



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

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# Environmental Assessment

## Caywood Point Management Area Designation

Hector Ranger District, Finger Lakes National Forest  
Seneca County, New York



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## List of Acronyms

BA/BE	Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DN	Decision Notice
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FS	Forest Service
FLNF	Finger Lakes National Forest
GMNF	Green Mountain National Forest
GMFLNF	Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests
ID Team, IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
MA	Management Area
NR	National Register
MIS	Management Indicator Species
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFS lands	National Forest System lands
ROD	Record of Decision
TES	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Definitions

**Management Prescription:** A management prescription is a composite of the specific multiple-use direction applicable to all or part of a management area that generally includes, but is not limited to goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and probable management practices.

**Management Areas:** Management areas are areas with similar management objectives, having a common management prescription.

**Mitigation Measure:** Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects.

**Multiple Use management:** Managing the land for many different types of uses, for example, recreation, wood products, range management, etc.

**Standards and Guidelines:** They are the rules that govern when and how the management practices can be applied.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Preface**

Summary.....	<i>i</i>
Document Structure.....	1

<b>I. Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
A. Project Area.....	2
B. Background & History .....	4
C. Forest Service Authority, Policy, and Management Direction.....	5
D. Purpose and Need for Action .....	6
E. Proposed Action.....	8
F. Decision Framework.....	9
G. Public Involvement.....	10
H. Issues.....	10
<b>II. Description of Alternatives Including the Proposed Action.....</b>	<b>12</b>
A. Process Used to Develop Alternatives.....	12
B. Alternatives Considered for Detailed Analysis.....	12
C. Alternative 1 – Proposed Action.....	13
D. Alternative 2 – Undeveloped Action.....	13
E. Alternative 3 – No Action.....	14
F. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated.....	14
G. Mitigation Measures.....	14
H. Monitoring.....	15
I. Comparison of Alternatives.....	16
<b>III. Affected Environment and Effects .....</b>	<b>22</b>
A. Introduction.....	22
B. Environmental Effects by Resource Area.....	22
Socio-Economic Resources.....	22
Visual Quality.....	25
Heritage Resources.....	27
Soil, Water, Wetland and Floodplain Resources.....	31
TES.....	34
General Wildlife, Fisheries, and MIS.....	36
Recreation.....	39
Environmental Justice.....	41
Prime Farmland, Rangeland, and Forestland.....	42
<b>IV. Consultation and Coordination.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>V. References .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>VI. Appendices.....</b>	<b>44</b>
APPENDIX A: Biological Evaluation – TES	
APPENDIX B: Standards and Guidelines for the Proposed Action, Alt. 1	
APPENDIX C: Standards and Guidelines for the Undeveloped Action, Alt. 2	
APPENDIX D: Standards and Guidelines for the No Action, Alt. 3	

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## SUMMARY

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This Environmental Assessment addresses the management area designation of the land now known as Caywood Point. Caywood Point is located on Route 414 in Seneca County and is within the Hector Ranger District, Finger Lakes National Forest, in New York.

The management area designation outlines a vision of how we will manage land into the future. Management areas are parcels of land with similar management objectives, having a common management prescription. A management prescription is a composite of the specific multiple-use direction applicable to all or part of a management area that generally includes, but is not limited to goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, and probable management practices. Basically, the management prescription is how the land within the management area will be managed. In order to achieve the desired future condition of the Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF), we developed six management prescriptions that will help us accomplish the overall goals and objectives of the Finger Lakes Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

The Finger Lakes National Forest proposes to change the management area designation of Caywood Point from Management Area (MA) 9.2 (a holding category for newly acquired lands) to Management Area 8.1E (a Special Area for education and recreation).

This action is needed because the land has been in a holding category for newly acquired land for eight years (1996-2003), because it will address the interests of a local group, The Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor's Center Inc., and because the proposed management area prescription will preserve the property's special values for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the responsible official will decide whether or not to (1) change the management area designation from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E as proposed, (2) choose the No Action alternative, which would maintain the status quo, or (3) to mitigate or change the proposed action.

This proposal is evaluated with consideration to public issues and management concerns. All proposed activities are guided by the direction stated in the Forest Plan.

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## Document Structure

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The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. This Environmental Assessment discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and the alternatives. The document is organized into six parts:

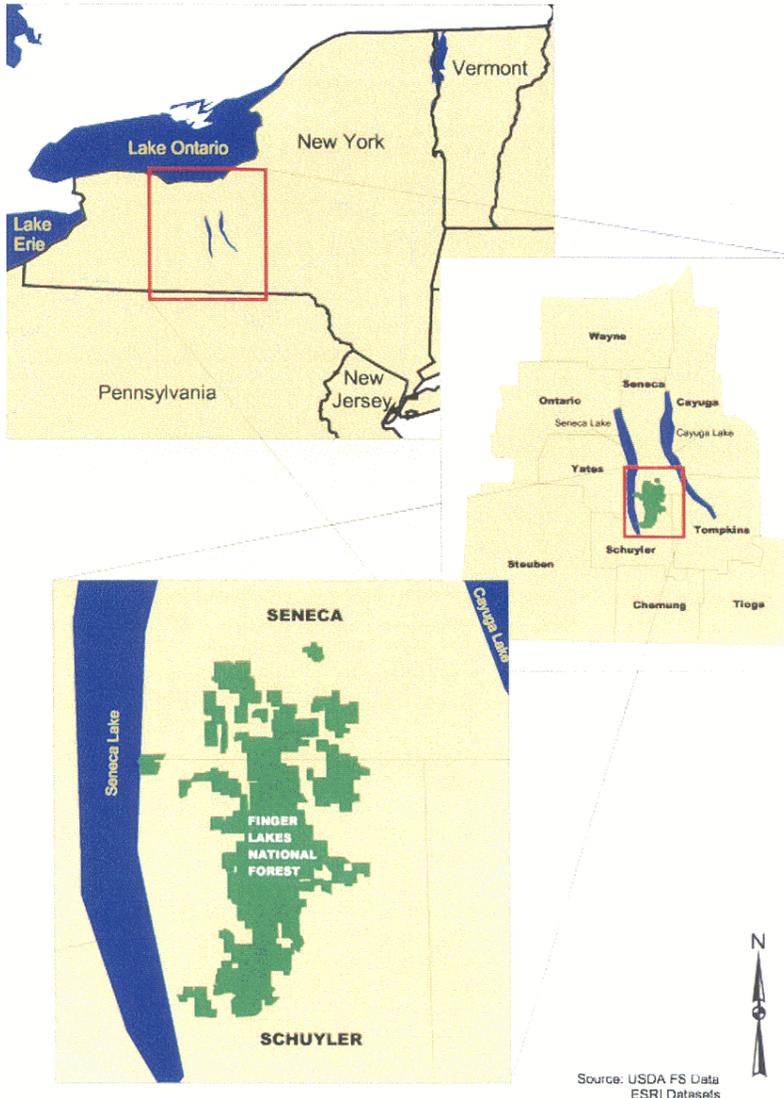
- **Introduction:** The section includes information on the project area, the background and history of the proposed action, the purpose and need for the proposed action, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposed action, how the public responded, and the issues they raised.
- **Comparison of Alternatives, including the Proposed Action:** This section provides a detailed description of the agency's proposed action as well as alternative actions for achieving the stated purpose. These alternatives were developed based on issues raised.
- **Environmental Effects:** This section describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and the alternatives. The analyses are organized by each resource area. Within each section, the affected environment is described first, followed by the environmental effects, and discussion of each alternative. Cumulative effects are discussed at the end.
- **Consultation and Coordination:** This section provides a list of those individuals that were involved in the preparation of this document, and any agencies or other individuals consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.
- **References:** This section provides any and all references that were used in the preparation of this environmental assessment.
- **Appendices:** The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

Additional documentation, including more detailed analyses of project-area resources, may be found in the project planning record located at the Hector Ranger District Office in Hector, New York.

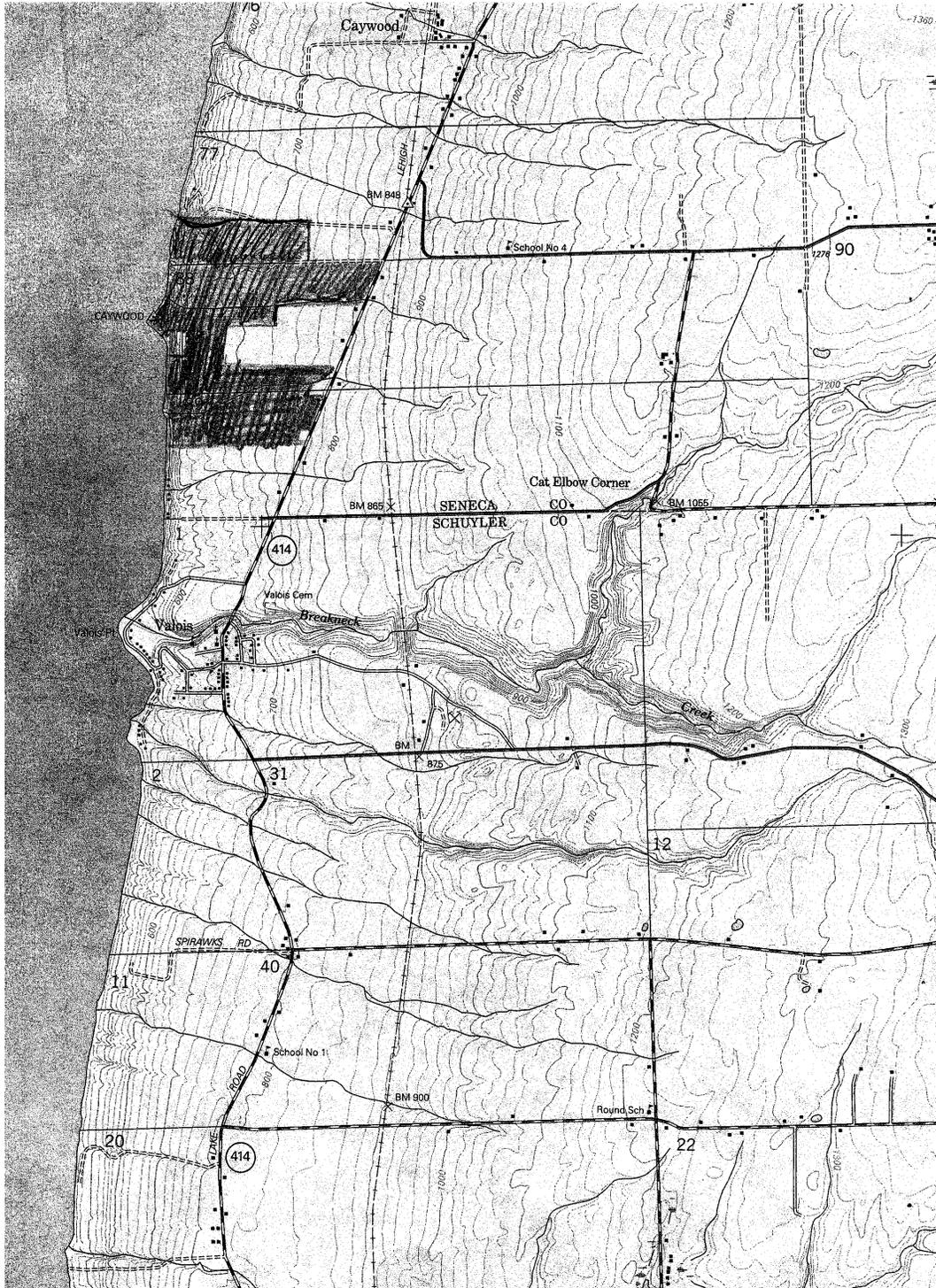
# CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

## Project Area

The Caywood Point parcel consists of approximately 214 lakeside acres. The Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, purchased two parcels of the property in 1996, and one parcel in 1997. The two parcels that were purchased in 1996 consist of 78.96 acres (northern half) and 94.23 acres (southern half). The parcel that was purchased later consists of 40 acres, and lies directly north of the 78.96 northern half. The Trust for Public Land conveyed the property to the Finger Lakes National Forest in 1996 and 1997 respectively. Please note that the map has been amended from the one mailed out during the scoping period; the 1997 parcel was inadvertently left off the original map. The additional parcel includes approximately 40 additional acres, bringing the total acreage of the project area to approximately 214 acres.



# Map of Caywood Point Parcel



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## Background & History

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The Caywood Point parcel was owned by the Elmira Council of Boy Scouts from 1924 until 1996. They named the parcel “Camp Seneca” and used it as a camp for well over a half century. When the parcel was sold, there were 27 buildings on the property. The facilities list included buildings such as latrines, cabins, maintenance buildings, a dining hall, a shower house, a nature lodge, a boathouse, and various others. Most of these buildings will be removed in 2003 due to safety concerns. The waterfront area includes two docks, and another building, the Queen’s Castle, which was built in 1899. This building was listed to the National Register of Historic Places on June 1, 1999, for its historical significance in the Women’s Rights Movement. More detail about the Queen’s Castle, the artist colony known as Fossenvue, and the Native American presence is provided in the Heritage Resources section in Chapter 3.

In 1996, the Trust for Public Land purchased the property from the Elmira Council of Boy Scouts and conveyed it to the Forest Service. The FNLF assigned this new parcel to Management Area 9.2. This management area category is the designation given to newly acquired land, and is considered a holding category. As stated in the summary, the management area designation outlines a vision of how we will be managing the lands into the future. Management areas are parcels of land with similar management objectives, having a common management prescription. The proposal to change the management area (MA) from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E would require an amendment to the Finger Lakes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan Revision process is currently underway, and is expected to be completed in 2005. We are proposing an amendment to the current Forest Plan, rather than waiting until the Forest Plan Revision process is completed to better address the needs of the public. The management area category must designate the lands intended emphasis (or a “vision”) for how that land will be managed before any projects could take place.

In the late 1990’s, a local interest group formed, called the Caywood Point Group. They organized several public meetings and crafted a vision statement and recommendations for uses for the newly acquired Caywood Point property. Recommendations from the Caywood Point Group were distributed throughout the region in a flyer that had a feedback form to return. Eighty-two (82) were returned, and the results were summarized in a report they presented to the FLNF.

The Caywood Point Group envisioned three primary goals for the creation of a Visitor’s Center:

1. To establish a nationally significant center on the Caywood Point land parcel that provides an interpretive overview of the regions’ social and environmental history.
2. To attract local residents and visitors to the center by offering environmental and educational programs and resources.
3. To provide visitors with comprehensive tourist information services detailing the recreational and educational opportunities of the region.

Their secondary goal is the relocation of the Finger Lakes National Forest Service administrative offices and operations and maintenance facilities to the new site.

Given those goals, the following educational and recreational opportunities are being considered by the Caywood Point Group: an interpretive/visitor center, Forest administrative offices and associated operations and maintenance facilities, a refurbished mess hall for community use, a refurbished Queen's Castle for tours and/or historical research, shelter structures for picnics and gatherings, a small primitive campground, trails for hiking, horse-riding, bird-watching, bicycling and possibly snowmobiling, daytime recreational use of the lakeshore land, hunting and fishing, research and educational opportunities, and non-motorized access to the lake.

The group commissioned the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University to do a feasibility study at Caywood Point for an interpretive center, and they received the final report in May of 2001. The study looked at how the center would be designed and constructed, how it would function, who the audience would be, how it would contribute to the economy of central New York and the larger region of the Northeastern US, cost estimates, and criteria and options for organizational structure, and sources of funding.

The group has now transformed into The Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor Center Inc., a non-profit group, and they are working with various state and federal legislators to provide funding for a visitor's center at the Caywood Point land parcel. As stated above, any project proposed at Caywood Point would need public input and an environmental study before it could be approved.

Another interest group, the Finger Lakes Forest Watch Congress, has published a Forest Consensus Endorsement, and they are petitioning the Forest Service to provide a revised Forest Plan that endorses several items that they list. Some of the items included in their petition that may apply to the Caywood Point parcel are as follows (1) emphasize a shift in management from resource extraction to providing job opportunities for environmental restoration, place based education, research and tourism, (2) establish improved forest trails and recreation areas emphasizing scenic non-motorized recreation opportunities, and (3) adopt additional Special Areas including the undeveloped Caywood Point shoreline, all ravines, wetlands and sub watershed headwaters.

## **Forest Service Authority, Policy, and Management Direction**\_\_\_\_\_

The Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF) is the only National Forest in New York State, and the only public land that has an explicit philosophy of multiple use.

In 1982, the Federal land management agencies were directed to identify isolated parcels of federal land that could be sold without significantly affecting the resource base of public service. The intent was to dispose of lands that were inefficient to manage, and to generate revenue. When the Hector Land Use Area was evaluated for disposal under the Assets Management Program, it became obvious that people considered the Forest a precious and indispensable asset to their region. When public meetings were held to evaluate this idea, there was strong local support for continued federal ownership. This message was strongly reinforced during public involvement on the Draft Forest Plan. People had come to rely on the Forest for opportunities to observe and enjoy nature, and to roam around in a large unrestricted land area. They valued the wood, forage and other

products that came from the Forest. We were also praised for how we had demonstrated that multiple uses of the land were possible, without destroying its long-term productivity.

The Forest Service is strongly committed to the continuation of multiple use management, and the protection of life sustaining capabilities of the land. Although resource management emphases vary from one part of the Forest to another, we consider all resources in our management decisions. We look for creative ways to balance the production of commodities, such as timber and forage, with other important benefits like high quality recreation, diverse wildlife habitat and rare plants. This requires close teamwork among resource specialists in the Forest Service, and with members of the public who share our commitment to wise management.

Every National Forest has a management plan (called a Land and Resource Management Plan) that provides direction for management of the land. It is also often referred to as the "Forest Plan". In 1987, a comprehensive land management planning effort was concluded with the approval of the FLNF Forest Plan. An environmental impact statement (EIS) was prepared in conjunction with the Forest Plan to document the analysis process. This document was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations for NEPA.

The signing of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final EIS in 1987 represents the first level of decision making related to land and resource management planning. This decision determined the desired future conditions of the FLNF and established the standards and guidelines under which future projects would be implemented.

The FLNF Forest Plan was created to manage the forest to fulfill the following roles in the regional context: (1) provide opportunities to observe and enjoy nature; (2) provide opportunities to roam around in a large unrestricted land area; (3) produce wood, forage, and other products like high quality recreation, diverse wildlife habitat and rare plants without destroying long-term productivity; (4) demonstrate multiple use management (5) educate and promote an awareness of natural resource management and a strong conservation ethic; and (6) provide benefits not found on private lands.

## **Purpose and Need for Action**

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The purpose of this proposal is to proactively address the future interests of the public by having the parcel assigned to a management area category where future projects can be considered and the desires of the public implemented. The management area designation outlines a vision of how we will be managing the lands into the future. The parcel has great potential for recreational opportunities, and has historical significance, i.e. the Queen's Castle, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We are aware that the Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor's Center Inc. group has been meeting for several years. They are interested in seeing the Caywood Point parcel used for educational and recreational pursuits. The group has three primary goals for the creation of a visitor's center at Caywood. They have submitted these goals to us in writing, and they would like to: (1) establish a nationally significant center on the

Caywood Point land parcel that provides an interpretive overview of the regions' social and environmental history; (2) attract local residents and visitors to the center by offering environmental and educational programs and resources, and (3) provide visitors with comprehensive tourist information services detailing the recreational and educational opportunities of the region. Their secondary goal is to relocate the Finger Lakes National Forest Service administrative offices and operations and maintenance facilities to the new site.

The Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor's Center Inc. has envisioned goals for the visitor's center to be as follows: (1) to promote tourism and economic stability in the Seneca Lake area by providing a tourist anchor in the heart of the Finger Lakes Wine Country; and (2) to promote a knowledge of the Seneca Lake region by pulling together those components of the central Finger Lakes which defines its unique quality and character. The group feels it will preserve the cultural heritage of the Caywood Point property while documenting its historical significance to the development of the Seneca Lake region. Historical events, activities, and facilities specifically identified will include the historically registered Queen's Castle, the Boy Scout facility, *Camp Seneca*, the Fossenvue Artist Colony, Native Americans, and General Sullivan's campaign. It will provide educational information on the geology, ecology as reflected in farming, forestry, and other land and water management practices. The group feels the envisioned visitor's center will complement and enhance the interest in other facilities in the Finger Lakes and Western NY.

This action is needed because the Forest Plan Revision Process that is currently underway will not be completed until 2005; therefore, we are proposing to amend the Forest Plan now, in order to better address the interests of the public. The Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor's Center Inc. group has been meeting since the late 1990's to provide recommendations and input to the management of this new parcel. They have submitted recommendations to the Forest Service, commissioned a feasibility study, and are currently seeking federal funding for the development of a visitor's center on the Caywood Point parcel. There is legislation pending in Congress right now to do an Environmental Impact Statement that will look at the impacts of a visitor's center being built at Caywood. This legislation has passed the House Appropriations Committee, but has not yet made it through the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Caywood Point parcel must be designated to a management area category before this next step (the EIS) could be taken. Caywood Point must be designated to a management area before any proposals can be accepted by the Forest Service and analyzed.

The current management area prescription for Caywood Point, MA 9.2, limits management actions to protecting existing resources, uses and facilities. MA 9.2 allows for management activities to counteract or prevent damage to the resources because of natural or human caused events, or to ensure public safety. According to Amendment No. 1 to the Land and Resource Management Plan, dated June 1998, MA 9.2 was added to Section F, which pertains to newly acquired lands. It states that "*the purpose of MA 9.2 is to protect the natural resource and management options of these (and future) newly acquired lands until studies are done to determine the desired future conditions for these land areas. MA 9.2 will give the Forest time to work with the public in studying how newly acquired lands should be managed. The time needed to complete these studies will*

*be influenced by the location, size, and complexity of each area. While some newly acquired lands may be assigned to another management prescription rather quickly, others may remain under prescription 9.2 until the next time the whole Forest Plan is revised.”*

Leaving the parcel in MA 9.2 does not address the needs of two interest groups that we know are interested in having the parcel assigned into another management area designation. The restrictive nature of MA 9.2 does not allow for any new construction, new trails, nor Special Area designation. MA 9.2 only allows management activities to counteract or prevent damage to the resources because of natural or human caused events, or to ensure public safety and current uses. Leaving the parcel in this MA designation does not support the needs of the public.

The Finger Lakes Forest Watch Congress has also indicated via a Forest Consensus Endorsement that they wish to see Caywood Point designated as a Special Area. They are petitioning to have Special Area designation given to the undeveloped Caywood Point shoreline, all ravines, wetlands and sub watershed headquarters.

This parcel has potential for a myriad of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, camping, bird-watching, fishing, swimming, boating, picnicking, hunting, etc. As a former Boy Scout Camp, the parcel has established trails, and bridges that traverse ravines. There is an expansive beachfront, areas with steep cliffs facing the lake, and many different types of flora and fauna. The parcel also has great historical significance, and is host to the Queen’s Castle, a building on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in Women’s Rights history. There are many opportunities for interpretive and educational activities.

This action responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the Finger Lakes National Forest Plan, and helps move the Caywood Point parcel towards the desired conditions described in that plan. Chapter IV, Forest Management Direction, item “C”-Goals, and Item “D”- Objectives, of the Forest Plan lists the goals and objectives. The proposed action responds to the Forest Plan Goals of protecting significant cultural and historic resources, providing types of recreation that require large, relatively undeveloped land areas, providing types of wildlife habitat not common on other lands (shrub areas) and promoting the use of the Forest for environmental education and research. This action will address the interests of the public while preserving the property’s special values for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

## **Proposed Action**

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The action proposed by the Forest Service (to meet the purpose and need for action) is to change the management area designation from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E, a Special Area for recreation and education. MA 8.1E would allow development of the parcel for recreation and educational purposes. The proposed action would (1) change the designation of the land, (2) assign standards and guidelines in order to direct the management of the land, and (3) become an amendment to the Forest Plan. The associated standards and guidelines for Alternative 1, the Proposed Action, can be found in Appendix B.

MA8.1 protects special areas with uncommon or outstanding biological, geological, cultural, historical, or recreational significance. The current Forest Plan has four sub management areas under MA8.1, and they are as follows: (1) 8.1A-Interloken Trail, (2) 8.1B-Finger Lakes Trail, (3) 8.1C-Ravine Trail, and (4) 8.1D-Old Growth. The proposed action would be entitled 8.1E-Caywood Point.

The activities that would be allowed under this MA designation would include the following: trail construction and maintenance – for non-motorized uses only; maintenance of vegetation to provide for both species diversity and a variety of vegetation types via prescribed fire, mowing, or other methods compatible with recreation use; construction and maintenance of trail shelters, roads, and other facilities if there was a demonstrated need; and interpretation of cultural sites, and resources for educational purposes.

It is foreseeable that the public would use this site for hiking, picnicking, educational trips, hunting, fishing, and observing plants and wildlife. Currently, Forest visitors are pursuing recreational activities such as hiking and hunting. If the parcel is assigned to this MA, proposals from the public can then be accepted for further analysis, along with public input. The designation of a MA is the first step in the overall process of any site-specific projects being proposed.

## **Decision Framework**

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Given the purpose and need, the deciding official will review the proposed action and the other alternatives to decide whether or not to (1) apply MA 8.1E with the proposed standards and guidelines of a Special Area for recreation and education to the Caywood Point parcel, (2) do not apply a management area designation and leave the parcel as status quo, (No Action), or (3) mitigate or change the proposed action. The parcel is currently in MA 9.2, a holding category for newly purchased lands. If a management area designation is not applied at this time, it will be assigned to one in 2005, when the revision of the current Forest Plan is completed. The creation of, or any changes to management areas would lead to the decision of whether or not to approve an amendment to the Forest Plan. The Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Supervisor is the deciding official.

The Forest Supervisor is the authority in determining whether amendments are significant or not significant. This determination is made under the direction found in 16 U.S.C.1604 (f) (4), 36 CFR 219.10(f), and FSM 1922.5. The term “significant” as it pertains to a Forest Plan amendment, is not the same as “significant” in the context of addressing environmental effects in a NEPA analysis (as might be found in the language of an environmental assessment). “Significant” as it pertains to a Forest Plan amendment, gauges the impact of a proposed change to a Forest Plan.

To meet the definition of significant, an amendment must meet both of the following criteria found in FSM 1922.5. It must (1) substantially alter the long-term relationship between the outputs of multiple use goods and services (i.e., wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, timber products) originally projected; and (2) it must have an important

effect on the entire Forest Plan or affect the land and resources throughout a large portion of the planning area during the planning period.

As defined in FSM 1922.5, non-significant amendments can result from (1) activities that do not significantly alter the multiple use goals and objectives in the long term, (2) adjustments to management area boundaries and prescriptions based on further on-site analysis, (3) minor changes to standards and guidelines, and (4) incorporating opportunities for additional management practices that will contribute to achievement of management prescriptions.

It is anticipated that analysis will show this proposal to be a non-significant amendment, as we are proposing to change the MA designation of the parcel, which, as defined in FSM 1922.5, is a non-significant amendment.

## **Public Involvement**

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The proposal has been listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions since the July-September 1999 issue. We mailed a scoping letter August 1, 2002, seeking public input on the proposal to amend the Forest Plan to change the management area designation. Of the six hundred sixty-three (663) scoping letters mailed out, we received six (6) responses. Using the comments from the public, as well as Forest Service employees, the Interdisciplinary Team developed the list of issues to address.

## **Issues**

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### **Issue Development Process**

Public comments were reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) to identify issues relative to the Proposed Action.

The public comments were separated into 2 categories, which are as follows:

1. Significant issues; and,
2. Issues not carried forward in this analysis, or non-significant issues.

An issue is a point of discussion, debate, or dispute (about environmental effects) regarding the proposed action.

Significant issues are used to formulate alternatives, prescribe mitigation measures, or analyze environmental effects. Issues were considered to be significant due to their extent of their geographic distribution, the duration of their effects, the intensity of interest or the potential for resource conflicts.

An issue was not carried forward in this analysis if (1) the issue was outside the scope of the proposed action, (2), the issue was already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision, (3) the issue was irrelevant to the decision to be made, or (4) the issue was conjectural and not supported by scientific evidence.

## **Significant Issues**

The IDT identified the following issues as significant:

1. The Caywood Point parcel has value as a relatively undisturbed landscape that provides a habitat for various wildlife and bird species, a lakeside habitat not readily found around Seneca Lake.
2. The Caywood Point parcel has a highly sensitive visual component, which should be considered when proposing any development or structures. Structures should maintain the character and outstanding values of the area.
3. The Caywood Point parcel should remain undeveloped, with no public access to the lake, no timber harvesting and existing public roads should be closed to public use.

## **Issues Not Carried Forward**

### **Issue: No grazing should be allowed.**

This issue is addressed by Alternative 1, 2, and 3. The standards and guidelines for all three alternatives do not allow for grazing. The term “pasture” in the proposed action caused confusion, and is in apparent conflict with standard and guideline letter “k” that prohibits livestock grazing. We have removed the term “pasture” and replaced it with “grass and forb areas”.

### **Issue: Caywood should be a Wilderness Area.**

This issue is already decided by law, the Wilderness Act of 1964. It’s size, it’s past use, and development, combined with the multitude of buildings, utilities and nearby private landowners does not render this parcel as suitable for wilderness consideration. This issue is also addressed by Alternative 2, the Undeveloped Action.

### **Issue: Is oil and gas exploration a possibility?**

New surface disturbing mineral exploration, development or extraction would not be allowed under any of these alternatives. Subsurface mineral development would be available for leasing, as it is on all lands on the FLNF; however, no surface disturbance would be allowed. USDA consent of mineral development would be reserved until an environmental analysis had been done to determine the desirability of such an action at that time.

### **Issue: Future Management Actions.**

Several comments were received that pertained to possible future management actions. The current proposal is to amend the Forest Plan in order to change the management area designation of the land. The change in designation is the first step in the overall process of any site-specific projects. A group of private citizens that have joined together to form The Finger Lakes Visitor’s Center Inc. is proposing several ideas for the Caywood Point parcel. The Forest Service would have to do an analysis with public input on any of their proposals, and all of this is considered to be site-specific. Currently we are focusing on

changing the designation of the land so that we can eventually address site-specific proposals, once we are further along in the process.

## CHAPTER 2 – DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

### **Process Used to Develop Alternatives**

Using the comments received from the public, as well as Forest Service employees, the Interdisciplinary Team developed the alternatives. Three significant issues were identified that led to the development of an additional alternative other than the proposed action and the no action alternative.

### **Alternatives Considered for Detailed Analysis**

The following alternatives are considered for detailed analyses: Alternative 1 – Proposed Action with proposed mitigations, Alternative 2 – Undeveloped Action, and Alternative 3 – No Action.

### **Management Areas Considered When Developing the Proposed Action**

An Interdisciplinary Team comprised of Forest Staff looked at the Forest Plan and discussed the various management area categories in order to determine if there were any other alternatives that would be a possibility. The following alternative actions were considered but not analyzed in detail:

**MA 1.2 emphasizes management of pastures for livestock grazing. The vegetation in this prescription is dominated by grasses and forbs, with some forested areas interspersed.** While Caywood Point does have some grassy type areas, it is not suitable for grazing due to the small size of the grassy areas.

**MA 1.3 emphasizes management of brushy openings for wildlife habitat and fruit production.** While Caywood Point does have some shrub land areas, there aren't many edible berries and tree fruit. The shrub habitat is of limited acreage and is not continuous.

**MA 2.1 emphasizes continuous forest cover. This management prescription uses un-evenaged timber management to provide areas having trees of many ages and sizes where no large clearings will be created. The main intent of this management prescription is to provide natural appearing, vigorous stands of trees in areas that are visually sensitive. Other objectives include protection of sensitive riparian areas, increased vertical diversity in wildlife habitat, and testing of un-evenaged silviculture as a forest management tool.** Wooded portions of the Caywood parcel are small and interrupted by grass, forb, and shrub patches.

**MA 3.1 emphasizes a mosaic of evenaged timber stands, high quality saw timber and other wood products.** Wooded portions of the Caywood parcel are small and interrupted by grass, forb, and shrub patches.

### **Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

The land at Caywood Point would be changed from Management Area 9.2 (a holding category for newly acquired lands) to Management Area 8.1E with standards and guidelines that would allow development of the parcel for recreation and educational purposes. The proposed action would (1) change the management area designation of the land, (2) assign standards and guidelines in order to direct the management of the land, and (3) become an amendment to the Forest Plan. The associated standards and guidelines for Alternative 1 can be found in Appendix B.

MA8.1E emphasizes Special Areas having uncommon or outstanding biological, geological, recreational, cultural, or historical significance. The intent of this prescription is to preserve these values for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The activities that would be allowed under this MA designation would include the following: trail construction and maintenance – for non-motorized uses only; maintenance of vegetation to provide for both species diversity and a variety of vegetation types via prescribed fire, mowing, or other methods compatible with recreation use; construction and maintenance of trail shelters, roads, and other facilities if there was a demonstrated need; and interpretation of cultural sites, and resources for educational purposes. It is foreseeable that the public would use this site for hiking, picnicking, educational trips, hunting, fishing, and observing plants and wildlife. Currently, Forest visitors are pursuing recreational activities such as hiking and hunting.

If the parcel is assigned to this MA, proposals from the public can then be accepted for further analysis, along with public input. The designation of a MA is the first step in the overall process of any site-specific projects being proposed.

### **Alternative 2 (Undeveloped Action)**

The land at Caywood Point would be changed from Management Area 9.2 (a holding category for newly acquired lands) to Management Area 8.1E (a Special Area to remain undeveloped). The activities that would be allowed under this MA designation would include the following: maintenance of pre-existing trails, continuance of recreational activities as long as it does not harm other resources, and management of vegetation to maintain current conditions for wildlife habitat and species diversity. No new facilities or trails would be constructed, and there would be no timber harvesting, including salvage and firewood cutting. Hazard trees near trails or facilities may be removed if they pose a threat to Forest visitor's. No new or temporary roads would be built except for those that are covered under outstanding rights, and existing roads would be closed to public use. Closure orders may be issued to prevent access to areas requiring resource protection or posing a public safety hazard.

Alternative 2 would (1) change the designation of the land, (2) assign standards and guidelines in order to direct the management of the land, and (3) become an amendment to the Forest Plan. The associated standards and guidelines for Alternative 2 can be found in Appendix C.

### **Alternative 3 (No Action)**

The land at Caywood Point would remain in MA 9.2. The current standards and guidelines for MA 9.2 would remain the same. Management options would be limited to protecting existing resources, uses and facilities until the parcel is assigned to a management prescription. Maintenance of pre-existing trails, and vegetation would be managed to maintain current conditions. No new facilities, trails or roads would be constructed, and there would be no timber harvesting. Hazard trees near trails or facilities may be removed if they pose a threat to Forest visitor's. Recreational activities would be allowed to occur as long as they do not harm other resources or compromise future management options for the area. The activities that are currently being pursued by Forest visitors, mostly hiking and hunting, would most likely continue.

If a MA designation is not assigned now, the parcel would be assigned one during Forest Plan revision, which is expected to be completed in 2005. The intention of MA 9.2 is to be a "holding category" for newly acquired lands, not a final prescription or MA designation. The standards and guidelines for MA9.2, Alternative 3, can be found in Appendix D.

### **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis**

In addition to the proposed action, the undeveloped alternative, and the no action alternative, the Forest Service also evaluated the following alternative and eliminated it from further analysis:

The Interdisciplinary Team looked at the possibility of giving the parcel multiple management area designation assignments. This alternative was discussed and considered; however, it was dropped because the property was determined too small to be assigned multiple designations. It would render the management areas too small, and not of logical, manageable size.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects. While no mitigation measures were identified, there were some changes and additions to the standards and guidelines proposed for Alternative 1, the Proposed Action. Based on comments from the public, and review from the Interdisciplinary Team, the following items have been added to the standards and guidelines:

#### 1. Recreation/Visual:

- Separate visuals from recreation, making separate categories for Recreation/Trails and Visual Resources.

- Add the following statements under the Visual Resources section:
  - A. The area should be managed for high visual sensitivity for both off-site and on-site views.
  
- Add the following statements under the Recreation/Trails section:
  - B. Facility and trail projects may be developed only if the development maintains the character and outstanding values of the area.
  
  - C. Projects for facility and trail development should meet partial retention at the end of the project and retention within three years of completion of the project.

### **Monitoring**

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Monitoring needs to be designed to ensure the “elements” that make this a Special Area are not compromised, including validity of assumptions about use compatibility. There is an entire section in the Forest Plan, see Chapter V, that discusses implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

**COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES TABLE – SEE  
OTHER DOCUMENT**



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## CHAPTER 3 – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

### A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes, for each resource area, the existing conditions, or affected environment, and then discloses the environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and the alternatives to it as described in Chapter II. Resources that may be affected include socio-economic; visual quality, heritage resources, soil, water, and wetland and floodplains; threatened, endangered and sensitive species; general wildlife, fisheries, and management indicator species; recreation; environmental justice; and prime farmland, rangeland and forestland.

This chapter compares the impacts of the Proposed Action alternative, and the Undeveloped Action alternative to those that would result from implementation of the No Action alternative. An impact is described as any change in physical, biological, social or economic factors, which results from direct or indirect effects of an action. In addition, cumulative effects are also discussed.

Cumulative effects result from the incremental effect of the proposed action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions on all lands within the resource area (i.e., watershed area) together with the effects of the proposed action. These effects may be generated by actions originating from both within and outside of the project areas that would be potentially directly impacted by this project.

A foreseeable future action is something that will definitely occur in the near future. For example, a foreseeable future action at Caywood Point would be the fact that some of the unsafe buildings on the property will be removed. This is considered a foreseeable future action because a contract has been awarded to remove some of the buildings. The desires of The Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor's Center Inc. to have a visitor's center located at Caywood Point is not a foreseeable future action. While the ideas of this group have been shared with the Forest Service, currently they are the desires and wishes of the aforementioned group, and they have not progressed to a point that it is assured that a visitor's center will be on-site. Caywood Point must be assigned to a Management Area category other than MA 9.2, before any proposals can be accepted and analyzed by the Forest Service. At this point, the idea of a visitor's center at Caywood Point is speculative only. We (the Forest Service) are bringing this into discussion because it is something that is "in motion" and we think the readers should be aware of.

### B. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY RESOURCE AREA

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC

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### Affected Environment

The affected environment for socioeconomic impacts is represented by the geographic area surrounding the FLNF where changes resulting from the proposed alternatives could reasonably be expected to have some influence on the social community. As the Caywood Point parcel sits at the southern end of Seneca County, and because much of the National Forest is in adjacent Schuyler County, we have included both counties into the resource area. This area represents the object of any effects associated with demographic, economic, and fiscal impacts resulting from each alternative.



**Seneca County Map**



**Schuyler County Map**

### Environmental Effects

The assessment of socioeconomic effects is based on a comparison of existing social conditions with those that are reasonably expected to occur following implementation of each alternative. That is, the likely changes that may be caused by the proposed action, or alternatives, are compared with the social setting as it currently exists, prior to the onset of any project-related activity. An impact is defined as a change (either quantitative or qualitative) in some aspect or characteristic of the socioeconomic environment.

The methodology of socioeconomic impact assessment is not an exact science. Social communities, in general, are complex and dynamic. Each local community's response to the effects of the proposed change in management area designation will be unique, based on current economic conditions, previous social history, population characteristics and its prevailing character, culture, and values. It is therefore difficult to precisely predict the potential impact on the community or to determine exact thresholds for significance of an impact. As a result, generalized and universally applicable quantitative standards of measurement are usually not available for the assessment of social impacts.

Changing from MA 9.2 to another MA designation will not have any direct effect, in and of itself, to the socio-economic resource. However, we will briefly discuss what effect it may have in the future, in order to provide you with a clear understanding and better picture of what could happen down the road, under each alternative.

#### **Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

The change in management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (with the recreation and education emphasis) could potentially have an effect on the socioeconomic resource in the future. By changing the management area designation, it would allow for site-specific projects to be addressed. If the Forest Service later decided to develop a recreation site, a visitor's center, or campground, there could be changes to the socioeconomic resource, as it relates to tourism and the economy, (employment and spending). In the future, Caywood Point could potentially be a draw for tourists, which would translate into visitor's spending more money in the area, which would indirectly effect hotels, gas stations, restaurants, etc. In general, tourism in the area is growing and more businesses are starting. More people are coming to the area and recreational use is expected to increase.

#### **Alternative 2 (Undeveloped Action)**

The change in management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (with the Undeveloped emphasis) would most likely have a minimal effect on the socioeconomic resource in the future. The area would remain undeveloped, and essentially the same activities that occur on the parcel now would continue to occur. Currently, the activities at Caywood Point consist of recreational pursuits, generally hiking and hunting.

#### **Alternative 3 (No Action)**

Maintaining the management area as MA 9.2 would have a minimal effect on the socioeconomic resource in the short term. The activities that are currently occurring would essentially remain the same, and would be the same as described in Alternative 2.

Forest plan revision is expected to occur in 2005, and the management area of this parcel would be reassigned at that time. Therefore, it is unknown at this time what management area category this parcel would be assigned to in the future, and what effects, if any, it would have on the socioeconomic resource.

#### **Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects result from the incremental effect of the proposed action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. While the change in management area designation would not have a direct effect on the socioeconomic resource, it would allow for projects to take place in the future, if the proposed action were chosen.

In general, tourism in the area is growing and more and more wineries are popping up along State Route 414, which is a major route of the Seneca Lake Wine Trail. As evident from the increased traffic, stretch limousines and tour buses, more people are visiting the Finger Lakes area. The wine trail is very popular, as are many of the recreational opportunities the Finger Lakes area has to offer. If you consider the current situation as it

relates to tourism, (i.e. the increase in people, resulting in an increase in spending in the area), the approval of the proposed action would most likely not alter the future situation of the socioeconomic resource in this area, as it appears to be in a current state of growth. If a specific project such as a visitor's center was proposed and approved for Caywood Point in the future, it would be an additional stopping point, or resource for the tourist based economy. It is likely that there would be educational programs on site that would benefit the local people as well as the tourists. In the future, it is possible that Caywood Point could be a destination as a learning center for schools and groups.

In the past, the area was heavily used in the summer by the Boy Scouts of America, during the time when the parcel was known as "Camp Seneca". Thousands of scouts attended the camp over the years, and most likely they had some effect on the socioeconomic resource. It would seem likely that the Camp generated revenue for the local economy during the Boy Scout occupation, either in the form of jobs or monies spent on food, gasoline, utilities, lumber, and supplies.

There would be no cumulative effects for Alternatives 2 and 3.

## **VISUAL QUALITY**

The Forest Plan establishes visual quality goals for each management prescription. These goals are based on criteria defined in the National Forest Visual Management System Handbook (U.S.D.A. Forest Service 1974). The goals vary depending on whether activities can be seen from certain areas, viewer sensitivity, and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

### **Affected Environment**

The landscape of Caywood Point is unique in that it provides the only land area within the FLNF bordering one of the Finger Lakes, Seneca Lake. There are waterfalls, deep ravines and numerous views of the lake, especially from some of the cliffs on the northwest and southwest portions of the parcel. There are numerous opportunities to enhance vistas and to provide interpretation. The vegetation consists of grassland, forest and cedar shrub land. There is a variety of visual diversity expressed through the vegetation.

### **Environmental Effects**

The effects of the proposed action for each alternative are shown below. Changing from MA 9.2 to another MA designation will not have any direct effect, in and of itself, to the visual quality resource. However, we will briefly discuss what effect it may have in the future, in order to provide you with a clear understanding and better picture of what could happen under each alternative.

### **Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

The change in management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (with the recreation and education emphasis) could potentially have an effect on the visual resource in the future. The proposed MA8.1E would allow us to maintain the existing vegetative conditions, whether by mowing or burning. This would have an overall positive effect by keeping

current vegetative diversity, the landscape and scenic vistas. As management activities or development occur on this parcel, there may be a short-term reduction in visual quality, but these effects would be addressed in site-specific analyses for each project. It is expected that reasonable development could still be achieved while meeting Special Area requirements for visual resources. All activities would be developed and managed for high visual sensitivity for both off-site and on-site views; and therefore the effects would be minimal.

### **Alternative 2 (Undeveloped Action)**

The change in management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (with the Undeveloped emphasis) is likely to have a minimal effect on the visual resource in the future. Under this alternative, management of the parcel would continue as it has since it was purchased. This alternative would allow us to maintain the existing vegetative conditions, whether by mowing or burning. This would have an overall positive effect by keeping current vegetative diversity, the landscape and scenic vistas. All activities would be managed for high visual sensitivity for both off-site and on-site views; and therefore the effects would be minimal.

### **Alternative 3 (No Action)**

Maintaining the management area as MA 9.2 would have a minimal effect on the visual quality resource in the short term. Under this alternative, management of the parcel would continue as it has since it was purchased. This alternative would allow us to maintain the existing vegetative conditions, whether by mowing or burning. This would have an overall positive effect by keeping current vegetative diversity, the landscape and scenic vistas. Facility and trail development would not occur. Visual standards would remain undefined, but since few management activities would take place, the visual resources on the site would remain relatively protected.

Forest plan revision is expected to occur in 2005, and the management area of this parcel would be reassigned at that time. Therefore, it is unknown at this time what management area category this parcel would be assigned to in the future, and what effects, if any, it would have on the visual quality resource.

### **Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects result from the incremental effect of the proposed action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. While the change in management area designation would not have a direct effect on the recreation resource, it would allow for projects to take place in the future, if the proposed action were chosen.

Past actions at Caywood Point have impacted visual quality. The Elmira Boy Scout Council constructed approximately 27 buildings on the site. Many of these buildings are in poor condition, and are being removed for safety concerns. The contract for building removal is a reasonably foreseeable future action that would impact the visual quality resource while the work is being accomplished. It is expected that large equipment will be brought in to facilitate the removal of these buildings, and it may temporarily detract from the beauty of the site. However, once the buildings are removed, and the demolition

equipment is gone, the overall effect should be positive, as the area will appear to be in a more natural state, without old boarded-up buildings interspersed throughout the parcel.

Regarding any potential future actions, it is possible that there could be construction at Caywood Point. The construction would most likely not hamper views of the lake from State Route 414, as it is located at the top of the parcel, approximately three quarters of a mile from the lake itself. Much of the highway is one to two miles from the lake and as you travel along it, you can see farm fields, vineyards, wineries, houses, gift shops, and produce stands. Any future actions would most likely not impact the visual quality.

There would be no cumulative effects of implementing either Alternatives 2 or 3, as there are no direct or indirect effects.

## **HERITAGE RESOURCES**

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### **Affected Environment**

The affected environment includes the entire parcel of land known as Caywood Point. The lakeside agricultural zones were favored by the Iroquois nations (and their predecessors) for their large, permanent villages. Archeological evidence shows that there was Native American activity and occupation near the lake, including the Iroquois Peach Tree Site.

Following the American Revolution, the Sullivan campaign was mounted by the new government to destroy or neutralize the Iroquois confederacy since their long-standing allegiance to Great Britain was perceived to pose a potential internal military threat.

It was in the wake of this military action against the Iroquois that Euro-American surveyors and settlers arrived. The first white settler on the land, which includes the Seneca Lake shore site known as Caywood Point (formerly Faussett's Point), was George Faussett. He arrived in Philadelphia from Ireland in 1760 as an indentured servant and after working off his passage, traveled west in search of land on which to establish a farm. He settled above this site on the east shore of Seneca Lake, constructed a cabin, and planted crops. The farm prospered, was ultimately expanded to 1,600 acres and George Faussett became a locally prominent and well respected man.

In 1828, George Faussett transferred a 133 acre parcel of land, which appears to have included the Point, to his son, James. In 1858, James' son, John Faussett, sold his rights of inheritance to George Predmore. Predmore's wife, Lydia, John Faussett's daughter, left the property to her son, James F. Predmore, in her will, probated in 1917, and in 1924, James Predmore sold the property to the Elmira Council of Boy Scouts. The property remained in the possession of the Boy Scout organization until its recent sale in 1996, to the Trust for Public Land, which immediately conveyed the property to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Finger Lakes National Forest.

### **Site Types and Inventory**

Prehistoric Native American sites, especially in the uplands, tend to be small and difficult

to detect due to the short-term, small-group nature of native peoples' land use patterns away from centralized villages. These small sites tend to be temporary hunting camps and resource gathering stations. Finger Lakes shoreline locations like Caywood Point, however, would be more likely to contain larger, permanent sites ("villages") than other Forest Service-owned property higher up on the ridgeline, especially if the soil conditions were suitable for agriculture.

Historic period sites in the Caywood Point location consist mostly of the archaeological remains of a summer camp and landscapes. The Queen's Castle historic building (Camp Fossenvue) is located near the shoreline, it is the only standing structure on the property that is historically significant, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its importance in the Women's Rights Movement.

### **Site Significance**

Because undisturbed prehistoric sites from any time period are rare in areas where modern settlement, agriculture, and development have taken place, virtually any well-preserved prehistoric site on this property would likely be considered "significant" under criteria established by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for determining eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NR).

Despite the longer history of the Boy Scout's association with the Faussett Point site, greater historic significance lies in the period of its use as Camp Fossenvue. The primary historical significance of the Faussett Point site lies in the period between 1875 and 1901, when it was in regular use as Camp Fossenvue. Both the nature of the camp itself, a gathering of members of the social elite for the purposes of recreation and creative/artistic activity, and its association with locally, regionally, and nationally prominent individuals, particularly those individuals in the forefront of the Women's Suffrage Movement, distinguish the site. The Queen's Castle historic building is on the National Register of Historic Places for its importance in the Women's Rights Movement.

### **Environmental Effects**

The context used for heritage resource area is the entire Caywood Point parcel owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The effects of the proposed action for each alternative are shown below. Changing from MA 9.2 to another MA designation will not have any effect, in and of itself, to heritage resources. However, we will briefly discuss what effect it may have in the future, in order to provide you with a clear understanding and better picture of what could happen under each alternative. There are no ground disturbing activities proposed at this time.

### **Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

Changing the designation of the management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (with the recreation and education emphasis) could potentially affect Heritage Resources in the future. By designating Caywood Point as a Special Area for recreation and education, it could potentially bring in more tourists, and there would be additional educational

opportunities.

Under the proposed action, constructing new trails is an activity that would be considered. It is then possible that if new trails were constructed, it would allow for better access to the Queen's Castle historic building. The proposed standards and guidelines would also allow cultural resource sites to be interpreted through brochures and signs. It is probable that interpretive displays, signs, or brochures would be developed to explain the history of Caywood Point, and highlight the Queen's Castle building.

Although the possible construction of additional or improved trails to the Queen's Castle may improve access to heritage resources and improve educational opportunities, an increase of access into archeological sensitive areas could potentially increase the visibility of heritage resources and result in vandalism.

If the proposed action should be accepted, the educational opportunities Caywood would offer would be an excellent fit with the area's rich history in the Women's Rights Movement. In Seneca County, there is the Women's Rights National Historical Park, and the National Women's Hall of Fame, both located in Seneca Falls, approximately 20 miles from Caywood Point.

Should the proposed action be chosen, compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA would be required prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities. Before any future activity could occur, the project area must be surveyed and reviewed for its archaeological impacts, therefore, the effects on heritage resources would be minimal.

There is the potential that a visitor's center, new trails, parking lots, roads, etc. would be built at the Caywood Point site. Although this statement is speculative, it is a possibility, and if it did occur, all significant historical and archaeological resources would be protected. Prior to any ground disturbing activities, surveys would be conducted to make sure no sites would be disturbed. Guidelines in the Forest Plan for Heritage Resources are derived from the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. In the current forest standards, under cultural resources, it states that:

1. "The Finger Lakes National Forest will comply with the letter and spirit of all pertinent Federal laws, Regulations, and Presidential Executive Orders. The Forest will work closely with the New York Historic Preservation Office and comply with all of the items in the Memorandum of Agreements signed with this office."
2. "Prior to any planned land disturbing activities, a cultural resource survey will be conducted and all identified sites will be inventoried. Those that meet 36 CFR 60.6 criteria will be nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. All qualified and unevaluated sites will be protected and/or adverse effects will be mitigated in accordance with 36 CFR 800."

3. “The Finger Lakes National Forest will make every effort to protect cultural resources not meeting the 36 CFR 60.6 criteria if it is determined they are locally significant, or have research or interpretive value. Site specific standards will be developed in such case.”

Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), P.L., (89-655) provide the framework for Federal review and protection of cultural resources, and to ensure that they are considered during Federal project planning and execution. In addition to Sections 106 and 110, it is important to be aware of additional legislation concerning prehistoric resources and Indian sacred sites. The Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) prohibit the unauthorized excavation, removal, damage, alteration, defacement, or the attempt of such acts on Federal lands. ARPA provides legal penalties and establishes a permitting system to authorize excavation or removal of archaeological resources by qualified applicants. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) applies the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom to Native Americans whose religious practices may involve requirements to access sacred sites on Federal property. Under AIRFA, Native Americans must be provided with access and ceremonial use of Native American sacred sites on Federal property, and the federal agency must avoid adversely impacting those sites and maintain the confidentiality of sacred site locations. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was intended to ensure the protection and the rightful disposition of Native American cultural items (which, under NAGPRA, include human remains, associated funerary objects, unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony) located on Federal or Native American lands and in the federal government’s possession or control. NAGPRA requires agencies to determine what NA cultural items are within its possession or located at its facilities and then notify potentially effected tribes concerning possible repatriation. Upon inadvertent discovery and intentional excavation of potential cultural items, it is necessary for the federal agency to identify proper ownership and to ensure the rightful disposition of cultural items.

### **Alternative 2 (Undeveloped Action)**

Changing the designation of the management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (with the Undeveloped emphasis) would have an effect on the heritage resources in the future by limiting the potential educational opportunities and interpretation. By leaving the parcel undeveloped, it is logical that fewer people would see the Queen’s Castle, as it is located on the beachfront. Access down to the beachfront is currently limited to those in good physical condition, as it is approximately three quarters of a mile from State Route 414 to the Queen’s Castle. The hike back to the highway is all up hill. Under the proposed standards and guidelines for Alternative 2, the Undeveloped Action, no new trails would be built. This would limit access to the Queen’s Castle, as the current trail is steep and ultimately leads you onto private land. Currently there is no legal road or trail access to the point. The proposed standards and guidelines under the Undeveloped Action would allow cultural resource sites to be interpreted through brochures and signs, these opportunities would therefore be available to those that could make it to the beach front.

**Alternative 3 (No Action)**

Maintaining the management area as MA 9.2 would have a minimal effect on Heritage Resources in the short term. Those individuals that know about the Queen's Castle, and are physically able, would visit the site. The site would not be interpreted, and would not be readily accessible. The area would remain undeveloped and essentially the same activities that occur on the parcel now would continue to occur. Currently, the activities at Caywood Point consist of recreational pursuits such as hiking and hunting.

Forest plan revision is expected to occur in 2005, and the management area of this parcel would be reassigned at that time. Therefore, it is unknown at this time what management area category this parcel would be assigned to in the future, and what effects, if any, it would have on heritage resources.

**Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects result from the incremental effect of the proposed action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. While the change in management area designation would not have a direct effect on heritage resources, it would allow for projects to take place in the future, if the proposed action were chosen.

A reasonably foreseeable future action we are aware of is the maintenance and restoration of the Queen's Castle. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. We are working with New York State's Historic Preservation Office and we have written a contract for roof restoration of the building. The contract is expected to go out for bid in fiscal year 2004. The cumulative effect of this action under the proposed alternative would be that more people would likely see the building, and that more could be done to provide interpretation and educational opportunities. The cumulative effect of this action under alternatives 2 and 3 would be similar; fewer individuals would be able to access the Queen's Castle, and educational and interpretive activities would be limited.

Under all three alternatives, significant heritage resources will continue to be protected, and appropriate existing and/or proposed Standards and Guidelines will apply in the event of future proposals.

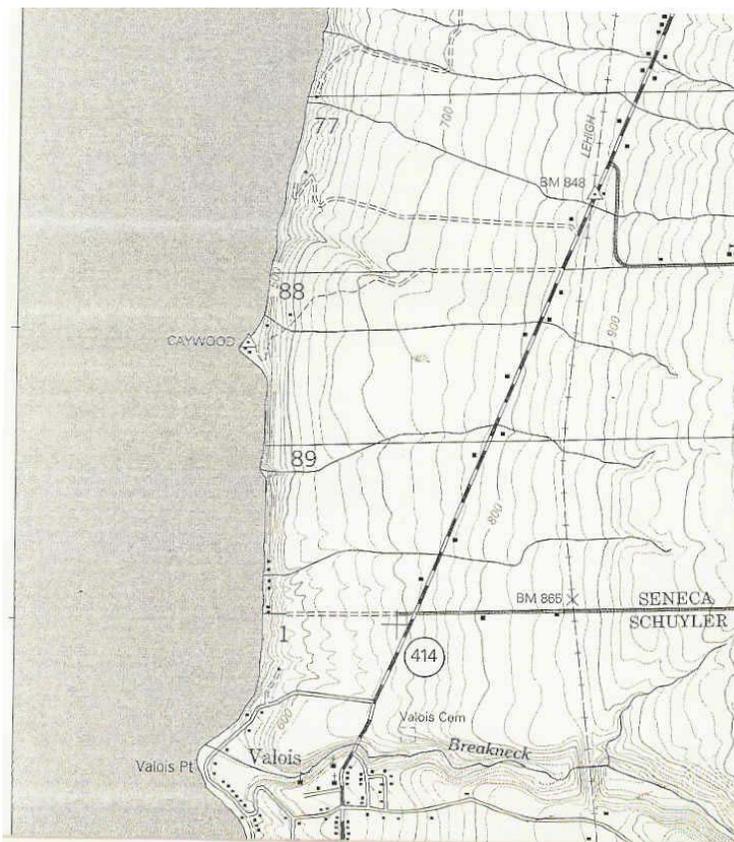
**SOIL, WATER, WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN RESOURCES \_\_\_\_\_****Affected Environment**

The affected environment for the soil, water, and wetland and floodplains resources consists of the 241 acres of National Forest land in the Caywood Point area. Soils in the Caywood Point area are predominately moderately deep (20-40 inches deep to bedrock) to deep (over 40 inches to bedrock), well to moderately well drained, loamy soils. Soil texture ranges from loam to silty clay loam. The soils are often underlain by lime-influenced bedrock. Slope steepness near the lake ranges from 25-75% slope, while elsewhere slopes range from 3-25%. There is some soil erosion on roads and trails on the

steep slopes near the lake. Small areas of shallow soils occur on the steep slopes near the lake, and small areas of poorly drained soils occur on the flat or concave areas.<sup>1</sup>

A detailed survey of wetlands has not been done on the Caywood Point lands. However, based on the soils information, wetlands, if they exist, are few in number and very small (each less than one acre in size).

Water resources in the Caywood point area consist of Seneca Lake, and two small, intermittent streams. Seneca Lake provides drinking water to several local communities and local lakeside homeowners. The two small streams have not been monitored to determine the water quality. However, based on monitoring results on other portions of the FLNF, state water quality standards are probably met for most, but not all, parameters. Past and current agricultural land use in the vicinity may be reducing water quality due to excess nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment. Similar concerns are documented in other areas of the Seneca Lake watershed.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> All soils information is from the Soil Survey of Seneca County, USDA-Soil Conservation Service and Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, April, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1972, pages 81, 85, 103, 127, map #39 and inset sheet #43.

<sup>2</sup> Setting a Course for Seneca Lake – The State of the Seneca Lake Watershed 1999, Executive Summary, prepared by the Seneca Lake Area Partners In Five Counties & Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, unpublished, 1999, page 11.

## Environmental Effects

The effects of the proposed action for each alternative are shown below.

### Alternative 1 – (Proposed Action)

The change in MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E would have no direct or indirect effect on the soil, water, wetland or floodplain resources. This is because the MA change (in and of itself) would not result in ground disturbing activity, thus there would be no effects. The MA change may result in future projects involving ground disturbing activities, for example trail, road or building construction, or erosion control. The effects of future projects on the soil, water and wetlands resources would be determined during the respective project environmental analyses. With any project, the resources would be protected or improved by Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and special mitigation measures in each analysis. Currently there is some soil erosion on roads and trails on the steep slopes near the lake. This will continue to occur until it is addressed by a future erosion control project. The erosion problems on the trails would most likely be corrected under this alternative. The road that was referred to above is a private road, and leads down to a private parcel. While we could address the erosion problems on FLNF land, we would not be able to address the soil erosion problems on private property. The proposed action would provide well designed, needed trail access to the point and would prevent the development of unauthorized trails that usually cause erosion.

### Alternative 2 – (Undeveloped Action)

The Undeveloped Action alternative would have no direct or indirect effect on the soil, water, wetland or floodplain resources. This is because the MA change (in and of itself) would not result in ground disturbing activity, thus there would be no effects. Currently there is no legal trail access to the lake, so people would eventually trespass on private land or develop unapproved trails across the steep slope to gain access to the point. Since these trails wouldn't be designed features, one would expect erosion to occur.

### Alternative 3 – (No Action)

The No Action alternative would result in no direct or indirect effects on the soil, water wetland or floodplain resources. This is because the MA change (in and of itself) would not result in ground disturbing activity, thus there would be no effects. Currently there is no legal trail access to the lake, so people would eventually trespass on private land or develop unapproved trails across the steep slope to gain access to the point. Since these trails wouldn't be designed features, one would expect erosion to occur. The soil erosion process on the roads and trails on the steep slopes that is already occurring will continue to occur.

Forest plan revision is expected to occur in 2005, and the management area of this parcel would be reassigned at that time. Therefore, it is unknown at this time what management area category this parcel would be assigned to in the future, and what effects, if any, it would have on soil, water, wetland and floodplain resources.

## Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects result from the incremental effect of the proposed action when added

to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. While the change in management area designation would not have a direct effect on the soil, water, wetland and floodplain resource, it would allow for projects to take place in the future, if the proposed action were chosen.

The cumulative effects analysis area is the portion of the Seneca Lake watershed in the vicinity of the FLNF. The floodplains within the Decision Area would not receive measurable impact by upstream influences. Management activities designed to protect these resources conform to the federal regulations for floodplains (Executive Order 11900) and wetlands (Executive Order 11990).

In the early 1800's, the parcel was farmed, and in the 1900's, it became a retreat for the members of the social elite, to be later transformed in Camp Seneca by the Boy Scouts of America. The parcel went thru many changes (farming, building, and trail development) that may have had some effect on the soil, water, wetland, and floodplain resource. It is possible that there has been soil erosion, and agricultural pesticide runoff from past uses.

Considering the past, current, and foreseeable future actions, the cumulative effects for the proposed action would be that soil erosion problems could be addressed in the future by site specific projects.

There would be no cumulative effects of implementing either Alternatives 2 or 3, as there are no direct or indirect effects. Soil erosion on trails would continue under these alternatives.

## **THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES**

A Biological Evaluation (BE) was prepared for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Plant and Animal Species. This document can be found at Appendix A. The BE involved a pre-field analysis of available information. The BE is the document wherein the likelihood of occurrence, habitat needs, disclosure of effects for all alternatives, and determination of findings regarding TES species is displayed. A summary of this information is presented below.

### **Affected Environment**

The affected environment for TES/Species of Concern (SC) plants and animals consists of the entire Caywood Point parcel. Habitat conditions vary widely on this parcel. Cliffs and very steep shale slopes occur along the western edge of the parcel; this western edge is part of the eastern shore of Seneca Lake. The shoreline area of the point portion is weedy and much of it is mowed regularly. Grass, forb, and shrub areas occur at the top of the cliffs, and along Route 414. Hardwoods dominate the wooded portions of this parcel, occurring along the road leading down to the shoreline, and around the existing buildings. These hardwood stands are predominately white and red oak, shagbark hickory and white ash. A minor component of conifers are mixed throughout the wooded portions of the parcel; predominate conifers are red cedar, white pine and eastern hemlock.

## Environmental Effects

Species that occur or may occur on the forest and possible impacts are as follows:

### Plants

The one federally listed plant species that may occur on the FLNF is *Sedum integrifolium* ssp. *leedyi* (Leedy's roseroot); it has potential habitat on the cliffs at Caywood Point. In addition, two Sensitive plant species (plants on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list) have potential habitat on these cliffs, and two have potential habitat in the openings; none of these species are documented to occur there. Effects analysis indicated that neither the proposed action, the undeveloped action, nor the no action alternative would be likely to have any direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on either the one federally listed plant species or the four Sensitive plant species, and also, that none of these actions are likely to contribute to a trend towards federal listing or to a loss of population viability to any Sensitive plant species or population. See the Biological Evaluation (Appendix A) for details.

### Animals

None of the TES animal species tracked for the FLNF are known to occur within the Caywood Point area, either currently or historically. Three federally listed species (gray wolf, eastern cougar and Indiana bat) and two Regionally Sensitive species (northern harrier and eastern small-footed bat) have been identified as having potentially suitable habitat in the area. As stated in the Biological Evaluation (Appendix A), it has been determined that these five species are "unlikely to occur" in the project area, and that all three alternatives provide for the protection of habitats potentially suitable for these species. The proposed action, and its alternatives, will have no direct, indirect or cumulative adverse effect to TES animals – see the Biological Evaluation (Appendix A) for further detail.

### **Alternative 1 – (Proposed Action)**

Based upon the Biological Evaluation, the proposed action will have no direct, indirect or cumulative adverse effects to TES plants or animals. Re-categorization of land into another MA does not in itself result in any effects on TES/SC plants and animals, or their habitat. As there are no TES plants or animals known from the Caywood Point parcel, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effect to these plant (Burbank 1999) or animal species.

Creating new standards and guidelines for MA 8.1E will by itself not have any appreciable direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on potentially suitable habitat or occurrences. However, there is always the possibility that a TES/SC species will be identified within the Caywood Point parcel. This can come about due to new information regarding species' habitat relationships, new listings of species, or site-specific survey results. If this occurs, a further review will need to be initiated and adjustments in management direction or mitigation measures developed to protect the species of concern.

**Alternative 2 – (Undeveloped Action)**

Based upon the Biological Evaluation, the undeveloped action will have no direct, indirect or cumulative adverse effect to TES plants or animals. Re-categorization of land into another MA does not in itself result in any effects on TES/SC plants and animals, or their habitat. As there are no TES plants or animals known from the Caywood Point parcel, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effect to these plant (Burbank 1999) or animal species.

Creating new standards and guidelines for MA 8.1E (Undeveloped) will by itself not have any appreciable direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on potentially suitable habitat or occurrences. However, there is always the possibility that a TES/SC species will be identified within the Caywood Point parcel. This can come about due to new information regarding species' habitat relationships, new listings of species, or site-specific survey results. If this occurs, a further review will need to be initiated and adjustments in management direction or mitigation measures developed to protect the species of concern.

**Alternative 3 – (No Action)**

Based upon the Biological Evaluation, the no action alternative will have no direct, indirect or cumulative adverse effect to TES plants or animals. The current management direction will maintain those habitat conditions potentially suitable for 5 TES plant species and 5 TES animal species. As there are no TES plants or animals known from the Caywood Point parcel, and current direction will maintain potentially suitable habitats, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effect to these plant (Burbank 1999) or animal species.

**Cumulative Effects**

There would be no cumulative effects of implementing any of the alternatives, as there are no direct or indirect effects. As stated above, there are no TES plants or animals known to occupy the parcel, and all alternatives will maintain potentially suitable habitat conditions.

**GENERAL WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES AND  
MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES** \_\_\_\_\_**WILDLIFE**

The wildlife and fisheries discussion is provided through the MIS discussion – see below.

**MIS**

The Management Indicator Species (MIS) program is designed to assist with assessment of Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) implementation. MIS can be equated to a coarse screen monitor of Forest Service's requirement to provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities, the coarse screen being a wider, broader scale perspective of plant and animal diversity as measured by MIS. In conjunction with our Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species program, which is thought of as the finer screen, or closer detailed look at certain key species (TES), we are able to assess how LRMP

implementation may affect biodiversity at a variety of levels. Looking at forest-wide trends of MIS as a result of management actions and, more importantly, the habitat community they represent, also provides the resource manager with one means to help determine the status of the Forest's vertebrate community as a whole as well as the status of the various wildlife species that each MIS is a proxy for. MIS for the Finger Lakes National Forest and the habitats they rely upon are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1 – FLNF's Management Indicator Species

<b>Animal Species</b>	<b>Habitat Community</b>
chestnut-sided warbler	hardwood sapling
white-tailed deer	low elevation, mature softwood
ruffed grouse	regenerating, young aspen and birch
gray squirrel	mature oak
American woodcock	upland opening
eastern bluebird	orchards
northern goshawk	mature hardwoods

### **Affected Environment**

The affected environment includes the entire parcel of land known as Caywood Point, its streams, and the shoreline area of Seneca Lake. Fisheries and water resources in the area consist of Seneca Lake (shoreline and littoral zone), and two small intermittent streams. The littoral (near shore) area of the lake provides aquatic habitat for numerous fish species and aquatic organisms such as insects and other invertebrate species. No stream inventory information exists for the intermittent streams. However, it is likely the lower reaches of these streams, particularly the sections immediately upstream from where they enter the lake, provides valuable habitats for aquatic species, at least on a seasonal basis. Seneca Lake contains a diverse assemblage of game and non-game fish species. As such, it provides excellent recreational fishing opportunities for both local and visiting anglers. Sport fishing is important to the local economy and is considered an important part of the culture and heritage of the Finger Lakes Region.

MIS known, or likely to use this parcel are the chestnut-sided warbler, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, gray squirrel, American woodcock and eastern bluebird. Habitat conditions suitable for these species exist on the Caywood Point parcel. Northern goshawk is not expected to nest on the Caywood Point parcel because of the limited amount of mature woodland found on the parcel and because this parcel is not considered remote, being surrounded by a working landscape of vineyards, farms and residences.

### **Environmental Effects**

The effects of the proposed action for each alternative are shown below.

**Alternative 1 – (Proposed Action)**

The effects of the Proposed Action would be comparable to those of the No Action and Undeveloped Action alternatives. Changing the designation of the management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E would have no significant direct or indirect effects on Wildlife, Fisheries, and MIS Resources. The standards and guidelines affecting habitat conditions would remain the same, resulting in the maintenance of current habitat conditions and habitat availability for wildlife.

The MA change may result in future projects, for example trails, roads, or building construction. The effects of future projects on the MIS resources would be determined during the respective project environmental analyses. With any project, the resources would be protected or improved by Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and special mitigation measures in each analysis.

**Alternative 2 – (Undeveloped Action)**

The effects of the Undeveloped Action would be comparable to those of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. Changing the designation of the management area from MA 9.2 to MA 8.1E (Undeveloped) would have no significant direct or indirect effects on Wildlife, Fisheries, and MIS Resources. The standards and guidelines affecting habitat conditions would remain the same, resulting in the maintenance of current habitat conditions and habitat availability for wildlife.

The area would remain undeveloped, and the same activities that occur on the parcel now would likely continue to occur. Currently, the activities at Caywood Point consist of recreational pursuits, generally hiking and hunting.

**Alternative 3 – (No Action)**

The effects of the No Action would be comparable to those of the Undeveloped Action and Proposed Action alternatives. Retaining the MA 9.2 prescription would have no significant direct or indirect effects on Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. The standards and guidelines would remain the same, resulting in the maintenance of current habitat conditions and habitat availability for wildlife.

The activities that are currently occurring would essentially remain the same, and would be the same as described in Alternative 2.

Forest plan revision is expected to occur in 2005, and the management area of this parcel would be reassigned at that time. Therefore, it is unknown at this time what management area category this parcel would be assigned to in the future, and what effects, if any, it would have on the MIS resources.

**Cumulative Effects**

While the change in management area designation would not have a direct effect on the MIS resources, it would allow for projects to take place in the future, if the proposed action were chosen. The effects of future projects on the MIS resources would be determined during the respective project environmental analyses. With any project, the

resources would be protected or improved by Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and special mitigation measures in each analysis.

In the past, the area was used for fishing and hunting. It is likely that this tradition will continue, as the parcel provides habitat availability for fish and wildlife. Forest visitors will likely continue to utilize the parcel for hunting and fishing, as well as other recreational pursuits.

## **RECREATION RESOURCES**

The primary recreation activities now occurring in the project area are hiking, and hunting.

### **Affected Environment**

The affected environment includes the entire parcel of land known as Caywood Point, and its shoreline area along Seneca Lake.

### **Environmental Effects**

The effects of the proposed action for each alternative are shown below. Changing from MA9.2 to another MA designation will not have any effect, in and of itself, to the socioeconomic resource. However, we will briefly discuss what effect it may have in the future, in order to provide you with a clear understanding and better picture of what could happen under each alternative.

### **Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

The effect of the implementation of this alternative is limited to that of the change in management area designation. Site-specific effects of individual projects or initiatives would be addressed in subsequent NEPA documentation that is required for all projects. Implementation of the proposed management area would allow us to consider development of, or changes to, existing facilities and trail systems. Currently we are restricted to maintaining existing facilities and cannot address problems such as the lack of legal trail access to the point.

If this alternative is implemented, more detailed planning for site-specific proposals can be initiated. Under the current allocation, the area is being held in a protective status that only allows limited management activities to occur. More proactive management steps could be taken, especially in the area of facilities and trails. By initiating this management, we can address issues before significant problems can develop. For example, by developing well designed, needed trail access to the point we can prevent the development of unauthorized trails that usually cause erosion. If more trails were built and maintained, it would allow for better access to the beachfront.

If this alternative is implemented, there would be more opportunities for education, and historical interpretation of the Queen's Castle, Fossenvue Artist Colony, the Boy Scout era, Native American occupation, area geology, ecology, past and current land and water management practices. It is possible that there could be facilities built, and possibly a learning or educational or visitors center built at Caywood for visitors and area schools.

It is also possible that campgrounds could be built, and possibly an access road and parking area.

### **Alternative 2 (Undeveloped Action)**

If this alternative is implemented, the pre-existing trails that exist could be maintained. No new trails would be constructed. Existing facilities and trails could be maintained, but no new development could occur. Currently there is no legal trail access to the lake, so people will eventually trespass on private land or develop unapproved trails across a steep slope to gain access to the point. Since these trails wouldn't be designed features, one could expect erosion to occur.

### **Alternative 3 (No Action)**

Under this alternative, recreation and trails management would be limited to those activities allowed by the current management area designation. The land allocation would remain in "holding" to prevent significant changes to resources until a decision on land allocation occurs. Existing facilities and trails could be maintained, but no new development could occur. Development of legal trail access to the lake could not be initiated. Currently there is no legal trail access to the lake, so people will eventually trespass on private land or develop unapproved trails across a steep slope to gain access to the point. Since these trails wouldn't be designed features, one could expect erosion to occur.

### **Cumulative Effects**

While the change in management area designation would not have a direct effect on the recreation resource, it would allow for projects to take place in the future, if the proposed action were chosen. In general, tourism in the area is growing and more people are visiting the Finger Lakes area. The wine trail is very popular, and is one of the many recreational opportunities the Finger Lakes area has to offer.

In the past, the Caywood Point parcel was heavily used for recreation during the summer months. During the years of Boy Scout occupation, Camp Seneca was the summer camp. Thousands of young scouts spanning three generations, stayed at Camp Seneca. Trails were constructed, bridges and buildings erected, and docks and outdoor amphitheaters were built. They had electric and water, as evidenced by the utility poles, wires, and water pipes and tanks. Trails were illuminated at night. There was a multitude of cabins and the parcel was, in effect, a miniature village.

Currently, the parcel is mostly used for hiking and hunting. There is little activity, compared to that during the Boy Scout occupation. If the proposed action is chosen, specific projects could be addressed, and recreation use would most likely increase. If a visitor's center is built at this location, it would definitely increase recreation at Caywood Point. If new trails were constructed, and or a campground built in the future, it would also most likely increase recreation use.

Given all of the above, the cumulative effects on recreation under the proposed action would be that recreation use would increase. The cumulative effects on recreation under

alternatives 2 and 3 would be that trail erosion would continue, and fewer people would visit the site.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

No comments were received from the public related to environmental justice. Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Population and Low-income Populations,” mandates that “each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations,” (Federal Order 12898, 2/11/94). Evidence shows that areas of low income or minority populations suffer a disproportionate risk of succumbing to adverse environmental conditions in their community. Some examples of this problem include toxic waste facilities, garbage disposal areas, or unmonitored factory dumping in impoverished, ethnic areas. In order to protect the rights and health of these populations, this Executive Order establishes, within the NEPA framework, a system to analyze the demographics of a proposed location.

Before a policy or proposal is instated, the proposed area must be checked to see whether it will disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations. The standards used to analyze a given location are as follows: if the demographics of a proposed location show a minority or low-income population greater than two times that of the state average, then that area is considered one of potential environmental injustice. If the demographics of a proposed location show a minority or low-income population greater, but not two times greater, than the state average and there are community-identified environmental justice related issues, the case should be identified and addressed as a potential environmental justice case. If the demographics of a proposed location demonstrate minority or low-income populations is equal to or less than that of the state average, then the area is not considered a potential for environmental injustice and there is no reason to disregard the proposal due to ethnic or financial discrimination.

### **Affected Environment**

The affected environment for environmental justice is represented by the geographic area surrounding the FLNF where changes resulting from the proposed alternatives could reasonably be expected to have some influence on the community. As the Caywood parcel is located at the southern end of Seneca County, and because much of the National Forest is in adjacent Schuyler County, we have included both counties into the resource area. This area represents the object of any direct effects associated with demographic, economic, and fiscal impacts resulting from the proposed alternative.

### **Finger Lakes National Forest Counties**

The following tables compare the ethnic and income demographics for the counties within the Finger Lakes National Forest to the New York state averages.

**Ethnic Demographics**

County	% Native American	% African American	% Asian	% Hispanic	% Caucasian
Schuyler	0.4%	1.5%	0.3%	1.2%	96.5%
Seneca	0.2%	2.3%	0.7%	2.0%	95.0%
NY State Average	0.4%	15.9%	5.5%	15.1%	67.9%

U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts 2000. Available at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states> Accessed June 20, 2003

The above display shows that none of the counties demonstrate that ethnic populations greater than two times that of the state average.

**Income Demographics**

County	% Below the Poverty Level
Schuyler	11.8%
Seneca	11.5%
NY State Average	14.6%

U.S. Census Bureau, Quick Facts 1999. Available at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states> Accessed June 20, 2003

The counties analyzed in the above table do not portray income percentages greater than two times the state average.

In conclusion, the counties within the FLNF do not demonstrate ethnic nor income demographics two times greater than that of the state average. Most importantly, the Proposed Action, the Undeveloped Action, and the No Action alternative do not pose a disproportionately high and adverse environmental, human health, or social effect on these counties, and there are no known community-identified environmental justice related issues. The above conclusions are based on the effects disclosed in other portions of this Affected Environment and Environmental Effects Section.

**PRIME FARMLAND, RANGELAND, AND FORESTLAND**

The alternatives presented are in compliance with Federal Regulations for prime farm lands. The definition of prime forestland does not apply to lands within the National Forests. The project area contains no prime farmlands or rangelands. In all alternatives, Federal lands would be managed with the appropriate consideration to the effects on adjacent lands.

## CHAPTER 4 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Forest Service consulted the following individuals, Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes and non-Forest Service persons during the development of this environmental assessment:

### **ID TEAM MEMBERS:**

Kari Lusk – Finger Lakes National Forest/Project Interdisciplinary Team Leader  
Christopher Zimmer – Finger Lakes National Forest/Range Management/Assistant District Ranger  
Clayton Grove – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Wildlife Biologist  
Nancy Burt – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Hydrology/Soil Scientist  
Dave Lacy – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Heritage Resources/Archaeologist  
Greg Wright – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Recreation  
Bob Burt – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Timber  
Beth LeClair – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/District Ranger  
MaryBeth Deller – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Botanist  
Mike Dockry – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/Planner  
Martha Twarkins – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/District Ranger  
Jay Strand – Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest/NEPA Coordinator

### **OTHERS:**

Carolyn Zogg, Finger Lakes National Forest Visitor's Center Inc.  
Moe Koch, Seneca County Chamber of Commerce  
Kathleen Mitchell, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seneca Nation  
Clint Halftown, Representative, Cayuga Nation

## CHAPTER 5 - REFERENCES

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## **CHAPTER 6 – APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Biological Evaluation - TES

Appendix B – Standards and Guidelines for the Proposed Action, Alternative 1

Appendix C – Standards and Guidelines for the Undeveloped Action, Alternative 2

Appendix D – Standards and Guidelines for Management Prescription 9.2, the No Action Alternative, Alternative 3

Comparison of Alternatives \_\_\_\_\_

This section compares the alternatives considered for the Caywood Point parcel

Alternatives \_\_\_\_\_

	Alternative #1 Proposed Action	Alternative #2 Undeveloped Action	Alternative #3 No Action
Purpose and Need	<p>Would proactively address future interests of public by having parcel assigned to a management area category where future projects can be considered.</p> <p>Would address interests of some of the public by having the parcel designated as MA 8.1E, a Special Area for recreation and education.</p> <p>Would outline a vision of how we will manage the land into the future.</p> <p>Would provide for the potential for recreational and educational opportunities.</p>	<p>Would address interests of some of the public by having the parcel designated as Undeveloped.</p> <p>Would outline a vision of how we will manage the land into the future.</p> <p>Would provide for limited recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Would not address the interests of the public.</p> <p>Would not outline a vision of how we will manage the land into the future.</p> <p>Would provide for limited recreational opportunities in the short term.</p>

	Alternative #1 Proposed Action	Alternative #2 Undeveloped Action	Alternative #3 No Action
Purpose and Need	<p>Would respond to the goals and objectives in the FLNF Forest Plan by protecting significant cultural and historic resources, providing types of recreation that require large, relatively undeveloped land areas, providing types of wildlife habitat not common on other lands, and promoting the use of the Forest for environmental education and research.</p> <p>Would preserve the property's special values for education and enjoyment of present and future generations.</p>	<p>Would respond to the goals and objectives in the Forest Plan by protecting significant cultural and historic resources, providing types of recreation that require large, relatively undeveloped land areas, and by providing types of wildlife habitat not common on other lands.</p> <p>Would preserve the property's special values for the enjoyment of some present and future generations.</p>	<p>Would not respond to the goals and objectives in the Forest Plan.</p> <p>Would preserve the property's special values for the enjoyment of present and future generations in the short term.</p>
Significant Issue #1  (value as undisturbed landscape)	<p>This issue may not be met in the Proposed Action. It is possible that the landscape could be disturbed in the future by future site-specific project actions.</p>	<p>This issue would be met by the Undeveloped Action, as the landscape would remain undisturbed.</p>	<p>While this issue would be met in the short term, the parcel would be assigned a management area category during Forest Plan revision, which may or may not meet this issue.</p>

	Alternative #1 Proposed Action	Alternative #2 Undeveloped Action	Alternative #3 No Action
Significant Issue #2  (sensitive visual component)	The visual quality issue would be met in the Proposed Action, as the proposed standards and guidelines have been amended to include this issue.	This issue would be met in the Undeveloped Action, as a visual quality component was added to the standards and guidelines.	This issue would not be met, as visual quality is undefined in MA 9.2. The parcel would be assigned a management area category during Forest Plan revision, which may or may not meet this issue.
Significant Issue #3  (parcel should remain undeveloped)	This issue to keep the parcel undeveloped would not be met in the Proposed Action.	This issue would be met in the Undeveloped Action, as the parcel would remain undeveloped, there would be no public roads to the lake, there would be no timber harvesting, and existing roads would be closed to public use.	While this issue would be met in the short term, the parcel would be assigned a management area category during Forest Plan revision, which is expected to occur in 2005.
<b>AFFECTED RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Socio-Economic Resources</b>	Could have a positive effect on tourism and the economy in the future if site specific projects were proposed and approved.	Would have a minimal effect in the future, as the the area would remain undeveloped and same activities that occur now would likely continue (hunting and hiking).	Would have a minimal effect during the short term, as the area would remain in MA 9.2 and the same activities that occur now would likely continue (hunting and hiking).

	Alternative #1 Proposed Action	Alternative #2 Undeveloped Action	Alternative #3 No Action
Visual Quality	<p>Would have a minimal effect as management of the parcel would not change, and under the proposed MA8.1E, we would maintain the existing vegetative conditions, whether by mowing or burning.</p> <p>Could have a minimal effect on visual quality in the future if site specific projects were proposed and approved. Visual quality standards were added to the proposed standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Would have a minimal effect in the future, as the management of the parcel would not change. We would continue to maintain existing vegetative conditions, whether by mowing or burning.</p>	<p>Would have a minimal effect during the short term, as the management of the parcel would not change. We would continue to maintain existing vegetative conditions, whether by mowing or burning.</p>
Heritage Resources	<p>Could have a positive effect on heritage interpretation in the future by providing for additional educational opportunities.</p>	<p>The potential for interpretation and educational opportunities would be limited to those physically able to get to the beach front.</p>	<p>The potential for interpretation and educational opportunities would be limited to those physically able to get to the beach front.</p>
Soil, Water, Wetland and Floodplain Resources	<p>The MA change could result in future projects involving ground disturbing activities. The effects of future projects</p>	<p>This alternative has the potential for erosion problems as there is no legal trail access to the lake, which could cause</p>	<p>In the short term, this alternative has the potential for erosion problems as there is no legal trail access to the lake,</p>

	Alternative #1 Proposed Action	Alternative #2 Undeveloped Action	Alternative #3 No Action
Soil, Water, Wetland and Floodplain Resources	on the soil, water, wetland and floodplain resources would be determined during the respective project environmental analyses.	people to develop unapproved trails.	which could cause people to develop unapproved trails.
TES	There would be no effect on TES by implementing the proposed change in management area designation.	There would be no effect on TES by implementing the Undeveloped Action alternative.	There would be no effect on TES by implementing the No Action alternative.
General Wildlife, Fisheries, and MIS	Habitat conditions would continue to be maintained. The effects of future projects on the MIS resources would be determined during the respective project environmental analyses.	Habitat conditions would continue to be maintained.	Habitat conditions would continue to be maintained.
Recreation	More proactive management steps could be taken in the area of facilities and trails in the future. Could develop well designed, needed trail access to the beach front to prevent unauthorized trails that usually cause erosion.	No new development would occur. Legal trail access to the lake could not be provided, which could result in unauthorized trails that usually cause erosion.	No new development would occur in the short term. Legal trail access to the lake could not be provided, which could result in unauthorized trails that usually cause erosion.

	Alternative #1 Proposed Action	Alternative #2 Undeveloped Action	Alternative #3 No Action
Recreation	There could be more opportunities for interpretation and education.	There would be limited opportunities for interpretation and education.	There would be limited opportunities for interpretation and education.