



**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO HURRICANE MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER HISTORIC AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

May 9, 2014

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation 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 general 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 conforming with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan for State Lands in the Town of Keene, Essex County which includes proposed management actions for the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area dated February, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Department filed a notice of acceptance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on October 10, 2013 and a notice of acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement published in the ENB on **May 7, 2014**; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area Unit Management Plan (the Plan), dated February, 2014, is conforming with the standards and guidelines of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the area will be managed in compliance with Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA);

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the need to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent overuse according to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's objectives include opening and maintaining the fire tower for public use and education; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes that volunteer "Friends" groups are a valuable resource to assist with the stewardship of this Area; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the long term volunteer maintenance and interpretation of the fire tower through a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement will include the establishment of a Tower Steward position; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes that the addition of interpretive materials related to the fire tower, including interpretive signs in the fire tower and materials to be located at the trailhead kiosks and on the Department's website will enhance the public's experience of this Historic Area; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the need to monitor the fire tower and the summit of Hurricane Mountain for overuse and take necessary steps to address the impacts of overuse if such are detected; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the need for establishing a radio communication link for the Department by placing a 5.5 square foot repeater in the cab of the fire tower, four solar photovoltaic panels on the side of the tower (each measuring no more than 46.8 by 20.9 by 1.5 inches), and a low profile omnidirectional antenna that would extend approximately four feet above the cab; and

WHEREAS, the Department recognizes that the addition or colocation of any other structures would require a UMP Amendment; and

WHEREAS, OPRHP letter recognizes that the addition of the radio communication materials will not alter the fire towers current listing as a historic structure; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes that if a helicopter is needed to deliver materials to the tower, it would not be allowed between April 1 and August 1 to avoid any impacts to the Bicknell's Thrush and Peregrine Falcon during their respective nesting seasons; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area Unit Management Plan, dated February, 2014, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent: