



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**DRAFT
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN SKI CENTER INTENSIVE USE AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

Proposed for Adoption
by the Adirondack Park Agency
April 12, 2018

WHEREAS, section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP 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 guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS ORDA has prepared a proposed final amendment to the 2004 unit management plan for the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area (2004 Plan), dated April 2018 (Proposed Final 2018 Amendment), and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR 586 for which ORDA is the lead agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation is an involved agency; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the 2004 Plan proposes to widen or extend certain ski trails, construct new ski trails, replace and realign three ski lifts, create additional parking and a drop-off area, and construct a base area bridge to replace existing culverts; and

WHEREAS, ORDA prepared a positive declaration and a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, ORDA declared the Draft GEIS to be complete for public review on January 3, 2018 and presented the Draft GEIS and the draft unit management plan amendment to the 2004 Plan for information to the Agency on January 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, ORDA held a public hearing on the Draft GEIS and the draft unit management plan amendment to the 2004 Plan on January 25, 2018 and accepted public comment until February 9, 2018, after notice published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, and regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2018, ORDA presented the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment and the Final GEIS to the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency established a public comment period on conformance of the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment with the APSLMP, which ran from March 12, 2018 through March 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Agency received fourteen written comments during the public comment period regarding the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, most public comments addressed the proposals described in the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment, including conceptual proposals not being approved at this time, and one comment addressed the APSLMP's requirement that unit management plans provide appropriately detailed inventories of natural resources and facilities for public use, particularly in relation to ski trail mileage on Whiteface Mountain; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has revised the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to update the ski trail mileage statistics and related statements regarding the calculation of ski trail mileage under Article XIV of the New York State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has revised the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to clarify that measures will be taken by ORDA to protect Bicknell's Thrush during its breeding season; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has committed to conducting an evaluation and assessment of current mountain biking use on Whiteface to develop goals and objectives for future mountain biking at the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment, the April 4, 2018 Memorandum from Kathy D. Regan to Terry Martino, APA staff's April 12, 2018 presentation, public comment, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's April 12, 2018 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the 2004 Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan, dated April 2018, conforms with the 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 and the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Olympic Regional Development Authority of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent:

DRAFT