

# TUG HILL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cooperative Tug Hill Planning Board –1976

## 4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The plan for Tug Hill must reflect the needs and aspirations of its people. Hence, early in the planning process, the Cooperative Board sought direction from local residents through a questionnaire, Appendix B, and a series of local meetings.

This Section relates the results of those responses to the physical, social and economic conditions of the region. It consists of a series of goals and objectives with respect to major land use categories. The goal statements represent broad policy positions adopted by the Cooperative Board. The objectives are more specific actions necessary to bring each goal into reality.

The formulation of goals is an important part of the planning process. After physical, social and economic elements are studied, the goals of the community provide further direction for change. The end result is a Resource Management Plan, which can be implemented through a variety of administrative and legal programs. As values and circumstances change, so do community goals. Thus goal forming, planning and town action are a continuous process, adapting to changing needs and aspirations.

### **FOREST RESOURCES**

#### **Goals**

##### **1. Maintain the forest resources of the Tug Hill area.**

Forest resources are important to the complex ecological balance that exists on the Tug Hill, and to the economy of the area. These resources provide for the conservation of soils, watersheds, scenic beauty and wildlife habitats.

##### **2. Conserve the forest environment for recreation purposes in areas where access will not damage natural resources or violate the private property rights of landowners.**

The principal recreation resource of Tug Hill area is recognized to be the forest, its watersheds and snow. Conservation is often compatible with recreation use if conducted in a reasonable and thoughtful way.

#### **Objectives**

1. Promote sound forestry practices for all commercial harvesting through the establishment of minimum forest management standards.
2. Promote sound forestry practices for individuals who cut forest products for home use by encouraging them to follow minimum forest management standards.
3. Direct the development of active recreation facilities and programs to areas near population concentrations where services can be provided more economically.
4. Encourage the proper design and management of passive recreation activities in the more remote areas in order to conserve the water and forest resources and to minimize change to the area's character.
5. Encourage proper use of the forest resource through conservation, education and public distribution of this document.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

### **Goals**

#### **1. Preserve the quality and quantity of water within the area**

The nine towns of the Cooperative Board area and other communities as well, rely upon the benefits of Tug Hill's water resources. Because the water system threads through all of the area, activity in one town will frequently affect other towns. Any radical change to this sensitive natural resource will tend to degrade the natural environment of Tug Hill – not only within the Cooperative Board area, but also in surrounding areas.

#### **2. Maintain the wetlands of Tug Hill in their natural state.**

Wetlands are an essential and invaluable element of Tug Hill's natural environment. The existence of wetlands provides stream flow, wildlife habitat, control of downstream flooding, necessary water for forest growth, storage capacity for aquifer recharge and water supply, siltation traps for natural erosion, natural laboratories for education and scientific research, and a site for natural biological and chemical activity. Preserving wetlands is basic to keeping Tug Hill's environment in its present condition.

#### **3. Protect major stream systems.**

Streams are expressly necessary for support of aquatic wildlife, preservation of the Tug Hill watersheds, support of the land environment, ground water recharge, and present and future water supplies. Therefore, protection of streams is basic to maintaining the area's natural environment in its present condition.

#### **4. Conserve unique land forms in the Tug Hill region**

Several landforms have been identified because they are unique in terms of water quality, scenic beauty, and fragile plant and/or animal habitats. These areas are part of Tug Hill's special character and must be preserved.

### **Objectives**

1. Protect wetlands and streams by regulation of development activities that may adversely affect the natural functions of these water resources.
2. Protect, through regulation, forested areas that serve the purpose of watershed protection.
3. Protect, through regulation, unique stream areas designated in the Plan.
4. Promote understanding of the importance of water resources through distribution and public discussion of this Plan.
5. Encourage the proper design and management of passive recreation activities in the more remote areas in order to conserve water and forest resources and to minimize change to the area's character.
6. Encourage conservation and proper use of forest resources through distribution and public discussion of this Plan.

## **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Goals**

#### **1. Identify and maintain high quality agricultural lands for agricultural use.**

Agriculture is of primary importance to the area's economy. Farming also maintains land in open space, which is essential to preserving the rural character of Tug Hill. Because lands favorable for farming are often favorable for other types of development, conflicts occur. In order to encourage agricultural uses, it is important to delineate valuable agricultural lands and protect them from competing uses.

### **Objectives**

1. Protect good farmlands from undesirable development pressures.
2. Discourage development, which would tend to disrupt agricultural practices.
3. Encourage only those land uses, which lend support to the agricultural industry.
4. Discourage practices that damage other important natural resources.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Goals**

#### **1. Encourage development into and around existing hamlets and communities.**

Development, particularly residential use, will put less strain on needed services if it occurs at such locations, rather than haphazardly throughout the area.

#### **2. Meet Development needs with the existing roadway system.**

Road maintenance cost, a major budget item for rural communities, must be kept at an affordable level.

Development along previously unimproved or non-maintained roads may cause unrealistic financial strain on the towns and villages in the area.

### **Objectives**

1. Direct development, through regulation and other means, into and around already existing hamlets and communities and away from those portions of the region where significant physical and economic limitations to growth exist.
2. Require major development proposals to furnish information adequate to permit a determination as to whether the project would benefit the area.
3. Discourage development of year-round residences along seasonal roads.