



Adirondack Park Agency

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Richard Weber, Deputy Director - Planning

DATE: September 5, 2019

RE: Management Guidance: Siting, Construction and Maintenance of Primitive Tent Sites in Wilderness, Canoe, and Wild Forest Areas on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park

Please find attached a revised final draft guidance for the management of primitive tents for Agency board consideration pursuant to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan).

In June 2019 Department and Agency staff presented the Agency board with an initial draft of this proposed guidance document and requested authorization to make it available for public comment until July 18th, 2019. During the public comment period, staff received 17 comments on the draft which are provided on the CD included in the mailing and are summarized and responded to in an attached joint memorandum from Department and Agency staff. This is the third public draft of the Primitive Tent Site guidance. The first draft was released in December 2015 and the second draft was released in December of 2018. During the first two rounds of public review, the scope of the guidance changed significantly as a result of feedback received from board members and public comments. The first significant change was a shift from considering only primitive tent sites in a road side setting to primitive tent sites throughout Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe and Wild Forest areas. The second significant change was the inclusion of a detailed section addressing how the Department intends to provide for accessible primitive camping opportunities that are compliant with the Master Plan.

Changes made to the most recent document in response to public comment and/or based on further staff review include: (1) A recommendation for developing maintenance and inspection schedules based upon levels of use and site location; (2) A recommendation to incorporate site restoration techniques whenever new features such as raised earthen tent pads or sidehill tent pads are added to existing tent sites; (3) Editorial changes to clarify language used throughout the document.

With these changes, staff recommend Agency Board adoption of the attached draft resolution determining that the proposed guidance document is consistent with the Master Plan and directing the Agency Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency Board's determination.