



Adirondack Park Agency

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Terry Martino, Executive Director

From: Richard E. Weber, Deputy Director, Planning

Date: November 7, 2019

Re: Blue Mountain Wild Forest UMP Amendment

Agency staff have reviewed the Proposed Final Unit Management Plan amendment for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest (BMWf), dated November 2019, and recommend a determination by the Agency Board that the Plan conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

The Blue Mountain Wild Forest is approximately 37,800 acres and comprised of five separate tracts of land in the central Adirondacks situated between the communities of Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, Long Lake, and Newcomb. The first unit management plan (UMP) for the area was adopted in 1995. The March 2016 Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Plan amended the BMWf UMP to include actions on lands added to the BMWf as a result of the classification of newly acquired state lands. The BMWf UMP was then amended in 2017 to permit modifications to summit facilities on Blue Mountain including rehabilitation of the access road; removing the Hamilton County radio building and antennas from beneath the fire tower; and other small improvements. The 2017 amendment also included approval of new hiking and camping facilities within the unit.

In this 2019 amendment, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposes to locate a permanent storage shed at a boat washing station located in an existing highway pull-off maintained by the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) and adjacent to NYS Route 28 and Lake Durant. The entrance and exit of the highway pull-off are in the highway right-of-way and fall under the jurisdiction of DOT, while the interior of the pull-off, where the boat washing station is located, has been determined to be in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest and under the jurisdiction of DEC.

The proposed boat washing station is part of a larger network across the Adirondack Park intended to intercept boater traffic heading to the interior lakes of the Park that may be carrying aquatic invasive species from other lakes outside the Park. The network is considered an important element of a regional program limit the transport of invasive species across the Park and the state.

Agency staff note the APSLMP allows for the permanent placement of storage sheds, for use by administrative personnel in Wild Forest areas for the protection of state lands. Staff recommend that the proposal be considered in conformance with the APSLMP because the small, rustic storage shed is to be used for the important administrative purpose of resource protection.

On October 11, 2019 the Department and Agency staff jointly presented a draft of the 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment to the Agency and the Board authorized a joint public comment period for both the draft UMP amendment and its conformance with the APSLMP. The comment period closed on October 20, 2019 and Department and Agency staff received six comment letters, generally expressing support for the proposal.

The DEC as lead agency determined that the 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment is a Type II action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the action would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment nor require further review.

Agency recommend the Proposed Final BMWF UMP Amendment is in conformance with the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP and a draft resolution for Agency consideration is attached to this memo.

REW:mp