



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

Adirondack Park Agency 2014 Division Reports

Contents

Resource Analysis and Scientific Services

Planning Division

Regulatory Programs

Legal Division

Administration Division

Economic Services

2014 RESOURCE ANALYSIS AND SCIENTIFIC SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

The Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) Division of the Adirondack Park Agency is tasked to provide sound, independent scientific and engineering advice to all other Agency divisions. Often times division staff act as the interface between other Agency Divisions offering technical determinations and providing insight on environmental issues. RASS staff are always engaged with addressing the linkages between science and policy and the interpretation of highly technical and complex material.

RASS staff work to educate the project sponsor regarding the resources of concern and the reasons for their protection with a high level of professionalism, civility and respect. RASS Division staff use a guiding principle to “Protect natural resources by applying relevant laws, regulations, standards and policies using good science and sound engineering judgment, while at the same time, being respectful and consistent with all those with whom we come in contact.”

Staff also provide wetland determinations and field delineations to landowners in the Adirondack Park. This is an integral and often first-step in the planning and design phases of projects and helps to avoid and/or minimize wetland impacts. RASS staff often spend long hours in the field advising design that will avoid adverse environmental impacts.

Through any given year RASS staff work on projects, enforcement cases, variances, and policies, and provide technical advice regarding a wide variety of topics including making height, navigability and mean high water mark determinations, identifying, delineating and evaluating wetlands, assessing wildlife impacts, assisting lake associations in management of aquatic invasive species, and assessing forest management activities. All Agency transactions that involve wetlands, soils, wastewater treatment, surface waters or forests pass through RASS for resource analysis and recommendations. RASS professionals are called upon to provide expert testimony under oath regarding their areas of specialization.

Engineering

Evaluating existing and proposed development within the Park requires professional engineering services and technical analysis that is based upon sound science and engineering judgment and is consistent with applicable laws, regulations, standards, policies and guidance documents. RASS engineering staff routinely conduct site visits, review professionally prepared plans and provide recommendations and alternative designs where appropriate. Subject areas, include, but are not limited to, on-site wastewater treatment, site design and access, stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, dams, bridges, roads, traffic, noise and adequacy of municipal services. The technical analysis provided by RASS Engineering staff includes professional opinions that are protective of life, health, and the natural resources of the Park.

RASS staff continued tracking the number of engineering reviews by category as well as reviews by Agency Division in 2014. The purpose is to provide an overview of how engineering services are utilized at the Agency and the amount of time spent on some of the more common review areas.

In 2014 RASS Engineering staff provided written technical recommendations (by Division) as follows (see Figure 1):

- Regulatory Programs (Permit Applications) – 209
- Legal (Jurisdictional Office, legal reviews) – 73
- Legal (Enforcement) – 25
- Planning (Local Government) – 3
- Planning (State Land) – 5

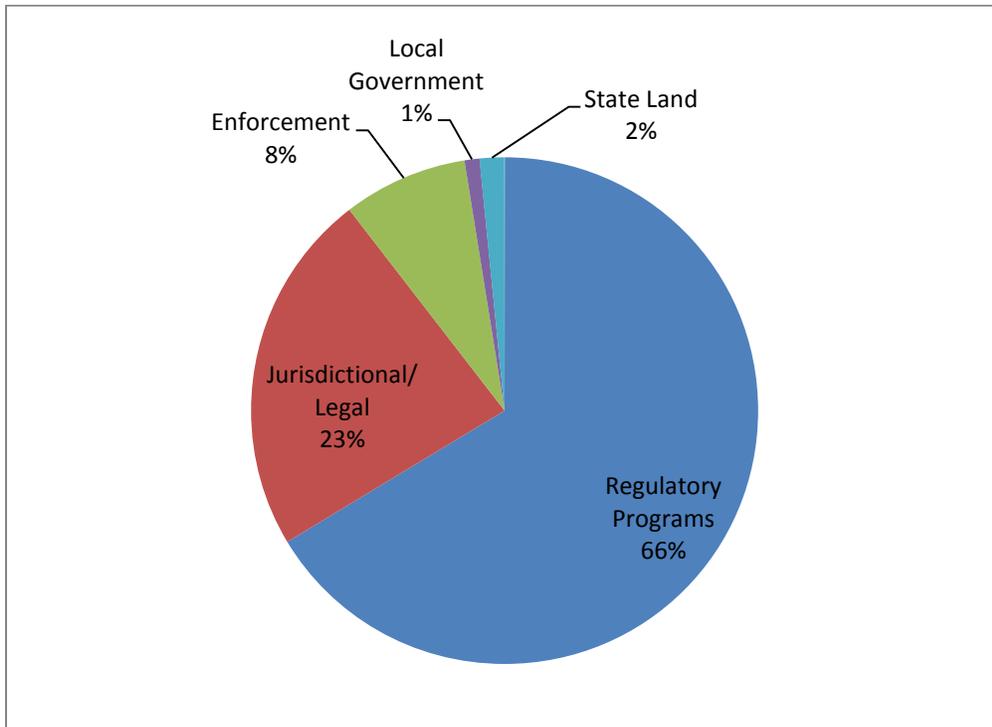


Figure 1. Engineering reviews by Agency Division.

Engineering staff also organized reviews by category which is found in Table 1 and depicted in Figure 2. The following is a description of categories reviewed by Agency engineers:

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems - typical reviews consist of evaluation of plans prepared by a New York State Licensed Professional Engineer for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and policies for protection of health and water resources.

Shoreline - reviews include a broad spectrum of programs including projects, variances, jurisdictional determinations, State land and enforcement cases. Typical evaluations include both office plan reviews and site visits for structures such as new and expanded

single family dwelling construction, retaining walls, boathouses, docks, boardwalks, decks and other accessory structures.

Stormwater Management - typical reviews consist of evaluation of plans prepared by a qualified professional for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and policies. Through the application of the Agency's Development Considerations, the goal is to prevent surface and groundwater impacts from stormwater runoff associated with development proposals. Potential impacts from untreated stormwater runoff include a decline in surface water quality, diminished groundwater recharge and quality, stream channel erosion and habitat degradation, increased overbank flooding, floodplain expansion and impacts to aquatic organisms.

Table 1. Engineering reviews by category

OSWTS Reviews	186
Stormwater Management	208
Shoreline Reviews	192

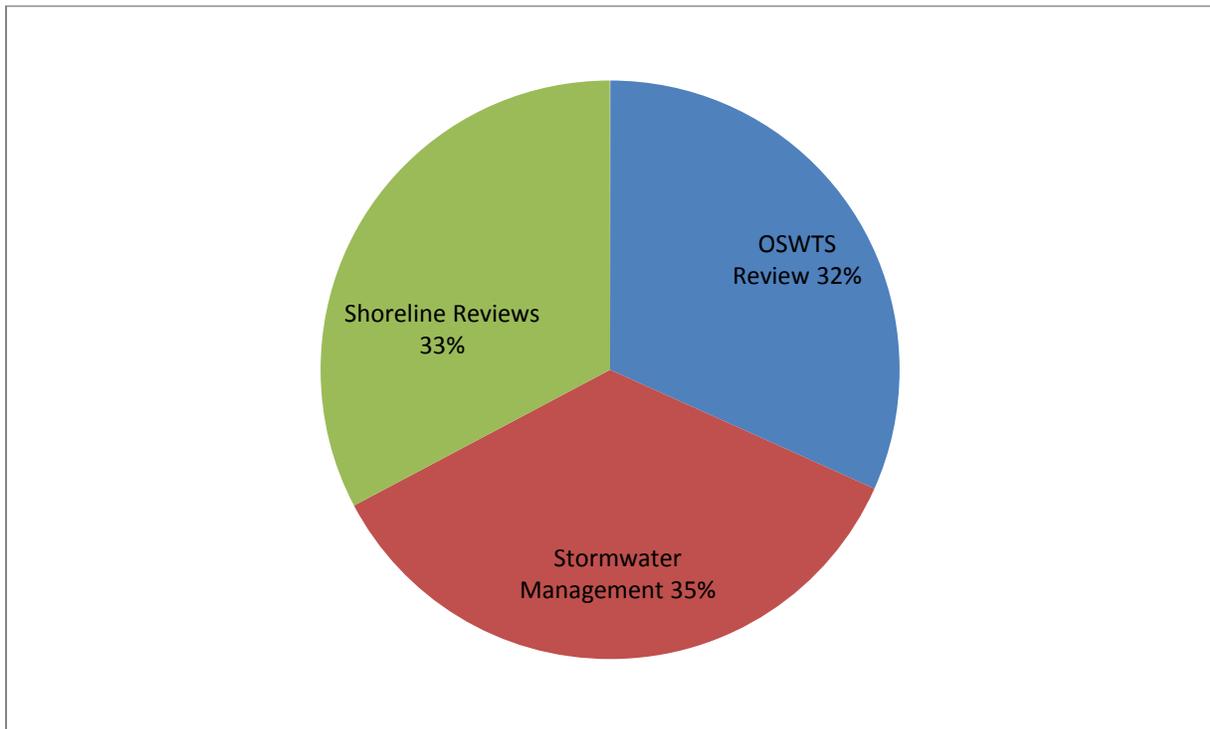


Figure 2. Engineering reviews by category.

Soils

A qualified soil scientist on the Agency staff provides an essential service to the public and minimizes the soil component of on-site wastewater treatment system (OSWTS) analysis for Agency engineers. This process is vital so Agency engineering staff can efficiently issue approvals for submitted OSWTS designs.

In 2014 a total of 71 projects involving 155 deep-hole test pits (DHTPs) were reviewed by Agency staff (Table 2). Of the 155 DHTPs, 131 were described by Agency staff and 24 were described by outside consultants (Figure 3). All data submitted by consultants is checked by Agency staff to ensure profile accuracy, separation requirements, and appropriate setback distances. In 2014 forty-four percent of the test pits were approved for conventional on-site wastewater treatment systems (OSWTSs), 32 percent were approved for shallow absorption OSWTSs, and 25 percent did not meet Agency guidelines (Figure 4).

Of the approved shallow systems 96 percent were due to shallow seasonal high groundwater and 4 percent were due to shallow bedrock (Figure 5).

Deep Hole Test Pit Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Projects Involving DHTPs	3	0	2	7	4	10	9	7	8	10	7	4	71
DHTPs Described by APA	10	0	0	13	8	25	18	5	16	13	18	5	131
DHTPs Described by Consultants	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	14	0	3	0	4	24
Total DHTPs	10	0	2	13	9	25	18	19	16	16	18	9	155
Approved Conventional Systems	4	0	1	2	2	13	9	9	9	9	6	4	68
Approved Shallow Systems	0	0	0	5	5	4	3	9	4	4	11	4	49
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines	6	0	1	6	2	8	6	1	3	3	1	1	38
Approved Conventional Systems %	40%	0%	50%	15%	22%	52%	50%	47%	56%	56%	33%	44%	44%
Approved Shallow Systems %	0%	0%	0%	38%	56%	16%	17%	47%	25%	25%	61%	44%	32%
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines %	60%	0%	50%	46%	22%	32%	33%	5%	19%	19%	6%	11%	25%
Approved Shallow Systems	0	0	0	5	5	4	3	9	4	4	11	4	49
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT	0	0	0	4	5	3	3	9	4	4	11	4	47
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT %	0%	0%	0%	80%	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock %	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%

Table 2. Deep-hole test pit statistics for 2014.

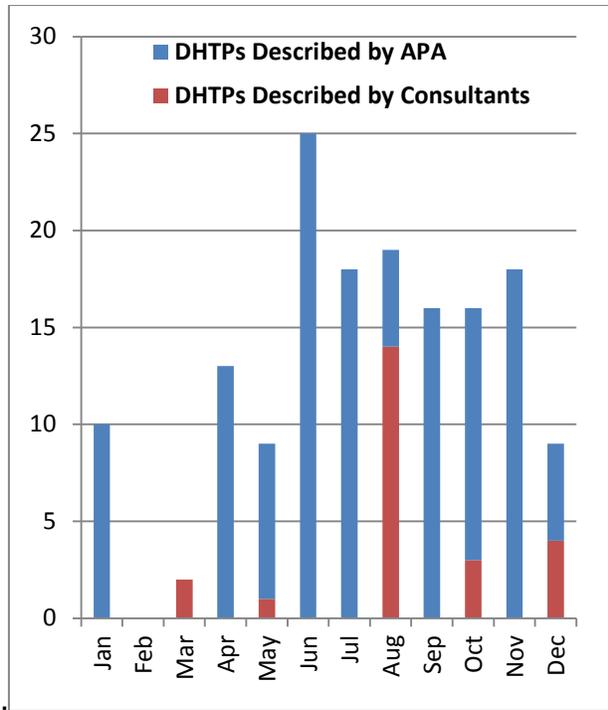


Figure 3. Deep-hole test pits described by the APA and consultants in 2014.

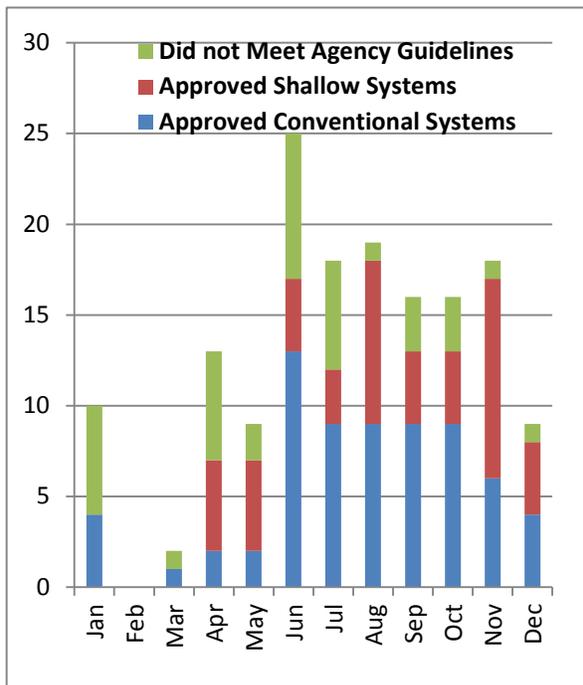


Figure 4. Number of approved shallow and conventional systems and number of systems that did not meet Agency guidelines.

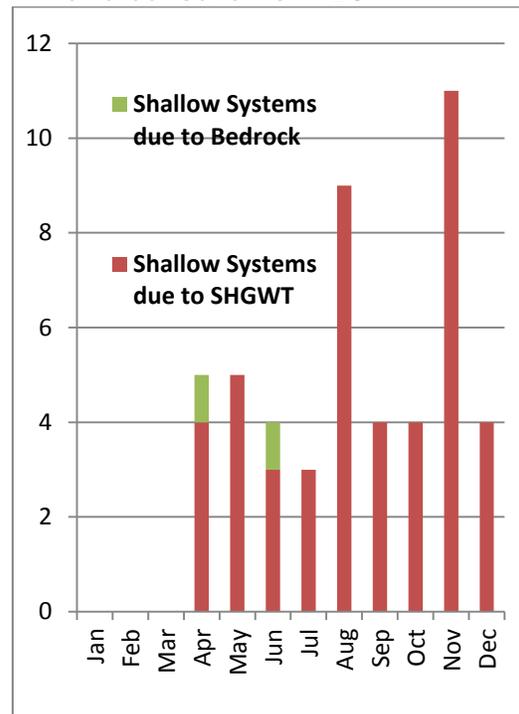


Figure 5. The number of approved shallow systems due to SHGWT and to bedrock. This graph is only accounting for shallow systems.

Wetlands

Wetland involvement is a common jurisdictional trigger. The NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act and the APA Act have stringent requirements for regulated activities involving wetlands. The Agency's wetlands protection program including mapping, delineation, evaluation, mitigation, and impact analysis has been and is considered proactive, responsive to public needs, and technologically advanced. RASS wetlands staff provide a level of service to the public that has no parallel.

During 2014 a total of 193 wetland visits were made throughout the Park (Figure 6). This represents a decrease from 2013 which had 217 site visits. Each visit involved a wetland determination and/or delineation. Some of the wetland delineations, due to wetland size, took several days to complete. The average processing time of all 193 visits was 12 days (Table 3).

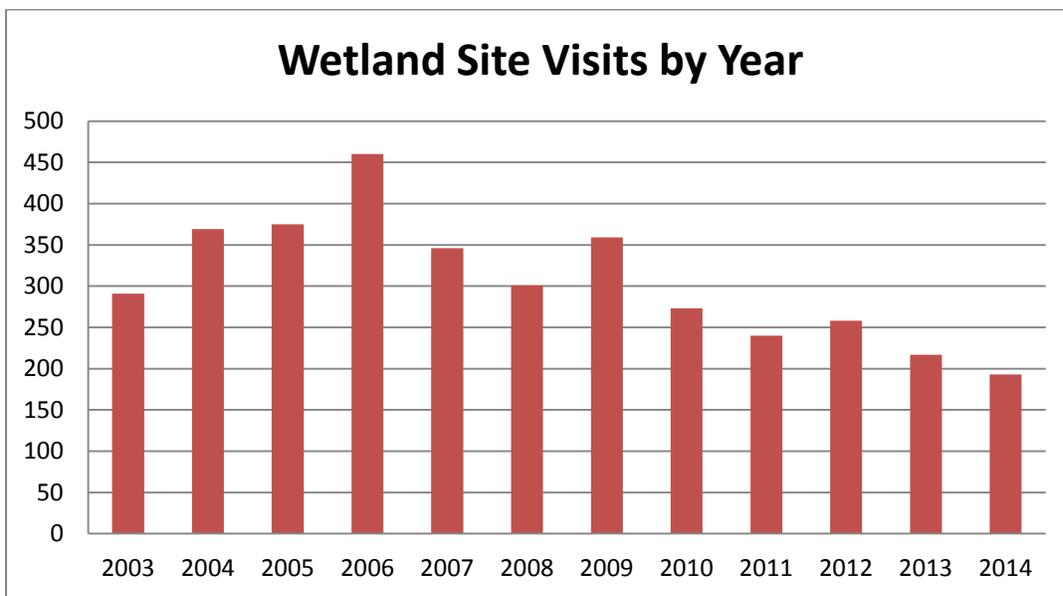


Figure 6. Wetland visits by year (2003 to 2014).

Time Period	Number of requests received during month	Number completed	Interval for processing. (Date received to date scheduled for those received in that month)	Number pending
January	3	3	N/A	0
February	2	0	N/A	2
March	4	0	N/A	6
April	16	9	21	13
May	22	20	24	15
June	22	25	11	12
July	31	31	10	12
August	25	29	7	8
September	38	32	12	14
October	19	25	10	8
November	10	16	7	2
December	1	3	5	0
Cumulative for 2014	193	193	Average = 12	0

Table 3. Total wetland site visits by month and average processing time for wetland site visits.

Remote Sensing

RASS staff conducted 330 wetland air photo interpretations in 2014, mostly in support of other Agency divisions as summarized in Table 4 and depicted in Figure 7. Air photo interpretations are conducted with high-resolution digital stereo pairs of air photos viewed with state-of-the-art hardware and software bought through our EPA grants. This allows staff to respond to requests for wetland determinations in a timely manner and significantly reduces the need for on the ground wetland field visits.

	JIF	Referrals	Project Review	Enforcement	For Citizens	Other Staff	Other	Total
Jan.	6	2		2	2	1	4	17
Feb.	16	2	7		2	4	9	40
March	15	2	9	1	1	1	7	36
April	7		1	2			4	14
May	9	1	6	6	4	2	3	31
June	24	1	10	4	6	1	6	52
July	11	1	2	1	3		2	20
August	15	2	3	2			1	20
Sept.	10		3	2			1	16
Oct.	23	1	11	2		2	2	41
Nov.	10	1	3				4	18
Dec.	14	1	2	4			1	22
Total	160	14	57	26	18	11	44	330

Table 4. Air photo interpretations by request.

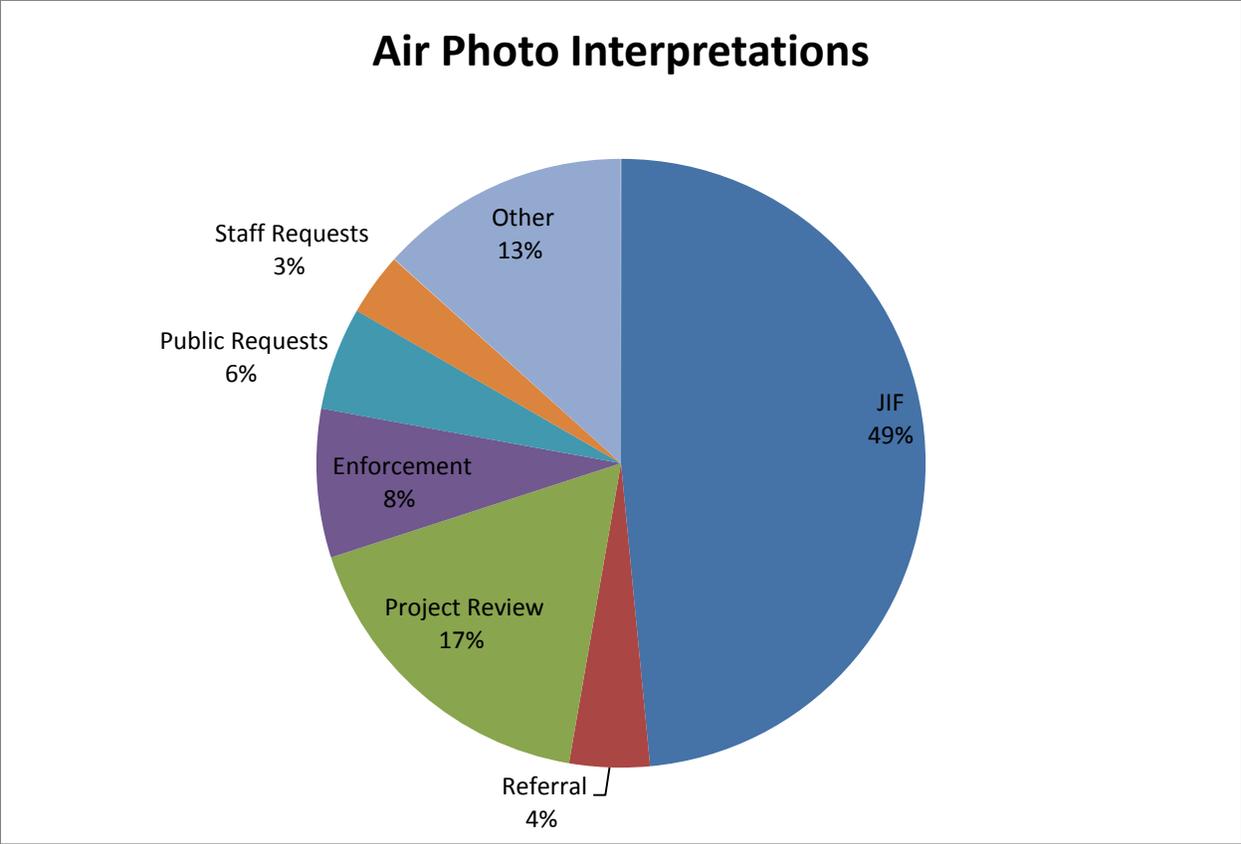


Figure 7. Air photo interpretations by request.

Biological, Freshwater and Forestry Resources

RASS ecologists and forestry specialist staff track the number of biological, freshwater wetlands, and forestry related reviews by category. The purpose is to provide an overview of time spent on some of the more common review areas for staff and provides an overview of how wetland biologists, freshwater ecologist and forestry specialist services are utilized at the Agency. As depicted in figure 8, wetland related project reviews accounted for approximately 57 percent of the reviews and freshwater resource related projects, mostly attributed to aquatic invasive species management, represented 16 percent of the reviews. Forestry related reviews also accounted for 18 percent by category.

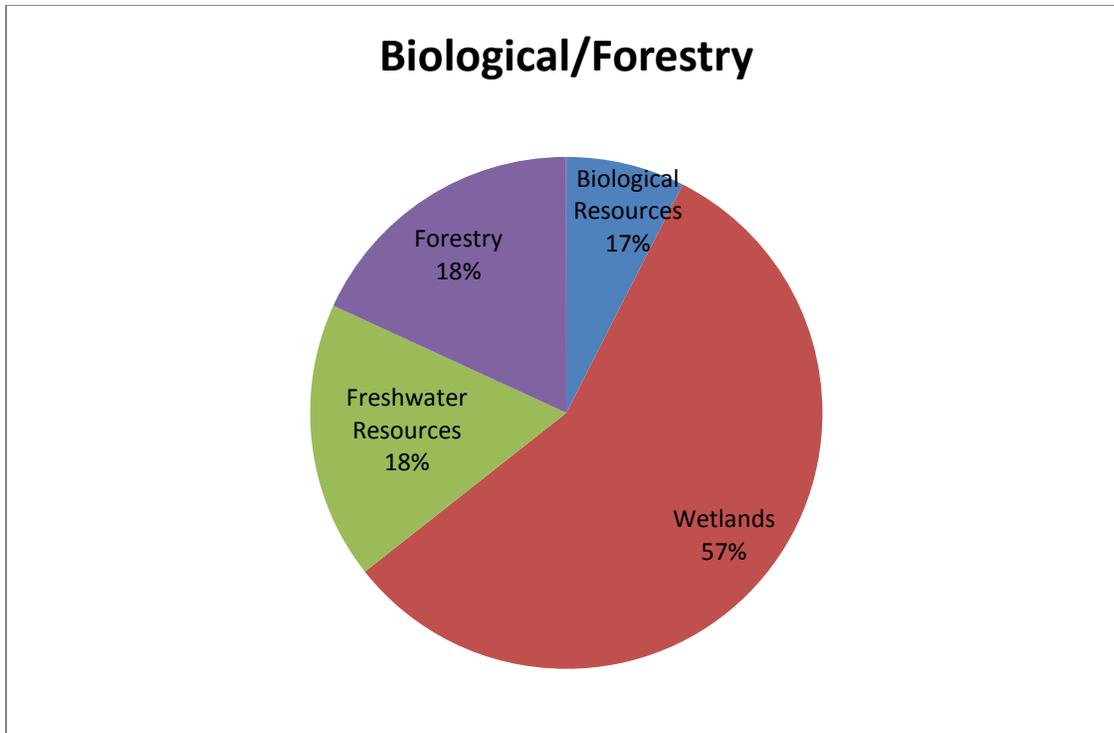


Figure 8. Wetlands, biological resources, freshwater resources and forestry project reviews.

Freshwater Resources

In 2014 Agency staff hosted a summit of regional technical and regulatory partners to discuss the potential introduction of *Hydrilla verticillata* in the Park. Hydrilla is a highly aggressive aquatic invasive plant that exhibits extremely dense growth characteristics. If it becomes established significant adverse impacts to wetlands, water quality, recreational boating, and fish and wildlife habitat can occur. For example, a 2014 publication commissioned by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) estimated that Hydrilla's impact on boating recreation alone could be between \$6.65 and \$9.5 million dollars per year. As a result of the summit, the Agency has begun working with the NYSDEC, APIPP, and the Lake Champlain Basin Program to develop a Rapid Response Task Force for the Adirondack Region. Agency staff also began working to find ways to streamline permitting should Hydrilla, or some other highly invasive species, be detected in the park. The Agency will work to develop a Rapid Response Task Force and rapid permitting program.

In March, 2014 the Agency approved "Guidelines for Appropriate Use of the Aquatic Herbicides Containing the Active Ingredient Triclopyr to Manage Eurasian Watermilfoil, an Aquatic Invasive Plant." This document was developed by staff and vetted with the public during a formal public comment period. As a result, the Agency now has a document which provides specific guidance to prospective applicants which can provide some certainty during the permitting process. Agency staff are currently discussing permitting issues for future herbicide applications to control Eurasian watermilfoil using Triclopyr with Lake Hadlock Association (Town of Fort Ann) as well as other lake associations. As intended, the guidance is helping to assist applicants during the permitting process.

Forests

The privately owned forests of the Adirondacks are perhaps the most visible of the park's natural resources. Factors such as invasive pests and pathogens, climate disruption, acidic deposition, and poor management pose the threat of significant impairment. The Agency has the ability to encourage good forest management practices on these lands that will result in a resilient, healthy forest more capable of resisting these perturbation factors.

In 2014, RASS staff continued discussions with timber industry representatives and environmental advocacy groups regarding modern silvicultural practices in the Adirondack Park. Most recently, these talks have been centered around potential regulatory revisions which would encourage sustainable forest management based on the best available science.

In July, RASS staff presented a proposed jurisdictional timber harvesting project to the Agency Board. P2014-0100 involved Lyme Adirondack Timberlands, LLC's proposal to conduct forest management consisting of thinning, shelterwood removal and salvage harvests on a 642 acre portion of a 4,100 acre parcel, jurisdictional under the Agency's timber harvesting regulations. The proposed treatments were designed to remove poor quality trees in all size and age classes, while encouraging re-generation of a diverse group of tree species including Yellow Birch, Black Cherry, White Ash and Sugar Maple. RASS staff conducted a thorough and efficient review of potential impacts, and the Agency board approved the project.

EPA Grants

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wetland Protection Program Development (WPPD) Phase 1 grant entitled, "Developing a Monitoring Framework for Detecting Wetland Response to Climate Change in the Adirondack Park: Protocol for Development and Implementation" was completed in 2013 and the final report will be finalized and submitted to the EPA in 2015.

The EPA funded project "Detecting Climate Change in Wetlands in the Adirondack Park: Phase II" has been underway since April 1, 2014. This is the 15th EPA WPPD grant award that the RASS Division has garnered dating back to 1993 and totaling over \$3 million dollars. The goal of the project is to assess the impact of climate change to the region's wetlands through the use of research and new technologies. The project has engaged citizen scientist volunteers, logging more than 200 hours of volunteer time, and has expanded the Agency's knowledge of vegetation composition and structure of vulnerable boreal peatlands across the Adirondacks. The EPA project will continue through summer 2015.

Committee and Organizational Affiliations

List of Committees or Organizations in which RASS Staff Participate

Committee Name	Staff Participant	Number of Meetings in 2014
GIS Internal User's Group	Rooks/O'Dell/ Walrath/Ziemann	2
Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee	Snizek	10
Lake Champlain Basin Program Aquatic Nuisance Species	Snizek	4
Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee	Snizek/Walrath	Quarterly meetings
Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society (NEAPMS)	Snizek	Annual meeting
New York State Federation of Lake Association (NYSFOLA)	Walrath	Annual meeting
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)	Snizek/Walrath	2
Lake Champlain Basin Program AIS Rapid Response Team	Snizek	2
NYS Invasive Species Council	Snizek	4
Silvicultural Practices Review Group	Ziemann	2
SUNY Plattsburgh Guest Lecturer (Wetland Ecology)	O'Dell	1

ESS:SEL:GAB:WMR:MAO:ACZ:LRW:lhb

2014 PLANNING DIVISIONS ANNUAL REPORT

REGIONAL PLANNING

Activities and Accomplishments:

Complex Planning Initiative: Great South Woods

Agency staff worked with DEC staff throughout the year to plan and coordinate the public launch of the Great South Woods Project. This first-of-its kind recreational planning effort focuses on the 2 million-acre (+) region of the Park known as the Great South Woods, and it features innovative partnerships with SUNY College of ESF, Syracuse, and Hamilton County via the North Country Economic Development Council grant-funded consultants, Leading E.D.G.E. of Saranac Lake. At a larger landscape level than has been planned for previously in the Adirondacks (individual State land units or small complexes of them), the project's central goal is to expand and enhance recreational access to Forest Preserve and State-owned conservation easement lands, with a particular eye on enabling area communities to benefit significantly from destination-based, outdoor recreation tourism. State land management measures that protect the area's natural resources will continue to be addressed. Comparable projects will be undertaken for the remainder of the Park upon completion of this regional plan.

Historic Resource Reviews

APA's Agency Preservation Officer completed historic resource reviews required as part of the Agency's review of various projects in the Towns of Ausable, Brighton, Broadalbin, Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Ellenberg, Essex, Fine, Jay, Lake George, Lake Luzerne, Long Lake, Moriah, Northampton, Parishville, Santa Clara, Saranac, Ticonderoga, Willsboro, Wilmington, and at the Lake George Battlefield Intensive Use Area.

Permits:

Staff worked in consultation with Regulatory staff regarding several DEC and DOT projects including: bridge work on Route 28 in the Town of Webb, a referral (R2013-0270) from Clinton County regarding snowmobile trail work on private lands and in Taylor Pond Wild Forest, plans for the reconstruction of the Whiteface Memorial Highway, plans for the second phase of the Lake George Beach and Battlefield (aka Million Dollar Beach) project, the 814 Order issued to DOT to repair the slope failure along the Upper Cascade Lake, St. Lawrence County's proposed "Multi-Use Trail System" as it may affect State lands, the removal of Marcy Dam in the High Peaks Wilderness, the reconstruction of Kingdom Dam on Lincoln Pond in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest, and a proposed placement of a 10-meter weather tower in a field with

existing towers and weather instruments at the Atmospheric Science and Research Center (State Administrative Area.

Planning staff were also involved with reviewing the following draft documents: “General Permit for the Management of Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species in or within 100’ of wetlands in the Adirondack Park”, and “General Permit for Access to and Replacement In-kind of Utility Poles in Wetlands.”

Outreach

Staff presented at a conference hosted by Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve. This was a “kick-off” celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the subject of the presentation and panel discussion was “Stewardship challenges, present and future, in the Forest Preserve.” Staff also presented at the 7th annual New York State Snowmobile Association’s conference.

Staff attended two Forest Preserve Advisory Committee meetings in Albany. Only two meetings were held this year. APA staff participated in DEC’s Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held in Saratoga Springs, NY. The group works to provide a range of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities on the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Staff also attended the Adirondack Research Consortium conference and the Common Ground Alliance annual meeting.

STATE LAND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Activities and Accomplishments:

APSLMP Amendment

In October, the Agency announced the beginning of a public process to consider amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), including amendments associated with the Essex Chain of Lakes. Four listening sessions were held and public comment was accepted. One hundred fifty eight people registered at the four public meetings. As of the end of December, the Agency had received 1,186 emails, letters, faxes or resolutions. These comments were compiled into a summary document which was posted on the Agency’s website.

State Land Consultation Process and Tracking

In an effort to simplify the consultation process between the Department and the Agency, Agency staff finalized a State Land Consultation Form which can be used in place of the State Land JIF form. The process of reviewing this document (and forwarding it, if a permit is needed) was also reviewed and improved. As another part of the above process, State Land staff developed a State Land Consultation database in

the MAD. This will enable staff to query for actions and by units, fields staff previously were not able to do with the JIF database.

Review of DEC Snowmobile Trail Projects

State land staff consulted with DEC staff regarding the siting, construction and maintenance of various snowmobile trails or snowmobile trail segments in the Park. These consultations involved office review of DEC work plans and field work concerning trails in the Aldrich Pond, Black River, Jessup River, Lake George, Moose River Plains, Shaker Mountain, Taylor Pond, Vanderwhacker Mountain, Wilcox Lake and Wilmington Wild Forest Areas, as well as one proposed trail segment in the Camp Santanoni Historic Area, Dead Creek Primitive Area, and Harris Lake Campground.

Review of Other DEC (including ORDA) State Land Projects

Throughout the year, APA State land staff reviewed and provided consultation to DEC on various DEC project proposals across the Forest Preserve lands of the Park. The locations of these proposals included six Wilderness areas, two Primitive areas, seven Wild Forest areas, six Intensive Use areas and one State Administrative area. APA staff also provided consultation on three Wild, Scenic, Recreational River projects.

Development of Backcountry Skiing in the Adirondack Forest Preserve

The Adirondack Powder Skier Association requested changes to trail construction and maintenance policies to provide additional and more conducive opportunities for backcountry skiing on State lands in the Park. Agency staff worked with representatives of the Association, other constituent groups and DEC staff and evaluated the potential, for new backcountry ski trail opportunities using existing guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and DEC trail construction and maintenance policies.

Work Group on Primitive Camping in the Adirondack Forest Preserve

State land staff continued participating in a DEC/APA workgroup regarding future management of primitive tent sites. The workgroup's objective is to develop Master Plan compliant alternatives for primitive tent sites to address a number of camping management issues on State lands in the Park. The group focused on designing suitable walk-in primitive tent sites on Forest Preserve along roads, and proposing additional guidance regarding tent site size, structures at primitive tent sites and large groups.

Remsen – Lake Placid Travel Corridor

Agency staff attended four public meetings held in the fall by DEC and DOT regarding the planned, upcoming amendment of the Corridor's 1996 UMP/EIS. During these sessions, DEC and DOT solicited community input to help to determine future uses for one of the Park's unique and vital assets. It is anticipated that a draft UMP/EIS will be developed for future Agency staff review.

State Land Violations

Seven potential State land violations were logged into our State Land Compliance database as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park. Agency staff continued consultation with DEC staff on these important matters.

Unit Management Plan Review and Consultations

- **St. Regis and Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area UMPs:**

In the Agency's May meeting, the Agency determined that the Final Draft UMP for the St. Regis and Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Areas complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

- **Bog River Complex Unit Management Plan Amendment:**

In the Agency's June meeting, the Agency determined that the proposed amendment to the Bog River Complex UMP (2002) complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park state Land Master Plan. This UMP amendment added a new trail and parking area at Goodman Mountain and two new trails and two new parking areas in an area referred to as Otter Point in the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

- **Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment:**

In the June Agency meeting, the Agency determined that the proposed amendment to the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest UMP (1984) complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park state Land Master Plan. One member abstained from this vote. This amendment added two new connector trails which enabled hikers and skiers to avoid 4.14 miles of the current Cranberry Lake 50 Trail off of State Route 3.

- **Jay Mountain Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan Amendment:**

In the June Agency meeting, the Agency determined that the proposed amendment to the Jay Mountain Wilderness UMP (2010) complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park state Land Master Plan. This amendment makes the UMP consistent with the Constitutional Amendment passed by voters in November 2013.

Other UMP-related Activities

State land staff conducted field visits, reviewed drafts, participated in meetings and provided consultation to DEC planners throughout the year concerning other draft UMPs in various stages of completion. These included draft UMPs for the Alger Island Campground and 4th Lake Day Use Area, Black River Wild Forest, Chazy Highland Complex, Camp Santanoni Historic Area, Eighth Lake Campground, Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, Grasse River Wild Forest, Jessup River Wild Forest, Pepperbox Wilderness, Remson-Lake Placid Travel Corridor, Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Area, Sentinel Mountain Wilderness, Wilcox Lake Wild Forest, and Wilmington Wild Forest.

State Land Committee Presentations

- **Update of Whiteface Memorial Highway** – R. Weber and K. Prickett provided a joint presentation of Regulatory Programs and State Land. (February 2014)
- **Update on Travel Corridor Management Process and Scenic Vista Management** – Presentation by E. Franz, DOT (June 2014)
- **September 3, 1964: 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act** – Presentation by K. Prickett. (September 2014)
- **Commemoration, Overview and Highlights of the Wilderness Act and its Historic Roots in the Adirondack Park** – Presentation by Dr. Phil Terrie. (September 2014)

PARK POLICY AND PLANNING

Map Amendment Review

- MA2014-01 - The State of New York intends to convey an approximately 92 acre parcel in the Town of Brighton, Franklin County, to a private entity who was the successful bidder of an October 28, 2013 auction for the parcel. The parcel is the former Camp Gabriels Correctional Facility. Technical Map Amendment 2014-01 will add the parcel to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map, classified as Moderate Intensity Use. The reclassification will not be effective until the parcel subject to this map amendment has been conveyed by the State of New York to a private landowner and the deed has been recorded in the Franklin County Clerk's Office.

- MA2014-02 – The Agency received an application from a private landowner in the Town of Moriah requesting a 12.5 acre parcel be reclassified from Resource Management to Moderate Intensity Use. The Agency expanded the area to a total of 20 acres in size, published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in October and held a public hearing on the matter in November. The Agency approved the amendment in January 2015.
- MA2014-03 – The Adirondack Park Agency received an application for an amendment to the Official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map from the Town of Wilmington. The Town is requesting that three areas, totaling approximately 210 acres, be reclassified from Rural Use and Resource Management to Moderate Intensity Use. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be presented to the Agency Board in February 2015.
- MA2014-04 - The Agency received an application for a Map Amendment from a landowner in the Town of Westport. The applicant, with support from the Town, is requesting a change from Resource Management to Moderate Intensity Use or Hamlet, contingent upon connecting the property to the existing municipal sewer system. The Agency has been talking with the Town since 2008 about expanding the Hamlet. Most undeveloped land around the existing Hamlet contain soils which are not suitable for on-site septic systems. The Town's sewer system, which was recently upgraded, is operating at or above its designed capacity and the Town has not been in a position to make further upgrades. The Town and Agency staff has discussed a potential contingent map amendment process. In November, staff made a presentation to the Agency Board on the concept of a contingent map amendment where the Agency could approve an amendment to Hamlet, but the map would not change until the infrastructure is in place. Staff will present a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the Board in 2015.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Staff updated all parcel GIS data in the park to the most current versions available from each of the 12 county Real Property Tax offices. This information helps the Agency answer public inquiries about jurisdiction and other projects related to property in the park. Staff also used new parcel data to update mapping of the park Blue Line boundary.
- Staff developed a rich set of online web map services for the public, combining Agency map data with other sources of natural resource, jurisdictional, community assets, and recreational opportunity layers.
- Staff improved the Agency GIS Lookup System used by all staff to provide new map layers including telecommunication projects, deep hole test pits, detailed watershed boundaries, and shoreline photos.

- Staff provided GIS analysis assistance to the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, creating a list of the 389 named, populated places in the park recorded in the 2013 Federal Geographic Names database.
- Staff provided mapping support to DEC Lands and Forests documenting historic roads open to the public on Wild Forest Lands.
- Staff provided mapping and resource analysis support for Local Government and Economic Services outreach to the Town of Northampton and Village of Northville concerning the Hamlet Economic Development Plan

Park Policy and Planning Presentations

- **Map Amendment-** Matt Kendall presented an amendment for Camp Gabriels to classify the land from State Administrative Use to Moderate Intensity Use. The amendment was approved unanimously. (July 2014)
- **Technical Map Amendment** – Matt Kendall presented an amendment for the Town of Moriah to classify approximately 20 acres from Resource Management to Moderate Intensity Use.
- The Board approved the Resolution to accept the DSEIS and authorized the committee to proceed to public hearing. (October 2014)
- **Map Amendment** – Matt Kendall presented an amendment for the Town of Westport to classify approximately 12 acres from Resource Management to Moderate Intensity or Hamlet, contingent upon connecting the requested area to the existing municipal sewer system. (November 2014)
- **Look-Up 2 and Modifications of Blue Line** – John Barge discussed updates to the GIS blue line data and provided a presentation of the interactive web mapping available to the public on the Agency's web page. (November 2014)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Local Government Services Program administers Sections 807 and 808 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and its implementing regulations. Two program staff provide oversight of the eighteen Agency-approved local land use programs and review approximately 100 variance referrals and 30-50 zoning amendments annually from the participating program municipalities. Additionally, staff respond to numerous informational requests from local officials within the Park. The workload is driven by strict statutory deadlines for responses to variance referrals and the need to provide timely responses to inquiries from elected and appointed officials.

In 2014, LGS staff were able to complete two organizational tasks to better serve the Agency's-approved local land use program administration.

- A comprehensive review and archive of historical records from the eighteen programs, some of which dated back 1977, was completed. Program documents were reviewed, sorted, organized, scanned, and now are available for desktop retrieval. Original program materials were kept and refiled for reference if needed.
- A LGS Manual was completed. The manual has been a work in progress for several years and now provides a reliable guide for the administration of Agency-approved local land use programs with detailed procedures for program reviews and approval of amendments and variance referrals. It also includes sections on LGS records management and processes for the Agency's Local Government Conference registration and annual updates of local officials contact information.

Also of note in 2014 was the dissolution of the Village of Keeseville on December 31, 2014. The former village is now under the governance of the Towns of Au Sable in Clinton County and Chesterfield in Essex County. The divide is along the Ausable River which served as the powerhouse in building the village through the 1800s and early 1900s. The Adirondack Park is now comprised of 102 Towns and Villages.

A summary of Local Government Services accomplishments and reportable items in 2014 is provided in the table below. The information is compiled from LGS Committee monthly reports. The data highlights the number of Adirondack communities and officials that staff consulted with and provided assistance to during the course of 2014. An attached map provides a graphic display of the towns and villages LGS staff were involved with in the past year. The tables also includes the number of intra-Agency consultations with Agency staff and inter-Agency coordination and planning initiatives with other state agencies and regional and state organizations.

Local Government Services Summary of Program Accomplishments and Reportable Items	2014 Totals
In Park towns and villages consulted (of 103 total):	68
Tally of monthly summary totals:	178
Land use regulations consulted/reviewed	49

ALLUP amendments approved	2
ALLUP variances reviewed	107
ALLUP variances reversed	6
Comprehensive Plans reviewed	5
Meetings with town officials	62
Responded to land use planning inquiries	522
Planning & Zoning Board actions reviewed	347
Training & Workshops provided	13
Intra-Agency local planning assistance	147
Inter-Agency coordination	87
Coordination with other regional organizations	96
Presentations to the Agency Board	3
<i>“ALLUP” denotes “APA-approved local land use program”</i>	

The reportable items in the table above include the following activities in each category:

- In Park towns and villages consulted - Of 103 Adirondack Park towns and villages, staff met with or had consultations with 68 of the communities. When the number of interactions are tallied from monthly summaries, the total number of town and village interactions by staff was 178. The larger number is a function of compiling individual monthly statistics and the regular interactions that occur with many individual towns throughout the year, and in particular, those with an ALLUP.
- Land use regulations consulted/reviewed - Staff are regularly requested to review and comment on local land use laws. Most of the local laws are from municipalities with ALLUP’s where the Agency has a statutory requirement to review. Non-ALLUP communities also request review of their local laws to determine compliance with or to avoid conflicts with APA regulations. Staff try to comply with those requests on a case-by-case basis as time permits. In 2014 staff reviewed a total of 49 land use laws from communities in the Park.

- ALLUP amendments approved - Two amendments for changes to the Town of Queensbury approved local land use program received Agency approval in 2014. Agency staff also worked with ten other communities on ALLUP amendments.
- ALLUP variances - Towns with an ALLUP are required to refer all locally approved variances (outside of Hamlet land use areas) to the Agency. The Agency has thirty days for review in which time it may reverse the local determination if it was not based upon the appropriate statutory basis. In 2014 staff reviewed 107 locally granted variances from ALLUP's with six of the local grants reversed by the Agency.
- Comprehensive Plans reviewed - Comprehensive Plans serve as the primary instrument for protecting the public interest and attaining local development objectives, as well as articulating the town's vision of present and future goals for growth. While the Agency has responsibility to review Comprehensive Plans from ALLUP's, staff also receive requests to review and comment on Comprehensive Plans from other towns in in the Park. The review of community comprehensive plans further supports the Agency's regional land use planning role. In 2014 staff reviewed 5 Comprehensive Plans.
- Meetings with town officials - Staff regularly meet with elected and appointed officials to discuss Agency and local issues. These meetings occur with individual town representatives or with town boards in public meeting sessions. In 2014 staff conducted 62 meetings with town officials.
- Responding to land use planning inquiries - Staff routinely respond to inquiries involving land use issues from local officials. It serves as a connection between Agency staff and local officials for both formal advisories and for informal guidance and suggestions. In 2014 staff responded to 522 inquiries from local officials.
- Planning & Zoning Board actions reviewed - In the administration and oversight of the ALLUP's, Agency staff regularly review the actions of town boards as they discuss and make decisions on Class B regional projects, variances and other land use issues. In 2014 staff reviewed 347 actions decided by town boards.
- Training & Workshops provided - Working cooperatively with other state agencies, Agency staff, and local officials, the local planning staff provides training for municipal officials. The largest outreach program is the Adirondack Park Local Government Day conference in which over 325 people representing 49 Adirondack towns and villages, and 69 other organizations attended the 2014 event. In 2014 staff provided 13 additional training opportunities for municipal officials.
- Intra-Agency local planning assistance - The local government services staff regularly provide assistance to Agency staff working on projects in towns with an

ALLUP and other towns where local laws or processes require clarification. In 2014 local planning staff provided assistance to other Agency staff on 147 issues involving local zoning matters.

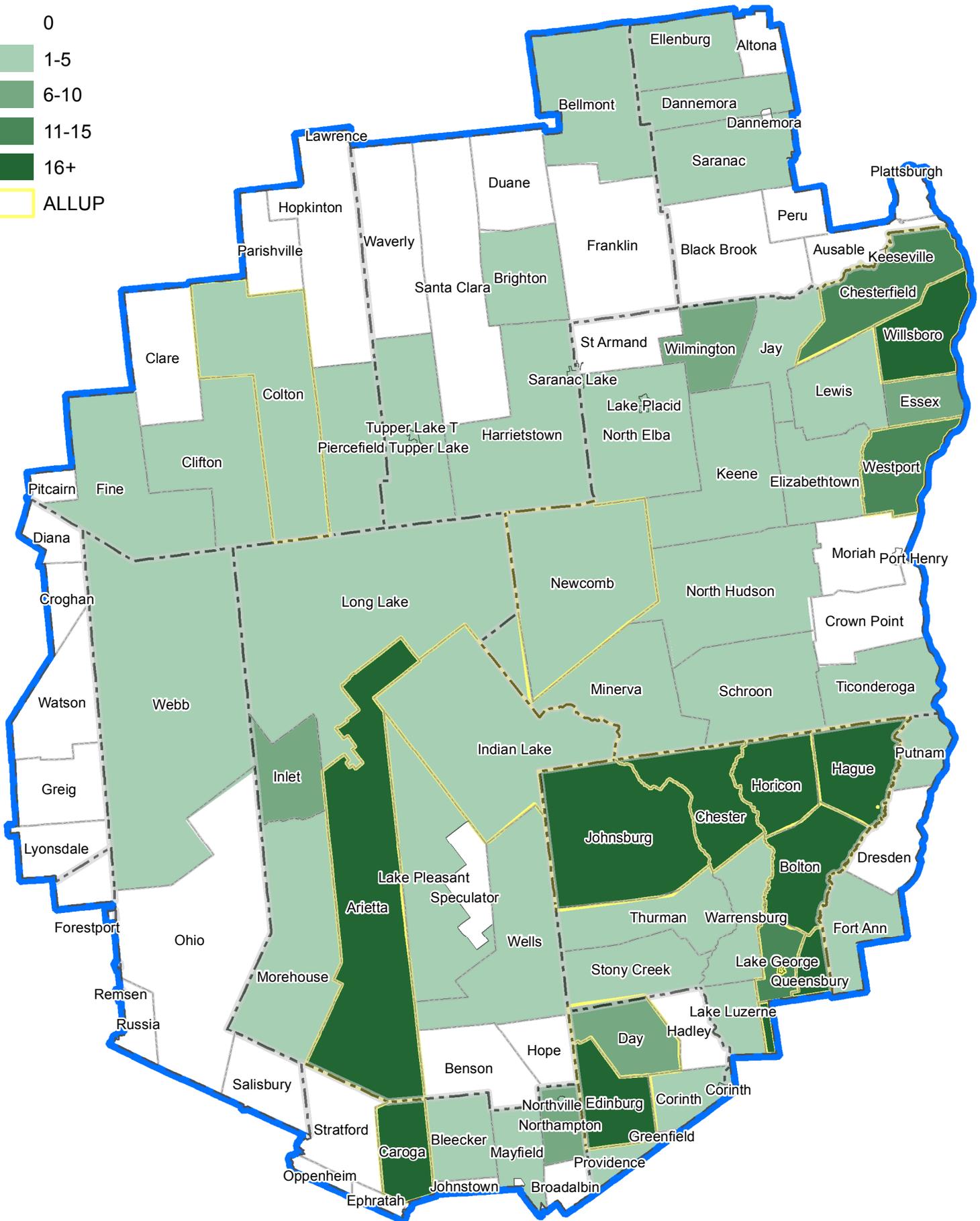
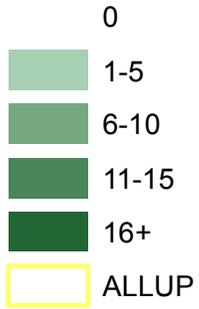
- Inter-Agency coordination - The local government services staff regularly works with other state agencies to provide training, coordinate the review of projects, and implement local planning initiatives. In 2014 staff consulted with other state agencies on 87 occasions.
- Inter-organizational coordination - The local government services staff also regularly works with other regional organizations to provide training, coordinate the review of projects, and implement local planning initiatives. In 2014 staff consulted with other organizations on 96 occasions.
- Agency Board presentations - The local government services staff presented three items to the Agency Board. Staff provided a summary of consultations with the Northern Adirondack Code Enforcement Officials Association Educational Conference -- an opportunity that provides for APA staff to meet with CEOs from around the Park in an informal setting; a summary of the Local Government Day conference; and Town of Queensbury ALLUP amendments for Agency approval.

The table and attached map provide a concise and graphical portrayal of accomplishments for the local government services program for the year.

Local government services staff look forward to 2015 with initiatives to improve administration of the Agency's approved local land use programs and to bolster land use planning in the Park. Staff hope to extend outreach programs by working with more towns and especially those towns and local officials who are not regularly in contact with Agency staff. By promoting better communications with local officials, staff will be working to lessen Agency enforcement issues and to promote more community supported local planning initiatives.

2014 APA Staff Interactions

Interactions With Towns



2014 REGULATORY PROGRAMS DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Invasive Species Control

The continued effort to manage and control aquatic and terrestrial invasive species is critical for the long-term protection of the Park's biodiversity and ecological resources.

In 2014, two new general permits were developed by the RASS staff and Approved for use by the Agency. General Permit, G2014G-1 for the Management of Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species In or Within 100' of Wetlands in the Adirondack Park was issued for use to the NYS DOT, DEC, the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program. A second general permit was approved by the Agency for use by regional and municipal utility companies within the Adirondack Park seeking to replace poles in wetlands and/or access poles by means of temporary structures in wetlands, G2014G-2.

For both new permits, the eligible activities are authorized without the submission of a site specific application. Instead the Agency now only requires an annual report from those entities that use the two general permits including a description of the species managed, a summary of the best management practices used at each site, the size of each management area and the geographic coordinates of each activity. The approach allows for authorized organizations to perform the invasive species management activities in compliance with the permit's approved best management practices without spending the time to submit an application. This allows the organizations to respond more quickly to newly found infestations and to focus their activities on the work in the field. This also allows Agency staff to focus their attention to more complex review considerations.

In 2015 Agency staff will review the required annual reporting calendar year 2014. In comparison, in 2013, 18 wetland general permits were issued to control invasive plant species. Most of the 2013 work was under the direction of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plan Program (APIPP) and would have been eligible under the new general permit G2014G-1.

Variances

In 2014 the Agency considered and granted the approval of seven variance requests from the Agency's Section 806 shoreline restrictions. Of these, three variances involved either the expansion of an existing single-family dwelling or the construction of a new dwelling within the shoreline setback, two requests involved the authorization of shoreline stabilization walls to protect property from accelerated bank erosion and two involved the granting of new shoreline structures in town owned public parks for the purpose of improving public access opportunities to the shoreline areas. Two of the

seven variances granted from the Agency's shoreline restrictions also required variances from the shoreline setbacks established pursuant to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act (WSRA) as administered by the Agency.

A variance for Yuckel and Walker, P2013-257 involved the expansion of a pre-existing single family dwelling on lands classified resource management in the Town of Fine. The variance was granted for the expanded structures from the shoreline setbacks of the Oswegatchie River and the "Setback". A second variance for Cincotta, P2013-249 was granted to allow the construction of a new single family dwelling and garage on a pre-existing lot classified as Low Intensity in the Town of Jay. The variance was from the 150 foot setback of the West Branch of the Ausable River, a designated Recreational River pursuant to the WSRA. A third variance for LeRoy, P2013-227 was granted from the shoreline setback of Mirror Lake in the Hamlet of Lake Placid to construct a new single family dwelling.

Two variance requests involved the authorization of shoreline stabilization walls to protect from further accelerated bank erosion, one on the shoreline of a river, the other on a reservoir. The town of Willsboro was granted a variance for the construction of a shoreline stabilization wall on the Boquet River. P2014-51 allowed for the placement of two logjam structures and a "rockery crib wall" within 150 feet of the mean high water mark of the Boquet River, in an area classified Resource Management. The variance for Sykes, P2013-0021, involved the construction of a 14 foot high concrete wall designed to protect the slope from water and wave action and to further stabilize and restore a forty foot high embankment.

Two variance requests involved the granting of new shoreline structures in town-owned public parks for the purpose of enhancing recreational access to shoreline areas. P2014-0080 involved the construction of an accessible fishing dock for the Town of Wilmington's park on the shoreline of the West Branch of the Ausable River. P2014-0001 involved the construction of a structure within the mean high water mark of Fifth Lake Outlet and Fourth Lake in a park owned by the Town of Inlet.

Telecommunication Projects

In 2014, the Agency issued 37 telecommunications permits and amendments authorizing 6 new towers, 24 co-locations, 6 replacements and 1 co-location replacements. New towers were approved for sites in the Towns of Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Essex, North Hudson, Putnam and Queensbury.

Commercial Projects

A total of thirteen projects were reviewed by staff with the primary jurisdiction of a commercial use. Of these, four noteworthy projects were considered and approved by the Agency including: P2012-185, Bear Pond Ranch LLC/Macchio a permit proposal for construction and operation of a new tourist attraction involving a zip line ride in the towns of Queensbury and Lake George; P2014-14, 1016 Saranac Properties LLC a

permit proposal for a greater than 25 percent expansion of a commercial use warehouse structure in the town of St. Armand; P2014-0033, Kenny-Kittrich-Amhers, LLC a permit proposal for the construction of a 120 room Marriott Hotel in the hamlet of Lake George Village; and, P2013-0138 and P1996-0076MR3, NYCO Minerals, Inc., proposed amendments to two existing mineral extraction permits (one at Seventy Road and one at Oak Hill) in the Town of Lewis.

SILVICULTURAL TREATMENTS

Work continued in 2014 on this very important issue. A Silvicultural Practices Review Group comprised of experts worked to consider strategies to ensure the success of the forestry products industry and promote sustainable forestry practices. During the year, staff reviewed and the Agency approved Project 2014-0100 involving a proposal for forest management on a 642 acre portion of a 4,100 acre parcel by Lyme Timber Company in the Town of Tupper Lake. The proposed timber harvest consisted of three distinct treatment types including a “Free Thinning” on 149-acres to remove unacceptable growing stock and release the best quality trees in all size and age classes. The second treatment involved a “Salvage Harvest” on 258 acres to salvage timber value before further degradation occurred. The third treatment a “Shelterwood Removal” with reserves on 234 acres is similar to the salvage treatment, but with a higher average basal area per acre. The approval of the project was considered another example of how third-party certified forest management plans combined with constructive pre-application meetings could result in the timely approval of forest management projects.

2014 LEGAL DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

The Legal Division consists of four major components: the Office of Counsel including the Legal Services Unit, the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit, and the Enforcement Unit. The Counsel and Associate Counsel advise all Agency divisions and the Agency Board. Legal Services attorneys review significant permitting, planning, enforcement, and other documents, assist the Attorney General with litigation, manage adjudicatory hearings, and provide other legal services as necessary.

The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit provides advice to landowners and potential project sponsors regarding Agency jurisdiction, including informal phone advice and written jurisdictional determinations.

The Enforcement Unit works to resolve violations of the laws administered by the Agency.

OFFICE OF COUNSEL AND LEGAL SERVICES

Key Legal Division accomplishments for 2014 included dismissal by the 3rd Department Appellate Division of NYS Supreme Court of a challenge to the APA's 2012 approval of the Adirondack Club and Resort development in Tupper Lake. State supreme courts also dismissed challenges to APA and DEC State Land Master Plan guidance regarding snowmobile trail location and maintenance provisions, the APA's approval of a subdivision in the Town of Putnam, and APA's approval of an amendment to the Jay Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan.

In addition, the Legal Division proposed a rulemaking to establish streamlined procedures for approving actions related to emergencies. Staff also updated the Agency's public information flyers, and continued to streamline internal legal review and guidance for non-legal staff and the public.

As always, legal staff reviewed major permits prior to issuance, provided legal advice on jurisdictional inquiries and helped resolve enforcement matters. Legal staff also provided guidance to the planning division on the classification of state lands and amendments to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.

JURISDICTIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

The public's first point of contact with the Agency is often a letter or a phone call handled by the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit. Staff within this Unit provide advice to landowners and others regarding Agency jurisdiction. Staff help members of the public determine if an Agency permit or variance is required for proposed land use and development or the subdivision of land within the Park. Determinations often require a full deed history and other legal and factual research. This is the Agency's initial and most common point of contact with the public; hence, a high priority is placed on prompt responses. The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit also handles referrals from other agencies, telephone calls and walk-in members of the public. The Jurisdictional Unit includes the Agency's Records Access Officer.

In 2014 the Agency received a total of 840 jurisdictional inquiry forms (JIFs). The following table summarizes the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit responses:

JIF's Received	840
JIF's Responded To	845
Non-Jurisdictional	603
Jurisdictional	160
Requiring a Variance	33
General Information	24
Potential Violations	25
Average Response Time (in days)	15

Telephone Calls	3,744
Walk-Ins	186
Write Ins/Site Visits	31
Referrals from other Agencies	297
FOIL Requests Received	232

ENFORCEMENT UNIT

In 2014, Enforcement Officers continued to focus on promptly addressing violations when identified and to actively work with local officials to prevent or quickly discover new violations. These efforts help to achieve amicable resolutions that avoid undue adverse impacts to resources and burdensome financial expenditures.

Staff started 2014 with 121 unresolved cases and opened 207 new cases during the year. Staff successfully closed a total of 190 cases and prepared 83 settlement agreements. 43 settlement agreements were executed through consent with landowners in 2014. 42 violations were resolved through voluntary compliance on the part of the landowner as a result of prompt responses to alleged violations and proactive enforcement efforts. Staff conducted 164 site visits for enforcement matters and determined 98 enforcement cases were not violations.

The Enforcement Unit continues to see significant compliance for new subdivisions inside the Park. Staff closely monitors new subdivision activity through the use of New York State Office of Real Property's SalesWeb application. In 2014, 8 new potential subdivision violations were identified out of 90 subdivisions undertaken within the Park. Following investigation, 3 cases were found to be no violation, 3 cases have been resolved, and 2 remain under investigation. 56% of new subdivisions were issued an Agency jurisdictional determination or permit. In addition to use of the SalesWeb application to track subdivisions, Enforcement staff rely on air photos, digital photographs of Adirondack lakeshores and prompt responses to alleged violations to efficiently undertake investigations.

Enforcement staff continue to cross-train with the Regulatory Program Division and complete various duties in addition to undertaking enforcement investigations. In 2014, this work included 69 jurisdictional determinations issued from enforcement, 47

site visits for review of permit applications, 32 permits issued with enforcement staff as the assigned project review officer, and 184 permit compliance letters were sent.

Finally, in May the Enforcement Unit welcomed Annemarie Peer to the position of Keyboard Specialist 1 and in July welcomed Emily O'Mahoney to the position of Environmental Program Specialist 1.

2014 Enforcement Program Report

1. This table depicts the number of open cases at the beginning of the reporting period, how many cases were opened or closed during the period, and the number of open cases at the end of the reporting period.

Open Cases	2014 Total	2013
At Beginning of Period	121	149
Cases Opened	207	209
Cases Closed	190	237
At End of Period	138	121

2. This table provides a detailed description of enforcement program activity during the reporting period.

	2014 Total	2013 Total
New Cases Opened	207	209
Site Visits	164	198
Settlement Agreements Sent*	83	82
Settlement Agreements Signed	43	53

Notice of Violation or Hearing Sent	0	1
Cases Referred to AG	1	0
Cases Referred to the EC	0	0
Cases Closed: Compliance w/o SA	42	58
Cases Closed No Violation	98	96

3. Breakdown of New Cases:

Type of Violation	2014 Total	2013 Total	Outcome of Closed* 2014 Cases (Violation or No Violation)
Subdivision Creating Substandard Lots	13	35	V-3 NV-5
Subdivision due to number of lots	8	9	V-2 NV-1
Subdivision in Resource Management	6	9	V-0 NV-2
Wetland Subdivision	18	9	V-4 NV-2
Wetland Disturbance	51	59	V-6 NV-9
Rivers Project	7	4	V-1 NV-3
Permit Violation	26	31	V-3 NV-9
SFD in CEA	1	3	V-0 NV-0
Hunting/Fishing cabin >500 sq ft		1	V-0 NV-0
Structure >40' height	4	2	V-1 NV-0
Clearcut >25%	6	7	V-0 NV-5
	4	8	V-0

Commercial Use			NV-4
Junkyards	5	1	V-0 NV-3
Campgrounds	2	2	V-0 NV-1
Mobile Home Court	1	0	V-0 NV-0
Shoreline Setback	35	53	V-4 NV-7
Shoreline Cutting	15		V-2 NV-2
Waste Disposal Area	3	16	V-0 NV-0
Septic Setback	3	0	V-0 NV-1
Sand and Gravel Excavation	3	3	V-0 NV-0
Multiple Family Dwelling	1	2	V-1 NV-0
Tourist Accommodation	1	2	V-0 NV-0
25% Expansion	3		V-0 NV-1

4. Salesweb Monitoring 2014:

Month	# Subdivisions in Park	# Cases Opened	# Subdivisions Related to Previous JIF or Permit
January	14	1	7
February	5	0	4
March	4	1	2
April	4	0	0
May	2	0	2
June	5	1	1
July	4	1	2
August	14	2	7
September	8	1	7
October	9	0	6
November	13	1	9
December	8	0	3
TOTAL	90	8	50

5. Inter-Division Coordination

This table provides a description of coordination activities between enforcement staff and other programs within the Agency.

	2014 Total
Jurisdictional Determinations Issued from Enforcement	69
Project Pre-applications Assigned to Enforcement Staff	13
Permit Applications Assigned to Enforcement Staff	54
Site Visits by Enforcement Staff for Review of Project Applications	47
Permits Issued With Enforcement Staff as Assigned Project Review Officer	32
Shoreline Photo Inventories	6

2014 ADIMINISTRATIVE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for all fiscal management, contract administration, personnel management, physical plant management and office support. Division staff are involved in the preparation of purchase orders and vouchers, fiscal record keeping, determination of availability of funds for the Agency's division programs, payroll and computerization of fiscal records. Staff are also responsible for media relations, community relations and outreach.

Fiscal Management

The Administrative Services Division implemented Governor Cuomo's FY 2014-15 budget as enacted. The Agency met all directives issued by the NYS Division of Budget and provided appropriate funding to maintain the Agency headquarters and staffing. The Agency continued to work with the Business Service Center (BSC) for many of its fiscal transactions.

Human Resources

The Administrative Services Division began working with the NYS Office of General Services and Business Service Center on Governor's Cuomo's mandate to consolidate many of the Human Resources functions across state agencies. Many of the Agency's Human Resources functions will transition to the BSC during the FY 15-16. During the FY 14-15, the Agency's Administrative Officer, along with forty other Human Resource Professionals in other state agencies, completed the Advanced Strategic Human Resource Management Professional Development Program at Cornell University. This program was a transitional process to Governor Cuomo's mandate to have one unified HR system statewide.

Information Services

Staff continued to assist the Information Technology Services Center (ITS) in implementing Governor Cuomo's directive to reorganize state information technology services to reduce cost through shared services. The Agency interacts with ITS on a daily basis regarding its information technology needs and resources. With ITS, the Agency transitioned to Office 365 and the new CISCO statewide telephone system. The Agency purchased two new servers to assist in meeting its day-to-day operational needs. In addition, the Agency updated its access to the monthly webcast under Executive Order #3. The ITS staff continues to support the Agency's Environmental Protection Agency Grants IT needs.

Green Thumb Program

The Agency continued to support the Green Thumb Program with two employees. The employees assist the Agency with its records management processes and maintenance.

Public Affairs

The Agency's Chair, Executive Director and Public Information Officer (PIO) continued to actively engage the media to ensure Agency decisions are accurately portrayed. The PIO responded to 312 media inquiries and issued 35 press releases. The PIO conducted 31 outreach events to international delegations, local officials, college students, special interest groups and the general public.

The PIO served as Hearing Officer for 8 variance hearing, one public information meeting and participated in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan listening sessions. The PIO was part of the Agency's team working to implement the New York State of Opportunity branding guidelines. In addition, the PIO managed the webcasting of all Agency Board meetings and administered the Agency's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The PIO represented the Agency at all State Agency PIO meetings and the monthly meetings of the Local Government Review Board. The PIO drafted and published the 2014 Annual Report.

2014 ECONOMIC SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

The Economic Services Unit assists the Agency, economic development organizations, and the region's business community in topics of market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning. Staff also coordinates with project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifying other sources of help for business development. Finally, staff works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

Project Permitting

During project review, Economic Services staff provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis as well as economic and fiscal impact analysis pursuant to the Agency's Section 809 mandate to take into account the potential benefits of a proposed project. Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts of a variety of projects ranging from the Lake George Marriot Hotel and Conference Center (Village of Lake George, Warren County) to a forestry permit for Lyme Timber Company in Tupper Lake, Franklin County. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a diversity of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process.

Community Outreach

Staff provided support to local development initiatives by attending over 30 public outreach and community development meetings spread throughout seven counties. Among Park-wide initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the Advantage Adirondacks Park-wide economic development plan, the Remsen-Lake Placid Rail Corridor Unit Management Plan, the Great South Woods recreation planning effort, film and television development within the Park, and efforts to encourage local food and value-added goods production. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in Newcomb, Essex County, Saranac Lake/Harrietstown, Franklin County, and Northville/Northampton, Fulton County as well as to educational groups from Clarkson University, Stockton College, and Bavaria, Germany.

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative

In 2014, the Economic Services Unit, in coordination with the Planning Division, piloted the Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) initiative. Working with a local stakeholder workgroup from the communities of Northampton and Northville in Fulton County, staff wrote an economic development plan for the communities' Hamlet areas and has begun work with local governments and economic developers to implement the plan. The Agency's HEPA initiative is a community-driven process, led by a local stakeholder workgroup with assistance from the Agency, that develops and implements a plan for economic improvement of a community's Hamlet area.

Regional Council Support

In 2014, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park (Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country) received over \$180 million in grant and loan funding through the Governor's REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. Among the projects funded in the Adirondack Park are park improvements in the Town of Bolton, Warren County, the restoration of the Wanakena footbridge in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County, a "one-stop shop" alternative energy and energy efficiency assistance center for the North Country Region, and a hut-to-hut trails plan for the entire Park. Economic Services Unit staff assists in the process as a member of State Agency Resource Teams for each Council. Staff is also supports the Governor's related Path Through History and Cleaner Greener Communities initiatives by providing community development expertise.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight business development and critical infrastructure expansion in the Park. In 2014, the Committee learned from a diversity of local businesses including St. Regis Outfitters of Saranac Lake, NY and Mountain Orthotic and Prosthetic Services of Lake Placid, NY. Bill Murphy of Adirondack Teleworks provided a presentation on the organizations' efforts to train local workers for teleworking opportunities and connecting those workers to online jobs. The committee also explored the topic of alternative energy through presentations from John Culpepper of the North Country School's and through Maura Adams' presentation on the Northern Forest Center's Adirondack Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative for the communities of Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Saranac. Additionally, the Committee received a presentation on Adirondack angel investor financing from Melinda Little of Point Positive Inc. and on programs available to returning veterans by Reverend Colonel Eric Olsen of Homeward Bound Adirondacks.