

Appendix K
Natural Resources Survey – Additional Information

*Natural Resources Survey
Additional Information*

Mahamudra Buddhist Hermitage
Cragsmoor Road
Town of Wawarsing, New York

Revised August 10, 2007

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Two additional field visits have occurred on the property during July 24 and August 8, 2007 to supplement the previous fieldwork completed on the site and to have data for a full growing season.

Weather conditions during the field visits were hot, humid days. The purpose of the site visits was to supplement the existing site data with more detailed observations of overall habitat cover types on the property and species within those cover types.

2.0 VEGETATION AND COVER TYPE INVENTORY

1. Wetland Area- This ecological community is located along Cragsmoor Road at the eastern property boundary and contains the a perennial watercourse known as the Plattekill Creek that flows under Cragsmoor Road and off of the property. A second intermittent drainage ditch was also delineated as wetland slightly to the south of the Plattekill Creek.

Additional species identified in association with this wetland/watercourse complex include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanicum*), and black willow (*Salix nigra*) in the canopy, smooth alder (*Alnus serrulata*) and elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) as well as saplings of the canopy species in the understory, and green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*), steeplebush (*Spirea tomentosa*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), and bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*). No additional bird species were observed during the two additional field days.

2. Upland Forest Community

As previously stated the most ubiquitous forest community on the dry slopes and ridgetops of the Shawangunk Ridge is the chestnut oak forest, dominated by chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*) and red oak (*Q. rubra*), along with white oak (*Q. alba*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), sweet birch (*Betula lenta*), and pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), with a sparse understory of heath shrubs (Ericaceae family) and saplings of red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black birch (*Betula nigra*) and dense stands of witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) throughout the property. On more mesic (moderately moist) central and eastern section of the property, the chestnut oak forest grades into a mixed-oak forest with dominance of the canopy layer by the oak species mentioned above, as well as white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), pignut and shagbark hickory (*Carya glabra* and *C.*

ovata), yellow and gray birch (*Betula alleghaniensis* and *B. populifolia*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).

The understory and herbaceous cover include lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), poverty-grass (*Danthonia spicata*), common hairgrass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), three-toothed cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentata*), cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*) as well as mosses and lichens. The more exposed sites are typically dominated by scrub oak with grasses and sedges found in open areas.

3.0 THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

No additional species of special concern or threatened, endangered or rare species were observed during the additional site investigations