

1.4 Guide to the Organization of this Plan

The upper Rondout Creek Management Plan has been arranged in seven sections. In **Section 2**, regional and watershed background information provides environmental and institutional context of stream management in the upper Rondout Creek, as well as the Catskills in general. Existing relationships for stream management in the upper Rondout are discussed, as are the interests, jurisdictions, and management views of the many project stakeholders.

Section 3 includes a summary of water quality assessments over the years in the upper Rondout; an introduction to the science of stream processes, as well as a description of the watershed assessment undertaken specifically during the development of this plan.

Section 4 provides detailed descriptions and specific recommendations for approximately 9.3 miles of stream, from NYS DEC property at the top of the Rondout watershed, down to the point where the stream enters the Rondout Reservoir. This section provides a useful reference for the extent of current problems at a localized stream reach scale, with specific recommendations for action and references to other sections of the plan for further information or resources.

The main stem has been organized into Management Units (MUs), subdivided using physical stream characteristics, property boundaries, location of bridges and road infrastructure, and valley characteristics, all gathered through a detailed stream assessment survey conducted in 2008-2009. These MU descriptions outline stream conditions (its bed and banks), general streamside (*riparian*) vegetation conditions, and proximity and arrangement of roads, bridges, and culverts. Cataloging all of these features of the stream in one inventory gives us useful data for understanding the state of the environment nature and humans have created on the Rondout.

Conditions and recommendations are organized by management objective. Descriptions provide guidance and suggestions for potential projects or assessments in these categories, and any ongoing monitoring that can provide further detail to define specific problems. Summary tables provide a condensed version of each expanded description, and companion maps show the location of specific features described in the text.

In **Section 5**, recommendations are made for specific projects that demonstrate best management practices and respond to priority needs identified during the Stream Feature Inventory and through meetings with town and county highway departments.

In **Section 6**, watershed-wide, programmatic recommendations are provided.

Section 7 suggests an approach for moving toward implementation of the recommendations in this plan.

Finally, **Section 8** provides a glossary of commonly used vocabulary within this Plan.