

Following 25 years of discussing this issue with both DEC and APA, Adirondack Powder Skier Association President Ron Konowitz was elated by this recent announcement ,

"The APSA is pleased that the NYS DEC has included the Wright Peak-Whales Tale BackCountry Ski Trail Reroute in its list of proposals for the High Peaks UMP. If approved, this trail will provide low impact safer access for those seeking a Winter Wilderness Experience much like Adirondack Conservation Pioneer and BackCountry Skier John Apperson had in mind when the Wright Peak Ski Trail was approved by the NYS Conservation Department through a Public Comment Period in the 1930s.

Although the APSA is excited at the prospect of these rerouted trail sections, we would hope that the NYS DEC will include the other APSA Proposals outlined in our Public Comment Letter to the final version of High Peaks UMP. These proposals are all in areas already frequented by BackCountry Skiers but will provide a safer user experience in the Johns Brook Valley (where the ADK Mountain Club currently has Winter Huts), the Adirondack LOJ Trailhead providing safer improved access to skier opportunities in and around Lake Colden and Marcy, the Dix Round Pond Trailhead Access to Dix, the Santanoni Trailhead, as well as the Boreas Ponds Trailhead access to Ragged Mountain and skiing opportunities adjacent to the Gulf Brook Road. The majority of these APSA proposals are in the Lower and Middle Elevation Hardwoods with little to no impact to the Higher Elevation Summits.

Finally, the APSA hopes that the APA and DEC will move diligently in a timely manner to approve the BackCountry Ski Trail Guidance Document and accompanying SLMP Amendments which were developed by a working group including DEC/APA Staff in 2014- 2015 so that these UMP Amendment Proposals can move forward.

The APSA would like to thank the APA, DEC, and the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo for all of their time and expertise in helping to move this initiative ahead."