



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Terry Martino
FROM: Jim Connolly
DATE: July 25, 2013
SUBJECT: Highlights of Planning Division Activities for
June and July 2013

Progress on State Land Classification Action

REGIONAL PLANNING

Status of Classification Documents

Agency Planning Division staff, with support from other staff, have been working through the public hearing process and compilation of the hearing record from the eight public hearings held in June and July. Agency support staff have been preparing hearing transcripts and processing individual comment letters and e-mails and providing each with an individual file name. Over 3,600 comment letters and e-mails have been received. Staff will continue to work on the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement which will include a recommended alternative.

Meeting with Adirondack Council Director of Conservation

On June 4, Planning Director Jim Connolly met with Rocci Aguirre, the Adirondack Council's new Director of Conservation and provided him with background on State Land, Local Government and GIS programs at the Agency. Mr. Aguirre expressed an interest in having ongoing dialogue with the Agency on a regular basis to improve understanding of Agency programs and the potential role of his organization to be supportive of APA programs and initiatives.

STATE LAND and UMP REVIEW ACTIVITIES

State land staff organized and participated in eight public hearings for the 2013 Classification Package. State land staff reviewed public comments on the 2013 classification package and started on the process of drafting responses to public comments.

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State land staff made a SLMP compliance determination for the placement of metal lockers in the eastern High Peaks Wilderness.

State land staff made a SLMP compliance determination for the relocation of a lean-to in the High Peaks Wilderness.

State land staff made a SLMP compliance determination for the use of motorized equipment to remove a structure in the Nehasane Primitive Area.

State land staff met with the Action/Coordination/Efficiency Team to discuss the State land JIF process.

State land staff met with RASS staff to discuss ways to improve communications between the two divisions, with emphasis on UMP and classification review.

State land staff reviewed a permit application for the reconstruction of the Taylor Pond Dam, which is located in the Taylor Pond WF.

State land staff met with RASS and Regulatory staff to discuss compliance issues on a permit application to reclaim Lower Sargent Pond.

State land staff reviewed and approved snowmobile trail work plans submitted by DEC for two short sections of new snowmobile trails in Taylor Pond and Independence River Wild Forests.

State land staff made field visits to examine campsites and scenic vistas in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest as part of the Unit Management Plan Review.

State land staff completed historic resource reviews for several projects as part of the NYS Historic Preservation Act in the following locations: the Town of Lewis, the Town of Fine, and the Town of Stratford.

State land staff gave presentation on accessibility in the outdoors.

State land staff reviewed the Camp Santanoni Historic Area Unit Management Plan.

State land staff provided instruction to Paul Smith's students on accessing accessible recreation trails.

State land staff presented to Paul Smith's students on use of GIS at the Adirondack Park Agency.

State land staff met with DEC staff at Camp Santanoni Historic Area to review proposed management and existing boundaries.

State land staff reviewed JIF for the William C. Whitney Wilderness regarding trail re-routing.

State land staff developed GIS tool to assist with wetland delineation on the Remsen-Lake Placid Corridor.

State land staff developed GIS maps for mountain biking planning meeting for the Moose River Plains.

State land staff attended planning meeting for mountain biking in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest.

State land staff make field visit to the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest as part of permit review.

CARTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION ANALYSIS

GIS Agency Program Administration/Training/Data Management/Software Management - Staff developed a Transaction Mapping tool in the GIS for Regulatory, Legal, and RASS staff to input the location of Agency Projects, JIF, Enforcement, and Wetland Field Visit sites. This task included interviewing staff, writing program code, managing the user software interface, prototyping the draft tool with program staff, testing data design, writing help documentation, and training staff. This simplified tool enables program staff to map Agency business transactions at the beginning of Agency review. Location and transaction number are immediately available to all Agency staff through the GIS Lookup System. Mapped transactions are also available for future property review reference and park planning and trends analysis.

GIS Data Management/Training - Staff trained State Lands staff in processing location-aware photo files to import, manage, and make GIS layers out of photos taken during park field visits. Through this process, a point layer is created and made available to all staff through the Lookup System (LUS) of photo locations. When the user clicks the photo point in the LUS, the photo image is displayed.

GIS Hardware/Software/Data Management - Staff wrote software programs to process the GIS management of photos associated with easement lands and transportation corridors. Program staff now simply copy their photo files into designated folders on the Agency GIS server. Each night, GIS point files are automatically updated to display new photos and their locations in the LUS.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff assisted Administrative staff with annual GIS software maintenance procurement.

GIS Data Management - Staff began development of a new reference layer showing the location of over 1,000 historic aerial photos of the park taken in 1968. These black and white, paper photos have been used by Agency staff for decades. Finding the correct photo covering an Agency transaction has been difficult and time consuming. This new index layer will soon be available to all staff through the LUS.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided assistance to DEC staff, Katherine Barnes and Scott Stoner regarding lakes in the park wholly surrounded by Forest Preserve.

GIS Agency Program Administration, Hardware/Software Management - Staff worked with IT staff to provide required remote desktop software license access to Agency program staff.

Web Content Management - Staff updated Agency content including several home page items, Agency forms, the Business/Economy page, and the Jobs page.

Administrative Tasks - Staff prepared monthly reports.

Administrative Tasks - Staff managed email pending system changes.

State Land Classification/Reclassification Review - Staff worked with Legal and State Land staff on the 2013 classification action (TNC/Finch), including mapping and GIS work.

State Land Classification/Reclassification Review - Staff worked with State Land staff on review potential mapping error and reclassifications in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest.

State Land Classification/Reclassification Review - Staff worked with State Land staff on review potential reclassifications in the Santinoni Historic Area.

GIS Consultation/ Map Production - Staff produced maps and analysis of setbacks from water in Moderate and Low Intensity Use areas for the park as requested by Agency Counsel.

Map Amendment Review - Staff is working with the Town of Ticonderoga and their consultant to map existing sewer districts and to identify areas of potential hamlet expansion Map Amendments.

Map Amendment Review - Staff is reviewing a potential technical map amendment in the Town of Pitcairn where private land map be mapped as State land (Wild Forest)

Web Content Management - Staff made changes to the website relating to the State land classification actions.

Web Content Management - Staff made changes related to a job positing on the website.

Administrative Tasks - Staff prepared monthly reports.

May GIS/Web Task Summary:

Task	Count
GIS Agency Program Administration	0
GIS Consultation	0
GIS Hardware/Software Management	0
GIS Map Production	24
GIS Data Management	0
GIS Training	0
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	10
Map Amendments Review	3
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	3
Web Administration	0
Web Content Management	2
Administrative Tasks	1

JEC:WWL:KGP:KDR:MSK:JWB:lhb