

TRACY RIDGE WILDERNESS STUDY
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, PENNSYLVANIA

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Introduction

This is a preliminary study of Tracy Ridge, an area of the Allegheny National Forest which we are proposing be designated as wilderness. In separate sections we will describe the geography of the area, its history, roads and trails, wildlife, recreation, surface ownership and special uses, timber, OGM (oil, gas, and mineral) activity, ending with a discussion of proposed wilderness boundaries and problems.

Much of our information is based on field trips in September and October 1972. In September Rodney Larson, Chief Recreation Officer for the Forest, discussed and toured the area with us. In October Helen McGinnis talked with Donald Burge, District Ranger for the Bradford District, and his assistant for timber sales, obtaining timber sale maps. On that trip Helen, Fran Orzechowski, and Dick Pratt spent two days hiking in the area. Subsequently in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Helen obtained materials on OGM activities and Dick materials on history.

This report attempts to organize and summarize our knowledge as of February 1, 1973. Further expeditions to the area are now planned.

Geography

The Allegheny National Forest (ANF), established in 1923, consists of one connected 490,000 acre tract of land (with private inholdings and state game lands) in four northwest Pennsylvania counties (McKean, Forest, Elk, and Warren). Headquarters for the Forest is Warren, on the northern side, which is 94 miles by road from Buffalo, 138 miles from Pittsburgh, and 154 miles from Cleveland. Some 50,000,000 Americans live within a 300 mile radius of the forest. Other towns close to the Forest are Bradford, Kane, and Ridgway, on the eastern edge. The Forest is roughly bounded on the west by the Allegheny River, on the north by the New York State line, on the east by U. S. route 219, and on the south by State Route 36 and the Clarion River. The Forest, which is heavily wooded in second growth timber, lies on the Allegheny Plateau, cut by creeks draining west into the Allegheny River and south into the Clarion River. It is considered one of the best hunting grounds in the east. The Allegheny Reservoir, formed behind Kinzua Dam, lies within the Forest and is becoming a major recreational area. In winter one of the cooler areas in Pennsylvania, summer highs in the 80's and 90's are not uncommon; the mean annual temperature is 50 F. Average annual precipitation is 50.43 inches.

The Tracy Ridge study area consists of close to 10,000 acres in the Bradford District of the Forest, close to the New York State line, in Warren and McKean Counties. Most of the area is on the Cornplanter Run 7.5' topo map; the vicinity of Tracy Ridge Campground is on the Stickney quadrangle. Extending for 6.5 miles along the east bank of Allegheny Reservoir, it is the largest relatively undisturbed area in the Bradford District and (together with Hickory Creek) one of the two largest such areas in the ANF. Surrounded by water on three sides, Willow Bay and Route 346 (just below the New York State line) provide the northern boundary, Sugar Bay the southern boundary. Bounded on the east by the new Route 321, the area is generally 2 miles wide with a bulge to 3 miles at the center on the hilltop (site of Tracy Ridge Campground). The road follows Coffey Run up from Willow Creek to the hilltop open area at the former Johnson farm site and then drops along Nelsø Run to Sugar Bay. All inholdings have been acquired and the only remaining private lands are at the junction of routes 346 and 321 (gas and supplies available at the corner).

Although continental ice sheets did not enter the area during the ice age, their melt waters were important in the formation of the present topography. In pre-glacial times drainage was to the north into Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence Basin; the divide was at the present site of Kinzua Dam. The north-flowing stream was dammed by glaciers; water backed up until it spilled over the divide. Elevations now range from 2245' near Tracy Ridge Campground to the 1328' normal pool of Allegheny Reservoir. The topography ranges from ridge tops and gentle slopes along the reservoir to rugged terrain at the head of the small drainages. Some of the steepest

slopes are close to the Tracy Run Trail near the Reservoir. We have not seen much exposed rock. There are some nice rock ledges back of the Tracy Ridge Campground and some large boulders along the hillside between Whisky Run and Tracy Run. Rock exposed along the edge of the reservoir is rich in fossils, at least between Handsome Lake Campground and Johnnycake Run.

Showing the characteristics of a plateau, Tracy Ridge may be described as a plate elevated above the Allegheny Reservoir, Sugar Bay, and Willow Bay, dissected by small runs which drop rapidly to the Bays or Reservoir. The highest land (2245' near Tracy Ridge Campground) is in the middle on the east side, almost equally distant from the three bodies of water. But all the high lands of the area are connected -- one could walk from the north end to the south end or west close to the reservoir without ever dropping below 1900'. Almost all the bottom lands are now under water, and almost everywhere the hills rise sharply from the water. There are some bottom lands left in the Willow Bay Recreation Area, as well as small areas along Nelse, Coffey, and Johnnycake Runs. The largest stream draining the area are on its eastern edge. Nelse Run drops south for four miles to Sugar Bay, while Coffey Run drops north for 2½ miles to Willow Creek. Nelse Run has an unnamed permanently flowing tributary which comes in from the northwest near its mouth; the North Country Trail follows this branch. The only other north-south streams of consequence are Pollys Run, draining south into Sugar Bay in Warren County, and an unnamed intermittent run between Pollys Run and Nelse Run. Most of the interior of the area drains to the west into the reservoir. The largest of these interior streams are Tracy Run, about 2½ miles long, and Johnnycake Run, about 2 miles. Tracy Run has two named tributaries, the North Branch and Deer Lick Run, which come in from the northeast near its mouth. Shorter permanent streams are Williams Brook, north of Tracy Run, and Whisky Run, north of Johnnycake Run. There are unnamed intermittent streams which significantly dissect the plateau entering the Reservoir north of Williams Brook, near Handsome Lake Campground, near Hopewell Campground, and farther south almost at Sugar Bay. At the north end there are rather distinct saddles above the headwaters of Williams Brook and the unnamed intermittent run to the north; the North Country Trail goes through the latter.

Many features of the area which are due to man are discussed in detail in separate sections. About 25 abandoned oil and gas well sites (largely unsuccessful) are above the waters of the reservoir. There has been selective timber cutting and small areas of clear cutting at both the north and south ends of the area. A pipeline swath cuts across the southern end of the area and there are traces of an older pipeline along Sugar Bay between Nelse Run and Pollys Run. Most of old State Routes 59 and 346 (earlier 159) lie under water, but there are traces of old 59 on the shores of Sugar Bay at Nelse Run, and a mile of old 346 is above water (complete with guard rails and deteriorating asphalt) along the reservoir between Hopewell Campground and Johnnycake Run. Four developed campgrounds

are on the periphery of the area: Willow Bay Recreation Area, built by the Corps of Engineers and complete with boatramp, on Willow Bay, two boat-in campgrounds, Handsome Lake and Hopewell, on the reservoir without road access, and the new Tracy Ridge Campground off Route 321 on the central hilltop. Private lands, partially cleared and with numerous houses, remain at the junction of Route 321 and 346. Tracy Ridge is almost entirely wooded and the largest other cleared areas are at the former Johnson farm on the hilltop and in the Willow Bay Recreation Area. There are clearings shown south of Hopewell Campground (reason unknown) and north of Johnnycake Run. This latter, formerly private land, is well overgrown and bordered by a grove of planted pines. We sighted another opening on the shore north of Williams Brook, also formerly private land. There are clearings (old farm) along Johnnycake Run, with old apple trees and the foundations of a building by the Run. Small openings (game clearings?) are shown along Coffey Run and Nelse Run.

History

This area has a rich history, beginning with Indian times and the frontier period, continuing with rafting and river transportation, lumbering, oil and gas discoveries, creation of the Allegheny National Forest, and most recently the controversies resulting in creation of Allegheny Reservoir behind Kinzua Dam.

Human activity in the area has always been concentrated along the Allegheny River, the major early route of transportation north into New York State. The bottom lands along the river (now flooded) sheltered several Indian villages. There was a particularly large one at the mouth of Kinzua Creek, three miles southwest of the study area. Indians hunted within the study area; according to Burge, arrowheads and other artifacts are frequently found there. This fall (1972) the Forest Service granted a permit to the Kinzua Chapter of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Society in Warren to excavate between the rock outcroppings on high ground in the area. Archaeologists believe that Indians may have used these rocks for shelter on hunting expeditions.

During the American Revolution the Indians, for the most part, supported the British. In August of 1779 Colonel Brodhead led a force of six hundred men up the Allegheny to the Seneca towns near the border between New York and Pennsylvania. The Indians had fled but their towns, containing 130 houses in all, were burned, great quantities of growing corn and vegetables were destroyed, and plunder valued at \$30,000 was taken. The Iroquois were forced to sign a treaty at Fort Stanwix in October 1784 selling to Pennsylvania for \$5000 all unceded land in the state except a reservation of a few hundred acres for Chief Cornplanter and his band of Senecas. This land was across the river from the study area, extending between the mouths of Johnnycake Run and Tracy Run. Most of it is now under water, but there is still a small tract along the west shore of the reservoir, owned by the heirs of Chief Cornplanter, which according to Larson will not be acquired by the Forest Service. This land is distinct from the Indian Reservation of the Senecas, which lies along the river above the New York state line. The Indians were told they might continue to hunt in the ceded territory until the white men were ready to occupy it. The Senecas were promised adequate trade facilities as well as teachers, carpenters, and farmers to aid them in adopting the white man's ways, but these promises were not carried out.

Permanent white settlement apparently did not begin until 1827, when Philip Tome built a shanty in what became the village of Corydon, near the mouth of Willow Creek. (In 1854 Tome published a book "Pioneer Life; or Thirty Years a Hunter".) Others arrived later that year and mills were soon built, but the population did not grow rapidly. Corydon Township of Warren County was erected in 1846 from territory set off from McKean County. (With the depopulation due to flooding the river bottoms the area has now been put into Mead Township.) An 1878 atlas shows a road along the east bank of the river, with the communities of Corydon at the mouth of Willow Creek and

Cornplanter P.O. at the mouth of Sugar Creek. The only roads leading inland were along these two creeks. Just north of Williams Brook were two houses of the Williams family, shown as owning 128 acres. Immediately north of them was a cluster of nine houses. Continuing south, Tracy Run and Whisky Run are shown and named, but the next habitation was at Johnnycake Run (there called Cornplanter Creek), with houses of J. D. Bryant, owning 1000 acres, and T. H. (not further identified). Further south, toward the river from the present Hopewell Campground, was the residence of J. D. Harris, called a farmer, owning 1200 acres, and across the road from him on the river side a sawmill. Finally, close to Cornplanter P. O. were five scattered houses, and among the residents of Cornplanter P. O. was S. R. Morrison, a lumberman, owning 1000 acres. No other habitations are shown within the study area. In all the directory of the township at that date list 67 names, including 33 farmers, 12 laborers, 9 lumbermen, 3 carpenters, and 2 retired, plus a hotel owner, merchant, stone mason, painter, shoemaker, wheelright, and blacksmith. Grading of the Buffalo, New York, and Philadelphia Railroad began in 1881 along the east bank of the river and the line was opened in 1882, reportedly doubling the population of the village (by 1887).

Although we have not yet obtained similar information for the larger portion of the study area within McKean County, we would expect from geography that it was always lightly populated. No doubt throughout the study area homesteaders, as well as lumbermen, cleared some of the land. But most of it did not prove suitable for farming and was abandoned. Along the North Country Trail, up above Corydon and the settlements north of Williams Brook, we noted rock piles which may be remnants of long abandoned homesteads. And on the lower reaches of the Johnnycake Trail there are partially open clearings, old apple trees, and the foundations of a building by the Run. However the Johnson farm along route 321 was farmed until relatively recently and apparently supplied dairy products to logging communities at the turn of the century. The 1941 Kinzua Quadrangle (surveyed 1935-6) shows little change and in particular no settlement or road within the study area. State Route 159 and the Pennsylvania Railroad followed the east bank of the river. State Route 59 follows Sugar Run down to the river at a small community now called Sugar Run and another road goes east from Corydon along Willow Creek. Finally, along the eastern boundary of the study area a jeep trail is shown where route 321 now goes, ascending Coffey Run to the Johnson farm and descending Nelse Run. From the Johnson farm the Tracy Run and Johnnycake Trails are shown descending to the river; at the mouth of Johnnycake Run on route 159 is a small settlement called Gowango. (This corresponds to the location of J. D. Bryant and T. H. in 1878.) There is no longer any settlement near Hopewell Campground, but the other clusters of houses remain. There is one house along route 59, at the small run between Pollys Run and Nelse Run; the Willow Creek road has many houses along it.

Commercial logging began as early as 1835. For some years lumbering was the principal business in Corydon, but by 1887 the activity is described as having greatly declined owing to the scarcity of timber. Up to 1875 logs were transported by rafting them down the river, and subsequently railroads were used. The Allegheny

National Forest was invaded three different times for different kinds of timber --- first for hemlock for tanning (all the original hemlock was gone by 1900), then for white pine logs, and finally for pulpwood. Oil drilling began in the area at Kinzua Village, at the junction of the Allegheny River and Kinzua Creek, in 1865. The East Kinzua Pool was discovered in 1885 and a number of wells were drilled along Kinzua Creek and later to the south of Sugar Run, just outside the study area.

History of Warren County, Pa., edited by J. S. Schenk,
Syracuse, N.Y., D. Mason & Co., 1887.
qr 974.867 S32

Howden & Odibert's Atlas, Warren Co., Pa., Washington, Pa. 1878.
qr 912.74867 H84

Trails and Wood Roads

1. North Country Trail (10 miles), recently completed, intended as a section of a proposed national trail. The trail traverses the entire length of the Tracy Ridge study area; its southern terminus is on route 321 half a mile up from Sugar Bay, where the pipeline swath crosses the road, and its northern terminus is on route 346 at the bridge over Willow Creek (a spur comes down into Willow Bay Recreation Area). We give a brief description of the trail from south to north. The trail descends from route 321 to Nelse Run and follows it downstream almost to the reservoir, then crosses the Run and follows it upstream along a logging road from the Nelse Run timber sale. The trail follows the northwest branch of the run on the spur logging road shown on the top map. There are nice hemlock along the runs and large white pine in the headwaters of the run where the logging road ends. The trail climbs to the ridgetop and continues northwest out on the spur ridge, dropping to a wood road (shown on the topo map) and following it right, descending to a run with nice hemlock and an old well site. (From here one can drop down to the old asphalt road and reach Handsome Lake Campground.) Gradual descent to the reservoir and Johnnycake Run, intersection with the Johnnycake Trail. Proceeding NW, pass overgrown clearing (former private land) with pine plantation, cross overgrown road near Whisky Run, along steep hillside with large boulders, the reservoir coming into view below. Join old trail dropping to water, hook around ridge to Tracy Run inlet, meet Tracy Run Trail. Cross Tracy Run and the North Branch, remains of old road going down to water; turn up along North Branch, following another road, and then turn off northwest. Rock piles (farm?), many old logging road crossings. Through the last saddle on the ridge and then east, gradually descending. Willow Bay spur trail, descent to route 346.

2. Johnnycake Trail (3 miles), already existing in the 30's. One follows the pleasant run upstream from the reservoir. There are open clearings, old apple trees, and the foundation of a building by the run, open woods in the stream bottom with grass and deer. Later the trail climbs more and finally passes OGM clearings at the junction with the Tracy Run trail. On the way in to Tracy Ridge Campground there are some nice rock ledges.

3. Tracy Run Trail (2.5 miles), already existing in the 30's, from the reservoir to Johnnycake Trail 0.5 mile out from the campground. Stays high above Tracy Run, following the ridge.

4. Hopewell Campground - North Country Trail (3/4 mile). This is an old wood road shown on the topo map. The North Country Trail, as already noted, follows it north from the 1900' level on the ridge toward Handsome Lake Campground. To the south one goes down toward Hopewell Campground and the reservoir comes into view. Near the end there is thick downed timber across the road, which is overgrown, steep and eroded descending to the run. At the bottom there is an old oil well and small clearing.

5. Pollys Run logging road (2 miles). This was the major logging road of the Pollys Run Timber Sale. It rises from the waters of Sugar Bay east of Pollys Run, wide and grassy, "put to bed" by the Forest Service with embankments to prevent its erosion on the hill. There is a spring on the right hand side of the road and soon after one crosses the pipeline swath. On the hilltop the road turns left and, according to the sale map, was to descend to the run near Hopewell Campground. If so this will be convenient in planning loop hikes.

6. Nelse Run logging road. The topo map shows this continuing a mile beyond the North Country Trail turnoff on the northwest branch, but it may go as far again before disappearing into the roadbed of present route 321.

7. Reservoir shore. Should be treated as a trail in planning hikes. Rocks rich in fossils, at least between Handsome Lake Campground and Johnnycake Run.

8. old route 346-159 (1 mile), degenerating asphalt along and above the reservoir, rises from the water north of Hopewell Campground and descends again north of Handsome Lake Campground.

9. pipeline swath (2 miles, a straight course west from route 321 at the North Country Trail, descending Nelse Run, the intermediate run, and Pollys Run, and climbing the hills inbetween before coming out on the reservoir just above the end of Sugar Bay.

10. others. Numerous wood roads have been noted on our two hikes. Until they are explored, we do not know whether they are important enough to discuss here. Almost every run has at least one road associated with it. On our map we have tried to indicate locations of some of these roads, with arrows to indicate that their extent is unknown.

Wildlife

The wildlife population of Allegheny National Forest includes white-tailed deer, black bear, fox, racoon, weasel, muskrat, beaver, skunk, porcupine, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, wild turkey, and woodcock. Over sixty varieties of birds have been found nesting on the Forest, and over 200 varieties have been captured and identified. Reptiles, except for garter snakes, are not common. The Tracy Ridge area is particularly popular with squirrel hunters, as the oak trees common in the area provide food and shelter for black, grey, and red squirrels. We saw several deer, as well as black squirrel, on our walk up Johnnycake Run in mid-October. On the opening day of early small game season there were lots of hunters along the highway, but we met none along the ten miles of the North Country Trail. We noticed a deer stand in a tree above the abandoned asphalt road along the reservoir. According to Burge, black bear are relatively numerous and large. He fears that they will learn to raid garbage cans and campsites in the Tracy Ridge Camping Area as they are doing in the Heart's Content Campground. We heard of only one turkey feeder, which is kept filled in the winter by local sportsmen. It is located right along State 346. There may be some small game clearings along Coffey and Nelse runs.

There may be a heron rookery in the northeastern part of the area, perhaps on the headwaters of Tracy Run or its tributaries, the North Branch, or Deer Lick Run. The Forest Service has not been able to locate it, however. There is definitely a rookery elsewhere in the Bradford District. The Multiple Use Plan for the District designates this as a special management zone. No logging or vehicular travel will be permitted within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the site, no trails will be built near it, and it will not be publicized or shown on maps regularly distributed to the public. Disturbances will be avoided particularly during the nesting season from March 1st to August 31st. If a rookery is found in the Tracy Ridge area, it will be protected in the same way.

The streams draining the Tracy Ridge area are rather small. We have not learned if any of them support fish attractive to fishermen, but the largest ones -- Tracy Run and Johnnycake Run -- might.

With wilderness management there will be changes in wildlife populations. Allowing timber to grow larger will make more den trees available. Turkey can be expected to increase, deer populations may decrease.

Recreation

There are four developed campgrounds on the perimeter of the study area. The Willow Bay Recreation Area, at the north end off route 346, includes 96 camp units and 120 picnic units. Roads - gravel near the camping area and paved for a mile and a half along Willow Bay to the boat launch, separate these developments from the rest of the Tracy Ridge area. This campground was developed by the Corps of Engineers, and has substantially altered the natural setting. Access for launching boats, combined with access to service facilities on private land at the junction of routes 346 and 321 a mile and a half away, combine to make this a popular area. A spur trail goes up the hillside and joins the North Country Trail. The short climb may discourage casual walkers and some off-road vehicles of this generally water oriented campground. The hillside seems a fairly effective barrier to major undesired intrusion into the proposed wilderness area from this point. At the same time, the campground is a convenient access point for the more serious hiker.

There are two boat-in campgrounds on the Allegheny Reservoir-- Handsome Lake with 10 units (capable of accomodating 50 people at one time) and Hopewell with 8 units (40 people). Both are accessible only by water or by trails not usable by conventional vehicles. Each has a hand-operated water pump and vault toilet building, picnic tables, grills, and garbage cans. The toilets must be pumped out periodically, the contents conveyed to a boat, carried to a landing where it is transferred to a "honey wagon" and taken to the Forest Service's own sewage plant. Garbage is also removed by motor boat. Because of the difficulty and time involved in servicing these campsites, Mr. Larson, Chief Recreation Officer of the ANF, is not enthusiastic about building any other campgrounds without road access, at least for Forest Service vehicles.

The Tracy Ridge Campground, off route 321 on a flat hilltop in the center of the area just south of the Johnson farm, is new (1972). It has 119 camping units (595 people at one time). It seems to be rather popular already, no doubt partially because the Forest Service charges as much as \$3.00 per night for campsites closer to the Reservoir. The Bradford District Multiple Use Plan calls for eventually expanding it to 500 units by extending the camping area west. This would be capable of accomodating 2000 people at one time, and would almost bisect the Tracy Ridge area. Since this plan was put together (but not yet approved by the Regional Forester), the Forest Service seems to have had second thoughts about this expansion. In any case, it has no definite plans or construction dates. At least some of the Forest Service people seem to regret building the campground on the west side of State 321 when it could have been built just as easily on the east side. The campground is in woods, which have been opened somewhat by selective cutting. Some of the downed timber has been cut up and left for campers to use as firewood. Facilities provided correspond to those at Handsome Lake and include some fire rings. The sites, which are moderately well separated, have been graded for vehicles, tents, etc.

The presence of this campground in the study area poses problems for managing Tracy Ridge as a wilderness area. The Johnnycake Trail begins in the campground as a broad level wood road and leads down to the edge of the reservoir at the mouth of Johnnycake Run. The Tracy Run trail branches off after about 3/4ths of a mile (near the site of an old deep dry well) and leads down to the reservoir at the mouth of Tracy Run. Naturally many people staying in the campground take advantage of these trails for short strolls as well as for hikes to the reservoir and back. When we were there on Saturday Sept. 22, 1972, we met about three parties in the half mile we covered from the campground and also saw a young couple with backpacks take off cross-country downhill. On a cool Sunday in mid-October we met no one along the whole length of the Johnnycake Trail from the reservoir to the campground. Like most campgrounds these days, Tracy Ridge has its share of trail bikers. Many of them just wander around the roads in the campground, but no doubt many also get on the Johnnycake Trail. We saw ORV tracks along the trail, at the mouth of Johnnycake Run, and on nearby sections of the North Country Trail. The Forest Service is considering constructing a trail system for off-road vehicles, but there are no specific plans or construction dates to our knowledge. Motor vehicles, of course, are prohibited in wilderness areas. It is also generally agreed that the number of hikers in a wilderness area must be limited to prevent physical deterioration of the area as well as to allow those who are there to have a wilderness experience. The presence of this large, centrally located campground will make both difficult to achieve.

The 9,000 acre Allegheny Reservoir, filled about five years ago (Kinzua Dam was completed and dedicated in 1966), is another recreational feature that must be considered when assessing the wilderness qualifications of the Tracy Ridge area. The reservoir lies entirely within the Bradford District. So far 2554 camping and picnicking units accomodating 13,120 people at one time have been developed around it. (This does not include recreational facilities on that portion of the reservoir in New York State.) The area is becoming more popular as people discover the reservoir. Though yields of fish are not yet as great as had been hoped, the reservoir does provide fairly good fishing for northern pike, walleyes, rainbow and brown trout, perch, carp, and bullheads, as seasons permit. There is no limit on the horsepower of motorboats on the reservoir. The sound of motors can be heard along most of the North Country Trail except at the southern and northern ends where it swings away from the reservoir. In the summer the noise probably carries over most of the Tracy Ridge area. This noise pollution will no doubt affect people seeking wilderness in the area, although it presumably doesn't have much effect on the flora or fauna. Styrofoam from boats was noted near the mouth of Johnnycake Run.

The three developed trails (North Country, Johnnycake, Tracy Run) are described elsewhere. Their usage can be expected to increase. Camping in the Bradford District is restricted to developed campgrounds. In particular, people are not permitted to camp along the shores of the reservoir except in developed areas. Last summer the Forest Service began actively enforcing this rule. If it is decided to manage Tracy Ridge as some kind of a primitive area, the District Ranger is inclined to enforce the rule with backpackers, too. If so a couple back-country sites near the North Country Trail would be needed. We did see evidence of camping at the mouth of Johnnycake Run. Hunting possibilities in the Tracy Ridge area have been discussed elsewhere.

Another factor to consider is Allegany State Park, containing some 58,000 acres, in New York State, just two miles north of the Tracy Ridge area. One Forest Service employee suggested that it would not be necessary to devote Tracy Ridge to primitive recreation since there already is a large wilderness area near by. Allegany State Park is not logged, but a road map shows several roads through it. There are also two auto campgrounds, four hundred cabins which can be rented by the week, a ski area, a swimming area, and a boating area. Spring and summer activities also include bicycling, tennis, and entertaining and educational programs in an outdoor amphitheater; winter activities also include skating, tobogganing, and snowmobiling. Ski, boat and bicycle rentals are available, two restaurants are open year round, food, camp supplies, ice, and fuel are available at least in summer. Backpacking is not now allowed.

Surface Ownership, Special Uses, and Multiple Use Plan

All of the study area with the exception of roughly 160 acres at the intersection of State 346 and State 321 is now in federal ownership. At least four separate tracts were acquired by the Army Corps of Engineers within the last ten years as part of the Allegheny Reservoir project and are now national forest land. Three of these are along the Reservoir; the fourth is the Johnson Farm tract just north of the Tracy Ridge Campground. About 160 acres of the Johnson farm lie within the study area, with the remainder to the east across route 321. The farm is largely open meadow and has some well used ungated dirt roads. Apparently campers frequently drive their cars, camper trucks, and motorcycles into this tract for picnics, etc. A farmhouse that used to be on the property has been torn down. The Willow Bay Recreation Area was largely privately owned, as was most of the land north of Williams Brook in Warren County. Another privately owned tract, of some 100 acres now above water, lay between Johnnycake Run and the mouth of Whisky Run in Warren County. Land at the joining of Sugar Bay and the main reservoir was also in private hands. Our map indicates the approximate boundaries of these areas.

Two underground pipelines cross the southern end of the study area. One, accompanied by a swath about 30 or 40 feet wide, is visible in the NASA photo as well as on the ground. This pipeline was projected, but not yet built, in March 1963. Possibly it serves as a replacement for an older pipeline, farther south, now largely under the waters of Sugar Bay, but which is exposed in several places along the shore above water between Nelse Run and Pollys Run. This line came from near Bradford, intersected old Route 59 across Nelse Run, and continued to Sugar Run on the Allegheny River. There is no swath, and we suspected the line along the reservoir is no longer in use; it is not visible from the air. These lines are not shown on the 1964 Lytle-Heeren maps of the major natural gas and oil pipelines of Pennsylvania. No other utility corridors (telephone, electricity, oil, gas, etc.) are known in the area.

The Multiple Use Plan for the Bradford District (which includes all Forest Service land bordering Allegheny Reservoir and 90% of the recreation facilities in ANF) has been written up as a first draft, submitted to public review, and drawn up in semi-final form. As of October 1972 it had not yet been approved by the Regional Forester in Milwaukee. As shown on our map, it includes the usual Travel Influence, General Forest, and Water Influence Zones. The Water Influence Zone in the Tracy Ridge area seems to have been designated because the Forest Service expects that it will get heavy recreation use and will require special management, not just because it is close to water.

In addition to the usual zones, the plan includes a "Roughing Area" (name not approved by the Forest Supervisor). According to Burge, the area would be devoted to primitive recreation - for hikers and campers wishing to "get away from it all". Public use of motorized vehicles would be prohibited.

In the multiple use management guide completed for the Bradford District in April 1972 but not yet approved by the Regional Forester, the study area is designated as "Management Unit G-4", the Tracy Ridge Back Country Recreation Area. According to this section, the area includes about 8000 acres, excluding the Tracy Ridge Campground and the private land. "The topography ranges from ridge tops and gentle slopes along the Reservoir to rugged terrain at the head of the small drainages. This is the most extensive area on the District that is relatively free of roads, oil and gas wells, and pipelines." The purpose and management plans are described as follows:

"PURPOSE: To provide a 'Back Country' area for those seeking a more primitive type of outdoor recreation. A place for the recreationist who wants to get away from roads to hike and observe wildlife without seeing other people or machinery.

"1. No motorized vehicles in existing North Country Trail, Tracy Trail, and Johnnycake Trail.

"2. Allow timber cutting during the months of January, February and March only. Make sales small with a minimum of temporary road construction. All roads used for logging will be closed, seeded and used as trails upon completion of logging.

"3. All trees removed during TSI programs shall be cut rather than girdled.

"4. This area should remain roadless except for temporary logging roads. No motorized vehicles allowed inside the area.

"5. Insure a fire prevention program by placing rustic fire sign message at the beginning of the trails.

"6. Encourage all wildlife and use of the area as a wildlife observation area.

"7. Encourage day use of the area only with overnight camping at Willow Bay, Tracy Ridge, Hopewell and Handsome Lake."

This area is definitely one of the deferred areas where logging has temporarily been suspended while it is considered as a potential "wild area" or wilderness area, and is part of the 26,000 acres in Pennsylvania mentioned in summer 1972 by the Chief of the Forest Service during the hearings before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on three wild area bills. It is one of 29 areas listed for study in the Wilderness Study Act of 1973 (HR 2420), introduced by Congressman Saylor.

Timber

Almost the entire area, with the exception of the Johnson farm, is heavily forested in second growth timber. (Minor clearings have been noted in our description of geography.) Northern hardwoods, including beech and black cherry, grow on north facing slopes. Oak-hickory forests predominate on the sunnier west and south-facing hillsides. An aerial photo recently taken by NASA, available at the District Ranger's office, clearly shows that conifers (mostly hemlock) are concentrated along streams. There are some beautiful large white pines at the headwaters of streams at the southern end of the area. (There is an unwritten agreement among Forest Service timber markers and loggers that these trees are not sold or cut.) With the exception of the white pines, which may be more than two feet in diameter at breast height, and some moderate-sized hemlocks at Handsome Lake Campground, most of the trees we saw on our hikes were small -- less than 12 inches dbh.

Three timber sales have been made in the area by the Forest Service, and one of the formerly private tracts in the northwest corner was logged shortly before the Forest Service acquired it. The locations of the three Forest Service sale areas are shown on our map, which also indicates the extent of the private tracts in the northwest corner which should be examined for timber cutting.

The two sale areas on the southern end of Tracy Ridge were logged in the early 1960's. The Nelse Run Sale, mapped in April 1961 and treated that year, totaled 1610 acres, but a third of the total lies east of the study area, and a third of the remainder was unmerchandisable (apparently the south facing slopes between Nelse Run and its western tributary). The sale was predominantly selectively cut, with three small clearcuts totalling 20 acres. In all 214 acres were done by the end of 1963. The access roads, now planted with grass, originally began on old State 59, now under the reservoir. It would still be possible for four-wheel-drive vehicles to gain access to these roads via State 321, but we saw little evidence that they have been doing so. We saw another access road which now rises out of the water at the unnamed run between Nelse Run and Pollys Run. The general forest scene, at least along the North Country Trail, which follows the logging roads through the sale area, has not been much disturbed, although stumps and some girdled trees are visible.

The Pollys Run sale, mapped in March 1963 and treated that year, was an "even-aged" sale affecting 610 acres. Probably logged by about 1965, it includes four clearcuts totalling 48 acres and ranging in size from 8 to 14 acres. The remainder of the sale area was thinned, although apparently one block of 164 acres along the west side of Pollys Run was never cut. The principal access road, which also began on old State 59, was a graded gravel road, with culverts, which now begins at the reservoir to the east of Pollys Run and climbs to the hilltops at the headwaters of the run. This road, which we walked, has been "put to bed" -- it has been seeded and is grown up in grass; earthen dikes have been pushed up across

the road to divert rainwater and prevent erosion of the road surface going down the hillside. The road was planned so that it could be extended northeast along the ridgetops and linked up with State 321 if desired. With the exception of one pipeline swath at the extreme southern end of the study area and the Tracy Ridge Campground, this road is the only man-made feature obvious in the NASA photo of the Tracy Ridge area. A spur of this road (not visible in the NASA photo) was supposed to link up with an old road coming up from what is now the Hopewell Campground. Hiking up the Pollys Run road, again no great disturbance was observed, though the trees (well above the run) were generally smaller than we had observed along the tributary of Nelse Run. There were some large toppled trees on the downhill side of the road.

The third and most recent Forest Service Sale was in the northeast corner of the study area. The Coffey Run #2 Sale (what was #13) was mapped in 1968 and logging was completed in 1971. Within the Tracy Ridge area it included a total of 705 acres, with 631 acres that were thinned and 74 that were clearcut in four blocks ranging in size from 10 to 25 acres. One 21 acre clearcut lies very close to the North Country Trail, but is barely visible from it. The clearcut was planned that way.

In addition to the Forest Service timber sales, the Assistant Ranger noted that a timber sale had been conducted in a formerly private tract in the northwest corner of the area. We observed a portion of this logged area along the North Country Trail. It had been more or less heavily selectively cut. The disturbance was considerably more obvious than along the segment of the trail that passes through the Nelse Run Sale. It is reported that, at least in winter, one clearcut on the former private land is visible from route 346.

Timber stand improvement (destruction of trees deemed unsuitable as timber producers to make more room for those that are) has been carried out in the Forest Service timber sale areas and in several other stands as shown on the map. Most of this work was done on north facing slopes in the more commercially valuable northern hardwoods. The numbers on the map give the date the work was done. Usually trees are girdled, but in the portions marked "wt" they were felled to provide winter browse for deer. Presumably the North Country Trail passes through some of these stands, but we did not see any obvious girdled or chopped-down trees. However, hiking across country between the head of Pollys Run and the North Country Trail, we encountered large amounts of downed timber, making walking quite difficult. This lies outside the "wt" area as shown on the map.

In fall 1972, the Supervisor's office designated some "marginal areas" in the ANF. These are areas where steep slopes or other geographical features and/or poor quality timber makes the expenses of harvesting the timber (especially in building stable, erosion-free roads) greater than the revenue from the timber. We understand that the steep slopes facing the Allegheny Reservoir in the Tracy Ridge area are in this category. Whether or not a corresponding decrease in the allowable cut has been made is not known.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

Oil and gas activity in the Tracy Ridge study area has been comparatively limited. In all 46 well sites are known, with 21 of them probably now under water. No wells are now producing within the proposed boundaries of the wilderness area, and wells which did produce are almost all around the periphery. A major oil field, the East Kinzua Pool, lies a half mile south of the study area across Sugar Bay, but we did not notice it when looking south across the bay. Within the study area there was gas production from the small Whisky Run Field, now partly under water, and from three isolated wells, one on Johnnycake Run and two on the next run south. These abandoned sites, which are close to the North Country Trail, are not particularly noticeable; they represent a rather minor disturbance of the natural setting. (The most serious disturbance we have seen is at the site of a deep well west of Tracy Ridge Campground, disfigured with a large stagnant pond.) The unsuccessful wells drilled in the study area are mostly in four areas: (1) between Tracy Run and Williams Brook near the railroad, now under water, (2) on the higher elevations of Coffey Run and the Johnson farm, (3) in the vicinity of the pipeline swath north of Sugar Bay, within Warren County, (4) along Willow Creek, now under water. These are shown on our map, and we will give the available well logs below. In 1966 a small new oil field, the Coffey Run Field, was discovered on the private lands at the intersection of routes 321 and 346 at the northern boundary of the area. More recently, an unsuccessful deep well was drilled within the Willow Bay Recreation Area.

Quite divergent opinions have been expressed regarding the prospects for further oil and gas activity in the Tracy Ridge area. Some anticipate further production due both to further exploration and to the development of secondary and tertiary recovery methods; they cite for example that hydraulic stimulation has made possible the development since 1963 of the Willow Creek-Cobb Hollow Field two miles east of the study area. It is reported that a successful gas well was drilled east of Willow Bay in 1972. Thus it is suggested that as technology improves and the demand (prices consumers are willing to pay) for petroleum products and gas increases, more drilling is to be expected. However others expect to see the general gradual decline of OGM activities in this part of Pennsylvania continue. It should be noted that the Forest Service has no direct control over location of wells and access roads for OGM work, since the mineral rights to the Tracy Ridge area are privately owned (except for a recently purchased tract at the southwestern corner). Rather, the Forest Service depends on the voluntary cooperation of the operators. Generally the larger companies are responsible, but smaller concerns are sometimes responsible for poorly located, eroded roads, leaving discarded equipment at drill sites, and polluting streams with sulfur and oil, among other things. In general the Forest Service does not, according to Larson, view the possibility of future OGM activity as preventing up-grading of the present classification of the surface. In principle, condemnation of the mineral rights is always possible.

The rocks of concern are primarily Upper Devonian sandstones and siltstones. Some are highly porous and permeable and are good oil and gas reservoir rocks. Older and deeper rocks have been drilled but have not produced oil or gas in commercial quantities. There is a southerly regional dip averaging 35 feet per mile in Upper Devonian rocks and 45 feet per mile in Oriskany sandstone. Imposed on this are broad north-south folds. No faulting is observed. The Canadaway Group (1540 to 1400 feet thick in the area) contain eight sands which produce oil and/or gas. The two fields within the area exploit sands of this group: (1) Whisky Run Field, a gas producer, in Warrant 3727, from the Cherry Grove sand. The sand is about 30 feet thick, circa 700 feet deep. Initial production ranged from 100-1000 MCFGPD at 150psi. Some of the wells, drilled 500 feet apart, also produced gas from the Tiona, Bradford, Lewis Run, and Kane sands, further down in the Canadaway group. (2) Coffey Run Field, an oil producer discovered 1966, in the NE part of Warrant 3716, from the Dewdrop sand. The sand is about 25 feet thick with 10 feet of pay, about 600 feet below the surface. Initial production ranged 1-10 BOPD and rock pressures 72-180psi after fracturing.

We now summarize the available well log information, arranged by groups within the study area. Numbers refer to the grid shown by Lytle and Goth (see map) and then to a numbering of wells within each square of the grid. Some abbreviations: E(elevation), TD(total depth), MCFGPD(million cubic feet of gas per day), BOPD(barrels of oil per day), SO(show of oil), SG(show of gas). Sand symbols (* if a producing area): SW(salt water) V3(Venango Third), W1*(Warren First), W2(Warren Second), G1(Glade), Wv*(Watsonville), Cld*(Clarendon - Kinzua & Dewdrop), Bt(Balltown), CG*(Cherry Grove), Ti*(Tiona), B2*(Bradford Second), HR*(Harrisburg Run), Kd(Klondike), B3(Bradford Third), LR(Lewis Run), Ka(Kane), Ha*(Haskill), Don(Onondaga), Dor(Oriskany), Dh(Helderberg).

Upper Coffey Run and Johnson farm vicinity (inactive) (7 wells)

4G1 SG, SW Dor E2090 TD4406 Deep Well

L. E. Mallory & Son No. 1 Well, Appalachian Development Corporation, McKean Co. Pa. Corydon Twp. Warrant 3704 Kinzua Quad. 1.84 mi N of 41 55' N. Lat. and 1.53 mi E of 78 55' W Long. Completed Nov. 1943. Deepest fm Oriskany. Result: 30,000 cubic feet of gas per day, initial flow from upper part of Oriskany ss, salt water at 4401 in Oriskany.

This well is located west of Tracy Ridge Campground at the intersection of the Johnnycake and Tracy Run Trails. It has caused the greatest disfigurement of the natural setting we have observed in the area, with a large stagnant pool.

4G2 dry hole TD 1507

Appalachian Development Corporation, completed 1896. Along the Johnnycake Trail below the preceeding.

4H1 dry hole TD 2516

Operator Geo R. McKinney. Completed 1939. Warrant 3711.

4H2 SG Cld, B3 TD 2085

Warrant 3711, Operator C. H. Rathbone, completed 1896.

3H1 dry hole TD 1008
Op. Mallory & Rathbone, Warrant 3715#1, completed 1897
3G1 SO B2 TD 2110
Smith Lands #1, Operator Emery Oil Co. completed 1890
No Sand Devel. beneath 2nd Bradford
Also another dry hole in 3G on west side of Coffee Run (Mallory)

Coffey Run Field (active) (3 wells)
2G1 oil and gas
log not transcribed. Colburn No. 1, first well in field,
discovered 1966, initial production 10 BOPD before fracturing.
2G2 oil well
log not transcribed
2G3 oil well E 1407 TD 682
log not transcribed

Willow Bay area (under water, except new deep dry hole) (5 wells)
1F1 SG Cld
log not transcribed
1E1 SG B3
log not transcribed
Also two dry holes in 1E and 1F
Also a new deep well (dry hole) on 1E 1F boundary, above Willow
Bay Recreation Area, E 1483 TD 5085

Williams Brook & Tracy Run (all but 3E4 under water) (9 wells)
2D3 dry hole
log not transcribed
3E1 SO G1, SG Cld, SW Dor E1266 TD 3542
E. A. Williams No. 1 Well, Ap. Dev. Corp. Warren Co.
Corydon Twp, Warrant 3729 Kinzua Quad. 2.41 mi S of 42 00'
N Lat and .73 mi west of 78 55' Long. Completed August 1944.
Result: 2½ barrels of salt water in 1½ hours at 3527 feet
in Oriskany.
3E2 SG Cld TD 850
E. A. Williams No. 1 completed 1947, drilled to Tiona
3E3 SO B3
log not transcribed
3E4 SO Cld
log not transcribed. This site should be above water on
the North Country Trail. We didn't know it was there and
we didn't see it.
Also a dry hole in 2E below Williams Brook, and three wells in
3E (one a dry hole, no information on the other two)

Whisky Run Field (mainly under water) (6 wells)
4E2 gas well TD 722
E. A. Williams #2, completed 1944. Drilled to Cherry Grove.
1000 MCFGPD from Clarendon & Cherry Grove. RP 475#
4E3 gas well LR Ka
log not transcribed
4E4 gas well Kd TD 1327
E. A. Williams #4, completed 1945, gas in Clarendon and
Bradford 2nd

4E5 gas well B3 TD 1067

E. A. Williams #5, completed 1945. Gas in Clarendon,
Cherry Grove, & Harrisburg Run

4E6 gas well TD 795

E. A. Williams 3, completed 1944. 250 MCFGPD from Cherry
Grove & Tiona.

5E1 SG Cld,Bt,Ti,Kd TD 1187

E. A. Williams #7, completed 1946, SG Bradford 2nd.

Johnnycake Run and runs to south (inactive) (4 wells)

5E2 gas well B2 B3 Ka TD 1274

E. A. Williams #8, completed 1946, gas in Clarendon, Cherry
Grove, Bradford 2nd, Harrisburg & Bradford 3rd

5E3 gas well CG TD 821

E. A. Williams #1 (Fogle) 165 MCFGPD Cherry Grove RP 260#
24 hours. On North Country Trail.

5E4 gas well B3 TD 1540

E. A. Williams #10, 170 MCFGPD Bradford 3, RP 275, on NC Trail

6E1 SG CG,BTD TD 1475

Carl Fogle #1, Op. Fogle et al, completed 1943, 160 MCFGPD
from Tiona. Seen on our hike to Hopewell Campground

North of Sugar Bay in Warren County (inactive) (8 wells)

6D1 TD 1235

Walter Hoop #1, Op Carl Fogle. Completed 1943. under water

6D2 TD 771

Jerry Smith #1, Op. Fogle. Completed 1944. under water

7D1 dry hole TD 995

Muntz #1, Op. Fogle. Completed 1944.

Also two dry holes in 6D near present shoreline, one well with a
show of gas in 6E, one well in 7E near Pollys Run with a
show of gas and one dry hole near the county line.

scattered (inactive) (3 wells)

6F1 SO & SG TD 2705

Morrison #1, Op B. G. Morrison. Completed 1909, shows 2440-80.

4E1 gas well CG, Ti, Ka

Bryant #1, completed? (Doughty Switch Well) reached Bradford,
260 MCFGPD

2F1 SO W

log not transcribed (Smith)

Oil and Gas Geology of the Kinzua Quadrangle, Warren & McKean Counties
Pa. Mineral Resources Report M62, 99pp, 1970. W. S. Lytle and
J. Goth. qr 557.48 P3993bu (with maps)

Well-sample descriptions in northwestern Pa. & adjacent states,
Pa. Topo. & Geol. Surv. Bulletin 40, 691 pp, Charles R. Fettke 1961.
Map 17, Topo & Geol Survey, Common. of Pa. 1972 (recent wells)
Maps of the Oil & Gas Fields, Natural Gas Pipelines, and Oil Pipelines
of Pa., William S. Lytle & Lillian A. Heeren, Topo & Geol Survey,
Commonw. of Pa, Map No. 3, 1964 edition.

Proposed Wilderness Boundaries and Problems

For simplicity we have taken the boundaries of the study area as follows:

West: Allegheny Reservoir (normal pool elevation 1328 feet),
between Willow Bay and Sugar Bay.

South: Sugar Bay, from Allegheny Reservoir to the North Branch
at the highway bridge on Route 321.

East: Route 321, from the North Branch to Route 346.

North: Route 346, from Route 321 to Warren-McKean line, and thence
Willow Bay.

This includes a total of about 9800 acres, all in government ownership except 160 acres at the intersection of Routes 321 and 346.

We believe that almost all this land should be included within the Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area. However several areas present special problems; we list these below, together with our present recommendations.

1. Private lands (160 acres) at the corner of routes 321 and 346. Much of this land is cleared, there are quite a few houses, and wells of the Coffey Run Field. The Forest Service chose not to acquire this area, preferring, according to Larson, to encourage (in view of the proximity of the reservoir) the development of a service area, with motels, gas stations, stores, etc. Whether or not the decision to encourage such an inholding was wise, particularly in the long run, the area is quite far removed from wilderness conditions, and it is difficult to argue that its acquisition is necessary for the wilderness area.

2. The Willow Bay Recreation Area and road along the south side of Willow Bay to the boat ramp are a Corps of Engineers development which has substantially altered the natural setting. This is a large facility of growing popularity which one is probably not going to propose closing; it also provides the rationale for keeping the private inholding discussed above. A possible boundary for the wilderness area would drop south from Route 346 at Schoolhouse Hollow, follow the 1365 foot high water line on the south side of Willow Creek, and the road to the boat ramp and parking area.

3. Tracy Ridge Campground, not yet developed to its projected size. We recommend that further development be sited to the east of Route 321, a change the Forest Service is apparently already considering. We suggest that the present campground be designated a Wilderness Reserve within the wilderness area and that it be gradually phased out (in favor of development across the road).

4. Johnson Farm (160 acres), with some open meadows and dirt roads. We would also designate this as Wilderness Reserve and gate the roads. Similar lands to the east of route 321 can be left open. In this area and the preceeding, unlike the first two, we feel that human intrusion, while nontrivial, is fairly simply remedied and management should aim toward restoring the wilderness environment.

5. Some 500 acres at the south end are cut off by the pipeline swath. We would recommend that they be managed as part of the wilderness area, to which geographically they belong. In this case the swath would be designated a Wilderness Reserve, to be restored once the pipeline is abandoned or relocated.

6. Handsome Lake and Hopewell Campgrounds. The Forest Service regrets having built these in sites without service road access and would like to phase them out. We recommend that meantime they be designated Wilderness Reserves and gradually be phased out as campgrounds with service road access are constructed elsewhere.

7. The land between the reservoir shore (normal pool 1328 feet) and the high water level (1365 feet) should be treated as a permanent Wilderness Reserve and not developed in any way.

8. We are opposed to allowing any "buffer zone" along route 321 which could be developed, and we would bring the wilderness area right up to the road. If turnouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc. are desired they could be built on the east side of the road. (A large number of turnouts already exist.) We have suggested that the road be followed south all the way to the North Branch, but following it to 78 53'45" would suffice to protect the mouth of Nelse Run if one wants to allow for turnouts along Sugar Bay.

9. Minor wildlife clearings along Nelse Run and Coffey Run would presumably have to be abandoned; this presents much less problem than in the Hickory Creek area.

10. Scattered well sites, small clearcuts, minor stretches of abandoned pipeline, and abandoned roads along the reservoir can if necessary also be designated Wilderness Reserves. It would be nice to clean up the well site back of Tracy Ridge Campground.


If all the areas discussed above were excluded, we would have a wilderness area of about 8950 acres. However, as indicated, our recommendation is to exclude only the first two areas, along the northern boundary. This leads to a wilderness area of about 9500 acres, within which the most objectionable human intrusion (during part of the year) will be the noise from boats on the reservoir. We can testify from our hikes in fall and winter 1972-3 that this is indeed an area where one can feel removed from the presence, works, and activities of man.

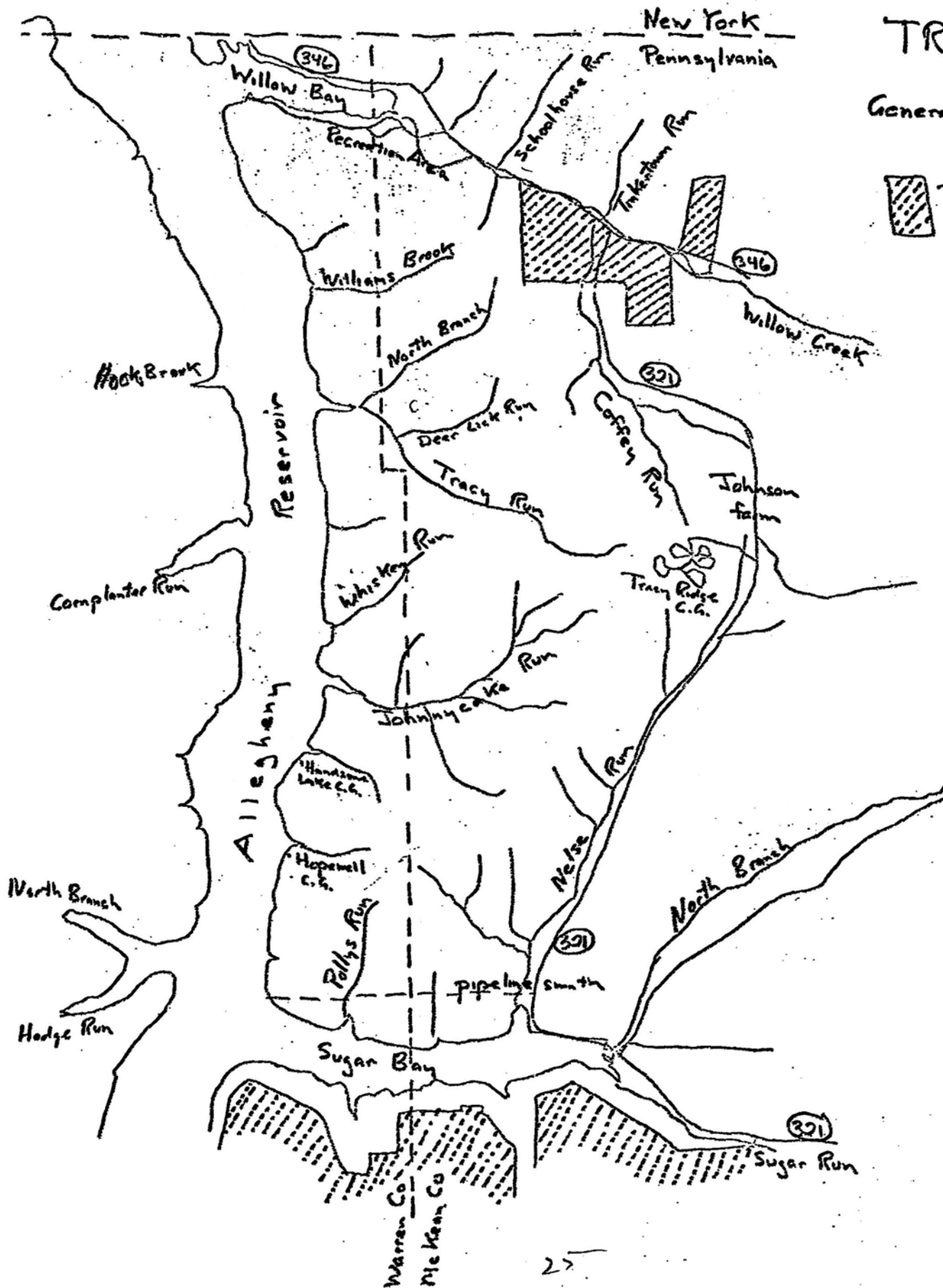
One should, however, be aware of possible objections to the establishment of a wilderness area. We do not see conflicts with boaters and campers, since we do not propose phasing out any campground unless alternative facilities are developed. Closing the dirt roads of the Johnson farm may cause conflicts with present users, though the Forest Service will probably be moving to end such use anyway (due to the lack of sanitary facilities). Any wilderness area represents a conflict with off-road vehicles. However, as with other conflicts, we should keep in mind that we are only talking about a very small fraction of the total land of the Allegheny National Forest. Backpackers will be disturbed if, as the Forest Service suggests, the area is closed to camping. Since it is small and would be heavily used, perhaps backcountry

campsites should be designated in a couple places, as on the tributary of Nelse Run along the North Country Trail and on the North Branch just off the trail. Closing wildlife clearings is a conflict with game management, fortunately minor in this case. More generally wilderness management will change the distribution of wildlife, increasing some species (as wild turkey) and decreasing others (deer). These changes must be balanced against the wilderness experience for the hunter. It can be argued that the hoise of boats on the reservoir and the presence of scattered wall sites and clearcuts works against a wilderness experience in this area. It has been suggested that with Allegany State Park just across the line in New York State a wilderness area is not needed here. As elsewhere in the East, the private ownership of oil, gas, and mineral rights will threaten any wilderness area until such rights are acquired. The economics of wilderness recreation versus logging can be argued. Finally, it has been argued that, without fires, eastern wilderness will become practically pure beech and hemlock - that management is necessary if one is to have the white pine, birch, oaks, maples, aspens, etc. which one associates with the "original" wilderness. All these problems must be considered. Nevertheless we favor the designation of Tracy Ridge as a Wilderness Area, where one may continue to feel removed from the presence, works, and activities of man.

TRACK RUN

General Geography

 privately owned land

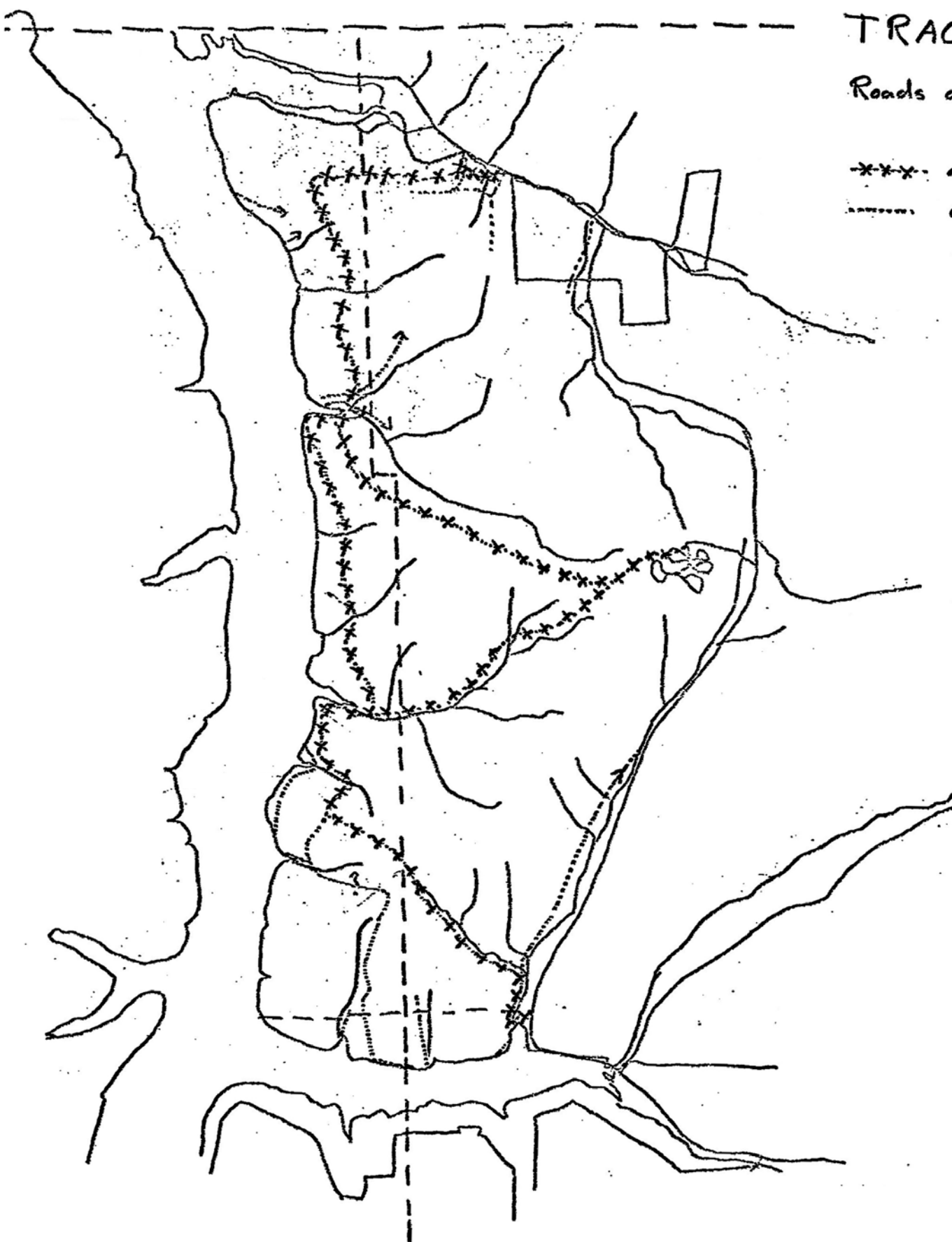


TRACY RUN

Roads and Trails

-x-x-x- developed trails

..... other



Tracy Ridge Study Area

Forest Service
Timber Sales
and
Timber Stand
Improvement

↑
N

private

Coffey Run
#2
Timber Sale
1705 acres in
study area

wt = trees
chopped
down for
browse

67 et al =
date of
TSI

Handsome
Lug Campground

Hopewell
Campground

Pollys
Run Sale

never
cut

Pollys Run

Gravel Road

Nelse Run

Nelse Run
Sale

=== Logging
Road
(now seeded)

--- Timber
Sale
Boundary

Clear
Cuts

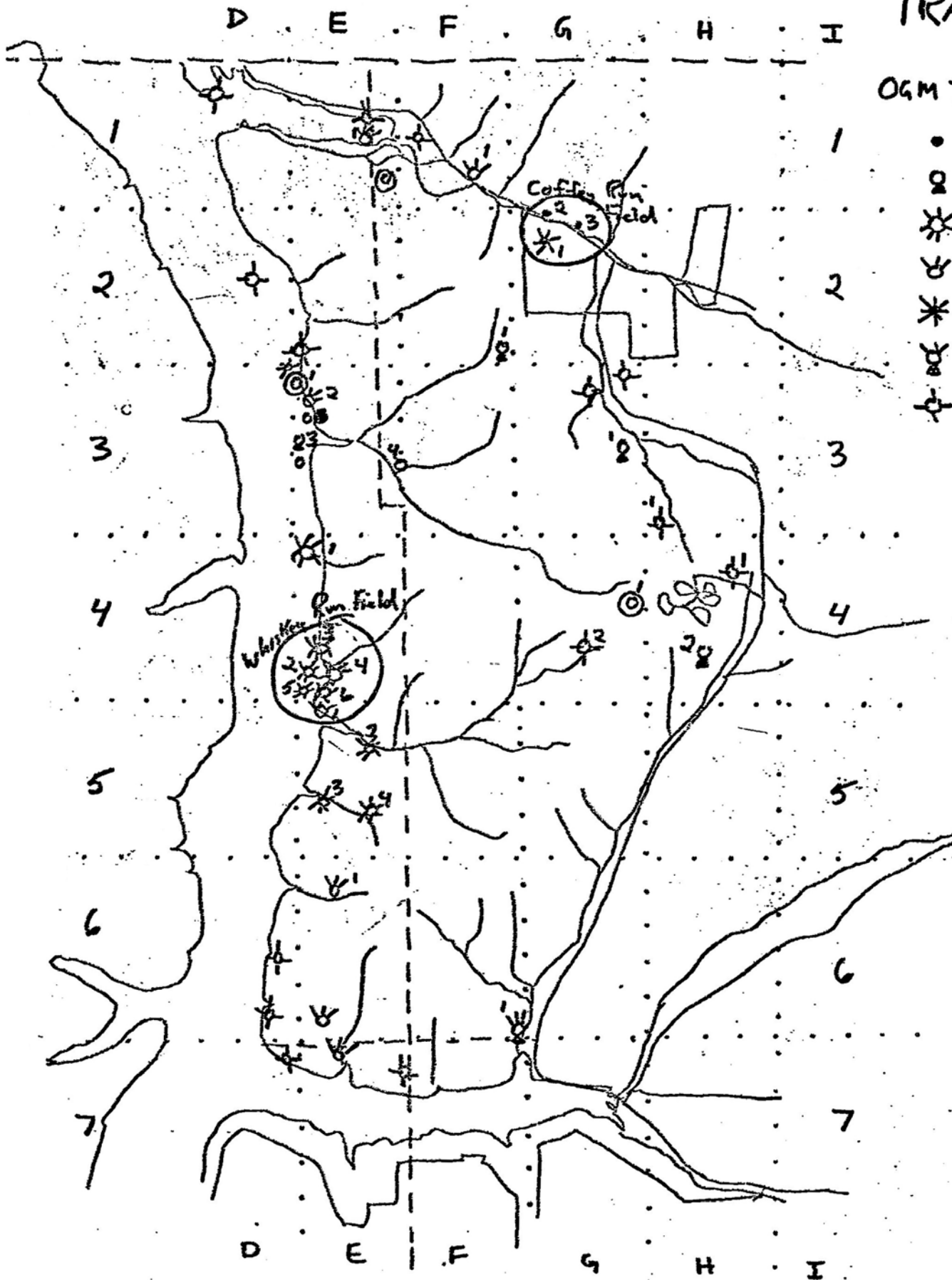
Timber
Stand
Improvement

Map II

TRACK RUN

OGM Index Map

- Oil well
- ⊗ show of oil
- ☼ gas well
- ⊕ show of gas
- * oil & gas well
- ⊗ show of oil & gas
- ⊕ dry hole



TRACK

Before the (19)

Streams, P. Towns, Forest

Superior On curve

Cornplanter GRANT

Johnson Farm

Gowango

Sugar Run

Run

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Streams, Roads, Railroad,
Towns, Forest Boundaries

Superimposed
On current map

Complanter
GRANT

Johnsen
Farm

Gowango

Sugar Run