



Management Areas



Finger Lakes National Forest Local Planning Meeting
November 6, 2003

Welcome / Introduction / Announcements (7:00-7:10)

Overview of Forest Plan Revision (7:10-7:20)

Management Areas (7:20-7:45)

Clarifying Questions on Presentation (7:45-8:00)

Break / Look at Maps (8:00-8:15)

Group Work (8:15-8:55)

Question #1: What is working, or not working, with the existing Management Areas in the current Forest Plan?

Question #2: What uses are compatible, or incompatible, with the current Management Areas and the possible new Management Areas?

Question #3: Do you have any suggestions to improve any of the Management Areas presented tonight?

Conclusion / Instructions for December's Meeting (8:55-9:00)

List of Handouts For December Meeting:

Public meeting notes on FLNF Goals (April 3, 2003)

Forest Plan Management Area descriptions

Management Area description summary

15 Year Retrospective pages 39-48

Maps: Current Management Areas, Vegetation Types

Current Management Areas of the Finger Lakes National Forest

Management Area	Emphasis	Acres	Percent of total Forest
<u>1.2A</u>	Emphasizes management of <u>pastures</u> for livestock grazing.	5,900	36 %
<u>1.2B</u>	Emphasizes management of <u>grasslands</u> for wildlife habitat.	640	4 %
<u>1.3</u>	Emphasizes maintenance of <u>shrub openings</u> for wildlife habitat.	1,600	10 %
<u>2.1</u>	Emphasizes <u>continuous forest cover</u> . This management prescription uses uneven-aged timber management to provide areas having trees of many ages and sizes where no large clearings will be created. It can enhance recreation and visual quality.	390	2 %
<u>3.1</u>	Emphasizes a <u>mosaic of even-aged timber stands</u> , high quality sawtimber and other wood products. Roaded natural recreation and wildlife habitat for some species is provided.	6,200	38 %
<u>8.1</u>	Protects <u>special areas</u> with uncommon or outstanding biological, geological, recreational, cultural, or historical significance. 8.1A - Interloken Trail 8.1 B - Finger Lakes Trail 8.1C - Ravine Trail 8.1D - Old Growth	370	2 %
<u>9.2</u>	Protects <u>newly acquired lands</u> where future management options will be kept open until inventories can be done.	1,300	8 %

Total: 16,400

Possible new Management Areas (MAs) for the revised Forest Plan

Forested Land MA Possibilities:

General Forest. Combination of MA 2.1 and MA 3.1. Emphasizes management for diverse forest habitats including shade tolerant northern hardwoods and oak. Timber harvest would be only one of the emphasis items for this Management Area, others would include: recreation (camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife observation), wildlife habitat, and watershed health. This is the Finger Lake National Forest (FLNF) recommendation for a new MA.

Northern Hardwoods Shade-Tolerant Forest. This would replace the current 2.1 Management Area by focusing on the desired future conditions or desired vegetation types, rather than the management techniques used to create them. The desired vegetation type for this MA would be a northern hardwood shade-tolerant forest. Compatible uses could be similar to those currently available in MA 2.1 including: recreation (camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation), wildlife habitat, scenic values, watershed values, timber, and firewood.

Oak-Hickory Forest. This would replace the current 3.1 Management Area by focusing on the desired future conditions or desired vegetation types rather than the management techniques used to create them. The desired vegetation type for this MA would be oak-hickory forest. Compatible uses could be similar to those currently available in MA 3.1 including: recreation (camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife observation), wildlife habitat, and watershed health.

Restoration Forest (to pre-1800 conditions). This management area would focus management efforts on restoring vegetative conditions that were found in the FLNF area pre-1800. Since the area was different 200 years ago, this management area will most likely involve active management activities to achieve the desired condition. Research would have to be done to describe the forest and landscape condition pre-1800. Alternatively, restoration of forest to pre-1800 conditions could be the goal of a “special area.”

Grassland and Special Area Possibilities:

Restoration Grassland for Cattle and Wildlife. This would focus on restoring pastures that currently have problems with invasive species to native grass species. Management would most likely be intensive to eliminate invasive species and restore native grasses. Alternatively, this may be accomplished within the current Grazing Management Area.

Interior Forest. This would replace the current 8.1D Management Area. This would focus on creation of interior closed canopy forested areas, little or no timber harvest, and non-motorized recreation. Since the Finger Lakes National Forest contains little, or no, actual old-growth areas, Interior Forest is an accurate name for this Management Area. These areas would also be managed for backcountry recreation opportunities.

Research Natural Area. This management area would focus on providing areas for research. If Research Natural Areas are created, they are more effectively managed as their own Management Area. All uses would be secondary to research.

Study Area for Newly Acquired Land. This would replace the current 9.2 Management Area by shifting the description away from a holding category to a study area. Newly acquired land needs to be studied and placed into a permanent Management Area, not just put in a holding category. Taking time to study and determine how the land should be managed into the future is the real purpose of this Management Area. The Management Area description could also include language about involving partners and the public in the study process.

F. Management Prescriptions and Their Standards and Guidelines

Section E listed standards and guidelines which would apply to management practices called for in more than one management prescription. However, since each of the 7 management prescriptions has unique objectives and desired land conditions (Table 4.2), each also has some unique management practices, standards and guidelines to achieve its goals. This section is organized by management prescription, and outlines the standards and guidelines which are specific to each.

Because this section only refines, but does not repeat, the general standards and guidelines (Section E), it is important to refer to both sections before determining which activities may be undertaken in a certain area and which standards and guidelines will apply.

Table 4.2 Emphasis and Acreage of Management Prescriptions

Management Area Number	Emphasis	Acres	Per Cent
<u>1.2A</u>	Emphasizes management of pastures for <u>livestock grazing</u> .	5434	34%
<u>1.2B</u>	Emphasizes management of <u>grasslands</u> for wildlife habitat.	344	2%
<u>1.3</u>	Emphasizes maintenance of <u>shrub openings</u> for wildlife habitat.	1,814	11%
<u>2.1</u>	Emphasizes <u>continuous forest cover</u> . This management prescription uses unevenaged timber management to provide areas having trees of many ages and sizes where no large clearings will be created. It can enhance recreation and visual quality.	400	2%
<u>3.1</u>	Emphasizes <u>a mosaic of evenaged timber stands</u> , high quality sawtimber and other wood products. Roaded natural recreation and wildlife habitat for some species is provided.	6,400	41%
<u>8.1</u>	Protects <u>special areas</u> with uncommon or outstanding biological or recreational significance.	500	3%
<u>9.2</u>	Protects <u>newly acquired lands</u> where future management options will be kept open until inventories can be done.	1,144	7%

1.2A

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 1.2A PURPOSE

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 1.2A emphasizes management of pastures to provide opportunities for domestic livestock grazing. Wildlife habitat, recreation and visual condition objectives are also met by this prescription.

Grazing opportunities on the National Forest enable livestock owners to devote more productive private lands to more intensive agricultural uses. The Forest range program also provides opportunities for research and demonstration in low energy, ecologically sound pasture management practices that could be applied on private land.

Revenues from grazing help offset the costs of maintaining these grass-forb openings for their values to certain wildlife species (notably hawks and bluebirds), their scenic desirability, and opportunities they provide for recreation (especially snowmobiling and horseback riding).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The vegetation in this prescription will be dominated by grasses and forbs, with some shrub and forest areas interspersed. Pastures will be variable in shape, ranging in size from about 25 to 250 acres.

Human modifications will be evident in the form of barbed wire fences, corrals, stock ponds and other water developments, and in maintenance practices such as mowing and liming. Beef and dairy cattle will be present on the pastures from about May 15 through November 1.

Most of the pasture area will be within a half mile of a gravel road. Lightly used grass or soil roads will connect some areas to the gravel roads. There will be about 2-4 mile of road per square mile of land area.

LOCATION

Pastures will be scattered over the Forest, however they are predominately in the northern half of the Forest. Few pastures will be found at the more rugged southern end of the Forest. The management practice of deferred grazing in pastures will be implemented to provide a recuperation period for improved forage productivity.

Amendment No.2
8/99

GOODS AND SERVICES

This management prescription will provide grass and forb vegetation suitable for domestic livestock and wildlife forage. Incidental amounts of sawtimber and other wood products will be available from intermingled timber stands.

The open, grassy habitat will be especially suitable for such wildlife as raptors, rodents, red foxes, rabbits, bluebirds, bobolinks and flycatchers.

Recreation opportunities will include but not be restricted to, biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, birdwatching, snowmobiling and the gathering of fruit. Some restrictions on recreation will be imposed by the barbed wire fencing which limits access, and by curious cattle which can be intimidating to some people. Bulls can occasionally be aggressive, especially if cornered or chased.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 1.2 B

PURPOSE

Management prescription 1.2 B emphasizes the maintenance of grassland/shrubland openings for wildlife habitat. This habitat type is relatively uncommon in the region, due to extensive agricultural use, and lack of economic incentives for non-farmers to do the required vegetation maintenance. A large variety of game and non-game wildlife species are dependent on grassland openings during all or part of their life cycle. These species include eastern smooth green snake, turkey vulture, wild turkey, horned lark, vesper, savannah, grasshopper, and Henslow's sparrows, bobolink, eastern meadow lark, eastern cottontail, woodchuck, meadow vole, meadow jumping mouse, and ermine.

Many varieties of edible grasses and forbs are found in this vegetation type. Management will be planned to maintain or promote grass and forb production in areas without livestock grazing.

Revenue may be generated through the sale of hay from more productive grasslands that helps offset costs of maintaining these grass-forb openings for their values to a variety of wildlife species, their scenic desirability, and opportunities they provide for recreation (especially snowmobiling and horseback riding).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The vegetation in this prescription will be dominated by grasses and forbs, with some shrub and forest areas interspersed. Grasslands will be variable in shape, ranging in size from about 30 to 130 acres.

Human modifications may be evident from maintenance practices such as mowing, liming, prescribed burning or fertilization.

Most of the grassland areas will be within one-half mile of a gravel road. Lightly used grass or soil roads will connect some areas to the gravel roads.

LOCATION

Grasslands will be scattered over the Forest, dominating the landscape in the northern half of the Forest. Few grasslands will be found at the more rugged southern end of the Forest.

GOODS AND SERVICES

This management prescription will provide grass and forb vegetation suitable for wildlife forage and nesting habitat. Hay may be removed from these grassland areas and incidental amounts of sawtimber and other wood products will be available from intermingled timber stands.

The open, grassy habitat will be especially suitable for a variety of wild raptors, rodents, and birds (see discussion in "PURPOSE" section).

Recreation opportunities will include but not be restricted to, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, birdwatching, snowmobiling and the gathering of fruit (i.e. wild strawberries, raspberries). Less frequently, special events allowed under Special Use Permits may be held in these openings. Special Use and all other activities will be consistent with maintaining these grasslands for our stated "PURPOSE" section.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 1.3

PURPOSE

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 1.3 emphasizes the maintenance of brushy openings for wildlife habitat and fruit production. This habitat type is relatively uncommon in the region, due to its extensive agricultural use, and lack of economic incentives for non-farmers to do the required vegetation maintenance. A large variety of game and non-game wildlife species are dependent on shrub openings during all or part of their life cycle. These species include pheasants, ruffed grouse, turkeys, white tailed deer and many small mammals and songbirds.

Many varieties of edible berries and tree fruits are also found in this vegetation type. Management will be planned to maintain or promote fruit production in areas accessible to Forest visitors, with special emphasis on blueberry production. Wheeled vehicle access will occasionally be permitted for management purposes.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Vegetation in Management Prescription 1.3 consists of a variety of grasses, forbs, shrub species and small patches of trees. Age and structure of vegetation varies from one shrub opening to another, depending on site characteristics, neighboring vegetation types, and objectives for management. The overall character of 1.3 lands is one of brushy openings.

Shrub openings will range in size from 1 to 200 acres. The larger openings are subdivided by hedge rows into smaller units. Many of the wildlife ponds on the Forest are located in this Management Prescription.

LOCATION

Management Prescription 1.3 lands will consist of roughly 1400 acres scattered over the Forest in 40-50 different shrubland openings. Criteria for selecting locations include ecological land type, neighboring vegetation types (to enhance vegetative diversity), plant species composition and feasibility of maintenance.

GOODS AND SERVICES

This management prescription will provide vegetation in an intermediate successional stage for game and non-game wildlife habitat. Recreation will be primarily wildlife-oriented, consisting of hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. A number of openings will be crossed by recreation trails. Fruit gatherers will find the shrub openings to be productive areas for berries, apples and other fruit. Small amounts of firewood will be available.

Shrub openings will add visual variety to the landscape, including vista opportunities in forested areas.

Management Prescription 2.1

PURPOSE

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 2.1 emphasizes unevenaged timber management that maintains continuous forest cover. 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 unevenaged silviculture as a forest management tool.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The forest in Management Prescription 2.1 will consist of many ages and sizes, with more or less continuous crown cover. Trees species which can reproduce in shady conditions will dominate, since no large sunny openings will be created. These include beech, red maple, sugar maple and hemlock.

From a distance, timber management activities will not be evident, since harvest will selectively remove trees of various sizes. Evidence of management on site will include cut stumps, slash, skid trails and landings. Small, temporary openings may be created when necessary to remove diseased or damaged trees or meet other objectives.

Dirt roads and trails will provide access to most areas in the 2.1 Management Prescription.

2.1

LOCATION

Most of the 2.1 lands will be in the vicinity of developed recreation sites - or along trails. The 2.1 prescription will also be applied in some sensitive locations along creeks to protect the scenic character and watershed values of these locations.

GOODS AND SERVICES

The 2.1 prescription will enable us to maintain vigorous stands of trees around developed recreation sites, without significantly altering their appearance. It will also help us retain some relatively natural-appearing stands of trees along trails, while providing sawtimber and firewood.

The varied height and age of vegetation will provide a lot of structural diversity of wildlife habitat in a small area. These habitats will be quite stable, since timber harvest will not change the basic structure of the stand like an evenaged harvest would. Wildlife that prefer a vertically diverse forested environment will benefit the most.

Recreation opportunities typical of a roaded natural environment will be available. These include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hunting and wildlife observation.

Management Prescription 3.1

PURPOSE

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 3.1 emphasizes recreation in a roaded, natural appearing environment, a diversity of wildlife habitats, and production of high quality sawtimber by applying evenaged timber management. Timber harvest and stand improvement practices will be responsive to recreation, visual quality and wildlife considerations and will be aimed at promoting well formed trees of commercially valuable species such as oak and ash. These species do not reproduce well in their own shade, so evenaged silviculture that provides plenty of sun to the reproduction is necessary.

Evenaged systems will also be used to manage conifer and locust plantations, and enhance wildlife habitat for certain species. A variety of recreation uses will be possible in the 3.1 Management Prescription.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Management Prescription 3.1 will be applied to productive forest areas that can be intensively managed for sawtimber production without causing significant resource conflicts. Lands in 3.1 include:

- a. Oak and mixed hardwood stands that contain some mature sawtimber, but are in various conditions of stocking and age class distribution. Timber harvest and stand improvement practices will include commercial thinning, shelterwood cuts, and overstory removal. The desired result of these practices will be to move the the stand toward an evenaged condition and improve the quality of the growing stock.
- b. Young stands of oak and mixed hardwood saplings and poles. These stands have the potential to become high quality sawtimber. Stand improvement practices may include cleaning and weeding or precommercial thinning to improve the quality of the growing stock.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (Cont'd)

- c. Areas that are in an intermediate successional stage between a shrub opening and a timber stand. Precommercial thinning and other stand improvement practices will probably not be applied, except through firewood sales. When they become old enough to contain some sawtimber, they will be treated like the stands in item "a." above.
- d. Conifer plantations that were originally planted to arrest soil erosion on cultivated land. They have done their job of soil stabilization, but are now relatively unproductive for either wildlife habitat or wood products. Recreation is inhibited in most stands by the close spacing of the trees. Because of these drawbacks, we do not intend to perpetuate these stands by replanting. Most of them will be left alone, since no market exists for the wood from many species. Red pine stands are an exception: they have both commercial and aesthetic value, so there is an incentive for management. Accessible red pine stands may receive a thinning, shelterwood cut or clearcut, depending on the initial condition of the stand. Plantations of other conifer species may receive similar treatments when economic conditions permit (especially where advanced hardwood regeneration is present).

In general, the objectives of evenaged management in the conifer plantations will be to utilize existing wood values, and facilitate the plantations' gradual conversion to better-adapted, more productive hardwoods.

- e. Evenaged locust plantations. These stands are productive for fence posts, firewood and wildlife habitat. Regeneration by clear-cutting will be the main management activity.
- f. Aspen stands and inclusions. Aspen reproduce primarily by cloning and resprouting after disturbance. A variety of age classes will be provided for wildlife (especially grouse) by clear-cutting clones periodically.

The overall result of applying Management Prescription 3.1 will be a mosaic of evenaged timber stands which collectively represent many different age classes.

Although a single stand will have limited structural diversity, variety in structure will be provided by having a mixture of stands in a given area of the forest. Species composition will vary both within a stand and across the forest. This diversity will be further enhanced by intermingled lands in other Management Prescriptions.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (Cont'd)

From a distance, timber management activities may or may not be evident depending on topography, vegetative screening, size of cutting unit, type of cut, or age of the trees in the cutting unit. On-site evidence of management will be least apparent for thinning treatments and most apparent for clearcuts. Signs of treatment may include cut stumps, slash, skid trails and obvious differences in height, age or density of trees compared to adjacent timber stands.

Regeneration of trees will be rapid, and cutover areas will quickly become less noticeable. The dense undergrowth will inhibit travel through the stand for several years. However, as tree crowns become larger and shade the ground, the understory will become more open. Management practices will be modified to protect aesthetic values in visually sensitive areas.

LOCATION

Management Prescription 3.1 will be applied to forested areas capable of producing sawtimber-size trees on a 100 year rotation. Generally, these areas will have a hardwood site index of 45 and above. Sites having a hardwood site index of 60 or above will be preferred for the most intensive management. The majority of existing or planned forested area on the Finger Lakes National Forest will be managed under this prescription.

GOODS AND SERVICES

Most of the sawtimber and other wood products sold from the Finger Lakes National Forest will be produced under this Management Prescription. Quality will be quite variable until most of the stands have been put under intensive management. Because of the variable condition of the forest, it could take several decades to produce a consistent flow of high quality sawtimber.

Timber management will be coordinated with other uses, so that high quality dispersed recreation and wildlife habitat can be provided. Management will favor wildlife species that are adapted to temporary brushy openings, sapling thickets, older evenaged timber stands, or some combination of these.

Management Prescription 8.1

PURPOSE

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 8.1 emphasizes SPECIAL AREAS having uncommon or outstanding biological, geological, recreational, cultural, or historical significance on the Finger Lakes National Forest. The intent of this prescription is to preserve these values for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. Public lands are well suited to this since long-term management and protection can be assured.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Special areas can have one or more of the following features:

- °plant communities with unique qualities, such as old growth or wetlands
- °trails that have received special recognition, such as National Recreation or Scenic Trails
- °habitats or populations of threatened or endangered plant and animal species
- °sites with significant historic or prehistoric cultural resources
- °scenic ravines, waterfalls and other uncommon geologic attractions

The areas on the Finger Lakes National Forest that have been identified for the 8.1 Management Prescription are the Interloken, Ravine and Finger Lakes Trails, and areas we will allow to become old growth. Other areas may be added as implementation of the Plan proceeds.

8.1

LOCATION

The Forest Plan map shows where each Special Area is:

- 8.1A Interloken Trail - divides the Forest from north to south.
- 8.1B Finger Lakes Trail - crosses the southern tip of the Forest.
- 8.1C Ravine Trail - a short loop trail that begins on Picnic Area Road about 0.6 miles west of Blueberry Patch Campground.
- 8.1D Old Growth - scattered areas over the Forest where natural succession of vegetation to old growth will be allowed.

GOODS AND SERVICES

The uncommon or outstanding values are the primary outputs from areas under this management prescription. Other resource values and uses are secondary to the protection of the area's special values for public education and enjoyment.

Standards and Guidelines for All Special Areas

1. Specific descriptions and management requirements are outlined for each Special Area on the following pages. General Standards and Guidelines in Chapter IV, Section E of the Plan will apply to each Special Area unless exceptions or additions are stated.
2. All resource management will be limited to activities which maintain the character and outstanding values of the area.
3. Surface disturbing mineral activities appear to be unacceptable.
4. Consent to oil and gas leasing and mineral exploration in this Management Area if no surface disturbance occurs and standard environmental restrictions can be met.
5. USDA consent on mineral development and extraction will be reserved until site specific proposals are received. If consent is given, mineral development and extraction activities will not disturb the surface unless the findings from exploration and further environmental analysis clearly show that limited surface disturbance is in the public interest.

When reviewing development and extraction proposals, consider the relative value of surface and subsurface resources to society and the consistency of the proposed actions with the management objectives, standards and guidelines of this prescription.

6. Subject to passage of enabling legislation, give high priority to acquiring full or partial interest in lands which enhance the protection of each area's special values and to other areas with uncommon or outstanding values which exist within the authorized purchase boundary.

8.1A Interloken Trail

PURPOSE

The Interloken Trail was selected as a "Special Area" because of its National Recreation Trail status, and for the outstanding recreational and educational opportunities it can provide. Management will strive for a balance between demonstrating land management practices, and providing a recreation environment relatively free of human modification.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The 12 mile long Interloken Trail runs the length of the Forest in a north-south direction. It is considered to be a side trail of the Finger Lakes Trail, which crosses the southern end of the Forest. The trail stays mostly on the plateau known as the Hector Backbone, so the terrain is gently rolling. Trail users will encounter a mix of pastures, shrub openings, managed hardwood forest, old growth, and conifer plantations. A variety of management practices will be used to maintain these vegetation types, including unevenaged and evenaged timber harvest, prescribed burning and mowing. These practices will be modified or screened as necessary to ensure a high quality recreation experience.

The Interloken Trail or short side trails access all of the developed recreation sites on the Forest. The trail also passes close to several wildlife ponds, the most familiar being Foster Pond and Teeter Pond. Six parking areas are available along its length.

Most soils in the area of the trail route are poorly drained, so parts of the trail are often muddy or swampy. The gentle terrain reduces the erosion potential somewhat.

GOODS AND SERVICES

Because of sensitive soils and past conflicts between trail uses, the Interloken Trail will be managed as a hiking and skiing trail only. Alternate trails of comparable extent and quality will be provided for horseback riding and snowmobiling.

Because the Interloken Trail traverses a variety of vegetation types, topography and types of land management, there are excellent opportunities for interpretation. Resource management along the trail will not be completely hidden from the trail user, but will be done in a way that maintains the overall feeling of traveling through a natural area.

8.1B Finger Lakes Trail

PURPOSE

The Finger Lakes Trail was selected as a "Special Area" because it was being considered for addition to the nationally significant North Country Trail. This short trail segment is also part of the larger Finger Lakes Trail that spans most of southern New York State. Management will be aimed toward providing a hiking and cross country skiing environment where human modifications appear secondary to natural features.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Finger Lakes Trail segment that crosses the Forest is part of 700 mile trail system which, when completed, will connect the Allegheny Mountains with the Catskills. This system is located on a combination of private, state and federal land, and is maintained by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. Approximately 2.5 miles of the trail are found on the FLNF, located on the more rugged southern tip of the Forest. The Finger Lakes Trail enters the Forest from County Route 4 (Logan Rd.) climbs to the east where it crosses Burnt Hill Rd. and intersects with the Interloken Trail; then descends fairly steeply back to the south, reconnecting with Burnt Hill Road.

Trail users will encounter conifer and locust plantations, managed hardwood forest, old growth forest and shrub openings. Remains of past farming activities such as stone foundations and stone walls will also be found. Some fine views of the Hector Bluffs and surrounding countryside are seen from one of the shrub openings, and from the Finger Lakes Trail Shelter. One wildhfe pond is located along the trail.

Management practices applied to vegetation near the trail will include evenaged and unevenaged silviculture, mowing, prescribed burning and trail clearing. These practices will be modified or screened as necessary to provide a high quality recreation experience on the trail.

GOODS AND SERVICES

Because of the steep terrain, sensitive soils and past conflicts between resource uses, the Finger Lakes Trail will be managed as a hiking/cross-country skiing trail only. Alternate trails will be provided for horseback riding and snowmobiling in more suitable areas. Wheeled motorized vehicles will continue to be excluded from the trail.

Resource management will provide a variety of vegetation types, but the emphasis will be on providing an environment where human modifications do not dominate.

8.1C. Ravine Trail

PURPOSE

The Ravine Trail was selected as a "Special Area" because of its uncommon natural features and the opportunity it provides for environmental education. Management will emphasize protection of the natural features and low-impact education uses.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Ravine Trail is about 1.0 mile long, including an 0.6 mile loop. It was originally designed to demonstrate in a short distance various types of management that have occurred at Hector and also provide a pleasant hike through the scenic ravine area. The trail goes through shrub openings maintained for wildlife, fir plantations that were planted for Christmas trees but grew beyond useable size, native white pine stands, and a steep ravine with hemlock-covered slopes.

LOCATION

The trail loop is located along one of the main branches of Tug Hollow Creek. It originates from Picnic Area Road about 3/4 of a mile east of County Route 4 (Logan Rd.). A side trail intersects Burnt Hill Rd. and the Interloken Trail to the east.

GOODS AND SERVICES

Because of the steep terrain and sensitive soils, the Ravine Trail will be managed as a hiking/cross-country skiing trail only. The trail will provide a short scenic hike with opportunities to learn about natural features, and past and present management practices. Cross country skiing on the loop portion will be challenging due to the steep terrain. Management will emphasize protection of natural features in the loop trail area, and providing an environment where human modifications do not dominate on the side trail.

8.1D Old Growth Stands

PURPOSE

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 8.1D emphasizes succession to OLD GROWTH in the absence of human-caused disturbances. Old growth forest is rare in the region due to extensive clearing for agriculture, and utilization of forests for wood products in the past. Establishment of old growth areas on the Forest will serve several purposes, including:

- Promoting vegetative and wildlife habitat diversity by increasing the acres in this uncommon vegetative type;
- Providing areas to study natural successional processes, and the ecology of small old growth areas;
- Adding to visual diversity and quality along roads and trails;
- Providing small areas for recreation in a forested environment relatively free of human disturbance;

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

As of 1985, old growth forest on the Finger Lakes National Forest was confined to very small areas that were too rugged to be farmed or logged in the past. Additional areas were selected to be set aside for old growth, based on several criteria:

- Represent a variety of ecological land types;
- Select areas that already have some large, old trees, so that succession to old growth will be hastened;
- Select some areas that are readily accessible and visible to the public.
- Select areas not likely to be accessed for timber management due to topography, site productivity or other reasons;
- Select at least one shrub opening so that long term successional processes can be studied.

The physical descriptions of the selected "old growth" areas vary according to these criteria. Some are found on steep, rocky slopes or in ravines that would be difficult to access for timber production. Others are on productive, accessible timber sites where they can be easily viewed by Forest visitors. Existing vegetation varies from a shrub/forb/grass opening, to a mixed-age oak stand, to a ravine densely forested with old growth hemlock.

8.1D

LOCATION

Lands in Management Prescription 8.1D are widely scattered over the Forest. Refer to the Forest Plan map for specific locations.

GOODS AND SERVICES

Management Prescription 8.1D provides an environment free of recent human disturbances for study of natural ecological processes, and low-impact recreation use. No wood products will be produced from these lands. Wildlife species which are dependent on features associated with old growth conditions, such as snags, den trees, down logs, complex vertical structure in the vegetation and large trees will be favored. These could include such species as pileated woodpeckers, turkey, and great blue herons.

Old growth areas will also provide excellent educational opportunities, especially where they can be contrasted with intensively managed timber stands.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 9.2

PURPOSE

Management prescription 9.2 employs management options limited to protecting existing resources, uses and facilities on newly acquired lands until studies are done to assign another management prescription. Management activities will not restrict future opportunities unnecessarily.

Management prescription 9.2 will give the Forest Service time to inventory newly acquired parcels, while allowing for 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. Some parcels may be assigned to another management area rather quickly, while others will not be reassigned until our next Forest Plan is written.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION/LOCATION

For these purposes, “newly acquired lands” include any area of the Finger Lakes National Forest where full interest in land is acquired by the Federal government and not previously assigned management area designations. Those lands on which only a partial interest is acquired will be assigned a management prescription which best meets the purpose for which the partial interest was acquired (e.g. trail or road right of way acquisition).

GOODS AND SERVICES

The goods and services available from newly acquired lands will vary considerably from parcel to parcel. Public access and use of these areas for existing recreational purposes will be allowed unless there are conflicts with other management objectives.