



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2005 VANDERWHACKER
MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

September 16, 2016

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with the general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) adopted the unit management plan for the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, located in the Towns of Minerva, Newcomb, North Hudson and Schroon, Essex County, the Towns of Chester and Johnsburg, Warren County and the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton, County (2005 UMP), and has now prepared an amendment to the 2005 UMP dated July, 2016, (2016 Amendment) which plan also contains a River Area Management Plan for the Schroon River; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Amendment and associated River Area Management Plan for the Schroon River include a proposed management action to construct an accessible fishing pier and waterway access site for people with disabilities within the river area at Palmer Pond; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Amendment includes proposed management actions to expand and improve visitor parking facilities at Balfour Lake and the Moxham Mountain trailhead; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Amendment also includes a proposed management action to construct a foot bridge over the Boreas River at the same location at Lester Flow where a snowmobile trail bridge once existed; and

WHEREAS, the Department has filed a Negative Declaration on July 13, 2016 in the Environmental Notice Bulletin; and

WHEREAS, the Department is the lead agency, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the proposed plan amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the 2016 Amendment to the 2005 Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan with an associated River Area Management Plan for the Schroon River, dated July, 2016, is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Amendment and associated River Area Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Amendment recognizes the need to protect the natural resources, improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts, and prevent overuse according to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Amendment's objectives include providing reasonable public access where appropriate in order to provide visitors with recreational opportunities while minimizing resource impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the 2016 Amendment to the 2005 Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan with an associated River Area Management Plan for the Schroon River dated July, 2016, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Resolution adopted on this date, September 16, 2016.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT: