NEW YORK STATE
Adirondack
parkagency

September 15, 2009

Governor David A. Paterson
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

Pursuant to Section 816 of the Executive Law, I respectfully submit, for your approval, the enclosed proposed classification and reclassification of lands, lake bed and waters, as provided for in the Master Plan for the Management of State Land in the Adirondack Park.

The recommendation was developed by Agency staff in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and is consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The proposed action, which was the subject of four public hearings held both inside and outside the Park, was approved by the Agency by a 6 to 4 vote at the September 11, 2009 board meeting.

The recommended action involves lands, reservoir bed and waters in the vicinity of Lows Lake, the Lows Lake Primitive Area and the Five Ponds and Round Lake Wilderness Areas. It consists of four State land classifications totaling approximately 4,357 acres and four State land reclassifications totaling approximately 6,470 acres, for a total of approximately 10,827 acres for the entire proposal. The classification action also includes the bed and waters of Lows Lake and the Bog River within Wilderness and Primitive classifications. This recognizes the long history of State land acquisitions around these water bodies. The classification is consistent with the definitions of wilderness and primitive areas contained in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan which emphasize that both land and water are subject to Agency classification actions and recommendations.

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These classifications will provide a significant wilderness paddling experience for both Adirondack residents and visitors by linking Lows Lake and the Bog River to other wilderness waters including the Oswegatchie River, Lake Lila and Little Tupper Lake. These combined waterways will be one of the premiere wilderness canoe routes in the Northeast.

In this year, which marks the 45th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the creation of this remarkable wilderness waterway is a fitting tribute to Howard Zahniser, Bob Marshall and other visionaries who helped to establish the concept of wilderness both on the national level and here in New York. These actions will also represent a significant economic opportunity for businesses in the Park. The concept of wilderness as a sustainable development opportunity has been demonstrated by New York's leadership in protecting the integrity of the State's Forest Preserve for over a century.

In concert with Commissioner Grannis, it is my pleasure to make these recommended changes and additions to the State Land wilderness and primitive classifications within the Adirondack Park.

Sincerely,

Curtis F. Stiles
Chairman

CFS:dal
Enclosures

c: Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment
Pete Grannis, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation
Agency Members and Designees
Terry Martino, APA
Robert Davies, DEC