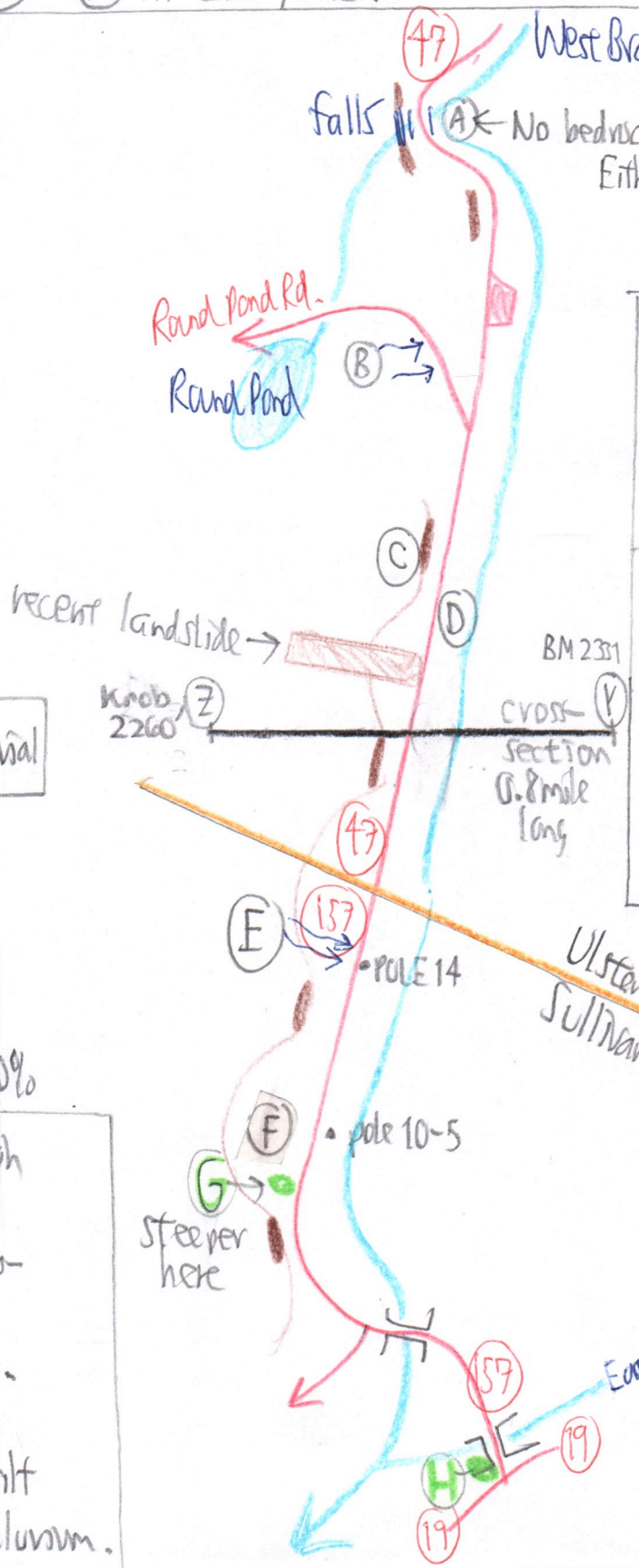
West Branch Neversink Gorge above Claryville

with Jami Martin 7/11/'06, observations made from (285-1)

hiking the road (47) & (157), from the Round Pond Outlet waterfall south to the junction of (157) & (19) in Claryville.



(B) Gullies see pole many rounded cobbles suggesting outwash

(C) occasional outcroppings of sandstone & shale, no conglomerate. However conglomerate cobbles & boulders are common in the till, originating prob. from Slide Mtn. & maybe the crest of Wildcat. Some till rocks, SS & cong, are partly-rounded suggesting some glaciofluvial activity.

(D) Ignore the flood plain. Alluvium can be here whether or not the gorge is post-glacial

Residuum could not accumulate to thicknesses over several feet in only 14000 years. In some places, till may be much deeper than that.

(E) Gullies 2 to 3 ft deep in till. Typical till for Catskills, hardly colluvium or residuum. Stony 20 to 30%

(F) Slope not steep enough for colluvium. Occasional deep till area accommodating sugar maple, white ash, basswood. This suggests ample soil water & normal clay-silt content atypical of colluvium. only.

Botanical notes

(G) Salix nigra, young very doubtful!!

(H) Salix sericea

No defoliation along the W or E Branch valleys

285-2

There's a problem with the 1875' col in the ridge. It's below the level of Rand Pond pass. An 1875 ft col at beginning of Wisconsinan ice advance would mean that the W Branch was already flowing into present valley. For the W. Branch to flow at via Rand Pond valley into Fir Brook would have necessitated a col exceeding 1980 feet in elev, the current elev. of Rand Pond Rd. in its pass.

Therefore, the diversion of waters into the present valley occured before the Wisconsinan ice advance. Maybe an Illinoisan ice diversion? Which reduced the col from > 1980 to 1875 ft.

Ennis Ridge is such a strange divide between the W. Branch and Fir Brook because the W. Branch once flowed into Fir Brook.

East-West Cross Section from (P) to (Z). To scale, but vertical exaggeration 2.1

285-3

to BM 2335 ← Knob 2260 just N of County line

0 0 | 0.1 528 | 0.2 1056 | 0.3 1584 | 0.4 2112 | 0.5 2640 | 0.6 3168 | 0.7 3696 | BM 2331 0.8 4224 | mile feet

Elevation in feet: 2500, 2400, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 1500

2260

elev. 1875'

Pre-Wisconsinan col in the ridge through which ice passed (before gorge formation) and began downcutting

may be

This is a glacial (Wisconsinan) ice-cut gorge, NOT a post-glacial river-cut gorge.

advance

Till in the gorge suggests it was there at deglaciation

2331

2000'

Pre-Wisconsinan surface

present land surface

Pre-eroded gorge

gorge 225' deep

gorge bottom 1650'

highway

West Branch Neversink

Vertical Scale: 1 inch = 250 ft.
Horizontal Scale: 1 inch = 528 feet.

Vertical exaggeration $\frac{528}{250} = 2.1$

Blue Hill East, 2754', S of Fir Brook & Bog #327

285-5

7/1/06 with Jami Martin

Site	p	Δp	Δe	ecalc	emap	time	R
(A) Pole Rd-at Bog #327	29.76	—	0.927	—	1920'	11:00	
(B) slope steepness, N hdwds only	29.63	0.13	121	2041			
(C) old log road	29.30	0.46	426	2346			
(D) skid road	29.12	0.64	593	2513			
(E) gentle slope begins	28.88	0.88	816	2736			
(F) Summit 2754'	28.86	0.90	834	2754	2754'	12:05	
	28.89	0.79	834	2754		12:35	
(G)	29.96	0.72	760	2680			
(H) bare 20' ledge	29.05	0.63	665	2585			
(I) SW dom	29.15	0.53	560	2480			
(J) ATV road	29.23	0.45	475	2395			
(K) even-aged SW stand	29.38	0.30	317	2237			
(L) 1st Hemlock on descent	29.50	0.18	190	2110			
(LLL) 1st Spr. repro. " "	29.62	0.06	63	1983'			
(M) Pole Road	29.68	0.00	1.056	—	1920'	1:45 PM	
(LL) 2 young spruce	29.54	0.14	148	2068			

$R_1 = \frac{2754 - 1920'}{29.76 - 28.86} = \frac{834'}{0.90"} = 0.927$

$R_2 = \frac{2754 - 1920'}{29.68 - 28.89} = \frac{834'}{0.79} = 1.056$

Ledge uncommon, slopes rarely steep, forest not stunted.

Vegetation

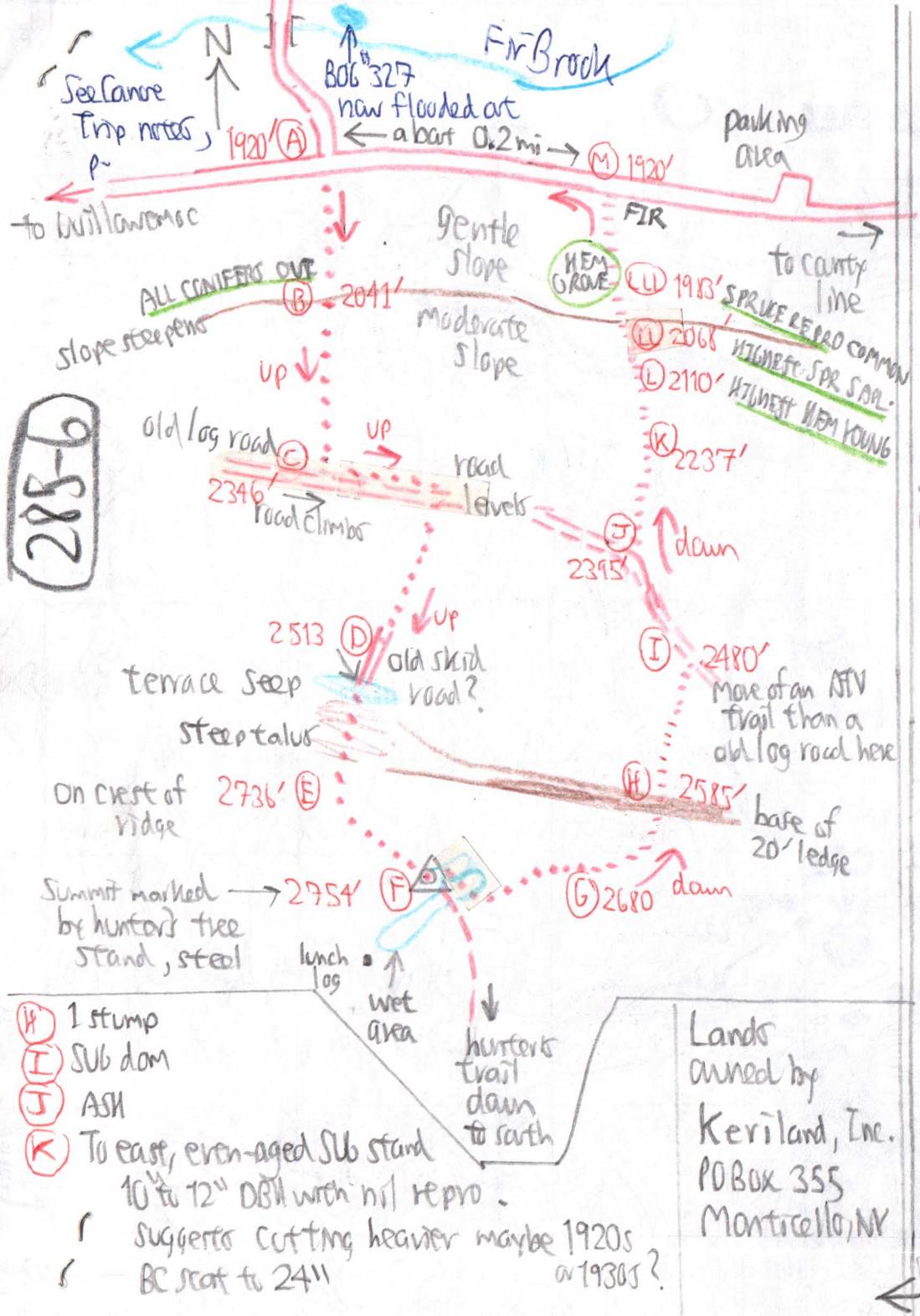
FIR – on ascent climb no more than ±50' above road ±1970' (A) + (B) between
on descent only within 10' above road 1930' (M)

SPRUCE – on ascent climb not even to (B) 2041'
On descent, the highest 2 saplings at (LL) 2068', but more repro around the HEM grove (LLL) 1983'

HEMLOCK Max Grabh. on ascent climb not even to (B) 2041'
On descent, highest two young at (L) 2110'

(continued over)

Hill 2754 appears to be only very lightly cut over once in early 20th Century & again in 1960s.



(H) 1 stump
(I) SUB dom
(J) ASH
(K) To east, even-aged SUB stand 10½" to 12" DBH with nil repro. Suggests cutting heavier maybe 1920s or 1930s? BC seat to 24"

Lands owned by
Keriland, Inc.
POBox 355
Monticello, NY

This implies that spruce & fir are confined only to the Fir Brook valley & barely climb the slopes south of the highway. Red spruce is expanding upslope because young trees are at a greater elev. than mature, as around Hunter Mtn. Prob never higher.

Fir may or may not have ever been on top of the peak; if it were, N hdwds replaced it prob. >10000 y.

(F) Few ledges & deep till provide an all-hdwd stand on the summit 50' tall. SUGs rare. B-BC dom, dense B sprouts. RM around wet area. YB present. Boreal grand cover on summit: OX-TB-$-LL. 72°F gypsy moth!

(F) Wet area has Sphagnum (grg?), VV, Cx trisperma, Cx debilis, UVUL, Poly ohio. A few open small pools. Probe 6 to 8" deep max. Perhaps 200' long by 50' wide at most. DP, not CINN, dominates.

(B) 2041' 2° hdwds. Few old stumps. NO more conifers. LL, LOBS, $, OX, UVUL, ARIS, TB. Two dead bigtooth, ±15". SUG-BC-RM-BC-YB. Logged prob before bigtooths established, maybe early 1900s, then again lightly about 40 y ago.

(C) 2346 B dom with sprouts. Some YB & MO. NO SUG. NO stumps. Cuts to clear ATV trail only. Prob logged >50 y ago. 1 BIG TOOTH.

(D) 2513 Possible skid road up. Seep below talus. ASH, BASS, OST, SUG. Less B. Old stump 40 y? 80' canopy.

(E) 2736' Stump 35 to 40 y. DP glades

(F) 2754 See above ↑

(G) 2680 3 SUG 2 ASH in B dom stand—NO stumps

F to G Dne 31.4° BC.

continued

Boreal East base of Blue Mtn. Skislope

with Jami Martin 7/1/'06

285-7

See 281-8

Because the elev. of upper limit of exploration is unknown, the R rates from the 2754 East Summit of the Blue Hill Range are used to estimate elevation gain from the Pole Road. $R_1 = 0.927$ and $R_2 = 1.056$ (see p.).

Using a mean R of 0.991, the ascent is calculated:

2973 Pole Road at elev. 1875
2962 end exploration at elev 1974.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.056 \\ +\ 0.927 \\ \hline 2 \overline{)\ 1.983} \\ .991 \\ 2 \overline{)\ 1983} \\ 18 \\ \hline 18 \end{array}$$

This area was explored in Aug 1999 with Jack Brevard but only much closer to the road & no intent to see how far the spruce-fir climbed. They're all out by 100 ft above the road & are common on the 1960' till knoll, and generally to within 40 or 60 ft of the highway.

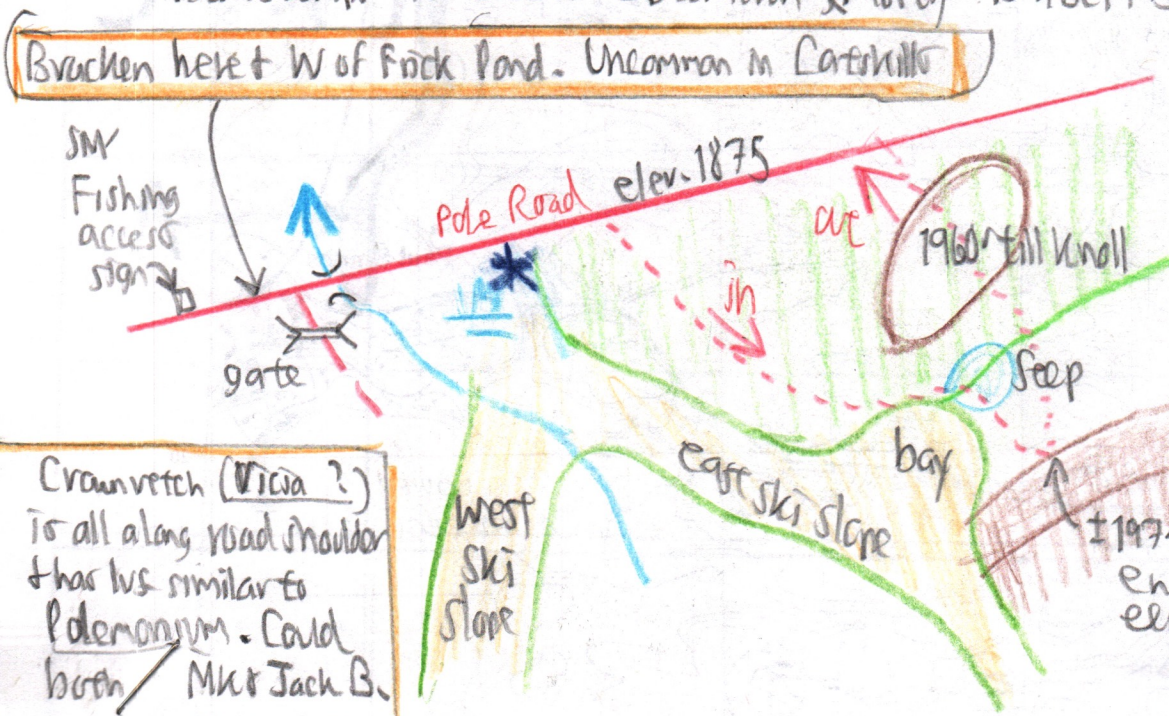
Again, as at the base of the east 2754' peak, spruce-fir are limited to the Fir Brook valley bottom only.

Out 2:45 PM

Boreal Ground cover: Ox, CB, CC, TU, Chrogeneo, Coptis. Hemstump at end of exploration but mostly RM, BC, YB.

* Willow roadside discolor, serrissa, bebbiana, nigra ? ? very doubtful!

Bracken here & W of Frick Pond. Uncommon in Catskills



approx upper spruce-fir limit - a few hemlocks climb higher

steeper slope beginning - all hardwoods

Crownvetch (Vicia ?) is all along road shoulder that is similar to Polemonium. Could both / Mike or Jack B. misidentified it in 1999? In Bog 389 too (Stamford)