



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

# **DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP**

January 7, 2016



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

The APA staff would like to  
acknowledge the staff at NYDEC  
for their assistance with this DSEIS

January 7, 2016



## Adirondack Park Agency

January 6, 2016  
7:00 pm  
Adirondack Park Agency  
1133 NYS Route 86  
Ray Brook, NY

January 7, 2016  
7:00 pm  
Newcomb Central School  
5535 NYS Route 28N  
Newcomb, NY

January 13, 2016  
11:00 am  
NYS DEC Offices  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY

January 13, 2016  
6:00 pm  
Saratoga Spa State Park  
19 Roosevelt Drive  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
12866  
Gideon Putnam Room

January 7, 2016

# Public Hearing Process



- Staff will provide an introduction to the DSEIS
- Comments will be made from individuals who have signed up to speak
- Comments can be made by others

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for amendments to the APSLMP, including major changes to basic guidelines, additional content, minor changes, and ministerial changes.

# **DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP Ministerial Changes**

The proposed action includes grammatical corrections, updates to figures, removing the names of Agency Members no longer serving on the Board and other additions or deletions that would not change the meaning of the document.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

STATE OF NEW YORK  
**ADIRONDACK PARK  
STATE LAND  
MASTER PLAN**

APPROVED ~~NOVEMBER 1987~~

Updates to Area Descriptions and Delineations as authorized by the Agency  
Board, December 2013

STATE OF NEW YORK  
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
Leilani C. Ulrich, Chairwoman  
Terry Martino, Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
~~Joe Martens~~, ~~Basil Seggos~~, Acting Commissioner

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
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518-891-4050  
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# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Minor Changes



Horse Mounting Platform in Lake George WF

The proposed action includes updating terms such as “State Truck Trail” to “Administrative Road” and “All Terrain Bicycle” to “Bicycle”, adding definitions for terms which are referenced in the guidelines but not defined (Administrative personnel, Bicycle Trail, Horse mounting platform), etc.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

Conservation for the principal purpose of facilitating administration of state lands or of allowing access for firefighting equipment and not normally open for public use of motorized vehicles. This type of road has been called a State Truck Trail in older editions of this Plan.

**4.3. Aircraft**—a device for transporting people or material that travels through the air and is propelled by a non-living power source contained on or within the device.

**2. All Terrain Bicycle**—a non-motorized bicycle designed or used for cross-country travel on unimproved roads or trails.

**3.4. All Terrain Vehicle**—a motor vehicle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails. The term includes jeeps or other four wheel drive automobiles, dirt or trail bikes and all forms of "ATVs", "ATCs", "ORVs", but excludes snowmobiles.

**5. Bicycle**—a human-powered, pedal driven, single track vehicle having two wheels attached to a frame, one behind the other.

**6. Bicycle Trail**—a marked trail designated for travel by bicycles, located and designed to provide access in a manner causing the least effect on the local environment.

**4.7. Boat Launching Site**—a site providing for the launching of trailered boats, with ramp and attendant parking facilities.

**58. Campground**—a concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access, not meeting the standards for individual, primitive tent sites or lean-tos, which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day-use facilities. Campgrounds are commonly known as "campsites" by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

**69. Cross Country Ski Trail**—a marked and maintained path or way for cross country ski or snowshoe travel, which has the same dimensions and character and may also serve as a foot trail, designed to provide reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment and not constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.

**7.10. Day-Use Area**—a developed facility designed to accommodate a significant number of visitors on a day-use basis only. The term includes such facilities as beaches, parkways, memorial highways, the Mt. Van Hoevenberg area, the alpine ski centers at Whiteface and Gore Mountains, boat launching sites and similar facilities.

**8.11. Fireplace**—a permanent structure constructed of stone and cement designed to contain and control camp fires.

**9.12. Fire Ring**—a temporary cluster of rocks designed to contain and control camp fires which may contain, in fire sensitive areas, a cement slab.

**10.13. Fish Barrier Dam**—a man-made device or structure used to



# **DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP**

## **Additional Content**

The proposed action includes additional sections on Invasive Species and Conservation Easement Lands.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## INVASIVE SPECIES

The negative impacts of invasive species on natural forest and aquatic communities are well documented. Colonization and unrestrained growth of invasive species cause the loss of biodiversity, interruption of normal hydrology, suppression of native vegetation, and significant aesthetic, human safety and economic impacts. Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species have been identified at increasing rates of colonization along roadsides in campgrounds, and in water bodies of the Forest Preserve. Some of these species have the potential to colonize backcountry lands, lakes and ponds and degrade natural resources of the Forest Preserve.

Efforts should be made to restore and protect the native ecological communities through early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate or control existing or newly identified invasive species populations. Adoption of the Guidelines and implementation through the UMP and site specific work planning process, gives the Department the basic tools needed to preserve, protect and restore the natural native ecosystems of the Forest Preserve.



# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Conservation Easement Lands



The State has acquired over the years a variety of conservation easements and less than fee interests which serve an important public purpose in preserving the natural character of the land for the benefit of the Park. Although the State owns various rights on these lands, the land remains in private ownership and is therefore not subject to the State land classification system and guidelines of the Master Plan.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Major Changes to Basic Guidelines

This category includes the two items the Agency agreed to consider following the 2013 Resolution for the Classification of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract and Indian River Tract:

- Revision of Master Plan guidelines for Primitive Areas to allow for the use of All-Terrain Bicycles on appropriate all-season roads able to withstand such use on the Essex Chain Lakes Tract west of the Hudson River.
- The use of non-natural materials for bridge construction on the Cedar River.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Bicycles

Revision of Master Plan guidelines for Primitive Areas to allow for the use of All-Terrain Bicycles on appropriate all-season roads able to withstand such use on the Essex Chain Lakes Tract west of the Hudson River.

Alternatives include:

1. No Action
2. Amend Primitive Guidelines to allow biking on former all season roads in Essex Chain Lake Tract and amend area description(s).
3. Expand Bicycle use to all Primitive Areas.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Bicycles

### Alternative 1: No Action

#### Primitive Areas

#### **All Terrain Bicycles**

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas except that all terrain bicycles may be used on existing roads legally open to the public and on state truck trails specifically designated for such use by the Department of Environmental Conservation as specified in individual unit management plans.



# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Bicycles

Alternative 2: Amend Primitive Guidelines to allow biking on former all season roads in Essex Chain Lake Tract and amend area description(s).

Alternative 2A: Amend Primitive Guidelines to Allow Bicycle Trails on Former All-Season Roads in Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas **without Using Motor Vehicles for Maintenance.**

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Bicycles

Alternative 2: Amend Primitive Guidelines to allow biking on former all season roads in Essex Chain Lake Tract and amend area description(s)

Alternative 2B: Amend Primitive Guidelines to allow former all-season roads in Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas to be designated as Primitive Recreational Trails, enabling **limited maintenance using motor vehicles and motorized equipment.**

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Bicycles

The APSLMP would allow former all-season roads to be designated as **Primitive Recreational Trails** for use by foot, horse, bicycle, ski, and snowshoe and other Primitive recreational activities.

This alternative would also allow the Department and administrative personnel to use motor vehicles and motorized equipment on a periodic basis, not routinely, to address significant drainage issues: when bridges need to be repaired, culverts need to be replaced with bridges or where a severe wash-out prevents travel on Primitive Recreational Trails.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP Bicycles

Alternative 3: Expand Bicycle use to all Primitive Areas

**Alternative 3A:** Amend Primitive Guidelines to allow former All-season Roads to be Designated as Bicycle Trails **without using Motor Vehicles for Maintenance.**

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP Bicycles

Alternative 3: Expand Bicycle use to all Primitive Areas

**Alternative 3B:** Amend Primitive Guidelines to Allow Former All-Season Roads in Primitive Areas to be Designated as Primitive Recreational Trails Enabling **Limited Maintenance Using Motor Vehicles and Motorized Equipment.**

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Bicycles

	Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas	All Primitive Areas
Maintained without using motor vehicles	Alternative 2A	Alternative 3A
Maintained with limited motor vehicle use	Alternative 2B	Alternative 3B

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Natural Materials

The use of non-natural materials for bridge construction on the Cedar River. Alternatives include:

1. No Action
2. Allow the use of non-natural materials for the construction of the bridge crossing the Cedar River.
3. Allow the possible use of non-natural materials on bridge designs in Wild Forest areas following a minimum requirements approach analysis. The guidelines for this analysis would be developed by the Agency and the Department and added as an appendix to the MOU between the Agency and the Department for the management of State lands. The intent would be to enable the design of a stronger bridge that would be less intrusive to the natural environment.

## DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP Natural Materials

- ▶ -- ranger stations as set forth below;
- ▶ -- roads, and ~~state truck trails~~administrative roads as set forth below;
- ▶ -- snowmobile trails as set forth below;
- ▶ -- fire towers and observer cabins as set forth below; ~~and,~~
- ▶ -- wildlife management structures; ~~and,~~
- ▶ -- a bridge across the Cedar River on the Chain Lakes Road within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest may be built using non-natural materials.

**Alternative 2:** Amend the Wild Forest Guidelines to Allow the Use of Non-Natural Materials for the Construction of the Bridge Crossing the Cedar River.

This alternative would allow the Department to build a bridge for crossing of the Cedar River using non-natural materials (steel, concrete or other non-natural materials).

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Natural Materials



# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Natural Materials

**Alternative 3:** Amend the Wild Forest Guidelines to Allow the Possible Use of Non-natural Materials on Bridge Designs following a Minimum Requirement Approach.

This alternative proposes that following the development of a “minimum requirement approach”, the Department may use non-natural materials such as steel, concrete, and/or glue laminate for bridges constructed in Wild Forest areas.

- ranger stations as set forth below;
  - roads, and ~~state truck trails~~administrative roads as set forth below;
  - snowmobile trails as set forth below;
  - fire towers and observer cabins as set forth below; ~~and,~~
  - wildlife management structures; ~~and, -~~
- Bridges constructed of natural materials whenever possible, following a minimum requirements approach analysis.



# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

If this alternative (3) is selected, the Department would be allowed to design and build bridges that could be smaller and less intrusive than ones designed and built with only natural materials. The Department could not automatically use non-natural materials and this approach would only apply in Wild Forest areas.

The Department would coordinate with the Agency to determine what the minimum requirement could be for each bridge, weighing the following factors:

- conformance with the APSLMP,
- necessity for a bridge at that location based on an examination of alternatives for a crossing, and
- alternative designs intended to minimize impacts to the natural and aesthetic environment.

The Agency and the Department would go through a separate public process to determine how this analysis would work and what would be considered before adopting the guidelines. This alternative would result in the APSLMP amendments shown in Appendix 5.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

## Process

- Public Hearings being held
- Gather Public Comments and summarize those comments.
- Chose preferred alternatives and include in the FSEIS.
- Present to Agency board.
- Agency vote.
- Governor approval.

# DSEIS for Amendments to the APSLMP

**Written comment should be directed to:**

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Adirondack Park Agency  
PO Box 99  
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Email address: [SLMP\\_Comments@apa.ny.gov](mailto:SLMP_Comments@apa.ny.gov)

**Comments accepted until January 29, 2016**