

Dear Members and Friends of ELPOI,

I am sorry to inform you of some major changes that we have been made aware of over the last two weeks. The DEC is making some sweeping changes that they seem to be trying to push through under the radar. There was a notice released and a public meeting held in November, neither of which any of us knew about until last week when the local Forest Ranger was essentially going door to door to notify residents. As we have learned in researching this, some parts of this came about in 2016 so we have been "out of compliance" since then.

The DEC is reevaluating state land in various areas around Eagle, Paradox and Schroon Lakes, as well as Lake Champlain. This is known as the Hammond Pond Wild Forest (HPWF) The link below will take you to the ELPOI website where we have collected various documents pertaining to this DEC management plan. Buried in the nearly 200 page document is information specific to Eagle Lake.

DEC is planning to essentially close the boat launch as we know it and make it a "carry in" access point, meaning that there will be some type of natural barrier that will not allow a trailer to be backed into the water. The reason stated is that boat launches are only provided for lakes over 1000 acres. If there is only canoe and kayak access from the launch then that may justify nothing more than a 6' diameter culvert pipe at the causeway. We don't know if these two projects are interrelated but we are following the causeway project as well and will keep you updated as we know more.

Please consider the Health and Safety issues related to this (such as police, DEC, fire, and ambulance) that would no longer be able to make it into the lake in a timely fashion if we only have canoe access, or if medical injury victims need to be transported by boat to the boat launch for treatment or rescue. We have had brush fires in several locations in the past few years, local fire departments have been able to come to our aid. The launch barrier is not going to be a "gate" for only the Forest Ranger to enter through, it is meant to be a "permanent natural barrier" (rock or wood). How long will it take for the Forest Ranger to paddle to the beach or camping area to patrol, clean or maintain the area? How will they address water safety related issues? Are they going to chase down Jet Skis with a Kayak? And just as significant, how will our many property owners launch and remove their own watercraft and boats? Some land owners won't even have access to their own property without the use of a powered boat? What about the long standing history of use (grandfathered-in rights?) of an existing boat launch in an established and well populated lake, a launch that was in existence and use well prior to the establishment of the Adirondack Park and its ever evolving/rights retracting management plans?

What are the property value and tax ramifications that both the property owners and the towns will face as a result of the DEC plans? What will be the impact to both local and regional tourism (rental property, day fishermen, etc), to handicap accessibility, to invasive species monitoring, to rapid response for new invasives, to water quality assessments performed by other agencies and organizations (and perhaps our own), to our trout fish stocking program, to the DOT's need for continued evaluation and monitoring of the safety status of the causeway, and so on. Will people damage the lake's shoreline in an attempt to make their own boat launches?

Secondly, the DEC would like to rework the camping area at the beach and close two out of four camping sites, yet they state there is a high demand for camping on Eagle Lake. They will also strictly prohibit anyone from mowing the picnic area, essentially rendering it a tick, bug and rodent filled jungle. What are your expectations when you want to use this area? In one breath the DEC wants to encourage camping and fishing access at Eagle Lake and in the next breath they want to reduce the number of campsites and essentially close the boat launch.

I urge you to read the documents attached and PLEASE share your thoughts with the ELPOI Board. We need to know how you feel about the proposed hijacking of your lake. You are welcome to contact the DEC directly but we would also like to know your thoughts so that we know how to respond as an association. The link below has the contact information for the DEC.

Please note that we have been in contact with many officials regarding this plan and that there are still many unanswered questions. This is meant to serve as an initial notice and we plan to keep you informed as soon as we know more. Please also share this with your neighbors as we do not have email addresses for all property owners. We will be posting this to Facebook and trying to snail mail it to as many property owners that we do not have email addresses for.

Between the causeway project and the DEC's plans, there is a lot going on around our lake - Now more than ever we need to hear from you in timely fashion! These issues are beyond the reach of a small volunteer organization.

If you click this link it will take you to the HPWF management plan version in which we

highlighted areas specific to Eagle Lake . It begins on page 70 of the document (page 76/169 of PDF)

http://eaglelake1.org/archives/documents/2018_boat_launch_change/hpwfump2%20plan%20with%20mark-up.pdf

Main document Page on ELPOI site

http://eaglelake1.org/html/documents/2018_boat_launch_change.shtml I urge you to review the documents as we all must act to preserve our lake (and our region).

Please reply with your thoughts timely so that we know how to respond to the DEC's proposed changes.

At the very least I ASK you to reply with - No I don't support the changes or Yes, I do support the DEC changes.

If you have further questions please email me back or call me at 518-210-9031 or Rolf Tiedemann at camptouchstone@yahoo.com or 585-647-2514

Thank you,

Chris Hyde

President - ELPOI