Appendix B 1993 Policy on All-Terrain Bicycles APA/DEC MOU

Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding Between the Addrendack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation

whereas, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan was amended in 1986 to include guidelines for use of all-terrain bicycles on State land classified Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, and Wild Forest, and;

WHEREAS, uniform implementation of the guidelines was to be accomplished through the completion of unit management plans and promulgation of appropriate rules and regulations, and;

WHEREAS, the completion of Wild Forest Unit Management Plans has not progressed as fast as anticipated and thus designation of bicycle trails has also not progressed as fast as anticipated, and;

WHEREAS, the lack of specific guidelines or criteria for designation of bicycle trails will further delay unit management plan completion, and;

WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify to the public where bicycles can and cannot legally be used.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Department shall move forward with a regulation prohibiting bicycle use in Wilderness areas and limiting use in Primitive and Canoe areas to Unit Management Plan approved designated roads as per the requirement of the State Land Master Plan.
- 2. The Department shall publish a list of roadways on Forest Preserve land opened to motorized use and thus also open to use of bicycles.
- 3. The Department shall submit a combined Unit Management Plan amendment designating bicycle trails for those Wild Forest areas which have completed plans.
- 4. For Wild Forest areas without unit management plans, bicycles will be allowed on existing trails and roads unless specifically prohibited due to environmental damage, user conflicts or safety concerns for a period of three years ending December 31, 1995.

- 5. Such use will allow the Department to study bicycle use in the Adirondack Forest Preserve and fully assess the environmental and social impacts of bicycles, as well as the physical constraints on their safe use.
- 6. The Department will also assess use patterns, use level and user preferences.
- 7. The result of the study will be a set of guidelines or criteria for trail designation which will be jointly adopted by the Agency and the Department, and a network of trails which meet these criteria.
- 8. The work program for this study will be developed by the Department in consultation with Agency staff.
- 9. To the extent possible public, semi-public and private interest groups will be encouraged to assist the Department in undertaking this study.

This Addendum to the April 1985 MOU between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation will take effect upon its execution by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency.

John R./Collins, Jr., Chairman

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Thomas C. Jorling, Commissioner

Department of Environmental Conservation

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Date