

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY  
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE ESSEX CHAIN LAKES  
MANAGEMENT COMPLEX UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**December 10, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or Department) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA or Agency), individual unit management plans (UMPs) for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual UMP complies with such general guidelines and criteria;

**WHEREAS**, the Department adopted a UMP entitled, "Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Unit Management Plan" in March of 2016 (ECLMC UMP);

**WHEREAS**, the Department has prepared a proposed final Amended UMP for the Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex dated November 2020 (Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment);

**WHEREAS**, the Department is the lead agency under SEQRA, ECL Article 8 and implementing regulations, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment;

**WHEREAS**, the Department published a Notice of Negative Declaration on December [x], 2020 in the Environmental Notice Bulletin;

**WHEREAS**, on July 17 the Agency provided notice of a Joint Public Comment Period until August 14, 2020 regarding the content of the Draft ECLMC UMP Amendment and any related issues of the UMP's conformance with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP);

**WHEREAS**, the Agency is requested to determine whether the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP;

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment;

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment contains two proposals: lifting a ban on campfires at primitive tent sites in the Essex Chain Lakes

Primitive Area; and installing additional facilities at the Outer Gooley Parking Area in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest, including sanitary facilities, horse-mounting platform, hitching posts, and trailhead kiosks, and adapting a parking area to accommodate vehicles with trailers;

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment acknowledges the potential for significant impacts from campfires that may occur in the highly sensitive shoreline areas of the Essex Chain Lakes and therefore commits to a focused program to monitor potential impacts and institute necessary protective measures in the event serious impacts do begin to occur including possible reinstatement of the ban;

**WHEREAS**, in consideration of -the potential impacts from campfires in the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, the Department has revised the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP to include a ~~three~~four-year monitoring program to establish a baseline and to monitor conditions at primitive tent sites and the surrounding firewood collection areas;

**WHEREAS**, the Department has committed in the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP to report to the Agency by the end of 2024~~3~~ with a report on the ~~three~~four-year monitoring program, assessment of impacts and a recommendation for action based on that report;

**WHEREAS**, the Outer Gooley Parking Area is within the Hudson River Wild River Area and within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed facilities for equestrian use in the vicinity of the Outer Gooley Parking Area are designed to minimize tree cutting and other physical impacts;

**WHEREAS**, the equestrian facilities are consistent with the APSLMP guidelines for Wild River Areas and Wild Forest;

**WHEREAS**, the Agency found that public motor vehicle access to the Outer Gooley Parking Area was consistent with the APSLMP in the ECLMC UMP in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment recognizes the need to protect the natural resources, improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent overuse according to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Agency will consider the Department's report by the end of 2024~~3~~ and an amendment to the UMP, if necessary, to address the impacts of campfires in the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the proposed actions and management proposals in the Proposed Final ECLMC UMP Amendment are consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations required under ECL Article 8 and implementing regulations from among the reasonable alternatives available, and which avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable; and

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

Resolution adopted on this date, December 10, 2020.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

DRAFT