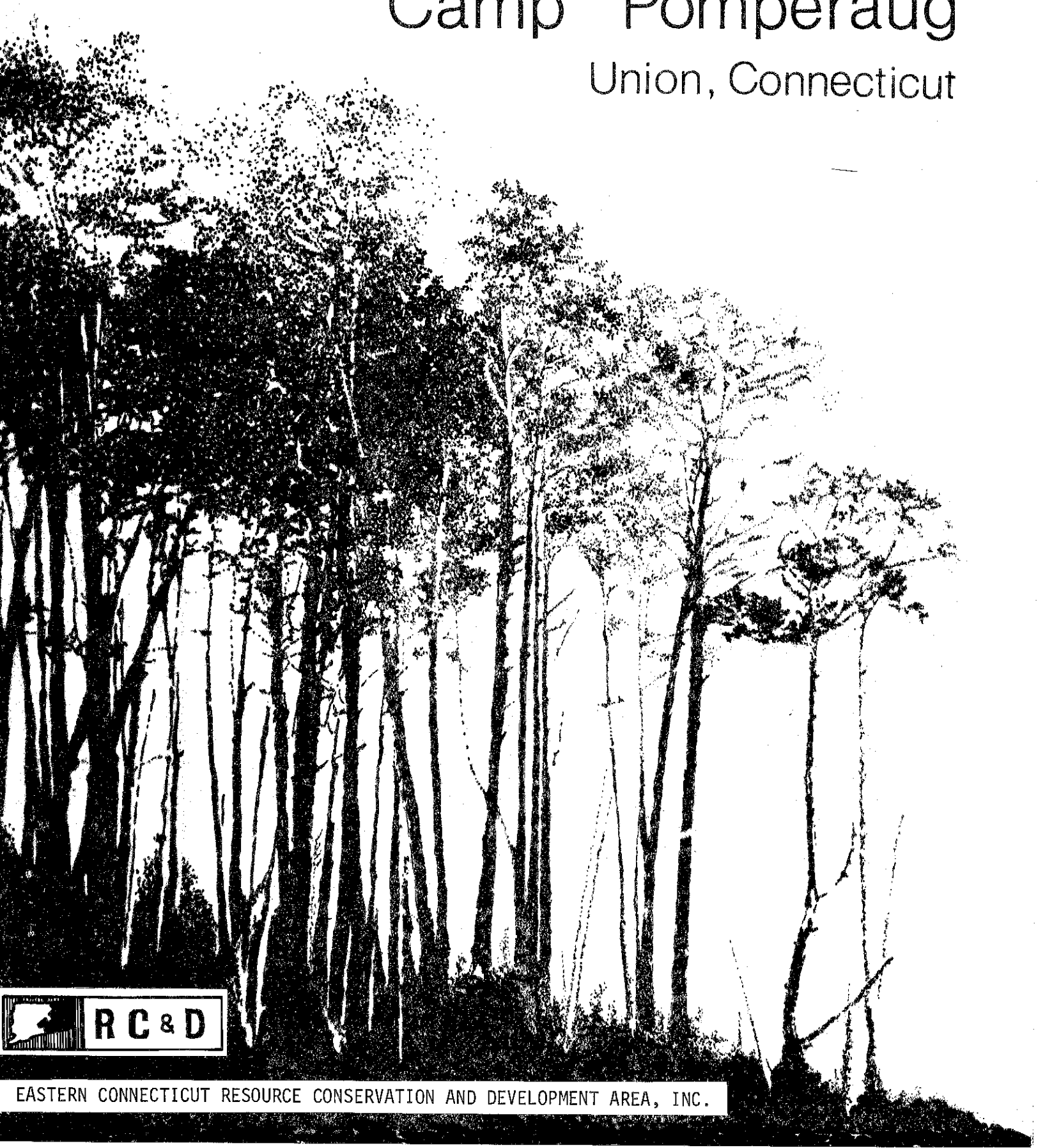


Environmental Review Team Report

Camp Pomperaug

Union, Connecticut

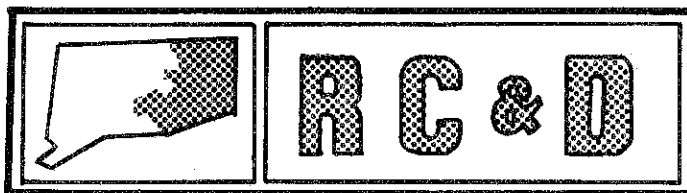


EASTERN CONNECTICUT RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

Environmental Review Team
Report
on

Camp Pomperaug
Union, Connecticut

November 1978

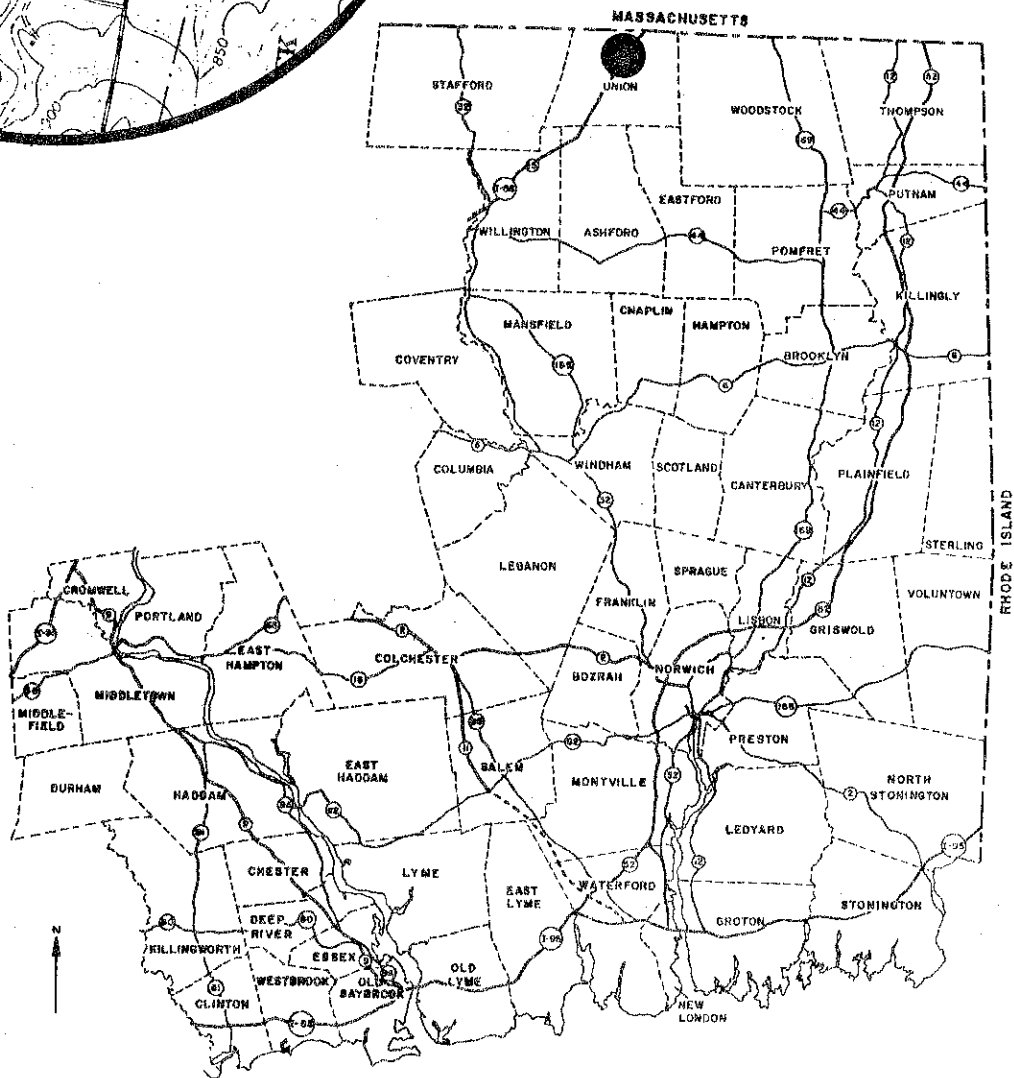
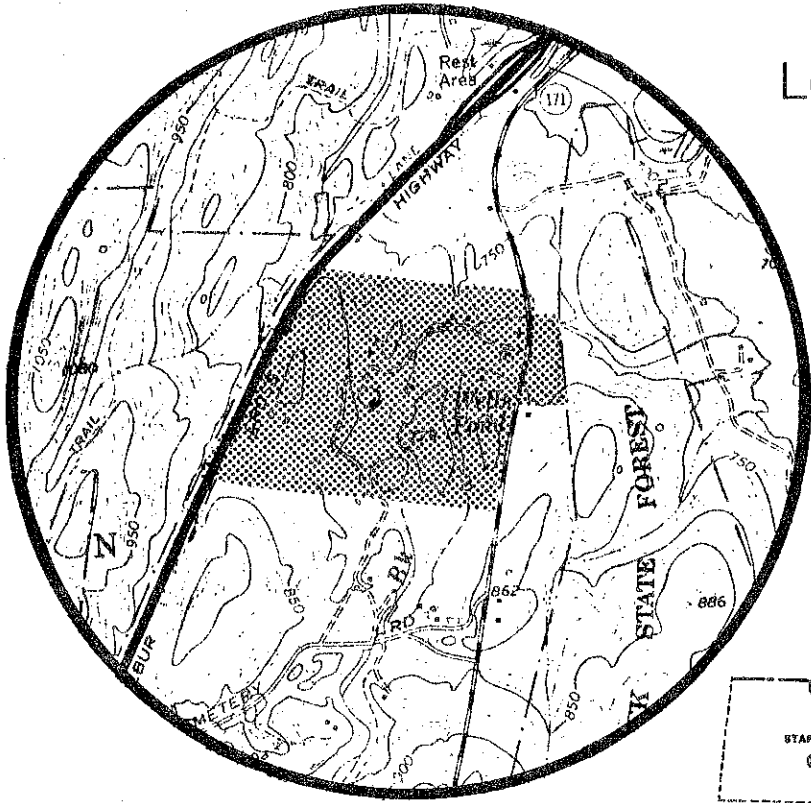


eastern connecticut resource conservation & development area

environmental review team
139 boswell avenue
norwich, connecticut 06360

Location of Study Site

CAMP POMPERAUG
UNION, CONNECTICUT



EASTERN CONNECTICUT
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
CAMP POMPERAUG
UNION, CONNECTICUT

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the Board of Selectmen to the Tolland County Soil and Water Conservation District (S&WCD). The S&WCD referred this request to the Eastern Connecticut Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Executive Committee for their consideration and approval. The request was approved and the measure was reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The soils of the site were mapped by a soil scientist from the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Reproductions of the soil survey map, a table of soils limitations for certain land uses and a topographic map showing property boundaries were distributed to all Team members prior to their review of the site.

The ERT that field-checked the site consisted of the following personnel: Timothy Dodge, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service (SCS); Tom Ladny, Soil Conservationist, SCS; Don Smith, Forester, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Michael Zizka, Geologist, DEP; David Miller, Climatologist, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Connecticut; and Jeanne Shelburn, ERT Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area.

The Team met and field checked the site on Thursday, May 4, 1978. Reports from each contributing Team member were sent to the ERT Coordinator for review and summarization for the final report.

This report is not meant to compete with private consultants. As requested by the Town, this report, which identifies the existing resource base of Camp Pomperaug, shall constitute the environmental assessment portion of the Town's open space application for Federal Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service funds to assist in the acquisition of this property.

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area Committee hopes that this report will be of value and assistance in making any decisions regarding this particular site.

If you require any additional information, please contact: Ms. Jeanne Shelburn, Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, 139 Boswell Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360, 889-2324.

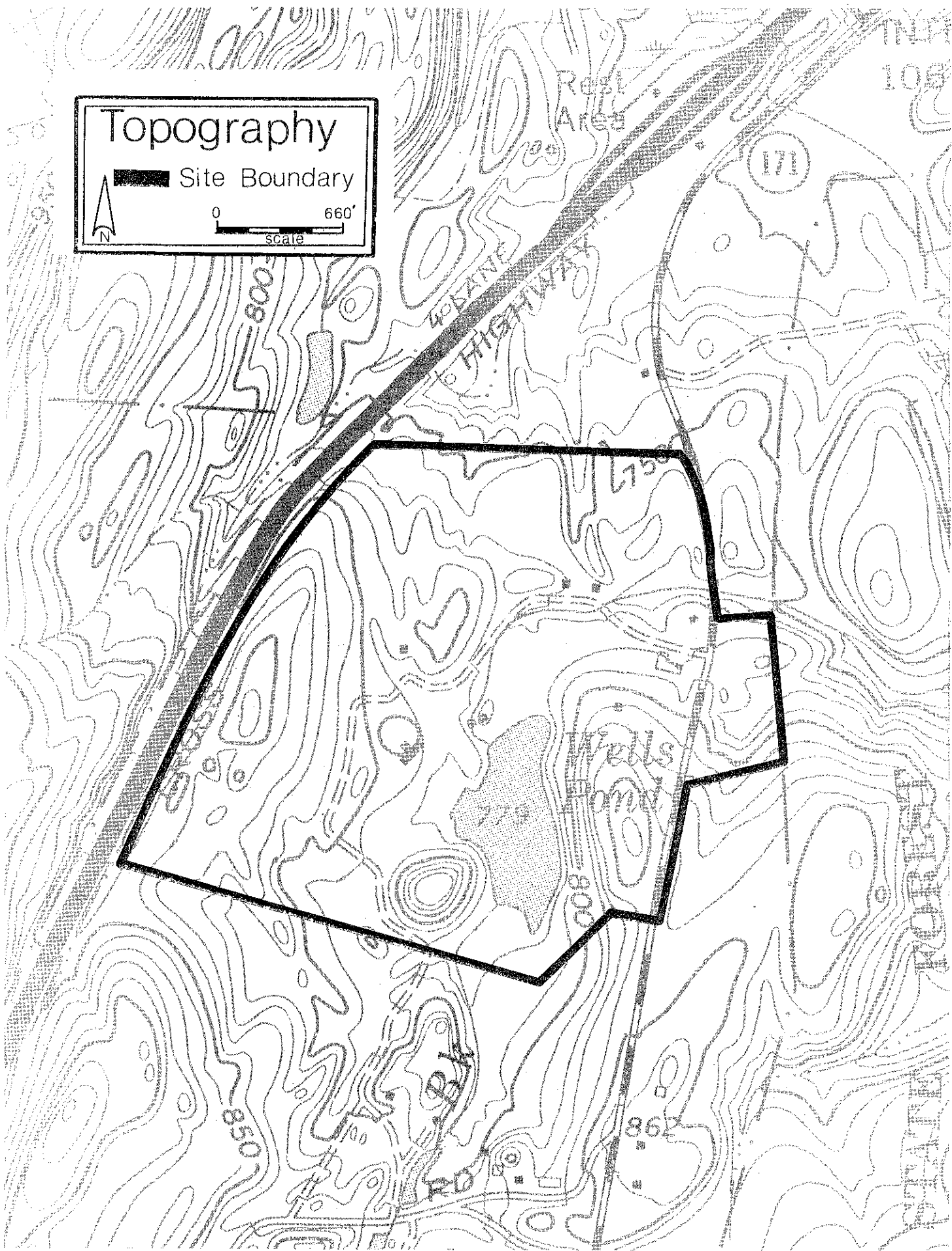
Topography

■ Site Boundary

N

0 660'

scale



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The Town of Union is interested in acquiring the Pomperaug Scout Camp, a 175 acre developed camping facility, as an open space and recreation area for the town. The board of Selectmen feel that this is an ideal opportunity for the town to acquire an open space area for future generations which will not require excessive development or renovative expenditures. The site is centrally located in the Town, near some of the State Forest holdings. It is presently equipped with several cabins for year-round use, a large building, once used as a cafeteria, numerous three sided structures for summer camping, fireplaces, hiking trails and a lake for water sports.

As the Town has no planner and is not affiliated with any regional planning agency, it is difficult to assess how the acquisition of this parcel is interrelated with other recreation-oriented projects or the comprehensive planning efforts of other agencies. It appears that Union has no other potential recreation/open space acquisitions pending due to the large number of state park and state forest holdings in the town.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

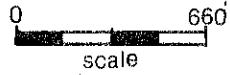
In general, the Camp Pomperaug property features an irregular, hilly topography that was formed by the deposition of glacier-transported materials on a series of northeast-southwest-trending bedrock ridges. Hills at the western and eastern borders represent the highest elevations on the property. Between these hills, the glacial debris forms several small knolls and basins. The largest knoll, which is located at the southern border of the property, is approximately 50 feet high and 500 feet in diameter.

SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE GEOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

The bedrock underlying and cropping out on the Camp Pomperaug property is mapped and described in U.S. Geological Survey publication GQ-1320, entitled "Bedrock Geologic Map of the Wales Quadrangle, Massachusetts and Connecticut", by V.M. Seiders (1976). A portion of that map is reproduced in the accompanying illustration. Most outcrops on the property consist of a granular gneiss that contains the minerals quartz, feldspar, biotite, pyroxene, hornblende, and garnet. This rock type underlies most of the property. Elsewhere, other gneisses, schists, amphibolites, and granulites underlie the oxides, sillimanite, apatite, and cordierite are contained within the various units. Approximately 3 miles northeast of the camp, in the town of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, graphite formerly was mined from veins of pegmatite within a gneissic unit. The gneiss was similar in many respects to the bedrock on the camp property. Although graphite is known to be concentrated in at least one bedrock layer, it is unlikely that the small area of the camp contains a deposit that is unique or that in itself would constitute an economic source of the mineral.

INTL
106

Bedrock Geology



Rest Area

171




40 BANE
HIGHWAY




800

779

FOREST

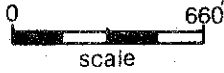
PLAIN

-  Quartzofeldspathic gneiss and sillimanite schist
-  Granular gneiss
-  Graphite-rich schist

-  Amphibolite and pyroxene granulite
-  Iron-rich gneiss
-  Rusty weathering graphitic sillimanite schist

INT 108

Surficial Geology



scale

Rest Area

171

40 PLANE HIGHWAY

800

779

PIEDMONT FOREST



Additional pond area



Artificial fill (dam)



Swamp and floodplain sediments



Kame deposit (sand and small cobble to pebble gravel)



Coarse sandy and gravelly deposits



Till, generally thicker than 10 feet



Till, generally thinner than 10 feet



Bedrock ridge with very thin cover of overburden

The surficial geology of the property, as mapped following a brief reconnaissance, is shown in an accompanying illustration. Most of the surficial materials were produced by glacial action. Ice overriding bedrock ridges abraded, plucked, and transported rock fragments. As the ice passed through the camp area, it deposited some of the debris as a poorly sorted (i.e. containing a wide range of grain sizes) mass that is known as till. Part of the ice, however, apparently became cut off from the main glacial body and remained in the bedrock basin that forms the central part of the camp property. As the ice melted, streams carried silt and clay away from the site and left relatively well-sorted deposits of sand and gravel. The large knoll at the southern boundary of the camp area is probably a kame (a body of sand and gravel that was deposited by meltwater plunging through a hole in the wasting ice block).

The irregularity of the preglacial bedrock surface on the property undoubtedly influenced the local movement of glacier ice. Hence, while sand and gravel may form the bulk of the overburden in one area, it would not be unusual to find small deposits of till mixed in with it. Conversely, lenses of sand and gravel may be found within a larger deposit of till.

SOILS

The soils found on the Pomperaug Scout Camp site fall into the following categories:

- 1) The Brimfield series (BpC, Bp.D, BNC) consists of well-drained to somewhat excessively drained, shallow brown podzolic soils. These soils developed in a thin mantle of glacial till derived principally from brown mica schist that weathers to reddish brown or strong brown, or from residuum of brown mica schist. Fine sandy loam is the dominant texture, but light silt loam and sandy loam are within the range of the series. Bedrock exposures range from few to many and occupy from about 5 to 50 percent of the surface. Development limitations are related to slope and stoniness.
- 2) The Charlton series (ChB, CrD, CrC) consists of well drained soils developed in upland till normally deeper than five feet. These soils are moderately permeable in the subsoil but slowly to slowly permeable layers may be present below 60 inches. The water table normally is below 60 inches during most of the year. The Charlton soils are naturally stony and contain few to many stones throughout the soil. Most use problems are related to slopes and stoniness.
- 3) The Hinckley series (HkC) are excessively drained soils developed in stratified sandy, gravelly and cobbly water deposits. These deposits, normally deeper than 10 feet, are located on undulating to rolling terrace topography above the present overflow of large streams. They have rapid to very rapid permeability in the subsoil. The water table is below 60 inches during most of the year. Most use problems are related to texture, droughtiness and rapid to very rapid permeability.
- 4) The Leicester, Ridgebury, Whitman series (Lg) is made up of poorly and very poorly drained soils. These soils occur in an intricate pattern and separation of each individual soil was not practical on the scale surveyed. Each

mapping unit may contain an individual soil or percentage of each of the three soils. They are similar to the soil described for their series. More than 3 percent of the surface is covered with stones.

- 5) The Paxton series (PeD, PbB, PbC) are well drained soils developed in fine sandy loam mantles, about 24 inches deep, over a hardpan. The hardpan normally extends below 40 inches deep. These soils, normally deeper than 10 feet, occur in rolling uplands. The slowly to very slowly permeable hardpan restricts internal drainage. A perched water table may occur above the hardpan in the wet seasons and after heavy rains, but is normally below 40 inches during most of the year. Paxton soils are naturally stony and contain few to many stones throughout the soil. Most use problems are related to the slowly to very slowly permeable hardpan, stoniness and slope.

The soil survey map and the accompanying charts indicating soil limitations for certain land uses further distinguish the soil types and their potential for the listed land uses. As the detailed soils map provided here is an enlargement from the original 1,320'/inch to 660'/inch scale, the soil boundary lines shown, should not be viewed as absolute boundaries but rather as guidelines to the distribution of soil types on the property. The soils map along with "Soil Survey Tolland County, Connecticut" (USDA-SCS 1966), can serve as an educational tool regarding the identification and interpretation of soils.

CLIMATE/AIR QUALITY

The general climate of the site is typical of the northeast hills of Connecticut. The following information was taken from "The Climate of Connecticut, Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin No.99".

Mean Annual Temperature - 47°F
Average Date of Last Freezing in Spring - May 15
Average Date of First Freeze in Fall - Sept. 30
Average Heating Degree Days - 6,800
Mean Annual Precipitation - 44 inches
Mean Annual Snowfall - 60 inches.

The proximity of I-86 makes the current air pollution loads at the site quite high. The pollution received by the site is higher in the winter than in summer due to the prevailing northwest winter winds.

WATER RESOURCES

Wells Brook, the only significant stream on the property, drains most of the site. Runoff through the property originates in a drainage area of approximately 1,318 acres, or about 2.1 square miles. The drainage area lies mostly to the south of the camp and includes several intermittent streams that are tributary to Wells Brook. A relatively small area near the western and northern borders of the property drains into artificial channels along Interstate Route 86.

Recreational development is not likely to alter the hydrologic characteristics of the property significantly. The amount of effluent discharged into the overbur-

den by septic systems would probably represent less than one percent of the amount of streamflow in Wells Brook, even during dry periods. For instance, assuming that 95 percent of the Wells Brook drainage area is composed of till and 5 percent of stratified sand and gravel, it can be estimated that flow in Wells Brook exceeds 55,000 gallons per day 95 percent of the time (source; Connecticut Water Resources Bulletin No. 11). Hence, water quality in the brook should not be noticeably affected by septic system leachate. Of course, water quality in the pond on the property could be damaged by a septic system that functioned poorly or that was located too close to the pond. However, much of the overburden is seemingly well-suited to treatment of effluent, and conscientious septic system design should be no problem in many areas. The camp's present manager reported that a new leaching field had been installed recently to service the large stone house near the pond. It is not known whether this system, designed for seasonal use, would be adequate to handle the increased recreational traffic from new town facilities.

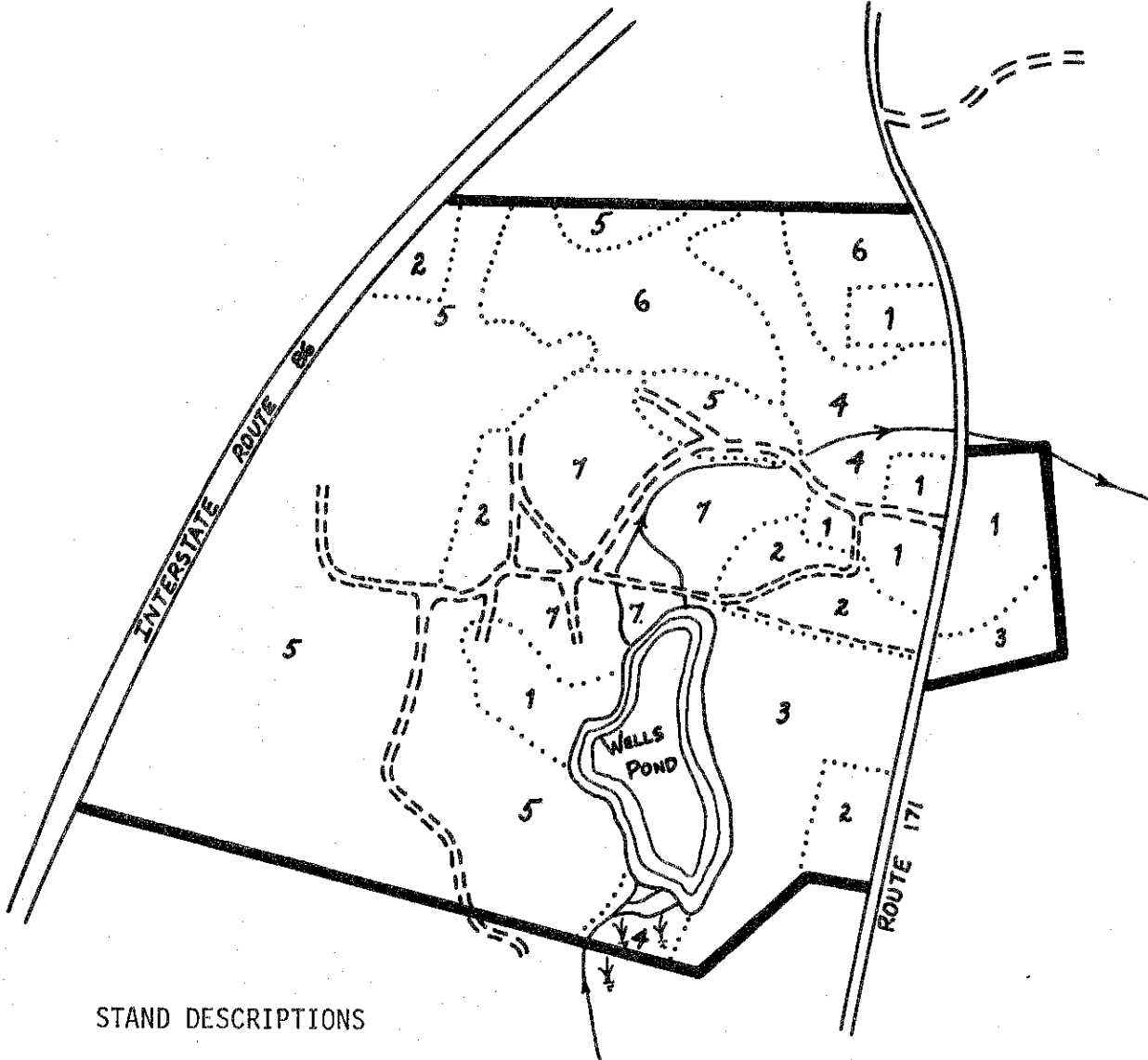
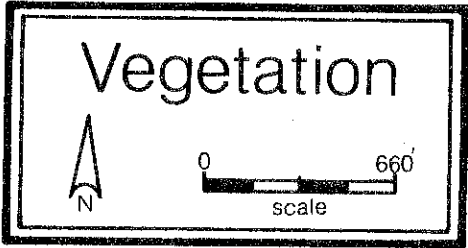
The camp manager also reported that drinking water for the camp had been supplied for a long time by a 20-foot dug well, and that a 300 foot driven well was installed after the former "dried up". The water quality was reported to be good. Because much of the property appears to be underlain by coarse, permeable materials, it is likely that relatively shallow wells (20 to 40 feet) could be developed satisfactorily in many areas to service small-scale needs, such as foundations or lawn and garden maintenance. Such wells should be judiciously sited in relation to septic systems; wells would ideally be placed upslope from any leaching fields. Areas in which the overburden is thin (see accompanying figure) would not be suitable for shallow wells, but other bedrock wells could be established (at an additional expense).

High concentrations of iron and manganese are reported to be common in water from wells drilled into bedrock within the vicinity of the camp (source: Connecticut Water Resources Bulletin No. 11). Gravel-based wells that terminate within 20 feet of the bedrock surface also tend to produce poor-quality water in this region. It is likely that any new wells drilled on the camp property would tap either the bedrock or the lower part of the overburden, and would therefore run the risk of supplying mineralized water. However, the reportedly good quality of water from the present wells may indicate a relatively low iron-manganese content in the bedrock throughout the immediate camp area. Moreover, a variety of methods are available for the satisfactory treatment of mineralized water. To sum, water supply to the new recreational facilities should not pose problems in terms of yield, but the water may or may not require treatment for high iron or manganese content.

VEGETATION

The Camp Pomperaug site is entirely wooded with the exception of a parking lot at the entrance and a 2-3 acre field on the east side of Route 171.

The site falls within what is characterized as the Northeast Uplands Ecoregion (See Rare and Endangered Species of Connecticut and Their Habitats by J. Dowhan and R. Craig). The major forest vegetation on these well drained soils is transition hardwoods, hemlock, white pine; a transition forest zone between northern hardwoods and central hardwoods. Tree species inventoried include white pine, hemlock, red maple, gray birch, white birch, red oak, white oak, and limited hickory and limited chestnut oak.



STAND DESCRIPTIONS

- 1 Fields and Parking Lots
- 2 Red Pine/White Pine Plantations
- 3 Mixed Hardwood (Primarily Oaks)
- 4 Hardwood Swamp
- 5 Mixed Softwood/Hardwood (Hemlock, White Pine, Oaks)
- 6 Mixed Hardwood (Oaks, Maple, Birch, Cherry)
- 7 Mixed Softwood/Hardwood (White Pine, Oaks)

LEGEND

- == Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Stand Boundaries
- ↓ Wetland
- ⊖ Water Bodies
- ~ Watercourses

Mountain laurel is common and abundant as understory vegetation. Other understory and ground cover include low bush blueberry, pipsisewa, partridge berry, and various club mosses. Both hardwoods and conifers are scattered throughout the site in about an equal mix.

Woodland wildflowers are common; however, all understory vegetation is sparse to moderate in density. This condition is partially due to the complete canopy formed by the hemlocks and mature oaks which limits sunlight penetration. In some portions of the site, the soil conditions are droughty to the extent of limiting understory growth.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife types, which typically use this site as all or part of their daily and/or seasonal range, include songbirds of both the northern hardwoods and central hardwoods. Warblers, grosbeaks, finches, sparrows, jays, various woodpeckers including the pileated, yellow shafted flicker and hairy woodpeckers are common. Phoebes, chickadees, titmouse, nuthatch, thrush and towhee are common and abundant. Ruffed grouse are present year round.

White tail deer utilize the site as evidenced by droppings. Squirrels, porcupine, raccoon, fox, chipmunk and other small mammals typically use this type habitat.

Oaks do produce mast, however production is probably limited on the site due to tree quality and other stand conditions.

There is little evidence of browsing by deer on shrubby vegetation or trees. Most wildlife species present are common and abundant. Interstate 86 parallels the northern boundary of the property. Disturbance by the highway is constant during the day and nighttime hours. However, it is probably less disturbing to wildlife than the occasional intrusion of motor vehicles along the woodland roads of the site.

The vegetative patterns on the site and land use trends indicate a stable situation with respect to food chains.

Wells Brook, a perennial stream, flows into the southwest corner of the site, through the site, and outletting in the southeast corner. Flow continues off the site terminating in Mashapaug Lake, some 2,000 feet downstream. The stream has class A waters and probably contains native populations of brook trout. The stream bottom is largely cobble size stone interspersed with sand and gravel. Water flows clear through the entire portion. Brook trout may use portions of the stream for fall spawning activities.

Wells Pond is a shallow (less than 10 feet) body of water approximately 5 acres in size. The pond is fed by Wells Brook and overflow continues as Wells Brook. The pond and adjacent wetland at the upstream end provide nesting and escape cover for mallard ducks, black ducks, and wood ducks. The pond also provides courtship and loafing cover for ducks. Canada geese may use the area. During winter and spring months when the pond is drawn down, weeds become available for waterfowl as food. Wading birds and killdeer are present. Pond fish populations including sunfish, perch and grass pickerel are probably common and abundant.

PRESENT/PAST LAND USES

The site was previously used as an active Boy Scout Camp. This active use has since been discontinued by the Boy Scouts who now rent out the established camping facilities for winter use. Most of the surrounding area is currently in farm use or is forested. The only industrial land use evident in the immediate vicinity is a charcoal factory approximately 1 mile from the site.

EXISTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Although unemployment figures for Union are low, it appears to be a fairly depressed area of the state currently. The median income in the town was \$7,900 (1969). Principal industries include agriculture, forestry and the manufacture of charcoal.

The current population of Union is 510; children make up 159 of the total. Population projections for the year 2,000 indicate that the total population will increase to 600, should no major influx from neighboring towns occur. However, industrial development in neighboring towns may bring more people to this region, who may find the town of Union ideal for residential purposes.

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The Town of Union is serviced by state routes 171 and 190, and also by interstate route 86. Routes 171 and 190 are two lane and appear to be well maintained. The proposed use of the site will not increase use of either route by heavy truck traffic and projected automobile increase should have a relatively small effect on any possible congestion of the road system. The site fronts on route 171.

PROBABLE FUTURE ENVIRONMENT

Should this area not be acquired by the Town, land use would probably not change in the near future. As previously stated, the land is currently in the ownership of the Boy Scouts of America, but is no longer used as one of their major summer camps. As development pressure is not especially strong in Union, the only foreseeable change would be caused by maturation of the forest and lack of maintenance practices in the campground.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

QUANTIFIABLE LAND USE CHANGE

The acquisition of Pomperaug Scout Camp by the Town for recreational purposes would have very little impact on the existing land use patterns. The land is currently in use as a private campground and it can be assumed that Town resident access to the camp will not cause a major change in area land use.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES

It does not appear that the proposed acquisition will have a noticeable impact on socio-economic conditions, except that there will undoubtedly be some local public expenses produced by maintaining the property. These costs may be reflected in the local tax rate.

The Town could collect entrance fees to defray these maintenance costs or for general capitol improvements to the campground (i.e. parking lot, sanitary facilities.)

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The site is located on Route 171, which will probably be the logical route of travel for townspeople coming to the recreation area. It does not appear that added traffic volumes generated by this project will require any major improvements to the surface, shoulders or roadbed of Route 171.

EFFECT ON WATER RESOURCES

Acquisition of this campground for recreational purposes will not cause any additional or adverse impact on the established water resources of the area.

EFFECT ON VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

Should the campground be acquired and use changes from seasonal to year round camping activity, the human disturbance factor will restrict the mobility of wildlife. The degree of disturbance will not be great enough to restrict useage by wildlife, but will limit the duration of feeding time without disturbance.

Elements of vegetative habitat will not be changed by this acquisition. Habitat quality is good and should remain so. The existing pattern of vegetative types and species composition indicate that food chains are stable and adequate to maintain wildlife which utilize them.

EFFECT ON AIR QUALITY AND AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL

The use of the site as a forested recreation area will maintain its present role of acting as a sink for air pollutants generated by the adjacent highway.

The use of the area for recreational purposes should not increase air pollution or noise problems, as long as no construction or vegetation removal is done on the west 1/3 of the property. The combination of the forest cover and ridge along the western edges adjacent to the highway form an effective noise barrier. Disturbance of this area will reduce this effectiveness.

For loud noise, such as that from a major highway within a few hundred feet, the forest is useful in attenuating sound. However, wide tree barriers are required to reduce these noises to a sound level that is normally acceptable to humans. (In the case of a major highway carrying high-speed truck traffic, tree barriers cannot reduce sound levels to a reasonable maximum within 350 feet of the highway). This acceptable level is 60 decibels or about one-eighth of the apparent sound of a loud diesel truck traveling on an interstate highway 50 feet away.

The tree themselves do not absorb much sound, they are effective in reducing noise transmission primarily by reflecting and scattering sound waves. The ground is the most effective sound absorber and the scattering of the sound by the tree increases the chances of it hitting the ground. Therefore the combination of trees and the ridge on the property serve as a doubly effective noise attenuator.

MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL

Property acquisition will not require any mitigating measures.

ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

There are no adverse effects from the acquisition of this property. The increased use by humans will be unavoidable, however, it is not viewed as being an adverse effect.

IRREVERSIBLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

No irretrievable commitment of resources seems likely. The acquisition proposal presently is too general to permit a determination of unavoidable, adverse environmental effects. But none seem imminent.

SHORT TERM VS. LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY

This acquisition should have a long-term beneficial effect on the residents of Union. Although development pressure is currently not severe in this town, industrial development in neighboring towns may increase the need for housing in this area. Should this be the case in the future, it would be wise for the town to consider preserving open space/recreation areas such as this for future use. As this site is already developed as a campground, it presents a rare opportunity for acquisition of property with few development costs.

RECREATION POTENTIAL

Camp Pomperaug is well suited to meet the Town's recreational as well as social needs with minor modifications. The camp consists of wooded areas, small open fields, several streams and Wells Pond - a large waterbody which is periodically drawn down to maintain water quality. Pomperaug is currently developed with hiking trails, unpaved roads, several year-round cabins, a number of three sided lean-to's some of which are provided with fireplaces, several pit toilets and a large centrally located building with capacity for 250 people.

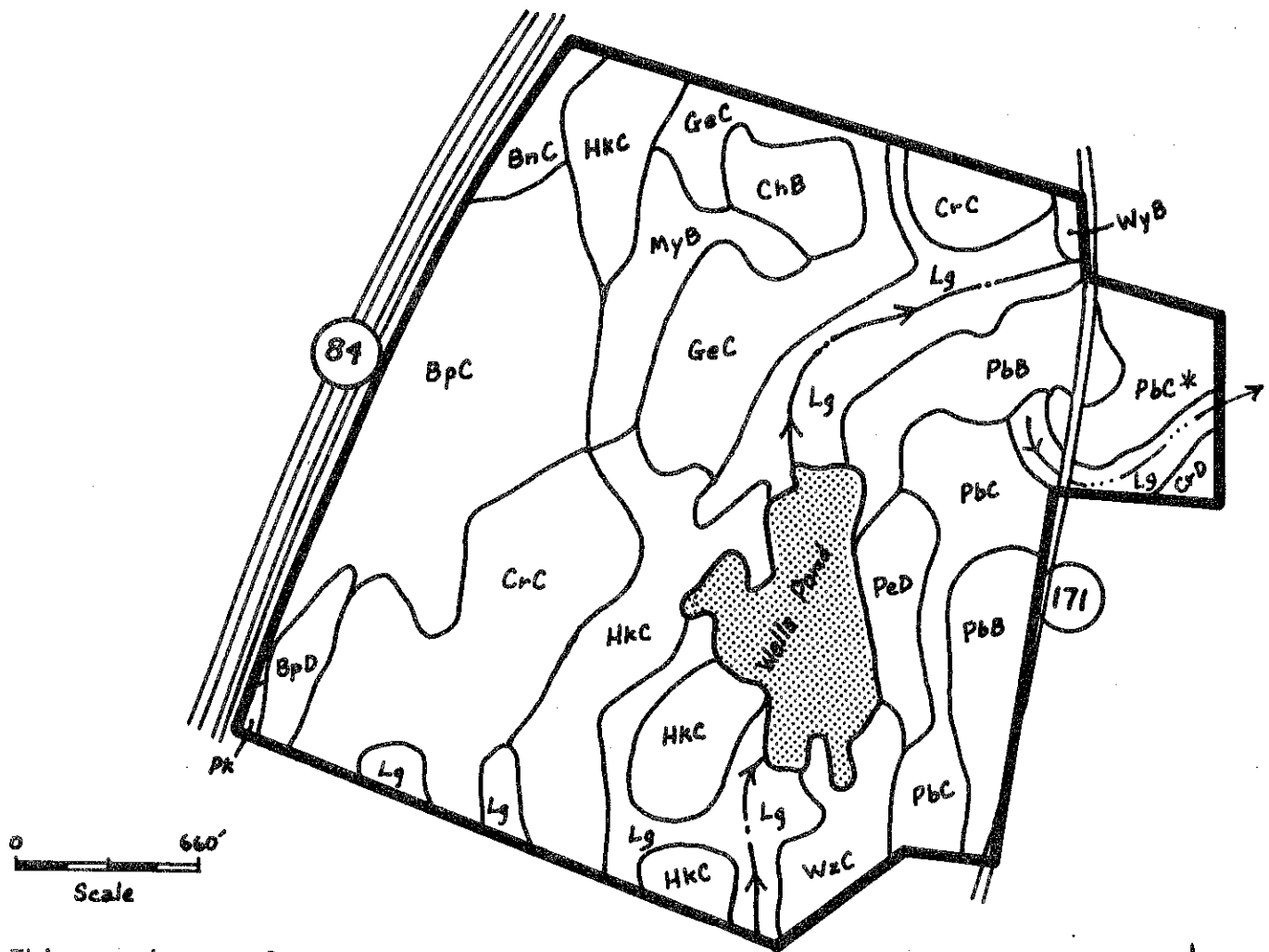
The Town has several use alternatives which it may persue after the property has been acquired. Union could develop the site for passive sports use, water sports use (summer and winter), improve and rent the camping facilities, encourage cross-country skiing by developing additional trails for that purpose, or use the site exclusively for wildlife habitat and nature study which would preclude other sport uses.

In general, Camp Pomperaug is best suited to passive sport activities and small court activities such as volley ball, horse shoes and tennis. Due to the droughty, stony soil conditions prevolent on most of the site, it would not be economically feasible to develop playing fields for active sports such as baseball and soccer, where an established turf grass is necessary. The Town would be best advised to use the natural features and developed features of the site (e.g. water sport facilities, trails, camp sites and buildings) to their best advantage if the Town is interested in the most recreational return for the least number of development dollars.

Appendix

SOILS

CAMP POMPERAUG
UNION, CONNECTICUT



This map is an enlargement from the original 1,320'/inch scale to 660'/inch.

Information taken from: Tolland County Soil Survey; Soil Survey Sheet No. 6, 1965; prepared by: United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Advance copy, subject to change.

* Detailed on-site investigation has found these soils to be moderately well drained.

CAMP POMPERAUG

UNION, CONNECTICUT

PROPORTIONAL EXTENT OF SOILS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN LAND USES

Soil Series	Soil Symbol	Approx. Acres	Percent of Acres	RECREATIONAL USE LIMITATIONS				Paths & Trails
				Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds		
Brimfield	BpC	23	14	Severe Stones, Slope	Moderate Stones, Slope	Severe Depth to Bedrock, Slope	Moderate Slope	
Brimfield	BpD	3	1	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope, Depth to Bedrock	Severe Slope	
Brimfield	BnC	2	1	Moderate Slope	Moderate Slope	Severe Slope, Depth to Bedrock	Moderate Slope	
Charlton	CrC	23	14	Moderate Large Stones, Slope	Moderate Slope	Severe Slope	Moderate Large Stones	
Charlton	ChB	4	2	Slight	Slight	Severe Slope	Slight	
Charlton	CrD	1	0.5	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	
Gloucester-Charlton	GeC	15	9	Moderate Slope	Moderate Slope	Severe Slope	Moderate Slope	

PROPORTIONAL EXTENT OF SOILS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN LAND USES

RECREATIONAL USE LIMITATIONS

Soil Series	Soil Symbol	Approx. Acres	Percent of Acres	RECREATIONAL USE LIMITATIONS					Paths & Trails
				Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds			
Hinckley	HKC	25	15	Moderate Slope	Moderate Sandy Conditions Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Slight to Moderate Sandy Condi- tions	
*Leicester- Ridgebury- Whitman	Lg	26	15	Severe Wetness	Severe Wetness	Severe Wetness	Severe Wetness	Severe Wetness	
**Merrimac	MyB	7	4	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	
Paxton	PeD	5	3	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	
**Paxton	PbB	14	8.5	Moderate Percs Slowly	Slight	Moderate Percs Slowly	Moderate Percs Slowly	Slight	
Paxton	PbC	15	9	Moderate Percs Slowly Slope	Moderate Slope	Moderate Slope	Severe Slopes	Slight	
*Peat & Muck	Pk	1	0.5	Severe High Water Table	Severe High Water Table	Severe High Water Table	Severe High Water Table	Severe High Water Table	
Woodbridge	WyB	1	0.5	Moderate Percs Slowly	Slight	Moderate Slope	Moderate Slope	Slight	
Woodbridge	WzC	5	3	Moderate Percs Slowly	Moderate Slope	Severe Slope	Severe Slope	Slight	

*Inland Wetlands as defined by P.A. 155 as amended

** Prime Farmlands as defined by USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey

SOIL INTERPRETATIONS FOR URBAN USES

The ratings of the soils for elements of community and recreational development uses consist of three degrees of "limitations:" slight or no limitations; moderate limitations; and severe limitations. In the interpretive scheme various physical properties are weighed before judging their relative severity of limitations.

The user is cautioned that the suitability ratings, degree of limitations and other interpretations are based on the typical soil in each mapping unit. At any given point the actual conditions may differ from the information presented here because of the inclusion of other soils which were impractical to map separately at the scale of mapping used. On-site investigations are suggested where the proposed soil use involves heavy loads, deep excavations, or high cost. Limitations, even though severe, do not always preclude the use of land for development. If economics permit greater expenditures for land development and the intended land use is consistent with the objectives of local or regional development, many soils and sites with difficult problems can be used.

Slight Limitations

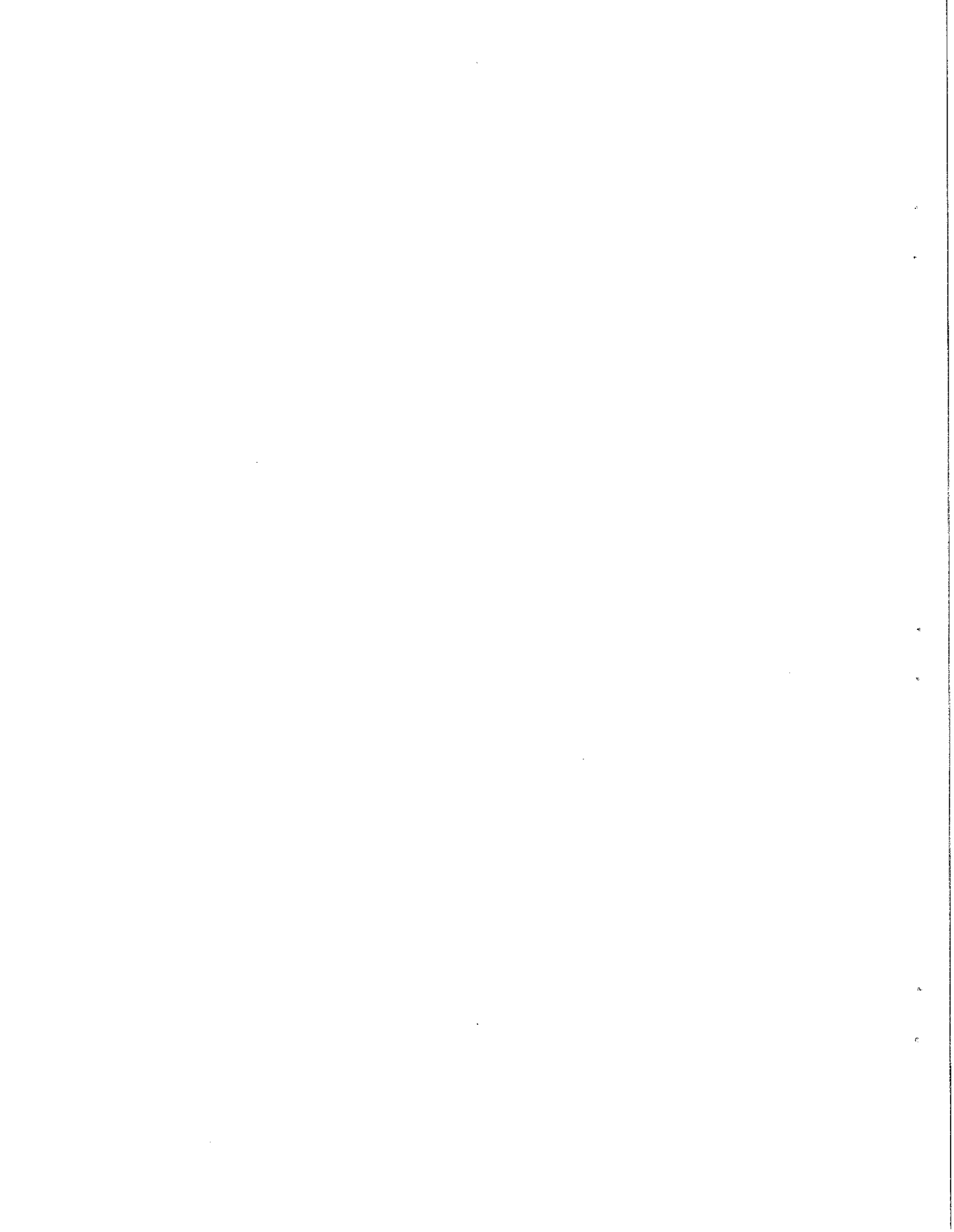
Areas rated as slight have relatively few limitations in terms of soil suitability for a particular use. The degree of suitability is such that a minimum of time or cost would be needed to overcome relatively minor soil limitations.

Moderate Limitations

In areas rated moderate, it is relatively more difficult and more costly to correct the natural limitations of the soil for certain uses than for soils rated as having slight limitations.

Severe Limitations

Areas designated as having severe limitations would require more extensive and more costly measures than soils rated with moderate limitations in order to overcome natural soil limitations. The soil may have more than one limiting characteristic causing it to be rated severe.



About the Team

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of professionals in environmental fields drawn together from a variety of federal, state, and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, foresters, climatologists, soil scientists, landscape architects, archeologists, recreation specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the supervision of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area.

The Team is available as a public service at no cost to Connecticut towns.

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 reviewing a wide range of projects including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel operations, elderly housing, recreation/open space projects, watershed studies and resource inventories.

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 officials of a municipality or the chairman of town commissions such as planning and zoning, conservation, inland wetlands, parks and recreation or economic development. Requests should be directed to the Chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District. This request letter should include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner 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 Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Council, the Team will undertake the review on a priority basis.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact Jeanne Shelburn (889-2324), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, 139 Boswell Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.