

A Step in the Right Direction

Members of the High Peaks Advisory Committee walked 81 of the 206 miles of trail in that wilderness area. And the result is a report which takes a significant step in the right direction.

Simply, that direction is to bring care of the High Peaks area into the 1970's to meet a level of use that has increased 700% in the past 25 years.

The committee's recommendations are now before Commissioner Peter A. Berle, the top policy maker and administrator in the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The proposals are tailored for fast implementation—with the exception of major trail renovation. In general, there doesn't appear to be much room for policy debate because the committee report deals with a comprehensive list of long overdue requirements that should receive immediate attention.

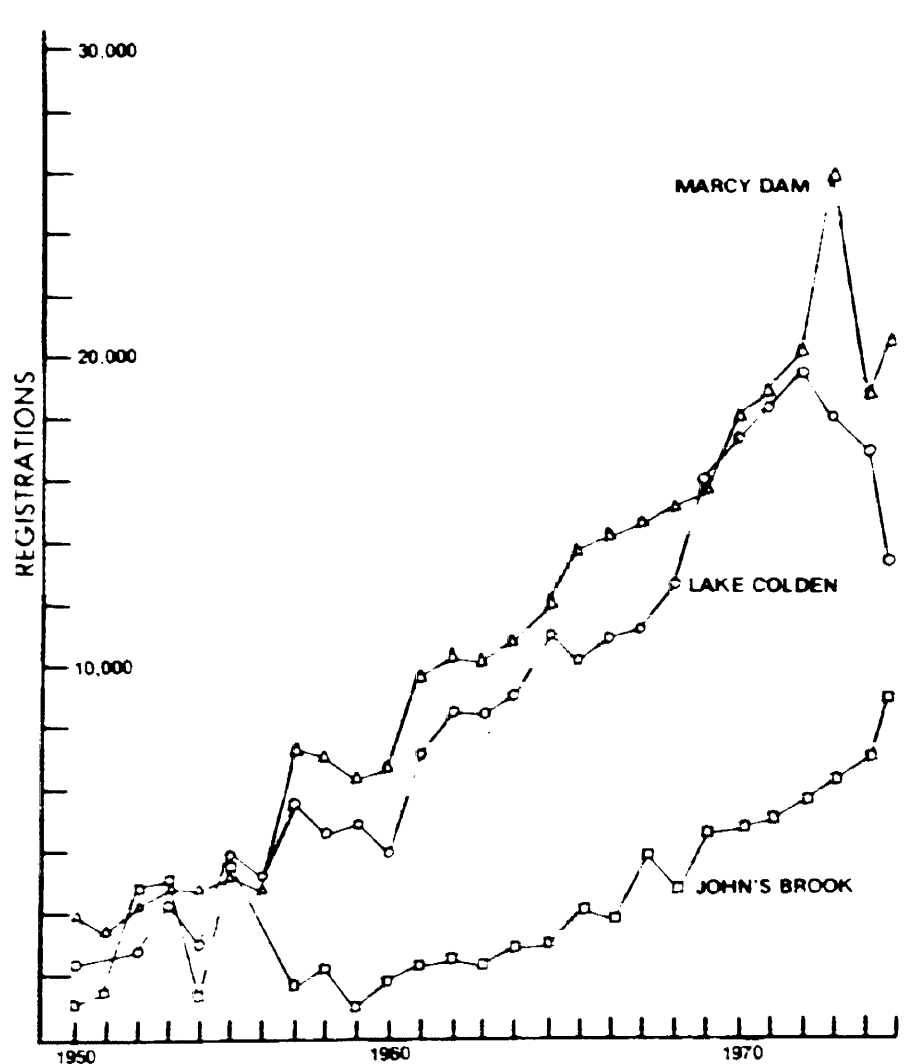
For example, each year the High Peaks are subject to approximately 250,000 days of hiker use. That's based on more than 80,000 hikers spending an average of three days in the wilderness area. Yet DEC has only one three-man crew, which works in the summer, and four interior caretakers with only partial responsibility for maintenance to deal with the wilderness upkeep of campsites, trails, dams, bridges, lean-tos, pit privies and entrance areas.

Commissioner Berle should immediately urge that additional maintenance funds be added to the upcoming supplemental budget. The benefits would accrue to hikers throughout the state and would provide evidence that the Carey administration is living up to its responsibility as caretaker of public lands.

The committee's wilderness walks paid off in a realistic assessment of trail damage—perhaps, not as bad as it could be. The report says:

"It is felt that a hiker is likely to overestimate the distance of eroded portions of a trail due to the increased difficulty and unpleasantness of hiking this section of the trail. For example, an estimate of the condition of the 2.7-mile trail up Ampersand Mountain was that 40% was thought to be bad, but measurement showed that only 15% was actually bad.

"However, most of the bad part, though short, was steep, wet with running water, bouldery and rocky—and therefore dangerous. Climbing in this part was slow, unpleasant and created



In Addition, DEC Reports 30%-40% Don't Register

an impression out of proportion to its length.

"Although trail deterioration was localized and quantitatively less than expected, where trails were bad they were usually very bad or even dangerous. Repair or rerouting is necessary on these sections."

The committee's recommendations on permits are sensible. It found them useful for a variety of purposes—education, data gathering, prevention of overcrowding and control of physical destruction. It urged limited use of permits in problem areas.

"For example," the report says, "the DEC could identify specific trails or areas where established carrying capacities are exceeded. The Department could employ a limited use permit system for these locations only, rather than limiting all camping throughout the High Peaks."

Such a moderate approach also will have the effect of redistributing hikers to lesser used areas with the probable result that the wilderness experience will be enhanced through a

knowledge of other peaks—peaks lesser in height but not in beauty.

"And the committee views permits as a last resort. "While the majority of the committee recommended the use of permits as an educational means and as a method of statistically analyzing camper use," the report says, "there is reluctance to employ a limiting permit system until all other means of solving the area's problems have been exhausted."

The report also considers methods to finance an adequate High Peaks program for the 1970's and beyond. It suggests state or federal capital appropriations for one-time construction projects, an increase in state funds for yearly operations and an investigation of the costs and benefits of wilderness user fees.

The report does not specify whether such user fees would be linked to any possible permit system but that's an assumption that could easily be made. We would add to the user-fee study the proposal made in The News Forum by Jack Drury of North Country Community College. He suggested the possibility of a tax on backpacking equipment with the revenue earmarked for wilderness use. Such a tax has the advantage of putting the cost on the shoulders of those who have the money to spend on recreation.

Evidently, Mr. Drury has a good many ideas. The report includes his proposal for a wilderness education program at North Country Community College. He sets forth the program's objective this way:

"We will offer individuals an opportunity to study, first hand, the problems of wilderness management and use, emphasizing the regional problems of New York State."

Thus, the very existence of the High Peaks Advisory Committee is stimulating appropriate programs that should serve to enhance the Adirondack economy, the wilderness experience and individual education.

We found the committee's report to be an unpretentious document that has the virtue of directing state policy toward an end that will not only benefit the Adirondacks but the state as a whole. It reflects the thinking of men and women who show they know the territory. And the slimness of the report attests to the fact that the membership would prefer to spend its time on the trail rather than around a conference table.

Because The News feels that the recommendations should have a wide readership in the Adirondacks—the proposals deal with the mountains in your backyard—we're printing the text of the report and selected appendices. And the editorial is to spur Forum page discussion.

FORUM

Daby Explains GOP Position

To the Editor:

In answer to questions that have been asked of us concerning the Committee's role in the recent Village Primary, the North Elba Republican Committee wishes to make the following facts known:

(1) The North Elba Republican Committee is charged with the responsibility of calling and conducting any Republican Primary—whether for Village office or for Town office. The Committee's responsibility for Village Primaries is the result of a recent change in the Rules and Regulations of the Essex County Republican Committee which change was necessitated by the fact that the former Village Republican Committee had ceased to function.

(2) The Committee's authority comes from the Election Law of the State of New York and from the Rules and Regulations of the Essex County Republican Committee.

(3) The Committee has no authority to nominate candidates. Candidates are nominated only by filing designating petitions and winning in a Primary election or winning nomination at a Party caucus.

(4) The Committee cannot legally support any candidate until that candidate has been nominated.

(5) Once a candidate is nominated, the Committee assumes responsibility and provides support to the candidate.

We hope the above will clarify our position and clear up the questions which have been asked.

Kimball Daby
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A Thank-You from Hospital Auxiliary

To the Editor:

The Women's Auxiliary of Local Memorial Hospital and our local Red Cross wish to express their appreciation to the people of Lake Placid for their wonderful support of the Blood Mobile, held on Monday, Feb. 14.

Our local restaurants generously donated sandwiches and food for the Canteen. We thank the following for their support: Howard Johnson's, Jimmy's, Lake Placid Delicatessen, Captain Billy's, Chaler, Holiday Inn.

Leola Peacock
Constance Hayes
Lake Placid

Persico Sends Editorial

To the Editor:

I noted a few weeks ago that the Knickerbocker News printed one of your editorials. Maybe you would like to return the favor and reprint the enclosed.

Richard A. Persico
Executive Director
Adirondack Park Agency

The Feb. 10 editorial follows:

MORE FUNDS FOR APA
Created five years ago, the pioneering Adirondack Park Agency has done a highly competent job of protecting the beautiful and awe-inspiring Adirondacks from the ravages of reckless development. To be sure, many Adirondack residents remain restless of the agency, regarding it as an intrusive outsider interfering with what should be local prerogatives. But because the agency has been reasonable and efficient in its regulation of land use

more and more residents are coming to understand that it is operating in their interests—that protecting the region's environment is also the best way to safeguard the region's economy.

This year, Gov. Hugh Carey is recommending that the agency receive a budget increase of approximately \$100,000, bringing its total budget to \$680,000. This increase is necessary because of the agency's expanding duties, which now include administering the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act and will soon include administering the Freshwater Wetlands Act. The legislature should grant this increase. Without additional funds, it would be difficult for the agency to continue to build confidence in its methods and purposes and for it to provide adequate protection to the magnificent Adirondacks.

Sheriff Writes on Jail Tour

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all the news media that helped in trying to make my "Open House" at the Essex County Jail a success.

Kim Goodspeed
Essex County Sheriff

near future.

The count was less than the first day, but the enthusiasm was more pronounced this time because those who did take the tour had previously heard of the problem.

My deep appreciation to those who did take the tour with my deputies.

Casier Sends Resolution

To the Editor:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution furnished by Blue Line Education Community Council Jan. 14, which, I believe, was passed unanimously.

I believe it reflects the attitude of the meeting floor than the opinions of Harlan Dodge, Mrs. Haselton, of Lake Placid's Art, Thompson and Dick Beamish as reported in your "As Schools Seek Adequate Funds."

I think your paper is great—keep it up.

Frank Casier
Saranac Lake

The resolution follows:

PROBLEM: Communities with boundaries located in the area under the jurisdiction of the Adirondack Park Agency, have very restrictive

regulations governing their potential for future growth. (APA Regulations). This restrictive land use regulation interferes with the natural growth of taxable resources in such communities.

As a result, a school district's ability to raise taxes for school support from new revenue sources, or potential revenue sources is seriously curtailed. The tax burden, by necessity, remains on existing taxable property.

SOLUTION: Move that legislation be introduced which would allow school districts and other local governments to receive additional state aid in lieu of lost taxable resources at the local level attributable to APA Regulations. This would apply to districts with boundaries affected by APA Regulations.

Inspectors he was not then residing within the Village limits, an opinion was provided that he was not legally eligible to vote in the 1958 Village Election.

The current question of the eligibility of George Christian Orloff as a candidate for Village Trustee is an entirely different legal matter. My legal opinion on this issue was based upon an entirely different set of facts and applicable laws than the 1958 Barry voting question.

As to the correctness of my current opinion concerning the eligibility of a candidate for Village Trustee, a copy of the opinion, and the assumed factual information upon which it was based is attached.

It is respectfully submitted that any aggrieved party has ample recourse to endeavor to obtain a contrary ruling or opinion from the Board of Elections, Attorneys General or through the courts.

Norman L. Hess
Village Attorney

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Text of Report on High Peaks

The text of the High Peaks Wilderness Advisory Committee report and selected appendices follow:

CHARGE TO THE COMMITTEE

During the early 1970's, there were clear indications that the use of the High Peaks Wilderness Area was increasing rapidly and had reached a significant level, with evidence of extensive trail deterioration.

In the Fall of 1974, Commissioner James Bigane convened a committee of citizens known for their long interest and experience in the High Peaks area, and charged them with investigating the situation fully and recommending appropriate courses of action. The following is a report of the two year investigation by the High Peaks Advisory Committee.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The High Peaks trail network grew in a relatively unplanned manner during the last half of the 19th Century and the early 20th Century by the actions of groups such as the Adirondack Trail Improvement Society (ATIS), the Lake Placid Club Camp and Trail Committee,

on summit areas. Significant aspects adding to the complexity are overcrowded conditions at desirable locations and an inadequate response by the Department to the need for trail relocation where erosion is severe.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

1. A physical trail inventory by the Committee has found that trail deterioration is localized to specific sections of most trails—14 percent or approximately 30 miles of the total trail mileage of the High Peaks trails is in critical condition. This is a substantially lower percentage than had been expected but it is indicative of a serious, continuing deterioration of the trail system.

2. Trail deterioration appears to be principally related to the original alignment, position and elevation of the trail on the slope; the methods of trail construction; the degree of continuing maintenance. It is only secondarily related to the extent of human use. A well located trail (i.e., the John's Brook Valley Trail), that receives adequate maintenance can sustain more than 10,000 users per year without unacceptable environmental deterioration.

disproportionate to that of the rest of the High Peaks Wilderness.

7. The problem of overuse is not general throughout the High Peaks. It is confined to certain intensively used areas of high recreational value and to the heavily traveled hiking corridors through the area. Significantly, camping use is heavily concentrated at only four (4) locations: Marcy Dam, Indian Falls, Lake Colden and John's Brook Valley.

8. Carrying capacity is a concept involving two primary components: a) physical effects, and b) subjective effects of use on visitor experience. The mix of these elements will vary from location to location. Below timber line, carrying capacity, the acceptable level of use for a site is primarily a qualitative or subjective factor. Above timber line the soil and vegetation are so fragile that the physical impact of use dominates and determines the carrying capacity.

time of the Committee's charge. This was the result of massive cleanup efforts, since 1974, conducted by volunteer groups under DEC coordination and from the educational thrust of Ridge Runners and Wilderness Rangers. The cleanup efforts, litter bag program and public education (i.e., carry-in, carry-out program) have combined to improve the situation. Continuing this effort is necessary.

17. The Committee finds that numerous wilderness areas in the United States are managed through use of permit systems that work. Permits can be used for a number of functions that range from education and data collection to limitation of use. Public acceptance of permit systems has been good where they have been carefully introduced.

18. The study of Winter Wilderness Recreation Use prepared by Cornell University, Wilderness Ranger reports, and personal observations of committee members indicate that a high percentage of inexperienced and ill-prepared winter hikers and campers use the High Peaks.

planning and management of the High Peaks Wilderness Area.

9. Assure that trail head parking capacities are commensurate with interior use. Resolve the unique problems at "The Garden" parking lot.

10. The Committee finds that numerous wilderness areas in the United States are managed through use of permit systems that work. Permits can be used for a number of functions that range from education and data collection to limitation of use. Public acceptance of permit systems has been good where they have been carefully introduced.

coordination of volunteer cleanup efforts.

Rehabilitation

1. First priorities should be directed to improvement of the trails leading to Mt. Marcy and Algonquin Peak.

2. Encourage and support efforts to restore eroded and damaged summit areas, as is now being done by the State College of Environmental Science and Forestry in its summit rehabilitation program.

3. Identify all critical rehabilitation and relocation projects. Prepare a consolidated budget packet to fund these projects.

4. Implement a comprehensive program of relocating seriously eroded trail sections that cannot be relocated. Establish a relocation policy based upon longer, more gradual trail slopes than the former "quickest way to the top" philosophy.

5. Identify those highly used trail sections that cannot be relocated. Implement rehabilitation projects for such sections.

6. Eliminate the multiple herd paths to the so-called trailless peaks. Determine and retain the best herd paths

each peak as a "wilderness path" with absolute minimum marking, as done for Iniquity by 40'er volunteers during 1975. Focus initial attention to the peaks of Allen, Donaldson, Hugh and Seymour. (Planned by 40'ers for summer, 1977).

7. Establish new trail construction should be placed primarily on trails close to centers of population, suitable for new day hiker walks and secondary or eroded trail systems, such as the Northville-Lake Placid trail.



Cairns and Footprints Mark Iroquois Peak Trail



Allen Brook Tumbles Down Allen Mountain



Herd Path Off the Summit of Mt. Marshall

Harvey Wallbanger's Trip

Breaker one nine

Arrive got a grip
Cause that Raunich O! Blue Grass
Is on a long trip

Is there any mobiles
On route seven two
Give me some state
On a ten thirty two

I want to make sure
That the slab is real clean
With the hammer was down
I don't want to be seen

While we're on the way
It's sure to be said
Is there any Smokies
On the slab up ahead

Breaker one nine
For a mobile southbound
I'm like a rabbit
Trying to outrun a hound

This rig is illegal
I don't even count
A two hundred water
And a small gutter mount

This is the Moral
If you really have cares
Keep your CB real legal
And watch out for the Bears

DOC OTIS

I cranked her up
To shout out afar
And it shut off the fuel
In a small foreign car

A shout from Bricklayer
Said I got your front door
Says I just buzzed a camera
At a hundred and four

Well, the Smokies get out
Mama Bears and all
Put two bears in the sky
Box they sure had the gall

With a roadblock ahead
And a convoy behind
The Bears flashing lights
We were sure in a bend

Now I'm in the slammer
With a hundred's stamp ball
They captured my ears
And my CB's in jail

This is the Moral
If you really have cares
Keep your CB real legal
And watch out for the Bears

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Ranger Report

Only one minor wilderness mishap was reported this weekend, the most crowded weekend in the High Peaks this winter.

Mark Burton, 17, was skiing down Indian Pass trail Sunday with eight other Explorer Scouts from Ridge wood, N.J. He picked up too much speed on a downhill run, fell and hurt the ligaments in his knee. He lay about two miles from the Adirondack Loj.

Wilmington ranger Wesley Hurd arrived within minutes of the accident. The scouts were well prepared for a bivouac. They were on a day trip, but Ranger Hurd said they had a sleeping bag and a closed-cell insulating pad with them in case

of accident. They also had a stove and they began heating beverages for the sufferer.

Mr. Hurd skied to the Loj and enlisted the aid of ranger Peter Fish of Keene. When they started back up the trail, their toboggan slid into a tree and broke a runner, so Mr. Hurd returned to the Loj and called Lake Placid ranger Gary Hodgson.

Mr. Burton left the solitude of Indian Pass, towed in a snowboat behind ranger Hodgson's snowmobile. Friends took him to Placid Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and released.

The accident occurred at about 2:30 PM and Mr. Burton reached the hospital at about 5:30.

It was an uneventful weekend for the High Peaks rangers. Ranger Robert Conklin reported all quiet at Marcy Dam on Sunday, as quiet as it could be with 150 people camped there.

One hiker who did not come to the High Peaks this weekend was Mark Zangara of the Bronx. His feet were severely frostbitten as he climbed Mt. Marcy Jan. 29.

He was released from Placid Memorial on Feb. 12, but Dr. Edward Hixon said he will be convalescing at his home for a month. Dr. Hixon said he's on his feet, wearing a felt slipper, and probably won't lose any toes.



AuSable Chamber Gets Olympic Logo

Cathy Galboun recently won a \$25 government bond as the winner of the AuSable Valley Chamber of Commerce Olympic logo contest. The logo will be incorporated into chamber membership cards, billboards and directories. Left to right are Lovrie Hathaway, president, Dave Anderson, Cathy Galboun and John Ryan.

An Approach to the High Peaks

(Continued from Page 1)

said, will be accomplished by an inter-disciplinary team of experts in such fields as geology, botany, forestry, biology and weather.

Mr. Jensen expects the wilderness management techniques to be in place for the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid.

Although the report concerns the High Peaks Wilderness Area, its impact will affect other lands as well. For example, policy conclusions reached for the High Peaks will have impact on the Dix and Giant Mt. Wilderness Areas, the Seward's and Saranac.

In addition, the committee recommends redistributing use outside the High Peaks area. It urged re-opening of selected old routes, logging roads and sportsmen's trails as well as the marked footpath to facilitate such redistribution to other areas. Additional routes near population centers also would be established. Such a program would be implemented through an educational program promoted through new guides and maps.

The committee's report itself is a slim 11 page supplement with a 28 page appendix. Its seven sections deal with planning, education, maintenance, rehabilitation, redistribution, control and funding. The recommendations are the result of extensive discussion and debate among committee members.

"It represents an evolution of thinking," Mr. Jensen explained. "Every issue was argued pro and con until a consensus was reached."

The committee embraces a spectrum of interests and activities ranging from cross-country skiing (Alma D. Coggeshall of Saranac) to landscape architecture (Alfred O'Hara of Saranac). Significant segments of the membership represent the Adirondack Mountain Club and the College of Environmental Science & Forestry at Saranac. Members are:

William Adriance, Mr. Coggeshall (Secretary), Harry Edridge Jr., Glenn W. Fish (vice chairman), Mr. Jensen, Edwin H. Kye (chairman), Ervin H. Markert, Barbara M. Marston, David L. Newhouse, Arthur E. Newkirk, Margaret G. O'Brien, Mr. O'Hara, Robert Riegler, John F. Siau and Sidney P. Luffell Jr.

An Official Perspective on 1990

(Continued From Page 1)

EDUCATION—There will not be enough new permanent residents to strain the educational resources of any community in the primary area. Lake Placid Central School will be temporarily disrupted by nearby construction of the field house and by use of the school during the games as a press center.

HEALTH CARE—More physicians will be needed during the summer seasons due to the increase in visitors. Emergency medical services will be improved because the Emergency Medical Services System will be adopted for the games.

PUBLIC SAFETY—Local police forces, which are now strained during peak summer months, will have to add some personnel and equipment after the games.

SEWER AND WATER—The water supply and sewage treatment systems in the Town of North Elba and the Village of Lake Placid are capable of meeting the needs of the Olympic period. The predicted population growth will have no significant effect on sewer and water services after 1967.

ELECTRICAL SUPPLY—The Lake Placid Municipal Electric System will have to be improved for the games. Olympic related improvements account for 85% of the total cost of the proposed project. The Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee will pay this share about \$5 million.

COMMUNICATIONS—The New York Telephone Company will expand its Central Office equipment in 1978 to accommodate both local needs and Olympic needs. The EIS said it will be necessary to discontinue the cost of Olympic related improvements from those required for normal service, and to clarify the ability of Olympic customers to support the special costs so that

local ratepayers are not ultimately burdened with premium costs to recoup the Olympic investment.

TRAFFIC—During the games, there will be periods of congestion in Lake Placid and on adjacent roads. This can be relieved somewhat by a shuttle bus system that removes visitor vehicles from the area. Bus traffic will blossom at key intervals and travel for local residents will be less convenient and slower during those times.

NO MAJOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS will be required to handle growth after the games. Traffic growth in the primary area will be about 20% greater than expected in 1990, due to the Olympics. The increase in the secondary area will be about 12% greater than the normal projected traffic growth.

The EIS concluded that the Olympics would have little effect on the condition of adjacent wilderness areas.

There has been a dramatic increase in the growth rates of wilderness usage over the last several decades and some areas, particularly the High Peaks Wilderness Area near Lake Placid, are considered to be overused at this time. These dramatic increases in wilderness usage have shown little or no relationship to changes in the summer seasonal population in the Primary and Secondary Study Areas.

Therefore, no relationship has been drawn between the projected increase in the summer seasonal population as a result of the Olympic Program and any further increases in wilderness usage, although the Olympics are anticipated to have an influence on increased use.

A statement of policy by the Department of Environment Conservation is included in the EIS. It describes alternatives means to control wilderness use and says:

"In any event, the necessary management techniques to effectively protect and preserve the fragile resources of these public lands will be in place prior to the Olympic Games."

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Text of Report on High Peaks

(Continued on Page 5)

Control

1. Prohibit all camping above 3,500 feet except where site studies, conducted by the Department, indicate that specific locations in the 3,500-4,000 elevation zone are environmentally capable of accepting such use and do not conflict with safety concerns related to high elevation camping. Encourage a "hike-high-camp-low" philosophy.

2. Assume that areas of concentrated camping, now occurring at Marcy Dam, Indian Falls, Lake Colden and John's Brook Valley, do not exceed their respective carrying capacities. Take such action as necessary, including the issuing of permits to disperse use, achieve environmental equilibrium and ensure a high quality wilderness experience for all users. Determine the actual need for wilderness permits by conducting tests and taking measurements that can provide accurate indications of use at each location. Relate this use to a specific carrying capacity for each location.

Should the Department find a permit system necessary for control purposes, the Committee recommends gradual, limited use of permits rather than immediate, general use permits. For example, the DEC could identify specific trails or areas where established carrying capacities are exceeded. The Department could employ a limited use permit system for these locations only rather than limiting all camping throughout the High Peaks.

3. Encourage High Peaks users to carry stoves for cooking.

4. Prohibit wood fires in all areas above 3,500 feet elevation.

5. Assume that users stay on designated trails above timberline, in particular those summit areas that support alpine vegetation.

6. Limit user group size to no more than 10 individuals.

7. Prohibit tenting within 100 feet of a lake or stream.

8. Prohibit tenting or campfires on trails. Urge placement of tents at least 100 feet from the trail.

Funding

The High Peaks Wilderness Advisory Committee recognizes several important problems related to the funding of the programs. It recommends: 1) Funding has never been adequate to enable the Department to properly care for the area; 2) Many of the suggestions included in the report require additional funding; 3) There is a direct correlation between the funding for construction and maintenance of the trails and camping areas, and their physical carrying capacity; 4) The use of volunteers has been important both in reducing maintenance and cleanup costs, and in providing planning and responsible citizen leadership. Volunteer programs should continue but should never be thought of as a substitute for Department personnel.

With this background, the Committee pledges active support in helping the Department obtain adequate appropriations for the recommended programs. Further, the Committee suggests that the following be studied to determine their potential for funding:

1. The possibility of Federal or State capital appropriations for the major trail construction, relocation and rehabilitation projects.

2. Increase regular State funds, as necessary, for planning and wilderness protection, i.e., fire, pollution, education and trail maintenance.

3. A study should be undertaken, immediately, to determine costs and benefits of wilderness user fees to supplement funding for trail maintenance.

SELECTED APPENDICES

Study of Existing Trail Conditions
Existing trail conditions in the High Peaks Wilderness Area were studied by committee members who walked the principal routes. The objective was to determine quantitatively the condition of the trails, especially the location of poor sections. Several techniques were explored for data taking. The method chosen was a standard form to indicate trail conditions (e.g., sections that were muddy, roots, gullied, eroded to bedrock, lack of sufficient waterbars, defective corduroy or defective bridges).

The study covered: 1) 4 miles, 20% of the 200 miles of trails in the High Peaks Wilderness Area. Approximately 11 miles (14%) were found to have critical problems including: Deep ruts, 0.05 miles, water erosion, 6.22 miles, overhanging rocks, 1.58 miles, poor corduroy, 0.56 miles, poor bridges, 1.3 miles. From reports, indicated other problems including: use incorrect mileage tape, a watershed out current, a submerged "Hatch-up Maribata" (subsequently repaired), bad waterbars, broken elevated

walkways, and trails worn to bedrock (not listed in mileage). Only 7.7 miles were hiked and studied in the rain. Several reports mentioned heavy rain as having occurred one to two days earlier. The survey thus revealed that trail deterioration is not general but local in nature, and that the actual mileage of seriously eroded trails is less than formerly supposed.

The existing trail conditions survey has met its goal of devising a method of rapid and objective trail evaluation in the High Peaks Wilderness Area. With some modifications, the method could usefully be extended to the entire mileage and be used as a monitoring technique on a regular basis to follow changes in trail conditions.

Summit deterioration

The Alpine Zone of New York State, that tundra-like area on the alpine summits above timberline, consists of 80 acres. As of this report only 40 acres of this zone are covered by vegetation. The most scenic mountain trails within the High Peaks converge on the summits within the Alpine Zone. This produces a concentration of hikers in the most fragile of environments within the High Peaks. The vegetation in this environment is primarily composed of rare and endangered species found nowhere else in New York State. The vegetation is also extremely vulnerable to damage by erosion and trampling.

Trailless Peaks

The herd paths on many trailless peaks were found to be more a detriment to the illusion of trackless wilderness than a problem with the physical environment. A survey indicated that minimal erosion exists on the majority of trailless peaks. The exceptions are five peaks for which recommendations are tabulated below. In these cases, natural erosion will continue so that restoration is not possible without these specific corrections.

Permit Systems

As part of a study of a permit system for hikers and campers within the High Peaks, the committee undertook a background analysis of the types of permits issued in other wilderness management areas. This included a study of the effectiveness of permits and their acceptance by the public.

The committee has compiled a body of information documenting permit use in Federal and State management areas throughout the United States. The committee feels these studies are important to the understanding of such systems as they relate to the High Peaks area.

Noting that most wilderness management areas now employ a permit system of some sort, the benefits of permit systems are described below.

1. **EDUCATION**—Permits provide an opportunity to educate the hiker or camper both to his safety and to his responsibility for the wilderness. They provide an opportunity for an educational contact between the ranger and the user.

2. **STATISTICAL DATA**—Permits can give detailed information about the numbers of hikers or campers, the frequency of heavy use periods, group sizes and areas with greatest visitor appeal. Permits can provide the necessary data for determining carrying capacity of trails, campsites or entire areas.

3. **Prevention of physical destruction** of the wilderness. Permit systems which limit the numbers of hikers or campers can provide the means of protecting wilderness resources in situations where the carrying capacity of an area has been exceeded.

4. **Maintenance** of the valuable spiritual aspects of a wilderness experience. At times permit systems may be needed in specific areas to prevent the noise, overcrowding and deterioration of the environment which the wilderness visitor seeks to escape.

While the majority of the committee recommended the use of permits as an educational means and as a method of statistically analyzing camper use, there is reluctance to employ a limiting permit system until all other means of solving the area's problems have been exhausted.

However, the committee feels that permits may be inevitable in specific areas or in sections of the Adirondack Park.

Marked Footpath Concept

The committee recommends that the DEC evaluate the new trail concept proposed by the Committee—the Marked Footpath. The committee believes that certain trails should be developed that would blend into the natural landscape to the highest degree possible, reducing the cost of construction and subsequent maintenance.

The Marked Footpath would be such a route. The essential premise is that a footpath route would not be cleared but would be delineated by the use of sufficient trail markers. A herd path would soon develop with a defined print on the ground that could easily be followed. Should it be desired to abandon the route, the markers could be removed and relocated. Natural processes would then alter the route in a few seasons.

Such a trail will essentially be self-maintaining, except for the replacement of markers. Hikers can help in showing the route down by breaking the path and by not cutting any vegetation. Special markers should be used for these paths. Explanations of the Marked Footpath and its dangers should be prepared and accompany sets of maps of routes of Marked Footpaths. These maps could be sold by the State. A suggested wording and further explanation of the concept is given below.

Since this approach would be a departure from the usual trail concept, the Committee proposed that one or two Marked Footpaths be developed to determine the feasibility of these routes under field conditions. The Committee already has before it several tentative routes which could serve as tests of the Marked Footpath concept.

ing capacity functions as an identifiable standard against which to compare ongoing use. The two primary components of carrying capacity are:

1. **THE PHYSICAL CAPACITY** to withstand use, beyond which the natural resource will be unacceptably altered; and

2. **THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPACITY** of the subjective level beyond which individuals feel that their wilderness experience is not satisfactory, because of a loss of the sense of wilderness through overcrowding, noise or a lack of privacy.

A third aspect of carrying capacity, the FACILITY CAPACITY, should also be addressed. This is the maximum level of the use that man-made facilities—trails, camping areas, parking lots, lean-tos, privies and the like, can accommodate. Facility capacity is not affected by natural constraints, but is determined by management decisions and fiscal implications.

Trailless Peaks

The herd paths on many trailless peaks were found to be more a detriment to the illusion of trackless wilderness than a problem with the physical environment. A survey indicated that minimal erosion exists on the majority of trailless peaks. The exceptions are five peaks for which recommendations are tabulated below. In these cases, natural erosion will continue so that restoration is not possible without these specific corrections.

Permit Systems

As part of a study of a permit system for hikers and campers within the High Peaks, the committee undertook a background analysis of the types of permits issued in other wilderness management areas. This included a study of the effectiveness of permits and their acceptance by the public.

The committee has compiled a body of information documenting permit use in Federal and State management areas throughout the United States. The committee feels these studies are important to the understanding of such systems as they relate to the High Peaks area.

Noting that most wilderness management areas now employ a permit system of some sort, the benefits of permit systems are described below.

1. **EDUCATION**—Permits provide an opportunity to educate the hiker or camper both to his safety and to his responsibility for the wilderness. They provide an opportunity for an educational contact between the ranger and the user.

2. **STATISTICAL DATA**—Permits can give detailed information about the numbers of hikers or campers, the frequency of heavy use periods, group sizes and areas with greatest visitor appeal. Permits can provide the necessary data for determining carrying capacity of trails, campsites or entire areas.

3. **Prevention of physical destruction** of the wilderness. Permit systems which limit the numbers of hikers or campers can provide the means of protecting wilderness resources in situations where the carrying capacity of an area has been exceeded.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC INVITATION TO OWNERS TO MAKE DWELLING UNITS AVAILABLE FOR LEASING BY ELIGIBLE FAMILIES UNDER SECTION 8 EXISTING HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM

Owners and managers of rental housing in the Town of Wilmington are invited to participate in the Section 8 Existing Housing Assistance Payments Program which will provide rental assistance to the elderly, the handicapped and large families with low to moderate income. Funds for this program have been provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Town of Wilmington Housing Agency.

Under the Section 8 Program, direct monthly payments will be made to owners of rental property on behalf of eligible persons to cover part of their rental cost. In order to qualify for the program, housing units must meet program housing standards, and must fall within the following H.U.D. Fair Market Rents (basic rent with utilities included) limits for Wilmington:

1 bedroom, \$125	2 bedrooms, \$148
3 bedrooms, \$164	4 bedrooms, \$181

In certain cases, the Fair Market Rents may be increased up to 10%.

The Town of Wilmington Housing Agency will enter into a Housing Assistance Payment Contract with owners of acceptable units who agree to participate in the program, in order to provide monthly Housing Assistance Payments to the owner on behalf of participating families.

The benefits to owners of rental housing in the Town of Wilmington are:

1. Lessens possibility of late rental payment or non-payment;
2. Provides payment of a percentage of rental for vacancy period up to 60 days, when certain conditions are met;
3. Allows for annual rent adjustments due to inflation and increased cost, such as real property taxes and utilities;
4. Guarantees payment of assisted portion of the rent, under terms and conditions of the Housing Assistance Payment Contract.

Owners and managers who are interested in offering units for participation in the program or who wish further information are encouraged to attend a public meeting Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wilmington Town Hall, Wilmington, N.Y., or call Patrick McIntyre at 946-7790, or Tom Randall at 946-7730.

This Program operates within the Equal Housing Opportunity Laws

Town of Wilmington Housing Agency Patrick McIntyre Program Manager 946-7790

