



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area

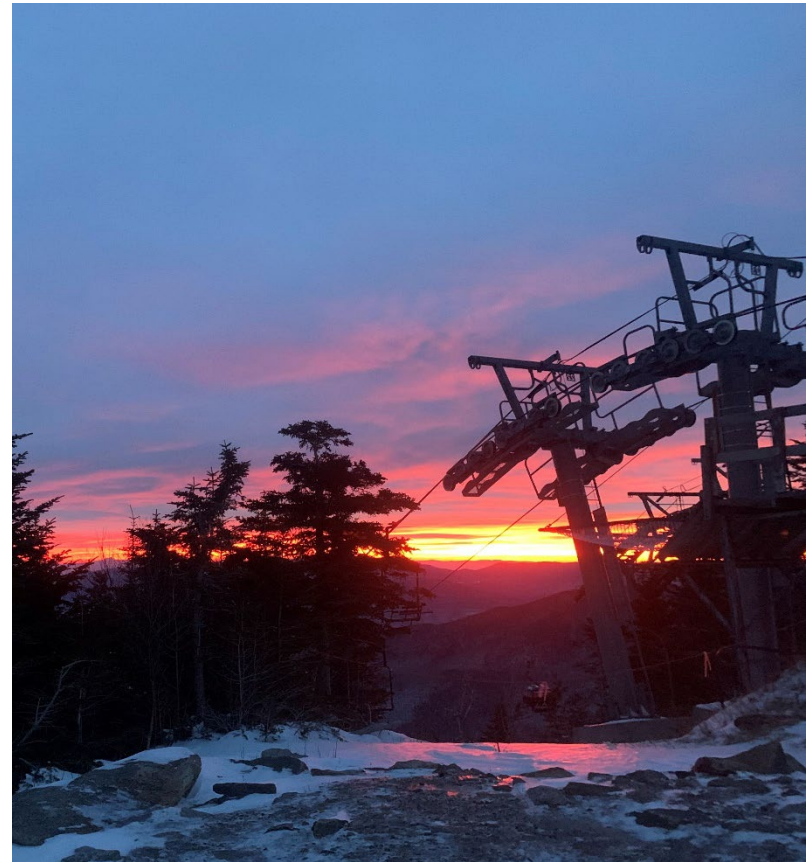
**2021 Amendment to the 2004
Whiteface Mountain Ski Center
UMP and FGEIS**

May 11, 2022

SLMP Definition for Intensive Use Areas

An intensive use area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of intensive use areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas.

These areas provide overnight accommodations or day use facilities for a significant number of visitors to the Park and often function as a base for use of wild forest, wilderness, primitive and canoe areas. -APSLMP pp. 41



SLMP Guidelines for Intensive Use Areas

The primary management guideline for intensive use areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse . . . or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.

Planning History and Highlights

- **1987:** Full UMP
- **1996:** Full UMP and GEIS (Bike trails first formally proposed)
- **1997:** UMP Amendment (Reconfigure Cloudspin and Skyward trails)
- **2000:** UMP Amendment (New glade skiing, new bike trails)
- **2001:** UMP Amendment (trail widening, trail footprint modification)
- **2004:** Full UMP and GEIS update
- **2006:** UMP Amendment (New Trail Development: Lookout Mountain)
- **2013:** UMP Amendment (Little Whiteface redevelopment and radio communications system)
- **2015:** UMP Amendment (Rehabilitation of Porcupine Lodge including construction of “hospitality deck” for public and ski patrol use)
- **2018:** UMP Amendment (Parking, trail widening, lift changes, commitment to master planning for bike use)

Summary of Proposed Management Actions

Race Trail Widening

Facilitate a growing number of national and international events, and athlete training

Meeting International Ski Federation (FIS) standards for certification on two trails

Improved separation of racers from recreational enthusiasts, so both groups have a better experience



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Summary of Proposed Management Actions

Widening of Existing Trails and 3 New Connector Downhill Trails

Keeps lower-level skiers in areas more appropriate to their ability



Wider trails facilitate improved traffic flows, snowmaking, and grooming



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Summary of Proposed Management Actions

Lift from Bear Den to Legacy Lodge

Enhances Learning Experience

Increases Operational Reliability

Management Action Minimizes Tree Cutting Through Chosen Alignment

Improves Skier Distribution by Ability Level

Increased Utilization of Bear Den and Legacy Lodges

Allows for Base Area lift to terminate at the Legacy Lodge Area



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Hiking and Mountain Biking

Developed 5-Phase Implementation Plan to establish a sustainable trail system at Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area (IUA) that:

- Expands and improves the existing hiking and mountain biking trails in the IUA;
- Fosters interconnections with regional trail networks such as Wilmington Wild Forest and Flume Trails;
- Utilizes existing infrastructure, and;
- Provides a frontcountry solution to the growing issues in the backcountry



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Public Comments

- Ten Public Comments, 9 Individuals and 1 Advocacy Organization
- Comments received from March 11th until April 11th (31 days)

Theme 1:

- Agreement and disagreement with the ski trail cutting elements of the plan and concerns about the constitutionality of the cutting for ski trails.

Theme 2:

- Agreement and Disagreement with the Hiking and Mountain Biking trails proposed in the plan and concerns about the constitutionality of the proposal.

Theme 3:

- The proposal for improvements at Whiteface is inconsistent with the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Theme 4:

- Uphill Skiing is not adequately supported or managed effectively.

Staff recommend that the 2021 Whiteface Mountain Ski Center UMP Amendment be determined to be in compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.



Figure 4: Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area
Proposed Hiking Trails

