

**INDIAN LAKE ROAD** (From the Otter Brook Road intersection to barrier near Indian Lake) - 5.5 miles. This road may be temporarily closed early in the season at the Otter Brook Barrier. These short trails provide easy access to each respective body of water.

**Squaw Lake Trail (yellow) - 0.4 mile**

**Muskrat Pond Trail (yellow) - 0.1 mile**

**Indian Lake Trail (Yellow) - 0.1 mile**

#### **West Canada Wilderness**

The remote area is noted for its numerous lakes, ponds and streams. The terrain varies from swamp flats to mountains. Facilities include:

#### **Northville-Placid Trail (South Lake-Wakely Dam) - 16.8 miles**

The majority of the trail is within the wilderness area. Nine lean-tos can be found in proximity to some interior water.

#### **Brooktrout Trail (yellow) - 5.9 miles**

Contrary to its name, the lake is sterile due to acid precipitation. Three side trails lead to Falls Pond, Wolf Lake and Deep Lake.

#### **Indian River Trail - 9.0 miles**

The Indian River Road originally continued past the barrier at Indian Lake. This old road is an access trail into this remote section of the wilderness area, then continues to Horn, Balsam and Stink Lakes.

#### **Wakely Mountain Primitive Area**

This area consists of 120 acres occupying the south exposure of the upper portion of Wakely Mountain. Facilities include a foot trail, fire tower, observers cabin and helipad.

#### **Wakely Mountain Trail (red) -3.2 miles**

The steep climb to the top of 3,744 foot Wakely Mountain leads to the tallest fire tower in the Adirondacks, which provides a panoramic view of the surrounding topography.

**Area Rules and Regulations:** Are posted at both entry gates. They have been developed to protect natural resources, while allowing appropriate public recreational activity.

Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Boating

1. The bag limit for trout in all ponds and streams in the area (except Limekiln Lake) is 5/day of any size. The open season for trout extends from April 1 to September 30.
2. The use of fish as bait, either dead or alive, is not permitted in Icehouse Pond, Lost Ponds (2), Mitchell Ponds (2), Squaw Lake, or Horn Lake.
3. See NYSDEC Fishing Regulations Guide for Special Regulations (Hamilton County) pertaining to trout fishing on Limekiln Lake and the Moose River for amendments to the list of waters where bait fishing is prohibited. Contact DEC for information regarding current hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.
4. Car top boats and canoes are permitted. No motors are allowed on Beaver Lake, Helldiver Pond, Icehouse Pond, Indian Lake, Lost Ponds (2), Mitchell Ponds (2) and Squaw Lake.

**Snowmobiles:** No snowmobiles are permitted within the area until the close of the "Big Game" hunting season unless the roads are closed to other vehicles because of snow. Snowmobile use is prohibited except on designated marked trails or on the frozen surface of lakes or ponds, when access is provided by a marked DEC trail. A 25 MPH maximum speed is in effect for the roads and trails in the area.

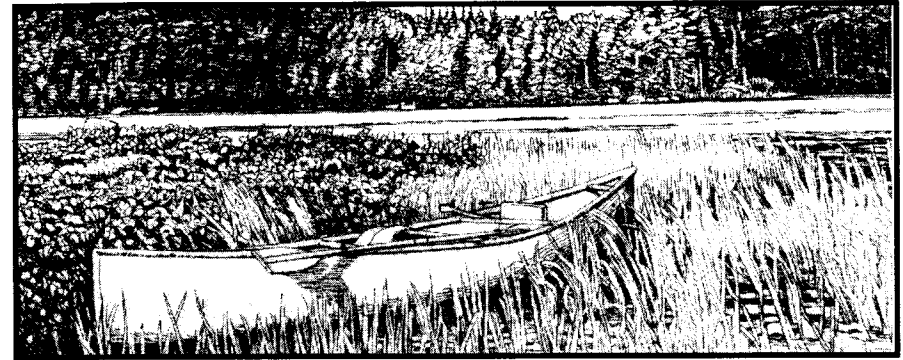
#### **Horse Use**

The roads and the Lost Ponds, Mitchell Ponds, Beaver Lake and Sly Pond trails are designated for use by horseback riders. Use is also allowed on area snowmobile trails that area not covered with snow or ice. Horseback riding is not permitted within the Limekiln Lake campground or on trails designed for foot travel only.



# **Moose River Recreation Area**

Adirondack Forest Preserve Map and Guide



R. Loos

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

George E. Pataki, Governor

Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner

Situated in the west central part of Hamilton County, the Moose River Recreation Area offers a multitude of recreational possibilities. Stretching more than 16 miles, as a crow flies, between the two entrance gates these state lands comprise the largest block of remote land in the Adirondacks readily accessible by motor vehicle. The core of the area consists of 50,000 acres purchased from the Gould Paper Company in December 1963. Past logging activity and road development have had a great influence on both the natural resources of the area and use by the general public. The terrain varies from flatness of the herb and grass plains of the Moose and Red Rivers to the gentle and often steep pitches of the adjoining forested ridges and mountains. Drainage is generally westerly or southwesterly with most ponds and streams eventually emptying into the south branch of the Moose River.

The Department of Environmental Conservation maintains over 40 miles of roads, 27 miles of trails, 140 primitive tent sites and a fire tower on Wakely Mountain. Facilities provided are minimal in keeping with the classification of the state lands. A public campground located at Limekiln Lake provided are minimal in keeping with the classification of the state lands. A public campground located at Limekiln Lake provides a developed camping and picnic areas with modern sanitary facilities and showers. Trails described in this brochure are marked with round discs, three inches in diameter, in red, blue or yellow colors. Four-inch orange markers designate snowmobile trails.

#### **Locations and Access**

To reach the western gate proceed to Inlet, turn south on the Limekiln Road from Route 28 about a mile east of the hamlet. Follow the road about two miles to the entrance gate just past the Forest Ranger Headquarters.

Access to the eastern gate is via the 12-mile long partially paved Cedar River Road, originating at NYS Route 28, approximately two miles west of the hamlet of Indian Lake.

The primary interior road system extends between these gated entrances with side roads ending at Indian Lake and Rock Dam. These roads in most places accommodate two-way traffic but can be narrow with steep pitches. They are considered unimproved and may be impassable following even a light snow fall. DEC may close either or both gates to entry by vehicles and/or RVs at any time it is felt that the road conditions may be hazardous due to inclement weather. When the roads are closed, a sign will be posted at the two major highway entrances.

#### Season and Vehicle Use Restrictions

The Moose River Recreation Area opens for public use on or about Memorial Day and closes on or about the close of deer hunting season each year. Entry on foot or bicycle is permitted at any time. **All persons must register at the entrance gate.** Please fill in the required information carefully. This helps to determine the use of the area and justify the expenditures for maintenance and additional facilities. It is also for your safety and could help locate you in case of trouble or emergency.

Travel is restricted to passenger cars and trucks up to and including one-ton capacity. After October 1, all vehicles entering the area, unless they are four-wheel drive, will be required to have tire chains that fit the vehicle. Trailers and other RV's will be permitted into the area during the summer season (Memorial Day through Labor Day). This season may be extended depending upon road conditions. **No motorcycles, motorized bicycles or all terrain vehicles are permitted.**

#### Private Lands/Easements

Within this area there are some private holdings and/or use reservations. No camping or trespassing for any reason is permitted on these posted lands.

#### Fish and Wildlife

All of the usual species of Adirondack wildlife are found in the area, including deer, bear, beaver, otter and mink. It is a popular bird watching area with boreal species, warblers, flycatchers, wading birds, hawks, owls and loons. The last golden eagle to nest in New York State was observed at Moose River Plains in 1971. Anglers successfully pursue brook trout, brown trout, splake and kokanee salmon in some area waters.

#### Area Maps and Trip Planning

It is the purpose of this brochure to provide only a general description of recreational opportunities in this area. Do not rely solely on this information when planning a trip into this area. USGS 7.5 x 15 minute Topographic Maps (**Old Forge, Honnedaga Lake, Wakely Mountain, West Canada Lakes and Indian Lake**) portray in detail; elevations, roads, trails and other area facilities. These maps and area trail guides are available from many sporting goods and book stores.

Area trails are further described within the *Snowmobiling in New York State* and *The Northville-Placid Trail* DEC brochures.

#### Camping (Permit May Be Required)

In an effort to encourage appropriate camping and disperse public use within the Moose River Recreation Area, 140 developed sites are located adjacent to area roads. These numbered sites range in development from a simple flat, cleared area to sites with a picnic table, fireplace and pit privy. This designated site system should not be mistaken for a reservation system. **Sites are on a first-come, first-served basis and cannot be reserved.** Trailers and other RVs may be restricted to specific roadside camping areas.

A camping permit is required from the forest ranger for **groups of 10 or more** persons staying overnight or for any number of **individuals staying four nights or more at one location.** Permits will not be issued for groups larger than 20 individuals.

Camping Area 1 Sites - 120-133	Camping Area 2 Sites - 62-79
Camping Area 3 Sites - 35-61	Camping Area 4 Sites - 1-34
Camping Area 5 Sites - 80-90	Camping Area 6 Sites - 94-119
Camping Area 7 and 8 Sites - 134-140	

#### Land Classifications and Use Restrictions

In 1972, the Adirondack Park Agency was assigned the task of Classifying Forest Preserve Lands into various land use categories. **Wilderness and Primitive area guidelines are very restrictive, prohibiting public motor vehicles and all -terrain bicycle use.** This classification offers visitors "outstanding opportunities for solitude, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." On the other end of the spectrum, wild forest areas permit a wider variety and greater degree of outdoor recreation, including limited use of motorized vehicles on designated roads and trails.

#### Cedar River Flow- Boat Access

This attractive 675-acre waterbody was originally utilized as a means of removing timber from the surrounding region. In 1966, the original Wakely Dam, constructed of logs and timbers, was replaced by DEC with a steel and concrete structure.

The flow is three miles in length and one-half mile in width. It is a popular location for water-based recreation, camping, brook trout fishing and general day use.

#### Moose River Plains Wild Forest

The bulk of this land classification lies south of NYS Route 28 and north of the West Canada Lakes Wilderness. The majority of foot trails leads to a pond or lake and begins at the end of short spur roads. Facilities include:

**MAIN ROAD** (from the Cedar River Flow gate to Limekiln gate -23 miles)

#### Sly Pond Trail (Yellow) - 5.4 miles

This trail climbs a portion of little Moose Mountain before descending to Sly Pond, one of the highest bodies of water in the Adirondacks. The pond is acidic and devoid of fish.

#### Lost Ponds Trail (Yellow) - 1.0 mile

This trail leads to a still water area on Summer Stream and continues to a popular fishing spot.

#### Hell Diver Pond Trail (yellow) - .25 mile

This trail provides easy access or a short canoe carry to this attractive pond.

#### Mitchell Ponds Trail (yellow) - 2.8 miles

The two-mile walk to the first pond begins along an old roadway. The trail then continues on the peninsula between the two ponds and officially ends at a natural rock dam.

**ROCK DAM ROAD** (From the Red River Bridge intersection to the barrier at the end of the Rock Dam Road - 4.3 miles). This road may be temporarily closed early in the season.

#### Whites Pond Trail (yellow) - 1.9 miles

This trail to the pond is also accessible from the Limekiln Lake campground by boat.

#### Rock Dam Trail (yellow) - 1.4 miles

This trail ends at a long rock formation across the confluence of the South Branch of the Moose River and the Red River.

**OTTER BROOK ROAD** (From main T-road intersection to Otter Brook barrier - 3.3 miles)

#### Ice House Pond Trail (yellow) - .4 mile

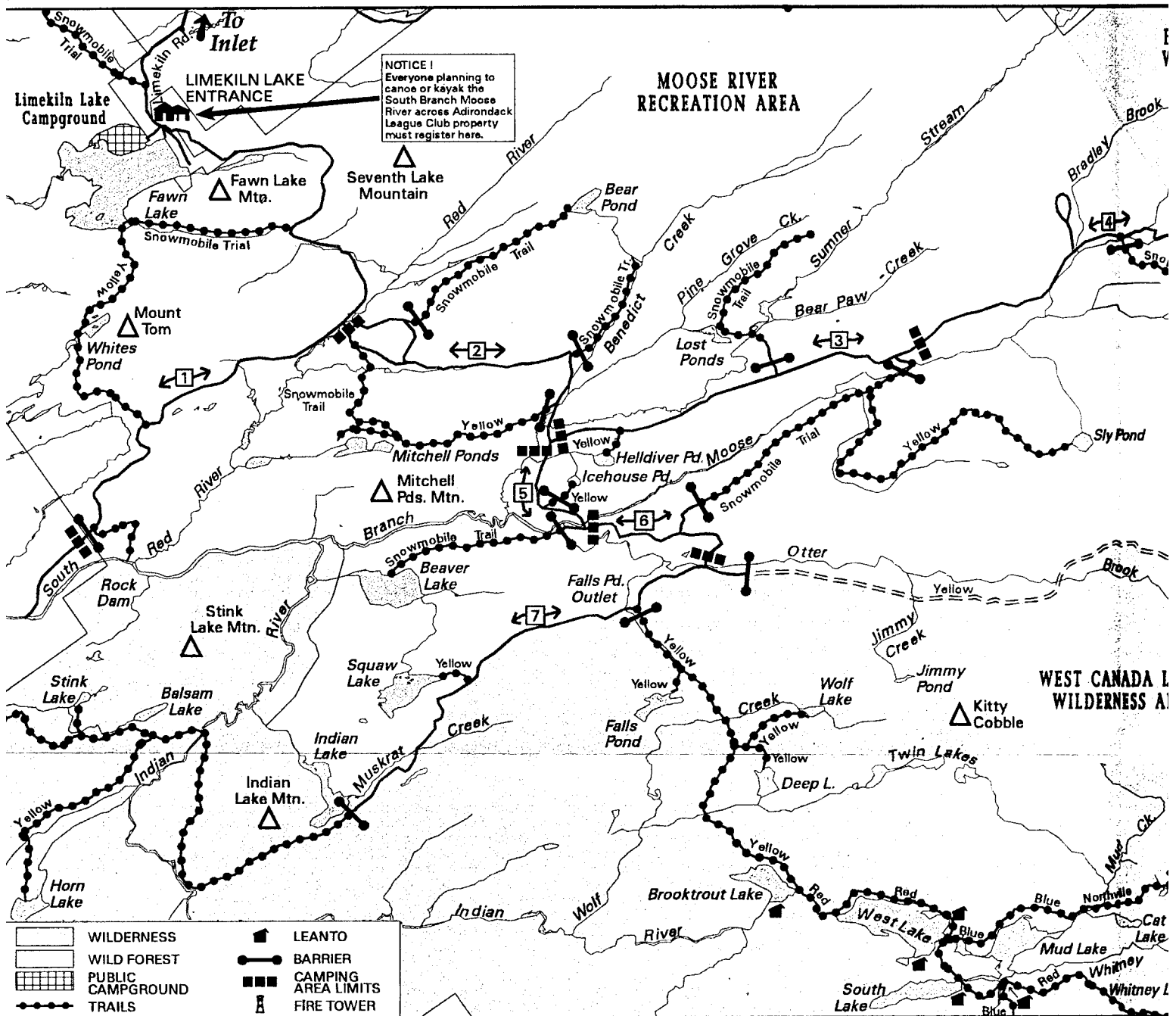
The trail follows an old road which makes an easy hike or short canoe carry to this kettle bog pond. Ice House Pond provides good brook trout fishing.

#### Beaver Lake Trail (yellow) - 2.3 miles

This trail starts at a parking area and road barrier just west of the Moose River Bridge. The trail follows an old road to the northern shore of the lake. The lake is named for its odd shape which resembles a beaver.

#### Otter Brook Pond Trail (orange) - 9.0 miles

This un-maintained old road provides access to a portion of the northern boundary of the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area. Marked foot trails lead to Lost Pond and Cedar Lakes.



NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER: Advertisements in the Department of Environmental Conservation trail guides carry no endorsement by New York State or the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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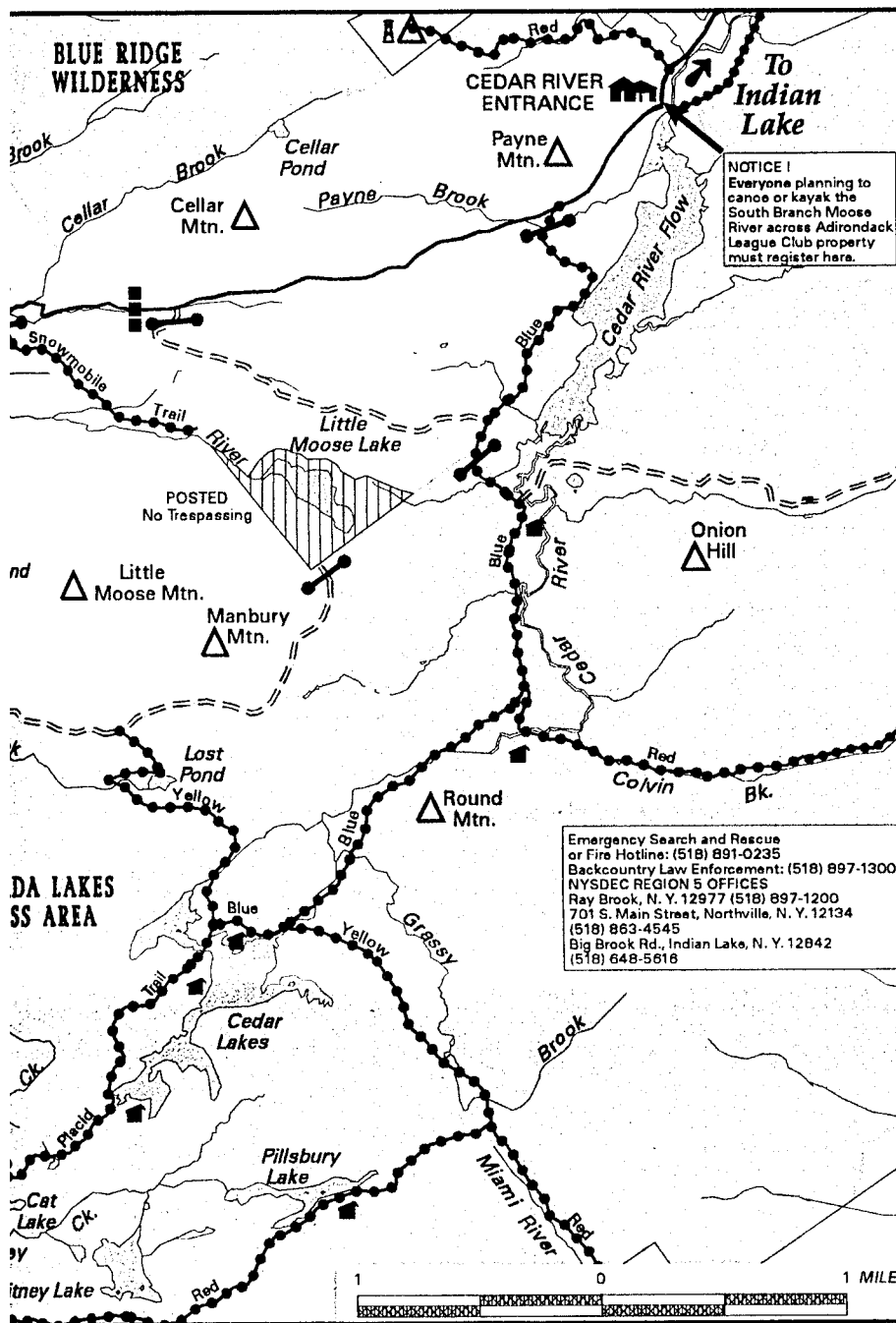


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#### Guidelines for Hikers and Campers

Our forest and mountain environment offers opportunities for recreational pleasure, appreciation of nature and a rejuvenating escape from the urban world. Help care for our wilderness environment and enhance the enjoyment of it for yourself and those that follow by observing these simple guidelines.

- What you carry in, carry out. Leave the woods cleaner than you found them. Bring a refuse bag and carry out more than you carried in.
- Observe and enjoy wildlife and plant life, but leave them undisturbed.
- Camping-Carry your own tent in case shelters are full. Choose clear, level ground to pitch your tent and disturb as little ground cover as possible.
- Water Supply- Wash your dishes and yourself away from and below all sources of drinking water. Dispose of waste water away from streams and springs.
- Human Waste- If there are no toilets nearby, dig a trench 12 inches deep and cover completely when you break camp. Stay away from (and below) the water supply.
- Fires-If you must build one, do so with care. Choose bare, level ground, clear away leaves and twigs, lay up stones and be sure the fire is completely extinguished before you leave. Better yet, use a portable stove and help save our wood supply. Be extra careful with cigarettes and matches.
- Observe all posted rules and regulations and be considerate of fellow hikers and campers.
- Plan your trip carefully according to routes and time available. Carry the latest guide books and maps.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Check weather reports before you set out.
- Be prepared for unexpected emergencies. Carry a compass, pocket knife, waterproof matches, high energy food items such as candy, first aid kit and extra protective clothing.
- In case of accident, at least one person should remain with the injured person. Others should carefully note the location and contact the local forest ranger.
- Notify the local forest ranger if any of your companions become lost.
- If you become lost, keep calm, stay where you are and keep warm. If you feel you can try and find your way out, remember that

As trail use increases, the number of dogs hiking with their masters is on the rise. Dog owners should exercise consideration toward fellow users of state lands so that restrictive measures will not be necessary for the control of pets.

When others approach, particularly, small children and other animals, leash your dog. Keep your dog quiet. Keep your dog out of sources of potable water. Remove droppings from the trail and campsite area. Remember that others have no knowledge of your dog's temperament, and they may react accordingly.

the Department of Environmental Conservation

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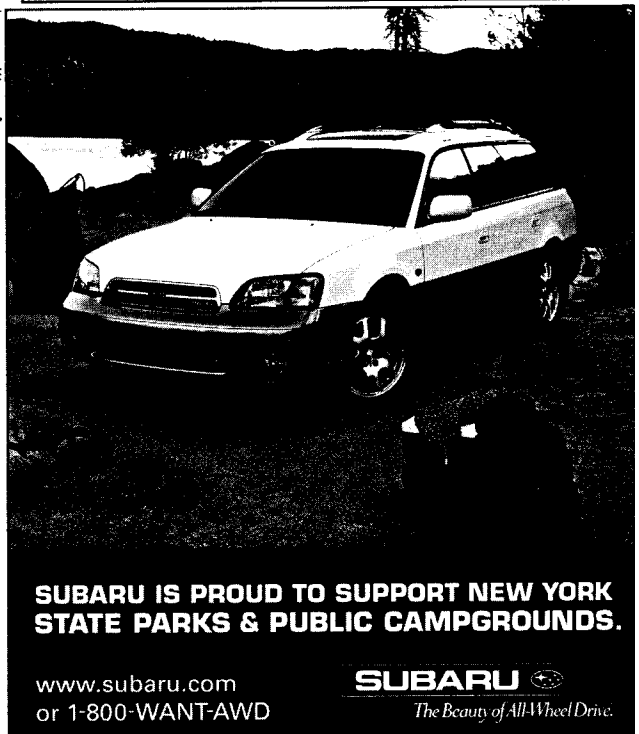
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