

Response to Public Comments Received

1. Written & Verbal Comment: Support for additional state land acquisitions within the Forest Preserve to meet the State's 30 x 30 goals.

Response: The Agency appreciates this feedback and will work to classify public acreage based on its characteristics and capacity to withstand use as that land is acquired.

2. Written Comment: The approach to state land classification must be standardized. Some reclassifications at Rollins Pond are proposed based on existing uses. Commenter recommends that the Eagle Lake boat launch be reclassified from Wild Forest to Intensive Use.

Response: The Agency has made the determination that reclassification of the Eagle Lake boat launching site from Wild Forest to Intensive Use is not allowable per the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). Page 44 of the APSLMP, Intensive Use Boat Launching Sites guidelines, reads, "Existing boat launching sites that do not meet the above guidelines may be retained but their status will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate." The Rollins Pond Campground and Day Use Area unit management plan (UMP) that is currently under review is one such opportunity to evaluate the existing boat launch opportunity on lands classified as Intensive Use.

3. Written & Verbal Comment: Praise for the [Story Map](#) as a means of visually depicting the package.

Response: The Agency appreciates this feedback and will continue to seek opportunities to use the best available geospatial applications to convey our work to the public.

4. Written & Verbal Comment: Ensure alignment with State's climate goals, 30 x 30, support for wetlands and endangered species protection.

Response: The guidelines of the APSLMP, as implemented through the classification process and unit management planning process, are designed to ensure that there is no significant adverse impact to the natural environment, including rare, threatened, or endangered species. In addition, the Agency retains wetland jurisdiction regardless of the land classification. Page 46 of the [Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement \(DSEIS\)](#) contains language

addressing the State's climate goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act:

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 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.

See response to comment #1 regarding 30 x 30 legislation.

5. Written & Verbal Comment: Consider certain parcels for more restrictive land classifications (ES-4 Tub Mill Pond, SL-2 Grass River Corridor, WR-2 Huckleberry Mountain in Johnsburg).

Response: The Agency appreciates this feedback and will continue to evaluate opportunities for reclassification to more restrictive land classifications when and if the parcels in question meet the guidelines outlined in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement – Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (FPEIS) and the APSLMP. At this time, Agency staff feel that the proposed classifications for these parcels are the most appropriate option, given the existing circumstances on the landscape.

6. Written Comment: Support for considering Crane Mountain and WR-2 Huckleberry Mountain acreage together and classifying as Wilderness rather than Wild Forest – would be about 3,700 acres in total.

Response: The Agency appreciates this feedback and will continue to evaluate opportunities for reclassification of this area to a more restrictive land classification when and if the parcels in question meet the guidelines outlined in the FPEIS and the APSLMP. Specifically, for WR-2, the acreage, character of the land, and existing natural resources and ecological communities do not warrant a more restrictive classification.

7. Written Comment: Consider more active management at the Huckleberry/Crane Mountain site (WR-2), as there are some visitor use problems occurring related to trail conditions and access points to the north.

Response: Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Agency, unit management plans (UMPs) for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the Master Plan. It is through the UMP process that the DEC would set forth management objectives for resource protection and recreation by the public.

8. Written Comment: FR-3 DEC Storage – classify the wetland covered areas as Wild Forest not State Administrative.

Response: The proposed classification of Wild Forest does not erode the Agency's jurisdiction over the wetland resources on this parcel. In order to draw the boundary lines in a manner that most closely follows readily identifiable boundaries and encompasses the existing and historic use on the ground, Agency staff feel the proposed State Administrative boundary is the best choice at this time.

9. Written & Verbal Comment: Keep FR-6-C and FR-6-D as Wild Forest at Rollins Pond, extend FR-6-D boundary to the creek.

Response: The intent behind drawing the boundaries as proposed was to create a clear and usable boundary for the land managers at the site. In doing this, the Agency needed to evaluate the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use. For FR-6-D (proposed classification is Intensive Use), its proximity to the campground and the rail trail left this area as an isolated Wild Forest parcel whose social character is significantly impacted by the surrounding uses, which are less than 500 feet away. Additional language was added to page 35 of the FSEIS to provide clarity and further explanation for the Intensive Use classification. Parcel FR-6-C (proposed classification is Intensive Use) is created through reconfiguration of the northeastern boundary of the Intensive Use Area with a point-to-point line.

10. Written & Verbal Comment: For FR-6-B, find a natural landscape contour to use as boundary rather than a straight line.

Response: FR-6-B lies along the northeastern boundary of the Rollins Pond Intensive Use area and is bounded by the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. This parcel lies between ¼ and ½ mile away from the closest campground improvements. This relatively remote part of the Intensive Use area is undeveloped for recreational access apart from faint herd paths on the shore of Whey Pond and the Otter Hollow Foot trail which leaves from the north end of the campground into lands classified as Wild Forest. To more clearly define the boundary between the Intensive Use Area and the adjacent Wild Forest, a new straight point to point boundary is proposed for the northeastern edge of the Intensive Use area that reclassifies 74.4 acres from Intensive use to Wild Forest. Agency staff evaluated the potential for alternative boundaries, such as a natural landscape contour, however no such natural boundary line exists.

11. Written & Verbal Comment: FR-6-C and FR-6-B (Rollins Pond) should both be classified Wild Forest. FR-6-B should be expanded to the west so that the boundary line between the two land classifications hugs the edge of the existing campground footprint.

Response: See responses to comments #8 and 9 above. Creation of a setback off the campground road in this instance was less preferable for the land managers. There will be no difference in impacts between a straight line boundary or a setback. The boundary was drawn such that users within the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest area would not have their experience impacted by the proximity of the campground area.

12. Written & Verbal Comment: Support for HA-6-D and HA-6-C (Golden Beach) reclassification from Intensive Use to Wild Forest, but HA-6-D boundary should begin 150 feet from the edge of the southernmost campsites.

Response: Agency staff considered future management needs associated with the drive-up campsites between NYS Route 28 and Raquette Lake when drawing the proposed boundary, including potential reconfiguration of pit privies and associated setbacks for resource protection.

13. Written Comment: Support for map corrections.

Response: The Agency appreciates this feedback.

14. Written & Verbal Comment: General support for specific parcel classifications.

Response: The Agency appreciates this feedback and the engagement from members of the public with respect to this state land classification package.