



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jim Connolly
FROM: Kevin Prickett
DATE: November 29, 2012
RE: Staff Recommendations: Second Pond Boat Launch
Reclassification and Unit Management Plan

The Second Pond Boat Launch provides boat access to approximately 6,000 acres of water including Middle and Lower Saranac Lakes, Weller Pond, Oseetah Lake, Lake Flower, Kiwassa Lake and the Saranac River. These water bodies offer many recreational opportunities that attract visitors and enrich the neighboring communities. The waters are also habitat for charismatic fauna such as loons, great blue herons, ospreys, beavers, otters and bald eagles. Over the past year, I have worked with DEC staff on the unit management plan (UMP) and the land reclassification for the Second Pond Boat Launch. On behalf of APA staff, the following are my comments on this work.

UMP Review for Compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP)

State land staff reviewed the Second Pond Proposed Final UMP dated December 2012 for changes from the previous public version dated June 2012. These include the following, all are included in the appendices:

1. Details for the facilities registration booth.
2. A map outlining the wetland acreage within the existing and proposed land classification changes.
3. A map outlining the wetland boundaries.
4. Public comments received during the public comment period and responses by DEC staff.

Staff's review for compliance with the APSLMP resulted in collaboration with DEC staff to develop revisions addressing resource protection concerns related to wetland impacts and mitigation, various site considerations, carrying capacity, setback requirements, tree cutting, APSLMP travel corridor

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guidelines and criteria requirements, and aquatic invasive species management. Staff recommends the Board determine the Proposed Final Draft Unit Management Plan is consistent with the Intensive Use Area guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Reclassification

In addition to management actions, the UMP recommends reclassification of 6.8 acres of Intensive Use land to Wilderness and 5.6 acres of Wilderness to Intensive Use (see attached maps). Such a reclassification, as proposed by APA staff and outlined in the Second Pond Boat Launch Reclassification Action and Unit Management Plan Approval FSEIS, would result in a net increase of 1.2 acres of lands classified as Wilderness. Staff recommends the Agency Board approve the preferred reclassification as described in the FSEIS.

KGP:lhb



