



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: James E. Connolly
FROM: Richard E. Weber
DATE: August 31, 2009
SUBJECT: Highlights of State Land Team Activities for August 2009

The following is a summary of State Land Team activities for the month of August.

- Planning staff spent several days writing and reviewing a report summarizing the process used to find a corridor connector snowmobile trail between Newcomb and North Hudson. Planning staff briefed other APA staff on the TNC/Finch and DEC corridor connector trail project options and issues.
- Planning and RASS staff met with the LaBerge Group (APA consultant) on August 3 to review their report on the parking areas along Route 86, Wilmington Notch Byway project. On August 5, staff took photos of the Route 73 signs to establish consistency between the two byways. Planning staff has been meeting with DEC, Ausable River Association, Jones Outfitters, and DOT to review the consultant's report and make recommendations for the next steps.
- Planning staff continued field review of the Henderson Lake area (Tahawas) of Region 5 for pending classification on August 7.
- Planning staff joined other APA staff for Wetland delineation training, conducted by RASS staff, on August 12.
- Planning staff met with DEC Region 6 staff to review two large tracts of land pending classification on August 10 and 13.

- Planning staff reviewed a JIF for a stabilization project on the Raquette River in the Saranac Lakes WF on August 13.
- Planning staff met on August 28 with DEC Central staff to develop monitoring questions, indicators, and measures for Wilderness Character Monitoring within the Adirondack Park.
- On August 24 and 27, planning staff presented training materials to a group of new DEC State Foresters on the role of the APA in administering the Master Plan and on creating partnerships.
- The Commissioners of DOT and DEC, the Chairman of the Park Agency along with executive staff of the three agencies met on August 19 and 20 in Blue Mountain Lake to discuss the planning for State highway travel corridors in the Adirondack Park. The three Agencies are preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a commitment to prepare travel corridor unit management plans as required by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.
- On August 25, Agency staff participated in a meeting with DEC staff and various constituent groups to discuss which Adirondack lakes and ponds would provide opportunities for commercial floatplane operators to provide backcountry camping experiences for their customers. The meeting was in follow-up to recognition that backcountry floatplane opportunities will be curtailed by DEC regulations and pending Agency classification recommendations for Lows Lake. Meeting participants included representatives from the Adirondack Council, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Protect the Adirondacks, Adirondack Mt. Club and two commercial floatplane operators. The group will work on compiling a list of lakes which would be potentially suitable for floatplane landings and would provide good camping, hunting, or fishing opportunities.