



## 2013 PLANNING DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

### REGIONAL PLANNING

#### Activities and Accomplishments:

##### **Adirondack Park Recreation Strategy Group**

Agency staff, as members of this group, attended and contributed to its four meetings of the year. With the mission *"to explore ways to improve the economy of the Adirondack Park through leveraging the recreation opportunities offered by the Park's abundant natural resources,"* the culmination of the group's work was the drafting, production and distribution of a publication entitled, "ADIRONDACK PARK RECREATION STRATEGY: Capitalizing on the Economic Potential of our Natural Environment." More importantly, the Agency, through its carefully considered classification of the former Finch Paper lands in the upper Hudson River and Essex Chain Lakes area, contributed significantly in 2013 to potential realization of Opportunity #1 of the four key opportunities highlighted by the group: *"Ensure access to public lands for a full range of recreation activities for people of all ages and abilities."*

##### **Lake Champlain Heritage Area Partnership Advisory Committee**

In February, APA's Planning Director participated in a meeting of the committee in Champlain, NY. The main agenda was to review the committee's 2013 budget and its recommendations to the New York/Vermont/Quebec Lake Champlain Steering Committee. Expectations were that an allocation of approximately \$400,000 would be received through the National Park Service for the Heritage Area, which would be divided between local grants for interpretive material at various historic sites within it. Committee members also discussed marketing and branding for the Heritage Area.

##### **2014 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan**

In the process of updating this Statewide, five-year plan for finalization and publication next year, DEC's Adirondack Regions 5 and 6 held a series of Open Space Committee meetings throughout 2013 at various Adirondack venues. APA Planning Division staff attended most of these meetings and participated in the discussions and presentations that led up to a draft of

the Plan being completed and sent for review to DEC headquarters in Albany before year's end.

#### **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 Black Brook, Bolton, Fine, Hopkinton, Jay, Lewis, Minerva, Santa Clara, Stratford, Thurman, Ticonderoga and Westport.

#### **Scenic Byways**

Early in the year, Planning Division staff met with the Byways Coordinator for the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) to discuss future coordination of activities and cooperation regarding projects and programs of mutual interest. State land and RASS staff also met with a landscape architect and staff from the Town of North Elba, the Ausable River Association and DOT to discuss plans for completing the Route 86 Scenic Byway project.

#### **Park Policy and Planning Committee Presentations:**

- **Forestry Sustained Yield Management and Forest Certification on Forest Industry Lands in the Adirondacks**  
Dr. René H. Germain of the SUNY College of Environmental Science made this presentation in March, after which New York State's "State Forester"- Rob Davies of DEC - reviewed **The State of the Forest** in a follow-up presentation.
- **History and Comparison of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Certification Programs**  
Dr. Graeme Auld of Carleton University's School of Public Policy and Administration (Ottawa, Canada), made this presentation in April, after which APA staff member Aaron Ziemann presented a thorough, **Comparison of APA Regulatory Review Obligations with the SFI and FSC Certification Programs**.

### **STATE LAND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Activities and Accomplishments:**

**Classification of the Former TNC/Finch Paper Company Lands -**  
In January, APA staff initiated the SEQOR process required for the Agency to begin under taking one of the most significant State land classification actions in the history of the Adirondack Park - classification of the Essex Chain of Lakes,

Indian River, OSC and OK Slip Falls Tracts that were recently acquired from The Nature Conservancy, along with some adjoining State lands. This effort culminated, in December, in unanimous decision by the Agency Board to approve staff's recommendation for a preferred classification of these lands and to forward the recommendation to Governor Andrew Cuomo for his signature and approval. This complex classification action, which consisted of the classification and reclassification of a total of approximately 42,000 acres of Forest Preserve in the heart of the Park, occupied a great deal of the Planning Division staff's time throughout the year.

After initiating the process in January, Agency staff immediately began developing a set of classification alternatives - featuring all requisite maps, area descriptions and more - that would become a core element of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). From this time on, APA staff involved and consulted with DEC staff in the effort to gather critical information about the lands' natural resources and to meet other legal requirements of the process. After the initial work was completed in May, staff presented a draft classification package to the Board at the Agency's May meeting. The Board accepted the DSEIS at that time and authorized staff to proceed to public hearings.

In July, Agency staff conducted eight public hearings on the classification package across New York State: five hearings within the Adirondack Park (in Ray Brook, Newcomb, Minerva, Indian Lake and Lake George) and three outside the Park (in Albany, New York City and Rochester). The public comment period that closed after these hearings were over resulted in submission of approximately 4,000 comments that Agency staff collected, read, organized by subject area and drafted responses to within the draft, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) staff were required to prepare for the Board. At this time, staff also began a number of months of analysis, further interagency consultations and deliberations necessary to choosing, describing and legally supporting within the FSEIS the preferred classification alternative to present to the Board. The team meetings that occurred frequently throughout late summer and fall, to early winter, involved not just a number of Planning Division staff, but also the Agency's Executive Director, Counsel, Public Information Director and certain other staff members from the Agency's Legal, RASS, and Administrative Divisions.

The preferred classification alternative ultimately recommended by staff to the Agency Board was recommended by the Board to the Governor in December. During a visit to Saranac Lake Village in

late December, Governor Cuomo hailed the Agency's recommendation as a model of natural resource protection that he would sign as soon as the ten-day waiting period required by SEQR process was over. Additional information, including maps, is available on the Agency's website at [www.apa.ny.gov](http://www.apa.ny.gov) .

#### **Protection of Alpine Vegetation: Summit Stewardship Program**

State land staff member Kathy Regan participated in a meeting in April with DEC and the Adirondack Mountain Club concerning an updated strategic plan for the Summit Stewardship Program in the High Peaks Wilderness Area. Later in the year, Ms. Regan also attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Alpine Gathering in Keene, NH - a conference focused on the response of alpine habitat to climate change. At this conference, she received the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Award.

#### **Review of "Glade Skiing" as a Recreational Activity in the Adirondack Forest Preserve**

Agency staff participated in continuing discussions and field visits concerning the Adirondack Powder Skier Association's request for greater accommodation of back-country skiing activities on State lands in the Park. Representatives of the Association, other constituent groups and DEC staff were also involved. Specifically, the Association is requesting changes to DEC trail construction and maintenance policies that could allow for more downhill "glade skiing," as well as APA staff consideration of how existing guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) apply to this type of recreation.

#### **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 Black River, Independence River, Jessup River, Moose River Plains, Taylor Pond, Vanderwhacker Mountain and Wilmington Wild Forest Areas, as well as one proposed trail segment in the Camp Santanoni Historic Area.

#### **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 two Wilderness areas, one Primitive area, six Wild Forest areas, five Intensive Use areas and one State Administrative area.

## **Work Group on Primitive Camping in the Adirondack Forest Preserve**

State land staff continued to participate in DEC/APA workgroup meetings on primitive camping in the Adirondacks. The workgroup's objective is to address a number of camping management issues through development of improved, Master-Plan-compliant design criteria for primitive tent sites on State lands in the Park. A primary focus of the group is to better provide the public with walk-in primitive tent sites that are in close proximity to roadside parking and shoreline area tent sites that may accommodate canoe groups of up to twelve people.

## **Forest Preserve Advisory Committee (FPAC)**

Agency staff attended the three FPAC meetings organized by DEC during 2013 and made presentations at two of them concerning the Agency's classification process for the newly acquired Finch lands. The March meeting was held in Albany at DEC headquarters, the May meeting was held in the Catskills at Windham Mountain, and the July meeting was held at DEC's Region 5 office in Ray Brook.

## **Remsen - Lake Placid Travel Corridor**

Agency staff reviewed historic documents regarding past management and UMP development for the Corridor, created a map for the Agency's website showing recreational opportunities along the rail line, and developed a GIS tool to assist with wetland delineation along the route if it is needed. The Commissioner of DEC contacted the Agency regarding APA staff involvement in DEC's and DOT's work to engage the public in discussions about the future of this Travel Corridor, and Planning and Economic Development staff were made available.

## **Unit Management Plan Review and Consultations:**

- **Taylor Pond Complex UMP**

In the Agency's January meeting, the Agency determined that the Final Draft UMP for the 53,280-acre Taylor Pond Complex complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. This complex of areas consists of two State Forests, three Wildlife Management Areas, 45,637 acres of Forest Preserve lands classified as Wild Forest, and three Conservation Easement tracts.

- **Whiteface Mountain Ski Center UMP**

In the Agency's June meeting, the Agency determined that a proposed amendment to the 2004 UMP for this Intensive Use Ski Center complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The amendment was necessary in order for ORDA to replace the existing, old

ski patrol building on Little Whiteface Mountain with a new one and to install, in its cupola, communications equipment necessary for the new Essex County and NYS Police Emergency Communications Network.

- **St. Regis Mt. and Hurricane Mt. Historic Area UMPs**

In the Agency's November meeting, DEC made a presentation to the Board concerning the draft UMPs for these two new Historic Areas. This was an informational presentation, made prior to the close of DEC's public comment period on the plans. The Agency will be responsible, in the future, for holding public hearings concerning the final draft UMPs as required by the APSLMP for Historic Areas.

- **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 primarily included draft UMPs for the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Area, Chazy Highland Complex, and Camp Santanoni Historic Area.

**State Land Committee Presentations:**

- **Alpine Zone Vegetation in the Adirondack Park**

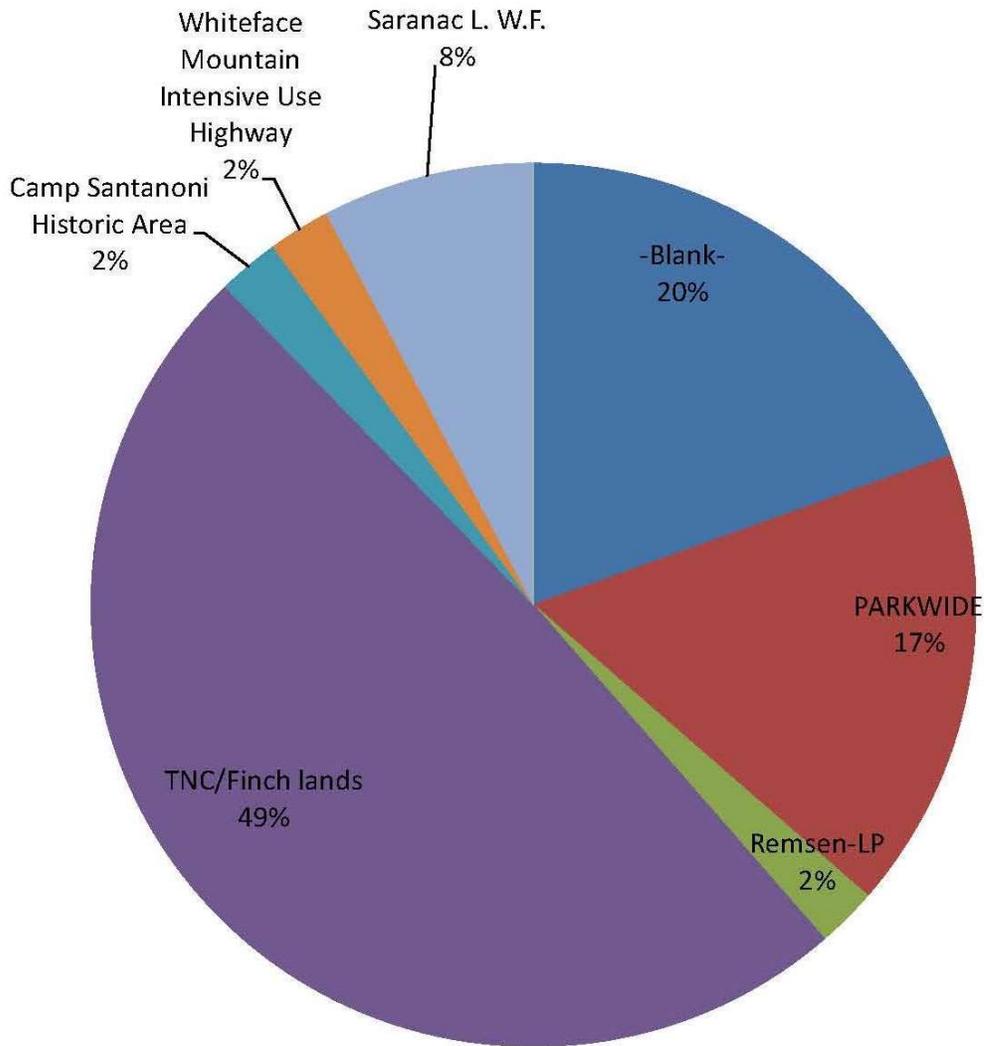
Tim Howard of the New York Natural Heritage Program made this presentation to the Agency in February, which focused on the classification, protection and future for alpine zone vegetation within the Park.

**PARK POLICY AND STATE LAND STATISTICAL SUMMARY**

Park Policy and State Land - 2013 % of Staff Time-Location

<b>% Location and Category</b>		<b>Staff Activity</b>							
<b>Location</b>	<b>Admin.</b>	<b>GIS Work</b>	<b>Park Policy and Planning (describe in notes)</b>	<b>Re/Classification</b>	<b>Training/ Conf.</b>	<b>UMP Review</b>	<b>Public/Stakeholder Involvement</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	
-Blank-	9%		2%	6%	2%		1%	19%	
PARKWIDE	2%	1%	11%		1%		1%	17%	
Remsen-LP			1%			1%		2%	
TNC/Finch lands				49%				49%	
Camp Santanoni									
Historic Area						2%		2%	
Whiteface									
Mountain									
Intensive Use									
Highway			2%					2%	
Saranac L. W.F.						7%		8%	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

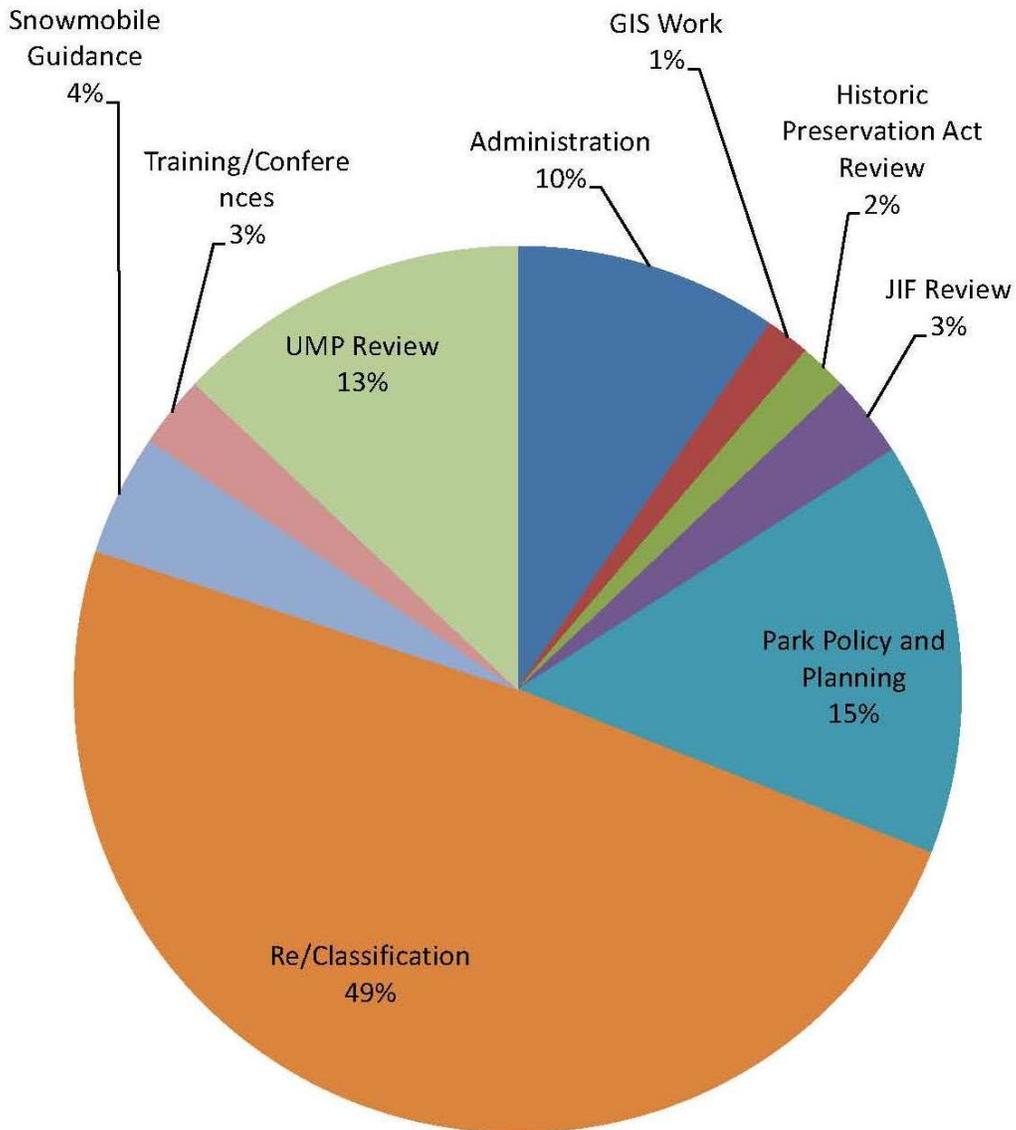
**Park Policy and State Land  
2013 Report  
% of Staff Time-Location**



Park Policy and State Land - 2013 % of Staff Time-Category and Description

% of Category and Description	Description							Grand Total
	Attending meeting	Creating materials	Creating presentation	Field work	Other	Research	Reviewing	
Administration	5%	2%			2%			10%
GIS Work					1%			2%
Historic Preservation Act Review							1%	2%
JIF Review				1%			1%	3%
Park Policy and Planning	9%	1%	1%	1%			1%	14%
Re/Classification	19%	19%	2%	1%	7%	1%	1%	51%
Snowmobile Guidance				4%			1%	5%
Training/Conferences	2%				1%			3%
UMP Review	2%	1%		3%	1%	1%	5%	12%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Park Policy and State Land 2013 Report % of Staff Time by Category



## CARTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION ANALYSIS

### **Lookup System Management**

Staff continued management and administration of the Agency GIS mapping "Lookup System" (LUS.) The LUS provides all Agency staff desktop access to spatial data relating to natural resources, property ownership, jurisdiction, and agency business transactions. An intuitive graphic user interface provides query, analysis and data entry functions via a standard web browser client. All GIS software resides on the Agency server.

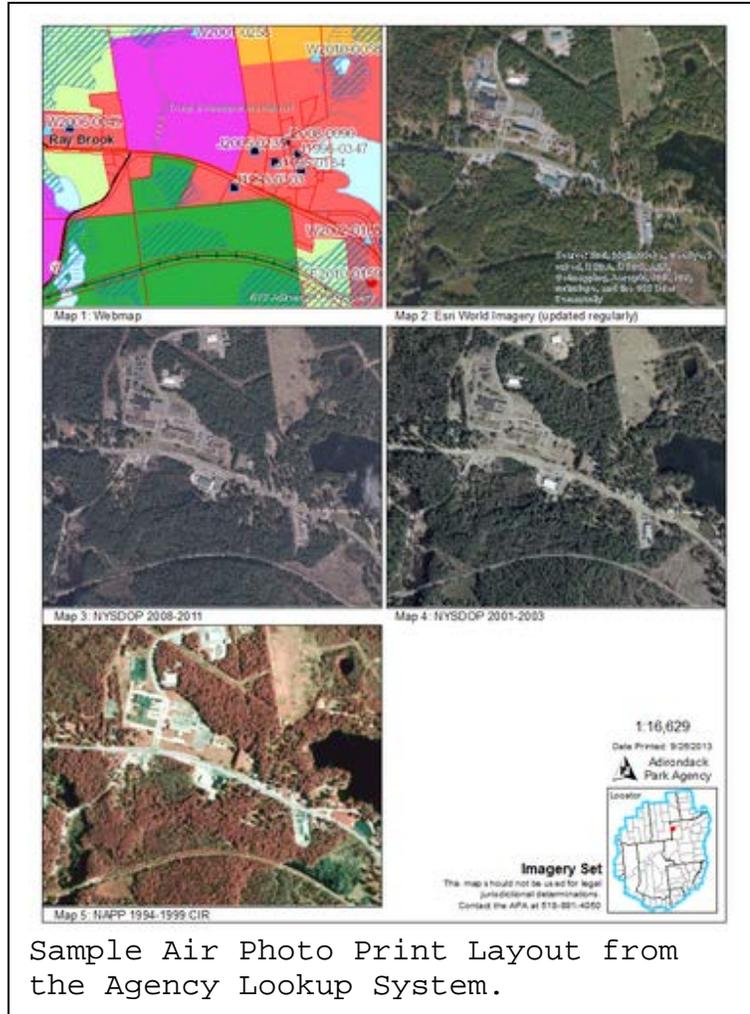
New tools to the LUS included: Save Screen Map, Dynamic Legend, GPS file import; Link to County Tax Offices, Dynamic Measure, and Import Shape Files; semi automated daily import of field collected photos to thematic map layers.

Major improvement to tools included: parcel search; transaction search; measure map features; print standard map forms; editing print scripts to comply with state mandated replacement of all Agency HP printers to Lexmark printers.

Data improvements included: wetland data draw speed and labeling; updated roads; updated federal geographic names database; new property use classification layer; new residential parcel year-built layer; new access to temporary map information currently under Agency jurisdictional or regulatory review; field collected photo inventories; new National Hydrography Data surface water layer.

LUS training was provided on several occasions formally to Operations and Legal staff as well as on-going informal assistance to all program staff as needed.

Staff developed new Lookup System print layout documents for Agency staff. Programs were written to provide multiple thematic maps on one printed page - saving paper while providing extensive mapped information. Staff can easily print multiyear aerial imagery maps for a selected location. Or, on a single page, maps of soils, slopes, elevation, zoning, and critical environmental areas can be printed. A standard set of the Jurisdictional Inquiry review maps are also available.



Sample Air Photo Print Layout from the Agency Lookup System.

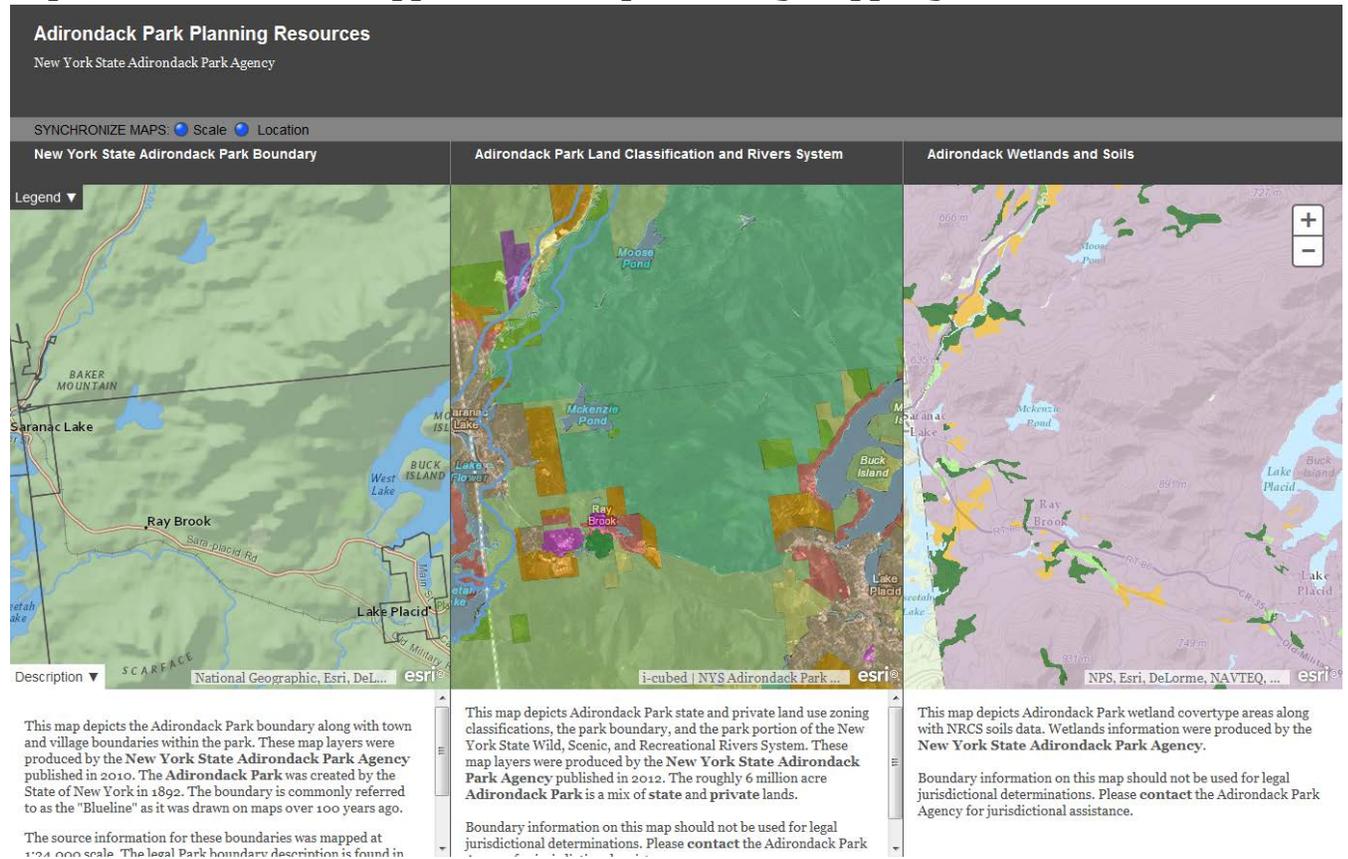
**Agency Transaction Mapping**

Staff developed a Transaction Mapping tool in the GIS for Regulatory, Legal, and RASS staff to input the location of Agency Projects, JIF, Enforcement, and Wetland Field Visit sites. This task included interviewing staff, writing program code, managing the user software interface, prototyping the draft tool with program staff, testing data design, writing help documentation, and training staff. This simplified tool enables program staff to map Agency business transactions at the beginning of Agency review. Location and transaction number are immediately available to all Agency staff through the GIS Lookup System. Mapped transactions are also available for future property review reference and park planning and trends analysis.

Staff developed an in-depth training document to be used with the "Edit APA Transactions" mapping tool. Staff demonstrated the help document to Legal and Regulatory support staff.

## GIS Administration

Staff began testing and developing methods to publish the Agency's GIS maps and content online using ArcGIS Online. Staff examined costs, data security, functionality and usability of publishing data layers as web map services, design of thematic maps, and advanced applications providing mapping tools online.



Attended an online webex meeting November 18<sup>th</sup> with GIS technical staff from the state Energy and Environment IT cluster. Esri software (our GIS vendor) license management was discussed.

Staff attended the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State GIS Conference in Saratoga Springs in November. Staff moderated several technical sessions and met with GIS practitioners throughout the state.

## Data Management

Staff performed major processing of Agency wetlands GIS data. All Freshwater Regulatory Wetland data were merged and imported to the GIS Spatial Database Engine (SDE) format in a Microsoft SQL Server database. SDE format provides the fastest retrieval of GIS information to Agency staff in the Lookup System and other GIS projects.

Staff provided quality control of Agency transaction mapping to division support staff for all regulatory transactions in the park.

Staff wrote programs to automatically map field collected photos associated with easement lands and transportation corridors.

Staff began development of a new reference layer showing the location of over 1,000 historic aerial photos of the park taken in 1968.

#### **Hardware/Software Management**

Staff assisted Administrative staff with annual GIS software maintenance procurement. Staff managed the transfer of Agency GIS functions from the Agency's failing GIS server to the new replacement GIS server. Staff installed a major GIS software update for Desktop, Server, Relational Database, and license administration systems. Staff managed system downtime for Agency staff and provided change information to GIS Power Users. Staff ensured Lookup Systems and other custom applications functioned under new software and provided user support as questions arose.

#### **Website Management**

Annual Web Site Visits: 342,700

Major website postings and edits included: the MOU between the APA and DEC implementing the SLMP; revisions to Commercial and Industrial Supplemental Information Request forms; the Agency Annual Report; addition of Language Access Services information; "Provide Vision Local Government Day 2013" slide presentation on the Business/Economy webpage; the APA Draft Consensus Rule Making; the state land classification process of former Finch Pruyn & Company lands.

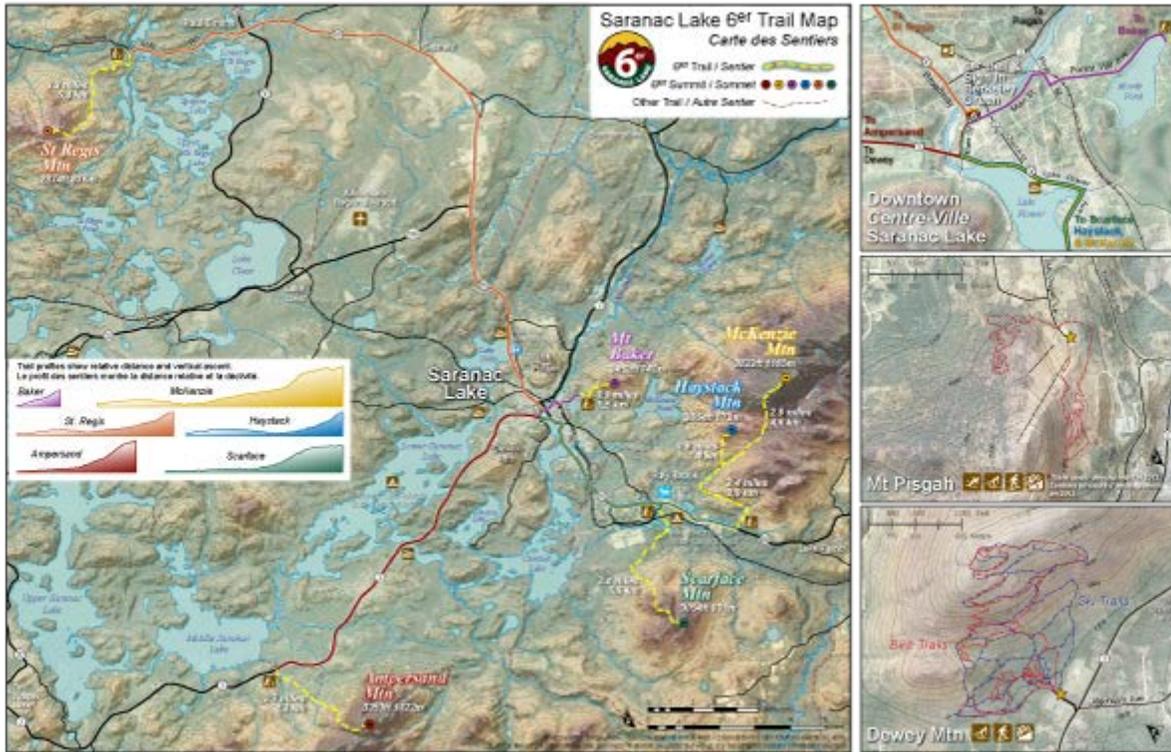
Staff trained Keith McKeever, Public Information Officer in steps necessary to update certain Agency web content. Staff provided management guidance to division support staff posting monthly mailing package materials. Staff monitored security issues that may impact the Agency's website.

#### **GIS Consultation**

Staff provided GIS consultation within the Agency regarding roads, wetlands, aerial imagery, conservation easements, municipal boundaries, and federally designated flood zone data. Additionally, staff assisted RASS staff with the Agency's Stereo Photogrammetric Workstation.

Staff responded to many requests for GIS information including NYS DOT, DEC, county governments, academics and not-for-profit organizations. Staff produced two maps for the "Adirondack Park Outdoor Recreation Strategy" publication.

Staff produced a map for the Village of Saranac Lake used in their "Saranac 6ers" hiking promotional brochure.



### GIS Training

In March, Staff attended a training course provided through the Public Service Workshop Program (PSWP). Planning staff worked with PSWP staff over several months to address Agency staff's need for training to integrate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). PSWP provided instructors to come to APA headquarters for the daylong workshop. The training was attended by 23 NYS employees including NYS APA, DEC, DOT and ORPS staff.

**Map Amendments**

In 2013, staff worked with the Town of Ticonderoga to identify potential hamlet expansion areas. The areas identified are served by public sewer and include the Ticonderoga Commerce Park. The Town submitted an application for the changes in early 2014

2013 GIS/Web Task Summary:

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GIS Consultation	31
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GIS Map Production	133
GIS Data Management	36
GIS Training	11
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Web Administration	4
Web Content Management	38
Administrative Tasks	29

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

The Local Government Services (LGS) Program implements Sections 807 and 808 of the APA Act and its implementing regulations. Two program staff administer the eighteen Agency-approved local land use programs and review approximately 100 variance referrals and 30-40 zoning amendments annually from participating Adirondack municipalities. Staff also respond to numerous informational requests from local officials. 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.

The table below summarizes accomplishments of Local Government Services in 2013. The information is compiled from LGS Committee monthly reports. The data highlight the number of Adirondack communities and officials staff consulted with and provided assistance to during the course of 2013. It 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.

<b>Local Government Services Summary of Program Accomplishments and Reportable Items</b>	<b>2013 Totals</b>
In Park towns and villages consulted (of 103 total):	63
Tally of monthly summary totals:	185
Land use regulations consulted/reviewed	40
ALLUP amendments approved	0
ALLUP variances reviewed	96
ALLUP variances reversed	3
Comprehensive Plans reviewed	4
Meetings with town officials	47
Responded to land use planning inquiries	537
Planning & Zoning Board actions reviewed	387
Training & Workshops provided	9
Intra-Agency local planning assistance	192
Inter-Agency coordination	61
Coordination with other regional organizations	71
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 63 of the communities. When the number of interactions are tallied from monthly summaries, the total number of staff-towns and villages interactions was 185. 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 an ALLUPs 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 review as time permits. In 2013 staff reviewed a total of 40 land use laws from communities in the Park.

- ALLUP amendments approved - There were no communities with finalized ALLUP amendments that sought formal Agency review and approve in 2013. Agency staff worked with ten communities on ALLUPs amendments, however the 2013 biennial town supervisors elections largely suspended those activities in the last quarter of the year.
- ALLUP variances - Towns with an ALLUP are required to refer all local approved variances (outside of Hamlet land use areas) to the Agency. The Agency has 30-days for review in which time it may reverse the local determination if it was not based upon the appropriate statutory basis. In 2013 staff reviewed 96 locally granted variances from ALLUPs with three 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 ALLUPs, 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 2013 staff reviewed 4 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 2013 staff conducted 47 meetings with town officials.
- Responded 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 2013 staff responded to 537 inquiries from local officials.
- Planning & Zoning Board actions reviewed - In the administration and oversight of the ALLUPs, 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 2013 staff reviewed 387 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 55 Adirondack towns and villages, and 75 other organizations attended the 2013 event. In 2013 staff provided nine 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 2013 local planning staff provided assistance to other Agency staff on 192 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 2013 staff consulted with other State agencies on 61 occasions.
- Agency Board presentations - The local government services staff presented three items to the Agency Board. Staff provided a summary of the Local Government Day conference, information on the status of local land use controls in the Park, an overview of the ALLUP and a proposed alternate approach to Agency-approved local land use programs as a way for communities seeking some of the benefits that an ALLUP provides without undertaking the procedural steps for a full ALLUP.

In addition to the Program Accomplishments table, the following map highlights the Adirondack Park communities to which local planning staff provided outreach programs and services in 2013. Together, the table and map provide a concise, graphical portrayal of accomplishments for the local government services program for the year. A complete record of accomplishments is contained in the monthly reports for the unit.



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.

### **Annual Local Government Day Conference**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference was held on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Lake Placid, New York. Over 325 people attended the two-day conference, including representatives from 55 towns and villages as well as 75 other organizations. a full day of training workshops and information sessions was provided. New York State Senator Elizabeth Little and Assemblymen Marc Butler and Daniel Stec led discussions on issues that affect Adirondack communities.

Former State Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward was presented with the conference's annual recognition award to thank her for her contributions and for her long-standing service to the communities of the Adirondack Park.

The conference also hosted its first annual Adirondack Park Excellence in Design Competition. Awards were presented for buildings that enhance the sustainability and livability of Park communities and contributed to distinctive, attractive neighborhoods with a strong sense of place.