



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**DRAFT
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

Proposed for Adoption
by the Adirondack Park Agency
July 13, 2018

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (APA Act) directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (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 (UMPs) and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual UMP complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department prepared a UMP for the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest (VMWF) in 2005, which was amended in 2015 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Department has prepared an amendment to the 2005 UMP, dated July 2018 (VMWF UMP Amendment); and

WHEREAS, the VMWF UMP Amendment proposes “additional recreational opportunities and facilities within and adjacent to the recently-classified wild forest and primitive lands of the Boreas Ponds and MacIntyre East Tracts in a manner that maximizes enjoyment and appreciation of the Forest Preserve while continuing to preserve and protect its natural resources;” and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2018 the Department presented a draft of the VMWF UMP Amendment to the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and the Department established a concurrent 45-day public comment period on the draft UMP amendment and its conformance with the APSLMP, which ran through June 27, 2018, and the Department held three public meetings during the comment period in Albany, Newcomb and Lake Placid; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and the Department received a substantial number of written and oral comments during the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Department revised the draft VMWF UMP Amendment in response to some of the public comments received, and the Agency has considered those revisions; and

WHEREAS, the public comments raised several points with respect to conformance of the VMWF UMP Amendment with the APSLMP guidelines and criteria for the management and use of Wild Forest lands and Agency staff have provided responses to those public comments for Agency consideration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Newcomb to North Hudson Community Connector Trail will be sited and constructed to Class II snowmobile trail standards outlined in the 2009 Snowmobile Management Guidance: Snowmobile Trail Siting, Construction and Maintenance on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Gulf Brook and Blue Ridge mountain bike trail networks will be sited, constructed and maintained in substantial conformance with the 2018 Management Guidance: Siting, Construction and Maintenance of Singletrack Bicycle Trails on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and the Department have recommitted to form a working group focused on developing management recommendations for technical climbing access within the Adirondack Forest Preserve including the use of fixed anchors, climbing access trails, and other best practices that can aid in the protection of sensitive resources where technical rock and ice climbing are taking place; and

WHEREAS, to ensure protection of natural resources and the wild forest character of the VMWF lands, the VMWF UMP Amendment proposes a phased approach for the implementation of facilities, guided by a Wildland Monitoring Program; and

WHEREAS, the Agency, in consultation with the Department, is engaged in a process that will lead to an Agency APSLMP interpretation regarding road mileage in Wild Forest Areas of the Forest Preserve. This interpretation, once finalized by the Agency, will apply to all Wild Forest UMPs; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the proposed VMWF UMP Amendment, the July 5, 2018 Memorandum from Kathy Regan to Terry Martino, Agency staff's July 12, 2018 presentation, public comment and Agency staff's responses, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's July 12-13, 2018 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Agency finds the proposed VMWF UMP Amendment, dated July 2018 conforms with the APSLMP guidelines and criteria for Wild Forest lands; and

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

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent:

DRAFT