



Board of Directors

Charles Clusen
Chair

Barbara Rottier
James McMartin Long
Vice-Chairs

Chris Walsh
Secretary

David Quinn
Treasurer

Nancy Bernstein
John Caffry
Andy Coney
Dean Cook
James C. Dawson
Lorraine Duvall
Robert Glennon
Roger Gray
Evelyn Greene
Sidney Haring
Sheila Hutt
Patricia Morrison
John Nemjo
Peter O'Shea
Philip Terrie
Michael Wilson

Staff

Peter Bauer
Executive Director

Claudia K. Braymer
Deputy Director

Christopher Amato, Esq.
**Conservation Director
and Counsel**

November 25, 2024

Megan Phillips
Deputy Director, Planning
Adirondack Park Agency
PO Box 99
Ray Brook NY 12977

**Re: Mt Van Hoevenberg Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan
Amendment**

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Protect the Adirondacks has reviewed the draft Mt Van Hoevenberg Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan (UMP) amendment proposed by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), which was noticed in the ENB on October 23, 2024. It is our understanding that the majority of the proposed changes relate to upgrades and modernization of existing facilities. From our review of the UMP amendment, almost all of the proposed changes are for facilities located on Town-owned lands that have a State-held easement.

There is a proposal for “Wax Cabins” and power pedestals to be constructed on Forest Preserve lands that are protected by Article 14 of the New York State Constitution. We appreciate that a constitutional amendment has been pursued and has received first passage by the Legislature, but we point out that the constitutional amendment for Mt Van Hoevenberg has not yet received second passage by the Legislature and it has not been approved by the voters of New York State. We also note that the constitutional amendment, which we support, requires the State to acquire at least 2,500 acres of land for inclusion in the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park as compensation for the proposed development of Forest Preserve lands. Clearly, the purchase of compensatory Forest Preserve lands has not yet taken place.

None of the facilities proposed in this UMP that are intended to be located on the Forest Preserve should be constructed unless and until the constitutional amendment has received second passage in the Legislature and has been approved by the voters.

Additionally, we recognize the importance of the world class ORDA facilities to the local economy and to the quality of life of residents in the Adirondacks.

Protect the Adirondacks

PO Box 48, North Creek, NY 12853 518.251.2700

www.protectadks.org info@protectadks.org

Like Us on Facebook and on Instagram/Threads @ProtectAdkPark

Likewise, the stewardship of the world-renowned Forest Preserve and the maintenance of trails and facilities on it provide immeasurable and indispensable benefits to the residents of New York State. We urge the Governor to appropriate the same level of funding to protection and management of the Forest Preserve as is being devoted to modernizing ORDA's facilities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Protect the Adirondacks, please accept our gratitude for the opportunity to share our comments on this draft UMP amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia K. Braymer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claudia K. Braymer
Deputy Director

cc: Ashley Dougherty, Assistant Secretary for the Environment
Kirk Bassarab, NYS ORDA
John Caffry, Esq., Co-Chair, Protect the Adirondacks Conservation Advocacy Committee