



Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Barbara Rice, Executive Director

From: Megan Phillips, Deputy Director for Planning

Date: September 7, 2022

Re: Staff Review of the Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Invasive Species on DEC-Administered Lands of the Adirondack Park

State land staff have reviewed the proposed final draft of the 2022 update to the Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Invasive Species on DEC-Administered Lands of the Adirondack Park (guidelines). The original guidelines were first adopted in 2007 as an appendix to the “Memorandum of Understanding between the APA and DEC Concerning Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park” and were revised in 2010, 2012, 2015 and most recently in 2018.

The 2022 amendment to the guidelines has several objectives, including allowing for DEC in consultation with APA to determine which species can be managed (including but not limited to species on the Part 575 list of prohibited and regulated species); enabling DEC and/or its agents to propose best management practices through the work plan and permitting process; and providing for a more flexible and timely response to new species of concern while utilizing the best available science and treatment methodologies that are appropriate and allowable per the State Land Master Plan in the given land classification.

In 2016 the Master Plan was amended to explicitly reference invasive species on page 12:

“Efforts should be made to restore and protect the native ecological communities through early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate or control existing or newly identified invasive species populations. Subject to existing policy and guidelines, the Department will use the basic tools needed to preserve, protect and restore the natural native ecosystems of the Forest Preserve.”

The updated guidelines enable DEC and its agents to fulfill the Master Plan's mandate in a manner that is in conformance with the Plan's guidelines for the pertinent land classification. Agency staff retain the ability to require a unit management plan (UMP) or UMP amendment if during their review of the work plan they determine that the proposed invasive species management activities may potentially have a material effect on the character or use of the land, water, or the desirable vegetation thereon or within. The Agency's permitting requirements under the Freshwater Wetlands Act, in addition to any other permits required by any state or federal entity, remain unchanged by the revision of these guidelines.

The Agency and Department received approximately 35 comment letters from the public and made minor edits to the proposed final document to provide additional clarification where needed. No substantive changes were made to the document as a result of the public comments received.

In staff's opinion, the proposed final Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Invasive Species on DEC-Administered Lands of the Adirondack Park, dated September 2022, conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.