



KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**DRAFT
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
SARANAC LAKES WILD FOREST, LAKE PLACID BOAT LAUNCH, LAKE FLOWER
BOAT LAUNCH, UPPER SARANAC LAKE BOAT LAUNCH, RAQUETTE RIVER
BOAT LAUNCHES PROPOSED FINAL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RIVER
AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE SARANAC RIVER, AUSABLE RIVER, AND
RAQUETTE RIVER**

Proposed for Adoption
by the Adirondack Park Agency
February 14, 2019

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 and the Agency commenced a planning process for the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest in 2002, with an open house seeking public participation and a series of meetings with a citizens' discussion group; and

WHEREAS, the Department prepared a Draft UMP for Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, Lake Placid Boat Launch, Lake Flower Boat Launch, Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch, and Raquette River Boat Launches and Draft River Area Management Plans for the Saranac River, Ausable River, and Raquette River in 2017 (June 2017 Draft UMP) and presented the Draft UMP to the Agency in June 2017; and

WHEREAS, the June 2017 Draft UMP included a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Department published notice of: acceptance of the DEIS, two staff availability sessions, two public meetings, and a public comment period on the Draft UMP/DEIS from June 7, 2017 through August 11, 2017, in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on June 7, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Department revised the June 2017 Draft UMP after receiving a substantial number of oral and written comments during the public comment period and presented a Proposed Final UMP for Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, Lake Placid Boat Launch, Lake Flower Boat Launch, Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch, and Raquette River Boat Launches and Draft River Area Management Plans for the Saranac River, Ausable River, and Raquette River to the Agency in June 2018 (June 2018 Proposed Final UMP); and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2018, the Agency authorized staff to solicit public comment on the conformance of the June 2018 Proposed Final UMP with the APSLMP guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Agency received 83 public comments between June 7 and July 13, 2018 on the conformance of the June 2018 Proposed Final UMP on issues including water access, water body use, carrying capacity, assessments and inventories, invasive species, mountain bike trails, primitive tent sites, snowmobile trails, and access for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the public comments raised several points with respect to conformance of the June 2018 Proposed Final UMP with the APSLMP guidelines and criteria for the management and use of Wild Forest and DEC has further revised the UMP to reflect changes to conform with the APSLMP guidelines and criteria in a new Proposed Final UMP presented to the Agency on February 14, 2019 (February 2019 Proposed Final UMP); and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP implements the Management Guidance for Snowmobile Trail Siting, Construction and Maintenance on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park adopted in November 2009 (Snowmobile Guidance), proposing construction of 2.43 miles of new snowmobile trails and closure of 15.23 miles of snowmobile trails to comply with standards in the Snowmobile Guidance, resulting in no material increase of snowmobile trail mileage; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP proposes to construct no more than four new primitive tent sites, close one existing primitive tent site and relocate 73 existing primitive tent sites to comply with the APSLMP primitive tent site guidelines requiring primitive tent sites be out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or lean-to; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP proposes to prohibit direct trailered launching of boats at the following fishing and waterway access sites that have a history of being used for the direct launching of trailered boats, in order to comply with the APSLMP: Ampersand Bay, Axton Landing, Follensby Clear Pond (north), Lake Clear Outlet, Lake Colby, Moose Pond, and Polliwog Pond; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP will continue to allow motorboats on all waters currently open to them, but proposes horse power limits on

several water bodies, speed limits on Weller Pond, and increased enforcement of motor boat speed limits on the Raquette River; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP implements the Management Guidance for Siting, Construction and Maintenance of Singletrack Bicycle Trails on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park adopted in March 2018 (Bicycle Trail Guidance), proposing the construction of 35 miles of new bicycle trails open for mountain biking to comply with standards in the Bicycle Trail Guidance; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP includes a provision for 7,400-acres to be managed as a trail-less area, which will provide undeveloped recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP provides new and enhanced opportunities for persons with disabilities, including new accessible trails and primitive tent sites, improved existing trails, and the availability of accessibility information regarding the area's facilities; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP highlights ongoing cooperation between the Department and the Agency to develop a guidance framework for monitoring wildlands in the Adirondack Park which will assess the effects of management actions and public use and inform future management of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest; and

WHEREAS, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP proposes to establish desired conditions to determine if water body carrying capacity has been exceeded, and develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring program for water bodies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the Department has determined that the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and filed notice thereof in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on December 5, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP, the February 6, 2019 Memorandum from Kevin Prickett to Terry Martino, Agency staff's presentation, public comment and responses, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's February 14, 2019 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and the APSLMP, the Agency finds the February 2019 Proposed Final UMP 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