

Appendix A – APA Staff Memo on Fire Tower Rehabilitation Costs



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jim Connolly
FROM: Kevin Prickett
DATE: May 6, 2010
RE: Fire Tower Rehabilitation Costs

It the interest of finding out more about the cost of rehabilitating a fire tower, I talked today with Tom Martin, NYS DEC Regional Forester regarding the costs. The following are notes from our conversation.

Tom expected the cost for necessary materials, delivery of materials via helicopter and engineering study was \$50,000. This estimate did not include labor. There have been cases, such as Azure Mt. fire tower were this was done with less capitol, but required significant devotion by a friends group, the Student Conservation Association and DEC staff.

Tom made it clear that the rehabilitation of a fire tower cannot be done without tax dollars. Because DEC has the custody and control of Forest Preserve lands, it has the obligation to be involved. Usually, the first step in the process is to have an engineer examine the structure. The basis for costs estimation begins with the results of that analysis. Tom expected private engineer costs, with site visit and report, would be close to \$10,000. Tom provided me with a fire tower rehabilitation checklist (attached). This list addresses both the necessary safety features and the aesthetic steps to restore the tower's appearance.

Tom provided some specific costs and resources necessary for restoration from previous efforts.

- Poke-O-Moonshine rehabilitation: required the replacement of eight cross braces on the second and third levels. The total material cost for the task was \$5,000. One bolt, washer and nut was a total of eight dollars. These prices are from ten years ago.

Jim Connolly
May 6, 2010
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- Helicopter transportation: Flight time is \$1,500 per hour. Usually 2 to 3 days of trips are required. Each trip transports 600-800 pounds of material, ranging from concrete and water to replace footings, wood for steps and cap viewing platforms to tools to accomplish maintenance. Additional costs are incurred because the helicopter has come from Albany.
- Comfort with working in a high elevations: From replacing the cab roof to painting the structure, working comfortably and safely well above the ground is necessary to restoring a fire tower.

Appendix B – 1994 Fire Tower Letter of Resolution

LETTER OF RESOLUTION
BETWEEN
THE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Whereas, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed an assessment of thirty-five fire towers under DEC jurisdiction which are either eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places (NRE), or have been designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) (see attachment 1),

And whereas the DEC determined that the removal of eight fire towers and the transfer of four fire towers is an undertaking which will have an impact on those properties and has consulted with the office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) pursuant to the New York State Historic Preservation Act (PRHPL §14.09) ;

Now, therefore, the DEC and the OPRHP agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations, in order to take into account the impact of the undertaking on historic properties.

Stipulations

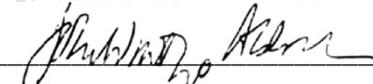
The DEC will ensure the following stipulations are carried out:

The disposition of subject fire towers under DEC jurisdiction will be conducted according to attachment 1.

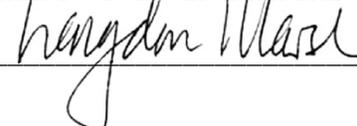
DEC shall make its best efforts to ensure that the instrument of conveyance for the transfer of fire towers to another public, or private entity shall include a protective covenant to ensure that the historical or architectural aspects of the fire towers will be preserved and maintained.

The OPRHP shall not object to the disposition of the subject fire towers by the DEC if such dispositions are carried out consistent with this agreement.

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

BY:  DATE: 13 Dec. 94

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

BY:  DATE: 5/10/94

Appendix B – 1994 Fire Tower Letter of Resolution

Attachment 1

Fire towers eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places or designated as a National Historic Landmark to be removed or transferred.

<u>FIRE TOWER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
Adams	NRE	Remove
Azure	NHL	Remove
Beacon	NRE	Remove
Hurricane	NRE	Remove
Loon Lake	NHL	Remove
Lyon	NRE	Remove
Palmer Hill	NRE	Remove
Poke-O-Moonshine	NHL	Remove
Spruce	NRE	Transfer
Stillwater	NRE	Transfer
Stissing	NRE	Transfer
Swede	NRE	Transfer

Fire towers eligible for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places or designated as a National Historic Landmark to be retained.

<u>FIRE TOWER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
Arab	NHL	Retain
Balsam	NRE	Retain
Berry Hill	NRE	Retain
Blue	NHL	Retain
Clove	NRE	Retain
Colfax	NRE	Retain
Hunter	NRE	Retain
Kane	NHL	Retain
Ninham	NRE	Retain
Pillsbury	NHL	Retain
Red Hill	NRE	Retain
Rock Rift	NRE	Retain
Rondaxe	NHL	Retain
Snowy	NHL	Retain
Sterling	NRE	Retain
St. Regis	NHL	Retain
Tremper	NRE	Retain
Utsayantha	NRE	Retain
Vanderwhacker	NHL	Retain
Wakely	NHL	Retain
Woodhull	NHL	Retain
Owls Head	NRE	Retain

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Appendix C – 2014 Fire Tower Letter of Resolution

**LETTER OF RESOLUTION
REGARDING
FIRE OBSERVATION TOWERS
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

**BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AND THE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) has care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve, state reforestation areas and various other classes of public lands and holds easement rights relating to public recreational use on certain private lands, and;

WHEREAS, certain fire observation towers (fire towers) which are listed in or eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act or the State Historic Preservation Act, are situated on these lands, and;

WHEREAS, the New York State Historic Preservation Act and the Public Building Law mandate that state agencies act as stewards of historic properties under their jurisdiction, and;

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan defines certain structures as non-conforming in certain land classifications, and;

WHEREAS, the Department and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Office), in 1994, executed a Letter of Resolution that created a mechanism for resolving conflicts between the forgoing and that this goal has been achieved, and;

WHEREAS, in response to public interest in fire towers as recreational and historic resources to be appreciated and enjoyed, the Department has undertaken an effort to re-open many of these fire towers, and;

WHEREAS, the Department, in consultation with the Office, desires to undertake this work in a manner that takes into account their historical significance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Department shall ensure that the following STIPULATIONS, agreed to by both parties as indicated by appended signatures, shall be implemented in compliance with the State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 and 9 NYCRR 428.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Modification, amendment, or termination of this agreement as necessary shall be accomplished by the signatories in the same manner as the original agreement.
- Disputes regarding compliance with the terms of this agreement shall be resolved through application of the consultation process established in Article 14 PRHPL and 9 NYCRR Part 428.

STIPULATIONS:

- The terms of this agreement shall apply to the fire towers listed in Attachment 1.
- Maintenance undertaken in accordance with the Fire Tower Maintenance Checklist which is made a part of this agreement as Attachment 2 shall require no further consultation under the State Historic Preservation Act.
- For actions above and beyond those listed in Attachment 2, the Department shall consult with the office in accordance with Article 14 PRHPL and 9 NYCRR Part 428.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

By: Rose Hanvey

Title: Commissioner

Date: 10/14/14

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

By: Joseph J. Martes

Title: Commissioner

Date: 10/22/14

Attachment 1 – List of Fire Towers

OWNERSHIP / STATUS	NAME	REGISTER STATUS	REG	TOWN	COUNTY
STATE OWNED / LISTED OR ELIGIBLE					
PHOENICIA WILD FOREST	MOUNT TREMPER	LISTED	3	SHANDAKEN	ULSTER
BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST	BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	3	NEW PALTZ	ULSTER
SUNDOWN WILD FOREST	RED HILL	LISTED	3	NEW PALTZ	ULSTER
HUNTER-WEST KILL MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS	HUNTER MOUNTAIN	LISTED	4	STAMFORD	GREENE
TAYLOR POND WILD FOREST	POKE-O-MOONSHINE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	CHESTERFIELD	ESSEX
SAINT REGIS MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER HISTORIC AREA	ST. REGIS MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	SANTA CLARA	FRANKLIN
HURRICANE MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER HISTORIC AREA	HURRICANE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	ELIZABETHTOWN	ESSEX
BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST	BLUE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	INDIAN LAKE	HAMILTON
SARGENT PONDS WILD FOREST	OWLS HEAD MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	LONG LAKE	HAMILTON
BLUE RIDGE WILDERNESS	WAKELY MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	LAKE PLEASANT	HAMILTON
HAMMOND POND WILD FOREST	BELFRY MOUNTAIN	LISTED, NHL	5	MORIAH	ESSEX
VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST	VANDRWHACKER MOUNTAIN	LISTED, NHL	5	MINERVA	ESSEX
WILCOX LAKE WILD FOREST	HADLEY MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	HADLEY	SARATOGA
DEBAR MTN. WILD FOREST	LOON LAKE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	FRANKLIN	FRANKLIN
DEBAR MTN. WILD FOREST	AZURE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	WAVERLY	FRANKLIN
JESSUP RIVER WILD FOREST	SNOWY MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	INDIAN LAKE	HAMILTON
JESSUP RIVER WILD FOREST	PILLSBURY MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	ARIETTA	HAMILTON
SHAKER MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST	KANE MOUNTAIN	LISTED	5	CAROGA	FULTON
HORSESHOE LAKE WILD FOREST	MOUNT ARAB	LISTED	6	PIERCEFIELD	ST. LAWRENCE
BLACK RIVER WILD FOREST	WOODHULL MOUNTAIN	LISTED	6	WEBB	HERKIMER
FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST	RONDAXE (AKA BALD) MOUNTAIN	LISTED	6	WEBB	HERKIMER
MCDONOUGH STATE FOREST	BERRY HILL	ELIGIBLE	7	MCDONOUGH	CHENANGO

STATE EASEMENTS / LISTED OR ELIGIBLE

OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY	MOUNT ADAMS	LISTED	5	NEWCOMB	ESSEX
LYME ADIRONDACK TIMBERLANDS LLC	STILLWATER MOUNTAIN	ELIGIBLE	6	WEBB	HERKIMER

STATE OWNED / UNEVALUATED

OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST	OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN		3	WOODSTOCK	ULSTER
NIMHAM MOUNTAIN MUA	NIMHAM MOUNTAIN		3	NEW PALTZ	PUTNAM
ROOSA GAP STATE FOREST	ROOSA GAP MOUNTAIN		3	MAMAKATING	SULLIVAN
GRAHAM MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST	GRAHAM MOUNTAIN		3	HOPE	ORANGE
BEEBE HILL STATE FOREST	BEEBE HILL (AKA L&F)		4	AUSTERLITZ	COLUMBIA
LEONARD HILL STATE FOREST	LEONARD HILL		4	BROOME	SCHOHARIE
PRIVATE PROPERTY	COLFAX MOUNTAIN		5	JACKSON	WASHINGTON
CHAZY HIGHLANDS WILD FOREST	LYON MOUNTAIN		5	SARANAC	CLINTON
SUGAR HILL STATE FOREST	SUGAR HILL		8	ORANGE	SCHUYLER

Appendix C – 2014 Fire Tower Letter of Resolution

STATE OWNED / INELIGIBLE

LAKE GEORGE WILD FOREST	BLACK MOUNTAIN		5	DRESDEN	WASHINGTON
GORE MOUNTAIN INTENSIVE USE AREA	GORE MOUNTAIN		5	JOHNSBURG	WARREN

OWNED BY OTHERS

PRIVATE	STISSING MOUNTAIN		3	PINE PLAINS	DUTCHESS
PRIVATE	CLOVE MOUNTAIN		3	UNION VALE	DUTCHESS
OPRHP LANDS	MOUNT BEACON	LISTED	3	FISHKILL	DUTCHESS
OPRHP LANDS	STERLING MOUNTAIN	ELIGIBLE	3	WARWICK	ORANGE
NYC LANDS	ROCK RIFT FIRE		3	TOMPKINS	DELAWARE
OPRHP LANDS	DICKINSON HILL		4	GRAFTON	RENSSELAER
PRIVATE	MOUNT UTSAYANTHA		4	STAMFORD	DELAWARE
PRIVATE	CATHEAD MOUNTAIN		5	BENSON	HAMILTON
PRIVATE	PALMER HILL		5	BLACK BROOK	CLINTON
SARATOGA COUNTY	SPRUCE MOUNTAIN		5	CORINTH	SARATOGA
PRIVATE	SWEDE MOUNTAIN		5	HAGUE	WARREN
WANAKENA RANGER SCHOOL	TOOLEY POND MTN (FORMER)		6	FINE	ST LAWRENCE
PRIVATE	PAGE POND MOUNTAIN		7	SANFORD	FROOME

Attachment 2 – Fire Tower Maintenance Checklist

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Guidelines for Historic Fire Tower Maintenance

The Department's goal in maintaining historic fire towers is to provide a safe, enjoyable recreational and educational experience to the visiting public through access to an historic structure that, insofar as practicable, retains the appearance and character of an in-service fire observation tower. These Guidelines are intended to provide Department staff and volunteer partners with the information and direction necessary to achieve this goal. The following discusses the details of the areas where experience has shown that repair or replacement of materials is necessary. Replacement of materials is assumed to be in-kind in order to maintain integrity of appearance and function. Questions regarding the implementation of these guidelines should be referred to the Regional Forester who will resolve them in consultation with appropriate Department staff.

The following list represents a compilation of typical repairs, recommendations and observations made from past fire tower inspections. The use of this list is not a substitution for an inspection by a licensed engineer, but serves as a guideline for what to expect when looking to rehabilitate a fire tower.

1. Inspect existing base pads and anchors. Concrete should be inspected for cracks and spalling – metal anchors for corrosion. Cracked anchor pads should be removed to inspect and clean the anchor within. Clean and paint anchor assemblies. Cast new concrete base pads with a loop of #3 reinforcing steel to same size and shape as the original. The pads will serve to protect the integrity of the original anchor bolts.
2. Inspect all structural members of the tower. Replace obviously bent, broken, and/or severely corroded members as recommended and specified by the Engineer. Drill new members only as required to fasten as original. Replace all end fasteners in new members with A325 Type I galvanized high strength bolts and washers. Replace interior fasteners with Grade 5 hardware or better.
3. Inspect for missing, corroded or loose bolts. Depending on the age of the tower it may be necessary to replace many of the bolts and washers. All structural bolts shall be A325 Type I galvanized high strength bolts except for diagonal bracing midpoints which may be Grade 5 bolts.
4. Inspect all wooden members of the cabin, stairs, and platforms. Replace obviously weak, worn, or broken planks with pressure treated lumber.
5. Inspect/replacement the hardware (ends only) that attaches the steel angle supporting the cabin floor decking to the tower frame.
6. Inspect existing handrail top to bottom at all levels. Replace lost or damaged rails and securely fasten loose members at all locations.
7. Galvanized welded wire fence at all platform landings and handrails should be installed where missing or replaced as necessary. Fasten securely on all sides at even intervals. Avoid sharp burrs and exposed ends of fence fabric and tie wires.

8. Replacement/repair of roof and other missing cabin components. Use Grade 5 or better bolts and washers in all locations unless noted otherwise.
9. Replacement/repair of windows and window frames in cabin.
10. Install a 42” safety rail w/ mid-rail, chain, and clasp at entrance to cabin. Chain off opening between rail and wall when occupied.
11. Mount signs (posted occupancy limit, interpretive, etc, if applicable) with clamps to structure or on posts independent of structure. Confirm that existing signs are no installed in a deleterious manner. No unnecessary/unauthorized drilling of tower members. For standard cabins (7 ft x 7 ft) the maximum occupancy is 8 persons. The landings should be limited to an occupancy of 4 persons.
12. Clear footprint of the tower of all leaves, branches, and debris and grade to drain. Anchors should be high and dry and monitored at regular intervals to insure that water does not pond at the corners. Some locations may require careful chipping of the natural rock to create a path for passive drainage.
13. Inspect existing base pads and anchors. Concrete should be inspected for cracks and spalling – metal anchors for corrosion. Cracked anchor pads should be removed to inspect and clean the anchor within. Clean and paint anchor assemblies. Cast new concrete base pads with a loop of #3 reinforcing steel to same size and shape as the original. The pads will serve to protect the integrity of the original anchor bolts.
14. Routine painting is recommended to preserve the appearance and integrity of structure. When required, paint all exposed structural steel with an appropriate coating (MC Urethane). Corroded or peeling areas should be prepared beforehand by power tool cleaning and primed.
15. Painting of the floor treads and landings with a slip resistant paint should be considered for safety.
16. All structural repairs should be made by qualified individuals. Removal/replacement of structural members and bolts needs to be done in a manner that will not jeopardize the towers integrity nor the installer’s health and safety. The installation of A325 bolts need to be properly torqued.
17. Proper direction and supervision should be provided to any volunteer groups or other individuals assisting with the rehabilitation.

A visual inspection of the tower should be performed on an annual basis in perpetuity. This inspection should check the general condition of all components for deterioration, damage, missing or loose fasteners, base drainage, and coating performance. Any significant changes in expected use or otherwise questionable findings should be reported to the Engineer for further investigation.

Appendix D – APA Resolution on Saint Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan



**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE ST. REGIS CANOE AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
MAY 11, 2006**

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park 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 Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 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 general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan for the St. Regis Canoe Area dated April, 2006; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type 1 actions pursuant to implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 6 NYCRR Part 617, and the Department has made a negative determination of significance on May 10, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan, dated April, 2006, is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan; and

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St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan
May 11, 2006
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WHEREAS, the Plan explicitly recognizes the primary value of the St. Regis Canoe Area as an area for water based recreation which provides unique opportunities for the recreating public to experience a high degree of solitude in an essentially wilderness setting; and

WHEREAS, Article 9-0109 (4) (a) of the Environmental Conservation Law allows for maintenance of historic structures within the Adirondack Park provided that the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation finds that such structures are listed on the state register of historic places and provided that the DEC Commissioner finds that such structures can be maintained for the public enjoyment and understanding of the Forest Preserve in a way which will not disturb the existing degree of the wild forest character of either the adjacent land or the land on which the structure is located; and

WHEREAS, the St. Regis Mt. Fire Tower is listed on the State Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to development of a comprehensive Adirondack fire tower management plan which will address all State owned fire towers in the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to the implementation of strategies for prevention, targeted containment and/or eradication of invasive plant infestations and to expand the Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship program to the ponds within the St. Regis Canoe Area; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes management intended to restore and perpetuate indigenous fish species, provide recreational angling as part of a larger wilderness experience, and maintain and perpetuate annual hunting and trapping activities as legitimate uses of the wildlife resources compatible with wilderness recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes management to monitor and afford protection to species which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern, including management actions to monitor loon populations and nesting activity and restore populations of round whitefish; and

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St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan
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WHEREAS, the Plan commits to providing visitors with a trail system that offers access to ponds within and in close proximity of the St. Regis Canoe Area while keeping major sections of the SRCA "trailless" to preserve a sense of remoteness and solitude; and

WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to defer any cutting for the purpose of creating or maintaining views on Long Pond Mt. until compliance with the Master Plan for this activity is resolved; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes to inventory the campsites within the five-year planning cycle of this UMP, monitor the condition of the campsites to identify problems from site over-use, develop a campsite plan and identify campsites which need to be closed or relocated and to give priority attention to campsites which are experiencing serious negative impacts from use and campsites which do not comply with Master Plan separation distance requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to continued consultation with Agency staff on the design of primitive tent sites in the Unit, including the Keese Mill Rd. area, and to provide the Agency with the final campsite plan for the St. Regis Canoe Area as an amendment to this Unit Plan within the next year; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to managing mountain bike use to ensure that it does not negatively impact the natural resources or create conflicts with other user groups; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to providing visitors with a ski trail system that offers opportunities for loop trips of varying distances for various user ability levels; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to provide adequate trailhead facilities to protect natural resource values and to accommodate visitor needs, and to monitoring parking usage over the course of this UMP to determine future needs; and

WHEREAS, the Plan commits to initiation of a Limits of Acceptable Change approach to assessing carrying capacities and to monitor the levels of visitor use through visitor trail registration sheets, conducting visitor surveys, using trail counters, and other sources to determine the number of people visiting the SRCA, the activities they enjoy, and the type of experience they have; and

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WHEREAS, the Plan commits to development of regulations for group size limits which will impose a limit of 8 people per camping group and limit day use to 15 people per party; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes specific actions to increase the number of facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Regis Fire Tower does not currently meet the criteria of an essential use for the Department of Environmental Conservation and its removal should therefore either occur within three years from the adoption of this Unit Management Plan or other alternatives based on recommendations identified in the proposed comprehensive study of fire towers within the Adirondack Park and in conformance with Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, should be identified within one year and submitted to the Agency through a UMP amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the St. Regis Canoe Area Unit Management Plan, dated April, 2006, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan except in regards to a final action on the St. Regis Fire Tower which will be further clarified through the proposed comprehensive study on Fire Towers and in regard to the proposal for the maintenance of views on Long Pond Mt. pending further discussion between Agency and DEC staff; 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: R. Beach (DED) S. Buchanan (DEC),
R. Hoffman (DOS), F. Mezzano, D. Rehm,
J. Townsend, L. Ulrich, R. Whaley

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: K. Roberts, C. Wray

Appendix E – APA Resolution on 2010 SLMP Amendment



**RESOLUTION
WITH RESPECT TO THE
RECLASSIFICATION OF LANDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIRE TOWERS ON
HURRICANE AND ST. REGIS MOUNTAINS
AND RECLASSIFICATION OF
THE HURRICANE MOUNTAIN PRIMITIVE AREA TO WILDERNESS
OCTOBER 14, 2010**

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan adopted pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law, Article 27) provides guidelines for classifying State lands within the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain fire towers are listed on both the State and Federal Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of New York State, as established by the NYS Historic Preservation Act, to promote the use, re-use and conservation of listed historic properties for the education and enrichment of the public; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Historic Preservation Act requires agencies to explore and give due consideration to feasible and prudent alternatives which avoid or mitigate adverse impact on such properties; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has been consulted pursuant to 9 NYCRR Part 428.1 and via letters dated April 10, 2010, and July 8, 2010, and indicated a preference for consideration of reclassification of land around the fire towers in accordance with guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the action involves three State Land reclassification proposals which includes one-half acre on the summit of St. Regis Mountain, one-half acre on the summit of Hurricane Mountain, each proposed for reclassification to Historic, and 13,948 acres of the Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area proposed for reclassification to Wilderness; and

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WHEREAS, the Agency authorized staff to proceed with public hearings on the proposed classification and reclassification alternatives at its April, 2010 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation have consulted on the proposed reclassification of the lands associated with the St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain fire towers, and the Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the implementation of the State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Agency staff have considered the guidelines and criteria of the State Land Master Plan and the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement regarding amendments to the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the primary guideline for Historic classification under the Master Plan is “to preserve the quality and character of the historic resources to the greatest extent feasible”; and

WHEREAS, the reclassification action will also achieve the long-standing goal of creating the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness Area; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency held three public hearings in Albany, Keene and Paul Smiths, between August 9 and August 11, 2010, including a public comment period through August 25, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and filed pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR Part 586 with respect to the proposed reclassifications and amendments to the State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the reclassifications and amendments are consistent with the guidelines of the State Land Master Plan and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement – Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, filed in 1979; and

WHEREAS, the Agency recognizes the fiscal constraints which currently exist within State government and the future disposition of the towers will be addressed by the Department and outlined in a Unit Management Plan; and

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WHEREAS, the St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain fire towers have remained unused for over a decade, and there has been no structural assessment or estimate of the cost of rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the cost of rehabilitation of the fire towers may be borne by community fund-raising efforts; and

WHEREAS, the action enables maintenance and potential restoration of the St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain fire towers consistent with their Historic Register status, but does not require, obligate or anticipate expenditure of State funds for restoration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency recommends that the reclassifications to Historic for the lands associated with the St. Regis Mountain and Hurricane Mountain fire towers, and the reclassification of the Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area to the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness Area, as described in the attached proposed revisions to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and maps, be approved by the Governor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Agency Chairman is authorized to forward these reclassification recommendations to the Governor for his approval.

AYES: R. Booth, A. Lussi, F. Mezzano, C. Stiles,
w. Thomas, L. Ulrich, J. Fayle (DED),
E. Lowe (DEC), R. Morgiewicz (DOS)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: F. W. Valentino, C. Wray

JEC:lhb
Att.

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Appendix F – Historic Areas: Guidelines for Management and Use (SLMP)

Definition

Historic areas are locations of buildings, structures or sites owned by the state (other than the Adirondack Forest Preserve itself) that are significant in the history, architecture, archeology or culture of the Adirondack Park, the state or the nation; that fall into one of the following categories;

- state historic sites;
- properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
- properties recommended for nomination by the Committee on Registers of the New York State Board For Historic Preservation; and that are of a scale, character and location appropriate for designation as an historic area under this master plan and the state has committed resources to manage such areas primarily for historic objectives.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic guidelines

1. The primary management guidelines for historic areas will be to preserve the quality and character of the historic resources, that is, to the greatest extent feasible, in a setting and on a scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

2. All historic areas will be designed, managed and interpreted so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings.

3. Construction and development activities in historic areas will:

- avoid material alteration of wetlands;
- minimize extensive topographical alterations;
- limit vegetative clearing; and,
- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the historic area.

4. Each historic area will be designed, managed and interpreted in conformity with a special historic area unit management plan for the area, filed with and approved by the Agency after public hearing as being consistent with this master plan. Special unit management plans will be prepared in consultation with the Agency for the two existing historic areas as soon as possible. No new structures or improvements at existing or proposed historic areas will be constructed prior to the approval of such special unit management plans. Such structures and improvements will conform to this master plan and special historic area unit management plans.

Designation of Historic Areas

Two historic areas, Crown Point and John Brown's Farm, result from the application of the above criteria and are delineated on the map forming part of this master plan.

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Appendix G – Adirondack Sub-Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area Management Summary

Site Name: Adirondack Sub-alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area

State Ownership and Managing Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

Location: Adirondack Mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren counties. Surveyed and confirmed nesting locations for Bicknell's thrush (Atwood and Rimmer, et al. 1996) include: Mount Marcy, Algonquin Peak, Blue Mountain, Cascade Mountain, Giant Mountain, Kilburn Mountain, Hurricane Mountain, Lower Wolfjaw Mountain, Lyon Mountain, Mount Haystack, Phelps Mountain, Porter Mountain, Rocky Ridge Peak, Santanoni Peak, Snowy Mountain, Vanderwhacker Mountain, Wakely Mountain, Whiteface Mountain, Wright Peak.

Size of Area: Approximately 69,000 acres

DEC Region: 5

General Site Information: Adirondack Mountain summits over 2,800 feet in elevation, more specifically, those with dense subalpine coniferous forests favored by Bicknell's thrush. Bicknell's thrush prefers dense thickets of stunted or young growth of balsam fir and red spruce. Found less frequently in other young or stunted conifers, and heavy second growth of fir, cherry and birch.

Vision Statement: Continue to maintain the wilderness quality of the area, while facilitating recreational opportunities in a manner consistent with conservation of the unique bird species present.

Key BCA Criteria: Diverse species concentration site; individual species concentration site; species at risk site (ECL §11-2001, 3.f, g, and h). Peaks over 2,800 feet with dense subalpine thickets provide habitat for a distinctive bird community, which includes Bicknell's thrush (special concern), blackpoll warbler and Swainson's thrush.

Critical Habitat Types: Dense subalpine coniferous thickets. To a lesser degree, young or stunted and heavy second growth of cherry or birch.

Operation and Management Considerations:

- *Identify habitat management activities needed to maintain site as a BCA.*
None identified for certain, although human access and acid rain could be impacting.

- *Identify seasonal sensitivities; adjust routine operations accordingly.*

The BCA is comprised of lands that are within the Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness Area, and other lands within the broader Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness Area portion is subject to relatively stringent regulations and use limitations. Portions of the BCA that are not within the High Peaks Wilderness Area may have less stringent use limitations.

Access to wilderness areas is completely limited to foot trails and non-motorized access, including horse trails. Access in wild forest and intensive use areas may include motorized forms of access. Examples include a road up Blue Mountain to transmitters, and a road up Whiteface. The road up Blue Mountain is used largely for administrative access to the transmitter towers. Whenever possible, routine maintenance on these towers or the access road should be scheduled outside the nesting season for Bicknell's thrush (May through July). The road up Whiteface sees considerable use by the public.

Trail and road maintenance activities have the potential to disturb nesting activities of high altitude birds (in particular, Bicknell's thrush). Whenever possible, routine maintenance should be planned so that it can be completed outside of the normal nesting season. Should maintenance be needed during the nesting season, the use of non-motorized equipment would help to minimize the impacts.

- *Identify state activities or operations which may pose a threat to the critical habitat types identified above; recommend alternatives to existing and future operations which may pose threats to those habitats.*

Ensure that bird conservation concerns are addressed in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, individual unit management plans, and other planning efforts. For those areas where plans have already been completed, incorporate concerns for subalpine bird communities at the earliest opportunity.

On May 18, 2000, Emergency Regulations were adopted for the High Peaks Wilderness Area, which comprises part of the BCA. These regulations prohibit camping above 4,000 feet; limit camping between 3,500 and 4,000 feet to designated areas; prohibit campfires above 4,000 feet, and require the leashing of pets above 4,000 feet.

- *Identify any existing or potential use impacts; recommend new management strategies to address those impacts.*

There has been little research on what effect normal use of hiking trails has on nesting birds. Recreational use in some areas of the BCA is relatively high. More research is needed on whether there is a significant impact to bird populations from the current level of human visitation. The Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness portions of the BCA are remote locations and access is largely limited to foot trails. Motorized vehicles are not normally allowed. Those areas of the BCA outside of the High Peaks Wilderness Area allow the use of motorized vehicles and have fewer restrictions on other uses. The Unit Management Planning process for these areas should assess the effects of current levels of recreational use, and the need for new trails (including placement, timing, and construction method) on subalpine bird species (in particular, Bicknell's thrush).

Consideration should be given to prohibiting motorized vehicle access to subalpine forests above 2,800 feet.

Education, Outreach, and Research Considerations:

- *Assess current access; recommend enhanced access, if feasible.*
Recreational use in some areas of the BCA is relatively high. Further study or research would help to assess impacts of recreational activities on nesting high altitude species. The need for protective measures will be discussed and incorporated as part of the planning process for the Adirondack Forest Preserve and Wilderness Areas that form the BCA, or at the earliest opportunity.
- *Determine education and outreach needs; recommend strategies and materials.*
There is a need to identify to the public the distinctive bird community present in subalpine forests over 2,800 feet. The potential impacts of human intrusion need to be portrayed to the public, and a "please stay on the trails" approach may be beneficial. Continue partnerships with the National Audubon Society, High Peaks Audubon Society, Adirondack Mountain Club and other groups involved in education and conservation of birds of the Adirondack High Peaks.
- *Identify research needs; prioritize and recommend specific projects or studies.*
Acid rain deposition may be having an impact on nesting success of songbirds at high elevations by causing die-offs of high altitude conifer forests, and killing snails and other sources of calcium needed for egg production. More research is needed on this. The curtailment of sulphur dioxide emissions and the reduction of acid rain is currently a significant New York State initiative.

A detailed inventory and standardized monitoring of special concern species is needed for the area. In particular, all peaks above 2,800 feet should be surveyed for Bicknell's thrush.

The impact of the current levels of human use on nesting success needs to be assessed.

Contacts:

DEC Region 5 Wildlife Manager, 518-897-1291

DEC Region 5 Forester, 518-897-1276

Sources:

Atwood, J. L., C. C. Rimmer, K. P. McFarland, S. H. Tsai, and L. R. Nagy. 1996. *Distribution of Bicknell's thrush in New England and New York*. Wilson Bulletin 108(4):650-661.

Bull, John L. 1998. *Bull's Birds of New York State*. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY.

Appendix G – Adirondack Sub-Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area Management Summary

NYSDEC Division of Lands and Forests. 1999. *High Peaks Wilderness Complex Unit Management Plan*. NYSDEC, Albany, NY.

Rimmer, C. C., Atwood, J., and L. R. Nagy. 1993. *Bicknell's Thrush - a Northeastern Songbird in Trouble?* Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, VT.

State of New York Endangered Species Working Group. 1996. *Species Dossier for Bicknell's Thrush*. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Wells, J. V. 1998. *Important Bird Areas in New York State*. National Audubon Society, Albany, NY.

Date BCA Designated: 11/16/01

Date MGS Prepared: 12/6/01

Appendix H – ECL §9-0109 Statement of Findings

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

In the Matter of the Preservation of the Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower in the Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County Pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law §9-0109

WHEREAS, in 1926, the People of the State of New York, acting through the Conservation Department, acquired the lands in the Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County comprising the summit of Saint Regis Mountain, including a fire observation tower thereon; and

WHEREAS, upon acquisition, such lands, structures and improvements were incorporated into the Forest Preserve and became subject to the “forever wild” mandate and other provisions of Article XIV, §1 of the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the summit of Saint Regis Mountain and the fire observation tower thereon were acquired by the State of New York prior to June 21, 1983, which is the effective date of ECL §9-0109; and

WHEREAS, ECL §9-0109(4) provides that structures and improvements on lands acquired by the State prior to such effective date may be maintained provided that: (a) the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation finds that such structures and improvements are listed on the state register of historic places pursuant to subdivision one of §14.07 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law; (b) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation finds that such structures and improvements can be maintained for public enjoyment and understanding of the Forest Preserve or for departmental activities necessary in protecting Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park and that such maintenance will not disturb the existing degree of wild forest character of land on which the preexisting structures or improvements are located or the wild forest character of land adjacent thereto provided the Commissioner of the Department; and (c) such maintenance will be in accordance with reasonable regulation of the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park consistent with Article XIV of the New York State Constitution;

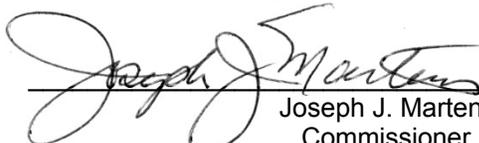
WHEREAS, the St. Regis Mountain Fire Observatory Station was listed on the State Register of Historic Places on January 5, 2005 and on the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 2005; and

WHEREAS, maintenance of the fire tower will enhance public enjoyment and understanding of the Forest Preserve by enabling the public to better appreciate the size and vastness of the Forest Preserve, the type and density of its forest cover, and the ruggedness of its terrain; and

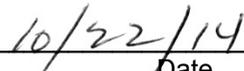
WHEREAS, maintenance of the fire tower will occur without removing or destroying any timber or other vegetative growth and without taking any other administrative action which will adversely impact the wild forest nature of adjacent Forest Preserve land or the Forest Preserve land on which the fire tower is located.

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby make the following FINDINGS pursuant to ECL §9-0109(4):

1. The Saint Regis Mountain fire observation tower was erected in 1918, and is an excellent example of a model of fire tower that was once commonly found throughout New York State. In addition to its historic value, this structure is valuable from a cultural and educational standpoint, as it reflects the protection of New York's natural resources by the statewide fire detection program throughout much of the 20th century;
2. I also find that the Saint Regis Mountain fire observation tower is listed on the State Register of Historic Places pursuant to §14.07 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law;
3. I further find that the Saint Regis Mountain fire observation tower can be maintained for public enjoyment and understanding of the Forest Preserve or for departmental activities necessary in protecting Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park in a manner that will not disturb the existing degree of wild forest character of the land on which the Saint Regis Mountain fire observation tower is located or the wild forest character of land adjacent thereto;
4. In addition, I find that such maintenance can occur in accordance with reasonable regulation of the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park consistent with Article XIV, §1 of the State Constitution;
5. These findings are supported by the Final Unit Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area;
6. For these reasons, I find the requirements of ECL §9-0109(4) have been met.
7. I also find that the adoption of a Unit Management Plan ("UMP") for the Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area can ensure that maintenance of the Saint Regis Mountain fire tower will comply with applicable provisions of State law, including but not limited to, Article XIV, §1 of the New York State Constitution, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, ECL §9-0109(4) and Department rules and regulations.



Joseph J. Martens
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



Date



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

21 February 2013

Charles E. Vandrei
Agency Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Lands and Forests
Historic Preservation Unit
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233

Re: Statement of Findings
St Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Santa Clara, Franklin County

Dear Mr. Vandrei:

I am writing to inform you that the St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station was listed on the State Register of Historic Places on 5 January 2005 and on the National Register of Historic Places on 15 March 2005. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office

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Appendix I – National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

(Page 1 of 11)

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station

other name/site number _____

2. Location

street & town St. Regis Mountain

not for publication

city or town Santa Clara

vicinity

state New York

code NY

county Franklin

code 033

zip code 12970

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William Carlin, SAPO
SHPO/Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

11/5/05
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Appendix I – National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

(Page 2 of 11)

St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Name of Property

Franklin County, New York
County and State

5. Classification

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)																						
	<input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Contributing</td> <td>Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing				buildings	2		sites	1		structures	1		structures			objects	3		Total	
Contributing	Noncontributing																								
		buildings																							
2		sites																							
1		structures																							
1		structures																							
		objects																							
3		Total																							

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Fire Observation Stations of the NYS Forest Preserve

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Function (Enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT/fire observation station	NOT IN USE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
NO STYLE/utilitarian (fire tower)	foundation _____
_____	walls _____
_____	roof _____
_____	other Metal/steel (tower)

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

NPS Form 10-900-a

Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Franklin County, New York**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

The **St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station** is located at the 2,874' summit of the St. Regis Mountain in the town of Santa Clara, Franklin County in the Adirondack Forest Preserve of New York State. The fire observation station includes a 35-foot tall, steel frame lookout tower erected in 1918, the site of the former observer's cabin, and nine-tenths of a mile foot trail between the cabin site and the summit. The original jeep trail to the summit and the lower portion of the foot trail, between the cabin site and the trailhead, have been excluded from this nomination due to lack of historic integrity and/or owner objection (portions of the earlier trail now pass through private property). The boundary for the nominated property is drawn to include a 500 square foot area surrounding the tower, the site of the observer's cabin, the trail connecting them, and related historic features (e.g., culverts, swales, support and retaining walls) along the trail.

Contributing Resources: 3 (tower, foot trail, site of former observer's cabin)
Non-Contributing Resources - 0

The St. Regis Mountain fire tower is located in the area between the three US Geological Survey ... Markers on the highest point, off to the north side, of the large open summit of St. Regis Mountain. The St. Regis summit is mostly open rock face with occasional areas of grass and moss. There is encroachment of various evergreen varieties on the north and northeast portion of the summit of ... generally less than ten feet in height. The summit of the mountain is mostly bare rock due to a fire ... that was started in 1876 by surveyors and their guides when they decided to get rid of some of the brush that loggers left behind on the mountain. The fire got out of control and destroyed most of the vegetation on the summit. (1)

In 1918, the state erected a 35- foot tall, steel frame lookout tower on the St. Regis Mountain summit to give the observer a better view. (2) The tower and its 9-foot high cab were fabricated by the Aermotor Company. This tower is typical of the "heavier type" tower, with integral staircase, built by the NYS Conservation Commission/Department between 1917 and 1950. The square, steel and glass cab atop the tower, which encloses the observation platform, has a riveted and bolted frame of angular steel and a hip roof. Steel stair risers, supporting wood stair treads, divided into five flights and four landings, provide access to the cab from the ground. The four tower legs are anchored by standard coupling plates atop concrete footings, placed on the exposed bedrock. These plates are anchored into the bedrock by two ¾ inch steel threaded rods that pass through the concrete footings. In 1919, a "Panoramic Map" was installed in the St. Regis fire tower. (3)

See continuation sheet

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Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Franklin County, New York

Section number 7 Page 2

The first fire observer assigned to the St. Regis Fire Observation Station only had a tent until 1925 when the NYS Conservation Commission built a standard-sized observer's cabin at the station. (4) In 1939, this cabin was replaced by the CCC with a 1936 style cabin (5), which was destroyed by vandals sometime after 1990. Today, only the site of these cabins and the foundation from the last cabin remains. At the site of the observer's cabin, the foot trail intersects with a small stream, which, when the cabin was in use, would have provided a good year-round source of water.

The current St. Regis Mountain trailhead is located 2.5 miles off of the Keese Mills Road, which intersects with Route 30 less than 100 feet from the main entrance to Paul Smiths College. The current foot trail leading to the St. Regis Mountain summit is approximately 3 miles long with 1,235 feet of vertical rise and is oriented north (trailhead) to southwest (lower) up the mountain. Originally, the trail traveled through private land owned by Marjorie Merriweather Post and Paul Smith's College. Over the years, the first part of this trail has been rerouted several times, and in 1934, a new foot trail on state land was cut to the summit by the CCC. (6) In the summer of 1999, a new parking area at the trailhead and the first two-thirds of the trail were rebuilt by a professional Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) trail crew under NYS Department of Environmental Conservation auspices. (7) However, the only portion of the original trail that remains unchanged, and is included in this nomination, is the nine-tenths of a mile stretch from the site of the observer's cabin up to the summit.

The St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station was decommissioned by the state in 1990, but, the trail remains in active recreational use and is maintained by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

End Notes:

- (1) O'Kane, Walter Collins. Trails and Summits of the Adirondacks, Boston: 1928, Pg. 255.
- (2) Conservation Commission: Report for the year 1918. Albany. J.B. Lyon Co. 1919. Pg. 118.
- (3) Conservation Commission: Report for the year 1919. Albany. J.B. Lyon Co. 1920. Pg. 138.
- (4) Conservation Commission: Report for the year 1925. Albany. J.B. Lyon Co. 1926. Pg. 197.
- (5) Conservation Department: Report for the year 1939. Albany. J.B. Lyon Co. 1940. Pg. 82.
- (6) Conservation Department: Report for the year 1934. Albany. J.B. Lyon Co. 1935. Pg. 101.
- (7) John P. Freeman. Views from on High: June, 2001 Pg. 111.

See continuation sheet

Appendix I – National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Name of Property

Franklin County, New York
County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(enter categories from instructions)

Engineering
Recreation
Conservation
Architecture
Architecture

Period of Significance
1918 - 1954

Significant Dates
1918; 1925; 1939

Significant Persons
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Aermotor Corporation (tower manufacturer)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency (NYSDEC)
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Franklin County, New York**

Section number 8 Page 1

The **St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station** is a component in the multiple property submission, Fire Observation Stations of the NYS Forest Preserve. It was identified as a historic resource in an unpublished inventory prepared by NYSDEC in 1991. Subsequently, with assistance from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Field Services Bureau, the St. Regis Mountain Forest Fire Observation Station was identified as meeting the criteria for listing on the State/National Registers of Historic Places. Additional contextual information for the St. Regis Mountain Forest Fire Observation Station can be found in Sections **E:1D *Rethinking Forest Fire Protection, 1909 – 1915***; **E:1F *“Conservation as a Social Service”: Managing Recreation and Resources, 1909 – 1916***; **E: 2C *Standardized Fire Observation Stations, 1916 – 1932***; **E: 2E *Decommissioning and Abandonment of the Fire Observation Stations, 1992 – 2000*** of the Multiple Property Documentation Form. Additional associated property type information can be found in Sections **F:1 *Steel Towers***; **F:2 *Observer Cabins and Outbuildings***; and **F:3 *Trail and Road Features*** of the Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Statement of Significance

The St. Regis Mountain Forest Fire Observation Station is significant under criteria A and C for its association with the New York State Forest Preserve and as an example of an early-20th century forest fire observation tower and related historic resources.

In April of 1910, the state placed the first fire observation station on St. Regis Mountain, which was comprised of an observer and a tent, which served as the observatory. A tower was not initially built on this site because the observer could see 449,209 acres by merely standing on the cleared summit. From there he could see 12 miles to the east, 15 miles to the south, 30 miles to the west and 15 miles to the north. The type tent that served as the first observatory on St. Regis Mountain can be seen in the image below of a 1910 observation tent on Pharaoh Mountain. (1)

See continuation sheet

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Franklin County, New York

Section number 8 Page 2



Fire Observation Tent on Pharaoh Mountain 1910

The state spent a total of \$294.77 for the construction of the first observation station. (2), and built a three-mile telephone line to the summit to connect the station. This observation station also had an excellent radio relay link to areas unreachable by repeater towers.

The first fire observer assigned to St. Regis Mountain was George F. Brown, who reported 55 fires the first year. (3) Within the first few years, there were a few dangerous fires in the area of the St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station. On the afternoon of May 31, 1915, a small fire, that was probably left by fishermen in the town of Santa Clara, was fanned by swift winds and destroyed 1,550 acres of state land. Most of this land had been burned over from a previous fire. (4)

There is a significant history of hikers enjoying their visit with the observer and the panoramic views from the tower. In 1921, the Conservation Reports began to record the number of visitors at the fire towers. That year there were 944 visitors to the St. Regis fire tower. In 1934, there were 1,639(5), and in 1973, there were 1,400 visitors. In 1990, the state decommissioned the St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station.

See continuation sheet

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Franklin County, New York**

Section number 8 Page 3

End Notes:

- (1) State of NY Forest, Fish and Game Commission, Sixteenth Annual Report [for the Year 1910] (Albany: JB Lyons, 1911), p. 27 insert.
- (2) Conservation Commission: Report for the year 1910. Albany. The Argus Co. 1911. Pg. 26.
- (3) Conservation Commission: Report for the year 1910. Albany.. The Argus Co 1911. Pg. 25.
- (4) Conservation Commission: Report for the year 1915. Albany. The Argus Co 1916. Pg. 89.
- (5) Conservation Department: Report for the year 1934.. Albany. J.B. Lyon Co. 1935. Pg. 100.

See continuation sheet

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Franklin County, New York

Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

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Williams, Stephen. "Lookout Lore" *The Sunday Gazette*. May 20, 2001. Pp. H-1, H-2.

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"Adirondack Fire Towers Get New Lease on Life", *Adirondack Explorer*, Aug. 1998. Pp. 14-15

"Room with a View" *Adirondack Life*. June 1993. Pg. 16.

Steven Englehart to Steven Guglielmi; Letter to DEC. from A.A.R.C.H. supporting retention of the St. Regis Mt. fire tower. Oct. 21, 2003

See continuation sheet

Appendix I – National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

(Page 10 of 11)

St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station
Name of Property

Franklin County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

1) 18 553345 4917270
Zone Easting Northing

2) 18 554525 4917864
Zone Easting Northing

3) 18
Zone Easting Northing

4) 18
Zone Easting Northing

3) 18
Zone Easting Northing

4) 18
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary includes a 500 square foot area surrounding the tower; the site of the observer's cabin; and a 15-foot buffer from the center line on either side of the nine-tenths mile foot trail between the site of the observer's cabin and the tower

Boundary Justification

Boundaries have been drawn to include the extant resources historically associated with the observation station.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Petrelli (with research assistance from Marty Podskoch & William Starr)
Ed. By L. Garofalini, NYSOPRHP, Peebles Island, Waterford, NY 518-237-8643 ext. 3267

organization Saving St. Regis Tower date 12/6/04

street & number 108 County Route 25 telephone 518-483-3767

city or town Malone state NY zip code 12953

Additional Documentation

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white **photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

street & number 625 Broadway telephone 518-457-7433

city or town Albany state NY zip code 12233-7020

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Appendix J – Response to Public Comment

A public comment period for the Draft UMP for the SRMFTHA was held from October 16 to November 15, 2013. During that time, the Department received over 80 written comments as well as several oral comments via telephone. Below is a summary of those comments requiring a response from the Department.

- Public money should not be used to restore the tower.

While local friends groups or other organizations may be able to raise funds for maintenance of the fire tower, the Department is obligated to provide staff and fiscal resources where needed since the tower is a Department facility.

- Volunteers should be sought for the tower restoration effort.

A volunteer organization, “The Friends of the St. Regis Fire Tower”, has expressed an interest in participating in the maintenance of the tower. The Department will continue to support such volunteer efforts.

- No state jobs should be created for this project.

This UMP does not propose the creation of any new staff positions. It does, however, advocate for the use of volunteers in the maintenance of the tower.

- Restoration of the fire tower will not attract more people to the summit.

As with other fire towers maintained by the Department for public use, it is not expected that opening the tower in and of itself will increase use of the area. If local municipalities and other organizations begin to promote the tower as a tourism destination, then public use may increase.

- Removing the fire tower would be appropriate if it weren't for the cost.

The Department considered several alternatives for the fire tower, including removal of the structure. Ultimately, all of the alternatives have a cost associated with them. Even if the tower were left standing with no further maintenance, it would eventually become a threat to public safety and have to be removed.

- The easiest course of action would have been to amend the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) to make the tower a conforming structure.

In 2010 the Adirondack Park Agency analyzed alternatives related to state land classifications. Their preferred alternative was the creation of a Historic Area to make the tower a conforming structure. The proposals in this UMP are consistent with that alternative.

- The tower should be removed to allow for Canoe Area Classification.

While the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan allows for this course of action, the Department’s primary objective for the tower is to maximize its interpretive and educational potential as an historic resource.

- Adoption of this UMP would perpetuate an ongoing violation of the spirit of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP), including the Canoe and Historic Area guidelines.

Being a Historic Area UMP, this plan was written to be consistent with the Historic Area guidelines of the SLMP. It is up to the Adirondack Park Agency to determine whether or not the UMP conforms to the SLMP.

- The state failed to commit financial resources to the permanent management of the towers when the land was classified as Historic in 2010.

Funding for the management of recreational facilities is typically allocated on an annual, not permanent basis. In terms of initial maintenance requirements, there is existing state money dedicated for fire towers that will likely be used if private funds cannot be secured.

- The Adirondack Park Agency’s 2010 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the reclassification of land under the fire tower failed to evaluate the alternative of relocating the tower to a nearby community.

Management actions proposed in this UMP are consistent with the preferred alternative identified in the 2010 EIS.

- The spot zoning required for the Historic Area is a contradiction to the SLMP.

This UMP was written to be consistent with the Historic Area guidelines in the SLMP.

- Ongoing maintenance of the Historic Area should conform to the standards of the surrounding Canoe Area.

Because the land is classified as Historic, the maintenance of the area will conform to Historic Area guidelines.

- A remote meteorology station should be installed in the tower.

There are several weather stations already present in the vicinity of the fire tower. Also, the presence of a weather station would not be consistent with the Department’s objectives for the fire tower.