



LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO PEPPERBOX WILDERNESS AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

JUNE 12, 2015

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 Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (“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 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 conforms with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a draft unit management plan amendment dated April, 2015 for the Pepperbox Wilderness Area in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, and the Town of Watson, Lewis County and includes proposed management actions for the Pepperbox Wilderness Area; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation as the lead agency, has filed a SEQR Negative Declaration and published a notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on June 10, 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, during the review and consultation of the Draft Amendment, the Department of Environmental Conservation modified the amendment to propose the designation of a primitive tent site near Gregg Lake instead of a lean-to. The final amendment also differs from the draft amendment in that public access to the tent site will rely on the continued use of unofficial trails rather than a designated trail; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final Pepperbox Unit Management Plan Amendment (the Amendment), dated May, 2015, conforms with the standards and guidelines of the Master Plan; and

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

WHEREAS, the 1985 Pepperbox Wilderness area UMP includes 14,600 acres of land owned by the state of New York since 1932; and

WHEREAS, since 1985 the Pepperbox Wilderness area has grown to 22,560 acres in size and the proposed Amendment involves lands added to the Northern Portion of the unit; and

WHEREAS, the trail-less character of the lands included in the 1985 Pepperbox Wilderness Area UMP is uniquely important to the management strategy for this area; and

WHEREAS, improvements proposed in the Amendment are consistent with the character of Wilderness as defined in the Adirondack Park State Land master Plan and do not encroach upon the trail-less lands described in the 1985 UMP; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Pepperbox Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan Amendment, dated May, 2015, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan.

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:

DRAFT