

## Workgroup 13: Teresa Sayward

### SLMP and implementation of 'complex' planning

#### Vision Excerpts

Over the next 25 years, an understanding of the interdependence of our environment and our economy spreads through our communities. Our mixture of public and private lands is the defining feature of the Park; it drives our diverse sustainable economy and increases our self-reliance. We use balanced, slightly more flexible, regulation to preserve our unique landscape while enhancing the health of our communities.

We maintain strong protections for the Forest Preserve and complementary private land regulation. The State and environmental NGOs purchase additional forest and farm easements and use transferable development rights to keep our land productive and preserve open space. We protect our large wilderness areas and natural corridors across the landscape.

#### A Time for Strategic Regulatory Change

The intermixing of private lands with highly protected, but in many places fragmented Forest Preserve is a unique challenge that we meet with innovative regulation.

The Park has gone through many periods of change, expansion and new governance. Today, the Park is entering a new period of change, economic revival and, perhaps, a few improvements in regulation and administration.

As further trust and good communication is developed among the key constituencies, more strategic actions are possible, including:

- An *updated State Master Land Plan* that shifts from over forty unit management plans to five large regional wild lands complexes with watershed level plans and recreation plans that take into account easements, private land and communities.
- Use of *easements and smart growth principles* to protect private land parcels with important natural resources in order to ensure ecological diversity across the park.

The next twenty five years will be a period of painful change in global and American society. An aging population, accelerating climate change, environmental disasters -- the list goes on. Our response is to protect our Adirondack resources; the value of the Park's ecosystem services (clean air, clean water, and open space) inexorably rises for both humans and the environment.

Today, our protected landscape is our prime asset and it will remain a major part of our vision throughout.

#### Events

#146 DEC Adopts 'Complex' Planning

#11 Key Parties Agree on Framework for SLMP Update

#10 New NYS Easement Purchases Keep Landscapes Working

#96 New Round of Forest Preserve Purchases Completed

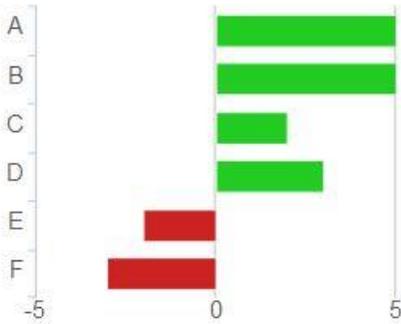
## 2016 : Regulation

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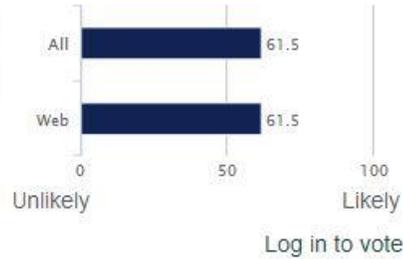
### DEC Adopts 'Complex' Planning

The idea here is to switch from Unit Management Plans for small acreages to doing planning on a large regional basis. Such plans will include consideration of easement lands, private lands and hamlets. The whole Park could be divided into 5 regions.

#### Influenced Scenarios



#### Likelihood



#### Evidence

▶ **Second Back Country Dam to be Dismantled**

▼ **APA Advances Complex Planning Effort**

"January, the APA advanced the cause of Wild Land Complex Planning when it approved the Taylor Pond Wild Forest (TPWF) Unit Management Plan. The TPWF consists of 26 separate parcels stretching across three counties from the shores of Lake Champlain to Saranac Lake. Plans include closing dead-end and redundant snowmobile trails; closing an

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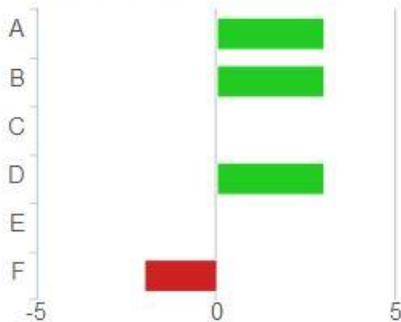
## 2022 : Regulation

1 Comments

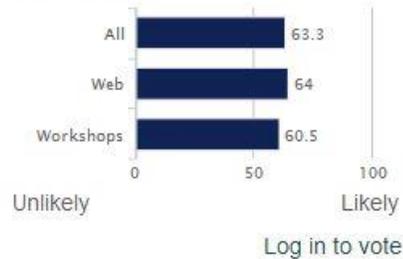
### Key Parties Agree on Framework for SLMP Update

An agreement has been reached among the Governor's Office, the Environmental NGOs, DEC and APA and others on the process and scope of an update to the SLMP (State Land Master Plan). There is a clear statement of what is open to change and what isn't as well as how the process will proceed and the new version eventually approved. With decades of experience with the old SLMP, it has been possible to propose a set of changes that make everyone happy with the result going forward. The updates include the results of DEC's new approach to land planning that looks at the Park in five large complexes.

#### Influenced Scenarios



#### Likelihood



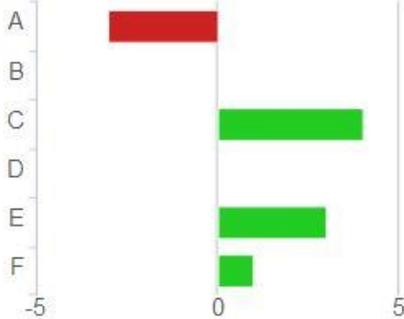
#### Evidence

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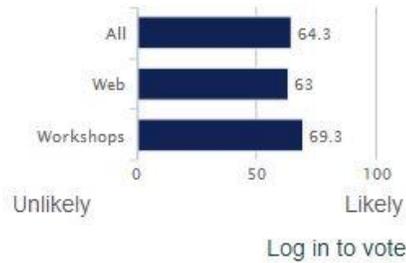
## New NYS Easement Purchases Keep Landscapes Working

Many more farm land and industrial timberland owners sell all development rights to NYS, but stay in production, preserving the working landscape and jobs.

### Influenced Scenarios



### Likelihood



### Evidence

#### \$20.5m Coming for Farland Easements

NYS is making \$20.5m available for farm conservation easements. This is a state-wide program.

[Read the news story here.](#)

#### \$300k Grants Coming for Conservation Easements

#### Large Timber Easement Sold to New TIMO

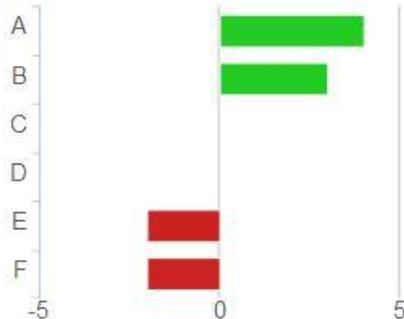
#### 1300 acres easement picked up by OSI in Keeseville

[Log in to add evidence](#)

## New Round of Forest Preserve Purchases Competed

After a period in which the State made very few acquisitions, the pendulum has swung again toward enlarging the Forest Preserve. The Finch land, Follensby Pond and several smaller transactions are done. Taken together, these were the largest Forest Preserve acquisitions in 100 years. General opinion is that these are the last of the big purchases by the State.

### Influenced Scenarios



### Likelihood



### Evidence

#### Second Portion of Finch Sale to Transfer to NYS

This transaction will be small - about 8500 acres spread over 14 parcels.

The specific tracts are cited in the article [here.](#)

#### Cuomo Signs APA Plan for Finch Lands

#### Essex Chain of Lakes Opened to Public

#### NYS closes on the first part of the Finch lands

[Log in to add evidence](#)

## **COMPLEX PLANNING: Adirondack Park Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Strategy**

### **GOAL:**

**Diversify and qualitatively improve the outdoor recreational opportunities available in the Adirondack Park through long-term planning and recreation management on a new, landscape level.**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- **Promote recognition that while long-term, Park-wide land acquisition and protection objectives – once considered by many to be unrealistically optimistic – have largely been achieved, the existing outdoor recreational opportunities of the Adirondack Park are ill fitted to this reality and far from optimal.** A new approach is called for to address this situation in a way that can benefit both the economy of the Adirondack region and the wildland protection required by longstanding law and public demand.
- **Conduct State land planning exercises on a significantly larger scale than individual “units.”** The optimal recreational potential of the Park can be better achieved through focused planning and management efforts in larger geographic areas DEC is identifying as the Great South Woods, Battleground Lakes, Cloudsplitter Summits, Northern River Highlands and Oswegatchie – Black Waters regions of the Park.
- **Devise a front-country/back-county planning overlay for the State lands of the Park and utilize it as the fundamental component of the new planning and management framework.** Make the front-country a little more “front-countryish” and the back-country more “back-countryish.” Do this while bolstering resource protection everywhere and providing “fixes” to unresolved, longstanding problematic issues.
- **Manage conservation/recreation easement lands in the Park with objectives that augment this strategy.** These should aim to: 1) provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities on easement lands that may not be provided on State-owned Forest Preserve lands; and, 2) enhance outdoor recreation opportunities on nearby Forest Preserve lands through an integrated management of public use and access across easement lands, serving broadly to increase use and access, although in limited appropriate circumstances, to decrease it.
- **Address legal impediments to the extent necessary to allow for successful implementation of this strategy.**

### **The STRATEGY for Complex Planning will involve:**

- Identifying opportunities to develop the recreational potential of the complex area for a **spectrum of recreational activities** that can be available locally, on the Forest Preserve and on Conservation Easement lands;
- Identifying opportunities to create a **destination based, multi use, land and water trail and lodging system** that strengthen linkages between communities and to neighboring Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement lands;
- Identifying the need for **improved access** to Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement lands;
- Identifying opportunities to **better protect the back country** (interior, remote areas) and **develop recreational opportunities in the front country** (near population centers, services and transportation corridors.)