



NEW YORK STATE  
Adirondack  
parkagency

RESOLUTION  
ADOPTED BY THE  
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO AN INTERPRETATION OF  
WILD FOREST BASIC GUIDELINE #4  
OF THE STATE LAND MASTER PLAN  
March 14, 2008

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act requires unit management plans developed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to be consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan recognizes the responsibility of the Agency for long-range planning and the establishment of basic policy for State lands in the Park in consultation with DEC, including the need to interpret, address corrections and make clarifications of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Section 801 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act recognizes the complementary needs for the preservation of the Park's resources and open space character along with the need for growth and a strong economic base; and

WHEREAS, the Agency recognizes the significance of snowmobiling for the winter economy of communities within the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has the authority to establish general guidelines and criteria for the management of State lands; and

WHEREAS, this interpretation is being prepared and considered under State Administrative Procedures Act guidelines, Section 102(2)(b)(iv) to provide direction and guidance to Agency and DEC staff on how to implement the guidelines of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, DEC has responsibility for the care and custody of State lands governed by the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, State lands within the Park must be managed in compliance with the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

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WHEREAS, the Agency is responsible for general interpretation of the Master Plan either on its own initiative or at the request of DEC; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Agency and DEC entered into a "Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the State Land Master Plan" which defines a process for interpreting the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan states that public use of motor vehicles will not be encouraged and there will be no material increase in the mileage of roads and snowmobile trails open to motorized use by the public in Wild Forest areas that conformed to the Master Plan at the time of its original adoption in 1972; and

WHEREAS, DEC and Agency staff have been consulting with each other to evaluate historic and current snowmobile trail mileage on State lands in the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, DEC and Agency staff have independently assessed the historic trail mileage and reviewed separate data sources to estimate the mileage that existed in 1972; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have demonstrated that 1972 trail mileage was approximately 740 miles; and

WHEREAS, DEC has provided a revised estimate of snowmobile trail mileage in all adopted, draft and proposed unit management plans for which the current estimate is approximately 766 miles as of March, 2008; and

WHEREAS, DEC calculated the revised trail mileage estimate by using the same criteria and methodology used to calculate the 1972 baseline figure; and

WHEREAS, the "Conceptual Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park," dated November, 2006, identified the need for continued evaluation of existing snowmobile trail mileage on a unit-by-unit basis; and

WHEREAS, DEC's Snowmobile Trail Policy, ONR-2, established a mileage ceiling of 848.88 for snowmobile trail mileage in all Wild Forest units; and

WHEREAS, DEC and Agency staff have requested an interpretation as to whether the snowmobile trail mileage limitation for Wild Forest lands of 848.88 miles contained in DEC's Snowmobile Trail Policy (ONR-2) is consistent with the Master Plan's Basic Wild Forest Guideline #4; and

WHEREAS, an interpretation of the Master Plan is a Type II Action as provided in 6 NYCRR 617.5(31); and

WHEREAS, DEC and the Agency have committed as part of these principles to the expeditious completion of all remaining Wild Forest unit management plans and the amendment of any previously approved plans as necessary for snowmobile trail planning. Additionally, this commitment will ensure the configuration of snowmobile trails on lands classified as Wild Forest is fully documented and continually updated as unit plans are adopted, updated or amended in order to ensure that the Park-wide snowmobile mileage on lands classified as Wild Forest does not constitute a material increase over the 1972 baseline mileage; and

WHEREAS, the mileage of snowmobile trails on public lands in the Park will be tracked in accordance with the accompanying table; and

WHEREAS, this resolution applies only to State lands and does not affect recreational opportunities on private lands, including private lands with conservation easements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency finds the following proposed principles and guidelines consistent with and the appropriate process for interpreting and applying the "no material increase" provision of the Master Plan through the completion of Wild Forest unit management plans:

1. The tracking of snowmobile mileage contemplated by Basic Guideline #4 shall be done on a Park-wide basis. Individual unit management plans may be adopted to include reasonable increases, decreases and changes in snowmobile trail mileage for a given unit, provided the total snowmobile trail mileage in all Wild Forest units combined does not constitute a material increase over the 1972 baseline mileage.

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2. The 1972 baseline snowmobile trail mileage is determined to be 740 on lands under the jurisdiction of DEC within the Adirondack Park including roads open to the public.
3. The current estimated total of snowmobile mileage in all Wild Forest units of 766 miles does not constitute a material increase over the 1972 baseline estimate.
4. The 848.88 mileage figure contained in existing DEC policy (ONR-2) as an upper limit beyond which any additional snowmobile trail mileage on lands classified as Wild Forest, including reroutes for safety or environmental concerns, will be considered a material increase, is consistent with the State Land Master Plan Wild Forest Basic Guideline #4.
5. The State Land Master Plan provides that Basic Guideline #4 for lands classified as Wild Forest applies to land acquisitions occurring after 1972.
6. The mileage of designated snowmobile use on roads and trails on lands under jurisdiction of DEC in existing areas classified Primitive, Historic or Intensive Use will not be subject to Wild Forest Basic Guideline #4 and will be documented in the unit management planning process. Similarly, the designated snowmobile trail use in the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor under jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation will not be subject to Wild Forest Basic Guideline #4. Designated trails in the Alice Brook and Forks Mountain Primitive areas are temporary and efforts should continue to relocate them outside Primitive and Wilderness classifications.
7. The attached presentation format will be used in any presentation to the Agency regarding unit management plans or snowmobile mileage calculations.
8. As public/private land ownership patterns may change in the future, the Agency reserves the option to revisit this determination of materiality.

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

Ayes:                   A. Lussi, F. Mezzano, C. Stiles, W. Thomas,  
                          J. Townsend, L. Ulrich, R. Hoffman (DOS),  
                          C. Amato (DEC), C. Walsh (DED)

Nays:                   R. Booth, C. Wray

Abstentions:       None

Absent:               None

Attachment:       Unit Management Snowmobile Trail Mileage  
                          Documentation Requirements

**Snowmobile Trail Mileage  
Documentation Requirements**

**To be Presented with Each Unit Management Plan  
Submitted to the Agency**

1. Map of 1972 trail system, including historical estimates of trail-by-trail mileage.
2. Map of trail system approved in any post-1972 UMP with corresponding tabular trail-by-trail identification and trail mileage estimates.
3. Map of trail system with corresponding tabular trail-by-trail identification and trail mileage estimates for proposed UMP approval.
4. All UMPs shall also show non-Wild Forest mileage in tabular and map format – specifically: municipal roads, railroad corridors, Intensive Use areas and mileage over significant waterbodies when two trail points are connected (lake mileage shall not be counted in total but should be identified).
5. A simple spreadsheet should be included as supporting information for each UMP submitted to the Agency to capture the following information:

**This Unit Management Plan**

Base Snowmobile Trail Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Snowmobile Trail Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Crossing Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_

**Park-wide Trail Mileage:**

1972 Mileage	Previously Approved Mileage	Proposed Trail Miles	Total Allowable Wild Forest Miles	Railroad Corridors	Primitive Areas	Waterbody Crossings Miles	Intensive Use Miles	Total Other Forest Preserve Miles
740			848.88					