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| 1 | <u>DEPARTMENT STAFF EXHIBITS</u> | 17 |
| 2 | 1 COMPLETE "CATSKILL FOREST PRESERVE PUBLIC | |
| 3 | ACCESS PLAN DATED AUGUST 1999" | |
| 4 | 2 COMPLETE COPY "CATSKILL PARK STATE LAND | |
| 5 | MASTER PLAN" | |
| 6 | 3 "CATSKILL FOREST PRESERVE OFFICIAL MAP | |
| 7 | AND GUIDE" | |
| 8 | 4 EXCERPTS FROM "BIG INDIAN-BEAVERKILL | |
| 9 | RANGE WILDERNESS AREA UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN" | |
| 10 | 5 EXCERPTS "SLIDE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS | |
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| | TO ALEC CIESLUK DATED 4/23/04 | |

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Catskill Forest Preserve

Public Access Plan

August 1999



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
George E. Pataki, Governor
John P. Cahill, Commissioner



In Cooperation with New York State Department of Transportation

Acknowledgments

This plan was prepared for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation by Bethia Waterman, with support and assistance from DEC staff in all program areas active in the Catskill Park, as well as representatives of New York State Department of Transportation and other state agencies, local government, sportsmen, environmental organizations, outdoor recreation groups, businesses and chambers of commerce, and private citizens.

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GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR



JOHN P. CAHILL
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK, 12233-1010

To Friends of the Catskill Forest Preserve

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan. This plan sets forth a new vision for the management of nearly 300,000 acres of public land within the Catskill Park, proposing opportunities to strengthen the connection between the Forest Preserve and local communities, improving the public's understanding of and access to the Forest Preserve, and creating a "Sense of Park" for residents and visitors alike.

The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan has been developed with extensive input from ordinary citizens, Forest Preserve user groups, environmental groups, business leaders, local government officials and other state agencies including the Department of Transportation.

The Plan is premised on the idea that the magnificent natural resources of the Catskill Forest Preserve are a crucial ingredient in efforts to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of the region in the 21st century. By coming together to develop this plan, this broad and diverse group has demonstrated the value of a grass roots, consensus - driven planning process.

Under Governor Pataki's leadership, the State is spending unprecedented amounts to improve the stewardship of its lands and facilities, including the Department's extensive holdings in the Catskills. The Governor recognizes, as does this Plan, that our extensive natural and recreational assets in the Catskills can contribute greatly to a better future for Catskill communities. The Plan provides a useful blueprint to improve those assets and to extend the public's ability to use and enjoy these resources, for outdoor recreation, tourism and economic opportunity.

We look forward to building on the partnerships that developed during the development of this plan and to implement the plan for the benefit of all those who use and enjoy the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'John P. Cahill'. The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'J' and 'C'.

John P. Cahill

Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan

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Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan

A Vision for the Catskill Forest Preserve



The quality and character of the lives of the people of New York depend upon the quality and character of the natural resources which support our lives. The Catskill Forest Preserve is one of New York's great natural resources. The forest preserve plays an important role in the towns and villages of the Catskill region for residents and visitors alike. The 300,000 acres of "forever wild" public lands receive more than a half million visitors a year who drive the scenic highways of the region on their way to hike, bike, canoe, hunt, fish, camp, and study nature. Surrounding communities depend heavily on access to forest preserve lands as a nature-based tourism attraction that can be the cornerstone of sustainable economic development for the region.

The biological and economic value of the forest preserve is rooted in the quality of its natural resources—clean water, land and air—and the inestimable beauty of the landscape. More than 9,000,000 New Yorkers depend on the pristine Catskill environment for their drinking water. The same picturesque mountains and sparkling streams that inspired Thomas Cole and John Burroughs in the last century remain wild today, a source of inspiration, pleasure, and spiritual enrichment to new generations of explorers.

The forest preserve attracts people with a broad spectrum of interests throughout the seasons. Automobile travelers come to enjoy the breathtaking panoramic views throughout the Catskill Park. The views from the roadways, spectacular at any time of the year, are especially brilliant in the fall when the leaves are changing colors. Those who enjoy outdoor recreation find exciting challenges and rewards in the large tracts of undisturbed forest that make up the Preserve. For more than a century and a half Catskill streams have lured anglers in pursuit of world-class fishing for rainbow, brown, and native brook trout. Bountiful deer and bear, as well as turkey and other small game, draw hunters to the forest preserve. Skiing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, ice climbing and other cold weather sports delight winter visitors.

The forest preserve supports a wide array of wild animals which provide a great many recreational opportunities. Article XIV, §1, the "Forever Wild" section of New York State's constitution, guarantees the protection of the forest preserve as an important component of the array of habitats that support the great diversity of plant and animal communities across the state. It states that:

The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed. (See Appendix A. for additional relevant text from Article XIV, §1.)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for the care and management of the forest preserve. DEC has a two-tiered system for management planning. The

Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP) provides the overriding policy and guidelines for all the lands in the forest preserve. Unit management plans (UMPs) refine and apply the criteria in the master plan to specific areas and conditions at a level of detail appropriate to administration and management.

New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has responsibility for the state highways throughout the region. DOT has interagency guidelines and recommended procedures specific to the highways and maintenance facilities in the Catskill Park.

DEC provides some information about forest preserve lands to the public through publications and personal contact with regional staff. Brochures about campgrounds, Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, and brochures and maps for specific locations and recreational activities are available. However, existing information and interpretive programs do not reach enough visitors, particularly family automobile travelers not experienced in backcountry use, about how to use and enjoy the forest preserve. Unlike virtually all other parks of the scale and character of the Catskill Forest Preserve, there is no park-wide system of information points, no interpretive or visitors center, no telephone number to call for consistent information, no park-wide system of natural or historic interpretation, no standardized trailhead information systems, and a lack of consistent information about specific outdoor activities. Privately produced guides and maps are available to visitors at book or sporting goods stores, but these reach only a small proportion of visitors.

Although the forest preserve is governed by the "Forever Wild" constitutional protections, the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, and the detailed management objectives contained in unit management plans, there is not a plan with the perspective of the forest preserve as a whole that addresses the need for balanced recreational use and information for all forest preserve "users." The existing information and methods of distribution are incomplete and inconsistent, especially in terms of the identification of forest preserve lands and access points from the highway system. Recreational opportunities need to be identified and enhanced to ensure access for a broad range of users, particularly families and people with disabilities.

The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan identifies deficiencies that hamper public use and the delivery of information about the forest preserve and recommends ways to fill these gaps in order to better meet the needs of visitors, residents, and highway travelers for access to these lands. While recognizing the need to protect the wild character of forest preserve lands, this plan seeks to raise the profile of the Catskill Forest Preserve and expand the vision for stewardship to assure that these lands will continue to support and enhance the lives of future generations in compliance with the "Forever Wild" clause while, at the same time, contributing to a robust economy throughout the Catskill Park.

Goals of the Public Access Plan

The goals of the Public Access Plan are:

- To enhance the experiences of Catskill highway travelers by increasing their understanding and appreciation of the forest preserve and its unique resources and improving the scenic qualities of Catskill highway corridors;
- To identify opportunities to enhance the quality and enjoyment of the forest preserve experience for Catskill Park residents and visitors;
- To encourage cooperation between the public and private sectors in enhancing the use, enjoyment and protection of the forest preserve;

- To support and encourage forest preserve uses that contribute to the economies of local communities in a manner consistent with the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and Article XIV of the New York State Constitution which declares the forest preserve 'Forever Wild'; and
- To provide additional guidance for forest preserve planning by taking a Preserve-wide perspective on the management of public use and natural resources.

The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan treats, for the first time, the many parcels of state land within the Catskill Park as parts of a single Catskill Forest Preserve and recommends a series of actions to achieve the following objectives:

1. A balanced approach to the development of appropriate access and recreational opportunities on the forest preserve for the full spectrum of forest preserve visitors that focuses on families, older people and others who are not inclined to travel into the back country.
2. A system of information about the natural, cultural, educational, and economic values of the Catskill Forest Preserve, as well as the full spectrum of recreational and traditional sporting opportunities available on forest preserve lands.
3. The creation of new recreational opportunities and programs of public education and interpretation in accordance with objectives 1 and 2 above in a way that will enhance and protect the scenic travel corridors of the Catskill Park and take advantage of opportunities to form partnerships with Catskill governments, communities, and businesses.

Access in this plan is broadly defined as the ability of the public to gain entry to the natural or cultural resources in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Three types of access are addressed:

Visual access - the scenic character of the highways and byways, the forest preserve and surrounding landscape;

Physical access - the opportunity for a diverse public, from the rugged backcountry backpackers to families and people with disabilities, to have a satisfying experience suited to their abilities;

Informational access - traditional and new systems, such as the internet, brochures, maps, and signs, to inform the public about the opportunities that are available on forest preserve lands and to highlight the need for stewardship to care for the natural resources.

The geographic scope of the Public Access Plan is the highway system of the Catskill Park and the forest preserve. In addition, discussions of fishing interests involve not only the streams located on forest preserve lands, but also those private lands with easements granting public fishing rights on streams or rivers that are within the park.

Planning Process for the Public Access Plan

To gain public input for this plan, work groups were convened around four major subject areas: scenic byways, tourism enhancement, information and interpretation systems, and recreational opportunities. These work groups included staff from DEC, other state agencies and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), as well as representatives of local government,

private groups, organizations, and interested individuals. Representatives of county and local highway departments, and the NYS DOT were active in the scenic byways work group. County tourism agents and a representative of Empire State Development Corporation in the Division of Tourism participated in the tourism work group. The information and interpretation systems and recreational opportunity work groups included representatives from a broad range of outdoor recreation interests, chambers of commerce, people with disabilities and others.

Each of the four work groups met three times between January and March 1997. The members of these work groups were charged with soliciting ideas and opinions from others in their community, organization or interest group and bringing back detailed proposals and recommendations. In all twelve meetings a total of about 100 stakeholders participated. Meetings were held at various locations throughout the Catskill Park. A complete list of the participants appears in Appendix B. Others who were not able to attend the meetings submitted written comments. At the final meetings the representatives submitted recommendations for action which have been incorporated in the plan.

The objectives of the four work groups were defined as follows:

Scenic Byways

- Recommend ways to provide information and improve access to the forest preserve that enhance existing and prospective Scenic Byways to community residents and highway travelers, such as information kiosks and directional signs.
- Recommend ways to develop a stronger “sense of place” or a consistent identity within the Catskill Park.
- Consider additions to the NYS Scenic Byway system in the Catskill Park.

Tourism Enhancement

- Create a system for developing and distributing information to Catskill Park residents and visitors about what activities are possible and desirable throughout the forest preserve.
- Recommend ways to contribute to the economies of local communities consistent with maintaining the natural, scenic, historic, cultural and biological resource values of the forest preserve.
- Build links between DEC and the forest preserve resources to existing tourism efforts locally, countywide and statewide.
- Identify target audience, regional promotion and marketing strategies.

Information and Interpretation Systems

- Develop systems for explaining to residents and visitors the natural and cultural resources of the Catskill Forest Preserve and what activities are possible and desirable.
- Recommend ways of distributing this information

Recreational Opportunities

- Recommend ways to provide and improve access to the forest preserve, particularly for families, elderly users, and people with mobility impairments.
- Suggest a framework for providing balanced and appropriate use and access to the forest preserve for all people with detailed proposals.

- To support and encourage forest preserve uses that contribute to the economies of local communities in a manner consistent with the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and Article XIV of the New York State Constitution which declares the forest preserve 'Forever Wild'; and
- To provide additional guidance for forest preserve planning by taking a Preserve-wide perspective on the management of public use and natural resources.

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- Suggest a framework for providing balanced and appropriate use and access to the forest preserve for all people with detailed proposals.

Common Objectives Shared by all Four Groups

- Form partnerships with Catskill governments, communities, and businesses.
- Create a strategy to implement the recommendations of the plan, identify sources of funding.
- Work together with other state agencies to build synergistic relationships.

The draft Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan was issued in December 1998 for public comment. Three public meetings were held in January and February 1999 and substantial public comment was received some of which resulted in changes to the plan. These comments are incorporated into a responsiveness summary in Appendix J.

Implementation—Opportunities and Challenges

Throughout the planning process an interdisciplinary project team of DEC staff met regularly with the project coordinator to review information developed by the work groups and to assemble a list of recommendations to incorporate into the plan. This project team included representatives of DEC's Central Office, Region 3 and Region 4 in various program areas with responsibilities within the Catskill Park.

The Public Access Plan contains a broad spectrum of key issues and actions that were identified in the planning process by work groups and the DEC project team to fulfill the goals and objectives. The plan's goals and objectives were tailored to be reasonable and attainable within the next five to ten years. The issues and actions reflect opinions from representatives from local government, chambers of commerce, environmental organizations and outdoor enthusiasts, sportsmen, other state agencies, DEC staff, and private citizens, bringing together a broad range of interests and diverse areas of expertise.

A significant element of the visitor experiences to the Catskill Park and the Catskill Forest Preserve is the character of the highway corridors of the region. The gateway entrances to the park and the scenic quality of the roads within the park are central to the visitor's visual appreciation of the corridor landscape and the towns, villages and hamlets that create its unique character. The beauty of Catskill scenic highway corridors must be enhanced, maintained and preserved for tourism within the park to thrive. If the transportation system does not support the high quality of visual experience, the Catskill Forest Preserve will not be an effective tourism asset to the region.

Another important characteristic of the visitors' experiences is that they are not packaged and programmed like some other recreational experiences. An essential ingredient to the public access strategy for the forest preserve is providing information without intruding on the character of the forest preserve or interfering with those who wish to discover things for themselves, while, at the same time, providing enough information about the Preserve and recreational opportunities to ensure visitor safety and a satisfying experience to a broad range of people.

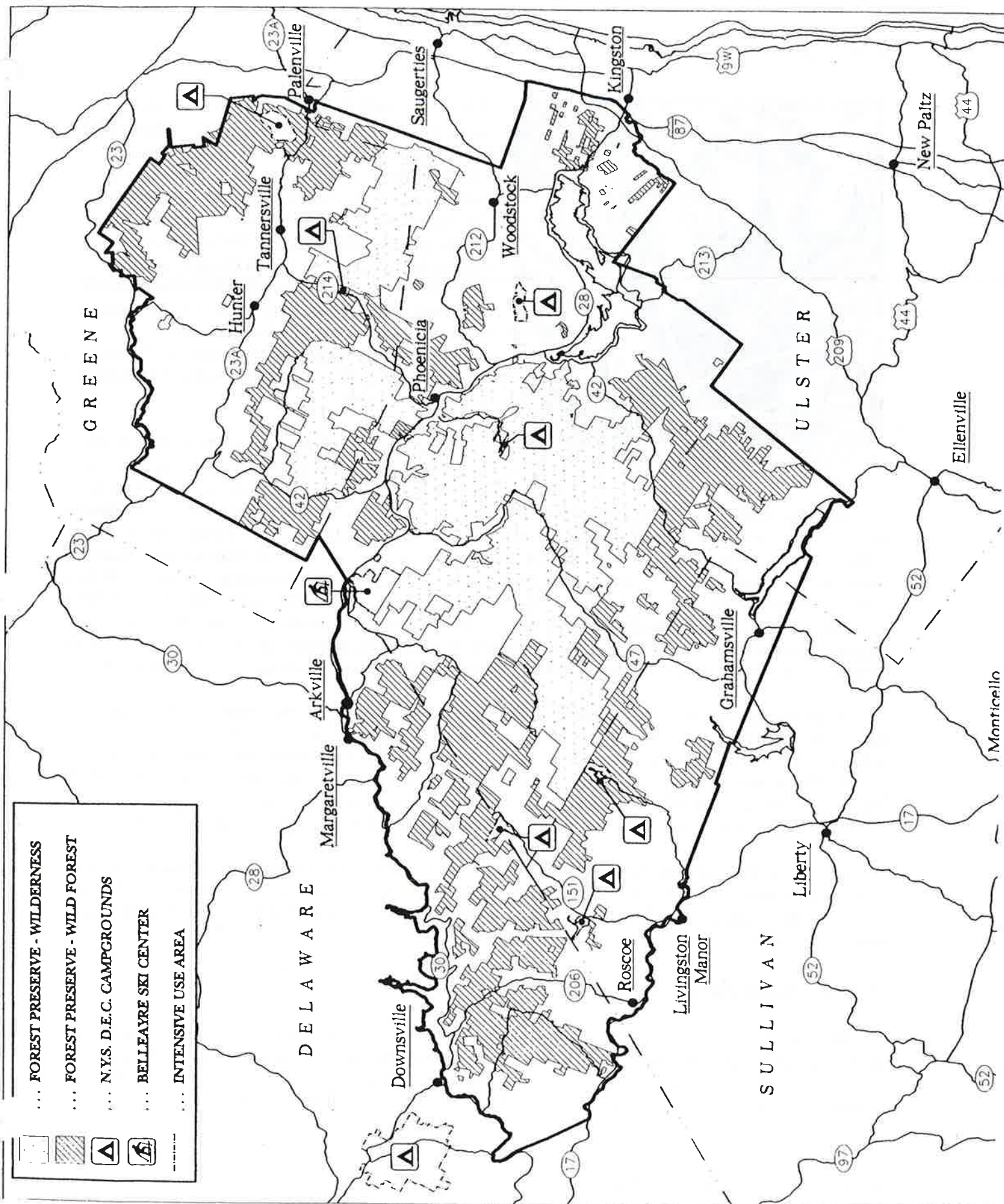
For the plan to succeed in raising the profile of the forest preserve to benefit the local economies within the Catskill Park from nature-based tourism, new partnerships and alliances will be necessary. The Public Access Plan introduces an array of opportunities in hopes of stimulating creative partnerships, innovative problem-solving, and future dialogue throughout the Catskill region. The challenge of implementing these recommendations is shared by the citizens and local governments within the park, as well as DEC and other governmental agencies active in the Catskill region.

Funding to implement the plan is, of course, a key ingredient to its success. Funds to implement some of these recommended actions can be found by reorienting existing resources and priorities within DEC or

other state agencies. Some actions can only be accomplished through new cooperative efforts, while others will require additional resources. Potential sources of future state investment in the forest preserve include two major environmental funding initiatives. The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) was established in 1993 to provide a stable dedicated source of funding for a variety of state and local environmental programs. EPF funds could be made available for forest preserve stewardship projects. In addition, the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act provides substantial resources for water quality protection, as well as projects to improve public access to lakes and streams. In 1998, Governor Pataki directed that \$530,000 from the bond act be used to protect water quality through improvements to Catskill Forest Preserve campgrounds and trails. \$380,000 will go toward improving campground sewage systems, while \$150,000 will be used to repair and improve hiking, horse, and ski trails. A focus of the trail rehabilitation work will be the five fire towers being restored through a cooperative effort involving DEC, volunteer groups, and the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development.

The Catskill Forest Preserve is an invaluable asset to the quality of life and the economic vitality of the Catskill region. In order to maximize this asset, the forest preserve must be managed and maintained with vision that balances the needs of future generations for recreational access with the preservation of the forest preserve's ecological and physical infrastructure.

Map 1. Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve



Background



The Catskill Forest Preserve comprises about 300,000 acres of public land within New York State's Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties (Map 1). In this mountainous region 98 peaks over 3,000 feet form an impressive skyline. Thousands of acres of forests with meadows, lakes, rivers, springs, waterfalls, and cliffs are home to fish, deer, turkey, bear, and a wealth of other wildlife. There are hundreds of miles of trails to enjoy, world-renowned scenic vistas, large tracts of wilderness, and intensively used recreational areas such as campgrounds and Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. Fire towers and remnants of old farms testify to historical uses of these lands.

The Catskill Forest Preserve was created on May 15, 1885 when Governor David B. Hill signed a law requiring that, "All the lands now owned or which

may hereafter be acquired by the state of New York (in three Catskill and eleven Adirondack counties) be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed." Provisions in the same law established a three-man Forest Commission to administer and be responsible for the 34,000-acre Catskill Forest Preserve and the 681,000-acre Adirondack Forest Preserve. Early growth of the forest preserve, especially in the Catskills, came about through landowners defaulting on taxes, but most subsequent growth has been a result of land purchased with funds from bond acts directly approved by the citizens of the state. A detailed chronology of Catskill Forest Preserve history appears in Appendix C.

The primary justification for establishing the forest preserve was to protect water resources. This continues to be a major concern, since water from both the Adirondacks and Catskills significantly influences the flow of all the major rivers in the eastern part of the state. Of particular importance to the people of New York City is the abundance and purity of water provided to their reservoirs in the Catskills. The headwaters of nearly all of the streams contributing to that water supply are on forest preserve lands. Good water quality is essential also for the prime fishing along the classic trout waters in the Catskills.

A second justification for establishing the forest preserve was public recreation. Hunting and fishing were the first attractions, and today they remain important recreational pursuits, but camping and hiking were also commonplace. The first state trail was built in 1892 to the summit of Slide Mountain, the highest peak in the Catskills.

The Catskill Park

The Catskill Park was created in 1904 and today includes about 700,000 acres of public and private land within boundaries delineated on maps by a line usually called the blue line. Intermingled with the Catskill Forest Preserve lands in the Catskill Park are towns, villages and hamlets, highways and byways, businesses and residences. About 60 percent of the lands in the Catskill Park are privately owned, the

home of approximately 50,000 year-round residents. See Appendix E for statistics about the Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve.

The purpose of creating the Catskill Park was to identify a boundary within which lands deemed most suitable for acquisition by New York state would be designated as forest preserve lands. The only state-imposed land use regulation that affects private lands within the blue line is the Catskill sign law which imposes restrictions on the location, number, size and appearance of off-premise signs. About 6,500 acres of Catskill Forest Preserve lands lie outside the blue line.

Aside from lands under the jurisdiction of DEC, other state-owned lands within the park include Department of Mental Health lands, and the state highways, storage areas and maintenance facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.

New York City's west-of-Hudson watershed is the source of 90 percent of the city's drinking water supply. Its boundaries include parts of five counties and total about 1900 square miles or 1 million acres. About 51.6 percent lies in Delaware County, 4.1 percent is in Schoharie County, 18.6 percent is in Greene County, 21.5 percent is in Ulster County and 4.2 percent is in Sullivan County. The city presently owns about 56,000 acres in the west-of-Hudson watershed of which approximately 40 percent lies within the Catskill Park. Roughly half of these acres are underwater. Map 2 shows the location of NYC's Catskill and Delaware watershed lands.

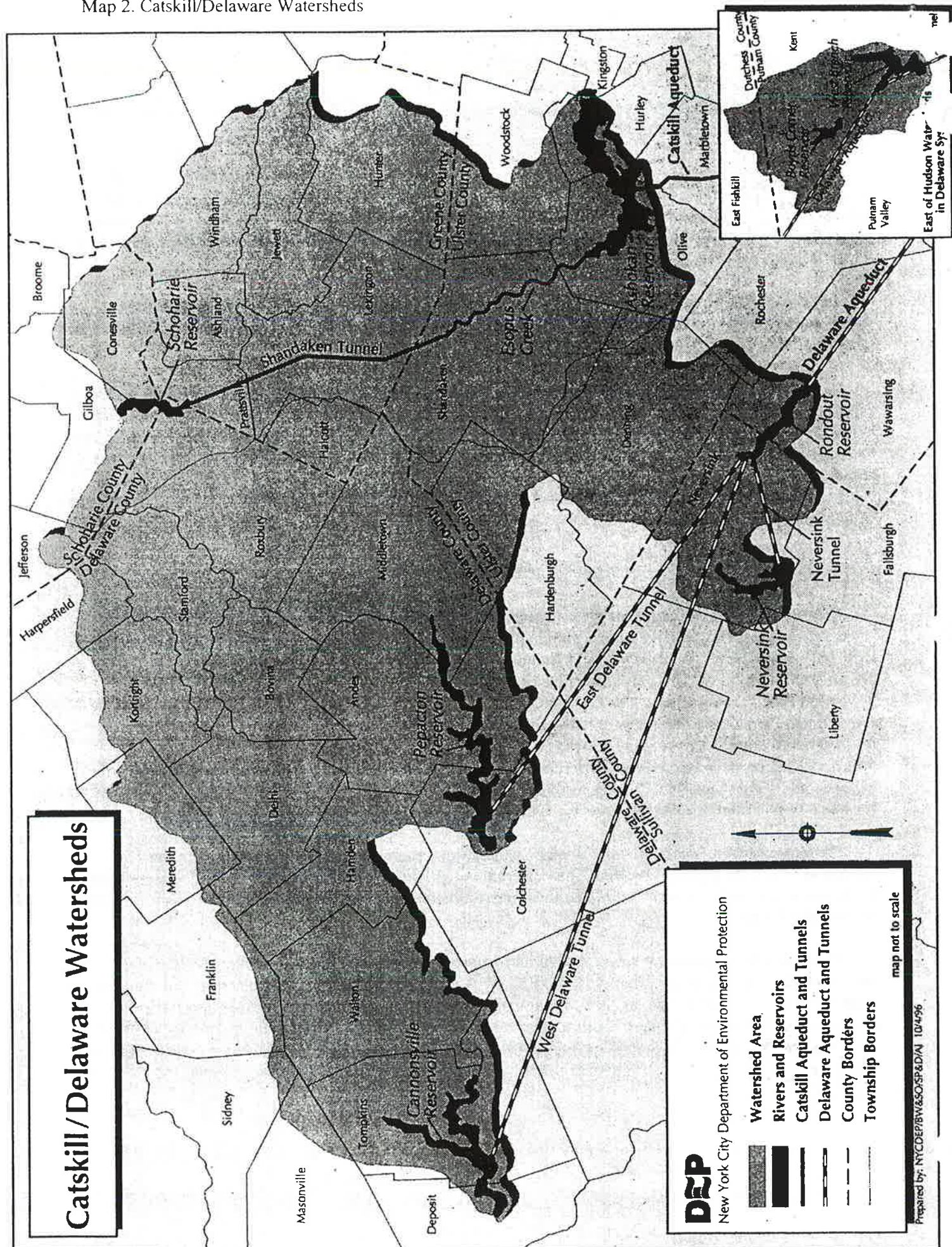
New York City Watershed Agreement

The 1997 New York City Watershed Agreement lays the foundation for cooperation in a program to protect New York City's water supply that involves, among other elements, a major land acquisition effort. DEC has issued the city a 10-year "Land Acquisition Permit" renewable for an additional 5 years. The permit authorizes New York City to acquire from willing sellers additional lands to ensure long-term protection for its water supply. The city has committed \$250 million to solicit up to 355,000 acres in the Catskill and Delaware watersheds. If determined necessary, the city will invest an additional \$50 million for land acquisition in this region. Whereas it is uncertain how much land the city will acquire in the future, if it succeeds in purchasing 30 percent of the land being considered (a conservative estimate), the city will add more than 100,000 acres to its current holdings. Fair market value will be paid for all property and the city will continue to pay property taxes. No property will be acquired by eminent domain.

Prior to acquiring any land under the land acquisition program the city will consult with the Town or Village in which the parcel is located. The consultation will ensure that the city is aware of and considers the Town's or Village's interests and that the terms of the land acquisition program agreed to by the parties are complied with.

The Watershed Agreement specifies that recreational uses of the newly acquired property will be determined by the city in consultation with DEC, EPA, the appropriate local governments, and the regional Sporting Advisory Committee. In consultation with these parties, the city undertook a comprehensive review of existing and potential recreational uses on currently owned city property. In January 1999 NYC DEP released a *Preliminary Report on Recreational Use of New York City Water Supply Lands*. The report allows recreation (hiking, bird watching, roller blading, fishing, boating, ice-fishing, skiing, snowshoeing,

Map 2. Catskill/Delaware Watersheds



educational programs, and hunting) in limited or specified areas subject to a proposed watershed lands access permit program. The following activities are not likely to be allowed on city property even if the property was historically used for these purposes: boating (other than for permitted fishing by boat); snowmobiling; camping; motorized vehicles; swimming and wading; mountain bicycling; and horseback riding. No other recreational pursuits will be considered.

The 1997 Watershed Agreement also provided funds to develop exhibits for a regional watershed museum. The Town of Shandaken has initiated the process of establishing the museum off Route 28 near Belleayre Ski Center and is currently working with the Catskill Watershed Corporation on designing exhibits.

NYS Scenic Byways Program

In 1992 the New York state legislature created the state's Scenic Byways Program. This program grew out of the National Scenic Highway Program of 1974 (and its predecessor, the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965) and DEC's Scenic Roads program which was established in 1982. The Scenic Byways system includes transportation corridors that contain particular scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic, or archaeological features of statewide or regional significance. These corridors are managed to protect these outstanding features and to encourage economic development through tourism and recreation. The DOT has produced a handbook that outlines the designation criteria and nomination process. Nomination to the Scenic Byways Program starts with a "bottom-up" approach. Communities along these corridors must take the initiative by gathering local support to sponsor the application and by preparing a corridor management plan that provides for the conservation and enhancement of the byway's underlying resources, as well as for promotion of tourism and economic development.

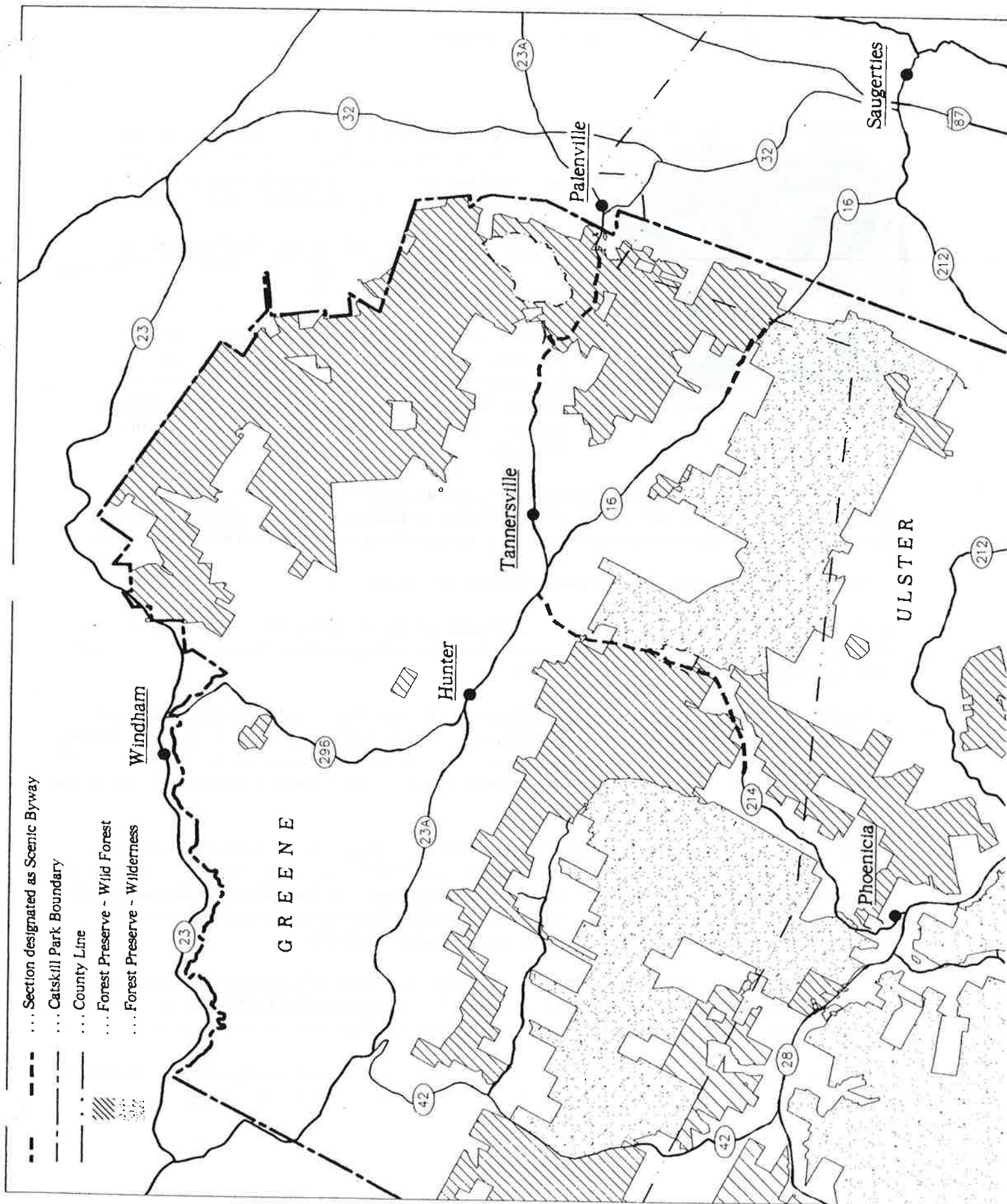
| Table 1. Catskill Park Designated Scenic Byways | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Road Name and Description | County | Town |
| NYS Route 23A 3.5 miles from the boundary between the Town of Hunter and Town of Catskill, westerly to its intersection with Twilight Park Access Road. | Greene | Hunter |
| NYS Route 214, Stony Clove Road 6.8 miles from the intersection of NYS Route 23A southward to the DOT road marker 214-130 102.2 which is two miles north of the boundary between the Town of Hunter and County of Ulster. | Greene | Hunter |
| Platte Clove Road, County Route 16 2.2 miles from its intersection with Josh Road southerly to the Town of Hunter boundary with the County of Ulster | Greene | Hunter |

During the ten years that DEC administered the Scenic Roads Program, three small sections of roads in the Catskill Park were designated as "scenic roads" and these have been adopted by DOT as official "scenic byways." They are listed in Table 1 and shown on Map 3.

NYS DEC's Temporary Study Commission produced a report in 1976 titled, *Towards a Scenic Roads Program for the Catskills*. The Temporary Study Commission convened a task force that analyzed the scenic roads program which was initially proposed in 1966 by New York's Natural Beauty Commission, and evaluated the roads within the Catskill Park for their inclusion in the program. The report gives detailed recommendations for corridor protection and improvement along Routes 28 and 23A, and other suggestions related to creating a scenic byways network, but the recommendations in this report were never implemented. Although some information contained in the report is no longer current, such as local zoning ordinances, much of the content of this report would be a good background and foundation for future scenic byway nomination applications.

The benefits of designation of Scenic Byways are primarily economic. Once DOT approves the designation, funding may be available to assist communities with improvements to their designated scenic byway. Currently publications promoting New York State scenic byways include a nationwide brochure that features the Seaway Trail along Lake Ontario and an Adirondack Scenic Byway map, describing driving tours of eleven trails covering more than 1,200 miles.

Map 3. Designated Scenic Byways in the Catskill Park



DEC Management of the Catskill Forest Preserve



The mission of DEC is “to conserve, improve and protect New York’s natural resources and environment and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.” Within this context, DEC manages the Catskill Forest Preserve as a watershed, wildland recreation area, and ecological and scenic reserve.

New York’s Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves are protected by Article 14, §1, of the constitution from encroachment through sale, lease or gift, and guaranteed to be “Forever Wild.” Public access to these lands for recreation is guaranteed by Environmental Conservation Law section 9-0301(1).

DEC has two regional offices with responsibility for the Catskill Forest Preserve. Region 3, headquartered in New Paltz, is responsible for forest preserve lands in Ulster and Sullivan Counties; Region 4, with offices in Schenectady and Stamford, manages lands in Greene and Delaware Counties.

Six DEC Divisions have authority within the Catskill Forest Preserve:

1. Within the Division of Lands and Forests, the Bureau of Public Lands has lead responsibility for the development of policies and plans for management. Foresters in Regions 3 and 4 oversee the day-to-day operation of the preserve.
2. The Division of Public Protection’s Ranger Captains in Regions 3 and 4 supervise Forest Rangers’ operations within their regions. Forest rangers are responsible for forest fire protection, search and rescue, public information, enforcing rules and regulations, and monitoring the condition of the Preserve. Assistant Forest Rangers are hired on a seasonal basis to provide information and guidance to backcountry users and to assist in user safety activities.
3. Fish and wildlife resources are managed through the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. Program activities include habitat protection, stocking of ponds and streams with gamefish, acquisition and maintenance of public fishing rights, setting limits and designating special conditions for the taking of fish and wildlife (i.e. catch and release areas, season and bag limits), restoration of species, monitoring of species’ health and abundance, and dealing with animal nuisance problems.
4. The Division of Operations manages Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, DEC campgrounds and day use areas and undertakes construction and maintenance of infrastructure and other facilities such as trails, lean-tos and parking areas. Seasonal employees are hired to staff campgrounds and related facilities.
5. The Division of Law Enforcement provides fish and wildlife and other enforcement services through the work of the Environmental Conservation Officers assigned to duty within the Catskill Park.

6. The Division of Public Affairs offers environmental education and interpretive programs for the public and assists other divisions in developing their own public programs and information services.

Catskill Park State Land Master Plan

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP) sets forth management guidelines for the forest preserve lands within the Catskill Park. Written in 1985, this plan is currently in the process of being revised. The CPSLMP establishes a broad framework of geographic management units and classifies each unit based on the area's characteristics and capacity to withstand use. It further directs DEC to develop detailed unit management plans (UMPs) for each unit that conform to the guidelines for each area's land classification. All activities on forest preserve lands including those recommended in this Public Access Plan are subject to the master plan.

The three main classifications in the Catskill Forest Preserve are wilderness, wild forest, and intensive use. The wilderness classification is the most restrictive and seeks to minimize evidence of human impact and to provide maximum opportunities for solitude. Motorized use, for example, is prohibited in wilderness areas. In wild forest, higher levels of recreational use are allowed, as well as types of use that are not permitted in wilderness areas. Activities such as snowmobiling, mountain bicycling and group camping are considered appropriate in wild forest areas as long as they will not adversely impact the natural resources. The intensive use areas include campgrounds and Belleayre Mountain Ski Center where the infrastructure and additional staff can accommodate larger groups of visitors while maintaining the integrity of the resource.

Unit management plans (UMPs) contain detailed proposals for the use, management and other policies to be carried out within individual management units. UMPs determine the locations of new trails, parking lots, or structures such as lean-tos, bridges, and information boards. In addition, UMPs describe the historical and natural resources of the unit and any outstanding issues or problems. The UMPs are usually written by a planning coordinator from the Division of Lands and Forests with the assistance of an interdisciplinary team of DEC program managers from other divisions.

UMPs have been completed for 16 of the 20 wild forest and wilderness units in the Catskill Forest Preserve, as well as for all of the seven campgrounds and for Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. Many of the recommendations in the Public Access Plan are subject to the UMP process and will be implemented when UMPs are written or revised.

Public participation is a vital part of DEC's management and planning. Informal public meetings and formal hearings are held to hear public comments throughout the decision-making process to ensure that the citizens of the state have the opportunity to play a part in planning for management of these public lands.

Management Partnerships

DEC relies heavily on cooperation with private non-profit organizations to assist in management of the trail system. Volunteers from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference have assisted DEC with trail maintenance for many years. Initial efforts were generally limited to construction and maintenance of the Long Path. However, in 1989 DEC asked them to consider expanding their trail maintenance role in the Catskills. In 1990 DEC and the NY-NJ Trail Conference signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which created a volunteer "Adopt-A-Trail" Program for the routine maintenance of Catskill Trails. Over

170 miles have since been adopted by the Trail Conference. In 1993 the MOU was expanded to include an Adopt-A-Lean-To program as well. The routine maintenance of over 20 lean-tos is now undertaken by Trail Conference volunteers. Groups or individuals who are interested in volunteering for trail maintenance, or adopting a trail or lean-to should contact the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

DEC has developed similar cooperative trail maintenance agreements with several other forest preserve user groups. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference has adopted over 20 miles of trail which serve as a route for the Finger Lakes Trail in the Catskills. The Paul A. Nickle Memorial Trail Crew of Mt. Tremper maintains 7.5 miles of foot trail over Panther Mountain. The Sullivan County Trails Association maintains over 28 miles of snowmobile trail in the Willowemoc Wild Forest. Volunteers from the Adirondack Mountain Club began providing assistance in 1992. In 1995 after 12 successive years of partnership with DEC building major new trails and maintaining existing trails in the forest preserve, the Appalachian Mountain Club redirected their efforts to provide more support for a growing program in the Delaware Water Gap. Other volunteers from horse clubs and bicycle clubs, the Forest Fire Lookout Association and other groups also provide trail maintenance and development assistance in the forest preserve.

Acquisition of Land by New York State

All lands purchased by New York state for addition to the Catskill Forest Preserve will be guided by the language of the funding authorization, and "Conserving Open Space in New York State," known as the "Open Space Plan." The latest edition of the Open Space Plan was approved by Governor Pataki in April, 1998. UMPs also may include acquisition priorities. Currently, the chief sources of funding for acquisitions are the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

The Open Space Plan requires that a less than full fee title purchase, such as a conservation easement or other interest, be considered where practicable. Conservation easements (an interest in land other than full title, such as development rights, farming or timber rights) may be purchased by the state, or retained by the land owner, or a third party, such as a conservation organization or land trust. A fee title acquisition conveys all the rights to use a parcel of land.

When purchasing either land or easements, the state will, in accordance with the enabling legislation, pursue acquisitions through voluntary agreement. If an acquisition is to be funded through the EPF or the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, the cost of the preparation of a management plan may be included in the total cost of the project.

From time to time, other sources may provide funding for conservation easements or land acquisitions, including the forest preserve expansion fund, federal outdoor recreation fund, and public fishing rights program. The state may also accept gifts of lands or easements which meet program goals.

Existing and Potential Demand for Use

While no overall census of visitor use of Catskill Forest Preserve recreational facilities has ever been undertaken, a substantial amount of information exists. Only the revenue producing facilities in the intensive use areas—the campgrounds, day use areas, and Belleayre Mountain Ski Center—are able to keep accurate records of visitor numbers. In wilderness and wild forest areas, the annual number of visitors per year is derived by extrapolating from the numbers taken from trail register sign-in sheets.

Table 2. Annual Visitation to the Catskill Forest Preserve, 1990-1997

| Classification | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Wilderness | 30,848 | 32,000 | 31,500 | 32,661 | 35,063 | 35,670 | 32,074 | 36,365 |
| Wild Forest | 47,829 | 50,625 | 49,414 | 50,760 | 57,285 | 60,654 | 46,439 | 61,985 |
| "Back country" Subtotal | 78,677 | 82,625 | 80,914 | 83,421 | 92,348 | 96,324 | 78,513 | 98,350 |
| Intensive Use | 362,711 | 360,378 | 323,697 | 361,267 | 366,585 | 342,382 | 321,951 | 339,475 |
| Administrative | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Total | 447,388 | 449,003 | 410,611 | 450,688 | 464,933 | 444,706 | 406,464 | 443,825 |

However, estimating wilderness and wild forest use is complicated by several factors. Some trails and many access points do not have trail registers. Even where registers exist, many visitors do not sign in. Studies have shown that the number of people who register at trailhead can vary between 20 and 80 percent. DEC estimates that, on average, registration represents about 60 percent of actual use. By multiplying the number of sign-ins by 1.4, a more realistic number of visitors to wilderness and wild forest is achieved. Consequently, actual wilderness and wild forest visitation in 1997 is estimated at slightly more than 134,000 visitors. The most popular sites in 1997 were North/South Lake campground which has the highest use of any NYS campground (128,424 visitors) and Belleayre Mountain Ski Center with 84,000 visitors in the winter of 1997-98.

With the exception of the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, most public use of forest preserve lands and facilities occurs from May through October. Most of the campgrounds are open from mid-May through Columbus Day weekend in October, with Mongaup Pond and Bear Spring Mountain campgrounds open until the end of big game hunting season in December. In general, most people visit the forest preserve on weekends, with peak use occurring on holiday weekends, especially Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day weekends. Camping and hiking are by far the most popular activities pursued on forest preserve lands. Fishing, hunting, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are also popular. Most of the campgrounds and Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area provide swimming opportunities which are very popular. Opportunities for snowmobiling, horseback riding and mountain biking are limited to a few areas within the forest preserve due primarily to topographical and access limitations.

Recent estimates by DEC indicate that over 574,000 visitors took advantage of the recreational opportunities on Catskill Forest Preserve lands in 1996. This estimate is based on trail registers, camping permits, day use and ski lift ticket sales; untold numbers of forest preserve hunters, trappers and anglers who often do not pass trail registers would significantly increase this estimate. Appendix D contains details of Catskill Forest Preserve public use.

Fish and Wildlife Recreation Surveys and Expenditures

In their 1996 Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that hunting, fishing, bird watching, and other wildlife-related recreation generated \$96.9 billion nationwide. Of this total wildlife watching produced expenditures of \$29 billion and sportsmen contributed \$67.9 billion. Twenty-four million Americans took trips for the specific purpose

of observing, photographing, or feeding wildlife in 1996, while 61 million enjoyed these nonconsumptive wildlife-related recreational activities around their homes. The study showed that 18 percent of the population 16 and older fished during 1996, 7 percent hunted, and 31 percent participated in nonconsumptive wildlife-related recreation. Information from this survey specific to New York state is not yet available.

DEC does not have survey data that present a comprehensive look at the numbers of hunters, trappers, anglers or wildlife observers using the Catskill Park, but some estimates of the economic value of wildlife-based recreation in the park can be derived from survey and harvest data. Information on the economic value of non-consumptive wildlife recreation in the park is more difficult to obtain.

DEC fisheries bureau conducts aerial overflight angler surveys four times a month between April and November at selected sites, mainly larger water bodies. Creel surveys are conducted on selected waters and these occurred in 1986 on the Willowemoc, 1992-93 on the Esopus, and 1996 on the Neversink River tailwaters (waters below the dam). Creel surveys along the East Branch Delaware River have been conducted every year since 1988. A statewide survey of licensed anglers was conducted in 1988 and 1996. These surveys asked anglers how many times they fished and fishing locations, as well as a number of socio-economic questions.

The 1988 survey reported the results shown in Table 3 for annual angler effort and expenditures in the four counties in which the forest preserve is located. The numbers in parentheses represent confidence limits. Table 4 shows the 1988 survey results by region.

| Table 3. 1988 Angler Effort and Expenditures by County | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| County | Anglers | Angler-Days | Expenditures |
| Delaware Co. | 32,450 ($\pm 3,960$) | 298,550 ($\pm 42,950$) | \$ 4,420,060 (\$ $\pm 946,520$) |
| Greene Co. | 13,760 ($\pm 2,600$) | 119,590 ($\pm 25,640$) | \$ 1,469,200 (\$ $\pm 620,120$) |
| Sullivan Co. | 57,100 ($\pm 5,180$) | 631,710 ($\pm 67,770$) | \$10,159,290 (\$ $\pm 1,388,390$) |
| Ulster Co. | 27,380 ($\pm 3,640$) | 397,470 ($\pm 63,920$) | \$ 4,264,420 (\$ $\pm 905,400$) |

Annual angler effort and expenditures were only broken down by region in the 1996 survey report. Table 5 gives the results for the two Catskill Forest Preserve regions. Again, the numbers in parentheses represent confidence limits.

As the tables show, the 1996 statewide survey documented a substantial reduction in fishing activity from the 1988 estimates. A private survey conducted in 1994 by Trout Unlimited on the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc River indicated that the "BeaMoc" trout fishery supported over 90,200 angler-days in 1994 compared to 161,700 angler-days reported for 1988. This decline in fishing effort is consistent with data collected in DEC aerial surveys of angler use. Total angler expenditures were estimated at \$9.1 million based on the angler intercept survey. A survey of area businesses confirmed this estimate, with angler-related revenues in 1994 estimated to be \$10.1 million in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan County.

| Table 4. 1988 Angler Effort and Expenditures by Region | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Region | Anglers | Angler-Days | Expenditures |
| 3 (Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties) | 142,950 ($\pm 7,940$) | 2,419,600 ($\pm 207,940$) | \$25,306,350 ($\pm 2,114,290$) |
| 4 (Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Delaware, Greene, and Columbia Counties) | 120,440 ($\pm 7,160$) | 1,570,330 ($\pm 159,030$) | \$14,270,690 ($\pm 1,805,750$) |

| Table 5. 1996 Angler Effort and Expenditures by Region | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Region | Anglers | Angler-Days | Expenditures |
| 3 (Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties) | 124,710 ($\pm 7,330$) | 2,033,540 ($\pm 163,400$) | \$20,522,410 ($\pm 2,149,580$) |
| 4 (Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Delaware, Greene, and Columbia Counties) | 106,550 ($\pm 6,850$) | 1,404,410 ($\pm 142,750$) | \$16,594,350 ($\pm 2,120,770$) |

A rough guide to the amount of hunter use is derived from the annual buck harvest in wildlife management units¹. Biologists estimate the hunter success rate at 15 percent. For example, in WMU 3a, which occupies 614 square miles of forest preserve in Ulster, Sullivan and Greene Counties, the estimated harvest in 1997 of 1,057 bucks indicates that approximately 7,000 hunters went afield. The origin of these hunters was 48 percent from the Catskills and Hudson Valley and 52 percent from outside the local area. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that big game hunters in southern New York spend about \$485 per year on gas, licenses, targets, bullets, food and club dues. According to these estimates, the annual economic gain from the local hunters would be \$1,630,000. Hunters from outside the area would contribute \$1,765,000, bringing an annual total of \$3,395,000.

Information on the economic impact of trapping is available from the total furbearer harvest in former wildlife management unit 11², which constituted about 1,316 square miles, an area larger than, but inclusive of the Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve. The fur harvest in 1996-1997 based on an average dollar per pelt resulted in a total economic value of \$53,674.13 as detailed in Table 6.

¹Formerly deer management units. Beginning in 1998, the use of deer management units was discontinued.

²In 1998 WMU 11 was broken down into eight smaller WMUs.

| Table 6. Fur Harvest in WMU 11 for 1996-97 Season | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Species | Harvest Total | Average Value/pelt | Total |
| Beaver | 977 | \$24.13 | \$23,575.01 |
| Bobcat | 86 | \$25.50 | \$2,193.00 |
| Coyote | 180 | \$20.59 | \$3,706.20 |
| Fisher | 6 | \$38.70 | \$232.20 |
| Otter | 43 | \$40.42 | \$1,738.06 |
| Mink | 173 | \$18.63 | \$3,222.99 |
| Raccoon | 398 | \$15.39 | \$6,125.22 |
| Skunk | 77 | \$3.67 | \$282.59 |
| Opossum | 116 | \$2.01 | \$233.16 |
| Muskrat | 1977 | \$5.48 | \$10,833.96 |
| Red fox | 29 | \$18.62 | \$539.98 |
| Gray fox | 77 | \$12.88 | \$991.76 |
| Total Economic Value | | | \$53,674.13 |

Estimates of Potential Demand and Concern for Overuse

It is often quoted that 20 million residents of New York and New Jersey live within a 2.5 hour drive of the Catskill Park. In the broadest sense this suggests larger potential demand for use of the highways and byways, trails, campsites and other facilities of the forest preserve and park than those facilities could accommodate. It is possible over the long run that so many people will want to visit the preserve that care must be taken to manage visitorship to prevent damage to the natural resources and protect the quality of visitor experience.

DEC program staff and members of the Public Access Plan work groups share a common concern for changes that might result from increased use. Deterioration of trails, natural resources, or infrastructure, as well as overcrowding or user conflicts would be undesirable consequences to be avoided wherever possible. Monitoring the condition of trails and parking areas and early detection of changes as they occur are currently conducted by rangers and foresters. If they feel the impacts are too great they can close trails at certain seasons to prevent erosion, re-route trails, require permits for large parties, and employ other management strategies to maintain the quality of the resource and the recreational environment. Within these management guidelines, it is the responsibility of DEC to provide balanced and appropriate access

to all forest preserve users. A variety of interests, activities and levels of ability must be considered and their impacts weighed. Some uses of the forest preserve are self-limiting because geology, geography, or legal constraints make their practice difficult, dangerous or illegal. However, balanced and appropriate access for all—hikers, sportsmen, cross-country skiers, equestrians, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, wildlife observers, people with disabilities and other groups that use the forest preserve land for recreation and pleasure—is the aim of DEC's management policies.

Key Issues and Actions



The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan

addresses key issues and proposes actions that were raised by the public during the twelve meetings of the work groups, plus those that originated in discussions with individuals, groups, organizations, and DEC staff. The Plan includes actions that can be implemented in the next three years by DEC, DOT and other state agencies with existing staff and budgets, actions that will require new or additional funds, as well as actions beyond the scope of DEC's mission that will require financial assistance and cooperation in the form of partnerships with local communities, municipalities, and/or private businesses.

The key issues and actions contained in the plan are summarized below. Each of these actions is discussed more fully—how it was identified, why it is needed, and how it will be carried out—in ensuing pages.

Summary of Key Issues and Actions

Page

***Enhance Scenic Travel Corridors* 24**

1. Develop gateway information centers on major highways entering Catskill Park.
2. Develop new "Entering Catskill Park" signs at gateways.
3. Implement DOT's *Guidelines for the Catskill Park*.
4. Produce a Catskill Park scenic highways and byways driving pamphlet.
5. Institute regular DEC/DOT/NYC DEP/county/local government regional communication and coordination meetings.
6. Develop a comprehensive plan for DEC signs and structures.
7. Implement use of international icons for recreation uses along highways.
8. Amend the DEC Sign Law to allow businesses to advertise at up to four intersections.

***Information and Interpretation* 34**

Publications

9. Reprint full color Catskill Forest Preserve map and guide.
10. Print recreation theme brochures for forest preserve Activities.
11. Print maps showing public fishing rights.
12. Encourage regional tourism agents to integrate forest preserve information into local community, county, and regional tourism publications.

Interpretation and Education

13. Expand Catskill environmental education initiative.
14. Restore Catskill Forest Preserve fire towers.
15. Build forest preserve volunteer network.
16. Establish a central library and research data base.

Distribution of Information

- 17. Pursue Catskill Interpretive Center initiative
- 18. Develop a coordinated DEC information distribution strategy.
- 19. Establish network of local forest preserve information stations.
- 20. Contract professional advertising.

DEC Public Outreach

- 21. Publish a DEC Catskill regional personnel directory.
- 22. Conduct training and familiarization workshops, field trips, and other public presentations.

***Recreation Access and Development* 47**

New Physical Access Initiatives

- 23. Improve and complete Catskill Forest Preserve trail system.
- 24. Improve public access to water-based recreation in the Catskill Park.
- 25. Develop "rules-of-the-trail" procedures and education strategy.

Access for People with Disabilities

- 26. Undertake a universal trail assessment of forest preserve trails.
- 27. Build easy access fishing sites and sites accessible to people with disabilities.

Linking the Forest Preserve with the Catskill Region

- 28. Develop inn-to-inn trail systems.
- 29. Pursue trail linkages and access possibilities with Catskill railroads.
- 30. Pursue linkages to New York City's watershed lands.

Visitor Management

- 31. Conduct a visitor census, use and economic impact survey.
- 32. Monitor use and establish baselines.
- 33. Enhance year-round recreation at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center.

***Implement the Public Access Plan* 68**

- 34. Establish a DEC Catskill Coordinator position.

Key Issues and Actions: Enhance Scenic Travel Corridors



Most visitors to the Catskill Park form their first impressions of the region from the visual experience they perceive from the windows of their cars as they travel on the major highways. The concern for the visual qualities of the roadside landscape of the Catskill Park has long been a subject of interest to planners, developers and environmental activists in the region. The Public Access Plan seeks to address the issue of how to inform highway travelers about the forest preserve and how to work with the DOT, local and county governments to create a visually pleasing and cohesive park identity.

Road signs that provide clear directions to visitors without compromising the scenic qualities of the travel corridors are necessary for those seeking both active and passive recreation. Many visitors to the region come throughout the seasons to see the magnificent views of the mountains and valleys without setting foot on a trail. Others come to hike, hunt or fish on forest preserve land and may not find road signs directing them toward the activities they seek.

Highway Use Information

A substantial number of highway travelers visit the Catskills throughout the year. The Department of Transportation publishes annual traffic reports that give the traffic volume on roads throughout the state. Traffic counts are made using portable counters. Actual traffic counts are converted to estimate the average daily traffic (ADT). Table 7 provides the ADT volumes of many of the state highways in and around the Catskill Park.

| Table 7. 1998 Average Annual Daily Traffic | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Route | Location | Average Daily Traffic (ADT) |
| Route 17 | East Branch | 6,350 |
| Route 17 | Livingston Manor | 7,400 |
| Route 28 | Route 28A at Stony Hollow | 18,605 |
| Route 28 | At Delaware County Line | 3,000 |
| Route 23 | Route 23A | 3,300 |
| Route 23 | Windham | 3,300 |
| Route 23A | Palenville | 3,550 |
| Route 23A | Route 214 | 5,800 |

| Table 7. 1998 Average Annual Daily Traffic | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Route | Location | Average Daily Traffic (ADT) |
| Route 55 | Napanoch | 2,000 |
| Route 206/30 OLP | Downsville | 1,800 |
| Route 212 | Route 375 | 12,165 |
| Route 212 | Route 32 OLP | 9,950 |

Traffic ADT reflect most current estimates at time of publication.

Making the experience of the highway traveler more pleasurable and informative is one of the goals of this plan that was addressed by the scenic byways work group. The group offered the following recommended actions.

Action: Develop gateway information centers on major highways entering Catskill Park

Visitors to the region, whether highway travelers, families looking for a day hike, or seasoned back country hikers, would all benefit from gateway information centers at the major entrances to the Catskill Park. At these locations, not unlike National Park Service Visitor Centers, interpretive programming, exhibits and printed information would orient them to the region and direct them to their desired destinations. At present there is only one information center that welcomes visitors to the Catskill Park year-round. Located at the thruway exit at Catskill, the center is staffed by Greene County public information staff and offers personal assistance as well as brochures, maps and guides. There is also a lack of Catskill area and regional information offered at state rest areas located along major highways to the Catskill Park.

Establishment of gateway centers on major highways entering the region must be a coordinated effort by state, county and local government, and local chambers of commerce. DOT is planning to construct "class A" rest areas (heated buildings with public rest rooms) in the next five years at several locations in the Catskills region. Construction of such a facility might offer an opportunity for partnership with DEC and local communities for distribution of information and interpretive materials about the forest preserve and local attractions. It was suggested that the site of the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center on Route 28 might be a possible location for a "class A" rest area.

Action: Develop new "Entering Catskill Park" signs at gateways

The brown wooden signs with yellow lettering at the entrances to the Catskill Park that read "Entering Catskill Park" give no descriptive information about the Catskill Park to travelers as they enter. Because the Catskill Park is a mosaic of public and private land, a better explanation would help visitors know what to expect within the park.

Major gateways to the Catskill Park occur on the east at the NYS Thruway exit in Kingston, on Route 23A & 32A at Palenville, and on Route 212 in Woodstock, along Route 17 to the south, at Margaretville on Routes 28 & 30, and near Prattsville at the intersections of Routes 23 and 23A. (See map 4) The

workgroup recommends at these locations that DEC consider replacing the existing wooden signs at these locations with a new sign, that is more visible and symbolic of the Catskill Mountains. The signs would most likely be constructed of natural materials that would exhibit a more dramatic entrance to the park. This and the use of rustic guide rail and signs within the Park will significantly improve an awareness of entering the Park. On the reverse of these signs the words "Leaving Catskill Park" might be added.

The DEC and the DOT will work with local communities to develop an appropriate sign motif for the park. Their input will also be used to determine appropriate locations for signs. Less elaborate signs will also be developed for low volume highways and local roads that enter the park, including signs for leaving the park.

Action: Implement DOT's *Guidelines for the Catskill Park*, a set of standards for the state highways in the Catskill Park

The Catskill Park is divided between three of the DOT's eleven Regions. During the process of gathering information for the Public Access Plan, many issues were raised about consistent treatments of highways within the Park, and the necessity for extensive coordination between the three DOT regions. The more significant issues raised included the establishment of a sense of identity, concerns over peripheral highways that weave in and out of the park boundary, the promotion of multi-modal use of state highways, consistent and appropriate treatments of the roadside to keep the park-like appearance and scenic beauty of the region intact, and the importance of signing (particularly to the forest preserve lands area attractions).

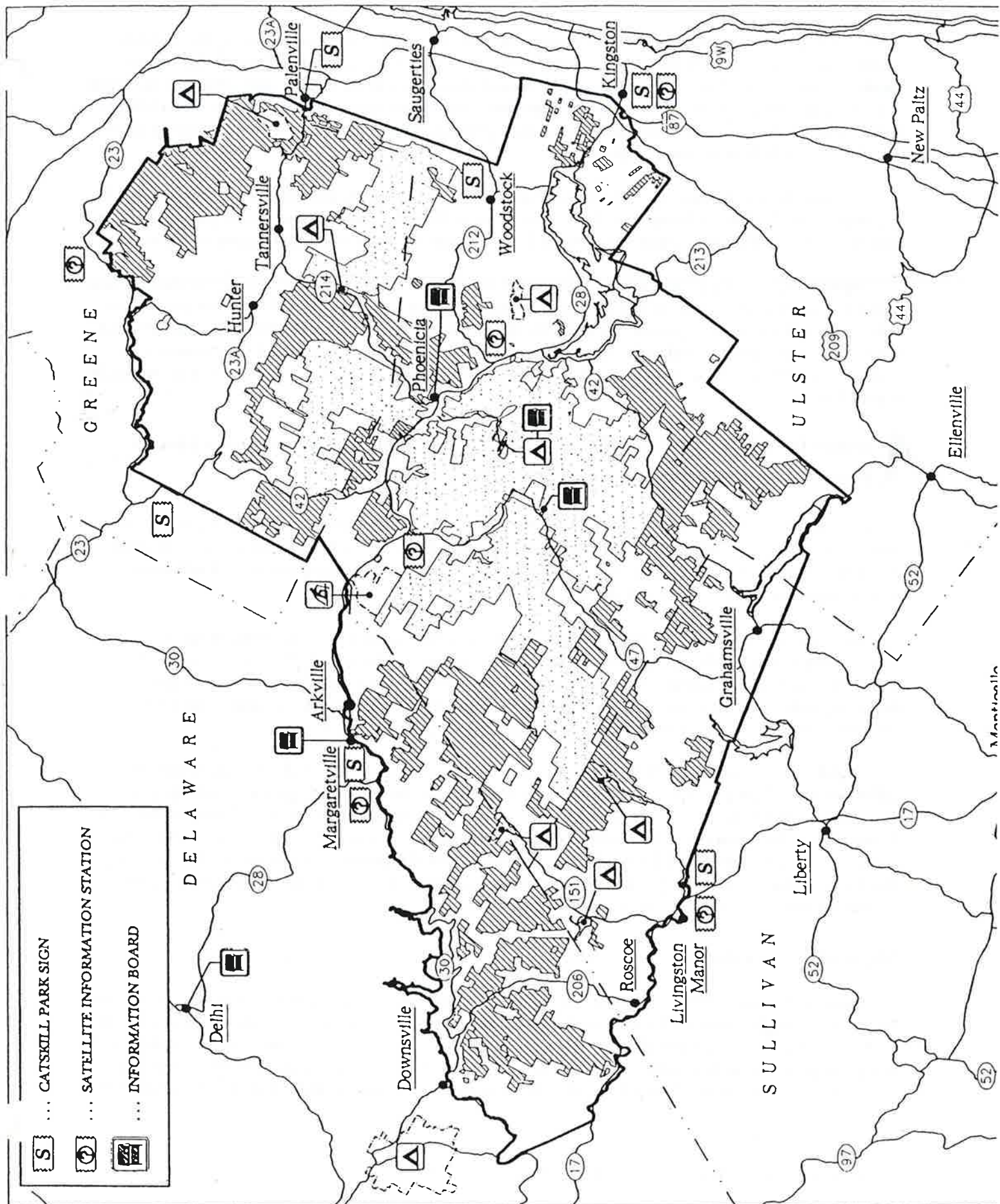
The DOT addressed this concern by publishing a document titled "New York State Department of Transportation Guidelines for Highways in the Catskill Park". The guidelines include standards and aesthetic treatments taken from various manuals and DOT guidelines that will be compiled into a single document as an inter-agency document for the three DOT regions. A similar set of guidelines has been established for the Adirondack Park by the DOT.

The guidelines include a regional policy for establishing a rustic setting for highways in the park. It also establishes soft boundaries for the various highways that border the park. Other guidance is intended to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of the Catskill Mountains and the communities within, and to promote a park like atmosphere. The guidelines also address signing to attractions and the forest preserve lands, as well as promoting use of the highways by both motorized and non-motorized forms of transportation. A system of scenic overlooks and parking areas or rest areas will also be investigated. Though the guidelines are intended for use on state highways, the DOT is taking a leadership role in promoting the use of the guidelines by other transportation jurisdictions to promote a sense of place within the entire Catskill Park.

Action: Produce a scenic highways and byways driving pamphlet for the Catskill Park

There are presently only three segments of highways that are formally designated as State Scenic Byways. The scenic byways work group concluded that since the State Scenic Byways program is a grass roots effort, neither the DOT nor the DEC could nominate highways for inclusion in the program. The group did recognize, however that almost all of the highways in the park and for that matter, the Catskill's

Map 4. Major Gateways and Information Services



region are very scenic and that attribute alone is the reason for many visitors to come to the Catskills. There is also significant interest in the establishment of historic trails across the Catskills by various interest groups, as well as promoting points of interest that reflect on the history and culture of the region. The group discussed the benefits of a touring brochure with detailed maps and narratives identifying scenic routes. The brochure would be looked upon as an important element in promoting tourism in the region and the economic benefits tourism produces.

The basis for the beginning of the scenic road network would be the existing scenic byways and those highways identified in the Temporary Study Commission Report. A narrative would be provided for each trail or route including the natural and cultural history, landmarks and other interpretive information.

Implementation of a project of this scale would require a coalition of representatives of the four county highway departments, county planners, county tourism promotion agents, DEC, DOT, historic sites and other nonprofits, as well as private enterprise to obtain funding and print such a brochure. The advantage to the local communities of identifying and interpreting scenic driving tours would be to promote the scenic beauty of the region, to improve the quality of experience for highway travelers, and to stimulate regional tourism.

***A*ction: Institute regular DEC/DOT/NYC DEP/county/local government regional communication and coordination meetings**

DEC and the DOT share responsibility for the maintenance and conservation of the visual, natural and cultural resources of the region. In the work group meetings, both DOT and DEC recognized the benefits of improved communication, and the need for coordination and cooperation that will bond partnerships with all Catskill stakeholders.

An example of a need for better coordination between DEC and DOT is the public access to Kaaterskill Falls along the designated stretch of scenic byway on Route 23A. DEC and DOT land managers, landscape architects, and engineers need to cooperatively design a safe pedestrian passage from the Molly Smith parking area to the trailhead that is consistent with the aesthetic values and legal constraints within the scenic byway designation and forest preserve regulations.

In order to meet this goal, DEC and DOT agree to meet semi-annually to discuss issues that must be addressed and develop strategies that include participation by the locals and other involved agencies. The Catskill Park Coordinator position will strengthen their working relationship, and bring matters of importance to the attention of the involved regions and central office parties responsible for decision making. The New York City DEP will be encouraged to join this partnership and attend these meetings. The focus of the meetings will be not to establish a bureaucracy over communities and interest groups, but to seek their participation also as stakeholders.

Signs and Structures

Highway travelers need clear and visible signs that direct them to forest preserve access opportunities. The design and placement of these signs should contribute to the scenic quality of the roadways and the aesthetic character of the Catskill Park. The work group meetings identified many actions to enhance the travel corridors and to help define a sense of place by improving existing signage. DOT is presently examining their sign manual and taking steps to incorporate new signs to trail head parking areas and trails,

and to identify natural features such as streams or landmarks. DOT also has an attractions sign program to identify other public attractions, such as museums, parks, public buildings and facilities, etc.

Action: Develop a comprehensive plan for DEC signs and structures

DEC staff recognize the need for a comprehensive plan to create standards for the design and location of information boards, trailhead structures, bulletin boards, signs and other infrastructure on forest preserve land and along highways in the Catskill Park. Although DEC manuals exist, they are out of date and do not include all the signs that are currently in use on the forest preserve. In cooperation with the Adirondack Forest Preserve (to maintain consistency between both parks), the development of a manual specific to the forest preserve would make it easier for staff to select signs and ensure that common standards are being employed on lands managed by different regions and divisions within DEC. The DEC signage task force will be composed of staff from the various programs active within the forest preserve: lands and forests, fish and wildlife, operations, forest rangers, environmental conservation officers, and public affairs.

An initial list of the contents of a signs and structures plan includes:

- A thorough needs assessment
- Inventory of the signs currently in use
- Recommendation for designs of trailhead structures depending on level of use
- Basic instructions for how and what information is presented at the trailheads
- A manual of detailed drawings specifying sizes of lettering, materials and color for all signs
- A map with locations of information boards along major corridors and gateways to the park

Two common structures DEC uses to present information in the forest preserve are information boards (also called kiosks), and sign-in boxes. DEC has installed information boards in three communities in the Catskill region under the auspices of an ISTE grant through DOT. The information boards are located in the villages of Phoenicia, Margaretville, and soon, Delhi, where residents and visitors can learn about the forest preserve and nearby access points, as well as community services and events. The design and locations for these structures were determined through a community participation and planning process. Information boards also exist on forest preserve access points such as Slide Mountain, Kanape and Mt. Tremper trailhead parking lots, and Woodland Valley campground. DEC is planning information boards for all major trailheads.

These information boards are a good first step toward providing better information about forest preserve access and developing stronger relationships with local communities, but information boards are necessary at other locations, particularly along the major scenic travel corridors and gateways to the park, in order to enhance the experience of highway travelers and those seeking outdoor activities on the forest preserve. Several locations suggested for future information boards are listed below. They and future information boards will be considered in the context of this comprehensive plan for DEC signs and structures. Decisions relating to locations and designs must have the approval and support of the local communities and DOT for non-forest preserve locations, such as highways and towns.

Region 3

- Entrance to Onteora Lake in Bluestone Wild Forest on Route 28, unless a DOT information kiosk is erected one-half mile east in 1999-2000.
- Site of the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center on Route 28
- Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area

- Route 55, Grahamsville
- Livingston Manor gateway entrance
- Route 212 Saugerties/Woodstock gateway entrance
- Kingston, gateway entrance (in cooperation with the Thruway Authority, Ulster Public Information, and Kingston Chamber of Commerce).

Region 4

- Village of Hunter
- Molly Smith parking lot on Route 23A access point to Kaaterskill Falls trail
- Windham High Peaks trailhead in East Windham on Route 23
- Route 23A, Palenville gateway entrance
- Prattsville, gateway entrance

DEC has a policy that classifies trailheads in the forest preserve and provides for consistency in their location and development. The policy defines three levels of trailheads at the starting or termination point of one or more designated trails at an access point to state land.

Class I Trailhead is a major trailhead at the entrance to a high-use trunk trail or trail system with parking for eleven or more vehicles and frequently located along a major highway.

Class II Trailhead is a trailhead at the entrance to a less-used trail system with parking for up to ten vehicles.

Class III Trailhead is a trailhead at the entrance to one or more less-used or dead-end trails or paths with parking for up to three vehicles.

The comprehensive plan would define the signs and structures at each of the three classes of trailheads and determine what information is presented at each and how that information is presented so that the trailheads are consistent throughout the forest preserve and present a unified appearance and message. The signs and information presented at trailheads need to communicate positive messages about what is allowed, as well as what is prohibited.

Action: Implement use of international icons for recreation uses along state highways.

Most trailheads are located off the main highways on back roads where travelers unfamiliar with the region who do not have a set of detailed trail maps have a difficult challenge finding them. For example, at the intersection of Route 28 and county Route 47 there is no indication that hiking opportunities are available, even though Route 47 (Oliverea Road) leads to Slide Mountain, Biscuit Brook, Lost Clove, McKinley Hollow, and Giant Ledge trailheads. It has been suggested that the use of a reflective highway sign with an international symbol of a hiker would help direct prospective users to access points.

Fishing access sites that are located off the main highways might also benefit from similar signs with an international fishing symbol where distance or the configuration of the road prevents the driver from seeing the DEC signs or the parking area.

Green and white signs with international icons are already in use on Route 28 for ski areas; brown and yellow signs with campground icons are also found on Route 28. At present DOT does not include a hiking or fishing symbol in their manual of traffic control devices. DEC will submit these symbols to DOT

for special authorization and evaluate the need for others at access points for snowmobiling, biking, cross-country skiing or horseback riding. The colors for these signs will follow the recommendations in DOT's *Guidelines for the Catskill Park*.

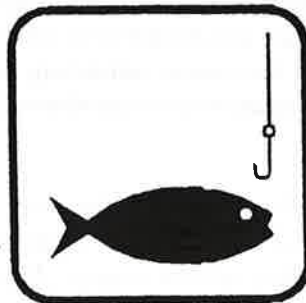
The use of international icons will be considered for the following locations:

Symbol: Hiker



- Intersection of County Route 47 and Route 28 (trailheads mentioned above)
- Intersection of Route 28 and 28A (Peekamoose Valley)
- Intersection of Route 28 and Fox Follow Road
- Intersection of Route 28 and Woodland Valley Road (campground)
- Intersection of Rte. 23 and Cross Road
- Rte. 23A in vicinity of Kaaterskill Falls Trail
- Intersection of the Long Path and Route 23A near Palenville
- Intersection of Route 214 and Diamond Notch Road
- Intersection of Route 214 and Devil's Path
- Intersection of Route 206 and Campbell Mountain trail

Symbol: Fishing



- Intersection of Mt. Pleasant Rd. and Route 28 in Mt. Tremper
- Intersections of old Route 28 with County Route 42 and Route 28 in Big Indian (2 fishing access parking areas)
- Intersection of Route 28 and Woodland Valley Road (3 fishing access parking areas)
- Intersection of County Route 42 and Spruceton Road
- Intersection of Route 23A and Route 42

Action: Amend the DEC sign law to allow businesses to advertise at up to four intersections

"In order to conserve the natural beauty of the Adirondack and Catskill parks, to preserve and regulate the said parks for public uses for the resort of the public for recreation, pleasure, air, light and

enjoyment, to keep them open, safe, clean and in good order for the welfare of society, and to protect and conserve the investment of the state in forest lands, campsites and other interests in real property in said parks, no person shall erect or maintain within the boundaries thereof any advertising sign, advertising structure or device of any kind, except under written permit from the department."

So begins section 9-0305 of the New York State's Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) that governs signs within the Catskill and Adirondack Parks. Only off-premise advertising signs are subject to this law. Signs advertising a business on a parcel of real estate which is the principal location of that business, or signs in an incorporated village are exempt. Further details on the classification and size limitations of authorized signs, materials, design, color and text, location, illumination, maintenance and how to apply for a sign permit are spelled out in part 195 of the ECL rules and regulations. The sign law appears in Appendix F.

In the meetings for the Public Access Plan there was widespread dissatisfaction with a particular requirement of the regulations which restricts businesses from erecting signs at more than one intersection from their location. For businesses located well off the main highway directional signs clearly directing the visitor to outlying locations are not allowed under the current regulations. The work groups felt that enforcement of the sign law was necessary to prevent the proliferation of signs and degradation of the scenic values of Catskill Park highways and byways, but in situations where a business is located two or more intersections from the main road, that business should have the opportunity to direct travelers with signs at as many intersections as necessary to reach their premises. The current permit system would still be required for these signs and they would not be exempt from other requirements of the law or regulations.

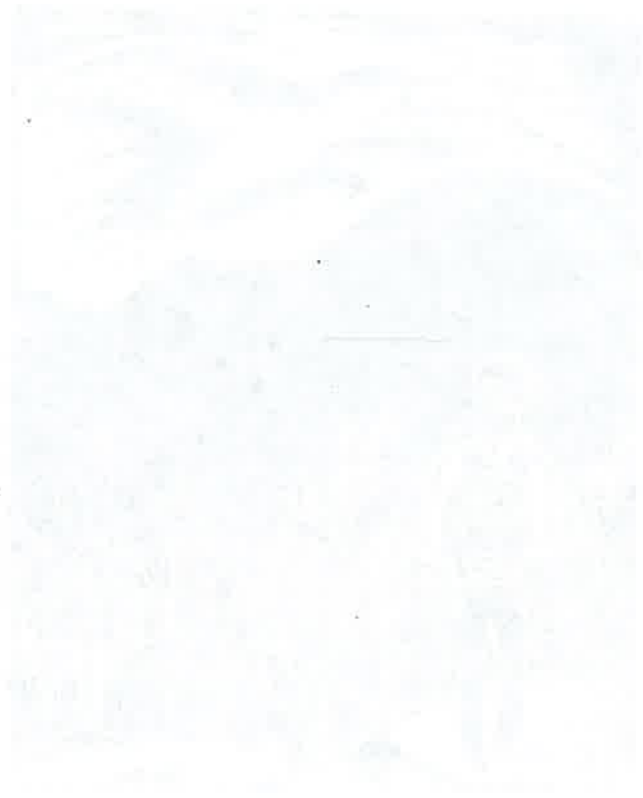
Legislation has been introduced in the New York State Senate proposing an amendment to the ECL that would allow any one business up to four directional signs. The signs would be of a size and shape approved by DEC and would give directions for reaching a business. They would be erected and maintained at intersection locations approved by the department. A legislative action could change the sign law, but another strategy would be to amend DEC's rules and regulations which would effect the same result without requiring a legislative change. DEC will investigate amending the rules and regulations to replace the current regulations that state that only two intersections are allowed with allowances for signs at up to four intersections.

In certain locations this proposed modification to the sign law and/or rules and regulations will produce more signs at intersections than are currently in use. However, clear directional signs will benefit travelers seeking the services provided by local businesses off the main highways and help foster sustainable economic development of the communities within the Catskill Park.

In accord with DOT guidelines that recommend brown signs with a yellow legend for use on state highways within the park, the sign law regulations which currently allow three choices of color (yellow lettering on brown background, black lettering on white background, or white lettering on green background) might be revised to specify yellow lettering on brown background in order to maintain a consistent practice within the park.

Further consideration should be given to temporary signs for yard sales, bake sales, church socials, and other events. If located off-premise these signs are illegal under the current regulations. Allowances for short-term signs advertising local events that conform to the other requirements of the sign law should be incorporated into the regulations including requirements for removal after the event. These modifications would benefit both the public and the rangers who are charged with the enforcement of the sign law.

Consideration of modifications to the law or regulations will be part of an organized process seeking public participation and input.



Key Issues and Actions: Information and Interpretation



New York State residents and

visitors see the Catskill Forest Preserve in a variety of ways. Although most people are aware of the Catskill Mountains as the scenic backdrop of Catskill highways and communities and know something of their history as a setting for large vacation resorts, relatively few have a clear idea of what the forest preserve is or how forest preserve lands intermingle with private lands and communities to form the unique relationship that characterizes the Catskill Park. Even the hundreds of thousands of people each year who stay at forest preserve campgrounds or travel the trails are not fully aware of its rich history, natural resource values, recreational opportunities, or the importance of the forest preserve to the economy of the Catskill region.

DEC produces a variety of publications about the forest preserve at different scales and levels of detail including maps of individual units, park-wide, and region-wide materials, but there is no consistent plan for their distribution or comprehensive plan for future production.

Recently printed materials have been designed with a “common look” intended to project an easily identifiable image of forest preserve materials, but publications are few and do not portray the broad array of forest preserve activities. Many subjects of interest to the public, such as a map and brochure of the forest preserve, or guides to specific recreational activities are not represented, are outdated, or out of print.

Lack of funding is the biggest obstacle to producing and distributing interpretive and informational materials. Often when a source of funds is found for an initial printing, there are no funds available to reprint the brochures, maps or guides when supplies are exhausted.

To better serve the interests of New Yorkers, with particular attention to the residents of the Catskill Park, DEC recognizes the critical need to create systems to produce better information and interpretation about the forest preserve and to distribute it effectively. By encouraging visitors to discover less well-known recreational opportunities, educating them about the proper use of forest preserve lands, and enhancing their experience as they tour the scenic travel corridors, their appreciation of the forest preserve and respect for the resource will grow.

The Public Access Plan information and interpretation systems work group considered the broad topic of providing access, information, and identified a series of actions related to the following subjects: publications, interpretation and stewardship, distribution of information, and public outreach. The purpose of these information and interpretation actions is to increase public understanding and enjoyment of the forest preserve while contributing to the protection of its natural resources for future generations and enhancing the economies of Catskill communities.

Publications

There are many useful privately produced guides, maps and publications about the Catskill Forest Preserve, Catskill Park, and Catskill region. The New York/New Jersey Trail Conference sells a waterproof, tear-resistant five-map set titled, "Catskill Trails" that is an invaluable guide to the trail system. The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development produces a seven-county regional road map showing forest preserve lands and other natural and cultural features. Purple Mountain Press, in Fleischmanns, NY, features a broad selection of maps and guides as well as books of regional interest. Other Catskill maps and guides are published by the Adirondack Mountain Club and Walking News.

In addition, each county tourism office provides detailed road maps available free on request. DOT is in the process of producing and selling county base maps showing state and municipal lands. One has been completed for Sullivan County. Topographical maps are available from United States Geologic Survey and retail sales outlets throughout the region.

In fall of 1997 DEC published a full color forest preserve map and guide. This publication fills a long-standing need and serves to orient visitors to the park and the forest preserve, as well as to illustrate the major trails and parking areas. Other current DEC brochures about the Catskill Forest Preserve feature the eight campgrounds, Willowemoc Wild Forest, Big Indian Wilderness, Slide Mountain Wilderness, Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest, Bluestone Wild Forest, Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, Day Hikes at North-South Lake and Catskill Adventure hikes. The "Catskills Fishing Guide," a regional full color brochure that was first produced ten years ago by DEC with help from "I Love NY" funds, has just been reprinted by the Bureau of Fisheries through a cooperative effort between DEC's Albany, region 3, and region 4 offices. A similar effort by the Bureau of Public Lands has produced a new brochure specifically geared to families titled "Catskill Adventure - Day Hikes and Paddles for Families." This brochure identifies eighteen short day hikes or canoe paddles in the forest preserve distinguished by interesting features such as waterfalls, scenic views, or opportunities to observe wildlife. The distance and ascent for each location are listed and several trails or locations are suitable for children under five. The majority of these DEC brochures have been produced by private contractors with support from advertisers. A complete list of current DEC media products appears in Appendix H.

***A*ction: Reprint Catskill Forest Preserve map and guide**

The single greatest need identified in all four work groups was for the publication of a full color map and guide to orient visitors and highway travelers and introduce them to the Catskill Forest Preserve and Catskill Park, show trails, access points and boundaries, communicate the natural beauty and magnitude of the forest preserve, and include highlights of the rich cultural history of the Catskill Park. A full color brochure titled, "Catskill Forest Preserve - Official Map and Guide," has recently been printed and copies are available. Because of the size of the map and the scale of the forest preserve, this map cannot show the level of detail that those seeking outdoor recreation might require, but it is an invaluable tool to introduce visitors to the region.

Federal ISTEA funds were used to print the first edition of this brochure. DEC is reprinting it with advertising to offset the cost. In order to meet the continuing need for a steady supply of publications like this map and guide and the Catskills Fishing Guide, DEC will work with sponsors or advertising contractors who wish to reprint and distribute future editions of these brochures.

***A*ction: Print recreation theme brochures for forest preserve activities**

Detailed information about opportunities within the Catskill Park for hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, car-top boating access, and wildlife observation, is lacking and cannot be easily condensed into a single publication because of the need for variable scales and the sheer volume and diversity of information. Work groups recommended that a coordinated series of sport-specific or theme brochures that identify locations and access points on the forest preserve where these sports or activities are possible and desirable, and where these activities are wheelchair accessible, would be a major benefit to forest preserve users and to the communities within the Catskill Park.

Making these recreational opportunities more accessible through a series of sport or theme related brochures is an important aspect of public access to the forest preserve and a sustainable economic development to the surrounding communities that provide services to these visitors. Partnership with private industry might be possible and desirable as, for example, in the case of cross-country skiing. (More information on these trails is included on page 47 and on Map 5.)

Hiking

A question most commonly asked of DEC staff and of county tourism offices about the forest preserve is, "Where can I hike?" Currently DEC does not have an up-to-date comprehensive publication that shows the locations of trailheads, parking areas or the trails themselves. "Catskill Trails," a co-publication of DEC Regions 3 and 4, was last printed in 1985. Revising and reprinting the "Catskill Trails" hiking guide was strongly recommended by several work groups as a valuable guide to hiking in the forest preserve.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobilers and horseback riders have areas of designated trail for these activities in the Catskill Forest Preserve and some of these trails are suitable for other sports as well. More than 76 miles of snowmobile trails have been built in the Forest preserve with the assistance of local snowmobile clubs, but no single publication exists that shows these trails.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is permitted on snowmobile trails once the snow has melted; otherwise horseback riding is permitted throughout the forest preserve, but not on marked foot trails. Currently trails suitable for horseback riding, old woods trails and other opportunities exist for horseback riding, which, along with parking areas suited for horse trailers could be shown on a theme brochure.

Mountain Biking

Mountain bikers at present have unrestricted access to forest preserve trails although mountain biking regulations may be modified after the next revision of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan. Bike trails are currently being developed at Jockey Hill in Bluestone Wild Forest and there is a six mile trail at Wilson campground.

Cross-country Skiing

Cross-country skiing opportunities exist in many locations throughout the forest preserve including an extensive system which has been developed at Belleayre Mt. Ski Center. A brochure illustrating these opportunities would be an asset. A guide could be produced in cooperation with private operators that would list recommended routes on forest preserve lands as well as private facilities, like Frost Valley YMCA, that maintain cross-country ski trails within the Catskill Park.

Hunting and Trapping

Sportsmen in work groups for the Public Access Plan reported that better information is needed about hunting and trapping opportunities in the forest preserve. The word "Preserve" discourages some prospective hunters who mistake it to mean a game preserve where hunting is not allowed. They also said that the boundaries in the statewide hunting and trapping guide are not at a large enough scale to clearly distinguish public and private lands.

A brochure and map about hunting and trapping in the forest preserve would help sportsmen find access points, improve understanding of the wide variety of opportunities present for trapping, small and big game hunting, and help prevent unintentional trespass.

Wildlife Observation

An interpretive pamphlet or guide to wildlife observation in the forest preserve would help people observe and study wildlife as a source of enjoyment. Wildlife means fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, etc., as well as birds and mammals. DEC's wildlife observation program identifies observation sites and provides resources to make wildlife observation available to the public through the production of guides, or by developing facilities such as towers or viewing platforms. A Catskill Forest Preserve wildlife viewing guide would foster general awareness, understanding and appreciation of wildlife and of the importance of the forest preserve as habitat for wildlife.

The National Watchable Wildlife Program in partnership with Defender's of Wildlife, DEC, DOT, and other state and federal agencies and private organizations published the *New York Wildlife Viewing Guide*. The guide identifies the 75 best places in the state to see wildlife in their natural habitat. In the forest preserve, North/South Lake campground was selected for its lakes and forest with deer, bears, squirrels, bats, loons (migrating), Canada geese, ducks, hawks, owls, turkey, ruffed grouse, warblers, songbirds and sunfish.

Action: Print maps showing public fishing rights

Similarly, anglers express the need for better and more detailed information about the locations of fishing access parking lots and boundaries of the permanent easements on private land known as public fishing rights (PFR). Maps showing PFR boundaries as well as other fishing opportunities on forest preserve lands with interpretive text about what fish are present and their natural history would improve understanding of the forest preserve and access to fishing opportunities. Production of maps showing boundaries of public fishing rights would be a very useful complement to the full color Catskills fishing brochure.

Action: Encourage regional tourism agents to integrate forest preserve information into local community, county, and regional tourism publications, as well as other media.

One of the issues identified in the work group discussions was the need to integrate information about the forest preserve into a broad spectrum of publications about the Catskills. Tourism promotion agents in Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster counties produce annual visitor guides for their counties, and in addition, print two Catskills Region guides each year supported by Empire State Development "I Love NY" matching funds. Some local communities and chambers of commerce in the Catskill Park also publish visitor guides.

In order to encourage local communities or counties to benefit from the economic value of the forest preserve lands as a nature-based tourism attraction, DEC will provide maps, information about public access and recreational opportunities, locations of trailheads, parking, etc., to any group or government entity for inclusion in their publications.

Key Issues and Actions: Interpretation and Education



Public interest surrounding the proposed

interpretive center for the Catskill region led DEC's Division of Public Affairs and Environmental Education to establish the position of Catskill Forest Preserve environmental educator in 1996. Operating out of Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, the educator offers a year-round series of programs for families, school classes, youth groups, and civic organizations interpreting the natural and human history and ecology of the Catskills. These programs include guided hikes, hands-on-activities for school classes, teacher workshops, and slide lectures. The educator has written an interpretive booklet for the old field trail at the day use area on the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center site and a similar booklet for Kenneth Wilson campground nature trail. An Interpreter

Activity Program has been offered in some campgrounds since 1982. In 1997, the Bureau of Recreation inaugurated an Interpretive Activities Program in the campgrounds. Also that year, a Junior Naturalist Program was conducted for children between 5 and 12 years old. The program was available in five of the eight campgrounds in the Catskills.

Action: Expand Catskill environmental education initiative

Work groups strongly supported the expansion of the current environmental education initiative to help build appreciation and stewardship of the forest preserve. The following are a few examples of new opportunities for such expansion.

- Establish a network of interpreted (self-guiding) trails at various locations within the forest preserve, including at least one trail at each DEC campground in the Catskill Forest Preserve;
- Design, construct, and install interpretive exhibits about the forest preserve at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, the DEC Region 3 office in New Paltz, and the Region 4 Suboffice in Stamford. Seasonal (outdoor) exhibit panels should also be mounted at each DEC campground;
- Expand the Junior Naturalist children's program to all Catskill campgrounds; and
- Offer a full program of fall, winter, and spring outdoor ecology lessons for school classes at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, taught by DEC permanent and seasonal staff, interns, and volunteer docents.

Action: Restore Catskill Forest Preserve fire towers

The first forest fire observation station in New York state was established on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain in 1887. Today's steel tower dates back to 1930. The steel towers at Hunter Mountain, Tremper Mountain, Red Hill and Overlook were installed in 1917, 1917, 1920 and 1950 respectively. An analysis of towers was done for review by the State Historic Preservation Officer and in 1994 a letter of resolution was negotiated between DEC and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation pursuant to the New York Historic Preservation Act of 1980. This agreement identified four fire towers within the Catskill Forest Preserve as being eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of

Historic Places: Balsam Lake Mountain, Hunter Mountain, Red Hill and Tremper Mountain. The fire tower on Overlook Mountain will be eligible for inclusion in 2000.

Fire towers are considered significant because of their association with the history and development of the forest preserve as well as because of the architectural tradition they represent. Specific plans for the management and preservation of the four fire towers designated as eligible for the State and National Registers have been developed in the context of unit management planning for the forest preserve units in which they are located. A unit management plan for the fifth tower on Overlook Mountain is in the process of development.

DEC is currently seeking support for the restoration of the Catskill Forest Preserve fire towers. Restoration of these fire towers will accomplish several goals compatible with those of the public access plan:

- Creation of destinations with unparalleled views
- Preservation of historic structures
- Development of interpretative programs about forest preserve resource values and stewardship
- Economic stimulus to local communities through increased access to the forest preserve
- Establishment of partnerships for forest preserve management
- A destination with a view for hikers to lesser peaks that would help distribute use away from the most heavily used areas.

The reconstruction will include the replacement of the wooden stair treads and some steel members, the restoration of the observer's cabins (with the exception of Tremper Mountain which was removed), and a privy or port-a-potty. Project funds will be dedicated for long-term maintenance as well. In a similar effort in the Adirondacks, experience has shown that local grassroots support is the key to successful restoration of fire towers.

Funds for the Catskill Fire Tower Restoration Project are being raised by individuals, businesses and non-profits, and through the sale of patches, T-shirts and postcards. Local groups, recognizing that the creation of a popular tourist destination will benefit the economy of their community, have organized around each fire tower to address the details, special local concerns, and to help raise awareness and support for the fire towers. Since February, 1997, the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development and five fire tower committees have been working with DEC to help organize support and raise funds.

Action: Build forest preserve volunteer network

The need for development of a broader constituency to advocate for forest preserve issues and to build awareness and support for the management, maintenance and stewardship of these valuable natural resources was mentioned by representatives of several work groups. Work group discussions proposed the development of a network of volunteers to assist with production and distribute information about the forest preserve, interpretive programming, environmental education, and improved outreach, among other activities.

A volunteer network could serve in many aspects of forest preserve management, such as:

- interpreters answering questions and leading hikes
- assistants to the DEC environmental educator
- "eyes and ears" of the forest reporting on natural events and monitoring human impacts.

Many local groups already provide these services as trail maintainers, or leaders of hikes for groups and organizations, but better coordination between these groups as well as the expansion of the volunteer network would bring more residents of local communities and visitors to an understanding and appreciation of the importance of conservation and preservation of natural resources as well as the beauty and grandeur of the forest preserve. The production of a forest preserve newsletter and a formal organization, "Friends of the Catskill Forest Preserve" were also discussed as possible outgrowths of volunteer activities and commitment.

An example of a nucleus of active volunteers engaged in forest preserve education and interpretation is the Olive Natural Heritage Society's Catskill flora project. The Society has undertaken to publish a book on Catskill flora which will be a guide to understanding the typical plant communities of the Catskills and the regional ecology. Following in the pioneering work begun by Karl Brooks, they propose to identify representative plant communities at locations with easy access and safe parking on forest preserve lands. The plants at these sites will be carefully documented, described and illustrated in their publication.

The goal of the Olive Natural Heritage Society in writing this book is to encourage the public to search out and visit these sites in order to study the typical plant communities. They plan to link their typical sites with the locations in the Catskill Adventure hiking brochure where possible. The society's scientific expertise and research skill was demonstrated in their previous book, *The Ashokan Catskills*, published in 1995. Their commitment to this project fills a much needed gap. DEC does not have the staff or resources to assume such a project, nor does the agency have the resources to produce a publication of this nature. The Natural Heritage Program within DEC conducts inventories, but their resources are limited and primarily focused on rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals.

Action: Establish a central library and research data base

The need to establish a central library and research data base for the Catskill region has been recognized by a group of scientists, environmentalists, educators and others who have joined to establish the Catskill Institute for the Environment (CIE). The CIE will provide a central source for information on environmental issues, education, and research in the Catskills region. The center will integrate human and natural sciences and establish a comprehensive repository of information and research performed by all those who are active in the region including DEC, other state and federal agencies, universities, and private researchers. The CIE is made up of four basic units: data management, distance learning, outreach, and research. The institute will be linked on-line to affiliated institutions and via the Internet to users of the world wide web.

DEC supports the work of the CIE and will cooperate to the extent possible in sharing information and offering other appropriate types of assistance. A clearinghouse of organized information about the Catskill region will be a substantial benefit not only to researchers and government agencies, but for the future needs of anyone interested in conservation and development.

Key Issues and Actions: Distribution of Information



One of the main purposes that the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center was designed to serve was that of a distribution center for information about the Catskill Park. Without the benefit of this facility or gateway information centers on major highways, there is no dependable, region-wide system to distribute information about forest preserve access and opportunities. In the work groups and public meetings strong support encouraged development of a Catskill Interpretive Center. In addition, work groups suggested a coordinated DEC information distribution strategy, a network of local information centers, DEC information boards and/or kiosks, the development of a Catskill regional personnel directory, public outreach by DEC staff, and contracting with a private advertising firm.

DEC regional offices, campgrounds, day use areas, Belleayre Mountain Ski Center and the county tourism offices all currently provide information about the forest preserve to varying degrees. Brochures and other information are available at the two DEC regional offices, but only during weekday business hours. The campgrounds and Belleayre Mountain Ski Center occasionally present interpretive displays or programs to visitors. Since the summer of 1997, campground offices have had touch screen video displays that show recreational activities on the surrounding forest preserve lands and link with businesses, services, and attractions within the local communities. The Assistant Ranger program delivers information to backcountry users, but many roadside visitors to the region are not currently able to find information about the Catskill Forest Preserve and Catskill Park at accessible locations within the region.

Action: Pursue Catskill Interpretive Center Initiative

Appreciation of the need for better distribution of information about the Forest Preserve and private attractions within the Catskill Park led DEC to select a site on Route 28 in Shandaken for a proposed visitors' interpretive center that would welcome visitors to the Catskills region. In the workgroups there were diverse opinions about how to approach this issue today, but there was strong support for the construction of a building on the site of the proposed interpretive center in Shandaken. During the public review process for the draft Public Access Plan, there was additional support for developing the site as a visitor's center. Future progress will require identification of funding sources and innovative partnerships with other government agencies, local governments and the private sector.

There may be other future opportunities to combine or consolidate DEC's Catskill Interpretive Center with projects being proposed in the surrounding area. For example, the Watershed Agreement contains \$1 million for exhibits in a proposed watershed museum. A single structure that served these multiple purposes would be a cost-efficient solution to the need for a Catskill Interpretive Center.

Action: Develop a coordinated DEC information distribution strategy

Whether it be completing a unit management plan, publication of a brochure, progress with trail building, building a parking lot, new initiatives, special events, or the many other day-to-day incremental accomplishments, DEC's work throughout the forest preserve often goes unnoticed by the public because it is not publicly announced. The development of an information distribution strategy for the four counties in the Catskill Park will establish a coordinated mechanism for DEC to communicate information that currently is not well distributed. This strategy will use various forms of media and distribution systems, such as, press releases, links to internet sites, direct mailings, the use of brochure distribution companies, and forwarding information to the editors of various constituent newsletters. The advantages of such a strategy will be to build support for the forest preserve and heighten awareness of DEC activities through increased public awareness and participation.

DEC Regions 3 and 4 staff from all programs active within the forest preserve will develop a mailing list of individuals and groups who wish to receive information about the forest preserve. The list will include recreational and environmental organizations, interested individuals, elected officials, media, other state agencies, historical and cultural organizations, educational facilities, businesses, chambers of commerce, libraries, and others. Another suggestion was to develop a forest preserve newsletter or annual report to the community that would communicate information about projects completed and the status of those underway.

DEC has a web site (www.dec.state.ny.us) which presents a new opportunity for relatively easy distribution of information such as maps, brochures, press releases, and etc. Links between DEC's web site and other Catskill web sites are encouraged, and as brochures and maps are produced or revised, they will be added and updated on these internet sites.

The work groups also suggested free public service announcements on television and radio, as well as a Catskill Park radio station similar to the 530 am station broadcast at the Kingston New York State Thruway exit 19. Video tapes featuring specific outdoor activities were also proposed as an effective way to inform a broader public about recreational opportunities.

Development of this coordinated DEC information strategy will be done by a team of DEC regional and central office staff representing the various programs active within the forest preserve.

Action: Establish a network of local forest preserve information stations

In the course of the public meetings for this plan, there was strong support for the creation of a network of local information centers distributed throughout the Catskill Park both at DEC and other public sector facilities, and at private locations. In contrast to the gateway centers, these information stations would be located along the highway system within the park in existing businesses or non-profit organizations that are already magnets for visitors and are equipped to offer services to tourists. These information stations will be designated by a brown and yellow outdoor sign with a question mark designed in a style compatible with DEC's wooden forest preserve signs. Inside, an interior sign and brochure rack will display DEC publications about recreational opportunities and forest preserve stewardship. The staff at these locations will be trained by DEC staff to answer questions, to direct visitors to appropriate activities in their area, and will be supplied with publications as supplies warrant. A DEC staff person will be appointed to maintain and monitor each "Information Station" to keep abreast of their needs.

Several locations that have expressed an interest in participating in the network of information centers are listed below.

- Catskill Corners, Shandaken, NY
- Point Lookout Mountain Inn, E. Windham, NY
- Catskill Flyfishing Center and Museum, Livingston Manor, NY
- Kenco, Kingston, NY
- Margaretville Department Store, Margaretville, NY
- Big Indian Trading Post, Big Indian, NY
- Twilight Groceries, Haines Falls, NY

Action: Contract professional advertising

Independent advertising agencies are currently contracted by the state to promote and market Catskill Forest Preserve attractions at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center and the summer activities at the campgrounds. An interdisciplinary effort by a professional advertising contractor that spans the various DEC programs (lands and forests, operations, wildlife, education, rangers, etc.) will facilitate the development of a consistent message about the use and possible overuse of the natural resources in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

In the Adirondacks, a fund raising campaign has been initiated by the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council to create a series of television commercials, print advertising and a twenty-eight page guide called *Adirondack Great Walks and Day Hikes*. This is a fully coordinated educational campaign designed to promote tourism throughout the region by heightening awareness about the diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities while instilling a strong sense of stewardship and distributing use into less well-known areas.

Whether through DEC, the Empire State Development Corporation, a private consortium, or a public private partnership of all three, a professional approach to the promotion of wise use and sustainable development from nature-based tourism in the forest preserve will benefit local communities and state agencies.

Key Issues and Actions: DEC Public Outreach



Better communication between DEC regional staff and the public was a common request in the work group meetings. Local chambers of commerce, county tourism promotion agents, as well as visitors and residents need access to DEC staff for information on hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing, biking, snowmobiling, camping and other pursuits on the forest preserve. No single person can answer questions on all these subjects since they are managed by separate programs and regions within DEC.

Action: Publish a DEC Catskill regional personnel directory

Finding out who to contact at DEC on a particular subject can be a difficult and frustrating experience. Work groups recommended DEC publish an inter-regional telephone directory for DEC staff in Regions 3 and 4 who have responsibilities within the forest preserve. This directory could be distributed to the public, local municipalities, and other state agencies.

Currently DEC Region 3 maintains a recorded telephone message about hiking and backpacking (914-256-3188 x 4083) and another message on trail conditions (914-256-3188 x 4182). Both of these messages are accessible twenty-four hours a day by touch tone phone. In addition, Forest Rangers answer calls about trail conditions and other questions, but visitors may not know which ranger to call or their telephone number.

On a broader scale, there is a need for a Catskill regional directory that includes the names and numbers of other state agencies in addition to DEC, local and county government offices, and groups and organizations active within the environmental, historic, academic, and not-for-profit communities throughout the Catskill region. The work of designing and producing a regional directory is outside the scope of DEC's mission, but if it were done by a private entity, such a directory would be a benefit to people throughout the region. The Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River Interagency Resource Impacts Directory was proposed as a good model.

Action: Conduct training and familiarization workshops, field trips, and other public presentations

DEC staff recognize the benefit of improved communications with the public and acknowledge their responsibility to inform local chambers of commerce, tourism professionals, and other interested parties to promote public understanding and appreciation of forest preserve values and opportunities. By educating local businesses, tourism professionals, and others about forest preserve resources and values, they will become "front line marketers" who will more effectively transmit this information to their clients.

DEC staff will increase their availability whenever possible to meet regularly with local chambers, tourism professionals, and others who are in the business of answering questions and providing information to visitors. On an annual basis DEC will conduct field trips, one in each county, with representatives of the tourism promotion community to acquaint them with forest preserve attractions throughout the Catskill Park.

Key Issues and Actions: Recreation Access and Development



Recreation, travel, tourism and the

enjoyment of nature bring visitors to the Catskill Park. The communities within the park depend heavily on the attraction of the forest preserve as a backdrop for the scenic byways and as a destination for nature-based tourism. The development and maintenance of forest preserve access and facilities are critical to the economic well-being of the region.

A major motivation behind the Access Plan was a recognition by DEC that the recreational opportunities available on the forest preserve had developed largely as a result of isolated, localized efforts and not from a comprehensive, preserve-wide perspective. While there is an extensive system of long-distance hiking trails, opportunities for other trail uses, such as horseback riding and snowmobiling, are more localized. People interested in relatively short, easy walks, like parents with children or older people, find only a few places to go. Characteristics such as land classification, topography, and the presence of intervening private lands can limit the potential for access in some areas. Nevertheless, DEC intends to pursue a balanced distribution of recreational opportunities across the Catskill Forest Preserve.

The Recreational Opportunities work group was composed of representatives from a variety of interests: sportsmen and outdoor recreationists, chambers of commerce, county tourism offices, businesses, nonprofits, and people with disabilities. They were charged with the task of recommending actions that would develop balanced, appropriate access and recreational opportunities on the forest preserve for the full spectrum of visitors. This work group considered what types of recreational opportunities need to be developed on forest preserve lands with particular attention to the needs of families and people with disabilities.

Knowing what present opportunities exist in the forest preserve is a necessary background for understanding the recommended new recreation access and development actions. The following section, Existing Conditions of Public Access, describes the present physical access to the forest preserve: hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, interpretive nature trails, fishing, hunting and trapping, camping, swimming and boating access. The recommendations of the recreational opportunities work group start on page 57.

Existing Conditions of Physical Access

Hiking

Currently there are over 300 miles of foot trails traversing the Catskill Forest Preserve. Foot trails are paths, generally 4-6 feet wide, marked with small, round, plastic markers colored either red, blue or yellow with "Foot Trail Marker" printed on them. While they are widely distributed throughout the preserve, most of the existing foot trails ascend ridges and mountains, and are considered moderate to strenuous by the average user. There are few short trails that are attractive to families and those not interested in extended hikes into the back country.

New trails were built at several locations during the summer of 1997. Volunteers from the Finger Lakes Trail Conference built seven miles of new trail from Alder Lake to Balsam Mountain Lake. In addition, the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club provided funds for the construction of a new lean-to along this trail. The lean-to was constructed in 1998. In Greene County volunteers from the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, in partnership with DEC, built two sections of trail from the new Roaring Kill parking lot that link existing trails to create a loop. One section, travels 1.9 miles to Pecoy Notch and the other 2.2 miles from Pecoy Notch to Mink Hollow.

Cross-country skiing



Cross-country skiers may ski on foot trails, horse trails or snowmobile trails. Trails specifically developed and marked for cross-country skiing exist at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center (6 miles), North/South Lake campground (4 miles), Kelly Hollow (Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest - 4 miles), and Kenneth L. Wilson campground (2 miles).

Foot trails well-suited to cross-country skiing (but not marked as such) include the Colgate Lake Trail (4.2 miles), the Alder Lake Loop Trail (1.5 miles), the Spruceton Trail to the Hunter/Rusk col (1.7 miles), and all of the foot trails in the Willowemoc Wild Forest (12 miles).

Snowmobiling

Within the Catskill Forest Preserve, snowmobiles may only be used on trails specifically marked for their use with round, orange snowmobile trail markers. Most of the 76 miles of existing snowmobile trails are located in northern Sullivan County (30 miles) and south central Delaware County (23 miles). Smaller trail systems exist on Kaaterskill High Peak in Greene County and at Vernoooy Falls in Ulster County.

Horseback riding

While horses may be ridden throughout most of the Catskill Forest Preserve, they are prohibited on marked foot trails. Only about 40 miles of trail have been specifically developed and marked for use by horses, most in Greene County (North/South Lake campground and surrounding Kaaterskill Wild Forest).

Recently the 3.6-mile Spruceton trail ascending Hunter Mountain was marked with horse trail markers, as was the 1.6-mile Diamond Notch Trail from Spruceton to the Diamond Notch lean-to. A 24-mile horse trail system can be found at the Bear Spring campground and Wildlife Management Area, just outside the Catskill Park in Delaware County. Snowmobile and cross-country ski trails are legally open to use by horses when not covered with snow or ice. (Horses are not allowed on snowmobile and cross-country ski trails if they are also marked as foot trails.) However, little has been done to encourage equestrian use of this trail system.

Bicycling

All-terrain bicycling, or mountain biking, is a relatively new recreational pursuit within the forest preserve and very few trails systems have been developed specifically for this use. A 6-mile trail at Wilson campground and a 2-mile trail in the Bluestone Wild Forest are the only existing designated bicycle trails in the preserve. However, at present there are no rules or regulations restricting the use of bicycles, and they may be ridden throughout the Catskill Forest Preserve. Possible restrictions on their use in wilderness areas are under consideration in the revised version of the CPSLMP.

Most of the existing snowmobile trail system is well suited to bicycling, as is the cross-country ski trail system at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. While most foot trails traverse terrain unsuitable for the average bicycle rider, or would present an unacceptable conflict with hikers, there are some wood roads which could provide an adventurous bicycling opportunity.

Access for people with mobility impairments

While all trails throughout the forest preserve are legally open to wheelchair use, none has been improved to the standards necessary for access by a wheelchair.

DEC's 1997 policy CP-3, "Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands Under Jurisdiction of DEC for People with Disabilities" sets guidelines for affording people with mobility impairments additional opportunities for motor vehicle access to roads on DEC lands. Although there are a number of opportunities under the policy on DEC lands across the state, at present there are no available roads on Catskill Forest Preserve lands.

Interpretive Nature Trails

Self-guided interpretive nature trails have been developed at Route 28 day use area (site of the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center), and for Kenneth Wilson campground. At these sites interpretive booklets explain the natural and cultural history and the ecology of these areas. At North/South Lake campground, interpretive panels about the cultural history of the grand hotels, such as the Catskill Mountain House, have been installed.

Parking

A critical part of making forest preserve lands accessible from Catskill highways is providing sufficient parking. Parking areas at trailheads, fishing access sites and general access parking areas constitute the major access points throughout the forest preserve. While there is room for parking at most access points, at some locations there is no parking or inadequate parking available for existing trails. There are some cases where access to trails is limited by the lack of highway access due to land ownership, easements, and/or topography.

Where possible, parking needs are identified in UMPs with recommended solutions. Occasionally, parking problems are resolved through partnerships. For example, a new Roaring Kill parking area, off Elka Park Road, was built in the summer of 1997 in cooperation with the Town of Hunter Highway Department.

Where parking areas do exist, maintenance—especially snow plowing—is an issue that affects users and the local communities in which these parking areas are located. DEC operations staff plow parking areas, but may not be able to remove snow from all of them throughout the forest preserve in time to prevent drivers from parking their vehicles on roads, thereby hampering snow plowing and creating traffic hazards. Some town highway departments, recognizing the safety considerations and the benefit to their communities that winter tourists provide, volunteer to assist DEC by plowing access roads and parking areas. These cooperative partnerships between DEC and local governments are invaluable to maintain adequate, safe vehicle access in the forest preserve.

Map 5. Special Use Trails

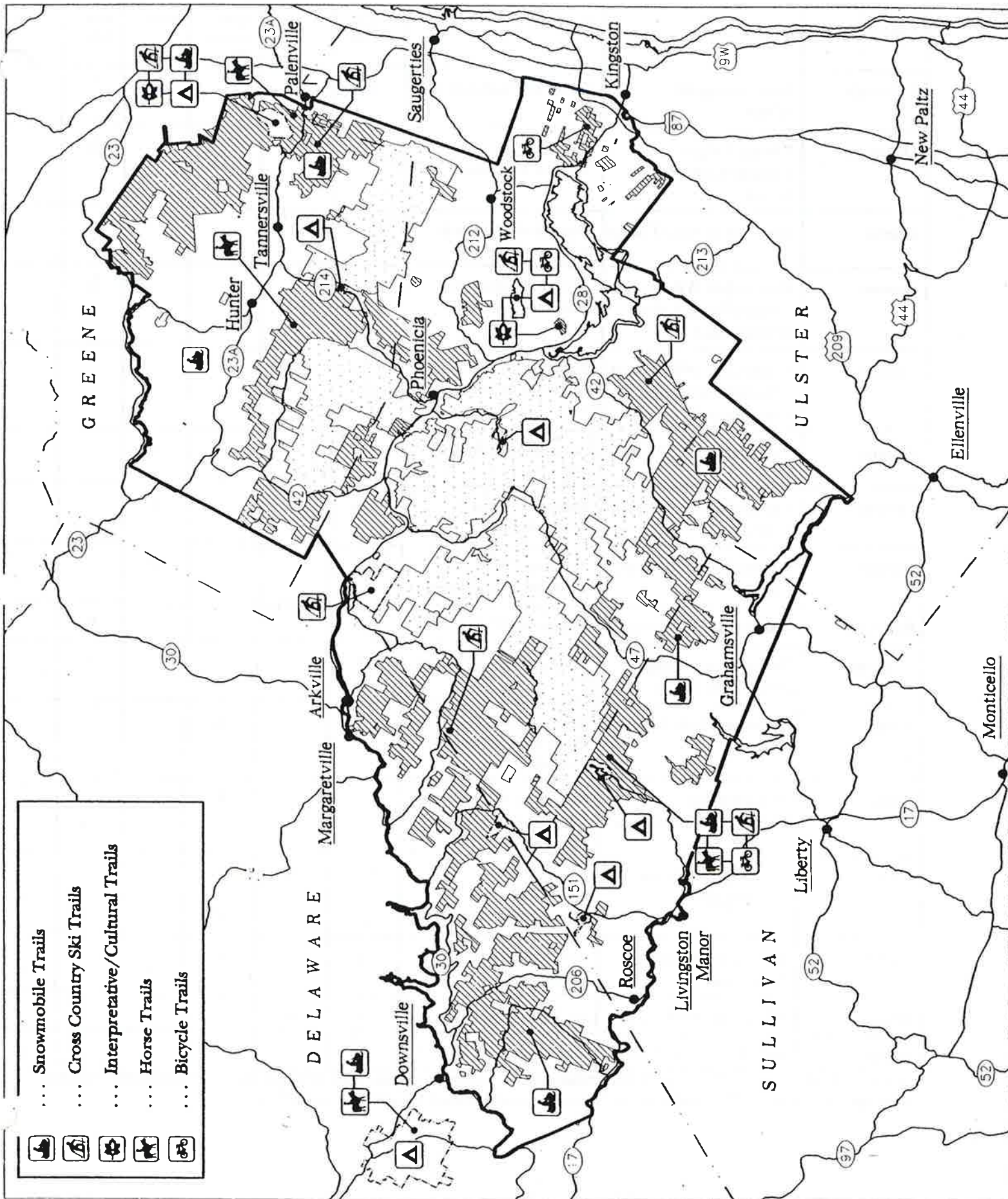


Table 8. Catskill Forest Preserve Trails Marked For Special Uses

| County | Unit | Trail/Place | length in miles | mt. bike | cross- country ski | horse | snow- mobile | nature |
|----------|---|---|--------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| Delaware | Bear Spring Mt. WMA* | Towns of Colchester and Walton | 24 | | | X | | |
| Delaware | Cherry Ridge - Campbell Mt. Wild Forest | Russell Brook Town of Colchester | 23 | | | | X | |
| Greene | Kaaterskill Wild Forest | Kaaterskill High Peak and Round Top | 13.5 | | | | X | |
| Greene | Kaaterskill Wild Forest - North/South Lake campground | South Lake down the Mountain Turnpike | 7.75 | | | | X | |
| Greene | Kaaterskill Wild Forest - North/South Lake Campground | access to South Mt. via South Rd. to Scutt Rd. trail | .5 | | X | | | |
| Greene | Kaaterskill Wild Forest | Sleepy Hollow horse trail | 11 | | | X | | |
| Greene | Hunter Mountain Wild Forest | Spruceton Valley to Hunter Mountain | 3.6 | | | X | | |
| Greene | Hunter Mountain Wild Forest | Spruceton Valley to Diamond Notch lean-to | 1.6 | | | X | | |
| Sullivan | Sundown Wild Forest | Vernooyskill Falls Trail | 11.2 | | | | X | |
| Sullivan | Willowemoc-Long Pond Wild Forest | Willowemoc trail system | 29 | | | | X | |
| Ulster | Sundown Wild Forest | Ashokan High Point (from Kanape Brook to the Col) | 2.7 | | X | | | |
| Ulster | Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest | Kelly Hollow Trail, Town of Hardenburgh and Middletown ** | 3.5 | | X | | | |
| Ulster | Kenneth L. Wilson campground | bike trail nature trail cross-country ski trail | 5.8 1 2 | X | | | | X |
| Ulster | Belleayre Mountain Ski Center | cross-country trail system | 6 | | X | | | |
| Ulster | Bluestone Wild Forest | Jockey Hill trail | 2 | X | | | | |
| Ulster | Rt. 28 Day Use Area | Old Field trail | .5 | | | | | X |

*Technically Bear Spring Mountain Wildlife Management Area is not in the forest preserve, but it is included here because of its proximity and extensive trail system. **Access from Millbrook Road in Delaware County.

Fishing Access



Fishing is allowed in season and with a license in all waters in the forest preserve. During free-fishing days, usually the last weekend in June, the license requirements are suspended. Licenses are not required for children under the age of 16. Free licenses are offered to the blind, to native Americans, and to active members of US armed forces stationed in New York state.

Public Fishing Rights

Since 1936 DEC has purchased 1200 equivalent miles of public fishing rights on streams throughout the state. An equivalent mile is one mile on both stream banks. These 33-foot wide perpetual easements along stream beds and banks allow the public to walk on the stream bed and banks for the purpose of fishing only. "Public Fishing Area" signs along the stream bank mark easement locations. DEC has purchased small properties (generally less than an acre in size) within the park, specifically to provide parking access to the public fishing rights. Table 9 lists public fishing rights in the Catskill Park.

Fishing Access for People with Disabilities

In the Catskill Forest Preserve there are two wheelchair accessible fishing piers located at Mongaup Pond and Little Pond campgrounds and a wheelchair accessible fishing platform at Hazel Bridge Pool, Hazel Road, on the Willowemoc. "Easy access" sites defined as low-gradient, hardened trails from parking lots to fishing spots are available at several locations in the park. The locations of these sites are listed in Table 10 and shown on Map 6.

Hunting and Trapping Access

Nearly the entire forest preserve and its trail system are open to licensed hunters and trappers in season. Hunting is prohibited in posted safety zones around the DEC's developed campgrounds and other facilities. Licenses are available for sale from town clerks and sporting goods stores throughout the region. Whether hunting for big game, small game, or trapping, DEC's Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide, available where licenses are sold, contains details of the seasons for each species, license requirements and other pertinent information essential to the sport. New York state does not allow shooting from a vehicle and/or road under any circumstances. Certain allowances are made for handicapped hunters to shoot from "off-road vehicles", off the road.

DEC's brown and yellow "Forest Preserve Access" signs along the highways in the region mark areas where parking is available to access the Preserve, but where there is no developed trail. These locations are excellent access for hunters, trappers, anglers, and bird watchers. Public fishing rights on private lands are posted with square yellow signs with green lettering noting "public fishing area."

| Table 7. 1997 Catskill Park Public Fishing Rights | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Water body | Access in miles | No. of Angler Parking Areas |
| Esopus Creek | 8.21 | 5 |
| Stony Clove Creek | 0.227 | 0 |
| Woodland Valley Stream | 1.139 | 2 |
| Mongaup Creek | 0 | 2 |
| Fir Brook | 2.368 | 0 |
| Sprague Brook | 0.199 | 0 |
| Beaver Kill | 5.14 | 5 |
| Little Beaverkill | 7.85 | 2 |
| Willowemoc | 18.231 | 10 |
| E. Branch Delaware River | 2.25 | 1 |
| Russell Brook | 0.1 | 0 |
| Schoharie Creek | 5.56 | 0 |
| East Kill | 1.1 | 0 |
| West Kill | 5.47 | 0 |
| Batavia Kill | 2.67 | 0 |
| Total | 60.514 | 27 |

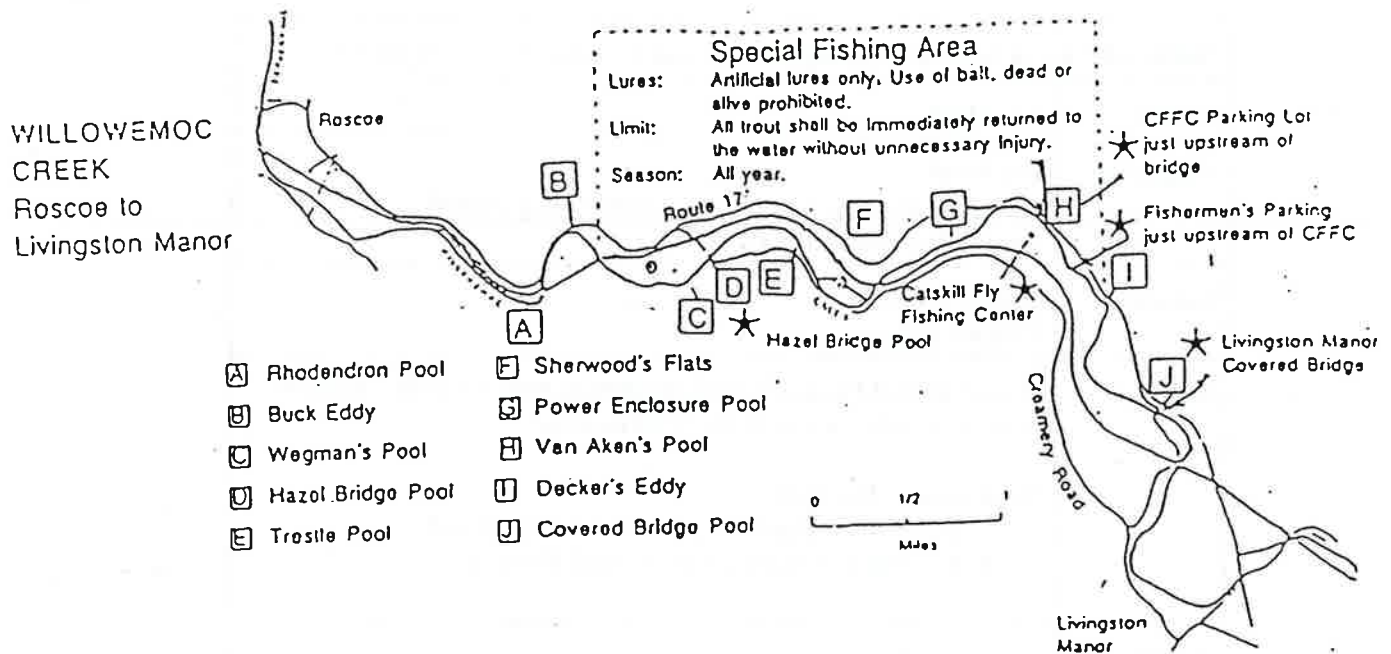
Camping Access

DEC operates seven seasonal campgrounds within the forest preserve with a total of 744 campsites. These campgrounds are developed for trailer and tent use.

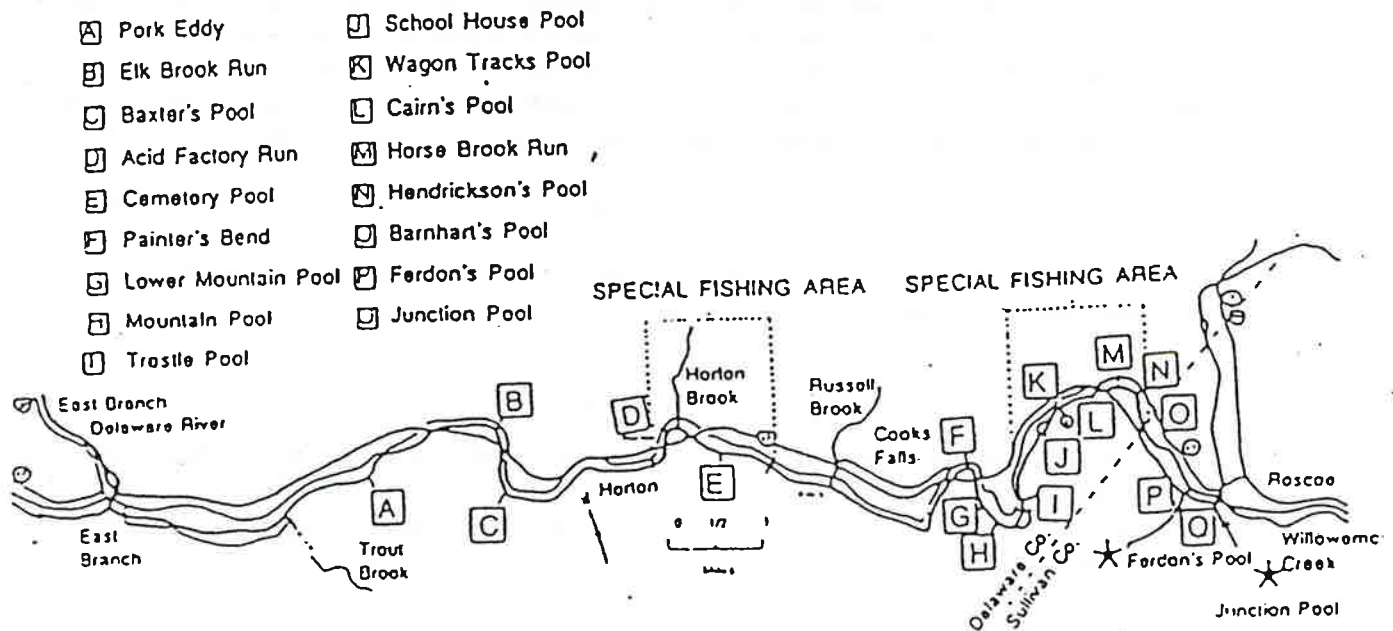
In wilderness and wild forest areas, primitive camping is allowed anywhere within the forest preserve as long as the site is below 3,500 feet in elevation (except between Dec. 21 and Mar. 21 when camping is allowed above 3,500 feet) and is at least 150 feet away from the road, the trail or any water source. At

Map 6. Easy Access Fishing Sites

★ PROJECT ACCESS: Easy Access Sites



THE BEAVERKILL



These maps courtesy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
Reproduced from the Livingston Manor - Roscoe-Rockland Visitor's Guide

locations closer than 150 feet from roads, trails, and water, primitive camping is only allowed at designated sites marked with round, yellow, DEC markers. Fires are never permitted above 3,500 feet, except in an emergency. A camping permit is required for stays of more than three consecutive nights at the same place or for groups of ten or more.

| Table 10. "Easy Access" Fishing Sites in the Catskill Forest Preserve | |
|--|--|
| County | Location |
| Delaware | Big Pond Launt Pond at Bear Spring Mountain Campground Beaver Kill at Cairn's Pool |
| Greene | North South Lake Colgate Lake |
| Sullivan | Beaver Kill at Ferdon's Pool, approximately 3/4 mile upstream from its confluence with the Willowemoc Willowemoc River at: a. Covered Bridge Pool, Covered Bridge Road b. Catskill Fly Fishing Center, Old Route 17 |
| Ulster | Onteora Lake K. Wilson Campground Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area |

Primitive campsites have no vehicle access, no running water, no garbage pick-up, and no picnic tables. Fire rings are provided at some sites to minimize the impact of campfires. A total of 187 designated primitive campsites are located in the forest preserve at Alder Lake, Peekamoose Valley, Allaben, on Frost Valley Road, Huggins Lake, Big Pond, Trout Pond, Russell Brook, Echo Lake and various remote interior locations. Camping permits are available from regional offices or from local forest rangers.

There are 32 back country lean-tos in the forest preserve. They are generally located in the interior along hiking trails. Their locations are shown on DEC brochures for the Slide Mountain Wilderness, Big Indian Wilderness and Balsam Lake Mountain and Willowemoc Wild Forest and on the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference maps.

Swimming Access

Swimming is unrestricted except at beaches at campgrounds and day use areas where a life guard is present. At these revenue producing locations, swimming is only permitted within the protected swimming area and when guards are on duty. There is no swimming allowed when the life guards are off duty or the swimming area is closed.

Boating Access

Launching boats by hand at informal launch sites is possible where the water body is near the road. Electric motors are allowed on some of these water bodies; gasoline motors are not allowed. Most bodies of water in the Catskills are too small for wind surfing, but it is possible at Mongaup Pond, Big Pond, and North-South Lake.

| Table 11. Boating Access in the Catskill Forest Preserve | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| County | Hand Boat Launch | Electric Motors Allowed |
| Delaware County | | |
| Big Pond | yes | yes |
| \$Little Pond | yes | no |
| *Trout Pond | yes | no |
| *Mud Pond | yes | no |
| *Huggins Lake | yes | no |
| Greene County | | |
| Colgate Lake | yes | no |
| \$North-South Lake | yes | no |
| Sullivan County | | |
| Mongaup Pond | yes | yes |
| Crystal Lake | yes | yes |
| *Long Pond | yes | yes |
| *Frick Pond | yes | yes |
| *Quick Lake | yes | yes |
| Waneta Lake | yes | yes |
| Ulster County | | |
| Onteora Lake | yes | yes |
| Alder Lake | yes | yes |
| \$Kenneth Wilson Lake | yes | yes |
| *Echo Lake | yes | no |

* located a half-mile or more from the road

\$ day use fee charged

New Physical Access Initiatives

Action: Improve and complete Catskill Forest Preserve trail system

The identification and construction of new trails is done in the unit management planning process where detailed investigation by DEC program staff and extensive public involvement guide the recommendations contained in these plans. In the course of the meetings for the Public Access Plan some general and specific guidelines were recommended for consideration by DEC staff in developing or revising unit management plans.

1. Old Roads: Identify, inventory and map fire roads and abandoned town roads or rail beds with potential for use by horses, bikes, people with disabilities, snowmobiles and others. DEC and towns should determine the status of these roads to see if they are eligible for snowmobile trails or disabled motor vehicle access.

2. Interpretive Trails: Increase opportunities for families, people with disabilities and other casual users by creating short, loop interpretive nature trails and trails for biking and hiking at campgrounds where opportunities exist. The campgrounds already provide handicapped accessible rest rooms and other amenities. They are staffed with personnel who can provide information to highway travelers and several campgrounds offer interpretive programs.

3. Longer Loop Trails: Where new trails are to be developed, consider the possibility of longer loop trails (20-30 miles) for cyclists, snowmobilers and horseback riders.

4. Family Trails: Identify or develop "family trails," trails that would be relatively short, lead to interesting destinations, and receive a higher level of maintenance. Trails accessible from the major highways of the Catskill Park would take priority. The Catskill Adventure brochure has identified some existing opportunities, but future UMP development should address the need for additional family trails where appropriate.

5. Mark all snowmobile trails for horseback riding as appropriate. Where snowmobile trails are suitable for horseback riding in other seasons, mark them for this use.

6. Mark Trails Suitable for Mountain Bike Use. Mountain bikes are currently allowed on any trail throughout the Forest Preserve. However, some trails are not suitable for bicycle use due to hazardous conditions, the potential for erosion, or conflicts with other users. DEC will clearly identify appropriate bicycle opportunities by marking the at trail heads.

7. Improve Parking at Trailheads and Other Access Points. At horse and snowmobile trailheads, the space requirements for parking, turning and unloading vehicles with trailers need to be considered in UMP planning. These locations also need to be made more accessible to highway travelers through clear and consistent signage. Develop maintenance agreements with local governments to assist with snow plowing and other custodial work.

8. Develop Links in the Trail System between Delaware County wild forest areas managed by DEC Region 4 and Sullivan County wild forest areas managed by DEC Region 3 for all uses through land acquisition, conservation easements, or landowner agreements.

9. Multiple Use Trails: Develop true multiple use or multi-purpose trails where appropriate. New trails suitable for horses, bikes, and snowmobiles are required to provide balanced recreational access in the forest preserve.

10. Community Links: Pursue trail linkages from communities to forest preserve lands.

Following are more specific proposals to fill gaps in the forest preserve-wide picture of recreational access. They will be considered in the development of UMPs.

Hiking

Units holding promise for additional hiking opportunities include:

- Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness and Hunter Mountain Wild Forest Units (both in Greene County), for linkages for the Long Path which will eliminate "road walks"
- Blackhead Range Wild Forest, in the vicinity of Colgate Lake

Specific hiking trail opportunities that should be investigated are:

- An east-west hiking trail from the Big Indian Wilderness Area to the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area trail system
- A northerly trail from Terrace Mountain to Phoenicia, Slide Mountain Wilderness Area
- A trail from Phoenicia to Mt. Tremper, Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest
- In the Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest, complete the trail north to the Indian Head Wilderness Area

Family Trails

Some locations with opportunities for the development of family trails are Colgate Lake in Greene County, Rochester Hollow in the Shandaken Wild Forest, Kelly Hollow in the Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest, Onteora Lake in the Bluestone Wild Forest, Denman Mountain in the Sundown Wild Forest, and Frick Pond in the Willowemoc Wild Forest.

Interpretive Nature Trails

The locations listed above as family trail opportunities also have potential for the development of interpretive trails. Fire tower trails would also make good candidates for interpretative efforts.

Cross-country Skiing

There is potential for the development of cross-country ski trails in the following areas:

- Blackhead Range Wild Forest in the vicinity of Colgate Lake
- Shandaken Wild Forest at Rochester Hollow - old roads, new loop trail
- Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest
- Bluestone Wild Forest

Snowmobiling

In general, snowmobile trail development should focus on wild forest lands where the relatively gentle terrain, the presence of old roads, and light use by hikers makes them well-suited for this use. Significant opportunities may be found in Delaware and Sullivan counties. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has developed a statewide Snowmobile Trail Master Plan which proposed the development and maintenance of a cohesive statewide trail system. The plan proposes a corridor trail (trail #2) through southeastern portion of New York State, passing through the Catskill Park from Pine Plains to Binghamton. The exact route for such a trail would be discussed and analyzed through a public process.

Horseback Riding

Opportunities for new horse trails and horse camping might be realized in:

- Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain Wild Forest
- Colgate Lake, on the Blackhead Range Wild Forest
- Phoenicia-Mt. Tremper Wild Forest (connect to private lands)
- Slide Mountain Wilderness (Centennial addition near Mt. Pleasant - extensive old logging and quarry roads available, will need short connectors to be added)
- Sundown Wild Forest - expand existing trail use
- Bluestone Wild Forest
- Willowemoc Wild Forest - Promote extensive old road system
- Kaaterskill Wild Forest

Bicycling

In general, as for snowmobiles, opportunities for future bicycle trail development should be investigated on wild forest lands with relatively gentle terrain, an abundance of old roads, and light use by hikers. Attention should be focused on wild forest areas in Delaware and Sullivan Counties, where significant opportunities may be found.

Areas where new bicycle trails might be designated include:

- Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain Wild Forest
- Colgate Lake, on the Blackhead Range Wild Forest
- Bluestone Wild Forest - Old quarry roads and new connectors could be used to create loops.
- Willowemoc Wild Forest - Frick Pond trail system, existing wide trails on wood roads
- Sundown Wild Forest - Existing trails on old roads near Vernooy Kill Falls
- Overlook Mountain trail

Shared Use Trails

- Denman Mountain in the Sundown Wild Forest - May be suitable for bikes, horses, snowmobiles, and as an interpretive trail
- Onteora Lake in the Bluestone Wild Forest - May be suitable for hiking, skiing, bikes, and an interpretive trail

Parking

Needs for new parking areas at the following locations have been identified and if land is acquired or leased by agreement, parking areas will be built. Parking areas will be expanded to accommodate snowmobiles and horse trailers where possible.

- Prediger Road
- Platte Clove
- Stork's Nest Road
- Barnum Road
- Jessup Road in Willow

Action: Develop "rules of the trail" procedures and education strategy

The steep topography and rough trail surface in Ulster and Greene Counties where most hiking occurs may reduce the potential for conflict between users. Biking on these trails is difficult, if not impossible. The western Catskills in Delaware and Sullivan Counties are little used by hikers and most of these trails are old roads crossing rolling hills which naturally lend themselves to biking. The present level of use has not caused serious conflicts to arise, but as use increases with greater awareness of the opportunities available, conflict among users, particularly bikers and hikers, may increase accordingly.

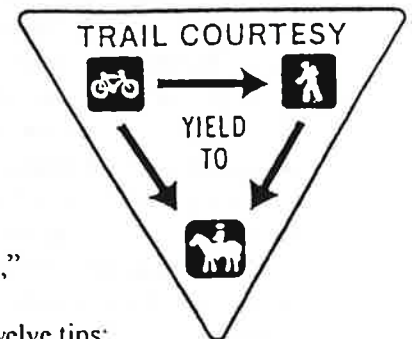
Trail etiquette and education are important tools to ease these conflicts. Knowing the basics of trail etiquette allows hikers, bikers, horseback riders and others to share the trail peacefully. Descriptions of responsible use and courteous behavior should be posted at trailheads. A good example is the international yield symbol of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and their "Rules of the Trail":

- Ride On Open Trails Only
- Leave No Trace
- Control Your Bicycle
- Always Yield Trail
- Never Scare Animals
- Plan Ahead

The NYS Horse Council recommends "wheels yield to heels yield to horses," which means that horses should be given the right-of-way at all times when on marked horse trails. Further, they recommend to their members the following twelve tips:

Be visible
Wear your helmet
Be audible
Be friendly and helpful
Pass with care
Read the signs

Stay on the trail
Pick up manure
Be a responsible trail user
No smoking
Hold your horses
Don't tie your horse to live trees



Organized clubs can promote conflict avoidance by self-policing their members and encouraging environmentally sound and socially responsible use. Forums for discussion and cooperative trail maintenance help encourage understanding, cooperation and respect among diverse groups.

Action: Improve public access to water-based recreation in the Catskill Park.

Public Fishing Rights

DEC will continue to pursue the purchase of public fishing rights along rivers and streams in the Catskill Park. The 1996 Clean Water/ Clean Air Bond Act included \$1 million to continue to purchase these public fishing rights.

Rivers and streams within and adjacent to the Catskill Park where the acquisition of public fishing rights will be pursued include:

- Willowemoc Creek and tributaries
- Esopus Creek and tributaries
- Neversink River and tributaries
- Beaver Kill and tributaries
- Schoharie Creek and tributaries
- East Branch Delaware River
- West Branch Delaware River

Access for People with Disabilities

Over the years, an extensive network of trails and several campgrounds have been developed on the lands of the Catskill Forest Preserve to provide recreational opportunities for the public. However, because of its management as an undeveloped natural area and its rugged terrain, the interior of the forest preserve has been largely inaccessible to people with disabilities. The need to protect the wild character of forest preserve lands sets limits on the degree of physical modification that can be undertaken to increase their accessibility, especially in wilderness and wild forest areas. Nevertheless, DEC intends to pursue appropriate access opportunities. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) obligates DEC to provide access to the outdoor recreation facilities under its authority, to the extent that access measures will not degrade the fundamental nature of a facility's recreational environment. DEC is committed to meeting the requirements of the ADA and will conduct assessments of all components of the forest preserve. In determining what measures to increase accessibility are appropriate in terms of the "fundamental nature" of each forest preserve management unit, DEC managers will refer to the New York State Constitution and the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan guidelines that apply to the land classification of the unit.

For many wilderness and wild forest areas, improving access might take the form of providing information to visitors about existing recreational opportunities and their physical characteristics. For instance, a trailhead sign would present information about trail length, width, surface type, average grade, maximum grade, average cross slope, and hazards such as rocks, ruts, and roots that might be encountered on the trail. Information could also be provided in a simple pocket guide with a map showing the trail and the locations of obstacles. Providing information about trail accessibility would allow a visitor to decide whether he or she could enjoy the trail. In addition, certain appropriate types of physical modification to increase accessibility in wilderness and wild forest areas will be made. For instance, parking areas, bridge surfaces and approaches, privies and other structures will be designed for use by people with disabilities.

The intensive use classification is given to areas that are managed to provide an array of outdoor recreational opportunities for people with a multitude of interests and abilities. Because most structures and improvements can easily be reached by automobile, intensive use areas are the most accessible parts of the forest preserve. The guidelines for the management of intensive use areas provide the greatest flexibility in improving accessibility through physical modifications to the land. Therefore, initial efforts to provide new opportunities for people with disabilities should focus on intensive use areas. In campgrounds, DEC already has made a number of improvements. Rest rooms, camping and picnic areas, fishing access sites and other structures have been designed for accessibility. Numerous boat launches also have been made accessible. Nevertheless, there may be places in individual intensive use areas whose accessibility can be increased.

Accessibility will become an integral part of forest preserve planning. Each unit management plan will contain an assessment of accessibility that includes the identification of accessible recreational opportunities. Actions to improve existing opportunities and create new ones where appropriate will be proposed. To assure that DEC's management efforts will effectively meet accessibility guidelines and recommendations while conforming with the legal and natural resource constraints that affect the management of forest preserve lands, DEC managers will involve experts in universal design and representatives of the community of people with disabilities in the preparation of unit management plans.

Action: Undertake a universal trail assessment of Catskill Forest Preserve trails

A first step in providing access to forest preserve trails for people with mobility impairments is to undertake a universal trail assessment of each trail. The results of the assessment then would be provided to potential users via brochures, trailhead signs, and other media. An objective trail assessment will provide valuable information such as average grade, maximum grade, average cross slope, type and magnitude of obstacles and surface characteristics which can be critical to a wheelchair-bound user, but equally useful to all visitors regardless of their abilities. Simply providing this information may allow people to use the trail who would otherwise not attempt it for fear of the unknown.

A second step will be to analyze the assessment to see what changes to the trail would be necessary to make the trail more accessible. Where simple changes such as removing a few large rocks or hardening a soft, muddy section of the trail could be done with no significant change in the environmental setting, those changes should be made.

DEC staff and volunteers will conduct assessments of existing trails throughout the preserve, at campgrounds and fishing access sites to make objective trail assessment information available to all users. Because of the magnitude of this project, DEC will work with user groups, especially those which represent people with disabilities, to develop a priority list of trails to be assessed, selected from existing trails that have known characteristics which make them potentially attractive opportunities for people with disabilities.

Action: Build easy access fishing sites and sites accessible to people with disabilities

Making the world-class fishing in the Catskills region more accessible to people with disabilities is a goal of the DEC Fisheries Bureau. Opportunities to expand fishing accessibility have been investigated and identified at several locations within the park. An easy access site has been constructed on the Beaver

Kill at Cairn's Pool. Additional fishing access sites to be made for people with disabilities are under consideration at the following water bodies:

- Kenneth L. Wilson campground
- Alder Lake
- East Branch of the Delaware near Margaretville
- Neversink River just outside the park at Hasbrouck Bridge
- Beaverkill campground.

Support from interested parties such as Trout Unlimited chapters, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, and organizations representing people with disabilities could help make these opportunities a reality in partnership with DEC operations staff.

Linking the Forest Preserve with the Catskill Region

The development of partnerships and links between the Catskill Forest Preserve and the local communities and governments within the Catskill Park is a goal of this plan. DEC is willing to assist local businesses to create new opportunities within the guidelines of the CPSLMP to facilitate development of new initiatives linked to the Forest Preserve. The development of the Catskill Interpretive Center would establish a headquarters for information exchange and visitor orientation to the Forest Preserve and Catskill businesses and attractions.

Action: Develop inn-to-inn trail systems

In several European countries and in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, hiking trails intersect overnight accommodations with varying degrees of comfort and elegance. The creation of a similar inn-to-inn or town-to-town network in the Catskill Park could be achieved by identifying and, where necessary, developing a network of trails for hiking, biking, and/or cross-country skiing that link communities and private business offering overnight accommodations and meals. The development of the "inn-to-inn" concept and its implementation would require a partnership between DEC, local governments, and the private sector including the hiking and biking clubs, tourism promotion agents, lodging bureaus, chambers of commerce, and environmental organizations active in the Catskill region.

DEC and the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development have agreed to take the lead to bring together members of the private sector who are interested in developing an "inn-to-inn" trail network and initiate discussion to see what opportunities exist or how future facilities can be developed throughout the Catskill Park.

Action: Pursue trail linkages between communities and the forest preserve along Catskill railroad corridors

Railroads penetrated the heart of the Catskill Mountains in the last half of the nineteenth century. Today, two seasonal tourist railroads operate within the Catskill Park on the tracks of the former Ulster and Delaware Railroad which once ran from Kingston to Oneonta—the Delaware and Ulster Rail Ride in Delaware County, and the Catskill Mountain Railroad in Ulster County. Other lines, notably the former Stony Clove Railroad and its branches, have ceased operation. Opportunities to pursue trail linkages and new access possibilities may exist along these railroad corridors.

One example of a possible long distance trail link is the abandoned railway bed of the former Stony Clove Railroad along Route 214 from Phoenicia to Hunter and Tannersville. The northern and southern ends of the rail bed are not in forest preserve, but the center portion does traverse forest preserve lands near Devil's Tombstone campground and Notch Lake. Although it would require a major public/private partnership to contact the owners for permission and obtain easements to permit access, the abandoned rail bed offers an unusual opportunity to create a long distance trail linking towns and villages along the route.

The thirty-three mile former Ulster and Delaware right-of-way is owned by Ulster County and leased to the Catskill Mountain Railroad. This trackage passes through forest preserve lands that are difficult to access through other means and there is the prospect of connecting service by railroad to the Visitor Interpretive Center in Shandaken and on to Arkville. The railroad would provide an opportunity for visitors to enjoy the scenery, access the forest preserve and view the New York City reservoirs along the right-of-way.

The abandoned Ulster and Delaware Railroad between Kingston and Oneonta could make an excellent connection between Kingston and Oneonta Lake in the Bluestone Wild Forest. The hiking and biking trail system, hunting and fishing opportunities in this Wild Forest could accommodate relatively high numbers of visitors from the nearby urban areas.

The Delaware and Ulster Rail Ride operates out of Arkville and travels east to Highmount at the foot of Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. This service presents opportunities to connect with the ski center and the summer concert series for special events.

Action: Pursue linkages to New York City's watershed lands.

NYC DEP's land acquisition program (described on page 9) offers substantial access possibilities. In the course of the work group discussions, there was strong support for close coordination between DEC and DEP to maintain existing uses, to create links to current state trail systems and state lands where possible, and to allow recreational access to existing watershed property.

New York City is considering the possible construction of scenic overlooks at selected highway pull off locations to afford scenic views. These locations would offer an opportunity to inform the public about New York City's watershed, reservoir system, and the forest preserve through wayside exhibits.

Visitor Management

Action: Conduct a visitor census, use and economic impact survey

A thorough study of visitor profiles, economic impacts, and use of forest preserve lands would be a valuable tool for DEC land managers and economic development planners throughout the region. Increased interest in the outdoors, new recreation technology, and changing user behavior pose challenges for the future management of the Preserve. In order to maintain safety, protect the natural resources and provide for a high-quality visitor experience, a better understanding of the current use and projections of future use of the forest preserve would be helpful for DEC managers. Understanding the demographics of forest preserve users and their expenditures would be beneficial for the regional planners and businesses in surrounding communities as well. Whereas under present circumstances DEC does not have the resources to conduct such a study, if another state agency, university, regional planning organization, private

contractor, or other coalition or partnership undertook such a study, DEC would cooperate and offer assistance to the extent possible.

Over the years DEC has conducted user surveys on a small scale designed to seek information related to particular management issues in the forest preserve. A questionnaire was distributed to a limited number of users during the fall of 1996 which sought information about the demographics of visitors, how they found out about and used the forest preserve, and the economic value of their visit to the local economy. Although not large enough to be statistically significant, the results from this survey demonstrate the importance of the forest preserve as a destination tourist attraction and as an economic benefit for the region.

Action: Monitor use and establish baselines

Planning for management of the forest preserve is difficult because of the lack both of reliable data about use and consistent information about the status of the Preserve's plant, animal, and physical resources.

Grants and/or partnerships with other organizations or institutions should be pursued to support a major monitoring project in the near future. The project would make extensive use of researchers, interns and volunteers to (1) record numbers of users representative of the full spectrum of forest preserve activities at key locations; and (2) record and photograph the condition of the Preserve at key heavy use locations. Three years after the establishment of the baseline, the same stations should be inspected for use impacts.

Action: Enhance year-round recreation at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center

Created through an amendment to the New York State Constitution in 1947, Belleayre Mountain Ski Center is operated by DEC on 2,211 acres of forest preserve land, in the Town of Shandaken, Ulster County. Belleayre Mountain has a summit elevation of 3,429 feet, a base lodge elevation of 2,541 feet and a lower lodge elevation of 2,025 feet. The ski center has 31 slopes and trails over its 1,404 foot vertical surface. The ski center has 14.3 miles of ski trails, major ski lifts with snow making presently covering 91 percent of the total trail surface, a ski school, equipment rentals and approximately 6 miles of cross-country ski trails. The ski center provided recreation for more than 84,000 persons in 1998-9 and employs about 250 persons annually.

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan designates the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center as an intensive use area (like the campgrounds). A wider variety of activities is allowed in intensive use areas than is permitted on wilderness or wild forest lands. With its ski trails, access roads and well-developed infrastructure such as the parking areas and lodges, Belleayre offers a wide array of opportunities for the expansion of year-round activities that would provide substantial economic benefit to the surrounding communities.

In accordance with DEC's policy to create unit management plans for the wise management of public lands, Belleayre Mountain prepared a UMP in 1985 which identified a series of management objectives. Legislative budget appropriations in the mid-1980s resulted in the enhancement of snow making facilities, the expansion of the lodges, improvements to the parking lots, and installation of new ski lifts. However, with the exception of annual lift maintenance, capital appropriations to maintain and upgrade these facilities were limited from that time until 1998, when Governor Pataki announced a \$5 million investment

in Belleayre. The new funding will be used to replace and extend two ski lifts, build a new downhill ski trail, increase snow-making capacity, expand the Overlook Lodge, and rehabilitate roads and parking areas. An additional \$1.5 million from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act was earmarked to construct a 4,000-foot pipeline to connect the septic systems at Belleayre to the Pine Hill Sewage Treatment Plant operated by the City of New York. These and a number of additional objectives for improving Belleayre as a year-round recreation facility were identified in a new UMP adopted in May, 1998.

Currently there is limited use of Belleayre Mountain during the off-season for hiking, picnicking and hunting. A mountain bike race is held annually, organized by Fats in the Cats Bike Club. DEC's Catskill environmental education program offers interpretive nature programs throughout the year. The lodges are available for rental for weddings, parties, dinners, meetings and other events. In 1998 more than forty events were scheduled including the annual two-day fall festival organized by the ski center. The Belleayre Conservatory, a private non-profit cultural organization, has presented an annual summer eleven-concert series at the ski center since 1992. In 1997 these concerts attracted an estimated 8,500 people to hear concerts presenting a wide selection of musical styles in an outdoor setting. The new UMP calls for efforts to expand off-season recreation, including a 60-foot high observation deck on the mountain summit to be reached by summer and autumn operation of a chair lift, a potential link with the Delaware and Ulster Rail Ride that would allow tourists to ride the train and take the chair lift to the summit, a new interpretive trail focusing on the history of the ski center and the surrounding forest preserve, and a new parking area for the Cathedral Glen and Pine Hill-Eagle Mountain trails.

Future expansion of off-season recreation must be considered in the context of the unit management planning process. Hiking, biking, horseback riding, family trails and access for persons with disabilities are recreational activities that could be developed on the trail systems at Belleayre. Wayside exhibits, brochures and maps interpreting the forest preserve could be developed. A program of fall, winter, and spring outdoor ecology lessons for school classes could be established. Lessons could be taught by DEC staff, interns, and volunteer docents. All of these proposed developments could be undertaken through a combination of additional state fiscal resources and volunteer assistance.

In 1993 DEC constructed the Pine Hill Lake Day-Use Area at Belleayre Mountain. Like other state operated day use areas, Pine Hill charges a daily fee for access to the lake, swimming beach, pavilion, parking and rest rooms between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In the summer of 1998, 14,347 people visited the facility. The area is open off-season to other recreational pursuits. This site would be an excellent location for interpretive displays about the ski center and the forest preserve.

Implementation

Strategies



A **fundamental strategy** recommended by the work groups for the successful implementation of the Public Access Plan is the creation of the position of Catskill coordinator.

Action: Establish a DEC Catskill coordinator position

The Catskill coordinator will seek funding for, track and facilitate the actions identified in the plan. In implementing these actions, the coordinator will build partnerships between DEC, other state agencies, municipal governments, businesses and nonprofits that will develop a community-based tourism strategy for the forest preserve to help fortify the regional economy. Without the coordinator's position, there is no one in DEC to carry out the vision for the Catskill Forest Preserve set forth in this plan. Creation of such a position is critical to coordinate the diversity of public and private concerns and the ecological and natural resource management issues on an ecosystem-wide basis in the Catskill region.

A Catskill coordinator will:

- Be responsible for implementation of the Public Access Plan;
- Enhance DEC's ability to respond to the needs of the public on a timely basis;
- Coordinate complex management issues and facilitate improved communication between programs within DEC Regions 3 & 4 and between regions and central office staff in Albany;
- Seek funding for and track implementation of the Public Access Plan, as well as UMPs;
- Provide continuity with future planning within DEC and with other state agencies including the Catskill Association for Tourism Services;
- Maintain a tracking system for DEC program activities including facility development and resource management plan preparation and implementation for the Catskill region;
- Provide for improved DEC communications with the public and build constituency support for DEC initiatives that benefit the Catskill region.

In all of the work groups for the Public Access Plan, the participants felt that the communication and collaboration that occurred between government agencies and representatives of environmental groups, sportsmen, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and the private sector in the series of work group meetings must be continued. The creation of a Catskill Forest Preserve coordinator position is proposed to create an ongoing mechanism that will ensure continued interaction and the development of future coordination and partnerships to address natural resource concerns throughout the Catskill ecosystem. Regular meetings with groups and organizations to discuss issues relating to public access and stewardship of the forest preserve and to take the pulse of public concerns will be a valuable asset for all parties. A primary role of the coordinator will be to schedule and organize these forums, and follow up, as appropriate, on future recommendations, actions and/or concerns.

The New York City Watershed Agreement, the Public Access Plan, the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act and other DEC programs in the Catskills all have a common interest in community development, land acquisition and recreational access, concern for the abundance and purity of water, and coordination with other DEC activities within the watershed. The DEC watershed coordinator is responsible for the monumental task of overseeing the implementation of all state partnership programs embodied in the 1997 New York City Watershed Agreement. The new position would complement the role of the watershed coordinator by integrating those activities directly related to the watershed agreement with all other DEC program interests. The benefit of an ecosystem-wide coordinator has been successfully demonstrated in the Hudson River estuary, Adirondacks, and Salmon River corridor; a similar position will ensure integration and balance in DEC's current and future initiatives affecting the natural, social and economic resources in the Catskill Region.

Pilot Projects

Some Access Plan actions are possible to carry out within existing DEC resources; indeed, some are already in the initial stages. Other actions depend on the allocation of additional funds in DEC's annual budget, partnership with other state agencies, groups and organizations, funding from outside sources, or a combination of the above. Some specific pilot projects have been identified as concrete ways in which DEC can begin to implement the Public Access Plan in the near future with existing resources. Examples of the key issues and actions and corresponding pilot projects are listed below. However, *these are preliminary suggestions and will only be implemented if they are included in final unit management plans and if funding and staff time are available.*

Key Issues and Actions

Pilot Projects

Enhance Scenic Travel Corridors

Improve and enhance DEC signage through the Catskill Park, with DOT.

Improve public awareness of forest preserve access points

Initiate process with DOT to install recreational icons along the highways indicating forest preserve activities.

Improve distribution of DEC materials about the forest preserve

Implement the establishment of satellite information centers. Catskill Corners, Shandaken, NY, Kenco, Twilight Groceries, and Point Lookout Mountain Inn, E. Windham, NY are the first of these centers distributing information about the forest preserve.

Expand Catskill environmental education initiative

Support the restoration of the fire towers in the Catskill Park. Once restored, these structures will be used as focal points around which an education/interpretive program can be built.

Improve DEC Public Outreach

Create a DEC Catskill Forest Preserve personnel directory.

Produce an annual report to the community noting projects completed and the status of those underway. Include those projects called for in approved UMPs. Coordinate with other public, private and nonprofit organizations for their input.

Establish a toll-free phone number that will provide information on Catskill Forest Preserve trail conditions, seasonal hiking and camping tips.

DEC will perform training and familiarization workshops twice a year or as needed to better inform county tourism promotion agents and others about forest preserve access and opportunities.

Complete and improve Catskill Forest Preserve trail system

Develop family interpretive trails at suitable locations such as Kelly Hollow, Rochester Hollow, Colgate Lake, Denman Mountain, Onteora Lake and the campgrounds.

On the trail to Kaaterskill Falls, construct a safe observation platform to view the falls from below with interpretive signs containing information about area geology, cultural history, wildlife and ecology. Construct a safe observation platform at the level of the first pool with interpretive signs. Convene an inter-agency task force with DOT to design a safe pedestrian walkway to the Kaaterskill Falls trailhead from the Molly Smith parking area on Route 23A.

Improve access for people with disabilities

Build accessible fishing sites. Fishing sites to be made accessible to people with disabilities are under consideration by DEC with help from Trout Unlimited and Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers at K. Wilson campground, Alder Lake, along the Delaware east branch near Margaretville, Colgate Lake, and on the Neversink River just outside the Catskill Park at Hasbrouck Bridge.

Undertake a universal trail assessment of Catskill Forest Preserve trails

DEC staff will coordinate a trail assessment with volunteers and representatives of people with disabilities. The nature trail at Wilson State Park will be assessed by a combination of DEC staff,

volunteers, and representatives of people with disabilities as the first assessment project.

Develop inn-to-inn trail systems

The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development has agreed to take the lead in coordinating the development of inn-to-inn trail systems with DEC and local businesses and chambers of commerce. There is the potential in Greene County to legitimize existing trails that originate on the privately owned Winter Clove Resort and cross onto the lands of the North Mountain Wild Forest. Such an arrangement could benefit both the business and public forest preserve access. In Ulster County, a trail connection from the village of Phoenicia to the Tremper Mountain trail should be pursued.

Sources of Funding

Listed below are some possible sources of funding that could be used to implement the actions recommended in the plan. This list is by no means exhaustive. Many other potential sources of funding exist through foundations, corporate support, and other public and private sponsors.

State Programs

- New York State General Fund

Tax revenues in the state budget for basic maintenance and operation of DEC programs.

- New York State Conservation Fund

Funds in the state budget from license sales and fines from violations of the Environmental Conservation Law designated for use in fish and wildlife related programs.

- New York City Watershed Agreement

The newly created Catskill Watershed Corporation has the responsibility for the disbursement of funds received as a result of the signing of the 1997 NYC Watershed Agreement. The Catskill Fund for the Future provides \$59.9 million to be used to provide loans and grants for responsible, environmentally sound development and the goals of watershed protection and job growth in the Catskill/Delaware watershed. Two million dollars are available for public education on the nature and importance of the city's water supply system and the critical role of watershed residents as stewards of water quality.

In addition, funds are available for the support of responsible, environmentally sensitive economic development projects through the use of existing NYSDED economic development information centers, a regional development program to promote regional economic development interests, a public relations and tourism development program to target the special programs and resources in the watershed, and the use of the existing industrial productivity program to help increase efficiency of new or existing watershed businesses.

- 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act

Local Parks, Historic & Heritage Area Preservation Grants totaling \$50 million to help municipalities provide access to water bodies, promote water-based recreation and enhance natural, cultural or historical aspects of water bodies. An additional \$50 million is set aside in the State Park Infrastructure Fund to provide capital funds for improvements to state parks, campgrounds and trails. In 1998, \$530,000 from the bond act was designated for use in the improvement of Catskill Forest Preserve campgrounds and trails.

- Environmental Protection Fund

A legislatively designated long-term source of revenues available to meet the pressing environmental needs of the state in the fields of open space conservation, municipal park, historic preservation and heritage area projects, farmland protection, biodiversity, nonpoint source water pollution abatement and control, local waterfront revitalization programs, coastal rehabilitation projects and planning assistance. Funding for the stewardship of state parks and forest preserve lands is also available from the EPF.

- Biodiversity Stewardship and Research Fund

A legislatively designated vehicle to receive funds from a variety of sources, federal, state and private, to support biodiversity stewardship, research and education in New York state.

- Land Acquisition Funding

The Forest Preserve Expansion Fund is derived from the sale of detached forest preserve parcels and is available only for the purchase of other forest preserve lands. EPF funds and Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act funds may also be used for land acquisition in conformance with their guidelines. For instance, the public fishing rights program is funded by the Bond Act.

- State Snowmobiling Funds

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Places, Bureau of Marine and Recreational Vehicles, provides funding to both NYS DEC and local municipalities for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails open to the public. Funds are derived from snowmobile registration fees.

Federal Programs

- National Hudson River Valley Heritage Area Designation

The designation of the National Hudson River Valley Heritage Area applies to those ten counties along the Hudson River estuary. These counties, including the portion of the Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve in Ulster County, are eligible for funding under this program which will provide \$15 million in federal support over the next 15 years to enhance the area's historical, recreational and tourism-based activities. The administrator of these funds will be the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley.

- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

TEA-21 is the 1998 reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. ISTEA grants were used for a number of transportation enhancement and scenic byways projects in the Catskill region, including this plan. TEA-21 authorizes major funding for the next six years for numerous categories of surface transportation projects, including transportation enhancements, bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways, recreational trails, and scenic byways.

- EPA Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program

This program initiated in 1996 is designed to encourage people, organizations, business, and government to work together in their communities to improve their environment while maintaining a healthy economy and a sense of community well-being. Potential eligible activities include: demonstrating integrated approaches for protection and restoration of ecological, human and economic health; demonstrating pollution prevention across multiple sectors of the community; community cooperation among residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, education institutions, and governments; and community awareness to publicize the principles of stewardship, ecosystem management and sustainability.

- Land and Water Conservation Fund

Federal monies provided to state and local governments from this fund on a 50-50 matching basis for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation. Since 1965, New York has received more than \$191 million from this fund, but in recent years the federal government has cut back on funding authorization.

- Pitman-Robertson

Federal monies from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, apportioned to the states for wildlife conservation and hunter education.

- Wallup Breaux

Federal monies from the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, apportioned to the states for fisheries management.

- National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

This program provides the expertise of National Park Staff to assist communities with developing projects such as constructing new trails, conducting inventories of abandoned railroads, or simply bringing interested parties together to move a project forward.

Private Programs

- The Catskill Watershed Corporation

A not-for-profit corporation established under the New York City Watershed Agreement to administer numerous programs and funds, including the \$60 million Catskill Fund for the Future. Funding administered by the Catskill Watershed Corporation will be available for economic development, and educational and other programs relating to water quality New York City's west of Hudson watershed.

- Furthermore, the publications program of the JM Kaplan Fund

- Rural New York Grant Program

- Four grant programs focus on the following subjects: Environmental Action, Land Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Planning.

- RED Recreation and Conservation Grant Program

- American Greenways Dupont Awards Program

- Trout Unlimited, Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers

- The O'Connor Foundation

- Private sector donations, including those from hiking groups such as the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, Adirondack Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, mid-Hudson chapter of the Sierra Club, to name a few.

- Volunteers—individuals and/or clubs

Appendix A: Article XIV of the New York State Constitution

Section 1. The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent the state from constructing, completing and maintaining any highway heretofore specifically authorized by constitutional amendment, . . .

. . . nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty-five miles of ski trails thirty to two hundred feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, provided that no more than two miles of such trails shall be in excess of one hundred twenty feet wide, on the slopes of Belleayre Mountain in Ulster and Delaware counties . . . (1947, further amended 1987)

. . . nor from relocating, reconstructing and maintaining a total of not more than fifty miles of existing state highways for the purpose of eliminating the hazards of dangerous curves and grades, provided a total of no more than four hundred acres of forest preserve land shall be used for such purpose and that no single relocated portion of any highway shall exceed one mile in length . . . (1957)

Section 3.2 As to any other lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve referred to in section one of this article, but outside the Adirondack and Catskill parks as now fixed by law, and consisting in any case of not more than one hundred contiguous acres entirely separated from any other portion of the forest preserve, the legislature may by appropriate legislation, notwithstanding the provisions of section one of this article, authorize: (a) the dedication thereof for the practice of forest or wildlife conservation; or (b) the use thereof for public recreational or other state purposed or the sale, exchange, or other disposition thereof; provided, however, that all moneys derived from the sale or other disposition of any such lands shall be paid into a special fund of the treasury and be expended only for the acquisition of additional lands for such forest preserve within either such Adirondack or Catskill park. (Formerly § 16 of Art. 7. Renumbered and amended by Constitutional Convention of 1938 and approved by vote of the people November 8, 1938; further amended by vote of the people November 5, 1957; November 6, 1973.)

Appendix B. Public Access Plan Participants

Attendees at Scenic Byways Work Group Meetings:

David Fasser, DOT, Albany
Don Robertson, DOT, Region 1
John Ryan, DOT, Region 1
Dan Hitt, DOT, Region 1
Rick Sullivan, DOT, Region 1
Russell Robbins, DOT, Region 8
Lisa Weiss, DOT, Region 8
Joel Robinson, DOT, Region 9
Jim Donohue, Ulster Co. Highway Dept.
Joe Nalepa, Ulster Co. Highway Dept.
William Reich, Greene Co. Highway Dept.
Ed Legg, DOT, Ulster Co.
Brad Jenkins, Lexington Highway Dept.
Wes Warren, Delaware Co. Highway Dept.
David Tobias, NYC DEP
Matthew Schwab, NYC DEP
Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Dept.

Ronald Roth, Greene County Planning Dept.
Ward Todd, Ulster County Legislator
Justine Hommel, Mountain Top Historical Society
Sherret S. Chase, Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
Rosemary Jensen, Pt. Lookout Mountain Inn
Deborah Dewan, planner and consultant to AFPA
John Doyle, consultant
Rick Fenton, DEC, Albany
Chuck Frederickson, DEC, Albany
John Renkavinsky, DEC, Region 4
Art Johnsen, DEC, Region 4
Walt Keller, DEC, Region 4
Darwin Roosa, DEC Region 4
Paul Trotta, DEC, Region 4
Bill Rudge, DEC, Region 3
Beth Waterman, DEC project coordinator

Attendees at Tourism Work Group Meetings:

Janine Lounsbery, Delaware Co. Tourism
Steve Fabrykiewicz, Oquago Retreat Center
Joe Munster, Catskill Assoc. For Tourism Services
Gene Lomoriello, Sullivan Co. Tourism
Hope Petkus, Sullivan Co. Tourism
Carol Clement, Artemesia, Inc.
Lisa Lyons, Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum
D. Halbe Brown, Frost Valley YMCA Camp
Carol O'Beirne, Frost Valley YMCA Camp
Dave Collins, Sullivan County Trail Assoc.
Evelyn Haas, Sullivan Co. Bd. Of Realtors
Marguerite Illing, NYS Horse Council
Elton Harris, Supervisor, Town of Rockland
Howard Hadley, journalist

Ward Todd, Ulster Co. Legislator
Denise Cooper, Belleayre Conservatory
Karen Harris, Margaretville Telephone Co.
Rick Fenton, DEC, Albany
Art Johnsen, DEC, Region 4
Darwin Roosa, DEC, Region 4
Bill Rudge, DEC, Region 3
Pat Vissering, DEC, Region 3
Mike Cavanaugh, DEC, Albany
Carl Wiedemann, DEC, Albany
Walt Keller, DEC, Region 4
Peter Innes, DEC, Region 4
Beth Waterman, DEC project coordinator

Attendees at Information and Interpretation Systems Work Group Meetings:

Helen Budrock, Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
Carol O'Beirne, Frost Valley YMCA Camp
Dale Hughes, CIC Advisory Committee
Chet Karwatowski, Catskills Chp. Trout Unlimited
Tom Emerick, Catskills Chp. Trout Unlimited
Paul Robilotti, Catskills Chp. Trout Unlimited
Bert Darrow, Fly Fishing with Bert & Karen
Delia Adams, Olive Natural Heritage Society
Dexter Jeannotte, Olive Natural Heritage Soc.
Karen Harris, Margaretville Telephone
Ian Moar, Roxbury
Bob Conklin, Ulster Co. Federation of Sportsmen

Charles Fischer, Resource Center for Accessible Living
Don LaValley, Reg. 4 FWMA
Carleton Hatch, NYS Conservation Council
Deborah DeWan, Assoc. for the Protection of the Adirondacks
Jim Mays, Atlantic Chp. Sierra Club
Rick Fenton, DEC, Albany
Walt Keller, DEC, Region 4
Len Bouren, DEC, Region 3
George Profous, DEC, Region 3
Charlie Platt, DEC Region 3
Rich Parisio, DEC, Catskills

Beth Waterman, DEC project coordinator

Attendees at Recreational Opportunities meetings:

Dave Tobias, NYC DEP
Ik Icard, Catskill Center for Cons. & Dev.
Phil Davenport, Frost Valley YMCA Camp
Lisa Lyons, Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Mus.
Tim Quilty, Fats in the Cats Bicycle Club
Tom Schneller, Fats in the Cats Bicycle Club
Neil Woodworth, Adirondack Mountain Club
Tom Maines, Americans with Disabilities
Charles Fischer, Resource Center for Accessible Living
Gene Lomoriello, Sullivan Co. Promotion and Public Information
Bill Smith, Ulster County Federation of Sportsmen
Harold Palmer, Region 4, FWMA
Jay Martin, Ulster Co. Federation of Sportsmen
Evelyn Haas, Sullivan Co. Bd. of Realtors
Ed Diamante, Greene County Planning Dept.
Dave Collins, Sullivan County Trails
Nick Bove, Windham, bicyclist
W. S. Burgess, Phoenicia Fish & Game
Marguerite and Henry Illing, NYS Horse Council
Mark Byer, horseman

Lenny Millen, Trout Unlimited
Rose Kelly Halvorsen, Wanderlust
Franciska Rauch, AMC mountaineering guide
Gene Gormley, horse trail rider
Les Risley, horse trail rider
Ed Legg, Hunter snowmobile trails
Robert Dadrus, Liberty Chamber of Commerce
Ray Phillips, horseman
Dan Seginak, cross-country skier
Robert Monteleone, Greene Co. Sportsmens Clubs
Bob Conklin, Ulster County Federation of Sportsmen
Rick Fenton, DEC Albany
Mike Cavanaugh, DEC Albany
Paul Trotta, DEC, Region 4
Walt Keller, DEC, Region 4
Tom Folts, DEC, Region 4
Fred Gerty, DEC, Region 3
Bill Rudge, DEC, Region 3
Leslie Surprenant, DEC, Region 3
Don Seacord, DEC, Region 4
Charlie Platt, DEC Region 3
Beth Waterman, DEC project coordinator

Appendix C: Catskill Forest Preserve Chronology

The following chronology lists, by date, some of the most important developments in the history of the Catskill Forest Preserve.

1885: Catskill Forest Preserve created on May 15, when Governor David B. Hill signed legislation requiring that “all lands now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the State of New York . . . in eleven Adirondack and three Catskill counties . . . be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private.” A three-man forest commission was also created to administer the then 681,000-acre Adirondack Forest Preserve and the 33,384-acre Catskill Forest Preserve.

1887: A log observatory tower erected on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain by the Balsam Lake Club.

1888: Delaware County added to the three counties where state lands constituted the Catskill Forest Preserve. The same four counties—Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster—still make up the Preserve.

1890: First specific appropriation for acquisition of land to increase and expand the forest preserve provided \$25,000 to “...purchase lands so located within such counties as include the forest preserve...”

1892: First fiscal allocation (\$250) made to construct a “public path” in the forest preserve to the summit of Slide Mountain, the highest in the Catskills. From this path has evolved a major recreational trail network of foot, horse, ski and snowmobile trails.

1895: On January 1 the “Forever Wild” clause was added to the constitution.

1904: Catskill Park created by Chapter 233 of the Laws of 1904, encompassing 576,120 acres. New park boundaries were delineated on a map by a blue line—continuing a tradition begun with establishment of the Adirondack Park in 1892, that these boundaries be generally shown on official state maps in this manner. Catskill Forest Preserve expanded to 92,708 acres through land purchases and tax sale acquisitions.

1905: First Forest Fire Observation Station in New York State established on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain.

1909: Two more Forest fire observation stations are established in the Catskills. On Belleayre Mountain an 85 foot high steel observatory was erected by the summer resort owners of the region. On Hunter Mountain a tower was erected by the state at a cost of \$100.

1912: Description of the Catskill Park revised to include all lands within the blue line in the Park designation, instead of just state lands. A forest fire observation station was established on Slide Mountain.

1916: \$7.5 million bond issue to acquire and add lands to the Catskill (and Adirondack) Forest Preserves approved at the General Election, adding nearly 49,000 acres to the Catskill Forest Preserve over the next ten years.

1917: Mt. Tremper fire observation tower erected.

1920: Red Hill fire observation tower erected.

1924: \$15 million bond issue expanding state parks approved at the General Election and \$5 million allocated to acquire lands for the forest preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Funds provided for addition of 72,000 acres to the Catskill Forest Preserve over the next 20 years.

1926-31: First public campsites (now called public “campgrounds”) established in the Catskill Forest Preserve with a campsite ranger on the premises to manage each of them (1929).

- Devil’s Tombstone in Greene County (1926)
- Woodland Valley in Ulster County (1926)
- Beaver Kill in Sullivan County (1928)
- North Lake in Greene County (1931)

1928: First edition of recreation circular #9, Catskill Trails published by the Conservation Department.

1933: Newly formed Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided an enthusiastic workforce and undertook various conservation projects, including construction of many campground facilities. New York State had 67 CCC camps, several located in the Catskills.

1947: Constitutional amendment authorized the purchase of lands and the use of some existing forest preserve in Ulster and Delaware Counties for a ski center on Belleayre Mountain.

1950: Overlook Mountain fire observation tower erected.

1957: Catskill Park enlarged eastward to include the Ashokan Reservoir and to the south to include additional areas of Sullivan and Delaware Counties—a total of 705,000 acres.

1960: Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, asked in 1952 to recommend solutions to problems affecting the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, began studying the possibility of designating certain parts as wilderness areas. A year later, the committee recommended establishing four such areas within the Catskill Forest Preserve.

A \$75 million Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act approved at the 1960 General Election. This funding and a supplemental \$25 million approved in 1962 set aside \$451,000 to acquire 12,000 acres for the Catskill Forest Preserve.

1967: Mongaup Pond Campground in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan County established. On premises is a 122-acre lake, the largest body of water in the Catskill Park other than New York City's reservoirs.

1968: Little Pond Campground in Delaware County opened, providing additional opportunities for camping, swimming and boating.

1971: Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills created by the Legislature and charged with studying "... the necessity of strengthening policy regarding management, acquisition and use of public land ..."

1975: Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills submitted its final report. Commission recommended that forest preserve lands in the Catskill Park be classified into acres of wilderness, wild forest, and intensive use according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand such uses. They specifically urged establishing four wilderness areas identified in 1961 by the Joint Legislative Committee.

1979: DEC opened a seventh Catskill campground, the Kenneth L. Wilson Park Campground in the Town of Woodstock, Ulster County.

1985: DEC completed a Catskill Park State Land Master Plan implementing the Catskill Study Commission recommendations.

1986: EQBA funds used to acquire more than 3,490 acres of Catskill Forest Preserve land, as well as 514 acres of use easements.

1987: Constitutional amendment to widen and increase the mileage of the ski trails at Belleayre Mountain was approved.

1990: State Legislature authorized development of New York State's first Open Space Conservation Plan.

1992: Working together, DEC and OPRHP along with nine regional citizen advisory committees, completed the first Open Space Plan. The plan proposed which open space should be saved for New York State's future and described how open space resources can be conserved and managed in a sensible, affordable way. It also identified the forest preserve as a major resource category, and set a mechanism for adding Catskill Forest Preserve lands and acquiring conservation easements within the Park. It specifically proposed a dedicated funding source to implement many of the plan's recommendations.

1993: The Governor and Legislature worked together on passage of the Environmental Protection Act, which established the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for State Open Space Conservation Projects; continued municipal park, historic preservation and Urban Cultural Park matching grants program; established county-based farmland protection matching grants; funded biodiversity research and identification; promoted local waterfront revitalization plans and coastal rehabilitation projects.

1995: Governor approved a revised Open Space Plan.

1996: A \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act approved at the 1996 general election. Funding available for open space protection and numerous water quality protection projects throughout the state, including Catskill Forest Preserve campgrounds and trails.

1997: New York State, New York City, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Coalition of Watershed Towns, and members of the environmental community signed the New York City Watershed Agreement. The Agreement included

numerous measures to protect water quality within the New York City Watershed, including a major land acquisition program.

1998: Governor approved a revised Open Space Plan.

The Attorney General and the Courts have strictly construed Article XIV, and have restricted public use and department management to recreation that is compatible with preserving the land as wild forest. Since 1895, nearly 200 amendments to Article XIV have been introduced in the Legislature. Only 29 of these actually have been presented to the state's voters, and only 20 amendments have been approved.

Over a long period, as a result of public demand, the types of uses permitted have increased considerably and the number of people taking advantage of these recreational uses has multiplied many times. It appears that these demands and pressures will continue to increase and, if accommodated without careful planning, could drastically erode the existing character of the land.

Appendix D. Catskill Forest Preserve Public Use

| MANAGEMENT UNIT | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Big Indian Wilderness | 3,132 | 3,207 | 3,215 | 3,465 | 3,861 | 4,028 | 3,558 | 4,316 | 4,503 |
| Indian Head Wilderness | 7,130 | 7,325 | 7,181 | 6,861 | 8,185 | 8,071 | 6,787 | 8,672 | 7,032 |
| Slide Mountain Wilderness | 18,704 | 19,493 | 19,544 | 20,538 | 21,353 | 22,281 | 20,473 | 21,896 | 23,278 |
| Westkill Wilderness | 1,882 | 1,975 | 1,560 | 1,797 | 1,664 | 1,290 | 1,256 | 1,481 | 1,792 |
| Wilderness Subtotal | 30,848 | 32,000 | 31,500 | 32,661 | 35,063 | 35,670 | 32,074 | 36,365 | 36,605 |
| Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest | 2,077 | 2,910 | 2,302 | 2,911 | 3,734 | 4,205 | 3,462 | 4,037 | 5,243 |
| Blackhead Range Wild Forest | 2,836 | 3,010 | 4,033 | 3,533 | 3,904 | 4,440 | 2,983 | 3,943 | 6,346 |
| Bluestone Wild Forest | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 1,000 |
| Delaware Wild Forest | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,500 | 3,639 | 2,828 | 3,729 | 3,379 | 4,445 | 4,663 |
| Dry Brook Ridge Wild Forest | 124 | 125 | 125 | 298 | 147 | 237 | 573 | 448 | 1,687 |
| Colgate Lake Wild Forest | 570 | 620 | 683 | 721 | 646 | 787 | 932 | 896 | 1,177 |
| Halcott Mountain Wild Forest | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Hunter Mountain Wild Forest | 4,895 | 5,650 | 4,921 | 4,693 | 5,579 | 5,751 | 2,856 | 6,030 | 6,112 |
| Kaaterskill Wild Forest | 20,093 | 18,529 | 18,923 | 18,825 | 20,552 | 21,088 | 12,815 | 19,902 | 20,293 |
| Overlook Mountain Wild Forest | 2,583 | 4,030 | 2,993 | 3,251 | 5,256 | 4,876 | 5,005 | 6,392 | 6,869 |
| Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest | 1,487 | 1,528 | 1,465 | 1,427 | 1,523 | 1,763 | 1,142 | 1,445 | 2,068 |
| Shandaken Wild Forest | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Sundown Wild Forest | 5,200 | 5,389 | 4,900 | 5,219 | 5,592 | 5,212 | 5,221 | 5,783 | 4,446 |
| Willowemoc Wild Forest | 411 | 564 | 841 | 1,198 | 1,909 | 2,479 | 2,245 | 2,730 | 2,961 |
| Windham High Peak Wild Forest | 3,353 | 4,070 | 3,728 | 4,045 | 4,615 | 5,087 | 4,726 | 4,734 | 3,781 |
| Wild Forest Subtotal | 47,829 | 50,625 | 49,414 | 50,760 | 57,285 | 60,654 | 46,439 | 61,985 | 67,146 |
| Beaverkill Campground | 21,258 | 19,796 | 20,441 | 16,913 | 17,161 | 15,825 | 11,137 | 11,465 | 13,685 |
| Devil's Tombstone Campground | 5,640 | 5,276 | 6,104 | 5,574 | 6,717 | 5,539 | 4,791 | 5,273 | 5,003 |
| Little Pond Campground | 20,636 | 20,938 | 18,423 | 20,043 | 20,822 | 19,890 | 17,257 | 20,312 | 19,470 |
| Mongaup Pond Campground | 38,437 | 43,142 | 37,784 | 42,369 | 45,425 | 46,359 | 43,393 | 40,649 | 49,966 |
| North-South Lake Campground | 120,825 | 133,761 | 111,260 | 123,533 | 122,809 | 120,997 | 118,358 | 128,424 | 114,922 |
| Wilson Campground | 39,763 | 39,680 | 36,100 | 38,441 | 35,485 | 43,010 | 27,385 | 40,491 | 36,895 |
| Woodland Valley Campground | 20,208 | 20,363 | 17,428 | 16,557 | 18,405 | 12,528 | 10,585 | 12,445 | 12,526 |
| Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area | | | | 4,678 | 8,291 | 7,987 | 7,556 | 9,207 | 14,347 |
| Belleayre Mountain Ski Center | 95,944 | 77,422 | 76,157 | 93,159 | 91,470 | 70,247 | 81,489 | 71,209 | 84,042 |
| Intensive Use Area Subtotal | 362,711 | 360,378 | 323,697 | 361,267 | 366,585 | 342,382 | 321,951 | 339,475 | 350,856 |
| Administrative Areas | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 447,388 | 449,003 | 410,611 | 450,688 | 464,933 | 444,706 | 406,464 | 443,825 | 460,607 |

Appendix E. Catskill Park Statistics

| | Size |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Catskill Park: | 1,102 sq. mi. or 705,500 acres |
| Public Forest Preserve lands within the Park | 287,711 acres (41%) |
| Private land within the Park | 418,400 acres (59%) |
| Public Forest Preserve lands outside the Park | 6,730 acres |

Forest Preserve Acreage by County:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Delaware 41,708 acres | Sullivan 18,320 acres |
| Greene 78,842 acres | Ulster 152,716 acres |

Forest Preserve Management Units:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Wilderness: | 4 | 118,000 acres (41%) |
| Wild Forest: | 20 | 162,000 acres (56%) |
| Intensive Use: | 11 | 5,265 acres (2%) |
| Administrative: | 4 | 816 acres (0.3%) |
| Conservation Easements: | 3 | 514 acres |

State Recreational Facilities and Assets

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Campgrounds | 7 (744 Campsites) | Hiking Trails | 311 miles |
| Alpine Ski Centers | 1 (33 Trails) | Snowmobile Trails | 76 miles |
| Day Use Areas | 2 | Horse Trails | 32 miles |
| Fishing Access Parking Lots | 27 | Lean-tos | 33 |
| Public Fishing Rights | 61 miles | Primitive Campsites | 187 |

Annual Public Use

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Wilderness | 45,000* |
| Wild Forest | 69,000* |
| Intensive Use | 455,000* |
| Administrative | <u>5,000*</u> |
| Total | 540,000 Visitors/Year* |

*Estimates based on 1998 Trail Registers, Camping Permit and lift ticket sales

DEC Offices

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| NYS DEC Region 3 21 South Putt Corners Road New Paltz, NY 12561 (914) 256-3000 (Ulster & Sullivan Counties) | NYS DEC Region 4 1150 North Westcott Road Schenectady, NY 12306 (518) 357-2234 NYS DEC Region 4 Rte. 10 Stamford, NY 12167 (607) 652-7365 (Delaware & Greene Counties) | NYS-DEC Central Office 50 Wolf Road Albany, NY 12233 518-457-5400 |
|---|--|--|

Appendix F. Catskill Sign Law

TITLE 3—USE OF LANDS AND FORESTS

| | |
|---------|--|
| Sec. | |
| 9-0301. | Use and diminution of Adirondack and Catskill parks. |
| 9-0303. | Restrictions on use of state lands. |
| 9-0305. | Signs and advertising in Adirondack and Catskill parks. |
| 9-0307. | Forest preserve lands; detached parcels outside Adirondack and Catskill parks. |

§9-0301. Use and diminution of Adirondack and Catskill parks.

1. All lands in the Catskill park and in the Adirondack park, except those lying within the town of Dannemora, now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the state, shall be forever reserved and maintained for the free use of all the people, except that nothing herein shall prohibit the charging of a fee for services rendered or facilities provided.

2. No law diminishing the area of the Adirondack and Catskill parks, as defined in section 9-0101 hereof, shall be effective unless enacted by the legislature at two successive regular sessions.

§9-0303. Restrictions on use of state lands.

In order to protect the state lands described in this article the following provisions shall apply:

1. Trees or timber. Except as provided in subdivision 2 of section 9-0107 and in sections 9-0501 through 9-0507 of this article no person shall cut, remove, injure or destroy any trees or timber or other property thereon or enter upon such lands with intent to do so.

2. Structures. No building shall be erected, used or maintained upon state lands except under permits from the department.

3. Agricultural use. No person shall use any portion of the forest preserve for agricultural purposes, nor shall cattle or domestic animals of any kind be permitted to graze thereon.

4. Deposit rubbish. No person shall deposit or leave on state lands any rubbish or other waste material.

5. Transfer or lease. No person shall lease, transfer or accept any lease or transfer of any lands in the forest preserve or of any improvements thereon.

6. Disposal of improvements. The department may dispose of any improvements upon state lands under such conditions as it deems to be to the public interest.

7. Removal of materials generally. No person shall remove any material belonging to the state from the state lands without the authorization of the department.

§9-0305. Signs and advertising in Adirondack and Catskill parks.

1. In order to conserve the natural beauty of the Adirondack and Catskill parks, to preserve and regulate the said parks for public uses for the resort of the public for recreation, pleasure, air, light and enjoyment, to keep them open, safe, clean, and in good order for the welfare of society, and to protect and conserve the investment of the state in forest lands, campsites and other interests in real property in said parks, no person shall erect or maintain within the boundaries thereof any advertising sign, advertising structure or device of any kind, except under written permit from the department. The provisions of this section shall not apply to signs erected or maintained upon a parcel of real property in connection with the principal business or principal businesses conducted thereon and which advertise such business or businesses only, or to signs within the limits of an incorporated village.

As to signs, structures or devices existing within the Catskill park on May 26, 1969, and which require a permit pursuant to this section, the same may continue to be maintained without permit until January 1, 1976 provided that the property owner or owner of such sign, structure or device registers the same with the department on or before January 1, 1972.

As to signs, structures or devices existing on May 31, 1972 in those portions of the Adirondack park added thereto by chapter six hundred sixty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred seventy-two, and which require a permit pursuant to this section, the same may continue to be maintained without permit until January 1, 1978, provided that the property owner or owner of such sign, structure or device registers the same with the department on or before January 1, 1975.

2. Whenever a sign, structure or device has been erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of subdivision one of this section, the commissioner shall cause a notice of such violation, specifying as nearly as may be the nature and location of such sign, structure or device, to be personally served upon the owner of record of the real property upon which the same is located, hereinafter referred to as the property owner. In addition, a copy of such notice shall be personally served upon the owner of such sign, structure or device, if his name and address and the fact that he is the owner is clearly indicated thereon.

3. The property owner or the owner of such sign, structure or device shall remove the same within ten days from the date of the last service of such notice or copy thereof as hereinabove specified. In the event of the failure of the property owner or the owner to remove such sign, structure or device within such ten day period, the commissioner may cause an agent or employee of the department to enter upon the property where such sign, structure or device is located and to remove the same.

4. No action for trespass or damages shall lie on account of entry upon private property by an authorized agent or employee of the department engaged in carrying out any of the provisions of this section.

PART 195

PERMITS FOR THE ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS,
ADVERTISING STRUCTURES AND DEVICES IN THE ADIRONDACK AND
CATSKILL PARKS

(Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law, § 9-0305)

| | |
|-------|--|
| Sec. | |
| 195.1 | Definitions |
| 195.2 | Applications for permits |
| 195.3 | Classification and size limitations of authorized signs |
| 195.4 | Material, design, color combination, and text for authorized signs |
| 195.5 | Illumination of authorized signs |
| 195.6 | Locations for authorized signs |
| 195.7 | Multiple authorized signs at same location |
| 195.8 | Maintenance of authorized signs |
| 195.9 | Permits for authorized signs |

Historical Note

Part filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed July 23, 1982 eff. July 23, 1982. Amended statutory authority.

§ 195.1 Definitions.

(a) *Authorized sign* shall mean a sign which is or may be erected and maintained within the Adirondack or Catskill Park pursuant to a written permit required by section 9-0305 of the Environmental Conservation Law and issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

(b) *Department* shall mean the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amds. filed: Sept. 26, 1977; July 23, 1982 eff. July 23, 1982. Amended (a).

§ 195.2 Applications for permits.

(a) All applications for permits for authorized signs shall be on standard forms provided by the department. All applications shall be filed with the Regional Forester of the Subdivision of Forest Resources of the department in the district where such sign is to be located, or with the Director, Subdivision of Forest Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, N.Y.

(b) Each application shall have attached thereto a sketch of the proposed sign showing its dimensions, shape, wording and structural details.

(c) Each application shall contain or have attached thereto a sketch showing the location of the proposed sign, road system and place of business.

(d) Each application shall show the name or names and address of the owner or owners of the land upon which the proposed sign is to be erected.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing. Amended (a).

§ 195.3 Classification and size limitations of authorized signs.

Authorized signs shall be classified and limited in size according to the outside height and width or the total area of one side thereof, exclusive of the necessary supporting structure, as follows:

(a) *Standard small*: a sign one foot high by three feet wide.

(b) *Small*: a sign not exceeding three square feet in area.

§ 195.3

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- (c) *Standard medium*: a sign 2 ½ feet high by four feet wide.
- (d) *Medium*: a sign not exceeding 10 square feet in area.

Note: Authorized signs may be lettered on both sides.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

§ 195.4 Materials, design, color combinations and text for authorized signs.

(a) *Construction material*. Such sign shall be constructed of wood, metal or other durable material approved by the department.

(b) *Design*. Such sign shall be of a rustic or other design which will be attractive and suitable for its proposed location.

(c) *Colors*. Such sign shall be painted or stained in one of the following color combinations:

- (1) yellow lettering on brown background;
- (2) black lettering on white background; or
- (3) white lettering on green background.

(d) *Text on authorized signs*. The text on such sign must be approved by the department and shall be limited to:

- (1) name or assumed business name of permittee;
- (2) kind of business;
- (3) directional arrow;
- (4) distance from sign to place of business; and
- (5) name and address of owner if different from permittee.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

§ 195.5 Illumination of authorized signs.

(a) Only white artificial lighting shall be used to illuminate such sign.

(b) No flashing, intermittent or moving light or lights shall constitute a part of or be used to illuminate such sign.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

§ 195.6 Locations for authorized signs.

Permits will be issued for authorized signs to be erected or maintained at the following locations only:

(a) at the junction of numbered State highways when one such highway terminates in a dead end within the boundaries of the Adirondack or Catskill Park;

(b) at the junction of a numbered State highway and a secondary road, when the business to be advertised is located on such secondary road;

(c) at the junction of secondary roads, where the business to be advertised is located on one of such roads;

(d) at the junction of a private road and a public highway when the sign directs, via the private road, to a place of business not abutting such public highway.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

§ 195.7 Multiple authorized signs at same location.

The department may require authorized signs at the same location to be erected or maintained contiguous to each other, in a cluster, on a common supporting structure or in such other manner as the department may approve.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

§ 195.8 Maintenance of authorized signs.

Each authorized sign shall be maintained in a neat and attractive condition by the permittee.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

§ 195.9 Permits for authorized signs.

- (a) Permits shall be on standard forms provided by the department.
- (b) All permits shall be subject to review and may be revoked by the department whenever, pursuant to such permit, a sign, structure or device has been erected or is being maintained in violation of this Part.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

§ 195.10**Historical Note**

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; repealed, filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

Appendix G. List of Acronyms

| | |
|--------|--|
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| ADK | Adirondack Mountain Club |
| AMC | Appalachian Mountain Club |
| ATV | All Terrain Vehicle |
| CIC | Catskill Interpretive Center |
| CIE | Catskill Institute for the Environment |
| CPSLMP | Catskill Park State Land Master Plan |
| DEC | Department of Environmental Conservation |
| DED | Department of Economic Development |
| DMU | Deer Management Unit |
| DOT | Department of Transportation |
| ECL | Environmental Conservation Law |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| EPF | Environmental Protection Fund |
| ESDC | Empire State Development Corporation |
| IMBA | International Mountain Biking Association |
| ISTEA | Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NYCDEP | New York City Department of Environmental Protection |
| OLP | Overlap where two or more touring routes have the same alignment |
| OPRHP | Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation |
| PFR | Public Fishing Rights |
| SUNY | State University of New York |
| UMP | Unit Management Plan |
| WMA | Wildlife Management Area |
| WMU | Wildlife Management Unit |

Appendix H. DEC Media Products about the Catskill Forest Preserve and Catskill Park

Catskill Forest Preserve Official Map and Guide

Catskill Fishing - full color map and guide

Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest - official map and guide

Bluestone Wild Forest - official map and guide

Big Indian Wilderness - official map and guide

Slide Mountain Wilderness - official map and guide

Willowemoc Wild Forest - official map and guide

DEC Campground brochures

Devil's Tombstone

Bear Spring Mountain (technically outside Catskill Forest Preserve)

Little Pond

North/South Lake

Kenneth L. Wilson

Beaverkill

Mongaup Pond

Woodland Valley

Day Hikes at North-South Lake

Catskill Forest Preserve: Forever Wild (general information brochure)

Belleayre Mountain Ski Center

Primitive Camping Peekamoose Valley Wild Forest

Catskill Adventure - day hikes and paddles for families

Other DEC Statewide Publications

Camping in the New York State Forest Preserve

Safeguarding New York's Forest Preserves

Horse Trails in New York State

Nordic Skiing Trails in New York State

Snowmobiling in New York State

Opening the Outdoors to People with Disabilities

Tips for Using State Land

NYS Fishing Regulations Guide

NYS Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide

5 Rules for Survival and Enjoyment of Wilderness Recreation

Use of New York State's Public Forest Lands

EXPLORE DEC Environmental Education Summer Camps

Learning About NYS's Environment

DEC Internet Sites

DEC web site: www.dec.state.ny.us

Belleayre Mountain web site: www.belleayre.com

DEC campgrounds web site: www.parknet.com

Appendix I. Catskill Forest Preserve Public Recreation Opportunities

| Outdoor Recreational Activity | Forest Preserve Land Classification (287,000 acres of state owned land within the 705,000 acre Catskill Park) | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Wilderness (118,000 acres, 41%) | Wild Forest (162,000 acres, 56%) | Intensive Use (5,265 acres, 2%) |
| Hiking | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed |
| Camping* | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed, for a fee |
| Cross-Country Skiing | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed |
| Horseback Riding | Allowed except on marked hiking trails. | Allowed except on marked hiking trails. | Prohibited except on marked horse trails. |
| Snowmobiling | Prohibited | Only on marked snowmobile trails | Only on marked snowmobile trails |
| Bicycling | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed |
| Hunting | Allowed | Allowed | Prohibited |
| Fishing | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed |
| Trapping | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed |
| Boating (Gasoline motors are prohibited throughout the forest preserve.) | Hand Boat Launch, Non-motorized only. | Hand Boat Launch, electric motors allowed on most, but not all water bodies. | Hand Boat Launch, electric motors allowed on some, but not all water bodies. |
| Downhill Skiing | No | No | Only at the Belleayre Mtn. Ski Center. |
| Swimming | Allowed | Allowed | Only at designated beach with a lifeguard on duty. |

*Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of trail, road or water, except at sites designated by the DEC, throughout the forest preserve. Camping is also prohibited above 3500 feet in elevation from March 22nd to December 21st each year to protect the fragile high elevation environment.

Approximately 500,000 visitors recreate on forest preserve lands in the Catskill Park each year.

Appendix J: Responsiveness Summary

Introduction:

The draft Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan was released on January 8, 1999 for public comment through March 12, 1999. At the request of the public, the period was extended until March 19, 1999. During the public comment period DEC and DOT held three public meetings which took place at Belleayre, Liberty and Guilderland. In addition DEC was invited to present the plan to Greene County Planning Board and the Land Committee of the Catskill Watershed Corporation. The plan received substantial public comment and press coverage. The final plan will include this responsiveness summary, a reply to the public comment DEC received, as an appendix. In addition a copy of the responsiveness summary will be mailed to each respondent and posted on DEC's web site.

The plan represents a new vision for comprehensive management of the Catskill Forest Preserve. It provides recommendations on improving public access to the Forest Preserve and forging stronger relationships between the Forest Preserve and the local communities in the Catskill Park. It does not, however, replace or preclude DEC's current management plans or processes which are determined by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan) and Unit Management Plans (UMPs). Public meetings are held to solicit participation and stimulate discussion in the creation and revision of both of these management tools - the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and UMPs. Public support is essential before management decisions or recommendations are adopted.

The Master Plan divides the lands into geographical management units. These units are classified according to the following categories: wilderness, wild forest, intensive use, and administrative areas. The Master Plan governs the uses within each of these areas and establishes policy guidelines for the Forest Preserve as a whole. The current plan, written in 1985, is in the process of being revised. The Master Plan directs the DEC to develop individual unit management plans for each geographical management unit. These UMPs provide detailed information on the facilities, natural characteristics and public use of the unit, as well as specific management objectives and a schedule of actions needed to meet those objectives.

Some of the comments received during the public comment period for the Public Access Plan relate to Master Plan or UMP issues and are valuable for future development of these plans. An example of suggestions relating to UMP planning efforts are those comments recommending or opposing locations of future trails, parking lots or other facilities. Other comments, for instance, whether bicycling should be allowed on marked foot trails, relate to the Master Plan and will be considered in its revision. Where appropriate comments have been added to the text in the Public Access Plan; other comments have been referred to the regional staff responsible for UMPs and will be reviewed when specific UMPs are written and/or revised.

The Public Access Plan recognizes that the Catskill Forest Preserve is an invaluable asset to the quality of life and the economic vitality of the Catskill Region. It recommends new ways DEC and DOT can cooperate and collaborate with the residents and visitors to the Catskill Park to fulfill the recreational, scenic and economic potential of the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Volume of Public Comment

There was enthusiastic approval for the plan itself and substantial support for many of the recommendations within the plan. In addition to the public comment received at the well-attended public meetings, DEC received more than 150 individual letters or emails and petitions signed by 300 individuals. Numerous

newspaper articles and editorials endorsed the plan. In addition, comments were received from the following groups and organizations active in the region:

Adirondack Mountain Club
ADK - Mohican, Mid Hudson and Schenectady Chapters
Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks
Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
Catskill Mountain Railroad
Catskill Watershed Corporation
Catskill 3500 Club
Empire State Railway Museum
Fats in the Cats
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Greene Co. and Sullivan Co. tourism offices
NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Supply, Quality and Protection
NY Mountain Bicycling Coalition
NY NJ Trail Conference
NYS Horse Council
Olive Natural Heritage Society
Sullivan County Legislature
Sullivan Co. Trails Association
Thornapple Pony Club

Legislative support for the plan included Senator John Bonacic, Assemblyman John Faso, and Raymond Pomeroy, Chairman, Sullivan County Legislature.

Content of Public Comments and Responses

There was substantial support for the following recommendations proposed in the Public Access Plan:

- Establishment of a Catskill Coordinator within DEC.
- Construction of a facility on the site of the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center .
- Development of trails specific to horses, snowmobiles and mountain bikes
- Creation of DOT's handbook with guidelines to improve the appearance of major highways in the region.
- Reprinting Catskill Forest Preserve Map and Guide and other recreational brochures.

The following comments advocate changes to actions recommended in the plan. These have been summarized and addressed as follows:

Comment: Support for the construction of a facility that would orient visitors to the Catskill Park at the site of the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center.

Response: DEC received substantial comment in favor of development of a visitor's center at the site on Route 28 in Shandaken. DEC is committed to working with other government agencies, local governments and the private sector to identify funding sources and to seek innovative partnerships to achieve the goal of having a central facility for visitor's information.

Comment: DEC received considerable support for and opposition to the use of mountain bikes on marked foot trails. We also received comments supporting and opposing use of bicycles in wilderness above 2700'. (The current 1985 Catskill Park State Land Master Plan treats wild forest lands above 2700' as wilderness.)

Response: Because the use of bicycles is not addressed in the current Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, bicycling within the Catskill Forest Preserve is presently unrestricted, but it is an issue under consideration in the revision to the Master Plan. The parallel plan in the Adirondack Forest Preserve, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, prohibits bicycles in wilderness.

The scope of the Public Access Plan is to look for appropriate opportunities for recreation within the context of uses allowed in the Master Plan. This issue, bicycle use in the Forest Preserve, will be addressed in the upcoming revision to the Master Plan. Once the decision on bicycle use is made in the revised Master Plan, the Access Plan will direct the DEC to identify these opportunities with appropriate signage at trail heads.

Comment: DEC received considerable support for and opposition to future snowmobile trail development on Forest Preserve lands.

Response: DEC received strong opposition to text in the draft plan that suggested areas where new snowmobile trails might be developed. The text has been amended to reflect the purpose of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Statewide Snowmobile Trail Master Plan. This plan, completed in 1989, is intended to guide the development and maintenance of a cohesive statewide snowmobile trail system. The Public Access Plan advocates completion of corridor trail #2 which passes through the Catskill Forest Preserve, but the exact route for such a trail would be the subject of a public process of discussion and analysis in the context of a unit management plan.

Comment: Approval for and opposition to proposed changes to DEC sign law.

Response: DEC received a modest amount of support for and opposition to changes in DEC's sign law. DEC will pursue a change to allow signs to direct the public to businesses at up to four intersections. Changes to the sign law will require SEQRR review with public comment and meetings before any change will be effected.

Comment: Local chambers of commerce request the ability to post community information at DEC's campgrounds.

Response: DEC's current policy allows campground bulletin boards to post information relating to community events, local church services, and boat and canoe livery information. Upon request the campground staff will place one descriptive brochure or pamphlet describing private campgrounds, special events, or key attractions on the bulletin board. They will also keep a reasonable supply of such literature in the booth for distribution upon request. However, advertisements for real estate, boats, vehicles, household items, commercial services, and local businesses may not be posted because of space limitations. In addition, chambers of commerce are encouraged to post notices in the DEC information kiosks in Phoenicia, Margaretville, and new proposed kiosks in Delhi and on Route 28 in the Town of Ulster.

Comment: Restore historic names on Catskill highways such as Mohican Trail, Rip Van Winkle Trail, and Ashokan or Onteora Trail.

Response: The restoration of historic names on Catskill highways can be accomplished through the Scenic Byway process, or through a partnership with involved groups. DOT will address this issue as an opportunity in its proposed guidelines for the Catskill Park.

Comment: DEC needs to improve communications with the public.

Response: Improved communications is one of the goals of the Public Access Plan to which DEC is committed. The recommendation to establish a Catskill Coordinator is a critical element to achieve this goal. The creation of a DEC personnel directory will also assist in this process.

Comment: Increased funding is necessary to implement the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan.

Response: The Public Access Plan proposes a broad range of actions some of which can be implemented within DEC's existing resources. Many actions will require partnerships. A few of the actions will require legislative or interagency cooperation, or identification of other funding sources outside the DEC budget process.

Comment: The Public Access Plan will encourage additional use which may increase trail erosion, litter, and other problems.

Response: The Public Access Plan is intended to inform the public of appropriate places to pursue recreational opportunities which will better distribute use of the Forest Preserve and encourage stewardship and awareness of the natural resources. DEC is aware that some overuse could occur and will monitor and address these problems if they arise. The goal of the plan is not to attract additional use, but to better educate existing visitors to the region.

Appendix K. List of References

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Appendix L. Implementation Strategy

| Key Issues and Actions | Responsible program, agency or party | Funding requirements 1=existing resources 2=new resources required | Possible sources of funding 0=no funding required |
|---|---|--|--|
| Enhance Scenic Travel Corridors | | | |
| 1. Develop gateway information centers on major highways entering Catskill Park | DEC/DOT/ Counties/ Towns/ chambers of commerce | 2 | TEA-21/Private/ General Fund |
| 2. Develop Major "Entering Catskill Park" Signs at Gateways | DEC/DOT/ Counties/ Towns | 2 | TEA-21/Private/DOT |
| 3. Implement DOT's <i>Guidelines for the Catskill Park</i> | DEC/DOT/ Counties/ Towns | 1 | 0 |
| 4. Produce a scenic highways and byways driving pamphlet for the Catskill Park | DEC/DOT/ Counties/ Towns | 2 | TEA-21/Private/ DOT Scenic Byways program |
| 5. Institute regular DEC/DOT/NYC DEP/county/local government regional communication and coordination meetings | DEC/DOT/ Counties/ Towns | 1 | 0 |
| 6. Develop a comprehensive plan for DEC signs and structures | DEC | 1 | 0 |
| 7. Implement Use of International Icons for Recreation Uses Along Highways | DEC/DOT | 1 | 0 |
| 8. Amend the DEC Sign Law | DEC | 1 | 0 |

| Key Issues and Actions | Responsible program, agency or party | Funding requirements 1=existing resources 2=new resources required | Possible sources of funding 0=no funding required |
|---|---|---|--|
| Information and Interpretation | | | |
| <i>Publications</i> 9. Reprint full color Catskill Forest Preserve Map and Guide | DEC in partnership with local communities and businesses | 2 | Private advertising, General Fund, grants, I Love NY, nonprofits |
| 10. Print recreation theme brochures | DEC in partnership with local communities and businesses | 2 | Private advertising, General Fund, grants, I Love NY, nonprofits |
| 11. Reprint Catskill Trails | DEC in partnership with local communities and businesses | 2 | Private advertising, General Fund, grants, I Love NY, nonprofits |
| 12. Print maps showing public fishing rights | DEC in partnership with local communities and businesses | 2 | Private advertising, General Fund, grants, I Love NY, nonprofits |
| 13. Encourage regional tourism agents to integrate forest preserve information into local community, county and regional tourism publications and other media | DEC/ESDC/ DOT/ Thruway Authority | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Interpretation and Education</i> 14. Expand Catskill environmental education initiative | DEC | 2 | General Fund, grants |
| 15. Restore Catskill Forest Preserve fire towers | local communities, nonprofits, chambers of commerce in partnership with DEC | 2 | public/private/local government/ volunteers |

| Key Issues and Actions | Responsible program, agency or party | Funding requirements 1=existing resources 2=new resources required | Possible sources of funding 0=no funding required |
|---|--|---|--|
| 16. Build forest preserve volunteer network | nonprofits, hiking clubs, sportsmen, DEC | 2 | private/grants/volunteers |
| 17. Establish a central library and research data base | nonprofits, colleges and universities in partnership with DEC | 2 | private/public/grants volunteers |
| <i>Distribution of Information</i> 18. Develop a coordinated DEC information distribution strategy | DEC | 1 | 0 |
| 19. Establish a network of forest preserve information stations | DEC in partnership with local communities and businesses | 1 | 0 |
| 20. Contract professional advertising | DEC, ESDC, County tourism agents, local chambers of commerce, private businesses | 2 | Public/Private/I Love NY |
| <i>DEC Public Outreach</i> 21. Publish a DEC Catskill regional personnel directory | DEC | 1 | 0 |
| 22. Conduct training and familiarization workshops, field trips and other public presentations | DEC | 1 | 0 |
| Recreation Access and Development | | | |
| 23. Improve and complete forest preserve trail system | DEC in partnership with clubs and volunteers | 1 and 2 | private/local governments General Fund/donations |

| Key Issues and Actions | Responsible program, agency or party | Funding requirements 1=existing resources 2=new resources required | Possible sources of funding 0=no funding required |
|---|---|---|--|
| 24. Improve public access to water-based recreation in the Catskill Park | DEC | 1 and 2 | General Fund, EPF, Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act |
| 25. Develop "rules-of-the-trail" procedures and education strategy | DEC | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Access for People with Disabilities</i> 26. Undertake a universal trail assessment of Catskill Forest Preserve trails | DEC in partnership with independent living centers and volunteers | 1 and 2 | grants |
| 27. Build accessible fishing sites | DEC/Trout Unlimited/Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers and others | 2 | Conservation Fund, grants, private |
| <i>Linking the Forest Preserve with Catskill Communities</i> 28. Develop inn-to-inn trail systems | Local communities, business, nonprofits in partnership with DEC | 1 and 2 | public/private/local government, volunteers, nonprofits |
| 29. Pursue trail linkages and access possibilities with Catskill railroads | DEC, local governments and private enterprise | 1 and 2 | TEA-21 grants |
| 30. Pursue linkages with NYC DEP watershed lands | DEC/DEP/local governments/interest groups | 1 and 2 | General Fund/Local Governments/Private |
| <i>Visitor Management</i> 31. Conduct a visitor census, use and economic impact survey | Private consultant/Colleges or Universities in partnership with DEC | 2 | US Forest Service grants |

| Key Issues and Actions | Responsible program, agency or party | Funding requirements 1=existing resources 2=new resources required | Possible sources of funding 0=no funding required |
|--|--|---|--|
| 32. Monitor use and establish baselines | DEC in partnership with volunteers and interns | 1 and 2 | grants |
| 33. Enhance year-round recreation at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center | DEC | 1 and 2 | General Fund/ Belleayre Conservatory/ donations |
| Implement the Public Access Plan | | | |
| 34. Establish a DEC Catskill Forest Preserve coordinator position | DEC | 2 | General Fund |

2

DEC# 2

Catskill Park

State Land Master Plan

1985
N.Y.S.
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Heritage of the Past... Stewardship for the Future

CATSKILL PARK
STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

Prepared by the
Department of
Environmental Conservation

May 1985

FOREWORD

This document is a Master Plan for State lands administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation within the Catskill Park. The Plan provides the policy, classifications and guidelines for uniform protection and management of these State-owned lands. Through implementation of the Plan as described in the following pages, the Department will better be able to enhance the benefits provided by the land resource within the context of Article XIV of the State Constitution.

Following the adoption of this Master Plan, the Department will prepare detailed management plans for each individual unit of wilderness, wild forest, intensive use and administrative area within the Catskill Park.

Except for administrative areas (802 acres), and portions of several intensive use areas (555 acres) all land to which this Master Plan is applicable are Forest Preserve (272,000 acres). More than 99.5 percent of all Department-administered lands in the Catskill Park are Forest Preserve. Unless specifically referring to administrative areas, this Plan addresses Forest Preserve lands within the Catskill Park. An environmental impact statement is incorporated. (see section V of this Plan)

This Master Plan is not intended to be a comprehensive public lands plan for the Catskill Park. It applies only to Department of Environmental Conservation-administered lands.

Lands managed by other State agencies and the City of New York are not included. The preparation of master plans for other publicly and privately owned lands is beyond the authority of the Department. However, other State agencies, and the City of New York are invited to develop plans for the management of their lands in conformance with the policy and guidelines of this plan.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

This is a Master Plan for the management of all State lands in the Catskill Park administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan establishes four classifications of State land: wilderness, wild forest, intensive use and administrative areas, each representing a different level of protection and public use. The Plan provides for the establishment of geographic units, each falling into one of the four classifications. Unit management plans will be developed for each unit. Each unit management plan will provide specific information on the facilities, natural characteristics and public use of the unit. Unit plans will bring together those factors that are part of or will determine the management of the State lands involved.

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan will provide the overall guidance for consistent and uniform management of State lands administered by the Department within the Catskill Park. The unit management plans will provide the specific management objectives and a schedule for actions needed to meet those objectives.

B. Statutory Authority

The acquisition, management and use of Forest Preserve lands within the Catskill Park is directly attributable to the will of

the people through the New York State Constitution and several sections of the Environmental Conservation Law. These statutes and their interpretations by the courts and several Attorneys General have been the basis for Forest Preserve policy since its inception in 1885.

Article XIV Section 1, of the New York State Constitution provides the basic legal authority by stating that "The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

Section 9-0101 of the Environmental Conservation Law defines the Catskill Park to include all lands located in the Counties of Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster within described boundaries (see Appendix B) generally referred to as the Catskill "Blue Line."

Section 9-0301 of the Environmental Conservation Law places the responsibility for the care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve in the Department of Environmental Conservation.

By tradition and statute (Section 9-0301 of the Environmental Conservation Law), these lands have been reserved and maintained for the free use of all the people.

While the legislature has not mandated the development of a master plan for management of State lands in the Catskill Park, as it has for State lands in the Adirondack Park, the Department of Environmental Conservation recognizes that such a plan must be developed and adopted if the public demand for recreational use of the Catskill Forest Preserve is to be met without degrading the forest environment. A master plan is necessary also to ensure that lands under the jurisdiction of the Department in the Catskill Park are developed and managed in a consistent manner.

C. History and Background

The people of the State of New York have shown a deep and abiding concern for the management and use of State lands in the Catskills for a century.

The Catskill Forest Preserve was created on May 15, 1885 when Governor David B. Hill signed a law requiring that, "all the lands now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the State of New York..." in eleven Adirondack and three Catskill counties "...be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private." Provisions in the same law established a three-man Forest Commission to administer and be responsible for the 681,000-acre Adirondack Forest Preserve and the 34,000-acre Catskill Forest Preserve.

The early concerns that led to the creation of New York State's Forest Preserve centered around the dependence of the citizens, industry and commerce of the State on the tremendous water resources of the Adirondacks and the Catskills and the need for forest cover to protect both the quantity and quality of those waters.

In 1888, Delaware County was added to the list of three counties in which State lands constitute the Catskill Forest Preserve. The same four-county listing--Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster--continues today. An 1890 law provided funds in the amount of \$25,000 to "...purchase lands so located within such counties as include the forest preserve..." This was the first specific appropriation for the acquisition of land to add to and expand the Forest Preserve.

In 1892, the first fiscal allocation (\$250) was made to construct a "public path" in the Forest Preserve. It was for a trail to the summit of Slide Mountain, the highest mountain in the Catskills. From this small beginning has evolved a major recreational trail network consisting of foot, horse, ski and snowmobile trails.

The Catskill Park was created by Chapter 233 of the Laws of 1904 and included a total of 576,120 acres. The boundaries of the new park were delineated on a map by a blue line--continuing a tradition begun with the establishment of the Adirondack Park in 1892 that these boundaries are generally shown on official State

maps by a blue line. In 1912, the description of the Catskill Park was revised to include all lands within the blue line in the Park designation instead of just the State lands as in the earlier description.

A \$7.5 million bond issue for the acquisition of lands for addition to the Catskill (and the Adirondack) Forest Preserve was approved at the 1916 General Election and added nearly 49,000 acres to the Catskill Forest Preserve over the next ten years.

A \$15 million bond issue to expand State parks was approved at the 1924 General Election and \$5 million was allocated to acquire lands to expand the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. These funds provided for the addition of 72,000 acres to the Catskill Forest Preserve over the next twenty years.

In 1926, the first public campsites (now called public campgrounds) were established in the Catskill Forest Preserve--at Devil's Tombstone in Greene County and at Woodland Valley in Ulster County.

In 1957, the Catskill Park was enlarged on the east to include Ashokan Reservoir and on the south to include additional areas of Sullivan and Delaware counties, for a total of 705,500 acres.

A \$75 million Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act was approved at the 1960 General Election. Funding from this bond issue and a supplemental one of \$25 million approved in 1962 provided \$451,000 to acquire 12,000 acres of land for the Catskill Forest Preserve.

In 1960, the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, which had been asked in 1952 to look into problems affecting the Adirondack and the Catskill Forest Preserves and to recommend needed solutions, began its study of the possibility of designating certain parts of the Preserve as wilderness areas. The following year, the Committee completed its wilderness area studies and recommended that four such areas be established within the Catskill Forest Preserve.

In 1971, a Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills was created by the Legislature with one of its charges being to study "...the necessity of strengthening policy regarding management, acquisition and use of public land..."

The Environmental Quality Bond Act was approved at the 1972 General Election to provide (among other fundings) \$15 million for the acquisition of lands to consolidate and provide additional access to the Catskill Forest Preserve. Land acquisitions under this Bond Act are continuing, with nearly 24,000 acres acquired so far for addition to the Catskill Forest Preserve, at a cost of \$8.6 million.

In 1975, the Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills submitted its final report and recommended that the Forest Preserve lands in the Catskill Park be classified into areas of wilderness, wild forest and intensive use according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand uses. It specifically urged establishment of the four wilderness areas

identified by the Joint Legislative Committee in 1961. This Plan implements those recommendations.

Interpretation, by Attorneys General and the Courts, of Article XIV and related laws generally has been very conservative and has restricted the public use and Department management to recreation that is compatible with preserving the land as wild forest. Since 1895, over 150 amendments to Article XIV have been introduced in the Legislature. Only 26 of these actually have been presented to the State's voters, and only 18 amendments have been approved.

Over a long period of time, as a result of public demand, the types of uses permitted have increased considerably and the number of people taking advantage of these recreational uses has multiplied many times. It appears that these demands and pressures will continue to increase and, if accommodated without careful planning, could drastically erode the existing character of the land.

D. Public Ownerships

Today approximately 272,000 acres of Forest Preserve land lie within the Catskill Park. This amounts to over 38 percent of all land within the Park boundary.

In addition to Forest Preserve, the Department oversees several small parcels within the Catskill Park: a fish hatchery, an Environmental Conservation Education Camp, and a wildlife refuge.

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over State highways, storage areas and maintenance facilities within the Park and these are not addressed in this Plan.

In addition to State holdings within the Park, a listing of publicly owned land must include the land owned by the City of New York in connection with its water supply system and lands owned or under the jurisdiction of counties, towns and villages. A detailed survey of county and local government land holdings in the Catskills was not undertaken for this Plan. New York City alone manages approximately 58,000 acres of reservoir lands.

E. Private Ownerships

Public and private lands are mixed and intermingled in the Catskill Park, with most of the Forest Preserve lands at higher elevations and in the less accessible areas of the Catskills. The tracts of land owned by the State are not neat and rectangular; rather, their borders are interrupted with private holdings, and many smaller pieces of Forest Preserve are detached from the large tracts and are scattered throughout the Park. This land relationship, with its problems and advantages, must be considered in the development of a State land master plan, and individual unit management plans.

F. Regional Economics

The aesthetic appeal of 272,000 acres of Forest Preserve lands serves as a magnet drawing tourists and outdoor recreationists to the region. However, adoption of this Plan does not significantly change the economic role of Department-

administered lands in the Catskill Park. Formal adoption of the land classifications, policies and guidelines in this Plan reflects current management practices, which have evolved over the last century. Stewardship of the Forest Preserve lands will continue to be essentially the same with the "Forever Wild" legacy serving as the guiding principle in the future as it has in the past.

A study of the economic impact of all publicly owned lands in the Catskill Park should be considered. However, economic research goes beyond the scope of the Master Plan.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Acquisition Policy

The following guidelines will govern future Department acquisitions of lands within the Park:

1. Future acquisitions within the Catskill Park will generally be restricted to Forest Preserve lands.
2. Highest priority should be given to acquiring fee title to, or fee title subject to a term of life tenancy of key parcels of private land, the use or development of which could adversely affect the integrity of vital tracts of State land.
3. High priority should also be given to acquisitions of fee title which permit the consolidation of scattered tracts of State land.
4. Land should be considered for acquisition, if necessary, to protect critical wildlife areas such as deer wintering areas, wetlands, habitats of rare or endangered species or other areas of unique value.
5. The acquisition of rights-of-way across private lands that effectively prevent access to important blocks of State land should be pursued, except where such

acquisition would exacerbate or cause problems of overuse or inappropriate use of State lands.

6. As a general guideline, the Department will avoid acquiring lands for non-Forest Preserve purposes within the Park where:

- the tract is not contiguous to a public highway; or,
- the tract is of a native forest character, i.e., stocked with any size native tree species with twenty-five percent crown cover. (Plantations are not considered to be native forest land); or,
- the tract involved consists of more than 150 acres; or,
- the tract is contiguous to existing forest preserve land; or,
- the tract is within one-half mile of a block of forest preserve land of over 1,000 acres; or,
- the tract lies at an elevation greater than 2,500 feet; or,
- the proposed use of the tract will materially alter the surrounding environment, or,
- the tract is of significant scenic, ecological or geologic value or interest.

7. Due to the importance of the forest products industry to the economy of the Catskill region, bulk acreage purchases in fee should not normally be made where highly productive forest land is involved, unless

such land is threatened with development that would curtail its use for forestry purposes or its value for the preservation of open space or of wildlife habitat. Future land acquisitions will be classified as promptly as possible following acquisition. Prior to classification by the Department, newly acquired lands will be administered on an interim basis in a manner consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use and which will not foreclose options for eventual classification.

B. Plan Revision and Review

If amendments are made to the Master Plan, they shall be effected in the same manner as the Plan was initially adopted. Changes in existing land use may require periodic amendments to the Plan. Such changes essentially involve a shift in classification of lands from one major classification to another such as the proposed construction of a new campground on land previously classified as wild forest.

In addition, material changes in the guidelines applicable to each classification will also constitute a plan revision.

Revisions will be undertaken as needs dictate. Requests from other State agencies, local governments or private citizens or organizations for plan revisions will be given due and fair consideration. Such revisions will be made by the Department and will be the subject of public hearings within and outside the

Park.

Even in the absence of acquisitions or changes in land classification or guidelines requiring modification of the Master Plan, periodic reviews of the Master Plan will be undertaken. The Department will undertake annual reviews of the Master Plan to address such issues as the classification of recent acquisitions, modest boundary adjustments, minor technical changes, clarification or corrections and similar matters. Major reviews of the Master Plan will take place every five years beginning in 1990.

Strong public involvement in the whole process of revision and review will be encouraged. Appropriate publicity and sufficient notice about proposed changes in the Master Plan are also necessary to permit maximum public participation. In addition, the Department will make every effort to publish and disseminate copies of the Master Plan and to take other measures to foster greater public appreciation of the resources of the Park and the nature of the planning process.

C. Unit Management Plan Development

A two-tiered system for management planning exists for Department-administered lands in the Park. The Master Plan provides the policy, classifications and guidelines. Unit management plans are mechanisms that refine and apply the criteria in the Master Plan to specific conditions on the ground at a level of detail appropriate to administration and management. A unit management plan identifies a specific land

unit and provides direction for the management and use of the unit within the constraints of Article XIV of the State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law and the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.

The Department will develop individual unit management plans for each land unit under its jurisdiction classified in the Master Plan, based on a priority listing. Unit management plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Master Plan. They will be prepared in two phases, each followed by a public review.

Phase one of each unit management plan will begin with the appointment of a team by the Regional Director of the region in which the land unit is located. The team will collect and assemble the data concerned with:

- location, description and mapping of plan area
- inventory and mapping of facilities and prominent features
- identification, inventory and mapping of special constraints, concerns and issues affecting the area.

A public meeting will be announced by news release and held to review the prepared text and maps. Additions and revisions to this material will be made based on the public input.

Phase two, development of a complete draft unit management plan, builds on phase one data. In addition to the text developed in phase one, sections on the following will be written:

- identification of management objectives
- specific projects to meet management objectives
- priority, schedules and costs of projects
- environmental impact statement.

A public meeting to review a complete draft unit management plan will be announced by news release.

A final unit management plan will be prepared by the Department after due consideration of all comments and recommendations made on the public review drafts. The Commissioner of the Department will approve each final unit management plan.

Unit management plans will be reviewed and modified as necessary on a five-year basis.

The Department will complete all unit management plans before the next five-year review of the Master Plan.

1. Regional Coordination--Trails and Natural Features

The Department's regional offices and subregional unit management planning teams will consider interconnecting trail networks, long trails and continuous natural features such as streams regardless of administrative boundaries. As they are developed, unit management plans will ensure compatibility and continuity of existing and proposed trail systems and coordinated planning for natural features.

2. Historic Sites

Historic sites will be identified as part of the unit management planning process. Historic structures located on Forest Preserve lands that are not essential to the administration and protection of those lands are considered non-conforming. Where conflicts exist between the constitutional requirements of the Forest Preserve and historic preservation, these will be addressed in the individual unit management plans. In an effort to reduce such conflicts, the Environmental Conservation Law was amended in 1984 (Section 9.0109); see Appendix A.

III. CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND GUIDELINES

Basis and Purpose of Classification

Today, the Catskill Forest Preserve contains lands with varying degrees of wildness ranging from somewhat remote and trail-less mountain peaks and picturesque streams to intensively used camping areas and trails. The Preserve is composed of a variety of terrain, soil and forest cover types with differing capacities to sustain and recover from recreational use.

Legal restrictions on the use of the Forest Preserve do not specifically consider the varying characteristics of the land. Through the classification of the lands of the Catskill Forest Preserve according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use and the preparation of management guidelines for each classification, comprehensive unit management plans for the future administration of the Catskill Forest Preserve will be developed.

To avoid confusion and provide for consistent management of Forest Preserve land, classifications and guidelines will, where feasible, follow patterns established for the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Some variations are needed to apply those standards to the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Classifications will be established finally when unit management plans are developed. Lands have been tentatively classified in the Master Plan. Wilderness classifications and boundaries are essentially the same as those recommended by the

Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills in its report dated 1975. Classification of future acquisitions will be done on an annual basis.

A fundamental determinant of land classification is the physical characteristics of the land or water, which have a direct bearing upon the capacity of the land to accept human use. Soil, slope, elevation and water are the primary elements of these physical characteristics and they are found in widely varied associations. For example, the fertility, erosiveness and depth of soil, the severity of slopes, the elevational characteristics reflected in microclimates, the temperature, chemistry, volume and turnover rate of streams or lakes, all affect the carrying capacity of the land or water both from the standpoint of the construction of facilities and the amount of human use the land or water itself can absorb. By and large, these factors highlight the essential fragility of significant portions of the State lands within the Park. These fragile areas are generally located at elevations above 2,500 feet in altitude, as well as low-lying areas such as swamps, marshes and other wetlands. In addition, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and their environs often present special environmental concerns.

Biological considerations also play an important role in the structuring of the classification system. Many of these are associated with the physical limitations just described, for

instance many plants at high altitudes are less able to withstand trampling than species associated with lower elevation life zones. Wetland ecosystems frequently are finely balanced and incapable of absorbing material changes resulting from construction or intensive human use. In addition, wildlife values and wildlife habitats are relevant to the characteristics of the land and sometimes determine whether a particular kind of human use should be encouraged or prohibited, for example the impact of snowmobiles on deer wintering yards, the effect of numbers of hikers or campers near the nesting habitat of rare, threatened or endangered species like the bald eagle or the problems associated with motorized access to bodies of water with wild strains of native trout.

In addition, another significant determinant of land classification involves certain intangible considerations that have an inevitable impact on the character of land. Some of these are social or psychological - such as the sense of remoteness and degree of wildness available to users of a particular area, which may result from the size of an area, the type or density of its forest cover, the ruggedness of the terrain or merely the views over other areas of the Park obtainable from some vantage point. Without these elements an area should not be classified as wilderness, even though the physical and biological factors would dictate that the limitations of wilderness management are essential.

Finally, the classification system takes into account the established facilities on the land, the uses now being made by the public and the policies followed by the Department. Many of these factors are self-evident: the presence of an existing campground or ski area requires the classification of intensive use. The extent of existing facilities and uses which might make it impractical to attempt to recreate a wilderness or wild forest atmosphere is also a consideration. This is not to imply that when present uses or facilities are degrading the resource they should be continued, but their presence cannot be ignored. The unique mixture of public and private land within the Park also requires that account be taken of facilities and uses being made on contiguous or nearby private lands. Thus a large private inholding subject to or threatened by some form of intensive use might prevent the designation of an otherwise suitable tract of State land as wilderness.

The above described factors are obviously complex and their application is, in certain instances, subjective, since the value of resource quality or character cannot be precisely evaluated or measured. Nonetheless, the Department of Environmental Conservation believes that the classification system described below reflects the character and capacity to withstand use of all Department-administered State lands within the Park.

Four basic categories result from this classification:

Wilderness

Wild Forest

Intensive Use

Administrative

If there is a unifying theme to the classification system, it is that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the Department-administered State lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context and their social or psychological aspects are not degraded.

Guidelines for the lands falling within each major classification and various special management guidelines for unique resources within these major classifications are set forth in the remaining portions of this section. Insofar as Forest Preserve lands are concerned, no structures, improvements or uses not now established on the Forest Preserve are permitted by these guidelines and in many cases more restrictive management is provided for. Obviously, these guidelines are subject to any future legal rulings further restricting uses of the Forest Preserve and they are not to be considered as attempts to make determinations as to the constitutional appropriateness of any such structures, improvements or uses. From a constitutional perspective this Master Plan should be regarded as

constitutionally neutral in character.

In addition, the designation of administrative areas in the present Master Plan should not be taken as lending weight to the constitutional appropriateness of the general treatment of these lands by the State, either legislatively or administratively, as non-Forest Preserve. These classifications seek only to reflect, in terms of land use, what has long existed in the Park irrespective of constitutional questions.

Nothing in the guidelines for lands falling within each major classification shall be deemed to prevent the Department from providing for more restrictive management where necessary to comply with constitutional requirements or to protect the natural resources of such lands.

Terminology with specific reference to this document is defined at Appendix C.

A. Wilderness

Some of the large, remote and more fragile areas have wilderness characteristics. To preserve them as they now exist, these areas are classified as wilderness. These are the same general areas of Forest Preserve that the New York State Joint Legislative Committee termed wilderness in their 1961 annual report.

1. Definition

A wilderness area is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man--where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A wilderness is further defined to mean an area of State land or water having a primeval character, without significant improvements or permanent human habitation. Such an area is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions. Wilderness: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) offers opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least ten thousand acres of land (and/or water)or is of sufficient size and character as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historic value.

2. Guidelines for Management and Use

a. Basic Guidelines

The primary wilderness management guidelines will be to achieve and perpetuate a plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent.

In wilderness areas:

- 1) No additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted.
- 2) Non-conforming uses which may exist will be phased out as rapidly as possible on a scheduled basis to be established by the Department, and in all cases within three years of adoption of this plan.
- 3) No new non-conforming uses will be permitted in any designated wilderness area.
- 4) Construction of additional conforming structures and improvements will comply with wilderness standards for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
- 5) No new structures or improvements in any wilderness area will be constructed except in conformity with finally adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance or rehabilitation of conforming structures or improvements, minor trail relocation, or the removal of non-conforming uses.

- 6) All conforming structures and improvements will be designed and located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.
- 7) All management and administrative action and interior facilities in wilderness areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally-sound use of such areas and for his or her own health, safety and welfare.
- 8) Parking areas and, in limited instances, snow-mobile trails or other structures and improvements not conforming to wilderness guidelines may be accommodated within 500 feet of a public highway.
- 9) Wildlife management and research structures shall be permitted providing:
 - a) such structures are approved by the Commissioner based on a demonstration of need for purposes essential to the preservation of wilderness values and resources, that no feasible alternative exists, and that such use will entail minimal intrusion into the wilderness setting;
 - b) such structures are constructed solely to support research, management or reintroduction of existing or reintroduced wildlife species;

c) the construction shall be minimal to achieve the purpose, and shall be located as much as possible away from human view or presence;

d) such structures shall be temporary and shall be removed completely when no longer needed; if a structure must be used longer than one year, reapproval, based upon justification by the Commissioner, shall be required annually;

e) such structures shall not be considered as conforming structures, but shall be permitted as necessary solely for purposes essential to the preservation of wilderness wildlife values and resources.

b. Structures and Improvements

The structures and improvements listed below conform to wilderness standards. Their maintenance, rehabilitation and construction will be permitted.

--scattered Adirondack type lean-tos and individual designated primitive tent sites with fire rings below 3,500 feet in elevation (except when located on mountain tops over 2,700 feet in elevation)

--pit privies

--foot trails (trail-less peaks over 3500 feet will remain so)

--foot trail bridges and ladders constructed of natural materials unless a less obtrusive

structure can be constructed using artificial materials

--horse trails, except that any new horse trails will only be developed by conversion of appropriate abandoned roads, snowmobile trails and State truck trails

--horse trail bridges and hitching rails constructed of natural materials, unless a less obtrusive structure can be constructed using artificial materials

--existing or new fish barrier dams constructed of natural materials wherever possible

--existing dams on established impoundments, except that in the reconstruction or rehabilitation of such dams natural materials will be used wherever possible and no new dams will be constructed

--directional, information and interpretive signs of rustic materials and in limited numbers

All other structures and improvements will be considered nonconforming and, where existing, will be phased out as rapidly as possible on a scheduled basis to be established by the Department and in all cases within three years of adoption of this plan.

These include but are not limited to:

--lean-tos on mountain tops over 2,700 feet in elevation and at other locations above 3,500 feet

in elevation

--clusters of more than two lean-tos

--horse barns

--boat docks

--storage sheds and other buildings

--fire towers and observer cabins

--telephone and electrical lines

--snowmobile trails

--administrative roads

--roads and State truck trails

--helicopter platforms

--ranger and caretaker stations

Minimal facilities for information, such as nature interpretation or user instructions, may be constructed at major access points to wilderness areas, when such improvements are deemed essential and are included in the appropriate unit management plan.

c. Motor Vehicles, Motorized Equipment and Aircraft

Public use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be prohibited.

Administrative personnel will not use motor vehicles, motorized equipment or aircraft for day-to-day maintenance.

Administrative use of motorized equipment or aircraft may be permitted for maintenance, rehab-

ilitation, construction, fish stocking or research projects involving conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of nonconforming structures upon the approval of the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

Such use of motorized equipment or aircraft will be confined to off-peak seasons for the area in question and normally will be scheduled at three- to five-year intervals, unless extraordinary conditions such as a fire, major blowdown, flood or ecological disaster require more frequent work.

Irrespective of the above guidelines, use of motorized equipment or aircraft, but not motor vehicles, for a specific major research project conducted by or under the supervision of a State agency will be permitted if such project is for purposes essential to the preservation of wilderness values and resources, no feasible alternative exists for conducting such research on other State or private lands, such use is minimized, and the project has been specifically approved in writing by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

Irrespective of the above or any other guidelines in this Master Plan, use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be permitted, by or under

the supervision of appropriate officials, in cases of actual and ongoing emergencies involving the protection or preservation of human life or intrinsic resource value - for example; search and rescue operations, forest fires or large scale contamination of streams, ponds and lakes.

d. Roads and State Truck Trails

No new roads or State truck trails will be allowed. Existing roads and State truck trails will be phased out as rapidly as possible and in all cases within three years of adoption of this Plan on a schedule basis to be established by the the Department so as to:

- close such roads to motor vehicles as are now open to the public
- prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles
- block such roads and trails by logs, boulders or similar means other than gates.

During the phase out period:

- the use of motorized vehicles by administrative personnel for transportation of materials and personnel will be limited to the minimum required for proper interim administration and the removal

of non-conforming uses

--maintenance of such roads will be curtailed and efforts made to encourage revegetation which will prevent erosion. Tree growth will be discouraged to permit conversion to foot trails and, where appropriate, horse trails and to facilitate future access in emergency situations.

Within wilderness areas, all roadways which are not publicly maintained will be closed to public vehicular travel by the Department within three years of adoption of this plan. If necessary, the Department of Transportation will be asked to close such roads. Roads so closed shall be blocked by the most effective means possible.

e. Flora and Fauna

There will be no intentional introduction of species of flora or fauna in wilderness areas which are not historically associated with the Catskill environment except; (i) species which have already been established in the Catskill environment or (ii) as necessary to protect the integrity of established native flora or fauna.

f. Recreational Use and Over-Use

The following types of recreational use are compatible with wilderness as long as the

degree and intensity does not endanger the wilderness resource itself:

--hiking, mountaineering, tenting, hunting, fishing trapping, snowshoeing, ski-touring, nature study, and other forms of primitive and unconfined recreation.

Horseback riding, while permitted in wilderness, will be strictly controlled and limited to suitable locations.

Wilderness carrying capacities of individual units will be determined as part of the unit management planning process. Where the degree and intensity of permitted recreational uses threaten the wilderness resource, appropriate administrative and regulatory measures will be taken to limit such use to the capacity of the resource. Such administrative and regulatory measures may include, but need not be limited to:

- restricting the total number of persons who have access to or remain in a wilderness area during a specified period by permit or other appropriate means.
- the temporary closure of all or portions of wilderness areas to permit rehabilitative measures.

An intensified educational program to improve public understanding of backcountry use, including an anti-litter and pack-in/pack-out campaign, will be undertaken. Provision for such programs will be made in the unit management plans.

g. Boundary Marking

Special wilderness area boundary markers will be designed and installed at major access points to enhance public recognition of wilderness boundaries and wilderness restrictions.

3. Designation of Wilderness Areas

Using the wilderness definition and criteria described above, the Department has designated four wilderness areas in the Catskill Forest Preserve. These areas encompass approximately 92,300 acres or about 35 percent of the Forest Preserve within the Catskill Park. Wilderness areas are listed and described in Section IV AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS.

B. Wild Forest

The largest component of the Catskill Park Forest Preserve lands is classified wild forest. The management objective for wild forest is to accommodate present and future public recreation needs in a manner consistent with Article XIV of the State Constitution. Within the bounds of many wild forest areas are smaller parcels where fragile resources or other factors require the same degree of protection as wilderness areas. Generally these areas are located at higher elevations and can be adequately provided for by proper planning.

1. Definition

A wild forest area is a section of Forest Preserve where the resource can sustain a somewhat higher degree of human use than a wilderness area. It may contain, within its bounds, smaller areas of land or water that are essentially wilderness in character, where the fragility of the resource or other factors require wilderness management. A wild forest area is further defined as an area which lacks the sense of remoteness of wilderness areas and which permits a wider variety of outdoor recreation.

2. Guidelines for Management and Use

a. Basic Guidelines

The primary wild forest management guideline will be to protect the natural wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that the public

can enjoy without impairing the wild forest atmosphere or changing the character of fragile areas within wild forest boundaries.

In wild forest areas, wilderness guidelines will apply to all lands and waters over 2700 feet in elevation unless specified otherwise in the following guidelines.

In wild forest areas:

- 1) no additions or expansion of existing nonconforming uses will be permitted and
- 2) existing nonconforming uses will be phased out as rapidly as possible by the Department and in all cases within three years of adoption of this plan. An exception is the High Peak-Roundtop snowmobile trail. While portions of this trail are above the 2700 foot elevation, the local terrain places the fragile and critical area above the trail.

No new nonconforming uses will be permitted in any designated wild forest area.

Public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will not be any increase in the number or length of roads and trails open to motorized use.

Incompatible uses such as snowmobiling and ski touring or horseback riding will be located in separate areas.

When public access to and enjoyment of wild forest areas is inadequate, appropriate steps to improve access will be taken to encourage public use consistent with the wild forest character.

b. Structures and Improvements

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

- existing nonconforming structures of a permanent nature located above 2700 feet in elevation that are deemed necessary for administrative purposes by the Department such as fire towers and appurtenances. These may be maintained for as long as needed for protection of the forest resource or recreational, educational and informational purposes.
- existing lean-tos on mountain tops above 2700 feet in elevation or elsewhere above 3500 feet in elevation may be maintained until major rehabilitation or replacement is necessary
- small groupings of Adirondack type lean-tos and individual tent sites with fire rings, below 2700 feet in elevation
- nature and interpretive trails
- Nordic ski trails

- trailhead construction and related parking facilities adjacent to public highways or public access lanes, including fisherman parking near streams.
- cartop boat access sites adjacent to public highways
- communication systems necessary for administrative purposes of the Department of Environmental Conservation
- rustic buildings necessary for administrative purposes below 2700 feet in elevation
- motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft as set forth below;
- roads and State truck trails as set forth below
- snowmobile trails as set forth below
- horse trails as set forth below.

c. Motor Vehicles, Motorized Equipment and Aircraft

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

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

- 1) by administrative personnel where necessary to reach, maintain and construct permitted structures and improvements, for rescues, or for other appropriate

law enforcement and general supervision of public use

2) by the general public, subject to basic guidelines set forth above, but only on;

-existing public roads, maintained by the State

Department of Transportation or local governments

-designated roads now open to the public at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

-rivers, lakes and ponds now or hereafter designated by the Department as suitable for such motorized uses

3) by snowmobiles on trails designated by the Department in accordance with the guidelines for such trails specified below.

d. Road and State Truck Trails

1) Continued use of existing roads, and State truck trails by administrative personnel will be permitted, as necessary to reach, maintain and construct permitted structures and improvements and conduct approved fish and wildlife research and management projects.

Existing roads officially open to the public may remain open for motor vehicle use, compatible with the wild forest character of the area, at the discretion of the Department.

2) No new roads will be constructed. No new State truck trails will be constructed unless such construction is absolutely essential to protect or administer an area

and there will be no material adverse effect on the wild forest character of the area by the proposed construction.

e. Snowmobile Trails

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

- existing snowmobile trails located above 2,700 feet in elevation will be closed to snowmobile use with the exception of the High Peak-Roundtop Trail as previously noted in a.2) of this section.
- any existing mileage of snowmobile trail or open roadway lost in the designation of wilderness or lost due to elevation limitations may be replaced in wild forest areas utilizing abandoned woods roads. New trail cutting may occur where necessary to create desired loops. Such cutting will be in accordance with Department organization and delegation memorandum 84-06 and Division of Lands and Forests policy statement LF-84-2 Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve.
- appropriate opportunities to improve or expand the snowmobile trail system may be pursued below 2700 feet in elevation where the impact on the wild forest environment will be minimized. Examples of such opportunities include:

- (i) placing snowmobile trails adjacent to but screened from public highways within the Park to aid access between communities where alternative routes are not available,
 - (ii) combining snowmobile and horse trails or in some instances, foot trails, provided such combining is safe and does not require additional cutting of trees.
- trails will not run through deer wintering yards and other important areas of ecological significance, such as the habitats of endangered species.
 - appurtenances to snowmobile trails such as bridges will be constructed of natural materials.

f. Horse Trails

Horse trails and appurtenances will be designed and located in a manner which will not adversely affect the wild forest environment. In particular:

- appropriate opportunities to improve and expand the horse trail system will be pursued where the impact on the wild forest environment will be minimized, such as, (i) designating suitable abandoned woods roads as horse trails (ii) designating suitable existing snowmobile trails as horse trails (iii) occasional cutting of new trails to establish the desired loops for new trails in accordance with Department organization and delegation memorandum 84-06 and Division of Lands and Forests policy statement LF-84-2, Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve.

- appurtenances to horse trails such as bridges and hitching rails will be constructed of natural materials.
- adequate parking for vehicles with horse trailers will be provided near the trail head.

g. Flora and Fauna

Wilderness area guidelines will apply, although exceptions may be made in accordance with sound biological management practices, particularly where such practices will enhance resident fish and wildlife resources.

h. Recreational Use and Over-Use

All types of recreational uses considered appropriate for wilderness areas are compatible with wild forest. In addition, limited and regulated snowmobiling, motorboating and travel by other vehicles are permitted if they will not materially increase existing motorized uses and will not adversely affect the essentially wild character of the land.

Certain wild forest areas offer better opportunities for a more extensive horse trail system than wilderness areas. Horse trails and associated facilities in these areas will be considered where appropriate.

Although the nature of most wild forest areas indicates that they are not as sensitive to recreational over-use as wilderness areas, care must nonetheless be taken to avoid over-use. The relatively greater intensity of use allowed by the wild forest guidelines should not be interpreted as permitting or encouraging unlimited or unrestrained use of wild forest areas.

3. Designation of Wild Forest Areas

The application of the wild forest definition and criteria described above results in the initial designation under the Master Plan of about 155,000 acres of wild forest land, comprising approximately 60 percent of the Forest Preserve within the Catskill Park. A wide variety of terrain and ecosystems is represented in these areas.

Wild forest areas are listed and described in section IV AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS.

C. Intensive Use Areas

Developed areas where the State provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public are classified intensive use. Two types of intensive use areas are considered in this plan: public campgrounds and Belleayre Ski Center. In the future, boat launching sites, day use areas and visitor information centers will be included. At this time all existing day use and boat launching sites are incorporated within campgrounds.

More elaborate facilities are provided and fees are charged for use of the campgrounds and ski center.

1. Definition

An intensive use area is a location where the State provides facilities for highly concentrated forms of outdoor recreation including facilities designed to accommodate significant numbers of visitors such as campgrounds, ski centers, and visitor information centers.

These areas provide for congregations and/or accommodations of visitors to the Park and sometimes function as a base for day use of wild forest and wilderness areas.

2. Guidelines for Management and Use

a. Basic Guidelines

The primary management guidelines for intensive use areas will be to provide the public opportunities

for group and family camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, downhill skiing and similar outdoor recreation in a setting and on a scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Catskill Forest Preserve and Catskill Park. All intensive use facilities will be located, designed and managed to blend with the Catskill environment and to have the minimum adverse impact on surrounding State lands and nearby private holdings. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems within the Catskill Park.

Priority will be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing intensive use areas before construction of new facilities. Further additions to the intensive use category will come either from new acquisitions or the reclassification of appropriate wild forest areas. In all cases such additions will be subject to a site specific determination of significance and be fully addressed in the appropriate unit management plan.

Intensive use areas will not be expanded beyond the capacity of the resource to withstand use. Sanitary facilities at intensive use areas range from chemical vault toilets, with accompanying septic system, at Devil's Tombstone Campground to

centralized sewerage treatment systems at the larger facilities.

Solid waste is removed by Department crews, or by contract, and is transported to the local sanitary landfill. The State contributes to the maintenance of local landfills by payment of local real property taxes on all Forest Preserve lands.

b. Campgrounds

The older existing campgrounds will be redesigned to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities with the environment, as the Department budget permits.

Interpretive programs will be provided at campgrounds to the fullest extent possible.

Future campgrounds will be developed only when existing campgrounds have been reconstructed, if need is clearly demonstrated and a site is determined environmentally and strategically suitable. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subjected to or threatened by over-use. There are no plans to develop new campgrounds in the foreseeable future.

c. Boat Launching Sites

Because of the small size of State-owned lakes and streams within the Catskill Park, additional launching sites for boats will be limited to small

boats without motors. These will be located at campgrounds or incorporated in areas classified as wild forest.

d. Ski Centers

The existing ski center at Belleayre should be modernized to the extent physical resources allow and within the constraints of the amendment to Article XIV of the State Constitution authorizing its establishment.

e. Visitor Information Center

A visitor information center should be provided at an appropriate location in the Park.

This center will be designed to provide visitors with interpretive information on the various natural resources and points of interest in the Park, both State and private.

During 1985, Belleayre Ski Center will be the site of a temporary Information/Interpretive Center as part of the Forest Preserve Centennial celebration.

Establishment of a permanent Information Center must be a combined effort by State and local government agencies and private organizations.

f. Recreational Over-Use

Where permitted recreational uses endanger the physical or biological resources of an area, appropriate administrative and regulatory measures

will be taken to limit such use to the capacity of the affected resource. Measures may include but need not be limited to:

- the prohibition of overnight camping within a specified distance of a designated intensive use area to avoid overflow camping on adjacent undeveloped State lands
- Temporarily closing all or portions of a designated intensive use area to permit rehabilitation of the area.

3. Designation of Intensive Use Areas

The intensive use areas include seven campgrounds, four boat launching sites (on campgrounds), and one ski center. These areas encompass approximately 4,250 acres or about two percent of the Forest Preserve within the Catskill Park. A description of each intensive use area identifying principal features and facilities is contained in Section IV AREA DESCRIPTIONS and DELINEATIONS.

Generally the Department of Environmental Conservation will rely on private enterprise to develop intensive recreational facilities on private lands within the Park.

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

MAY 20 1985

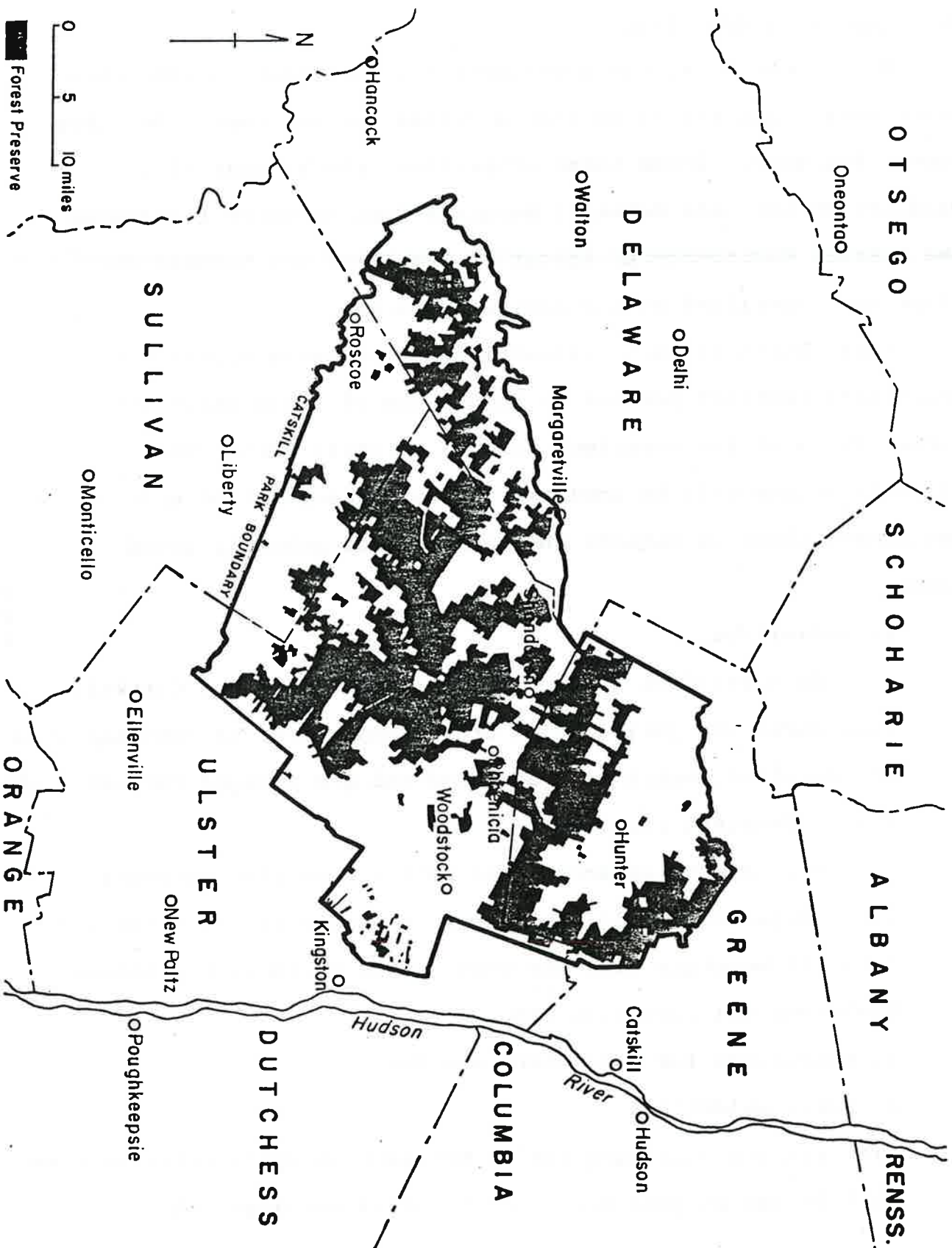
MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record
FROM: Hank Williams 
RE: Catskill Park State Land Master Plan

I hereby approve this Master Plan which provides the classifications, guidelines and policy for State lands administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation in the Catskill Park. The Plan has been developed involving citizen participation, and is consistent with the State Constitution and the Environmental Conservation Law.

Under the aegis of this Master Plan, individual management plans will be prepared for all Department administered land units in the Catskill Park. This Plan will be reviewed comprehensively and appropriate revisions made in 1990.

Location of Catskill Park



D. Administrative Areas

Within the Park, the Department has jurisdiction over three relatively small tracts of land acquired for purposes other than Forest Preserve. These three properties, the Vinegar Hill Wildlife Refuge, the Catskill Mountain Fish Hatchery (including the DeBruce Environmental Education Camp) and the Simpson Ski Slope are classified as administrative areas.

Application of these classification criteria should not materially restrict present or future use of lands under the jurisdiction of the Department in the Catskill Park. The classifications will be employed in the development of unit management plans to enhance the enjoyment of publicly owned lands.

1. Definition

Administrative areas are locations within the Catskill Park under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation, which were acquired and are managed for other than Forest Preserve purposes.

There are three areas that fall within this category; the Vinegar Hill Wildlife Refuge, the Simpson Ski Slope and the Catskill Mountain Fish Hatchery, which includes the DeBruce Environmental Education Camp.

2. Guidelines for Management and Use

a. Basic Guidelines

-The primary consideration in managing an administrative area will be the purpose for which the area was acquired.

- Facilities constructed on an administrative area should be located, designed and managed to blend with the Catskill environment and to have a minimum adverse impact on surrounding State lands and private holdings.

3. Designation of Administrative Areas

Administrative areas are listed and described in section IV AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS.

IV. AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS

A. Wilderness

1. Slide Mountain-Panther Mountain Wilderness Area

This wilderness is located in the Towns of Shandaken and Denning in Ulster County. It lies generally west of West Shokan and Woodland, south of Shandaken, southwest of Phoenicia, east of Olivera and Frost Valley Road, north of Denning and Bull Run and north and west of Peekamoose. This area ranges from 1 to 7 miles in width, is about 13 miles long, and contains approximately 38,745 acres of land. The wilderness boundary is 69 miles long.

The terrain is rugged and steep with elevations ranging from 1100 to 4180 feet. All water draining from the area eventually reaches three New York City water supply reservoirs by way of the East and West Branches of the Neversink River, Rondout Creek and Esopus Creek. Twelve named mountain peaks with elevations over 3000 feet exist in the area. Of these, six may still be considered trail-less to the extent that they have no marked and maintained trails.

Peaks with Trails

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Slide | 4180' | Table | 3847' |
| Cornell | 3860' | Wittenberg | 3780' |
| Peekamoose | 3843' | Panther | 3720' |

Trail-less Peaks

| | | | |
|------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Lone | 3721' | Rocky | 3508' |
| Friday | 3694' | Van Wyck | 3206' |
| Balsam Cap | 3623' | Wildcat | 3340' |

The forest cover consists of nearly every possible mixture and association of hardwood and softwood trees native to the mountain region. While hardwood is predominant, higher elevations are often covered with red spruce and balsam fir.

This area receives more public use than any other Catskill wilderness. Superb vistas are found on Slide, Wittenberg, Cornell, Giant Ledge and Panther Mountains. Access via foot trails is available from the north, south, east and west.

Present interior facilities consisting of foot trails and lean-tos are considered generally adequate at this time. The trail-less peaks will remain trail-less.

Significant statistics for the area are:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Approximate Area | 38,745 | Acres |
| Roads | 1.7 | Miles |
| Foot Trails | 25.4 | Miles |
| Lean-tos | 2 | |
| Length of Boundary | 69 | Miles |
| Minimum Elevation | 1,100 | Feet |
| Maximum Elevation | 4,180 | Feet |
| Non-conforming uses | | |

Denning-Winnisook Road

Winnisook-Woodland Valley Road

2. Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area

This wilderness is located in the Towns of Hardenburgh, Denning and Shandaken in Ulster County. It lies generally west of Oliverea and the Frost Valley Road, south of Belleayre Ski Center, east of Seager and Hardenburgh and north of Willowemoc and Claryville. The area ranges in width from 1 to 5 miles, is about 13 miles long and contains approximately 26,480 acres of land.

Elevations range from 1700 feet in Big Indian Hollow to 3840 feet where the State boundary crosses Doubletop Mountain. The mountains in the northeastern portion of the area are quite rugged, while those to the south and west are more characteristic of high hills. Water from the area flows into three New York City water supply reservoirs and the Delaware River Basin. Nine mountains or ridges with elevations of over 3000 feet make up the area.

Peaks*

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Doubletop | 3860' | Spruce | 3380' |
| Big Indian | 3700' | Beaver Kill Range | 3377' |
| Fir | 3620' | Belleayre | 3420' |
| Eagle | 3600' | Hemlock | 3240' |
| Haynes | 3420' | | |

The forest cover is predominantly hardwood mixtures in various associations. Spruce and fir, while present at some of

*Maximum elevations given are not necessarily located within the Wilderness Area.

the higher elevations, are less noticeable here than in other Catskill wilderness areas.

Interior facilities consisting of foot trails and lean-tos are generally considered adequate. Horse trails could be established in the southwestern third of the area, utilizing old roadways and woods roads.

The statistics for the area are:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Approximate Area | 26,480 | Acres |
| Roads | 2 | Miles |
| Foot Trails | 25.2 | Miles |
| Lean-tos | 7 | |
| Length of Boundary | 58 | Miles |
| Minimum Elevation | 1,700 | Feet |
| Maximum Elevation | 3,840 | Feet |
| Non-conforming uses | | |

Neversink-Hardenburgh Road

Fall Brook to head of Beaverkill Road

3. Westkill Mountain-North Dome Wilderness Area

This is a high elevation east-west ridge that lies between the Westkill Creek on the north and the Esopus Creek on the south. It is primarily in the Town of Lexington, with a small parcel in the Town of Shandaken. The area is from 1 to 5 miles wide, about 8 miles long, and contains approximately 12,000 acres.

The terrain is rugged and extremely steep in some portions with elevations ranging from 1400 to 3880 feet. There are four named mountain peaks with elevations above 3000 feet.

| <u>Peak with Trail</u> | <u>Trail-less Peaks</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Westkill 3880' | North Dome 3610' |
| | Sherrill 3540' |
| | Balsam 3340' |

All of the area serves as watershed for two New York City water supply reservoirs, the Ashokan and Gilboa.

Past public use of the area has been greatly restricted because of the rugged terrain and absence of designated access. A trail was constructed in the late 1970's from Diamond Notch to the summit of Westkill Mountain, to Mink Hollow, and then northerly back to the Westkill Creek near Spruceton. This has increased hiker use but the area is still relatively lightly used. One man-made vista was developed on Westkill Mountain; there are other natural vistas especially on the steep slopes of North Dome.

Significant statistics for the area are:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Approximate Area | 12,000 acres |
| Foot Trails | 5 miles |
| Length of Boundary | 31 miles |
| Minimum Elevation | 1,400 feet |
| Maximum Elevation | 3,880 feet |
| Non-conforming uses | |
| None | |

4. Plateau Mountain-Indian Head Mountain Wilderness Area

This wilderness is located in the Town of Hunter, Greene County and the Towns of Saugerties and Woodstock, Ulster County.

It lies generally west of the east boundary of the Catskill Park, south of Platte Clove, east of Devil's Tombstone Campsite and north of Lake Hill and Shady. The area ranges from 1 1/2 miles to 3 1/2 miles in width, is eight miles long and contains approximately 14,900 acres.

Elevations range from 900 to 3840 feet and the four major mountains of the area are visible against the skyline from all directions. Echo Lake, the only natural lake in a Catskill wilderness, is located in the east-central portion of the area. Water from this eastern section flows into Kingston and Saugerties water supply reservoirs while drainage from the central and western section flow into two New York City water supply reservoirs. Six named mountain peaks over 3000 feet in elevation are important to the area.

Peaks

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Plateau | 3840' | Olderbark | 3440' |
| Sugarloaf | 3800' | | |
| Twin | 3640' | Plattekill | 3100' |
| Indian Head | 3573' | | |

The forest cover varies from extensive oak stands on the easternmost slopes to mature spruce-fir on top of Plateau Mountain. An excellent mature stand of northern hardwood and hemlock occupies the slopes south of the Saw Kill.

Interior facilities consisting of foot trails and lean-tos are adequate. New horse trails could be established-- particularly in connection with the two roads in the area, which

are now non-conforming.

Echo Lake, unique to the Catskill wilderness, is very popular for undeveloped camping. More adequate sanitary facilities are needed here. A small number of scattered primitive tent sites with fire rings have been established and public camping is limited to their capacities.

Public access is provided by several foot trails entering the area and the acquired right of way over the old road from Meads to Overlook Mountain.

Significant statistics for the area are:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Approximate Area | 14,900 | acres |
| Roads | 6.6 | miles |
| Foot Trails | 16 | miles |
| Lean-tos | 3 | |
| Length of Boundary | 33 | miles |
| Minimum Elevation | 900 | feet |
| Maximum Elevation | 3,840 | feet |
| Non-conforming uses | | |
| Mink Hollow Road | | |
| Overlook Turnpike | | |

B. Wild Forest

Areas classified as wild forest are generally less fragile, in ecological terms, than the wilderness areas. Because the resources of these areas can withstand more human impact, they are the base for much of the future use of the Catskill

Forest Preserve. The scenic attributes and the variety of uses to which these areas lend themselves provide challenge to the recreational planner. Within the constitutional constraints, those types of outdoor recreation that afford enjoyment without destroying the wild forest atmosphere will be encouraged.

1. Blackhead Range Wild Forest

This 7120 acre wild forest is located in the Towns of Windham, Jewett, and Cairo, all in Greene County. It ranges from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in width and 2 miles in length. Elevations range from 1,000 feet to 3,980 feet. There are four named mountain peaks over 3000 feet in elevation:

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Black Dome | 3980' |
| Blackhead | 3940' |
| Thomas Cole | 3940' |
| Acra Point | 3100' |

All peaks are traversed by ridge trails running north-south (the Escarpment Trail) and east-west (the Black Dome Trail).

Interior facilities consist of a 12-mile foot trail system and one lean-to north of Blackhead at the headwaters of the Batavia Kill. The ridge trail offers several scenic vistas. Hiking is rugged but the area is readily accessible by trail.

2. Windham High Peak Wild Forest

This 3660-acre unit lies at the northernmost edge of the Catskill Forest Preserve in the Town of Windham, with a small area in the Town of Durham. It is bordered by N.Y. Route 23 on the west. Here the northern terminus of the Escarpment Trail

begins and travels the length of the Unit as a ridge trail.

Elevation ranges from 1700 feet at N.Y. 23 to 3524 feet at the summit of Windham High Peak. Vistas are found along the ridge trail at Windham High Peak and the 3180-foot Burnt Knob.

There are 5.5 miles of foot trails, one lean-to , and three ample parking areas at three access points.

The area is accessible and is a popular attraction to hikers.

3. Black Dome Valley Wild Forest

This is a broad mountain valley that lies just south of the Blackhead Range in the Town of Jewett. The valley boasts two man-made lakes, although only one is located within the Forest Preserve. The valley is the headwaters of the East Kill. The unit consists of approximately 4,300 acres.

The western side of the unit is reached by County Route 78, which ends less than a mile inside the unit. Parking areas are available. An old road serving as a foot trail divides the valley from west to east; its east end joins the Escarpment trail midway between Blackhead and Stoppel Point.

Elevation ranges from 2000 feet at Colgate Lake to 3420 feet at Stoppel Point. The unit boundaries are closely tied to the watershed bounds.

There are four miles of foot trails. Also, the whole area was logged several times in the last century and many miles of old skid-roads exist. The skid-roads provide easy access to most of the valley.

The lake is a popular swimming, picknicking and camping spot. Unsupervised and unrestricted use is a present and growing problem. There are no plans for any organized recreational development. Other than parking lots and the connecting foot trail, there are no man-made interior facilities.

4. North Mountain Wild Forest

This unit lies to the north of the North Lake-South Lake Intensive Use Area. Stoppel Point and private lands border the unit on the west and northwest. The Dutcher Notch Trail borders the unit on the north, and private lands border it on the east. The 3180 foot North Mountain is the central attraction although Stoppel Point is 240 feet higher.

The unit consists of 3,800 acres. It lies in the Town of Hunter on the west and the town of Cairo on the east. The Escarpment Trail follows the high ridge and travels north-south through the middle of the unit for three miles.

This area gets heavy use from both backpackers and hikers of the Escarpment Trail and from day users of North-South Lake. Vistas of the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson Valley are numerous and exceptional.

5. Kaaterskill Wild Forest

This 7600-acre unit lies east and south of the North Lake-South Lake Intensive Use Area. The unit includes the Kaaterskill Clove , Roundtop Mountain and Kaaterskill High Peak. It is bordered on the south by the Platte Clove Road.

The area is highly scenic and extremely rugged. Elevation ranges from 900 feet at Palenville to 3655 feet at the summit of Kaaterskill High Peak over a distance of two miles.

Use is varied. The scenic area north of the Kaaterskill Clove gets much day-use and is adjacent to the North-South Lake public campground. This area has 12 miles of foot and horse trails. The area south of the Kaaterskill Clove toward Platte Clove is used much less; this area has 8 miles of snowmobile trail that makes a 12.5 mile loop. Both areas get some Nordic ski use.

Kaaterskill Falls is an accessible attraction - and a management problem for the Department. Day-users and hikers have caused serious erosion and site degradation and a number of deaths and injuries have occurred. The topography is characterized by steep slopes and cliffs and can be dangerous to the many inexperienced sight-seers who visit the Falls area. The unit management plan for Kaaterskill will thoroughly address this subject and present recommendations to solve the problem.

6. Hunter Mountain Wild Forest

Beginning at Stony Clove Notch on N.Y. Route 214, this 9800-acre unit extends northwest and encompasses the high ridge between Schoharie Creek on the north and the West Kill on the south. The 4040-foot Hunter Mountain, second highest peak in the Catskills, is the most prominent topographic feature. Further west are Rusk Mountain (3680 feet) and Evergreen Mountain (3360 feet).

Hunter Mountain has the only working fire tower in Greene County. This and the Mountain's height are reasons for the thousands of visiting hikers each year.

There are 16 miles of trails, three miles of which are shared with the Westkill Wilderness in Diamond Notch. Trail access to the summit exists from many points: Devil's Tombstone State Campground on N.Y. Route 214, Becker Hollow on N.Y. Route 214, from Diamond Notch and from the Spruceton Road on the southwest, from Deming Road off of N.Y. 23A in Hunter and from the summit of the Hunter Mountain Ski Area on the north. An administrative truck trail from the Spruceton Road to the summit serves as a public foot trail. Rusk and Evergreen Mountains are trail-less.

Three lean-tos are present; one on the northwest spur of Hunter Mountain at 3500 feet, one on a south spur of Hunter at 3500 feet and another in Diamond Notch at 2600 feet. Developed springs exist in the area.

7. Halcott Mountain Wild Forest

This 4900-acre unit lies on the ridge between the Towns of Lexington and Halcott and includes all the Forest Preserve within the Park Boundary west of N.Y. Route 42. The most prominent feature is 3537-foot Halcott Mountain.

No trails or other recreational facilities exist on this unit. A few long-abandoned roads serve as foot access for hunters and some hikers. Topography is rugged and the area is little used.

8. Peck Hollow Wild Forest

This 3600-acre unit lies in the Town of Lexington in Greene County and the Town of Shandaken, Ulster County. The major portion is a mountain valley that drains the southerly slopes of Mount Sherrill and North Dome down through Peck Hollow Brook to the Esopus Creek in Allaben.

The area has no trails or other man-made recreational facilities. It is traversed by several old logging roads, but no public road enters it. A Shandaken Town Road dead-ends in private property at the Greene County line; this Town Road does touch Forest Preserve land in two places giving fast access at the extreme southern part of the unit. There is also undeveloped access at two points on N.Y. Route 42 along the western edge of the unit.

9. Ox Clove Wild Forest

This is a small 2500-acre parcel located one mile north of Chichester in Ulster County although most of the unit is in the Town of Hunter, Greene County. Ox Clove is a mountain stream that flows southerly from a southern spur of Westkill Mountain. It flows into the Stony Clove Creek at Chichester; that stream, in another two miles, flows into the Esopus Creek at Phoenicia. Elevations range from 1200 feet at the southern entrance to about 2800 feet at its northern boundary.

This area was formerly a part of an estate and contains a network of roadways and some open meadows. The more accessible

areas of the south receive considerable public use for camping and picknicking. Snowmobiles and trail bikes are used on the old roads. There are no public facilities.

10. Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain Wild Forest

This 17,500 acre unit is located in the Town of Colchester, Delaware County. The terrain is mountainous. Topographic grade ranges from moderate to steep on much of the land. Some of the unit's outstanding features and facilities include 10 tributary stream systems, 13 identified wetlands, 22.4 miles of snowmobile trails, 19.9 miles of foot trails, 2 administrative truck trails, and 2 ponds. The Russell Brook Area, a scenic and intensively used camping spot, is located on the unit. There are many public roads which provide access to the unit.

11. Middle Mountain-Mary Smith Hill Wild Forest

This 10,131 acre unit is located in the Towns of Colchester and Andes, Delaware County, Hardenburgh, Ulster County and Rockland, Sullivan County. The area is mountainous. Topographic grade ranges from moderate to steep on most of the land. Notable features and facilities include a foot trail from Holiday Berry Brook Road to the Little Pond Campsite, Huggins Lake, Big Pond, and several public roads which provide access to the unit.

12. Dry Brook Ridge-Huckleberry Brook Wild Forest

This 8893-acre unit is located in the Towns of Andes and Middletown, Delaware County and Hardenburgh, Ulster County. The area is mountainous with the majority of land being moderate to

steep in grade. Features and facilities include the Pakatakan-Dry Brook Ridge-Beaverkill Trail, which starts near Margaretville and heads south to Balsam Lake Mountain. A small picnic and camping area is located along the Upper Huckleberry Brook Road. Due to the rugged topography of the unit, access is limited to a couple of public roads.

13. Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest

This unit is located in the western part of Ulster County in the Town of Hardenburgh. Access is gained via a limited number of county and town roads off NY Routes 17 and 30. The land is mountainous and cut with valleys and free flowing streams, the most well-known being the Beaverkill. The area provides a variety of recreational opportunities.

14. Willowemoc-Long Pond Wild Forest

This unit is located in the Towns of Neversink and Rockland, Sullivan County. The topography is generally less mountainous here than it is in other parts of the region. The area offers a variety of recreational opportunities including a snowmobile trail system into Long Pond.

15. Overlook Mountain Wild Forest

This unit is located in the Town of Woodstock, Ulster County. Access from the south by vehicle is via a town road from the Village of Woodstock. Parking is provided at the entrance to a road up the mountain.

Access from the north is by hiking trail from the Indian

Head-Plateau Wilderness Area.

The area is mountainous. Superb vistas exist in all directions from the summit of Overlook Mountain near the fire tower.

16. Shandaken-Pine Hill Wild Forest

This unit is located in the Town of Shandaken, Ulster County, off New York State Routes 28 and 42. This wild forest consists of localized parcels of Forest Preserve near the village of Pine Hill and the hamlets of Big Indian and Shandaken. The terrain is hilly to mountainous.

17. Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest

This unit is located in the Town of Hunter, Greene County and the Towns of Shandaken and Woodstock, Ulster County. The closest main roads are New York State Routes 28, 212 and 214. The lands are near the hamlets of Phoenicia, Mt. Tremper, Willow and Lanesville. The topography ranges from hilly to mountainous.

18. Claryville-Sundown-Sholam Wild Forest

This unit is located in the Town of Neversink, Sullivan County and the Towns of Denning, Wawarsing, Rochester and Olive in Ulster County. This wild forest consists of numerous parcels of separated Forest Preserve lands. Access is via numerous county and town roads. The topography ranges from hilly to mountainous. Numerous streams flow through the area.

19. Jockey Hill-Morgan Hill Wild Forest

This unit is located in the Towns of Hurley and Kingston,

west of the City of Kingston. This unit consists of numerous localized parcels of State land. The terrain is hilly with outcroppings of sedimentary rock. The area is readily accessible via numerous town roads.

C. Intensive Use

1. Campgrounds:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Number of Sites</u> | <u>Camping Capacity</u> | <u>Picnic Capacity</u> | <u>Beach (Linear Feet)</u> | <u>Boat Launch- ing</u> | <u>Area (Acres)</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beaverkill | 97 | 508 | 324 | 150 | -- | 242 |
| Devil's Tombstone | 24 | 101 | 276 | --- | -- | 79.5 |
| Kenneth Wilson | 76 | 320 | 150 | 300 | Yes | 546 |
| Little Pond | 75 | 315 | 200 | 290 | Yes | 131 |
| Mongaup Pond | 160 | 672 | 900 | 320 | Yes | 425 |
| North Lake | 219 | 920 | 3,591 | 640 | Yes | 600 |
| Woodland Valley | <u>72</u> | <u>303</u> | <u>156</u> | <u>---</u> | <u>--</u> | <u>18</u> |
| Totals | 723 | 3,139 | 5,597 | 1,700 | 4 | 2,041.5 |

Note: 1. Size of campground may include popular unique areas that should be managed along with the campgrounds.

2. Launching facilities are for small boats without motors.

2. Boat Launching Sites:

The only developed boat launching facilities on Forest Preserve land in the Catskill Park are those at public campsites listed

above. Additional cartop boat launching facilities are needed at Waneta and Alder Lakes.

3. Ski Center:

Belleayre Ski Center is the only ski center on Forest Preserve land in the Catskill Park. Constitutional provisions allow for the construction and maintenance of not more than 20 miles of ski trails 30 to 80 feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto on the slopes of Belleayre Mountain in Ulster and Delaware Counties. More than 90,000 individuals use the developed facilities yearly.

The area set aside for Belleayre Ski Center includes the north and east slopes of Belleayre Mountain and contains approximately 2,211 acres.

4. Park:

The only designated "Park" within the Catskill Park is a 55-acre parcel within the 546-acre Kenneth Wilson Public Campground and Day Use Area. The reason for this designation is the source of funding (Federal) used to acquire that parcel.

Administratively the property will be managed the same as other lands of the Kenneth Wilson Campground.

D. Administrative

1. Vinegar Hill Wildlife Refuge

The Vinegar Hill Wildlife Refuge in the Town of Lexington, Greene County, was given to the Department piecemeal during the years 1969 through 1973, for the express purpose of

establishing a refuge. It contains approximately 400 acres and is managed exclusively for wildlife.

2. Catskill Mountain Fish Hatchery

The hatchery property totals 395 acres and is located near DeBruce in Sullivan County. It was purchased in two acquisitions in 1946 and 1949 specifically as a site for the establishment of a fish hatchery. The hatchery now produces an average of 120,000 pounds of brown and brook trout yearly for stocking the waters of New York State. The hatchery is regularly toured by groups of school children and attracts an estimated 5,000 visitors each summer.

The DeBruce Conservation Education Camp, located on the hatchery property, accommodates 50 youths per week for eight weeks during July and August of each year. This highly successful program has been in operation at the DeBruce site since 1948.

Also located on the hatchery property is a regional operations subheadquarters. The operations unit is responsible for vehicle, equipment, campground, building and road maintenance in addition to new construction and related duties.

3. Simpson Ski Slope

This ski slope is part of the old Simpson Ski Center located about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Village of Phoenicia on the road to Woodland Valley. The area consists of 6.94 acres that were given to the State for park purposes.

V. FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS); CATSKILL PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

A. FEIS Summary

Adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan will provide the State of New York with a means of uniform and consistent management of the State-owned lands within the Catskill Park that are administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Master Plan designates four land classifications for the DEC-administered State lands involved; wilderness, wild forest, intensive use and administrative areas.

The plan also establishes guidelines outlining the types of uses permitted or prohibited under each classification. Wilderness is the most restrictive, while intensive use allows a greater degree of development and a higher intensity of use. Except for administrative areas, which are designated for special purposes, State lands in the Catskill Park are Forest Preserve.

The entire plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by Article XIV of the State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Title 6 of the Official Compilation of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) and established policies for administration of the lands involved.

The Plan applies to State lands administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation within the Catskill Park. The Park is a mountainous area consisting of both public and private lands located in the counties of Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster. The State lands are generally forested and

provide a variety of environmental assets to the people of the State.

All environmental impacts associated with adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan will be a result of the classification of State land and the influence of those classifications on public use.

Public use of the State lands involved will have an adverse effect on the soil, vegetation, water quality, wildlife and natural character of the area. For the most part, any adverse effects will be insignificant and will not result in a considerable loss of resources.

There will be only minor irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources associated with the adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan or the associated unit management plans.

The only growth-inducing aspects associated with the adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan will be in those instances where some action is taken to increase public use of an intensive use area. An example is the proposal to increase snowmaking capacity at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center so as to enhance the desirability of that area.

Greater use of electrical power will result from increasing the snowmaking capacity at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. The anticipated rise in the number of visitors to Belleayre will cause additional motor fuel consumption.

Environmental impacts will be minimized through the development of unit management plans. These plans will establish goals and objectives for managing each unit to ensure that appropriate public use does not exceed the carrying capacity of the area. Specific standards will be incorporated to guide the development, maintenance or rehabilitation of facilities in order to minimize environmental impacts.

Three alternatives have been considered relative to the adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.

1. Continue present management without the benefit of a Master Plan.

2. Adopt a modified Plan which classifies all Department-administered State lands as wilderness except intensively used areas.

3. Adopt a modified Plan which classifies all Department-administered State lands as wild forest except intensively used areas.

B. Proposed Action See Plan Sections III CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND GUIDELINES and IV AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DELINEATIONS.

C. Environmental Setting

The plan applies to all State lands administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation within the Catskill Park. The Park's boundary, referred to as the blue line, encompasses approximately 705,500 acres of public and private lands located in Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster

Counties. Of this area more than 38% or 273,000 acres are State-owned and administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

There are 35 mountains over 3,500 feet, two of which exceed 4,000 feet. The highest is Slide Mountain, with an elevation of 4,180 feet. Most of the Park consists of rough mountainous terrain interspersed with narrow steep-sided valleys, many of which contain high quality trout streams. These streams are tributaries of the Delaware, Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. There are few lakes or ponds within the Park and most of those are man-made. The most significant are the New York City Water Supply Reservoirs.

Most of the forest cover is hardwood, with oak-hickory and northern hardwoods representing the prevalent forest types. On some of the higher elevations spruce and fir can be found.

Most of the area has been logged at least once. Around the turn of the century, or before, nearly all of the hemlock was removed for use by the tanning industry.

Forest Preserve lands within the Park are generally forested and mostly at higher elevations. In addition to watershed protection, aesthetics, and a natural character, the lands provide a wide range of recreational activities. These activities are listed in this Plan.

Public use of Department-administered State lands in the Catskill Park is, generally, well below levels that will result in significant environmental impacts. There are exceptions to

this at several locations where some feature attracts heavier use. Examples are Slide Mountain (highest elevation in the Catskills), Kaaterskill Falls, Vernooy Kill Falls and accessible locations along streams such as the West Branch of the Neversink River and the Rondout Creek.

D. Significant Environmental Impacts

All environmental impacts from adoption of this Plan will be the result of the Plan's influence over public use of the State lands involved. The specific classification will be the principal influence over that use, with wilderness being the most restrictive and intensive use and administrative being the least restrictive.

Impacts will include various effects on wildlife populations, soil conditions, plant communities, water quality and the outdoor experience of the users.

The actions that will determine the impacts within the various classifications will include such factors as closing roads that are currently open, increasing parking and access opportunities and upgrading existing facilities. Most of the impacts will be beneficial to the environment.

Environmental impacts resulting from use of the land include: soil erosion, vegetative deterioration, soil compaction, deterioration of water quality, and changes in wildlife populations. Excessive levels of human interaction also may occur. This can be a problem depending on what the user expects to encounter in a given situation and will vary from wilderness to intensive use.

The capacity of the resource to withstand use is dependent upon the physical characteristics of the area including: terrain, soil and the biological community.

The recreational carrying capacity of the area can be manipulated through improvements such as bridges, dry tread, paving, etc. However, the degree of acceptable manipulation depends upon the land classification. In all cases it must be within the constraints of Article XIV of the State Constitution.

The Master Plan calls for the closing of six non-conforming roads within three of the wilderness areas. These roads are in various degrees of disrepair resulting from no maintenance. In some locations they are impassable even for four-wheel drive vehicles because of general deterioration or missing bridges. Current use of these roads is insignificant.

Additional roads in wild forest areas, where use has not previously been specifically prohibited, also may be closed officially to prevent erosion or other degradation of the area involved.

No new major facilities (for example, campgrounds) or major expansions of existing intensive use facilities are planned for the foreseeable future.

Any new or relocated trails, new or improved parking areas or upgrading of other existing facilities will be specifically addressed in the unit management plans for the area. Each plan will comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

E. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

Sanitation and solid waste disposal have the potential to create adverse impacts. They are influenced significantly by the intensity of recreational use and accessibility of the area.

The problems associated with sanitation may be more critical in remote areas where elaborate sewerage systems are not feasible and environmental conditions are sensitive.

Solid waste disposal can be as great a concern to local governments administering landfills as it is to Department land managers.

Both of these concerns will be addressed and mitigative steps presented in the individual unit management plans.

Closing of roads may result in changing pressures thus adversely affecting the white tail deer populations in localized areas.

Improvement of existing trails, construction of new trails, improved parking areas, improvement of campground facilities and upgrading of facilities at Belleayre Ski Center, such as increased snowmaking, will result in changing public use patterns that may lead to increased erosion, soil compaction and vegetative degradation.

F. Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Adoption of this Plan will result in minimal irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources. Possible future construction at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center will require commitments of off-site raw materials. These resource commitments will be thoroughly assessed in the management plan

and environmental impact statement for that land unit. There will be no significant use of resources in general and no irreversible and irretrievable commitment of Forest Preserve resources. Departmental commitment of staff time will not change significantly with the implementation of this Plan.

G. Growth-Inducing Aspects

There may be some growth-inducing impacts caused by adoptions of this Plan. As an example, possible further development at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center may result in some increase in vacation homes and tourist-oriented businesses in the vicinity of the facility. (The effects of development at Belleayre will be analyzed in the management plan/EIS for that unit.) Generally, use patterns of Forest Preserve land units within the Catskill Park will not change significantly. Unit management plans are the appropriate format for discussion of the growth-inducing effects of the relatively insignificant developments that may result from implementation of this Plan.

H. Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources

There will be little effect on energy resources as a result of adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan or the actions it proposes.

The effects of any future expansion of snowmaking capacity at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center on energy resources will be included in the unit management plan for the facility. Similarly, the larger number of visitors expected at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, after proposed facilities development is completed, will result in an increase in consumption of motor

fuel by the greater number of motorized vehicles required to transport the visitors to the center. A thorough analysis of these effects will be incorporated in the unit management plan for the facility.

Aside from the effects due to possible further development at Belleayre Mountain, there is nothing associated with implementation of this Plan which will have a significant effect on energy resources.

I. Mitigation Measures to Minimize Environmental Impact

The effect on deer populations resulting from closing roads will be minimal. There may be some local population imbalances, both plus and minus, inversely proportional to changes in hunting pressure following road closure. These temporary population shifts will be self-regulating by natural factors in the long run. This action will also have certain benefits in reducing erosion and vegetative damage associated with vehicular use. Decreased public use also can have a beneficial effect on certain birds and wildlife that require greater solitude. Areas remote from the hunting pressures associated with vehicular access also are appreciated by those hunters willing to walk two or three miles to reach such a location.

Unit management plans will address access to Department-administered State lands. Where necessary, improved peripheral access opportunities will be provided through the development of parking areas and land acquisition projects.

The development or expansion of any facility, whether foot

trail, camping area or parking lot, will have certain inherent impacts. These impacts are kept to a minimum through the use of standards set forth in the DEC "Interior Use Manual," the Appalachian Mountain Club "Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance" and through the use of established engineering plans for standard structures.

Steps to control the impacts of public use will include but not necessarily be limited to:

- public education, i.e. "If you carry it in, carry it out" campaign
- facility design, i.e. modification or expansion of existing structures, water bars, bridges, dry tread, limitation on trail head parking, etc.
- relocation or discontinuation of existing trails
- closing of roads
- designation of camping sites in critical undeveloped areas
- closing of undeveloped campsites
- revegetation, where appropriate
- enforcement of part 190 of Title 6 NYCRR, which deals with the use of State lands

Mitigative measures dealing with sanitation and solid waste will be dealt with in each unit management plan.

Payment of property taxes for Forest Preserve lands provides financial assistance to local governments to help deal with solid waste disposal.

One of the objectives of unit management planning is to provide for public use while minimizing the environmental

impacts.

Unit management plans will further address the requirements of SEQR as they are developed.

J. Alternatives

Three alternatives have been considered relative to adoption of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan.

1. Continue present management without the benefit of a Master Plan. This will result in the continuation of management actions based on an individual project or limited geographic perspective. It will not provide the uniform resource protection and guidance that the adoption of specific land classifications would provide.

2. Adopt a modified plan which classifies all Department-administered State lands except intensively used areas as wilderness. Many areas of State land within the Catskill Park do not meet the current definition of wilderness. This would preclude recreational opportunities that now exist on some of the less environmentally sensitive areas of these State lands.

3. Adopt a modified plan which classifies all Department-administered State lands except intensively used areas as wild forest. Such an option would fail to provide the additional protection necessary to protect the unique character of certain environmentally sensitive areas of the State lands involved. It also could result in diminished opportunities for people who enjoy the solitude of isolated, pristine land areas.

Adoption of the Plan as presented here will provide for

uniform and consistent management of the Department-administered State lands in the Catskill Park. It will provide guidance for unit management plans for certain land classifications and ultimately serve as rationale and justification for budget requests from a broad management perspective rather than on an individual project basis.

K. **Appendix** (See Section VI APPENDICES)

L. **Substantive Comments Received, Responses, and Text Changes**

Comment 1; If development means new construction, (i.e. Belleayre) how is that consistent with the statement that there is no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources? J. Economides, Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY

Response: The text for Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources section has been expanded to explain that while a commitment of off-site raw materials will be required, no irretrievable/irreversible commitments of Forest Preserve resources will be made.

Comment 2; Plan and DEIS fell short of informing the public regarding the history of the environment and heritage of the Catskills. W. Sanford, ERPF Catskill Cultural Center, Arkville, NY

Response; A new History and Background section has been added to the Plan to address this need (see I.C. History and Background)

Comment 3; The DEIS makes the statement about public use of State lands: "For the most part, any adverse effects will be insignificant and will not result in loss of resources." Lacking adequate State management oversight of State lands, public use will lead to significant adverse effects, including resource degradation and eventual loss. Present problems in the Peekamoose and Kaaterskill Falls area prove the nature and extent of the problems. At issue is not the Plan itself, but the actions necessary to carry it out. T. Miner, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Arkville, NY

Response; No change in the Master Plan is required to address the real problems of the Kaaterskill Falls or Peekamoose areas. Implementation of the Master Plan will have no adverse effect and will not result in a loss of resources. Once implemented, the Master Plan will help reduce the problems associated with these areas by providing the necessary guidelines for the preparation of site-specific management-oriented unit plans.

Comment 4; The discussion of Growth-Inducing Aspects and of the Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources is not sufficient. The former should discuss opportunity and potential for secondary development resulting from State Land Management decisions; the latter should discuss how the nature and level of public use will be affected. E. Spencer, Adirondack Park Agency,

Ray Brook, NY

Response; The text for Growth-Inducing Aspects has been modified to take into account further development at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center (a separate EIS will be prepared for the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center as part of the unit management plan for that unit). Since no significant changes in the management of Forest Preserve lands will result from implementation of the Master Plan or subsequent unit management plans, a more elaborate discussion of Growth-Inducing Aspects is not necessary.

The text on Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources has been modified to account for the increased number of visitors, and use of motor fuel in their cars, to Belleayre Mountain Ski Center expected after its facilities are expanded. A thorough analysis will be incorporated in the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan and EIS.

Comment 5; The designations of certain lands as wilderness includes certain other uses and consequently any stated adverse effects on all land use should be identified and expanded upon. Environmental impacts will take place on non-State lands in the Park and such impacts should be specified. P. Black, SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

Response; There is no need to change the text of the EIS in reference to this comment. Classification of Forest

Preserve land units as wilderness will not significantly change the pattern of use of such lands or private ownerships in the Catskill Park. The current management of Forest Preserve lands will not change significantly after wilderness designations are made. The character of these areas within the Forest Preserve lends itself to the classification proposed.

An addendum to this Master Plan is the Hearing Report, Draft Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and EIS dated August 20, 1984. The Hearing Report is a complete summary of statements made on the Draft Plan and EIS during and within two months after the five public hearings held in June 1984. Many minor editorial changes and additions were made to the text of the Plan in response to the comments received.

Copies of the Hearing Report are available from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233

V. APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A

ARTICLE 9 — LANDS AND FORESTS

Section

- 9-0101 Definitions.
- 9-0105 General powers and duties.
- 9-0107 Acceptance by department of lands for parks and for silvicultural research.
- 9-0109 Acquisition of lands within the Adirondack or Catskill parks.
- 9-0301 Use and diminution of Adirondack and Catskill parks.
- 9-0303 Restrictions on use of state lands.
- 9-0305 Signs and advertising in Adirondack and Catskill parks.
- 9-0307 Forest preserve lands; detached parcels outside Adirondack and Catskill parks.
- 9-0501 Power to acquire reforestation areas; prohibition against compensation or gratuity.
- 9-0503 Certificate of purchase; exemption from taxation.
- 9-0505 Sale of products from reforestation areas.
- 9-0509 Lease of land to federal government for use by the federal aviation agency.
- 9-0701 Purpose of program.
- 9-0703 Forest regions.
- 9-0705 Regional forest practice boards.
- 9-0707 State forest practice board.
- 9-0709 Duties of regional forest practice boards.
- 9-0711 Duties of state forest practice board.

- 9-0713 State assistance.
- 9-0715 Cooperating owner.
- 9-0717 Community forests.
- 9-0901 Jurisdiction of certain parks and reservations.
- 9-0903 Recreation facilities.
- 9-1101 Proclamation by Governor.
- 9-1103 Additional powers of department.
- 9-1105 General prohibitions.
- 9-1107 Fire towns.
- 9-1109 Fire protection areas.
- 9-1111 Forest fire protection.
- 9-1113 Top logging evergreen trees.
- 9-1115 Railroad patrol.
- 9-1117 Condition of rights of way.
- 9-1119 Use of protective devices.
- 9-1121 Fire moneys and accounts.
- 9-1123 Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.
- 9-1301 White pine blister rust and current rust.
- 9-1303 Forest insects and other forest tree diseases.
- 9-1501 Removal of evergreen trees.
- 9-1503 Removal of protected plants.

TITLE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§9-0101. Definitions.

The following words and phrases, when used in this article, unless otherwise expressly stated, are defined as follows:

1. The "Adirondack park" shall include all lands located in the forest preserve counties of the Adirondacks within the following described boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the most southerly corner of lot 166 of the John Glen and 44 Others Patent in the line between such patent and the twenty-first allotment of the Kayaderosseras Patent; thence northeasterly along the said line and along the southerly bounds of John Glen and 44 Others Patent and of the Sanders Patent to the southeasterly corner of the Sanders Patent; thence continuing northeasterly along the division line between the twenty-second and twenty-fourth allotments of the Kayaderosseras Patent to the southeasterly corner of the twenty-fourth allotment of the Kayaderosseras Patent; thence northerly along the division line between the twenty-fourth and the twenty-fifth allotments of that patent to the northeasterly corner of the twenty-fourth allotment; thence easterly along the north line of the twenty-fifth allotment and the

southerly lines of John Glen and 44 Others Patent, the Luzerne Tract and the Glen Patent to the southeasterly corner of the Glen Patent; thence northerly along the easterly lines of the Glen Patent and the Luzerne Tract to the northwesterly corner of the Queensbury Patent; thence easterly along the northerly bounds of the Queensbury Patent to the northeasterly corner thereof; thence southerly along the easterly bounds of the Queensbury Patent to the northwesterly corner of the Kingsbury Patent; thence easterly along the northerly bounds of the Kingsbury Patent to the southwesterly corner of the Artillery Patent; thence northerly along the westerly line of the Artillery Patent to the northwesterly corner of the Artillery Patent; thence easterly along the northerly bounds of the Artillery Patent to the southwesterly corner of the town of Whitehall; thence northerly along the westerly line of the town of Whitehall to the southern boundary of the town of Dresden; thence in a general northerly and easterly direction along the town line to the state boundary at the outlet of South Bay; thence in a northerly direction along the state boundary to the northeastern corner of the town of Peru in Clinton county; thence in a westerly direction to the low water line of Valcour Island; thence in a general northerly and westerly direction along the northern shore of Valcour Island to the northern boundary of the town of Peru; thence in a westerly direction along the northern boundary of the town of Peru to the eastern edge of the Delaware and Hudson railroad right-of-way; thence southerly along said eastern edge of the railroad right-of-way to the intersection of said right-of-way with the eastern edge of the right-of-way of U.S. Highway No. 9; thence in a general southerly direction along the eastern edge of said highway right-of-way to the southern boundary of the town of Peru; thence westerly along the southern boundary of the town of Peru to the western boundary of Platt's Great Location; thence northerly to the northeastern corner of lot 4 of Tharp's Tract; thence westerly along the northern line of lots 4, 7, 14, 17 and 24; thence northerly along the westerly line of Tharp's Tract to the northern boundary of the town of Peru; thence westerly along the town of Peru boundary to the southwestern corner of lot 30 of Livingston's Patent in the town of Saranac; thence in a northerly direction along the western line of lots 30, 29, 28, 27 and 26 to the northern line of Livingston's Patent; thence easterly to the southwestern corner of lot 12 of Canada and Nova Scotia Refugee Tract in the town of Saranac; thence northerly along the western line of lot 12 to the southwestern corner of lot 11; thence easterly along the northern line of lot 12 to the eastern boundary of the town of Saranac; thence

northerly along the eastern boundary of the town of Saranac to the southern boundary of the town of Dannemora; thence easterly along the southern boundary of the town of Dannemora to the southeastern corner of said town; thence northerly along the eastern boundary of the town of Dannemora to the northeastern corner of said town; thence northerly along the eastern line of lots 22 to 15 inclusive of Duer's Patent in the town of Altona to the northeastern corner of lot 15; thence westerly along the northern line of lots 15 and 14 of Duer's Patent to the southwestern corner of lot 160 of the Canada and Nova Scotia Refugee Tract in the town of Altona; thence northerly along the western line of lots 160 and 161 to the northwest corner of lot 161; thence in a westerly direction along the northern line of lots 163 and 186 to the northwestern corner of lot 186; thence southerly along the western line of lot 186 to the northeastern corner of lot 188; thence westerly along the northern boundary of lot 188 to the eastern line of the B. Wallace Patent; thence southerly and westerly along the B. Wallace Patent boundary to the eastern boundary of the town of Ellenburg; thence northerly along the town of Ellenburg line to the northeastern corner of lot 1 of the Hannah Murray Allotment; thence westerly along the northern boundary of lots 1 to 30 inclusive, to the northeastern corner of lot 1, township 8, Old Military Tract on the county line between Clinton and Franklin counties; thence along the northern line of Township 8 to the western boundary of the town of Belmont; thence southerly along the town of Belmont boundary to the southwestern corner of lot 80, Township 8 of the Old Military Tract; thence easterly along the southern line of lots 80 and 79 to the southeastern corner of lot 79; thence southerly along the westerly line of lots 88 and 98 to the line between townships 8 and 9 of the Old Military Tract; thence westerly to the southwesterly corner of township 8, said tract; thence northerly along the line between the towns of Belmont and Duane to the northeasterly corner of the town of Duane; thence westerly along the southerly bounds of the towns of Malone, Brandon and Dickinson and the northerly bounds of Duane, Santa Clara and Waverly to the easterly bounds of great tract 2, Macomb's Purchase, and the line between Franklin and St. Lawrence counties; thence northerly along said county line to the northeasterly corner of township number 15 Macomb's Purchase, great tract 2; thence westerly along the northerly line of said township to the easterly line of township number 14 in said great tract; thence southerly along

the line between townships 14 and 15 to the northeasterly corner of lot number 2 in said township number 14; thence westerly along the northerly bounds of lots 2, one, 32, 31, 14 and 13 of township 14 and of lots 47 and 39 of township 13, said great tract, to the northwesterly corner of lot number 39; thence southerly along the westerly bounds of lots 39, 38, and 37 in township 13 to the northerly line of township number 11 in great tract number 2; thence westerly along the northerly line of township 11 to the northwesterly corner thereof and the northeasterly corner of the town of Colton; thence southerly along the westerly line of township 11 and the line between the towns of Colton and Parishville to the southwest corner of lot number 31 in township number 11; thence westerly along the northerly lines of lots 42, 41, 40, 39, 38 and 37 of township 10, great tract 2, to the westerly line of township 10; thence southerly along the westerly line of township 10 to the northeasterly corner of township 6, Macomb's Purchase, great tract number 3, and the northeasterly corner of the town of Clare; thence westerly along the northerly line of township number 6 and of the town of Clare to the northwesterly corners thereof; thence southerly along the westerly lines of township number 6 and of township number 10 in the great tract and along the line between the towns of Clare and Russell to the northeasterly corner of the town of Fine; thence westerly along the northerly bounds of the town of Fine to the northwesterly corner thereof; thence southerly along the line between the town of Fine and the towns of Edwards and Pitcairn to the northeasterly corner of lot number 90 in township 11, Macomb's Purchase, great tract number 3; thence westerly along the northerly line of lots 90, 89, 88, 87, 86, 85, 84, 83, and 24 of township 11 to the northwesterly corner of lot number 24; thence southerly along the westerly lines of lots 24, 99, 102, 119 and 123 to the southwest corner of lot number 123 in the northerly line of lot number 140 in township 11; thence westerly along the northerly line of lot number 140 to the line between the counties of St. Lawrence and Lewis; thence southeasterly along the county line to the most northerly corner of lot number one, Macomb's Purchase, great tract 4 in the town of Diana; thence southwest along the northwesterly line of lots one, 2 and 3 in the great tract and town to the most westerly corner of lot number 3; thence southeasterly along the southerly lines of lots 3, 9 and 14 to the most northerly corner of lot number 16; thence southwest along the northwesterly line of lot number 16 to the northerly bounds of great tract 5, Macomb's Purchase, and the line between the towns of Diana and Croghan; thence easterly along said line corner of lot number 24, range 11, Macomb's to the northwesterly

Purchase, great tract 5, Chassanis Tract; thence southerly along the line between ranges 10 and 11 of said great tract to the most southerly corner of lot number 13 in range 11 of said tract, and the northerly line of Watson's West Triangle in the line between the towns of Croghan and Watson; thence southwest along the said town line and along the northwesterly bounds of Watson's West Triangle and the northerly line of lots 292 and 302 of Watson's West Triangle to the westerly line of lot number 302, Watson's West Triangle; thence southerly along the westerly lines of lots 302, 301, 300, 299, 298, 297, 296, 295, 294 and 293 to the line between the towns of Watson and Greig and the northerly line of the Brantingham Tract; thence westerly along the northerly bounds to the northwesterly corner of lot number 7 in said tract; thence southerly along the westerly lines of lots 7, 25, 43, 61, 79, 97, 115, 133, 151, 169, and 187; thence westerly along the northern line of lots 204 and 203 to the midpoint of the northern line of lot 203; thence southerly to the midpoint of the southern line of lot 203; thence easterly along the southern line of lots 203 and 204 to the southeastern corner of lot 204; thence southerly along the westerly line of lots 223, 241, 259, 276, 293, 309, 325 and 340 to the southwest corner of lot number 340 in the Brantingham Tract; thence easterly along the southerly lines of lots 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345 and 346 to the southeasterly corner of lot 346 and the westerly line of lot number 347; thence southerly along the westerly line of lot 347 to the line between the counties of Oneida and Lewis and in the north line of Seymour Tract in Adgates Eastern Tract; thence southwest along the northwesterly line of the Adgates Eastern Tract to the westerly line of said tract; thence southerly along the westerly line and along the line between the towns of Boonville and Forestport to the southwest corner of said Adgates Eastern Tract; thence easterly along the line between Adgates Eastern Tract and the Woodhull Tract to the line between the counties of Oneida and Herkimer; thence southerly along the said county line to the northeastern corner of lot 8 of the Woodhull Tract; thence westerly along the northern line of lot 8; thence southerly along the western line of lot 8, thence easterly along the southern line of lot 8 to the county line; thence southerly along the county line; thence southerly to the northern line of the Remsenburg Patent; thence southwest along the northern line of lot 8; thence southerly along the western line of lot 8 to the midpoint of said line; thence northeasterly along the southern boundary of state land in lot 8 to the county line; thence southerly along the county line to the northern line of lot 84 of the Remsenburg Patent;

thence southwesterly along the northern line of lot 84, thence southerly along the western line of lot 84 to the northern boundary of the Walker Tract; thence northeasterly along this boundary to the county line; thence southerly along the said county line to its intersection with the southerly line of the Jerseyfield Patent; thence southeasterly along the southerly line of the Jerseyfield Patent to the northwestern corner of lot 142 of the Fourth Allotment of the royal grant in the town of Salisbury; thence southerly, easterly and northerly along the boundaries of the forest preserve land in lot 142 to the southerly line of the Jerseyfield Patent; thence southeasterly along the southerly line of the Jerseyfield Patent to the line between the counties of Herkimer and Fulton; thence southerly along the county line to the southwesterly corner of Lott and Low's Patent; thence southeasterly along the southerly line of said Lott and Low's Patent to the southeasterly corner thereof; thence northerly along the line between said Lott and Low's Patent and the Kinsborough Patent to the division line between the towns of Johnstown and Caroga; thence northeasterly along the line between the towns of Caroga and Johnstown to the southeasterly corner of the town of Caroga; thence northerly along said town line to the southerly line of the Mayfield Patent; thence easterly along the southerly line of the Mayfield Patent to the southeasterly corner thereof and the westerly line of the Sacandaga Patent; thence southeasterly along the southwesterly lines of lots 41 and 28 in said patent to the most southerly corner of lot 28 and the westerly line of John Glen and 44 Others Patent; thence northerly, southeasterly and northeasterly along the line between the Sacandaga and the said John Glen and 44 Others Patent to the northwesterly corner of lot 161 of John Glen and 44 Others Patent; thence southeasterly along the southwesterly line of lots 161 and 166 of said patent to the place of beginning.

2. The "Catskill park" shall include all lands located in the counties of Greene, Delaware, Ulster and Sullivan within the following described boundaries, to wit: Beginning in Ulster county at the intersection of the easterly line of the Hardenburgh Patent with the southerly bounds of the Rondout Reservoir; thence running southwesterly along the easterly line of Great Lot 4 of the Hardenburgh Patent to the southeasterly corner of lot one of the East Allotment, east division of Great Lot 4; thence northwesterly along the southerly bounds of lots one, 7, 8, 14, 17, 22, 26, 33, 37 and 46 of said East Allotment, east division of Great Lot 4 and along the southerly bounds of lots 67, 49, 48, 47, 46, 45, 44, 43, 42 and 41 of the Middle Allotment, east division of Great

Lot 4 to the center of the Neversink creek; thence northerly along the center of the Neversink creek to the southeasterly corner of lot 37 of the West Allotment, east division of Great Lot 4; thence northwesterly along the southerly bounds of lots 37, 27, 22, 11 and 6 of said West Allotment, east division of Great Lot 4 to a point in the easterly line of the town of Rockland in Sullivan county; thence southerly along the easterly line of the town of Rockland in Sullivan county to the northeasterly corner of the town of Liberty; thence northwesterly along the northerly line of the town of Liberty in Sullivan county to the southwesterly corner of lot 120 of the East Allotment, middle division of Great Lot 4; thence northwesterly along the southerly bounds of lots 119 and 118 of the East Allotment, middle division of Great Lot 4 to a point in the center of the Willowemoc creek; thence westerly down the center of the Willowemoc creek to its confluence with the Beaver Kill; thence northwesterly down the center of said Beaver Kill to the southwesterly line of the town of Colchester in Delaware county; thence northwesterly along said southwesterly line of the town of Colchester in Delaware county to the westerly bank of the east branch of the Delaware river; thence along the westerly bank of the said east branch of the Delaware river and the westerly bounds of the Pepacton reservoir to its intersection with the mouth of the Bush Kill at or near the village of Arkville; thence up along the center of said Bush Kill to the New York Central Railroad; thence along the said New York Central Railroad easterly to the line between the counties of Delaware and Ulster; thence northeasterly along that line to the southerly line of Greene county; thence northwesterly along the southerly line of Greene county to the southwesterly corner of Great Lot No. 21, Hardenburgh Patent; thence northeasterly along the westerly line of said Great Lot No. 21, Hardenburgh patent to the south bank of the Batavia Kill; thence along the southerly bank of the Batavia Kill easterly to the west line of the State Land Tract; thence northerly, easterly and southerly along the line of the said State Land Tract to the line of the Hardenburgh patent; thence easterly and southerly along the general easterly line of the Hardenburgh Patent to the southwest corner of the town of Saugerties in Ulster county; thence easterly along the southerly line of the town of Saugerties to the westerly bounds of the New York State Thruway; thence southerly along the westerly bounds

of the said New York State Thruway to the northerly bounds of the Esopus creek; thence in a general westerly direction up and along the northerly bounds of said Esopus creek to its intersection with the southwesterly line of the town of Ulster; thence northwesterly to the southwest corner of the Hurley Patentee Woods Allotment; thence in a general southwesterly direction along the southeasterly line of the Hurley Patentee Woods Allotment to the northerly line of the town of Marbletown; thence northwesterly along said northerly line of the town of Marbletown to the town of Olive; thence southwesterly along the line between the towns of Olive and Marbletown to the line of the town of Rochester; thence northwesterly along the line between the towns of Olive and Rochester to the point where the Mettakahonts creek crosses the same flowing easterly; thence southwesterly parallel with the northwesterly line of the town of Rochester to the southerly bounds of the Rondout creek; thence westerly along the southerly bounds of the Rondout creek and the southerly bounds of the Rondout Reservoir to the easterly line of the Hardenburgh Patent, the point or place of beginning.

3. A "fire patrolman" shall be an able-bodied person whose duty is to patrol a given portion of railroad right of way for the purpose of detecting promptly any fires which may be caused by the operation of the railroad, or other fires which may occur upon such portion of the railroad right of way, and secure their extinguishment.

4. A "forest fire" is a fire which is burning forest or wood lands, or which, if permitted to extend, would burn forest or upon forest lands.

5. "Forest land" includes not only lands which may be covered with tree growth but also lands which are best adapted to forests.

6. The "forest preserve" shall include the lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state within the county of Clinton, except the towns of Altona and Dannemora, and the counties of Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida, Saratoga, Saint Lawrence, Warren, Washington, Greene, Ulster and Sullivan, except:

- a. Lands within the limits of any village or city;
- b. Lands not wild lands and not situated within either the Adirondack park or the Catskill park acquired by the state on foreclosure of mortgages made to loan commissioners; and
- c. Lands acquired under the provisions of sections 9-0107 and 9-0501.

7. "Person" means any individual, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation, other than the state or a public corporation, as the latter is defined in subdivision 1 of section 3 of the General Corporation Law.

8. "Railroad" or "railroad company" includes all common or contract carriers or other transportation facilities operating on rails.

9. "Railroad right of way" is the land adjacent to the tracks of a railroad and shall be construed to be 50 feet in width on each side of the center of the tract but if the company owns a lesser width it shall include the entire width owned by it.

§9-0105 General powers and duties.

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this article, the department shall have the power, duty and authority to:

1. Exercise care, custody and control of the several preserves, parks and other state lands described in this article.

2. Consistent with the provisions of section 9-0109 of this chapter, establish, acquire, control and manage state parks, historic sites and parkways in the forest preserve counties within the sixth park region as defined in section 41-0101 and to acquire lands for such purposes when moneys have been appropriated therefor. (*Chgd. by L.1983; chap. 351(4); eff. 6/21/83.*)

3. Make necessary rules and regulations to secure proper enforcement of the provisions hereof. In particular, the department shall have authority to make rules and regulations prohibiting any person or persons from entering upon any state-owned lands, or restricting the activities of the public on such lands, whenever it determines that a serious fire hazard exists thereon, and with the consent of the owner to extend the applicability of such rules and regulations, in whole or in part, to privately-owned forest lands.

4. Establish, operate and maintain nurseries for the production of trees to be used in reforestation. Such trees may be used to reforest any land owned by the state, supplied to owners of private land at a price not exceeding cost of production, or used for planting on public lands under such terms as may be deemed to be for the public benefit.

5. Prepare, print, post or distribute printed matter relating to forestry and make investigations or experiments with regard to forestry practices.

6. Receive and accept, in the name of the people of the state, by gift, devise, or otherwise, the fee or other interest or estate therein of lands or timber or both, for general conservation purposes, including but not limited to water-shed protection, forest management, production of timber or other forest products, silviculture, forest and outdoor recreation and kindred purposes.

7. Acquire, when moneys therefor have been appropriated by the legislature or are otherwise available, real property or any

interest in any timber thereon, situated with the Adirondack or the Catskill parks or contiguous, connected with or adjacent to either park, deemed necessary for the enlargement of the forest preserve or for the conservation of the lands, forests and waters within the state, and real property deemed necessary for the purpose of protecting the forests within the state from fire.

7-a. Acquire, with the approval of the director of the budget and within such appropriations as may be made available therefor by the legislature, such abandoned railroad rights-of-way and other real property pursuant to subdivision seven of this section as may be necessary to develop a system of trails in the Adirondack and Catskill parks which shall mesh, where possible, with the comprehensive statewide trails system promulgated by the commissioner of parks and recreation; and promulgate, develop and improve such trails systems within said parks in order to make such trails suitable and available for use. For the purposes of this subdivision "trails" shall include footpaths, bike ways, snowmobile trails, horse trails, cross country ski trails, roads and other rights-of-way suitable for hiking, strolling, cycling, horseback riding, skiing and other means of motorized and non-motorized travel for recreational purposes and shall include combinations and systems of trails, including connecting and side trails, and trails leading to scenic and recreational areas.

8. Examine the forest lands under the charge of the several state institutions, boards or other management for the purpose of advising and cooperating in securing proper forest management of such lands.

9. Bring any action or proceeding for the following purposes:

- a. to enforce the state's rights or interests in real property which an owner of land would be authorized to bring in like cases;
- b. to insure the enforcement of the provisions of this article;
- c. to determine in trespass, ejectment or other suitable actions, the title to any land claimed adversely to the state;
- d. to cancel tax sales or to set aside cancellations of tax sales.

10. Compromise or adjust any judgment or claims arising out of violations of any provisions of this article, except where title to land is involved.

11. Have custody of all abstracts of title, papers, contracts or memoranda relating thereto, except original deeds to the state, for any lands purchased or conveyed to the state for forest preserving purposes.

12. Enter into cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Labor, the United States Office of Economic Opportunity,

municipalities or persons for the purpose of better protecting the forests of the state from fire and pests and promoting the practice of forestry. Moneys received from the United States government, municipalities or persons in accordance with such agreements shall be deposited with the Division of Finance in the Department of Taxation and Finance, and may be withdrawn by the Division of Finance upon the warrant or order of the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. The provisions of section 121 of the State Finance Law shall not apply to any moneys received pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision if used for the purposes indicated.

13. When an honest dispute arises as to the location of the boundary line between land owned by the state, over which the department has control and supervision, and land privately owned, execute a boundary line agreement between the owners of such private lands and the state, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of General Services.

14. Designate or approve, whenever the Commissioner of Correction or the director of the division for Youth so requests, sites on land under its control for the establishment of work camps to which persons transferred to the correctional camps for youth, or to youth opportunity or youth rehabilitation centers may be sent; designate and approve work for such persons in conservation projects on publicly owned lands or lands over which the State has a permanent easement for fishing right purposes, and provide technical supervision for such work; and designate and approve work for such persons in conservation projects on lands owned by Cornell University for the use of the State University College of Agriculture, and by Syracuse University for the use of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

15. Make rules and regulations and issue permits for the temporary use of the forest preserve.

16. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as extending the jurisdiction of the department over the real or personal property now or hereafter under the control or in the custody of Palisades Interstate Park Commission, but the department, subject to the powers of the commissioner, is authorized to cooperate with Palisades Interstate Park Commission by the joint employment of wardens, foresters and keepers for the mutual protection of the lands under their respective jurisdiction and other commissions and the preservation of the forests thereon and of the fish and game therein.

17. Refund, to the persons entitled thereto, moneys heretofore or hereafter received by the department pursuant to any law or to an order, rule or regulation made and prescribed by the commissioner regulating the discharge of the functions, powers and duties of the department and deposited to the general fund, upon satisfactory proof of entitlement. Such refunds shall, upon approval of the commissioner and after audit by the Comptroller, be paid from any moneys available to the department in the general fund.

18. Exercise such other powers and duties as are provided by law.

§9-0107. Acceptance by department of lands for parks and for silvicultural research.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the department is hereby authorized to accept, for the state, grants or deeds of gift of any lands, upon approval of the title thereto by the Attorney General, as follows:

1. a. Lands, located in any county named in subdivision 2 of section 9-0105, or in subdivision 6 of section 9-0101 of this article, which the department may deem suitable for park or reservation purposes. The grant or deed must recite that it is given for acceptance under the provisions of this subdivision of this section.

b. Property so accepted shall forever be under the jurisdiction of the commissioner and his successors in office and, by virtue of the acceptance thereof, shall be irrevocably dedicated to be used for the purposes of a public park or reservation under the care, custody, control and management of the department and shall not become a part of the forest preserve. Such property shall forever remain open to the public for the enjoyment of the scenic and natural beauties of the premises, and receive such improvement or development, by the erection of buildings, roads, highways, railroads and other structures, including the improvement, alteration and maintenance of the structures now on such premises as the legislature may from time to time determine. The department may, in its discretion, lease a part or all of such premises upon such terms and conditions as it may determine not inconsistent with the reasonable use of such premises by the public, provided that any such lease shall first have been approved by the Attorney General as to form.

2. a. Lands, located in any county named in subdivision 6 of section 9-0101 of this article, which the department may deem suitable for use for the purposes of silvicultural research and experimentation in the science of forestry to the end that forest

practices most beneficial to the economy of the state and the health, welfare and comfort of the people of the state may be ascertained and demonstrated. The grant or deed to the state of any such lands must recite that it is given for acceptance under the provisions of this subdivision of this section.

b. Property so accepted shall be under the jurisdiction of the commissioner and his successors in office and, until otherwise provided by law, shall be dedicated for use only for the purposes of silvicultural research and experimentation in the science of forestry, including purposes incidental thereto, under the care, custody, control and management of the department and its successors in office and shall not become a part of the forest preserve. Under such conditions as it may deem consistent with the purposes aforesaid, and upon such terms as it may deem to be for the best interests of the state, the department may sell trees, timber and other products on any such lands. All trees, timber or other products to be sold shall be plainly marked or otherwise designated prior to cutting and no such material shall be removed from such land until paid for. No such material shall be sold at less than the fair market value in the county or counties in which it is located, which value shall be the value fixed by a department forester or other competent appraiser in a report made after an examination of the materials to be sold, provided such appraisal is approved by the department. The department may sell any such materials at not less than the fair market value so fixed and under such conditions as it may prescribe, provided, however, that no sale of such materials appraised at five hundred dollars or more shall be made without public notice of sale, and after receipt of sealed bids. The award shall be made only to the highest bidder. Such notice of sale and bids, the awarding of the contract and the execution and filing of the contract shall otherwise be in accordance with the procedure specified in sections 9-0501 through 9-0505 of this article for the sale after public notice, of trees, timber, and other forest products on reforestation areas. All moneys received from any such sale shall be paid over to the State Comptroller and shall be deposited by him in the forest preserved expansion fund established by section 97-e of the State Finance Law.

• **§9-0109. Acquisition of lands within the Adirondack or Catskill parks.**

1. Unless deemed necessary for the conservation of critical and unique natural land areas or of significant wild forest land areas, the state shall not acquire or accept fee simple ownership of structures or improvements in the Adirondack or Catskill parks listed or eligible to be listed on the state register of historic places including that amount of land on which such structures or improvements are located that is necessary for their maintenance and use.

2. Prior to any land acquisition by a state agency within the Adirondack or Catskill parks, the commissioner or responsible chief executive officer proposing such acquisition shall undertake a review of such action pursuant to the state environmental quality review act as provided in article eight of this chapter and, when applicable, the New York state historic preservation act of 1980.

3. If such structures or improvements in the Adirondack or Catskill parks are offered to the state for purchase or as a gift, it shall be the responsibility of the state agency to which such offer is made, in accordance with guidelines prepared for notifying potential private purchasers, to search for a private purchaser or donee who would preserve such structures or improvements, if the present owner thereof consents.

4. Historic structures and improvements which are located within the Adirondack and Catskill parks and owned by the state prior to the effective date of this section and which existed prior to acquisition by the state may be maintained provided that:

a. the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation finds that such structures and improvements are listed or are eligible to be listed on the state register of historic places pursuant to subdivision one of section 14.07 of the parks, recreation and historic preservation law; and

b. the commissioner finds that such structures and improvements can be maintained for public enjoyment and understanding of the forest preserve or for departmental activities necessary in protecting forest preserve lands in the parks in a manner that will not disturb the existing degree of wild forest character of land on which the pre-existing structures or improvements are located or the wild forest character of land adjacent thereto; and

c. such maintenance is in accordance with reasonable regulation of the forest preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill parks consistent with article fourteen of the state constitution.

The recording provisions of section sixty-three of the public buildings law shall apply if such structures and improvements are not maintained or are substantially altered or demolished.

*(Added by L. 1983, chap. 351(3); eff. 6/21/83.)

9-14.1

(r .)

TITLE 3—USE OF LANDS AND FORESTS

§9-0301. Use and diminution of Adirondack and Catskill parks.

1. All lands in the Catskill park and in the Adirondack park, except those lying within the town of Dannemora, now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the state, shall be forever reserved and maintained for the free use of all the people, except that nothing herein shall prohibit the charging of a fee for services rendered or facilities provided.

2. No law diminishing the area of the Adirondack and Catskill parks, as defined in section 9-0101 hereof, shall be effective unless enacted by the legislature at two successive regular sessions.

§9-0303. Restrictions on use of state lands.

In order to protect the state lands described in this article the following provisions shall apply:

1. Trees or timber. Except as provided in subdivision 2 of section 9-0107 and in sections 9-0501 through 9-0507 of this article no person shall cut, remove, injure or destroy any trees or timber or other property thereon or enter upon such lands with intent to do so.

2. Structures. No building shall be erected, used or maintained upon state lands except under permits from the department.

3. Agricultural use. No person shall use any portion of the forest preserve for agricultural purposes, nor shall cattle or domestic animals of any kind be permitted to graze thereon.

4. Deposit rubbish. No person shall deposit or leave on state lands any rubbish or other waste material.

5. Transfer or lease. No person shall lease, transfer or accept any lease or transfer of any lands in the forest preserve or of any improvements thereon.

6. Disposal of improvements. The department may dispose of any improvements upon state lands under such conditions as it deems to be to the public interest.

7. Removal of materials generally. No person shall remove any material belonging to the state from the state lands without the authorization of the department.

§9-0305. Signs and advertising in Adirondack and Catskill parks.

1. In order to conserve the natural beauty of the Adirondack and Catskill parks, to preserve and regulate the said parks for public uses for the resort of the public for recreation, pleasure, air, light and enjoyment, to keep them open, safe, clean, and in good

4. No action for trespass or damages shall lie on account of entry upon private property by an authorized agent or employee of the department engaged in carrying out any of the provisions of this section.

§9-0307. Forest preserve lands; detached parcels outside Adirondack and Catskill parks.

Any lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve, but outside of the Adirondack and Catskill parks as now fixed by law and not acquired or dedicated for the practice of forest or wild life conservation, and consisting in any case of not more than 100 contiguous acres entirely separated from any other portion of the forest preserve, may be dedicated, used, sold or exchanged as follows:

1. The department may dedicate any of such lands for the practice of forest or wild life conservation, or may use any of such lands for public recreational or other state purposes, under the care, custody and control of the division of lands and forests. Such dedication or use shall be by written order of the commissioner, filed in his office, a certified copy of which shall be forthwith filed by him in the office of the Secretary of State.

2. The department may consent to a transfer of jurisdiction over any such lands by the Office of General Services, and such office may make such transfer in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 4 of section 3 of the Public Lands Law governing transfers of jurisdiction in general, for the purpose of thereby dedicating such lands for the practice of forest or wild life conservation or for the use thereof for public recreational or other state purposes.

3. The department may consent to a sale or exchange of any of such lands in accordance with the provisions of section 24 of the Public Lands Law.

TITLE 5—REFORESTATION AREAS

§9-0501. Power to acquire reforestation areas; prohibition against compensation or gratuity.

1. In order to provide for the acquisition of lands outside of the Adirondack park and the Catskill park as defined by subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 9-0101, which are adapted for reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber and other forest products, and for recreation and kindred purposes, the department may acquire in the name of the state, by gift,

3. Assistance and trees and shrubs. The department may assist and advise such boards in its reforesting and wildlife habitat improvement work, and the department may furnish trees and shrubs for planting such publicly owned lands without charge provided they are planted in accordance with the instructions of the department. (*Chgd. eff. 6/23/80; L.1980, chap. 386(8).*)

4. Use. Such governing board shall have full power and authority to acquire, maintain, manage and operate such forests, and sell the produce thereof, for the benefit of the inhabitants of its district.

5. Revenue. The net income from such lands shall be paid into the general fund of such municipal division and shall be used only upon order of its governing board.

TITLE 9—RECREATION

§9-0901. Jurisdiction of certain parks and reservations.

The department shall have care, custody, control and management of the Crown Point reservation in Essex county and Lake George battlefield park.

§9-0903. Recreation facilities.

1. The department shall have care, custody, control and management of the Lake George beach facility in Warren county, the Belleayre mountain ski center in Ulster and Delaware counties, the Whiteface mountain ski center and the New York world war veterans memorial highway in Essex county and the Gore mountain ski center and the Prospect Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway in Warren county. The New York world war veterans memorial highway in Essex county and the Prospect Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway in Warren county shall continue to be maintained by the Department of Transportation.

2. The commissioner shall have the power and is authorized to impose and provide for the collection of such fees or charges as he may deem necessary and for the best interests of the state for the use of all facilities and their appurtenances. All moneys received therefrom shall be deposited in the State Treasury pursuant to the provisions of the State Finance Law.

3. The department shall have the supervision and jurisdiction over all locks and adjacent state property between the Saranac river and lower Saranac lake and between lower Saranac and middle Saranac lake in the county of Franklin and make such improvements and repairs thereto from time to time as may be necessary.

4. The commissioner shall have the power and is authorized to encourage investment by the private sector for the provision of equipment and capital improvements for concession facilities operated at the Belleayre Mountain ski center and the Gore

Mountain ski center by entering into concession license agreements for extended periods not to exceed ten years in total. Such extended term shall be for the purpose of assuring a concessionaire of adequate protection against loss of investment in structures, fixtures, equipment, supplies and other improvements, and the length of such term shall have a direct relationship to the period required to amortize the investment. The bid prospectus submitted to prospective bidders shall contain specific information concerning the nature of the capital improvements or equipment to be provided by the successful bidder. *(Added by L.1983, chap. 60(1); eff. 4/19/83.)*

TITLE 11—FOREST FIRE CONTROL

§9-1101. Proclamation by Governor.

Whenever the forests of the state are in danger of fire, the Governor by proclamation may (a) prohibit any person or persons from entering forests, woodlands, waters and open lands; (b) prohibit the starting of fires in the out-of-doors; (c) prohibit the smoking of tobacco in forests, woodlands and open lands and (d) suspend any open season for, or prohibit the taking of, fish, birds and quadrupeds. Such proclamation may contain exceptions to the activities prohibited, and may apply to all or a portion of the state. Such proclamation shall be in full force and effect at the expiration of 24 hours after notice is given in such manner as the Governor may determine and shall remain in full force until rescinded by the Governor.

§9-1103. Additional powers of the department.

In addition to the powers provided in section 9-0105 and in connection with the control of fire, the department shall have the power to:

1. Maintain a system of forest fire protection in such areas of the state as the department determines necessary.
2. Purchase necessary equipment, tools or supplies, employ men or incur other expenses as may be necessary to furnish adequate forest fire protection.
3. Establish, maintain, equip and operate forest fire observation stations, telephone lines or other structures therefor as the public interest requires.
4. Make contracts, agreements or purchases either for construction, operation or maintenance of telephone lines for fire protection purposes. Any telephone company may grant the state a preferred rate.
5. With consent of owner build or improve fire roads, ditches, trails or fire lines. No action for trespass shall lie on account of injury to private property on such account, if the act is performed in the protection of the forests from fire.
6. Appoint necessary employees to perform such duties as are required by this title 11.

APPENDIX B

PART 190

USE OF STATE LANDS

(Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law, § 9-0105)

| Sec. | | Sec. | |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| | STATE LANDS GENERALLY | | |
| 190.0 | Introduction | 190.21 | Crown Point Reservation and Lake George Battlefield Park |
| 190.1 | Fire | 190.22 | Lake George Beach Park |
| 190.2 | Official signs and structures | 190.23 | Belleayre, Gore and Whiteface Mtn. ski centers |
| 190.3 | Camping sites | 190.24 | Boat launching sites |
| 190.4 | Camping permits | 190.25 | Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area |
| 190.5 | Permissible structures | 190.26 | Saranac Lakes Camping Area |
| 190.6 | Open camps | 190.27 | Lake George Recreational Zone |
| 190.7 | Public campsites | 190.28 | Foot trail easements—Adirondack Mountain Reserve |
| 190.8 | General | 190.29 | Olympic area special regulations |
| 190.9 | Use of pesticides on State lands | 190.30 | Eatonville Bridge—Otter Creek Day Use Area |
| 190.10 | Unique areas | | |
| | SPECIFIC AREAS | | |
| 190.20 | State lands and islands at Lake George | | |

Historical Note

Part filed April 28, 1972 eff. May 1, 1972.

STATE LANDS GENERALLY

Section 190.0 Introduction. (a) The provisions of this Part shall apply to all persons entering upon or using State land which is subject to the provisions of articles 9 or 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law or defined as a "unique area" in this section.

(b) **Definitions.** As used in this Chapter, the following words shall have the indicated meanings:

(1) **Camp** shall mean any form of temporary shelter, including but not limited to a tent, motor home travel trailer, mobile home, or the use of any vehicle for shelter or sleeping.

(2) **Commissioner** shall mean the State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

(3) **Mechanically propelled vessel** shall mean any boat or other vessel for transporting personnel, supplies or material on water, which incorporates a motor or engine of any type for propulsion.

(4) **Motor vehicle** shall mean a device for transporting personnel, supplies or material incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion, and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on or adjacent to land, water or ice. It shall include such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, duffel carriers, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth moving equipment, but shall not include snowmobiles.

(5) **Unique area** means State lands acquired under the authority of section 51-0701.3 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

(6) **Department** means the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; repealed, new filed Aug. 6, 1978; amd. filed June 7, 1983 eff. June 7, 1983. Amended (a), Added (b)(5)-(6).

190.1 Fire. (a) No fires are permitted except for cooking, warmth or smudge. No fire shall be lit until all flammable material has been removed from its perimeter as is necessary to prevent its spread. No fires shall be left unattended until extinguished.

(b) No person shall deposit lighted matches, cigars, cigarettes or other burning tobacco where they will cause fire.

(c) No wood, except from dead and down trees or from supplies furnished by the department, shall be used for fuel.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing. Amended (a) and (b).

190.2 Official signs and structures. (a) No person shall deface, mutilate or destroy any department sign, structure, barrier or object.

(b) No person shall throw, dump, deposit or place or cause to be thrown, dumped, deposited or placed on or in any department lands or structures any refuse, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or any nauseous or offensive matter.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

190.3 Camping sites. (a) Areas used for temporary camping and adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the department must be kept in a neat, clean and sanitary condition. Garbage and refuse must either be deposited in receptacles provided, or removed.

(b) Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department.

(c) No person may pollute in any manner nor deposit waste material of any kind in or on waters under the jurisdiction of the department.

(d) Except in an emergency, or during the period December 15 to April 30 each year in the Adirondack Park, or during the period December 21 to March 21 each year in the Catskill Park, no person may camp on lands under the jurisdiction of the department which are located at an elevation in excess of 4,000 feet above sea level in the Adirondack Park or in excess of 3,500 feet above sea level in the Catskill Park.

(e) Except in an emergency, no open fires are permitted on lands under the jurisdiction of the department which are located at an elevation in excess of 4,000 feet above sea level in the Adirondack Park or in excess of 3,500 feet above sea level in the Catskill Park.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amds. filed Sept. 26, 1977; April 19, 1979 eff. April 19, 1979.

190.4 Camping permits. (a) Temporary camping in one location for four nights or more is prohibited except under permit. Except during the big game hunting season, no temporary camping permit will be issued to any person for a period in excess of 14 consecutive nights. No temporary camping permit may be renewed, or a new permit issued, to the same person for the same location in the same calendar year.

(b) Temporary camping is restricted in certain posted areas and no person may camp on such areas without a permit.

(c) Upon termination of camping all equipment and supplies must be removed from State land. The storage of personal property on State lands is prohibited.

(d) No temporary camping permits will be issued to individuals under 18 years of age.

(e) No group of 10 or more individuals may camp on State lands at any time except under permit.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; repealed, new added by renum. 190.5, filed Sept. 26, 1977; amd. filed Dec. 24, 1980 eff. Dec. 24, 1980.

190.5 Permissible structures. (a) Permits for the erection of permanent tent platforms and/or lean-tos (open camps) will not be issued by the department under any condition. No person shall erect a tent platform or lean-to (open camp).

(b) The transfer of existing lean-tos (open camps) will not be permitted under any condition.

(c) Current permits for lean-tos (open camps) will be cancelled:

(1) upon the death of the permittee;

(2) when the permittee no longer desires to continue to use and maintain the structure;

(3) when as a result of an inspection the lean-to is found to be deteriorated or does not meet department specifications and the condition is not rectified within a reasonable time.

(d) Any of the above structures heretofore erected in accordance with department standard plans are and shall remain the property of the State.

(e) Temporary wooden platforms may be erected in connection with any tent camping permit but shall be removed at the expiration of the permit. No person shall erect tarpaper or plastic structures of any sort.

(f) Portable canvas houses with or without platforms are permitted under general camping permits.

(g) Camping permits granted under subdivision (a) of section 190.4 of this Part will permit the use of tents without platforms or on temporary wooden platforms. When occupied for more than three successive nights, permits for the use of a lean-to (open camp) shall be secured in accordance with subdivision (a) of section 190.4 of this Part and the department may grant similar permits to persons other than the builder when not occupied by him under permit.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; renum. 190.4, new added by renum. 190.6, filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

190.6 Open camps. (a) Open camps (lean-tos) may not be occupied by the same person or persons for more than three successive nights or for more than 10 nights in any one calendar year, provided others wish to use such camps.

(b) The enclosure of the fronts of open camps is prohibited, except by tying canvas or nylon tarpaulins in place or erecting snow walls. The use of wood, nails, screws or other fasteners is prohibited.

(c) The erection of tents in open camps is prohibited.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed May 10, 1977; renum. 190.5, new added by renum. 190.7, filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

190.7 Public campsites. (a) All persons entering a public campsite for any purpose must register with the caretaker in charge.

(b) All persons camping in tents, trailers or canvas houses will place such structures only at locations assigned by the campsite caretaker.

(c) Firearms may be possessed on the public campsites only during the fall hunting season, and shall not be discharged thereon at any time.

(d) All fires on public campsites must be built in the fireplaces provided for that purpose, except fires in stoves. On campsites where the supply of fuel wood is limited, fires for any purpose except cooking and smudges may be prohibited.

(e) During the hours of darkness, bathing on any public campsite bathing area is prohibited.

(f) Can[?] permits will not be issued to boys or girls under 18 years of age.

(g) Horses and all other animals except household pets are prohibited on public campsites. Household pets shall not be permitted on bathing areas or picnic areas at any time, and when harbored or possessed on camping sections shall at all times be confined on a leash restricting them to the campsite area of the harbinger or possessor. Proof of a current and valid rabies inoculation for dogs is required.

(h) Playing baseball or other athletic games on any campsite, beach or bathing area is prohibited.

(i) No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any portion of any campsite at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour.

(j) Quiet must be observed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Failure to observe this rule will be sufficient cause to deny a camper the privilege of the campsite.

(k) The possession of alcoholic beverages or glass containers of any kind on campsite bathing beaches is prohibited.

(l) The changing into or out of bathing costumes is prohibited except in fully enclosed tents, in house trailers or in bathhouses provided for the purpose.

(m) Camping permits at the public campsites and on State-owned islands in Lake George will be issued for periods not in excess of 14 nights and may be renewed on a daily basis thereafter, depending upon availability of sites.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; renum. 190.6, new added by renum. 190.9, filed Sept. 28, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

190.8 General. (a) The use of State forest preserve land or any improvements thereon for private revenue or commercial purposes is prohibited.

(b) Except in an emergency, no mechanically propelled vessel equipped with living quarters shall be anchored or moored to (1) State land above water except under permit from the department, or (2) State land under water for a period in excess of 24 hours. The permit and the 24-hour period referred to hereinabove may be terminated by the department in the event that the vessel operator fails to comply with any provision of the Navigation Law of the State of New York or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or anchors, moors, or otherwise maintains such vessel in such a manner as to create a hazard to navigation.

(c) No boat of any kind shall be tied up or otherwise fastened to any State dock so as to prevent free access to such structure.

(d) The use of toboggans, sleds and snowmobiles on ski trails and ski slopes is prohibited.

(e) Any tent or other camping structure left unoccupied for more than 48 hours may be taken down or removed by the department.

(f) The sale of all alcoholic beverages is prohibited on all State lands at any time except by concessionaires and then only when such sales are provided for in concession agreements.

(g) No person shall deface, remove, destroy or otherwise injure in any manner whatsoever any tree, flower, shrub, fern, moss or other plant, rock, fossil or mineral found or growing on State land, excepting under permit from the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the Assistant Commissioner for State Museum and Science Service, pursuant to section 233 of the Education Law as amended by chapter 121 of the Laws of 1958, nor shall songbirds and their nests and other wildlife be molested or disturbed at any time, except during the open season therefor, if any.

(h) Gambling for money or any other valuable thing upon any State land is prohibited.

(i) No person shall erect or post any notice or sign upon State land at a [?] time.

(j) No person shall, while on State land or waters under the jurisdiction of the department:

(1) Intentionally obstruct, prevent or attempt to prevent any officers or employees of the department from performing their legal duties, by means of intimidation, physical force, interference or disobedience of any lawful order or by means of any independently unlawful act;

(2) Intentionally expose the private or intimate parts of his or her body in a lewd manner;

(3) obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly create a risk;

(4) engage in fighting or violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior; or

(5) engage in any other activity which violates the Penal Law.

(k) No person shall operate a vehicle on any State truck trail or road maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation on State reforestation areas at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour.

(l) No motor vehicle towing, pushing, or hauling a trailer will be permitted access to the Fourth Lake picnic area. The launching of boats other than those carried on cartops is prohibited.

(m) Use of motor vehicles on State land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation outside the forest preserve is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by posted notice or by permit issued by the department. Use of motor vehicles within the forest preserve is governed by Part 196 of this Chapter.

(n) The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision. No person shall ride or permit a horse on:

(1) land devoted to intensively developed facilities, such as boat launch sites, day use areas, campsites, ski centers, education centers, fish hatcheries, game farms or headquarters complexes, and lands managed for public safety, such as flood control levees;

(2) foot trails, except where such trails are part of a publicly maintained road, or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses thereon; and

(3) designated snowmobile trails and cross-country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow.

(o) No person shall use any portion of State lands for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to the grazing of cattle or domestic animals of any kind thereon, unless he has obtained a permit from the department.

(p) No person shall fail to comply with the instructions contained on a sign of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; repealed, new added by renum. 190.10, filed Sept. 26, 1977; amds. filed: April 19, 1979; Dec. 11, 1979; Feb. 6, 1980 as emergency measure, expired 60 days after filing; May 22, 1980 as emergency measure, expired 60 days after filing; Nov. 25, 1981; July 23, 1982; Nov. 8, 1982; Jan. 27, 1983 eff. Jan. 27, 1983.

190.9 Use of pesticides on State lands. (a) No pesticide shall be applied to any State land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation except by written authorization from the department.

(b) This section shall not apply to the use of pesticides within the confines of a tent, trailer or other shelter site located on lands owned by the State, or to pesticides applied directly to the person.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; renum. 190.7, new added by renum. 190.11, filed Sept. 26, 1977 eff. 30 days after filing.

190.23 Belleayre Mtn. Ski Center, Gore Mtn. Ski Center, Whiteface Mtn. Ski Center.

(a) No person shall attempt to use any lift or tow at the ski centers or indulge in reckless skiing in a manner that might endanger himself or others.

(b) No motor vehicle shall be operated at a speed in excess of 30 miles per hour on any road or parking area, nor shall any vehicle of any kind be allowed to park or stand on any road shoulder except when so directed by an attendant.

(c) No person shall sell or offer for sale any article or commodity without written permission from the department, nor shall any person furnish another with instruction in skiing for hire without permission of the superintendent of the ski center.

(d) Firearms and bows and arrows may be possessed and discharged on the ski center during the fall hunting season only, except that no firearms or bows and arrows shall be possessed within 1,000 feet of any road, parking area, lift, tow, building or other facility; nor shall any person possess fireworks of any nature within said area at any time.

(e) Fires for cooking, smudge or picnic purposes will be permitted only in the fireplaces provided, and all garbage and other waste materials must be deposited in the receptacles provided for that purpose.

(f) Dogs or cats are not permitted in the ski centers' area, except in the parking fields where they must be confined to vehicles or kept on leash. Other animals are not permitted anywhere in the area. Proof of a valid and current rabies inoculation is required for dogs.

(g) The Belleayre Mountain Ski Center contains 2,211 acres of State-owned forest preserve lands on Belleayre Mountain, lying and situated in the Town of Shandaken, Ulster County, N.Y., being more particularly bounded and described in a document on file at the offices of the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, the regional headquarters at New Paltz and the Department of Environmental Conservation headquarters at Albany.

Historical Note

Sec. filed April 28, 1972; amd. filed July 16, 1982 eff. July 16, 1982. Added (g).

APPENDIX C

General Definitions

As used in this plan, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. Aircraft - a device for transporting personnel or material that travels through the air and is propelled by a non-living power source contained on or within the device.
2. Campground - a concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access, which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day use facilities such as picnicking.
3. Campsite - a specific location where an individual tent, trailer or other vehicle suitable for overnight accommodation may be set up. Included are individual sites within a campground and sites found at various locations within Wilderness and Wild Forest areas. Within a campground they are specifically designated; outside a campground they may or may not be designated.
4. Fish Barrier Dam - a man made device or structure used to prevent the upstream or downstream migration of fish for the purpose of protecting a high-value fishery or population of fish indigenous to the protected body of water.
5. Foot Trail - a marked and maintained path or way for foot travel located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment.

6. Horse Barn - a rustic structure open on at least two sides designed to provide temporary shelter for a small number of horses.
7. Horse Trail - A path marked and maintained for travel by horses, located and designed to provide reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the local environment.
8. Improvement - any change in or addition to land, that materially affects the existing use, condition or appearance of the land or any vegetation on it. These include but are not limited to foot and horse trails, roads, jeep trails, State trucks trails, snowmobile trails, trail heads, picnic areas and campsites.
9. Lean-to - an open front shelter made of natural materials suitable for temporary or transient residence, constructed according to a standard Department of Environmental Conservation plan and located so as to provide shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment.
10. Motor Vehicle - a device for transporting personnel, supplies or material that uses a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and has wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on, or adjacent to air, land and water or through water. The term includes such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowcats, bulldozers and

other earth moving equipment and motorboats, but does not include snowmobiles.

11. Motorboat - a device for transporting personnel or material that travels over, on, or under the water and is propelled by a non-living power source on or within the device.
12. Motorized Equipment - machines not designed for transporting personnel, supplies or material, that use a motor, engine or other non-living power source to accomplish a task. The term includes such machines as chain saws, brush saws, rotary or other mowers, rock drills, cement mixers and generators.
13. Natural Materials - construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought into the construction site that conform in size, shape and physical characteristics to those naturally present in the vicinity of the project site. Such materials include stone, logs and sawn and treated timber. Natural materials maybe fastened or anchored by use of bolts, nails, spikes or similar means.
14. Non-conforming Use - any structure, improvement or human use that does not comply with the guidelines specified in the master plan for the land classification where it exists or would take place.
15. Ranger Stations or Ranger Cabins - enclosed buildings constructed or maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation suitable for human habitation and occupied seasonally or year round by administrative personnel to help

administer lands and public use under the jurisdiction of the Department.

16. River - any section, portion, or tributary of a flowing body of water, including a river, stream, creek, run, kill, rill, branch or lake.
17. River Area - a river and its immediate surroundings, including river banks and the land on both sides of the river.
18. Road - an improved way designed for travel by motor vehicles and:
 - (i) either maintained by a state agency or a local government and open to the general public; or
 - (ii) maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also be partly or completely open to the general public for all or a segment thereof; or
 - (iii) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation and open to the public on a discretionary basis; or
 - (iv) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for its administrative use only.
19. Snowmobile - motorized vehicle designed primarily to travel on snow or ice by means of skis, skids, tracks or other devices. It is specifically excluded from the definition of "motor vehicles" in Title 6NYCRR and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

20. Snowmobile Trail - a marked trail designed by the Department of Environmental Conservation on which snowmobiles are allowed to travel when it is covered by snow or ice.
21. State Truck Trail - an improved way maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for the principal purpose of facilitating administration of State lands or to allow access for fire fighting equipment and not normally open to the public for motorized vehicle use.
22. Structure - any object constructed, installed or placed on land to facilitate land use, including but not limited to bridges, buildings, ranger stations or ranger cabins, sheds, lean-tos, pit privies, picnic tables, horse barns, horse hitching posts and rails, fire towers, observer cabins, telephone and electric light lines, mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks, dams and stream improvement structures.

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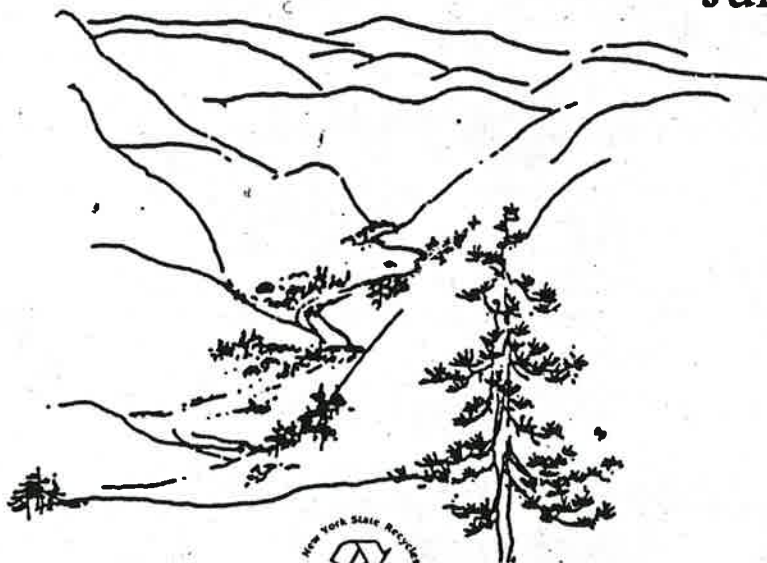
Dec 14
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area

Unit Management Plan

June 1993



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
MARIO M. CUOMO, Governor THOMAS C. JORLING, Commissioner

f. Trail Management/Maintenance

While there is significant potential for erosion and other trail maintenance problems on the trails traversing this unit, very little of the potential has been realized due to the low levels of public use.

However, two problem areas have been identified which are in need of attention.

Southern sections of the Pine Hill/West Branch Trail, particularly the segment from Big Indian Mountain south to the Biscuit Brook Leanto, has several drainage problems. In some instances the trail is poorly defined.

The Seager Trail, from the trailhead eastward to the Dry Brook crossing (approximately 1 mile) has several problems. Some parts are poorly defined. Stream crossings (Drury Hollow, Flatiron Brook and Dry Brook) can be very difficult in times of high water. One section traverses a very steep side-slope which is collapsing into the Dry Brook. A threatened plant species is known to occur in close proximity to the trail.

g. Land Acquisition/Easements

As large as the Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area is, it still owes much of its wilderness character to the adjoining private lands. Many of these private lands remain in large, undeveloped tracts which are managed for forest products, recreation or other uses which are compatible with or complement the wilderness area. In the future it may be desirable for the Department to acquire easements or fee ownership in some of these lands to protect this relationship. Any such acquisitions will be governed by the Conserving Open Space in New York State plan (June 1992).

h. Vistas

There are very few vistas within this unit. This, in part, explains the low level of public use. The Department's wilderness management policy prohibits tree cutting for the purpose of opening new scenic vistas.

i. Trailless Peaks

There are two trailless peaks above 3500 feet within this unit which are attractive destinations for some hikers.

PROJECT #5 - SPRINGS: Maintain all existing developed springs within the unit. These springs have historically provided users with water. The pipes prevent the surrounding springhole/seep from being trampled.

PROJECT #6 - BRIDGES: Maintain the two bridges on the Oliverrea/Mapledale Trail. These two bridges provide appropriate crossings over steep-sided streams. The McKenley Hollow Bridge is at the periphery of the wilderness area (straddling the forest preserve/public easement boundary), and thus does not detract from the wilderness character of the unit. However, the steel truss design of the Rider Hollow bridge is not appropriate in a wilderness area. When the bridge is in need of replacement a design incorporating native materials should be utilized.

PROJECT #7 - PARKING AREAS: All existing parking areas within this unit should continue to be maintained. They will occasionally require grading/gravel and repair as well as litter pick up.

PROJECT #8 - VISTAS: Scenic vistas at Simons Rock, Balsam Mountain, Doubletop Mountain and Beaverkill Ridge should all be maintained in the least obtrusive

method possible. While occasional tree cutting may be necessary, brushing and the pruning of limbs will be the dominant practice, as these are intended to be "window vistas" rather than broad panoramas.

C. Public Use Management and Controls

PROJECT #1 - ROAD ABANDONMENT: Effect abandonment of the Black Bear Road (Town of Denning) and the Neversink-Hardenburgh Road (Town of Hardenburgh) as they traverse forest preserve land so as to prohibit motor vehicle and snowmobile use within the wilderness area. The abandonment itself would be accomplished by the Department utilizing Section 212 of the Highway Law. Once abandoned, the southeast end of the road will be barricaded with large rocks at the State land boundary (see facilities map, Appendix K). The northwest end of the road will be gated at the State land boundary near Vly Pond in the adjoining Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest (as per the Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan).

PROJECT #2 - NONCONFORMING USE: Negotiate with lot owners in the Big Indian Mountain Association (B.I.M.A.) Development for their right to use motor vehicles on forest preserve land which was once a part of the B.I.M.A. development. If negotiations are

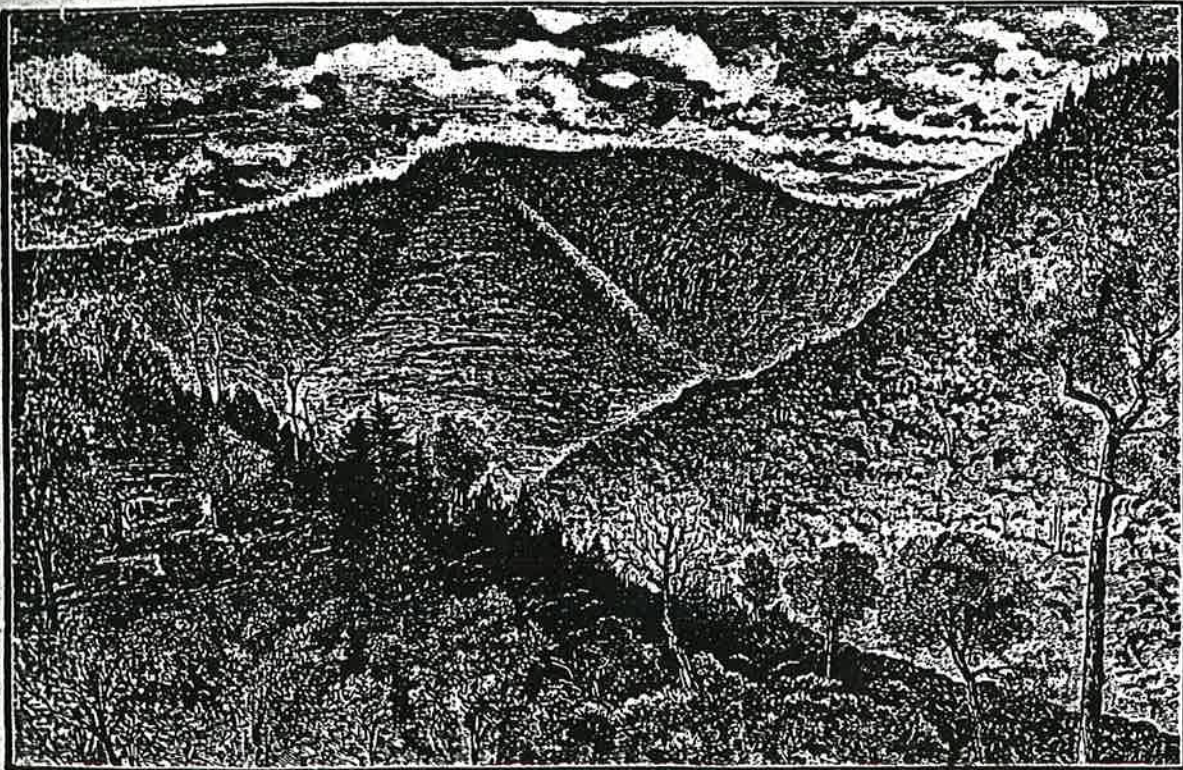
appropriate campsite, the Department hopes to discourage the use of inappropriate sites (sites less than 150 feet from trail and water) in this area. An unobtrusive outhouse will be erected near this campsite to provide for the appropriate disposal of human waste.

PROJECT #6 - GROUP CAMPING: Department Rules and Regulation Part 190.4(e) states: "No group of 10 or more individuals may camp on State lands at any time except under permit issued by the Department." In recent years the Department has not issued Group Camping Permits to groups of more than 12 individuals wishing to camp in the Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area. The Department will continue this policy. Furthermore, as stated above, no group camping permits will be issued for any of the designated campsites within this unit. Twelve was chosen as a number that would be economically feasible for organized groups yet reasonable for maintaining the wilderness character of the area.

PROJECT #7 - INFORMATION BOARDS: Erect and maintain information boards at the following trailhead/access points: Rider Hollow, Biscuit Brook, McKenley Hollow and Burnham Hollow. Each board may vary depending on the needs associated with their location, but all will

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Slide Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan



OCTOBER 1998

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 3 Office, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (914) 256-3000

George E. Pataki, Governor



John P. Cahill, Commissioner

SECTION IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

north side of Giant Ledge as well as the south side of Panther Mountain (just below 3500 feet in elevation). A trail reroute could be considered as an alternative to rock steps on Panther.

- c. **Peekamoose - Table Trail:** As noted in the Past Management section, the Department has met with only limited success in maintaining a foot bridge over Deer Shanty Brook near Denning. The Brook is subject to periodic flooding, and the streambanks in the vicinity of the trail crossing are easily eroded. A new bridge at a more stable location is necessary. This may involve relocating the trail upstream of the present crossing. A rustic design using roundwood materials will be utilized. From the col between Peekamoose and Table Mountains, rock steps, drainage and terrace work is needed to prevent erosion as the trail ascends Table. Rock staircases would also be useful at two locations (3,600 ft. and 3,100 ft.) on the north side of Table Mountain.

Some of these projects will likely be undertaken by volunteer trail crews working under the direction of the Adirondack Mountain Club via a contract with the Department. As noted in the past management section, this organization has accomplished critical trail maintenance projects at a relatively low cost to the Department.

VISTA MAINTENANCE:

Maintain all vistas within the unit, as identified in the inventory of facilities, providing that such work does not require the cutting and/or removal of trees to pass the point of immateriality. In most instances, vista maintenance will only require the brushing and limbing of trees and the

occasional cutting of a tree to maintain the window-like vistas typically found within the unit.

However, as discussed in the Issues Section, maintaining the panoramic view from the summit of Slide Mountain would require extensive tree cutting of the encroaching balsam fir as to exceed the point of immateriality. Therefore, this vista will be allowed to grow in naturally, to await the next natural course of events which may lead to a new opening sometime in the future.

ERECT OUTHouses AT FOX HOLLOW LEAN-TO, TERRACE MOUNTAIN LEAN-TO, AND GIANT LEDGE:

The Department's traditional rustic design will be utilized.

SIGNS:

Replace deteriorated inaccurate or missing trail directional signs throughout the unit. For interior signage, a smaller sign board (6" X 16") with reduced wording will be utilized.

Regulatory signs shall be kept to the minimum necessary. In most instances they will be posted at trailheads or access points rather than in the interior.

Trailhead bulletin boards will be constructed at the Giant Ledge Trailhead and the Peekamoose Mountain Trailhead.

C. Public Use Management and Controls

GROUP CAMPING:

Department Rules and Regulation Part 190.4(e) states: "No group of 10 or more individuals may camp on State lands at any

SECTION IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

time except under permit issued by the Department." In recent years the Department has not issued Group Camping Permits to groups of more than 12 individuals wishing to camp in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area. The Department will continue this policy.

ELIMINATE HERD PATH MARKINGS/ DISCOURAGE ILLEGAL MAINTENANCE

While primitive herd paths in and of themselves do detract from wilderness, it is the marking and maintenance of herd paths that wilderness users find most offensive. Therefore, the Department will work to discourage such illegal marking and maintenance whenever possible. This will include removing ribbons, survey tape and other marking techniques as well as painting over routes marked with bright paint with earthtone colors.

Because herd paths are more likely to develop when large groups travel the same route, user groups will be persuaded to limit group size to 12. Note: As of this writing the Catskill 3500 Club, an association of climbers who have ascended all Catskill Peaks above 3,500 feet in elevation, have voluntarily chosen to limit groups to 12 to reduce their impact in trailless areas.

TRAILLESS PEAKS

The Slide Mountain Wilderness has four trailless peaks which exceed 3500 feet in elevation. "Trailless" means that they do not have a DEC designated and marked trail to their summit, nor do they receive any scheduled maintenance. These peaks have special significance to the Catskill 3500 Club, an association of climbers who have ascended all Catskill peaks above 3500 feet in elevation. In 1965, prior to the area's wilderness designation and after receiving permission to

do so in a letter from the Department, the Catskill 3500 Club placed canisters with registration books on top of Lone, Rocky, Balsam Cap and Friday (among other trailless peaks). Aspiring members sign the register books to verify ascents.

The canisters are a traditional feature of the trailless summits which enhance the wilderness experience for many users.

However, the canisters are not included in the list of coforming structures in wilderness as per the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan. They are also in violation of NYCRR Part 190.8(i), which prohibits the erection or posting of any notice or sign on State land at any time.

This issue should be addressed in the next revision of the Catskill State Land Master Plan. In the interim, to allow the canisters to remain, the Department will assume ownership of the canisters and enter into an agreement with the Catskill 3500 Club to allow for their continued maintenance by the Club.

BICYCLE USE

There are no regulations regarding the use of bicycles on State land within the Catskill Park. If, in the future, a regulation is enacted which would restrict the use of bicycles to trails designated and marked by the Department, it is recommended that no such trails be designated within the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area.

PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS

Table 6 provides a list of Public Access Easements, their current status, and proposed management to facilitate public use.

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**Proposed Special Conditions - Crossroads Ventures, LLC
NYS DEC - June 17, 2004**

1. Prior to the start of resort construction, Crossroads Ventures, LLC shall develop a plan to be submitted to NYS DEC for its approval to implement a program to educate and guide resort guests in the use of trails in the Forest Preserve. **In developing the plan, the applicant shall consult with the NYS DEC and other appropriate groups, including the NY/NJ Trail Conference to identify area trails, in particular, those which may be the subject of over use, in order to redirect guests to less intensely visited trails.** The plan shall include a method of keeping track of resort guest usage of Forest Preserve trails and for seeking feedback from resort guests on trail conditions. The information on guest usage and trail condition shall be compiled into an annual report and submitted to NYS DEC. In addition, Crossroads Ventures, LLC shall provide a monthly report to NYS DEC of usage of Forest Preserve trails.
2. Crossroads Ventures, LLC shall develop a plan to be submitted to NYS DEC for its approval to implement a maintenance program for all trails on its property. This maintenance program shall emphasize the prevention and minimization of erosion and sedimentation from these trails.

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AMBIENT & STORM WATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

WILDACRES RESORT AND BIG INDIAN PLATEAU DRAFT PERMITS

Issues Conference - June 25, 2004

Point Sources (Micro-Pool Detention Ponds)

Flow

Total Phosphorus

Total Suspended Solids

Pesticides

Toxicity

Wild Acres Resort

Monthly

Monthly

Monthly

Monthly

3/Year

Big Indian Plateau

Monthly

Monthly

None

3/Year

3/Year

Ambient Monitoring - Surface Waters

Flow

Total Phosphorus

Pesticides

Per Sampling Event

Monthly

3/Year

Per Sampling Event

Monthly

None

Ambient Monitoring - Ground Waters

Nitrates

Pesticides

Quarterly

Quarterly

Quarterly

Quarterly

Bill Miralke's
presentation

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**WILDACRES RESORT - SPDES PERMIT NO. NY 027 0661
PESTICIDES LIMITS EVALUATION**

All Concentrations In Mg/l
Page 1 of 2

| <u>Name</u> | <u>DEC CRITERIA Ground Water</u> | <u>DEC CRITERIA Surface Water</u> | <u>DOH CRITERIA (UOC)(1)</u> | <u>SAV (2,3)</u> | <u>Applicant Proposal</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2,4-D | 0.05 (Standard) | 0.05 (Standard) | | 0.125 | 0.025 |
| 2,4-DP | | | 0.05 | 0.125 | 0.025 |
| acephate | | | 0.05 | 0.162 | 0.025 |
| bendiocarb | | | 0.05 | 0.135 | 0.025 |
| benefin | | | 0.05 | 0.008 | 0.0175 |
| bensulide | | | 0.05 | 0.088 | 0.025 |
| bentazon | | | 0.05 | 11.875 | 0.025 |
| chloroneb | 0.005 (Standard) | | 0.005 | 0.738 | 0.025 |
| dithiopyr | | | 0.05 | 0.062 | 0.025 |
| ethofumesate | | | 0.05 | 8.812 | 0.025 |
| ethoprop | | | 0.05 | 0.262 | 0.025 |
| etridiazole | | | 0.05 | 0.25 | 0.025 |
| fenoxaprop | | | 0.05 | 0.044 | 0.025 |
| flutolanil | | | 0.05 | 0.675 | 0.025 |
| fosetyl-Al | | | 0.05 | 18.75 | 0.025 |
| glyphosate | 0.05 (Guid. Val.) | 0.05 (Guid. Val.) | | 12.75 | 0.025 |
| halosulfuron | | | 0.05 | 13.375 | 0.025 |

NOTE: **Bold** value indicates chosen criterion for proposed permit limit

1 - Unspecified Organic Contaminant criteria

2 - Method obtained from 40 CFR Part 132 - Water Quality Guidance For The Great Lakes System

3 - SAV - Secondary Acute Value SAV = GMAV/SAF

GMAV - Genus Mean Acute Value (Geometric mean of LC-50 values. For draft permits, when multiple species data were provided, the most sensitive species LC-50 value was used because the lowest single value is more conservative)

SAF - Secondary Acute Factor (Toxicity data for 3 families submitted allows for SAF = 8, i.e., a Safety Factor of 0.125)

WILDACRES RESORT - SPDES PERMIT NO. NY 027 0661
PESTICIDES LIMITS EVALUATION

All Concentrations In Mg/l
Page 2 of 2

| <u>Name</u> | <u>DEC CRITERIA</u> <u>Ground Water</u> | <u>DEC CRITERIA</u> <u>Surface Water</u> | <u>DOH CRITERIA</u> <u>UOC (1)</u> | <u>SAV (2,3)</u> | <u>Applicant</u> <u>Proposal</u> |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MCPA | 0.00044 (Standard) | | 0.05 | 1.375 | 0.00044 |
| MCPP (5) | | | 0.05 (4) | 1.375 (4) | 0.025 (4) |
| mefenoxam | | | 0.05 | 3.038 | 0.025 |
| MSMA | | | 0.05 | 0.15 | 0.025 |
| oxadiazon | | | 0.05 | 0.15 | 0.025 |
| prodiamine | | | 0.05 | 0.082 | 0.025 |
| propamocarb | | | 0.05 | 51.25 | 0.025 |
| propiconazole | | | 0.05 | 0.112 | 0.025 |
| quintozene | Non-Det. (Standard) | | 0.005 | 0.012 | Non-Det. (PQL) |
| siduron | | | 0.05 | 12.5 | 0.025 |
| triclopyr | | | 0.05 | 14.625 | 0.025 |
| trifloxystrobin | | | 0.05 | 0.0018 | 0.025 |
| trifluralin | 0.035 (Standard) | | 0.05 | 0.00125 | 0.0175 |
| vinclozolin | | | 0.05 | 0.112 | 0.025 |

NOTE: **Bold** value indicates chosen criterion for proposed permit limit

1 - Unspecified Organic Contaminant criteria

2 - Method obtained from 40 CFR Part 132 - Water Quality Guidance For The Great Lakes System

3 - SAV - Secondary Acute Value SAV = GMAV/SAF

GMAV - Genus Mean Acute Value (Geometric mean of LC-50 values. For draft permits, when multiple species data were provided, the most sensitive species LC-50 value was used because the lowest single value is more conservative)

SAF - Secondary Acute Factor (Toxicity data for 3 families submitted allows for SAF = 8, i.e., a Safety Factor of 0.125)

4 - A permit limit of 0.00044 mg/l is proposed due to molecular similarity with MCPA, for which a standard exists

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Dept Staff 9

DEC PERMIT NUMBER

0-9999-00096/00003

FACILITY/PROGRAM NUMBER(s)

WSA # 10,455

**DRAFT PERMIT**

Under the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL)

DRAFT #2 6/25/04

EFFECTIVE DATE

EXPIRATION DATE

None

(Except see General Condition No. 3 on page 3)

TYPE OF PERMIT (Check All Applicable Boxes)

☒ New☐ Renewal☐ Modification☒ Permit to Construct☒ Permit to Operate☐Article 15, Title 5:
Protection of Water☐Article 17, Titles 7, 8:
SPDES☐Article 27, Title 9; 6NYCRR 373:
Hazardous Waste Management☒Article 15, Title 15:
Water Supply☐Article 19:
Air Pollution Control☐Article 34:
Coastal Erosion Management☐Article 15, Title 15:
Water Transport☐Article 23, Title 27:
Mined Land Reclamation☐Article 36:
Floodplain Management☐Article 15, Title 15:
Long Island Wells☐Article 24:
Freshwater Wetlands☐Articles 1, 3, 17, 19, 27, 37; 6NYCRR
380: Radiation Control☐Article 15, Title 27:
Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers☐Article 25:
Tidal Wetlands☐

Other _____

☐6NYCRR 608:
Water Quality Certification☐Article 27, Title 7; 6NYCRR 360:
Solid Waste Management

PERMIT ISSUED TO

Big Indian Water Works Corporation

TELEPHONE NUMBER

(845) 688-7740

ADDRESS OF PERMITTEE

c/o Crossroads Ventures, LLC, PO Box 267, Mt. Tremper, NY 12457

CONTACT PERSON FOR PERMITTED WORK

Dean L. Gitter

TELEPHONE NUMBER

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT/FACILITY

The Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park - Big Indian Plateau

LOCATION OF PROJECT/FACILITY

COUNTY Ulster

TOWN

Shandaken

WATERCOURSE/WETLAND NO.

NYTM COORDINATES

DESCRIPTION OF AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY

Installation of a complete water supply and distribution system to serve the Big Indian Water Works Corporation and the taking of up to 190,000 gallons per day from Rosenthal Well Nos. 1, 2 & 3 having a combined tested capacity of 149 (63, 74.5 and 11.5 respectively) gallons per minute (gpm) and Silo A having a tested capacity of 69 gpm.

By acceptance of this permit, the permittee agrees that the permit is contingent upon strict compliance with the ECL, all applicable regulations, the General Conditions specified (**See Page 2**) and any Special Conditions included as part of this permit.

DEPUTY PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR

ADDRESS

21 South Putt Corners Rd., New Paltz NY 12561

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Date

Page 1 of 5

NOTIFICATION OF OTHER PERMITTEE OBLIGATIONS**DRAFT #2 6/25/04****Item A: Permittee Accepts Legal Responsibility and Agrees to Indemnification**

The permittee expressly agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York, its representatives, employees, and agents ("DEC") for all claims, suits, actions, and damages, to the extent attributable to the permittee's acts or omissions in connection with the permittee's undertaking of activities in connection with, or operation and maintenance of, the facility or facilities authorized by the permit whether in compliance or not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit. This indemnification does not extend to any claims, suits, actions, or damages to the extent attributable to DEC's own negligent or intentional acts or omissions, or to any claims, suits, or actions naming the DEC and arising under article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Laws and Rules or any citizen suit or civil rights provision under federal or state laws.

Item B: Permittee's Contractors to Comply with Permit

The permittee is responsible for informing its independent contractors, employees, agents and assigns of their responsibility to comply with this permit, including all special conditions while acting as the permittee's agent with respect to the permitted activities, and such persons shall be subject to the same sanctions for violations of the Environmental Conservation Law as those prescribed for the permittee.

Item C: Permittee Responsible for Obtaining Other Required Permits

The permittee is responsible for obtaining any other permits, approvals, lands, easements and rights-of-way that may be required to carry out the activities that are authorized by this permit.

Item D: No Right to Trespass or Interfere with Riparian Rights

This permit does not convey to the permittee any right to trespass upon the lands or interfere with the riparian rights of others in order to perform the permitted work nor does it authorize the impairment of any rights, title, or interest in real or personal property held or vested in a person not a party to the permit.

GENERAL CONDITIONS**General Condition 1: Facility Inspection by the Department**

The permitted site or facility, including relevant records, is subject to inspection at reasonable hours and intervals by an authorized representative of the Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) to determine whether the permittee is complying with this permit and the ECL. Such representative may order the work suspended pursuant to ECL 71-0301 and SAPA 401(3).

The permittee shall provide a person to accompany the Department's representative during an inspection to the permit area when requested by the Department.

A copy of this permit, including all referenced maps, drawings and special conditions, must be available for inspection by the Department at all times at the project site or facility. Failure to produce a copy of the permit upon request by a Department representative is a violation of this permit.

General Condition 2: Relationship of this Permit to Other Department Orders and Determinations

Unless expressly provided for by the Department, issuance of this permit does not modify, supersede or rescind any order or determination previously issued by the Department or any of the terms, conditions or requirements contained in such order or determination.

General Condition 3: Applications for Permit Renewals or Modifications

The permittee must submit a separate written application to the Department for renewal, modification or transfer of this permit. Such application must include any forms or supplemental information the Department requires. Any renewal, modification or transfer granted by the Department must be in writing.

The permittee must submit a renewal application at least:

- a) 180 days before expiration of permits for State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES), Hazardous Waste Management Facilities (HWMF), major Air Pollution Control (APC) and Solid Waste Management Facilities (SWMF); and
- b) 30 days before expiration of all other permit types.

Submission of applications for permit renewal or modification are to be submitted to:

NYSDEC Regional Permit Administrator, Region 3

21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561, telephone: (845) 256-3054

General Condition 4: Permit Modifications, Suspensions and Revocations by the Department

The Department reserves the right to modify, suspend or revoke this permit in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 621. The grounds for modification, suspension or revocation include:

- a) materially false or inaccurate statements in the permit application or supporting papers;
- b) failure by the permittee to comply with any terms or conditions of the permit;
- c) exceeding the scope of the project as described in the permit application;
- d) newly discovered material information or a material change in environmental conditions, relevant technology or applicable law or regulations since the issuance of the existing permit;
- e) noncompliance with previously issued permit conditions, orders of the commissioner, any provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law or regulations of the Department related to the permitted activity.

DRAFT #2 6/25/04**ADDITIONAL GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ARTICLE 15, TITLE 15 (Water Supply)**

5. Prior to starting work on any construction authorized herein, detailed plans of the structures proposed to be built and specifications for such work shall have been submitted to and approved by the Department. Thereafter such construction work shall be entirely completed in full accordance with the plans and specifications which have been submitted and approved.

NOTE: Approval by this Department of final plans and specifications, and of completed works, will not be issued until equivalent approvals have been issued by the NYS Department of Health.

6. Section 15-1529 of the Environmental Conservation Law forbids the operation of any of these works until, as constructed, they have been approved by the Department. Such final approval will be given only on written request. In general, such approval will not be given until all provisions affecting quality of the water and safety of the works have been complied with in full.
7. The Department reserves the right to rescind this permit or to take whatever action it may deem suitable and proper if the works authorized to be constructed herein are not initiated by Effective Date of Permit + 2 years.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS**For Article 15, Title 15 (Water Supply)**

1. ~~The Rosenthal Wells Nos. 1 and 2~~ shall be treated for arsenic removal, to the satisfaction of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), before these wells are placed into service.
2. Silo A must be reconstructed, protected and treatment provided in a manner that is acceptable to the NYSDOH. Upon completion, full Part 5 water quality and GWUDI (GroundWater Under the Direct Influence of surface water) analyses shall be conducted as required ~~by the with the results provided to NYSDOH.~~
3. Silo A is not to be used for irrigation purposes. Also, use of this source shall be further limited as follows based upon the measured flow of Crystal Spring Brook below the Silo's overflow:

Maximum Withdrawal Rate**Crystal Spring Brook Flow**

up to 69 gpm
up to 34 gpm
up to 10 gpm

greater than 1328 gpm (50% Tennant flow)
797 to 1328 gpm
less than 797 gpm (30% Tennant flow)

Withdrawal rates of 69 and 34 gpm shall not be resumed until flows in the brook return to 1397 (1328+69) and 831 (797+34) gpm respectively for a continuous period of at least one week. Flows in Crystal Spring Brook downstream of Silo A shall be measured in a manner acceptable to the Department.

DEC PERMIT NUMBER **0-9999-00096/00003**

PROGRAM NUMBER

WSA # 10,455



SPECIAL CONDITIONS

DRAFT #2 6/25/04

For Article 15 (Water Supply)

- 4. The physical pumping facilities and controls at any source site approved herein shall be protected against damage or tampering either by a fence or other suitable enclosure or by their manner of construction and installation.**
- 5. All land within 200 feet of any source approved herein shall be protected and controlled, in order to prevent pollution of the ground or groundwater, by direct ownership of the land, by the acquisition of protective easements, or by other appropriate measures. This area shall further be protected from pollution by surface waters originating outside thereof by the construction of suitable diversion ditches or embankments, and the development of the wells shall so be carried out that there shall be no opportunity for pollution to enter the wells.**
- 6. Before any water from the sources approved herein may be used for any purpose, the permittee shall have caused a sample of the water from each to be collected and analyzed and shall have submitted the results of such analyses to the Department and to the NYSDOH. Should NYSDOH find that the water from any source requires treatment to attain satisfactory sanitary quality, it will notify the Department of the specific treatment required for that source. The permittee shall use water from such source only after certifying to the Department that it has achieved full compliance with DOH's treatment requirements.**
- 7. Nothing contained in this permit and approval shall be held to authorize the permittee to supply, sell or distribute, for any purpose, water from any source approved herein unless all such water shall first have been treated in a manner satisfactory to the NYSDOH.**
- 8. The Department reserves the right to require the taking of further sanitary precautions or the further treatment of the water from any source approved herein should future conditions cause the NYSDOH to specify such action.**
- 9. All approved sources of supply shall be permanently equipped with automatic water level sensing devices.**
- 10. The permittee's approved water service area is shown as a blue boundary on a map entitled, "Big Indian Water Works Corporation Water Service Area Map", by the L.A. Group, dated 5/5/2004. Nothing contained herein shall be held to authorize the permittee to distribute water to any other water service area without the further approval of the Department.**
- 11. The permittee must submit wellhead protection plans for all sources of supply within one year of the effective date of this permit.**
- 12. During any construction directly or indirectly associated with the activities authorized herein, the permittee shall make provisions to minimize erosion on the construction site and to prevent increased sedimentation in any water body on or adjacent to the site.**
- 13. The permittee shall ensure that water used for disinfecting water mains, if discharged to area streams, has a free chlorine residual not exceeding 0.05 milligrams-per-liter (mg/l) at the point of discharge.**

DEC PERMIT NUMBER

0-9999-00096/00003

PROGRAM NUMBER

WSA # 10,455

PAGE 4 of 5

DATE:

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

DRAFT #2 6/25/04

For Article 15 (Water Supply)

14. The permittee shall make provisions to provide an adequate supply of water to those residents whose private ~~potable water supply wells~~ ~~well-water systems~~ are significantly diminished or rendered non-productive by the permittee's use of the sources of water supply approved by this permit.
15. The permittee must maintain meters on all sources of supply used in the system and on all customer service connections supplied by the system.
16. Irrigation water must be withdrawn from the irrigation ponds. No other connections to the potable water supply distribution system shall be used for any automated irrigation purposes.
17. The permittee must periodically calibrate all of its water meters, including source meters, in accordance with applicable regulations of the New York State Public Service Commission (16 NYCRR, Part 500).
18. The permittee must maintain records of annual metered water production and consumption, and, at least once annually, must conduct a system water audit that utilizes metered production and consumption data to determine unaccounted-for water.
19. The permittee must develop and implement a leak detection and repair program that uses sonic detection equipment to inspect its entire distribution system in a systematic fashion. At a minimum, this program must cover the entire system in a three-year cycle by inspecting at least one-third of the system each year. Whenever two consecutive annual water audits shall show that unaccounted-for water is 15% or less of system production, the leak detection and repair program may be modified to cover the entire system in a longer cycle.
20. The permittee must retain records of production and consumption, reports of audit results, and summaries of leaks detected and repaired for at least ten years. The permittee must provide copies of such of these records, reports, and summaries as might be requested in writing by the Department within one month of receiving such a request.

Distribution:

L. Myerson, Regional (3) Water Engineer
M. George, DEC Region 3
M. Holt, DEC Albany (3504)
M. Montysko, NYS DOH- Albany
D. Pahlen, Ulster County DOH
J. Agansky, NYSPSC

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|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| DEC PERMIT NUMBER 0-9999-00096/00003 | PROGRAM NUMBER WSA # 10,455 | PAGE 5 of 5 | DATE: |
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Dept Staff 10



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Flanigan Square, 547 River Street, Troy, New York 12180-2216

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 10, 2004

Michael Holt
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

RE: WSA Nos. 10,455 & 10,566
Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park
(T) Shandaken, Ulster County
(T) Middletown, Delaware County

Dear Mr. Holt:

This letter is to confirm that the design review related to drinking water source and distribution issues for the above referenced project has been and will continue to be based on the 1997 edition of the Recommended Standards for Water Works (RSWW). The Department's review of this project began before final issuance of the 2003 RSWW. Therefore, further design review for this project will also be based on the 1997 edition.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (518) 402-7676.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Montysko, P.E.
Chief, Design Section
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

cc: Mr. Sheppard, NYSDOH Oneonta District
Mr. Dumas, Ulster County DOH
Mr. Vickerson, NYSDOH

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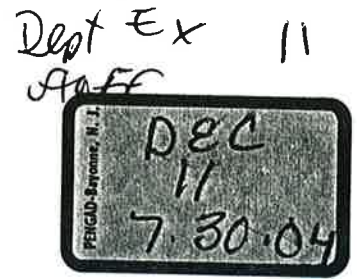


STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Flanigan Square, 547 River Street, Troy, New York 12180-2216

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner



April 23, 2004

Mr. Alexander F. Ciesluk, Jr.
Deputy Regional Permit Administrator
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation, Region 3
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561

RE: The Belleayre Resort
at Catskill Park DEIS

Dear Mr. Ciesluk:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the proposed Belleayre Resort at the Catskill Park. The location and magnitude of this proposed project is of particular concern to us. The project site straddles the geographical divide between the drainage basins of the Esopus Creek and the East Branch of the Delaware River which feed New York City's Ashokan and Pepacton Reservoirs, respectively. These reservoirs are key water sources of NYC's Catskill and Delaware water systems that supply about 90 percent of the drinking water to over nine million New Yorkers. Since NYC has been granted a Filtration Avoidance Determination for these systems, unfiltered drinking water is delivered directly to consumers. To protect water quality, we urge careful scrutiny of all proposed activities in these watersheds, especially those the size of Belleayre Resort.

We believe that the following water supply, irrigation and stormwater issues need further attention. We request that, where appropriate, they be addressed as special conditions of the water supply and wastewater permits. These comments were prepared in consultation with the Ulster County Health Department.

A. Protection of Water Supply Sources:

A pre-blast survey of private wells in the vicinity of this project by the blasting contractor is proposed to establish baseline conditions such as well construction, production and usage, prior to blasting activities. We support the proposal and recommend that the survey include all public and private water sources, including springs and wells, within one-half mile of blasting. The benchmark data should be expanded to include baseline testing for bacteriological contamination and turbidity since blasting may impact water quantity and quality.

B. WSA #10,455 Big Indian Plateau:

1. The application needs to be updated to include all three proposed Rosenthal Wells. Water demands should be the calculated demands (115,000 gpd average, 190,000 gpd max.) without taking into account any reductions, as indicated in Delaware Engineering's March 1, 2004 response to January 21, 2004 meeting comments. Any reference to reduction in demands should be eliminated from the application.
2. Approved well capacities should be based on the results of the April 2004 combined pump test of wells RW1, RW2, and RW3. The Department will consider approval of these wells once we receive and review the pump test and water quality data and analysis.
3. It appears that portions of the 100-ft and 200-ft control radius areas for wells RW1, RW2, and RW3 are outside of the property owned by the developer. How does the applicant propose to provide adequate protection of these wells and the aquifer from which they feed if the surrounding lands are not owned and/or controlled by the project owner?
4. A sulfur odor was detected during the first two pump tests of RW2. If necessary, the applicant should provide details regarding the proposed treatment for odor removal during the design stage.
5. The applicant should confirm the revised location of the treated wastewater effluent, and provide a site map indicating its proximity to the proposed wells. The applicant should also confirm and provide drawings to show physical separation of the potable water system from the irrigation/wastewater effluent piping.
6. Arsenic was detected in the samples taken after the November 2001 and September 2002 pump tests of RW2, at 16-parts per billion (ppb) and 15-ppb. These levels are above the newly promulgated federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10-ppb, which will be enforceable starting on January 23, 2006. Depending on arsenic results from the April 2004 pump test, additional treatment may be required.
7. Further evaluation, in accordance with NYSDOH Environmental Health Manual, Item No. PWS 42, "Identification of Ground Water Sources Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water" will be required in order to make a final determination of surface water influence for the three proposed wells. Daily comparative testing of temperature and conductivity between wells RW1, RW2, and RW3 and Birch Creek should begin as soon as possible. This information should be collected for a one year period, and submitted quarterly to the Ulster County Health Department for review. Pending review of the April 2004 pump test data, the Department may give conditional approval to use the wells while this evaluation is taking place.
8. During the November 2001 and September 2002 pump tests of RW2, turbidity levels were initially relatively high until the well had been pumped for a few hours, at which time the turbidity lowered to acceptable levels. This is most likely due to the well standing idle for long periods in between pumping. Well RW2, however, may need to be pumped to waste

upon start-up until acceptable turbidity levels are reached. Results from the April 2004 pump test will help to further characterize turbidity levels in RW2. --

9. Prior to or during the design stage of this project, the applicant must address the physical upgrade and water quality/treatment aspects of Silo A Spring. A full Part-5 water quality analysis must be provided for Silo A Spring as part of this evaluation. In accordance with NYSDOH Environmental Health Manual Item No. PWS 42, any spring source must undergo a detailed evaluation to determine or rule out surface water influence. Silo A Spring must undergo such an evaluation. Any existing data regarding GWUDI testing on Silo A Spring should be submitted to the Department for review.
10. The applicant should discuss and confirm that no wastewater effluent, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or other possible contaminant will be applied in the vicinity of RW1, RW2, RW3, and Silo A Spring. Any waste effluent and/or possible chemical contamination source must not be applied within 200 feet of any proposed ground water source.

C. WSA #10,566 Wildacres Resort / Highmount Golf Club / Highmount Estates:

1. The application should be revised to clearly identify the applicant (legal entity that will be authorized to develop and operate the water system). From the January 21 and March 3, 2004 meetings at NYSDEC Headquarters, it was clear that the applicant intends to create a water company. The water company filing should be initiated prior to issuance of the water supply permit. Also, the property to be owned by the water company should be described in the application and noted on the plans.
2. The application should be revised to conform to the usual practice of requesting authorization for the maximum day water demand rather than average day. Also, the application needs to be updated to indicate the most current water demands to be used. Water demands should be the calculated demands (136,635 gpd average, 225,448 gpd max.) without taking into account any reductions, as indicated in Delaware Engineering's March 1, 2004 response to January 21, 2004 meeting comments. Any reference to reduction in demands should be eliminated from the application.
3. Fleischmanns Well #1 is currently not functional. There is no pump, the casing terminates in a vault that must be eliminated, and there is no piping connecting the well to the distribution system. The 3/1/04 Delaware Engineering letter indicates that this well will be put back into service as part of this project. The rehabilitation of Fleischmanns Well #1, in accordance with NYSDOH standards, needs to be incorporated into the permit conditions.
4. A formal pump test, in accordance with NYSDOH standards, will be required as part of the rehabilitation work for Fleischmanns Well #1. The applicant's yield rating for Well #1 is questionable, since the well has not been formally pump tested. Also, some of the yield data from the December 21, 2000 "Water Supply Evaluation" report (Appendix 7, DEIS) is contradictory. The text and Table 2 indicate a pumping rate of 94 gpm, while Appendix E-1 (p.2) indicates a rate of 83 gpm. This should be clarified.

5. The yield rating for the Fleischmanns spring may be high. This yield estimate was based on flow measured during drought conditions (December 2001), but not a drought of record. The applicant should compare the December 2001 drought conditions with a drought of record and adjust the springs yield rate accordingly.
6. Wells #1 and #2 and the springs are potentially Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI). The NYSDOH has concluded that there may be surface water intrusion into the springs, and there may be a significant connection between Well #2 and the nearby stream. Since it is similar to Well #2, Well #1 is also suspected of being influenced by surface water. Any source determined to be GWUDI will require filtration or similar treatment, or replacement with an alternate source. The applicant should explain how any source(s) determined to be GWUDI will be treated or replaced.
7. One proposed source alternative for the project is development of a new well near the Village's existing Well #3. This option should not be counted on until well testing confirms available yield and no adverse effects on existing Village water sources.
8. The Village of Fleischmanns has committed in writing only "an expression of interest in selling water to the proposed developments". An executed contract between the applicant and the Village, detailing the amounts and conditions of water purchases, should be provided before the permit is issued, or as a permit condition.
9. The Delaware County Soil and Water District has provided comments on the water budget analysis. These comments concluded that the net effect on the Village's springs may be a decrease in recharge to the springs, not an increase as indicated in the application. Although the applicant has disputed this analysis, they should address the possibility that the project may have an adverse impact on the Fleischmanns springs yield and/or quality, and how this issue will be resolved if it occurs. Additional related concerns are described in items 10, 11, and D.2.a.below.
10. Designated wetland 16 and several isolated wetlands (17,18,19,20,21) are located in the recharge zone of the Fleischmanns spring sources. Wetlands, and isolated wetlands in particular, are likely sources of groundwater recharge. Isolated wetland 21 is of particular concern as its clearly defined stream and streambed disappear on a topographical bench about 500 feet from the springs. Direct communication may exist between isolated wetland 21 and the groundwater that recharges the springs, necessitating special protective measures around this wetland.
11. The exact locations of the various Fleischmanns spring collection areas are not shown in the application documents. These locations should be shown on all appropriate site plans. The catchment area south of the railroad tracks is of particular concern – a lagoon (TP #101) is proposed very near that area, immediately below the proposed water treatment plant. This lagoon and the exact springs location relate to concerns described in item 9 above.

D. SPDES #027-0661 Wildacres Resort and #027-0679 Big Indian Plateau

1. Irrigation:

The applicant has proposed utilizing tertiary treated effluent for spray irrigation of golf courses and grounds. However, for these effluents, designated outfall 002 at Wildacres and 002 at Big Indian, the respective footnotes related to “achieving 99.9% and 99.99% removal and/or inactivation, respectively, for *Giardia lamblia* cysts and enteric viruses”, may not be reasonably protective for irrigation purposes in the case of enteric viruses. For example, if the effluent contains 10^8 virus particles per ml (typical high-end value for diluted viruses under conditions of illness) and there is no removal via microfiltration, but 99.99% disinfection, 10^4 viable virus particles per ml would be present in the effluent discharged to the irrigation pond. Exposure to the elements (especially sunlight) could further reduce this concentration but, if there is little or no retention in the pond, this concentration of viruses ultimately may be present in the sprayed irrigant. The World Health Organization has extensively examined the issue of treated wastewater uses and has recommended guidelines that protect public health. Discharge virus numbers are indirectly managed by the WHO using the levels of Fecal Coliform present i.e. if the effluent criteria for FC is met as a result of treatment, the presumed virus levels will be acceptable. It is critical, therefore, to get accurate FC counts. In order to have good confidence in the disinfection methods and the actual numbers of microorganisms in the effluent, we suggest an increased frequency of sampling when the receiving ponds are in use. Further, due to the potential for human exposure to aerosolized irrigation water, we recommend disinfection by both chlorination and UV to maximize removal/deactivation of protozoa, bacteria and enteric viruses.

2. Stormwater:

a. At Wildacres, proposed stormwater basins 14, 15, 17, 20 and 23 are located in the recharge zone of the Fleischmanns spring sources. The basins will collect contaminated runoff from golf course tees, greens and fairways and housing units 3, 4 and 5. Basin 15 is of particular concern since it is located in the likely recharge area of isolated wetland 21. Proposed basins 10, 22 and 24 are also in the recharge area but farther from the springs. The applicant should determine if the stormwater detention basins have the potential to affect the quality and quantity of the springs and propose mitigative measures for each possibility. Special restrictions on the use of treated wastewater for irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides should be implemented in the catchment areas within the recharge zone.

b. An important objective of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is to insure that all disturbed areas are stabilized prior to winter freeze up or snow cover. Allowing for continued disturbance until winter freeze up or snow cover will result in unstabilized soils left vulnerable to winter season thaws and the spring thaw. Given the vulnerability of the critical slopes and areas of thin soils at Belleayre and the potential for impacting the Ashokan and Pepacton Reservoirs, special conditions should be imposed to insure complete site stabilization prior to winter. New areas should not be opened after December 1, allowing sufficient time for site stabilization. New areas opened after November 1 should be restricted in size and unprotected areas should be stabilized as soon as possible after that date.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. If you have any questions, please call me at (518) 402-7650.

Sincerely,

John M. Dunn, P.E.
Assistant Bureau Director
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

cc: Mr. Tramontano
Mr. Svenson
Mr. Burke
Mr. Montysko
Mr. Devine, MARO
Mr. France, Oneonta District Office
Mr. Dumas, Ulster County Health Department
Mr. Holt, NYSDEC
Mr. Snow, NYSDEC
Mr. Tierney, OAG, WIG
Dr. Principe, NYCDEP
Mr. Gratz, USEPA