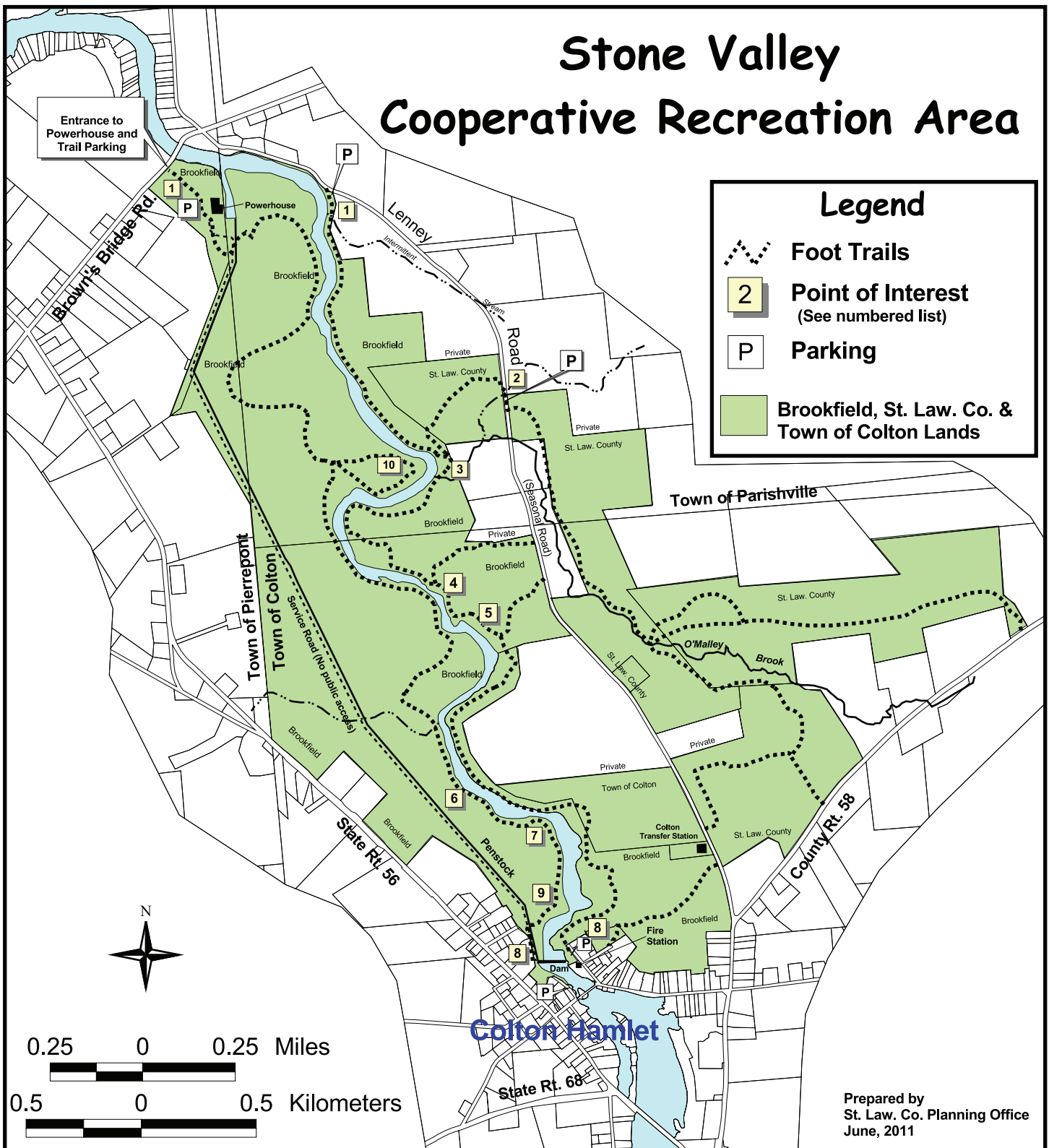


Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area



Prepared by
St. Law. Co. Planning Office
June, 2011

Stone Valley Points of Interest

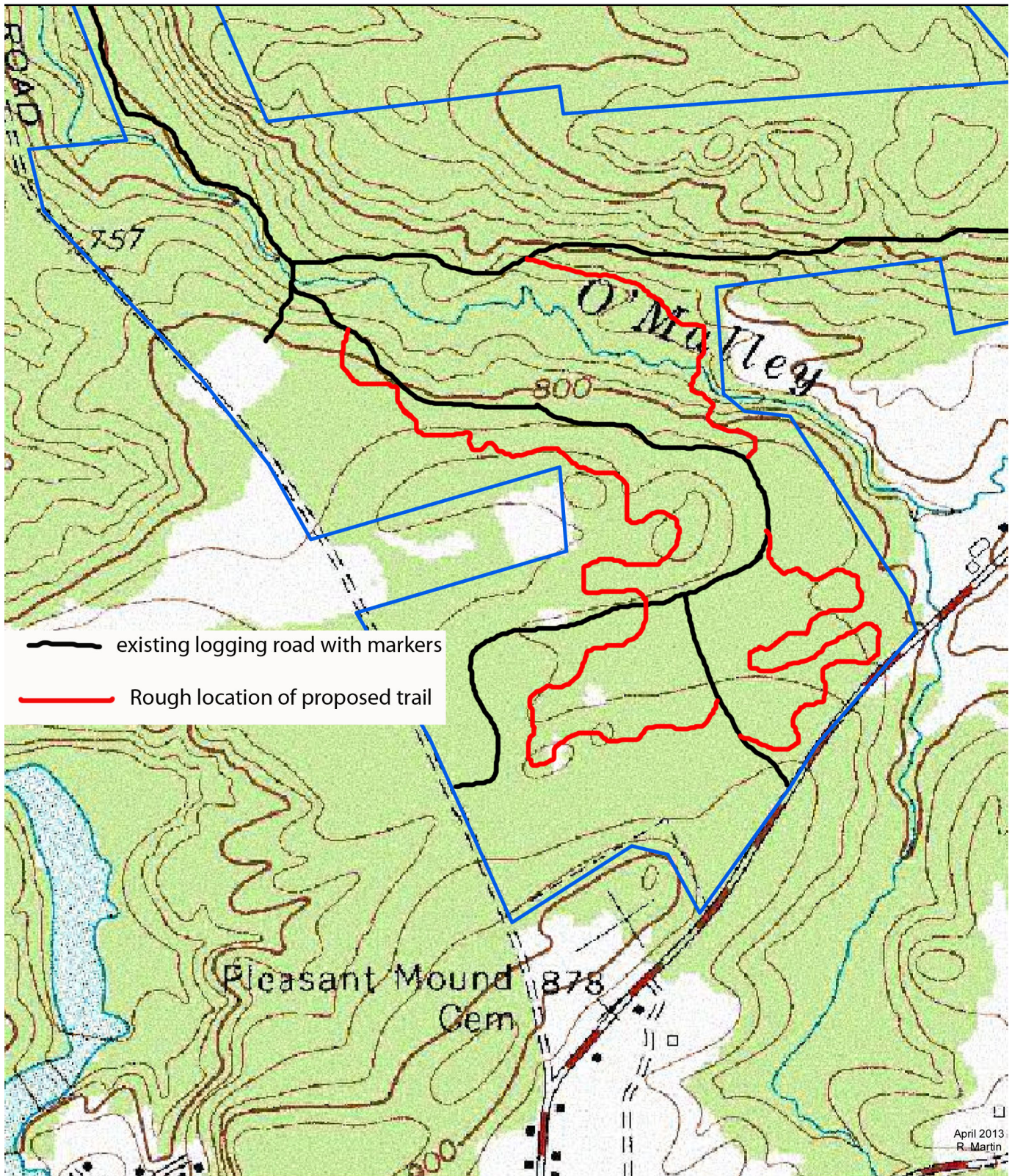
- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Northern Trailheads | 6 The Tub |
| 2 County Parking / Trailhead | 7 The Narrows |
| 3 Cathedral Grove / O'Malley Brook | 8 Southern Trailheads |
| 4 Lucy's Hole (The Gut) | 9 Tannery Ruins Site |
| 5 High Terrace | 10 O'Malley Brook Overlook |

SAFETY ALERTS

1. WITHOUT WARNING, SUDDEN WATER RELEASES FROM THE DAM COULD CAUSE FAST-RISING WATER LEVELS AND HIGH FLOW VELOCITIES IN THE RIVER, TRAPPING INDIVIDUALS, PREVENTING ESCAPE AND RESULTING IN POSSIBLE DROWNING.
2. STAY ON TRAILS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY AND OBEY ALL TRAIL SIGNS.
3. ALWAYS BE AWARE OF OTHERS IN YOUR PARTY.
4. BE ALERT FOR THE LOUDER SOUND OF RUSHING WATER.



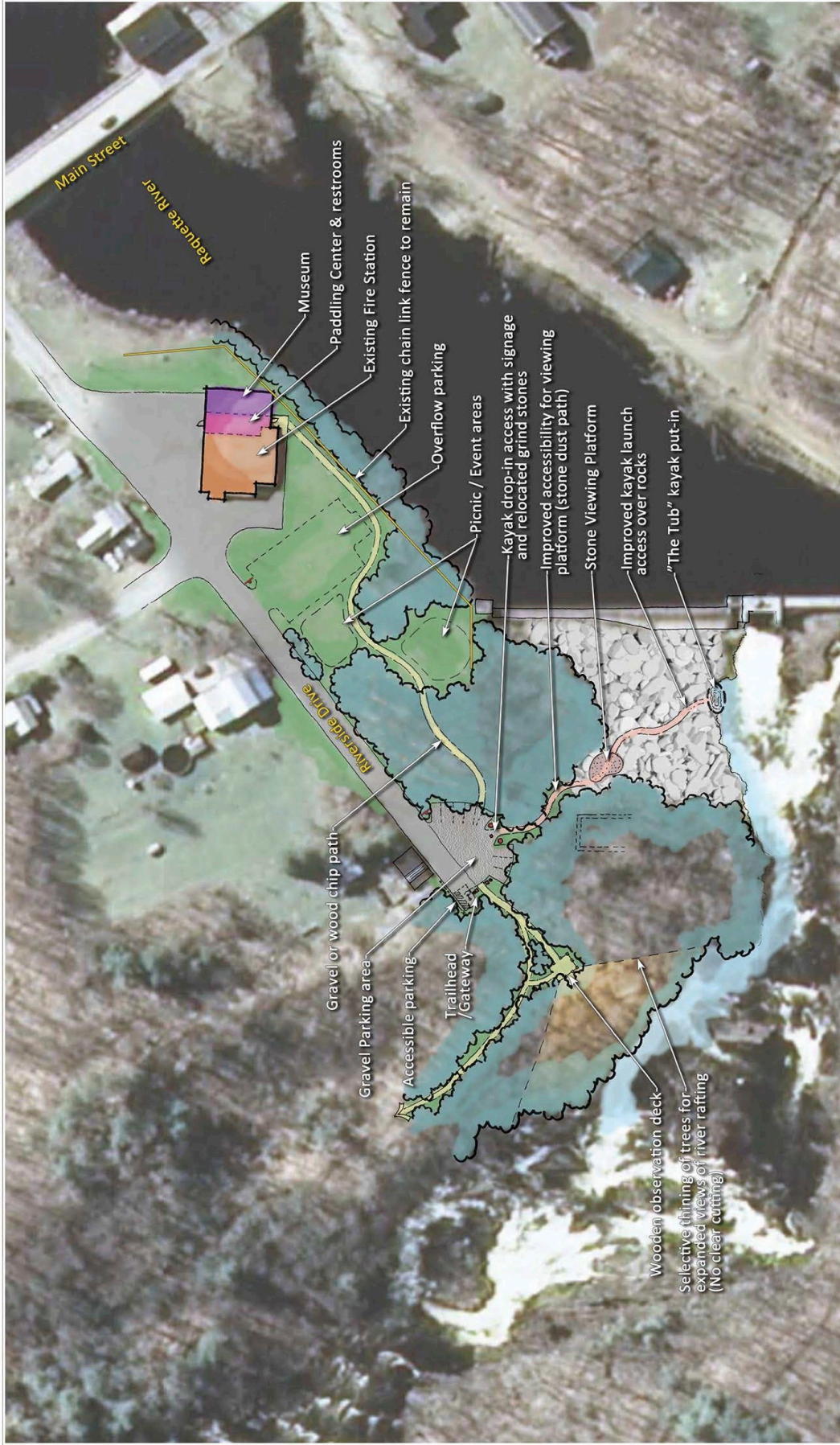
Proposed Biking Trail Expansion
Parcel #19 et. al.
1960's Topo Maps
Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Legend

19 26 27 28 Boundary



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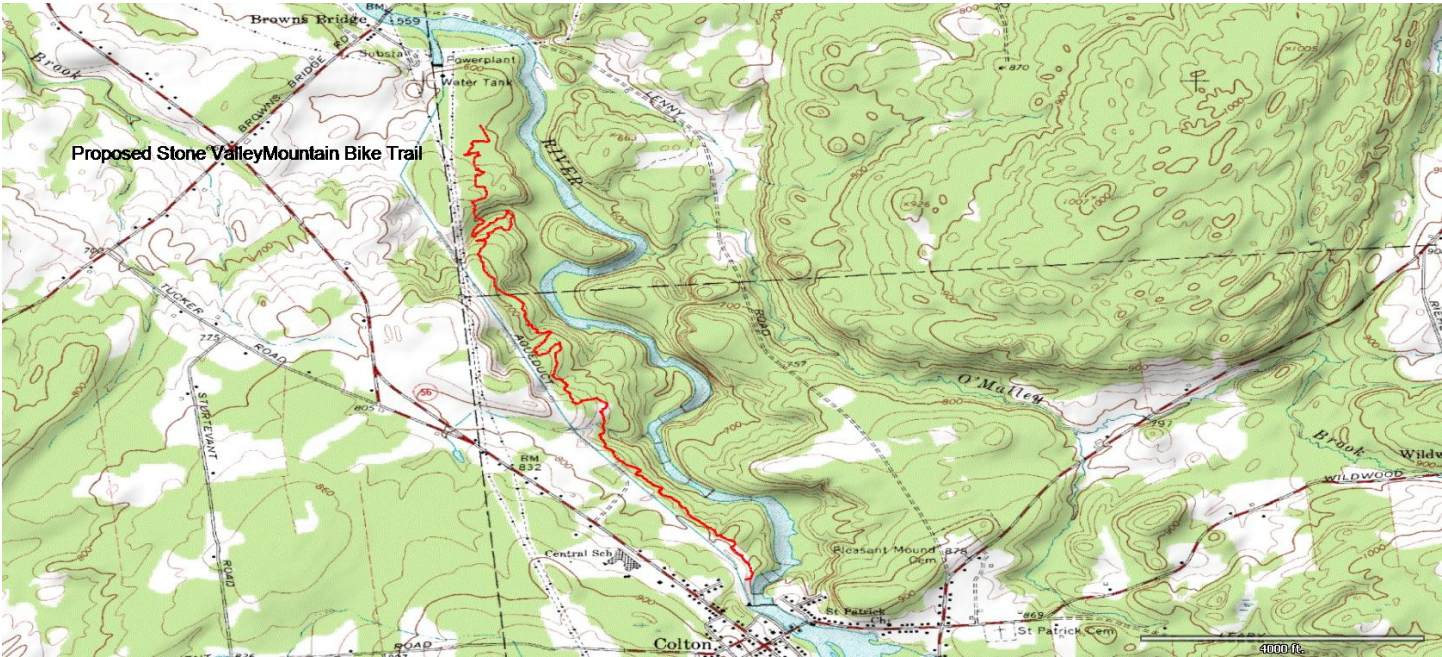
35,500.00

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 DIVISION OF LAND AND FORESTRY

MAP PREPARED FOR:
STONE VALLEY WHITewater AREA
 ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS
 CONCEPT PLAN

APRIL 2013

This map was prepared for the New York State Department of State, Division of Land and Forestry. It is provided under Title 17 of the Environmental Protection Code.



User Rules

Leave No Trace Principles

These seven principles are copyrighted by The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics (www.lnt.org).

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
 - In popular areas:
 - Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
 - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
 - In pristine areas:
 - Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
 - Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What you Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Respectful of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

St. Lawrence County Land Use Rules

St Lawrence County has approved this list of user rules for county land, which includes sections of the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (see map SVCRAmap1.jpg).

I. Introduction

a. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of these Rules shall apply to all persons entering upon or using St. Lawrence County owned lands that are administered by the Soil and Water Conservation District, including but not limited to lands designated unique areas, reforestation areas, and multiple use areas.

b. *Definitions.* As used in this Chapter, the following words shall have the indicated meanings:

1. *County* shall mean St. Lawrence County.
2. *County Lands* mean parcels owned by St. Lawrence County.
3. *District* shall mean St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District.
4. *Person with a disability* means a person with a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such person.
5. *Bicycle* shall mean any self-propelled vehicle.
6. *Motor vehicle* shall mean a device for transporting personnel, supplies or material incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion.
7. *Motorized equipment* means devices not designed for transporting personnel, supplies or material, but incorporating a motor, or an engine of any kind to accomplish a task, such as, but not limited to, chain saws, brush saws, rotary or other mowers, rock drills, and generators.
8. *Forest Access* means a road or path cleared in the forest for current or prior logging or forest management operations.
9. A *Trail* is a linear progression of points laid out and specifically marked for public use.
10. A *Parking Area* is a designated location for the parking, stopping, standing, and unloading of ATVs, cars, trailers, and other motor vehicles as defined by the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Law.
11. *Camp* shall mean any form of temporary shelter, including but not limited to a tarp, tent, travel trailer, or motor vehicle used for shelter or sleeping.
12. *Structure* shall mean any object or improvement constructed, installed or placed on County lands, including but not limited to trails, roads, bridges, ramps, buildings, lean-tos, picnic tables, monuments, memorials, permanent tree stands or permanent hunting blinds, posts, rails, handrails, steps, fences, pipelines, oil, gas and other well structures, septic systems, fuel tanks, utility lines (including but not limited to telephone, electric and cable), mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks and dams. Tents, campers, temporary blinds and other temporary objects used in authorized recreational activities shall not be considered structures for the purposes of this definition, if and when such objects are in compliance with rules governing authorized recreational activities on County lands.

II. Signs and Structures

a. No person shall deface, mutilate, destroy or remove any County or District sign, structure, barrier or object.

b. No person shall fail to comply with the instructions contained on a sign erected by the County or the District.

c. No person shall discharge firearms on County lands posted or designated as closed

to shooting.

d. No person shall possess paint balls or paint ball guns on County lands, and no person shall sponsor, conduct or participate in any activities associated with the discharging of paint balls on County lands.

e. No person shall erect or post any notice or sign upon County land at any time without prior authorization from the District.

f. No person shall erect, construct, maintain, occupy or use any structure that is affixed to a tree by nails, screws or other means or is used, operated, accessed or reached by methods or means which injure or damage a tree.

g. No person shall erect, construct, install, maintain, store, discard or abandon any structure or any other property on County lands or subsequently use such structure or property on County lands, unless the structure or property is authorized by the County or the District or is:

1. a geocache that is labeled with the owner's name and address and installed in a manner that does not disturb the natural conditions of the site where installed or injure a tree;
2. a camping structure or equipment that is placed and used legally pursuant to these Rules;
3. a legally placed trap or appurtenance that is placed on County land and used only during a legal trapping season;
4. a tree stand or hunting blind that does not injure a tree, is legibly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting or fishing license number, and is only placed and used during big game season, migratory game bird season, or turkey season; or
5. a wildlife viewing blind or stand that is placed for a period of time not to exceed thirty (30) days in one location in any calendar year, does not injure a tree, and is legibly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting or fishing license number.

III. DUMPING

a. No person shall throw, dump, deposit or place or cause to be thrown, dumped, deposited or placed on or in any County lands or structures any refuse, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or any nauseous or offensive matter.

b. No person shall possess or target shoot at breakable targets, including but not limited to clay pigeons and glass containers, on County lands.

IV. Fire

a. No person shall deposit any lighted materials where they will cause fire.

b. No person shall set, light, use or maintain a fire or campfire of any kind on County lands which are posted or designated by the County to prohibit fires, or campfires or both. Under no circumstances are fires or campfires allowed on any forest access road, trail or parking area on County lands.

c. No person shall set, light, use or maintain a fire or campfire or use liquid or gaseous fuel camping stoves or lamps on County lands during periods of high fire danger designated by the County or District.

d. No wood, except from dead and down trees or from local firewood merchants located within a 50 mile radius and the fire site, shall be used for fuel.

e. No fires are permitted except for cooking, warmth or smudge. No fire shall be lit until

all flammable material has been removed from the fire's perimeter. No fires shall be left unattended until extinguished. Fires shall be limited to 3' in diameter.

V. Camping

- a. Temporary camping is permitted on County lands; however, no improved campsites are provided by the County.
- b. Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water.
- c. Areas used for temporary camping and adjacent lands must be kept in a neat, clean and sanitary condition. Garbage must be removed from County land and properly disposed of.
- d. Any camping exceeding three days requires a permit from the County. Any tent or other camping structure left unoccupied for more than 48 hours may be taken down or removed by the County or the District.

VI. Trails

- a. No person shall enter, remain upon or use any forest access, facility, or any other area on County lands that are posted or designated by the County as closed to public use.
- b. No person shall cut or remove trees or saplings for the purpose of creating forest access on areas of County lands not already cleared or constructed by the County or District.
- c. The use of toboggans, sleds, ATVs and snowmobiles on ski trails is prohibited.
- d. The operation of snowmobiles and ATVs on County land is permitted only on designated trails. ATV use is prohibited from September 27 – April 1 or later if trails are wet. Snowmobile use is only from December 15 – March 31.
- e. No person shall operate a vehicle in excess of posted speed limits on any forest access roads, or trails within the county reforestation areas.
- f. The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on County lands unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision. No person shall ride or permit a horse on:
 - 1. foot trails, except where such trails are part of a publicly maintained road, or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses thereon; and
 - 2. designated snowmobile trails and cross-country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow.

VII. General

- a. No person shall deface, remove, destroy or otherwise injure in any manner whatsoever any tree, flower, shrub, fern, fungi or other plant organisms, moss or other plant, rock, soil, fossil or mineral or object of archaeological or paleontological interest found on or growing on County land, except for personal consumption or pursuant to a permit issued by the County or the District.
- b. No person shall, while on County land or waters:
 - 1. intentionally obstruct, prevent or attempt to prevent any officers or employees of the County or District from performing their legal duties, by means of intimidation, physical force, interference or disobedience of any lawful order or by means of any independently unlawful act;
 - 2. intentionally expose the private or intimate parts of his or her body in a lewd manner;

3. obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof;
 4. engage in fighting or violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior; or
 5. engage in any other activity which violates the Penal Law.
- c. No person under 21 years of age shall possess alcoholic beverages. Persons age 21 or over who possess alcoholic beverages must produce adequate identification and proof of age upon demand.
- d. The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on all County lands except for sales by concessionaires when such sales are provided for in concession agreements.
- e. The use of County lands or any structures or improvements thereon for private revenue-producing or commercial purposes is prohibited.
- f. On County lands, no person shall sponsor, conduct or participate in any organized event involving more than eight people and lasting more than one hour, unless authorized by the District in advance of the event. Examples of organized events include, but are not limited to: sponsored hikes; archery and fishing tournaments; snowmobile, bicycle, horse and orienteering races, runs, rides or competitions (including biathlons and triathlons); encampments; and re-enactments.
- g. No person shall sponsor, conduct or participate in: weddings, advertising, commercial film making activities or film making activities that exclude other public use of County lands in the area, and other similar events, without first obtaining a permit from the County.
- h. No person shall use any portion of County lands for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to the grazing of cattle or domestic animals of any kind thereon, unless they have made arrangements with the County to do so.
- i. No person shall sponsor, conduct or participate in any research project on County lands without first obtaining permission from the County. Examples of research include, but are not limited to wildlife population studies, collection of scientific samples, placement of scientific instruments, seismic exploration and archaeological studies.

Brookfield Renewable Power Land Use Policy

see attachment 7

IMBA (Int. Mtn Bike Assn) general trail rules, submitted by Ben Yandreau

1. **Ride Open Trails:** Respect trail and road closures. Do not trespass on private land.
2. **Leave No Trace:** Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
3. **Control Your Bicycle:** Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Ride within your limits.
4. **Yield Appropriately:** Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you're coming — a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Try to anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Bicyclists should yield to other non-motorized trail users, unless the trail is clearly signed for bike-only travel. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic. In general, strive to make each pass a safe and courteous one.
5. **Never Scare Animals:** Animals are easily startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement or a loud noise. Give animals enough room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses, use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain).
6. **Plan Ahead:** Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding and prepare accordingly. Strive to be self-sufficient: keep your equipment in good repair and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

WHITEWATER USERS -

recommendations posted on American Whitewater website and publicized at events:

Attention Stone Valley Paddlers and Spectators

If you are going to be boating on the Stone Valley section of the Raquette River or watching the whitewater paddlers during the upcoming releases, we'd like you to consider a few small requests:

- In order to minimize impact on the ecosystem in the river corridor, please stay on

existing trails whenever possible, and when scouting from river level, please do your best to stay on granite surfaces.

- To maintain a positive relationship with other users of the Stone Valley Recreation Area, please be mindful of sharing the trails, yielding to hikers and bikers whenever appropriate.
- In order to maintain a good relationship with local property owners, let's be mindful of our use of the Lenny Road (the dirt road on river right often used to run shuttle). Please drive respectfully and be cautious on the narrow sections of the road. If you are going to use the lower takeout, try to use Route 56 and the Browns Bridge Road for access. When using the lower takeout, please try to park off the side of the road, be mindful of traffic, and consider carpooling to minimize the number of cars at the takeout.

Emergency situations obviously call for drastic measures, but please do your best to follow these guidelines under normal circumstances.

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (SVCRA)

Project Description

The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s).

1. Submission Date: __Dec. 10, 2013__

2. Name of project__O'Malley Brook Bike Trail__

3. Description of location__E. of Lenny Rd and N. of Co. Rt 58__

photos/maps attached__"SVCRAmap2.jpg"__

property owner(s) __St. Lawrence Co.__

4. Contact Person(Name): __Jim Akins, St. Law. Co. Mtn. Bike Assn.

USMail Address __P O B0x 673__

__Canton NY 13617__

Phone: __386-4348__

E-mail :__akinsacres@gmail.com__

5. Person completing this form (if different from above)

John Omohundro, ADK Laurentian chapter

6. Short Description of proposed project

3.5 mi. of narrow easy and medium mountain bike trails on both sides of the brook [O'Malley bridge project to be proposed separately]

Mountain bike trails will consist of both new single track and existing skidder road. The single track will be designed to be ridden in either direction and the skidder roads will be utilized as access to the single track. The single track will be created similar to IMBA's twist-and-turn design of trail building. (<http://www.imba.com/resources/trail-building/twists-and-turns>) There will also be aspects of a "flow trail" added into the descents that will allow for both beginning riders and seasoned riders to enjoy the same terrain.

The mountain bike trails will be mostly "easy" with a few sections that will be "more difficult" in terms of the IMBA chart (<http://www.imba.com/resources/maps/traildifficulty-ratings>.) The nature of this trail will be curves, bench cut,

rock surfaces, mellow descents with rollers and berms. Most obstacles will be very small. Larger obstacles will also have an easier alternate route to allow for riders of various ability levels to enjoy the same trail system. Rollers and berms will be installed to provide descents with entertaining features for both new and seasoned riders. These features can also be utilized to mitigate erosion.

7. Estimated starting date _June 2013_

8. Estimated completion date _Dec. 2013_

9. Materials to be used (Wood, metal, stone, etc.) : __none__

10. Description of signage to be installed (per SVCRA sign guidelines, see Management Agreement Appendix 11)

A brown and yellow entry sign on Lenny Rd.; brown and yellow loop signs with arrows; red diamond hiking trail signs on the main trail from Lenny Rd to Co. Rte 58; diamond trail markers in another color for dedicated bike sections

11. Equipment required to complete (especially machines, power tools): all hand tools

12. Estimated Cost of The Project : approx. \$900 in cash, plus donated labor

proposed source of funding or supplies: \$549 for roue hoes from RRAC;
\$300-400 in signs from RRAC

13. Organization of the work (coordination, reporting structure, safety/risk management)

Work will be performed by St. Lawrence Mountain Bike Association and ADK Volunteers and other individuals under the supervision of Dawn Howard, the Soil and Water Conservation District Manager. Trail design and layout for this extension project will be supervised by Ben Yandeau under the direction of Soil and Water.

Construction work on new trails will occur as sanctioned ADK events. All ADK safety protocols will be followed, including participants reading and signing the ADK waiver. Crew leaders (Phil Bridgeman, Ben Yandeau and Mark Simon) will conduct a safety briefing prior to all work sessions. Objective hazards such as safe working distances between work members while swinging tools will be among topics discussed. When appropriate, helmets, gloves, and safety glasses will be worn.

14. Sustainability, or expected life use of project: __20__ years

All new trail work and maintenance will be performed with the goal of 20-year longevity. Rock materials will be favored over wood. If wood is used for water bars, stairs, or other structures, then cedar, hemlock, or environmentally-friendly treated wood will be used.

Estimated annual maintenance requirements and associated cost:

Social or unapproved trails or impacts from ATV trespass will be brushed in to mitigate further impacts to soil and vegetation.

Invasive plants along the trails will be identified and reported to Soil and Water

Trails with erosion exceeding 4" in depth as measured with a string across the width of the tread will receive priority for maintenance or new trail construction.

Who will monitor and maintain:

Trail conditions will be monitored regularly by members of SLMBA and brief reports periodically communicated to Soil and Water.

Equipment and supplies needed to maintain:

Hand tools and replacement signs

15. Anticipated Impacts of Project on Management Goals of Agreement; check all that apply

- ☐ Healthy and abundant natural resources for timber, hydropower, and recreation
- ☒ Public has access for allowed activities
- ☐ High scenic values of forested landscape and river flow
- ☒ Mitigate conflict among users and owners
- ☐ Biological diversity, with emphasis on native species
- ☐ Interpretation and protection of geologic and historic features

Elaborate on each impact checked above:

-public has access: this trail adds a significant length of dedicated bike trails to the SVCRA while also adding additional multi-use non-motorized trail.

-mitigate conflict among users and owners: two conflicts could result from such a trail: collisions of cyclists at crossings of the bike trail with the skidder log-

ging trails, which serve other users; trail users and hunters in the fall. To mitigate the collisions, we will sign the crossings with caution and brush out unused skidder logging trails; to mitigate conflict between hunters and other users, we'll mount more copies of the warning signs now in use at Stone Valley and Red Sandstone hiking trails. Multi-use trails that may be used by equestrians will be distinguished by signage from dedicated bike trails. The traditional hiking trails that run along the Raquette River will remain unchanged and will be separate and discreet from mountain bike trails, meaning that they will not have short spurs (other than the existing stair bypass) or other features catering to mountain bikers

16. Management Objectives of Agreement addressed by Project:

- ☒ Enhance public information about SVCRA
- ☒ Maintain / improve access to SVCRA and related spaces
- ☒ Minimize/reduce and mitigate human impact
- ☐ Increase public awareness of Leave No Trace ethics and land use policy
- ☐ Enhance public safety
- ☒ Deal with invasive plants
- ☐ Gather and report user statistics
- ☐ Promote tourism

Elaborate on each objective checked above:

public information: SL MBA intends to publicize this new trail to mountain bikers

improve access: this greatly expands the mileage of dedicated mountain bike trails, and also increases the mileage of multi-use non-motorized trails.

human impact: Monitoring will look for erosion or spread of the narrow trail, accumulation of trash, occurrence of social (unplanned) trails

Invasives: SL MBA trail monitoring will include identifying and reporting invasives along trail

17. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Area:

- ☐ Provision of emergency services
- ☐ Persons with disabilities, minorities, or elderly

_____ Local tax base

_____ Adjacent land use (outside SVCRA)

Elaborate on each category checked above:

18. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Natural Resources of the Area

☒ Soil

☒ Vegetation, trees

_____ Streams, rivers

_____ Groundwater aquifers

☒ Runoff or runoff patterns

_____ Wetlands

_____ Fish and wildlife

☒ Significant habitat areas

☒ Rare, threatened or endangered species

Elaborate on each category checked above:

soil: Erosion and water control will be created by following the principals of grade reversals. While this area is mostly mild in gradient, where sections become steep grade reversals will be utilized to control erosion (<http://www.imba.com/resources/trail-building/easy-way-toughen-trails>). Social (unplanned) trails will be identified and brushed out to prevent expansion of trail's impact and confuse visitors.

soil and vegetation: Bench cuts will be dug down to mineral soil with the duff layer removed. These cuts will have a slight camber for drainage. Switchbacks will be brushed in to prevent hikers and other visitors from cutting across them.

Sapling stobs (trees 3" and less in diam.) will be completely removed from the trail rather than cutting them off (which risks tripping injury).

Run off/patterns: the trail will be kept at least eight feet from streams except where the trail approaches O'Malley Brook to cross the bridge proposed for that location.

Habitat/rare plants: The trail will be kept to its mostly two-foot width and unplanned trails removed to minimize impact on the ground cover.

19. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Cultural or Historical Characteristics of the Area

_____ Cultural or historical features

Elaborate on impacts:

NA

20. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Pollution Potential of the Area:

- _____ potential for hazardous wastes
- _____ effects from solid waste
- _____ noise impact
- _____ air quality
- _____ motor traffic patterns and safety

Elaborate on each category checked:

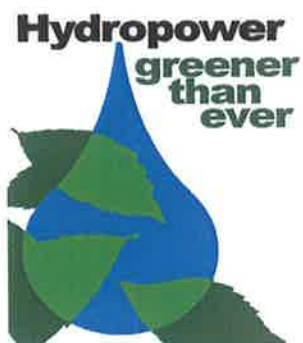
NA

Submission of this form to the Stone Valley partners is for coordination only and does not constitute an approval process. Applicants still must acquire written permission of the property owner(s).

Brookfield GENERAL LAND USE POLICY	New York Hydroelectric Lands	Revision: 3 Date: 12/08/10 Document No. BRPNYE-NYS LUP 001 Review and Update: Every three years or as appropriate Date: 12/08/13
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GENERAL LAND USE POLICY FOR BROOKFIELD POWER NEW YORK HYDROELECTRIC LANDS Erie Boulevard Hydropower, L.P

Another **Benefit of
Hydro Power**



Brookfield

Brookfield GENERAL LAND USE POLICY	New York Hydroelectric Lands	Revision: 3 Date: 12/08/10
		Document No. BRPNYE-NYS LUP 001 Review and Update: Every three years or as appropriate Date: 12/08/13

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Brookfield GENERAL LAND USE POLICY	New York Hydroelectric Lands	Revision: 3 Date: 12/08/10
		Document No. BRPNYE-NYS LUP 001 Review and Update: Every three years or as appropriate Date: 12/08/13

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

At Brookfield Power we strive to be a valued member of the communities we serve. We are committed to providing a safe workplace and protecting the environment while providing competitive energy and related services

Brookfield Power (Brookfield) has more than 70 hydroelectric generating facilities throughout New York State. Most of these facilities are owned and operated under the name Erie Boulevard Hydropower, L.P. (EBH), which is part of the Brookfield Power group of companies. In most cases EBH is the owner of the lands under and adjacent to its reservoirs which store water used in the generation of electricity, the primary purpose of Brookfield land holdings. Other benefits to EBH's hydro reservoirs and operations include low flow augmentation in river reaches downstream of its projects, aesthetics, maintenance and enhancement of fisheries, whitewater releases, municipal water supplies and general recreational activities.

Brookfield is aware that the approximately 20,000 acres of land that it owns and manages as part of its 70 plus hydro facilities is an important asset to the adjacent land owners and surrounding communities. As such, Brookfield has applied its Corporate Environmental Policy guidelines to address environmental and public safety issues associated with these holdings. Brookfield has strived to not only meet regulatory requirements, but to consider the socio-economic and environmental expectations of stakeholders, and engage in open and transparent dialog to achieve greater understanding of expectations and constraints and promote a partnership approach to responsible and realistic solutions.

Brookfield also recognizes there are ever increasing demands for development on its lands adjacent to its reservoirs. In its desire to accommodate and promote recreational access and use of its facilities in light of this demand, Brookfield has developed the subject Land Use Policy using the aforementioned principles and is communicating it to its constituents. This policy is needed for the benefit of everyone to ensure that public safety and environmental considerations are applied consistently and effectively. Clearly, misuse of our lands by a few only degrades the quality of the experience for others. We believe our Land Use Policy can accomplish these worthy goals for the benefit of everyone.

Section II of this policy goes into greater detail on the many factors Brookfield considered when developing this land use policy. Section III provides the specific policies and procedures governing the different uses on EBH lands.

Brookfield GENERAL LAND USE POLICY	New York Hydroelectric Lands	Revision: 3 Date: 12/08/10
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Due to the uniqueness in physical characteristics and needs of stakeholders, diversity of applicable regulations and large geographical area encompassed by our reservoirs, one policy could not begin to address all the land related issues associated with individual reservoirs or land holdings. Therefore, this policy is subject to any additions, deletions and/or exceptions contained in supplemental land use policies and licensing procedures that may be issued for individual reservoirs.

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SECTION II

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION: In recent years development of project reservoir shoreline for purposes other than hydroelectric power production or other project needs has dramatically increased. The increase in development pressure on project shorelines for non-project uses and occupancies is due largely to the increasing demand for water-oriented recreation and waterfront property. Much of this development takes advantage of access to, or view of, project waters. Private recreational facilities include private residences, resorts, campgrounds, marinas, docks, golf courses, boat sales and services, etc. Public recreational facilities include local parks, state parks, campgrounds, hiking trails, hunting access, fishing access, picnic areas, boat launches and wildlife preserves.

Many public and private stakeholders have an interest in the development or preservation of Brookfield's project shorelines including federal, state and local agencies, homeowner associations, environmental groups, hunting and fishing clubs, water-based recreation groups, real estate interests and the general public. Local government often supports development along project shorelines because these activities can increase tax base, provide jobs, and boost local economy. The real estate and construction industries often support shoreline development as well. Other groups are concerned with the effect shoreline development will have on natural resources. These groups include federal, state and local governmental resource agencies, environmental groups and a variety of recreation and sporting interests. Some other groups are concerned about public safety, watercraft traffic and even navigation.

RESPONSIBILITIES: EBH, as the owner of all or a majority of the property adjacent to our rivers/reservoirs and as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) operating licenses, is responsible for managing the use and development of our shorelines. Many factors had to be considered when developing a strategy to manage EBH lands surrounding our reservoirs. Some of these considerations are as follows:

- Managing hydroelectric operations
- Compliance with FERC License requirements, Operating Agreements, and applicable laws and regulations
- Risk management/liability
- Flood control and passage of high flows
- Low flow augmentation

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- Security
- Public Safety
- Scenic and aesthetic value
- Water quality
- Recreation
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Cultural resources
- Economic/commercial development
- Public access
- Natural resources
- Erosion control
- Property rights
- Emergency management

FERC project lands are open to the public for certain activities. EBH has the authority, under its FERC license, to grant permission to applicants for specific non-project use of its land through a licensing program which is described in more detail in Section III. EBH as a project owner licensed with the FERC can charge a fee to recover costs incurred in the administration of a licensing program.

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SECTION III

GENERAL LAND USE POLICIES

A. PUBLIC ACCESS

Brookfield allows the general public access to its hydro lands for certain activities, except where restricted for public safety, security or other reasons related to the operation of the facility for hydroelectric generation. This public access includes hydro lands under license with the FERC. Brookfield's position regarding public access is "Leave it as you found it".

Further, access is only permitted by foot from designated public access areas or from the water. Brookfield does not condone access to the reservoir by trespassing on private land or the use of the reservoir and adjacent EBH land to trespass on private property.

Brookfield also reminds all users of its lands that they are accessing the area at their own risk and should be vigilant for any physical and natural hazards. All users are also cautioned to stay away from any areas that have been marked for exclusion due to public safety or security reasons. These restricted areas are identified with fencing, signage, or both. Restricted areas have been developed for your safety, facility security and the delineation of the restricted areas may change at any time due to changing conditions. We want all users of our lands to leave having had a pleasurable experience, so please respect all restricted area fencing and signage.

Allowable Activities

The use of hydro lands by the general public (inclusive of Brookfield employees and adjacent landowners) is considered temporary in nature, non-exclusive. The general public can cross non-restricted EBH lands to access the reservoir for activities including, but not limited to:

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Canoeing

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Fires in designated fire rings at designated campsites only
Swimming at campground locations as permitted by NYS DOH

Restricted Activities

Access and use of EBH lands by the general public does **not** include activities such as the following:

- the clearing of vegetation to enhance a view, or otherwise
- shoreline modifications
- boat mooring (in lieu of docking)
- dock construction
- affixing of any temporary or permanent structures to the land
- access by a motor vehicle of any kind with the exception of designated public access areas (boat launches, day use areas, trailheads, etc.)
- use of the bed of reservoirs in low water conditions for access to campsites, camps or dwellings by a motorized vehicle
- building or maintaining campfires outside of designated fire rings in non-designated areas
- swimming in non-designated areas
- any activity in restricted areas.

Un-permitted structures and/or improvements found within EBH property boundaries will be identified with a non-compliant use Warning Sticker (red). The sticker includes contact information and requires that the recipient contact Brookfield Power immediately for potential remediation to this situation. Failure to contact Brookfield to resolve the un-permitted use within 14 days will result in Brookfield Power providing legal notice to the occupant and potentially initiating legal action.

B. RECREATIONAL & NON-PROJECT USE LICENSES

With over 70 hydroelectric generating facilities throughout New York State, it is a formidable task to develop a mechanism that would take into account the considerations mentioned above in Section II and still be effective in managing and enforcing a shoreline program. Brookfield has obligations with local, state, federal resource and regulatory agencies and non-governmental organization's (NGO's) to manage EBH shorelines. Brookfield also appreciates the needs of its other stakeholders. Therefore, Brookfield has chosen to implement a licensing program to manage the use of its shoreline and adjacent lands. The licensing program is structured to minimize liability risk to the company and other users

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- and still be flexible enough to allow a variety of uses by the public and adjacent landowners while meeting Brookfield's shoreline management objectives.

Recently, Brookfield's predecessors began to enhance and formalize prior land use licensing efforts that were informally used by earlier owners to help manage the use of the shorelines and land adjacent to its reservoirs. One of the objectives of Brookfield's licensing program is to set forth the land use policies and licensing procedures that outline the use and development of the shorelines of our reservoirs in a manner that is harmonious with our commitments to local, state, federal resource and regulatory agencies, numerous NGO's and other stakeholders. Through the administration of the licensing program, Brookfield will be able to improve and maintain the aesthetic quality of our reservoirs by discouraging or preventing any unauthorized activities and haphazard construction along shorelines and adjacent lands.

EBH has the authority to and may grant permission to applicants for specific non-project use of its land. Examples of facilities for which land use licenses can be issued are listed below. Certain uses will require annual license renewal.

- Individual docks and piers (private and commercial)
- Common (or group) docks and piers
- Excavation and dredging
- Erosion control
- Rip-rap placement
- Water withdrawals
- Retaining walls
- Bulkheads
- Fences
- Walkways
- Landscape plantings
- Hunting blinds
- Motorized vehicle access

EBH as a project owner licensed with the FERC can charge a fee to recover costs incurred in the administration of a licensing program. Only individuals or groups that own land adjacent to EBH lands may apply for a land use license. Licenses issued by EBH will be subject to operational conditions including, but not limited to, flow and flood rights, FERC requirements and operational needs – without compensation.

The following outlines the procedure for obtaining a land use license:

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1. To apply for a license, please submit a written request to Brookfield Renewable Power, Attn: Land Use Specialist at the specific address outlined herein. All requests should include:
 - the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the applicant;
 - the nature of facility/activity proposed on Brookfield lands (sketches and construction drawings if available);
 - a location map (i.e., tax map, survey map, quad map, etc.) indicating the location of the proposed facility/activity requested.
2. Upon receipt of a request, Brookfield will review the information to determine if the proposed facility/activity is allowed on the subject reservoir. If the facility/activity appears to be compatible with the Brookfield Land Use Policy and any applicable site specific policies or considerations, an application will be forwarded to the requestor or the request will be denied.
3. The applicant must submit the completed application, and any additional information along with a nonrefundable application fee.
4. Brookfield will review the completed application to ensure that it contains the correct information, that all appropriate governmental permits and authorizations have been applied for or obtained, and that the applicable fees have been received.
5. Brookfield will contact the applicant to:
 - Arrange an on-site inspection and review of the proposed work;
 - Or inform the applicant that the application is denied or requires modification.
6. The applicant notifies Brookfield when construction of the facility or activity is completed so that compliance may be verified by site inspection.
7. Once the application is approved by Brookfield:

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- An executed copy of the license will be returned to the applicant;
- A Recreational License Sticker will be provided each year the license is in effect. The sticker is to be displayed on the improvement or at the licensed area.

Land use licenses requiring annual fees will only be considered renewed upon submittal of the fee and proof of insurance. Brookfield will bill licensees on April 1 of each year payable by May 1 of that same year.

Should a land use license lapse, depending on the circumstances and/or duration, Brookfield may at its option require the former licensee desirous of reinstating the license to apply as a new applicant.

Unauthorized uses, unauthorized construction activities or non-compliance with Brookfield's policies and procedures on EBH lands will result in the removal of any improvements and restoration of any damage to EBH property by the responsible party at their own expense. When in doubt about whether or not a license should be obtained, please contact our Land Use Specialists at:

Mailing address:

Raquette River, Salmon River (Franklin County), Saranac River, West Branch St. Regis River.

Land Use Specialist
Brookfield Renewable Power, US Operations

184 Elm Street
Potsdam, New York 13676
(315) 265-6670

Oswegatchie River, Black River, Oswego River, Seneca River, Beaver River, Oak Orchard Creek

Land Use Specialist
Brookfield Renewable Power, US Operations

NY West Operations
800 Starbuck Avenue – Suite 802
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 779-2412

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Salmon River (Oswego County) , West Canada Creek, East Canada Creek, Caroga Creek, Hudson River, Sacandaga, Fish Creek, Hoosic River, Mohawk River

Land Use Specialist
Brookfield Renewable Power, US Operations

NY East Regional Operating Center
399 Big Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 743-2007

Email: landcoordinator@Brookfieldpower.com

C. LAND SALES

It is Brookfield's policy **not** to sell any of its land within the FERC boundary which is necessary for the maintenance and operation of its hydro projects. In rare instances, lands owned outside of the FERC boundaries that are not essential to Brookfield's business may be considered for possible sale at the request of an interested party. Brookfield may consent to a sale with the interested party, if a sale price can be agreed upon and it makes good business sense to divest of the property. It is Brookfield's policy to receive fair market value based on an appraisal prepared by a professional appraiser.

Should Brookfield decide to divest of any EBH lands, the buyer will be responsible for all costs related to the sale including, but not limited to, surveys, appraisals, title reports, filing fees, environmental assessments, Brookfield administrative costs and attorney fees. Brookfield will not convey any lands by warranty title.

D. FORESTRY PRACTICES

As a general rule, EBH promotes maintenance of a vegetation buffer zone along its shorelines. EBH does manage select lands away from shorelines for timber production. These forests will be managed on a sustained yield basis with a multiple-use concept that takes into account safety, security and all other uses of the land including wildlife, fisheries, recreation, water quality, and aesthetics.

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E. RIGHTS-OF-WAY / EASEMENTS

Brookfield does not generally grant to third parties a temporary or permanent right-of-way or easement for ingress and egress, construction of lines, pipes, buildings and/or other improvements over, through or upon EBH lands unless it is shown to be for public or municipal purposes. Should Brookfield decide to grant a right-of-way or easement over EBH lands the beneficiary will be responsible for all costs related to the granting of said right-of-way or easement including, but not limited to, surveys, appraisals, title reports, filing fees, environmental assessments, Brookfield administrative costs (deposit required) and attorney fees. Any rights of this nature granted by Brookfield to another party will always be subservient to Brookfield's use of the subject property for business operations.

F. CAMPING OR SWIMMING

Brookfield does not allow camping or swimming on EBH lands with the exception of a few designated campsites and swimming areas. For information on Brookfield campsite locations contact the appropriate Land Use Specialist.

G. SPECIAL USES

Brookfield does allow for temporary special use permits to organized groups such as boy scouts, girl scouts, rod and gun clubs and church groups for activities on EBH lands adjacent to our reservoirs. Special uses include, but are not limited to, snowmobile/ATV trails, horse trails, educational tours, stocking programs, etc. To be considered for a special use permit contact Brookfield's Land Use Specialist (See Section III-B above.) There is no special access or permissions granted to anyone within restricted areas

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This document is a dynamic living document that requires periodic and situational updates and is intended for all New York lands and approved as presented.



Thomas Uncher
General Manager, NYE Operations

12/10/10
Date



Jon Elmer
General Manager, NYW Operations

12/16/10
Date

Stone Valley: A Cooperative Recreational Area

By Lewis E. Weeks, Jr.

All photos by author

The Raquette River, New York's second longest river and by some called the most damned river in the country, is legendary for its beautiful falls, some still running free: the fabled Buttermilk Falls, below Forked Lake; the wild, isolated and forested Raquette Falls, at the foot of Long Lake; and, still in the Adirondack Park, Moody and Jamestown Falls, downriver from Sevey's corners. Ghosts of their former selves are the many other falls from Piercefield to the St. Lawrence that have been damned in the past to run mills and later to produce hydro power.

Just outside the northern boundary of the Adirondack Park between Colton and Brown's Bridge, a distance of about two miles as the crow flies, the Raquette plunges in its most spectacular descent, about 300 feet. Of all the falls on the river, none are more picturesque, varied and breathtaking than are those between Colton and Brown's Bridge.

This section of the river is now accessible to the public through a series of hiking and cross-country ski trails made possible by the cooperative efforts of the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NIMO), the town of Colton, St. Lawrence County, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

The story of how this area was developed and opened to the public should be of special interest to readers of *Adirondack*. We hope that it may serve as a model for other Chapters that might have inaccessible attractions in their own neighborhoods.

Initiative

It all began with the enthusiasm of a few who knew some of the more spectacular

Lew Weeks is a professor emeritus of liberal studies at Clarkson University in Potsdam and a long-time member of ADK's Laurentian Chapter.

An example of what can happen when business, government and an ADK Chapter work together.



One of the falls of the Raquette in Stone Valley.

sections of Stone Valley and felt they should be better known and available to the public without trespass. A look at town tax maps led, mistakenly as it turned out, to the belief that the acquisition of two pieces of private property, along with the crucial cooperation of NIMO, which owned the rest of the land on both sides of the river, could make the dream a reality.

Consequently, with encouragement from local DEC head Roger Hutchinson, a proposal to purchase or acquire easements across the private land, to build hiking and ski trails, and to prepare educational materials was drawn up. Niagara Mohawk officials in Potsdam were informally approached about the concept. They were not only receptive but eagerly ready to cooperate.

The proposal to the DEC began to wind its way through channels, as did our overtures to Niagara Mohawk. In addition, as the town of Colton and St. Lawrence County

both owned land adjacent to the project, we approached their officials and again received an enthusiastic and warm welcome. Serendipitously, Colton folk were already hoping to enlist the power corporation's support for uncovering Colton's industrial history through identifying and making open bankside ruins and sites on Niagara Mohawk lands. Moreover, the county forests adjacent and nearby were already laced with a series of woods roads, hiking paths and ski trails, constructed under the direction of Joe Kutsko, the county forester. These could be readily connected to those in our proposal.

Most encouraging and helpful of all was Laurentian Chapter's president, Dick Mooers. When he was approached for his reaction to asking Chapter members to help with trail-building if the proposal were approved, he suggested that the Chapter might sponsor the entire project, making available its manpower, its prestige and the cooperation of headquarters in Lake George. And so it transpired! Far more important than that, however, was the fact that Dick works for the St. Lawrence County Planning Board.

Immediately, he put his enthusiasm and professional competence to work and discovered that the power corporation owned all the shoreline on both sides of the river, making our DEC appeal unnecessary. We withdrew that proposal and, again drawing on Dick's experience, submitted a formal and highly professional proposal to Niagara Mohawk, one that was accepted virtually without alterations.

Jewel of an area

We were soon ready to begin work; and what we had to work on was indeed very, very special, a jewel of an area, as the words of our "experts" reveal. It is impossible, in trying to describe the area, to curb one's enthusiasm or refrain from superlatives; for, indeed, this is a jewel-like place

with many facets, chief of which is the river and its falls, especially those at Colton, Stone Valley, The Tub, Lucy's Hole and O'Malley Brook. There are magnificent stands of pine and hemlock in Stone Valley and especially at O'Malley Brook, which tumbles picturesquely over a series of rock shelves into the Raquette.

Most conservationists decry the building of dams, which drown and impede the natural flow of a river. However, in Stone Valley there is an advantage to the impoundment at Colton: When the river is reduced to a slight flow during the summer because the water is almost entirely diverted into the penstock to generate power at Brown's Bridge Station, the ancient bed of the Raquette, with its potholes, pools, uptilted strata and spectacular rock formations, is fully revealed.

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Winter, with its ice falls and snow capped rocks, and autumn, with its brilliant colors in the predominant hardwoods of the west bank and sections of the east, provide varied prospects and different kinds of beauty in the same scenes.

Dr. Bradford Van Diver, geology professor at SUNY Potsdam, points out that the geology of Stone Valley is unique in its clear exposure of a profound geological boundary called the "Carthage-Colton Line," separating the Highland and Lowland Adirondacks. Although both are Precambrian in age, the Highland rock is generally metamorphosed igneous plutonic rock, formed at great depth; the Lowland rock is predominantly sedimentary and volcanic rock, formed at a somewhat shallower depth.

"Stone Valley may hold the key to the problem of the direct contact here of these two different groups of rock formed at widely different depths," he says. "This connection, through tectonic action along a fault, occurred at great depth rather than near the surface. Erosion by the Raquette along the shears created the steeply inclined steps that are the most striking aspect of the valley. Not only shearing but also complex small-scale folding has resulted in intimate mixing of the various types of rocks from both sides of the line."

Van Diver considers Stone Valley an "outstanding laboratory of Adirondack geology that may provide answers to some of the region's most puzzling geologic problems and that should be preserved for the public at all costs."

Flora and fauna

Dr. Paul Hafer, professor emeritus of biology at Potsdam College, and Nancy Eldblom, local wild plant expert, are familiar with the area and report as follows: "The Stone Valley environs include a variety of flora and animal habitats. One of the most striking of these is the refreshingly cool grove of pine and hemlock trees at the confluence of O'Malley Brook and the Raquette River. A high canopy of these stately conifers provides a protective ceiling for a number of shade-loving ferns and clubmosses. The forest floor is relatively clear and carpeted by a duff of needles. Clintonia lily, jack-in-the-pulpit and Indian cucumber dot the brown carpet, along with an occasional patch of goldthread and foamflower. Of the ferns, oak fern long beech fern, silvery spleenwort, lady fern, cinnamon fern, ostrich fern, royal fern, New York fern and interrupted fern are among those found under the soaring arches.

"Along the Raquette, the red of cardinal *lobelia* provides a striking contrast to the various greens, including witch hazel, and striped and mountain maples. Back a bit from the river is at least one site containing maidenhair and rattlesnake ferns, hepatica, red and white trillium, and more. Bulblet bladder and fragile ferns can also be found.

"Along the trail, the observer is likely to startle a few small azure butterflies, a mourning cloak or two, and a number of meadow fritillaries, tiger swallowtails and white admirals.

"Tracks, trails, and droppings reveal a number of mammal inhabitants: white-tail (Virginia) deer, snowshoe rabbit (varying here), cottontail, raccoon, porcupine, red fox, red and grey squirrel, deer mouse, woodchuck and Eastern skunk. Beaver, marten, New York weasel, otter, moles shrews and a number of other mammals are likely to visit the area, including an occa-

sional black bear."

A single survey of the bird population of the area, made in the third week of July, 1989, by Robert Cerwonka, who teaches ornithology at Potsdam College, and his wife, Sheila, an avid and expert bird watcher, revealed the following: great blue heron, pintail, yellow shafted flicker, Wilson's snipe, yellow bellied sapsucker, wood pewee, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, robin, wood thrush, veery, red-eyed vireo, black-throated warbler, American redstart, white-throated sparrow, and oven bird. As this count was made late in the summer, bird activity was not at its height. At other times of the year, especially in the spring, additional species native to a forest and riverine environment would surely be seen.

Back to work

During the winter of 1988-89, most of the preliminary planning and arrangements as to the role of the town, county, DEC, Niagara Mohawk and ADK were completed. Obviously, the most important participant was the corporation. Dave Youlen superintendent of regional stations, and Joe Zagrobelny, assistant superintendent, were our local contacts. They were unfailingly supportive and helpful.

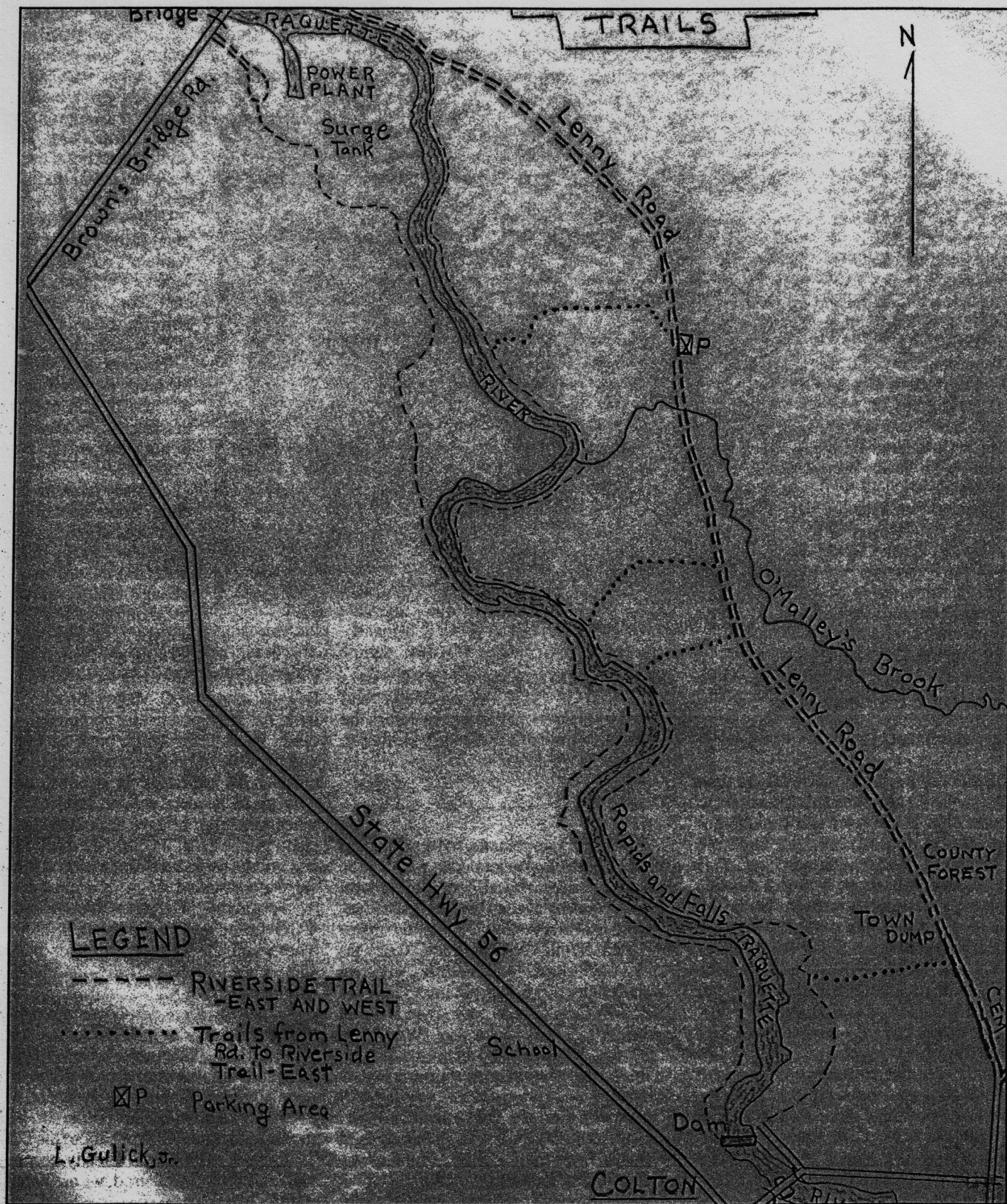
Our only difficulty arose over providing insurance to protect volunteers working on the trails, a not unusual concern of landowners who permit their lands to be enjoyed by the public. This concern is a legitimate and real one in view of the litigious nature of our society and in spite of

We have been delighted at how little litter there has been. We like to think this is because so many have been involved and have taken a proprietary interest.

Public Law 9-103, which is specifically designed to protect such landowners. Our ADK headquarters was able to help by providing coverage as on any official Chapter activity. On the other hand, this solution did keep us from drawing on the many other sources of volunteers that were available, such as service organizations, scouts, college outing clubs, and so on.

Headquarters also provided us with the services of Willie Janeway, ADK trails coordinator. He walked some of the area with a few of us, giving a crash course in trail location and construction.

By mid-April of '89, when winter's back was pretty well broken, various phases of the project had been tentatively scheduled, some trail layout and flagging had been completed, work days had been officially



announced, and the actual trail building by the Laurentians begun. In the summer, a crew of the Youth Conservation Corps, sponsored by the DEC and the county youth department, administered by Maryann Ashley and under the direction of Joe Kutsko, the county forester, connected the county trails on the east side of the Lenney Road (see map) to the county lands on the west side of the road, where they built and marked a trail down to the Riverside Trail. In addition, the crew built a picturesque and sturdy log bridge over O'Malley Brook; about two and a half miles of trail, including 32 log steps on one particularly steep pitch; and about a quarter-mile section of difficult cut-and-fill trail.

Niagara Mohawk, at the same time, provided a crew that worked on the west side of the river, opening up about three miles of new trail beginning at Colton and connecting with a logging road to the north, thus finishing the west side trail from Colton to Brown's Bridge.

Loops and branches

With only a few days of working time left, the NIMO crew shifted operations to the east side of the river and rapidly finished about two miles of riverside trail from O'Malley Brook to Brown's Bridge. This effort was gratifying as it meant that the ambitious hiker could start at any one of the trailheads and make a complete loop of from eight to ten miles along both sides of the river in Stone Valley. As the map indicates, there are several marked entrances from the Lenney Road to the riverside, making possible almost any length of hike desired.

In the fall, Niagara Mohawk provided two real bonuses for our project. First, we discovered two huge stone mill wheels in the woods near the Colton east side trailhead. A NIMO crew drew them out of the woods and positioned them so that they make an appropriate and attractive entrance for that trail.

There is much more historical and legendary material associated with the Colton area that Cynthia Hennessy, town historian, is researching for us. We hope to have much of that material available along the trails where appropriate.

We needed a bridge over the huge penstock barring easy access to the Colton west side trailhead. Our plans did not call for this to be completed until the summer of 1990 at the earliest. However, the power corpora-

Colton Town Board, suggested we check the county highway sign-shop. There Dick Demo, head of the highway department, sent us to Jim Manning, sign technician, who did a beautiful job of lettering our signs, which now hang four square on standards made in the NIMO shop. There is ample parking at each of the four main trailheads and a parking lot near O'Malley Brook on county land off the Lenney Road. White's Tru-Value Hardware of Potsdam contributed paint for signs and bulletin boards, which other volunteers made.

Everywhere we turned for help, we were treated generously and even enthusiastically. Community is not dead in the North Country!

What remains to be done? Some ski trails have been laid out (except where access or terrain make it inadvisable, we use the hiking trails for cross country skiing); other ski trails are yet to be laid out, and all must be cleared. On the

west side, two fair-sized loops have been flagged; one, the O'Malley Brook Overlook, has been practically completed. The other, Rock Dam Loop, must be cleared and a couple of bridges constructed. More cut-and-fill trailwork is needed, and a number of rivulets will be safer to cross when small log bridges are made. A few steep pitches will be climbed more easily and will be subject to less erosion when log steps are installed.

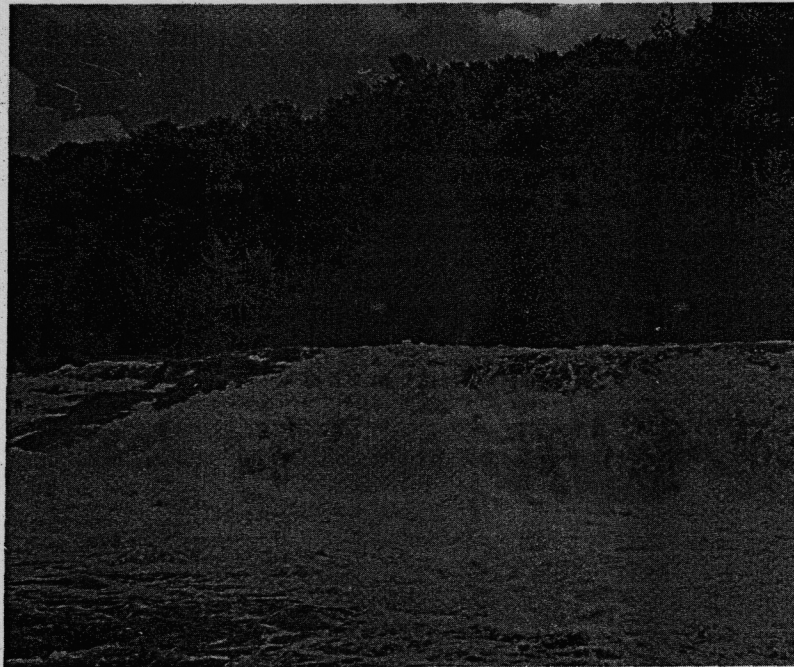
Fortunately, Niagara Mohawk and the YCC promised crews for this summer. These and the Laurentian eager beavers should see the project fully completed by summer's end.

Of course, there will be annual maintenance and repair as well as cleanups from time to time. Whether we have made an adequate appeal and involved enough people in the project to eliminate most littering will soon become apparent, as the months to come will bring about the heaviest use yet. The area is already becoming well known and well used, we are happy to note.

Do pay us a visit and share the treasures of this wonderful playground. Trail maps are posted at all trailheads and are available at the Colton town offices, directly across from the parking area at the Southwest trailhead, in the center of Colton, on the riverside.

ADK

Adirondack



The Raquette, full of misty spring runoff, in Stone Valley.

tion was able to spare a crew for a few days in the fall of 1989. A substantial and attractive bridge was completed across the penstock, eliminating the last barrier to easy access for all trails.

Thanks

A word or two remains to be said about others who have cooperated in making the project so successful. Roger Hutchinson, district forester of the DEC office in Canton, made available to us the familiar brown and gold "Trail," "Parking" and "Carry in-Carry out" signs. Incidentally, we have been delighted at how little litter there has been—in fact, almost none, over the late summer, fall, and winter use. We like to think this is because so many have been involved and have taken a proprietary interest.

We followed the state brown and gold colors in the four main trailhead signs at Brown's Bridge and Colton. Phil Collins, of the Golden Rule Building Supply Co. in Colton, provided us with heavy exterior plywood and paint for these signs. Jerry Wilson, manual arts teacher at Colton-Pierrepont School, put his shop class to work to create the signs and hangers and to paint the signs. We were almost in despair at the tremendous cost of the lettering wherever we turned, until Tim Hennessy, head of the

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (SVCRA)

Project Description

The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s).

1. Submission Date: _____

2. Name of project _____

3. Description of location _____

photos/maps attached _____

property owner(s) _____

4. Contact Person(Name): ____

USMail Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail : _____

5. Person completing this form (if different from above)

6. Short Description of proposed project

7. Estimated starting date _____

8. Estimated completion date _____

9. Materials to be used (Wood, metal, stone, etc.) : _____

10. Description of signage to be installed (per SVCRA sign guidelines, see Management Agreement Appendix 11)

11. Equipment required to complete (especially machines, power tools):

12. Estimated Cost of The Project :

proposed source of funding or supplies

13. Organization of the work (coordination, reporting structure, safety/risk management)

14. Sustainability, or expected life use of project: _____ years

Estimated annual maintenance requirements and associated cost:

Who will monitor and maintain:

Equipment and supplies needed to maintain:

15. Anticipated Impacts of Project on Management Goals of Agreement; check all that apply

- _____ Healthy and abundant natural resources for timber, hydropower, and recreation
- _____ Public has access for allowed activities
- _____ High scenic values of forested landscape and river flow
- _____ Mitigate conflict among users and owners
- _____ Biological diversity, with emphasis on native species
- _____ Interpretation and protection of geologic and historic features

Elaborate on each impact checked above:

16. Management Objectives of Agreement addressed by Project:

- _____ Enhance public information about SVCRA
- _____ Maintain / improve access to SVCRA and related spaces
- _____ Minimize/reduce and mitigate human impact
- _____ Increase public awareness of Leave No Trace ethics and land use policy
- _____ Enhance public safety
- _____ Deal with invasive plants
- _____ Gather and report user statistics
- _____ Promote tourism

Elaborate on each objective checked above:

17. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Area:

- ☐ Provision of emergency services
- ☐ Persons with disabilities, minorities, or elderly
- ☐ Local tax base
- ☐ Adjacent land use (outside SVCRA)

Elaborate on each category checked above:

18. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Natural Resources of the Area

- ☐ Soil
- ☐ Vegetation, trees
- ☐ Streams, rivers
- ☐ Groundwater aquifers
- ☐ Runoff or runoff patterns
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Fish and wildlife
- ☐ Significant habitat areas
- ☐ Rare, threatened or endangered species

Elaborate on each category checked above:

19. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Cultural or Historical Characteristics of the Area

- ☐ Cultural or historical features

Elaborate on impacts:

20. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Pollution Potential of the Area:

- ☐ potential for hazardous wastes
- ☐ effects from solid waste
- ☐ noise impact
- ☐ air quality
- ☐ motor traffic patterns and safety

Elaborate on each category checked:

Submission of this form to the Stone Valley partners is for coordination only and does not constitute an approval process. Applicants still must acquire written permission of the property owner(s).



THE LAURENTIAN CHAPTER OF THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

Memo to: Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., Potsdam Office
St. Lawrence County Forester
New York State DEC, Canton Office
St. Lawrence County Youth Dept.
Supervisor, Town of Colton

CC: The Saratoga Associates

Subject: Proposal for the Cooperative Development of Recreational Trails in the Raquette River Valley between Colton and Brown's Bridge

From: Adirondack Mountain Club, Laurentian Chapter

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Near the northern boundary of the Adirondack Park between Colton and Brown's Bridge the Raquette River plunges, in its most spectacular descent, over two hundred feet. Of the many falls on the river, none is more picturesque, remarkable, and spectacular, but less known than those at Colton, Stone Valley, Lucy's Hole, and O'Malley Brook. Several named falls and cascades and numerous others make this short stretch unusually valuable as a potential recreational resource for residents of the area and as an attraction to outdoor recreation-oriented visitors.

This section of the river, to which we will refer as Stone Valley, is not readily accessible. This proposal addresses the lack of accessibility by suggesting cooperative action among six parties to create a system of foot trails. The six are three landowners--Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, St. Lawrence County, and the Town of Colton--, two cooperating agencies--the St. Lawrence County Youth Department and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation--and one group--the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. The proposal sets forth a plan and the responsibilities of each party.

LANDS AVAILABLE FOR THE PROJECT

The Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation owns both east and west shorelines of this stretch of the river, as well as significant holdings away from the river in three locations on the east bank, and a large area encompassing the dam, penstock, and power

station on the west bank. St. Lawrence County owns several hundred acres of reforested lands bordering the Lenny Road east of the river. The Town of Colton owns a large parcel that contains the former landfill and the transfer station. These lands are shown on a map accompanying this proposal.

Both the County lands and the larger of the Niagara Mohawk parcels are managed for the production of forest products. However, undeveloped public recreational uses are encouraged by the major landowners. All these lands are contiguous, form a ring-shaped strip, and constitute a significant opportunity for public-private cooperation.

St. Lawrence County's Youth Department and the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation, together with the County Forester, administer the County's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Successful completion of this project depends upon the YCC being made available to extend its trail on the adjacent County lands east of the Lenny Road and perhaps provide some of the manpower required by this proposed trail system.

The Adirondack Mountain Club's Laurentian Chapter, whose main membership is located in St. Lawrence County, is part of the larger Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK). The group has a goal of fostering greater appreciation and awareness of wild areas. The Chapter sees this project as furthering its goals. It asks the cooperation and active support of the Corporation, the County, the Town, and the State in this foot trail project.

THE PROJECT

What is envisioned and offered for your consideration is a short trail initially, but ultimately a complex of trails, with several points of access, that would incorporate lands on both sides of the river, making possible various loops, some as many as seven to eight miles each. The trail(s) would provide for both hiking and cross-country skiing. Only foot traffic would be permitted, with posting against use by wheeled or tracked vehicles. At certain points, the ski trail will have to diverge from the hiking trail because the terrain for which hiking trails is appropriate is in places more steep and tree-studded than is safe for skiing. In such places, the ski trail would take the higher, more level and open ground away from the riverside.

The St. Lawrence County reforestation lands east of the Lenny Road were developed for foot travel by a Youth Conservation Corps project in 1988. Final work on the trail will be finished in 1989. There are numerous logging roads on the County land which could be utilized as part of the trail system with minimal work. The Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation lands also contain logging roads. An informal path now exists along the east bank of the river beside the Stone Valley cascades.

The project is seen by the Chapter as being carried out in four phases. These phases are described in the following sections. Each phase will require the cooperation and resources of the participants. The Power Corporation, the Town and the County would make the lands available and would permit limited brushing, grubbing, removal of small trees, and some bridge work as described in Phase Four. All work on Corporation lands would be under the control of the Corporation's representative. The same would be true for other lands. Actual work could be performed by members of the Laurentian Chapter and by crews of the New York State Youth Conservation Corps, for the most part. The Chapter would prefer that any bridge construction on Corporation property be performed by Corporation employees. All work on County and Town lands could be performed by crews of the Youth Conservation Corps with assistance, if necessary, from the Chapter. The Chapter could also perform periodic cleaning of litter on all trails. Parking is proposed on existing or planned lots developed on County land. Sign details will have to be negotiated during the initial phase. Trails could be trimmed as needed by the Chapter and the YCC. Major blowdown of commercial timber would be removed after consultation among the cooperators.

PHASE I: EAST LOOP

The first phase would involve building a trail of two to three miles in length beginning on the Lenny Road near the Colton Town Transfer Station, descending to the river bank, paralleling the river northward, and striking east to the Lenny Road over Niagara Mohawk lands where recent logging operations have left much slash. Work on this section would begin as soon as all parties have agreed, with some work anticipated during the winter months of 1989. This work would only involve route-finding, flagging, and limited removal of brush. The goal for the winter months and early spring is to have a trail that can be followed safely to observe the spectacular spring runoff.

Work done in the initial phase would be located on Niagara Mohawk and Town of Colton lands.

Phase I work would probably continue into the summer of 1989. This phase could also include a major cleanup of trash, especially at O'Malley Brook, where a truck will be needed to remove a quantity of trash. The Corporation would be asked to provide the truck and crew, and the Town would be asked to discard the trash.

PHASE II: EXTENSION OF THE EAST SIDE TRAIL

In the second phase the trail would be extended along the river to O'Malley Brook. After leaving the brook area, the trail would enter the County land and make use of woods roads until reaching the Lenny Road, where a parking area has recently been developed by the County on the east side of Lenny Road.

Phase II work would take place on Niagara Mohawk and County lands.

PHASE III: COMPLETION OF THE EAST SIDE TRAILS

A third phase would be to extend the trail at both ends of the section constructed in Phases I and II. At the O'Malley Brook end, this would consist of constructing a trail along the river through the Niagara Mohawk "corridor" northward to the contact with the Lenny Road. At the southern end a new extension would be constructed from the riverside trail of Phase I near the landfill to the Colton Fire Station. At the completion of this phase the system would be complete east of the river. Trail construction for Phase III would take place only on Niagara Mohawk lands.

PHASE IV: WEST SIDE TRAILS

*at
House* Phase IV would involve a similar combination of hiking and skiing trails on the west side of the river, utilizing again a single trail when feasible and a separate ski branch where safety considerations require. This trail would start on the Power Plant (service) Road near Colton and end at Brown's Bridge. The trail would follow the river bank with the addition of a cut-off trail that would eliminate the big bend in the river opposite O'Malley Brook for those wishing to take a shorter and more direct route. The West Side Trail would require construction of a walkway over the penstock at the Colton end. Together with trails constructed in the first two phases, the West Side Trail would make possible combinations of trails forming a loop of 8-10 miles in length.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Appreciation of Nature

The Chapter sees this remarkably beautiful and spectacular stretch of the River as a place where people would recreate themselves in the truest sense of the word at all seasons of the year, enjoying the river in spring and fall when it runs full; in summer when it is relatively dry and the riverbed presents a very different face to the visitor; and in the fall and winter when autumn foliage and winter snow and ice formations provide additional aspects of the area's beauty.

Educational Benefits

As well as the unusual loveliness of the area, there are many educational possibilities. For those interested in natural history, the wildlife, wildflowers, and geology are well worth observing. An appendix to this proposal describes the area as seen by local experts in these fields. History and archeology hobbists will find much of interest in the ruins at the dam in Colton. These sites could be developed by historical societies for educational purposes.

The County's and Corporation's active logging operations are seen potentially as an educational asset. The trail system purposefully could be routed through logged areas to acquaint foot travellers with a major segment of the North Country economy which is rarely seen at the worksite.

These educational uses of the area could involve a self-guided tour with numbered stations explained by pamphlets located at the entrance of trails or an alternative such as moisture proof descriptions of unusual features posted at appropriate locations on the trail. *Conf?*

Signs and Routes

Trail markers and signs would be kept to as modest a scale as possible and still be effective. As many paths and woods roads already exist, much use would be made of them. Paths would be kept as narrow as possible, consistent with safety. Various means would be used to avoid erosion, including locating the treadway away from steep slopes where possible and constructing water diversion bars as needed. The Adirondack Mountain Club High Peaks Trail Coordinator will advise the cooperators on trail construction, on-scene, if desired.

Expenses

Expenses would be modest compared to the public pleasure and knowledge to be gained. The Chapter proposes that costs be shared as follows:

- + The landowners would assume the cost of building materials used for bridge, stairway, or other construction where the use of on-site materials is impracticable.
- + The County would assume the cost of parking facilities on the Lenny Road and County Route 40 (Colton-Parishville Road).
- + Chapter members will provide their own hand tools when performing trail work.

SPECIFIC REQUESTS

The Laurentian Chapter wishes to enter into discussions with the other parties and is willing to meet with them for this purpose. When each party finds the project acceptable from its perspective, the Chapter requests a letter of agreement to participate, and this letter should spell out any conditions, limitations, or other relevant considerations. For the landowners, this letter or other form of response should also give permission to commence work on the trail system.

CONTACT PERSONS

Adirondack Mountain Club, Laurentian Chapter:

Lewis E. Weeks, Stone Valley Committee Chairman
RD 1
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676 Telephone 265-2604

Richard Mooers, Chapter Chair, 1988-1989
29 Waverly St.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676 Telephone 265-2774 hm
379-2292 wk

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Potsdam

David Youlen, Supt. of Regional Stations
Northern Region
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
20 Pine St.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676 Telephone 265-5246

St. Lawrence County Forestry Department

Joseph S. Kutsko, County Forester
Courthouse
Canton, N.Y. 13617 Telephone 379-2290

St. Lawrence County Youth Department

Mary Ann Ashley, Director
Courthouse
Canton, N.Y. 13617 Telephone 379-2000

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Roger Hutchinson, Associate Forester
District Office, NYSDEC
Canton Professional Center
Canton, New York Telephone 386-4546

Town of Colton

Tim Hennessey, Supervisor
Town Hall
Colton, New York

Town Office 262-2810
Home 262-2524

SVCRA signage strategy DRAFT November 8, 2013

sign types and (general) locations

- blue diamond trail markers on foot trail, attached to trees with two stainless fasteners not driven flush, at sight distances apart, visible both directions.
- bike trail markers?
- Red diamond markers, handled similarly, on access trails.
- brown and yellow navigation signs (arrows, "trail," "parking," etc.)
- white, black and red warning signs (dangers, prohibitions)
- interpretive signs, waist-high mounts, colors TBD

Strive to minimize signs on the trail itself

exceptions:

- interpretive signs at features
- directional signs, including location signs
- trail markers

Strive for a consistent look to all signage

- consistent in color, letter form, shape, size
- codes for smart phones connect to SV webpages, when available
- display property owner's logo
- display sign custodian's logo, if different
- emergency phone number on some signs
- optimize size and siting, readable but not intrusive
- mount most signs on posts, not trees

Identify caretakers

- sign design and location approved by property owner, reviewed by partners
- a partner besides the owner might purchase, install, monitor, replace the sign

Publish this as an attachment in SVCRA Agreement

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (SVCRA)

Project Description

The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s).

1. Submission Date: January 23, 2014
2. Name of project: Stone Valley (SV) Whitewater Area Access Improvements
3. Description of location: north and south end of SV trails along river
photos/maps attached—draft final design dated June 28, 2013
property owner(s)—Most improvements are on property owned by Brookfield Renewable Energy and the Town of Colton; however proposed directional signs also will be on state, county and town routes
4. Contact Person(Name): Fred Hanss (grant coordinator)

US Mail Address: Village of Potsdam, Office of Planning & Development, Civic Center, PO Box 5168, Potsdam, New York 13676

Phone: 315-265-1670 x241

E-mail: fhanss@vi.potsdam.ny.us
5. Person completing this form (if different from above): Ruth McWilliams for Town of Colton, Mary Jane Watson for RRBC partners
6. Short Description of proposed project: (as outlined in grant documents)

COMPONENT 2: STONE VALLEY WHITEWATER AREA ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

The project partners will design and construct a number of trail side facilities to meet the needs of recreational paddlers and whitewater enthusiasts utilizing the Stone Valley whitewater area on the Raquette River in the hamlet of Colton. Proposed improvements include:

- Construction of an ADA-compliant parking and scenic overlook on the North end of Riverside Drive;
- Development of ADA-compliant restroom facilities and changing rooms [*note...location for paddler facility now proposed to be part of a recently purchased building at 90 Main Street yet to be demolished, designed and constructed by the Town of Colton rather than in the Colton Volunteer Fire Station on Riverside Drive*];

- Installation of directional signage on State Highway 56 directing travelers to the Stone Valley parking area and trail heads and informational signage and kiosks at trail heads directing paddlers changing and restroom facilities and viewing locations.

7. Estimated starting date: grant awarded in 2011 / first planning meeting held in September 2012

8. Estimated completion date: December 2015

9. Materials to be used (wood, metal, stone, etc.): overlook—wood (pressure treated pine) and related construction materials; restroom/changing area— proposed to be off-site but nearby in a new multi-purpose community building to be designed and constructed; kiosks & signage—wood (pressure treated pine) and metal; parking area—crushed stone and blacktop

10. Description of signage to be installed (per SVCRA sign guidelines, see Management Agreement Appendix 11):

Planned signage includes the following:

- ✓ Main entrance sign / kiosk at trailhead on southeast end of trail system (off parking area)
- ✓ Three additional trailhead kiosks (modeled after prototype kiosk at Main Street & SH56) - southwest, northeast, northwest ends of trail system
- ✓ Interpretive signs (modeled after Potsdam done within last 5 years)—ten
[note...will include maps, historic locations, geological features, land use rules (including information on St. Lawrence County pilot ATV trail on northeast end), safety and emergency messages, Leave No Trace guidance, information about invasive species plus QR codes and partner logos]
- ✓ Directional signs on main access roads *[note...these are off-site along state highways, county routes, town roads]*

11. Equipment required to complete (especially machines, power tools): Project team will coordinate with Brookfield Renewable Energy staff who will be doing on-site work

12. Estimated cost of project: Total = \$163,029 (signage = \$81,037; overlook = \$32,600; paddler facility (off-site) = \$49,392) plus in-kind from Brookfield, Town of Colton, Adirondack Mountain Club / Laurentian Chapter

Source of funding or supplies: New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant (awarded in 2011)

13. Organization of the work (coordination, reporting structure, safety/risk management):

Coordination:

- ✓ For grant—Fred Hanss (with assistance from Mary Jane Watson)
- ✓ For Brookfield—Matthew Johnson
- ✓ For Town of Colton—Dennis Bulger and Ruth McWilliams

Reporting structure: Whitewater Parks Project Advisory Committee

Safety/risk management: SVCRA partners

14. Sustainability, or expected life use of project: 20 years

Estimated annual maintenance requirements and associated cost: Project team will discuss with Brookfield staff and other partners

Monitoring and maintenance responsibility: Brookfield Renewable Energy (with help from ADK / Laurentian Chapter and possibly other management partners and user groups) plus Town of Colton (Code Enforcement, etc.), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies as needed

Equipment and supplies needed to maintain: To be determined by Brookfield staff and others

15. Anticipated Impacts of Project on Management Goals of Agreement (check all that apply)

- XXX Healthy and abundant natural resources for timber, hydropower, and recreation
- XXX Public has access for allowed activities
- XXX High scenic values of forested landscape and river flow
- XXX Harmony among users and owners
- XXX Biological diversity, with emphasis on native species
- XXX Interpretation and protection of geologic and historic features

Elaborate on each impact checked above:

- Proposed signage at the four trailheads and along the trails in the SVCRA should improve visitor knowledge about and appreciation for the natural resources, scenic values and biological diversity found in the area. The greater under-

standing hopefully will promote a deeper desire to care for the area by following the Leave No Trace principles supported by the SVCRA partners.

- Also planned interpretive signs about the geology and history of the area should create learning opportunities for students at all levels or in any stage of life who visit Stone Valley for more than recreational reasons.
- The planned improvements should create greater harmony among users and owners in several ways. The proposed overlook should help reduce concerns about (and improve safety for) people with disabilities using steep and uneven sections of the trail to see waterfalls and whitewater kayakers. Signage should make it clearer to all about allowable uses of the trails and area for outdoor activities. And the restroom/changing facility should create a more hospitable situation for homeowners, paddlers, spectators and all who live near, do business near, or recreate in the area.

16. Management Objectives of Agreement addressed by Project (check those that apply):

XXX Enhance public information about SVCRA

XXX Maintain / improve access to SVCRA and related spaces

XXX Minimize/reduce and mitigate human impact

XXX Increase public awareness of land use ethics and rules

XXX Enhance public safety

XXX Deal with invasive plants

___ Gather and report user statistics [*note...to be done by Brookfield with management part
ners and possibly others*]

XXX Promote tourism

Elaborate on each objective checked above:

- The proposed improvements directly relate to all management objectives except gathering and reporting user statistics; however there may be ways the planned changes also could improve knowledge about users (e.g., people visiting the bathroom/changing facility, etc.).
- The combination of planned signs (trailhead, interpretive, safety, directional), in particular, should enhance public information about the area, how to access and how to use it.
- Also the signs should create greater knowledge about and hopefully greater respect for natural resources, including undesired invasives and what to do or not to do about them.

- Altogether the improvements also should promote more informed use of the area by visitors as well as residents, many of whom know very little about Stone Valley at this time.

17. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Area (check all that apply)

- XXX Provision of emergency services
- XXX Persons with disabilities, minorities, or elderly
- ___ Local tax base
- XXX Adjacent land use (outside SVCRA)

Elaborate on each category checked above:

- Planned signage will include safety messages for hikers, paddlers and other users which complement information available on whitewater release days for kayakers and spectators. This also complements other planned emergency services including swift water training and rescue procedures.
- The ADA-compliant parking area and scenic overlook near the main trailhead on the east side of the river at the end of Riverside Drive in the hamlet of Colton should promote outdoor enjoyment by people with disabilities.
- Signage and the nearby bathroom/changing facility should create greater harmony with nearby homeowners and businesses. And the improved parking areas at and near the main trailhead coupled with signs should alleviate many parking issues.

18. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Natural Resources of the Area (check all that apply)

- XXX Soil
- XXX Vegetation, trees
- XXX Streams, rivers
- ___ Groundwater aquifers
- XXX Runoff or runoff patterns
- XXX Wetlands
- XXX Fish and wildlife
- XXX Significant habitat areas
- XXX Rare, threatened or endangered species

Elaborate on each category checked above:

- Proposed signage at the four trailheads and along the trails in the SVCRA should improve visitor knowledge about and appreciation for the range of natural resources in the area. Use will need to be monitored to help ensure the area or

specific parts of the area are not over used and the natural resources loved too much. Signs will include the Leave No Trace principles promoted by the SVCRA partners.

- The nearby bathroom facility should promote a more hospitable situation with users of the area having options other than the woods to relieve themselves.
- Improved signage about parking and improved parking areas should help protect soils, vegetation and other natural resources; however the situation will have to be monitored for noncompliance and over use.

19. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Cultural or Historical Characteristics of the Area

XXX Cultural or historical features

Elaborate on impacts:

- Planned interpretive signs about local history and important sites (e.g., tannery ruins) along the trails should create a greater appreciation for the significance of the area over time; however use will have to be monitored for changes to historic sites and/or the development of social paths off the main trails.

20. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Pollution Potential of the Area (check all that apply)

XXX Potential for hazardous wastes

___ Effects from solid waste

XXX Noise impact

___ Air quality

XXX Traffic patterns and safety

Elaborate on each category checked:

- The combination of planned improvements (e.g., signage, parking, bathroom) should help minimize hazardous waste situations plus improve traffic patterns and safety.
- The river has a lot of noise associated with it already due to the waterfalls and rapids; however the noise impact of users on nearby homeowners needs to be monitored over time.

Submission of this form to the Stone Valley partners is for coordination only and does not constitute an approval process. Applicants still must acquire written permission of the property owner(s).

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (SVCRA)

Project Description

The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s).

1. Submission Date: 12/17/13

2. Name of project: West Side Mt Bike Trail Proposal

3. Description of location: West of Racquets River and east of Brookfield Penstock from Colton to Brown's Bridge

See attached map

Property owner(s) **Brookfield Renewable Energy**

4. Contact Person (Name): James Akins

US Mail Address PO Box 673

Canton, NY 13617

Phone: 315 386 4348

E-mail :akinsacres@gmail.com

5. Person completing this form (if different from above)

6. Short Description of proposed project:

A 3.1mile of narrow beginner and intermediate mountain bike trail (single track) in a North/South direction West of the River and East of the Brookfield Penstock. The trail will be deigned to be ridden in either direction. The North start/end of the trail will end near the log pile just south of the power transfer station near Brown's Bridge. The south end of the trail will start/end just past the walk way bridge over the penstock just north of Colton.

This mountain bike trail will consist of new single track. The single track will be designed to be ridden in either direction. This trail will be created similar to IMBA's twist-and-turn design of trail building (<http://www.inba.com/resources/trail> building/ twists and turns). There will also be aspects of a "flow trail" added into the descents that will allow for both beginning riders and seasoned riders to enjoy the same terrain. The trail will be mostly beginner with some sections that will be intermediate in

difficulty in terms of the IMBA trail rating chart (<http://www.imba.com/resources.maps/trail-difficulty-ratings>) The nature of this trail will be curves, bench cut, rock surfaces, mellow descents with rollers and berms. Most obstacles will be very small. Larger obstacles will also have an easier alternate route to allow for riders of various ability levels to enjoy the same trail system. Rollers and berms will be installed to provide descents with entertaining features for both new and experienced riders. These features can also be utilized to mitigate erosion. Bridges constructed with eco-friendly treated lumber will cross a number of drainage creeks flowing from the penstock area to the river.

7. Estimated starting date: June 2014

8. Estimated completion date: November 2015

9. Materials to be used (Wood, metal, stone, etc.): Pressure-treated lumber, chicken wire, soil and rock

10. Description of signage to be installed (per SVCRA sign guidelines, see Management Agreement Appendix 11) A brown and yellow sign at the south and north end of the proposed trail, Mt bike trail marker (color to be determined)

11. Equipment required to complete (especially machines, power tools): hand trail tools and gas powered chain saws (to clear large downed trees that block trail construction)

12. Estimated Cost of The Project: \$1200, donated labor

Proposed source of funding or supplies: \$900 from RRAC for bridge material, \$300 from RRAC for signage and trail markers

13. Organization of the work (coordination, reporting structure, safety/risk management)

Saint Lawrence County Mountain Bike Association and other individuals will perform work. Trail design and layout for this trail project will be supervised by SLMBA with approval from Brookfield Renewable Energy

Construction work on this trail will occur as sanctioned SLMBA trail work. All SLMBA safety protocols as described in the IMBA: Trail Solutions manual, pub. 2004 will be followed, including participants reading and signing the SLMBA waiver. Crew leaders (yet to be determined) will conduct a safety briefing prior to all work sessions. Objective hazards such as safe working distances between work members while swinging tools will be among topics discussed. When appropriate, helmets, gloves, and safety

glasses will be worn. **Chain saw use will be restricted to SLMBA members who have completed a NYS certified chain saw safety course.**

14. Sustainability, or expected life use of project:

All new trail work and maintenance will be performed with the goal of 20-year longevity. Rock materials will be favored over wood. If wood is used for water bars, stairs, or other structures, then cedar, hemlock, or environmentally friendly treated wood will be used.

Estimated annual maintenance requirements and associated cost:

Social or unapproved trails or impacts from ATV trespass will be brushed in to mitigate further impact to soil and vegetation.

Invasive plants along the trails will be identified and reported to St Lawrence Co Soil and Water

Trails with erosion exceeding 4' in depth as measured with a string across the width of the tread will receive priority for maintenance or new trail construction

Who will monitor and maintain:

Members of SLMBA and brief reports periodically communicated to Brookfield Renewable Energy will monitor trail conditions regularly.

Equipment and supplies needed to maintain:

Hand tools, replacement signs and lumber (bridge repair)

15. Anticipated Impacts of Project on Management Goals of Agreement; check all that apply

_____ Healthy and abundant natural resources for timber, hydropower,
And recreation

____xxx Public has access for allowed activities

_____ High scenic values of forested landscape and river flow

____xxx Mitigate conflict among users and owners

_____ Biological diversity, with emphasis on native species

_____ Interpretation and protection of geologic and historic features

Elaborate on each impact checked above:

Public has access: this trail adds a significant length of dedicated bike trail to the SVCRA while also adding additional multi-use non-motorized trail.

Mitigate conflict among users: one conflict could result from such a trail: collision of cyclists at the beginning/end of the bike trail, which serve other users: trail users such as hikers and other bikers. To mitigate collisions, SLMBA will sign the beginning/end with caution

16. Management Objectives of Agreement addressed by Project:

- ☒ Enhance public information about SVCRA
- ☒ Maintain / improve access to SVCRA and related spaces
- ☒ Minimize/reduce and mitigate human impact
- ☐ Increase public awareness of Leave No Trace ethics and land use policy
- ☐ Enhance public safety
- ☒ Deal with invasive plants
- ☐ Gather and report user statistics
- ☐ Promote tourism

Elaborate on each objective checked above:

Public information: SLMBA intends to publicize this new trail to mountain bikers

Improve access: this greatly expands the mileage of dedicated mountain bike trails, and also increases the mileage of multi-use non-motorized trails

Human impact: Monitoring will look for erosion or spread of the narrow trail, accumulation of trash, occurrence of social (unplanned) trails

Invasives: SLMBA trail monitoring will include identifying and reporting invasives along the trail

17. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Area:

- ☐ Provision of emergency services
- ☐ Persons with disabilities, minorities, or elderly
- ☐ Local tax base
- ☐ Adjacent land use (outside SVCRA)

Elaborate on each category checked above:

18. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Natural Resources of the Area

- ☒ Soil
- ☒ Vegetation, trees
- ☐ Streams, rivers
- ☐ Groundwater aquifers
- ☒ Runoff or runoff patterns
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Fish and wildlife
- ☒ Significant habitat areas
- ☒ Rare, threatened or endangered species

Elaborate on each category checked above:

Soil: following the principals of grade reversals will create Erosion and water control. While this area is mostly mild in gradient, where sections become steep grade reversals will be utilized to control erosion

(<http://www.imba.com/resources/trail-building/easy-way-toughen-trails>) Social (unplanned) trails will be indentified and brushed out to prevent expansion of trail's impact and confuse visitors

Soil and vegetation: Bench cuts will be dug down to mineral soil with the duff layer removed. These cuts will have a slight camber for drainage.

Switchbacks will be brushed in to prevent hikers and other visitors from cutting across them.

Sapling stobs (trees 3" and less in diameter) will be completely removed from the trail rather than cutting the off (which risks tripping injury)

Run off/patterns: Bridges will be built to cross the drainage creeks that flow from the penstock area to the river

Habitat/rare plants: The trail will be kept to its mostly two-foot width and unplanned trails removed to minimize impact on the ground cover.

19. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Cultural or Historical Characteristics of the Area

- ☐ Cultural or historical features

Elaborate on impacts:

20. Anticipated Impacts of project during and after construction on Pollution Potential of the Area:

- _____ potential for hazardous wastes
- _____ effects from solid waste
- _____ noise impact
- _____ air quality
- _____ motor traffic patterns and safety

Elaborate on each category checked:

Submission of this form to the Stone Valley partners is for coordination only and does not constitute an approval process. Applicants still must acquire written permission of the property owner(s).

From: Forrest Brownell <forrest@slc.com>
Subject: Draft Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area Management Plan
Date: February 7, 2014 at 1:29:31 PM EST
To: John Omohundro <omohunjt@northnet.org>
Cc: Jim Akins <akinsacres@gmail.com>, Dan Doust
<Daniel.Daoust@brookfieldrenewable.com>, Matt Johnson
<Matthew.Johnson@brookfieldrenewable.com>, "Richard P. McDonald"
<rpmcdona@gw.dec.state.ny.us>, Walt Paul <wpaul@hughes.net>

Dr. John Omohundro
Laurentian Chapter
Adirondack Mountain Club

Dear John,

In commenting on the Draft Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area Management Plan, I'll limit my remarks to the proposed West Side Mountain Bike Trail, as described in Attachment 13 to the Draft Management Plan (Attachment 13 is hereinafter identified as "Project Description"), said attachment prepared by James Akins and submitted on December 17, 2013.

My comments address three areas in which the subject Project Description is either incomplete or misleading, namely:

- (1) The Statement of Need [absent from the Project Description, though §§15 and 16 ("Anticipated Impacts of Project on Management Goals," and "Management Objectives ... addressed by Project," respectively)] make several claims in indirect support of the proposed mountain bike trail,
- (2) The Trail Description [§6 ("Short Description")], and ...
- (3) Environmental impacts [§18 ("Anticipated impacts of project during and after construction on Natural Resources of the Area")].

Re: (1) Statement of Need

Northern St. Lawrence County already boasts networks of maintained mountain bike trails suited to all levels of ability. Trails can be found in Donnerville and High Flats State Forests, at Seven Springs, on the Clarkson University campus, and in the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area itself (the O'Malley Brook Bike Trail referenced in the Draft SVCRA Management Plan). Mountain biking is also one of the intended uses of the evolving county-wide, multi-use trail system, and many more miles of mapped and maintained mountain bike trails lie within a couple of hours' driving distance of Canton and Potsdam.

That being the case, it is difficult to see how adding another mountain bike trail to the already extensive trail network in the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area can be defended on either public interest or stewardship grounds, particularly in light of the multiple adverse impacts and loss of amenity values such construction and use would entail [see discussion of Environmental Impacts below].

As for the Management Goals and Objectives outlined in §§15 and 16 of the Project Description, all would appear to be ad hoc justifications. None of the listed goals and objectives is uniquely served by the construction of another mountain bike trail in the SVCRA, and every one could be more effectively addressed by other means.

Re: (2) Trail Description

Only a poor-quality map of the proposed trail accompanies the Draft SVCRA Management Plan, and no elevation profile is attached, so it is impossible to determine if the "Short description" in §6 ("A 3.1 mile of [sic] narrow beginner and intermediate mountain bike trail ... [consisting of] new single track [and] designed to be ridden in either direction") is accurate in ANY particular. This much, however, can be said: Given the necessity, as outlined in the Project Description, for "easier alternate routes to allow for riders of various ability levels" and the stated design objective ("twist-and-turn"), the cumulative length of the resulting multiple trail corridors is certain to exceed the nominal length by a significant amount.

Furthermore, the trail width is misleadingly described as "narrow" (and elsewhere as "mostly two-foot width"). If this were an accurate description of the planned trail, it would preclude its use by beginners, notwithstanding the claims to the contrary made in §6 ("Short description"). International Mountain Bike Association guidelines stipulate a MINIMUM tread width of 36 inches for the Easy ("Green Circle") Trails designed to accommodate beginning riders. A trail with a tread width of only 24 inches would be properly classed as a "More Difficult (Blue Square) Trail," best suited to experienced riders with at least a "moderate level of skill and fitness." It is NOT a "beginner trail."

Nor is this the only point at which the Project Description misleads as to the extent of the proposed construction-associated disturbance. The document fails to distinguish between tread width (the stipulated 36-inch-wide "traveled way" of a Green Circle trail, this is also the minimum depth of a typical bench cut) and the significantly greater corridor width (the area to be cleared of most trees, any overhanging branches, large rocks, and other hazards.) The land surface on either side of the tread within the corridor is also subject to backslope contouring and downslope spoil dumping. Creating a trail suited to both beginning and intermediate riders would therefore entail clearing and recontouring ("blending") a CORRIDOR some 7 or 8 feet wide, as well as removing any encroaching tree limbs or overhanging vegetation to a height of 8 feet or more.

A final point: Since the trail must accommodate two-way traffic, safety and liability considerations would dictate adding extra width in critical areas such as curves and

descents, in order to improve sightline distances and reduce the probability of collision. This would further increase the corridor width in these locations.

The bottom line? At MINIMUM, construction of the proposed beginner-intermediate mountain bike trail will entail physical alteration of 2.6 acres, while the actual acreage to be excavated, "blended," or cleared will in all likelihood be greater. This brings the proposed West Side Mountain Bike Trail within the scope of 6 NYCRR 617.4(b)(10), viz., "any Unlisted action, that exceeds 25 percent of any threshold in this section, occurring wholly or partially within ... any publicly owned or operated ... recreation area," and consequently mandates its classification as a Type I action, subject to all the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

In this connection, I believe that New York State Conservation Council Specialist Walt Paul, speaking before a public meeting in Colton, New York, on February 3, 2014, voiced his (and the Conservation Council's) concern over the pace and scope of recreational development in the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area, noting that it was "significant enough to warrant a GEIS." He then concluded his remarks by adding, "Sometimes land gets loved to death."

Mr. Paul and I are of one mind in this matter.

Re: (3) Environmental Impacts

The Project Description's treatment of the environmental impacts attendant on the construction of the proposed West Side Mountain Bike Trail, as embodied in §18 ("Anticipated Impacts of Project"), is perfunctory at best, dwelling almost entirely on engineering and design aspects of construction. The sole mention of other matters is an assertion that "the trail will be kept to its mostly two-foot width and unplanned trails removed." But the first part of this claim has already been shown to be grossly misleading, ignoring as it does both the minimum 36-inch tread required of a beginner's trail AND the impacts attendant on clearing and contouring operations in the 7- or 8-foot-wide trail corridor. (The rehabilitation of existing "unplanned" trails is in no way contingent on the construction of yet another trail, of course, and it would make a good project for any interested group.)

Of even greater concern, however, is the failure of the Project Description to address any of the adverse effects of trail construction and its subsequent round-the-clock use (mountain biking is NOT confined to daylight hours) on:

(a) Breeding bird populations (the deeply incised terrace which the proposed trail follows is home to many woodland warblers and a number of ground-nesting birds, including veery and hermit thrush),

(b) Fisher and black bear (both are known to frequent the area in question),

(c) Whitetail deer (the proposed trail traverses a number of critical wintering yards, and though winter use of the trail by mountain bikers will be limited to "fat bike" enthusiasts who ride machines like the Surly Pugsley, the cleared corridor is certain to attract many skiers, snowshoers, and dog-walkers), and ...

(d) The vibrant extant community of woodland wildflowers now carpeting the forest floor along the terrace (e.g., spring beauty, wild oats, marsh marigold, trout lily, trilliums, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and pink lady's slipper orchid), not to mention the extensive fern "gardens" in the many swales.

And that short list is far from complete. In truth, an accurate determination of the probable adverse impacts of the construction and subsequent use of the proposed West Side Mountain Bike Trail on this diverse and productive woodland environment would require that a comprehensive inventory of local species first be prepared; their distribution, nesting, and denning areas be mapped; and the stability and character of local soils be determined by field testing at a number of sites along the corridor. To my knowledge, none of these things has been done, and until that lapse has been remedied, no meaningful assessment of this project's environmental impact can be made. The permitting application embodied in Attachment 13 is therefore premature. It has no place in the Draft Management Plan for the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area.

Sincerely yours,

Forrest Brownell
Colton, New York

cc: Mr. James Akins (St. Lawrence County Mountain Bike Association)
Mr. Dan Doust (Brookfield Renewable Energy)
Mr. Matt Johnson (Brookfield Renewable Energy)
Mr. Richard McDonald (NYS DEC, Raquette River Advisory Council)
Mr. Walt Paul (New York State Conservation Council)



February 6, 2014

Dennis B. Bulger
Supervisor – Town of Colton
94 Main Street
Colton, NY 13625

Dawn C. Howard
Conservation District Manager
St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old Dekalb Road
Canton, New York 13617

Matt Johnson, Compliance Manager
Brookfield Renewable Energy Group
399 Big Bay Road
Queensbury, N.Y. 12804

Re: Comments on Stone Valley Management Plan (electronic submission only)

Dear Land Managers:

The following comments are being submitted on behalf of the Colton Dirt Dogs ATV Club Inc. Our club is comprised of fifty outdoor enthusiasts from Colton, South Colton, and the surrounding area, and countless more supporters who are not active members. While the primary focus of our club is the promotion of safe and responsible motorized trail use, we are supporters and participants in all trail sports, and avid users of the trail systems located alongside the Raquette River.

Specific comments with the documents provided are as follows:

1. Draft Management Plan

a. Item number (7) under “Current Concerns” states:

“Motorized access. Towns of Pierrepont, Colton, and Parishville have requested Brookfield to permit ATV access within the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area. Motor access would add economic benefit to the area, say proposers. Currently, Brookfield Land Use Policy excludes motors from company land.



FERC and Brookfield are both concerned about safety and security issues on that route. Other avenues to the hamlet may be explored."

- i. How can a request by three of the property owners be seen as a concern for a group that is representing those land owners. Furthermore St. Lawrence County has been outspoken in its support for responsible ATV and snowmobile trail use. Therefore, can the source of this concern be identified (i.e. who has this concern)
- ii. Motorized use is clearly called out as a permissible "special use" under **Section III (B)** and also **Section III (G)** of the **Brookfield Land Use Policy**. It also specifically calls out ATV/Snowmobile trails as a permissible special use. Literally every use that is described in the **Stone Valley Management Plan** is listed as a "restricted" or "prohibited" activity per the **Brookfield Land Use Policy**. This includes swimming, entering the river bed, and mountain biking. Calling out motorized use as an activity that is treated differently than any other activity detailed within the **Stone Valley Management Plan** is completely inaccurate and misleading. For this reason we request that **Item 7** under **Current Concerns** should be removed in its entirety from the **Stone Valley Management Plan**.
- iii. This item additionally states "*FERC and Brookfield are both concerned about safety and security issues on that route*". Is there any documentation that validates that FERC has reviewed this issue, and in fact deems ATV use as a concern? Furthermore, is there any documentation that details specifically what FERC regulation is the source of this concern, and how allowing motorized use of certain access roads is a deviation in the current protocol in regard to security or safety? Motorized vehicles as well as foot traffic current have no standoff distance from the power house critical structures (you can drive a vehicle right to the power house without a robust barrier to prohibit this action). How is ATV or snowmobile access viewed as a deviation from the status quo?

2. Map Of Stone Valley Corporative Recreation Area

- a. Have the areas that are highlighted on this map been designated as solely falling under the jurisdiction **Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area**. When the area was first designated in 1989, was this the original size of the area, or has it changed since. What is the process for changing the footprint of the area?

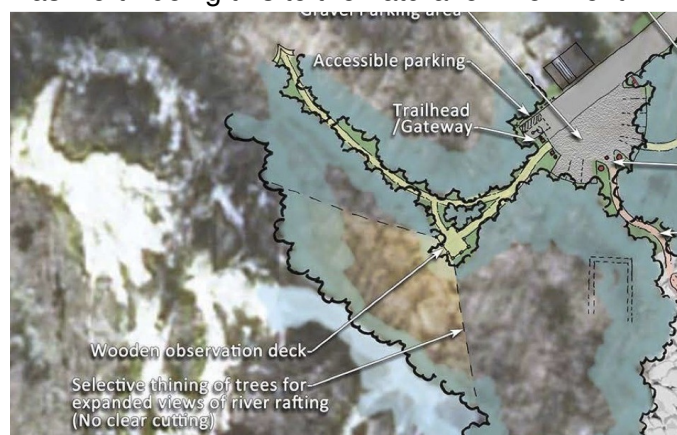


3. Map Of Planned Trail Near O'Malley Brook

- a. Why is this trail called out as a “planned trail” when it has already been constructed? This is also called out under “planned” work in the **Draft Management Plan** on **page 12**, yet in this section it specifically states that this work began in June of 2013 and was completed in Dec of 2013 (which is inaccurate).

4. Map of Plans near SE entrance in Colton

- a. The portion of this map that details a “museum and paddling center” at the Town’s fire station is outdated and needs to be revised to remove these areas
- b. Is the overflow parking area shown on this map within the **Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area** or is this the area where the Fire Department currently parks their equipment? Has the Fire Station granted permission for this parking area?
- c. Does this map depict a walkway within the river bed? Is this not a violation of the Brookfield Land Use Policy, and has the permitting been obtained to modify the river bed in this fashion? Furthermore is this not a violation of the **Draft Management Plan** section on protecting geological features.
- d. The plan depicts a large area of trees to be cut at the entrance of the trail for a viewing area. This area appears to be **over half an acre** of land to be cleared. What was the basis for the decision that the added value of this viewing platform was worth doing this to the natural environment?





5. O'Malley Brook Bike Trail Project Description

- a. Why is the submission date for this plan **Dec 10, 2013** when construction of this trail was substantially completed prior to October, 2013?

6. Project Description Form

- a. *"The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s)."*
 - i. It is our opinion that the Stone Valley Partners to this point have not been objective when considering the interests of all user groups. The biased approach that has been taken is evidenced in the draft of the **Stone Valley Management Plan** itself. The plan highlights a specific group of users, including the use of photos that add no value to the plan. At the same time, it lists other activities that are supported by the majority of the land owners, and residents of the area as a "concern". Thus, we feel the request by the Stone Valley partners to have proposed work by other groups be submitted to them for review to be completely unreasonable, and feel this provision should be eliminated in its entirety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Daniel J. Murphy
President and Co-Founder
Colton Dirt Dogs ATV Club Inc.

CC;

Town of Parishville (electronic copy only)
Town of Pierrepont (electronic copy only)
John Omohundro (electronic copy only)

February 4, 2014

Matt Johnson, Compliance Manager
Brookfield Renewable Energy Group
399 Big Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804

Dawn C. Howard
Conservation District Manager
St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old Dekalb Road
Canton, NY 13617

Re: Comments on Stone Valley Management Plan

Dear Land Managers,

The following comments are offered after review of the draft plan submitted by the proposed management partners and attendance at last night's presentation meeting:

1. The opening paragraph of the plan states that the purpose was to coordinate among multiple owners, managers and users with enjoyment by all. While stated, this does not appear to be true throughout the entire document. The discrimination against motorized access and use is prevalent within all aspects of this plan. The authors have been aware for quite some time that a community connector trail has been desired in this area by residents of Colton, Pierrepont and Parishville as evidenced by numerous public conversations and correspondence dated August 2013 from these communities to Brookfield. Motorized access had been allowed by Niagara Mohawk since before the SVCRA 1989 dedication until approximately 2007 when Brookfield disallowed utilizing the penstock trail under "special use" as a community connector. This point was reiterated and shown as

an obvious bias towards these user groups in the plan and at the meeting. Also, during this time period there was never a recorded safety or security issue relative to the penstock trail.

2. The original SVCRA did not include property owned by Parishville or Pierrepont and the original footprint was not as large as shown by the maps attached to the current plan. This is verified by original documents and correspondence from Saratoga Associates. Any type of land management plan typically includes defined boundaries as well as a detailed inventory of assets, notable features and current improvements as a basis for potential design and/or use changes. Proposed improvements or changes to the property where economic and environmental impacts will occur should be addressed in an approved format as well. The plan does not include these basic components.

As owners and managers of this beautiful and unique property I ask that you reject this plan until a more balanced and objective plan can be formulated utilizing all affected user groups and participants without bias.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Schyler J. Shea

Colton, NY

cc: Town of Colton

Town of Parishville

Town of Pierrepont

Feb. 5, 2014

Dear Mr. Omohundro,

I've read with interest your Stone Valley Trail Report. I think it would be a great improvement in drafting this plan if you & your friends considered the disabled and elderly who would enjoy this type of scenery, but can't.

Why cut out our friends and neighbors who would ride in a side by side or 4 wheeler at a speed of 5 mph or less. I brought this idea up at an earlier fall meeting but it fell on deaf ears.

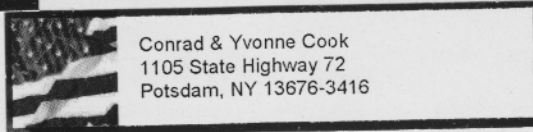
Unless this provision is provided, I will be encouraging fellow Town Board members in my town & other towns to not approve your plan. In my mind this is a form of discrimination and short sightedness.

Please make this Trail for everyone.



Copies to
Town Board
&
Courier
&
North Country

Sincerely
Conrad Cook
Perishville Councilman





John

New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

February 3, 2014

Dawn C. Howard
Conservation District Manager
St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old Dekalb Road
Canton, New York 13617

Matt Johnson, Compliance Manager
Brookfield Renewable Energy Group
399 Big Bay Road
Queensbury, N.Y. 12804

Re: Comments on Stone Valley Management Plan

Dear Land Managers:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the N.Y.S. Conservation Council pertaining to the Draft Stone Valley Management Plan. The N.Y.S. Conservation Council represents 300,000 members of the sporting community throughout N.Y. State; the sporting community contributes 60 million dollars to conservation efforts and fish and wildlife management in N.Y.S. annually, provides funding for 247 N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation staff and sportsmen and women contribute 9 billion dollars annually to the N.Y.S. Economy. The N.Y.S. Conservation Council is a signatory to the Racquette River Licensing agreement dated March 13, 1998 and a participating member of the Racquette River Advisory Committee. **The N.Y.S. Conservation Council supports equitable access for all recreational user groups of varying ability including the young, the elderly, individuals with special needs, the fit, the physically challenged and the disabled.**

The Councils comments are being submitted to the land managers in this situation, Brookfield and St. Lawrence County with copies to municipalities and the RRAC Chair. A copy will be provided to John Omohundro.

General comments:

1. **Plan Development:** Management Plans are typically developed by the land owner. In this situation allowing the plans development to be orchestrated by a singularly focused recreation group creates an inequitable platform in terms of planning for and accommodating diverse recreational stakeholder groups. The recreational preferences of the authors are evident throughout the plan.

Recommendation: In the future such plan development should be facilitated by the land owners.

2. **The recreational bias of the plans authors** is very evident when you view the pictures in the plan, three of which are of kayakers and one of an individual mountain biking. The plan in some senses looks more like a cover to a marketing brochure for the White Water Park, that some residents of Colton seek to develop, than a land management plan. I have never observed such an approach in the many management plans I have reviewed and provided input on. The picture of the two dogs is just plain hokey. The pictures serve no objective purpose in the plan and reflect a bias .

Recommendation – Remove pictures of user groups and dogs and utilize a cover that simply states Stone Valley Management Plan.

3. The Process.

A. Under the Plans introduction it states “It was agreed then to publish this draft for comment, adjust it based on comments, then the partners would sign it.”

The authors of the plan seem to be overlooking one very important step that was discussed at The Racquette River Advisory Committee (RRAC) meeting on May 30, 2013. Before Brookfield signs the plan it is obligated to consult with the RRAC regarding the document. For the plan to be signed prior to this consultation and any recommended changes by the RRAC would be circumventing the role of the RRAC as established in Federal Regulation.

Recommendation: Adjust process as follows:

1. Public comment and hearings complete
2. Plan revised
2. Plan reviewed by RRAC
3. RRAC makes recommendations to Brookfield
4. Next steps based on outcome of RRAC Recommendations.

B. Participation in the planning process. Diverse user groups were not included or encouraged to participate in the planning process. Brookfield encourages multiple uses by diverse stakeholder groups. To my knowledge NO members of the sporting community were invited to the table and hunting, fishing and trapping on these lands has been a tradition for well over 100 years.

Outreach - Plan posted and comments directed to the ADK website

Comment- Such an approach will draw traffic from a singular user group and has the ability to weight the type of comments received.

Recommendation – Future Management Plans must be convened and orchestrated by the land owners.

More specific comments:

THE PLAN

RECREATION AREA PARTNERS

“Assisted by the Raquette River Advisory Council (RRAC), composed of signatories to the settlement that led to Brookfield's current hydroelectric licenses. Signatories include NYDEC, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, St. Lawrence County, Adirondack Mountain Club, Trout Unlimited, and American Whitewater.”

Comment – The N.Y.S. Conservation Council and other signatories to the Racquette River Licensing Agreement have been omitted. To name some and not all in the plan is inappropriate. This oversight was pointed out to John Omohundro at the last RRAC meeting.

Recommendation - List all signatories on the agreement or none.

MANAGEMENT PARTNERS (Groups with standing duties in the area)

Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADKL): *led in the founding and building of the trail and the CRA concept. The chapter has approximately 400 members and serves the St. Lawrence County and Ottawa region.*

The chapter regularly schedules outings and work parties on foot trails. It provides trail coordinator, and labor/expertise to maintain foot trails. It maintains a small budget for materials but also pursues outside funding, especially from RRAC/Brookfield. Contact: trail coordinator Mark Simon, simonm@potsdam.edu.

Comment: The management partners as referenced in the plan are creating a “straw group” that will usurp the roles of the RRAC and Land Owners.

Recommendation – Remove Reference

User Groups

Recommendation - Change *USER GROUPS* to Stakeholder Groups (open list, under development) several errors exist in the list and corrections are highlighted in red.

American Whitewater, contact: Phil LaMarche, Lamarchep@canton.edu

St. Lawrence County Fish Advisory Board Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board, St.

Lawrence County

Federated Sportsmen of St. Lawrence County

Racquette Valley Fish and Game Club, South Colton, NY

St Lawrence County Environmental Management Council: contact: St. Lawrence Co.

Planning Board, John Tenbusch, jtenbusch@co.st-lawrence.ny.us., and Dawn Howard, EMC chair.

St. Lawrence County Mountain Biking Association, contact: Mike Klein,

mike@wearonearth.com

St Lawrence County Recreational Trails Board, contact: Deb Christy, coordinator,

dchristy@twcny.rr.com, and Dawn Howard, secretary, Dawn.Howard@ny.nacdnet.net

St. Lawrence County Trappers Association

Region 6 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

PLANNED WORK IN THE SVCRA

2. *Whitewater Area Access Improvements*, see attachment 3 ("*SVCRAmap3.jpg*").

See also Attachment 12, "*Whitewater.pdf*". Approved and funded.

Comment – Under the "whitewater area access improvements" the reference to "approved and funded" is grossly inaccurate and a misrepresentation of fact. The RRAC has yet to review and discuss these improvements as a group and make a recommendation to Brookfield. For Brookfield to approve the improvements without first consulting with the RRAC would be a violation of the agreement. At the RRAC meeting held on May 30 2013 there was lengthy discussion regarding this issue.

Furthermore, the N.Y.S. Council believes that the collective improvements to Brookfield Lands in this area are significant enough to warrant a GEIS. The individuals authoring this plan are well aware of this discussion as is Brookfield.

Stone Valley Project - Whitewater Area Access Improvements – a Project description has been submitted under the name Stone Valley (SV) Whitewater Area Access Improvements.

Comment – A project description as referenced above has been included as an attachment in the plan. This seems rather presumptuous as the proposal for the plan format and process has not yet been approved by the land owners or reviewed by the RRAC. Secondly, the individuals completing the project description form, Ruth

McWilliams and Mary Jane Watson are members of the Management Partners who would be reviewing the plan and authors of the plan. Such an arrangement does not lend itself to objectivity, or transparency.

Recommendation: As previously stated the Council will not support the creation of straw groups. Further discussion on Whitewater Parks by RRAC is necessary.

Comment - 13. Organization of the work (coordination, reporting structure, safety/risk management):

Under the project description, coordination for the project is listed as follows:

Coordination:

- ✓ For grant—Fred Hanss (with assistance from Mary Jane Watson)
- ✓ For Brookfield—Matthew Johnson
- ✓ For Town of Colton—Dennis Bulger and Ruth McWilliams

It also cites a "*Reporting structure: Whitewater Parks Project Advisory Committee*"

Comment – Again the creation of "straw groups" such as the Whitewater Parks Advisory Committee, which includes members of the Management Partners would be circumventing existing regulation and the Ni-Mo Settlement, which calls for the creation of a "Whitewater Committee" to address whitewater issues.

Recommendation – the N.Y.S. Conservation Council cannot support "straw groups" or circumvention of existing regulation. Form whitewater committee through the RRAC to address whitewater issues. RRAC must review and recommend to Brookfield per settlement any recommendation made by whitewater committee.

3. New mountain bike trail on west side of river, on Brookfield property, from bridge over pipeline north to Browns Bridge, between the pipeline and the existing hiking trail. Proposed by SLMBA. See map, Attachment 4, "SVCRAmap4.jpg" and attachment 13 "WestSideTrail.pdf". To seek approval in 2014.

Comment – Mountain Biking is not listed as an allowable activity on hydro lands. The N.Y.S. Conservation Council supports mountain biking as some of our members utilize mountain bikes to access hunting, fishing and trapping areas., however, the proposed west side mountain Bike trail requires further review and recommendation by the RRAC and the collective improvements to the Stone Valley area, which include the bike trail and whitewater enhancements, may be of such magnitude to require a SEQR or GEIS.

In addition it appears a special use permit would be required for the trail per Brookfield's land use policy.

Recommendation: Mountain Bike Association should submit proposal to Brookfield for review.

CURRENT CONCERNS

7. Motorized access. Towns of Pierrepont, Colton, and Parishville have requested Brookfield to permit ATV access within the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area. Motor access would add economic benefit to the area, say proposers. Currently, Brookfield Land Use Policy excludes motors from company land. FERC and Brookfield are both concerned about safety and security issues on that route. Other avenues to the hamlet may be explored.

Comment – It is a known fact that the authors of the plan are not supporters of motorized recreation, including ATV's. That said it appears the inclusion of this statement is an attempt on the part of the authors to deter appropriate use of motorized vehicles in the area to satisfy their ideological & recreational preferences. **The authors of the plan speaking on behalf of the FERC and Brookfield is inappropriate. In addition I do not believe the pipeline access road is included in the Stone Valley Recreation Area.**

The statement "Brookfield Land Use Policy excludes motors from company land" is erroneous as Brookfield Policy states:

Brookfield Policy Page 13 G. Special Uses – "Special uses include, but are not limited to snowmobile/ATV Trails, Horse Trails, educational tours, stocking programs, etc."

Comment: The pipeline and surrounding area have supported various forms of motor vehicle use, including snowmobiles and ATV's for many years. The pipeline was a major community connector for snowmobiles until Brookfield obtained the property. The sporting community requires the use of snowmobiles and ATV's to access hunting, fishing and trapping areas and to retrieve game.

Recommendation – Groups seeking various levels of motor vehicle access should submit requests to Brookfield for review by the RRAC.

Comment - Plan is lacking in data – I have been unable to glean from the plan information pertaining to the miles of trails that currently exist in the area. This information is essential in terms of managing future build-out and its impact on the resource.

Recommendation: List distances for trails by type.

Comment – It is my understanding the Stone Valley Recreation area is from the Pipeline to the River and from the River to the Lenny Rd.

Recommendation – Land Owners need to clarify boundaries.

Comments on attachments:

From the Plan:

It is noted that the "Stone Valley Partners" request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries be reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owners".

Excerpt from Plan - Form for Project Descriptions - December 2013 version! _1
Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (SVCRA)

Project Description

The Stone Valley partners request that proposed work on land within the SVCRA boundaries are reported to them for discussion and suggestions before pursuing acceptance from the relevant property owner(s).

Comment - The N.Y.S. Conservation Council is adamantly opposed to this provision and will not support it or comply with it and **STRONGLY** recommends the land owners do not absolve themselves of any and all responsibility of lands under their ownership. There are many groups springing up seeking to assert control to promote their individual agendas and/ or ideological and recreational preferences and to support and create "straw" organizations only serves to undermine legitimate authority and create inequity. In this case the rights of the land owners would be jeopardized and the role of the Racquet River Advisory Council usurped!

Thank-you for the Opportunity to comment!

Walt Paul

Walt Paul
Access and Land Use Specialist
N.Y.S. Conservation Council

c. Town of Colton
Town of Parishville
Town of Pierrepont
Richard McDonald, N.Y.S. D.E.C. RRAC Chair
John Omohundro

**SVCRA PUBLIC MEETING
NOTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

MOTORIZED USE COMMENTS:

Didn't see snowmobiles or ATVs mentioned. I'm not very impressed. – Guy from Parishville ATV Club

No inclusion for motorized sports and need for community connections - Schuyler Shea. (Dan Doust explained that this is a corporate and FERC health and safety issue).

What is the difference between mountain bikes and ATVs/snowmobiles? In the original plan biking was not an issue so why is it coming up now? Deb Christie

Pipeline service road was used until 2006 without any issues. Danny Collins (Dan Doust explained again about health and safety issue, FERC changed rules after 9/11, this is primary road for service, concern about anchor blocks on penstock, speed limit, increased maintenance of the road).

Father worked for NiMo for 45 years and a lot of people used the penstock for years. Never had any issues, even doodlebugs used the penstock road. NiMo was a friendly company and now people want to change things. This was a great trail for years. He wants to know who to speak to to get permission and will give them a history of use. He worked as a subcontractor for maintenance of these roads for years. Now there are gates that people tear up. If the roads were open, this wouldn't happen. (John Omohundro explained that the utility companies set the rules on their land).

Asked of John O – What do you have to do with this? Danny Collins. (John O. explained ADK manages the trail system).

Has any research ever been done about motorized trails in SVCRA? Schuyler Shea (John O. explained that the penstock road was the only place that it had come up). Schuyler replied that as stewards of Stone Valley, ADK should have researched this.

Brookfield regs reference ATV and snowmobile use in special circumstances. Why wasn't motorized use included in the plan when local groups want it? – Schuyler Shea

Dawn Howard – In 2007 SLC Legislature passed local law banning motorized use in SVCRA on county forest parcels along Lenny Road. Deb Christie said that the Trails Board requested this to give the east side to the hikers and keep the west side for motorized use.

Walt Paul reviewed his extensive list of comments for the group arguing that this straw group was trying to usurp the authority of RRAC. Brookfield cannot do anything without RRAC approval. He is skeptical and cautious about groups such as the Stone Valley partners.

Alex McKinnon representing District 4, a 20+ year member of SLC Legislature, is very interested in recreational use of county forest lands. He is very concerned about the east side of the Lenny Road. He recapped history of the pilot trail near Browns Bridge. He mentioned that the SLC Legislature may have to rescind their local law banning motorized use on Lenny Road county parcels.

ATV groups are being excluded from certain areas. If can't use penstock road, Lenny Road would need to be opened up. If ATVers have trails they will stay on the trail and obey the rules. We

need to be partners, not adversaries. Now snowmobilers stay on the trails. Art Wilson, Parishville ATV Club

Three towns wrote letters to Brookfield to open up penstock road. Parishville ATV club monitors their trails every day. If Lenny Road opened, there would be far less trash on county forest lands since it would be monitored by ATV riders. – Deb Christie

ATV access is need for economic growth – Ron Robert

Been running the penstock road for 50 years meeting 30-40 going in each direction. Never had any problems and they picked up the garbage. Sharing the area would be good for everyone—Dahl McCormick, Pierrepont Town Board

The Red Sandstone Trail got closed to motorized use after it had been used for years by locals for years. The kids started using the roads. Sandstone trail is now just for walking. People moved in and pushed the natives out of the way. He then inquired where John O. came from. Danny Collins

Seniors used side by sides since cannot walk like they used to. Need to have community connectors. Will travel at 20-25 mph. They want to get out enjoy nature before they die. Art Wilson

Wants to know how ATVs and side by sides can get closer to the river. Danny Collins

There are definitely user group conflicts here and they need to talk. Need a community connector. Doesn't take a genius to do an Article 78. He could do one tomorrow against the Stone Valley partners tomorrow. Walt Paul

Whitewater paddlers now work in a productive relationship with ADK. They work together to better manage the resource. Phil LaMarche – American Whitewater

SLC is a economically distressed area. ATVs or UTVs cost around \$12,000, that's 8% sales tax for SLC. Art Wilson

Kuno, gas supplier, has not fixed Boyce's non-ethanol gas pump because of low volume of sales. If more ATV/snowmobile use in South Colton, those pumps would get fixed. Deb has called Kuno about this. Deb Christie

OTHER COMMENTS:

Cyndy McLean – how much clear cutting? Concern about taking away from a pristine area. Requested that a minimum of trees be cut. Does LNT include provisions for trash removal and how is trash managed? (Mark Simon explained fall clean up and that most of illegal dumping occurs along the Lenny Road near the transfer station. Illegal dumping includes washing machines, 15-20 tires, couch, party area, steel belts from burned tires. The actual garbage along the hiking trails is minimal. Labor Day weekend there was a trespass issue at the kayak takeout. Most of the trash is where area is not gated).

John O explained that this group consists of partners and has no impact on individual property owners. This group has no authority. Other than the mountain bikers there has been no proposal for the owners to change the use of their land.

SLC is working with Clarkson University to develop an economic review of portions of the Multi-Use Trail to determine the potential economic impact of the trail system. Clarkson did a good job with the economic study of the bass tournament. Alex McKinnon

Volunteered use of SLC GPS folks to determine length and location of existing trails – Alex McKinnon

SVCRA PUBLIC MEETING – FEBRUARY 3, 2014 (7pm)
Comments As Captured on Flipchart Paper, then Summarized by Ruth McWilliams

Cyndy McLean

Observation deck...how much clear cutting to be done? Want to minimize number of trees taken out.

Dan D—don't believe much (see map)

Schyler Shea

Maps / no inclusion of motorized vehicles...overlooked or otherwise?

John O – considered a few meetings ago

Dan D – issue with corporation and FERC (health and safety issues)

Deb Christy

Mountain bike trail / different between mountain bike and ATVs or snowmobiles? Why mountain bike trail added?

Dan D – believe mountain bike trail is away from the penstock

John O – current land use policy of Brookfield doesn't mention bicycles

Deb C – used until 2006

John O – 2001 changed rules; FERC has changed rules

Cyndy M – too close to penstock?

Dan D – security and health/safety issue...primary road, speed, concrete anchor blocks

Danny Collins – know regulations have changed...doodlebug, horseback riding, motorized vehicles, etc. ran penstock. Who do I give history?

Dan D – Brookfield contacts

Art Wilson

If unsafe for snowmobiles and ATVs, then unsafe for mountain bikers?

John O – current plan takes into account the landowner land use rules

Cyndy McLean

Trash / receptacles?

Mark Simon – annual clean-up / trash from primarily along Lenny Road; other hot spot along county forest land...trash from parties; Brookfield property...not as much (Labor Day weekend)

Ruth McWilliams – town's Tourism & Beautification Committee clean-up on whitewater release days

Schyler Shea

Connector trail?

John O – looked at penstock trail only; accepted land use regulations

Dan D – special purpose / didn't look at different alternatives

Dawn Howard – discussed / lots of concern...2007 local law (5 parcels / 2 locations); volume of hiking

Deb C – trails advisory board / wanted multi-use...west side for hikers; east side...penstock / buffer...noise, etc.

John O – nothing about agreement has impact on landowners – existing property owners and regulations

Walt Paul

Written comments / NYS Conservation Council...giving to John Omohundro

More technical review...not looking for comments back; see comments – e.g., recreational views / biases...process should be facilitated by landowners; Brookfield...RRAC process? Use of ADK website...use of it vs. landowners? Planned work...mountain bike trail, whitewater access improvements? GEIS...at what point is it needed (loved to death)?

John O – not altering authority structure / advisory...multiple owners, multiple users; changes about resource...environmental impacts? Procedures borrowed from county / some ideas about impacts and environmental review

Walt P – total number of miles of trails by uses? Need to understand build out / actual mileage figures

Alex MacKinnon (Board of Legislators / District 4)

Recreational Trail Advisory Board—county reforestation areas primarily; hiring of trail coordinator (Deb Christy) was only expansion of government; east side of Lenny Road; pilot ATV road...area as access to Colton; local law passed not allowing motorized vehicles; Dawn Howard (Soil & Water Conservation District) provides forestry services; ATV people and equipment to clean trails...wouldn't it have been better to open for cleanliness and management? Access to equipment, grant funds...use in a variety of ways; Gates...heavy, requiring significant construction to install; Pilot trails...people dedicated or paid to do work; Various user groups stay out of each other's ways; County highway department help

Mark Simon – most of material has been removed

Alex M – EIS on county re-forestation land...manage them forever; different trails / different signs; trail management...development, design, location

Cyndy McLean

What is issue?

Alex M – bad in past; up to them to prove it can be better

Denny Bulger – are you suggesting rescinding county law?

Alex M – trails...bad examples of mud; possibly getting better; want to work with power company / build bridge; county trail committee...Tom Ortmyer left

Cyndy McLean

ATV issues in past?

Dawn H – problems on county land / neighborhood kids tearing things up

Deb C – 2006 county trails advisory board of users / all users represented; good portal for user groups...Stone Valley group? Remains from dogs and humans

Art Wilson

13 parcels / 12 with ATVs; all welcome; feel excluded from certain areas...community connector through penstock or else Lenny Road

Deb C – letter from 3 communities to Brookfield / all want access to Colton community

Deb Christy

County parcels cleaned up / ATV clubs...clean and monitor; report to Dawn and Deb...stewardship is important

Dahl McCormick

Running penstock in past...30 or 40 running at a time; no accidents, carried in and out; like to see area shared

Danny Collins

1998 ice storm hit hard / kids road on highways with trails closed; Colton lawsuit on Stark Road...individuals; signs and gates; people moving into the area pushed natives out

Art Wilson

People used to go where they wanted to go; now stay on trails and make sure people understand private landowners and rules

Danny Collins

Lenny / O'Malley Brook Road...how managed? Your feelings?

Mark S – Bob Scott / dump truck and other equipment

John O – respect founders' wishes...power authority and Lew Weeks; willing to dialogue with snowmobilers and ATVers

Art Wilson

Side-by-sides...many elderly cannot walk like they used to...their form of recreation on county parcel; Parishville to Benson Road to Hannawa Falls...community connectors

Cyndy McLean

Economic possibilities...eat and buy at local stores?

Alex M – Clarkson University...economic review of portions of trail; grand opening on May 31st? Bass tournament experience...mountain bike regatta like bass tournament?

Phil LaMarche – reporting to county on whitewater project

Ruth M – economic / market feasibility being done as part of whitewater project

Deb C – trails advisory board would like to hear about the project

Mark Simon

Management plan not new...update to 1997 plan; Stone Valley trails...get owners talking and looking at trail system as a whole; sanctioned mountain bike trail on county land...look at before proceeding on west side; mileage is not GPS'd; rising use but don't know by how much

Alex M – county has sophisticated GPS equipment

John O – whitewater...most traffic is spectators

Danny Collins

ATVs down to watch whitewater rafting; photos of cars down by river...gate down; trucks down by Bob Scotts; ATV tracks?

Ruth M – whitewater kayaking, not rafting (expert kayakers)

Mark S – photos? Hoopey Toohey (sp?) road...closed by Brookfield; ATV tracks...reported as such

Walt Paul

State level...conflicts, ideological biases; DEC is bringing groups together; user group conflict at Stone Valley...not going away; if community connector is desired, then need to sit down; adversarial to productive relationships

Phil LaMarche

Lot of impact questions...traffic problems, behavior problems; “policing” people I represent...worked with Mark and others about parking, use of trails, etc.

Art W – we use “police” word too...county is economically depressed; cost of ATVs, trailer, registration, etc....revenue to be gotten

Deb Christy

Non-ethanol gas at Boyce's / Kunoco not getting to it; need more volume

STONE VALLEY

The Stone Valley Cooperative Recreational Area, located in the towns of Colton and Parishville, offers an unusual opportunity for hiking, cross-country skiing, nature study and historical exploration. There are several private land parcels in the northern section of the area so please respect property that is gated or posted.

The most spectacular stretch of Stone Valley is the mile between Colton and the Tub. Here there are dramatic rapids, waterfalls, gorges, rock islands, overhanging cliffs, and fascinating potholes.

When the water is high, it thunders through this section with awesome power; during times of low water, the bare bedrock of the river channel presents a completely different aspect and offers opportunities for exploration and the play of the imagination. However, be alert for the possibility of rapidly rising water.

Other areas reached by the trail system offer an unusual variety of topography, woodlands and tree plantations. Birds, plants and animals at home in a riverine environment abound.

Brochure and Map prepared by:
St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Informational plaques are located at various points on the trails. Riverside trails are indicated by blue tree markers, access trails by dark red, and county trails by yellow markers.

There are sections where caution should be exercised and others where the trails are quite steep. For those who prefer a less rigorous hike, a fairly gentle incline will take one from the Northeast Trail Head to Cathedral Grove, a distance of one mile. O'Malley Brook flows through the Grove and tumbles down a rocky falls into the Raquette River beneath giant pine trees.

The distance between trail heads on either side of the river is exactly the same, 3.2 miles. To start at any trail head and make the complete loop, down one side of the river and back to the trail head of origin, is a distance of 7.5 miles.

The trails lie on lands owned by Niagara Mohawk, St. Lawrence County and the Town of Colton. Trails are maintained by Niagara Mohawk, the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the St. Law. Co. Youth Conservation Corps. If you have suggestions or would like to participate in this work, call Lew Weeks at (315) 265-2604.

Stone Valley

A COOPERATIVE RECREATIONAL AREA



Photo by: Thomas Van de Water

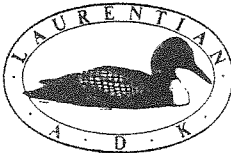
Publication of this brochure is supported
by the [redacted] [redacted]

STONE VALLEY POINTS OF INTEREST

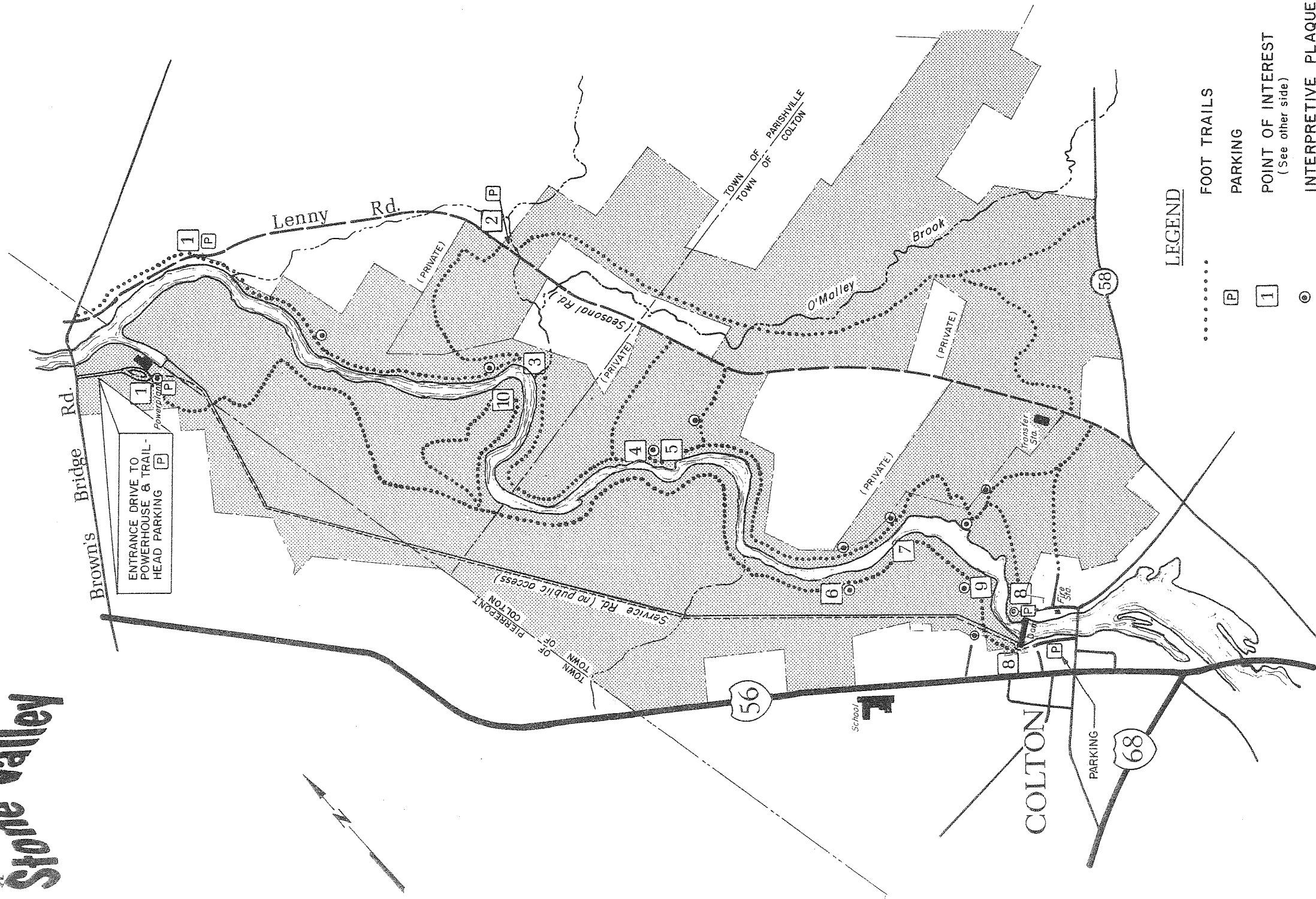
- 1. Northern Trailheads
- 2. County Parking / Trailhead
- 3. Cathedral Grove / O'Malley Brook
- 4. Lucy's Hole (the Gut)
- 5. High Terrace
- 6. The Tub
- 7. The Narrows
- 8. Southern Trailheads
- 9. Tannery Ruins Site
- 10. O'Malley Brook Overlook

For your own safety please sign the trail registers at the beginning and end of your trip.

Please help to keep the trail clean!
If you pack it in --- pack it out.



Stone Valley



LEGEND

..... FOOT TRAILS

P PARKING

1 POINT OF INTEREST
(See other side)

● INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE

SCALE OF FEET



STONE VALLEY

We who enter the Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area owe the pleasure to LEWIS "LEW" WEEKS 1920-1999 whose energy and vision brought many of us together to build and maintain trails in this special place for the benefit of all. Knowing Lew, we dedicate this to you, the visitor. Marvel and take care.

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When the water is high, it thunders through this section with awesome power, and is dangerously fast. During times of low water, the exposed river channel presents a completely different aspect of the river environment. **Beware, even during low-water periods, sudden unexpected, releases from the dam can cause rapidly rising water, creating dangerous situations. Stay on the trail.**

Brochure and map prepared by the Adirondack Mountain Club, the St. Lawrence County Planning Office, and Reliant Energy

The Stone Valley trail system also offers a unique variety of topography, woodlands, and tree plantations. Many different types of birds, plants, and wildlife can be viewed along this diverse trail system, which is over 12 miles long.

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The trails lie on lands owned by Reliant Energy, St. Lawrence County, and the Town of Colton. Reliant Energy, the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the St. Lawrence County Youth Conservation Corps maintain trails. If you have suggestions, or would like to participate in the stewardship of this area, contact Mark Simon at (315) 262-2571 or simonm@potdam.edu

STONE VALLEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Northern Trailheads |
| 2 | County Parking/
Trailhead |
| 3 | Cathedral Grove/
O'Malley Brook |
| 4 | Lucy's Hole (the gut) |
| 5 | High Terrace |
| 6 | The Tub |
| 7 | The Narrows |
| 8 | Southern Trailheads |
| 9 | Tannery Ruins Site |
| 10 | O'Malley Brook Overlook |

**For your safety,
please sign the trail registers at the
beginning and end of your trip.**

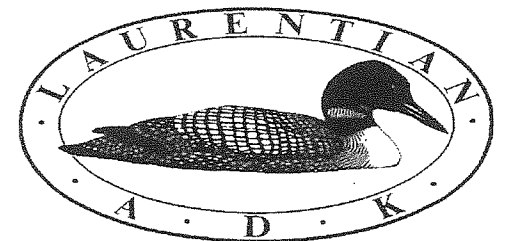
**Please help keep the trail clean—
If you pack it in—pack it out!**

Reliant
Energy



STONE VALLEY

A Cooperative Recreational Area



Publication of this brochure is made possible by
Reliant Energy

**Stone Valley
Cooperative Recreation Area**

Legend

- Foot Trails
- Point of Interest (See numbered list)
- Parking
- Reliant, St. Law. Co. & Town of Colton Lands

Entrance to Powerhouse and Trail Parking

Town of Pierreport

Town of Colton

Colton Hamlet

State Rt. 68

State Rt. 56

County Rd. 58

O'Malley Brook

Penstock

Reliant

Lemney

Road

Seasonal Road

Private

Powerhouse

Fire Station

Transit Station

Reliant, St. Law. Co. & Town of Colton Lands

St. Law. County

N

0.25 0 0.25 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 Kilometers

**Prepared by
St. Law. Co. Planning Office
August, 2003**

1	Northern Trailheads	6	The Tub
2	County Parking / Trailhead	7	The Narrows
3	Cathedral Grove / O'Malley Brook	8	Southern Trailheads
4	Lucy's Hole (The Gut)	9	Tannery Ruins Site
5	High Terrace	10	O'Malley Brook Over

1. WITHOUT WARNING, SUDDEN WATER LEVEL RELEASES FROM THE DAM COULD CAUSE FAST-RIISING WATER LEVELS AND HIGH FLOW VELOCITIES IN THE RIVER, TRAPPING INDIVIDUALS, PREVENTING ESCAPE AND RESULTING IN POSSIBLE DROWNING.
2. STAY ON TRAILS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY AND OBEY ALL TRAIL SIGNS.

3. ALWAYS BE AWARE OF OTHERS IN YOUR PARTY.
4. BE ALERT FOR THE LOUDER SOUND OF RUSHING WATER.

STONE VALLEY

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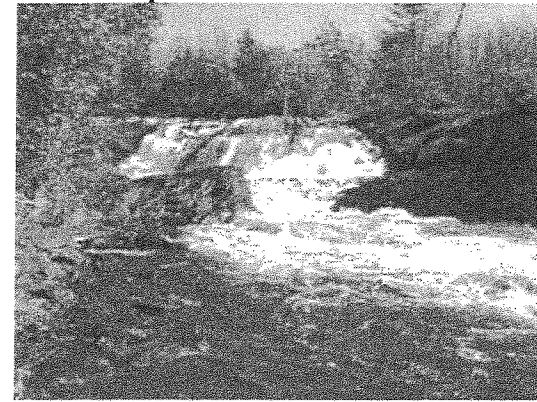
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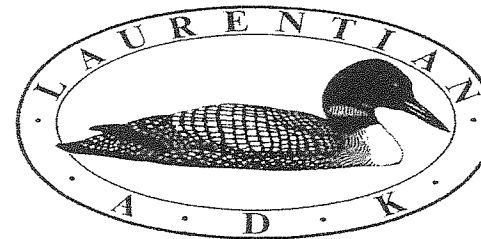
*Brochure and map prepared by
the Adirondack Mountain Club,
the St. Lawrence County Planning Office,
and Brascan Power.*

STONE VALLEY

A Cooperative Recreational Area



BRASCAN
POWER - NEW YORK



Publication of this brochure is made possible
by Brascan Power

Leave No Trace

Stick to Trails and Camp Overnight Right

- Beware, even during low-water periods, sudden, unexpected releases from the dam can cause rapidly rising water, creating dangerous situations. Stay on the trail.
- Walk and ride on designated trails to protect trailside plants. Do not step on flowers or small trees.
- Respect private property - stay on designated trails.
- Camp only on existing or designated campsites - don't dig trenches or build structures.

Know Before You Go

- Be prepared! Bring food, water, and extra clothes.
- Use maps to plan where you're going so you'll stay on course and won't get lost.
- Bring a leash for your pet and plastic bags for waste.
- Learn about the areas you plan to visit.

Stick to Trails and Camp Overnight Right

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- Respect private property - stay on designated trails.
- Camp only on existing or designated campsites - don't dig trenches or build structures.

Trash Your Trash

- Pack it in, Pack it out. Put litter—even crumbs, peels and cores—in garbage bags and carry it home.
- Use bathrooms or outhouses. If not available, bury human waste in a small hole 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet or 70 big steps from water.
- Use a plastic bag to pack out your pet's waste.
- Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, or human or pet waste in lakes or streams.

Leave It As You Find It

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as found.
- Treat living plants with respect. Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

Be Careful with Fire

- Use a camp stove for cooking.
- If you want a campfire, use only existing fire rings. Keep your fire small. Burn dead or downed wood.
- A campfire isn't a garbage can. Pack out all trash.
- Burn all wood to ash - be sure fire is completely out.

Keep Wildlife Wild

- Observe wildlife from a distance.
- Human food is unhealthy for wildlife - do not feed.
- Securely store your meals and trash.

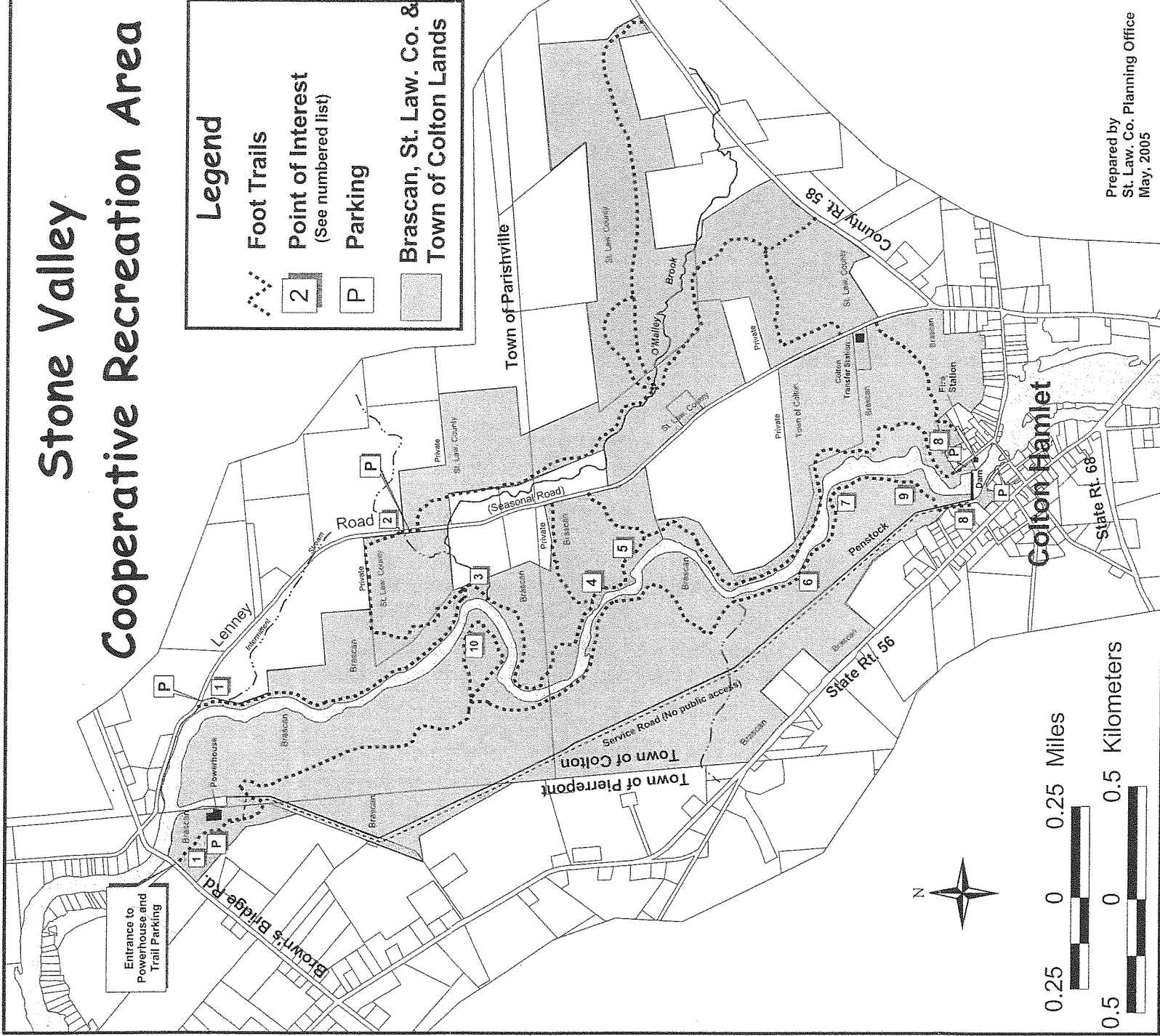
Share Our Trails and Manage Your Pet

- Be considerate when passing others on the trail.
- Keep your pet under control.
- Listen to nature. Avoid loud noises or yelling.



For more information on
Leave No Trace, please
visit www.LNT.org or call
1.800.332.4100

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area



Stone Valley Points of Interest

1	Northern Trailheads	6	The Tub
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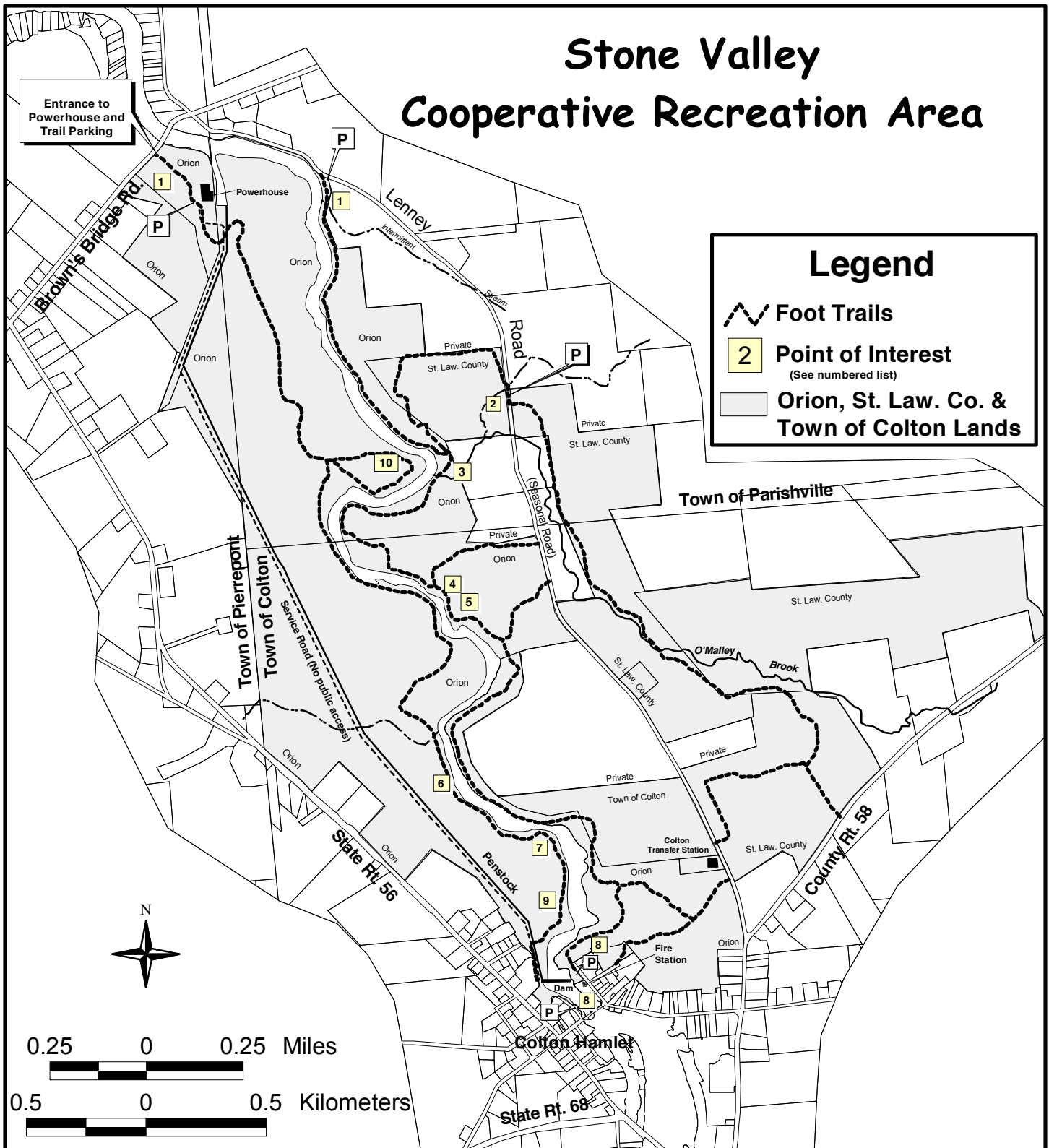
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Notes:

1. Access to Brascan Power Property is provided as a public benefit. No trespassing on Brascan Power lands or other private property excluded from public access. Pursuant to NYS Gen. Obligation Law Sec.9-103, Brascan Power cannot be held responsible for personal accidents.
2. Stay on trails for your safety and avoid areas related to hydroelectric generation such as dams, intake structures, gates, water conveyance structures, powerhouse and substations.
3. For other Brascan Power recreation information, e-mail : nyrecreation@brascanpower.com

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area



Stone Valley Points of Interest

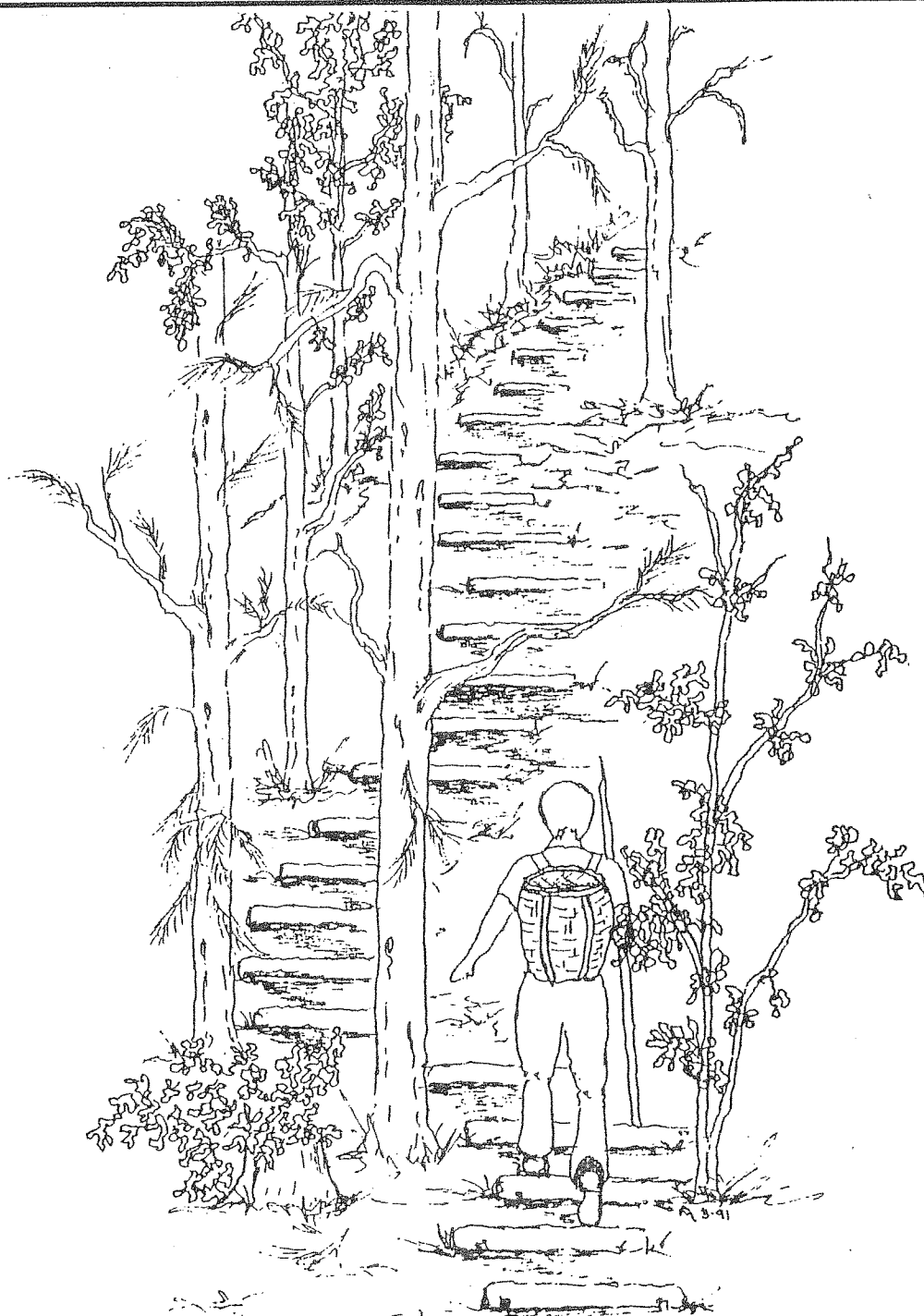
Prepared by St. Law. Co. Planning Office - October 2000

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Northern Trailheads | 6 The Tub |
| 2 County Parking / Trailhead | 7 The Narrows |
| 3 Cathedral Grove / O'Malley Brook | 8 Southern Trailheads |
| 4 Lucy's Hole (The Gut) | 9 Tannery Ruins Site |
| 5 High Terrace | 10 O'Malley Brook Overlook |

TRAIL GUIDE

for

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY



INTRODUCTION

St. Lawrence County boasts a number of beautiful trails for public use and enjoyment. They are available for snowmobiling, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, etc. This guide has been compiled in order to bring these trails to the attention of the public and to facilitate greater use of the lesser known accessible trails found on state and county owned lands. The trails are maintained by the County Forestry Department and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. During the summer months, they are also maintained by the St. Lawrence County Conservation Corps.

The St. Lawrence County Conservation Corps has been in existence for 15 years serving youth ages 14-21. The program is supported through a variety of local, county, state and federal funds and the primary goals of the program are to instill basic employment skills in the participants and to enhance the environment by completing needed projects.

Several people have contributed their time and energy to the Trail Guide. The summer 1990 St. Lawrence County Conservation Corps Coordinator, Michele Bombard, began the project. The Guide was then worked on by a summer 1991 St. Lawrence County Conservation Corps Crew Leader, Clarissa Hunter. It was edited by the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau Staff, St. Lawrence County Forester Joe Kutsko, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Forester Roger Hutchinson and staff.

This trail guide is up to date through the summer of 1991. As new trails are cleared, subsequent editions of this guide will be published. To obtain additional copies of this guide and other valuable outdoor guides, contact the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (386-4546), St. Lawrence County Forestry Department (386-2290), or the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau (379-2377), all located in Canton, NY.

Printing and distribution of the guide was made possible with support from Senator John McHugh. The cover art work was provided by Chris Murphy.

STONE VALLEY: A COOPERATIVE RECREATIONAL AREA
Foot Trail

The Stone Valley Hiking Trail is located in the town of Colton. This trail crosses Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation land and St. Lawrence County Forests #19, 26, 27, 28, and 33. The trail system covers approximately 9.7 miles which offers a variety of rewarding experiences for hikers.

The trail can be entered at several locations. The first two are close to each other as they border either side of the Raquette River. Both trails follow the river and eventually link via a bridge near Colton. Each side runs approximately 3.2 miles.

The trail on the east side of the Raquette River has four trails that connect to the Lenny Road. Two of these form a loop which crosses Lenny Road and runs near O'Malley Brook. This loop can also be accessed from County Road 58 near the brook. Two trails break off of the main trail and head easterly until they connect to the Lenny Road where they end.

To get to the Stone Valley Trails, take New York State Route 56 northwest from Colton toward Potsdam. Turn right on the Brown's Bridge Road and continue until you reach either trail entrance on the right. Another alternative is to begin on either side in the village of Colton.

This is a detailed black and white map of the Colton, New York area. The map shows a network of roads, including major highways 24, 56, 58, and 98. Key locations include Colton, Browns Bridge, and various surrounding towns like Parishville and High Falls. Topographical features like hills and water bodies are indicated with hachure marks. The map is oriented with North at the top.

County Forest 32

Raquette River

Brown's Bridge Road

Niagara Mohawk Land

NYS Route 56

28

26

27 County Forest

26 O'Malley Brook

19

Cemetery

Colton

NYS Route 68

Raquette River

LEGEND

Trail
Unimproved Road - - - - -
Improved Road = = = = =

North

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

0 1000 2000 3000

LOCATION MAP

Colton

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56

58

28

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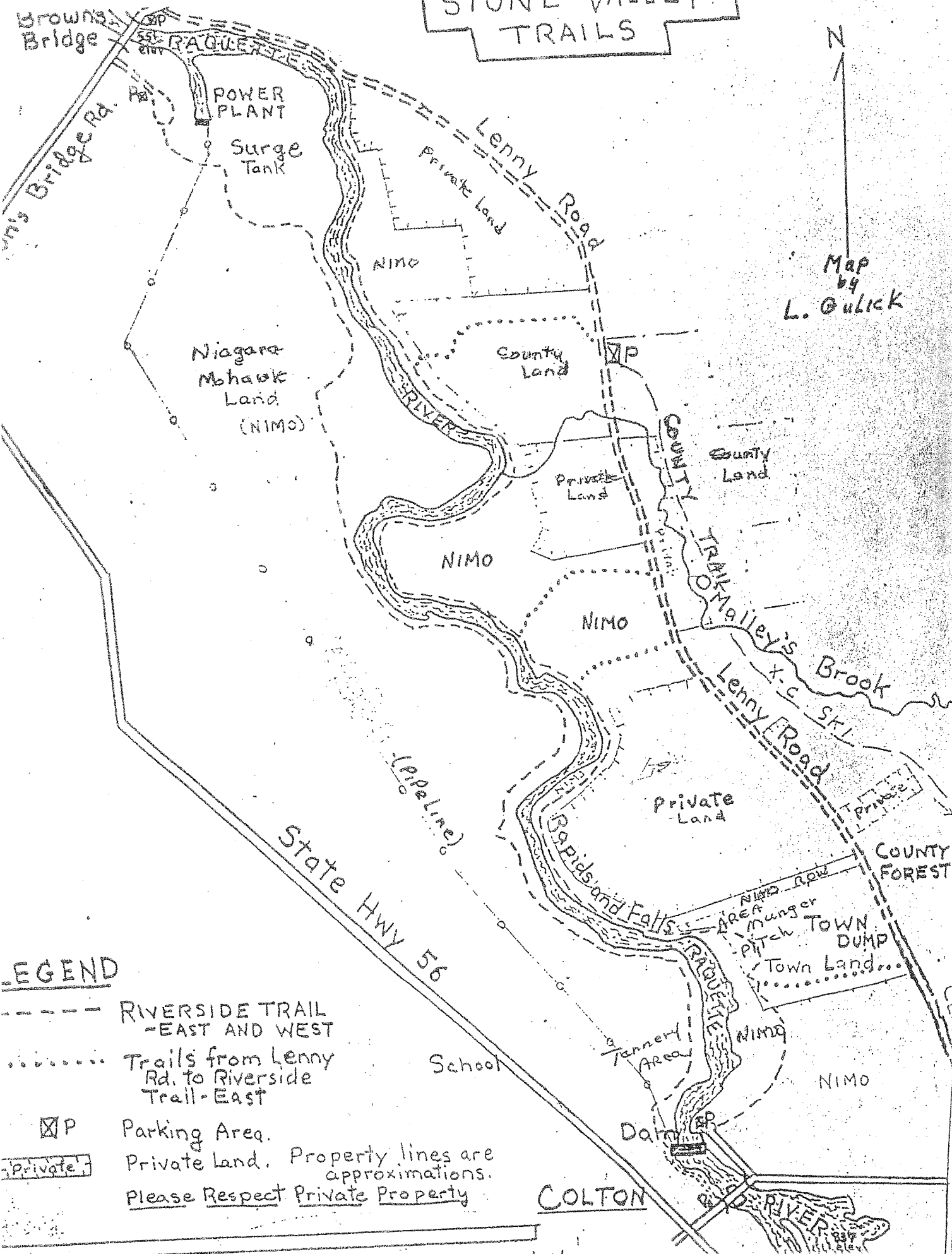
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-19-

STONE VALLEY TRAILS

N

Map
by
L. Gulick

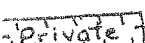


LEGEND

- RIVERSIDE TRAIL - EAST AND WEST
- Trails from Lenny Rd. to Riverside Trail - East



Parking Area.



Private Land. Property lines are approximations.
Please Respect Private Property

COLTON

The Stone Valley hiking trails, located in the town of Colton, cross Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation land and St. Lawrence County Forest.

The most scenic and unique sections of the trails are found along the Raquette River, but the whole trail system offers a variety of rewarding experiences for hikers.

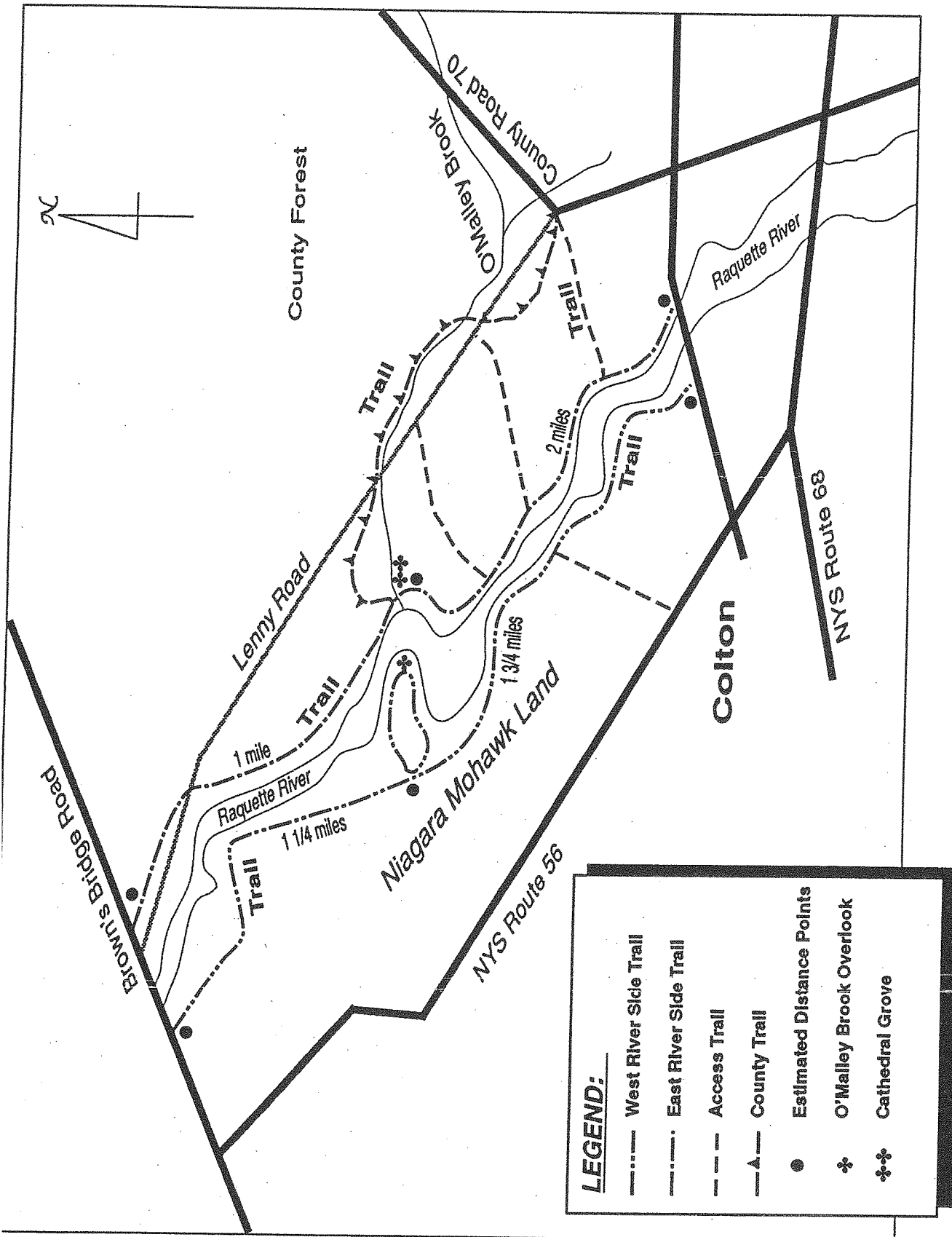
The distance along the river, from Brown's Bridge to Colton, is approximately 3.2 miles. The complete trail system covers about 9.7 miles.

**NIAGARA
MOHAWK**

Stone Valley: **A Cooperative Recreational Area**



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LEGEND:

- West River Side Trail
- - - East River Side Trail
- ... Access Trail
- ▲- County Trail
- Estimated Distance Points
- ✕ O'Malley Brook Overlook
- ✕✕ Cathedral Grove

Stone Valley Hiking Trail

To: Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area informal partners discussion group
From: John Omohundro and Mark Simon, Adirondack Mountain Club
Laurentian Chapter representatives to the partners
Re: Proposed Items for inclusion in future drafts of Agreement
Date: March 30, 2014

As the partners do not intend to meet regularly for awhile, and as Mark and I felt some items ought to be included to more fully reflect our group's discussions, we propose that the next time the group does meet, we consider adding two items to "Concerns," to wit:

7. Motorized access. Elsewhere in the Agreement is reported a request for motors, so here are listed some concerns raised during discussions about motors in the recreation area. SVCRA was envisioned from its beginning, in the 1980s, by the organizers (DEC, ADK, SLC) as a rec area for non-motorized use. Since 2007 the county has excluded motors from its parcels in the rec area. Brookfield Renewable's current land use policy permits motors in special cases only, but since 2001, under pressure from FERC, it has excluded motor access for security and safety reasons. Unauthorized motor access over the years has increased trash problems for trail stewards. Coping with potential user conflicts (horses, bikes, walkers, dogs, boaters) already pose a planning challenge so some of us are hesitant to increase those.

8. Boundaries. As the group develops planning maps, it has encountered uncertainty about the boundaries of the recreation area. Historically, Stone Valley brochure maps have always included all Brookfield lands in the region between the hamlet of Colton and Brown's Bridge. We request that Brookfield clarify for us which lands they intend to define as within the rec area. Similarly, the Lenney Road runs through SVCRA parcels. Shall we define it in, or out, of the recreation area? We assume that the owners (the Towns of Pierrepont, Parishville, and Colton) would make that determination.