



Resolution No. 276-16

Elm Ridge Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP) Recommending Inclusion of Mountain Bike Trails on Mount Hayden

WHEREAS, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is soliciting public input for the Elm Ridge Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP) to incorporate the 806-acre Mount Hayden parcel located in the Town of Windham; and

WHEREAS, The Mount Hayden parcel is located in the New York City watershed and was transferred by New York City to the DEC in 2012 to provide for continued recreational use consistent with watershed protection; and

WHEREAS, Unit Management Plans are a collaborative effort between the DEC and the public in developing long-term plans for the State's public lands which provides information and insight regarding public priorities; and

WHEREAS, The Catskill Park offers mountain biking trail networks of varying levels amidst the striking beauty of the State's Forest lands which are appropriately recognized as beneficial uses on State Forest lands and compatible with other uses on public lands; and

WHEREAS, The Elm Ridge Wild Forest, located in Greene County, north of the Village of Windham, already features single track mountain bike trails open to the public, including approximately twenty five miles of maintained trails for beginner/intermediate and advanced riders; and

WHEREAS, The Greene County Legislature and the State of New York Empire State Development Tourism Office financially supported the Windham Area Recreation Foundation (WARF) in the organization of the sole US host of the Mountain Bike World Cup at Windham Mountain Resort with advertising and marketing, which provided the catalyst for public and private investment to brand and build Greene County as New York State's premier East Coast Mountain Biking Destination; and

WHEREAS, The Greene County Legislature also expresses its support of Windham Mountain Resort, the Windham Area Recreation Foundation, and the Town of Windham, as well as the Roundtop Trails Network and the Town of Cairo whose combined goal is to create a Ride Center Designation as part of International Mountain Biking Association's (IMBA) Model Trails program; and

WHEREAS; the Ride Center Designation includes development of integrated trail networks and supporting organizations and systems for large-scale mountain bike facilities designed to attract riders, beginners through advanced, from across the country; and

WHEREAS, The Greene County Legislature adopted a Tourism Trails Plan in March of 2014 embracing the IMBA Ride Center Plan; and

WHEREAS, In furtherance of the Tourism Trails Plan, the Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning and the Greene County Tourism Advisory Committee have prioritized and committed county resources and county tourism funding for development of Greene County as a Mountain Bike Destination; and

WHEREAS, A fully developed East Coast Mountain Bike Destination will enable Greene County to attract new visitors from across the country to compete with major mountain bike centers, such as Kingdom Trails in Vermont, Brevard in North Carolina, Whistler in British Columbia Canada, and Moab and Park City in Utah.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greene County Legislature hereby supports and requests that as part of the Elm Ridge Wild Forest UMP that the DEC designates and opens Mt. Hayden for the development and use of mountain biking trails; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the development of a mountain biking trail network on the Mt. Hayden parcel is a necessary and integral component of the County's efforts to develop an East Coast Mountain Biking Destination; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the DEC work with the Windham Area Recreation Foundation and the County's other mountain bike organizations to develop and include specific trail network designs as part of the Elm Ridge Wild Forest UMP and to expedite the development and incorporation of the Mt Hayden parcel as it is important to the continued growth of the County, the Catskill Park and its tourism based economy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYC Department of Environmental Protection also be included in the trail network dialogue as complimentary trails and trail connections on NYCDEP owned properties will be important to achieve the mountain biking destination goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; DEC Commissioner, Basil Seggos; DEC Region 4 Director, Keith Goertz; DEC Natural Resources Supervisor, Peter Innes; Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, Chairman Thomas F. O'Mara; Senate Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation Committee, Chairman Rich Funke; Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.; Assemblyman Peter Lopez; Windham Mountain Resort; Windham Area Recreation Foundation; Supervisor of the Town of Windham; Roundtop Mountain Bike Trail Network; and Supervisor of the Town of Cairo; Greene County Tourism Advisory Committee; Greene County Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning, Warren Hart.

Meeting History

09/19/16 Economic Development & Tourism

MOVED FOR ADOPTION