



**RESOLUTION AND SEQRA FINDINGS
ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO
HOFFMAN NOTCH WILDERNESS
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

MARCH 15, 2012

WHEREAS, section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan for the Hoffman Notch Wilderness in the towns of Schroon, North Hudson, and Minerva in Essex County; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 for which the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead Agency and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved Agency; and

WHEREAS, a final environmental impact statement was completed by the Department of Environmental Conservation on February 7, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has consulted with the Adirondack Park Agency staff in the preparation of the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final Hoffman Notch Wilderness Unit Management Plan, dated February, 2012, is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

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WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Hoffman Notch Wilderness Unit Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes providing public access where appropriate in order to provide visitors with a wide range of recreational opportunities while protecting unique trailless and roadless resources(FEIS p. 79 and 82); and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes new camping opportunities including two designated tent sites at Big Pond, one tent site at Bailey Pond, one tent site on North Pond, and a lean-to in the vicinity of Platt Brook(FEIS p. 86); and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the promulgation of a new regulation to limit maximum group sizes to 15 for day use and 8 for overnight use, as has been adopted in neighboring Wilderness and Primitive units(FEIS p. 88); and

WHEREAS, the Department has committed to work with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program to effectively manage and eradicate invasive plants in the unit (FEIS p. 71); and

WHEREAS, the Department has committed to initiate a Limits of Acceptable Change study to evaluate user impacts on trails and campsites, which study will provide an opportunity to improve management of these appropriate recreational opportunities and assist the Department and Agency in assessing impacts and identifying where restoration, revegetation and erosion control may be necessary (FEIS p. 78 and 86).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Hoffman Notch Wilderness Unit Management Plan, dated February, 2012, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations, from among the reasonable alternatives, the proposed Final EIS/UMP seeks to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects to the maximum extent practicable, including the effects disclosed in the environmental impact statement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

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Ayes: R. Booth, S. Craig, A. Lussi, F. Mezzano,
D. Scozzafava (DOS), R. Stegemann (DEC),
W. Thomas, L. Ulrich, W. Valentino, C. Wray

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: J. McCormick (DED)