



TO: Terry Martino

FROM: John Barge and Walt Linck

DATE: March 4, 2014

RE: Planning Division Monthly Report For February 2014

APSLMP CONSULTATIONS

UMP Development/Review

- Reviewed the Proposed Final UMPs for Hurricane Mountain and St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Areas, which incorporated public comments received by DEC. State land staff also established a schedule for the required APA public meetings and comment period for these.
- Reviewed the Sentinel Range Wilderness Initial Draft UMP and met with DEC staff to discuss potential compliance issues and recommendations. State land staff also conducted a day of field work in the area. Much field work needed for reviewing this UMP was undertaken in past seasons, but the rest will need to occur later this year.
- Reviewed a draft amendment to Cranberry Lake Wild Forest UMP that would take 4.14 miles of the "Cranberry Lake 50" trail off of NYS Route 3. State land staff have worked with DEC and the Five Pond Partners on this project over recent years and most field work is completed. A memo has been sent to the DEC stating that this amendment is compliant with the APSLMP.
- Worked in consultation with Regulatory staff regarding a DOT project to conduct bridge work on Route 28 in the Town of Webb. DOT submitted plans for restoration work that would include constructing a car-top boat launch in the adjacent Black River Wild Forest. DEC, after being informed that a UMP amendment would be required for the proposed project to be implemented, is now working with DOT to revise the project so an amendment may not be necessary.

- Spoke with a Tupper Lake resident regarding a possible amendment to the Bog River Complex UMP that would allow for some new trails in Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest some local residents would like to see added to this unit. Staff provided him with guidance on the procedure for this process and contacted DEC staff to verify they are aware of this request.
- Met with DEC Forester Dan Levy to review the team draft UMP for the Chazy Highlands Wild Forest. This area includes Forest Preserve, Wildlife Management Areas and State Forest.
- Consulted with Warrensburg DEC staff and planned joint, early March field work concerning construction of a community connector snowmobile trail segment and bridge over "The Branch" in Vanderwhacker Wild Forest, near North Hudson. This work will likely be proposed in an upcoming amendment to the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest UMP.
- Participated in a meeting and phone conference call concerning the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor with DOT and DEC staff at DEC's central office in Albany. The discussion addressed possible recreational trail planning for the Corridor, focused particularly on the segment between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid.

APA/DEC MOU Consultation

- Reviewed a JIF for the Putnam Pond Campground. The project would include road and culvert maintenance. Staff determined it would be ordinary maintenance in accordance with the APA/DEC MOU, but may require a wetlands permit.
- Reviewed a JIF for the Lake George Boat Launch at "Million Dollar Beach". This project is compliant with the APSLMP, but will require a wetlands permit.
- Met with DEC wildlife staff concerning two human-wildlife interaction issues in Wilderness Areas that may need to be addressed by DEC with new management this year: 1) "cavers" entering and exploring a cave in winter in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness that is an important bat hibernaculum (thereby disturbing the bats at a critical time and causing increased mortality to bat species already threatened); and 2) high numbers of hikers and campers in the High Peaks

Wilderness failing to adequately protect their food supplies from being taken by black bears (thereby helping to habituate them to behavior that is increasingly dangerous to both people and the individual bears).

- Continued review of a DEC proposal to reconstruct the boat launch at the Upper Saranac Lake Intensive Use Area. The proposed reconstruction involves new, concrete ramps and floating docks, as well as a boat washing station to help combat the spread of invasive species. Staff provided comments regarding shoreline protection, APSLMP interpretation of invasive boat wash stations on shorelines, boat wash design, locating the boat wash stations, and recreation management.
- Consulted with DEC staff concerning a number of improvements DEC may propose developing for persons with disabilities at Buck Pond Campground and the adjoining, Debar Wild Forest lands along Lake Kushaqua.

Permit Review

- Reviewed the draft "General Permit for the Management of Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species in or within 100' of wetlands in the Adirondack Park." Language will be incorporated to include guidelines established in the APA/DEC MOU (March 2010).
- Reviewed the draft "General Permit for Access to and Replacement In-kind of Utility Poles in Wetlands." The language needed for the above permit was not needed for this permit.
- Developed a presentation for the Agency Board meeting on the Whiteface Veteran's Memorial Highway reconstruction project.

State Land Violation

- Contacted DEC regarding a possible timber trespass in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest.

APSLMP REVISION

Update/Ministerial Revision

- After receiving notification of the Governor's approval of the 2013 Classification package, State land staff incorporated the relevant updates into the APSLMP. The updated document was posted on the Agency's web page, and new copies of the APSLMP were provided to Agency Board members and some staff.

State Land Classification

- Started mapping parcels that will be included in the next classification package.
- Participated in an internal review of the 2013 classification action.

PARK POLICY AND PLANNING

Parkwide Recreation Planning

- Provided DEC review and research of proposed roadside camping policy.

Invasive Species Control

- Continued analyzing aquatic invasive species data provided by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) using GIS.
- Consulted with a SUNY Binghamton graduate student interested in developing a thesis that seeks to establish predictor models that can map out the likely future spread of invasive species.

ADMINISTRATION (State Land Staff)

Agency Coordination/Efficiency

- Continued work developing a more efficient process for the review of DEC's State land projects. A new database and forms are being drafted and reviewed within the Planning and Regulatory Programs divisions. Follow-up meetings will occur with the ACE team and the Executive Director.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT REVIEW

- Completed historic resource reviews for three projects as part of the NYS Historic Preservation Act in the following locations: the Town of Brighton, Town of Moriah, and the Town of Northampton.

ADMINISTRATION

- Prepared monthly reports.

February State Land Tasks Summary:

Task	Count	Year to Date
APSLMP Consultations	17	26
APSLMP Revision	3	4
Park Policy and Planning	3	7
Administration	1	7
Historic Preservation Act Review	3	3

GIS AGENCY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Consultation

- Consulted with State land staff concerning guidance on mapping New York State's Wilderness Areas in conjunction with Federal Wilderness Areas.
- Provided assistance to DEC staff concerning siting a proposed snowmobile trail on Town lands in the Town of Newcomb. Utilizing 3D Stereo Imagery, staff provided preferred locations for the trail that avoids wet areas and topography otherwise not suitable for it.
- Provided GIS analysis assistance to Carol Hart, Executive Director, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, who requested help creating a list of communities within each Adirondack town. Created a table of 389 named populated places recorded in the Federal Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) 2013 database. Using GIS overlay analysis, the named places were correlated with the towns they fall within. The resulting table was kindly received by Ms. Hart.

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- Compiled an overview of Agency trends analysis work conducted over the past decade for the Agency Executive Director.
- Prepared a graphic based on analysis of soil and slope data for RASS presentation on stormwater management.
- Provided advice to Regulatory Programs staff preparing Agency telecommunication project location data for staff reference through the Agency Lookup System.
- Provided advice to RASS staff preparing Agency deep hole test pit location data for staff reference through the Agency Lookup System.
- Provided assistance to Regulatory Programs staff having difficulty searching tax map numbers to locate project parcels under review. Provided step-by-step instructions of best practices.
- Provided GIS data advice by phone and email to Kirstin Seleen, Seleen Associates, who requested information about CEA's, River Areas, and Project Review site databases.
- Provided assistance to Regulatory Program staff needing background information on OPRHP historic register and archeological GIS data.
- Provided advice to Regulatory Programs staff looking to improve Project Notice Form mapping process and output.

Data Management

- Requested current copies of county tax map parcel GIS data from each county in the Park. Began receiving data and importing it to the Agency GIS for eventual use by all staff using the Lookup System.
- Processed Agency telecommunication project site data and deep hole test pit location data for the Agency Lookup System.

Hardware/Software Management

- Worked on the deployment of sub-meter accuracy GPS equipment and software to document the location of the Camp Santanoni Historic area as part of proposed UMP amendment.
- Managed software maintenance contract renewal for ArcGIS Stereo Analyst Extension software used on the Agency's two Stereo Photogrammetry workstations. This software is used by staff for wetlands mapping and other 3D visualization.
- Edited the Agency GIS Lookup System to publish Telecommunication Projects and Deep Hole Test Pit locations for reference by Agency staff. Sites are presented on the map along with pertinent attribute information.

Training

- Attended "Using Geographic Information Systems to do Great Economic and Workforce Development Research" webinar.

GIS MAP PRODUCTION

- Updated the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map and State Land Map facsimile to reflect the Finch land classifications as approved by the Governor on February 7th. The new map also reflects additional changes such as Chazy Highlands Wild Forest, Little Moose Wilderness, and lands around Tahawus among others. Links to digital versions of the map were posted on the Agency home page and the Maps/GIS page.
- Prepared a series of maps of potential recreation trails that would connect communities from Tupper Lake to Saranac

Lake by running more or less along the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor. These maps show existing DEC trails and natural resource limitations (wetlands and steep slopes) and are posted on the Agency's website.

LUA BOUNDARY/BLUE LINE INQUIRY

- Prepared detailed land classification maps for consultants working on three fiber optic broadband projects in the Park (Long Lake, Belmont-Lyon Mountain and Schroon Lake). Staff will provide consultants more information regarding land use area boundaries as more detailed project information becomes available.

MAP AMENDMENTS REVIEW

- On February 4, staff spoke with the Supervisor of the Town of Crown Point regarding amendments to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map. Agency staff have been in contact with Town officials over the last two years, during which the Town identified potential Hamlet expansion areas that are either in or adjacent to existing sewer districts. The Town, acknowledging problems with its sewer system that may need to be rectified before any additional users are added to the system, has decided to consider other changes to the Map that do not require sewer service. In May of 2013, staff met with the Town Board to discuss the map amendment process. The Town is forming a committee to identify potential amendments to the Map, and we will likely hear from them in the near future concerning the Agency's offer of assistance.
- On February 12, the Agency received additional information about sewer infrastructure from consultants for the Town of Ticonderoga in support of a request for Hamlet expansion.
- Staff will meet on March 12 with representatives from the Town of Wilmington to discuss potential Hamlet expansion opportunities.

WEB ADMINISTRATION/CONTENT MANAGEMENT

- Updated APA's State land web page to make available the final documents associated with the 2013 classification actions.

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- Updated APA's State land web page to make available management proposals associated with the Hurricane Mountain and St. Regis Mountain Fire Towers.
- Removed management plans from APA's State land web page that are no longer relevant.
- Developed and posted materials on APA's GIS web page related to analysis of waters wholly surrounded by Forest Preserve.
- Updated APA's website to include new version of the APSLMP.
- Attended a meeting of Agency division representatives to begin a site-wide review of the Agency web content. Staff will ensure content is current, and that descriptive language and content organization is user friendly.
- Prepared Agency website statistics reflecting top page, top directory, and top file views and downloads over the past six months.
- Posted the 2013 Annual Report to the Agency website.
- Posted two vacancy announcements to the Agency website.
- Posted links to the new Park Plan Map and interactive maps.
- Posted the 2014 version of the Adirondack State Land Master Plan to the website. The 2014 version includes the recent classification of the TNC/Finch acquisition.
- Updated APA's State land web page to make available the final documents associated with the 2013 classification actions.
- Updated APA's State land web page to make available management proposals associated with the Hurricane Mountain and St. Regis Mountain Fire Towers.
- Removed management plans from APA's State land web pages that are no longer relevant.

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- Developed and posted materials on APS's GIS web page related to analysis of waters wholly surrounded by Forest Preserve.
- Processed an updated service agreement between the Agency and our Internet Service Provider, Media3.

ADMINISTRATION (GIS STAFF)

- Attended NY Community Rising meeting with other Agency programs staff, DEC staff and a consultant.
- Prepared monthly reports.

February GIS/Web Tasks Summary:

Task	Count	Year to Date
GIS Agency Program Administration	16	38
GIS Map Production	3	3
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	1	1
Map Amendments Review	3	3
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	0	0
Web Administration/Content Management	11	14
Administrative Tasks	2	4

TM:WWL:KGP:KDR:MSK:JWB:lhb