



**TO: Ken Lynch, State Land Committee Chair**

**FROM: Megan Phillips, Deputy Director, Planning**

**DATE: September 5, 2024**

**RE: 2024 Amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP)**

Agency staff have prepared, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or the Department), a package of proposed amendments to the APSLMP. Both the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law, Article 27) and the APSLMP itself require periodic review of the plan.

Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (APA Act) provides:

“The master plan and the individual management plans shall be reviewed periodically and may be amended from time to time, and when so amended shall as amended henceforth guide the development and management of state lands in the Adirondack park. Amendments to the master plan shall be prepared by the agency, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, and submitted after public hearing to the governor for his approval.”

The APSLMP (at p. 9) states :“Major reviews of the Master Plan will take place every five years by the Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, as required by statute, and with other interested state agencies.”

Pursuant to both the APA Act section 816(2) and the APSLMP, the proposed action is a periodic review of the APSLMP and involves the preparation and submission to the Governor of proposed amendments of the APSLMP for the management of State lands. In accordance with the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (FPEIS), the action involves: 1) classification of recent state land acquisitions; 2) alteration of guidelines for management and use; 3) alteration of existing classification definitions; 4) alteration of introductory guidelines; 5) alteration and addition of definitions; and 6) alteration of area descriptions.

The mailing packet contains a redline version of the Agency’s proposed amendments to the text of the APSLMP. The table below provides a summary of proposed amendments and corresponding page numbers for ease of review.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Page #s</b>
Opening quote	Replace existing quote with quote from a Haudenosaunee leader.	1
Climate change	Add new section to "Introduction," articulate what is required in each Unit Management Plan (UMP).	12, 13, 14
Visitor use management	Add new language to clarify how DEC is to fulfill carrying capacity requirements by utilizing the VUM framework during the UMP process.	11
Accessibility	Replace existing bullet point in UMP development with two new bullet points , add definitions of wheelchair and Other Power-Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD), amend definition of motor vehicle, add new section to "Introduction" articulating requirements under applicable federal laws and regulations.	10, 12, 13, 20, 21, 23
Historic areas	Revise definition of Historic Area, minor change to guidelines for management and use to articulate that guidelines also apply to preservation work.	48, 49
Beaver control structures	Add new definition of beaver control structure, specify where these structures are conforming.	19, 26, 33, 40
Motor vehicle use for removal of non-conforming structures, post phase-out period	New Wilderness "motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft" guideline #7.	28
Wildlife management structures	Edit definition to include species of special concern.	23
Primitive tent sites	Update definition to adhere to approved primitive tent site guidance.	21
Conservation easements (Appendix II)	Update list of easements. Separate easements meeting the Environmental Conservation Law definition from common law and scenic easements, which are listed under "Other Less than Fee Interests."	139-142

Classification of Four Peaks tract	Update to area description for Wilmington Wild Forest.	120, 121
Bicycle trails	Add bicycle trails to list of conforming structures and improvements in Wild Forest areas.	39
Horse mounting platforms	Add new language under Wilderness “structures and improvements” to specify where horse mounting platforms are conforming.	26
Former roads	Removal of sub-bullet under Wilderness “Roads, snowmobile trails and administrative roads” guideline #3.	28
Raven Lake Primitive Corridor	Correct language in the area description.	100
Appendix I restructuring	Reordering of language, clarification of renumbering and amendment of Section 807 to Section 816 of the APA Act.	137, 138
Removal of dates/deadlines that have passed	Remove language about finishing UMPs by 1989/1990, as well as language regarding removal of non-conforming structures in Wilderness areas by 1975, 1987.	12, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 38
Typos/errors	Various – typos, consistency (motor vehicles vs. “motorized” vehicles), number of wilderness areas (20 not 21 due to Dix folding into High Peaks). Removal of gendered language. Correct acreage of John Brown Farm in area description.	N/A