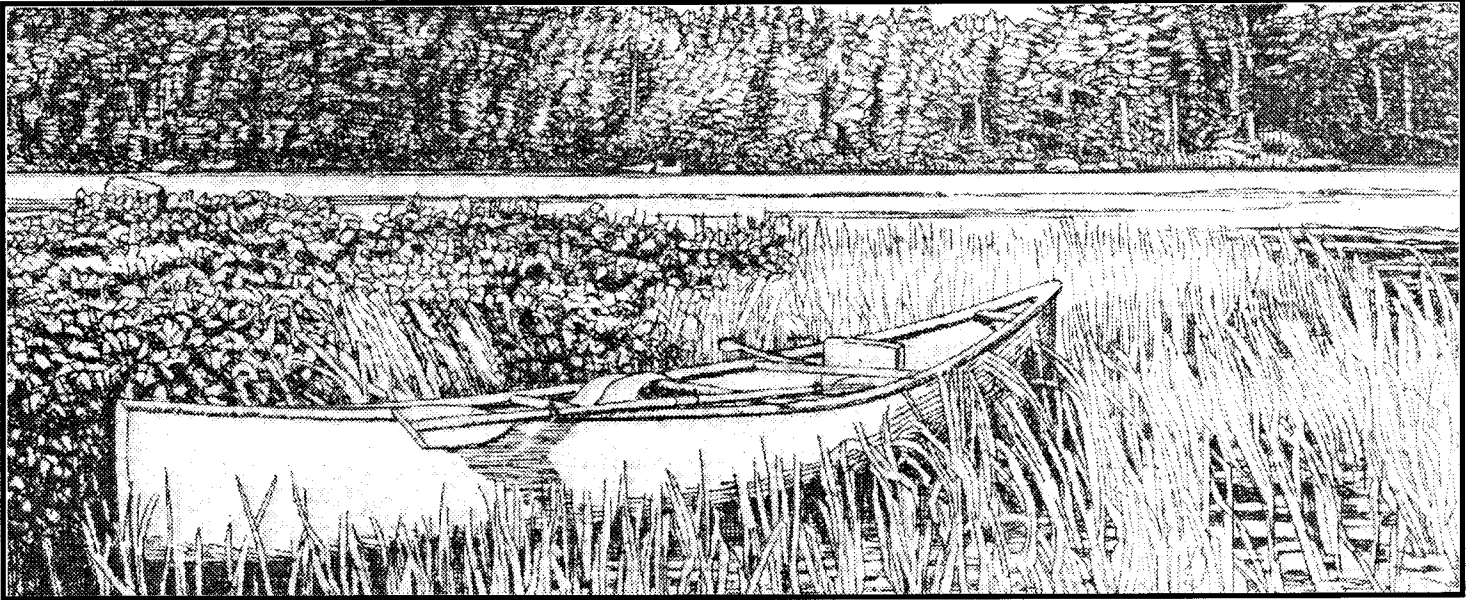


William C. Whitney Wilderness

Adirondack Forest Preserve Map and Guide



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Eliot Spitzer, Governor

Welcome to the William C. Whitney Wilderness

On December 22, 1997, Governor Pataki announced that the state had agreed to purchase nearly 15,000 acres of Whitney Park, describing it as a "priceless" gift from this generation of New Yorkers to those who will follow us." Acquired with money from the Environmental Protection Fund and the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, this addition to New York's Forest Preserve is open to the public for a variety of recreational activities, including canoeing, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing and horseback riding. The area has been named after William C. Whitney, who assembled a vast forest estate that has been managed for more than a century by the Whitney family. On March 10, 2000 the Whitney purchase was classified as wilderness by the Adirondack Park Agency, along with the part of the former Lake Lila Primitive Area located east of the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor. The combined area was named the William C. Whitney Wilderness. The road along the north side of Lake Lila and an acre at Nehasane Station were designated as the Nehasane Primitive Area.

Because the William C. Whitney Wilderness is owned by all the people of the state and contains unique and fragile natural resources, its future must be carefully planned. Before sound management decisions can be made, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) must fully assess the natural resources of the area. During the assessment, it is essential that the effects of recreational use of the area be minimized. Therefore, special regulations will be in effect to help protect natural resources, as well as the safety of visitors, until a final management plan has been prepared.

Location and Access

The William C. Whitney Wilderness is just west of the center of the Adirondack Park in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. It is readily accessible from New York State Route 30, a designated Scenic Byway known as the Adirondack Trail. To reach the area, take Route 30 twelve miles south from the hamlet of Tupper Lake or seven miles north from the hamlet of Long Lake to the intersection with Hamilton County Route 10A (Sabattis Road.) Turn west and proceed four miles to the Little Tupper Lake Headquarters entrance road. Here, at the former area, an information station, and the only waterway access site on Little Tupper Lake (see map). To reach Lake Lila, drive beyond the entrance to Little Tupper Lake Headquarters and go another three miles west on Sabattis Road to the Lake Lila Road, a gravel road marked with a DEC sign. Turn left (south) and proceed about six miles to a 30-car parking area.

Area Maps and Trip Planning

Please plan carefully and use a compass and good maps when traveling. To be prepared, you should supplement this brochure with detailed maps, such as those available from the United States Geologic Survey, which show topography, roads, streams, etc. The USGS topographic maps that cover this area are the Little Tupper Lake, Forked Lake, Beaver River and Wolf Mountain quadrangles. They are available from many suppliers of outdoor recreational equipment, or by calling USGS directly at 888-ASK-USGS.

In addition, a DEC brochure is available for the nearby **Bog River Flow**.

History

Whitney Park-The area that became Whitney Park was the hub of a system of historic canoe routes used by Native Americans and early Adirondack explorers. Routes linking Tupper Lake, Long Lake and Lake Lila were documented by E.R. Wallace in his 1887 *Descriptive Guide to the Adirondacks* and W.H.H. Murray's *Adventures in the Wilderness*.

From 1896 to 1898, William C. Whitney and his business partner Patrick Moynihan, an experienced lumberman, purchased a number of parcels totaling 68,000 acres of virgin forest land in northern Hamilton County. Later, Mr. Whitney became the sole owner of the estate he then named Whitney Park. An ardent conservationist, Mr. Whitney invited forester Henry Graves, a protégé of Gifford Pinchot (later the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service) to prepare a forest management plan for the property. Early timber harvesting was therefore conducted through one of the first applications of scientific forestry in the country.

Construction of the area's extensive road system began in the 1930s to facilitate horse logging. A four-mile railroad spur was built from the New York Central Railroad into Whitney Park in 1936 to transport hardwood and hemlock logs. Traces of the railroad are visible in the vicinity of Hardigan and Rock Ponds.

Timber harvesting has not been the only agent of change in the forest. A great fire in 1908 burned much of the northwest quarter of the Whitney purchase. Plantations of white pine were established in the open areas created by the burn. The "Great Blowdown" of 1950 felled trees in the vicinity of Antediluvian and Doctors ponds and a few areas south of Little Tupper Lake. The most powerful windstorm since that time was the microburst of July 15, 1995. The Winds of over 100 miles per hour flattened much of the western part of the property. Salvage operations harvested some of the damaged trees along the heavily impacted western shore of Little Tupper Lake and in the vicinity of Hardigan and Bum ponds.

The many buildings at the Little Tupper Lake entrance have long been known as Whitney Headquarters. The large main building was constructed in 1923 to house lumberjacks and was later converted into an office for Whitney Industries. In 1946, several residences were built for employees. Other structures were built that served the management of the property, including an electrical generation facility, boathouse, pumphouse, storage sheds and a maintenance shop/garage.

Nehasane Park- Once called Smith's Lake, Lake Lila was named by William Seward Webb after his wife, the former Lila Vanderbilt. Webb, whose Nehasane Park once covered 115,000 acres, built the Adirondack Railroad in 1891-1892. The railroad ran from Utica to Montreal and opened the western Adirondacks to tourists and lumbermen. Shortly after the railroad was completed, Webb built his Forest Lodge on the western shore of Lake Lila near the site now occupied by the lean-to. Gifford Pinchot surveyed the timber resources of

Nehasane Park in 1893, and on his recommendation, Henry Graves-later hired by William C. Whitney-prepared the first forest management plan. The state acquired the 7,200-acre part of Nehasane Park surrounding Lake Lila in 1979. Though the lodge was removed, buildings at the old Nehasane station still stand beside the railroad, now known as Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor. As in the adjacent Whitney purchase, forest fires in the early twentieth century and the 1995 blowdown transformed the forests surrounding Lake Lila.

Land and Water

The centerpiece of the Whitney purchase is Little Tupper Lake. Nearly six miles long and up to a mile wide, with 20 miles of shoreline, it is a broad avenue leading into the remote heart of the forest. Except for two private holdings, the entire lake is state-owned (see map.) With over 1,400 acres, Lake Lila is the largest lake in the Forest Preserve whose shoreline is completely state owned. The lake offers superb opportunities for wilderness camping and canoeing. There are 12 smaller lakes and ponds throughout the wilderness area.

The landscape surrounding the waters of the area is composed of low, forested hills with a few modest mountains. Elevations above sea-level range from 1,716 feet at the surface of Lake Lila to 2,297 feet at the summit of Antediluvian Mountain. Extensive wetlands stretch out from the ponds and streams.

Vegetation

The William C. Whitney Wilderness lies in the ecological transition zone between the temperate deciduous forest and the boreal forest to the north. The main forest types are northern hardwoods (mostly beech, red maple and yellow birch), mixed woods (hardwoods with hemlock, red spruce and scattered white pine) and spruce flats. Logging activity prior to state ownership has left a young, open forest over much of the Whitney purchase. A narrow band of mature trees was preserved along shorelines to protect the view from the water and to reduce erosion into ponds and streams.

Wildlife

There are a number of residents of the Adirondack forest that you are likely to see or hear during your visit to the William C. Whitney Wilderness. White-tailed deer live here, along with black bears. There is a chance you may catch a glimpse of a moose. Forest residents that usually escape detection include bobcat, fisher and pine marten. Working mostly after the sun goes down, beaver have made their mark by damming many streams. Coyotes have become increasingly common in recent years. Other local animals include river otter, raccoon, red and gray fox, muskrat, striped skunk, porcupine and snowshoe hare.

These remote forests and wetlands are home to songbirds such as woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks and sparrows. Boreal birds like the spruce grouse, Wilson's warbler, Cape May warbler, bay-breasted warbler, three-toed woodpecker and

yellow-bellied flycatcher breed in or near the area. These species generally are found in habitats associated with bogs, spruce swamps and other wetlands.

As you canoe these waters, look for common mergansers as they dive for fish. Another Adirondack fish-eater you may encounter is the common loon. Great blue herons are often seen standing motionless in the shallows. Along with osprey, or “fish hawks”, herons make their large stick nests in trees near water. At night, the wild call of the loon may be joined by the distinctive hoot of the barred owl. Bald eagles have been seen near Lake Lila.

Fish

Little Tupper Lake is the home of a genetically unique “heritage” strain of brook trout. Along with a variety of native minnows, the population of the Little Tupper Lake strain are the direct descendants of the first trout to have reached the lake after glaciers receded about 12,000 years ago. The Whitney family successfully prevented the introduction of predatory and competing non-native fish species, such as smallmouth bass, northern pike and yellow perch. Consequently, Little Tupper Lake may be the largest lake in the eastern United States with its original strain of trout.

Two other waters within the William C. Whitney Wilderness harbor the Little Tupper Lake strain: Rock Pond and Bum Pond. Lilypad Pond and Little Salmon Lake support brook trout, but not the Little Tupper Lake strain.

Anglers visiting Lake Lila will find, in approximate order of abundance, smallmouth bass, lake trout, yellow perch, land-locked salmon and brook trout.

See “**Fishing**” section for special fishing regulations.

Private Lands

Please do not trespass on adjacent private lands. Camp Francis and Camp on the Point are privately owned.

Enjoying the William C. Whitney Wilderness

During your visit to the William C. Whitney Wilderness, you can enjoy a number of recreational activities, including canoeing, fishing, hiking, camping, watching wildlife, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding.

Accessible Facilities: The parking area at Little Tupper Lake Headquarters has spaces designated for use by people with disabilities. Modified pit privies are located at the headquarters area. The public waterway access site is accessible to those with mobility impairments. Although area roads are closed to public motor vehicle use, they are available for use by people with mobility impairments who utilize mechanized aids (i.e., non-motorized or motorized wheelchairs or other similar devices), as well as hikers and families seeking a wilderness experience not requiring some strenuous effort.

Parking: Please park only in the four parking areas provided for access to the William C. Whitney Wilderness. A parking area for the only approved waterway access site

for Little Tupper Lake is located at the headquarters area. The parking area the Burn Road Trailhead provides access to the marked hiking trails. Vehicles with horse trailers may park only at the Sabattis Road facility. The road to the Lake Lila parking area is bordered on both sides by private land until the parking area is reached. There is no parking on the access road. If the parking area is full, visitors must park off Sabattis Road and hike to the lake. Overnight parking of trailers of any kind is prohibited.

Canoeing: The William C. Whitney Wilderness contains an extensive and historic system of navigable lakes and streams which are readily accessible by canoe or non-motorized boat.

The only approved location for waterway access to Little Tupper Lake is at the headquarters lot. This site is hand-launch only; boats may be carried to the water. From the single put-in site, you can explore Little Tupper Lake and, with a short carry on Rock Pond outlet, easily paddle into Rock Pond. A series of unmarked canoe carry trails connects Hardigan Pond, Little Salmon Lake, and Lilypad Pond to Shingle Shanty Brook, from which the adventurous may paddle to Lake Lila. There are likely to be many beaver dams and blowdowns along the way. Those interested in directly exploring Lake Lila by canoe may put in at the end of a 0.3-mile carry from the Lake Lila parking area.

Warning: The prevailing winds and shallowness of Little Tupper Lake often result in large waves. During rough weather, canoeists should stay near shore.

Hunting and Trapping: Hunting and trapping are permitted in accordance with DEC regulations. Licenses are available from town offices and many sporting good stores. Trapping is not permitted in the Little Tupper Lake Headquarters Lot.

NOTICE TO CANOEISTS

A recent decision by the Court of Appeals, the State’s highest court, reaffirmed the public’s longstanding right to canoe or otherwise travel by vessel on waterways that are “navigable in fact.” However, no court has yet determined whether any of the waterways or portions of waterways that are on private lands directly adjoining the William C. Whitney Wilderness satisfies the legal test used to establish navigability. Paddlers should be aware that landowners concerned about trespassing might have posted one or more of these waterways and may take legal action against paddlers attempting to travel on them.

Fishing: The use or possession of bait fish is prohibited throughout the William C. Whitney Wilderness. To protect the Little Tupper Lake strain of brook trout, special fishing regulations are in effect. **In Little Tupper Lake, Rock Pond, and Rock Pond Outlet (the stream between Rock Pond and Little Tupper Lake), only artificial lures may be used, and all trout caught must be released. In addition, fishing is prohibited on Charley Pond Outlet between July 1 and September 15.** In Lake Lila, the minimum length for lake trout is 15 inches. General angling regulations apply for other species and waters.

Camping: Because the recent Whitney purchase was combined with the former Lake Lila Primitive Area to form the William C. Whitney Wilderness, there are slight differences between the regulations for the two areas. **Former Lake Lila Primitive Area:** Along the shore of Lake Lila, as well as anywhere else closer than 150 feet from lakes, ponds, streams, trails or roads, camping is allowed only at primitive tent sites designated with "Camp Here" disks. Camping is allowed at any site more than 150 feet from lakes, ponds, streams, trails or roads, except that camping is not permitted within one-quarter mile of the Lake Lila Parking area. Maximum group size is nine people. **Whitney Purchase:** Throughout the area, camping is allowed only at primitive tent sites designated with "Camp Here" disks. Campfires are allowed only at designated campsites in the fire rings provided. Maximum group size is eight people. **All Areas:** Only dead and down wood may be used for campfires.

Horseback Riding: Horses are not permitted on marked foot trails. A marked trail starts at the Sabattis Road parking area located just east of the Little Tupper Lake Headquarters entrance road. Horseback riders must proceed along the shoulder of Sabattis Road and take a right on County Route 10A to the trail intersection with the Stony Pond Road/Southshore Trail.

Area Roads: The former road system of the Whitney purchase is quickly being overtaken by vegetation. Gradually the roads will take on the character of a wilderness trail system. A gravel road leads from the gate at the Lake Lila parking area along the north shore of the lake to private lands. The owners of these lands have the legal right to use motor vehicles on the road. To protect wilderness values, motor vehicles and bicycles use of this road by the public is prohibited.

Trails

Burn Road Trailhead

This trailhead is on Sabattis Road, 1.4 miles west of the headquarters entrance road. A 13.5-mile trail system provides access to points along the north shore of Little Tupper Lake and branches off to several interior waters, the largest being 281-acre Rock Pond.

Lilypad Pond Trail (red markers) 8.2 miles

This trail begins at the Burn Road parking area on Sabattis Road. The trail proceeds in a westerly direction paralleling the northern side of Little Tupper Lake, eventually crosses Charley Pond Outlet and ends at Lilypad Pond.

Rock Pond Trail (blue markers) 2.8 miles

This trail begins after walking 5.7 miles west of the Sabattis Road on the Lilypad Pond Trail. The Rock Pond Trail proceeds in a southerly direction, passing by Frenchman's Mine, continuing southeasterly, crossing over Rock Pond Outlet on a bridge, and eventually ends on the eastern shore of Rock Pond.

Hardigan Pond Trail (yellow markers) 1.5 miles

This spur trail begins on the Rock Pond Trail approximately one-half mile south of Frenchman's Mine. The trail proceeds southwesterly, turning onto an old railroad grade just before Hardigan Pond.

Stony Pond Road Trailhead

This trailhead with no parking area is on the Sabattis Road, 0.4 mile south of the Sabattis Road junction.

Southshore Trail (yellow horse trail markers) 4.0 miles

This marked horse trail heads west along the south shore of Little Tupper Lake and ends approximately four miles from the public highway at two separate camping areas.

Lake Lila and Mount Frederica

A canoe carry trail proceeds about 0.3 mile from the Lake Lila parking area to the nearest point on the shore of Lake Lila. Another marked trail follows the road from the parking area along the north shore off the lake, reaching the site of the former Forest Lodge at 3.1 miles. Public vehicular use of this road is prohibited. Owners of private lands beyond the primitive area may use motor vehicles on the road to gain access to their property. From the lodge site a marked trail leads 1.6 miles to the summit of Mt. Frederica (formerly Smith Mountain), overlooking Lake Lila. The climb of 500 feet offers an excellent view of the lake and the surrounding forest. Hikers will find remnants of several woods roads in the area as well as roads leading to private lands. There are no trails leading into the adjacent Five Ponds Wilderness.

Winter Activities

The trails within the William C. Whitney Wilderness offer numerous opportunities for backcountry cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

CONTACT DEC

Emergency Search and Rescue or

Fire Hotline: 518-891-0235

Backcountry Law Enforcement: 518-897-1300

Forest Ranger Information:

Little Tupper Lake Headquarters:

518-624-6686

Comments or Suggestions:

NYSDEC, Forest Preserve Management

1115 NYS Route 86

PO Box 296

Ray Brook, NY 12977

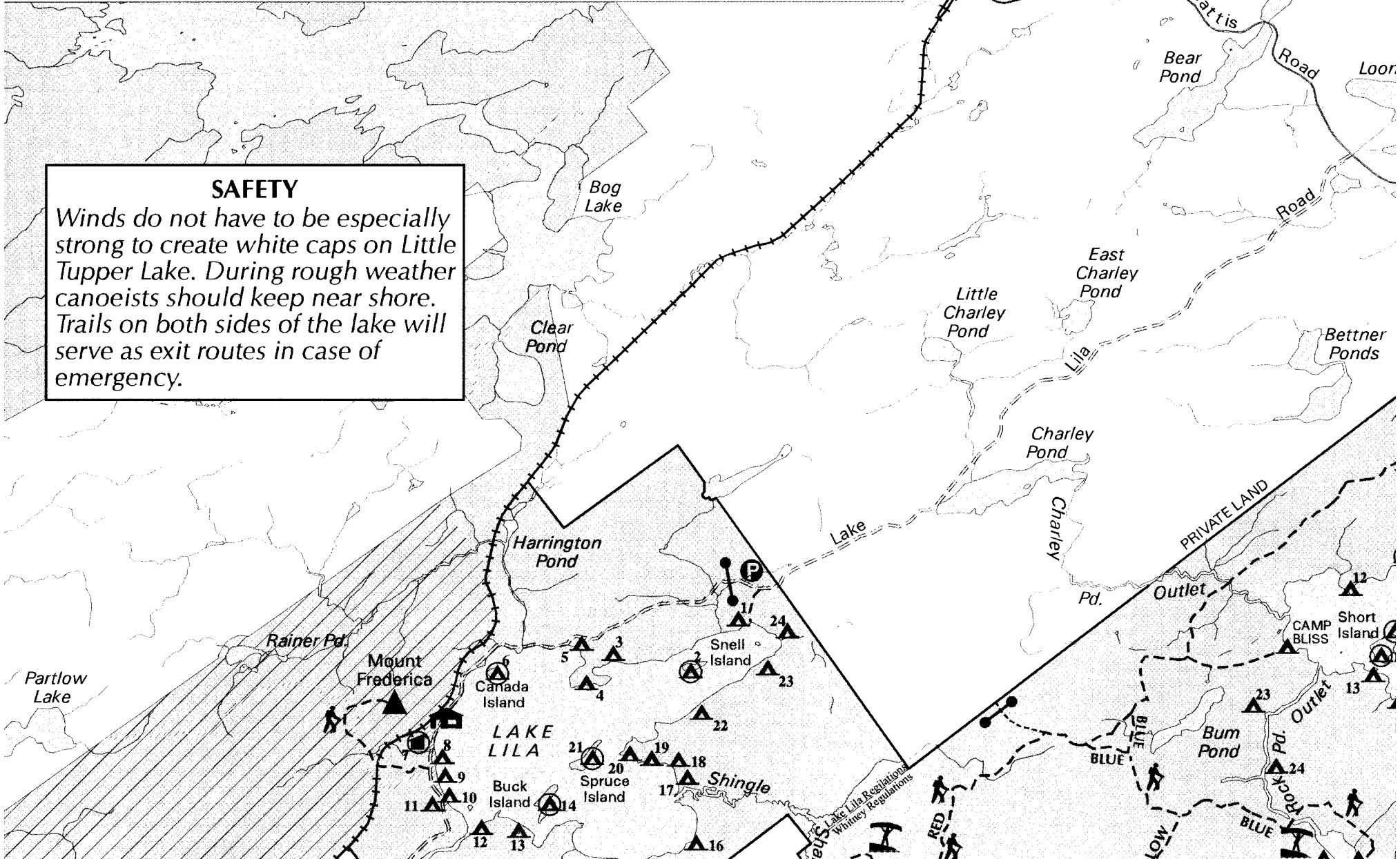
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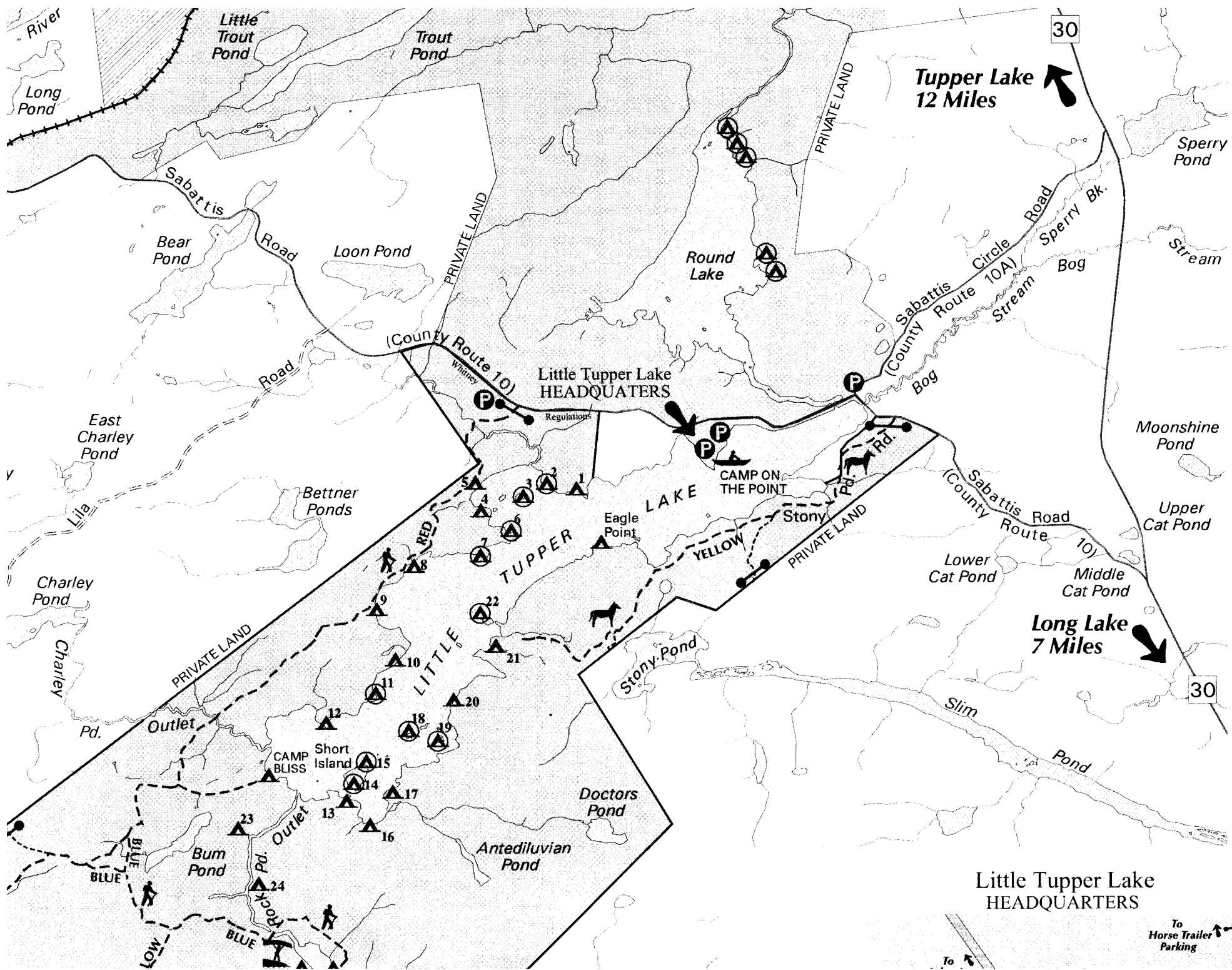


WILLIAM C. WHITNEY AND ROUND LAKE WILDERNESS AREAS

SAFETY

Winds do not have to be especially strong to create white caps on Little Tupper Lake. During rough weather canoeists should keep near shore. Trails on both sides of the lake will serve as exit routes in case of emergency.





Tupper Lake
12 Miles

30

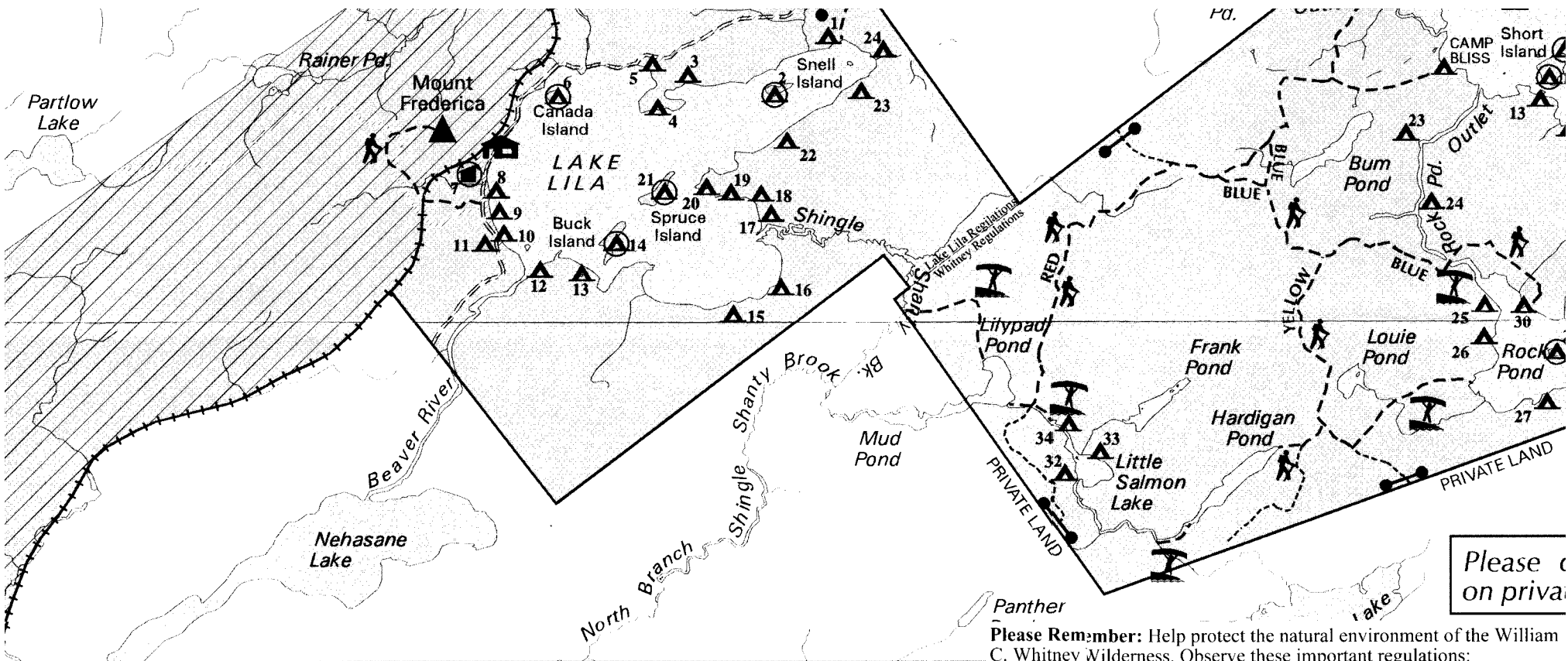


Long Lake
7 Miles

30

To
Horse Trailer
Parking

Little Tupper Lake
HEADQUARTERS

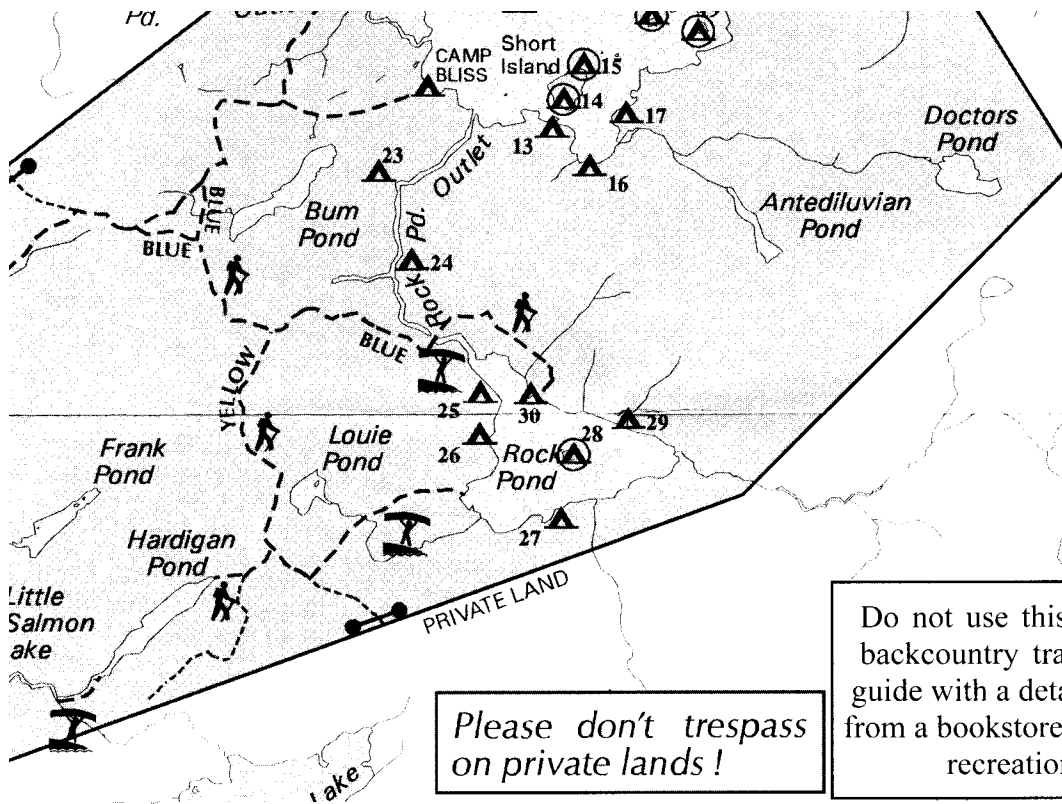


Please do not enter private land

Please Remember: Help protect the natural environment of the William C. Whitney Wilderness. Observe these important regulations:

- Area-Wide:
- Except on access roads leading to parking areas, where motor vehicles and bicycles are permitted, **do not use motor vehicles, float planes, snowmobiles, motor boats, or bicycles anywhere within the William C. Whitney Wilderness.**
 - Park only in designated parking areas.
 - Park vehicles with horse trailers only in the designated horse-trailer parking area
 - **Do not ride horses on trails marked as foot trails.** In accordance with state regulations, horse owners must have a current negative Coggins certificate. Out-of-state horse owners must have a thirty-day certificate.
 - **Obtain a camping permit** from a forest ranger for stays of more than three nights at one location.
 - **Leave no fires unattended and make sure fires are out** before you leave.
 - **Use only dead or down wood to build campfires.** Do not strip bark or deface standing trees.
 - **Carry a 1, 2 or 3 personal flotation device for each person on board** all watercraft.
 - **Do not remove, deface, mutilate or destroy Department signs or structures.** The next person that comes along may become lost if signs or trail markers are missing.
 - **If you carry it in, carry it out.**
 - **Please keep our waters clean.** Do not do any washing within 150 feet of any stream, pond, or other water sources. Where a pit privy (outhouse) is not provided, dig a hole with a trowel eight inches deep at

	WILLIAM C. WHITNEY WILDERNESS		FOOT TRAIL
	FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS		HORSE TRAIL
	PRIMITIVE		UNMARKED TRAIL
	WILD FOREST		PARKING
	REMSEN - LAKE PLACID TRAVEL CORRIDOR		WATERWAY ACCESS SITE
	NEHASANE STATION		UNMARKED CANOE CARRY
	BARRIER		LEAN-TO WITH BOX PRIVY
			DESIGNATED CAMPSITE
			DESIGNATE WITH BOX PRIVY



Do not use this map as a guide for backcountry travel. Purchase a trail guide with a detailed topographic map from a bookstore or supplier of outdoor recreational equipment.

Please don't trespass on private lands!

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least 150 feet from water, trail or campsite. Cover waste with soil and leaf litter.

- **Do not use chainsaws** or generators in the area.
- **Do not store personal property** (canoes, tree stands, etc.) on State lands.

Whitney Purchase (see map).

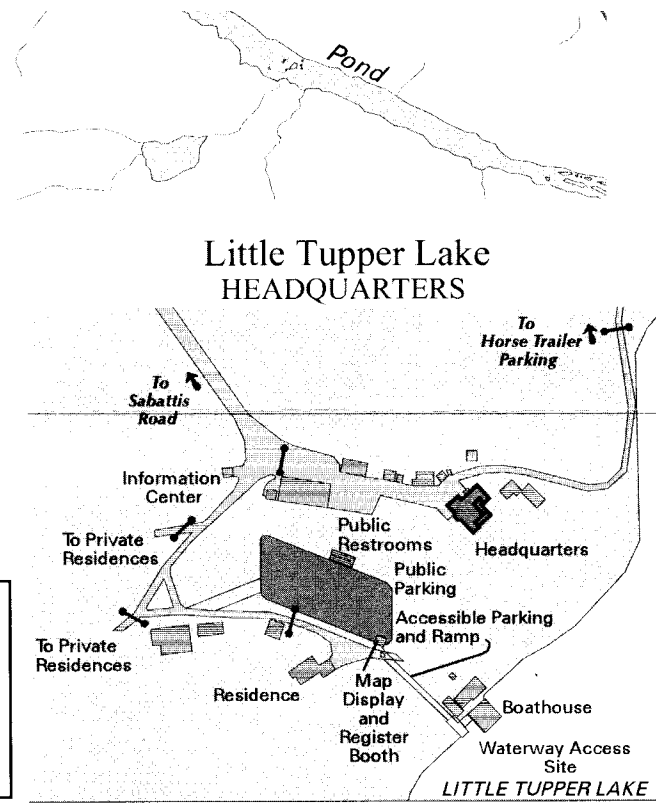
- **Camp only** at campsites designated with "Camp Here" disks.
- **Camp in groups no larger than eight people.**
- **Build fires** only at designated campsites in fire rings provided.
- **Launch boats** only at the Headquarters area.
- **Keep your dog on a leash** in the Headquarters Area.
- **Do not trap** in the Headquarters Area.
- **Observe special fishing regulations.**

Lake Lila Area (see map)

- **Camp only at campsites** designated with "Camp Here" disks within 150 feet of lakes, ponds, streams, trails, or roads. Outside the 150-foot zone, campsite location is not restricted, except that camping is prohibited within one-quarter mile of the Lake Lila parking area.
- **Camp in groups no larger than nine people.**

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

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