

COVER SHEET
and
NOTICE OF COMPLETION
of
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROJECT TITLE:

2023 Adirondack Park State Land Classification Action

NAME OF LEAD AGENCY AND PREPARER OF DSEIS:

NYS Adirondack Park Agency
Post Office Box 99
Ray Brook, NY 12977

PROJECT LOCATION:

The classification proposals involve lands in the Adirondack Park, in the Counties of the Clinton, Essex, Fulton, Franklin, Hamilton, Herkimer, St. Lawrence, and Warren.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) involving the Classification and Reclassification of 5,818 acres of State Lands in the Adirondack Park, which include 19 classification proposals for recently acquired State land, 11 reclassifications, and 6 classification proposals involving map corrections. The proposed action involves only the classification or reclassification of State lands according to the provisions of the APSLMP.

AGENCY CONTACT FOR INFORMATION, COPIES OF DSEIS, OR WRITTEN COMMENTS:

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DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF DSEIS BY LEAD AGENCY: October 12, 2023 (*tentative*)

DATES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO APSLMP & DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

November 1, 2023 – 9:30am-11:30am
 Virtual Hearing
<https://tinyurl.com/APAClassPkg>
 1-518-549-0500
 Access code: 2331 477 3001

November 1, 2023 – 5:30-7:30pm
 Adirondack Park Agency Board Room
 1133 NYS Route 86
 Ray Brook, NY 12977

November 13, 2023 – 5:00-7:00pm
 Dept. of Environmental Conservation
 Public Hearing Room, 1st Floor
 625 Broadway
 Albany, NY 12233

Members of the public may sign up to deliver oral public comments at any of the aforementioned public hearing opportunities. The Agency will also accept written public comments on the proposed classification package and DSEIS from October 13, 2023 through November 27, 2023.

Acronym Table

APA	New York State Adirondack Park Agency
APSLMP	Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan or Master Plan
CLCPA	Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
CRIS	Cultural Resource Information System
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DOT	New York State Department of Transportation
DSEIS	Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
FPEIS	Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
FSEIS	Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
NYCRR	New York Codes, Rules and Regulations
SEQRA	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SHPO	New York State Historic Preservation Office
UMP	Unit Management Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT 8

 Summary of Proposed Action 8

 Background 9

 Standards for Agency Decision..... 10

 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)..... 14

 Description of Action 15

 Public Need and Benefits, including Social and Economic Considerations 16

Classification Considerations 18

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING 20

 FR-1, Horseshoe Pond (DOT) 20

 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS..... 20

 BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS..... 22

 ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS 22

 Structures and Improvements 23

 Historic Resources 23

 Deeded and Other Rights 23

 INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS 23

 FR-3, DEC Storage Area 24

 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS..... 24

 BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS..... 25

 ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS 27

 Structures and Improvements 27

 Historic Resources 27

 Deeded and Other Rights 27

 INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS 27

 FR-4, DEC Staff Housing..... 27

 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS..... 28

 BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS..... 29

 ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS 30

 Structures and Improvements 30

 Historic Resources 30

 Deeded and Other Rights 30

INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS	30
FR-6, Rollins Pond.....	31
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.....	31
BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS.....	34
ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS	35
Structures and Improvements	35
Historic Resources.....	36
Deeded and Other Rights	36
INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS	36
HA-6, Golden Beach.....	36
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.....	38
BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS.....	39
ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS	41
Structures and Improvements	41
Historic Resources.....	41
Deeded and Other Rights	41
INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS	42
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION	43
Impacts of Proposed Action on the Physical and Biological Resources	43
Impact of Proposed Action on Area Character and Landscape Quality.....	44
Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects.....	44
Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources	44
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources	44
Growth Inducing Aspects of Proposed Action	45
Economic Impacts of the Proposed Action.....	45
Measures to Avoid or Reduce Both an Action's Impacts on Climate Change and Associated Impacts due to the Effects of Climate Change such as Sea Level Rise and Flooding.	46
Measures To Mitigate Potential Adverse Environmental Effects.....	47
ALTERNATIVES ACTIONS.....	47
FR-1, Horseshoe Pond (DOT).....	47
FR-3, DEC Storage Area.....	48
FR-4, DEC Staff Housing	48
FR-6, Rollins Pond.....	48
HA-6, Golden Beach	49

APPENDICES 50

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through the work of the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency or APA), the proposed action involves the classification and reclassification of State lands within the Adirondack Park (Park) according to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP or Master Plan). The action involves land in eight counties in the Park and includes 25 State land classification proposals totaling approximately 5,818 acres and 11 State land reclassifications totaling an estimated 251 acres.

This classification package includes 19 proposals for the classification of recently acquired State lands, 11 reclassification proposals, and six classifications involving map corrections. Map corrections are the result of errors discovered in the Agency's land classification mapping data, such as lands classified as private that are determined to actually be in state ownership. When such errors in the map are discovered, the Agency typically places the areas into the State land "Pending Classification" category for consideration in the next Agency classification process. This classification package includes six such map corrections.

The APSLMP and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1979) (FPEIS) contain standards and guidelines for amending the APSLMP. Agency staff have prepared the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC). The DSEIS was published on October 5, 2023 as a part of the Agency's monthly mailing materials and will be presented to the board and public at the Agency's regularly scheduled board meeting on October 12, 2023. At this meeting staff will seek authorization from the Agency Board to hold public hearings on the DSEIS. Three hearings are scheduled to be held over the course of several weeks in November 2023, both inside and outside the Park.

The public will have an opportunity to comment at the public hearings and to submit written comment during a scheduled timeframe. Agency staff will consider all public input that is received on the proposed alternatives during the comment period and may incorporate those comments, in consultation with the Department, into a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). The FSEIS will include a written response to public comments. The final alternatives presented in the FSEIS may include modifications to alternatives described in the DSEIS.

The FSEIS will be brought to the Agency Board after the close of the public comment period. The Agency Board will then decide (a) whether to accept the FSEIS and (b) whether to recommend the APSLMP amendments to the Governor. If the APSLMP amendments are authorized by the Agency, a Board Resolution recommending the package will be forwarded to the Governor for approval.

The action involves the classification or reclassification of State lands according to the provisions of the APSLMP. The action also involves map corrections of private land

parcels which staff review have determined to actually be in State ownership “Pending Classification.” The classification package includes six such map corrections as identified in Appendix A. The action does not authorize the development of new uses, structures or improvements; such proposals require a Unit Management Plan (UMP) review and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) assessment by the Department and the Agency.

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Summary of Proposed Action

The New York State Adirondack Park Agency (APA or Agency) has proposed a series of amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP or Master Plan) involving the Classification and Reclassification of 5,818 acres of State Lands in the Adirondack Park, which include 19 classification proposals for recently acquired State land, 11 reclassifications, and 6 classification proposals involving map corrections. The proposed action involves only the classification or reclassification of State lands according to the provisions of the APSLMP. The lands subject to these classification actions are located in the Adirondack Park, in the Counties of the Clinton, Essex, Fulton, Franklin, Hamilton, Herkimer, St. Lawrence, and Warren.

The Agency will conduct three public hearings on the classification action between November 1 and November 13, 2023. The public will have an opportunity to provide oral comments at the public hearings and to submit written comments during a scheduled timeframe. Agency staff will consider comments on the proposed alternatives and may incorporate those comments, in consultation with the Department, into a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). The FSEIS will include a written response to public comments and will present final alternatives. The final alternatives may include modifications to alternatives described in the DSEIS. The FSEIS will be brought to the Agency Board after the close of the public comment period. The Agency Board will then decide (a) whether to accept the FSEIS and (b) whether to recommend the APSLMP amendments to the Governor. If the APSLMP amendments are authorized by the Agency, a Board Resolution for the package will be forwarded to the Governor for approval.

Background

In 1885, the New York State legislature established the Forest Preserve, stating that the Preserve "shall be forever kept as wild forest lands." In 1892 the Adirondack Park (Park) was established through an act of the legislature, which delineated where State acquisition of private inholdings was to be concentrated. At the Constitutional Convention of 1894, Article VII of the New York State Constitution (now Article XIV) was adopted and soon after was approved by the people of the State. It reads in part:

"The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve, as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

In 1971, the Adirondack Park Agency was created by the legislature with essentially two mandates. The Agency was directed to create a State Land Master Plan to classify and provide guidelines for the management and use of State lands within the Park, and a Private Land Use and Development Plan designed to control and channel development on non-State lands to minimize the adverse impacts upon the natural resource quality of the Park. The APSLMP was developed by the Agency and adopted by Governor Rockefeller in 1972. The Private Land Use and Development Plan was approved by the Legislature in 1973. Through these plans, the Agency performs long-range planning on a regional scale for the Park. The Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC) is responsible for the care, custody, and control of the State land in the Park; in carrying out this responsibility DEC drafts the Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for managing publicly owned lands within the Park consistent with the APSLMP. As of 2023, there are approximately 2,591,785 acres of Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park, currently classified as follows:

Classification	Acres (+/-)	%
Wilderness	1,186,399	45.7%
Primitive	38,215	1.5%
Canoe	17,325	0.7%
Wild Forest	1,324,025	51.0%
Intensive Use	22,614	0.9%
Historic	522	0.02%
State Administrative	2,028	0.1%

The area subject to this classification action (the subject area) consists of recently acquired State lands, 11 reclassification proposals and six classifications involving map corrections.

Standards for Agency Decision

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP or Master Plan) sets forth in clear terms the fundamental principles governing the classification considerations and the Agency's responsibilities for the long-range planning for the State lands within the Park.

In Part I, INTRODUCTION, the Master Plan sets forth the fundamental principles and states:

If there is a unifying theme to the Master Plan, it is that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the State lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded. (APSLMP, p.1).

The APSLMP was adopted in 1972 following the requirement of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Adirondack Park Agency Act) to "classify [state lands] lands according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use...." (Adirondack Park Agency Act § 807).

Part II of the Master Plan (p. 14) entitled "CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND GUIDELINES" sets forth three "determinants" and an additional consideration:

The first determinant is "the physical characteristics of the land or water which have a direct bearing upon the capacity of the land to accept human use." After listing several characteristics, the discussion of physical characteristics concludes, "[T]hese factors highlight the essential fragility of significant portions of the state lands within the Park. These fragile areas include most lands above 2,500 feet in altitude, particularly the boreal (spruce-fir), sub-alpine and alpine zones, as well as low-lying areas such as swamps, marshes and other wetlands. In addition, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and their environs often present special physical problems." (APSLMPp.14-15).

The second determinant is biological considerations which are related to the physical characteristics including deer wintering yards and nesting habitat of rare, threatened or endangered species. This determinant also recognizes that, "Wetland ecosystems frequently are finely balanced and incapable of absorbing material changes resulting from construction or intensive human use." (APSLMP, p.15).

The third determinant involves "certain intangible considerations that have an inevitable impact on the character of land." These include "a sense of remoteness and degree of wildness available to users of a particular area, which may result from the size of an area, the type and density of its forest cover, the ruggedness of the terrain or merely the views over other areas of the Park obtainable from some vantage point." (APSLMP, p. 15).

The final consideration is the presence of established facilities and public uses such as highways, ski areas, or campgrounds; these uses are generally viewed as inconsistent with a Wilderness or Wild Forest setting.

The APSLMP contains nine categories which are briefly described below:

Wilderness - A Wilderness area, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man--where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. A Wilderness Area is further defined to mean an area of State land or water having a primeval character, without significant improvement or permanent human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, its natural conditions, and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least ten thousand acres of contiguous land and water or is of sufficient size and character as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

Primitive - A Primitive area is an area of land or water that is either:

- Essentially wilderness in character but, (a) contains structures, improvements, or uses that are inconsistent with wilderness, as defined, and whose removal, though a long-term objective, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline, and/or, (b) contains, or is contiguous to, private lands that are of a size and influence to prevent wilderness designation; or,
- Of a size and character not meeting wilderness standards, but where the fragility of the resource, or other factors, requires wilderness management.

Canoe - A Canoe area is an area where the watercourses or the number and proximity of lakes and ponds make possible a remote and unconfined type of water-oriented recreation in an essentially wilderness setting.

Wild Forest - A Wild Forest area is an area where the resources permit a somewhat higher degree of human use than in wilderness, primitive or canoe areas, while retaining an essentially wild character. A Wild Forest area is further defined as an area that frequently lacks the sense of remoteness of Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe areas and that permits a wide variety of outdoor recreation.

Intensive Use - An Intensive Use area is an area where the State provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. There are two types of Intensive Use areas: campgrounds and day use areas.

Historic - Historic areas are locations of buildings, structures or sites owned by the State (other than the Adirondack Forest Preserve itself) that are significant in the history,

architecture, archeology or culture of the Adirondack Park, the State, or the Nation;, and fall into one of the following categories:

- State historic sites;
- Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
- Properties recommended for nomination by the Committee on Registers of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation and that are of a scale, character and location appropriate for designation as an historic area under this master plan and the state has committed resources to manage such as primarily for historic objectives.

State Administrative - State Administrative areas are areas where the state provides facilities for a variety of specific state purposes that are not primarily designed to accommodate visitors to the Park.

The following two categories are essentially corridor overlays to the basic land classification(s) through which the corridor passes. (APSLMP, p. 14).

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers – The classification and guidelines for Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers are designed to be consistent with and complementary to both the basic intent and structure of the legislation passed by the legislature in 1972 creating a wild, scenic and recreational rivers system.

Travel Corridors – Travel corridors are the strip of land constituting the roadbed and the right-of-way for State and Interstate highways in the Park, as well as the Remsen to Lake Placid railroad right-of-way.

Each of the nine categories contain further statements in the APSLMP which set forth basic and specific guidelines for improvements, uses and activities.

Special Management - In addition to the nine classification categories, the APSLMP also contains guidelines for areas deserving Special Management. Classifications reflect the minimum management constraints for the lands affected. “Certain parcels of land may require special management to reflect unusual resource or public land factors.” (APSLMP, p. 49). Special Management is not a classification category but rather provides specific protective measures which are more restrictive than what is set forth by the classification category. Special Management Areas are developed after the classification process is complete and specific management protections are developed during the unit management planning process.

Hierarchy of Guidelines

The Guidelines for Management and Use are found in each land use classification and establish an important emphasis on Wilderness guidelines. The structure of the management guidelines begins with Wilderness, which is listed first, and adds permitted guidelines and criteria for each subsequent category. Primitive and Canoe Areas are very close to Wilderness, and all three categories have resource considerations and values that require similarly greater protection than Wild Forest areas. For example, in

Primitive areas, “[a]ll structures and improvements that conform to wilderness guidelines will be acceptable in primitive areas.” (APSLMP, p. 26). The motor vehicle, road, and all terrain bicycles guidelines all begin with a statement that wilderness guidelines apply and add some possibilities for administrative use of some roads “to reach and maintain existing structures and improvements.” (APSLMP, p. 27). The Master Plan guidelines and criteria, and the requirements of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS), discussed under the next heading, place an emphasis on resource protection, remoteness and self-sufficiency found in the Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe classifications, while permitting and encouraging human use as long as the resources are not degraded.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

This Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) is a supplement to the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1979) (FPEIS). The proposed classifications and reclassifications of the State lands listed in Appendix A are amendments to the APSLMP.

Adirondack Park Agency Rules and Regulations set forth a list of Type I and Type II actions. Proposed reclassifications of land from a more restrictive to a less restrictive category are Type I actions (9 NYCRR 586.5(a)(6)(i)). Amendments to the APSLMP that do not meet this or other Type I definitions are Type II actions (9 NYCRR 586.5(b)(2)). Pursuant to the FPEIS, correction of mapping errors, the more precise definition of boundaries, and minor technical changes are not Type I actions (FPEIS p. 44).

The 2023 Adirondack Park State Land Classification Package contains eight reclassification proposals that reclassify land from a more restrictive to a less restrictive land use category. Five of these reclassifications reflect mapping errors and/or boundary clarifications involving the Golden Beach Intensive Use Area and the Rollins Pond Intensive Use Area. The Agency is also proposing the reclassification of three parcels from Wild Forest to State Administrative. This DSEIS addresses all eight of these reclassifications.

The remaining classification proposals in the Package are Type II actions, and no further review is required under SEQRA. However, the DSEIS includes analyses of Type II actions that are related to Type I actions. The Agency will accept comment on the entire Package.

The FPEIS repeats and reaffirms the principles guiding the classification opportunities. Like the APSLMP, the FPEIS begins with a foundation of Wilderness classification noting that opportunities for outdoor activities in large unconfined spaces like the Adirondack Park are rare in New York State.

Wild Forest areas are described in the FPEIS as having “[r]esources which allow a somewhat higher level of human use which does not degrade resource quality while retaining a wild character...” An example of such use includes snowmobiling “where such use will not adversely impact the natural resources quality and wild forest character of the area.” (FPEIS, p. 19).

The FPEIS discourages reclassification from a more protective category to a less protective one. The FPEIS states:

“Only in exceptional circumstances should lands presently classified as Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe be reclassified to Wild Forest. This should occur only after it has been demonstrated that a highly unusual condition exists, such as the identification of a

mapping error, or the existence of a previously unrecognized non-conforming use of a permanent nature.” (FPEIS, p. 26).

This classification action does include reclassification of some land from a more restrictive category to a less restrictive one, following the above guidance. These reclassification proposals are identified in Appendix A.

Description of Action

The proposed action involves the classification and reclassification of State lands within the Adirondack Park according to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The action involves land in eight counties in the Park and includes 25 State land classification proposals totaling approximately 5,818 acres and 11 State land reclassifications totaling an estimated 251 acres.

This classification package includes 19 proposals for the classification of recently acquired State lands, 11 reclassification proposals, and six classifications involving map corrections. Map corrections are the result of errors discovered in the Agency’s land classification mapping data, such as lands classified as private that are determined to actually be in state ownership. When such errors in the map are discovered, the Agency typically places the areas into the State land “Pending Classification” category for consideration in the next Agency classification process. This classification package includes six such map corrections.

More information about all parcels in the package can be found on the Agency’s [interactive online story map](#).

Story maps are a way to communicate a narrative using a variety of media including maps, text and photos. The information is provided in an order, much like the telling of a story. A story map provides viewers a tour where next steps are achieved by scrolling through the story map. As viewers scroll, different locations and information unique to the location is displayed. The story map provides a guided exploration to sequentially explain the map.

The 2023 State Land Classification story map provides a map tour, combining a map with photos and descriptive text, to highlight the lands included in the classification action. To explore the lands, simply scroll through the story map. The map includes the ability to zoom in/out (see bottom right) for greater context and information.

Public Need and Benefits, including Social and Economic Considerations

The Agency is legislatively mandated to classify acquired state lands according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use.¹ In order for the public to enjoy newly acquired state lands to their full potential and to recognize and protect the unique natural resources on the landscape, the land must be classified and then a unit management plan prepared.

There has been demonstrable public concern for and interest in the Park by the people of the State of New York for more than a century, including the passage of the “forever wild” amendment to the State Constitution in 1894, known as Article XIV, which affords permanent protection to the Forest Preserve and the timber thereon. The history of proposed Constitutional amendments and the decisions of the electorate confirm that the majority of voters have opted to protect the Forest Preserve against intrusions and retain these public lands and their wild character.

Public benefits of the Forest Preserve are numerous, and include direct benefits to local communities, as well as regional and State economies. A 2022 leisure travel study commissioned by the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST) found that 72% of visitors to the Park were pursuing “outdoor activities,” more than any other leisure category. Of the travelers surveyed regarding their spring and summertime leisure activities, 79% indicated that they participated in hiking; 35% participated in canoeing/kayaking; 12% in fishing; 16% in boating; 9% in cycling; 11% in birding; 6% in mountain biking; etc. Of travelers surveyed regarding their fall and wintertime leisure activities, 79% indicated that they participated in hiking; 12% in fishing; 10% in cross country skiing and snowshoeing; 8% in alpine skiing and snowboarding; 11% in birding; etc. The average party size was 3.4 people and the average length of stay was 3.7 days. More than half of all visitors opted for private lodging accommodations, such as hotels, resorts, and short-term rentals.² This data indicates that visitors to the Park are drawn to outdoor experiences, and the 2.6 million acres of public Forest Preserve lands and waters afford the public with myriad opportunities for recreation. The bulk of overnight visitors opt for private lodging options, thereby driving economic activity in the Park’s communities that act as gateways to the Forest Preserve. The average daily expenditure for all travelers was \$459/day, and the average total expenditure was \$1,697/trip. These averages include expenses such as lodging, meals, shopping, entertainment, events, attractions, and transportation.

An article by Pete Morton entitled “The Economic Benefits of Wilderness: Theory and Practice” discusses the wide array of benefits derived from wildlands conservation, including recreational use, conservation of biological diversity, ecological services (including watershed protection and carbon sequestration), and passive use benefits such as existence value.

¹ Adirondack Park Agency Act, § 816.

(Formerly § 807, added L.1971, c. 706, § 1. Renumbered 816 and amended L.1973, c. 348, § 1.)

² <https://www.roostadk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022-Regional-leisure-travel-study.pdf>

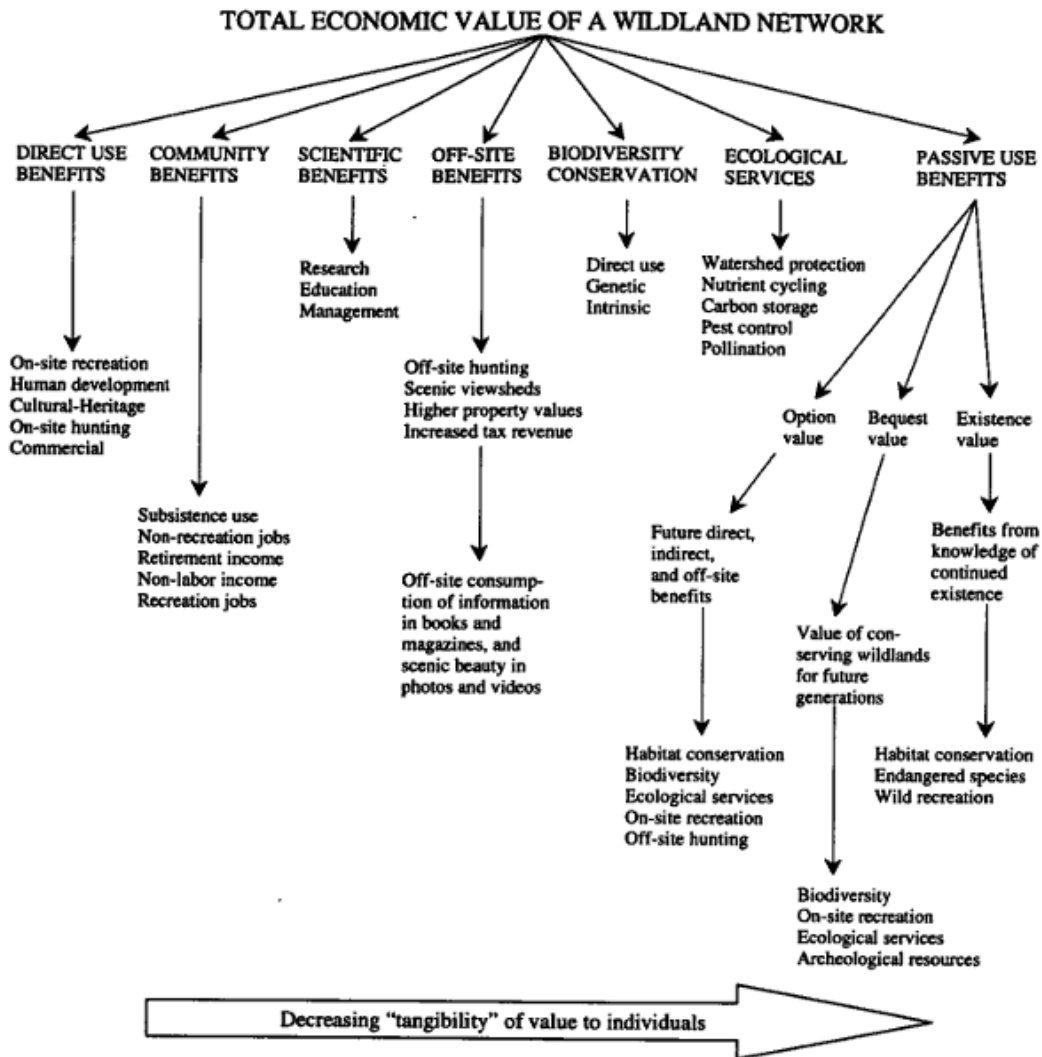


Figure 1. Total economic value of a wildland network. Pete Morton, *The Economic Benefits of Wilderness: Theory and Practice*, 76 *Denv. U. L. Rev.* 465 (1998).

The Morton article describes “on-site recreation” as a direct use benefit associated with wildlands. Recreation yields a variety of individual and societal benefits, including personal development (spiritual growth, improved fitness, self-esteem, leadership abilities), social bonding, therapeutic and healing benefits, stress reduction, increased worker productivity and reduced absenteeism at work. Wildlands also have immense cultural value as “communities of life... untrammled by man” and make a unique contribution to our cultural and national heritage.³

³ Pete Morton, *The Economic Benefits of Wilderness: Theory and Practice*, 76 *Denv. U. L. Rev.* 465 (1998).

The same article discusses watershed protection, which was an impetus for the creation of the Adirondack Park, as a key ecological service provided by wildlands. Watershed protection provides economic benefits including holding nutrients in place on the landscape to maintain ecological productivity, decreased sedimentation of waterways, protection of stream quality for native fish species, protection of private property values by attenuating flood waters, source water protection for public and private drinking water systems, etc.

The far-right hand side of Figure 1 (from the Morton article) describes passive use benefits associated with wildlands. Clawson and Knetsch explain outdoor recreation as a multi-phase experience, including: anticipation; travel to the site; on-site recreation; return travel; and recollection. The anticipation phase includes the option benefits of potential future recreational use, and the recollection phase includes the existence value of knowing the resource is protected and the bequest value of providing future generations with that same resource⁴.

In summary, the public benefits derived from the classification of recently acquired state lands are both diverse and profound. Acquisition and classification enable the subsequent planning phase for state land, which entails development of a unit management plan to set management objectives for the protection of an area's resources and for public use and enjoyment of the area.

Classification Considerations

As discussed in the "Standards for Agency Decision," the Adirondack Park Agency Act requires the Agency to classify the State lands in the Park according to "their characteristics and capacity to withstand use."⁵ Characteristics that determine a land's capacity to withstand use include physical, biological, social and psychological characteristics.

A fundamental determinant of land classification is the **physical characteristics** of the land or water which have a direct bearing upon the capacity of the land to withstand human use. Soil, slope, elevation and water are the primary considerations of these physical characteristics. These characteristics affect the carrying capacity of the land or water both from the standpoint of the construction of facilities and the amount of human use the land or water itself can absorb.

Biological considerations also play an important role in the structuring of the classification system. Many of these are associated with the physical limitations just described. Wetland ecosystems, habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species and sensitive wildlife habitats are relevant to the characteristics of the land and

⁴ Marion Clawson and Jack Knetsch, *Economics of Outdoor Recreation*, 33-36 (1966).

⁵ Former Executive Law § 807, added L. 1971 c. 706, section 1 renumbered 816 and amended L. 1973, c. 348, section 1., as quoted in APSLMP at 13.

sometimes determine whether a particular kind of human use should be permitted or prohibited.

Another significant determinant of land classification involves certain **intangible considerations** that have an inevitable impact on the character of land. Some of these are social or psychological, such as the sense of remoteness and degree of wildness

Finally, the classification system takes into account the **established facilities** on the land, the uses now being made by the public, and the policies followed by the various administering agencies. The Master Plan points to the presence of an existing campground or ski area as examples of established facilities which would require an Intensive Use classification. The existence of roads on acquired lands does not mandate a particular classification; where they are nonconforming, the Master Plan provides that they will be closed within three years.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

FR-1, Horseshoe Pond (DOT)

This 13.3-acre proposed reclassification in the Town of Duane in Franklin County entails reclassifying acreage associated with a former sand mine under the jurisdiction of the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) from Wild Forest to State Administrative. The entirety of the parcel, including the existing Wild Forest lands and the area to be reclassified, totals approximately 25.7 acres. Because the eastern portion of the site (which is contiguous with lands classified as Wild Forest to the west) is not reflective of wild forest character during the reclamation process, the more appropriate current classification is State Administrative. The parcel is characterized by moderate slopes.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology/Soils:

The surface geology of the Debar Mountain Wild Forest (of which this parcel is presently a part), like that of much of the Adirondack Park, is part of the massive geological structure known as the Canadian Shield. More than one billion years old, the Shield covers most of southeastern Canada, crossing the St. Lawrence River near Alexandria Bay and emerging in the Adirondack region as an uplifted dome. Featuring elevations averaging from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above sea level, the Adirondack dome was formed by a combination of the erosion of an overlying sedimentary rock layer coupled with the heat and pressure uplift associated with the metamorphosis of gneiss from its parent material, granite. Considered some of the oldest bedrock known in the world today, the uplift of the gneiss continues at the present day with a 3-mm elevational rise per year. Arguably one of the most striking products of uplift of the Adirondack Dome was the rise of more than 6,000 miles of rivers and streams which radiate from the center of the dome like the spokes of a wheel.

The most recent significant event in the geological history was the glaciation of the region more than 12,000 years ago. The impacts of the progression and recession of the Laurentide Ice Sheet on the landscape are conspicuous and created the topography present today. At its greatest extent, the ice sheet encompassed the area from present-day Labrador to Long Island and was over two kilometers thick. As evidenced by the generally southwesterly slope of the current topography, the ice sheet entered the region from the north and northeast, splitting into two ice "streams" in the High Peaks area, the easternmost stream going through the present-day Champlain Valley, the westernmost following what is now the St. Lawrence Valley. The ice sheet eventually receded over the course of several thousand years leaving a landscape which, except for its highest elevations, was dramatically altered by the effects of glacial disturbance and deposition. While initially covered in a sheet of post glacial drift, the effects of erosion have exposed the smooth ridge slopes, rounded summits and deposit-clogged valleys that exemplify the glacier's impact on the bedrock geology. In addition, the

region's ubiquitous streams and rivers experienced a dramatic deviation in their courses due to the widespread deposition of glacial tills and outwash. Drainage patterns altered by the glacial deposition and excavation led to the creation of the numerous lakes and ponds which are encountered in this area today. Soils in this area are comprised of a Colton-Adams complex, occurring on 3-15% slopes. These soils are excessively drained in their dominant drainage class.

Adams component: Slopes are 3 to 15 percent. This component is on deltas and valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 4e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Colton component: Slopes are 3 to 15 percent. This component is on outwash terraces and valleys. The parent material consists of gravelly outwash derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 60 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 4e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Source: USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service SURGO Data

Topography: Elevation on the parcel ranges from 1,460-1,580 feet above sea level.

Water Resources: See Appendix C for a map of wetlands on the parcel.

Aquifer – Entire parcel is covered by a mapped aquifer.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Forest: The forest type in this area is a mixed conifer and deciduous forest comprised primarily of white pine, eastern hemlock, birch, and maple.

Wetlands: Mapped wetlands are present in the northeastern corner of the portion of the parcel to be reclassified to State Administrative. See Appendix C.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Natural Communities: Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which are threatened, have been documented breeding in the area immediately to the south of this parcel. Common loons (*Gavia immer*), a special of special concern, has also been documented immediately to the south of the parcel.

Fisheries: No, the portion of the parcel to be reclassified does not abut any lakes, streams, rivers, or ponds.

Bird Species: The NYS Breeding Bird Atlas contains records of the following birds for this block:

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

Invasive Species: None documented. Source: <https://www.nyimapisvasives.org/public-map>.

ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS

This area contains a former sand mine under the jurisdiction of the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT began the closure and reclamation process for this site roughly 20 years ago and the process is ongoing as DOT places waste material from proximate locations that is free of undesirable contents to flatten and stabilize the working faces of the former mine.

Structures and Improvements

There are no structures on the parcel. The parcel contains a small, paved area, and a single light post.

Historic Resources

No historic resources identified by New York State Division for Historic Preservation's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS).

Deeded and Other Rights

Not applicable.

INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

The section of the parcel to be reclassified as State Administrative lacks a sense of remoteness, and does not uphold wild forest character. There is evidence of ongoing human activity on the landscape and minor road noise is detectable. The Department of Transportation is actively reclaiming this former sand mining site as resources allow, and it will eventually be returned to a wild state. At that time, the classification can be revisited.

The activity occurring here is not consistent with APSLMP guidelines for Wild Forest areas. The primary management guideline for Wild Forest is to "protect the natural wild forest setting and to provide those types of outdoor recreation that will afford public enjoyment without impairing the wild forest atmosphere" (APSLMP, p. 35). The State Administrative land classification "contains a wide variety of developed uses related directly to the activities of many state agencies" (APSLMP, p. 47). Basic guideline #4 reads "additions to the state administrative category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest or intensive use areas (assuming such acquisitions or reclassifications to be constitutional) and not from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas" (APSLMP, p. 47). This reclassification action is in conformance with the relevant guidelines above, and will not result in adverse impacts of a permanent nature to the site.

FR-3, DEC Storage Area

This 31.9-acre parcel requires a map correction. Previous APA maps show the parcel as Wild Forest but it has historically been used by DEC for administrative purposes, including storage of vehicles and materials. In addition, DEC used this area as a landfill; the landfill has been capped and is no longer in use. The parcel is located in the Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County. The parcel is bounded on the south by NYS Rt. 186, state lands classified as Wild Forest and administrative on the west and east, and private lands classified as Rural Use on the north. The proposed classification for this parcel is State Administrative.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology/Soils:

FR-3 contains both Searsport-Haplosaprists-Naumburg complex and Wolf Pond-Adams complex soils.

The Searsport are found on deltas and valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 80 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil meets hydric criteria.

The Haplosaprists are found in bogs and valleys. The parent material consists of organic material over sandy glaciofluvial deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 90 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria.

The Naumburg soils are found on deltas and valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 7 inches (depth from the mineral surface is 5 inches) during January, February, March, April, May, October,

November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 70 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

The Adams soils are found in deltas and valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 4e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

The Wolf Pond soils are found on deltas and valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer, ortstein, is 15 to 23 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 70 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 6s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Source: USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service SURGO Data

Topography

The parcel is generally flat with very little elevation changes. Elevation on the parcel is approximately 1,620 feet above sea level.

Water Resources

An aquifer is mapped in the area.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Forest: A mixed forest of conifers and hardwoods is found here including red spruce, balsam fir, birches, maple, eastern hemlock, and eastern white pine.

Wetlands: Approximately 20 acres of mapped wetlands are within the parcel. See Appendix C.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Natural Communities: The area includes habitat for Ocellated Emerald, a species of dragonfly, ranked by the NY Natural Heritage Program as “S2/S3” (6 to 100 occurrences in the state) in the area.

Bird Species: The NYS Breeding Bird Atlas contains records of the following birds for this block:

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*), Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*), American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

Invasive Species: None documented. Source: <https://www.nyimapinvasives.org/public-map>.

ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS

This parcel has historically been used by DEC for administrative purposes, including storage of vehicles and materials. In addition, DEC used this area as a landfill; the landfill has been capped and is no longer in use.

Structures and Improvements

There are no structures on the parcel.

Historic Resources

No historic resources have been identified by New York State Division for Historic Preservation's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS).

Deeded and Other Rights

Not applicable.

INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

This parcel has limited opportunities for solitude, self-reliance, connection with nature, a sense of adventure, or social engagement in a natural setting.

FR-4, DEC Staff Housing

This one-acre parcel is in the Town of Harrietstown, in Franklin County. Located between Crescent Bay and Lonesome Bay on Lower Saranac Lake are several administrative buildings known as the Facility Supervisor's Seasonal Headquarters at Crescent Bay. This parcel requires a map correction. Previous APA maps show the parcel as Wild Forest but it has historically been used by DEC for administrative purposes, including storage of boats and materials and use as housing for DEC staff. The proposed classification for this parcel is State Administrative.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology/Soils:

FR-4 contains both Tunbridge-Lyman complex and Monadnock-Tunbridge complex soils.

The Tunbridge soils are very rocky and very bouldery. This component is on glaciated hillsides or mountainsides, till plains. The parent material consists of loamy till derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 21 to 48 inches (depth from the mineral surface is 19 to 43 inches). The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is very low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

The Lyman soils are very rocky and very bouldery. This component is on glaciated hillsides or mountainsides, till plains. The parent material consists of loamy till derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 12 to 26 inches (depth from the mineral surface is 10 to 20 inches). The natural drainage class is somewhat excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is very low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 70 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

The Monadnock soils are rocky, and very bouldery. This component is on glaciated hillsides or mountainsides, mountain ranges. The parent material consists of loamy ablation till over sandy ablation till derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 60 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Source: USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service SURGO Data

Topography

Slopes are gently sloping between 1 and 8 percent.

Water Resources

Abuts the 2,214-acre Lower Saranac Lake.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Forest: Mixed conifers and hardwoods are located in this area with maples, American beech, birches, hemlock and eastern white pine.

Wetlands: There are no mapped wetlands within the parcel.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Natural Communities:

The area includes habitat for Ocellated Emerald, a species of dragonfly, ranked by the NY Natural Heritage Program as "S2/S3" (6 to 100 occurrences in the state) in the area.

Bird Species: The NYS Breeding Bird Atlas contains records of the following birds for this block:

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*), Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombocilla cedrorum*), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus*

sandwichensis), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*), American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

Invasive Species: None identified in the area. Source: <https://www.nyimainvasives.org/public-map>.

ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS

Structures and Improvements

There are several administrative buildings known as the Facility Supervisor's Seasonal Headquarters at Crescent Bay, including the following.

Facility Supervisor's Seasonal Headquarters at Crescent Bay: Constructed in 1934 this building is 26' x 43' and is equal to 1,118 square feet of living space. This building utilizes electric heat and a wood fireplace. This structure is in fair condition.

Garage/Workshop at Crescent Bay: Constructed in 1976, this building is 14' x 32' and is equal to 448 square feet. This structure is in fair condition.

Crescent Bay Boathouse: Constructed in 1934, the boathouse is 32' x 35' which is equal to 1,120 square feet. It has three enclosed boat slips and storage upstairs. This structure is in good condition.

Historic Resources

No historic resources have been identified by New York State Division for Historic Preservation's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS).

Deeded and Other Rights

Not applicable.

INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

This parcel has limited opportunities for solitude, self-reliance, connection with nature, a sense of adventure, or social engagement in a natural setting.

FR-6, Rollins Pond

The draft Rollins Pond Campground and Day Use Area Unit Management Plan (see Appendix G) includes a proposal for a series of reclassifications to correct mapping errors, clarify boundaries, and better reflect the existing use of the area, the character of the land, and its capacity to withstand use. The existing mapping areas of this Intensive Use Area have not been changed since the 1972, even though previous UMPs for Rollins Pond have called for classification changes to be made. Reclassifications to a less restrictive classification in the vicinity of Rollins Pond are described in more detail below:

- FR-6-A – A 71.9-acre parcel on the south end of the Rollins Pond Campground classified as Wild Forest that is proposed to be reclassified as Intensive Use. This parcel requires a correction to reflect the existing campground use.
- FR-6-C – A 0.3-acre area on the northeastern side of Rollins Pond Campground that is currently classified as Wild Forest and is proposed to be reclassified as Intensive Use. This area, like FR-6-B is being proposed for classification for the purpose of defining the boundary between Wild Forest and Intensive Use more precisely.
- FR-6-D – A 17.4-acre area on the north of the Rollins Pond Campground that is currently classified as Wild Forest and is proposed to be reclassified as Intensive Use. This area abuts the Rollins Pond Campground and the Remsen Lake Placid Travel corridor. The character of this parcel is significantly impacted by the nearby campground and the travel corridor. It is proposed to be classified as Intensive Use.

There is one additional 74.4-acre parcel within the Rollins Pond Campground Intensive Use Area that entails reclassification to a more restrictive land classification (FR-6-B) that better reflects the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use. For more information about this parcel, visit the [interactive online story map](#).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology/Soils:

Soil associations are generally described as consisting of Hermon-Becket, a glacial till soil, and Adams-Colton, a glacial outwash soil. More details on these associations is provided below:

FR-6-A: Adams loamy fine sand, 3 to 15 percent slopes. This component is on deltas, valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low.

Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 4e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Searsport-Haplosaprists-Naumburg complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes.

Searsport: This component is on deltas, valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 80 percent. Non-irrigated land capability classification is 5w. This soil meets hydric criteria.

Haplosaprists: This component is on bogs, valleys. The parent material consists of organic material over sandy glaciofluvial deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 90 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria.

Naumburg: This component is on deltas, valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 7 inches (depth from the mineral surface is 5 inches) during January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 70 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

FR-6-C: Monadnock-Tunbridge complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, rocky, very bouldery. Tunbridge rocky very bouldery: Slopes are 15 to 35 percent. This component is on glaciated hillsides or mountainsides, till plains. The parent material consists of loamy till derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 21 to 48 inches (depth from the mineral surface is 19 to 43 inches). The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is very low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72

inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 6s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Monadnock rocky very bouldery: Slopes are 15 to 35 percent. This component is on glaciated hillsides or mountainsides, mountain ranges. The parent material consists of loamy ablation till over sandy ablation till derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 60 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7s. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

FR-6-D: Colton-Adams complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes

Colton: This component is on outwash terraces, valleys. The parent material consists of gravelly outwash derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 60 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Adams: This component is on deltas, valleys. The parent material consists of sandy glaciolacustrine deposits derived from gneiss. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is somewhat excessively drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Below this thin organic horizon the organic matter content is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Topography: The average elevation at the Rollins Pond facility is 1,585 feet with a maximum of approximately 1,700 feet in the North central portion of the Intensive Use area.

Water Resources: Rollins Pond is 442 acres in size with a maximum depth of 77 feet. Surface elevation is 1,575 feet. There are 229 campsites located on the shore of the pond. Whey Pond has a surface area of 107.7 acres, a maximum depth of 20 feet, and a surface elevation of 1,577 feet. Mapped aquifers are present in the vicinity of the campground facility.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Forest: Six different forest types are present in the vicinity of the Rollins Pond campground. More information on these Forest Types is available in the Final Unit Management Plan for Rollins Pond Campground, January 1998.

1. Northern Hardwood-Hemlock
2. Hemlock
3. White Pine Plantation
4. Spruce-Fir/Hemlock/White Pine
5. Spruce-Fir
6. Northern Hardwood

Wetlands: Deep water marsh wetlands are present along portions of the shoreline of Rollins and Whey Pond. Shrub swamp and coniferous swamp are also present within the project area. Wetland mapping can be found in Appendix C.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Natural Communities: A “Balsam Flats” ecological community is identified in the southern portion of the Rollins Pond Campground. Approximately 11 acres of FR-6-A area are identified as balsam flats conifer forest according to the NY Natural Heritage Trust. Common Loon, a species of special concern, is present on Whey Pond and Floodwood Pond adjacent to FR-6-A, FR-6-C and FR-6-D.

Invasive Species: Three invasive plant species and one invasive aquatic organism are identified within the Rollins Pond area. Plant species include Burning Bush, Winged Euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), and Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Aquatic species include Banded Mysterysnail (*Viviparus georgianus*).

Source: <https://www.nyimainvasives.org/public-map>.

Bird Species: The NYS Breeding Bird Atlas contains records of the following birds for this block:

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Sora (*Porzana carolina*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Common Raven

(*Corvus corax*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Black-capped, Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)

Fisheries: The Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP (2019) provides details regarding the species of fish that can be found in Rollins Pond and Whey Pond. The fisheries in each of these ponds has a long management history.

Rollins Pond: Landlocked Salmon (*Salmo salar sebago*), Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Golden Shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), Northern Pike (*Esox Lucius*), white sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*), longnose sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) and rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*).

Whey Pond: Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*).

ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS

Structures and Improvements

FR-6-A: These lands include most of the Campground's Loop A with all its appurtenant improvements such as two bathrooms, twenty campsites, and the access road between Fish Creek and Rollins Pond. Also included is a former gravel pit now used for storage of materials, a former administrative road leading to a capped landfill, the entrance booth, a caretaker cabin, a firewood storage building, and a trailer dumping station. These campground improvements pre-date the development of the APSLMP.

FR-6-C: No structures or improvements are present.

FR-6-D: No structures or improvements are present.

Historic Resources

The New York Central Railroad Adirondack Division Historic District (NR Number 93NR00500) follows the Remsen Lake Placid travel corridor within ½ mile of the Rollins Pond Campground as it parallels the Western shore of the pond. Parcel FR-6-D on the North End of Rollins Pond abuts the travel corridor and the Rollins Pond Intensive Use Area.

Deeded and Other Rights

Not applicable.

INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

FR-6-A, FR-6-C and FR-6-D offer very limited opportunities for solitude and self-reliance. Connection with nature and a sense of adventure in a front country natural setting are possible in each of these areas. FR-6-A and FR-6-D currently offer or have the potential to support opportunities for social engagement in a natural setting, consistent with the APSLMP language for intensive use areas:

“An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas. These areas provide overnight accommodations or day use facilities for a significant number of visitors to the Park and often function as a base for use of wild forest, wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.” (APSLMP, p. 41).

The APSLMP goes on to describe the primary management guideline for intensive use areas:

“...to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating... in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.” (APSLMP, p. 41).

HA-6-A and HA-6-B, Golden Beach

The draft Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area Unit Management Plan includes a proposal for a series of reclassifications to correct mapping errors, clarify boundaries, and better reflect the existing use of the area, the character of the land, and its capacity to withstand use. When taken together, the reclassification actions are meant to reflect the existing use of the area, the character of the land, and its capacity to withstand use. The existing mapping of this Intensive Use area not been changed since the 1972. A summary of each of the changes are described in more detail below:

HA-6-A – A 5.7-acre area east of the Golden Beach Campground Intensive Use Area that is currently classified as Wild Forest and is proposed to be reclassified as Intensive Use. The purpose for this is to reclassify areas that contain pre-existing campground infrastructure such as the entrance road, ticket booth, and caretaker’s cabin.

HA-6-B – A 3.8-acre area east of the Golden Beach Campground Intensive Use Area that is currently classified as Wilderness and is proposed to be reclassified as Intensive Use. This acreage contains components of the campground’s septic system. The boundaries are drawn to allow for minor expansion of the leach field when the existing infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life.

The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (FPEIS) provides the guiding principles for the APA in making a determination regarding the appropriateness of amendments to the State Land Master Plan, such as a reclassification of existing state land. The following is an applicable excerpt from the FPEIS (p. 26) regarding reclassification of Wilderness to Intensive Use:

3. The Master Plan states that additions to the Intensive Use category should generally come from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of existing Wild Forest areas, and, “...only in exceptional circumstances from Wilderness, Primitive, or Canoe areas.” As was noted above, such lands must have a high capability to withstand intensive, concentrated use with little or no degradation in the natural or scenic resource quality or character of the land unit under review or of adjacent or nearby lands.

The FPEIS provides several examples of “exceptional circumstances” required for reclassification of wilderness to less restrictive classifications other than Intensive Use:

4. Only in exceptional circumstances should lands presently classified as Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe be reclassified to Wild Forest. This should occur only after it has been demonstrated that a highly unusual condition exists, such as the identification of a mapping error, or the existence of a previously unrecognized non-conforming use of a permanent nature. ⁶

The existence of the leach field in the adjacent Blue Ridge Wilderness area constitutes the existence of a previously unrecognized non-conforming use of a permanent nature. The area surrounding the leach field should have been classified and mapped as Intensive Use, as it is a part of the campground facility.

⁶ Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Page 26.
https://www.apa.ny.gov/State_Land/assets/FPEIS_Guidelines%20for%20Amending%20SLMP%20New.pdf

There are two additional parcels within the Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area that entail reclassification to more restrictive land classifications (HA-6-C and HA-6-D). For more information about those parcels, visit the [interactive online story map](#).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology/Soils:

HA-6-A contains soils in the Bucksport-Wonsqueak complex. The Wonsqueak series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils in depressions. They formed in a mantle of organic soil material over loamy mineral material. Typically, the surface layer, 8 inches thick, is very dark gray muck. The subsurface layer, to 32 inches, is black muck. The substratum to 65 inches is gray silt loam. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent.

The Bucksport series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils in depressions. They formed in decomposed organic material in glacial ground moraines, shallow till ridges, and outwash plains. Typically, the surface layer is black muck 12 inches thick. The subsurface layer, from 12 to 25 inches, is dark reddish brown muck. The bottom layer, from 25 to 65 inches, is black muck. Slopes range from 0 to 1 percent.

HA-6-B contains soils in both the Wonsqueak-Rumney-Bucksport complex and Monadnock-Adams-Colton complex.

The Bucksport series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils in depressions. They formed in decomposed organic material in glacial ground moraines, shallow till ridges, and outwash plains. Typically, the surface layer is black muck 12 inches thick. The subsurface layer, from 12 to 25 inches, is dark reddish brown muck. The bottom layer, from 25 to 65 inches, is black muck. Slopes range from 0 to 1 percent.

The Wonsqueak series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils in depressions. They formed in a mantle of organic soil material over loamy mineral material. Typically, the surface layer, 8 inches thick, is very dark gray muck. The subsurface layer, to 32 inches, is black muck. The substratum to 65 inches is gray silt loam. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent.

The Rumney series consists of very deep, poorly drained soils on flood plains. They formed in recent alluvial material. Typically, these soils have a very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam surface layer, 9 inches thick. The mottled subsoil from 9 to 30 inches is dark grayish brown fine sandy loam and grayish brown sandy loam. The substratum from 30 to 65 inches is olive gray loamy sand. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent.

The Adams series consists of very deep, well-drained to somewhat excessively-drained soils on sand plains. They formed in deltaic or outwash sand. Typically these soils have a pinkish-gray sand surface layer 4 inches thick. The subsoil from 4 to 10 inches is dark reddish-brown and brown loamy sand and from 10 to 26 inches is brown and yellowish-

brown loose sand. The substratum from 26 to 70 inches is grayish-brown loose sand. Slopes range from 0 to 60 percent.

The Monadnock series consists of very deep, well drained soils on uplands. The surface is commonly bouldery, very bouldery or extremely bouldery. They formed in a loamy mantle underlain by sandy glacial till. Derived mainly from granite and gneiss. Typically, these soils have a brown fine sandy loam surface layer 3 inches thick. The subsurface layer is light brownish gray sandy loam 2 inches thick. The subsoil from 5 to 23 inches is reddish brown and yellowish brown fine sandy loam. The substratum from 23 to 65 in. Is olive, gravelly loamy sand. Slopes range from 3 to 60 %.

The Colton series consists of very deep, excessively drained soils on outwash terraces, kames, and eskers. They formed in water-sorted sand and gravel deposits containing cobblestones and stones. Typically these soils have mostly a grayish brown gravelly loamy sand surface layer 8 inches thick. The subsoil from 8 to 22 inches is mostly reddish brown gravelly loamy sand. The substratum from 22 to 60 inches is loose gravel and sand. Slopes range from 0 to 70 percent.

Topography - The average elevation of Golden Beach Campground is 1,790 feet. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of 1,800 feet.

Water Resources - The campground area abuts Raquette Lake, which is 5,395 acres in size with a maximum depth of 96 feet. HA-6-A and HA-6-B do not contain any shoreline on Raquette Lake. Portions of HA-6-C and HA-6-D (which entail reclassification to Wild Forest) contain Raquette Lake shoreline.

Aquifer – None.

BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Forest: There are several different forest types present in the area. These include northern hardwoods, white pine, hemlock, and spruce. NY Natural Heritage Program data shows significant natural communities within a half mile of the campground area, including spruce-fir swamp and northern white cedar swamp.

Wetlands: See map in Appendix C.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Natural Communities: None documented. Source: NY Natural Heritage Program.

Bird Species: The NYS Breeding Bird Atlas contains records of the following birds for this block:

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

Fisheries: Fish species present in Raquette Lake include:

Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), Landlocked Salmon (rare) (*Salmo salar sebago*), Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*), Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), Rainbow Smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

Invasive Species: Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species have been documented in the area, including:

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Variable Leaf Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)

ESTABLISHED FACILITIES AND RETAINED RIGHTS

Structures and Improvements

HA-6-A contains the campground entrance road with one culvert and a gate (220 feet from NYS Route 28), recycling building, eight campsites (126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 133, 165, 166) and associated loop road, signage, parking for 4-5 cars next to the recycling center. Utilities in this area include secondary electric line, water, telecommunications infrastructure, and a sewer waste line.

HA-6-B contains a portion of the sewer line, two manholes, and a septic leach field. There is also a concrete vault which houses the leach field distribution system. This area also contains a gate and approximately 600 feet of access road.

These campground improvements pre-date the development of the APSLMP in 1972.

Historic Resources

See Appendix C for maps of historic and archeological resources that are proximate to the area.

At the western end of the Golden Beach Campground is a bridge on New York State Route 28 (NY 28) that crosses South Inlet in the Town of Arietta. The bridge is on land under the jurisdiction of the NYS DOT. It was constructed in 1929. The New York State Division for Historic Preservation's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) identified the building. However, the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that it was not eligible for inclusion in the New York State or National Registers of Historic Places. Also, at the western end of the campground, CRIS displayed a archeological buffer area extending into the campground.

Deeded and Other Rights

Not applicable.

INTANGIBLE CHARACTERISTICS

HA-6-A and HA-6-B offer or support limited opportunities for solitude, self-reliance, connection with nature, and a sense of adventure. They do, however, offer or support opportunities for social engagement in a natural setting, which is consistent with the APSLMP language for intensive use areas:

“An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas. These areas provide overnight accommodations or day use facilities for a significant number of visitors to the Park and often function as a base for use of wild forest, wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.” (APSLMP, p. 41).

The APSLMP goes on to describe the primary management guideline for intensive use areas:

“...to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating... in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.” (APSLMP, p. 41).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Impacts of Proposed Action on the Physical and Biological Resources

The proposed action will not substantially impact the physical and biological resources associated with the area.

The APSLMP prescribes types of permissible uses in each land use classification, but it does not specifically control the levels of use beyond providing very general management guidelines. Careful application of guidelines in the APSLMP, through this classification process, and as applied through the unit management planning process, should prevent significant adverse environmental impacts caused by types or levels of use. These guidelines vary from one classification category to another and may prescribe the types of recreational opportunities available in conformance with the APSLMP's unifying theme that "the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded." (APSLMP, p. 1).

The actions contained in this package include reclassification of five areas within two campground facilities from Wild Forest to Intensive Use. The purpose of these reclassifications is to ensure that existing infrastructure and improvements in the campground areas, which pre-date the development of the Master Plan, are mapped correctly as part of the Intensive Use Area. Any new structures or improvements to be constructed in an Intensive Use Area would need to be planned for through the UMP process (APSLMP, p. 42). Furthermore, any construction activities occurring in Intensive Use Areas must "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" (APSLMP, p. 41-42).

In undertaking the geospatial analysis to determine more accurate land classification boundaries within these campground facilities, staff took a holistic and comprehensive view of the area in question and also proposed reclassification actions from a less restrictive (Intensive Use) to more restrictive (Wild Forest) classification. These actions serve to safeguard sensitive environmental resources, such as wetlands.

Additional actions in the package warranting further review under SEQRA include reclassification of a parcel or a portion of a parcel from Wild Forest to State Administrative; the package contains three such actions. State Administrative areas are areas where the state provides facilities for a variety of specific state purposes that are not primarily designed to accommodate visitors to the Park. These types of facilities are generally in close proximity to public highways and are found in more developed areas of the Park. The APSLMP contains the same provisions regarding construction in State Administrative areas as those found in Intensive Use Areas: "Construction and

development activities in state administrative areas will: avoid material alteration of wetlands, minimize extensive topographic alterations, limit vegetative clearing, and preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the state administrative area” (APSLMP, p. 47).

It is worth noting that the Agency also maintains its regulatory jurisdiction over the Park’s wetland resources, and the Department of Environmental Conservation administers the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act on public lands within the Park. Both of these regulatory tools serve to protect water resources from adverse environmental impacts associated with potential development activities on lands under any of the nine state land classifications.

Impact of Proposed Action on Area Character and Landscape Quality

The proposed classification action will not substantially impact the character of the area or the landscape quality. The actions involving classification/reclassification to Intensive Use or State Administrative involve uses that are already occurring on the landscape – i.e., a sand mine reclamation, worker housing, storage, and existing campground infrastructure. The continuation of these uses in accordance with the proposed land classifications and associated APSLMP guidelines will not have any additive detrimental impact.

Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects

Appropriate classification will avoid most adverse impacts upon the resource quality and character of State lands within the Park. Strong guidelines for the classification of State lands protect resource quality and character from overuse and degradation while still providing public recreational use opportunities.

Further protection of these resources will be addressed in the UMP process.

Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources

The proposed classification alternatives have no measurable effect on the use or conservation of energy resources.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The classification of these lands itself does not provide irreversible or irretrievable commitments to the resources. No development is mandated for lands being added to the Forest Preserve.

The Master Plan and proposed guidelines for amendment permit Intensive Use facility development and therefore, to a limited degree, the irreversible commitment of resources. Intensive Use facilities commits State land to a use other than wilderness recreation. After construction, it is virtually impossible to retrieve the undeveloped character of those lands.

Growth Inducing Aspects of Proposed Action

The APSLMP provides alternatives for a diversity of recreation opportunities of Forest Preserve lands which can have a positive impact on the local economy and the demand for local services. The number of users of these recreation opportunities is affected by various factors including the qualities of the opportunity itself, destination marketing programs, distance to populations centers, and proximity to visitor accommodations.

Recreation is a major driver of the Adirondack's visitation economy generating demand for lodging, food services, and entertainment. Visitor expenditures in this sector result in jobs and have a multiplier effect when the original expenditure is used to buy additional goods and services within the Park. This "ripple effect" can generate new growth throughout local communities.

Recreation opportunities on Forest Preserve also may help to retain existing residents in the region and attract new residents to local communities.

Economic Impacts of the Proposed Action

SEQRA mandates that a "suitable balance" of economic, social, and environmental factors be considered and reflected in the decision-making processes of State and local agencies. This proposed Classification Package provides for a balance of these considerations through the accommodation of diverse outdoor recreation uses on the impacted lands. Through the varied classifications of these parcels and the associated recreation opportunities, visitation and its related spending in the local economy can be maximized.

The local, regional, and State economies significantly benefit from visitation spending. In the Adirondack Park, visitors are attracted by a variety of features including recreation amenities, shopping and dining opportunities, Hamlet experiences, scenic and aesthetic qualities, and overall quality of experience. People seeking outdoor recreation opportunities are attracted to a diversity of activities year-round, including snowmobiling, skiing, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. A 2012 report from the Adirondack Partnership highlights that to attract the largest amount of visitors to a region, it must provide the greatest diversity of activities as possible.⁷ Additionally, a

⁷ Adirondack Partnership Recreation Planning Workgroup, 2013. [Adirondack Park Recreation Strategy: Capitalizing on the Economic Potential of our Natural Environment.](#)

2016 Wild Center report on recruiting millennial visitors to the Adirondacks articulated the need to offer varied recreation and social experiences.⁸ This Classification Package seeks to allow a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities on the newly classified State lands so that communities can program and market these resources to maximize economic benefit.

Measures to Avoid or Reduce both an Action's Impacts on Climate Change and Associated Impacts due to the Effects of Climate Change such as Sea Level Rise and Flooding

SEQRA requires that, where relevant and significant, an EIS must discuss measures to avoid or reduce a proposed action's impacts and contributions to climate change (e.g., increased greenhouse gas emissions) and an action's associated impacts due to the effects of climate change, including increased precipitation, increased temperature, flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise (6 NYCRR §617.9 (b)(5)(iii)(i)). Actions that clearly require the relevant and significant analysis include projects located within coastal erosion hazard areas or regulatory floodplains, infrastructure projects with a significant amount of projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, implementation of programs or policies that will, over their lifecycle, contribute to climate change from GHG emissions, and projects subject to future sea-level rise projections (DEC SEQRA Handbook (4th Edition, 2020), p. 124). New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) requires all state agencies to consider whether the issuance of permits or other approvals are "inconsistent with or will interfere with the attainment of" the statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limits established in article 75 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). CLCPA, Ch. 106, Laws of 2019 §7(2).

The Park includes abundant sources of clean freshwater and wetland habitats, millions of acres of intact, constitutionally-protected Forest Preserve to capture GHG emissions and offer resilience against extreme weather events, and approximately 800,000 acres of conservation easements, many of which support independently certified sustainable forestry practices. The actions included in the 2023 State Land Classification Package, all located within the Adirondack Park, are distant from any coastal area, thus minimizing the threat of storm surges and associated flooding. In addition, the actions proposed here involve minimal, if any, GHG contributions and will not require additional energy sources.

The current package is guided by principles and regulations that protect sensitive resources such as wetlands, waterbodies, floodplains, steep slopes, productive agricultural land, and intact forest ecosystems. With respect to resiliency, the Park's natural resources provide high connectivity of protected areas and a functional landscape that serves to combat habitat fragmentation, protect water quality, provide habitat for numerous species including

⁸ The Wild Center, 2016. [The Adirondacks and the Next Generation: A Guidebook for Marketing the Adirondacks to Millennials.](#) Tupper Lake, NY

those whose ranges may be shifting due to climate change, and enable natural disturbance regimes to operate and buffer against detrimental effects of large-scale environmental changes. The actions described in this package and DSEIS will not be inconsistent or interfere with the state's GHG emissions limits.

Measures To Mitigate Potential Adverse Environmental Effects

The APSLMP allows the Department to manage classified lands more restrictively than the classification category guidelines. The UMPs for these areas could prescribe management to further mitigate any potential impacts on specific areas deserving of additional protection.

The APSLMP is designed to allow only those uses of State land which will not degrade resource quality or character. Adverse impacts, however, have still resulted on state lands. The FPEIS guidelines for amending the APSLMP are designed to encourage amendments which will offer further protection to state land resources. In this sense, adherence to these guidelines are mitigatory measures.

ALTERNATIVES ACTIONS

SEQRA requires an evaluation of the impacts and benefits of not undertaking the action, as well as reasonable alternatives to the action that are feasible. The purpose of considering alternatives in an environmental impact statement is to investigate means to avoid or reduce one or more identified potentially adverse environmental impacts. There are three types of alternatives that can be considered for reclassification actions: no action, alternative boundaries, and alternative classifications. Although no potentially adverse impacts have been identified, the alternatives that could be employed are discussed below. These alternatives were evaluated but not selected.

FR-1, Horseshoe Pond (DOT)

No action - One alternative action for FR-1 is to not reclassify the area from Wild Forest to State Administrative and maintain the current classification. By not making a change, the guidelines for Wild Forest would remain in place and the ongoing closure process being undertaken by DOT would be non-conforming with the SLMP and would have to cease.

Alternative regional boundaries - The redefinition of FR-1 along alternative boundaries could be employed. The western boundary of FR-1 was selected to capture the former sand mine using a boundary that could be identified in the field. In this case, this proposed boundary between Wild Forest and State Administrative follows an extension of the eastern boundary of Wild Forest parcel south of the road.

Alternative classifications - FR-1 is currently classified as Wild Forest and the proposed classification is State Administrative. There is not another classification that would be appropriate for the current use.

FR-3, DEC Storage Area

No action - One alternative action for FR-3 is to not reclassify the area from Wild Forest to State Administrative and maintain the current classification. By not making a change, the guidelines for Wild Forest would remain in place and the current use as a storage area and former landfill would be non-conforming with the SLMP and would have to be removed.

Alternative regional boundaries - The redefinition of the FR-3 parcel along alternative boundaries could be employed. Approximately five acres of Wild Forest are currently used for the administrative purpose. FR-3 follows nearby property boundaries and is 31.9 acres in size as proposed. As discussed in the Environmental Setting, there are approximately 20 acres of mapped wetlands in this area. It would be possible to delineate a smaller reclassification area to exclude some of these wetlands.

Alternative classifications - FR-3 is currently classified as Wild Forest and the proposed classification is State Administrative. There is not another classification that would be appropriate for the current use.

FR-4, DEC Staff Housing

No action - One alternative action for FR-4 is to not reclassify the area from Wild Forest to State Administrative and maintain the current classification. By not making a change, the guidelines for Wild Forest would remain in place and the structures would be non-conforming with the SLMP and would have to be removed.

Alternative regional boundaries - Due to the small size of this area, there are no consequential alternatives that could be considered.

Alternative classifications - FR-4 is currently classified as Wild Forest and the proposed classification is State Administrative. There is not another classification that would be appropriate for the current use.

FR-6, Rollins Pond

No action - One alternative action for FR-6 is to not reclassify the areas as proposed. If no action is taken, the current classifications and their respective guidelines would remain in place. If FR-6-A remains classified as Wild Forest, the structures and improvements in this area would be non-conforming with the SLMP and would have to

be removed. Due to the small size and lack of structures and improvements, there would be no beneficial impacts if FR-6-C remains classified as Wild Forest. If FR-6-D remains classified as Wild Forest, improvements that have been proposed for this area in the Draft UMP would still be allowed under the guidelines for Wild Forest, but the area would remain an isolated area of Wild Forest between the travel corridor and existing Intensive Use area. If any of these three proposed reclassification actions do not occur, the boundary between Wild Forest and Intensive Use would remain unclear.

Alternative regional boundaries - The redefinition of the parcels involved in FR-6 along alternative boundaries could be employed. Areas FR-6-A, FR-6-C and FR-6-D are proposed to be reclassified from Wild Forest to Intensive Use, a less restrictive classification. The proposed boundary of FR-6-A was selected to include several existing visitor and administrative facilities, as well as a gravel pit and the access road between Fish Creek and Rollins Pond within clearly defined boundaries. The boundaries as proposed are defined by roads, and measurements of 100 feet, 200 feet and one-quarter mile setback from the roads and existing structures. FR-6-C is being proposed for reclassification in order to clarify boundaries. In this case, a straight line from a point on Rollins Pond Outlet that is one-quarter mile (1,320 feet) from the campground road to a point on the north shore of Whey Pond, 2,000 feet from the campground road is being proposed as the boundary. Other boundaries could have been selected but no environmental impacts have been identified, there are no alternative boundaries that would affect environmental impacts of the proposed action.

Alternative classifications – The proposed reclassification actions involved in FR-6 would reclassify lands from Wild Forest to Intensive Use. There are no other classifications that would be appropriate for the current uses.

HA-6, Golden Beach

No action - One alternative action for HA-6 is to not reclassify the areas as proposed. If no action is taken, the current classifications and their respective guidelines would remain in place. If HA-6-A remains classified as Wild Forest, structures and improvements in this area would be non-conforming with the APSLMP and would have to be removed. If HA-6-B remains classified as Wilderness, the septic system for the campground would be non-conforming with the APSLMP and would have to be removed.

Alternative regional boundaries - The redefinition of the HA-6-A and HA-6-B along alternative boundaries could be employed. HA-6-A uses a 100 foot setback from the entrance road as the proposed Wild Forest and Intensive Use boundary. HA-6-B was mapped to include the existing septic system and to allow for future expansion (of the leach field, not the campground itself) using setbacks of 50 feet and 200 feet from the access road, and 660 feet from the highway.

Alternative classifications – The proposed reclassification parcels involved in HA-6 are currently classified as Wilderness, Wild Forest and Intensive Use. There are no other classifications that would be appropriate for the current uses.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Parcel List

Appendix B – Maps of Parcels to be Classified/Re-Classified

Appendix C – Resource Maps for Type 1 Actions (Wetlands, Aerial Imagery, Historic Resources)

Appendix D – Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

Appendix E – Generic EIS/UMP for Campgrounds

Appendix F – Draft Unit Management Plan for Golden Beach Campground & Day Use Area

Appendix G – Draft Unit Management Plan for Rollins Pond Campground & Day Use Area