



Friends of St. Regis Mt. Fire Tower
c/o David Petrelli
1008 County Route 25
Malone, NY 12953

October 30, 2013

Josh Clague, Natural Resources Planner
DEC, 625 Broadway – 5th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-4254

Dear Josh Clague:

The Friends of Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower are pleased with the recommendations and proposed management actions of the Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area – Draft Unit Management Plan. Our Friends group has supported the preservation of the fire tower for over ten years. Most recently we have formed the Friends of Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower, Steering Committee. Our mission continues to be to save the tower and then to restore it for safe public access so it can remain permanently on the summit of Saint Regis Mountain where we feel it belongs.

Regarding Management Recommendations, we support Alternative 4 – “Full Public Access” and are pleased that the Department has determined it to be the Preferred Alternative.

We request that the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation issue a supportive Statement of Findings for the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area and to endorse ECL §90109 Statement of Findings as it is presented in Appendix H of the draft plan.

We further request that this plan be approved in a timely fashion. This will insure that there is ample time to make plans and preparations so that materials used for restoration work can be transported to the summit prior to May 15th and thus avoid the Bicknell’s thrush nesting period.

We agree with the management objective which proposes to, “Maximize the interpretive and educational potential of the fire tower as an historic resource.” Further, we propose that the Friends of Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower be considered as the volunteer organization to assist with restoration, maintenance and interpretive programming through a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement.

Thank you for preparing a thorough plan which will insure the long term preservation and educational use of the fire tower. The Friends of Saint Regis Mountain Fire Tower look forward to working with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to carry out the management recommendations and proposed actions outlined in the plan. We anticipate a time in the near future when the tower will be safely restored so that it can be used by the public for educational and interpretive purposes.

Sincerely,

David Petrelli

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CC – Region 5
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