

***SITE #17: THE UPPER RESERVOIR BROOK DAMS***

The outlet stream from the Upper Reservoir was the site of various land use practices both before and after the creation of Black Rock Forest. Evidence of several pre-Stillman dams are still visible along the length of this brook. Approximately half way up the road leading to the chlorinator lies the most impressive of these sites. Here, where the stream runs fastest, are the remains of a dam along with other structures suggestive of out-buildings that may have been used to harness the adjacent water power. Behind this dam, and others built all along this stream, a pond was most probably used for ice making during the winter and as a swimming and fishing hole during the warmer months. Peck Pond was one such body of water.<sup>1</sup> The Black Rock pine planting located between the above-mentioned dam and Route 9W suggest that this area was formerly cultivated or logged. Because of the clearing's proximity to both the dam site and the Black Rock sawmill located only a quarter-mile downstream, it is most likely that this clearing was formerly cutover for timber production. The cement and stone dam lying downstream from this pre-Black Rock site appears to be of more recent origin.

*[Ed. Note: No accompanying map.]*

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<sup>1</sup> Babcock, interview with author, 20 May 1995.