

Appendix A

Division of Lands and Forests Direction LF-91-2:
Cutting, Removal or Destruction of Trees and Endangered, Threatened or
Rare Plants on Forest Preserve Lands: FINAL POLICY
APA/DEC MOU

MEMORANDUM

APR 10 1991

TO: Regional Supervisors of Natural Resources

FROM: Robert H. Bathrick

SUBJECT: DIVISION DIRECTION - LF-91-2 (Revision of LF 84-2)
TOPIC: Cutting, Removal or Destruction of Trees
and Endangered, Threatened or Rare Plants
on Forest Preserve Lands: FINAL POLICY

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to establish administrative procedures for the implementation of Commissioner Williams' Organization and Delegation Memorandum #84-06 relating to the construction of new facilities, the expansion or modification of existing facilities and routine maintenance projects on lands of the Forest Preserve. In areas classified wilderness, such projects shall be undertaken only for purposes of protecting either user safety or natural resource values.

BACKGROUND: Such Organization and Delegation Memorandum states, in part: "Section 9-0105 of the Environmental Conservation Law provides that the Division of Lands and Forests has responsibility for the 'care, custody and control' of the Adirondack and the Catskill Forest Preserve. In accordance with this responsibility, all construction of new facilities, expansion or modification of existing facilities and maintenance of facilities, that will result in cutting, removal or destruction of trees and endangered, threatened or rare plants as defined in 6NYCRR subdivision 193.3(b), (c) and (e), on any of the lands constituting the Forest Preserve shall require approval of the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests...." In order to carry out this direction and policy, the succeeding procedures will be followed by regional and non-regionalized personnel in requesting approval for such projects on lands of the Forest Preserve that involve the cutting, removal and/or destruction of trees and endangered, threatened or rare plants. In all cases, the provisions and constraints of the Organization and Delegation Memorandum will be recognized and complied with.

PART I - Construction of New Facilities and the Expansion or
Modification of Existing Facilities

PROCESS [AND CALENDAR]

Regional Forester

Regional Operations
Supervisor or Manager of
Non-Regionalized Facility

1. Following conceptual approval of the project by the Regional and/or appropriate Central Divisional Offices, prepare a Forest Preserve Project Work Plan in the form attached hereto as Appendix A for each proposed project. Each such Plan shall include:
 - (1) A description of the project and its purpose,
 - (2) A sketch map delineating the project and showing its location,
 - (3) A count by species and size class, of all trees 3" DBH and over to be cut, removed or destroyed,
 - (4) Identification of any endangered, threatened rare species or habitats within 300' of the area to be disturbed,
 - (5) A description of measures to be taken to mitigate the impact on vegetative cover, and
 - (6) Proposed use of motorized equipment or motor vehicles, if any.
 - (7) For projects proposed for the Adirondack forest preserve not already incorporated within an approved unit management plan, a copy of the completed and signed Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), a Negative or Positive Declaration and a dated copy of the project notice as it appears in the

Note: The term Regional Forester as used in this policy refers to the working titles of Regional Forester and Regional Forestry Manager

Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB). (8) For projects proposed for the Catskill forest preserve not incorporated in an approved unit management plan and involving the physical alteration of 10 or more acres the documents required are the same as (7). (9) For Catskill forest preserve projects involving the alteration of less than 10 acres either a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) or Negative Declaration. (10) For projects incorporated within an approved UMP, a dated copy of the project notice as it appears in the ENB.

NOTE: It shall be the responsibility of the Regional Forester to insure that SEQR requirements are complied with for all projects.

Regional Supervisor for Natural Resources

Regional Forester

2. Submits completed Work Plan to the Regional Supervisor for Natural Resources.
3. Reviews Work Plan for completeness and conformance to Delegation Memorandum #84-06 and forwards to the Regional Forester.
4. Enters receipt of Work Plan and Regional Log of Forest Preserve Projects (See Appendix B attached)
5. Reviews Forest Preserve Project Work Plan to determine if project is appropriate, taking into consideration forest preserve land classification, unit management plan goals and management objectives for the land area involved.

6. Makes on-site field inspections as necessary and appropriate.

7. Insures that SEQR requirements for each project have been addressed.
8. Consults with Operations Supervisor or Facility Manager to effect any changes or modification to Work Plan.
9. Signs Work Plan signifying approval or disapproval by stating reasons in comments section. If approved, forwards Work Plan through Regional Supervisor for Natural Resources to Regional Director or appropriate Division Director, in the case of non-regionalized facilities. If disapproved, returns Work Plan to originator.
10. Completes regional log
11. Reviews Forest Preserve Project work plan.
12. Signs Work Plan signifying approval or indicates disapproval by stating reasons in Comments section.
13. If approved, forwards Work Plan to Director of Lands and Forests. If disapproved, returns Work Plan through Regional Supervisor for Natural Resources and Regional Forester to originator.

Regional Director or
Director of Division
responsible for Facility

- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| Director of Lands and Forests | 14. | Effects review of Work Plan by appropriate Central Office staff to determine that Plan conforms to Division goals and is in keeping with responsibility for care, custody and control of lands of the Forest Preserve. |
| | 15. | Signs Work Plan signifying approval or indicates disapproval by stating reasons in comments section. |
| | 16. | Returns Work Plan to Regional Director or appropriate Division Director. |
| Regional Director or Director of Division responsible for Facility | 17. | Distributes Work Plan through Regional Supervisor for Natural Resources and Regional Forester to originator. |
| Regional Operations Supervisor or Manager of Non-Regionalized Facility | 18. | Implements project in accordance with Work Plan approvals and conditions. |
| Regional Forester | 19. | Monitors implementation of Work Plan to insure conformance to approvals and conditions. |
| | 20. | On completion of project, completes Inspection Report (See Appendix C attached) and retains in Project file. |

PART II Routine Maintenance Projects

PROCESS

Application for routine maintenance projects on lands of the Forest Preserve shall be submitted on the form attached hereto as Appendix D as soon as possible in advance of the starting date of the project. The Application should be directed to the Regional Supervisor for Natural Resources who will forward it to the Regional

Forester. The Application will be reviewed as rapidly as possible by the Regional Forester and a determination made as to approval or disapproval.

When approvals have been granted, a copy of the Application will be forwarded to appropriate Regional Lands and Forests personnel to assure proper notification and provide for monitoring of the project.

Applicants should consider the following guidelines when submitting project requests:

1. Maintenance of foot trails, snowmobile trails, cross-country ski trails, horse trails, canoe carries, Leantos and bridges etc.

This includes projects that involve blowdown removal, hazard tree elimination (3" or more in diameter (DBH)), problem tree removal (3" or more in diameter (DBH)), etc.

Applications may be submitted by Area if appropriate (i.e., High Peaks Wilderness Area, St. Regis Canoe Area, Saranac Lake Wild Forest, Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area, etc.). Trails should be listed separately with the total length of the trail covered by a single application, if appropriate, and in priority order of needed maintenance.

Live-standing trees may be cut or used for the construction or repair of bridges, leantos, dry tread, waterbars or other minor trail structures only after considering the following alternatives and in accordance with the following conditions:

- A. Alternatives to any type of trail hardening or structural development must be considered, especially in wilderness areas where such structures diminish the character of the area. Such alternatives include the closing or limitation of use of a trail where the impact of such use is leading to degradation of the other resources and the character of the Forest Preserve. A second alternative is to relocate the trail in such a way that trail hardening would not be necessary.
- B. If, after considering the above alternatives, it is determined that structures are needed to protect the surface of the trail or the safety of the public, the following materials should be considered in order of priority:
 1. Native rock or stone from near the site.
 2. Native rock or stone from another location brought to the site.
 3. Peeled, untreated timber or logs from another location brought to the site.

4. Treated timber or logs from another location brought to the site.
5. On-site trees in accordance with the conditions under C. following.

C. If on-site trees are to be used, such use must be in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The Regional Forester or his designated representative must approve all trees to be cut, after considering any other previous cutting that has been done in the area.
2. Cutting must be discreet with tops fully lopped and dispersed out of sight of the trails, and with stumps cut flush to the ground.
3. Designated trees must be between three to eighteen inches in diameter (DBH), and must be at least 100 feet apart.
4. Structures requiring the use of live on-site trees should not be replaced more frequently than 7-10 years, which is the range of normal life expectancy. However concern for human safety must be paramount. Structures deemed to be hazardous shall be replaced as needed.

Dead and downed material may be used for such purposes although consideration must be given to human safety and the longevity or life of such structures when such material is used.

2. Maintenance of roads, phone lines, power lines, ski lifts, downhill ski trails, parking areas, openings around buildings, scenic vistas, etc. including work done under temporary revocable permit.

This includes projects that involve the removal of hazardous, problem or edge trees 3" or more in diameter (DBH).

Projects should be listed individually but, several may be submitted on a single Application if they are similar in nature (i.e., phone lines A, B, & C). Tree counts are advisable where more than an occasional live tree (i.e. no more than one danger or edge tree per 300 feet) must be cut to avoid potential damage to the facility in question. Felled trees may not be utilized for any purpose and should be scattered near the site so as not to interfere with the facility and to be unobtrusive.

No logs, brush or slash resulting from the maintenance of public highway or utility rights of way on Forest Preserve lands shall be left within 20 feet of the right of way. Such material may not be utilized for any purpose, but shall be scattered unobtrusively beyond 20 feet of the right of way.

3. Removal of dead and hazardous trees in developed areas such as campgrounds and ski centers that potentially endanger people.

This includes projects involving removal of dead and/or ~~hazardous trees in developed or intensive use areas.~~

Applications should be submitted separately for each facility. However, all projects for a specific facility can be included on a single Application. Tree counts should be included with the Application. Trees that are proposed to be removed should be flagged. Trees that are felled may be cut up and used for fuel at the facility, but for no other purpose.

4. Boundary line surveys and maintenance.

This includes all projects on lands of the Forest Preserve whether done by Department employees or by others under contract to the Department.

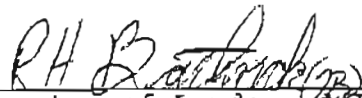
No survey lines, traverse or final, are to be projected straight through the woods by the cutting of large trees in order to expedite the survey.

More than one survey project may be included on a single Application but, separate Applications should be submitted for survey projects geographically distant from each other.

5. Salvage of windfall timber when such blowdown timber constitutes a fire hazard.

This includes projects of fire hazard circumstances and should be submitted on Applications for each area involved.

In any of the above situations, projects will be checked and monitored by the Regional Forester.



Director of Lands and Forests

cc: K. Wich
G. Colvin
H. Doig
R. Bendick
Regional Directors
G. Sovas

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS

Forest Preserve Project Work Plan
for
Construction of New Facilities and the Expansion or Modification of Existing Facilities

FY

Region/Facility	Project Title & Location	Land Classification	Project No.
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Region 6

Description & Justification (Attach Sketch Map Showing Location and other Required Supporting Documents Including Tree Counts and Identification of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Plants):

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

Prepared by:

Date:

APPROVALS OR DISAPPROVALS

Comments:

Date:

Regional Forester

Date:

Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources

Date:

Regional Director

Date:

Division Director

Application for Routine Maintenance Project
L&F Policy 91-2 - Tree Cutting in the Forest Preserve

REGION: 6

APPLICANT NAME:

ADDRESS:

PROJECT #:

DATE OF APPLICATION:

OTHER CONTACT PERSON:

LOCATION OF PROJECT:

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

WHO IS TO DO THE WORK:

ESTIMATED STARTING DATE:

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE:

APPLICANT SIGNATURE:

PROJECT ACTION:

APPROVED: _____ DISAPPROVED: _____

REGIONAL FORESTER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

REMARKS:

Appendix B
1993 Policy on All-Terrain Bicycles
APA/DEC MOU

Addendum to
Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
Adirondack Park Agency
and the
Department of Environmental Conservation

~~WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan was~~
amended in 1986 to include guidelines for use of all-terrain
bicycles on State land classified Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe,
and Wild Forest, and;

WHEREAS, uniform implementation of the guidelines was to be
accomplished through the completion of unit management plans and
promulgation of appropriate rules and regulations, and;

WHEREAS, the completion of Wild Forest Unit Management Plans
has not progressed as fast as anticipated and thus designation of
bicycle trails has also not progressed as fast as anticipated,
and;

WHEREAS, the lack of specific guidelines or criteria for
designation of bicycle trails will further delay unit management
plan completion, and;

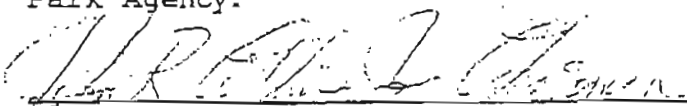
WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify to the public where
bicycles can and cannot legally be used.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT AGREE AS
FOLLOWS:

1. The Department shall move forward with a regulation
prohibiting bicycle use in Wilderness areas and limiting use
in Primitive and Canoe areas to Unit Management Plan
approved designated roads as per the requirement of the
State Land Master Plan.
2. The Department shall publish a list of roadways on Forest
Preserve land opened to motorized use and thus also open to
use of bicycles.
3. The Department shall submit a combined Unit Management Plan
amendment designating bicycle trails for those Wild Forest
areas which have completed plans.
4. For Wild Forest areas without unit management plans,
bicycles will be allowed on existing trails and roads unless
specifically prohibited due to environmental damage, user
conflicts or safety concerns for a period of three years
ending December 31, 1995.

5. Such use will allow the Department to study bicycle use in the Adirondack Forest Preserve and fully assess the environmental and social impacts of bicycles, as well as the physical constraints on their safe use.
6. The Department will also assess use patterns, use level and user preferences.
7. The result of the study will be a set of guidelines or criteria for trail designation which will be jointly adopted by the Agency and the Department, and a network of trails which meet these criteria.
8. The work program for this study will be developed by the Department in consultation with Agency staff.
9. To the extent possible public, semi-public and private interest groups will be encouraged to assist the Department in undertaking this study.

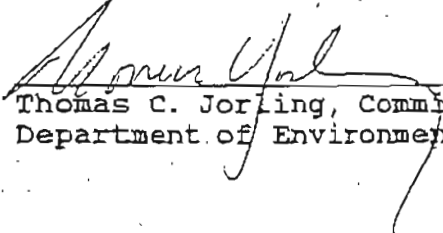
This Addendum to the April 1985 MOU between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation will take effect upon its execution by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency.



John R. Collins, Jr., Chairman
Adirondack Park Agency



January 22, 1993
Date



Thomas C. Jorling, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation



Feb 11, 1993
Date

Appendix C
1992 Policy on Fisheries Management
APA/DEC MOU

Executive Department
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
P.O. Box 99
Ray Brook, New York 12977
(518)891-4050

GUIDELINES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS,
PRIMITIVE and CANOE AREAS

Adopted by the Adirondack Park Agency on April 26, 1990
and Amended July 10, 1992

1. The primary purpose of aquatic resource management in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas is to perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems, including perpetuation of indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis.
2. Angling is recognized as a compatible recreational pursuit in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas. Aquatic resource management will emphasize the quality of the angling experience over quantity of use.
3. In the Adirondack Park, aquatic resources in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas will be protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, their natural conditions. Aquatic resource management, including stocking of game and non-game fishes and pond reclamation may be necessary to achieve and perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems.
4. Brown trout, rainbow trout, splake and landlocked Atlantic salmon are cold water fish species historically associated with the Adirondack Park. Small mouth bass, large mouth bass, northern pike, and walleye are warm water species historically associated with the entire Adirondack Park, and indigenous to some lowland areas. These species may be included in the management and stocking regimes of specific waters in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas in instances when indigenous fish communities cannot be protected, maintained, or restored in those waters. Fish species, other than indigenous species and species historically associated with the Adirondack Park, will not be stocked in the waters of wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas.
5. Waters found to be naturally barren of fish species will not be stocked. Waters which are self-sustaining or which otherwise would be self-sustaining except that they have been compromised by human-caused disturbances may be stocked consistent with these guidelines.

6. Pond reclamation will be practiced as appropriate to prepare or maintain waters in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas but only for the restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish communities.
7. The Unit Management Plan for each wilderness, primitive, or canoe area shall identify aquatic resource management actions on a water-body-specific basis through analysis of ~~unit inventory data sufficient to adequately support the~~ actions.
8. In those instances where a Unit Management Plan has not yet been approved for a given wilderness, primitive, or canoe area, aquatic resource management actions to stock waters may be continued in waters so managed before December 31, 1989, consistent with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan. Waters reclaimed prior to December 31, 1989 may be reclaimed subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan. New waters may be stocked, reclaimed or limed only to prevent significant resource degradation, subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan.
9. Liming to protect and maintain indigenous fish species may be continued as a mitigation measure for acid rain in Horn Lake (P04854) and Tamarack Pond (P06171). As unit management plans are completed, new waters may be limed in accordance with the provisions of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Liming Policy presented on pages 2-7 of the Final GEIS on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. As provided in the Liming Policy, no naturally acidic waters or bog waters will be limed. All limed waters will be relimed in accordance with the provisions of the Liming Policy. Any water that must be limed more than three times in ten years, except for original sources of heritage strains, will be allowed to reacidify.
10. All aquatic resource management activities in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas will be consistent with guidelines for use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft as stated in the State Land Master Plan.


CWS:pak:c

Appendix D
Standard Snowmobile Trail Bridge Design and Use of Natural Materials for
Design and Construction, APA State Land Master Plan Interpretation and
Staff Guidance, Issued: June, 2006
APA/DEC MOU


**Adirondack Park Agency
Policy, Procedures & Guidance
System**

**Agency
Guidance, State
Land - 2**

**Topic: State Land Master Plan Interpretation – Standard
Snowmobile Trail Bridge Design and Use of Natural Materials
for Design and Construction**



James Townsend, State Land Committee Chair



Ross Whaley, Chair

Issued: June 8, 2006

I. Purpose

The purpose of this staff guidance is to ensure a consistent, timely process for the Agency's review of individual bridge projects identified as ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation according to the DEC/APA Memorandum of Understanding, State land jurisdictional inquiries or proposed in unit management plans prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The intent of the staff guidance is to assure the Agency's review and advice to the Department on each individual unit management plan and specific snowmobile construction projects is uniform, accurate, and fair. This guidance implements the provisions of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and the DEC/APA Memorandum of Understanding regarding State Lands and is not intended to modify, contradict, or supercede the provisions of either in any way, nor should it be viewed as guidance which presumes an interpretation of any other provision of the State Land Master Plan regarding motorized use of the Forest Preserve.

II. Background

The management of the Adirondack Forest Preserve is directed in the first instance by Article XIV of the New York State Constitution which states that all such lands "shall forever be kept as wild forest lands."

The Adirondack Park Agency Act directed the Adirondack Park Agency to develop, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, a Master Plan for the Management of State Lands (Forest Preserve and non-Forest Preserve lands) in the Adirondack Park for approval by the Governor. The Act directs that the Master Plan classify all such lands and provide guidelines and criteria for their use and management.

The Adirondack Park Agency Act further directs that the Department of Environmental Conservation develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of State land classified in the Master Plan and that the individual unit management plans conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Master Plan. Finally, the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs that the Master Plan and the individual unit management plans shall guide the development and management of State land in the Adirondack Park.

The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes procedures for coordination and communication between the agencies on Master Plan activities, including the preparation of individual unit management plans. With respect to unit planning, the Memorandum provides: (1) informal consultation with unit management plan teams; (2) Agency review and comment on an "initial draft" plan submitted to the Agency prior to preparation of a draft plan for public review; and (3) formal Agency review of a "final draft" unit management plan as proposed for the approval of the Commissioner and a determination regarding its compliance with the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan.

III. State Land Master Plan References: Definition, Use of the Term Natural Materials and Other Significant References

Natural Materials - construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought into the construction site that conform in size, shape and physical characteristics to those naturally present in the vicinity of the project site. Such materials include stone, logs, and sawn and treated timber. Natural materials may be fastened or anchored by use of bolts, nails, spikes or similar means.

Wilderness Structures and Improvements - foot trail and cross-country ski trail bridges constructed of natural materials and, where absolutely necessary, ladders constructed of natural materials; horse trail bridges constructed of natural materials; existing or new fish barrier dams constructed of natural materials wherever possible; existing dams on established impoundments except that, in the reconstruction or rehabilitation of such dams, natural materials will be used wherever possible and no new dams will be constructed.

Snowmobile Trail - a marked trail of essentially the same character as a foot trail designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation on which, when covered by snow and ice, snowmobiles are allowed to travel and which may double as a foot trail at other times of year.

Foot Trail - a marked and maintained path or way for foot travel located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment.

Snowmobiles - a motor vehicle designed solely for travel on snow or ice by means of a combination of tracks and a ski or skis.

Motor Vehicle - a device for transporting people, supplies or material, incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on or adjacent to land and water or through water. The term includes such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, motorbikes, dirt or trail bikes, any type of all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment and motorboats.

Road - an improved or partially improved way designed for travel by automobiles, and which may also be used by other types of motor vehicles except snowmobiles, unless the way is a designated snowmobile trail.

IV. Policy Considerations

In order to provide a consistent approach to the use of natural materials for construction of snowmobile trails on Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack Park, to recognize that a bridge design for a snowmobile will have much different design criteria than bridge construction on a foot trail and to utilize design standards that, to the extent practical, utilize natural materials which are in harmony with the wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park, the following guidelines will be utilized in order to ensure consistency with the above terms and State Land Master Plan guidelines for snowmobile trail bridge construction in Wild Forest, Primitive and Intensive Use Areas:

1. All management and design decisions related to snowmobile trails and bridges on State lands should give due consideration to the unifying theme of the Master Plan which states: "...the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded...the amount and variety of land and water within the Adirondack Park provide today and will provide in the future, with careful planning and management, a wide spectrum of outdoor recreational and educational pursuits in a wild forest setting unparalleled in the eastern half of this country."
2. Designated snowmobile trails not located on a road shall be designed to maintain the character essentially of a foot trail. Bridges for such trails shall also be designed to maintain such character.
3. Snowmobile bridge proposals shall be in conformance with the DEC/APA Memorandum of Understanding definition of ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation or shall be proposals identified and approved in a unit management plan or plan amendment.

4. Bridge designs shall provide a safe snowmobile crossing while maintaining the least intrusive, minimal design possible and should be comprised of natural materials. The psychological aspect of resource protection referred to in the Master Plan's unifying theme in part refers to wild forest character and limiting the works of man so as to not dominate the landscape. Engineered works such as long-span bridges with large abutments detract from the wild forest environment and, therefore, their scale should be minimized as much as possible. The design, location and construction of bridges shall attempt to minimize impacts to the area's physical and biological resources as well as the area's wild forest character, and should recognize the general Master Plan guideline for Wild Forest that interior facilities should be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for their own health, safety and welfare. It should also be recognized that significant consideration should be given for the need to have backcountry facilities that are designed for minimum maintenance. Bridges at locations requiring long spans, heavy stringers and the use of guide rails have a greater negative impact on wild forest character than bridges that are lighter in profile and that do not require guide rails.

V. Design Guidelines for Construction of Snowmobile Bridges Using Natural Materials

1. The attached typical drawing of Forest Preserve Snowmobile Bridge design prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation's Operations Division Bureau of Design and Construction, dated June 8, 2006, is generally considered to be the standard bridge design for Forest Preserve snowmobile trail projects subject to additional consultation between Department and Agency staff on site-specific design concerns. The design, as provided in the following specifications and attached diagrams, conforms to the natural materials guideline of the Master Plan for spans up to 32 feet in length for three standard loading conditions. Bridge designs for spans greater than 32 feet shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis through formal consultation. For snowmobile bridge construction projects for spans greater than 32 feet, Agency staff shall consult with DEC staff to determine if the span requires the construction of cribbing or whether other design alternatives such as stone or steel girders covered with natural materials should be considered.
2. Round timber stringers, deck cross-section, detail 2, are more rustic in character and blend more effectively with wild forest character than the use of dimensional lumber as shown in the deck cross-section, detail 1. All effort should be made to use round timbers where practicable; however, cost, material availability, worker skill and ease of access must also be considered.
3. The selection of bridge loading conditions shall match the nature of trail use and character. Three loading conditions are identified in the General Notes and Specifications, item 2, Deck Live Loads:

- a) Minimum Loading
 - 85 PSF pedestrian load
 - Snowmobiles and snowmobile pulling a drag only
 - b) Moderate Loading
 - 4500 lbs. with snow load
 - c) Maximum Loading
 - 4500 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. with snow load
4. The loading design criteria is considered to be the appropriate design for bridges on snowmobile trails that are not also open to public motor vehicle use.
 5. The constructed bridge deck width shall be no greater than the nominal cleared trail width, plus two (2) feet on each side to allow for a snow ridge. The maximum constructed bridge deck width shall not exceed twelve (12) feet.

VI. Staff Consultation

1. As provided in the APA/DEC Memorandum of Understanding, the Deputy Director, Planning is the designated contact for communications between the Department and the Agency for the Agency's State Land program. The Executive Director may designate other staff to be the contact on specific issues as he determines appropriate and will so notify the Department.
2. The Department may conduct activities described in an approved unit management plan without prior consultation with the Agency unless the unit management plan specifically requires such prior consultation or unless the proposed activity may involve regulated activities in freshwater wetlands.
3. The attached snowmobile bridge designs are to be considered standard designs for use on snowmobile trails within the Adirondack Park. They may be used by the Department as part of applications submitted for wetlands permits from the Agency. The Department and Agency staff shall continue to consult on a site-specific basis to determine the appropriate width for a particular trail location. Department and Agency staff shall also continue to consult to reduce the use, size and reflective characteristics of signage while ensuring that adequate warning is provided for approaches to snowmobile bridges.
4. For consultation on bridge design other than the attached standard snowmobile bridge design, consultation procedures specified in the APA/DEC Memorandum of Understanding will be utilized. The Department will provide the Agency with the following information for review: a site plan and maps showing the area in which the bridge is to be constructed; a location map; a discussion of the design considerations for the proposed modified bridge design; photos of the area to be affected by the proposed bridge; basic plans showing what the structure would look like; and any additional information that is mutually agreed on.

VII. Legal Effect

This guidance is not intended to set forth a fixed, general principle to be rigidly applied to a particular project or unit management plan under review at the Agency. Rather, it provides basic guidance to staff on snowmobile bridge design and the use of natural materials. This guidance should be applied after taking into account the specific facts and circumstances of each project location and identified needs within an individual unit management plan. The intent of the guidance is to ensure that the criteria of the State Land Master Plan are met in a manner which maximizes environmental protection, enhances the natural setting of the Forest Preserve and allows for appropriate recreational use of public lands within the Park.

VIII. Adoption

The Agency's State Land Committee and the full Agency have reviewed and adopted this staff guidance, effective June 8, 2006.