

APPENDIX I
 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Division of Lands and Forests
 State Land/Easement Project Work Plan
 for
 Construction of New Facilities and Expansion or
 Modification of Existing Facilities
 Fiscal Year 2022-2023
 Project # WF 003_2022

<u>Region/Facility</u>	<u>Project Title</u>		
5	Bear Den to Legacy Lift Line – Tree Cutting		
<u>Project Location</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
	Wilmington	Essex	Intensive Use Area

Description & Justification:

Project approved in 2022 UMP Amendment for Whiteface Mountain. UMP Section 2 Pages 2-3 Management Action #5 language has been highlighted and included in this application.

Materials and Dimensions:

New detachable quad lift with mid-station terminal direction change.

Trees to be Removed:

Please see attached tree count, approved in 2022 UMPA for Whiteface Mountain.

Mitigation of Environmental Impacts:

Project included in 2022 SWPPP for Whiteface Mountain. SWPPP is in place.

Impacts to Wetlands:

None.

Impacts to Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species:

All activity below 2800' in elevation and will not have adverse effects to the Bicknell's Thrush.

Description of Use of Motorized Equipment or Motor Vehicle, if any:

Excavator, chain saw, dump truck, concert truck, concrete pump, UTV.

Other Relevant Considerations

Phase II consists of the actual lift installation which will occur in 2023 and require a Rivers Act Permit.

Prepared by (name/title):

Date:

Name: Emma Lamy
 Title: Sustainability & Environmental
 Compliance Officer
 Phone: 518-302-5314

6/2/2022

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

625 Broadway, 14th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-1010

P: (518) 402-8545 | F: (518) 402-8541

www.dec.ny.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

FROM: Basil Seggos

SUBJECT: Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment

The Unit Management Plan amendment for the Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area has been completed, and the Adirondack Park Agency has found the Plan to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Plan is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.



Basil Seggos

Commissioner

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: 6/21/22



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN SKI CENTER INTENSIVE USE AREA UNIT
MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT
May 12, 2022**

WHEREAS, section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS ORDA has prepared a proposed final amendment to the 2004 unit management plan for the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area (2004 Plan), dated March 2022 (Proposed Final 2021 Amendment); and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR 586 for which ORDA is the lead agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation is an involved agency; and

WHEREAS, ORDA prepared a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the action modifies elements of the 2018 Amendment to the 2004 Plan in response to new opportunities arising from the siting of the recently completed Legacy Lodge and the opportunity to host the 2023 World University Games; and

WHEREAS, the action consists of the installation of a new ski lift between the Bear Den area and the area around Legacy Lodge, widening 8 existing ski trails with a total area of 9.4 acres, construction of 3 new connector ski trails totaling 0.25 miles, and construction of a 25' x 70' expansion of the existing NYSEF building; and

WHEREAS, two previously approved trails that are not yet constructed (88 and 89) totaling 0.32 mile are no longer proposed; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has consulted with a trail design professional to create a master plan for hiking and biking at the facility which includes new and improved summer use trails; and

WHEREAS, summer use trail development will be consistent with new Trail Design Guidance currently under development with the Trail Stewardship Working Group; and

WHEREAS, ORDA provided a public draft of the 2021 Amendment for information during the October 2021 Agency meeting and accepted public comments on the draft for public review between October 27 and December 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, following review of comments received on the draft plan sixteen different changes were made which can be found in Exhibit 12 “Errata” of the Proposed Final Draft of the 2021 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, ORDA presented the Proposed Final Draft of the 2021 Amendment during the March 2022 Agency meeting and the Agency established a public comment period on conformance of the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment with the APSLMP, which ran from April 11 through May 11, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Agency received 10 written comments during the public comment period regarding the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, four primary themes emerged from the public comments which were concerns for the constitutionality of the ski trail changes, concerns for the constitutionality of the summer use trail proposal, concerns about how the proposal reflects New York’s commitment to fight climate change, and concerns about how ORDA intends to manage access for uphill ski access; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has been responsive to public concerns regarding constitutionality during the UMP review process and has made reasonable changes to the plan that address those concerns following the first round of public comments; and

WHEREAS, ORDA continues to lead the ski industry with climate initiatives as exhibited by their policies and power supply options; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has upheld its commitment from the 2018 Amendment to “conducting an evaluation and assessment of current mountain biking use on Whiteface to develop goals and objectives for future mountain biking at the facility”; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment, the April 2022 Memorandum from the Deputy Director Planning to the Executive Director, APA staff’s May 12 presentation, public

comment, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's May 12, 2022, meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Proposed Final 2021 Amendment to the 2004 Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan, dated March 2022, conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Olympic Regional Development Authority of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes: Andrea Hogan, Brad Austin, Joe Zalewski, John Ernst, Dan Wilt, Matt Tebo, Zoe Smith, Mark Hall

Nays: None

Abstentions: Arthur Lussi

Absent: Kenneth Lynch

SEQRA Dates

Public Draft UMPA: ~~August 2021~~ 13 October 2021
 Public Draft UMPA Comment Period Start: 27 October 2021
 Public Draft UMPA Comment Period End: 08 December 2021
 Final Proposed UMPA: 02 March 2022
 SEQRA Findings Issued Date: 01 March 2022
 APA Resolution Passed: 12 May 2022
 Final Approval and Commissioner's Signature: 21 June 2022

Tree Count

WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN TREE SPECIES	PLOT 2 Bear Den Lower (#/acre)			Trail Beneath Bear to Legacy Lift		
				2.1 acre	2.1 acre	2.1 acre
	1-3" DBH	3-4" DBH	> 4" DBH	1-3" DBH	3-4" DBH	> 4" DBH
BALSAM FIR						
STRIPED MAPLE		88			185	
RED MAPLE		88	44		185	92
SUGAR MAPLE						
YELLOW BIRCH						
MOUNTAIN PAPER BIRCH						
PAPER BIRCH						
BEECH		132	236		277	496
WHITE ASH						
IRONWOOD						
RED SPRUCE						
RED PINE						
WHITE PINE						
BIGTOOTH ASPEN						
PIN CHERRY						
MOUNTAIN ASH						
NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR						
OAK						
HEMLOCK		132	132		277	277
TREE TOTALS	276	440	412	580	924	865

B. Descriptions of Individual Management Actions

Items 1-4 below are part of a common plan to satisfy the ski racers' needs and allowing for separation of racing from recreational activities.

1. Widen Upper Thruway Trail (20) – Widening Upper Thruway supports the overall development of the venue for training and racing at an international level. This will include the removal of a small tree island at the intersection of Upper Parkway as well as widening approximately 1,336 feet of trail an average widening width of 68 feet on the skiers left side throughout. It will create more width to install safety measures required to host large international events and improve the overall layout and safety for all athletes of all abilities.

2. Widen Upper Parkway Trail (18) – Widening of Upper Parkway is part of a plan that will allow Whiteface to have 2 FIS homologated race trails. This will support official training on a homologated trail while there is an event in progress on the other. The training on a homologated trail is now a requirement for some of the larger events in the ski racing world. Homologated trails also support additional safety precautions for the racers. The proposed widening will be on skiers left, approximately 761 feet long and with an average widening width of 66 feet and will result in Upper Parkway and upper Thruway becoming contiguous side-by-side trails. These side-by-side trails are allowable as long as the two trails are counted individually when calculating miles of ski trails. See **Exhibit 4** for details.

3. Widen Lower Thruway Trail (21) – Widening of Lower Thruway is also part of the plan that will allow Whiteface to have 2 FIS homologated race trails. The proposed additional clearing will be on skiers left between Calamity Lane and Burton's, and on skiers right below Burton's and in the area of the intersection with the Lower Valley Trail. The length of widening on Lower Thruway is 1,464 feet with an average widening width of 85 feet.

4. Widen Burton's Trail (24) – This is also a part of the process for homologating a downhill trail off the summit of Whiteface Mountain to the existing finish area for the general race trails on Drapers Drop. The current downhill is homologated to the Legacy area, and with the new Legacy Lodge being constructed in the finish, the trail will need to be rerouted. The proposed widening is on skiers right on the upper portion of the trail below Calamity Lane and on skiers left near the intersection with Lower Thruway. Length and average width of widening are 733 feet and 55 feet, respectively.

5. Add New Lift Connecting Bear Den to Legacy (including a new skiable trail 93 beneath the lower end of the lift) (Lift D) – a new detachable quad with a midstation terminal, approximately 4,300 feet long overall, is proposed between the Bear Den area and the Legacy Lodge area. Construction of Legacy Lodge at its new location facilitated the proposal of this action that has been contemplated by ORDA for some time. Bear Den is now the location for beginner activities on the mountain. A lift connection from the beginner terrain in the Bear Den area to the intermediate trails out of the Legacy area provides a logical, safer learn to ski and snowboard progression by providing access to the proper terrain for lower level abilities. The

lift line corridor clearing will be 50 feet wide where the lift passes through currently wooded areas. The total length of the lift is just over 4,300 feet, and the new tree clearing needed to construct the lift will be a total of 500 feet long in multiple locations, with an average additional clearing width of 50 feet. ORDA considered alternative configurations for this lift, including a straight lift without a midstation terminal at the turn. See **Figure 5 in Exhibit 3** showing a plan view of the alternatives and **Figure 5A in Exhibit 3** showing elevation profiles of the proposed lift and the alternative considered. Such an alternative would not provide a low elevation drop off point for learning skiers and snowboarders, and the straight line lift would have to pass up and over a 300 feet vertical ridge that exists between Bear Den and Legacy where lift riders would leave the protection of the tree line and be exposed to the elements of the barren rock ledge. There would also be significantly more tree clearing and soil disturbance with this alternative.

6. New Yellow Dot Trail (95) – construction of the new Yellow Dot Trail will allow easier access to Lower Skyward off the gondola. Currently, Lower Skyward is only accessible by skiing Upper Skyward. Lower Skyward is underutilized and is often an easier route for intermediate skiers as compared to the Victoria trail. The new Yellow Dot trail will be approximately 260 feet long with an average width of 23 feet wide on relatively flat ground.

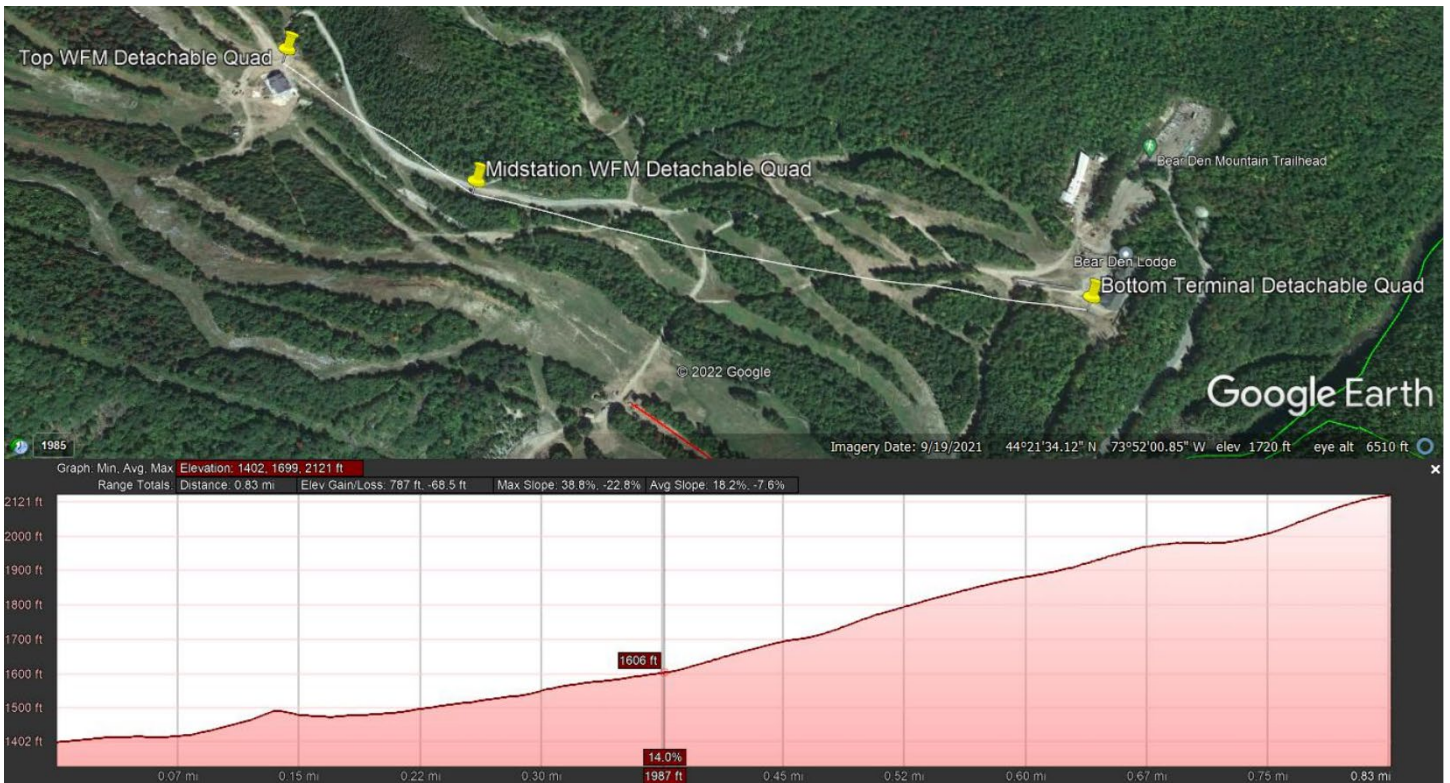
7. Widen Wildway Trail (59A) – widening Wildway will allow for access to Mountain Run from Upper Wilderness. This will allow skiers to access Mountain Run without skiing around the midstation on the Little Whiteface lift or through the existing narrow area at the bottom of the approach. Widening will involve 145 feet of existing trail with an average widening width of 30 feet.

8. New High Country Road Trail (94) – this action involves recutting the old High Country Road Trail and extending it down to Lower Empire. Reestablishing this connection will allow access from the top of Freeway and the midstation area of the Little Whiteface Lift to the Summit lift. It will also provide a non-expert “escape” route from the top of Freeway. This new management action involves approximately 560 feet of trail and an average width of 99 feet.

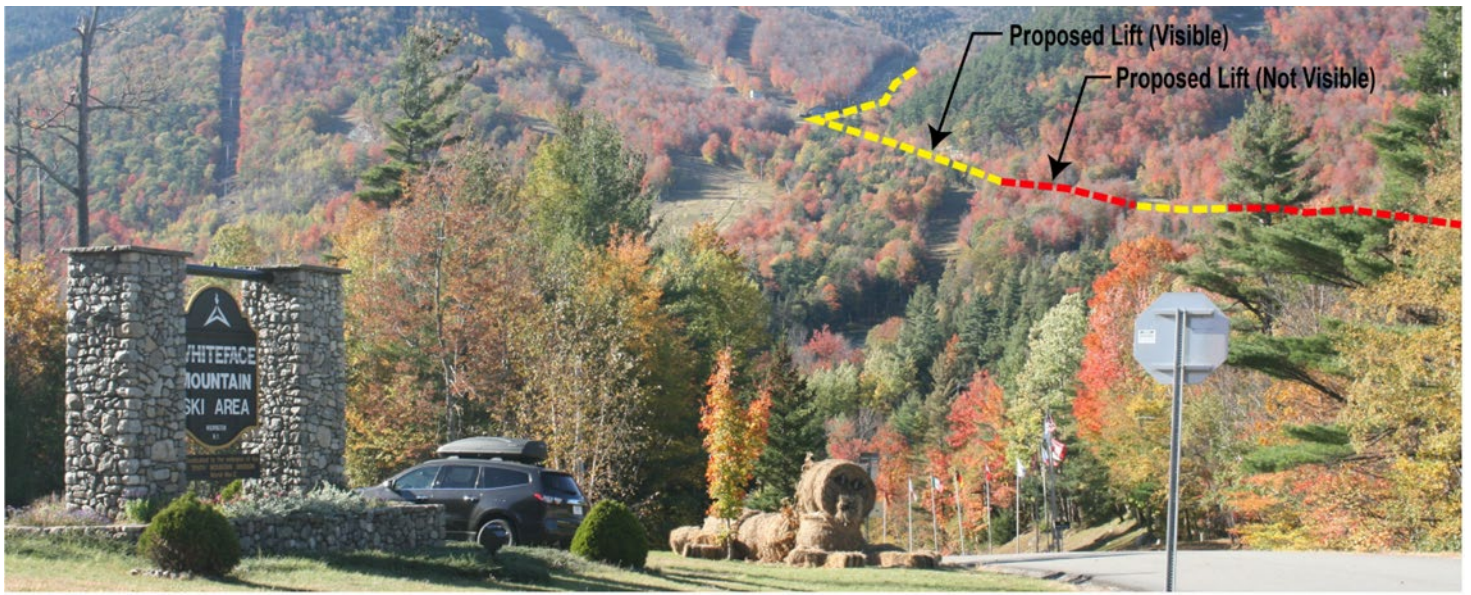
9. Widen 2200 Road Trail (61) – portions of the 2200 Road Trail totaling approximately 390 feet in length (between 2 sections) will be widened an average of 60 feet. Like the High Country Road Trail, widening the 2200 Road will allow access from Freeway and the midstation area on the Little Whiteface lift to the Summit Lift and also provide for the better “escape route” that avoids expert terrain.

10. Widen Danny’s Bridge/Brookside Trails (28 & 68) – This area is often used as a terrain park. The proposed widening will occur on skiers left with 500 feet of Danny’s Bridge widened to by an average 43 feet to 120 feet, the upper 220 feet of Brookside widened to 160 feet and the lower 720 feet of Brookside widened to 120 feet. This will allow for more terrain park area and more options for terrain park users. The widening will also allow for safer passage around the jumps in the terrain park for non-users.

Elevation Profile



After Construction



On-Mountain Location

