

Memorandum to Josh Clague
St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area
UMP Initial Draft Review
May 29, 2013



MEMORANDUM

TO: Josh Clague (DEC)
Associate Natural Resource Planner

FROM: Kathy Regan (APA)
Senior Natural Resource Planner
Kathy Regan

DATE: May 29, 2013

RE: St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area
Initial Draft Unit Management Plan Review

The following are my comments on the March 2013 St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area (SRMFTHA) Initial Draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) regarding the conformance with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP).

Prior to 2010, the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower was located in the St. Regis Canoe Area. The tower was formally discontinued for use by DEC for its intended purpose in 1990. Before being closed, the tower had been identified in the 1972 Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) as a non-conforming structure in a wilderness setting. In 2010, because of a growing recognition of the of the tower's significance under the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA), and in response to numerous public comments received by DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) in support of the structure, one half acre of land around the tower was reclassified and the SLMP was amended to create the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area, thereby allowing the tower to remain in its original location.

The Department's initial Draft UMP proposes management actions to address management challenges and opportunities, including stabilizing and opening the fire tower to public use, developing interpretive materials related to the fire tower as a historic resource, permitting the long term volunteer maintenance of the tower, and monitoring both use of the tower and the trail that leads to the summit of St. Regis Mountain. The management actions are compliant with the SLMP.

Cc: Kris Alberga