



FORESTS

New opportunities for public involvement in forest preserve unit management plans

By Graham Cox

A year ago Governor George E. Pataki launched a five-year program to complete all the unit management plans, called UMPs, for the forest preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill parks. These plans involve an analysis of the natural and man-made features of an area and the ability of the land and water resources to stand human use. They then set management policy and rules for each publicly-owned area.

So far, since the State Land Master Plan was published in 1972, the state has completed just a handful of UMPs, filling in the management and policy details for the wilderness, wild forest, canoe and primitive areas for the state-owned lands – the three million acres of the six million acre Adirondack Park and the 280,000 acres of the 750,000 acre Catskill Park. Still to be done are 90 UMPs in the Adirondacks (covering about two thirds of the forest preserve) and five in the Catskills. Many of the plans still to be completed are for intensive use areas such as state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) campgrounds.

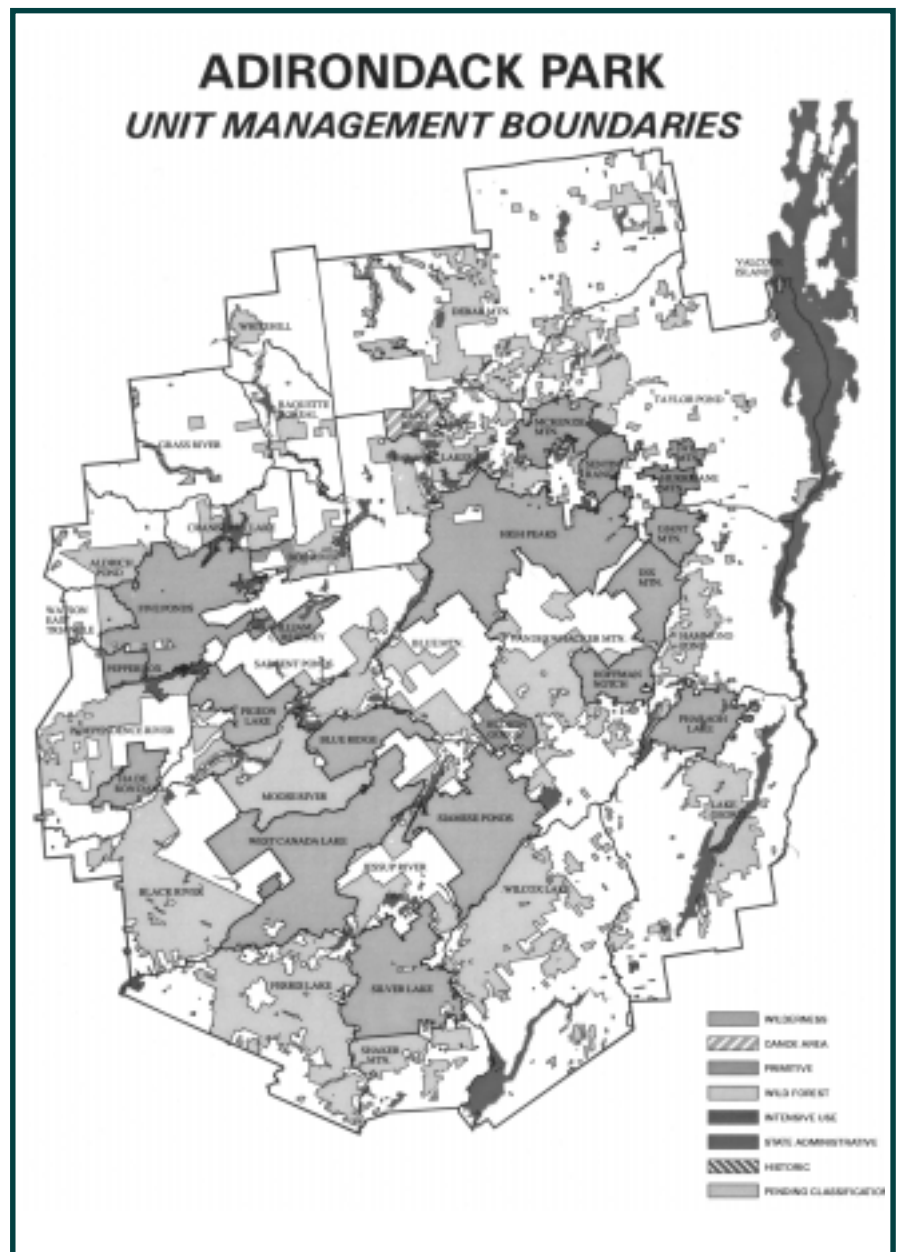
The DEC, which is responsible for preparing them, and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), responsible for overseeing and approving the plans, have now been assigned seven additional forest planners and supervisors to complete the work. Karyn Richards, longtime DEC forester and planner with experience on the Northern Forest Lands Council and as deputy director at the APA, is spearheading the work. DEC is publishing a quarterly newsletter to keep people up to date on their progress, has held or plans scoping sessions very soon with the public on 16 of the UMPs, and is planning a major statewide public outreach program in January 2001. (See schedule on page 2.)

Below are the plans currently being done or revised with name and contact information for each one. Others will be added later. If you have comments about these areas, DEC wants to hear from you. You can tell the forest planners what you think about management planning issues for the units shown on the accompanying map. If you have ideas for a new trail or suggestions for better management of a wilderness or wild forest area, let them know.

- Bog River Area: Stewart Brown, 6739 U.S. Highway

11, Potsdam, NY 13676, phone (315) 265-3090.

- Dix Mountain/Giant Mountain Wilderness: Kris Alberga, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, NY 12977, phone (518) 897-1200
- Independence River Wild Forest (revision): Keith Rivers, RD 3, Box 22-A, Lowville, NY 13367, phone (315) 376-3521.
- Ferris Lake Wild Forest (scoping completed): Eric Kasza, 225 N. Main St., Herkimer, NY 13350, phone (315) 866-6330
- Hudson Gorge Primitive Area: Rick Fenton, P.O. Box 458, Northville, NY, 12134, phone (518) 863-4545.
- Jessup River Wild Forest: Tom Kapelewski, P.O. Box 458, Northville, NY, 12134, phone (518) 863-4545.
- Moose River Plains Wild Forest: Keith Rivers, RD 3, Box 22-A, Lowville, NY 13367, phone (315) 376-3521.
- Raquette Boreal Forest: Stewart Brown, 6739 U.S. Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676, phone (315) 265-3090.
- Saranac Lakes Wild Forest: Tim Baxter, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, NY 12977, phone (518) 897-1200.
- Sargent Ponds Wild Forest: Clifford Wray, P.O. Box 458, Northville, NY 12134, phone (518) 863-4545.
- Siamese Ponds Wilderness: Tad Norton, 232 Hudson St., Warrensburg, NY 12885, phone (518) 623-3671.
- Taylor Pond, Split Rock Section and Wilmington



Section: Jim Papero, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, NY 12977, phone (518) 897-1200

- Vanderwacker Wild Forest: Mike Curley, 232 Hudson St., Warrensburg, NY 12885, phone (518) 623-3671.
- Watsons East Triangle: Keith Rivers, RD 3, Box 22-A, Lowville, NY 13367, phone (315) 376-3521.
- White Hill: Stewart Brown, 6739 U.S. Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676, phone (315) 265-3090.
- Whitney Wilderness: Tom Kapelewski, P.O. Box 458, Northville, NY 12134, phone (518) 863-4545.

F O R E S T F I E L D N O T E S

Domtar Industries gets 'green' certification

The New York Caucus members of the Northern Forest Alliance have welcomed the 'green' certification of the massive Domtar Industry forest lands in the northern part of the Adirondack Park. The caucus members said this is a trail blazing move to bring sustainable forest management practices to the commercial timber lands of New York. Domtar, a Canadian-owned company, manages 105,000 acres of commercial forests in Clinton and Franklin counties, the third largest industrial forest land owner in the park. The land was certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) program. This is administered in this region by SmartWood and the National Wildlife Federation.

Domtar is the first major industrial forest products company to be given this SmartWood tag. Last year SmartWood certified 700,000 acres of state DEC-managed multiple-use forest lands spread across the state. SmartWood also certified the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company for their paper production process and 11,000 acres of forest lands owned and managed by Paul Smiths College in the Adirondack Park.

Good Wood campaign underway in NYC

New York City council speaker Peter Vallone has introduced legislation to encourage the city administration to give preference in its purchases to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified wood products from

sustainably managed forests, or to recycled and other bio-based products, rather than buy and use virgin timber from forests managed in a non-sustainable way.

A coalition of more than 60 groups has helped draft the city's bill, which would go a long way to encourage sustainable forest practices worldwide and also ban the use of certain, non-certified tropical timber species. New York City has the nation's largest municipal budget, and ranks at the top in the purchase of all products, behind the federal government and New York state in value of purchases.

City council member A. Gifford Miller, who has sponsored the city bill, said the intent is to ensure that wood used in city building projects does not come from endangered forests. "We are proposing to use the purchasing power of New York City to help protect the

world's endangered forest systems by promoting the use of sustainably harvested wood products and wood alternatives," Miller said.

Now needed, he said, are letters and messages of support to the city council, to the mayor's office and to city agency heads explaining the benefits of 'green' certification of wood products.

Besides the city purchases, most of the products moved in and out of the city come on wood pallets or in wood crates made from tropical hardwoods. They are used once and usually discarded. One estimate showed that the pallets and crates discarded in the city consumed a forest land area equal to the size of Central Park each year. In a positive move to help forests, the city recently changed its practices to buy park benches made from certified wood or from recycled materials.