

## **Planning Division State Lands 2021 Report**

State land staff administer the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) as their primary responsibility. Unit management plans (UMPs) prepared by DEC staff for various areas of the Park must be reviewed to ensure their conformance with the APSLMP's management guidelines and criteria, as do many individual State-land project proposals submitted to APA by DEC. In addition, APA staff provide general guidance and interpretation to both DEC staff and the Agency's Board concerning the APSLMP, undertake long-range planning efforts for State lands in consultation with DEC, and develop proposals for substantive revisions of the APSLMP – including the classification and reclassification of State lands in the Park – also in consultation with DEC.

### **Unit Management Plan Review**

Two full unit management plans were reviewed by State land staff and determined by the Agency Board to be consistent with the APSLMP in 2021. The first was the UMP for the Fish Creek Pond Campground. This campground is the largest and most popular campground operated by DEC in terms of number of campsites, annual visitation and annual revenue collected. The work to address conformance, given the required attention to the campground as directed by the SLMP, was significant.

The second full UMP was the Hinckley Day Use Area and Campground UMP which was reviewed and approved by the Agency in the spring. The Hinckley Plan authorizes a new 150-site campground adjacent to the existing Day Use Area.

Work in reviewing drafts of other UMPs and UMP amendments continued throughout the year for Chazy Highlands Management Complex, Rollins Pond Intensive Use Area, Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area, and Jessup River Wild Forest. The first draft of the UMP for Whiteface was brought before the Agency Board as well.

### **State Land Planning**

State land staff worked with DEC on an amendment to the Final Generic UMP for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas to allow for the construction of watercraft decontamination facilities. Agency staff continued to work with DEC staff to develop guidance on a Park-wide approach to carrying capacity as part of meeting the challenge of protecting natural resources of the Forest Preserve and providing a quality experience. Staff provided a public presentation outlining the staff's work to develop a framework to guide management of carrying capacity. In addition, staff solicited input from the public to improve the guidance. Agency staff continued to participate in the High Peaks Advisory Group, formed in 2019, to address the variety of visitor-use management issues in that popular, heavily visited area. Staff participated in DEC's Outdoor Accessibility Day as part of a dialogue on how to increase inclusivity and accessibility to those with limited access to the outdoors.

Staff completed review of 27 project proposals submitted to the Agency for projects across the State lands of the Park in 2021. These consultations are to determine APSLMP compliance and whether or not a wetland permit is needed. Projects ranged in nature from new foot trail construction and re-routing of existing trails, to snowmobile trail bridge replacement, and road maintenance activities such as improving drainage.

### **Regulatory Review**

State land staff consulted with Regulatory Program and RASS staff on various State land and DEC conservation easement land projects involving wetlands, resulting in the issuance of eight wetland permits. Staff also assisted in the review of Recreation Management Plans for easement lands in Saratoga and Herkimer counties.

### **Historic Resource Review**

Staff completed required historic resource reviews for various projects throughout the Adirondack Park. These were undertaken in the following Towns: Northampton, Keene, Tupper Lake, Johnsburg, Warrensburg, Stony Creek, Ticonderoga, Broadalbin, Crown Point, Corinth, Forestport, and Elizabethtown. Staff completed historic resource reviews related to Department of Transportation (DOT) projects proposed on Route 73 in the Towns of Keene and North Elba, and Route 28 in the Town of Arietta.