APA Meeting
Presentation:

Proposed 2021 Amendment of the Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan

October 14, 2021
Acknowledgements

NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
Aaron Kellett, General Manager, Whiteface Mountain
Bob Hammond, Director, Office of Environmental, Planning and Construction
Michelle Crew, General Counsel
Emma Lamy, Sustainability and Environmental Compliance Officer

The LA Group, P.C.
Kevin Franke, Mark Taber

Tahawus Trails, LLC
Eddie Walsh, Wes Campman, Zach Campbell, Erik Mickelson, Luke Peduzzi
Outdoor Recreation at Whiteface-
#1 Vertical Drop in Eastern United States
Outdoor Recreation at Whiteface
Management Actions Completed Since the 2018 Amendment to the UMP

- Expansion of Bear Den Lodge
- Replaced Bear Den Lift with Falcon Quad
- Installed Snowmaking/Widened Danny’s Bridge and Brookside Trails
- Replaced Mid-Station Lodge with Legacy Lodge
- Widened Otter, Easy Street, & Broadway Trails
- Created Slide View Glade
- Created Coyote Trail
- Installed 2 Carpet Surface Lifts at Bear Den
- Bear Lift Replacement with Quad
Planning Variances Since 2018

- Expanded Bear Den Lodge
- Evolution of Safe Racing Standards for Trail Certifications
- World University Games
- Increased Demand for Hiking & Biking
- New & Relocated Mid-Station Lodge
- Pandemic
- Increased Demand for Outdoor Recreation
COVID-19 Protocols

Advanced Ticketing w/RFID & E-Commerce

Safety Signage & Pre-Arrival COVID-19 Communications

0 Cases of COVID-19 Transmission Traced to Workplace
Objectives of New Management Actions

Continued modernization of the Whiteface facilities

Improved access to appropriate terrain for beginner and intermediate skiers

Increased public accessibility

Commitment to user safety

Enhancement of recreational experiences

Reduction in total approved mileage

Compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Article XIV of the NYS Constitution
Facilitate a growing number of national and international events, and athlete training

Meeting international FIS standards for certification on two trails

Separation of racers from recreational enthusiasts, so both groups have a better experience
New Management Action: Lift from Bear Den to Legacy Lodge

Enhances Learning Experience

Increased Reliability & Safety

Spread out Skiers

Increased Utilization of Bear Den & Mid-Station Lodges

Allows for Base Area lift to terminate at the Mid-Station area

2018 UMPA factored in old location of Mid-Station Lodge
New Management Action:
Lift from Bear Den to Legacy Lodge
New Management Action:
Widening of Existing Trails & 3 New Connector Downhill Trails

Keeps lower level skiers in areas more appropriate to their ability

The three connectors range in length of 260-560’

Wider trails facilitate improved traffic flows, snowmaking, and grooming
# Net Mileage Adjustments

## 2021 Trail Mileage Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Totals</th>
<th>(In Miles)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Existing Trails</td>
<td>19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Approved/Not Constructed Trails</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Existing and Approved Trails</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.42</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Trails</td>
<td>0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Previously Approved, No Longer Proposed Trails</td>
<td>-0.32</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.35</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitutional Trail Mileage Limit</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Allowable Trail Mileage Remaining</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.65</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
New Management Actions:
Hiking and Mountain Biking Development

Frontcountry Solutions to Backcountry Problems
Developed 5-Phase Master Plan
Multi-Use Trails
Utilizes Existing Infrastructure
New Management Actions: Mountain Biking

Provide lift-serviced mountain biking between Bear Den Lodge & Legacy Lodge via proposed lift, as well as cross-country options.

Interconnections to regional networks, particularly the Wilmington Wild Forest.

Modernized Layout Appropriate for All Levels.
New Management Actions: Hiking

Expand upon and improve interconnections between WFM intensive use area and Wilmington Wild Forest, Flume Trail systems

Provide a variety of routes for various ability levels

Lift serviced hiking access between Bear Den Lodge & Legacy Lodge via proposed lift

Provide hiking access from the Cloudsplitter Gondola, Summit of Little Whiteface (top of Gondola), as well as Bear Den and Legacy Lodges
New Management Action: NYSEF Building Expansion
Proposed Tree Cutting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Action</th>
<th>Tree ≥3&quot; DBH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widen Upper Thruway Trail</td>
<td>1828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widen Upper Parkway Trail</td>
<td>958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widen Lower Thruway Trail</td>
<td>2524</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widen Burton's Trail</td>
<td>787</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Bear Den to Legacy Lift</td>
<td>1408</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Trail 93 Beneath New Lift</td>
<td>1789</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Yellow Dot Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widen Wildway Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>New High Country Road Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widen 2200 Road Trail</td>
<td>451</td>
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<td>Widen Danny's Bridge Trail</td>
<td>440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widen Brookside Trail</td>
<td>1108</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Hiking &amp; Mtn Biking Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expand NYSEF Building</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>20495</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, a total of 13,091 trees 1-3” DBH are proposed to be cut.

NET TREES

20,495 (Proposed Plan)
-2,305 (Lift Giveback)
-3,452 (Trails Giveback)
**14,738 (Net Trees)**
Sensitivity to Bicknell’s Thrush Habitat
Figure 11: Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area Potential Bicknells Thrush Habitat and Proposed Hiking Trails
The public comment period will officially begin on October 27th, 2021, simultaneous with the UMP amendment posting in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB).

Public comments can be submitted through the link below. [https://orda.org/public-comments/](https://orda.org/public-comments/)

The UMPA can be accessed here: [https://orda.org/whiteface-draft-2021-umpa/](https://orda.org/whiteface-draft-2021-umpa/)

Physical copies of the UMPA can be found at the following locations: Wilmington Town Hall, Whiteface Mountain Administration Offices, and the ORDA Administration Office.