



KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Kevin Prickett, Environmental Program Specialist 1

DATE: February 6, 2019

RE: Staff Review of the February 2019 Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Proposed Final UMP

For Agency Board consideration, please find included on the Agency mailing CD the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest (SLWF) Proposed Final Unit Management Plan (UMP), dated February 2019. Agency staff recommend a determination by the Agency Board that the UMP complies with Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

The SLWF is a very popular destination for outdoor recreation. The most prominent features of the unit are lakes, ponds, and rivers. These waterbodies are to the SLWF as mountains are to the adjacent High Peaks Wilderness Area. For well over 100 years these waterways have drawn visitors. The unit's water bodies range from small ponds entirely owned by the State to large lakes with a mix of State Land and private property.

Portions of the SLWF are located in the southern Franklin County towns of Santa Clara, Brighton, Tupper Lake, Harrietstown and Franklin, as well as the northwestern Essex County towns of St. Armand and North Elba. Three of the largest population centers in the Adirondack Park – the villages of Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, and Tupper Lake – are located within the general boundaries of the unit.

The SLWF is adjacent to the McKenzie Mountain and High Peaks Wilderness Areas, the Saint Regis Canoe Area, and three Department campgrounds. The SLWF covers about 76,000 acres of Wild Forest lands and 19,600 acres of lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds. There are also four Intensive Use boat launches included in this UMP.

Proposed management actions in the UMP include: constructing hiking, skiing and mountain biking trails; continuing to allow motorboats on all waters currently open to them; limiting horse power and speed limits on several water bodies; prohibiting trailered launching of boats at fishing and waterway access sites; closing, relocating and constructing campsites, and maintaining a 7,400 acre trailless area.

Memo to Terry Martino
February 6, 2019
APSLMP Conformance of the 2018 Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP

On June 7, 2018 the Agency Board authorized staff to proceed to public comment for the SLWF Proposed Final UMP, dated June 2018. The public comment period ran from June 7 through July 13, 2018. Eighty-three public comments (i.e. emails and letters) were received during this period.

Several changes to the UMP occurred after the APA public comment period, including: changing references of the Adirondack Rail Trail to the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor; adding details regarding the development and implementation of a set of visitor-use management strategies and actions; elaborating on water body carrying capacity, clarifying use of camping permits during the big game season; adding reference to the New York IMapInvasives; and addressing missing information on maps.

Agency staff have reviewed the SLWF Proposed Final UMP, dated February 2019. Staff recommend adoption by the Agency Board of the attached resolution determining that the SLWF Proposed Final UMP, dated December 2018 conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.