



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

HAMMOND POND WILD FOREST

Amendment

to the

1988 Hammond Pond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

NYS DEC, REGION 5, DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

FROM: Basil Seggos

SUBJECT: Hammond Pond Wild Forest

The Amendment to the 1988 Hammond Pond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan has been completed. The Adirondack Park Agency has found the Amendment to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Amendment is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.



Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: _____

July 5, 2016



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Conservation

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LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO HAMMOND POND WILD FOREST
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

JUNE 10, 2016

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency), individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan conforms with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department has adopted a unit management plan for the Hammond Pond Wild Forest Area in 1988; the unit includes lands in the Towns of Keene, Elizabethtown, Westport, North Hudson, Moriah, Crown Point, Schroon and Ticonderoga in Essex County; and

WHEREAS, the Department has prepared a draft unit management plan amendment for the Hammond Pond Wild Forest (the Plan) dated June, 2016 which proposes construction of an accessible walkway and viewing area at the Route 73/9N intersection; and

WHEREAS, the Department has declared the Plan to be a Type II Action under SEQR and published a notice seeking public comment in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on May 11, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Department is the lead agency, and the Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the Plan dated June, 2016, conforms with the standards and guidelines of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has reviewed the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the need to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and protect the resources of the area by preventing overuse

and directing use to specific areas of the area according to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's objectives include providing reasonable public access where appropriate in order to provide visitors with an ability to appreciate the roadside scenic vistas while minimizing resource impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Hammond Pond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment, dated June, 2016, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

AYES: Leilani Ulrich, Chairwoman, Richard Booth, Sherman Craig, Karen Feldman, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas, Dan Wilt, Brad Austin (DED), Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS), Robert Stegemann (DEC)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

INTRODUCTION

The Hammond Pond Wild Forest Area (HPWF) is comprised of approximately 45,558 acres in the Towns of Keene, Elizabethtown, Westport, North Hudson, Moriah, Crown Point, Schroom, and Ticonderoga in Essex County. A Unit Management Plan (UMP) was completed for the unit in 1988. A 1993 “Generic Bicycle Amendment for Completed Adirondack Forest Preserve Unit Management Plans” proposed an Amendment to the HPWF (and several other Forest Preserve units) to allow bicycle use on certain trails. This is the first formal Amendment to the 1988 HPWF UMP.

This is a project-specific amendment that proposes the construction of an accessible hard packed gravel walkway and viewing area at the Route 73/Route 9N intersection in the Town of Keene. These facilities are additional to improvements to the existing parking area, which is located both inside and outside of the right-of-way (ROW) on the southbound side of Route 73. Parking area improvements were previously determined by APA to be jurisdictional and are subject to APA project order #P2006-294.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Background:

Over time, the existing parking area has expanded outside the Route 73 ROW and onto the Forest Preserve. To reclaim this encroachment, a paved pull-off with 8 parking spaces will be created, and delineated with boulders to restrict future expansion. The remaining filled area will be reclaimed, and allowed to return to a natural state. These improvements to the parking area are located both within and outside the Route 73 ROW. Final plans for these improvements are attached.

Facilities Development:

A 5' wide hard surfaced walkway, built to ADA standards, will extend from the northern end of the paved parking area a short distance to a 20' diameter hard surfaced viewing area. The end of the hard surfaced walkway and the viewing area will be located outside the Route 73 and Route 9N ROW. The walkway and viewing area have been designed with highway safety standards in mind. Boulders will be installed around the outside of the viewing area. A railing may be installed along the gravel walkway and any such railing will be constructed of natural materials. A portion of the parking area and the walkway will be located on Hammond Pond Wild Forest (Figure 1).

Picnic tables and benches will be installed at this site, either near the viewing area or just outside the parking area boulders.

PHOTOS



Photo 1: Looking west from proposed viewing area.



Photo 2: Existing conditions, as seen from proposed viewing area.



Photo 3: Paved pathway drawing, as seen from the proposed viewing area.

