



DRAFT
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN SKI CENTER INTENSIVE USE AREA UNIT
MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT
May 12, 2022

WHEREAS, section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP 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 such guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS ORDA has prepared a proposed final amendment to the 2004 unit management plan for the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area (2004 Plan), dated March 2022 (Proposed Final 2021 Amendment); and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR 586 for which ORDA is the lead agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation is an involved agency; and

WHEREAS, ORDA prepared a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the action modifies elements of the 2018 Amendment to the 2004 Plan in response to new opportunities arising from the siting of the recently completed Legacy Lodge and the opportunity to host the 2023 World University Games; and

WHEREAS, the action consists of the installation of a new ski lift between the Bear Den area and the area around Legacy Lodge, widening 8 existing ski trails with a total area of 9.4 acres, construction of 3 new connector ski trails totaling 0.25 miles, and construction of a 25' x 70' expansion of the existing NYSEF building; and

WHEREAS, two previously approved trails that are not yet constructed (88 and 89) totaling 0.32 mile are no longer proposed; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has consulted with a trail design professional to create a master plan for hiking and biking at the facility which includes new and improved summer use trails; and

WHEREAS, summer use trail development will be consistent with new Trail Design Guidance currently under development with the Trail Stewardship Working Group; and

WHEREAS, ORDA provided a public draft of the 2021 Amendment for information during the October 2021 Agency meeting and accepted public comments on the draft for public review between October 27 and December 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, following review of comments received on the draft plan sixteen different changes were made which can be found in Exhibit 12 “Errata” of the Proposed Final Draft of the 2021 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, ORDA presented the Proposed Final Draft of the 2021 Amendment during the March 2022 Agency meeting and the Agency established a public comment period on conformance of the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment with the APSLMP, which ran from April 11 through May 11, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Agency received 10 written comments during the public comment period regarding the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, four primary themes emerged from the public comments which were concerns for the constitutionality of the ski trail changes, concerns for the constitutionality of the summer use trail proposal, concerns about how the proposal reflects New York’s commitment to fight climate change, and concerns about how ORDA intends to manage access for uphill ski access; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has been responsive to public concerns regarding constitutionality during the UMP review process and has made reasonable changes to the plan that address those concerns following the first round of public comments; and

WHEREAS, ORDA continues to lead the ski industry with climate initiatives as exhibited by their policies and power supply options; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has upheld its commitment from the 2018 Amendment to “conducting an evaluation and assessment of current mountain biking use on Whiteface to develop goals and objectives for future mountain biking at the facility”; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment, the April 2022 Memorandum from the Deputy Director Planning to the Executive Director, APA staff’s May 12 presentation, public

comment, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's May 12, 2022, meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment to the 2004 Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan, dated March 2022, conforms with the 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 and the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Olympic Regional Development Authority of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absent: