

NEWS IN AND ABOUT THE SIX-MILLION-ACRE ADIRONDACK PARK

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Council Urges Rejection of Flawed Boreas Ponds Plans

State should protect gem from motorized recreation and invasive species

The Adirondack Council is urging the state to reject faux-Wilderness proposals that motorize some or all of the newly purchased Boreas Ponds and the land around them. The Council urges protection of the ponds, the land around them and the Boreas River as real Wilderness.

The 20,500+ acre Boreas Ponds tract is the crown jewel of the 65,000 acres of former Finch-Pruyn paper company lands New York State finished purchasing from the Nature Conservancy earlier in 2016. But acquisition is not enough to protect the sensitive water and wildlife habitat, provide low-impact recreational opportunities, and benefit host communities. The Governor must approve a classification to guide future protection and use. The Council is calling for a Wilderness classification and rejection of faux-Wilderness proposals that claim to protect the ponds but actually leave them vulnerable to new public motorized uses and invasive species, destroying this national treasure we need to protect.

The state will accept public comments on these classification options at public hearings in November and December and in written comments until December 30. (See pages 6 - 9.)



Above: Boreas Ponds looking west.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

BeWildNY Coalition Expands

Council funds campaign to catalyze support for wilderness

Working in collaboration with partners in the BeWildNY coalition, the Adirondack Council is spreading the word, rallying support and "getting out the vote" for Wilderness. If successful, the state will adopt a classification package that will address all former Finch/TNC parcels in one public stakeholder process. This should allow motorized recreation and access for sportsmen on lands not contiguous to Wilderness (less sensitive tracts with the capacity to withstand such use) and, Wilderness classifications and consolidations in the High Peaks region and elsewhere.

There are lots of ways that YOU can help. Write a letter, share the video call to action, sign the petition, attend a public hearing. (See pages 6 - 9.)

Sigourney Weaver calls for Boreas Ponds Wilderness

It's time to be wild New York!

In September, the Adirondack Council, on behalf of the BeWildNY Coalition, released a video advertising campaign urging Governor Andrew Cuomo to protect over 30,000 acres of new public land as motor-free Wilderness. Funded by generous Adirondack Council donors, the video is narrated by acclaimed actress and environmentalist Sigourney Weaver. It displays the magnificence of the recently purchased Boreas Ponds tract of public land. Michael Bacon kindly provided the soundtrack. Landscape photographer Carl Heilman captured beautiful images that inspire us. The message urges the Governor and all who care about the Adirondacks to take a stand for Wilderness. See the video at AdirondackCouncil.org, BeWildNewYork.org or search for #BeWildNY on YouTube.com.

MAIN OFFICE

PO Box D-2
103 Hand Ave., Suite 3
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
518.873.2240

ALBANY OFFICE

342 Hamilton Street
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Carl Heilman, Wild Visions, Inc.; SKD
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Clean Water Initiative:

David Miller; Bernard Melewski, Esq.

Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff
unless otherwise noted.



Adirondack Magic

Priceless, fragile and irreplaceable

Remember a magical Adirondack moment that made you say, “wow” because of the beauty, character and special nature of the landscape of this national treasure? Perhaps you were on the water, on a mountain, enjoying a favorite vista, watching wildlife or sharing the Adirondacks with family and friends. Perhaps it was the sound of the wind in the trees or the silence.

For me, my most recent magical Adirondack moment was last weekend. My wife and I were taking a guide boat up a motor-free lake, watching a loon and hearing a peregrine falcon as the forever wild mountains around us were a mix of bright fall colors. It was a “wow” moment. It was magical.

The Adirondacks bring me, other residents and visitors these special moments on a constant basis. It’s “Adirondack magic.” In this increasingly crowded, fast paced, political and technology-focused world, we need the Adirondacks and these moments more than ever.

We have the opportunity to experience Adirondack magic because of the vision of those who established the Park and the forever wild Forest Preserve over 120 years ago. These “wow” moments are a big reason why hundreds of thousands of you call the Adirondacks, its Wilderness Areas and its communities, your second or spiritual home. It’s why millions visit, and why some of us live, work and raise families here.

This fall, you can vote in the political elections, but you can also “vote” to help preserve what is special about the Adirondacks. The state is asking the public how to best manage the newly purchased lands adjoining the southern flank of the High Peaks Wilderness Area, including the Boreas Ponds. In this newsletter, you can find out how you can make your voice heard...how you can urge state leaders to make more Adirondack Wilderness and make more magic to benefit us all.

The Adirondacks are a priceless, fragile and irreplaceable resource. With your support and participation, the Adirondack Council team and partners are preserving and enhancing this national treasure, this legacy, for future generations.

Thank you,



William C. Janeway
Executive Director

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities.

Priorities for 2017 Government Actions



Expand Wilderness: Protect the Boreas Ponds and the most sensitive parts of the 20,500-acre Boreas tract and other new state lands as Wilderness. Protect water and wildlife from invasive species and motorized uses. Provide recreational access. Help communities benefit from new state lands.

Protect Forests and Wildlife: Expand the use of science and regional coordination in state land planning. Adopt science-based conservation reforms of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) 1970s-era rules for backcountry development and clear-cutting. Support healthy forests.



Help Communities: Secure new funds for hamlet revitalization, community infrastructure and farms. Support efforts to address legitimate local road utility infrastructure needs while protecting the Park's wild character.

Address Threats from Off-Road-Vehicles: Update all-terrain vehicle law to protect state Forest Preserve lands, water, wildlife, and public health from negative impacts stemming from all-terrain vehicle use.



Combat Water Pollution, Invasive Species and Climate Change: Protect clean water, forests and wildlife from threats posed by invasive species, road salt, acid rain, unsafe oil transportation, and climate change. Address non-compliance with the Clean Water Act. Support the Clean Power Plan.

Strengthen Agencies: Restore essential agency staff at the APA, DEC and in other state agencies. Hire clean water engineers, foresters, rangers, planners, law enforcement, and education and compliance staff.



Fund Conservation: Realize the full potential of a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund. Expand clean water grants. Dedicate all Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenues to energy conservation and clean-energy development.



Above: Director of Government Relations Kevin Chlad testified at the Joint Legislative Hearing on Water Quality and Contamination in September.

ATV Reform Needed

Threats to Forest Preserve increase

In the upcoming legislative session, the Adirondack Council will continue its efforts to secure a general ban on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on the Forest Preserve as this threat continues to expand. A 2015 report by New York State Forest Rangers identifies the illegal use of ATVs as “the most problematic activity” taking place on our state lands. Currently, the state can legally open roads on non-Wilderness lands to ATV traffic. However, they lack a formal policy on ATV riding on state lands, and are dramatically understaffed and underfunded to manage this use. The NYS Strategic Plan for State Forest Management highlights many previous efforts to open public lands to ATV traffic that have failed, as the impacts proved too costly. Just this year, an Environmental Conservation Officer was injured when his leg was run over by an off-road vehicle during a traffic stop on public lands on Long Island. Due to the threat that ATVs pose to public health and safety and the environment, the only pragmatic solution is to protect state lands, and fund rider education, enforcement and new incentives to keep ATV riding off Forest Preserve and other state lands.

Constitutional Amendment Secures First Passage

Helping meet community infrastructure needs

The Adirondack Council and its partners were successful in working with the state legislature to achieve first passage of a proposed amendment to Article XIV, the “Forever Wild” clause of the state constitution. The amendment allows legitimate, narrow and specific public health and safety projects while honoring and protecting the integrity of Article XIV. It permits authorized use of legal state, county and town roadways crossing Forest Preserve lands for bike paths and basic utilities such as water, sewer, electricity, telephone, and broadband. It also creates a “health and safety land account,” which would provide 250 acres for limited and specific health and safety projects adjacent to state, town and county roads such as road straightening, telephone pole setbacks and culvert improvements when there are no possible alternatives.

The legislation was sponsored by Senator Betty Little (R-Queensbury) and Assembly Environmental Conservation Chair Steve Englebright (D-East Setauket). This proposed amendment still requires second passage by a separately elected legislature, implementing legislation, and voters’ approval in a statewide referendum.

CONSERVATION MATTERS



Clean Power Plan Gets Day in Court

Climate change in the Adirondacks

There are reasons to be optimistic about the survival of the federal Clean Power Plan, following the oral arguments heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in late September.

A 10-judge panel engaged in more than seven hours of questions and answers from opponents and supporters of the federal Clean Power Plan – the nation’s first regulations aimed at curbing climate change. The back-and-forth seemed to indicate that the court was unwilling to accept arguments that the program won’t work or should be scrapped due to legal technicalities.

If implemented, the plan would reduce carbon pollution from power plants to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Those emissions reductions will generate \$54 billion per year in climate and health benefits, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The need for action to reduce climate-disrupting pollution has never been more urgent. Recent floods in Louisiana made it the fifth state in 12 months to suffer a 1,000-year flood. August 2016 marked the 16th consecutive month that set a global monthly high-temperature recorded.

In the Adirondacks, we are no strangers to record-setting weather extremes and long-lingering damage. The state is still working to complete repairs to bridges and drainage in the Ausable and Boquet river valleys following hurricanes Irene and Lee in 2011. Just five years later, a drought is afflicting some of the same places, leaving lake and river levels very low.

Above: Conservation Director Rocci Aguirre enjoys a day in the field. Rocci’s conservation advocacy work includes serving as a sitting member of the Adirondack/Catskill Forest Preserve Advisory Committee, Adirondack Diversity Advisory Committee, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program Advisory Committee, and the Lake Champlain Citizens Advisory Committee.

Protecting the High Peaks from Too Much Love

Working to educate visitors and improve management

The Council is working with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and other stakeholders on emergency measures and educational outreach to protect the Forest Preserve from overuse. Efforts include a DEC program that highlights Leave-No-Trace techniques and proper backcountry ethics, and recommends less-frequented destinations to visitors. The state is also working to ensure proper permitting for large hiking groups is being followed and roadside parking is minimized.

Record crowds in the High Peaks Wilderness Area have raised concerns over impacts on alpine vegetation, sanitary waste and an increase in search and rescue missions. Over the 2016 Labor Day weekend, at least 2,563 hikers left from the Adirondack Loj trailheads, and another 1,577 hikers registered at nearby Cascade Mountain.

This highlights the public’s interest in a Wilderness experience and how lands such as the Essex Chain of Lakes and Boreas Tract can offer new access and absorb some of the human impact.

The Council is calling for new management actions for the Wilderness Areas that include the 46 High Peaks.



Marcy, Colden and Algonquin from Mount Jo.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Paris Climate Change Agreement

Set to take effect in November

The Paris Agreement, the first universal, legally binding agreement to cut carbon emissions to combat climate change, is set to take effect on Nov. 4. Participating countries will have to take action to address the global rise in temperatures that are causing sea levels to rise and more severe weather events to occur. Currently, 74 countries have ratified the agreement, representing 58.82 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. (and China) announced in September, that they will ratify the treaty.

Studies show that increasing temperatures could be devastating for the Adirondack Park’s brook trout and salmon stream fisheries, and predict damage to public health, clean water, electricity grids, roads and bridges, forestry, agriculture, and coastal communities. We need to take action to stop climate change now before we can’t turn back its devastating effects.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

October 2016



Dear Friends and Supporters,

What exactly is it that the Adirondack Council does that deserves your continued support? One of my predecessors likes to say that we are “the cop on the beat.” We are the ever vigilant watchdog that protects clean waters, pure air, forever wild public lands, sustainable private forests and farms, and small vibrant communities from forces that threaten them.

Yes, we are that. But we are also the ones looking over the horizon and wanting to create a vision for tomorrow’s Adirondack Park that is more than an extension of the past. We believe it is better to build a desired future than to repair a broken history.

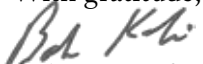
Our State of the Park Report and this Annual Report recount many of the significant accomplishments we had this year. We are continuing work to make sure the successes we achieved are sustained and lead to the results for which we worked so hard. And, there is always a continuous flow of events and proposals that require rapid responses. We are on the case!

That said, I want to comment a bit on the visionary aspects of the Council’s mission. Thirty years ago, the Council engaged in a comprehensive, multi-year project to develop a plan for the Adirondack Park for the year 2020. The result was the publication of a fabulous set of volumes called the “2020 Vision Series.” They can be found on our website at <http://www.adirondackcouncil.org/page/2020-vision-series--58.html>. These provided a set of goals guiding the Council’s advocacy for policies and actions to safeguard this last remaining great expanse of open space in the northeastern U.S.

The year 2020 is almost upon us. The time has come for the Council to take another look 30 years ahead, and we are starting to organize a process to produce an updated plan for what we desire the Park to be in 2050. We will be taking stock of how much of our 2020 Vision has come to pass and how much is unfinished. We will identify what has changed in the Adirondacks since the late 1980’s environmentally, politically, socially and economically that might alter the ground rules for creating an updated vision and seeking its accomplishment. And, finally, we will make recommendations for actions to ensure the global treasure that is the Adirondack Park will endure as a wild, naturally diverse and protected place.

Our new Vision Project will be a big job. It will take several years and a large commitment of our resources. But, we must not rest on our laurels. We must look over the horizon because, for us, Forever Wild really does mean “forever.”

Thank you for your support of and participation in the Council’s work. We can advance our goals only with the continued help of large numbers of people who share our passion to preserve and enhance the wild character and ecological integrity of this unique six-million-acre region.

With gratitude,

Robert J. Kafin
Board Chair

Fall foliage and the Great Sacandaga Lake from Hadley Mtn. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

ANNUAL GIVING TO THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

Listed below are individuals, foundations and corporations that have given gifts of \$250 or more to the Adirondack Council's operating fund. The commitment of ALL Council members and donors to a wild and resilient Park, makes the Adirondack Council the largest, most effective advocacy organization working on behalf of New York's six-million-acre Adirondack Park. **THANK YOU** for caring about the Adirondacks!

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William and Dorothy Gay Jr.
Thomas R. Gerety and Adelia Moore
Reginald and Joan Gignoux

FARMS & FORESTS:

Implemented climate-
smart grants to
Adirondack farmers,
and adopted sustainable
forestry policy.

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Jack E. Graver
Ms. Mary S. and William S. Hamilton
Daniel A. Harris and Jane L. Butters
Ms. S. Jill Harsin
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Steven and Helen Kellogg
David P. and Barbara Kelly
Michael J. Kendrick
Don and Martha Kent
Joan and David Kernan
Peter and Hela Kindler
Scott Knickerbocker

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNMENT:

Helped secure a \$300
million Environmental
Protection Fund, train
and inspire Clarence
Petty interns, and support
bipartisan statewide voter
opinion survey.

Mr. William F. Koebbeman
Dara and Todd La Porte
Gregory and Gina Lacey
Douglas S. Langdon
Mark and Tara Langworthy
Mark Larsen
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Anne Adams Laumont
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David and Claudia Weber
Bruce Wesson
Cynthia Whitehouse
Henry and Tran Woolley
Barbara Zajac

* deceased friend of the Council

*"The Adirondack Council
is an excellent steward of
the Adirondacks. We are
grateful to the Council
for all the important
work they undertake to
preserve the future of the
Adirondack Park. The
exemplary stewardship
of the Council is clearly
deserving of our support."*

- Steven & Jan C.K. Anderson

Matching Gift Companies

AARP
Avon Foundation for Women
Axa Foundation
BlackRock
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MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Often, there are people who touch our lives in a meaningful way and we look to honor or remember them in an equally special way. We are honored to share the names of these special people and those who chose to recognize them.

MEMORIALS

Clifford Apgar
Susan and Jeffrey Bowen
Todd and Martha Bowles
William and Elizabeth Eagleson
Ralph and Carol Underwood
Mrs. Joyce Apgar
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Daniel and victoria Heuser
Tom Jenssen
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Beau Johnson
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Jackson Moss-Hawkins
Carolyn Moss
John and Hatsumi Moss
Carolyn Moss
Katie Robinson
Dan and Laurie Schacht
Judy and Alan Smith
Lauren Maehrlein

Adirondack Legacy Society

We are grateful to the following members who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy of their support for the Adirondack Park by including the Adirondack Council in their estate plans.

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James K. Au
David & Stephanie Banks
Arthur J. & Evelyn C. Barrett
Hans J. Barschel
Jane M. Barton
Reginald & Jennifer Bedell
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Constance A. Tate
Sue A. Whan
Tricia & Philip Winterer
Tony Zazula

HEARTFELT THANKS TO JOHN ERNST

The Adirondack Council Board of Trustees recognized and celebrated John Ernst's 35 years of service to the work of the Council at Forever Wild Day in Northville.

His wisdom and intuition will be sorely missed on the Board. However we are pleased his talents remain focused on the Park in his new role on the Adirondack Park Agency.



FOREVER WILD FUND

The Forever Wild Fund is a quasi-endowment fund which strengthens the Council's programs and ability to be proactive in our mission to protect the Adirondack Park.

In addition to the core Forever Wild Fund, the Adirondack Foundation manages two funds for the benefit of the Adirondack Council. The Adirondack Council Fund supports the ongoing work of the Council and the Clarence Petty Intern Fund, created by Barbara Glaser in 2010, supports the Council's intern program. Both Foundation funds are part of the Council's Forever Wild Fund.

We are deeply grateful to our Forever Wild Fund supporters who have given additional support above their annual sustaining contributions. THANK YOU!



Forever Wild Fund

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Alice and David A.* Belden
Dr. and Mrs. Michael A. Bettmann
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Ann E. Carmel and Rabbi Daniel S. Wolk
Sarah Collum Hatfield and
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Kathryn and Dino Cusumano
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Diane and Peter B. Fish
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* deceased friend of the Council

The Adirondack Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists. If you discover an error, please contact us at 877.873.2240.



SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS SUMMARY

Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

The pie charts represent annual operating financial activity for the Adirondack Council. In addition, the Council received \$546,969 in new endowed and operating reserve gifts, realized bequests and pledge payments toward the Forever Wild Fund.

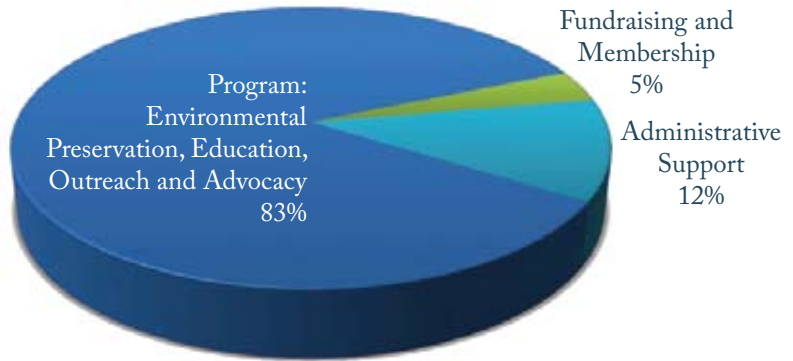
Source of Funds

\$1,737,170



Total Expenses

\$1,755,305



Note: the Adirondack Council does not accept government funding of any kind.

Further financial details can be viewed in the Council's audited financial statement which can be obtained by calling the Adirondack Council at 877.873.2240, on our website, or through the office of the New York State Attorney General. You can also view the Adirondack Council's IRS 990 at www.AdirondackCouncil.org or at www.guidestar.org.



The Adirondack Council's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. We hope the Adirondack Council's **top** rating gives you even more confidence that your hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly on behalf of the Adirondack Park.



2015-2016
Working for and celebrating the Adirondacks throughout the year...



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Wilderness: Ensuring the wild character and ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve.

Defeated a plan to store aging, leaky oil tank cars on rail road tracks on the Forest Preserve near the headwaters of the Hudson River; Launched the Be Wild New York campaign with a coalition of regional and national conservation organizations to promote the expansion of the Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness to create more than 280,000 acres of contiguous wilderness including most of the Boreas Ponds tract; Commissioned and publicized ecological studies of the new Boreas Ponds tract by Adirondack Research and the Wildlife Conservation Society, showing intact forests, rare wetland types, and sensitive wildlife support for a Wilderness classification by state officials; Commissioned and released a study by Clarkson University School of Business showing that Adirondack non-motorized wilderness provides local communities with an economic premium; Brought a successful legal action challenging illegal expansion of all-terrain vehicle riding in the Adirondack Park. Provided critical analysis and input on the state's wildlife action plan.

Vibrant Communities: Fostering a more resilient, sustainable Adirondack Park with vibrant communities.

Secured an additional \$200 million for clean water infrastructure improvement grants for local communities in the state budget, on top of the \$200 million that had already been approved for 2016 and 2017; Supported the Common Ground Alliance's Adirondack Futures Project making steady progress toward the shared vision for the Adirondack Park; Helped secure a 200 percent increase in the state's Smart Growth grants to communities, resulting in a \$2-million program that sent \$400,000 to Adirondack counties; Worked with Adirondack communities, organizations, elected officials and citizens to gain first legislative approval of a Constitutional Amendment to create a health and safety land account for town and county roads that cross the "forever wild" Forest Preserve. It would also allow the installation of telecommunications lines and other utilities, infrastructure, and bike paths within or near the road right of way; Helped Raquette Lake landowners secure legislation to complete the agreement that cleared titles to disputed properties and added new tracts of Forest Preserve on the Marion River and elsewhere; Supported the state's plan to invest in trail and train uses for the Remsen-Lake Placid rail corridor under a plan that would uphold policies protecting natural resources.

Water & Air: Fighting for clean water and clean air; combating invasive species and climate change.

Celebrated New York's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions more than 80 percent by 2050 by eliminating the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity; Secured \$12 million of state funding (up from \$5.8 million) to combat invasive species, including funds dedicated to an Adirondack Park-wide boat wash program and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program; Helped secure over \$10 million in state grants to improve local clean water infrastructure, for communities including the Village of Saranac Lake and Town of Willsboro; Joined with Champlain Valley citizens and organizations from New York and Vermont to advocate that oil train traffic be diverted away from pure waters, wildlife habitat and lakeside communities; Worked with NYS Energy Research and Development Authority and state agencies to promote a "critical loads" standard for curbing air pollution.

Farms & Forests: Preserving open space and supporting working forests and farms.

Awarded climate-smart grants to 12 Adirondack farms to help farmers build a local, low-carbon economy and sustain an important working landscape; Worked with partners to arrange an Adirondack visit for the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for a discussion about state support for small-scale agriculture; The Council Board adopted a set of principles to guide sustainable forestry within the Adirondack Park, addressing clearcutting, biomass, forest health, invasive species, sustainable forestry certifications, aesthetic impacts, and economic development.

Leadership & Government: Leading, expanding and diversifying the Park's constituency.

Joined with the Friends of New York's Environment coalition to secure a \$300-million Environmental Protection Fund, including 50 percent more money for park land protection than last year, and helps farms and communities cope with climate change; Provided resources to build capacity of the Adirondack Diversity Advisory Council and to plan, promote and implement the annual Adirondack Diversity Symposium; Helped inspire and train the next generation of conservation leaders through an expanded Clarence Petty Internship program, while benefiting from intern talent in mapping, climate change communications, social media and public policy; Celebrated and promoted to a broad and diverse audience the state's purchase from The Nature Conservancy of the last remaining and most important tract of former Finch, Pruyn & Co. timberlands, the 20,500-acre Boreas Ponds parcel adjacent to the High Peaks Wilderness Area.

THE ROBERT WILSON ADIRONDACK CHALLENGE

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2016-17

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The trustees of the Robert Wilson Charitable Trust have offered the Adirondack Council a challenge matching grant of \$250,000, with \$200,000 to match new and increased gifts of \$1,000 or more and \$50,000 to encourage 1,000 new supporters to the Council by 2018.

The founder of a successful hedge fund, Robert Wilson gave away much of his fortune during his lifetime (1926-2013), including challenge match grants to some of the country's largest and best known conservation organizations. He was also a long-time supporter of the Adirondack Council. Mr. Wilson was interested in challenging the organizations he cared about to build their capacity so they could have even greater conservation impact.

\$50,000 match opportunities for goal of 1,000 new supporters, including:

- **New members** making a gift of up to \$999
- Members who become **sustaining members**, through signing up for monthly giving.

\$200,000 match opportunities for leadership gifts of \$1,000+ (\$15,000 increase cap per match):

- **New \$1,000+** donors to the Council will have their gifts matched dollar for dollar.
- Donors who have given under \$1,000 to the Council in the past will have their \$1,000+ **increased gift** amount matched.
- Donors who have given \$1,000+ in the past and increase their gift, will have the increased amount matched (must be the **highest amount to date**).

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL STAFF

RAUL "ROCCI" AGUIRRE
Conservation Director
raguirre@adirondackcouncil.org

ELAINE BURKE
Director Operations
eburke@adirondackcouncil.org

KEVIN CHLAD
Director Government Relations
kchlad@adirondackcouncil.org

DIANE W. FISH
Deputy Director
dfish@adirondackcouncil.org

JAMES TYLER FRAKES
Membership Director
tfrakes@adirondackcouncil.org

LISA M. GENIER
Program Analyst
lmgulier@adirondackcouncil.org

MARY GODNICK
Marketing and Development Assistant
mgodnick@adirondackcouncil.org

SUSAN FORNEY HUGHES
Executive Assistant
shughes@adirondackcouncil.org

WILLIAM C. "WILLIE" JANEWAY
Executive Director
wjaneWAY@adirondackcouncil.org

EMILY LIEBELT
Clarence Petty Intern - Conservation
eliebelt@adirondackcouncil.org

DANA MANCINI
Advocacy and Outreach Assistant
dmancini@adirondackcouncil.org

DEBORAH J. PASTORE
Development Director
dpastore@adirondackcouncil.org

JOHN F. SHEEHAN
Director of Communications
jsheehan@adirondackcouncil.org



ATV Use Proposed for Forest Preserve

Grasse River Wild Forest

This fall, the DEC released a draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the 14,000-acre Grasse River Wild Forest and proposed Recreation Management Plans (RMPs) for the Grasse River and the Tooley Pond Conservation Easements



Tooley Pond, Grasse River WF

in St Lawrence County. These plans emphasize recreational activities, and propose all-terrain vehicle (ATV) connector trails on Forest Preserve to link to ATV trails on private lands. The prospect of ATV use on the Forest Preserve is unacceptable and underscores the need for a general ban on ATVs on state lands, for funds for enforcement and incentives to channel ATV use to appropriate areas.

Invasive Threat Grows

Indian Lake and southern Adirondacks

The Spiny waterflea has been confirmed in the waters of Indian Lake in Hamilton County. This zooplankton can disrupt the food chain, threatening sport fish such as lake trout and salmon. There are no known controls for spiny waterflea once they are introduced.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), a tiny insect that feeds on Hemlock trees, is already having a high impact on Hemlock populations in the Finger Lakes and Catskills, and is slowly spreading towards the southwest and western areas of the Park. Planning efforts are underway by stakeholders, including rapid response techniques and control measures to help prevent major losses of these trees and their ecological role in cooling and protecting Adirondack streams and rivers.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.
Photo: Mark Whitmore, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

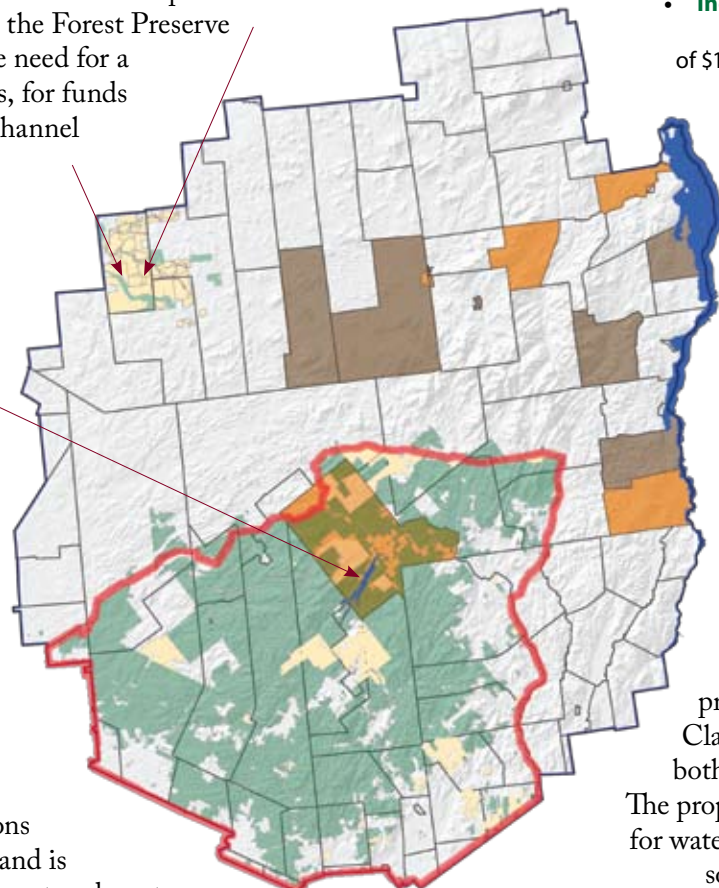
The 130-page Great South Woods Complex Plan (outlined in ■ on map) was released in August, and lists a number of recreation management recommendations for this two-million acre southwest corner of the Park. Although there is no timeline for action, the plan will help guide the Department of Environmental Conservation efforts to improve recreational infrastructure in the future.

Smart Growth Monies Help Communities

New grants totaling \$231,000 awarded

In October, Gov. Cuomo announced five Smart Growth Grants from the Environmental Protection Fund that will bring economic benefits and improve the quality of life for Park residents and visitors (shown as ■ on map).

- **Town of Ticonderoga:** A grant of \$50,752 for construction drawings for the reconstruction of the 18th century French sawmill.
- **Town of Ausable, in partnership with Adirondack Architectural Heritage:** A \$75,000 grant for the Keeseville Hamlet Riverside Park; transformation of the "Red Mill" industrial site.
- **Biodiversity Research Institute, in partnership with its Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, Leading EDGE's Adirondack Community Trails & Lodging System and the Village of Saranac Lake:** A grant of \$50,000 for Adirondack community-based trails connecting loons, lakes and lodging.
- **Indian Lake Theater, Inc., in partnership with the Town of Indian Lake:** A grant of \$15,000 for the Indian Lake Theater Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Project.
- **Town of Wilmington:** A \$40,000 grant for an alternative wastewater system for economic development.



New Effort to Protect Fish & Habitat

Lake Champlain

The Department of Environmental Conservation has proposed new regulations that could provide significant protections for fish found in many tributaries and streams within the Lake Champlain watershed. These regulations would upgrade 123 Class D waters, which only provide protection for fish survival, to Class C or higher which would protect both fish survival and spawning habitat. The proposals also include more protections for waters with trout populations, including some parts of Lake Champlain itself.

Clean Water Grants

Communities and environment benefit

Approximately, \$10 million in clean water infrastructure grants have now been awarded thanks to a new state program. Adirondack communities that benefit include Willsboro, Elizabethtown, Crown Point, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake (shown as ■ on map).

Adirondack Great South Woods Plan Released

Recreation recommendations and resource protection



Boreas Ponds and the High Peaks.
Photo © Carl Heilman / Wild Visions Inc.

YOU can vote for Wilderness!

Take action: write a letter, attend a public hearing

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness! The Governor needs to hear from thousands of people like you who want to protect our Adirondack legacy and support Wilderness. Protect our Adirondack Legacy – Stand up for Wilderness!

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) must choose a classification according to established policy definitions. The APA will consider Wilderness (motor-free) and non-Wilderness classification alternatives (such as Wild Forest which allows for motorized- and mechanized-use options). If motor vehicles or bicycles are permitted then the classification cannot be Wilderness. **What’s most important is to have a “big tent” for Wilderness advocates and unite in a call for a Wilderness classification.**

Important actions you can take to make a difference.

- 1) Write a comment letter to the Adirondack Park Agency; and,
- 2) Attend one of the public hearings being held throughout the state.

Visit **AdirondackCouncil.org** and click on the Take Action button. There you can personalize and submit a comment letter and sign up to attend a public hearing.

Eleven Editorials Support Wilderness

Papers recognize and honor the legacy of the Adirondack Park

Newspapers editorializing in favor of Wilderness protection at Boreas Ponds include the Post-Star of Glens Falls, Lake George Mirror, Press-Republican of Plattsburgh, Watertown Daily Times, Adirondack Explorer, Ogdensburg Journal, Malone Telegram, Lake Placid News, Albany Times Union, Schenectady Gazette and Observer-Dispatch of Utica. This unprecedented outpouring of support from state and regional papers reflects widespread interest in expanding the High Peaks Wilderness.

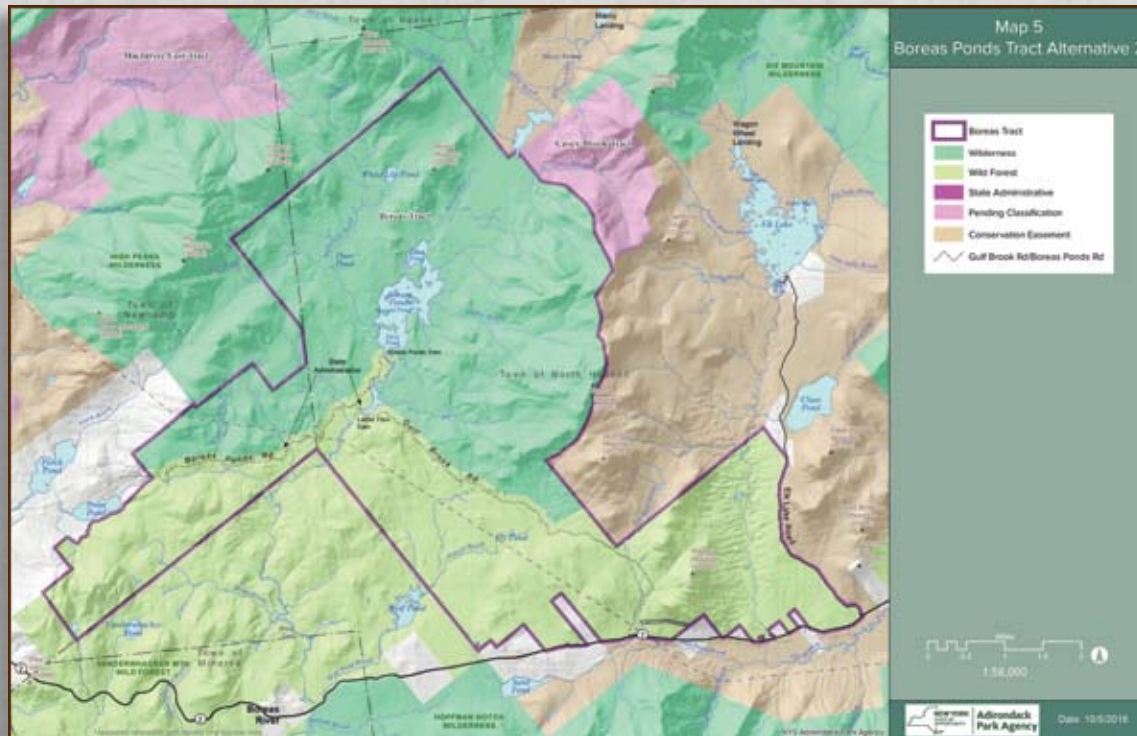
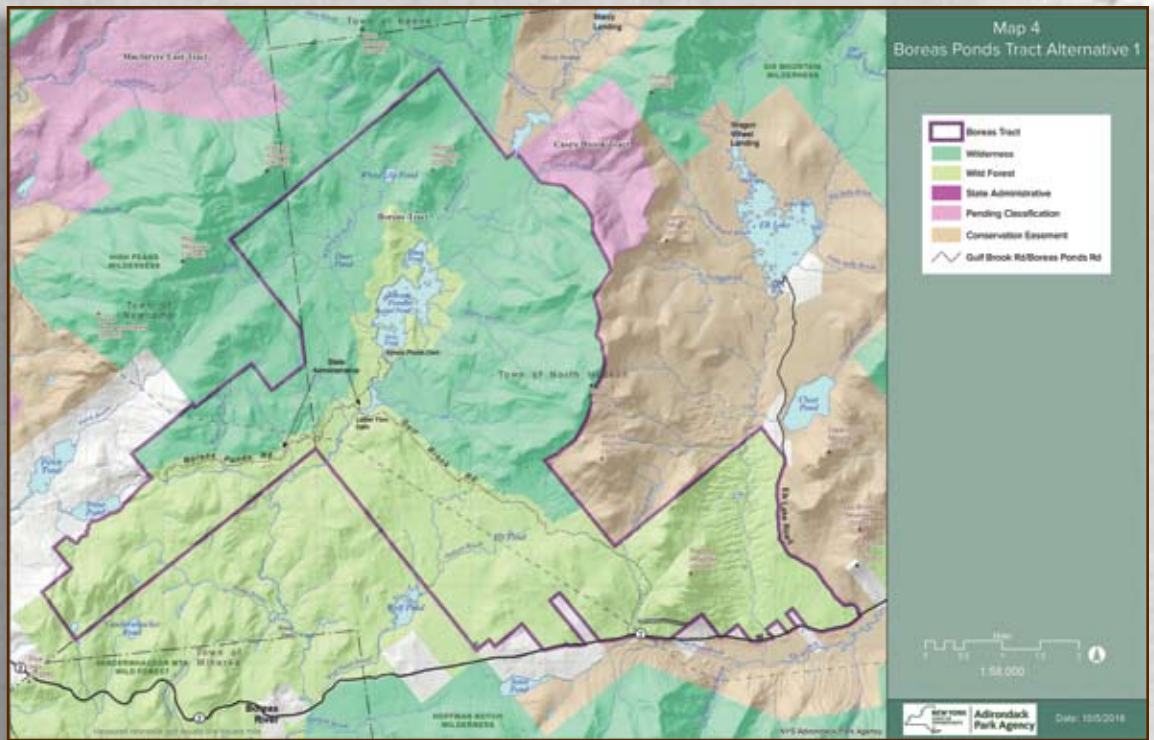
(* - pro-Wilderness editorial quote)

***EDITORIAL: Expand Wilderness to Protect Treasures**

“The balance between providing access and protecting the environment is achievable — if all sides agree that both are worthy goals.” *Plattsburgh Press Republican - Oct. 2, 2016*

Motorized Boreas Ponds (State Alternative 1)

Does not prohibit motorized and mechanized recreation on 10,364 acres including the Boreas Ponds and the lands around the ponds, all of the Gulf Brook and Boreas Ponds roads and all lands to the south of the roads, plus LaBier Flow. Expands the High Peaks Wilderness by 10,178 acres, but does not protect the most sensitive natural resources as Wilderness.



Motorized to the Shore of Boreas Ponds (State Alternative 2)

Motorized vehicles could be permitted to the shore of the Boreas Ponds on 9,220 acres not classified as Wilderness. Classifies 11,323 acres and all of the Boreas Ponds and most but not all of the land around the ponds as Wilderness. Splits the remaining parts of the tract with Wilderness north of Gulf Brook Road and non-Wilderness to the south.

False Wilderness (State Alternative 3 - no map shown)

The same as Alternative 2 with motorized use to the shore of the Boreas Ponds, and the same, long non-Wilderness corridor and road running 4.5 miles through forest proposed for "Wilderness" in Alternative 4.

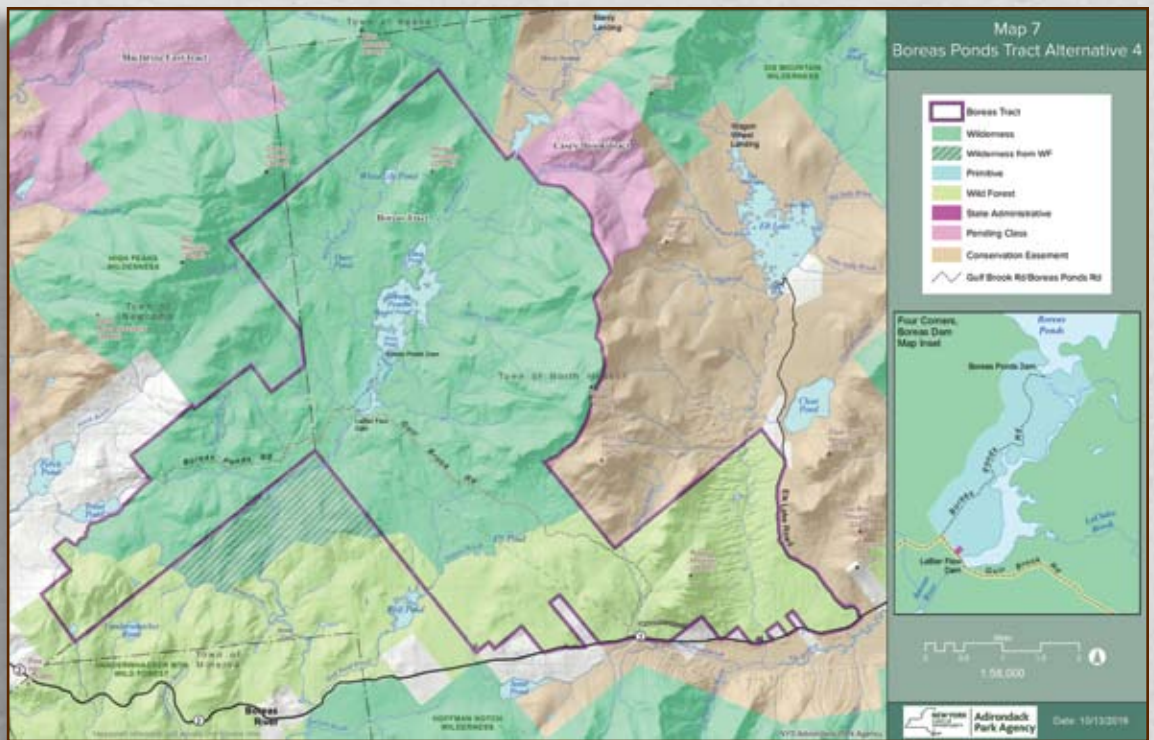
*EDITORIAL: New York and "The Rooseveltian Spirit"

"A decision by New York State to create a new High Peaks Wilderness Area, one that includes the Boreas Ponds, would reaffirm New York's commitment to that ethic [of creating and holding on to parks] and contribute, in an important way, to 'the renewal of the Rooseveltian spirit.'" *Lake George Mirror - July 1, 2016*

Faux-Wilderness

(State Alternative 4)

Looks good, but it's not. No public motorized recreation closer to Boreas Ponds than the LaBier Flow dam/Four Corners Jct. approx. one mile south of the ponds with 16,006 acres classified as Wilderness and 118 acres classified as "Primitive" (allowing state but not public vehicles, and potentially allowing mountain bikes). Approx. 5,755 acres are not protected as Wilderness. Unfortunately, a motorized corridor 50' wide penetrates 4.5 miles into Wilderness and the state would still maintain a road to the shore of Boreas Ponds.



What are the differences?

The critical difference between the state's alternatives and the Adirondack Council proposal is if the ponds and associated waters, wetlands and wildlife habitat will be protected from motorized recreation and invasive species. This will in large part be determined by where motorized access ends. Of greatest concern, the closer to the ponds vehicles are allowed, the greater the risk that invasive species will be introduced to and forever destroy the fragile waters, wetlands and wild character of the Boreas Ponds.

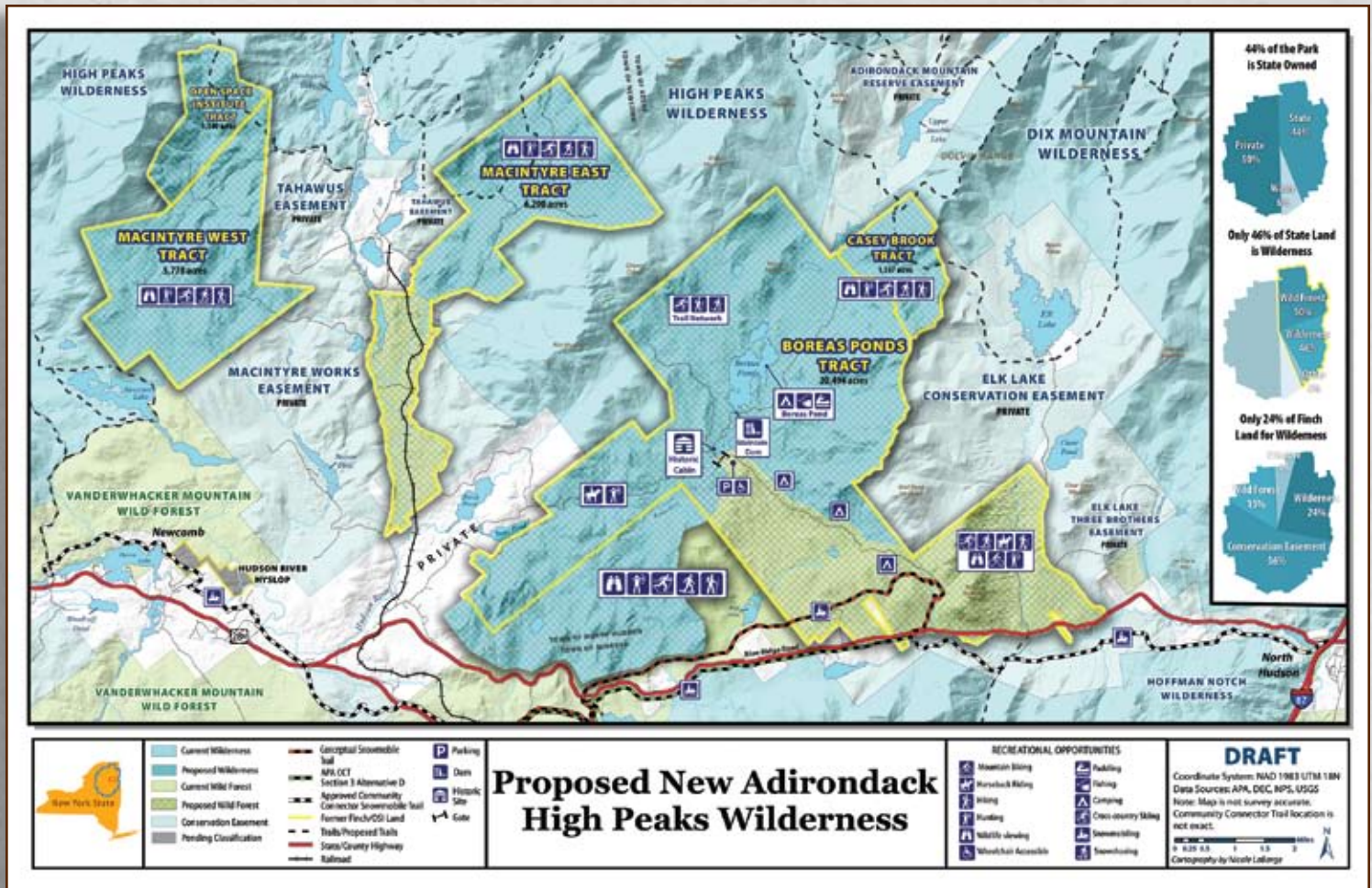
*EDITORIAL: Au Naturel - Adirondack Council proposes to expand High Peaks Wilderness

"Preserving these areas in their natural state is crucial, and the Council has worked tirelessly to develop a sensible plan. The state should proceed with buying the Boreas Ponds land, designate it as a wilderness area and expand the High Peaks Wilderness. Future generations will appreciate the forward thinking that has gone into this effort to enhance the Adirondack Park." *Watertown Daily Times - March 23, 2016*

*EDITORIAL: Let's Expand the Adirondack Wilderness

"The Adirondack Council and several other Adirondack environmental groups make a convincing case that Boreas Ponds and a couple of other remote tracts of former Finch land should receive the state's most restrictive classification, which is wilderness....Adirondack environmental groups are right: latest land acquisition be added to wilderness area. *Glens Falls Post-Star - November 14, 2015*





Adirondack Council Wilderness Proposal

Protect as Wilderness, the Boreas Ponds, the watershed around and above the ponds and a minimum one-mile buffer to the south. Allow motorized access to limited parking at LaBier Flow at least 1 mile from the ponds. Provide an accessible trail to the ponds for people with disabilities. Provide Wilderness protection for the Boreas River to the Blue Ridge Highway.

Support Wilderness at a Public Hearing Near You!

November 9 - 7:00 pm

Adirondack Park Agency
1133 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, NY

November 14 - 6:00 pm

Northville Central School
131 S. Third Street
Northville, NY

November 16 - 7:00 pm

Newcomb Central School
5535 NYS Route 28N
Newcomb, NY

November 21 - 7:00 pm

Schroon Lake Central School
1125 Route 9
Schroon Lake, NY

November 28 - 7:00 pm

Rochester Institute of
Technology
Golisano Institute for
Sustainability
Rochester, NY

November 29 - 6:00 pm

St. Lawrence County
Human Service Center
80 State Highway 310
Canton, NY

December 6 - 7:00 pm

Bear Mountain Inn
3020 Seven Lakes Drive
Tomkins Cove, NY

December 7 - 2:00 pm

NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY

EDITORIAL: A Grand Vision Comes to Life

“A coalition of environmental groups has proposed adding most of the Boreas Ponds tract to the High Peaks Wilderness. This treasure deserves the greatest protection possible within the Adirondack Park: designation as Wilderness.” *The Adirondack Explorer News Magazine - January/February 2016*



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL
Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness
 103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3
 PO Box D-2
 Elizabethtown, NY 12932

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Enter the Hornbeck Canoe Raffle!

Peter and Ann Hornbeck of Hornbeck Boats have kindly donated one of their top-selling New Tricks canoes in order to raise funds to support the projects and programs of the Adirondack Council. The 12' long kevlar and carbon fiber boat weighs just 18 lbs., perfect for exploring the beautiful remote waters of the Adirondacks. The drawing is scheduled for December 1, in time to plan your 2017 paddling adventures.



Raffle tickets are **\$10 for 1** or **\$25 for 3** and available on our website: AdirondackCouncil.org.

Become a Digital Adirondack Advocate

Join the conversation with millions of others who LOVE the Adirondacks!

Follow us for updates on conservation issues, trail conditions, local news, action alerts, wildlife watches, photos and community events. We love to see what our members are up to in and around the Park. Here is how you can be a digital advocate for the Adirondacks:

- **Tag us in your photos** of the Adirondacks for a chance to be featured on our Facebook and Instagram.
- **List your membership** to the Adirondack Council on your LinkedIn profile.
- Show your love for the Adirondacks and **use the hashtag #WildAboutThePark**.



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Adirondack Council



Staff Additions Bolster Adirondack Advocacy and Outreach

Meet Mary Godnick and Dana Mancini

Mary Godnick joined the Council in August 2016 as Marketing and Development Assistant. She focuses her skills on developing, managing and implementing strategic social media and marketing campaigns to grow the visibility of the Council's efforts and works with the Fund Development team in production of materials, mailings and reports to help expand our support to preserve the Park for future generations.

Mary grew up in Hartford, NY and is a graduate of SUNY Oswego. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Public Relations in May of 2014. She has worked in digital marketing, search engine optimization (SEO) and social media management. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, blogging, yoga, and enjoying all that the Adirondack Park has to offer.



Dana Mancini is the new Advocacy and Outreach Assistant working in the Council's Albany office. Dana began working with us in December of 2015 as our Clarence Petty Intern and then served as our Canvassing Coordinator during the summer of 2016. She is a 2015 graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and is currently a graduate student at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy where she is pursuing a Master of Public Administration. Dana assists the Council in their outreach and government relations efforts. In her spare time, Dana enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with her family.

