



**LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH**  
Chairwoman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY  
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO THE ESSEX CHAIN LAKES MANAGEMENT COMPLEX UNIT  
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ESSEX CHAIN LAKES PRIMITIVE AREA, PINE  
LAKE PRIMITIVE AREA, AMENDMENTS TO THE 2005 VANDERWHACKER  
MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1995 BLUE MOUNTAIN  
WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINAL RIVER AREA  
MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE HUDSON RIVER AND CEDAR RIVER**

**November 13, 2015**

**WHEREAS**, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or Department) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA or 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 complies with such general guidelines and criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the APA adopted a resolution recommending to the Governor the classification and reclassification of lands in the Towns of Indian Lake, Minerva, and Newcomb by creating the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the Pine Lake Primitive Area and adding lands to the Blue Mountain Wild Forest and Vanderwhacker Wild Forest among other actions, the resolution was subsequently accepted by the Governor and the classification and reclassification became effective in February 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has prepared Final Unit Management Plans for the newly classified lands and Final Unit Management Plan Amendments for the reclassified lands, entitled, "Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Unit Management Plan for the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and Pine Lake Primitive Area, Amendments to the 2005 Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan and 1995 Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, and Final River Area Management Plans for the Hudson River and Cedar River, referred to collectively as the Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Proposed Final Plan" (ECLMC PFP); and

**WHEREAS**, the Department filed a Notice of Positive Declaration and Acceptance of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on June 18, 2014 and thereafter, filed a Notice of Acceptance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement on October 28, 2015 in the Environmental Notice Bulletin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department is the lead agency, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the proposed ECLMC PFP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department held public hearings and received public comment until July 27, 2015 on the proposed ECLMC PFP and the Agency received public comment related to issues of the plan's conformance with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) until October 16, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency is requested to determine whether the Final Unit Management Plans for the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the Pine Lake Primitive Area and the Final Unit Management Plan, Amendments to the Blue Mountain Wild Forest and Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plans and the Final River Management Plan for the Hudson River and Cedar River dated, September 2015,, are consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has proposed establishing the boundary for the Cedar River Wild River Area at one-half mile from the mean high water mark of either side of the river, except for a section where the corridor will be one-quarter mile wide from the east bank of the river starting from the existing boundary with the Cedar River Recreational River area and ending where the Elm Island Trail is no longer within the river area at a location more commonly known as the "four corners", as referenced in the 1995 Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, with the river area on the west bank in this vicinity remaining one-half mile; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed ECLMC PFP; and

**WHEREAS**, the ECLMC PFP recognizes the need to protect the natural resources, improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent overuse according to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP

**WHEREAS**, the ECLMC PFP also proposes to provide a multi-use trail recreational trail system in the Towns of Indian Lake, Minerva, and Newcomb which will also provide a community connector snowmobile trail between the communities of Indian Lake and Minerva; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2009, the Agency adopted criteria for the development of snowmobile trails entitled, "Management Guidance: Snowmobile Trail Siting,

Construction and Maintenance Guidance” and among the criteria are the protection of the natural resources, the use of a “minimum tool” approach and siting of trails to avoid sensitive resources; and

**WHEREAS**, by its resolution adopted November 13, 2009, the Agency found the Management Guidance conformed with the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department and the Agency have attached the aforementioned guidance to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation concerning the Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park as Appendix E; and

**WHEREAS**, snowmobile trails in the Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex will be managed and sited in accordance with the Management Guidance; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Proposed Final Plan, containing Final Unit Management Plans for the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and Pine Lake Primitive Area, Final Unit Plan Amendments to the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan and the Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, and a Final River Area Management Plan for the Hudson River and Cedar River dated, September, 2015 , conform with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the proposed actions and management proposals are consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations required under ECL Article 8 and implementing regulations from among the reasonable alternatives available, and which avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the proposed Community Connector snowmobile trail between the communities of Indian Lake and Minerva, which also serves as a multi-use recreational trail located in the Towns of Indian Lake, Minerva and Newcomb, complies with the guidelines set forth in the 2009 Management Guidance; 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.

Resolution adopted on this date, November 13, 2015.

AYES

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

DRAFT