

PLANNING ACCORD FOR TUG HILL (PATH)

A 15-town Plan for the Future of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council Area - 1991

GOALS FOR OUR FUTURE

1.0 Retain the quality of our area's surface and groundwater. These waters are essential to providing individual and municipal water supplies. They are essential to many industries of our area. They are important to retention of fishing opportunities and wildlife habitat.

- 1.1 Avoid adverse development near major wetlands and concentrations of wetlands.
- 1.2 Avoid adverse development near major stream corridors.
- 1.3 Avoid adverse development near significant springs, wellhead areas of water supply systems, and aquifers.
- 1.4 Identify and map town-by-town major wetlands, concentrations of wetlands, major stream corridors, significant springs, water supply well head areas, and aquifers.
- 1.5 Share information on water resources among CTHC towns.
- 1.6 Raise awareness of the importance of Tug Hill waters through school and citizen education programs.

2.0 Retain major forested areas most important to forest industry, hunting, fishing, and recreation.

Major blocks of forest land on Tug Hill are not only important for retaining the area's economy and recreation opportunities, they are also important in providing wildlife habitat and the very character of the area. In addition, Tug Hill's vast reaches of forest are key to maintaining the purity of its waters and to controlling rates of runoff.

- 2.1 Avoid subdivision and development that would take major forested lands out of productive use for forest industry, hunting, fishing and recreation.
- 2.2 Avoid unreasonable local restrictions on forestry activities that adversely affect businesses in and near the area.
- 2.3 Encourage forestry-related businesses in and near the area as a means of maintaining a healthy economy, and as a means of retaining large parcels of forestland.
- 2.4 Identify major forested areas on a town-by-town basis.
- 2.5 Share information on major forested areas among member towns.
- 2.6 Encourage educational programs that show the importance of forested lands to the area's environment, economy and recreational opportunities.

3.0 Retain the area's most important wildlife habitat and unique areas to conserve hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities, and to help retain the character and biological richness of our area.

Important wildlife habitat areas and unique areas such as our gulfs are a significant part of the character of our heritage, and can provide important recreational opportunities. They also are of great importance to our economy because of the economic contributions hunting and fishing make to the area, and the economic benefit that comes from the viewing of wildlife and scenery by snowmobilers, skiers, hikers, motorists, and others.

- 3.1 Avoid adverse development in deer wintering yards, other important wildlife and plant habitat areas, and in and near gulfs.
- 3.2 Support town-by-town identification of important wildlife habitat and unique areas. Encourage further research to identify such areas.
- 3.3 Share information on important wildlife habitat and unique areas among member towns.
- 3.4 Encourage educational programs regarding the importance and benefit of habitat and unique areas for use in schools and with civic and adult groups.

4.0 Retain area's existing farms and best farm soils for farm production. Local action alone cannot retain our farms. This depends on the individual actions of our farmers, the natural economy and state and national farm policy. Locally, we can take actions that help keep good farmland from inappropriate development and help farm diversification.

- 4.1 Support town-by-town identification of important farm lands, and updates of existing farmland inventories.
- 4.2 Support town actions to update land use controls that would limit farmlands being taken out of production.
- 4.3 Support voluntary actions taken by individual farmers to keep their farms in production, through tools such as ag districts, and ag land assessments.
- 4.4 Support programs to help strengthen dairy farming and to help farmers that wish to diversify their operations.
- 4.5 Share information on important farm lands between CTHC member towns.
- 4.6 Encourage educational programs that demonstrate to school students and adults the importance of farming to our area.

5.0 Retain private and public hunting and fishing opportunities, and outdoor recreational activities, in our area.

- 5.1 Avoid actions that would lead to the subdivision of lands important to hunting, fishing and recreation where that subdivision would remove lands from such use.
- 5.2 Support voluntary actions, of private. Landowners to improve hunting, fishing and recreational access to public lands designated for these uses, such as the sale of access easements, or involvement in fish and wildlife cooperator programs.
- 5.3 Identify areas important to recreation on a town-by-town basis. These might include, designated public recreation trails, public roads opened to snowmobiling, and parking areas.
- 5.4 Encourage educational programs that demonstrate the importance of hunting, fishing and recreation to our way of life and our area's economy. Also encourage educational programs and appropriate law enforcement to protect private property rights and to provide safe hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities.

6.0 Retain scenic vistas and roads that are important to the character of our area.

- 6.1 Assist member towns in the identification of scenic vistas and stretches of road on a town-by-town basis.
- 6.2 Share information on scenic vistas and roads among member towns.
- 6.3 Avoid development that would diminish the quality of scenic vistas and scenic stretches of road through town planning and land use controls.

7.0 Control the costs of public road maintenance.

- 7.1 Avoid new public roads into or across remote areas not now served by public roads, especially in the core forest of our area, in areas that would lead to the breakup of lands important to forest management, wildlife, fanning, hunting, fishing and recreation.
- 7.2 Identify on a town-by-town basis portions of roads that might be appropriate for some form of abandonment or seasonal use designation. Share this information among member towns.
- 7.3 Support state legislation that would limit town responsibilities for maintenance on designated remote roads.

8.0 Help keep village and hamlets good places to live.

- 8.1 Share information among member towns on actions that could be taken to enhance water, sewer and recreational services, to include grants to assist in improvements.
- 8.2 Assist member towns in planning for village and hamlet improvement projects, to include applying for grants to assist in such work.