# NINE MILE

# UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Management Unit Consisting of Two State Forests
in Southeastern Cattaraugus County

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# PREFACE

It is the policy of the Department to manage State lands for multiple benefits to serve the People of New York State. This Unit Management Plan is the first step in carrying out that policy. The plan has been developed to address management activities on this unit for the next 20-year period, with a review due in 10 years. Some management recommendations may extend beyond the 20-year period. Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities.

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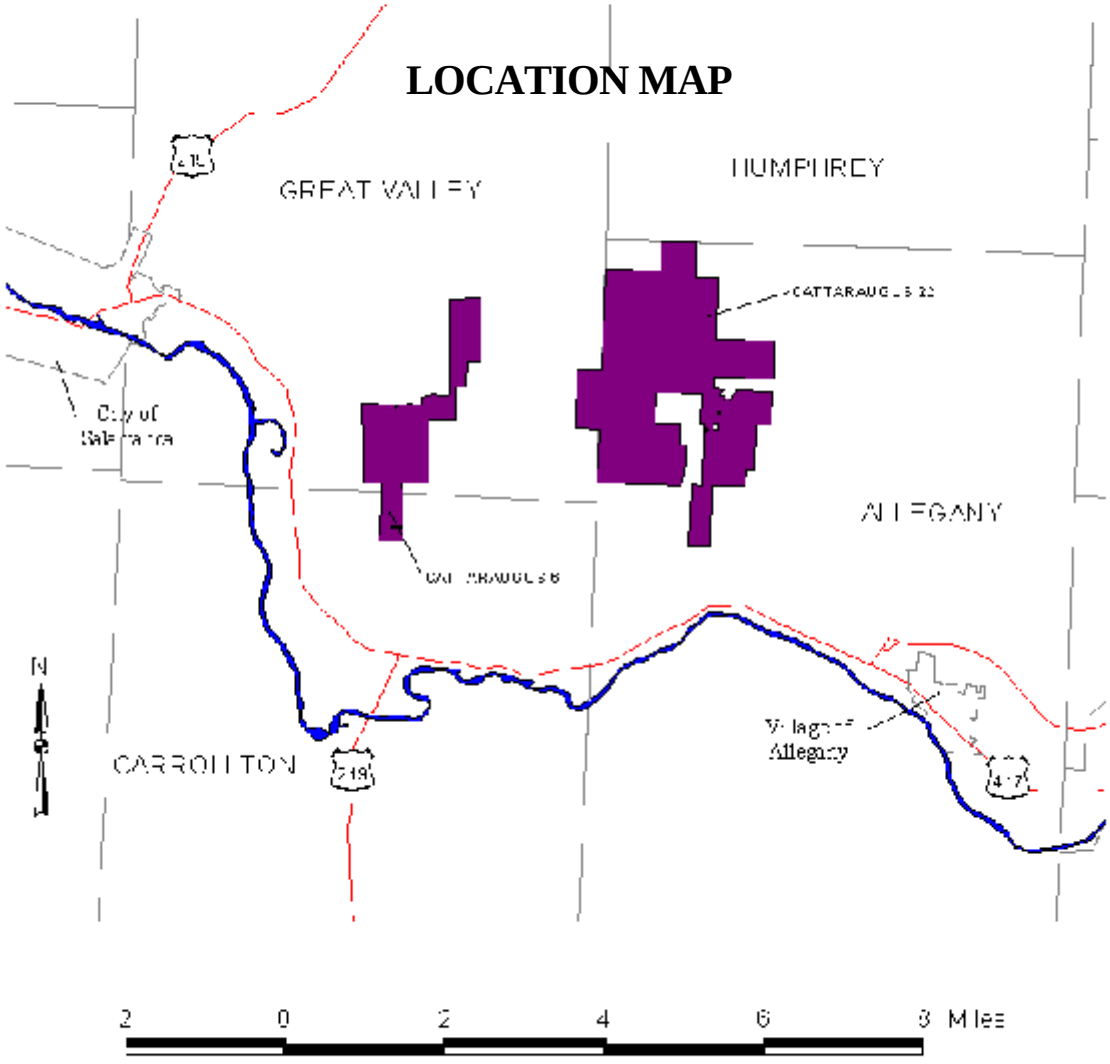

# INTRODUCTION

## A. HISTORY OF NEW YORK STATE FORESTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Today there are nearly 700,000 acres of State Forest land throughout the State. The use of these lands for a variety of purposes such as timber production, hiking, skiing, fishing, trapping and hunting is of tremendous importance economically and to the health and well-being of the people of the State.

## B. LOCAL HISTORY

After being purchased as part of the original Holland Land Purchase, southern Cattaraugus County was first settled by Europeans in the late 1700's near what was then called Tunessassa,

later Quaker Bridge, which is now under the Allegheny Reservoir. The Allegany Indian Reservation had been established along the Allegheny River in 1797, and the School for Indians was started soon thereafter by the Friends of Philadelphia. The settlement that was to become Olean started in 1804. Olean was the point of embarkation for immigrants traveling to Pittsburgh and beyond, via the Allegheny River, and in 1807, rafting of lumber down the Allegheny began. Soon the industry was thriving, sending as much as 300,000,000 board feet per year down the river. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 greatly reduced immigrant travel on the Allegheny. The timber industry continued to be a major component of the local economy however, as evidenced by the following passage in the 1940 Soil Survey of Cattaraugus County:

> "Lumbering was the earliest and for many years the most important industry. Pittsburgh, situated in a region where white pine was not common, furnished an excellent market for lumber from the vast pine forests of the Allegheny and Conewango Valleys. As early as 1840 this industry reached its maximum development. White pine and hemlock were the first species lumbered, the latter mainly for its bark, a product in demand by the tanning industry."

Another factor in the growth of the wood products industry was the development of portable steam power plants, which made circular sawmills practical. As settlement increased in the 1850's and 1860's, demand for lumber to build houses, stores and furniture also grew. Rail travel came to the region in 1851, when the Erie Railroad reached Olean, and other rail lines followed, including lines of the Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, and the Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern Railroads. The development of rail travel provided access to more areas of timber, and provided transportation for further development. Locomotives were also developed especially for logging operations, allowing harvesting to take place on much steeper slopes, and eliminating the necessity of using water to transport logs to the sawmills.

The advent of rail transport was the main reason for increased agricultural activity as well. Until that time, farming was generally carried out on a subsistence basis, as there was no convenient means of transporting surplus products to available markets. Advances in agriculture were fairly rapid however, following the construction of the Erie Railroad. Cattle production changed from primarily beef cattle to dairy, dairy products being marketed mainly in the form of butter and cheese until about 1935. In 1855 1,957,183 pounds of butter and 1,717,484 pounds of cheese were produced in the county. By 1933 there were 39 plants receiving milk and cream from the county's farmers. Because of the steep topography however, most of the land found on what is now the Nine Mile Management Unit was never used extensively for agriculture.

Oil was discovered in the area around the 1860's, the county's first oil well being drilled in Limestone in 1864, in what is now Allegany State Park. By 1878 there were 250 producing wells in the county. Oil refining was the industry mainly responsible for the development of Olean as a city. Despite the profusion of oil extracting facilities however, there are only four known oil

well sites on the unit, all of which have long since been abandoned.

Until the 1890's, extensive clearcutting of forest stands was virtually non-existent. Technology had effectively limited harvesting to patchy partial cuttings, which usually left significant residual overstory. The growth of the tanning industry into the largest single industry in the country, the development of railroad capabilities, and the introduction of wood chemical plants that produced charcoal, wood alcohol and other similar products however, combined to create a situation that would soon deplete the majority of the forest resources of the region. Between 1890 and 1930, the forests of the area were almost completely liquidated, with the exception of only the most inaccessible stands of timber.

As a result of this cutting history, most, if not all of the natural forests in the county are second- and third-growth stands composed mainly of northern hardwoods. Black cherry, sugar maple, red maple, beech, white ash, red oak and black birch are the predominant hardwood species, with cucumber, yellow-poplar, hickory, yellow birch, basswood and blackgum also present as minor components of the forest. Hemlock and white pine are also present, hemlock being found mainly in moister areas along stream corridors, and white pine occurring on more well-drained sites.

In the 1930's, the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC was established by the Roosevelt administration to provide employment opportunities for young men during the depression. One of the projects which they undertook was the planting of trees on deforested lands. This is the origin of older softwood plantations found in the unit. At least one water hole, probably constructed for fire control purposes, also gives testimony to the activities of the CCC in the area.

Since the end of World War II, the county has been home to agriculture and light industry, but increasing emphasis is being placed on resort and recreational development. Allegany State Park in Salamanca and Holiday Valley ski resort in Ellicottville are major attractions and draw visitors from throughout the northeastern U.S. and Canada. The timber industry is also very likely to remain a significant part of the region’s economy, with over 100 wood-using companies and logging contractors in Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties, and numerous others in nearby Pennsylvania.

# INFORMATION ON THE UNIT

A. GEOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION

The Nine Mile Management Unit is located in the towns of Carrollton, Allegany, and Great Valley, in Cattaraugus County. The lands are situated north of State Route 417, east of State Route 219, south of County Route 18, and west of County Route 19.

The unit is made up of two State Forests:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cattaraugus #6 (Windfall Creek S.F.) | 968.18 ac. |
| Cattaraugus #22 (Nine Mile Creek S.F.) | 3,339.74 ac. |
| Total: | 4,307.92 ac. |

The lands of the Nine Mile Management Unit lie within the only area of New York State that was not covered by ice at any point during the glacial period. The vast majority of the soils found on the unit are comprised of the Dekalb series, and what is termed in the 1940 soil survey as "rough stony land." These two main groups are found on the slopes and ridgetops, while the remaining soil types are limited to the stream bottoms of the area. Being unglaciated, the soils' characteristics are influenced most strongly by the underlying bedrock.

Starting with the most recent and proceeding backward through geological history, the layers of bedrock under the unit are the Olean; Knapp; Oswayo; Cattaraugus; Chadakoin; Canadaway; and Java formations. With the exception of the Olean and Knapp formations, these sedimentary rocks were laid down in the late Devonian period, when most of New York State was covered by a shallow sea. The Devonian bedrock layers are shale and siltstone, while the more recently-formed Knapp and Olean are conglomerate and sandstone, formed in the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian periods.

The soils of the Dekalb series that are found on the unit are of three types: Dekalb silt loam; Dekalb silt loam, steep phase; and Dekalb stony silt loam. They are typified by a yellow or yellowish-brown silt loam surface layer overlying a somewhat denser, bright yellow, smooth heavy silt loam or silty clay loam subsurface layer. The Dekalb silt loam and stony silt loam are found on the flatter hilltops and gentler slopes, and all three soils have low organic matter content and a strongly acidic pH. Surface drainage is good, and subsoil drainage ranges from imperfect to good. The Dekalb silt loam has numerous sandstone fragments, ranging in size from gravel to slabs, and a depth to bedrock of 24 to 48 inches. The depth to bedrock of the Dekalb stony silt loam is consistently less, usually only 12 to 24 inches, and tends to have more and larger sandstone fragments scattered over the surface and mixed through the soil.

"Rough stony land" is described as areas where there is little, if any, soil formed on top of the fragmented bedrock, as well as bluffs and rock ledges. Although none of the latter two formations occur on the unit, there are extensive areas of the property where the "soil" consists of a layer of large rocks.

The remainder of the soil types on the unit are comprised of the Atkins silt loam, Tyler silt loam, Ernest silt loam, Ernest silty clay loam, and undifferentiated alluvial soils. Lying in narrow bands along the streams, they all tend to be poorly drained, acidic, fairly unproductive soils that are derived wholly or in part from colluvial materials from the Dekalb soils situated on the slopes above them.

B. VEGETATION TYPES AND STAGES WITHIN THE UNIT

Like most of the region, the unit's forests are almost entirely made up of hardwood stands, and of these, most are mature forest, having an average stand diameter of over 12 inches. A small portion of the unit is comprised of softwood plantations, and there are a few open areas, but these areas combined are less than 5% of the unit's area. The following table details the breakdown of the unit's acreage:

| | Acres by diameter class | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type | Total | 1-5" | 6-11" | 12"+ | % |
| Natural Hardwood Forest | 4133 | 92 | 698 | 3343 | 96 |
| Natural Softwood Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Plantation | 159 | 46 | 73 | 40 | 3 |
| Wetland | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Ponds | 1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | <1 |
| Open/Brush | 14 | N/A | N/A | N/A | <1 |

C. WILDLIFE

Most birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians found on the Nine Mile Management Unit are likely to be interior forest species, as the vast majority of the property's stands are of poletimber size or larger. Some early successional stands do exist, but there is no significant waterfowl habitat, and very little meadow or field. Appendix IV lists the bird species found in Cattaraugus County, and indicates which of these are likely to breed on or inhabit the unit. With the exception of waterfowl, most of the species listed in the appendix might possibly be found on the property at some point during migration periods. Appendix V lists the mammals, reptiles and amphibians that are likely to inhabit the unit. No formal studies have been conducted to verify the occurrence of these species on the property, however, they are known to inhabit this part of the state, and use the kinds of habitat that are available on the Nine Mile Management Unit.

The primary game species pursued on the unit are white-tailed deer, turkey and gray squirrel. Some hunting for ruffed grouse does occur in those limited areas where the habitat is favorable for them, mainly the early successional stands, and there may be the occasional bear hunter now and then.

In the three towns in which the unit sits, the deer population has shown the usual fluctuations over the past 20 years. The population is best indicated by the number of adult males taken each year, rather than total deer harvested. As populations rise, more Deer Management Permits are issued in following years, producing an artificially high "jump" in the total deer harvest numbers. The annual adult male deer take in the

towns of Allegany, Carrollton and Great Valley has fluctuated between about 2.5 and 5.5 adult males harvested per square mile.

Black bear take numbers have varied a great deal more in terms of percentage, but this is misleading, as overall numbers taken each year are so small. Since 1984, the most bear taken in the entire three-town area in one season was 18 (1989), and the least bear taken was just one bear (1997). The annual bear take for the entire Allegany Range (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung and Stueben counties) has fluctuated much less, and has averaged 32 bears per year over the past 10 years.

## D. WETLANDS AND WATER RESOURCES

The Nine Mile Management Unit does not contain any wetlands large enough (>12.4 acres) to be regulated under the criteria in section 24-0107 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The unit does contain numerous small wetlands and hillside spring seeps owing their existence to the sandstone bedrock underlaying the forest (Mason 1936). Equipment use will be limited or excluded in these wet areas, in order to protect the sensitive hydrological characteristics found there.

There are two man-made ponds, each about one-half acre in size, located south of Windfall Road. These provide some limited recreational fishing opportunity. No specific actions are anticipated for managing this warm-water fishery.

There are a number of classified and unclassified trout streams on the unit. The main streams are Nine Mile Creek, Windfall Creek and Thorpe Hollow. 7.7 miles of these streams are classified as C(T) (supporting trout), 2.6 miles of which are on state land. An additional 7.9 miles of the main streams and their tributaries are recommended to be upgraded to C(TS) (trout spawning) when the Allegheny watershed is reclassified (See Appendix I). Of these 7.9 miles, 4.6 are on state land. Several other small tributary streams do not have survey data showing that they support trout, although other fish species are found there, indicating they have water in them throughout most years and are thus not considered intermittent.

Because of the underlaying geology, many small streams in the Allegheny watershed are greatly reduced in flow during periods of mid-summer drought such that there is no overland flow between pools (Cornett 1996). There is however, flow through the gravel between pools with water temperatures remaining in the 55EF to 65EF range. These low flow periods likely function to limit the populations of trout and other fish species. These streams are low in productivity due to the fact they lie in the unglaciated area of the Salamanca Reentrant, and do not benefit from limestone-containing glacial till found under streams to the north (Muller 1977). Of particular significance, most of the unit's streams support populations of wild brook trout. The low productivity and small size of the streams limits their ability to support much recreational fishing activity, although some fishing does occur. Appendix II lists the fish species identified as being present in the streams of the unit.

## E. SIGNIFICANT PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES

A review of the Natural Heritage maps in the

Olean Office (last revised 1993) revealed that no significant plant communities are known to exist on either Windfall Creek or Nine Mile Creek State Forest. However, the properties are within a 1.5 mile radius from several communities listed for "minute precision" in the Natural Heritage listings. These communities are listed in Appendix XII. There are also a significant number of plants listed under Title 6, Part 193.3 NYCRR that are likely to occur on the property. While the listing of these plants does not have any legal implications for management of the unit, reasonable efforts will be undertaken to avoid negatively impacting those species when their occurrence is known.

F. ROADS

1. Description of State Forest Road System

The State Forest Road System provides for both public and administrative access to the unit. The roads are constructed to standards that will provide reasonably safe travel and keep maintenance costs to a minimum. There are three types of roads - public forest access roads, haul roads and access trails - and they provide different levels of access, depending on the standards to which they are constructed.

Public Forest Access Roads are permanent, unpaved roads. They may be designed for all-weather use depending on their location and surfacing. These roads provide primary access within the unit. The standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided for in the Forest Road Handbook.

Haul Roads are permanent, unpaved roads but are not designed for all-weather travel. They are constructed primarily for the removal of forest products and provide only limited access within the unit. As such, these roads may or may not be open for public use. The standards for these roads are those of Class C roads as provided for in the Forest Road Handbook.

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

2. Current Departmental Roads Within the Unit

These roads and trails exist within the unit:

Public Access Roads

| | |
|---|---|
| N. Nine Mile Forest Road | 2.3 miles |
| Phearsdorf Forest Road | 0.5 miles |

Haul Roads

| | |
|---|---|
| Gypsy Moth Road | 1.0 miles |
| Porcupine Road | 0.9 miles |

Access Trails

| | |
|---|---|
| Windfall Creek S.F. | 1.5 miles |
| Nine Mile Creek S.F. | 6.5 miles |

3. Road Regulations

The speed limit on State forest roads is 25 miles per hour. Only those motor vehicles registered for travel on public highways may be operated on State forest roads, with the exception of snowmobiles, which may be operated on State forest roads during periods of sufficient snow cover. Only those roads which are posted and signed may be used for vehicular travel, and off-road travel by motorized vehicle is prohibited unless otherwise noted.

G. RECREATION

The philosophy of multiple use management is the predominant influence on recreation on the Nine Mile Management Unit. Compatible uses will be encouraged whenever reasonable. Hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are probably the most common recreational uses of the unit, although no formal records or surveys are known to exist regarding this subject. Some limited fishing does occur, mainly at Twin Ponds and to a lesser degree in the creeks of the unit. Mountain bicycling, horseback riding, camping, and bird watching also take place. Trails currently consist of former skid trails that are used by recreationists. Future plans include creating trails for specific recreational uses.

The only formal recreation facility on the property is the picnic area at Twin Ponds, which consists of one picnic table near the upper parking lot. Informal parking areas exist where log landings were created for timber harvesting operations.

H. FACILITIES INVENTORY

| | Windfall Creek State Forest | Nine Mile Creek State Forest |
|---|---|---|
| Boundary lines, approved* | 5.8 miles | 18.0 miles |
| Boundary lines, total | 9.3 miles | 18.0 miles |
| Area ID signs | 2 | 3 |
| Road ID signs | 0 | 3 |
| Parking areas | 1 | 0 |
| Gates | 1 gate (Twin Ponds) | 4 gates (Phearsdorf, Gypsy Moth, Porcupine, and Nine Mile Forest Roads: 1 gate each) |

* Miles of boundary line approved for maintenance

# DEMANDS ON THE UNIT

## A. PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

The Nine Mile Management Unit is within 30 minutes' drive of the cities of Olean, Jamestown, and Salamanca, and within one hour's drive of much of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. Because of the amount (over 100,000 acres) and well-dispersed nature of the State lands in those counties, use of the unit is primarily by members of the local population. Between 1983 and 1997, the population of Cattaraugus County decreased by 1.2%, resulting in a population density of just over 65 people per square mile. Those looking for formal recreation facilities such as camp sites, cabins, or bathing beaches are more likely to travel to Allegany State Park. Compared to State lands in other parts of the state then, demand on these properties is relatively low. While no formal statistical evidence exists, ranger observations have noted that increasing numbers of out-of-state users are taking advantage of the recreational opportunities on the unit, primarily during hunting season.

## B. TIMBER RESOURCES

The southwestern portion of New York State is home to some of the finest quality black cherry, red oak, sugar maple and white ash sawtimber in the world. With only occasional exceptions, stumpage prices for the above-mentioned species in this region are consistently the highest in the state. As hardwood stumpage prices continue to rise and private lands are taken out of timber production and put into development, demand for timber from State lands will increase. The demand for softwood sawtimber and hardwood fuelwood is much lower, and much more unstable.

# MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

A. PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

Steep slopes
Soil properties
Drainage
Proximity of roads
Presence and location of recreational trails
Geologic properties
Utility lines

B. ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS

Fluctuation of wood markets
Overall value of individual stands
Inadequate budgets

C. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSTRAINTS

Inadequate staff
Rules, regulations, laws and policies (see Appendix X)

D. SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS

Public opinion on:

Trapping
Timber harvesting
Public ownership
Controlled burning
Forest reserves
Recreational demands
Hunting
Clearcutting
Pesticides
Access
Old growth

# MANAGEMENT GOAL

It will be the goal of the Department to manage State lands for multiple benefits to serve the needs of the People of New York State. This management will be considered on a landscape level, not only to ensure the biological diversity and protection of the ecosystem, but also to optimize the many benefits to the public that these lands provide.

# MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. ACCESS

1. Improve vehicular access to the unit in order to enhance public use and forest management activities.

The properties that make up the Nine Mile Management Unit are used by a significant number of people, most of whom travel to the unit by personal vehicle. Vehicular access is also necessary for timber management and other departmental activities. While it is not necessary to have roads extending to all corners of the unit, there are areas within the unit in which management activities are impractical due to the lack of passable roads. This situation can be improved by a number of means, including but not limited to: purchasing adjacent properties; purchasing rights-of-way through adjacent properties; constructing roads across state lands; and improving the condition of existing but unusable roads. It is recognized that there is value in certain areas being less easily accessed, in order to maintain their natural character.

2. Maintain and/or rehabilitate the 4.7 miles of existing forest roads on the unit.

Most, if not all of the active administrative activities that take place on the unit require vehicular access. Forest road maintenance and rehabilitation can be accomplished either by Departmental staff or as requirements of timber sale contracts.

B. ACQUISITIONS

1. Acquire those properties adjacent to unit properties that will significantly improve either administrative or public access to the unit.

Certain areas within the unit are currently not actively managed, due to access limitations. Acquisition of parcels adjacent to the unit will enhance the Department's ability to perform necessary management actions.

2. Acquire all landlocked private inholdings in the unit.

Private parcels that are surrounded by State lands increase the costs of land management unnecessarily in the form of boundary line maintenance. Acquisitions will only be made from willing sellers as funds become available.

C. FISHERIES

1. Maintain wild brook trout populations at or above baseline populations for yearling and older fish (listed in Appendix III).

Brook trout, the only species of trout native to the Allegheny watershed, were stocked extensively in the past, but the streams on the unit have not been stocked with them for at least the last 40 years. It is hoped that some of the genetic material from the original strains has survived in

these populations.

2. Minimize siltation resulting from road construction and use in order to maintain spawning bed quality, by taking measures to prevent suspended sediment from reaching stream channels.

Excessive siltation of stream beds is detrimental to the spawning success of trout (Marcinko 1988, Harr and Nichols 1993). Natural reproduction of trout species is necessary to maintain current population levels. These streams will not and should not be stocked with hatchery strain trout because of the numerous negative impacts they can have on wild and native strains of trout (White 1992).

3. Maintain summer stream water temperatures at or below 65E F on all of the stream sections listed in Appendix I.

Water temperatures in excess of 65E F can cause stress on brook trout populations. By maintaining a continuous forest canopy along stream corridors, water temperatures on these streams should stay below critical levels.

D. RECREATION

1. Increase number and length of trails designed for specific recreational uses, such as single track mountain bike trails, ATV trails, etc. These trails can be used for other compatible activities, but should be designed for the specific needs of the primary user group.

Departmental policy states that trails "will not be designated for the exclusive use of any single recreational interest," notwithstanding certain exceptions. Use of trails for multiple compatible uses is encouraged. This means that trails with specific characteristics enjoyed by certain user groups should also be open for use by other recreationists. For example, a single-track mountain bike trail, with it's narrow tread width and side clearance, can still be used by cross-country skiers in the winter, and by hikers year-round. In other words, a trail designed to enhance the experience of one specific recreational user group does not preclude the use of the trail by other users.

2. Through the Temporary Revocable Permit process and the Adopt-A-Natural Resource program, allow for the maintenance of recreational trails on the unit by private groups.

Hiking and cross-country ski trails already exist on the property, and further trails are planned to be developed. The use of volunteer labor from recreation groups can be a cost-effective means of conducting necessary trail maintenance.

3. Convert log landings into formal parking areas, either as requirements of timber sale contracts, or through the Division of Operations.

Recreationists currently use old log landings as parking areas on the unit. While this use is not objectionable, there are times at which landings are not capable of supporting vehicles because of soil and weather conditions, or because of the high volume of users. Upgrading log landings into

parking areas will improve both the quality and total area of parking space available to the public.

4. Increase public awareness of the recreational and educational opportunities that exist within the unit.

While a significant portion of the local population use the lands of the unit, there are also members of the community who are not aware of the unit's recreational opportunities, particularly during those times of the year between hunting seasons. In addition, very few educational institutions in the area make use of the vast acreage of public lands that could be used to enhance both the outdoor education of local students and the environmental research done by university faculty.

E. TIMBER

1. Manage seventy seven (77) acres of white pine and Norway spruce plantations on a 120-year rotation, thinning at 20-year intervals, and regenerating through natural regeneration systems.

The softwood plantations on the unit were established in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Thinning at the appropriate time will increase the growth of the residual stand, and encourage the establishment of advance regeneration. Also, these softwood species can be more readily regenerated through natural regeneration systems than can other softwood species found on the unit, namely red and Scotch pine.

2. Convert fifty three (53) acres of Scotch pine and red pine plantations to even-aged hardwood stands through natural regeneration methods.

Like the Norway spruce and white pine plantations, these stands were established by the CCC in the early 1930's. While red pine can, under the right conditions, live to be 200 years old, on the heavy clay soils of this region red and Scotch pines tend to stagnate and decline in health and vigor as they approach and pass the 60-year age class. Adjacent hardwood stands generally produce sufficient seed to establish hardwood regeneration following thinning of the softwood stands. Once advance hardwood regeneration is present, the remaining pine overstory can be removed to release the hardwood seedlings. Some individual pines should be left for green tree retention, and to eventually die and become snags for wildlife value.

3. Increase the basal area percentage of native conifer species in hardwood stands which contain 10% or more of these species.

Historically, white pine and hemlock were prevalent species in the region's forests, hemlock occurring mainly on less well-drained sites, and white pine tending to grow as scattered pockets within larger stands of hardwoods. Cutting practices of the past 150 years have contributed to the decrease in these species' abundance in the area and the increase of hardwood species. Softwood species of all age classes are important to wildlife for various purposes such as: breeding; feeding; escape cover; hunting; and thermal cover. In areas where conditions are suitable, regeneration of these species should be encouraged.

4. Increase the number of adjacent stands which differ in age by 20 years or more.

The majority of wildlife species require two or more stages of forest growth to fulfill their habitat needs. Increasing the occurrence of age class juxtapositions increases the chances of providing habitat for the widest possible variety of wildlife species. Edge effect is also increased by ensuring that adjacent stands are distinctly different in age.

5. Manage at least twenty five hundred (2500) acres as two-aged or uneven-aged stands.

Even-aged and uneven-aged stands can differ greatly in their vertical structure. Different bird species use specific forest canopy layers, some combinations of which may be lacking in strictly even-aged stands. Increasing the total acreage managed on an uneven-aged basis will also increase the diversity of forest habitat on the unit.

6. Manage sis hundred (600) acres of forest for old growth characteristics.

The conditions found in old growth stands hold ecological, recreational, and aesthetic values that may not be found in other stands. These conditions include the presence of large, old trees, dead snags, large woody debris (logs), and a multi-layered canopy structure. These characteristics come about naturally when stands are exempted from active human manipulation, but they can also be simulated under the right set of circumstances. Uneven-aged management systems should be used in these stands, snags can be created at the end of harvests, and large trees of lesser commercial value can be felled and left on the forest floor as woody debris. These techniques do not, by themselves, create an old growth stand. However, they may help create stands that have some of the conditions found in old growth forests.

7. Conduct comprehensive forest resource inventory on a 15-year cycle.

Appropriate management strategies can only be designed and implemented in the presence of up-to-date, accurate information about the resource being managed. The dynamic nature of forested ecosystems dictates that inventory data be updated on a regular basis.

8. Manage at least one thousand (1000) acres as even-aged stands.

Even-aged management will increase the amount of edge habitat and young forest, which will benefit many plant and animal species.

9. Defer management decisions on one hundred-sixty one (161) acres of forest land.

Due to their young age, these stands will not warrant management between the present time and the first revision of the Unit Management Plan.

F. WILDLIFE

1. Increase acreage of pioneer hardwood stands

in the seedling-sapling and poletimber size classes.

As the forests of the region have matured since the period of extensive clearcutting from the late 1800's to the early 1900's, the acreage of young forest has decreased dramatically. Increasing the acreage or number of these young stands will benefit many game and non-game species, thus increasing biological diversity.

2. Create and maintain brushy areas and grassy openings on 3-5% of the land area.

Permanent forest openings provide aerial foraging opportunities for many songbirds and bats, hunting areas for raptors, early spring food for deer and rabbits, courtship areas for many birds, and brood rearing habitat for turkey and grouse. They also provide increased opportunity for wildlife viewing by members of the public. Certain management practices that are easily incorporated into timber harvesting operations can greatly enhance wildlife habitat. For instance, seeding log landings and skid trails with leguminous species such as flat pea and birdsfoot trefoil, along with grass species like Kentucky bluegrass or orchard grass, can provide permanent forest openings that are especially valuable to wildlife. Due to the lack of funds projected to be available for maintenance of such habitats, clover and alfalfa are not recommended for this kind of use. Forest openings constructed during harvest operations however, are usually situated near main roads, where their value is somewhat diminished. Opportunities to create such openings in the interior of the forest should be taken advantage of when possible.

# MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

A. FISH AND WILDLIFE

1. Erect 2 pairs of bluebird nest boxes along edges of hayfield on Nine Mile Creek State Forest.

2. Brush-hog Stand 14 of Windfall Creek State Forest every 4 years.

3. Clear 5 acres of Stand 31 of Nine Mile Creek State Forest and seed to herbaceous cover.

4. Clear 4 acres of Stand 38 of Windfall Creek State Forest and seed to herbaceous cover.

5. Initiate a survey to determine the willingness of hunters to participate in a Quality Deer Management program on the unit.

6. Maintain 75-foot no-cut buffer zones along streams to reduce stream sedimentation and maintain favorable water temperatures.

7. Maintain Stands 39 and 40 of Windfall Creek State Forest and Stand 28 of Nine Mile Creek State Forest as brushy areas by cutting or girdling hardwood competition, leaving thorn-apple, dogwood, and other shrubs.

8. Create vernal pools as part of timber harvest clean-up operations.

B. RECREATION AND EDUCATION

1. Construct at least 10 miles of multiple-use trails that are suitable for use as single-track mountain bike trails.

2. Create an ATV trail system in cooperation with adjacent landowners.

Numerous requests have been made for the State to provide opportunities for ATV use. Article 48-C of the Vehicle and Traffic Law allows for the designation of public lands as open for travel by ATV's, and in 1993, DEC Commissioner Thomas Jorling approved a position statement on the use of ATV's on lands administered by the Division of Lands and Forests. Under the guidance of these documents, the creation of an ATV trail system may be a feasible project to undertake on the Nine Mile Management Unit, dependent on the following:

a. The willingness of enough adjacent landowners to allow the trail system to cross their property such that a system of at least 15 miles of trail can be created, inclusive of those parts of the trail on State Forest land;

b. The existence of sufficient volunteer labor;

c. State Environmental Quality Review Act requirements;

d. Suitability of soils to support ATV traffic.

Once constructed, the trail system would be subject to the following conditions:

a. The trail system will be open only for seasonal use, from May first through October first, and will be closed at the discretion of the Regional Forester when conditions are such that significant trail damage is likely (i.e. wet periods) or significant risk to trail users is present (i.e. forest harvesting operations);

b. Users will comply with all relevant statutes, which include Departmental Rules and Regulations, and State and local laws and ordinances;

c. Periodic review of the trail's condition must show that safe travel is possible on the trail system, that the system is being used as designed, and that no irreversible environmental damage is being incurred by the use of the trail.

If the above conditions are not met, the trail will be closed.

3. Repair picnic table at Twin Ponds recreation site. Replace wooden benches and table top. Mow dikes annually in October or November.

4. Create and publish for public distribution a brochure including a description and topographic map of the unit.

5 . Contact area elementary, middle and high schools, and universities and colleges, to inform them that the unit is available for educational and research purposes.

C. PUBLIC ACCESS

1. Resolve issue regarding location of Townsend Hollow Road: A representative of an adjacent landowner claims that a portion of the current road course is in fact a private road. This matter must be resolved if Townsend Hollow Road is ever to be improved for access purposes.

2. Replace gate at Twin Ponds area.

D. SURVEY NEEDS

1. Approximately 3.5 miles (275 chains) of boundary line, all in the northern section of Windfall State Forest, are currently being surveyed by a private surveying firm. Once that project is completed, the entire outbounds of the unit will be approved for boundary line maintenance.

E. LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

1. Acquire 3-acre inholding on Nine Mile Creek State Forest described by corners 45 - 48.

This small inholding is situated east of North Nine Mile Road, approximately three quarters of a mile north of the Phearsdorf Forest Road. It's acquisition would reduce the amount of boundary lines to be maintained on the property. Acquisition of the parcel could be accomplished through purchase or land swap.

2. Investigate options for acquiring parcel(s) that would permit managerial access to the northern-most section of Windfall Creek State Forest.

That section of Windfall Creek State Forest which is located north of Thorpe Hollow Road cannot currently be accessed by vehicle, due to the steep northern bank of the creek. The timber on this area of the property is primarily in the small sawtimber size class and warrants thinning.

3. Acquire that parcel of property which is situated north and west of North Nine Mile Road, and which encompasses that section of Nine Mile Forest Road that lies between North Nine Mile Road and the boundary of Nine Mile Creek State Forest.

The old forest roads which exist on this parcel would greatly improve the access to the western portion of Nine Mile Creek State Forest.

F. PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE ACTIVITIES

1. Plug or re-plug 3 existing wells on Nine Mile Creek State Forest

No new oil or gas leases are planned to be undertaken. If possible, ownership of the three abandoned wells on the property should be determined and the owners made to re-plug the wells for public protection. If location of the current owners is not possible, the State should undertake to plug these wells. This operation is not of very high priority, as the leakage of petroleum fumes from these wells is minimal, and not in areas of high use. Charring of the wooden plug on at least one of the wells does indicate, however, that individuals do occasionally ignite the escaping gas.

G. PROTECTION

1. Continually monitor unit for insect and disease outbreaks as part of other management operations.

2. Conduct salvage operations in the event of outbreaks, to minimize the spread of insect or disease pathogens.

3. Replace earthen barriers with metal gates on all Class C or better roads within the unit.

4. Clear, paint, and post the entire outbounds of the unit properties on a 7-year rotation.

H. TIMBER MANAGEMENT

1. Within the next 5 years, the following stands should be considered for thinning:

Windfall Creek S.F.

| | |
|---|---|
| Stand 1 | Stand 13 |
| Stand 2 | Stand 23 |
| Stand 3 | Stand 24 |
| Stand 4 | Stand 30 |
| Stand 5 | Stand 36 |
| Stand 6 | |

Nine Mile Creek State Forest

| | |
|---|---|
| Stand 5 | Stand 19 |

Stand 18 Stand 48

2. In 5 to 10 years, the following stands should be considered for thinning:

Windfall Creek State Forest

| | |
|---|---|
| Stand 7 | Stand 31 |
| Stand 11 | Stand 33 |
| Stand 29 | Stand 34 |

Nine Mile Creek State Forest

| | |
|---|---|
| Stand 3 | Stand 32 |
| Stand 7 | Stand 36 |
| Stand 10 | Stand 40 |
| Stand 11 | Stand 50 |
| Stand 16 | Stand 52 |

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# GLOSSARY

**Basal area:** The total cross-sectional area per acre of all tree stems larger than 1 inch in diameter, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground

**Biological diversity:** The total array of life forms and associations within a defined area

**BMP:** Best Management Practice

**Buffer zone:** A strip of varying width along streams or roads, in which timber harvesting is reduced or disallowed

**Canopy:** The cover of branches and foliage formed by the trees of a forest.

**Clearcut:** The removal of the entire overstory layer of a forest stand

**Colluvial:** Being derived essentially from soil material transported by erosion.

**Conifer:** A tree, usually evergreen, bearing cones and needle-shaped or scale-like leaves

**DBH:** Diameter breast height - The diameter of a tree, measured at 4½ feet above the ground

**Ecosystem:** All the interacting populations of plants, animals and microorganisms occupying an area, plus their physical environment

**Edge effect:** That set of conditions that is created by the presence of two or more adjacent stands that differ in character, e.g. forest and open field

**Even-aged:** Composed of trees that are essentially the same age (within 10 to 20 years of each other)

**Glacial till:** Unstratified soil deposited directly by glaciers and consisting of clay, silt, sand, gravel and boulders intermingled in any proportions.

**Green tree retention:** Retention of living trees on cut over areas for goals other than regeneration. These residual trees create higher levels of stand diversity, moderate the microclimate of the of the site, and provide continuity of habitat for plant and animal species between uncut forests areas.

**Hardwood:** Broad-leaved, deciduous tree, or the wood produced from such a tree

**Log landing:** A designated area where logs are assembled for transport

**Northern hardwoods:** Generally accepted to be a combination of mainly shade-tolerant species, dominated by sugar maple, beech and yellow birch.

**Old growth:** No universally accepted definition exists, however, old growth stands would have these characteristics: large trees; dead snags; downed logs; broken, multiple-layered canopy; and community would be in an advanced or "climax" successional stage.

**Overstory:** That portion of the forest stand that comprises the uppermost layer of the canopy.

**Pioneer hardwoods:** Those species of deciduous trees that tend to be the first to invade open areas and are characterized by a low tolerance for shade, including, but not limited to black cherry, pin cherry, quaking aspen, red oak, white oak, black birch and yellow birch.

**Plantation:** A stand of trees established through artificial, rather than natural, means, either sowing or planting

**Poletimber:** Trees 6" to 11" dbh

**Regeneration:** A layer of seedling and/or sapling trees, established either through natural or artificial means

**Rotation:** The period of time required to grow a crop of trees to the desired size or age

**Salvage:** Harvesting operations that are conducted for the dual purpose of: utilizing diseased or damaged trees before they die and decay beyond utility and; preventing the further spread of disease or insects

**Sapling:** A tree 1" to 5" dbh

**Sawtimber:** Trees 12" and larger dbh

**Seedling:** A tree grown from seed, usually less than ½" caliper

**Siltation:** The deposition of fine sedimentary material on a stream bed

**Skid trail:** A trail used to drag trees from the stump to the log landing

**Snag:** A standing dead tree from which most of the fine twigs and branches have fallen

**Softwood:** See conifer; also the wood produced from conifers

**Stand:** A community of trees that is sufficiently uniform in species composition, age, density and condition to be distinguished from adjacent communities

**Succession:** The gradual supplanting of one plant community by another, generally progressing from least to greatest shade tolerance

**Thinning:** A forest operation undertaken for the primary purposes of increasing incremental diameter growth and/or improving overall stand quality

**Two-aged:** Composed of two strata of trees, one markedly older than the other

**Uneven-aged:** Composed of intermingling trees that differ markedly in age

**Unglaciated:** Not having been altered or formed by glacial activity

**APPENDIX I:** Trout streams on Nine Mile Management Unit.

| STREAM | Total C(T) mileage | C(T) mileage on state forests | Total miles that should be upgraded to C(TS) | Miles on state land that should be C(TS) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nine Mile Creek (Pa.53-42)** | 3.0 | 0.8 | 4.1 | 1.9 |
| **Bowers Hollow (Pa.53-42-2)** | | | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| **Nine Mile, T-4 (Pa.53-42-4)** | | | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| **Nine Mile, T-6 and tribs (Pa.53-42-6)** | | | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| **Nine Mile, T-4-1 (Pa.53-42-4-1)** | | | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| **Nine Mile, T-4-1A (Pa.53-42-4-1A)** | | | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| **Nine Mile, T-4-2 (Pa.53-42-4-2)** | | | 0.2 | --- |
| **Windfall Creek (Pa.53-31-1)** | 1.1 | 0.3 | 4.0 | 0.5 |
| **Thorpe Hollow (Pa.53-31)** | 3.6 | 1.5 | --- | --- |
| **Thorpe Hollow, T-3 (Pa.53-31-3)** | | | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| **TOTALS** | **7.7** | **2.6** | **15.6** | **7.2** |

C(T) Stream classification indicates the stream is of sufficient quality to support trout survival.

C(TS) Stream classification indicates the stream is of sufficient quality to support natural trout spawning and survival.

## **APPENDIX II:** Fish species present on the Nine Mile Management Unit

| COMMON NAME | LATIN NAME | STREAMS |
|---|---|---|
| Brook trout | *Salvelinus fontinalis* | NM, BH, T-4, T-6, T-4-1, T-4A, T-4-2, TH, WF, TH-3 |
| Brown trout | *Salmo trutta* | NM, T-4, BH, TH |
| Central stone roller | *Campostoma anomalum* | WF, TH, NM, T-4 |
| Blacknose dace | *Rhinichthys atratulus* | WF, TH, NM, TH-3 |
| Common shiner | *Luxilus cornutus* | WF, NM |
| Creek chub | *Semotilus atromaculatus* | WF, TH, NM, T-4, BH, TH-3 |
| Redside dace | *Clinostomus elongatus* | NM |
| White sucker | *Catostomus commersoni* | WF, TH, NM, BH |
| N. Hog sucker | *Hypentelium nigricans* | NM, T-4 |
| Pumpkinseed | *Lepomis gibbosus* | T-4 |
| Fantail darter | *Etheostoma flabellare* | WF, TH, NM |
| Rainbow darter | *Etheostoma caeruleum* | NM |
| Mottled sculpin | *Cottus bairdi* | WF, TH, TH-3, NM, BH, T-4, T-4-1A, T-4-2, T-4-1, T-6 |

**Streams:**
WF - Windfall Creek (Pa. 53-31-1)
TH - Thorpe Hollow (Pa. 53-31)
TH-3 - Tributary #3 of Thorpe Hollow (PA.53-31-3)
NM - Nine Mile Creek (Pa.53-42)
BH - Bowers Hollow (Pa. 53- 42-2)
T-4 Tributary #4 of Nine Mile Creek (Pa. 53-42-4)
T-4-1 (Pa. 53-42-4-1)
T-4-1A (Pa. 53-42-4-1A)
T-4-2 (Pa. 53-42-4-2)
T-6 (Pa. 53-42-6)

**APPENDIX III:** Estimated numbers of yearling and older wild brook trout (# per mile) in streams of NMMU from electrofishing surveys.

| STREAM | YEAR SAMPLED | NUMBER PER MILE |
|---|---|---|
| Nine Mile Creek | 1992, 1995 | 225 |
| Bowers Hollow | 1992 | 400 |
| T-4 of Nine Mile | 1992 | 140 |
| T-1 of T-4 of Nine Mile | 1995 | 100 |
| Windfall Creek | 1998 | 321 |
| Thorpe Hollow | 1998 | 135 |
| T-3 of Thorpe Hollow | 1998 | 22 |

# **APPENDIX IV:** Bird species of Cattaraugus County, NY

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Common loon | *Gavia immer* | M -Sp F, V-Su | |
| Red-throated loon | *Gavia stellata* | M-Sp | |
| Red-necked grebe | *Podiceps grisegena holbolii* | M-Sp, V-W | |
| Horned grebe | *Podiceps auritus* | M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Eared grebe | *Podiceps nigricollis claifornicus* | M-Sp | |
| Pied-billed grebe | *Podilymbus podiceps* | B, M-Sp F | |
| Double-crested cormorant | *Phalococorax auritus* | M-Sp F | |
| Great blue heron | *Ardea herodias* | B, R-Su, V-W | |
| Green heron | *Butorides virescens* | B. R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Cattle egret | *Bubulcus ibis* | V-Sp | |
| Great egret | *Casmerodius albus* | V-Sp Su | |
| Snowy egret | *Egretta thula* | V-Sp | |
| Louisiana heron | *Hydranassa tricolor* | V-Sp | |
| Black-crowned night heron | *Nycticorax nycticorax* | V-W Sp Su | |
| Least bittern | *Ixobrychus exilis* | V-Sp | |
| American bittern | *Botaurus lentiginosus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Wood stork | *Mycteria americana* | V-Su | |
| Mute swan | *Cygnus olor* | V-Sp | |
| Whistling swan | *Olor columbianus* | M-Sp F | |
| Canada goose | *Branta canadensis* | B, R-YR, M-Sp F | X |
| Brant | *Branta bernicla* | M-F | |
| Snow goose | *Chen caerulescens* | M-F, V-W | |
| Mallard | *Anas platyrhynchos* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Black duck | *Anas rubripes* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Gadwall | *Anas strepera* | M-Sp | |
| Pintail | *Anas acuta* | M-Sp F | |
| Green-winged teal | *Anas crecca* | B, M-Sp F | |
| Blue-winged teal | *Anas discors* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| American wigeon | *Anas americana* | M-Sp F | |
| Shoveler | *Anas clypeata* | M-Sp | |
| Wood duck | *Aix sponsa* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Redhead | *Aythya americana* | M-Sp, V-W | |
| Ring-necked duck | *Aythya collaris* | M-Sp | |
| Canvasback | *Aythya valisineria* | M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Greater scaup | *Aythya marila* | M-Sp F | |
| Lesser scaup | *Aythya affinis* | M-Sp, V-W | |
| Common goldeneye | *Bucephala clangula* | V-W, M-Sp | |
| Bufflehead | *Bucephala albeola* | V-W, M-Sp | |
| Oldsquaw | *Clangula hyemalis* | M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Harlequin duck | *Histrionicus histrionicus* | V-F | |
| White-winged scoter | *Melanitta deglandi* | M-Sp F | |
| Black scoter | *Melanitta nigra* | M-F | |
| Ruddy duck | *Oxyura jamaicensis* | M-Sp F | |
| Hooded merganser | *Lophodytes cucullatus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp, V-W | |
| Common merganser | *Mergus merganser* | V-Sp W Su | |
| Red-breated merganser | *Mergus serrator* | V-W, M-Sp F | |
| Turkey vulture | *Cathartes aura* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Goshawk | *Accipiter gentilis* | B, R-Su, V-W | X |
| Sharp-shinned hawk | *Accipiter striatus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Cooper's hawk | *Accipiter cooperii* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Red-tailed hawk | *Buteo jamaicensis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Red-shouldered hawk | *Buteo lineatus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Broad-winged hawk | *Buteo platypterus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Rough-legged hawk | *Buteo lagopus* | V-Sp F W | |
| Bald eagle | *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* | B, R-Su, V-Sp F W | |
| Marsh hawk | *Circus cyaneus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Osprey | *Pandion haliaetus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Peregrine falcon | *Falco peregrinus* | M-Sp F | |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Merlin | *Falco columbarius* | M-Sp F | |
| American kestrel | *Falco sparverius* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Ruffed grouse | *Bonasa umbellus* | B, R-P | X |
| Ring-necked pheasant | *Phasianus colchicus* | B, R-P (S) | |
| Turkey | *Meleagris gallopavo* | B, R-P | X |
| Virginai Rail | *Rallus limicola* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Sora | *Porzana carolina* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| American coot | *Fulica americana* | M-Sp F | |
| Simipalmated plover | *Charadrius semipalmatus* | M-Sp F | |
| Killdeer | *Charadrius vociferus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| American golder plover | *Pluvialis dominica* | M-F | |
| Black-bellied plover | *Pluvialis squatarola* | M-Sp F | |
| American woodcock | *Scolopax minor* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Common snipe | *Capella gallinago* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Upland sandpiper | *Bartramia longicauda* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Spotted sandpiper | *Actitis macularia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Solitary sandpiper | *Tringa solitaria* | M-Sp Su | |
| Greater yellowlegs | *Tringa melanoleuca* | M-Sp F | |
| Lesser yellowlegs | *Tringa flavipes* | M-Sp F | |
| Red knot | *Calidris canutus* | M-F | |
| Pectoral sandpiper | *Calidris melanotos* | M-Sp F | |
| White-rumped sandpiper | *Calidris fuscicollis* | M-Sp | |
| Least sandpiper | *Calidtis minutilla* | M-Sp F | |
| Semipalmated sandpiper | *Calidris pusilla* | M-sp F | |
| Dunlin | *Calidris alpina* | M-Sp F | |
| Sanderling | *Calidris alba* | M-F | |
| Short-billed dowitcher | *Limnodromus griseus* | M-Sp | |
| Red phalarope | *Phalaropus fulicarius* | M-F | |
| Wilson's phalarope | *Steganopus tricolor* | M-Sp | |
| Northern phalarope | *Lobipes lobatus* | M-Sp F | |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pomarine Jaeger | *Stercorarius pomarinus* | V-Su | |
| Herring gull | *Larus argentatus* | V-Sp Su F W | |
| Ring-billed gull | *Larus delawarensis* | M-Sp F | |
| Laughing gull | *Larus atricilla* | M-Sp | |
| Franklin's gull | *Larus pipixcan* | M-Sp | |
| Bonaparte's gull | *Larus philadelphia* | M-Sp | |
| Little gull | *Larus minutus* | M-Sp | |
| Common tern | *Sterna hirundo* | M-Sp | |
| Caspian tern | *Hydroprogne caspia* | M-Sp, V-Su | |
| Black tern | *Chlidonias niger* | M-Sp | |
| Rock dove | *Columba livia* | B, R-P | |
| Mourning dove | *Zenaida macroura* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Yellow-billed cuckoo | *Coccyzuz americanus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Black-billed cuckoo | *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Barn owl | *Tyto alba* | V-Sp | |
| Screech owl | *Otus asio* | B, R-P | X |
| Great horned owl | *Bubo virginaianus* | B, R-P | X |
| Snowy owl | *Nyctea scandiaca* | V-W | |
| Barred owl | *Strix varia* | B, R-P | X |
| Long-eared owl | *Asio otus* | V-W | |
| Short-eared owl | *Asio flammeus* | M-F | |
| Saw-whet owl | *Aegolius acadicus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Whip-poor-will | *Caprimulgus vociferus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Common nighthawk | *Chordeiles minor* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Chimney swift | *Chaetura pelagica* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Ruby-throated hummingbird | *Archilochus colubris* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Belted kingfisher | *Megaceryle alcyon* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Common flicker | *Colaptes auratus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Pileated woodpecker | *Dryocopus pileatus* | B, R-P | X |
| Red-bellied woodpecker | *Centurus carolinus* | B, R-P | |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Red-headed woodpecker | *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Yellow-bellied sapsucker | *Sphyrapicus varius* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Hairy woodpecker | *Dendrocopos villosus* | B, R-P | X |
| Downy woodpecker | *Dendrocopoas pubescens* | B, R-P | X |
| Eastern kingbird | *Tyrannus tyrannus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Western kingbird | *Tyrannus verticalis* | V-F | |
| Great crested flycatcher | *Myiarchus crinitus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Eastern phoebe | *Sayornis phoebe* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Yellow-bellied flycatcher | *Empidonax flaviventris* | M-Sp F | |
| Acadian flycatcher | *Empidonax virescens* | B, R-Su | X |
| Alder flycatcher | *Empidonax alnorum* | B, R-Su | |
| Willow flycatcher | *Empidonax traillii* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Least flycatcher | *Empidonax minimus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Eastern wood pewee | *Contopus virens* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Olive-sided flycatcher | *Nuttallornis borealis* | M-Sp F | |
| Horned lark | *Eremophila alpestris* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Tree swallow | *Iridoprocne bicolor* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Bank swallow | *Riparia riparia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Rough-winged swallow | *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Barn swallow | *Hirundo rustica* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Cliff swallow | *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Purple martin | *Progne subis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Blue jay | *Cyanocitta cristata* | B, R-P | X |
| Black-billed magpie | *Pica pica* | V-F | |
| Common raven | *Corvus corax* | V-F W | X |
| Common crow | *Corvus brachyrhynchos* | B, R-Sp Su F, V-W | X |
| Black-capped chickadee | *Parus atricapillus* | B, R-P | X |
| Boreal chickadee | *Parus hudsonicus* | V-W | |
| Tufted titmouse | *Parus bicolor* | B, R-P | X |
| White-breased nuthatch | *Sitta carolinensis* | B, R-P | X |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Red-breasted nuthatch | *Sitta canadensis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Brown creeper | *Certhia familiaris* | B, R-P | X |
| House wren | *Troglodytes aedon* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Winter wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Carolina wren | *Thryothorus ludovicianus* | B | |
| Long-billed marsh wren | *Cistothorus palustris* | B | |
| Short-billed marsh wren | *Cistothorus platensis* | M-Sp | |
| Mockingbird | *Mimus polyglottos* | B, R-P | |
| Gray catbird | *Dumetella carolinensis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Brown thrasher | *Toxostoma rufum* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| American robin | *Turdus migratorius* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Varied thrush | *Ixoreus naevius* | V-F | |
| Wood thrush | *Hylocichla mustelina* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Hermit thrush | *Catharus guttata* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Swainson's thrush | *Catharus ustulatus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Gray-cheeked thrush | *Catharus minimus* | M-Sp F | |
| Veery | *Catharus fuscescens* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Eastern bluebird | *Sialia sialis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Blue-gray gnatcatcher | *Polioptila caerulea* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Golden-crowned kinglet | *Regulus satrapa* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Water pipit | *Anthus spinoletta* | M-Sp F | |
| Cedar waxwing | *Bombycilla cedrorum* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Northern shrike | *Lanius excubitor* | V-W | |
| Loggerhead shrike | *Lanius ludovicianus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Starling | *Sturnus vulgaris* | B, R-P, M-Sp F | X |
| White-eyed vireo | *Vireo griseus* | M-Sp | |
| Yellow-throated vireo | *Vireo flavifrons* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Solitary vireo | *Vireo solitrius* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Red-eyed vireo | *Vireo olivaceus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Philadelphia vireo | *Vireo philadelphicus* | M-Sp F | |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Warbling vireo | *Vireo gilvus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Black-and-white warbler | *Mniotilta varia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Prothnotary warbler | *Protonotaria citrea* | M-Sp | |
| Worm-eating warbler | *Helmitheros vermivorus* | V-Su | |
| Golden-winged warbler | *Vermivora chrysoptera* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Blue-winged warbler | *Vermivora pinus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | X |
| Tennessee warbler | *Vermivora peregrina* | M-Sp F | |
| Orange-crowned warbler | *Vermivora celata* | M-Sp F | |
| Nashville warbler | *Vermivora ruficapilla* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Northern parula | *Parula americana* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Yellow warbler | *Dendroica petechia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Magnolia warbler | *Dendroica magnolia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Cape may warbler | *Dendroica tigrina* | M-Sp F | |
| Black-throated blue warbler | *Dendroica caerulescens* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Yellow-rumped warbler | *Dendroica coronata* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Black-throated green warbler | *Dendroica virens* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Cerulean warbler | *Dendroica cerulea* | B, M-Sp | |
| Blackburnian warbler | *Dendroica fusca* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Chestnut-sided warbler | *Dendroica pensylvanica* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Bay-breated warbler | *Dendroica castanea* | M-Sp F | |
| Blackpoll warbler | *Dendroica striata* | M-Sp F | |
| Pine warbler | *Dendroica pinus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Prairie warbler | *Dendroica discolor* | B, R-Su, M-Sp | |
| Palm warbler | *Dendroica palmarum* | M-Sp F | |
| Ovenbird | *Seiurus aurocapillus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Northern waterthrush | *Seiurus noveboracensis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Louisiana waterthrush | *Seiurus motacilla* | B, R-Su | X |
| Kentucky warbler | *Oporornis formosus* | M-Sp | |
| Connecticut warbler | *Oporornis agilis* | M-F | |
| Mourning warbler | *Oporornis philadelphia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |

| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **Occurrence** | **Likely on unit** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Common yellowthroat | *Geothlypis trichas* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Yellow-breasted chat | *Icteria virens* | B | |
| Hooded warbler | *Wilsonia citrina* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Wilson's warbler | *Wilsonia pusilla* | M-Sp F | |
| Canada warbler | *Wilsonia canadensis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| American redstart | *Setophaga ruticilla* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| House sparrow | *Passer domesticus* | B, R-P | X |
| Bobolink | *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Eastern meadowlark | *Sturnella magna* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Red-winged blackbird | *Agelaius phoeniceus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Orchard oriole | *Icterus spurius* | B | |
| Northern oriole | *Icterus galbula* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Rusty blackbird | *Euphagus carolinus* | M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Common grackle | *Quiscalus quiscula* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Brown-headed cowbird | *Molothrus ater* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Scarlet tanager | *Piranga olivacea* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Cardinal | *Cardinalis cardinalis* | B, R-P | X |
| Rose-breasted grosbeak | *Pheucticus ludovicianus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Indigo bunting | *Passerina cyanea* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Painted bunting | *Passerina ciris* | V-Sp | |
| Evening grosbeak | *Coccothraustes vespertina* | B, R-Su, V-W | X |
| Purple finch | *Carpodacus purpureus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| House finch | *Carpodacus mexicanus* | B, R-P | |
| Pine grosbeak | *Pinicola enucleator* | V-W | |
| Common redpoll | *Acanthus flammea* | V-W | |
| Pine siskin | *Spinus pinus* | B, M-Sp, V-W | |
| American goldfinch | *Spinus tristis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Red crossbill | *Loxia curvirostra* | B, R-Sp, V-W | |
| White-winged crossbill | *Loxia leucoptera* | V-W | |
| Rufous-sided towhee | *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Savanna sparrow | *Passerculus sandwichensis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Occurrence | Likely on unit |
|---|---|---|---|
| Henslow's sparrow | *Ammodramus henslowii* | B, R-Su | |
| Vesper sparrow | *Pooecetes gramineus* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | |
| Lark sparrow | *Chondestes grammacus grammacus* | M-Sp | |
| Dark-eyed junco | *Junco hyemalis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Tree sparrow | *Spizella arborea* | V-W | |
| Chipping sparrow | *Spizella passerina* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F | X |
| Clay-colored sparrow | *Spizella pallida* | M-Sp | |
| Field sparrow | *Spizella pusilla* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| White-crowned sparrow | *Zonotrichia leucophrys* | M-Sp F | |
| White-throated sparrow | *Zonotrichia albicollis* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Fox sparrow | *Passerella iliaca* | M-Sp F | |
| Lincoln's sparrow | *Melospiza lincolnii* | M-Sp F | |
| Swamp sparrow | *Melowpiza georgiana* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | |
| Song sparrow | *Melospiza melodia* | B, R-Su, M-Sp F, V-W | X |
| Lapland longspur | *Calcarius lapponicus* | V-W | |
| Snow bunting | *Plectrophenax nivalis* | V-W | |

Activity: B=Breeds; R=Resident; M=Migrant; V-Visitant
Season: Sp=Spring; Su=Summer; F=Fall; W=Winter; P=Permanent
(S)=Stocked

## APPENDIX V: General listing of mammals, amphibians and reptiles likely to be present on the Nine Mile Management Unit

| | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|
| Mammals | | |
| | Shrews | *Sorex spp., Microsorex spp., Cryptotis spp., Blarina spp.* |
| | Myotis | *Myotis spp.* |
| | Starnose mole | *Condylura cristata* |
| | Hairytail mole | *Parascalops breweri* |
| | Deer mouse | *Peromyscus maniculatus* |
| | White-footed mouse | *Peromyscus leucopus* |
| | Red-backed vole | *Clethrionomys gapperi* |

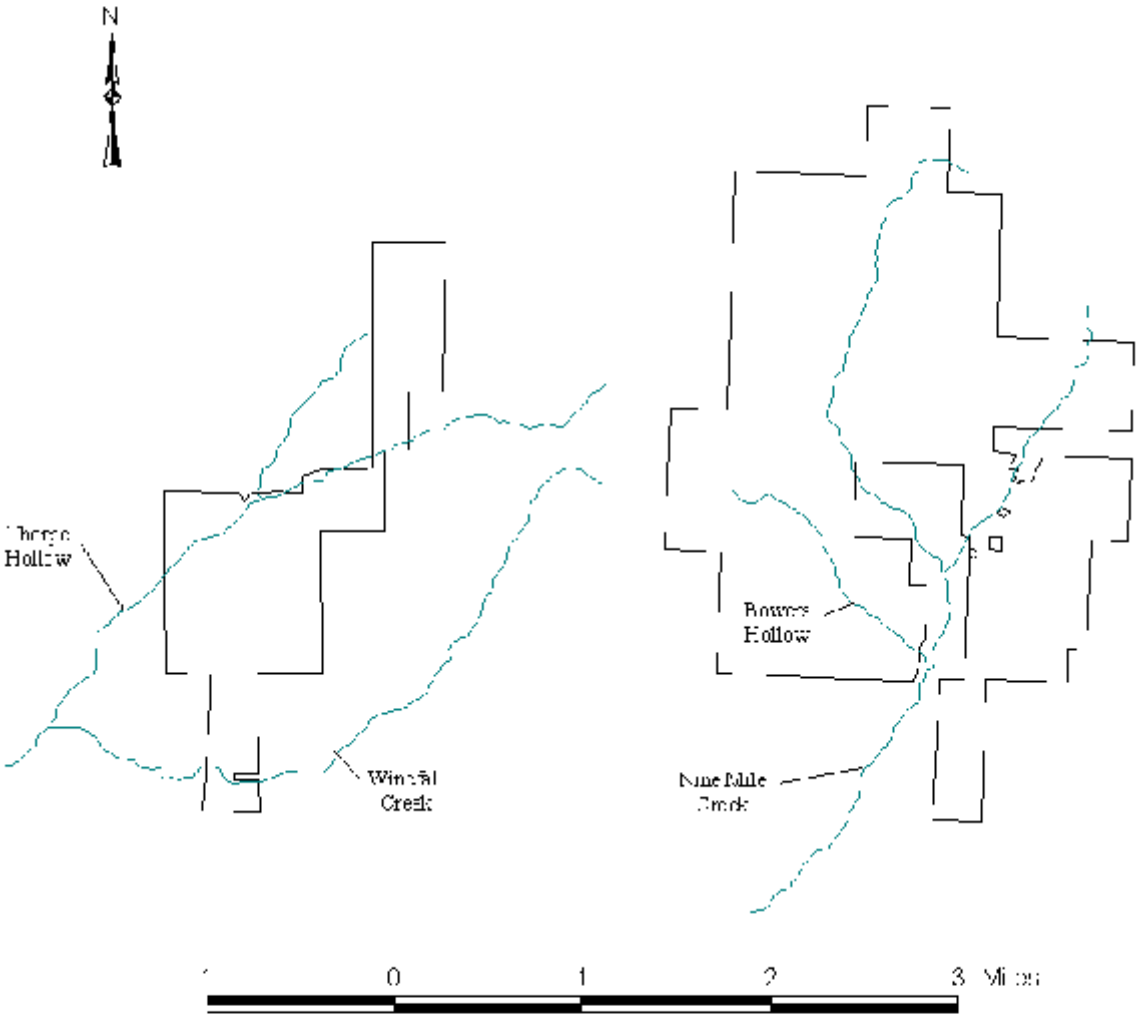
| | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|
| | Pine vole | *Pitymys pinetorum* |
| | Woodland jumping mouse | *Napaeozapus insignis* |
| | Eastern chipmunk | *Tamias striatus* |
| | Big brown bat | *Eptesicus fuscus* |
| | Red bat | *Lasiurus borealis* |
| | Hoary bat | *Lasiurus cinereus* |
| | Shorttail weasel | *Mustela erminea* |
| | Longtail weasel | *Mustela frenata* |
| | Mink | *Mustela vison* |
| | Gray squirrel | *Sciurus carolinensis* |
| | Fox Squirrel | *Sciurus niger* |
| | Red squirrel | *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* |
| | Northern flying squirrel | *Glaucomys sabrinus* |
| | Beaver | *Castor canadensis* |
| | Muskrat | *Ondatra zibethica* |
| | Virginia opossum | *Didelphis virginiana* |
| | Raccoon | *Procyon lotor* |
| | Woodchuck | *Marmota monax* |
| | Striped skunk | *Mephitis mephitis* |
| | Coyote | *Canis latrans* |
| | Red fox | *Vulpes fulva* |
| | Gray fox | *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* |
| | Bobcat | *Lynx rufus* |
| | Porcupine | *Erethizon dorsatum* |
| | White-tailed deer | *Odocoileus virginianus* |
| | Black bear | *Ursus americanus* |
| | | |
| Amphibians | | |

| | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|
| | Mudpuppy | *Necturus maculosus* |
| | Red-spotted newt | *Notophthalmus viridescens* |
| | Northern dusky salamander | *Desmognathus fuscus* |
| | Mountain dusky salamander | *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* |
| | Redback salamander | *Plethodon cinereus* |
| | Slimy salamander | *Plethodon glutinosus* |
| | Wehrle's salamander | *Plethodon wehrlei* |
| | Four-toed salamander | *Hemidactylium scutatum* |
| | Northern spring salamander | *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus* |
| | Northern red salamander | *Pseudotriton ruber* |
| | Northern two-lined salamander | *Eurycea bislineata* |
| | American toad | *Bufo americanus* |
| | Northern spring peeper | *Hyla crucifer* |
| | Gray treefrog | *Hyla versicolor* |
| | Western chorus frog | *Pseudacris triseriata* |
| | Bullfrog | *Rana catesbeiana* |
| | Green frog | *Rana clamitans melanota* |
| | Wood frog | *Rana sylvatica* |
| Reptiles | | |
| | Common snapping turtle | *Chelydra serpentina* |
| | Eastern painted turtle | *Chrysemys picata* |
| | Wood turtle | *Clemmys insculpta* |
| | Northern water snake | *Natrix sipedon* |
| | Northern brown snake | *Storeria dekayi* |
| | Northern redbelly snake | *Storeria occipitomaculata* |
| | Eastern garter snake | *Thamnophis sirtalis* |
| | Shorthead garter snake | *Thamnophis brachystoma* |
| | Eastern ribbon snake | *Thamnophis sauritus* |

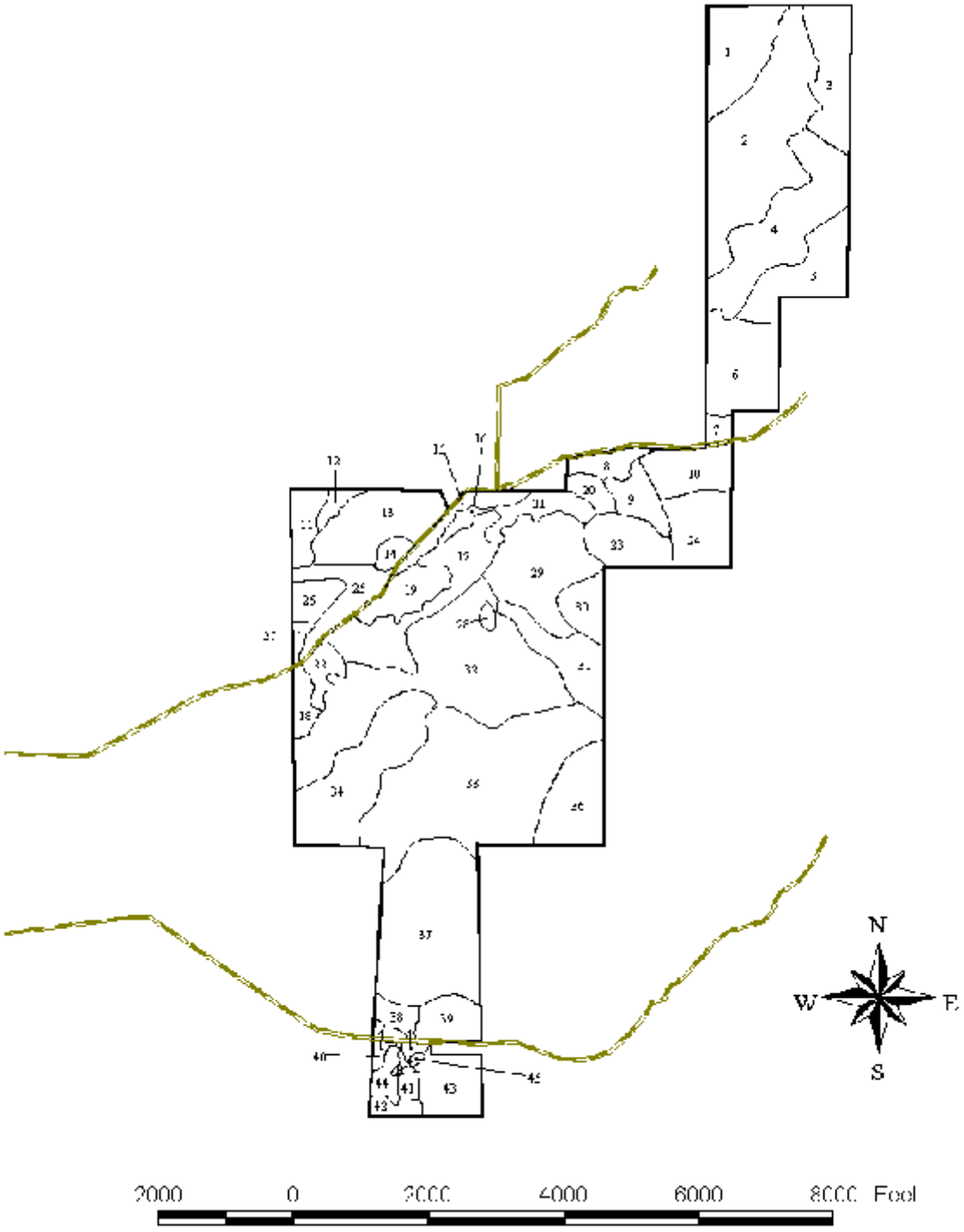
| | **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|---|---|---|
| | Northern ringneck snake | *Diadophis punctatus edwardsi* |
| | Northern black racer | *Coluber constrictor* |
| | Eastern smooth green snake | *Opheodrys vernalis* |
| | Black rat snake | *Elaphe obsoleta* |
| | Eastern milk snake | *Lampropeltis triangulum* |

## **APPENDIX VI:** Maps of the Nine Mile Management Unit

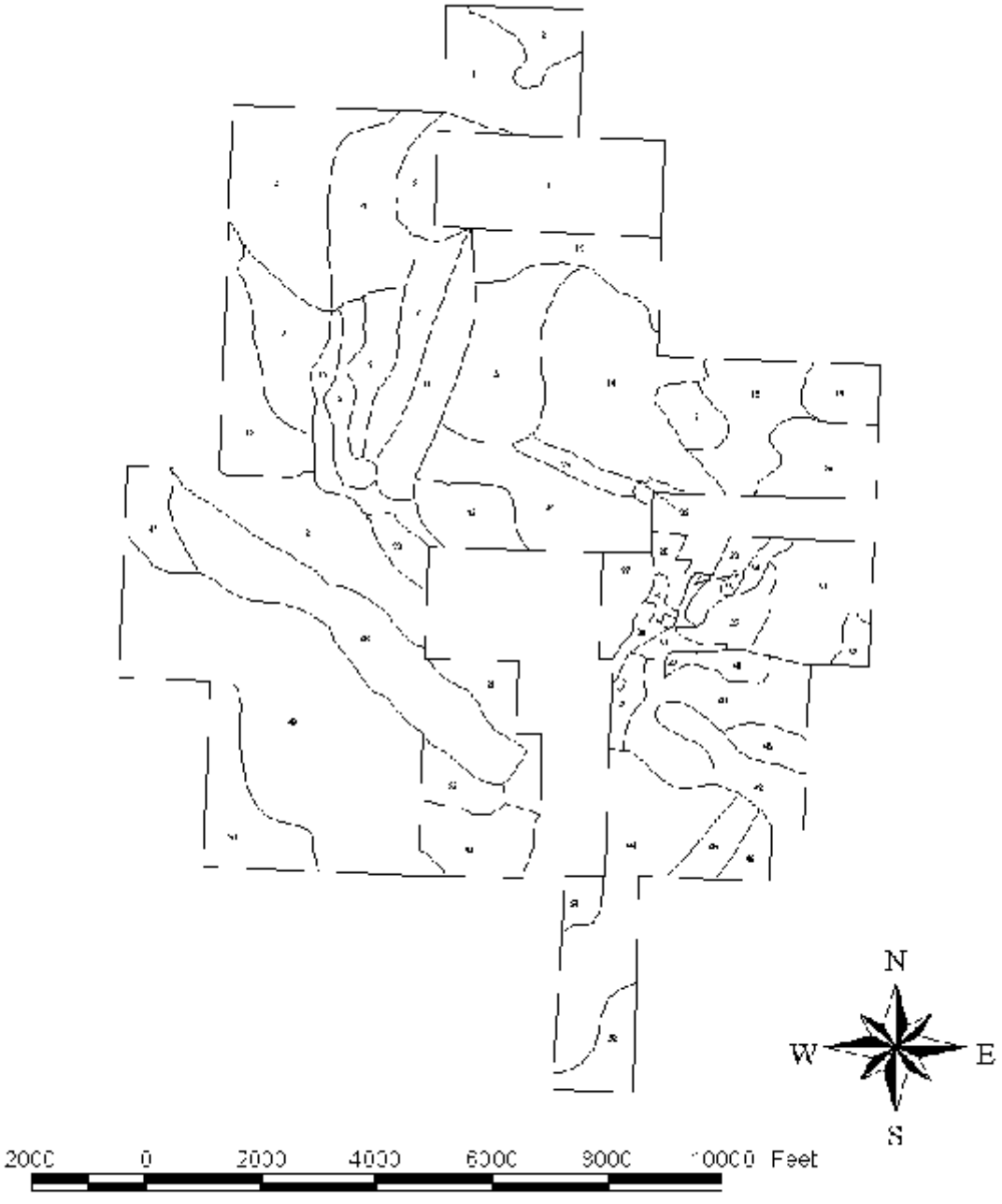
Map 1: Streams of the Nine Mile Management Unit



Map 2: Stand Map of Windfall Creek State Forest



Map 3: Stand Map of Nine Mile Creek State Forest

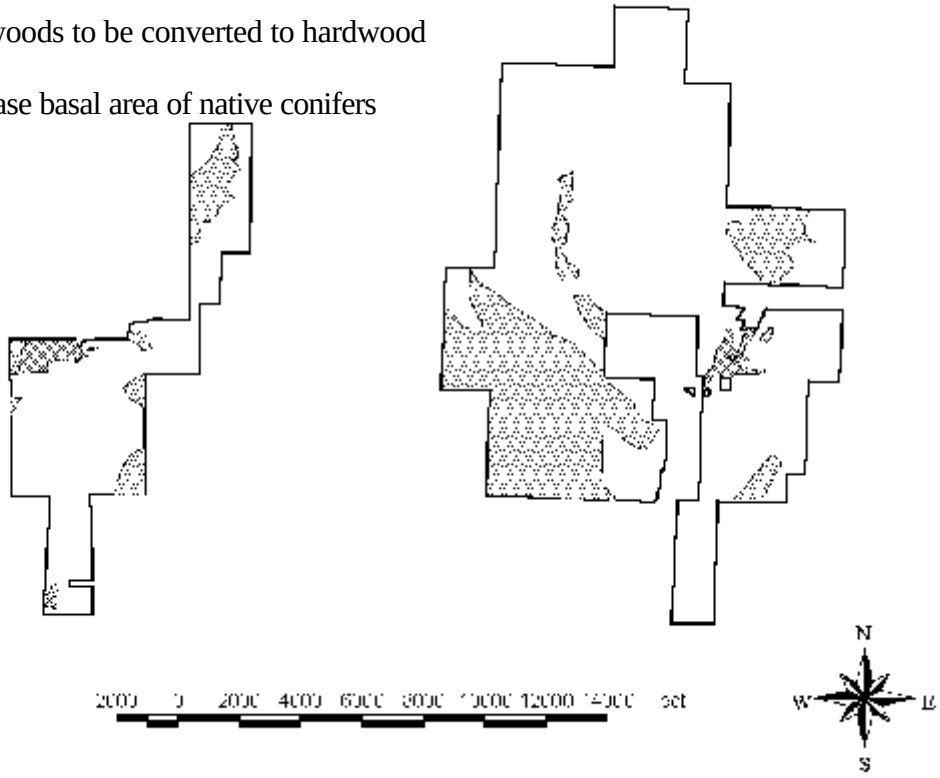


Map 4: Stands Suitable for Timber Management Objectives 1, 2, and 3

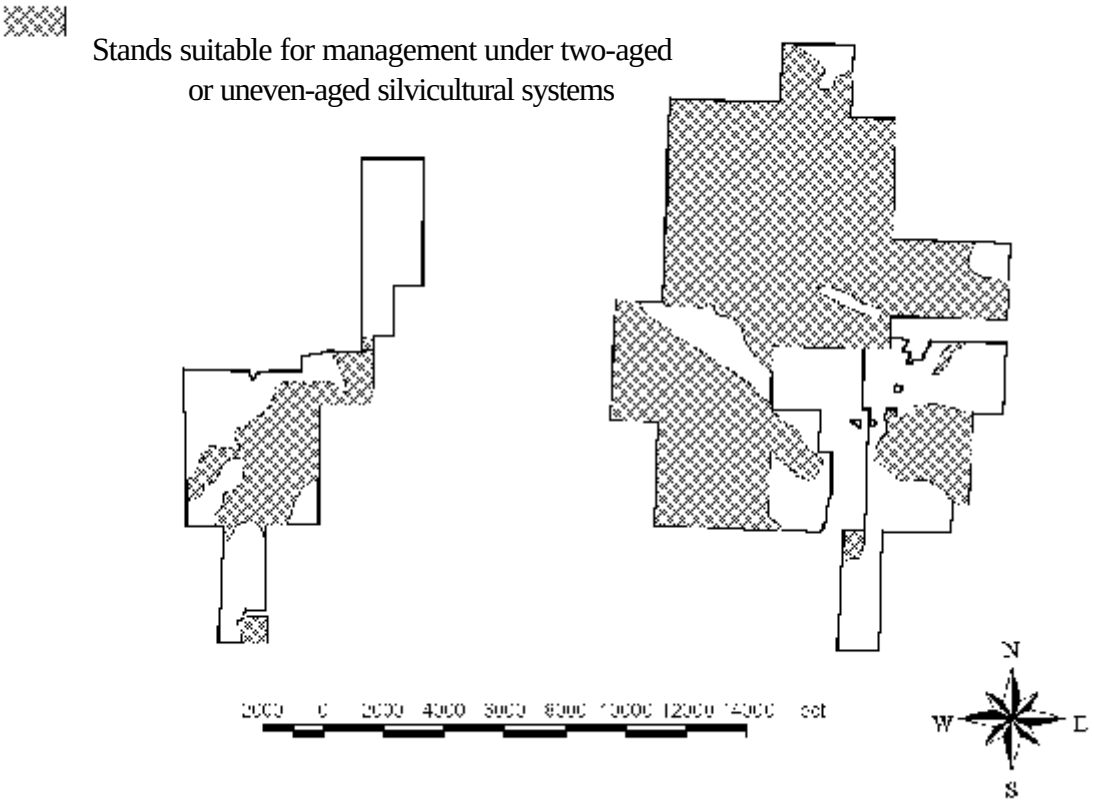
Softwoods, 120-year rotation, natural regeneration

Softwoods to be converted to hardwood

Increase basal area of native conifers

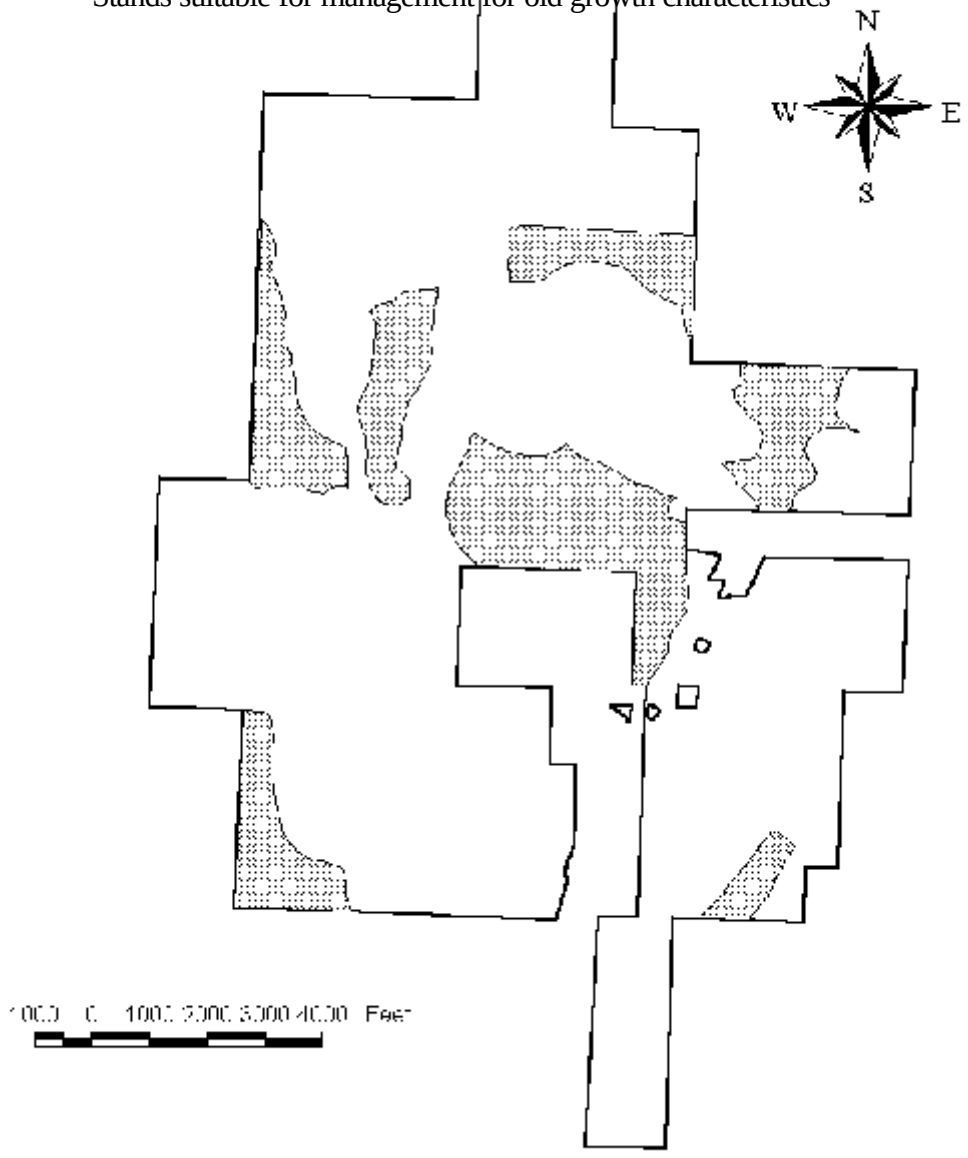


Map 5: Stands Suitable for Timber Management Objective #5

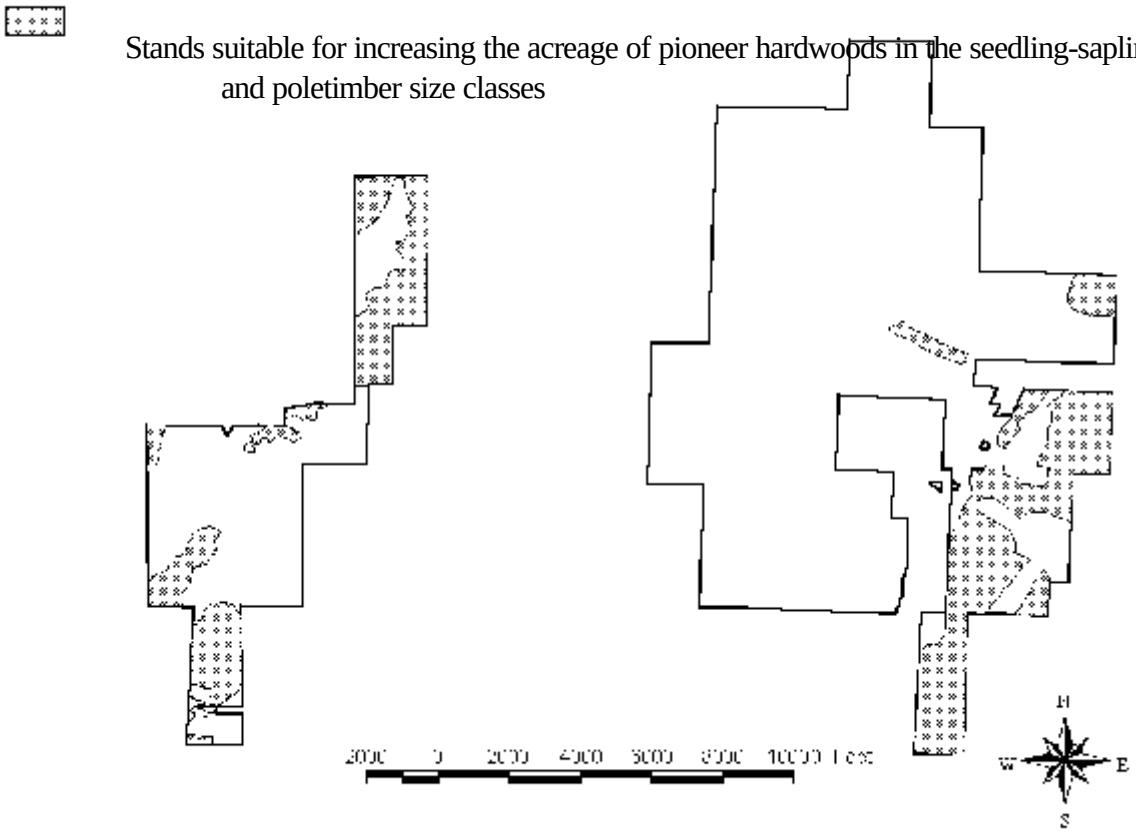


Map 6: Stands Suitable for Timber Management Objective #6

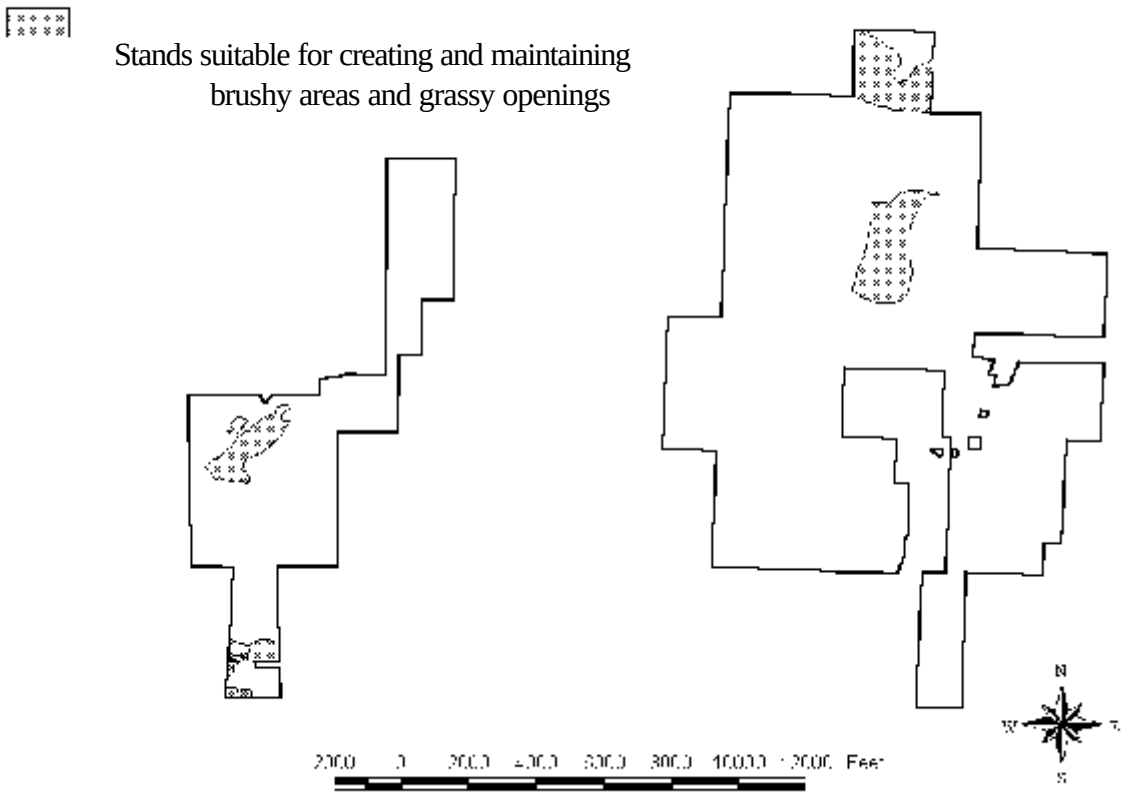
Stands suitable for management for old growth characteristics



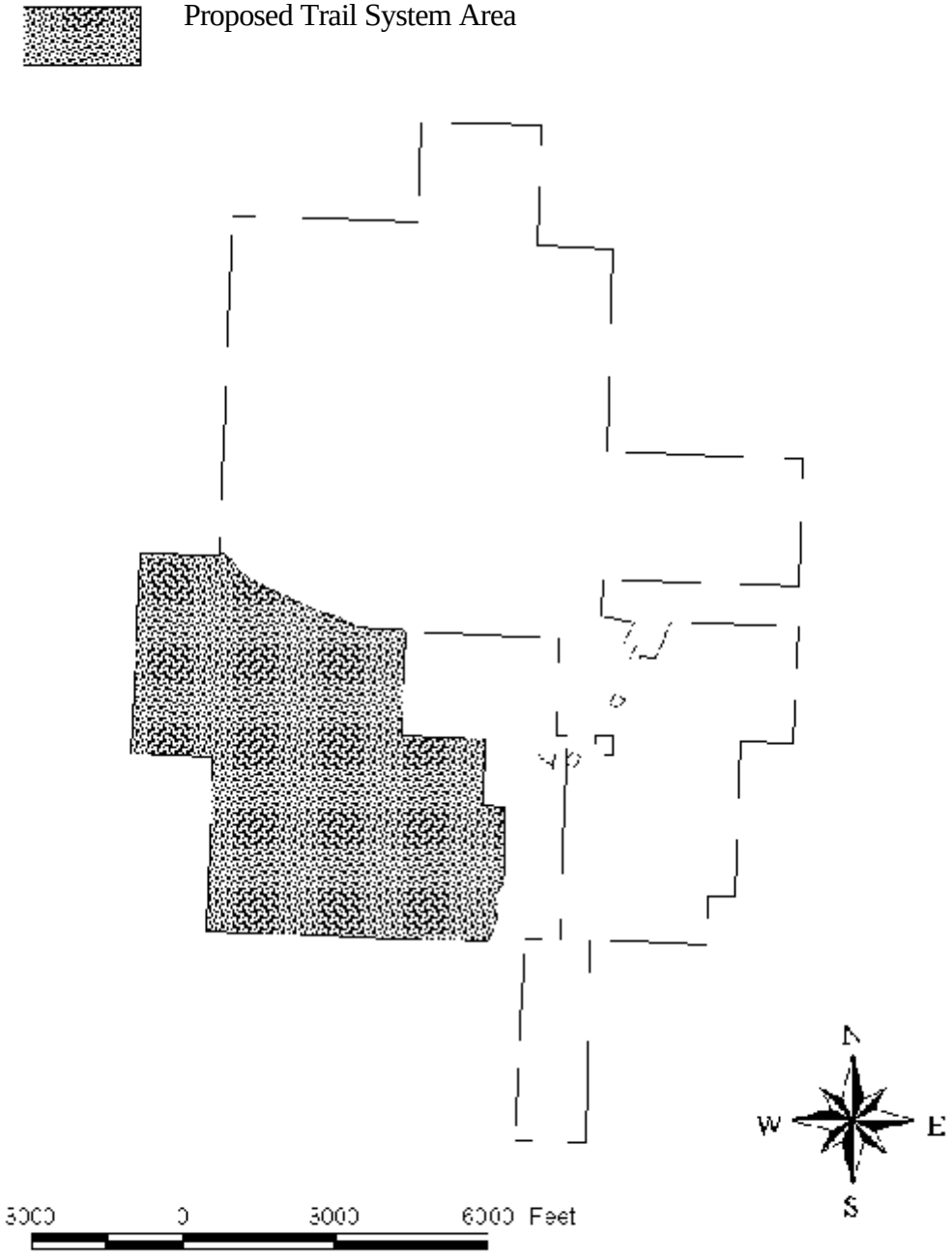
Map 7: Stands Suitable for Wildlife Management Objective #1



Map 8: Stands Suitable for Wildlife Management Objective #2



Map 9: Area of Proposed ATV Trail System



# **APPENDIX VII:** Budgetary needs

## Annual Costs

| | |
|---|---|
| Road maintenance: 2.8 miles | $1,400 |
| Gates: 5 | $250 |
| Sign maintenance | $500 |

## Periodic Costs

| Item | Year | Cost |
|---|---|---|
| Replace gate at Twin Ponds | 1999 | $500 |
| Plug abandoned wells on Nine Mile Creek State Forest: 3 wells | 1999 | $80,000 |
| Boundary line maintenance, Windfall Creek State Forest: 6.8 miles | 1999 | $2,720 |
| Boundary line maintenance, Nine Mile Creek State Forest: 18 miles | 2002 | $7,200 |
| Boundary line maintenance, Windfall Creek State Forest: 9.3 miles | 2006 | $3,720 |
| Boundary line maintenance, Nine Mile Creek State Forest: 18 miles | 2009 | $7,200 |

## **APPENDIX VIII:** Summary of public comments

Comment: Leave quality seed trees and minimize logging roads when harvesting timber.

Response: Improving stand quality is a primary consideration in harvesting operations on State Forests. Road construction will take place as needed, incorporating Best Management Practices to minimize it's effects on erosion and stream water quality.

Comment: Control deer herd to minimize browsing of hardwood regeneration, possibly through quality deer management.

Response: Deer herd size and health are primarily managed through the issuance of Deer Management Permits. Regulations specific to the Nine Mile Management Unit are not within the authority of Regional staff, and thus adherence to Quality Deer Management guidelines would necessarily be voluntary on the part of hunters.

Comment: Schedule logging at times when damage to town roads will be minimized.

Response: Town roads are usually posted during those times when they are most susceptible to damage from heavy truck traffic.

Comment: Require use of Best Management Practices as part of all logging contracts on State lands.

Response: Sale conditions are formulated in accordance with the *Timber Harvesting Guidelines* formulated by the New York Society of American Foresters.

Comment: Do not construct ATV trails.

Response: DEC policy and State law allows for the use of ATV's on public lands. The ATV user community has a legitimate request for an opportunity to use State Forest lands for their recreation. The feasibility of an ATV trail system should be investigated, and if constructed, the trail system will be subject to environmental, societal, and legal conditions for it's continued use.

Comment: Construct and maintain an ATV trail system.

Response: The plan calls for the creation of an ATV trail system, providing that certain conditions are met.

Comment: Do not open Porcupine Road or Gypsy Moth Road to general public use.

Response: These roads are "Class B" roads, and are not intended for continuous vehicle use. They are occasionally opened during deer season, but are otherwise gated to prevent vehicular access by the public.

Comment: Use selective cuts and small patch clearcuts to minimize aesthetic impacts.
Response: A variety of even- and uneven-aged silvicultural systems will be used to harvest and regenerate the forests of the unit. Aesthetic impacts are taken into consideration when planning all timber harvesting operations.

Comment: Leave some areas of the forest to grow to old growth conditions.
Response: The plan calls for the management of 300 acres for old growth characteristics.

Comment: Remove softwood plantations adjacent to Phearsdorf Forest Road and North Nine Mile Road and maintain as open fields for wildlife habitat.
Response: These plantations will be grown to maturity and harvested for forest products. The plan calls for the establishment of grassy openings in other areas of the unit.

Comment: Designate trails for ATV use by disabled hunters.
Response: Current DEC policy allows for Temporary Revocable Permits for ATV use on State lands to be issued to people with disabilities. These permits are valid on all trails Statewide that are designated as ATV Access Routes.

Comment: Manage State Forests for multiple use, including timber harvesting.
Response: Multiple use is the overriding philosophy of managing State Forests.

Comment: Create American chestnut and ginseng plantations.
Response: There is an American chestnut plantation on Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area. If and when a resistant strain of chestnut is developed, it may be re-introduced to the forests of the Region and the State. Ginseng grows naturally in hardwood forests, and may occur on the unit. Gathering of ginseng is not allowed on State lands, and there are no plans to expend Departmental resources on the propagation or cultivation of ginseng.

Comment: Create more mountain bike trails.
Response: The plan calls for the construction of trails suitable for use as single-track mountain bike trails.

Comment: Continue to allow snowmobile use on the unit, possibly connect with Statewide Corridor system.
Response: Snowmobile use is allowed on State Forest lands. Any connection to the Statewide Corridor system would have to be coordinated with, and with the consent of, private landowners.

Comment: Create a horse trail system with trailer accommodations and tie stalls.
Response: There are horse trails already in existence or being planned on other State Forests in

this region.

Comment: Replace the earthen berm at the north end of Nine Mile Forest Road with a gate.
Response: The road beyond the berm is impassable, and therefore a gate is unnecessary.

Comment: The location of the Nine Mile Forest Road gate is not at the boundary of State property. This creates a situation in which members of the public may mistake private land for State property.
Response: The Nine Mile Forest Road right-of-way begins at Nine Mile Road (town road). The gate is in its current location to allow adjacent private landowners access to their property, and still prevent vehicular traffic during times of poor road condition, or when the road is susceptible to damage (spring thaw, etc.).

Comment: Advise the public on the proper use of the property.
Response: General rules and regulations are posted at all area ID sign standards.

Comment: Make sure that boundary lines are marked.
Response: The plan calls for the maintenance of boundary lines on a 7-year cycle.

Comment: Identify trails and use buffers to keep trail riders on trails.
Response: Trail markers are installed as part of all trail construction projects. Any trails will be designed to keep riders within the trail corridor to the greatest extent possible.

Comment: Consider plugging the leaking oil wells on the property.
Response: The wells are on the regional environmental audit and have been recommended for plugging. The UMP also calls for the plugging of these wells.

Comment: Get access to allow adjacent landowners to remove timber.
Response: Temporary Revocable Permits may be issued to allow adjacent landowners to cross State land in order to facilitate the removal of timber

Comment: Keep adjacent landowners informed of planned activities.
Response: The Department tries to notify adjacent landowners of matters which concern them.

Comment: Continue to manage the forest for the production of timber and forest products.
Response: There are no plans to eliminate timber management from the forest management program.

Comment: Keep fire lanes open between State lands and private property.
Response: The low incidence of wildfires in this part of the country, together with the extensive road system already in place, makes the creation of fire lanes unnecessary.

Comment: Allow communications towers on State land.
Response: Currently the law prohibits the construction of new communications towers on State lands.

Comment: Resolve the issue of the Townsend Hollow Road location.
Response: This is already part of the plan.

Comment: If an ATV trail is built, time of use should be closely regulated to keep noise to a minimum.
Response: Use of any possible ATV trail will be regulated, in regards to both time of day and season of the year.

Comment: Remove old boundary line markers.
Response: This is included in the boundary line maintenance process.

Comment: Consider building a nature/education trail.
Response: This project may be considered in future revisions of the plan.

# **APPENDIX IX:** Forest inventory data

Windfall Creek State Forest

| Stand No. | Acres | Forest Type | Size Class | Total BA/Ac | Gross Mbf/Ac | Net Mbf/Ac | Species Composition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 29 | 32 | D | 146 | 18.0 | 15.1 | RO, RM, BE, WA, BC |
| 2 | 78 | 11 | D | 129 | 13.8 | 13.1 | RM, BE, RO, HEM, BC |
| 3 | 26 | 31 | D | 139 | 23.5 | 21.9 | RM, RO, BE, WA, BC |
| 4 | 52 | 32 | D | 139 | 15.9 | 14.9 | RO, WA, RM, BE, HM |
| 5 | 29 | 32 | D | 151 | 20.0 | 17.6 | RO, RM. WA. BE. HM |
| 6 | 32 | 32 | D | 124 | 16.4 | 15.6 | RO, OTH, HM, RM, WA |
| 7 | 4 | 11 | D | 122 | 9.7 | 9.R | RM, HM, OTH, ASP, HEM |
| 8 | 7 | 32 | C | 96 | 2.8 | 2.4 | BC, ELM, APL, BAS, SHR |
| 9 | 10 | 32 | A | 38 | 1.5 | 1.5 | RM, IWD, BC, RP, PC |
| 10 | 18 | 11 | C | 122 | 12.6 | 12.0 | RM, HM, HEM, BC, SHR |
| 11 | 11 | 32 | C | 145 | 9.1 | 8.6 | WO, RM, RO, PH, WS |
| 12 | 4 | 71 | C | 142 | 5.6 | 5.4 | WS, RO, RM, NS, ASP |
| 13 | 32 | 45 | C | 218 | 16.1 | 16.1 | NS, ASP, HM, BC, RO |
| 14 | 4 | Field | - - | - - | - - | - - | |
| 15 | 10 | 40 | D | 128 | 13.7 | 13.4 | RP, BC, HM, RM, WA |
| 16 | 4 | 41 | C | 188 | 13.1 | 11.9 | WP, BC, ASP |
| 17 | 33 | 32 | A | 8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | BB, BE, PC, RP |
| 18 | 6 | 32 | A | 28 | 0.4 | 0.4 | RM, BC, HM, ASP, APL |
| 19 | 12 | 14 | A | 32 | 0.9 | 0.9 | ASP, BC |
| 20 | 5 | 68 | C | 186 | 7.1 | 6.6 | SP, RP, WA, ASP, ELM |
| 21 | 10 | 32 | C | 106 | 7.9 | 6.8 | RM, ASP, BE, BC, HM |
| 22 | 5 | 32 | A | 18 | 0.4 | 0.4 | HM, SHR, APL, BC, BB |
| 23 | 15 | 10 | D | 144 | 17.3 | 15.1 | WA, HM, BC, RM, STM |
| 24 | 19 | 10 | D | 126 | 18.3 | 17.4 | HM, RM, WA, BC, HEM |
| 25 | 20 | 60 | C | 157 | 7.0 | 6.7 | RP, WP, BC |
| 26 | 9 | 32 | A | 32 | 0.9 | 0.9 | RM, ASP, WP |
| 27 | 3 | 70 | C | 114 | 4.2 | 3.8 | WP, HM, WA, RP, RM |

| Stand No. | Acres | Forest Type | Size Class | Total BA/Ac | Gross Mbf/Ac | Net Mbf/Ac | Species Composition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | 2 | 10 | C | 46 | 0.9 | 0.9 | HM, WA, BC |
| 29 | 39 | 10 | D | 123 | 11.1 | 9.9 | HM, RM, BC, WA, BE |
| 30 | 11 | 11 | D | 160 | 16.3 | 13.7 | WA, HEM, HM, RM, RO |
| 31 | 19 | 10 | D | 122 | 14.0 | 12.3 | WA, HM, BC, BAS, HEM |
| 32 | 96 | 10 | C | 97 | 3.3 | 3.0 | RM, BC, ASP |
| 33 | 39 | 32 | D | 135 | 9.6 | 8.2 | WA, HM, RM, OTH, BC |
| 34 | 46 | 32 | D | 115 | 9.0 | 7.9 | RM, BC, HM, BB, RO |
| 35 | 72 | 32 | D | 114 | 8.5 | 7.7 | RO, RM, WA, HM, HEM |
| 36 | 25 | 11 | D | 127 | 13.8 | 11.7 | WA, BE, RM, HM, HEM |
| 37 | 76 | 16 | D | 102 | 10.9 | 10.2 | RO, HEM, RM, OTH, WO |
| 38 | 8 | 32 | B | 88 | 0.2 | 0.2 | ASP, BC, TAP, RM, APL |
| 39 | 13 | 32 | C | 103 | 3.8 | 3.3 | ASP, RO, BB, RM, OTH |
| 40 | 4 | 32 | C | 116 | 2.8 | 2.3 | ASP, BC, BB, TAP, SHR |
| 41 | 3 | 40 | C | 148 | 11.0 | 11.0 | RP, RM, ELM |
| 42 | 4 | 32 | C | 126 | 7.0 | 6.4 | BB, ASP, RM, HM, BE |
| 43 | 19 | 32 | C | 116 | 6.2 | 5.3 | RM, HM, BC, ASP, OTH |
| 44 | 4 | 54 | C | 156 | 1.3 | 1.3 | RS, APL |
| 45 | 1 | Pond | - - | - - | - - | - - | |

Nine Mile Creek State Forest

| Stand No. | Acres | Forest Type | Size Class | Total BA/Ac | Gross Mbf/Ac | Net MBF/Ac | Species Composition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 71 | 10 | C | 107 | 4.1 | 3.6 | HM, ASH, BC, RO |
| 2 | 30 | 14 | B | | | | ASP, RM, SP |
| 3 | 134 | 10 | D | 138 | 9.4 | 8.5 | HM, BE, WA, BC |
| 4 | 90 | 10 | D | 95 | 6.1 | 5.4 | HM, BE, BC, RM |
| 5 | 33 | 10 | E | 133 | 11.7 | 10.5 | HM, WA, BC, RO |
| 6 | 150 | 10 | D | 96 | 9.5 | 7.6 | HM, WA, BC, RM, RO |
| 7 | 62 | 10 | D | 124 | 5.5 | 3.9 | HM, WA, BE |
| 8 | 30 | 11 | E | 121 | 9.4 | 8.4 | HEM, BE, RM, BB, BC |
| 9 | 29 | 10 | E | 101 | 6.2 | 5.6 | BE, HM, BC, HEM |
| 10 | 44 | 10 | D | 115 | 7.2 | 5.7 | HM, BC, BE |
| 11 | 64 | 10 | D | 130 | 10.0 | 9.0 | HM, RM, BC, BE |
| 12 | 64 | 10 | E | 105 | 8.0 | 7.2 | HM, BE, BC, RM, WA |
| 13 | 97 | 10 | D | 129 | 9.9 | 7.9 | HM, BE, BC, RM |
| 14 | 182 | 10 | D | 110 | 5.8 | 5.2 | HM, BC, WA, BE |
| 15 | 77 | 10 | E | 109 | 8.7 | 7.8 | HM, BE, WA, BC |
| 16 | 46 | 10 | D | 145 | 8.8 | 7.0 | HM, BC, BE, HEM, RM |
| 17 | 25 | 10 | D | 114 | 4.8 | 4.3 | BE, RM, HM, HEM, BB |
| 18 | 76 | 11 | E | 135 | 9.2 | 7.3 | HM, RM, BE, HEM, RO |
| 19 | 33 | 16 | E | 148 | 12.6 | 11.3 | RO, WA, BE, HM, RM |
| 20 | 61 | 10 | D | 96 | 5.8 | 5.2 | WA, HM, BW |
| 21 | 169 | 10 | D | 101 | 7.3 | 6.6 | HM, BE, WA, HEM, BW |
| 22 | 20 | 11 | D | 112 | 5.7 | 5.1 | HM, RM, HEM, BC, YB |
| 23 | 43 | 10 | E | 126 | 8.5 | 6.8 | HM, BE, RM, WA, HEM |
| 24 | 109 | 10 | E | 108 | 5.8 | 5.2 | HM, BC, BE, WA |
| 25 | 22 | 16 | E | 85 | 4.4 | 4.0 | RO, WA, BC, HM |
| 26 | 5 | 10 | D | 118 | 7.2 | 6.4 | HM, WA, BW |
| 27 | 29 | 10 | F | 64 | 6.1 | 6.1 | HM, RO, BC, RM, WA |
| 28 | 13 | 92 | A | - - | - - | - - | APPLE, THORN APPLE, OTHER |

| Stand No. | Acres | Forest Type | Size Class | Total BA/Ac | Gross Mbf/Ac | Net MBF/Ac | Species Composition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29 | 4 | 45 | A | - - | - - | - - | CU, ASP |
| 30 | 10 | 71 | A | - - | - - | - - | CU, ASP, SB, CR |
| 31 | 9 | 45 | A | - - | - - | - - | NS, OPEN |
| 32 | 19 | 10 | D | 138 | 5.4 | 4.8 | RM, RO, ASP |
| 33 | 7 | 71 | A | - - | - - | - - | CU, ASP |
| 34 | 8 | 10 | C | 108 | 3.4 | 2.6 | HM, RM, BE, RO, WA |
| 35 | 27 | 10 | C | 93 | 4.5 | 3.6 | HM, RO, BC, IRW, BE |
| 36 | 81 | 16 | E | 145 | 8.3 | 7.5 | RO, BE, RM |
| 37 | 11 | 16 | D | 110 | 8.2 | 5.8 | RM, RO, WO, HM, |
| 38 | 15 | 70 | B | 184 | 0.1 | 0.1 | RP, SP, WS |
| 39 | 3 | 14 | C | 76 | 2.7 | 2.0 | ASP, WA, HM |
| 40 | 63 | 10 | D | 150 | 6.5 | 5.9 | RM, HM, RO, ASP |
| 41 | 12 | 10 | C | 110 | 4.0 | 3.2 | HM, RM, BE |
| 42 | 44 | 32 | D | 105 | 8.9 | 8.2 | RM, HM, WA, RO, BE |
| 43 | 19 | 10 | D | 123 | 7.0 | 6.3 | WA, HM, RO, BE |
| 44 | 144 | 16 | D | 138 | 8.3 | 6.6 | RO, RM, HM, BE |
| 45 | 23 | 11 | C | 116 | 6.9 | 5.7 | RM, HM, WA, RO |
| 46 | 14 | 31 | D | 124 | 10.2 | 9.8 | RO, CO |
| 47 | 41 | 11 | D | 85 | 5.8 | 3.4 | BE, RM, HEM |
| 48 | 179 | 11 | D | 136 | 6.9 | 6.2 | RM, HEM, BE, HM, RO |
| 49 | 356 | 11 | D | 106 | 9.1 | 8.2 | HM, BE, HEM, RM, WA |
| 50 | 62 | 11 | E | 129 | 8.5 | 6.0 | RM, BE, HM, HEM |
| 51 | 16 | 10 | D | 138 | 6.0 | 6.0 | HM, WA, BE |
| 52 | 34 | 16 | E | 130 | 8.9 | 8.0 | RO, WA, RM |
| 53 | 28 | 14 | B | 78 | 0.7 | 0.7 | BB, ASP, APL |
| 54 | 56 | Field | - - | - - | | | |

## **APPENDIX X:** Stands Suitable for Management Objectives

TIMBER

| Management Objective | Suitable Stands |
|---|---|
| 1. Manage seventy seven (73) acres of white pine, white spruce, and Norway spruce plantations on a 120-year rotation, thinning at 20-year intervals, and regenerating through natural regeneration systems. | Catt #6: Stands 12, 13, 16, 27, 44<br>Catt #22: Stands 30, 31 |
| 2. Convert fifty three (53) acres of Scotch pine and red pine plantations to even-aged hardwood stands through natural regeneration methods. | Catt #6: Stands 15, 20, 25, 41<br>Catt#22: Stand 38 |
| 3. Increase the basal area percentage of native conifer species in hardwood stands which contain 10% or more of these species. | Catt #6: Stands 2, 11, 20, 30, 36<br>Catt #22: Stands 8, 17, 18, 22, 45, 48, 49, 50 |
| 5. Manage at least twenty five hundred (2500) acres as two-aged or uneven-aged stands. | Catt #6: Stands 5, 7, 10, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 43<br>Catt #22: Stands 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 |
| 6. Manage six hundred (600) acres of forest for old growth characteristics. | Catt #6: Stand 37<br>Catt #22: Stands 8, 12, 15, 18, 23, 24, 25, 27, 45, 50 |
| 8. Manage at least one thousand (1000) acres as even-aged stands. | Catt #6: Stands 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 21, 34, 37, 39, 40, 42<br>Catt #22: Stands 19, 25, 32, 35, 36, 37, 39, 44, 46, 52 |
| 9. Defer management decisions on one hundred-sixty one (161) acres of forest land. | Catt #6: Stands 9, 17, 18, 19, 22, 26, 38,<br>Catt #22: Stands 2, 28, 29, 33, 54 |

WILDLIFE

Management Objective

1. Increase acreage of pioneer hardwood stands in the seedling-sapling and poletimber size classes.

2. Create and maintain brushy areas and grassy openings on 3 to 5% of the land area (130 to 215 acres).

Suitable Stands

Catt #6: Stands 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 21, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42
Catt #22: Stands 19, 25, 32, 36, 37, 39, 40, 44, 46, 52

Catt #6: Stands 14, 17, 19, 38, 39, 40, 42
Catt #22: Stands 1, 13, 54

**APPENDIX XI:** Significant plant communities known to exist on the Nine Mile Management Unit.

| Scientific Name | Common Name | NYS Status | Last Observed |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Chamaelirium luteum* | Blazing-star | Rare | 1963 |
| *Carex arcta* | Northern clustered sedge | Unprotected | 1957 |
| *Epilobium ciliatum spp. glandulosum* | Willow-herb | Unprotected | 1966 |
| *Trillium flexipes* | Nodding trillium | Exploitably vulnerable | 1958 |

## **APPENDIX XII:** Rules, regulations, laws policies affecting management activities

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL)

| | |
|---|---|
| Article 9: | Lands and Forests |
| Article 11: | Fish and Wildlife |
| Article 15: | Water Resources |
| Article 23: | Mineral Resources |
| Article 24: | Wetlands |
| Article 33: | Pesticides |
| Article 51: | Implementation of Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972 |
| Article 52: | Implementation of Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1986 |
| Article 71: | Enforcement |

New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) - Title 6

| | |
|---|---|
| Chapter I: | Fish and Wildlife |
| Chapter II: | Lands and Forests |
| Chapter III: | Air Resources |
| Chapter IV: | Quality Services |
| Chapter V: | Resource Management Services |
| Chapter VII(A): | Implementation of 1972 Bond Act |
| Chapter X: | Division of Water Resources |

Department Policies

| | |
|---|---|
| Public Use | State Forest Master Plan |
| Temporary Revocable Permits | Inventory |
| Motor Vehicle Use | Acquisition |
| Timber Management | Road Construction |
| Unit Management Planning | Fish Species Management |
| Pesticides | Habitat Management |
| Prescribed Burning | Wild Species Management |

**617.21**
**State Environmental Quality Review**
**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance
Identifying #99-PL/SF-9-72

Project Number _____ Date May 11, 1999

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

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

**Name of Action:** Nine Mile Unit Management Plan

**SEOR Status:** Type I : Unlisted **9**

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:** **9** Yes
**:** No

**Description of Action:** The Nine Mile Unit Management Plan sets forth the proposed goals, management objectives and associated costs for a 4,307-acre unit of State Reforestation and Multiple Use lands in southeastern Cattaraugus County. The plan details proposed management activities for a 20-year period, dating from the time of approval and adoption. A review and update process will take place at the end of the tenth year. Public input will be sought via a public meeting.

Management activities planned for the Unit include: boundary line maintenance; forest inventory; recreational user opinion survey; wood products harvesting; creation of informal parking areas; creation and maintenance of grasslands by mowing; maintenance and rehabilitation of facilities; acquisition of inholdings; wildlife habitat maintenance; recreation trail creation and maintenance; oil and gas well plugging; law enforcement; and fire detection and suppression.

**Location:** (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

The two state forests in the management unit are located in the Towns of Allegany, Carrollton and Great Valley in Cattaraugus County (see attached map).

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:** (See 617.6(g) for requirements of this determination; see 617.6(h) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

Activities planned for the Unit will be covered by the following generic impact statements: State Forest Commercial Product Sales Program, Red Pine Plantation Clearcut Program, Wildlife Management Program, Fish Species Management Activities, State Forest Recreation Management Program, Acquisition of Lands by DEC, and Conserving Open Space in NYS. If after the public review process, activities are added to the plan to provide better management of the Unit and are not covered by this Negative Declaration or cited Generic Environmental Impact Statements, DEC will undertake a site-specific Environmental review for such activities.

Activities in the plan will be performed in accordance with the standards and policies and procedures set forth in the following DEC documents: *Continuous Forest Inventory Handbook, State Forest Multiple Use Management Plan Handbook, Unpaved Forest Road Handbook, and the Timber Management Handbook*. In addition, activities in the plan will be guided by the Environmental Conservation Law, best management practices, the expertise of foresters and biologists and the views expressed by the participating public.

Rehabilitation of existing facilities shall involve improving existing forest roads, gates, and parking lots. This entails spreading of gravel, grading, ditching, etc. When degradation of resources occurs due to normal use or because of poor siting, recommendations shall be made for rehabilitation, maintenance or relocation as is most appropriate. The aesthetic resources will be protected by law enforcement activities, minimizing impacts of harvesting activities and with the establishment of regeneration prior to harvesting mature forests, and limiting disturbances in sensitive areas along wet areas.

There are 4,133 acres of natural hardwood under even- and uneven-aged management to approximately 100 to 200 years of age. The shelterwood silvicultural system will be used to secure reproduction under a partial canopy prior to removal of the mature forest overstory in those areas under even-aged management. Non-threatened or non-endangered species slightly impacted due to the change in the canopy level. Group selection and single tree selection systems will be used in those areas under uneven-aged management to maintain a continuous "high forest" canopy with natural regeneration underneath. Impact to non-threatened or non-endangered species is negligible.

Construction of approximately 12 informal parking areas through forest product sales, each about one-tenth of an acre of reclaimed log landings with a two or three-car capacity, will entail spreading gravel to support vehicles and posting signs.

Construction of at least 10 miles of multiple- use trails that are suitable for use as single-tract mountain bike trails will entail clearing brush and marking the trails.

The feasibility of a proposed ATV trail is dependent upon the permission of adjacent landowners

to let users cross their property as well as site conditions to support such a use. If it is determined that this is a feasible project to proceed with, a separate site specific environmental review will be completed.

**If Conditioned Negative Declaration,** provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed.

For Further Information:


Contact Person: Robert W. Messenger, Senior Forester
Address: 128 South Street Olean, NY 14760
Telephone Number: (716) 372-0645


**For Type I Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice Sent to:**
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-0001; Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation; Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located.

Applicant (if any)
Other involved agencies (if any)