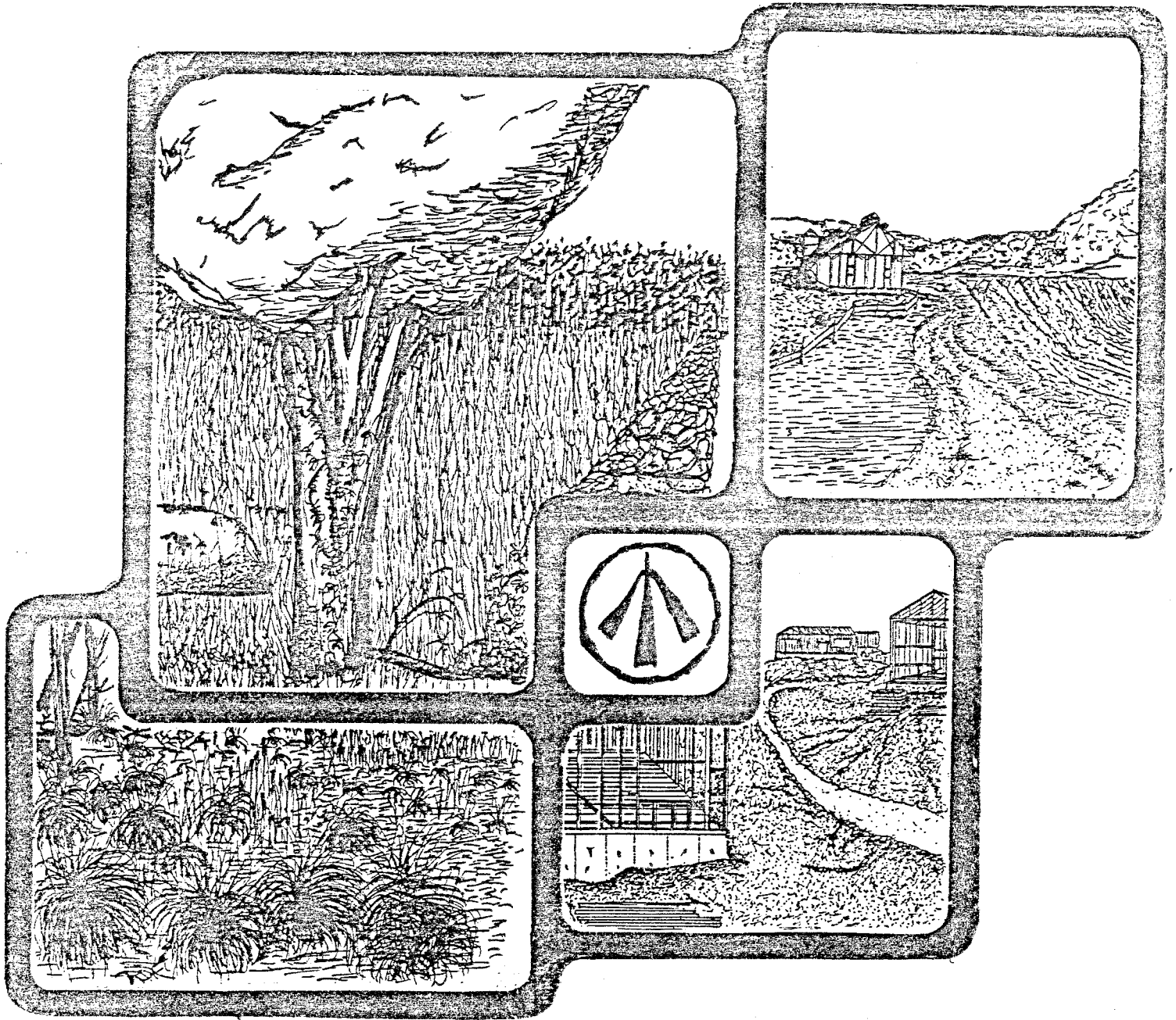


ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

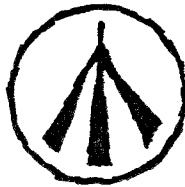


CAMP MURRAY EAST HAVEN, CT

KING'S MARK
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

**KING'S MARK
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT**

**CAMP MURRAY
EAST HAVEN, CT
NOVEMBER 1984**



**King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area
Environmental Review Team
Sackett Hill Road
Warren, Connecticut 06754**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team operates through the cooperative effort of a number of agencies and organizations including:

Federal Agencies

U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service

State Agencies

Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Health
University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service
Department of Transportation

Local Groups and Agencies

Litchfield County Soil and Water Conservation District
New Haven County Soil and Water Conservation District
Hartford County Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District
Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
Valley Regional Planning Agency
Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials
Southwestern Regional Planning Agency
Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency
Regional Planning Agency of South Central Connecticut
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
American Indian Archaeological Institute
Housatonic Valley Association

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FUNDING PROVIDED BY
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King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
Executive Committee Members

Victor Allan, Chairman, Bethlehem
Harold Feldman, Treasurer, Orange
Stephen Driver, Secretary, Redding
Leonard Assard, Bethlehem
Sam M. Chambliss, Ridgefield
David Hannon, Goshen

Irving Hart, New Hartford
Frederick Leavenworth, Woodbury
David Brooks, North Canaan
John Rabbe, East Hartford
Mrs. Julia Wasserman, Newtown
Donna Lindgren, Ansonia

STAFF ADMINISTRATION PROVIDED BY

Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

Dorothy Westerhoff, Chairman
Charles A. Boster, Director
Richard Lynn, ERT Coordinator
Jamie Whitman, ERT Cartographer
Jamie Whitman, Secretary

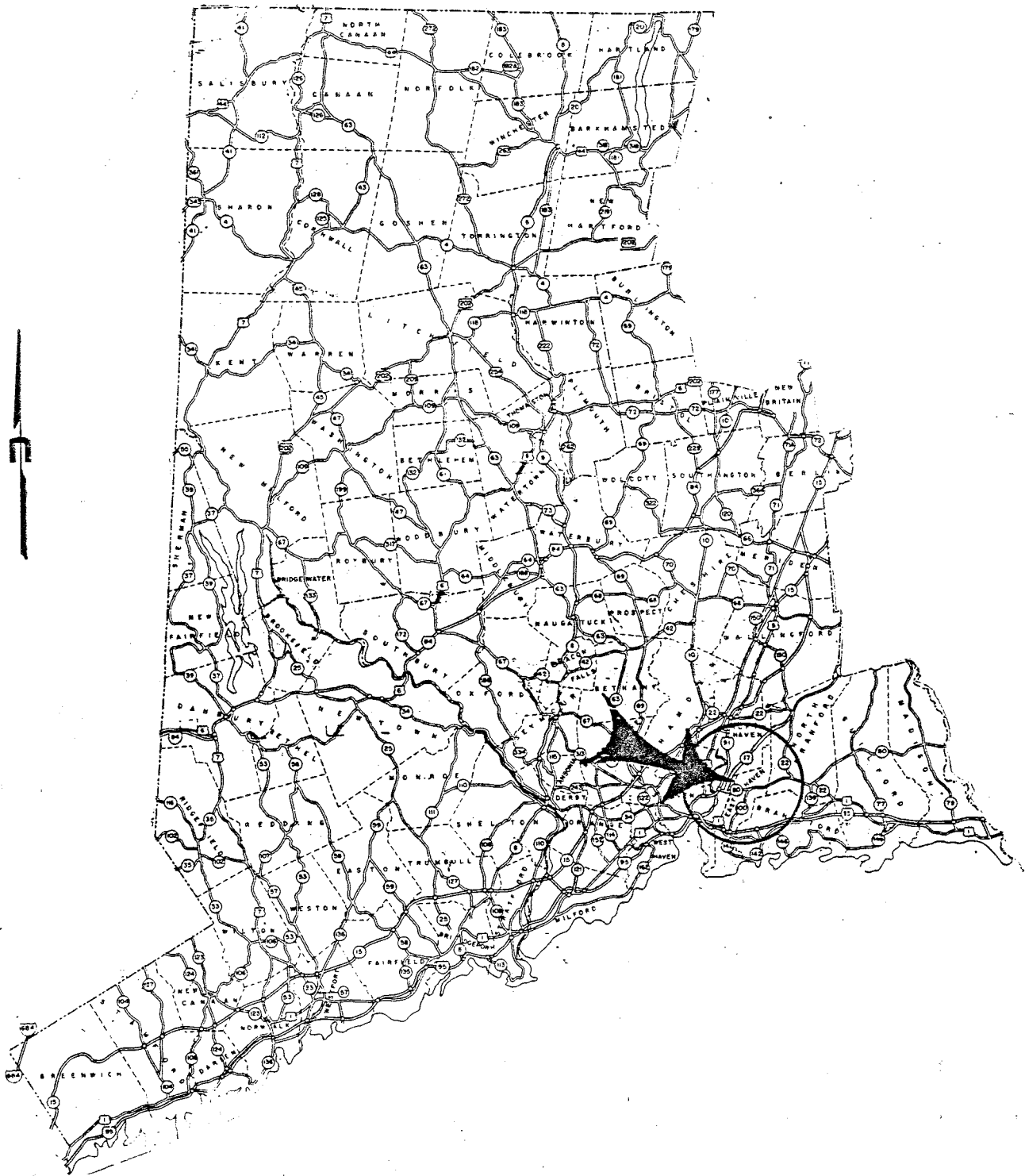
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LOCATION OF STUDY SITE



Scale 1" = 10 miles



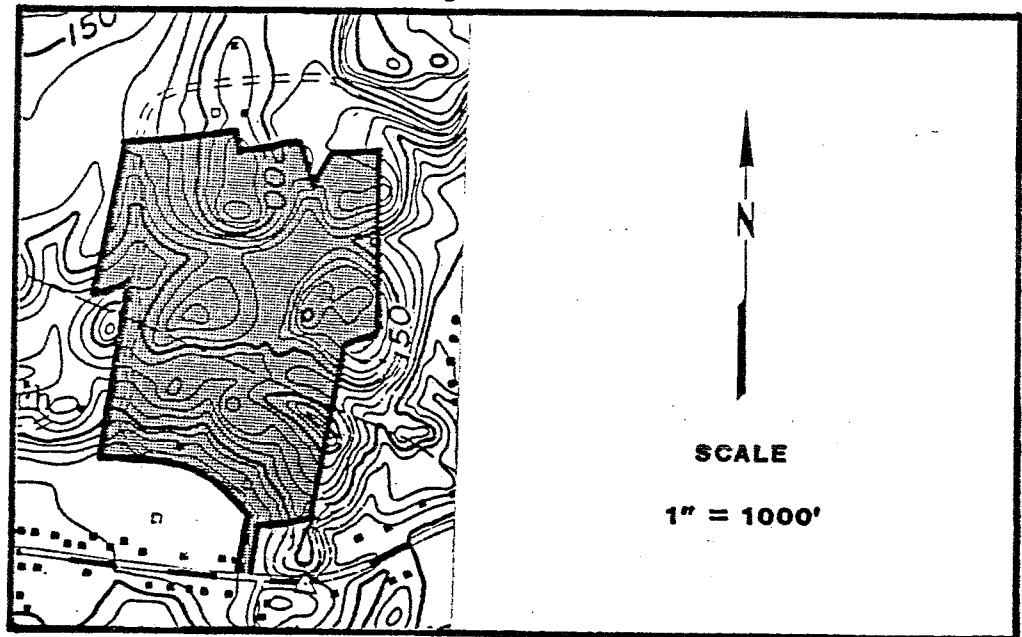
CAMP MURRAY

I. Introduction

Camp Murray is a + 52 acre camp owned and operated by the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. The camp is located just north of Route 80 on Sperry Lane. As shown in Figure 1, the site is characterized by a diverse landscape, ranging from nearly level wetlands to precipitous hillside slopes. Most of the property is wooded.

Figure 1

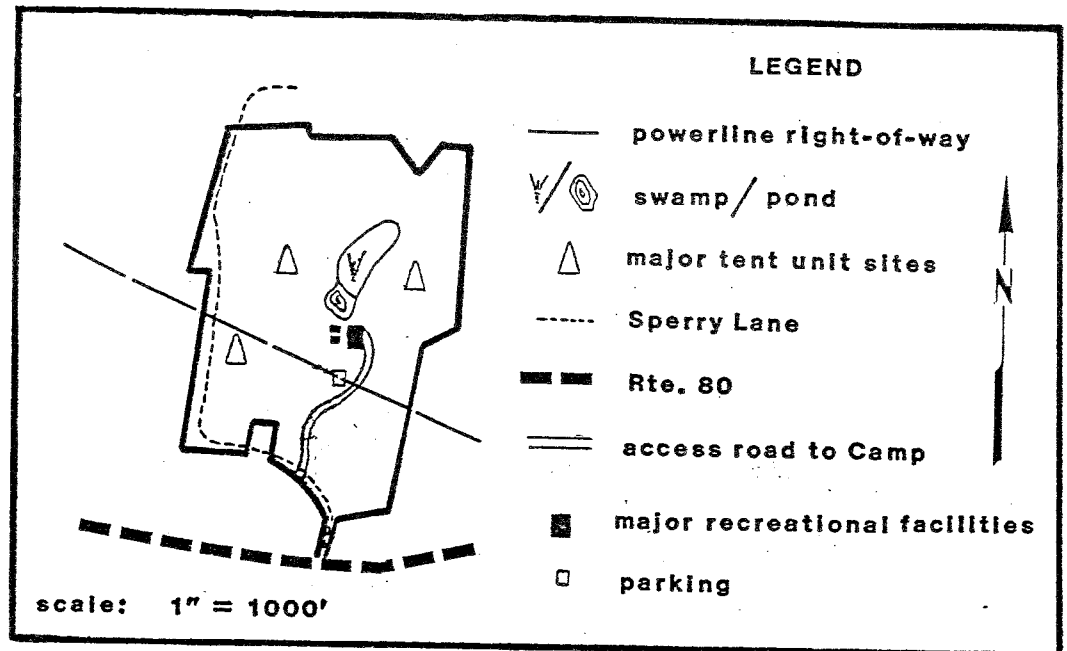
Topographic Map



Facilities at the camp include two pools, a chalet, a pond, a playfield, and numerous trails and tent platforms scattered throughout the wooded land. Most of the facilities at the camp are located in the central portion of the site just north of the power line right-of-way. Access to these facilities is readily available from a road which has been constructed off Sperry Lane (see Figure 2).

Figure 2

Site Features



The Connecticut Trails Council is interested in preparing a management plan for the wise use and development of the camp. To assist them in this effort, this environmental review was requested on their behalf by the Mayor of East Haven. The ERT was requested to provide a natural resource inventory of the camp and to highlight opportunities and limitations for forest management, wildlife management, passive recreational use, additional camp development, and nature study programs. This information was requested to serve as a basis for the preparation of a management plan by the Girl Scout Council.

The King's Mark Executive Committee considered the town of East Haven's request, and approved the project for review by the Team.

The ERT met and field reviewed the site on August 15, 1984. Team members participating on this project included: Richard M. Lynn, ERT Coordinator, King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D Area); Paul Rothbart, Wildlife Biologist, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; Donald Smith, Forester, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; William Warzecha, Geohydrologist, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; and Irene Winkler, Soil Conservationist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service.

Prior to the field review day, each team member was provided with a summary of the proposed study, a checklist of concerns to address, a topographic map, a soils map, and a soils limitation chart. During the ERT's field review, individual reports were prepared by each team member and forwarded to the ERT Coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report presents the team's findings. The report identifies the natural resource base of the site and discusses opportunities and limitations for land management. All conclusions and final decisions with regard to future

land use rest with the Girl Scout Council. It is hoped the information contained in this report will assist the Council in making environmentally sound decisions.

If any additional information is required, please contact Richard Lynn (868-7342), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area, Sackett Hill Road, Warren, Connecticut 06754.

II. Topography and Geology

TOPOGRAPHY

As shown by Figure 1 the camp's terrain is quite rugged, especially in the eastern and southern parts. The topography is controlled primarily by the underlying bedrock. Slopes on the site range from gentle to steep. Gentle slopes are found mainly on the tableland of small hills within the campground and throughout the wetland in the central portions.

Steep slopes occur on the sides of hills and are associated with areas where bedrock is at or near ground surface. Maximum and minimum elevations on the site are ± 220 feet and ± 70 feet above mean sea level, respectively.

A small pond is located at the southern end of the swamp in the central portion of the site.

GEOLOGY

Camp Murray is encompassed by the Branford topographic quadrangle. A surficial geologic map for the quadrangle was prepared by Richard Foster Flint and was subsequently published as Quadrangle Report (QR) No. 14 by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey. The bedrock geologic map for the quadrangle has not been completed to date. The Preliminary Bedrock Geologic Map of Connecticut by John Rodgers was referenced for this report.

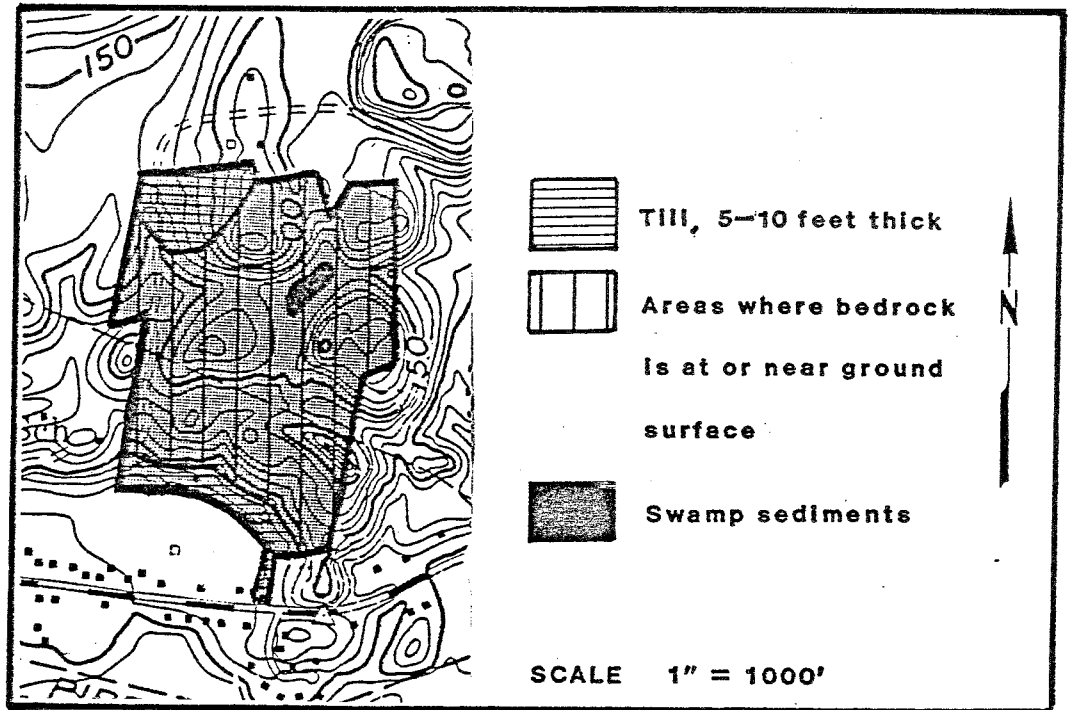
Surficial Geology

Most of the Camp is covered by a thin blanket of glacial sediment which was deposited directly from glacier ice as it advanced through the region $\pm 12,000$ years ago. This sediment, which is referred to as till, consists of a nonsorted, nonstratified mixture of clay, sand, silt, gravel and boulders. The upper few feet of till is usually very stony and loose, but where the till is thick, a tightly compact, finer grained till variety may be found below the looser material. The thickness of the till is generally shallow throughout the site (i.e., less than 5 feet). It is probably thickest in the northwest corner of the property; but even in this area, the till probably does not exceed much more than 10 feet.

Overlying till and/or bedrock in the central parts of the site are swamp sediments (see Figure 3). These sediments consist of silt, sand, and clay mixed with organic matter which have formed in poorly drained areas. This land area plays at least a small role in regulating streamflows, especially during periods of heavy rainfall. The wetland also helps to prevent the transmission of sediment

Figure 3

Surficial Geology



to downstream areas and protects water bodies from nutrients and other natural and man-made pollutants. In addition, the wetland provides habitat for wildlife and also rare and endangered species. Due to these important functions, the wetland at Camp Murray should be protected and preserved. The wetland could also be used for educational purposes to instruct campers in the importance of wetland areas.

Bedrock Geology

Numerous bedrock outcrops are visible throughout the site. According to Rodger's map, the most extensive bedrock type underlying or cropping out within the campground is classified as Talcott Basalt, a unit of lower Jurassic age, approximately 190 million years old. Most of the rock consists of a greenish gray to black, fine to medium grained basalt composed largely of pyroxene and plagioclase feldspar. A "basalt" is a volcanic rock (rocks formed from molten magma) which are dark colored. The light-colored mineral quartz is not present in the rock. The rock basalt is also referred to as "traprock". Because it is a very dense rock and because it does not weather very easily, basalt (traprock) is quarried in Connecticut and is used mainly for road construction purposes. When the rock is freshly broken, it is dark greenish gray to black; however, when it is exposed to weathering, it turns a reddish color. This is due to the presence of iron minerals contained in the rock. When trap rock is hit with a hammer, it often rings like a bell.

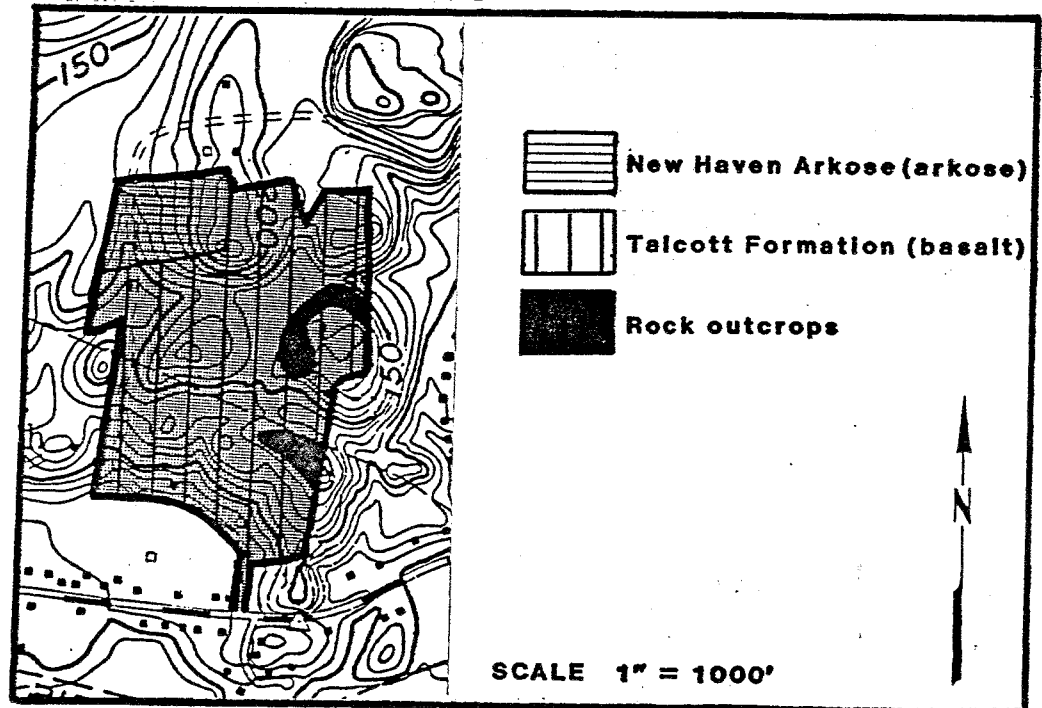
At the foot of some basalt outcrops on the property, particularly in the southern portions, are accumulations of angular-shaped boulders and cobbles, which have rolled downslope mainly by the forces of weathering and gravity. These deposits are referred to as "talus".

The other rock type on the property, underlying the northwest corner, is classified as New Haven Arkose. This rock unit is of upper Triassic age to possibly lower Jurassic age, approximately 190 to 200 million years old. This rock is common in central Connecticut and consists of a red, pink, and gray, coarse grained, poorly sorted arkose, interbedded with reddish-brown, feldspathic sandstones and micaceous siltstones. The term "arkose" refers to a sedimentary rock (sandstone) which contains a high percentage of the mineral feldspar. The mineral quartz is also found in high percentages in the rock. Bedrock exposures of the New Haven Arkose were not seen on the site. The reason being is that these rocks are much more susceptible to erosion than the dense, basaltic rocks which outcrop throughout the camp. As a result of hundreds of millions of years of exposure to weathering and erosion processes, these sedimentary rocks (rocks formed by the accumulation of sediment in water or from air) either break up to make sediments or decompose chemically.

From a geological standpoint, it appears that the site would be most favorable for passive recreational usage, such as hiking trails, cross country skiing, picnicking, etc.

Figure 4

Bedrock Geology



Bedrock outcrops, steep slopes, and limited flat areas would pose major problems in terms of active recreational uses such as playing fields.

III. Hydrology and Water Supply

Camp Murray lies entirely within the Farm River watershed. Surface runoff in the northcentral portion of the Camp drains downslope to the wetland area and small pond in the central part of the property. The outlet stream for the wetland/small pond traverses the site in a southward direction enroute to Farm River which is located just south of the site. Surface runoff in the eastern and western limits of the property flows from the higher portions of the site to lower areas where it is intercepted by intermittent drainage channels. The water is then transported by these small streams into Farm River.

The camp is currently served by a public water supply line. Should there be a desire to extend the water supply line to another portion of the camp, it seems likely that blasting of the bedrock would be required in order to install trenches for the water line.

Girl Scout officials stated on the review date that there is no desire at the present time to develop an on-site well at Camp Murray. Nevertheless, if for some reason there is a desire to develop an on-site well within the property in the future, the underlying bedrock would be the principal source of water. Camp Murray is located within the Quinnipiac River basin. According to Water Resources Bulletin #27 for this basin, a survey of 45 wells tapping basalt (which underlies most of camp) indicated a yield of 2 gallons per minute or more 95 percent of the time. On the other hand, the chances of tapping a high yielding well in the igneous rock is small based on this report. For example, of the 45 wells surveyed in the basin, only 10 percent had a yield of 30 gallons per minute or more. The sedimentary rocks (arkose) underlying the northwest corner are generally more productive than the igneous rocks (basalt) located throughout the remainder of the camp.

IV. Soils

SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

As shown in Figure 5, two general types of soil are present on the camp property. These are described below.

Map Units CsB, CyC

Cheshire Soils - The Cheshire soils are very deep, well drained loamy soils. The surface layer is a dark brown fine sandy loam. The subsoil is reddish brown friable fine sandy loam over reddish brown, friable, gravelly sandy loam and has discontinuous firm lenses. Slope ranges from 3 to 15 percent.

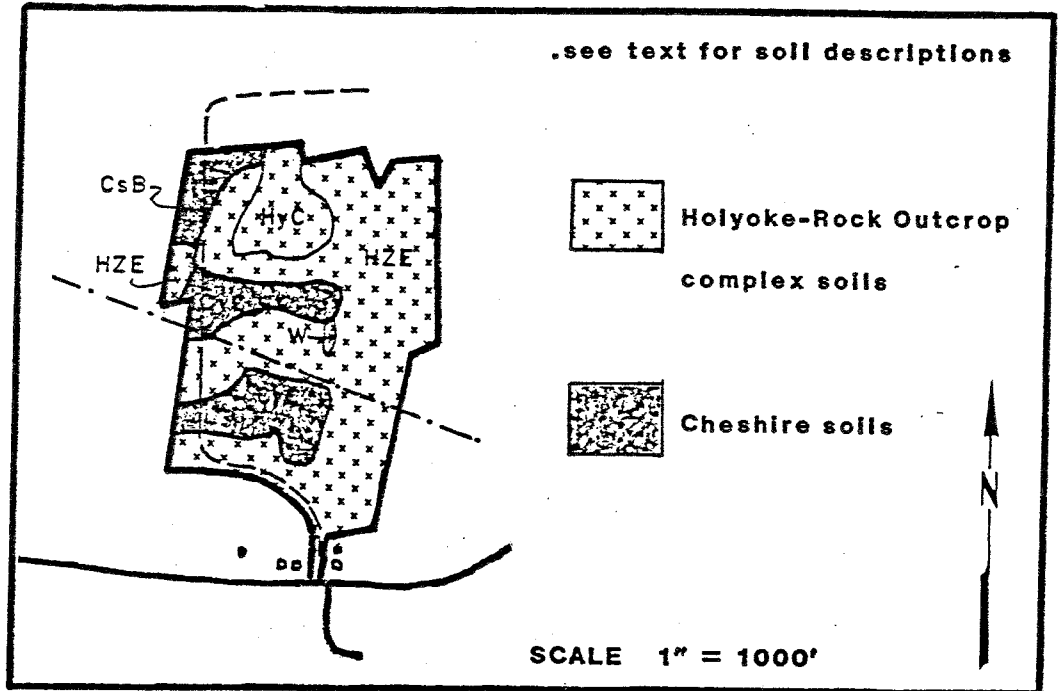
Permeability of Cheshire soils is moderate or moderately rapid in the surface layer, subsoil, and substratum. Run-off is medium.

These soils have good to fair potential for troop camp areas, paths and trails. The fair rating is given because large stones and moderately steep slopes may exist.

Cheshire soils have good potential for woodland wild-life management and good to fair potential for openland wild-life habitat management. The fair potential is given when slopes exceed 15 percent.

Figure 5

Soils Map



Map Units HyC, HZE

Holyoke-Rock Outcrop complex soils -

The Holyoke soils are shallow, well drained to excessively drained soils formed in a thin mantle of glacial till. Depth to bedrock ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Rock outcrops occupy approximately 25% of the landscape. The Holyoke soils and Rock Outcrops are so intermingled on the landscape that they could not be separated at the mapping scale used. Slopes range from 3 to 35%.

The surface layer is a very dark grayish brown silt loam. The subsoil is a dark brown silt loam and yellowish red gravelly silt loam overlying bedrock. Permeability is moderate. Runoff is very rapid.

Relief is affected by the underlying bedrock. The areas have a rough surface with rock outcrops, a few narrow intermittent drainageways and small wet depressions. Although the soils are rated as having moderate to severe limitations for camp areas, paths and trails (limitations due to steep slopes and large stones), a trail system has been developed and blazed that utilizes short steep slopes, valleys, ridges and knolls very effectively throughout the camp property.

Holyoke-Rock outcrop complex soils have poor potential for openland and woodland wildlife habitat management.

A small pond and marsh occupies a depression in the landscape. This area provides good potential for wetland wildlife and shallow water habitat management. The trail system lies adjacent to this wetland environment and provides campers access for a wetland management study area.

EROSION CONTROL

The trail system that exists, troop camp areas and tent platforms have been planned with an awareness of soil erosion control and prevention.

Steps and water bars have been used effectively to divert surface water flow off of the paths and trails. The paths remain stable due to these practices. Wet areas are presently being crossed safely. Pallets lie across the wet areas and drainageways. Hikers cross on the pallets, stay dry and do not disturb the wet areas. This practice effectively protects the wetter soils and provides hikers with stable footing. With the construction of any new trails or tent unit sites, similar erosion control measures should be implemented.

V. Vegetation

Camp Murray totals 52 acres in size. By aerial photo interpretation 3.5 acres are non-forested. The remaining 48.5 acres may be divided into 4 vegetative types (see Figure 6). Each of these types is discussed below.

STAND DESCRIPTIONS

Stand #1. Hemlock/Hardwood, 4 acres - This over-stocked stand is composed of fair quality, pole to small sawlog-sized hemlock with scattered sawtimber sized red, black, and white oaks. These trees are growing at a fair rate on a fair quality growing site and are approximately 50-60 years old.

The understory here is very sparse due to the dense crown cover. Hemlock, red maple, beech, and black birch saplings can be found.

The ground cover here again is very limited due to the overstory being dense. In areas where light reaches the forest floor scattered grasses, low bush blueberry, and some poison ivy can be found.

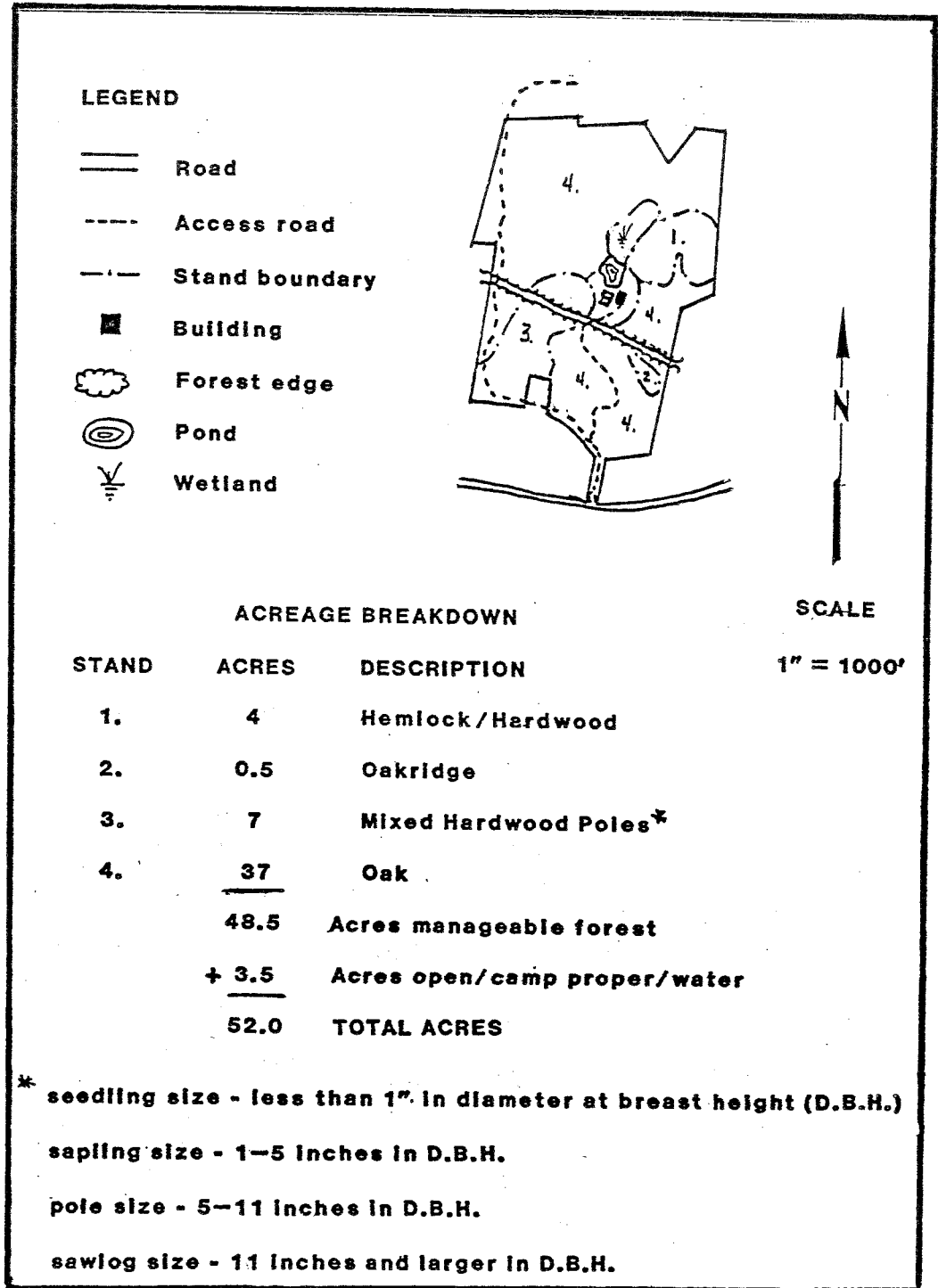
Removal of the hardwood overstory here would serve to promote hemlock growth on a marginal site. Additionally, removal of hardwoods overhanging the softwoods will help protect the hemlock from defoliation by the gypsy moth.

The material to be removed would be saleable as sawtimber, with the leftover topwood saleable as firewood. A sale of this type would require the services of a professional forester in marking those stems to be removed and in managing the sale.

The acreage involved, however, may be too small to interest a logger unless the proposed harvest in Stand 4 is also performed.

Figure 6

Forest Stands



Stand #2. Oak Ridge, 0.5 acres - This area is characterized by shallow, droughty soils and frequent exposure of ledge. Site quality here is very poor. The overstory found here consists of poor quality scarlet oak, chestnut oak, red maple, and beech of pole to small sawlog size. The understorey consists of mountain laurel, dogwood, sassafras, and viburnum. The groundcover here generally consists of grasses, lowbush blueberry, huckleberry, and poison ivy.

Management here should be of low priority. When management activities occur, the aim of management should be to convert this type into a softwood type which can better utilize the minimal amounts of water and nutrients found here.

Stand #3. Mixed Hardwood (poles), 7 acres - This well-stocked stand is composed of medium quality, pole-sized hickory, red maple, red oak, black oak, black birch, and ash. These trees are growing at a good rate on a medium quality growing site and are approximately 30-40 years old.

The understory species encountered include dogwood, maple-leaved viburnum, and hardwood saplings.

The ground cover here includes poison ivy, virginia creeper, and scattered grasses.

This stand is somewhat dense and could benefit from a light thinning for cordwood.

Stand #4. Oak, 37 acres - This well-stocked stand is composed of medium quality, sawtimber-sized red oak, black oak, scarlet oak, chestnut, pole and scattered hickory, red maple, and black birch. These trees are growing at a fair rate on a fair quality growing site and are approximately 60-80 years old.

The understory species encountered include dogwood, maple leaved viburnum, witch-hazel, sassafras, brambles, red maple and black birch saplings, and scattered hemlocks of sapling to pole size.

The ground cover here includes goldenrod, aster, wood-nettle, lily-of-the-valley, may apple, wild geranium, sensitive fern, New York fern, Christmas fern, virginia creeper, grapevine, and scattered grasses.

An improvement cut which would be aimed at the removal of the poorest quality stems, overmature stems, and salvageable dead oaks would yield an improvement in overall health and vigor. Topwood could be sold as firewood.

Large, dead hemlocks and oaks should be cut down as soon as possible as they represent a hazard to hikers from falling limbs, etc.

SPECIES DIVERSITY

As indicated above, a variety of vegetation types exist at Camp Murray. While the DEP's Natural Diversity Data Base does not have any record of rare or endangered species on this site, the site does have the potential for supporting such species. A thorough cataloging of the vegetation on the site, over a minimum one-year period of time, might identify such species. Such an inventory would be desirable from both an educational and scientific standpoint. The Girl Scout Council may therefore wish to consider securing the services of a competent biologist to prepare such an inventory.

VI. Wildlife

WILDLIFE HABITAT TYPES

The Camp Murray property (+ 52 acres) may be divided into three major wildlife habitat types. These are mixed hardwood forest, wetlands, and openland.

Mixed Hardwoods

This habitat type is dominated by a red oak-maple composition with white oak, hickory, black birch, ash, beech, and witch hazel present. Several scattered pockets of hemlock and cedar are distributed within this type. Understory vegetation consists of viburnum, sassafras, spicebush, false Solomon's seal, grape, and various ferns, and grasses. The hemlock understory is sparse.

Wildlife typically utilizing such sites include deer, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, fox, raccoon, ruffed grouse, and numerous non-game species.

Wetlands

The wetland habitat consists of a marsh (+ 3.5 acres) comprised of cattails, dogwood, pond lillies, rushes, sedges, spicebush and grasses; and a small open pond with pond lillies and duck weeds.

A great variety of wildlife frequent wetland areas including woodducks, mallards, egrets, herons, raccoon, deer, red-winged blackbirds, various amphibians and reptiles and a multitude of other non-game species.

Openland

This habitat type consists of several fields which are used either for athletics or maintained as passive sites. Vegetation consists of grass on the athletic fields with some shrub encroachment. The passive fields consist of scattered cedar, oak, cherry, birch, sumac, ferns, goldenrod, and grass.

Due to extensive human presence the athletic fields have limited value to wildlife. However, because of their proximity to forest cover, vegetative diversity, and pockets of shrubs they do benefit some wildlife, particularly birds such as mourning doves, robins, sparrows, and rufous-sided towhees. The passive fields provide habitat diversity essential to numerous wildlife species such as deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, raccoon, and various birds.

DISCUSSION AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In a small but heavily developed and highly populated state like Connecticut where available habitat continues to decline on a daily basis, it is critical to maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat. The following practices will help to improve conditions within the various habitat types.

Forestland Guidelines

1. Create a diversity of habitat by making small irregularly shaped openings ($\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 acre) in an east to west direction (to obtain maximum sunlight). This will encourage fruit producing shrubs valuable to many types

of wildlife. Edges of openings should be feathered (gradually blended into the forest type).

2. Pile brush along edges of openings for small mammals and birds.
3. Maintain 5 to 7 snag trees per acre as they provide nesting and escape cover.
4. If a timber harvest is planned, these practices should be followed:
 - a. Encourage mast producing species (oak, hickory, beech).
 - b. Leave 5 to 7 snags per acre.
 - c. Exceptionally tall trees are utilized by raptors for nesting and perching and should be encouraged.
 - d. Trees with vines (berry producers) should be encouraged.
 - e. Create small openings with feathered edges.
 - f. Construct small brush piles.

Wetland Guidelines

1. Leave buffer strips (100 feet) of natural vegetation along wetland areas to help filter and trap silt and sediments which might otherwise reach the site.
2. Placement of two wood duck boxes at the marsh.
3. Development of potholes (3-5 feet deep) within marsh to insure year round water.

Openland Guidelines

1. Maintain some shrub component within the grass recreation fields.
2. A fifteen foot uncut border should be left where grass fields abut forest. This border should be mowed every three to five years (after August 1). These uncut borders are valuable to many wildlife species.
3. Passive fields should be cleared every three to five years to maintain an early vegetative successional stage.
4. Bluebird boxes should be erected at field edges.

It should be recognized that for optimum wildlife habitat potential, a variety of successional stage vegetation should be encouraged. Proper maintenance of openings, field borders, aspen releases, etc. need to be conducted periodically to preserve established habitat.

Trail System

The trailguide pamphlet prepared by Dr. Karl and Joy Tolonen is well written and should prove very useful in educating campers about the natural history of the site. If any of the above management recommendations are carried out, they could be added to the guide (i.e., small openings, brush piles, bluebird and wood duck boxes). Discussion should center around vegetation succession and its value in wildlife management. The trail could also use brushing back ten to twenty feet to create a feathered edge. Herbicides may have to be considered for brush control if manpower is limited. Krenite is a bud inhibitor which is applied to foliage approximately one to two months prior to leaf fall, with control of vegetation occurring the following growing season. This will eliminate any unpleasant brown appearance along the trails.

Habitat development projects could also be used to provide excellent educational benefits for youth groups. Examples include:

1. Install bluebird boxes along with cataloging yearly nest box results.
2. Install wood duck boxes along with cataloging yearly results.
3. Numerous before and after studies to document wildlife diversity and abundance.
 - a. Bird transects
 - b. Small mammal trapping
 - c. Amphibian and reptile sampling
 - d. Vegetation transects and photographic plots
4. Have youth groups do wood duck box installation, trail clearing, construction of brush piles, etc.

If any further assistance on wildlife related matters is required, the Girl Scout Council is encouraged to contact Paul Rothbart at the Western District DEP Headquarters (435-0226).

VII. - Land Use Potential

Camp Murray is an attractive natural area. The diversity of landscapes and vegetation types present on the property provide a rich opportunity for hiking, birdwatching, nature study and camping. Access to the site is good.

As previously discussed in this report, the property has potential for 1) improved forest management, 2) improved wildlife habitat management, and 3) expanded nature education activities.

The soils and moderate to steep slopes at the camp do not lend themselves to additional development of an extensive nature (e.g., ballfields, large buildings, etc.). Nevertheless, the soils do have potential for supporting additional hiking trails and possibly some tent unit sites. In particular, the land to the northwest and northeast of the wetland on the site has potential for supporting additional hiking trails and possibly some tent unit sites. The soils are steep and erodible in this area, however, and care should therefore be taken in designing and constructing any trails and/or structures.

The land to the southwest of the pools and chalet, just east of the "Boy's Unit" site, also has potential for additional tent unit sites. Approximately 5 acres of land within this area is mapped as CyC on the soils map (see Figure 5). This soil has good potential for the development of additional unit sites if the sites are carefully located to avoid the steepest and rockiest areas. Within the Camp Murray property, this southernmost CyC soil area appears to have the greatest potential for additional tent unit site development.

Currently, hiking trails are available around the pond, on the knoll to the northeast of the chalet, and on the slope in the southeastern quarter of the property. A rough trail is also located to the northwest of the pond. Opportunities exist for expanding this trail network as mentioned earlier, particularly in the northeastern, northwestern, and southwestern portions of the site. To assist in both maintaining existing trails and creating new trails, the following guidelines are offered for consideration:

1. Trails should follow the existing contours as much as possible to minimize grades. This will keep trail erosion to a minimum and reduce trail requirements for erosion and sediment control.

2. All trees, shrubs and fallen timber should be removed for a distance of 2 feet each side of the trail centerline. Stumps should be cut close to the ground. All protruding limbs should also be removed for a distance of 2 feet each side of the trail centerline. Where other than foot traffic is planned, protruding limbs should be removed to a height of 10 feet. Limbs removed should be cut off as close to the trunk as possible.
3. All undesirable material such as soil high in organic matter, stumps and large stones should be removed from the tread area of the trail.
4. The trail surface should be finished to a uniform firm surface and be free of loose material.

An excellent reference on trail construction and maintenance is the Appalachian Mountain Club's "Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance" (available from the AMC at 5 Joy Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108 for \$6.95).

Consideration should be given by the Girl Scout Council to identifying and posting the boundaries of the property. This will help protect the property from trespass and theft (both accidental and willful) and can also help serve to keep the campers on the site.

In conclusion, Camp Murray is an attractive camp in a pleasant environmental setting. Opportunities exist for enhanced forest and wildlife management, expanded nature study activities, and additional hiking trails and tent unit sites. The Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts Inc. is encouraged to consider these opportunities while developing a long range management plan for the property.

* * * * *

ABOUT THE TEAM

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of environmental professionals drawn together from a variety of federal, state, and regional agencies. Specialists on the team include geologists, biologists, foresters, climatologists, soil scientists, landscape architects, recreation specialists, engineers, and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the aegis of the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area - a 47 town area in western Connecticut.

As a public service activity, the team is available to serve towns and developers within the King's Mark Area --- free of charge.

PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

The Environmental Review Team is available to help towns and developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. To date, the ERT has been involved in the review of a wide range of significant activities including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrial developments, and recreation/open space projects.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the project site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

REQUESTING A REVIEW

Environmental Reviews may be requested by the chief elected official of a municipality or the chairman of an administration agency such as planning and zoning, conservation, or inland wetlands. Requests for reviews should be directed to the Chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District. This request letter must include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner/developer allowing the team to enter the property for purposes of review, and a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the team should address. When this request is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the King's Mark RC&D Executive Committee, the team will undertake the review. At present, the ERT can undertake two reviews per month.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact your local Soil Conservation District Office or Richard Lynn (868-7342), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area, P.O. Box 30, Warren, Connecticut 06754.