



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Terry Martino, Executive Director
From: Kathy Regan, Deputy Director, Planning
Re: Proposed classification – Boreas Ponds Tract
Date: January 25, 2018

For Agency Board consideration, please find attached a proposed Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the proposed classification of the State lands in Essex County comprising the Boreas Ponds Tract. Also attached please find a draft Agency resolution: (1) adopting the FSEIS and making required findings pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and (2) determining that the proposed classification meets the criteria for classifying the Boreas Ponds Tract set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). Staff recommend Agency Board adoption of the draft resolution.

The FSEIS provides an Executive Summary of this SEQRA and APSLMP action along with a detailed analysis of the 20,543-acre Boreas Ponds Tract and of five classification scenarios. Based on the analysis of these alternatives, Alternative 2B is identified as the Preferred Alternative in the FSEIS.

Staff believe that Alternative 2B provides the strongest possible resource protection for the most sensitive and remote portions of the Boreas Ponds Tract, including the Boreas Ponds and other waterbodies, high value wetlands, and areas with highly erodible soils. This alternative proposes classification of 11,412 acres of the tract as Wilderness, 11 acres as Primitive, and 9,118 acres as Wild Forest. Alternative 2B also proposes to classify two 1.0 acre areas as State Administrative for the purpose of mining gravel for road and trail maintenance on the Tract.

Following an extensive public hearing and comment process on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), staff developed the FSEIS and Preferred Alternative in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Preferred Alternative is responsive to the broad range of public comment received, combining elements of Alternatives 2 and 4 presented for the public's consideration in the DSEIS.

Additional materials are on the CD accompanying this classification proposal.

Attachments