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May 24, 2017

Mr. Robert McKeon, Supervisor
Town of Red Hook Board
7340 South Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571

Dear Mr. McKeon and fellow Members of the Town of Red Hook Board et al:

Alumni & Friends of Camp Rising Sun, Inc. (AFCRS) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization funded and supported by alumni and friends of Camp Rising Sun. We are fully registered with the NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau and represent hundreds of alumni and friends of Camp Rising Sun (CRS) who support efforts to preserve and maintain CRS, both in Clinton and Red Hook, New York, and to reopen the closed Red Hook camp site.

Thank you for the letters, dated April 4 & 26, 2017, we received regarding Oriole Mills Road. In light of the current proposal to pave the road, including the gravel road section that passes through the camp's Red Hook property, with an "oil and stone" bitumen mixture, Alumni & Friends of Camp Rising Sun is greatly concerned about losing the rural character of the camp's stretch along Oriole Mills Road. The existing gravel road, which primarily lies along the camp property, has served to help ensure the safety of the campers since 1930.

Until recently, Camp Rising Sun had been one of the longest continuing, cooperative, responsible and unique programs in Red Hook. With our continuing efforts, it will reopen again. Maintaining the rural, unpaved character of Oriole Mills Road protects the safety, legitimate interest, and community presence of CRS, as it conforms to and preserves the rustic nature of the local environment.

This increasingly rare patch of natural gravel road, through our heavily shaded glen (see photos A & B) significantly impacts the camp atmosphere and program which has served to introduce generations of American and international campers to Red Hook's countryside. A pleasant place to stroll for a camper/counselor one-on-one talk, or for campers from very different backgrounds to "get deep" is even more valuable when rainy weather has made woods and grasslands too wet. The wetlands beside the road add interest for an instruction by the nature counselor, and the lack of incline makes an easy return leg for a hike around the campgrounds.

The natural irregularities of an unpaved road limit needless pass-through traffic, and particularly discourage dangerous speeds like nothing else could on such a remote stretch. Paving Oriole Mills Road will invite automobile traffic in increased volume and at higher, unsafe speeds. This will create potential danger to the campers who repeatedly cross the road throughout the day in order to participate in activities which take place on both sides of the road.

We are also concerned about the environmental impact that the bituminous surface treatment, in particular the sprayed-on asphalt emulsion binder subsurface, may have on the campgrounds, given the proximity of the gravel road to the existing wetland (RC-7) via the intermittent stream which joins the Saw Kill at the property's north end. Please see the attached map of the NYS DEC Forestry Survey and the Stewardship Plan, which notes: "The property's western and southwestern forests drain via several small ephemeral channels and by a small intermittent stream into the state-regulated wetland RC-7, a large wooded swamp." (See the sixth page of the attached plan.) Consequently, AFCRS supports a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) prior to a final vote by the Red Hook Board.

Camp Rising Sun simply would not be the same with Oriole Mills Road paved with an "oil and stone" top that, as the surface wears over time, often develops a black hue which will visually embody many of the same characteristics of an asphalt road.

Please do not pave the road. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



J.C. Calderón, AIA, LEED AP
President, Alumni & Friends of Camp Rising Sun, Inc.

Enclosures: Photos A & B; DEC Red Hook Forestry Survey

cc: Councilman Harry Colgan; Councilwoman Sarah Imboden; Councilman William O'Neill; Councilman James Ross; Town Clerk Sue McCann; Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke

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A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

Photo A



May 7, 2017 Camp Rising Sun, Red Hook, Oriole Mills Road

Photo by J.C. Calderón

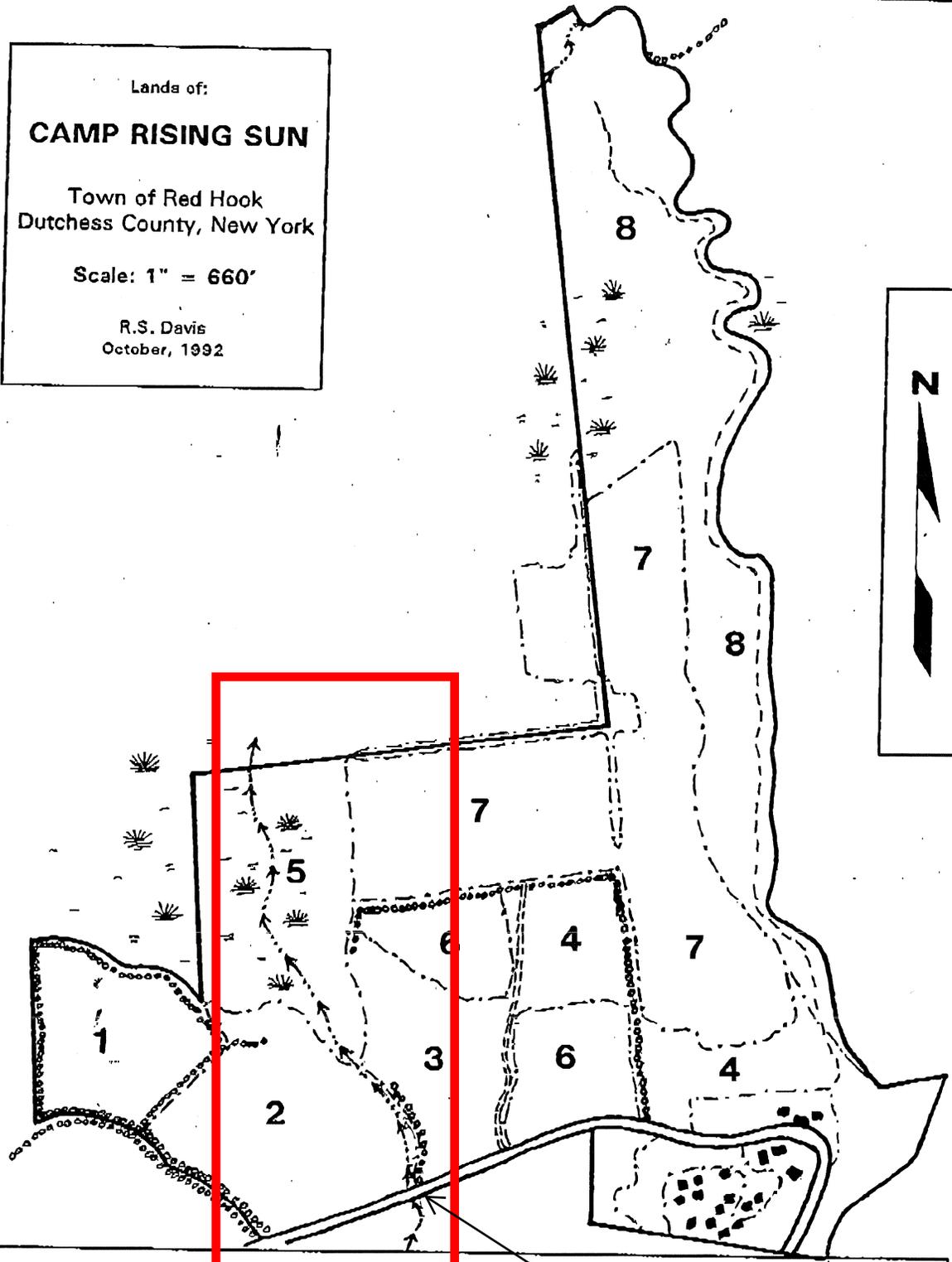
Photo B



May 7, 2017 Camp Rising Sun, Red Hook, Oriole Mills Road

Photo by J.C. Calderón

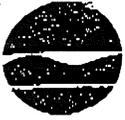
Lands of:
CAMP RISING SUN
 Town of Red Hook
 Dutchess County, New York
 Scale: 1" = 660'
 R.S. Davis
 October, 1992



LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Property boundary | | Perennial stream | | Stonewall | |
| Compartment boundary | | Intermittent stream | | Building | |
| Town road | | Wetland | | Wire fence | |
| Woods road | | Spring seep | | Gravel bank | |
| Hiking path | | Lake/pond | | Cairn | |

Oriole Mills Road



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS - BUREAU OF FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Stony Kill Farm, Rte 9-D, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

| LANDOWNER INFORMATION | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1. LAST NAME Fischer | FIRST NAME Robert | M.I. | 2. TELEPHONE (HOME) (914) 758-3501 | 3. TELEPHONE (BUSINESS) (914) 758-3501 | |
| 4. STREET c/o Camp Rising Sun Oriole Mills Rd. R.D. 1 Box 184 | | 6. CITY Rhinebeck | | 6. STATE NY | 7. ZIP 12572 |
| PROPERTY LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION | | | | | |
| 8. COUNTY Dutchess | 9. TOWN Red Hook | 10. AERIAL PHOTO M-25-NE | | | |
| 11. ACRES (TOTAL) 166.625 | 12. ACRES (STEWARDSHIP) 162.0 | 13. USGS QUAD Rock City | | | |
| 14. PROPERTY LOCATION North side of Oriole Mills Road. North of, and adjacent to, Oriole Mills Tree Farm (Davidge). | | | | | |
| 15. PREPARER INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 15. LAST NAME Davis | FIRST NAME Robert | M.I. | 16. TITLE S. Sr. Forester | 17. TELEPHONE (BUSINESS) (914) 831-3109 | |
| 18. DEC OFFICE Stony Kill Farm Route 9-D | | 18. CITY Wappingers Falls | | 20. STATE NY | 21. ZIP 12590 |
| LANDOWNER GOAL STATEMENT | | | | | |
| To produce a sustained yield of fuelwood and timber for building materials; to maximize biodiversity of indigenous species; to provide opportunities for nature study (campers); to enhance wildlife habitat for maximum species richness but with emphasis on turkey and raptors; to enhance water quality of streams; to maintain the aesthetic character of the property and to provide for a variety of recreational pursuits. | | | | | |
| 22. PLEDGE As owner, I (we) agree that this management plan reflects my (our) goals and intentions for the management of this property. | | | | | |
| DATE | | | SIGNATURE OF LANDOWNER | | |

LANDOWNER SUMMARY

The development of a forest is a continuous process that extends over generations and centuries such that a forest cannot really be owned by any one person. Nor can values that forests offer be restricted to any defined area or enjoyed by only one person. A person can modify the forest during his or her proprietorship and the modifications can have far-reaching effects. Each human generation is privileged to use forests and should feel obligated to pass them on to succeeding generations unimpaired in quality and productivity. While private forest owners such as yourself do not have an assigned public responsibility, we hope you will act as trustees and stewards as well as proprietors. Acceptance of this forest stewardship plan is positive first step toward ensuring that future generations can have as much or more of all forest products and amenities as the present generation.

It is crucially important that you realize that a forest stewardship plan is only as good as the estate plan on which it is based. Life's only two certainties - death and taxes - can render the best laid forest plans useless over the long run. Inheritance taxes or an improperly prepared will can cause the liquidation of a woodland at the death of an owner. It would be a tragedy if after many years of investment and loving care your woodland had to be sold and perhaps liquidated to settle your estate. There are legal ways to avoid this possibility and doing so is both in the public interest and the interest of your family. Contact your attorney and review your estate plans frequently to ensure the long-term integrity of your forest management actions.

This Forest Stewardship Plan reviews facts about your property, points out opportunities for management, recommends practices designed to achieve ownership objectives, and discusses the implications of those practices with respect to the presence or absence of endangered species and/or significant habitats, soil and water protection, wildlife habitat, fisheries habitat, recreation and aesthetics, forest health, wildfire protection, and timber resources. In addition, this report summarizes applicable government programs which may help in implementing the recommended practices or which may have other beneficial effects.

EXISTING RESOURCES

The subject property consists of approximately 167 acres of upland forest, hayfields, wooded swamp and shrub swamp communities. Forest cover types comprise 66.2% of the ownership, while nonforest types comprise 31.5% and water 2.3%. Forest composition consists of 6.0% conifer cover, 92.4% deciduous cover, and 1.6% mixed conifer-deciduous cover. Forest size composition is as follows: seedling-sapling 0%; immature forest (i.e., poles) 60.5%; and mature forest (i.e., sawtimber) 39.5%. Nonforest composition consists of 82.4% upland, 11.0% wetland, and 6.6% water. The forests are underlain largely or entirely by shale and chert. The flora growing on the property confirm the generally calcareous nature of the soils and geology.

MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This property presents several opportunities for the implementation of a system of management designed to satisfy the goals of ownership. Specifically:

- Tree species composition of upland forest areas lends itself readily to the continued production of fuelwood, sawlogs, and local-use products.
- The diversity and degree of interspersion of the different habitat types present on the property facilitate management for wildlife species richness.

- Within-stand structural features such as high, exposed perches, hard and soft snags, and large-diameter cavity trees exist over the property in sufficient numbers to facilitate habitat improvement actions for bald eagles, osprey, kestrel, and other raptors.
- A riparian zone located along the Saw Kill river presents greater habitat management possibilities for increased vertical structural diversity than most upland stands in the general vicinity of the Camp Rising Sun property.
- The two wetlands encompassed wholly or in part by the Camp Rising Sun property act as efficient filters of stream flow from tributaries into the Saw Kill river.
- Those same wetlands provide needed habitat for a number of regionally rare plant species not found on upland areas.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS¹

In order to avail yourself of the management opportunities afforded by your woodlands present condition and to satisfy your objectives for the property, I recommend you:

- Begin to implementation of a compound coppice system of fuelwood production on 30 acres in Stands 1, 3, and 4, by cutting all but 20 - 35 of the *best* stems per acre per year in accordance with the instructions provided in this report. Cut 1 acre per year. For best results, cut stumps as low to the ground as possible.
- Remove hardwoods from Stand 2.
- Mow both hayfields *at least* once every 3 years. Mow in late summer, beginning no earlier than the third week in July in accordance with instructions provided in this report.
- Clearcut all red pine trees still standing. Utilize timber/poles for local-use projects. Replant with eastern white pine on an 8' x 8' spacing.
- Permanently mark all boundary lines. Maintain on a 5-year cycle.
- Increase hard mast production in Stand 8 by identifying and releasing the best oak, beech, and hickories from excessive competition with their neighbors.
- Develop and protect high, exposed perches for raptors in Stand 8 by releasing the tallest trees from competition with their neighbors.

The Schedule of Activities on page 10 provides a convenient guide to the implementation of the above recommended projects.

¹ Fuller statements of these recommendations and or reasons for them are found throughout this report.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Whenever we try to obtain several different values from the same woodland the complexity of management is increased. In a large forest different uses can be located in different parts of the forest. Management can proceed with one dominant use at a given location. But if we want to emphasize several values from a small area - perhaps the same acre - the practices required and their effects on other resource values become more complex. Some uses are incompatible with one another while other uses are complementary, so that the management which favors one will favor the other also (e.g., good watershed management is likely to mean good management for fish habitat). Still other uses are largely independent of one another. The practices I have recommended you implement have the potential to affect other resource values within your woodland. These potential impacts are discussed at length in the body of this report.

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

Several State and Federal programs exist which may be of assistance to you in carrying out the recommendations I have made. Among those programs which may provide you with federal assistance in the form of cost-sharing are the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) and Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). In addition, a number of State sponsored programs are available to help you procure the kind of assistance you will need to implement several of the recommended practices. These programs include the Cooperating Consultant Forester Program and the Cooperating Timber Harvester Program. In addition, you may qualify under section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law for a reduction in property tax assessment in exchange for a moving 10-year commitment to the continuing production of forest crops. Details concerning these programs are provided on page 20.

EXISTING RESOURCES

The Camp Rising Sun property consists of approximately 167 acres of upland forest, hayfields, wooded swamp and shrub swamp communities located, primarily, north of Oriole Mills Road in the Dutchess County town of Red Hook. The property's irregular eastern boundary roughly follows the banks of the Saw Kill River. The northern and western boundaries follow old roads, stonewalls, and hedgerows. The property is underlain largely or entirely by shale and chert, with chert almost certainly of minor occurrence. A small area in the southwestern part of the property could be underlain by argillite and quartzite. The flora growing on the property confirms the generally calcareous nature of the soils and geology.

The southern portion of the property is best described as rolling hills underlain by glacial till. It supports a mixed upland community consisting of immature stands of northern hardwoods. Sugar maple, red maple, white ash, white oak, black cherry and hophornbeam are the predominant tree species. Spice bush, Bell's honeysuckle, and gray dogwood are common shrubs. Virginia creeper, poison-ivy, jack-in-the-pulpit, and white wood aster are the most common ground cover species. Several scattered, open-grown "cabbage" white pines (averaging approximately 20 inches in diameter at breast height [dbh]), relics of this area's "old-field" beginnings are also present.

While the individual forest stands in this "compartment" are quite similar in that they may all be loosely classified as "pioneer hardwoods" of about the same age, enough dissimilarities exist to warrant distinction. Those areas identified on the accompanying map as Stands 1 and 4 are best described as mixed, pioneer hardwoods while Stand 2, containing as it does, a fairly high proportion of eastern redcedar is best classified as such. Stand 3, on the other hand, is almost 100% sugar maple and is also classified as such.

The property's western and southwestern forests drain via several small ephemeral channels and by a small intermittent stream into the state-regulated wetland RC-7, a large wooded swamp. The aforementioned stream originates about a half mile south of Oriole Mills Road and flows north to join the Saw Kill at the north end of the Camp Rising Sun property. Approximately 15 acres of the large wooded swamp, wetland RC-7, lie on the Camp Rising Sun property and are identified on the accompanying map as "Stand 5". Green ash, red maple, pin oak, and American elm are the predominant tree species on this area. Trees are widely spaced and are mostly in the range of 8 - 16 inches dbh. The shrub layer is well developed at some locations, sparse elsewhere. American hornbeam, winterberry holly (exploitably vulnerable), spice bush, and northern arrowwood are the most common shrub layer species. Much of the swamp is characterized by well developed hummocks with standing water in intervening pools. The herbaceous plant community is lush and diverse. Among the more common species were skunk-cabbage, sensitive fern, ladyfern, jack-in-the-pulpit, field horsetail, spotted jewelweed, tall meadow rue, and tussock sedge.

There are three plantations of red pine in the south central portion of the property, and are collectively identified on the accompanying map as "Stand 6". These plantations are infested with the red pine scale insect and several areas have been recently clearcut. Those areas are now covered with slash and dense growth of shrubs, seedlings, and saplings. Bell's honeysuckle, blackberry, black raspberry, alder, black cherry, white ash, red maple, and sugar maple are common. Seedlings of European larch have been planted in one of the clearcut areas. Pines in the uncut areas average 6-10 inches dbh. There are few understory trees in these areas. Spice bush, virginia creeper, and poison-ivy are common in the shrub and ground layers.

There are two hayfields on the property together comprising some 36 acres. The county soil maps show them to be underlain by Hoosic gravelly loam and by Fredon silt loam, both considered farmland soils of statewide importance but not prime farmland soils. The western field is vegetated largely with grasses, tentatively identified as sweet vernal grass, Kentucky bluegrass, and orchard grass, among others. The elongated field that parallels the Saw Kill is slightly lower in elevation and its plant community is much weedier. The same grass species are common, but other herbaceous plants, including old-field cinquefoil, sheep sorrel, Canada goldenrod, late

goldenrod, tall hairy goldenrod, wood-rush, American dewberry, daisy-fleabane and wild geranium are also well distributed. This field is much wetter than the western field (it appears to be on the 100-year floodplain of the Saw Kill), and many slight depressions contain wetland plant species such as soft rush, reed canary-grass, sensitive fern, and sedges. These fields are identified collectively as "Stand 7" on the accompanying map.

North of the elongated hayfield, much of the forested area is wooded swamp, part of which is mapped as wetland RC-69 on the Department's Freshwater Wetlands Map. Pin oak, green ash, black ash, red maple, and red oak comprise most of the overstory. Most trees are in the range of 8 to 16 inches dbh, but there are scattered larger trees. The swamp has numerous swales and pools. A small tussock-forming sedge is common in these areas. Other common ground layer species include fowl mannagrass, stout woodreed, spotted jewelweed, false-nettle, blue flag, tall meadow rue, false hellebore, moneywort, skunk-cabbage, water plantain, Pennsylvania cress, spring cress, swamp buttercup, and arrow-leaf tearthumb (regionally rare). There are sizable patches of squawroot, a regionally rare, non-photosynthetic plant that is parasitic on oak roots. In drier areas, American beech, black birch, white oak, red oak, shagbark hickory and white ash are the most common trees. Hardwood saplings, spice bush, blue cohosh (scarce in Dutchess County), wild leek, and nodding fescue are common in the shrub and herb layers. This area is identified on the accompanying map as "Stand 8".

At the extreme north end of the property the boundary bisects two knolls, both supporting a transition hardwood forest, with American beech trees averaging about 16 inches dbh. Black and white oaks with diameters up to 20 inches are also common. Young beech, maple-leaf viburnum, and American hazelnut are common in the open shrub layer. Wild licorice, white wood aster, bloodroot (exploitably vulnerable), hepatica, and blue cohosh are among the ground layer plants. There is considerable deer sign on both knolls, and what appeared to be turkey scrapes where the leaf litter had been scuffed away.

The Saw Kill along this reach is a shallow (i.e., less than 12 inches deep) meandering stream, mostly 15 to 30 feet wide, with bottom substrates varying from small cobbles to gravel to deep silt. Many down logs can be found across the Saw Kill and its tributaries, some well-rotted and covered with mosses and vascular plants. Much of the annual floodplain of the Saw Kill is wooded wetland or moist floodplain forest. In the area between the long hayfield and the Saw Kill the floodplain has a fairly open canopy and very dense shrub and herbaceous undergrowth. Ostrich fern (exploitably vulnerable) is locally abundant. Bell's honeysuckle, silky dogwood, multiflora rose, red raspberry, false hellebore, sensitive fern, skunk cabbage and spotted jewelweed are common.

A DEC fisheries survey conducted in the Saw Kill at Camp Rising Sun in September, 1990 found that wild brook trout and brown trout were abundant. Also common were blacknose dace, pumpkinseed, white sucker, bluegill, cutlips minnow, brown bullhead, and largemouth bass. That report cited a high abundance of insects and other invertebrates but did not identify species. In the vicinity of Camp Rising Sun and upstream, the Saw Kill is designated as Class B(t), meaning that it is a trout stream suitable for fishing and bathing but not for drinking. The lower reaches of the Saw Kill are designated Class C(t), meaning that it is a trout stream suitable for fishing but not for bathing or drinking.