



KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Kathy Regan, Supervisor of Natural Resource Analysis

DATE: November 1, 2018

RE: Staff Review of the 2018 Grass River Wild Forest UMP

For Agency Board consideration, please find included on the Agency mailing CD the Proposed Final Draft of the Grass River Wild Forest UMP, dated November 2018. Agency staff recommend a determination by the Agency Board that the UMP amendment complies with Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

This Wild Forest unit is part of a larger management unit, the Grass River Management Unit (GRMU), located in the northwestern corner of the Adirondack Park. It includes approximately 13,000 acres of Forest Preserve lands and about 107,000 acres of conservation easements located in the Towns of Clare, Clifton, Colton and Fine in St. Lawrence County.

The UMP proposes management actions on the Forest Preserve lands and includes River Management Plans for the Middle and South Branches of the Grass River. Management actions are organized by parcel and include: construction of hiking trails to several waterfalls along the South Branch of the Grass River; closure of non-conforming primitive tent sites; construction of new parking areas and a new lean-to; and replacement of a foot bridge over the North Branch of the Grass River.

The 2016 Draft UMP proposed opening a 900-foot stretch of Forest Preserve road on the Tooley Pond parcel for ATV use, as part of a cross-county multi-use recreational trail. DEC, after reviewing public comment, revised the preferred route for the cross-county multi-use recreational trail to use existing public roads, and not to cross Forest Preserve (Alternative 2).

The 2018 Proposed Final UMP does not propose constructing or closing any snowmobile trails and therefore does not propose any material increase or decrease in the mileage of snowmobile trails in Wild Forest as addressed in the APSMLP, Wild Forest Basic Guideline No. 4.

Memo to Terry Martino
From Kathy Regan
November 1, 2018
APSLMP conformance of the 2018 Grass River Wild Forest UMP

On June 7, 2018 the Agency Board authorized staff to proceed to public comment for the 2018 Proposed Final UMP. The public comment period ran from June 7 through July 13, 2018. Seven public comment letters were received during this period.

The majority of comments were in support of the UMP. Many comments referenced UMP management actions which did not raise APSLMP conformance issues.

Staff recommend adoption by the Agency Board of the attached resolution determining that the proposed November 2018 UMP conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.