



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

APSLMP Amendments: Proposed Final Package

Summary Presentation & Board Action

September 11, 2025



Four Peaks Tract, September 2024

Outline

- History of SLMP amendments
- Full list of amendment topics
- Recap changes from draft to proposed final redline
- Discussion, if desired
- Act on draft resolution
- Next steps



*Lapland rosebay, summit of Mt. Marcy
June 2025*

History of SLMP Amendments

- “Master plan revisions were adopted in 1979, 1987, 2016 and 2019.” (SLMP at p. 10)
- 2016 and 2019 amendments were undertaken with specific aims in mind



Sentinel Range Wilderness, September 2025

Full List of Amendment Topics

- Opening quote
- Climate change
- Visitor use management
- Accessibility
- Historic areas
- Beaver control structures
- Motor vehicle use for removal of non-conforming structures
- Wildlife management structures
- Primitive tent sites
- Conservation easements
- Classification of Four Peaks tract
- Bicycle trails
- Horse mounting platforms
- Former roads
- Raven Lake Primitive Corridor
- Appendix I restructuring
- Removal of dates/deadlines that have passed
- Remediation of typos/errors

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Proposed Final Package: Summary of Changes

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- Replacing quote from Oren Lyons, per his request
- Removing OPDMD references, retaining other accessibility language
- Clarifying climate change language
- Clarifying VUM language, reflecting IVUMCF language more closely
- Clarifying and correcting beaver control structure language
- Revising language about removal of UMP deadlines

Proposed Final Package: Quote

"Once silence stretched over the Adirondack Mountains from shore to shore, peak to peak, like a velvet mantle. It was broken by wind soughing through great white pines, by August thunderstorms and February blizzards. It was disrupted by trout splashing, deer snorting, owls hooting, and coyotes yipping. These sounds melded and molded with silence, and have been here for 10,000 years and more."



Quote by Anne LaBastille
from "The Wilderness World of Anne LaBastille
– In Celebration of the Adirondack Park
Centennial"

*Photo from the Community Foundation of Herkimer
and Oneida Counties*

Proposed Final Package: Accessibility

Introduction Section:

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, **and their implementing regulations**, have implications for the management of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The ADA requires, in part, that each service, program and activity offered by state agencies be made accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, unless doing so would result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial and administrative burden.

~~DEC uses~~ **The State of New York adheres to the ADA Title II regulations (28 CFR Part 35) and accessibility standards, along with the relevant provisions of the ABA and Section 504, in planning, designing, renovating, constructing and managing state land.** ~~the accessibility standards issued under the ADA and ABA in designing, constructing, and altering buildings, sites, and outdoor recreation facilities. In keeping with ADA Title II regulations on mobility devices (CFR § 35.137)~~ **Consistent with 28 CFR § 35.137**, wheelchairs are allowed on state lands anywhere that pedestrian access is permitted. ~~The DEC is responsible for interpreting federal regulations and guidance to determine where the use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) may be appropriate.~~

Proposed Final Package: Climate Change

In the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA or Climate Act), New York State committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ultimately achieving net zero emissions in the state. The Climate Act 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 emissions limits established in Article 75 of the Environmental Conservation Law.” CLCPA, Ch. 106, Laws of 2019 §7(2).

The Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan lays out a roadmap to meet the Climate Act’s nation-leading goals and requirements. The Plan describes strategies across various sectors, including cross-cutting policies concerning land use, adaptation, and resilience. Such strategies include maintaining intact forests and wetlands as carbon sinks and ensuring resilient and connected landscapes for species whose ranges are shifting.

For the lands subject to the guidelines and criteria of the State Land Master Plan, it is imperative to view all policy and planning decisions through the lens of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. The Park includes abundant sources of clean freshwater and wetland habitats, as well as millions of acres of intact, Constitutionally-protected Forest Preserve to ~~capture~~ **mitigate** GHG emissions and offer resilience against extreme weather events.

Wild lands and open space provide connectivity to combat habitat fragmentation, protect water quality, and provide habitat for numerous species including those whose ranges may be shifting due to climate change.

Unit management plans should describe how the proposed management actions and alternatives analyses assess and plan for climate change vulnerabilities. For instance, right-sizing bridges and culverts and sustainable trail construction can help to safeguard investments in recreational infrastructure and prevent future environmental degradation. Green infrastructure and appropriate storm water management improvements can help to mitigate onsite flooding at public facilities as well as protect water quality.

Proposed Final Package: Visitor Use Management (VUM)

Sept 2024 Draft Language:

Carrying capacity assessments are prescribed throughout this document. Fulfilling this requirement must include establishing desired conditions; indicators; thresholds for resource, social and managerial conditions; monitoring; and adaptive management. Levels of time and resources to fulfill this commitment should be proportional to the significance of impacts.

Carrying capacity has been a concept for determining how many people could use a given recreational setting before impacts are unacceptable. However, establishing a number of visitors is only one strategy to protect resources and experiences, while allowing for recreational use. Additional visitor use management strategies exist, including, but not limited to, changing visitor behavior, modifying where and when use occurs, or building facilities that can accommodate heavy use.

September 2025 Proposed Final Language:

Carrying capacity assessments are prescribed throughout this document. Fulfilling this requirement must include desired conditions **and associated indicators for specific attributes**; thresholds for resource, social and managerial conditions; long-term monitoring; and adaptive management. Levels of time and resources to fulfill this commitment should be proportional to the significance of impacts.

Carrying capacity has been a concept for determining how many people could use a given recreational setting before impacts are unacceptable. Establishing a number of visitors is one strategy to protect resources and experiences, while allowing recreational use. **Visitor use management actions include site management and engineering, information and education, and regulations and enforcement.**

Proposed Final Package: Beaver Control Structures

Wilderness (Sept 2024 Draft):

-- beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity threatens to cause damage to:

(i) Trailheads, parking areas, fishing and waterway access sites, picnic areas, ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use;

(ii) adjoining roads, railroad corridors;

(iii) adjoining private lands or private right-of-way;

(iv) trails within 500 feet of a public highway right-of-way; or

(v) fish barrier dams.

Right-sized culverts, bridges and trail relocations should be a priority solution for management of beavers.

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(iii) adjoining private lands or private right-of-way; **or**

(iv) trails within 500 feet of a public highway right-of-way; ~~or~~

~~(v) fish barrier dams.~~

Beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity may render ineffective fish barrier dams.

~~Right-sized culverts,~~ Bridges and trail relocations should be a priority solution for management of beavers-**related impacts.**

Proposed Final Package: Beaver Control Structures

Wild Forest (Sept 2024 Draft):

Beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity threatens to cause damage to stream improvement structures for fisheries purposes, or to prevent the introduction of invasive species.

Wild Forest (September 2025 Proposed Final):

Beaver control structures will be permitted where beaver activity threatens to cause damage to stream improvement structures for fisheries **management** purposes, ~~or to prevent the introduction of invasive species.~~ **In addition to bridges and trail relocations mentioned in Wilderness, right-sized culverts should be a priority solution for beaver-related impacts.**



BCS on the ADK rail trail.

Proposed Final Package: UMP Deadlines

Sept 2024 Draft:

The Department of Environmental Conservation has made significant progress in getting the unit management planning process underway. This progress should be continued, so that all unit management plans will be completed before the next five-year review of the master plan in 1989/90. and the Department of Environmental Conservation should commit the necessary resources for that purpose so that all unit management plans are completed.

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The Department of Environmental Conservation has made significant progress in getting the unit management planning process underway. This progress should be continued, so that all unit management plans will be completed before the next five-year review of the master plan in 1989/90. and the Department of Environmental Conservation **and the Agency** should commit the necessary resources for that purpose so that all unit management plans are completed. **The Department is able to utilize a suite of management tools prior to the adoption of a UMP, such as ongoing trail, campsite, and facilities maintenance; closure, rehabilitation, or minor relocation of structures and improvements; and managing public access. The process of developing and updating UMPs on a regular basis remains a key priority to ensure public engagement in determining the management actions for an area.**

Next Steps

- Discuss and vote on draft resolution today
- If board adopts resolution, Agency will forward the amendments to the Governor for her signature
- After Governor's concurrence, APA publishes new SLMP



Monotropa uniflora, July 2025
McKenzie Mountain Wilderness

Questions & Discussion



Cedarlands Conservation Easement, October 2024



**Adirondack
Park Agency**