

**PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.**

**P. O. Box 75**

**Stony Creek, NY 12878**

**(518) 696-5748**

**www.prfamerica.org**

**lagrasse@prfamerica.org**

June 16, 2010

Transmitted by e-mail to: apa\_slmp@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Richard Weber

Planning Division

Adirondack Park Agency

P. O. Box 99

Ray Brook, NY 12977

Re: In Opposition to the Jessup River Wild Forest UMP Snowmobile Trail Plan

Dear Mr. Weber:

This statement is to express opposition to the plan to reroute snowmobile trails in conjunction with the Jessup River Wild Forest UMP.

The Adirondack Park Agency law calls for balance. Once thriving Lake Pleasant has lost the great majority of its businesses since the jurisdiction of the APA came into effect, and is now a ghost of its former self. The proposed Jessup River UMP snowmobile trail plan would further this path of destruction. The proposed UMP should be revised to reflect the mandate for balance in the APA law.

The proposed trail relocation would cut off the local population and businesses from the snowmobile system. For example, the elimination the use of Oxbow Lake as part of the snowmobile trail system and the elimination of the Oxbow-Sacandaga Trail and the spur trails in the vicinity of Oxbow Lake would dry up the snowmobile business that serves as the clientele for the very important Ox-Bow Inn on Route 8.

Snowmobiling is a very important part of the economy of the Lake Pleasant area and the rerouting would have a serious negative economic impact on the community.

The short newly proposed snowmobile route would dead-end at the Piseco Community Hall, which has no practical purpose.

DEC raises the issue of safety as a reason to eliminate snowmobile travel over lakes, yet in statements before the APA meeting last year, the DEC spokesman said that snowmobile travel over lakes was not going to be foreclosed. Of course, there is not a significant safety reason to stop the use of lakes for snowmobile travel. On the open water of lakes in the Adirondacks, boats sink, people drown, but boating is, of course, not forbidden. In fact, the most tippy boats . canoes and kayaks . are encouraged by the APA and DEC.

Snowmobile travel over lakes has less environmental impact than travel requiring woods trail clearing and maintenance (if such an issue should even be raised, considering the incredibly small .impact. of snowmobile travel over either woods trails or lakes); very little trail maintenance is necessary to use a lake for travel. Waterways are the most ancient, practical highways, and should be encouraged for vehicular travel.

All of the proposed trail closures for the Jessup River UMP should be removed and the trail system that exists should remain intact, with the trails that meet the specifications for Class 1 trails upgraded to that level.

Sincerely,

Carol W. LaGrasse

President

Property Rights Foundation of America, Inc.