adjacent area of one or several wetlands. In such a case, the wetland itself will not be substantially affected and a permit will not be required.

Intermittent and permanent drainageways will be crossed by the proposed path for the combined bobsled/luge run and some areas where additional cross-country trails are proposed. Existing trees and shrubs will be removed and replaced with grasses. Impacts to water resources as a result of this tree clearing will be temporary and will be minimized by sediment and erosion control measures. If necessary, culverts will be placed in drainageways crossed by the combined bobsled/luge run and the cross-country trails in order to keep the trails from flooding during times of runoff.

Snowmaking

A reservoir with a capacity of approximately 8 million gallons will be constructed to store water for snowmaking. Reservoir sizing calculations are provided in Appendix I, "Snowmaking-General Information". This reservoir will be located so as to be convenient to the snowmaking system while avoiding regulated wetlands. The reservoir will be recharged with surface water withdrawn at the existing pump house on North Meadow Brook. Site-specific pond construction plans will be prepared and reviewed as appropriate at a later date and will include all mitigation measures to be taken to protect soil and surface water resources.

The withdrawal of surface water from North Meadow Brook to recharge the snowmaking reservoir will be in addition to the existing practice of withdrawing water from the brook to ice the bobsled and luge runs. Snowmaking reservoir recharge from

the brook could occur at a maximum rate of approximately 500 gpm, or approximately 1.1 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The new proposed surface water withdrawal for snowmaking replaces the existing withdrawal for snowmaking which currently occurs at a rate of 100 gpm for an average of approximately 400 hours per season. Snowmaking has occurred at the Complex since the 1980 Olympic Games.

It should be noted that the updated snowmaking proposal will be more efficient than the existing method because snow will be made on the trails and will be less subject to windthrow than the current practice of making snow in an open field. Likewise, because snow will be made on the trails there will be less snow lost to grooming activity as compared to the current practice of moving snow from a pile in an open field and spreading it on the ski trails.

The calculated minimum average daily flow at the pumphouse on North Meadow Brook projected to occur over a seven day period with a two year return interval (MAD 7/2) is 1.8 cfs. This calculation is based on USGS gage data from the station located immediately downstream of the Olympic Sports Complex on the West Branch of the Ausable River, in proportion to the watersheds of the gage station and the pumphouse on the site. The pumphouse watershed consists of 2934.23 acres or 4.58 square miles, and the watershed of the gage station (#04274000, per Eissler) is 116 square miles. The calculated minimum average daily flow at the gage station on the West Branch of the Ausable River projected to occur over a seven day period with a two year return interval (MAD 7/2) is 46 cubic feet per second (cfs), based on 48 years of data collected at this full-time gaging station.

The proportion is expressed as:

$$\frac{116}{46} = \frac{4.6}{x} \text{ and } x = 1.8 \text{ cfs, the MAD 7/2 at the pumphouse.}$$

The proposed withdrawal will occur primarily in November and December as ski trails are prepared for the season. After this, snow is made as needed to patch specific trail sections. In the event of a mid-winter thaw, the volume of water withdrawn from the brook which is normally confined to November and December (1.1 cfs) will occur in order to provide trail coverage.

Withdrawal of water from the brook is proposed to cease when the brook flow is reduced to the MAD 7/2 low flow of 1.8 cfs. This can be accomplished by setting the snowmaking water intake invert at the water level representative of a flow rate of 1.8 cfs. Since this will allow optimum stream flow conditions to be maintained, no long-term significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

Gordon et. al., 1992, cite a technique of estimating recommended values for stream base flow which is based on Tennant, 1976, in which recommended minimum flows are

based on percentages of the average annual flow, with different percentages for winter and summer months, as noted in the following table (after Tennant, 1976).

Instream flow recommendations for fish, wildlife, recreation and related environmental resources by the Tennant method.

Description of flows	Recommended base flow regimes	
	October - March	April - September ^a
Flushing or maximum	200% of the average flow	
Optimum range	60-100% of the average flow	
Outstanding	40%	60%
Excellent	30%	50%
Good	20%	40%
Fair or degrading	10%	30%
Poor or minimum	10%	10%
Severe degradation	10% of the average flow to zero flow	

^a The seasons would be reversed for Southern Hemisphere streams.

The average annual flow of North Meadow Brook is 8.4 cfs, as noted on the table of discharge data provided in Appendix I, "Snowmaking - General Information." The proposed withdrawal of 500 gpm or 1.1 cfs represents 13% of the annual average flow, indicating that 87% of the stream base flow is maintained, which is within the optimum conditions range.

Experts in this field recommend that mean monthly data also be examined.

Withdrawing surface water at a rate of 500 gpm from North Meadow Brook maintains monthly flows as follows.

Month	Maintains % of Average Flow
Oct	82.9%
Nov	85.9%
Dec	82.5%
Jan	78.7%
Feb	73.6%
Mar	88.2%

The MAD 7/2 value of 1.8 cfs would maintain 78.6% of the average annual flow of the brook. These values all fall within the optimum range for the base flow recommended for fish, wildlife and related environmental resources.

The NYSDEC Fish Management unit has reviewed the proposal to increase the rate of use of the flow in the brook for snowmaking and agrees with the identified low flow threshold and supports constructing a storage reservoir for snowmaking water. Refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Record," for a July 24, 1996 letter from Bill Schoch, NYSDEC, to Holly E. Elmer of the LA Group, P.C. The site specific snowmaking

proposal plans to be submitted to DEC for review will include modifications to the existing weir to increase accuracy of stream flows near the threshold value, and formation of an auxiliary spillway by application of a non-erodible material to low portions of the pump station access road, as recommended by the DEC. Specifications for the pump needed to deliver water to the snowmaking reservoir, for reservoir design, for pumps to transmit water to the trails, for the transmission line sizes and materials, and other details specific to the compressor/pump building will also be provided at that time. In the event that the trail sited snowmaking proposal is deferred until a later date, plans for formation of the auxiliary spillway will still be submitted to the DEC as part of Phase I of the updated work plan.

None of the activities proposed for the Olympic Sports Complex have been located on areas that overlay potential aquifer areas. No changes to or impacts on groundwater flow or quality are anticipated.

Stormwater

With regard to stormwater management, there are four existing subcatchment areas on the site, as shown on Figure 5-1, "Subcatchment Areas." All of the management actions proposed in this UMP and all pending ski trail maintenance will occur in two subcatchment areas, map areas SC-1 and SC-3 as shown on Figure 5-2, "Subcatchment Area Covertypes Change." The amount of impervious area on the site will increase due to proposed paving of two key parking lots at the Complex (a total of 180,000± square feet of pavement). Trail maintenance on approximately 15.8 km of ski trails will reduce the amount of mature vegetation immediately adjacent to the trails, as will maintenance pending on 23.2 km of ski trails approved as an amendment to the 1986 UMP.

A conceptual level stormwater analysis has been completed and Appendix K, "Conceptual Stormwater Analysis Calculations," contains the covertypes acreages for the existing and proposed condition for the two pertinent subcatchments. A calculation of the proposed change in the rate of stormwater runoff due to the change in amount and type of coverage (i.e., grass versus impervious surface) known as the weighted runoff coefficient or "weighted C" has been completed and calculations are provided in Appendix K.

The weighted C calculations show that the existing weighted C in subcatchment 1 is .735 and will change to .736 in the developed condition. The existing weighted C in subcatchment 3 is .730 and remains the same in the developed condition. Therefore, the rate of runoff will not increase to any significant level and there will be no impact on surface water and soil resources from increased runoff rates.

b. Mitigation Measures

Stormwater runoff generated by proposed management actions will be managed at its source. Check swales will be sited as necessary adjacent to trails to slow down sheet flow and allow precipitation to enter the soil regime.

Stormwater runoff from the parking areas proposed to be paved (areas located adjacent to the existing cross-country lodge, biathlon lodge and bobrun ticket booth) and access road will be directed to the vegetated buffer areas adjacent to these areas. A salt/ sand mixture will be used in parking lot travel lanes only.

Refer to Appendix G, "Construction Pollution Prevention Plan," which will be appended to the stormwater SPDES registration notice of intent to construct required for all work which is proposed on areas of 5 acres or more in size in New York State.

The following measures are among those to be employed to mitigate the potential impacts on streams and wetlands during construction of the improvements and operation of the Olympic Sports Complex.

1. Filter fabric fences and haybale dikes will be installed in places where trail work borders wetlands and streams.
2. Soils disturbed by trail work will be mulched and seeded with grasses as soon as practicable in order to minimize the potential for erosion.
3. As recommended by Bill Schoch of the NYSDEC (refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Records," letter dated July 24, 1996), the weir crest at the existing brook pump station will be kept clear of debris and ice in order to minimize withdrawals of stream flows of less than the identified threshold. During the water withdrawals a minimum of one inspection and cleaning during each eight hour work shift will occur. Cleanings will be more frequent if accumulation is rapid.

3. Soils and Geology

a. Impacts

Impacts to soils associated with the proposed improvements are most likely to occur in areas of construction of the three new cross-country connector trails and maintenance of existing trails.

Clearing and grading for cross-country trail work and for the snowmaking water and air pipelines and power cable will increase the potential for soil erosion in these areas.

All of these activities may result in exposure of soils, which will then be susceptible to erosion.

There is a potential need for blasting of bedrock or large boulders during maintenance of cross-country and biathlon ski trails. This will only affect a few scattered locations of ski trails and will be a short-term impact.

The geology of the site will be unaffected by the proposed development of the new combined bobsled and luge. The disturbance of bedrock or surface deposits will be localized and will not create impacts beyond the individual construction sites. Disturbance of soil will be minor.

b. Mitigation Measures

The following measures will be employed to mitigate the potential impacts on soils during construction.

1. Erosion control measures such as filter fabric fences, erosion-control blankets, and staked haybale filters will be used downslope from all areas where soils will be disturbed by excavation, grading, or deposition of fill. Construction plans will clearly indicate the places where erosion control devices will be used.
2. In order to minimize soil disturbance during vegetation clearing, tree stumps will not be pulled from the soil, but rather will be ground down to the level of the surface of the soil with chain saws or other machinery. Where necessary to prevent resprouting of hardwood tree stumps on upland sites, the stumps will be treated with the herbicide Chopper (Imazapyr). A more preferable treatment in uplands, and the only treatment to be used on stumps in wetland areas, will be to check the stumps regularly during the first growing season after cutting, and to remove any stump sprouts. In subsequent years, the stumps will be checked at the end of the growing season and stump sprouts will be removed.
3. As soon as practicable, disturbed soils which are to be restored to a vegetated state will be mulched and seeded with grasses, or planted with groundcover plants or other landscape plants.
4. Refer to Appendix G, "Construction Pollution Prevention Plan," for the comprehensive pollution prevention plan to be appended to the stormwater discharge SPDES notice of intent to construct.
5. The mitigation measures proposed for blasting include the following:
 - Residents within a one-half mile radius of the site will be notified in advance of blasting events, if requested. The applicant will formally contact nearby residents to ensure all persons requesting notification are identified.
 - Blasting will occur between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only.
 - All blasting will be conducted by a qualified licensed blaster pursuant to the applicable requirements of the State of New York and federal governments.

- Blasting will not occur during adverse weather conditions such as high winds unless a loaded charge must be detonated before the end of the day.
- Shots will be designed to minimize ground vibration and air blast.

4. Visual Resources

a. Impacts

The potential impacts on Visual Resources and the measures identified to mitigate these are discussed in Appendix C, "Visual Resource Impact Analysis." The decision was made to include the entire Visual Assessment study in one section in this DEIS in order to provide a comprehensive analysis in a single location.

5. Fish and Wildlife

a. Impacts

Construction of new cross-country connector trails and maintenance of existing trails will involve the removal of forest communities and the subsequent establishment of herbaceous vegetation communities. Where new trails are created, localized habitat fragmentation and the creation of habitat edge will occur. In areas where existing trails are proposed to be maintained there will be a slight shift in the abundance of forest habitat to grass habitat. Fish populations in neither North Meadow Brook nor any other surface water will be affected by the proposed project.

As proposed, improvements to the Olympic Sports Complex will not result in any impact to the existing deer wintering area.

No rare, threatened or endangered species will be impacted by the proposed action, nor will any unique habitats be affected.

b. Mitigation Measures

1. Large state owned land holdings adjacent to the project site contain similar vegetation types that could be utilized by any displaced wildlife.
2. Woodland clearing associated with this project will create an additional habitat in the form of forest edge areas. This type of habitat is used by numerous small birds and mammals.
3. Existing vegetative cover will not be significantly removed and will assist in reducing the rate of runoff and prevent erosion.
4. As previously discussed in Section V.A.2, "Water and Wetland Resources", withdrawal of water from the on-site stream will cease when the flow is reduced to the low flow (projected to occur over a seven day period with a two year

return interval) of 1.8 cfs. This is the natural stream flow to maintain optimum conditions in the channel and no long-term significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

5. During construction all sediment and erosion control measures will be installed and maintained at streamside or adjacent to wetland areas to minimize the potential for impacts from sediment and erosion during construction.
6. Adherence to the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (Appendix F) and the Construction Pollution Prevention Plan (Appendix G) will protect the surface water from potential impacts associated with the UMP management actions and operation of the facility.

6. Air Quality

a. Impacts

The impact of potential pollutant emissions should be low as the ambient concentrations are very low. Fugitive dust may be produced during certain construction and maintenance activities at the facility. Normal construction practices will keep the amount of dust generated to a minimum.

Refrigeration of the bobsled and luge runs includes the use of ammonia. Ammonia is a colorless gas and is readily detected by its sharp, irritating and suffocating odor. If pure ammonia is breathed, it is very toxic; but, when greatly diluted with air, it appears to have no serious effects. The refrigeration system is under constant surveillance and monitoring.

The liquid ammonia storage tanks will be required to have secondary containment. If ammonia is released from the storage tanks, or from associated equipment within the pumphouse, the liquid ammonia would volatilize almost immediately. In order to contain an ammonia release within the proposed storage building the following would more than likely be required; electrical power to the building will be shut off, the ventilation system for the building should be shut off with all louvers closed, and all the doors within the building should be securely shut and sealed. It is recommended that the electrical power and ventilation system be automatically shut off.

A means of detecting a release would also be required (i.e. ammonia sensor). Since release of the ammonia to the atmosphere is not a viable option, the spill would have to be treated pursuant to NYSDEC standards. One alternative is the installation of ammonia detection equipment. The detection equipment could be automatically wired to an air treatment system such as a scrubber or a combination scrubber/packed tower. Scrubbing involves exhausting the contaminated air through a scrubbing liquid, either a dilute acid or water. The scrubbing liquid captures the ammonia gas and discharges the scrubbing liquid/captured gas combination for proper disposal. A packed tower involves exhausting the contaminated air through a granular or fibrous collection material. The ammonia gas is captured on the collection material, and cleaned air is

discharged to the atmosphere. No matter what method is chosen, a NYSDEC air permit would be required. These measures should be included in the design of the ammonia storage building and will be included in an amendment to the UMP for the combined track project.

Electric snowguns will be used for snowmaking and will not have an impact on air quality.

b. Mitigation Measures

The following measures will be implemented to mitigate any potential impacts on the atmospheric resources at the site or environs:

1. A large portion of the site will be maintained in the natural vegetative state and will reduce the incidence of fugitive dust.
2. All equipment operating on the site will be maintained in proper order to ensure efficiency and a reduced level of emissions.
3. Constant monitoring of the refrigeration system of the bobsled and luge run will identify problems that could result in ammonia leakage.
4. The construction of the ammonia leak detection system and monitoring practices limit the potential for ammonia leakage. Upgrades to the refrigeration system will include a greater level of automation and vastly improved monitoring equipment.
5. The Ammonia Spill Plan (Appendix H), will be maintained at the site and will be updated as necessary. Appendix H will be updated to reflect the ammonia spill control strategy selected by ORDA for the site specific design of the combined bobsled/luge run and will be included in the amendment to the UMP for this project.
6. All staff working with the refrigeration unit will be trained to deal with leakage events and will follow the details of the Ammonia Spill Plan.
7. An air treatment system consisting of a scrubber or a combination scrubber/ packed tower as described above will be installed so as to be automatically wired into the ammonia leak detection equipment. The air treatment system will be installed at the time of the construction of the combined bobsled/ luge run. In the event that construction of the combined track is deferred, the air treatment system will be constructed as a site specific project serving the existing operating ammonia plant.

7. Noise

a. Impacts

The only proposed management action which has the potential to impact noise levels is snowmaking for cross-country ski trails. Made snow is spread on the trails and trails are typically groomed at night to avoid inconveniencing or compromising the safety of skiers.

The snowmaking schedule is weather dependent but typically is as follows. Early in the season, around mid-November, snow is made 24 hours a day for about two weeks in order to cover the trails. After this, snow is then usually made during the day, usually late afternoon, as needed to patch the trails. Trail grooming would occur only at night as noted above. Usually no snow is made after the end of February, as the ski trail use typically ends in March. In the event of a mid-winter thaw, the snowmaking schedule would be increased temporarily to recover the trails as needed.

Because the snowguns on the ski trails in the woods will replace the existing snowgun in the open field, the distance from this source of noise to the nearest receptors is altered as indicated below.

Relative to the nearest trail proposed for snowmaking, the Mount Van Hoevenberg Bed and Breakfast inn will be $395 \pm$ feet away instead of 660 feet, the South Meadow Farm Bed and Breakfast inn will be $855 \pm$ feet away instead of 1,150 feet, Whispering Pines Campground will be 1,066 feet away instead of 1,400 feet, the residences on the north side of NY Route 73 will be 427 and 985 feet away instead of 575 and 1,230 feet, respectively, and the only year-round dwelling on the Complex access road will be $395 \pm$ feet away instead of 1,970 feet. As noted in Section II. A.4., Inventory of Existing Resources, Noise, the inns obtain business from recreational skiers who enjoy the ski trail conditions at the Olympic Sports Complex. Some of the private residences are occupied by ORDA employees, and the campground is open only when snowmaking will not occur. The Complex in the past has not received a significant number of complaints about noise and, due to the fact that snowmaking will now occur in dense woods via a number of smaller snowguns instead of in an open field with one large snowgun, it is not anticipated that noise levels will increase significantly as a result of development of the proposal to make snow on trails.

The snow guns will be positioned in isolated clearings, sited to minimize tree cutting and still allow snow to be made. Snow will not be made on an open slope as currently occurs; sound will be dampened by the woods. The sound will be intermittent in a few isolated pockets only in winter time, when local residents are generally inside their homes, and the sound is sporadic depending on wind direction. Snowmaking and grooming will occur on trails where grooming presently occurs so the proposal is not introducing noise into an area previously unaffected. Due to these and the above outlined factors, it is anticipated that the proposal will not result in a significant adverse impact.

There is a potential need for blasting during demolition of the existing luge run and during maintenance of the cross-country and biathlon trails. If required, this would be a short-term impact only.

b. Mitigation Measures

The potential for noise impacts from blasting will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable by implementing the following mitigation measures:

- Residents within a one-half mile radius of the site will be notified in advance of blasting events, if requested. The applicant will formally contact nearby residents to ensure all persons requesting notification are identified.
- Blasting will occur between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only.
- All blasting will be conducted by a qualified licensed blaster pursuant to the applicable requirements of the State of New York and federal governments.
- Blasting will not occur during adverse weather conditions such as high winds unless a loaded charge must be detonated before the end of the day.
- Shots will be designed to minimize ground vibration and air blast.

B. Human Resources

1. Transportation

a. Impacts

The proposed improvements and expansion of the existing facilities at the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg will generate minimal additional traffic to the area. The proposed trail maintenance and proposed new connector trails are proposed to make the recreation facility more acceptable to the new techniques of the sport and to meet the international standards for cross country ski trails. Recreational skiers and athletes will enjoy safer trails and more comfortable site amenities. It is expected that these changes will allow more consistent use of the facility and will not draw a significant number of new skiers.

The expansion of the off-peak season use of this facility will result in a slight increase in traffic to the area as tourists come to enjoy the bobsled/luge rides and recreators and athletes in training utilize the facilities. These numbers are expected to remain minimal and will be spread throughout the daylight hours. The increase generated by the additional use of this area will be readily absorbed by the current roadway system.

The accident data for the intersection of the access road and NY Route 73 does not indicate the presence of any problems which could be exacerbated by increased use of the Olympic Sports Complex.

b. Mitigation Measures

Since no significant traffic impacts are proposed to be generated by this project no mitigative measures are proposed.

2. Community Services and Utilities

a. Impacts

The New York State Police provides services for the Olympic Sports Complex and has stated that the maintenance and the proposed expansion of the existing facilities would have little or no impact on the existing level of service or the response time for individual calls. If an increase in staffing were warranted, changes would be made to reorganize or increase staff levels.

The implementation of the proposed UMP would have no impact on the provisions of fire protection services to the area. The proposed lodge additions will be designed and constructed to be in compliance with the State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Requirements.

The proposed UMP, upon completion, has the potential to increase the number of year-round visitors to the facilities and therefore may lead to an increased demand for emergency medical services. This increase will be minimal and will result in no impact on the level of service or care currently provided. With the expansion of off-peak season uses it is expected that more individuals will utilize the facilities offered at the Olympic Sports Complex. Currently the Complex generates about 12 cubic yards of solid waste per season. During spring, summer and fall the Olympic Sports Complex historically has generated only minimal amounts of solid waste, predominantly from administrative actions. As proposed by this UMP, as the facilities for off-season activities are improved and expanded it is expected that more visitors will generate slightly more solid waste.

Solid waste during the winter season is expected to remain the same while off-peak season solid waste generation is expected to increase from the 4-6 cubic yards currently generated to 6-8 cubic yards from actions proposed in this UMP. This constitutes a minimal increase and will not significantly change solid waste amounts annually generated at the facility.

Construction and demolition debris generated by remodeling of the cross-country and biathlon lodges will be disposed of at the North Elba C&D landfill on Dump Road, off NY Route 73. The crushed concrete from demolition of the luge run will be used for drainage rock, roadways, fill for ski wax test hill construction, etc., on-site. The ammonia supply lines on the luge and bobsled runs will be abandoned in place. The lines will be flushed and the runoff will be collected, neutralized, and trucked off site to an appropriate handling facility.

The proposed project is not expected to impact the operation or enrollment within the Lake Placid School District.

The Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg has its own water supply and distribution system, thus, no impact to the village water system is anticipated. The Complex also has facilities for the on-site treatment of sanitary waste and therefore will not impact any area services.

The changes proposed in this UMP will result in an increase in the use of electrical energy, primarily for snowmaking, night lighting and heating of lodges. However, this increase is not anticipated to be significant nor will it cause any adverse impacts.

b. Mitigation Measures

Since no significant impacts are expected, no mitigative measures are proposed.

3. Local Land Use Plans

a. Impacts

This UMP is consistent with the North Elba Land Use Plan, the Adirondack Park Agency Master Plan and the High Peaks Wilderness Complex Unit Management Plan. All of these documents seek to allow enjoyment of the resources of the area by the public without the environment suffering significant impacts.

This UMP will expand the year-round recreational and competitive programs offered at the site for the benefit and enjoyment of the recreational public and the sports community while staying within the established carrying capacity. This year-round expansion will serve to stabilize the currently seasonal employment of some Complex employees and will help to strengthen private sector and local government economies by attracting individuals to the area throughout the year.

These goals are consistent with planning documents reviewed and is consistent with the APA Land Use Map. The Olympic Sports Complex is located within the Intensive Use Area which was created for such a special use.

Visitors at the Olympic Sports Complex can access the High Peaks Wilderness Complex to the south via trails which are limited to hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The trailhead on the Sports Complex entrance to the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Trail is signed to indicate the boundary line between the two managed areas, including signage indicating that no mountain bikes are allowed on these trails.

While the improvements and maintenance of the recreational facilities at the Olympic Sports Complex will not directly effect planning and zoning in the community, it will create the potential for new recreators who will require services in and around the Town of North Elba. These are potential positive impacts and will serve to help stabilize the local year-round economic base.

b. Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary since no negative impacts have been identified.

4. Economics

a. Impacts

There are several economic impacts that are directly related to the UMP. These include pre-construction spending for professional services such as planning, architectural, permitting, environmental and legal fees; construction spending related to labor and supplies for trail development, demolition and clearing, snowmaking installation and the expansion of lodges; spending by skiers for tickets, lodging, equipment rental and meal purchases on and off the mountain; and payroll spending for new operations and vendor employees.

Construction materials will be sent out for bid and, whenever possible, will be purchased locally.

Most of the trail work and snowmaking elements will be handled by ORDA workers whereas parking lot paving and work on the lodges may be contracted to outside contractors.

The stability provided by expanding the year-round use of the Complex will increase employment opportunities in the area. Seasonal winter employees may be hired year-round in some capacity on the site. Additionally, the improved and expanded year-round use of the Complex will cause vendors (such as horseback riding, mountain bike rentals and others) to increase or at least to maintain their employees and their payrolls. This will in turn generate new spending for rents, mortgages, groceries, gasoline, personal services, retail and recreation by workers and their families throughout the primary and secondary area of impact.

A multiplier effect will occur for revenues that are produced on the mountain and later spent off the mountain. This traditionally includes short-term (5 years) construction spending and long-term operational spending as well. Multipliers have been developed for all industries by the US Department of Commerce. They are used to predict the direct and indirect economic impacts generated by each spending sector. Direct economic impacts refer to additional revenues received from the Complex for construction and from the Sports Complex users themselves. Indirect impacts include the additional purchases made by the recreational facility from other businesses to satisfy the additional demand, and induced impacts are produced from the new spending of persons employed in the ski and off-season recreational industry. Each new dollar that is spent actually "turns over" causing additional dollars to be spent to satisfy a new demand. Each category of industry (construction, recreation, lodging) has separate and unique impacts associated with its own business operation and production.

Generally, each dollar spent in the construction and operational phase generates approximately an additional two dollars of spending thereby effectively tripling the total economic impact.

Substantial direct off-site economic benefits will also occur as a result of the project. These include the spending that the Complex's patrons will do off the mountain for goods and services such as food and lodging along the way.

Refer to Section IX, "Growth Inducing, Secondary and Cumulative Impacts," for additional information on the regional cumulative economic impact of all ORDA venues.

b. Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required since the impacts on the economy are entirely positive.

5. Historical and Archaeological Resources

a. Impacts

The proposed management actions will not have a negative impact on any known historical or archaeological resources on or near the site. The potential visual impact of the proposed management actions on the John Brown historic site, particularly the new combined bobsled/luge run, is discussed in Section V.A.4. of this UMP.

Refer to Appendix A, "Documents of Record," for a letter from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) which states that the project will have no impact upon cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This No Impact determination is given with the understanding that the proposed project will in no way impact the extant features associated with the original c.1929 bobsled run. If the scope of the project changes to involve this historic feature, further consultation with OPRHP will be necessary to evaluate the significance and integrity of the remaining portion of the c.1929 bobsled run.

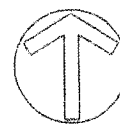
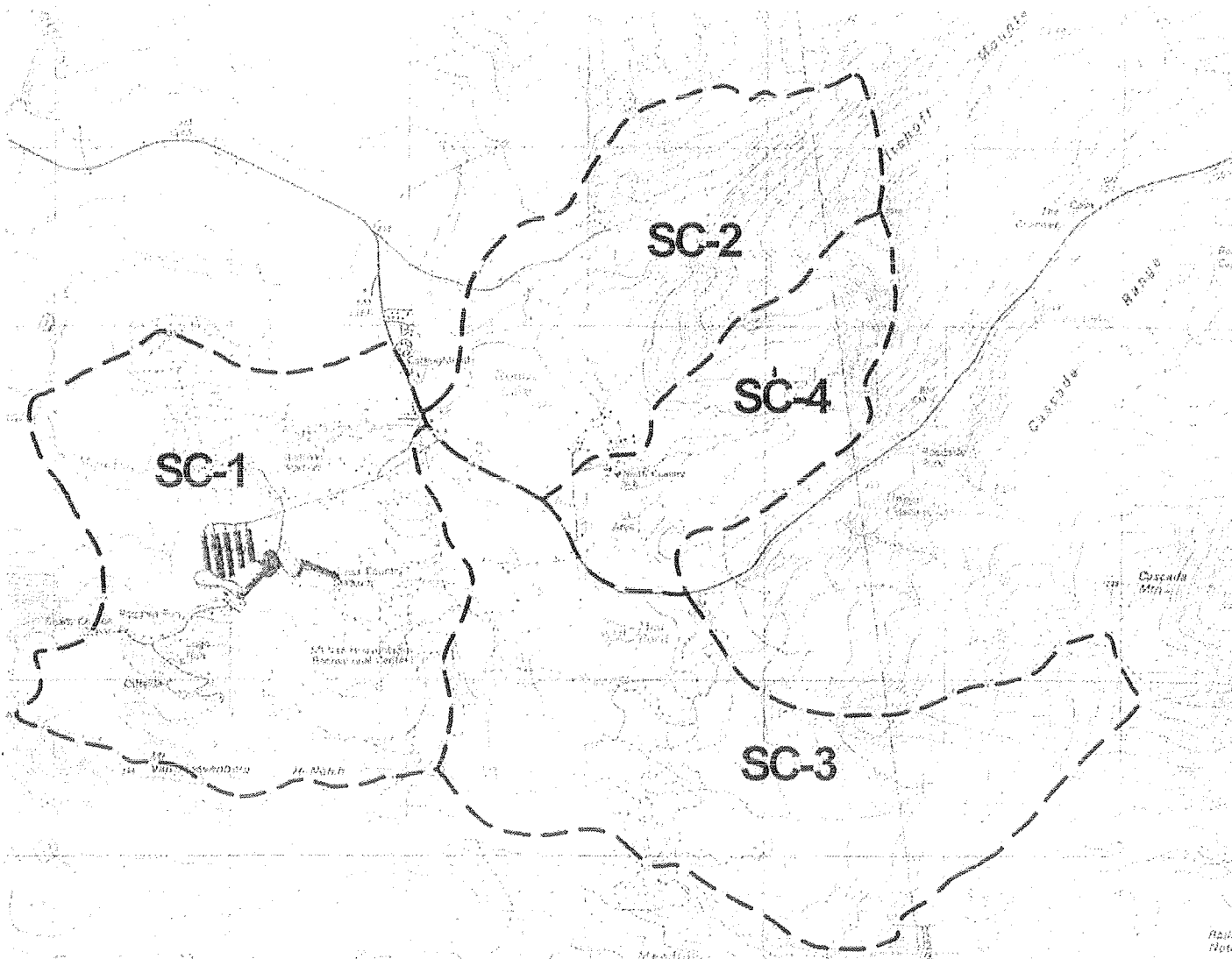
b. Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are proposed since no significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

Table 5-1
Summary of Vegetation Impacts
Number of trees of 3 inches dbh or larger to be removed

	X-C connector trail C-2 ¹	Ski Trail Maintenance (50 km)	Snow-Making Reservoir	Straightaway At X-C Stadium	Relocate Timing Building
Sugar Maple	19	12			
White Ash					
Beech	24	35			
Red Maple					
Hemlock					
Basswood					
Yellow Birch	3	7		2	
White Birch		3	9		
Black Cherry		3	1		
Aspen		6	3		
Balsam Fir		35		14	7
Ironwood					
Striped Maple	7				
Red Oak					
Red Spruce	3	18	9	9	5
Black Spruce					
Mountain Ash					
Tamarack					
Hard Maple					
Cedar					
TOTALS	56	119	22	25	12

TOTAL FOR ALL TREE CUTTING: 234



NORTH



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**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

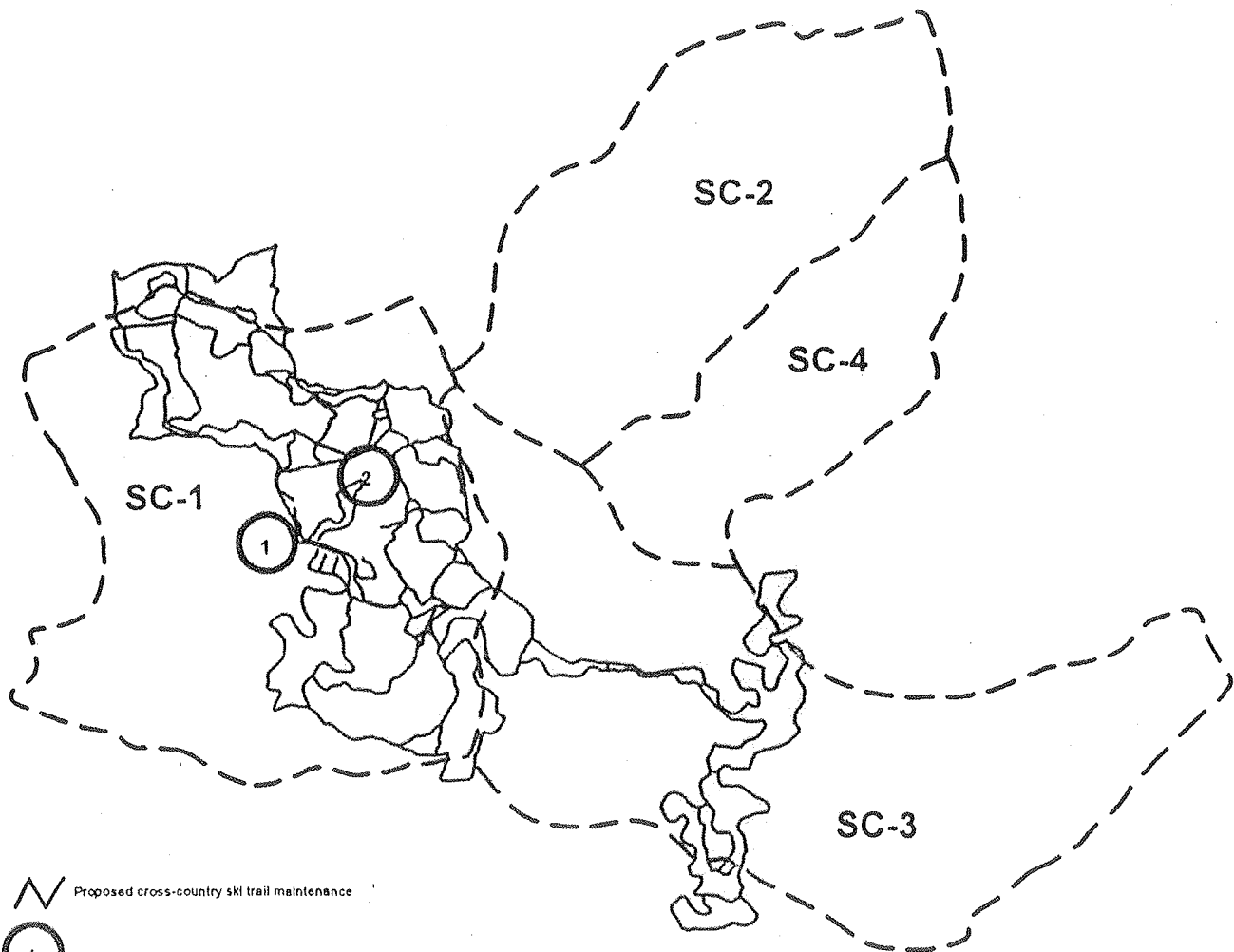
SUBCATCHMENT AREAS

© 1996

DATE: 1-19-96

SCALE: 1:36,000

FIGURE NO. 5-1



- Proposed cross-country ski trail maintenance
 1 Cross-country ski center parking lot paving
 2 Biathlon lodge parking lot paving
 for paving detail, refer to figures entitled:
 "Cross-Country Ski Center Concept Plan"
 and "Biathlon Lodge Parking"



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and Engineering, P.C.



**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
& ASSOCIATES**

ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MT. VAN HOEVENBERG, LAKE PLACID, N.Y. USA



OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**SUBCATCHMENT AREA
COVER TYPE CHANGE**

© 1996

DATE: 4-2-96

SCALE: 1:36,000

FIGURE NO. 5-2

SECTION VI ALTERNATIVES

A. Limit Snowmaking on Ski Trails

Limiting the total length and configuration of trail snowmaking would limit the level of athlete training and would reduce the effectiveness of the improvements for more consistent use of the facilities at the Olympic Sports Complex.

B. Eliminate Paving of Key Parking Areas

Application of this alternative would allow existing substandard conditions to continue. Runoff of sand and gravel from existing parking areas will continue to contribute to sedimentation to existing surface water bodies. Athletes, recreators and spectators will continue to be inconvenienced, contrary to the management goal of improving the quality of the facility in order to continue to attract users and make attendance more consistent.

C. Eliminate Off-Season Venues

Such an option would fail to contribute to the established goal which is to attain optimum year-round use of the Areas facilities to the economic, social and educational benefit of New York residents in general and the Olympic Region. It would not satisfy the Legislative findings by enactment of the legislation establishing the New York Olympic Regional Development Authority for administration of the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Such an option does not fully utilize State-owned land and the permanent easement land purchased from the Town of North Elba which have been classified for the purpose of intensive use recreation. The option does not recognize that operations and programs directed toward all season use of the Complex may be implemented without significant environmental impact due to provisions for public use already in place such as lodges, restrooms and vehicular access. Generally, this option fails to deal effectively with social, economic and political ramifications in the Olympic Region.

D. Eliminate Land Acquisition or Acquire Land by Eminent Domain

Elimination of land acquisition would be a calculated disregard for distribution and prioritization of land acquisition needs, bearing in mind voter referendum and the intent of the Environmental Quality Bond Act. It might jeopardize the Legislative findings pertaining to the ability of the Olympic Regional Development Authority to institute a coordinated program of activities utilizing Olympic facilities around Lake Placid. Such an option will eliminate the opportunity to gain a permanent resolution at Mount Van Hoevenberg which would insure that cross-country ski trails will meet International and Olympic standards.

It is the policy of the Department of Environmental Conservation to avoid use of the power of eminent domain. Although the amount of an appraised value would be paid,

such taking of lands is a unilateral disturbance in lives of the landowners and dependent persons involved. There is no reason at the present time which can justify such action at Mount Van Hoevenberg since recreation programs and events are currently ongoing and have not been threatened.

E. Alternative Designs for Combined Bobsled/Luge Track

The design process for the combined track called for several designs to be reviewed. Thus far, six designs have been reviewed. The design objectives were to create a track that would challenge world caliber athletes and provide good spectator facilities. Design technology for this track involves construction of the track on piers of support columns above the existing grade of the earth. All designs are situated largely within the vicinity of the existing slope clearing containing the existing runs. The alternative layouts considered differ with respect to technical aspects of bobsled and luge racing. The final design represents months of analysis, meetings and negotiations, and additional design and revision. The layout for the chosen design of the combined run is provided in Figure 4-7, "Combined Bobsled/Luge Site Layout Plan."

F. Alternatives to Retaining Existing Bobsled Run

The proposed management action to rehabilitate only the lower half of the existing bobsled run and to abandon-in-place the upper half has only two alternatives. The bobsled could be demolished, in whole or in part, or the whole run could be rehabilitated.

Demolition of the whole track is not a recommended alternative due to the popularity of bobsled passenger rides which originate at the half mile point near the curve known as Big Shady.

The passenger rides available on the lower half of the existing bobsled run, both on wheeled vehicles and sleds, are very popular and contribute to year-round utilization of the Olympic Sports Complex. However, it is not advisable to provide the wheeled sled rides on a new track due to the increased wear and tear on the track which would result, with the attendant expense of maintenance on a new high-tech track.

The vast majority of passenger rides are given from the half mile point and therefore rehabilitation of this portion of the track is cost effective, while preservation of the upper half is not.

Demolition of only the upper half of the existing bobsled run has been considered. This alternative would be excessively disruptive to the environment in terms of the potential need to use dynamite and heavy equipment for demolition and debris removal and increased susceptibility of drainageways to sedimentation. Further, the demolished concrete would have to be disposed of on-site. This would be labor-intensive and would occupy considerable space. This alternative has more potential to impact the environment than simply allowing natural revegetation to occur.

An added benefit of the proposal to abandon-in-place the upper half of the bobsled run is the preservation of virtually 60% of the footprint of the original 1932 Olympic bobsled run.

G. Alternatives for the Combined Track Cooling System

Other alternatives other than the use of ammonia gas as a refrigerant is brine or glycol. Based on the projected operation season of the proposed facility, glycol or brine do not produce enough of a cooling potential to allow for an extended seasonal operation.

H. The "No-Action" Alternative

Application of this alternative would not further the stated management goals for the Olympic Sports Complex which include the need to improve the quality of facilities at the Complex in order to continue to attract competitive and recreational athletes from New York State, the United States and the international sports community, in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.

If proposed maintenance of trails for safety reasons is not pursued, the trails will remain unsafe. If no improvements to the bobsled and luge runs are made, these facilities will remain unsafe and will continue to deteriorate and world class competitions and training at this site would be infeasible.

While capital or maintenance expenditures might be eliminated, failure to take corrective action may make the State increasingly liable to personal injury suits or other litigation that could be more costly in the long run. Patronage and resultant revenues (both to ORDA and the local community) could be expected to decrease over the long run. Fulfillment of health and safety codes complements and stabilizes the environmental setting. Failure to implement standards might adversely impact on visual quality, water quality and area cleanliness. The health, safety and enjoyment of athletes, recreational users and employees is sacrificed by pursuit of this alternative.

Elimination of a budget for capital improvement would result in the failure of management to appropriately address improved public use, safety of athletes, needed modernization (a guideline by interpretation in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan) and the overall goal for Mount Van Hoevenberg pertaining to economic and social benefit of the Olympic region. Curtailment of new construction plans particularly where justification for such plans has been identified portrays a trend of facility degeneration. Diminished employee and public safety, environmental protection and public use carrying capacity could result. Postponement of capital construction plans also results in a postponement of the conditions for quality recreation and operation efficiency.

SECTION VII SUMMARY OF UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Some environmental impacts of the proposed action can neither be prevented nor reasonably avoided. This section will describe the unavoidable impacts which may occur due to construction and implementation of the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg Unit Management Plan.

Construction activities will result in the generation of some degree of dust, odors, fumes, noise and vibration. A small amount of traffic will also be generated. Removal of vegetation and grading will be required to create additional ski trails. Grading will be necessary on some of the existing ski trails. Immediate seeding and mulching of disturbed areas will greatly reduce the possibility of any serious erosion problems. Final vegetative growth and grades will blend with the existing environmental setting.

Increased noise levels during construction of the improved facilities cannot be avoided. Snowmaking on cross-country trails will cause a slight increase in noise levels at night for those at the Olympic Sports Complex. Offsite, noise levels will be substantially unaffected by the proposed action.

The only proposed management action with the potential to have visual impact is the combined bobsled/luge track because it will be sited on a slope while the other proposed management actions call for activity within mature dense woodland on areas with low relief. The new combined track will be visible from the same vantage points from which the existing separate tracks are currently visible.

Operational activities will result in an increased withdrawal of surface water from North Meadow Brook for snowmaking use; however, this use will be insignificant as it will occur during adequate flow periods and will result in minimal withdrawals.

Demands for local services are expected to remain the same as use is not expected to increase significantly.

All of these impacts are relatively minor and local in nature. Most do not require mitigation measures. Section V of this DEIS describes those mitigation measures which are required.

SECTION VIII IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

The additional commitment of lands to recreational use of the type planned does not represent an irreversible nor irretrievable commitment of resources. If the recreation center were to be abandoned and the structures removed, the area would revert to the wild state which presently surrounds the area.

The only irreversible commitments are: 1) the building materials for the permanent structures, and 2) the energy required to construct and operate the Complex.

SECTION IX GROWTH INDUCING, SECONDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A. Introduction

This section of the UMP/DEIS examines the impacts that could potentially occur off the Olympic Sports Complex property following the facility improvements outlined in this UMP. The primary geographic area of impact is defined as the Village of Lake Placid and the Town of North Elba. Primary geographic area suggests that the majority of businesses in the impacted communities are strongly influenced by the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg and the winter sports facilities provided by the area (Whiteface, the Olympic Ice Rink, the Village of Lake Placid). Although the winter season provides many recreational opportunities, many individuals also enjoy the region during the spring, summer and fall for hiking, biking, camping and daytripping. Often, these people combine visits to the Olympic sites with other activities.

Secondary impact results from the operation and spending of sports associations whose athletes utilize the Olympic venues. Due to ORDA's presence and active marketing of its facilities, the region has become home to a growing number of these organizations, including the U.S. Luge Association, the U.S. Bobsled & Skeleton Federation and the National Sports Academy. The latter is a nationally known private high school that specializes in the training of winter sports athletes.

ORDA activities draw national television coverage as well as local and regional news coverage. In 1993-94 alone, there were 23 hours of nationally televised coverage from Lake Placid, with shows airing on CBS, ESPN, CBC, TBS, Prime and TSN. Media exposure has a far reaching impact on drawing tourists to the Adirondack Region.

Secondary and growth inducing impacts are defined as indirect or induced effects that occur as a result of the project. These include changes in population growth, land use patterns and business creation as a result of increased employment opportunities. Typically, these impacts are difficult to measure or quantify; but certain trends can be projected based upon prior population and development growth records as well as comparisons with other similar communities.

This report identifies secondary and growth inducing impacts based upon past history of growth at the Olympic Sports Complex. Some direct comparisons can be made with studies done at other ski areas in Vermont, however, the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg has some unique factors that distinguish it from other recreational areas. The Olympic Sports Complex is owned by the State of New York and operates through a state public authority (ORDA) which is subject to state policies and procedures. It was established as a public recreation oriented area rather than a commercial, for profit, venture. The Complex is located inside of the Adirondack Park on lands under the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation where land development and improvement is rigorously controlled. An official APA Land Use and Development Plan directs and controls building densities and growth patterns throughout the six million acre park. These factors serve to temper

growth. The Complex is isolated, with many of the support services typical of ski area regions actually located along a string of rural communities. This has resulted in a dilution of local skier spending, resulting in fewer skiers concentrating their spending in North Elba than would be expected in a typical ski community. Skier dollars are spent throughout Essex County rather than concentrated in a particular town.

Section IX.B. describes existing conditions in the community. Many of the numbers cited are based on the 1990 Census. Other figures, such as unemployment, are the latest released figures. Local business characteristics are based upon conversations with the local chamber of commerce.

Section IX.C. predicts the impacts of the improvements to the facilities at the Olympic Sports Complex on the local economy. This discussion provides an order-of-magnitude estimate of impacts, rather than a precise measurement, which is all that is possible given the number and diversity of recreators and the large geographic area over which they lodge, dine, etc. As noted above, it also tends to overstate the probable effect of the expansion, because all growth is assumed to be related in some way to the Complex.

Section IX.D. provides a discussion of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts are those which may occur from other projects in the study area, which are then combined with those impacts from the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg.

B. Current Socioeconomic Conditions and Trends

1. Population

The 1990 Census reported the population of the Town of North Elba to be 7,870. Between 1980 and 1990 the population of North Elba increased by 1,273 persons or 19.30 percent. During this same time period the population of the Village of Lake Placid decreased from 2,490 in 1980 to 2,485 in 1990, constituting a decrease of 0.20 percent. Other towns in the Adirondacks also experienced a growth period during this decade as individuals moved from villages to the less densely populated towns.

During this same time period the Essex County population increased from 36,176 in 1980 to 37,152 in 1990, representing an increase of 976 (or 2.6%). This compares with the New York State population increase of 2.5% during this same decade.

The median age of the North Elba population is 33.8 years and is comprised of 3,019 males and 3,263 females. Approximately 1588 individuals are institutionalized in the correctional facility in North Elba and the majority of these individuals are male and have been subtracted from these population numbers.

2. Employment

Essex County has one of the lowest county-wide unemployment rates in the Adirondacks. In 1995 Essex County had an unemployment rate of 6.7%, Franklin County 7.1%, Clinton County 6.8% and Herkimer County 7.2%.

Occupational statistics indicate that the North Country Region employs individuals in various occupations, predominately the occupation categories of "Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical," "Precision Production, Craft and Reproduction," "Service Occupations," and "Administrative Support Occupations/Clerical." The fewest number of employed persons have jobs in the fields relating to agriculture, forestry, and fishing; writers, artists, entertainers, and athletes and; law and related occupations. Refer to Table 9-1, "Number of Individuals Employed in Various Occupations."

The Essex County industry that employs the greatest number of people is International Paper Company in Ticonderoga. The largest local employers include the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), Uhlein Mercy Center and the Adirondack Medical Center. Refer to Table 9-2, "Essex County's Major Employers."

Census figures show an increase of 978 jobs in ORDA's primary labor market from 1980 to 1990. The largest increases were in tourism related retail services.

In Essex County, manufacturing jobs account for the largest average weekly earnings. This has remained constant since 1982. Table 9-3, "Average Weekly Earnings by Industry," lists comparison data from 1982 to 1993.

3. Income

The leading average weekly earnings in Lake Placid and North Elba are attributable to jobs in the manufacturing industry (\$620/wk in 1993). Those employed in "wholesale and retail trade" represented individuals making the lowest average weekly earnings (\$260/wk in 1993). This is illustrated in Table 9-3, "Average Weekly Earnings by Industry."

The New York State Department of Labor reports that Per Capita Income in 1990 was \$16,501 in New York State, \$11,354 in Essex County, \$12,480 in North Elba and \$14,442 in Lake Placid.

4. Real Estate and Sales of Second Homes

The Adirondack Economic Development Corporation located in Saranac Lake reported the number of residential real estate sales have declined since 1986 when 51 sales of primary residences took place. In 1993, the most recent year data was collected, 28 sales of primary residences were conducted. This is an increase from 16 home sales in 1991.

Second home sales and sales of vacant land have seen similar sales cycles. Second home sales in recent years reached a high of 64 sales in 1987, declined to a low of 16 in 1990 and have climbed back to 27 in 1993. There was \$50 million in second home investment in the Town of North Elba from 1986 to 1993 showing confidence in the future of the community as an attractive and exciting vacation destination. There is a clear association between this growth and the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities provided by ORDA.

Condominium transfer, similar to second home sales; reaching maximum recent sales of 51 in 1988, declining in 1991 and climbing in again in 1993 to 15 transfers. With average sale prices rising from \$67,500 in 1985 to \$203,583 in 1991. Condominium prices have averaged in the \$160,000's, four out of the last six years.

C. Impact of Future Expansion

The management actions proposed in this UMP are designed to maintain and strengthen attendance and use of the Olympic Sports Complex. The management actions include trail maintenance for safety purposes and also include development of typical recreational and training facility amenities. These include the provision of snowmaking and lighting on ski trails, rehabilitation of the biathlon lodge as a recreational lodge and of the cross-country lodge as a training facility. Parking and circulation will be improved. All of these actions will make the Complex more attractive to athletes, recreators and spectators and will foster more consistent use of the facility.

Typically, as more people are exposed to an area, interest in real estate also increases. However, land availability, regulatory and infrastructure constraints and a diverse number of other options for home ownership will moderate this potential growth scenario. The demand for seasonally used homes in the future will likely be met by existing home sales rather than reconstruction. Remodeling and renovation may be generated which will have a positive influence on the real estate industry in the North Elba area.

A demand for rental properties for the spring, summer and fall may occur as individuals become familiar with the various recreational opportunities offered at Mount Van Hoevenberg and the surrounding region. These individuals may well take advantage of an existing underutilized resource as ski chalets and condominiums and other winter rentals expand to four seasons, or at least expand seasonal availability.

The majority of businesses in the North Elba/Lake Placid Area exist in conjunction with the recreational/tourist nature of the area. Local residents support businesses year round but tourism benefits are derived at various times of the year including the ski season, "leaf peepers" visiting in the fall, and large scale events in the summer.

Upon completion of the proposed UMP, more non-winter use of the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg is expected, as is more consistent use of the Complex in winter months.

D. Cumulative Impacts

The Olympic Sports Complex is one of a number of facilities managed by ORDA. ORDA's state-owned facilities also include Whiteface Mountain Ski Area, Whiteface Mountain Veterans Memorial Highway, Gore Mountain Ski Center and the United States Olympic Training Center Facility. ORDA's town-owned facilities include the Olympic Jumping Complex (90 and 120 meter ski jumps, freestyle jumps and Kodak Sports Park, a summer water ramp facility), the Olympic Speed Skating Oval and the Olympic Center (convention facilities and four ice surfaces). ORDA's operations revolve around sports and recreation, however, the cumulative effect of its activities is economic development. ORDA has a direct and secondary impact of \$72.9 million through its payroll and purchases, and its ability to directly stimulate tourism in the region and in New York State. This impact reflects spending of an interdependent Olympic family of organizations that operate in Lake Placid (e.g. USOC and sports associations).

In addition to the economic impact created by ORDA, the Authority provides athletic facilities for youth programs and elite athletes of both New York State and the United States for Olympic training.

Between 1982 and 1994 New York State has placed a substantial number of athletes on the United States Olympic Winter Games teams. This is a direct result of the facilities provided by ORDA.

In addition to the impact of direct spending, global attention is drawn to Lake Placid and New York State through the promotion of the Olympic facilities and the national and international media attention generated by world class competitions.

The Olympic Regional Development Authority had a significant economic impact on the Adirondack North Country Region and to the State of New York in 1994. The impact to the region was \$72.9 million and another \$65.9 million was induced as these dollars cycled through the economy. The full economic impact of ORDA, \$138.8 million, is detailed on Table 9-4, "ORDA Economic Impact," and is explained below.

Direct impact is attributable to payroll and purchases, and visitations.

1. **Purchases & Payroll.** ORDA has a gross payroll of \$10,077,820. This covers 855 full time and seasonal employees. Of these 195 are year-round (168 in Lake Placid and 27 at Gore Mt.). ORDA spends \$3,772,210 in the Olympic Region, \$264,833 in the Gore Mt. Region and \$6,391,433 in the rest of New York State.
2. **Purchases & Payroll - Linked Organizations.** ORDA is contractually linked to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) through the U.S. Olympic Training Center. The existence of ORDA was a requirement for the USOC to designate a Training Center in New York State. The USOC employs 48 individuals. There are nearly 48,000 athlete user days at the Olympic Training

Center accounting for an additional \$714,690 in regional spending. Service America is the concessionaire at the Olympic facilities, employing 150 workers.

3. **Visitations in Lake Placid Area.** Olympic facility activity is multi-faceted. The winter is dominated by skiers at Whiteface Mountain, but also includes cross-country skiers, thrill seekers taking bobsled and luge rides, as well as skaters and hockey players. The Olympic Center is busy year-round with conventions, ice hockey and figure skating competitions and entertainment events. There were 237,205 documented overnight guests that used the Olympic facilities and another 214,000 day trip visitors. Table 9-5, "Visitation Impact at ORDA Facilities," details the economic impact of visitation.
4. **Visitation in Gore Mt. Region.** Gore Mt. Ski Area attracts the vast majority of its visitors during the winter ski season. In 1993-94 there were 56,950 overnight guests and 98,050 day visitors. The impact is felt not only in the immediate North Creek Region, but throughout Warren County. Table 9-5, "Visitation Impact at ORDA Facilities," provides details.
5. **Sales Tax Benefits.** There is a direct return to the State of New York through sales tax receipts. Essex County generates 50% of its sales tax receipts from Lake Placid. At present, this figure approaches \$10 million. Essex County derives 28% of its total revenue from sales tax receipts, while the other 14 North Country counties only average 18%. This reflects the importance of tourist spending in this rural county.

According to the 1995 report entitled, "Economic Impact of the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority," tourism based business in the Lake Placid Region has increased 42% since the 1980 Olympic Games. Off-season business increased 120% during the same period, while winter tourism activity rose 47%.

Research clearly shows that ORDA is the economic engine that drives the tourism economy of the Olympic Region. Tourism is the No. 1 industry in the Adirondacks and is now recognized as the second largest industry in New York State. The annual New York State investment in ORDA clearly leverages a significantly greater level of new private business activity, sales tax receipts, real estate and mortgage taxes from second home development, and personal income taxes.

Through its mandate to maximize the utilization of the Olympic facilities, ORDA in 1994 produced a direct and secondary impact of \$72.9 million. Its total economic impact, including \$65.9 million in induced economic activity, was \$138.8 million, as detailed in Table 9-4, "ORDA Economic Impact."

ORDA has been in existence since 1984 and has contributed to the economic stability of the region by funding and maintaining international caliber recreational facilities in the region.

Single family home sales have fluctuated during the twelve year period that ORDA has been established but has shown an overall growth in the region. Second home sales and sales of vacant land have seen similar sales cycles. During the period from 1986 to 1993, \$50 million in second home investment occurred in the Town of North Elba.

The quality and quantity of the recreational opportunities provided by ORDA since 1980 have most certainly contributed to a portion of this growth. This housing growth is not, however, a direct result of the dollars spent by ORDA in the region. ORDA's direct and secondary impact in 1994 was \$72.9 million. This amount is far above the housing growth in the area. The positive economic impact produced by ORDA's facilities has been primarily received in tourist dollars.

This indicates that although housing (both single family and second home) have shown growth in the region, it is not a dramatic uncontrolled growth stimulated by ORDA's spending in the area. Certainly dollars spent by ORDA result in significant expenditures of tourism dollars. Because this use is transient, local services, such as schools, are not impacted by dramatic growth problems that would be associated with large scale housing growth.

Table 9-1
Number of Individuals Employed in Various Occupations¹
North Country Region² of New York State

Occupation	Employment Numbers	
	1991 (Actual)	1996 (Projected)
Executive, Administrative & Managerial	8,300	8,570
Professional, Paraprofessional & Technical	36,02	35,73
Social Scientist, Recreation & Religion	3,370	3,400
Law and Related Occupations	1,360	1,440
Teachers, Librarians & Counselors	10,61	9,920
Health Practitioners & Technicians	7,130	7,060
Writers, Artists, Entertainers & Athletes	1,670	1,710
Marketing & Sales Occupations	18,22	18,86
Administrative Support Occupations, Clerical	26,32	25,90
Secretarial, General Office	14,75	14,48
Service Occupations	29,57	30,37
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	1,610	1,660
Precision Production, Craft & Reproduction	31,53	32,04
Construction & Extractive Trades	4,170	4,330
Precision Production	1,810	1,870
Operators, Fabricators & Laborers	5,520	5,350
Hand Working	1,870	1,830
Plant & System Operations	350	340
Transportation, Material Moving & Machine Operators	5,540	5,750
Helpers, Laborers, and Hand Movers	4,690	4,690

Notes:

1. Occupations with fewer than 100 jobs in 1991 are not shown.
2. The North Country Region includes Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

Source: Technical Assistance Center, State University College at Plattsburgh, 1995. Economic & Demographic Characteristics of Sixteen New York State Counties.

Table 9-2

Essex County's Major Employers
As of October 26, 1994

Rank	Employer	Total Employment
1	International Paper	900
2	Adirondack Medical Center**	500
3	Association for Retarded Citizens	471
4	Adirondack Correctional Facility - Ray Brook	330
5	Olympic Regional Development Authority	300
6	American Management Association	262
7	Uihlein Mercy Hospital	250
8	Ticonderoga School District	183
9	NYCOI Processed Minerals	150
10	Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility	135
11	Moriah Central School District	120

** Employer is located in both Essex and Franklin Counties. Total employment figure includes both counties.

Source: Technical Assistance Center (TAC), State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, 1995. Economic & Demographic Characteristics of Sixteen New York State Counties.

Table 9-3
Average Weekly Earnings by Industry

County: Essex

Industry	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
All Industries	266.12	275.36	287.85	301.17	318.11	327.47	334.19	348.68	354.05
Manufacturing	504.21	537.58	551.80	553.38	554.34	569.19	585.57	615.90	620.41
Contract Construction	263.21	246.14	288.04	281.02	371.59	389.50	406.55	432.25	425.89
Transportation and Public Utilities	319.75	327.83	343.97	365.62	389.16	414.50	452.88	514.42	515.38
Wholesale and Retail Trade	196.68	216.43	227.97	235.41	238.55	241.14	251.28	266.44	260.33
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	227.88	239.89	266.24	296.38	331.57	332.54	328.91	353.08	356.63
Services	203.71	209.20	218.86	250.49	270.50	277.07	279.63	282.62	295.29
All Other Industry	350.81	354.91	362.71	378.62	421.68	388.45	402.74	435.86	443.87

Source: Technical Assistance Center (TAC), State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, 1995. Economic & Demographic Characteristics of Sixteen New York State Counties.

Table 9-4
Olympic Regional Development Authority
Economic Impact (5)

	Direct ⁽¹⁾		
	Regional	NYS	Total
Olympic Facilities - Payroll	\$6,732,963		\$6,732,963
Olympic Facilities - Purchases	3,772,210	6,391,433	10,163,643
Gore Mt. - Payroll	1,988,134		1,988,134
Gore Mt. - Purchases	264,834	(2)	264,834
U.S. Olympic Committee - Payroll	*675,000		675,000
U.S. Olympic Committee - Purchasing	*310,000	385,000	695,000
U.S. Olympic Committee - Athlete Spending	714,690		714,690
Professional Skating Instructors - Wages	425,057		425,057
Service America - Payroll	880,000		880,000
Service America - Purchases	350,000	750,000	1,100,000
Visitor Spending - Lake Placid Overnight Stays	27,611,370		27,611,370
Visitor Spending - Lake Placid Day Trips	6,441,720		6,441,720
Visitor Spending - En Route *		2,400,000	2,400,000
Visitor Spending - Gore Overnight Stays	6,492,300		6,492,300
Visitor Spending - Gore Day Trips	2,941,500		2,941,500
Totals	\$59,599,778	\$9,926,433	\$69,526,211
	Secondary		
	Regional	NYS	Total
U.S. Biathlon Assoc. - Payroll	\$319,800		\$319,800
U.S. Biathlon Assoc. - Purchases	12,000	63,000	75,000
U.S. Bobsled Federation - Payroll	245,000		245,000
U.S. Bobsled Federation - Purchases	16,000	55,000	71,000
U.S. Luge Association - Payroll	470,000		470,000
U.S. Luge Association - Purchases	432,000	513,000	945,000
NYSEF - Payroll	330,000		330,000
NYSEF - Purchases	101,000	123,000	224,000
National Sports Academy - Payroll	360,000		360,000
National Sports Academy - Purchases	210,000	140,000	350,000
	\$2,495,800	\$894,000	\$3,389,800
Total of Direct & Secondary Impact	\$62,095,678	\$10,820,433	\$72,916,011
Induced			
Regional Total (\$62,095,628 X Multiplier of 1.8) ³		\$111,772,130	
State Total (\$10,820,433 X Multiplier of 2.5) ⁴		\$27,051,082	
Total Impact		\$138,823,212	

Notes:

*Estimated from budget reports issued by the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

(1) Figures were supplied by the organizations.

(2) Gore's NYS purchasing included in ORDA NYS.

(3) Multiplier of 1.8 was supplied by the NYS Dept. of Economic Development.

(4) Multiplier of 2.5 is generally accepted overall NYS multiplier.

(5) Reproduced from "Economic Impact of the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority", 1995.

Table 9-5

Visitation Impact at ORDA Facilities

	<u>Overnight Stays</u>	<u>Day Trips</u>
0		
Whiteface Mt. Ski Area ¹	105,000	45,000
Olympic Center Events ²	25,000	25,000
Other Olympic Facilities ³	70,205	144,724
Conventions ⁴	42,000	---
Gore Mt. Ski Area ⁵	56,950	98,050
Daily Expenditures ⁶	\$114	\$30
Impact	\$34,103,670	\$9,383,220
Total Visitation Impact	\$43,486,890	

Notes:

¹ The percentage of overnight (70%) and day trip guests (30%) is based on the 1993 National Skier Opinion Survey conducted at Whiteface Mountain in 1993.

² Numbers are based on records compiled through the Olympic Center Box Office. Percentage of overnight and day trip visitors is based on customer surveys conducted by the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

³ Facilities included are Whiteface Mt. Highway & Chairlift, the Olympic Sports Complex at Mt. Van Hoevenberg and the Olympic Jumping Complex. Attendance figures were provided by the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

⁴ Based on information provided by the Lake Placid Essex County Visitors Bureau. Only conventions included are those that required access to the Olympic facilities for meeting or trade show space.

⁵ The percentage of overnight (49%) and day trip guests (51%) is based on the 1993 National Skier Opinion Survey conducted at Gore Mountain in 1993.

⁶ The expenditures per person (\$114) for overnight stays is based on figures used by D.K. Shifflet & Associates, Ltd. in their New York State Travel Trends Report (March 1993-February 1994) prepared for the New York State Department of Economic Development.

⁷ Reproduced from "Economic Impact of the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority", 1995.

SECTION X EFFECTS ON THE USE AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

The proposed action will not cause a major use of energy, although the consumption of fossil fuels and power will be required by the project during both its construction and operational phases.

During construction, the primary expenditure of energy will be the consumption of fossil fuels to operate construction equipment and to transport materials to the site. This activity will cause a temporary and unavoidable increase in energy use. Some of the activities involving fuel consumption during the various construction phases include clearing and grubbing, excavation, and grading of portions of the ski trails.

The operation of the facility will also require the consumption of fossil fuels and power. The use of electricity for improved snowmaking cannot be avoided. Additionally, expanded lodge facilities and services will necessitate the use of more fuel oil and electricity for heating.

The improvements proposed for the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg will be made to bring the facility up to the standards necessary for international and national competitions while still maintaining the Complex as a world class training facility for U.S. athletes. Improvements proposed for the combined bobsled/luge run will increase the energy efficiency of the refrigeration systems and of many of the associated buildings.

Normal day-to-day operation will contribute to increased power consumption on a long-term basis. This consumption, however, will predominantly be seasonal in nature.

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