



**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

RESOLUTION AND SEQRA FINDINGS  
ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO THE  
HINCKLEY RESERVOIR INTENSIVE USE AREA  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
APRIL 16, 2021

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation released the draft unit management plan for the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area on August 26, 2020, which includes converting the existing Day-Use Area to an Intensive Use Campground and other proposed management actions in the Town of Russia, Herkimer County; and

**WHEREAS**, this action is a Type I action under the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR Part 586 for which the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department published a notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on August 26, 2020 seeking public comment on the substance of the draft unit management plan and of the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) for DEC Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas; and presented the draft plan to the Agency on September 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 11, 2021, the Department of Environmental Conservation presented the proposed final unit management plan and final SGEIS for the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area to the Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency established a public comment period on APSLMP conformance of the proposed final unit management plan and final SGEIS for the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area, which ran from February 12, through March 19, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency received eleven written comments during the public comment period regarding the proposed final Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan and final SGEIS; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple public comments expressed an interest in developing a trailered boat launch within the campground while other public comments expressed concerns with increased motorized boat traffic on the reservoir; and

**WHEREAS**, an assessment of the carrying capacity of the Hinckley Reservoir has not been completed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency agree that an assessment of carrying capacity of the Hinckley Reservoir is necessary before considering such a proposal as required by the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, a public trailered boat launch managed by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) is currently available at a location outside of the Adirondack Park and immediately north of the Hinckley dam; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation may propose a trailered boat launch in the Day-Use Area as an amendment to this unit management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation proposes to develop 150 new campsites, 2.8 miles of new roads, four new comfort stations, a hand carry boat launch, other small buildings related to the use and administration of the area, the extension of the existing water system and new pedestrian trails adjacent to the campground; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation proposes to rehabilitate or replace existing buildings in the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area including the existing ticket booth, bathhouse and beach comfort stations, supervisors' cabin, and garage; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation proposes a tree clearing schedule with an estimate of 19.57 acres of tree clearing for the construction of new facilities and the rehabilitation of existing facilities in the Day-Use Area based on the schematic drawings provided in the unit management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, all tree cutting will be done in accordance with DEC's policy on Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands (LF-91-2), which will include a work plan with a tree count by species and size class of all trees that are 3" dbh or more to be cut, removed, or destroyed with measures to minimize and mitigate the impact on vegetative cover; and the plan will be noticed in the ENB; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department published notice of completion of the final SGEIS in the ENB on April 14, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency is requested to determine whether the proposed final Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan and final SGEIS, dated February 2021, is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed facilities conform to the basic guidelines for Intensive Use Areas and will avoid material alteration of wetlands, minimize extensive topographic alterations, limit vegetative clearing, and preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the intensive use area; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed campground facilities also conform to the guidelines for Intensive Use Areas and will be rustic in nature without utility hookups, will retain the natural character of the surrounding forest and will contain only a fireplace or fire ring, a space for a single vehicle with trailer, and a picnic table; and,

**WHEREAS**, the existing Hinckley Reservoir Intensive Use Area is listed as a Day-Use Area in the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, upon adoption of the unit management plan by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Hinckley Reservoir Intensive Use Area will be removed from Day-Use Area list and placed on the Campground list at the next printing of the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the proposed final Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan and final SGEIS, dated February 2021, the public comment, the Agency staff memorandum dated April 7, 2021 and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's April 15-16, 2021 meeting.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment, dated February 2021, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the determination of consistency is conditioned on inter-agency consultation and review of field conditions, including an evaluation of the project for potential impacts to freshwater wetlands, in accordance with the *DEC/APA MOU for the Implementation of the State Land Master Plan*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Agency concludes that with respect to climate change, any potential negative impacts associated with the preferred alternative in the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment and final SGEIS, dated February 2021 are not substantial enough to warrant mitigation or a change in the management actions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Agency finds pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.11 that the management actions contained in the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment and final SGEIS, dated February 2021 are intended to protect the Intensive Use Area's natural resources, character, and recreational use according to the provisions of the Master Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consistent with the social, economic, and other essential considerations required under ECL Article 8, from among the reasonable alternatives, the action approved is one which minimizes or avoids adverse environmental effects to the maximum extent practicable, including the effects disclosed in the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment and final SGEIS, dated February 2021; 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.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENCES: