



**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Terry Martino

**FROM:** Planning Staff

**DATE:** May 1, 2014

**RE:** Planning Division Monthly Report for April 2014

This report reflects monthly activity of the State land and other planning staff within the Division.

**APSLMP CONSULTATIONS**

**UMP Development/Review**

- Held a public hearing for the Hurricane Mountain and St. Regis Mountain Historic Area UMPs. Fourteen people attended and six spoke. Staff received eighteen letters and emails by the close of the public comment period on April 16, 2014. The summary of public comments and the APSLMP Compliance determination have been written.
- Received an updated copy of the Initial Draft UMP for the Sentinel Mountain Wilderness.
- Reviewed a draft amendment to the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest UMP proposing construction of a new section of the Cranberry Lake 50 foot trail that will eliminate a section of highway hiking.
- Reviewed a draft amendment to the Bog River Complex UMP proposing DEC adoption of an existing foot trail up Goodman Mountain, limited construction activities along that trail, and DEC adoption of some X-C ski/foot trails near the lower reaches of the Bog River and Round Lake Outlet.
- Met with DEC staff Dan Levy and John O'Connor regarding timber harvesting in Wildlife Management Areas and on State Forests in the Chazy Highlands Complex.

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- Conducted field work with APA GIS staff to determine the general extent of the Gatehouse area at Camp Santanoni Historic Area.
- Participated in meetings with DEC and other APA staff to review proposed construction at the Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch, including the design of a boat-wash station that will be added to the facility.
- Continued review and consultation with DEC staff regarding an Interim Stewardship Plan for the newly acquired and classified State lands of the Essex Chain Lakes area.

#### **APA/DEC MOU Consultation**

- Met with DEC staff to determine if a potential project in Debar Mountain WF would be permissible without an approved UMP. It was determined that the project would require an approved UMP.
- Worked with Regulatory and Legal staff to determine if an 814 Order or a UMP Amendment for the Black River WF will be needed to complete the Route 28 Moose River bridge project. A determination has not been made and cannot be made until final plans have been submitted.
- Reviewed plans for the third phase of the Lake George Beach and Battlefield (aka Million Dollar Beach) project. The parking area rehabilitation will occur in the same footprint, but will include modifications which improve traffic flow and a boat wash station. The boat launch will be relocated approximately 250 feet east of its existing location. A UMP amendment will not be required.
- Reviewed a State land project JIF for replacing a snowmobile trail bridge across Dead Creek in the Dead Creek Primitive Area.
- Consulted with DEC Region 5 Lands and Forests staff regarding APSLMP guidelines and criteria relevant to CP-3 use permitting opportunities.

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### **Permit Review**

- Reviewed plans for the second phase of the Lake George Beach and Battlefield (aka Million Dollar Beach) project. A wetland permit is needed for this project.

### **WSR Rivers Review/Consultation**

- Answered a WSR Rivers issues question for DEC pertinent to the team draft of the Chazy Highlands UMP.

### **State Land Violation**

- Followed up on a report of tree cutting in the Giant Mountain Wilderness as a potential State land violation. Submitted photographs to DEC Region 5 staff, whose investigation showed this was not a violation.

### **APSLMP REVISION**

#### **State Land Classification**

- Conducted preliminary field work on two parcels of newly acquired TNC/Finch lands in preparation for upcoming classification action: the Thousand Acre Swamp (Edinburg) and Town Corners (Greenfield) parcels.

### **PARK POLICY AND PLANNING**

#### **Parkwide Recreation Planning**

- Consulted with DEC regarding design of accessible boat launches and one proposed for construction at Balfour Lake in Vanderwhacker Mt. Wild Forest.
- Participated in a meeting of DEC's Accessibility Advisory Committee held in Saratoga Springs, NY.
- Met with other APA staff to discuss how the APSLMP might be amended to allow for more use of mountain bikes in Primitive areas than is presently allowed.

#### **Invasive Species Control**

- Attended an APIPP meeting held at APA headquarters in Ray Brook.

### **Training/Conferences**

- Attended SEQR training held at Local Government Day.
- Provided training to APA staff on use of the Agency's new GPS Cameras.

### **ADMINISTRATION (State Land Staff)**

#### **Agency Coordination/Efficiency**

- Finalized a State Land Consultation form that DEC could use in place of the State Land JIF form. The process of reviewing this document (and forwarding it if a permit is needed) was also reviewed and improved.
- As another part of the above process, State Land staff developed a State Land Consultation database in the MAD. This will enable staff to query for actions and by units, items that we were not able to do with the JIF database.
- Prepared monthly report.

#### **Other**

- Assisted APA Local Government staff with production of informational materials for Local Government Day, 2014.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT REVIEW**

- Reviewed a proposed project at the Lake George Battlefield Intensive Use Area.

#### **April State Land Tasks Summary:**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
APSLMP Consultations	17	55
APSLMP Revision	1	6
Park Policy and Planning	6	16
Administration	4	17
Historic Preservation Act Review	1	8

## **GIS AGENCY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

### **Consultation**

- Attended Local Government Day. Staffed the Agency GIS Help Desk and presented a session on various mapping resources on the Internet. Topics included publicly available aerial imagery; Federal, State and County web mapping applications; and mapping resources on the APA's website.
- Provided suggestions to the Executive Director for possible GIS intern/fellow assistance work for the Agency.
- Provided advice to Regulatory Program and Legal Division staff regarding internal controls and procedures involving technical and administrative adjustments to the APLUDP/APSLMP map and conducting land use area boundary determinations.
- Provided advice to the Nature Conservancy staff regarding watershed data availability in the Park.
- Conducted field work with State land staff in the Camp Santanoni Historic Area to determine the general extent of the Gatehouse area.

### **Data Management**

- Performed ministerial cartographic edits to the APLUDP/APSLMP data.
- Provided Agency transaction mapping advanced editing assistance to Regulatory and Legal staff.
- Contacted the NYS ITS GIS Program Office to obtain all available new digital air photography covering the park. Delivered an external hard drive for copying images for the Agency's use. These images enable stereo viewing helpful in wetland analysis and other landscape assessments.
- Performed preliminary tests to connect GIS applications with the next iteration of the Agency Master Action Database currently under development.
- Processed and uploaded several new online GIS data layers for public use and viewing including Elevations Over 2500

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ft., 1919 State Land Acquisition, 1916 Fire Protection Map, 1892 Park Boundary, 1995 Blowdown and 1950 Blowdown.

#### **GIS MAP PRODUCTION**

- Produced draft maps for forest preserve analysis review.

#### **MAP AMENDMENT REVIEW**

- In anticipation of the State finalizing sale of the former Camp Gabriels correctional facility, staff has begun preparing information for the technical map amendment process.
- Assisted Local Government Services staff review a draft Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Lewis that included potential map amendment concepts.
- Staff provided information to a private landowner in the Town of Moriah who intends to request a map amendment for a portion of her property. Staff anticipates receiving a completed application for the amendment in the near future.

#### **WEB ADMINISTRATION/CONTENT MANAGEMENT**

- Posted an interactive map of stream gages and webcams to the Agency Maps/GIS page as general information during spring flood season.
- Assisted staff with uploading an updated version of a flyer to the website.
- Posted Citizen Scientist information on the Research page for RASS staff.
- Posted information to the Public Input page concerning the NYCO request for a permit amendment to increase excavation limits of its existing mining operation at its Seventy Road Mine on private lands.
- Provided training to Keith McKeever for processing and posting photographs to the Agency website.

#### **ADMINISTRATION (GIS Staff)**

- Produced monthly reports.
- Reviewed email archive for large files at IT's request.

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- Assisted Local Government Services Staff with Local Government Day's Best Event Contest

April GIS/Web Tasks Summary:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
GIS Agency Program Administration	11	60
GIS Map Production	11	32
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	9	16
Map Amendments Review	3	9
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	1	1
Web Administration/Content Management	5	24
Administrative Tasks	3	8

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