



**DRAFT**  
**RESOLUTION AND SEQRA FINDINGS**  
**ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY**  
**WITH RESPECT TO THE**  
**WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN SKI CENTER INTENSIVE USE AREA**  
**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMMENDMENT**

Proposed for Adoption  
by the Adirondack Park Agency  
June 13, 2013

WHEREAS, section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) 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 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 guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Olympic Regional Development Authority has prepared a unit management plan amendment for the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area, dated April 2013, which includes a proposal to replace the Ski Patrol Building on Little Whiteface Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the replacement Ski Patrol Building on Little Whiteface Mountain will house communications infrastructure for the Essex County and New York State Police public safety communications system and shared microwave network authorized by APA Project Order and Findings 2012-128 and APA Order 2012-128-5 Whiteface issued December 18, 2012; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR 586 for which the Olympic Regional Development Agency is the lead agency and the Department of

Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency are involved Agencies; and

WHEREAS, a notice of acceptance of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) was filed in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on April 24, 2013 which established a public comment period ending on May 24, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Agency established a public comment period on conformance of the draft unit management plan amendment with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, which ran from May 15, 2013 through June 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, neither the Agency nor ORDA received any written comments during the respective public comment periods; and

WHEREAS, ORDA as lead agency filed its acceptance of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) in the ENB on June 12, 2013, 2013 and is expected to issue findings and a decision ten days thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Whiteface Ski Center Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment for conformance with the SLMP;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment/FSEIS, dated April 2013, conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack State Land Master Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Adirondack Park Agency finds pursuant to 9 NYCRR 586.14 and 6 NYCRR Part 617.11, and based on the record provided by the FSEIS presented to the Agency, that the management actions contained therein are:

- Intended to protect the unit's natural resources, character and recreational use according to the provisions of the Adirondack Park State Land Management Plan.
- Intended to protect rare, threatened and endangered species found within the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area, with particular attention to Bicknell's Thrush

and other high-elevation bird species in the vicinity of Little Whiteface Mountain, through continued scientific monitoring and avoiding the potential for habitat disturbance.

- Intended to increase public understanding about Bicknell's Thrush habitat, natural history and threats to its population dynamics in the Northeast and Caribbean wintering grounds through the development of public educational materials and promoting contributions to a Bicknell's Thrush habitat protection fund.
- Intended to protect species and ecological communities identified as rare, threatened or endangered.
- Intended to accommodate public recreational needs including skiing, snowboarding, biking and other activities permitted in the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations, from among the reasonable alternatives, the action approved is one which minimizes or avoids adverse environmental effects to the maximum extent practicable, including the effects disclosed in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and that any adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the FSEIS; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Olympic Regional Development Authority of the Agency's determination in this matter upon the Olympic Regional Development Authority's issuance of findings and decision, provided that there are no substantive changes to the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent: