



STATE OF THE PARK 2016



- READY FOR WILDERNESS -

THE ADIRONDACK PARK

The Adirondack Park is the world's largest intact temperate deciduous forest. It is also the largest park in the contiguous United States. It contains six million acres (9,300 square-miles), covers one-fifth of New York State and is equal in size to neighboring Vermont. The Adirondack Park is nearly three times the size of Yellowstone National Park.

More than half of the Adirondack Park is private land, devoted principally to hamlets, forestry, agriculture, and open-space recreation. Nearly 775,000 acres are protected from development by conservation easements held by the state or private organizations. The Park is home for 130,000 permanent and 200,000 seasonal residents in 120 hamlets and 10 villages. The Park hosts 10 million visitors yearly.

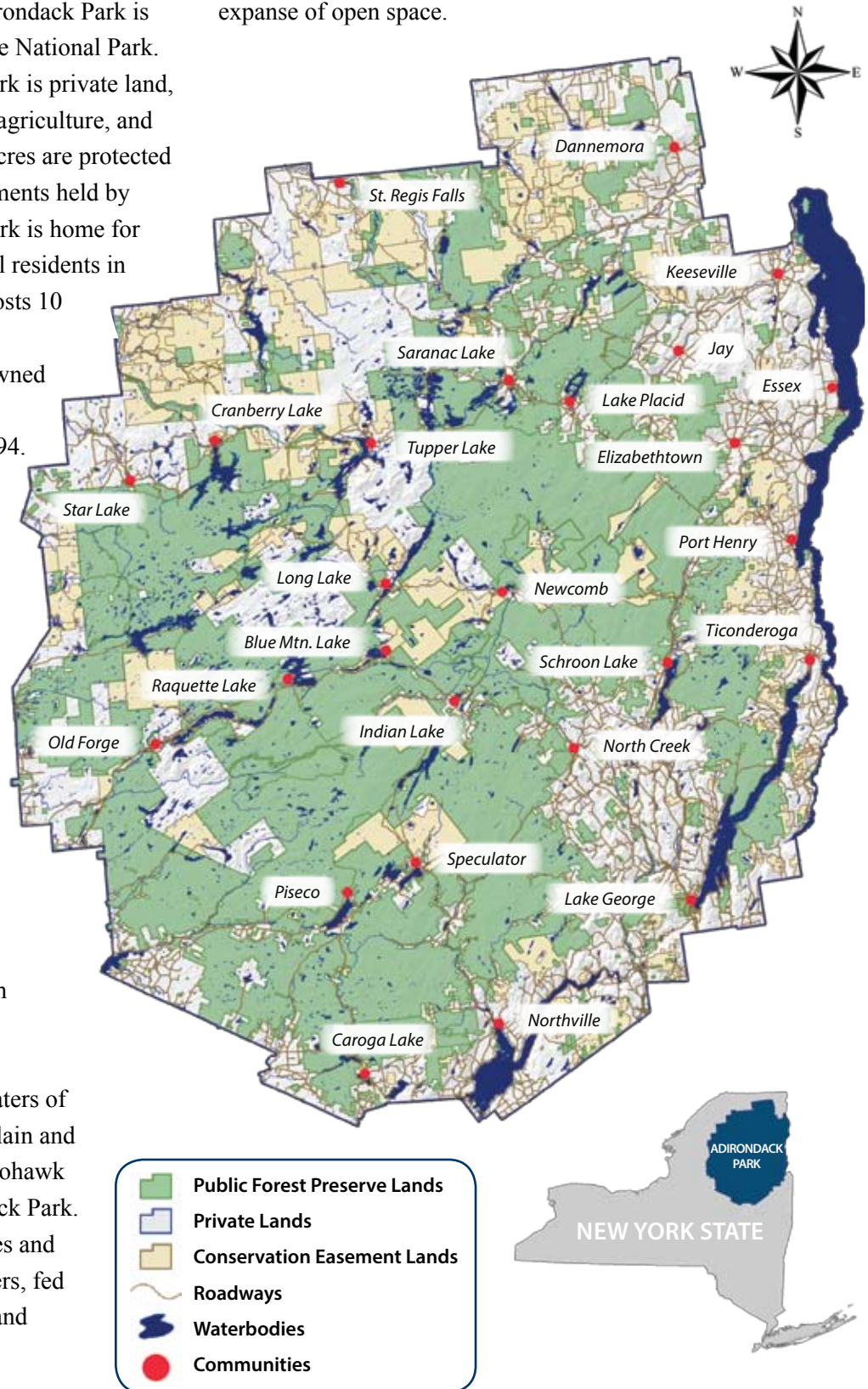
Nearly half of the Park is publicly owned Forest Preserve, protected as "Forever Wild" by the NYS Constitution since 1894.

About 1.1 million acres of these public lands are protected as Wilderness, where non-mechanized recreation may be enjoyed. Most of the public land (more than 1.4 million acres) is Wild Forest, where motorized uses are permitted on designated waters, roads and trails.

Plants and wildlife abound in the Park. Old growth forests cover more than 100,000 acres of public land. The western and southern Adirondacks are gentle landscapes of hills, lakes, wetlands, ponds, and streams. In the northeast are the forty-six High Peaks. Forty-three of them rise above 4,000 feet and 11 have alpine summits that rise above the timberline.

The Adirondacks include the headwaters of five major drainage basins. Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence, and Mohawk Rivers all draw water from the Adirondack Park. Within the Park are more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, and more than 1,500 miles of rivers, fed by an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams.

Through public education and advocacy for the protection of the Park's ecological integrity and wild character, the Adirondack Council advises public and private policymakers on ways to safeguard this great expanse of open space.



STATE OF THE PARK 2016

A REVIEW OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' ACTIONS AFFECTING THE ADIRONDACK PARK

Written and Edited by Adirondack Council Staff

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NOTE: The new format for State of the Park 2016 organizes government actions by subject, Wilderness and Wildlife, Communities, Leadership, Clean Water & Air and Working Forests and Farms (see bolded content items above), grades actions against 2016 priorities and identifies priorities for 2017.

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 forests and farms and vibrant local communities.

Using science, we *educate* the public and policymakers; *advocate* for regulations, policies and funding to benefit the Park's environment and communities; *monitor* proposals, legislation and policies impacting the Park; and, when necessary *take legal action* to uphold constitutional protections and agency policies established to protect the Adirondack Park.



STATE OF THE PARK 2016

Dear Friends and Partners:

Each year as summer turns to fall, we stop and take stock of the year gone by and think about what lies ahead. At this time of year, as children return to school, we think about what the future will be like for our children and subsequent generations.

It has been a pleasure to watch my children grow up in the Adirondacks and see them appreciate opportunities to work and play. I have enjoyed watching as they learn why this area is one of the most special places on Earth. In troubled times, the Park's serene wilderness and friendly, rural communities are a spiritual home, a sanctuary of hope and peace.

For generations, what is most special about the Adirondacks has not changed. But the loons that used to be rare are now common. The fish are back. In my lifetime, ecologically, the Adirondacks have changed for the better. Unlike the rest of the world, the Adirondacks are getting wilder. At the same time, my community of Keene is more vibrant.

In addition to the actions of dedicated citizens, positive changes in ecological health and community vitality in the Adirondacks depend on the actions of elected and appointed officials.

Please enjoy this annual review of the last 12 month's actions – or inactions – of local, state and federal government representatives as they relate to the Adirondacks. This is the only comprehensive account of public policy actions that affected the Adirondack Park's natural resources, communities and visitors.

You will see on the facing page that the Adirondack Council and our partners and allies accomplished a great deal on behalf of the Adirondacks. Yet challenges remain.

Decisions that will forever shape the future of the Adirondacks are being made now. The future of our wilderness is hanging in the balance. We're poised to realize a once in a lifetime expansion of Wilderness, which will protect the Boreas Ponds, clean water, clean air, and diverse wildlife. The Adirondack Park is ready for Wilderness. Protecting the most sensitive new state lands as Wilderness will bring balance, with benefits to the environment, people and communities.

Our job as protectors of the Adirondack Park's ecological integrity and wild character has never been more important. The Adirondack Council doesn't accept government grants or public funds. With your assistance, we remain your independent, impartial, non-partisan voice for the future of what my family and the Council team believe is the world's greatest place.

Thank you,

William C. Janeway
Executive Director

On the Cover: Boreas Ponds and the High Peaks Wilderness. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

Above: Janeway with daughter Sophie and son Charlie.

OVERVIEW: 2016 RESULTS

Council 2016 Priorities

Results

Analysis

Wilderness and Wildlife: Protect the 20,500-acre Boreas Ponds tract, the Upper Hudson and surrounding wildlife habitat as Wilderness while expanding public access and recreation and linking communities with a multi-use trail. Defend Article XIV, the “Forever Wild” clause of the NYS Constitution.



The Governor bought the Boreas tract from the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. The Boreas Ponds and surrounding wildlife habitat are not yet classified as Wilderness. Article XIV was successfully defended.

Invasive Species: Combat invasive species. Provide permanent increased state funding and policy support for Adirondack Park-wide education, prevention, coordination, early detection, rapid response, and invasives management efforts.



April’s state budget agreement doubled the funding to combat invasive species from \$5.8 million to \$12 million annually. Boat inspection programs are expanding.

Transformational Pro-Environment Budget: Restore state funding for clean water, clean air, open space, and community infrastructure. Adopt a schedule for a fully-funded, \$300-million Environmental Protection Fund.



The 2016 Environmental Protection Fund was approved at \$300 million, up from \$177 million, including \$40 million for open space protection, \$28 million for state land stewardship, and millions more for community infrastructure and clean water.

Vibrant Communities: Award an initial \$50 million in clean water grants to communities. Address legitimate road utility infrastructure needs while honoring and protecting “Forever Wild” clause.



Over \$10 million in grants for clean water infrastructure were awarded to communities in the Adirondacks. The Governor and Legislature approved \$250 million for grants statewide. The Legislature granted first passage to a constitutional amendment for community infrastructure.

Adirondack Park Agency: Restore critical staff positions at the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). Adopt science-based conservation reforms of the APA’s 1970s-era rules for development and clear-cutting.



APA staff positions were not restored. The NYS Assembly introduced a bill that will start a dialogue about conservation subdivision plans. No agreement was reached on better incentivizing healthy private forest management.

Climate Change: Support full implementation of the Clean Power Plan to control greenhouse gas emissions nationwide; and keep improving air quality standards and combating acid rain via the Clean Air Act and with a critical loads standard.



The Clean Power Plan was finalized and polluters sued. The rule is suspended until the ruling next year. NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman battled against acid rain and climate change in court. A state authority eased the transition toward a “critical loads” standard for air pollution by publishing a new guidebook for policymakers.

Agency Actions: Address the challenges of increased off-road motorized recreational pressures, unsafe oil trains, science-based unit management planning, and safe winter roads while decreasing the use of road salt.



State-endorsed, off-road motorized recreation was expanded. Local, state and federal officials completed an emergency plan for oil train derailment disasters. Congress and federal agencies did nothing to curb or reroute oil trains away from the Adirondack Park. The use of in-depth science in public land planning remains sporadic. Little progress was made on curbing the overuse of road salt.

Achieved



Progress



Not Achieved



DEFENDING WILDERNESS & WILDLIFE



Magnificent Boreas Purchased

The Governor in May purchased the 20,500-acre Boreas Ponds tract for \$14.5 million from The Adirondack Nature Conservancy. This



tract includes the final and most important lands of the 161,000 acres formerly owned by Finch, Pruyn & Co. This parcel is the largest, most sensitive and biologically rich

Finch lands and waters in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks. By classifying most as Wilderness, the Governor has the opportunity to create more than 280,000 acres of contiguous Wilderness – about the same size as Rocky Mountain National Park. The Governor described the purchase as a “moral accomplishment,” and called the property “magnificent.”



More Money for Wilderness

Gov. Andrew Cuomo proposed and the Legislature approved record high funding of \$300 million for the state’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) as part of the NYS budget in April. The EPF includes a 50-percent increase for open space protection projects (\$40 million compared to \$26.5 million in 2015). The state land stewardship account increased from \$18.5 million to \$28 million.

Above: View from Grace Peak.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



Oil Train Storage Plan Derailed

The state, local governments and Adirondack environmental advocates convinced officials at Chicago-based Iowa Pacific Holdings to revise the company’s plan to indefinitely store obsolete oil tanker cars on a railroad line that runs through Forest Preserve alongside the Hudson, Opalescent and Boreas rivers in the Adirondack Park. With help of local officials from Warren and Essex counties, the state persuaded the company to withdraw the hazardous waste storage plan for the line.



Public Gets Marion River Carry

Legislation passed in the closing hours of session settled a century old title dispute for 200 Raquette Lake landowners, a local school and firehouse. The public receives title to the popular 295-acre Marion River Carry as part of the settlement, with thanks to local landowners and the Open Space Institute.



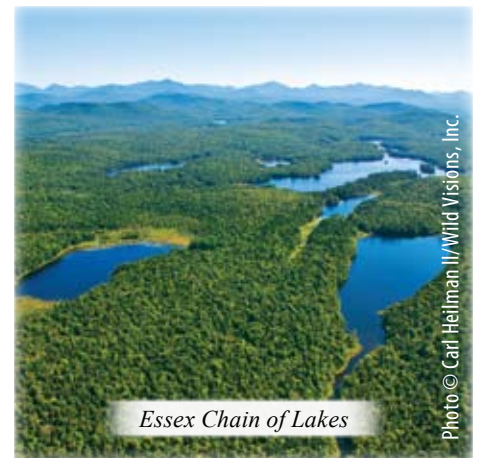
Lakes at Essex Motor-Free

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) followed through on a commitment to protect the lakes at the Essex Chain tract from any new public motorized use, authorize mountain bikes on specific old roads on this tract and allow the use of non-natural materials for a Cedar River Bridge. This was accomplished by amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP). The Governor’s compromise won support from local government and environmental advocates.



Motorized Uses Approved

For the first time since it was enacted in 1972, the Adirondack Park Agency board approved weakening of the State Land Master Plan. The decision authorized new motorized maintenance on old Essex Chain tract roads classified as Primitive. Primitive Areas are supposed to be managed motor-free, the same as Wilderness. The decision was technically minor but disappointing.



Essex Chain of Lakes



Non-Natural Materials Proposal Rejected

The state reversed its proposal to allow the use of non-natural materials for bridges on all Forest Preserve lands classified as Wild Forest or Primitive (more than 1.3 million acres), with less-than-adequate controls. The Adirondack Council and others agreed that such exceptions were acceptable for unusual circumstances at the Essex Chain tract and neighboring Pine Lake Primitive Area, but argued that the state should not expand those exceptions Park wide. The state agreed.

Justice Swift Against ATVs

NYS Supreme Court Justice Samuel Hester in Utica wasted no time in striking down a Town of Forestport, Oneida County, local ordinance that had unlawfully expanded all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding, ruling in favor of the Adirondack Council. In this case, the Town had opened roads to ATVs in violation of state statutes – including roads adjacent to the Forest Preserve. The Council had won a similar suit in 2007 in Lewis County and had hoped that it would not have to bring another.

DEC tickets illegal ATV use

Illegal off-road vehicle use on the Forest Preserve resulted in more than 560 tickets or arrests by Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Rangers in 2015. ATVs and other vehicles were causing significant damage to public lands, according to a DEC report. Updated legislation is needed to protect against the harmful impacts stemming from all-terrain vehicle use.

Off-Road Riding Agreement Stalls

The NYS Legislature did not come to an agreement on a plan to create a general ban on all-terrain vehicle riding on the Forest Preserve, coupled with improved management of and opportunity for safe riding on private lands.

A Bridge Too Far

The DEC proposed public motorized use of a former private logging bridge over the Hudson River in Newcomb, initially arguing that prior limited private use “grandfathered” new expanded public motorized use. That stretch of the Hudson is protected under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers (WSRR) Act. The Adirondack Council and Adirondack Mountain Club support compliance with WSRR requirement, and are keeping legal options open.

Going to Bat for Bats

The Acting DEC Commissioner Marc Gerstman in October urged outdoor adventurers to suspend exploration of cave and mine sites that serve as homes for bat hibernations. The DEC noted that any human disturbances are harmful in the wake of the disease known as white-nose syndrome, which has killed more than 90 percent of bats at most hibernation sites in New York.



Gerstman

Plan Brings Wildlife Grants

This spring, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the first major revision and update to the 2005 NYS Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP will guide wildlife conservation strategies and research for the next decade, particularly for 366 species of greatest conservation need. The plan will allow New York to receive continued USFWS funding through State Wildlife Grants, which average \$2.3 million to \$3.7 million per year. In the Adirondacks, conservation projects that help protect key bat habitat will benefit.

Removing Cougar Protections

The USFWS has proposed removing the “Eastern Puma” from protection, arguing that the species is extinct. The best available science demonstrates that “Eastern Pumas”, (cougar, mountain lion and panther) belong to the same species, which is not extinct but not now present in sustainable numbers in its historic northeastern range. Cougars or mountain lions have not been found in the Adirondacks since the mid-1890s. Currently, the “Eastern Puma” is protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The correct strategy is to continue the ESA protections for the Puma to allow the natural recolonization of the species into suitable habitat in places such as the Adirondacks.

State Fisher Population

The DEC shortened the trapping season for fishers in the Adirondack Park in response to declining populations. As fisher numbers increase outside of their traditional stronghold of northern New York, the DEC has implemented a special six-day trapping season in portions of central and western New York where populations are most resilient.



Young Fisher

Larry Master, masterimages.org

U.S. Senators Would Tread on Wilderness

U.S. Senators Mike Lee, R-Utah and Orin Hatch, R-Utah, have sponsored legislation to weaken the federal Wilderness Act by allowing mountain bike use on federally protected wilderness lands. Written by Howard Zahniser from his cabin in the Adirondack Park, the Act protects wilderness lands from mechanized and motorized use. The Act is also the foundation for the protection of New York’s most wild and sensitive areas within the Adirondack and Catskill parks. New York’s two U.S. Senators are not sponsors of this bill.

Island Plants Need a Brake

The DEC’s Draft Unit Management Plan for the Lake Champlain Islands Management Complex proposes to maintain inappropriate recreational infrastructure on a number of sensitive islands that are managed under special wilderness rules. These islands contain an exceptionally high number of rare plant species that are particularly susceptible to inadvertent damage by the casual user.

IF ADDED TO THE HIGH PEAKS MANAGEMENT UNIT, THE BOREAS TRACT WOULD ENHANCE OVERALL RESILIENCE, INTEGRITY, AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONNECTEDNESS OF THAT UNIT.

~ Wildlife Conservation Society



FOSTERING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



Health and Safety Amendment Advances

Both houses of the Legislature granted first passage to an amendment to the “Forever Wild” clause of the NYS



Little

Constitution that would permit utilities (water, sewer, electric, telecommunications) and bike paths to cross the Forest Preserve along existing, maintained, legal roads. It would create a “health and safety land account” to provide 250 acres for road straightening, telephone pole setbacks and drainage improvements. It would also allow the replacement of tainted

public water supplies to prevent health emergencies, when no non-Forest Preserve alternative exists. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Betty Little, R-Queensbury and Assembly Environmental Conservation Chair Steve Englebright, D-Setauket. If the Legislature that is elected in November approves the resolution again, it will go to the voters for approval.

Above: Raquette Lake.

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



More Money for Park Communities

As part of the record-setting \$300-million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the Governor and Legislature boosted Smart Growth grants to communities from \$600,000 to \$2 million, increased Local Waterfront Revitalization Program funding from \$12.5 million to \$16 million and targeted \$660,000 for projects in the Adirondack towns of Newcomb, Indian Lake and Minerva. In addition, the EPF included grants to Essex County (\$300,000) and Hamilton County (\$150,000) for landfill closure/capping costs and landfill gas management. Another \$500,000 was granted for pre- and post-closure costs at Adirondack landfills in Essex County.



Landowners Get Clear Titles

The Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a plan to carry out a 2013 Constitutional Amendment giving clear title to 200 Raquette Lake landowners and the local school and firehouse involved in a century-old ownership dispute with the state. The public will receive in exchange the 295-acre Marion River Carry tract and other lands. The legislation was sponsored by Assemblyman Englebright and Sen. Hugh Farley, R-Schenectady, and should be the final act in settling the dispute.



Park Agency Rules Not Updated

The Adirondack Park Agency’s 1970s-era rules for development have not been updated to reflect the latest conservation science. Out-of-date rules threaten water quality, wildlife and forest health, and lack improved incentives for smart hamlet-focused economic investments.



Even Non-Regulatory Plan Stalls

The Legislature did not consider a plan to create a transfer of development rights program to better protect the large, intact private forests of the Park from subdivision and development. Development right transfers move permission to build homes away from sensitive natural areas by rewarding those who direct new construction into places where it will do the least harm.



Tourism Loves the Adirondacks

The Governor’s I Love NY tourism campaign continues to promote the Adirondack Park’s wildness and visitor amenities to a broad audience. The state budget included a funding increase from \$45 million to \$50 million annually for tourism promotion statewide.

👍 Rail Trail Compromise in Place

The depts. of Transportation and Environmental Conservation (DEC) approved a compromise plan for the continued use of the 122-mile Remsen-to-Lake Placid rail line known as the Adirondack Railroad. The plan calls for the tracks to be removed between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake and replaced with a recreational trail. The scenic rail line would continue to operate out of Old Forge, and the rail line will be maintained and improved from Utica to Tupper Lake.

👍 Planning for a Great South Woods

The DEC and State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) joined forces to produce the Great South Woods Project which seeks to connect under-appreciated areas of the southern Adirondack Forest Preserve with nearby communities, where travelers can find overnight accommodations, food and supplies. This plan has the potential to increase local economic benefits from the Forest Preserve by filling gaps in hospitality, creating new businesses and jobs. ESF staff incorporated ecosystem-based management principles and stewardship in trail-connections siting plans.



The Great South Woods is one of five regions identified by the NYS DEC for a new approach to landscape scale complex planning that better integrates management of individual adjoining state lands, consistent with the State Land Master Plan.

👍 Investment in Fresh Air for City Kids

The Governor and the Legislature dedicated \$7 million in the EPF for environmental justice programs for inner-city and underserved communities, to support air quality monitoring, environmental job training and the reduction of exposure to environmental harms. They also added \$500,000 for a new Connect Kids to Parks program.



👍 Prepping for Disaster

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June released its emergency/disaster response plan for oil train derailments in the Adirondack Park and Champlain Valley. The plan provides emergency personnel with an accounting of available equipment, personnel and resources in the event of a derailment, spill, fire, and/or explosion. Millions of gallons of explosive Bakken crude oil are shipped through the Park each week to transfer facilities in Albany. Advocates call for more action to prevent disaster and promote green energy.

👍 APA Still Needs Staff

The Governor's budget did not include money to restore vacant staff positions at the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). Over the past decade, the APA has lost more than 20 percent of its staff to attrition and layoffs. APA staff act as community outreach ambassadors to encourage planning, regulatory compliance and sustainable development.



👍 Court Protects Water

The Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court, Fourth Department, in May cited the Adirondack Council's legal memo in a 5-0 decision affirming the Town of Greig's right to require a commercial-use permit for a proposed water extraction business in a residential neighborhood. For 15 years, the Lewis County town has struggled to retain its zoning authority and protect a local water supply. A landowner wants to extract millions of gallons of water per week and truck it away. When Greig denied a permit for the truck depot, the landowner proposed a water collection facility and pipeline under the Black River to another town. The court said the state has sole authority to regulate water extraction, but Greig still had the right to regulate commercial activities in a residential zone.

👍 Forecast: Sunny and Inexpensive

Voters in the Ticonderoga School District in May approved a plan to spend \$70,000 on a parcel of land that will host a solar power array for nearby school buildings. This investment in green power is expected to save the district \$50,000 annually, relieve pressure from the local electric grid and reduce the region's reliance on power made from fossil fuels.

👍 Waiting for Next Year

Local officials and the state Legislature waited too long to bring forth a constitutional amendment to allow the sale of the defunct Camp Gabriels State Prison, near Saranac Lake, to a youth camp. The plan had broad, bipartisan support but was put forward too close to the end of the legislative session. The "Forever Wild" clause bans the sale or exchange of Forest Preserve without an amendment. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Betty Little.

GREATER INVESTMENT IN CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IS GREAT NEWS FOR ANY NEW YORKER THAT SWIMS, FISHES, BOATS, OR DRINKS WATER IN NEW YORK. THESE INVESTMENTS WILL TRANSLATE INTO CLEANER WATER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, AND INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW YORK STATE.

~ Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director for Citizens Campaign for the Environment



ADIRONDACK PARK LEADERSHIP



Three Good Choices for APA

The Governor nominated and the Senate confirmed three new Adirondack Park Agency (APA) board members. Seated in June were John Ernst, Adirondack philanthropist and owner of Elk Lake Lodge, the largest employer in the Town of North Hudson (and a former board member of the Adirondack Museum, Adirondack Council and other Park institutions); Barbara Rice of Saranac Lake, who is a business owner with local government experience; and, scientist Chad Dawson, wilderness expert and professor emeritus at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



Ernst



Rice



Dawson

Above: Grasse River, Lampson Falls.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



Seggos Takes Reins at DEC

In June, the Governor nominated and the Senate confirmed Basil Seggos as Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), replacing Acting Commissioner Marc Gerstman, who succeeded Commissioner Joseph Martens. Seggos served as both Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretary for the Environment to Governor Cuomo. He also work as a research associate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, was an attorney for Riverkeeper and a legal clerk at the White House.



Seggos



Farley, Englebright Find Common Ground

Assemblyman Steve Englebright worked well with Senator Hugh Farley, on a bill to carry out the 2013 Constitutional Amendment granting clear titles to 200 Raquette Lake landowners with disputed deeds. Lawmakers authorized a settlement that includes the state acquiring the 295-acre Marion Canoe Carry property. (See *Public Gets Marion River Carry* on page 4.)



Farley



Little, Englebright Lead the Way

Sen. Betty Little worked with Assemblyman Steve Englebright to secure first passage of a Constitutional Amendment that would make it easier to install essential community services (water, sewer and telecommunications) along existing roads that cross the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. It would allow qualified projects to proceed without going through a three-year amendment process for each project, and without weakening the “Forever Wild” clause that protects the Forest Preserve. To gain final approval, the Amendment must be approved by the Legislature that is elected in November 2016 and then by the state’s voters. (See *Health and Safety Amendment Advances* on page 6.)



Congress Is Not Listening...

Congressional leaders continued to ignore scientific evidence and refused to adopt new emissions standards that would curb greenhouse gases or bring acid rain and smog to a halt. They instead made statements of support for the fossil fuel industry and called climate science a hoax. Congress passed a series of bills intended to roll back the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and the Clean Power Plan, and defund the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Three such bills reached President Barack Obama between December 2015 and January 2016. He correctly vetoed them all.

Three Years Better Than Nothing

As part of the final federal budget agreement last year, Congress reauthorized the Land & Water Conservation Fund



Schumer



Gillibrand



Stefanik

(LWCF) for three years, until September 2018. This prudent action took place after obstructionists in Congress let the LWCF expire last fall for the first time since its bipartisan creation in 1964. For more than 50 years, the LWCF has provided critical funding to conserve important natural resources, protect water quality, create outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide access for hunters and anglers. The LWCF is funded with royalties earned from off-shore oil and gas extraction on public lands, not with taxpayer dollars. It is supposed to receive \$900 million annually,

but all of that money has never been appropriated by Congress for its intended purpose. In the past, the LWCF has helped fund the state's acquisition of the 12,900-acre Camp Santanoni property and many local environmental projects such as park improvements in Lake Placid, Saranac Lake and Ticonderoga. New York's U.S. Senators, Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Willisboro, supported the LWCF reauthorization.

Coping with JCOPE

The NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) had issued a ruling that required advocates to register as lobbyists and disclose the nature of private conversations with newspaper editorial boards about certain government actions. The NYS Legislature repealed what may have been an unconstitutional restriction

on free speech when it passed a package of ethics reform bills. Organizations that critique government actions could be intimidated if required to disclose all conversations with media representatives, with the greatest impact to groups that rely on government funding. The Adirondack Council doesn't accept government funding of any kind.



Governor's Challenge Inspires Tourism

The Governor continued his tradition of holding an Adirondack Challenge in both summer and winter in 2016, bringing attention to the outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities available. This promotion energizes local tourism and stimulates investments in the Park's hospitality industry.



Above (L-R): DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, Government Relations Director Kevin Chlad and Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul at the 2016 summer Adirondack Challenge.



Local Government and Common Ground

Local government representatives, state representatives, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, and community and environmental leaders participated in the 10th annual Adirondack Common Ground Alliance Forum in Old Forge. Participants engaged in constructive dialogue about major issues most stakeholders agree need to be addressed



Hochul

including attracting diversity, recreation needs, community investment, adapting to climate change, and renewable energy. The positive engagement of Adirondack elected and appointed officials was key to the forum's success this year.

Change in Leadership at the Park Agency

The Adirondack Park Agency experienced significant changes in leadership, as two long-time board members retired in June, including the chair Leilani C. Ulrich of Old Forge and the board's environmental conscience, Richard Booth of Ithaca. Ulrich was first nominated to the APA board in 2004 by Gov. George Pataki. She was elevated to chair in 2011. A Cornell University professor, Booth was appointed in 2007 by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. In Booth's early career, he also served as a staff attorney for the APA and the DEC. He is considered one of New York's leading



Ulrich



Booth



Craig

environmental lawyers. He was a member of the Adirondack Council board of directors for 10 years, until 1992. Replacing Ulrich as chair is current board member Sherman Craig of Wanakena, who was appointed to the APA in 2011 by Governor Cuomo. A third APA seat was vacated by the 2014 retirement of F. William Valentino, Jr. of Albany. All three seats were filled in June. (See *Three Good Choices for APA* on page 8.)

APPROVAL OF THE ROAD/UTILITY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WAS A WIN FOR THE ADIRONDACKS.

~ NYS Assemblyman Dan Stec, R-Queensbury

A GOOD COMPROMISE.

~ NYS Senator Betty Little, R-Queensbury, commenting on the road/utility constitutional amendment



READY FOR WILDERNESS

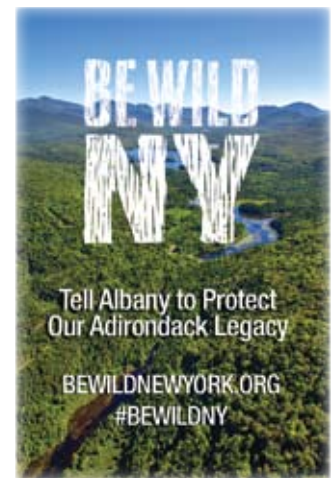
The Greatest Wilderness Expansion Plan in a Generation

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand Adirondack wilderness to rival the most famous conservation landmarks in the world. People in the Adirondacks, across the country and around the world are saying to the Governor's team that they are ready to protect the fragile and unique Boreas Ponds on the southern flank of the High Peaks as Wilderness.

The Adirondacks are a national treasure. People say the Park deserves new Wilderness that will protect clean water, clean air and diverse wildlife from invasive species, motorized and mechanized use, noise, pollution, and other impacts.

The Governor just completed an historic 65,000-acre purchase of former Finch, Pruyn & Co. timberland from the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. Another 90,000 acres of former Conservancy/Finch lands remain private commercial forest lands, protected from subdivision and development by conservation easements, while under active management as a working forest. The Adirondack Park Agency is now preparing to collect public comments on how this land should be managed.

The new unclassified state-owned Forest Preserve at Boreas Ponds, MacIntyre East and MacIntyre West, the OSI Tract and Casey Brook fit together like missing puzzle pieces in the High Peaks Wilderness Area (view map on right). These properties can connect the High Peaks to the Dix Mountain Wilderness, creating more than 280,000 acres of contiguous Wilderness, an area greater in size than Rocky Mountain National Park, and almost twice the size of Zion National Park.



THE AREA TO BE PROTECTED INCLUDES STEEP TERRAIN, WILD RIVERS, HIGH-ELEVATION LAKES, LARGE WETLANDS, AND FRAGILE WILDLIFE HABITAT. IT PROTECTS SOURCES OF THE HUDSON RIVER AND SHELTERS COLD-WATER FISHERIES THAT ARE THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. IT IS HOME TO A VARIETY OF RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

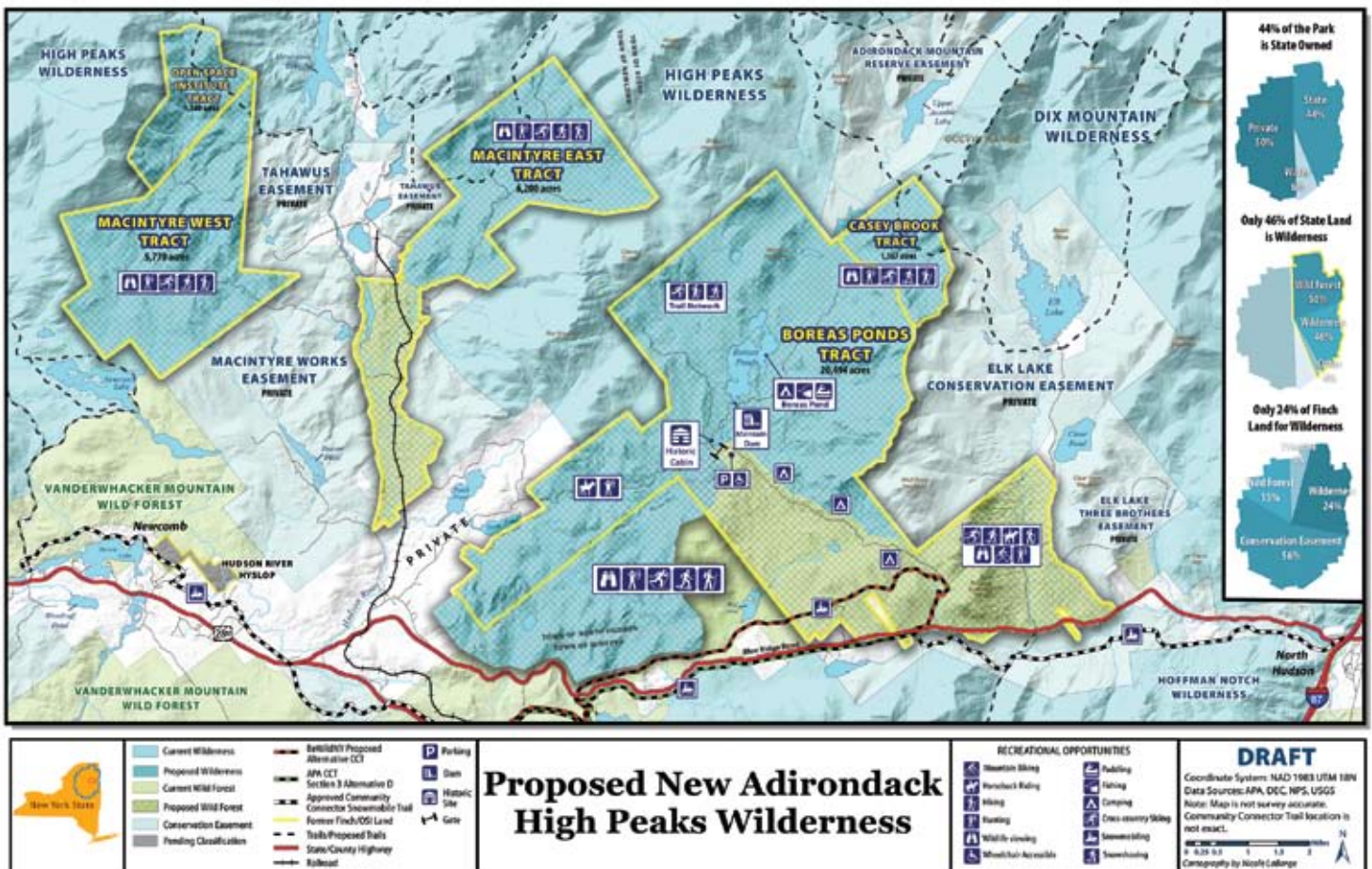
A wilderness coalition of national, state and Adirondack organizations representing millions of people have launched the Be Wild New York campaign (#BeWildNY) to amplify the voices of those urging Governor Cuomo to protect our Adirondack legacy now. This is an opportunity to protect our tallest mountains and purest waters, while opening new public access.

The coalition proposal is balanced. It would protect the most sensitive 31,000 acres as Wilderness, safeguarding them from motorized impacts. It also leaves room -- far from the Wilderness -- for a snowmobile trail sought by local officials.

Independent scientific studies, legal review and an economic analysis support the conclusion that Wilderness is the right way to protect the heart of the Adirondacks while offering the greatest positive economic potential for host communities.

The Adirondacks are ready for Wilderness!

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



A WILDERNESS AREA IN CONTRAST WITH THOSE AREAS WHERE MAN AND HIS OWN WORKS DOMINATE THE LANDSCAPE, IS AN AREA WHERE THE EARTH AND ITS COMMUNITY OF LIFE ARE UNTRAMMELED BY MAN – WHERE MAN HIMSELF IS A VISITOR WHO DOES NOT REMAIN...

~ Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan



FIGHTING FOR CLEAN WATER & AIR



\$350 Million for Clean Water

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Legislature approved an additional \$200 million for municipal clean water grants through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), bringing total authorized spending up to \$350 million over the next two years. The WIIA provides grants to replace small-town sewage systems and for other community drinking and waste water projects, bridging the gap between what the communities need and what they can afford. The Act has already provided \$10 million in clean water grants to the Adirondacks, including \$700,000 to Willsboro and \$1.7 million to Saranac Lake.



EPA Fills the Pool

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded New York State \$187 million for municipal water infrastructure projects such as those eligible for WIIA funding, explained above.



Gillibrand Leads on Micro-Beads

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's bill banning the sale of consumer products containing plastic "micro-beads" was signed into law by President Barack Obama in December. Micro-beads are tiny bits of plastic that are in skin cleansers, toothpaste and other products. They are not filtered out of waste water by most sewage treatment or septic systems, so they accumulate in rivers and lakes, poisoning aquatic life and contaminating seafood.



Governor Pledges, Gore Concurs

Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined former Vice President Al Gore in October 2015 to pledge that New York will reduce carbon emissions by more than 80 percent by 2050. This would require a shift to entirely renewable, non-fossil fuels. The Governor also pledged to convert all remaining coal-fired power production to cleaner fuels by 2020. This would accelerate the Adirondack Park's continuing recovery from acid rain damage.



Planning a Clean Power Future

The October 2015, the EPA finalized the Clean Power Plan, calling for reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from electric power plants of 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The rules help curb climate change and require combustion efficiencies and fuel switches that should bring significant reductions in acid rain. Unfortunately, this good EPA action has been bogged down in litigation by opponents of the Plan (see next item).

Above: Elk Lake.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



Patiently Waiting on Clean Air Ruling

A 5-4 majority of the U.S. Supreme Court in February halted implementation of the EPA's Clean Power Plan before a lawsuit against it could be heard by a lower federal court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia had rejected a request to halt implementation of the plan. Legal scholars said it was highly unusual for the high court to suspend any federal regulation that had been left intact by a lower court while the lower court was still considering the merits of the case. Ironically, it is unclear whether the Supreme Court will ever hear the case. The one-vote majority that imposed the stay was led by Justice Antonin Scalia, who passed away just days later. The appeals court is expected to rule on the plan in 2017. It will then be eligible for one final appeal to the Supreme Court, if the side that loses seeks one. With the U.S. Senate's leadership refusing to consider the nominee proposed by President Obama, the fate of the Clean Power Plan may be in the hands of the next President, who would have the opportunity to appoint Scalia's replacement. If President Obama's nominee Merrick Garland is approved, he may not be able to rule on this case anyway, since he is currently Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.



New Climate Funding Okayed

The Governor and Legislature approved a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund that contained a new \$24-million climate change category, including funds for projects that improve community resiliency.



Support for Clean Air

NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, representing the State, has come to the support of the EPA's Clean Power Plan by leading a coalition of 25 states, cities and counties that have intervened in the litigation challenging the Clean Power Plan. This group of governments will participate in the case in the U.S. Court of Appeals seeking to defend the EPA's action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.



Stimulating Low-Carbon Economy

NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli used the considerable financial influence of his office to help the environment when he created a special pool of \$2 billion within the NYS Pension Fund to boost investments in low-carbon industries. At \$178 billion, the New York State Retirement Fund is the third largest in the United States.



plants to spend money on initiatives that cut carbon emissions. Power plants from Maine to Maryland must purchase one RGGI allowance for every ton of carbon they emit, or face stiff penalties. Each year, the supply of allowances shrinks.



Renewable Heat for Long Lake

The Town of Long Lake installed a high-efficiency, low-emission, wood pellet-fired boiler in town hall, funded in part by a grant from the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. The change from fossil fuel to locally supplied wood helps fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gas and acid rain precursor emissions, while supporting local businesses and jobs.



NYS Assembly Climate Bill

The NYS Assembly passed a bill to codify the Governor's climate pledge of October 2015 into state law (see *Governor Pledges, Gore Concurs* facing page). A law would obligate future administrations to live up to Governor Cuomo's pledge.



Clean Energy Plan Gets PSC OK

The NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) approved in July a new Clean Energy Standard that requires the state to produce 50 percent of its energy from clean, renewable sources by 2030. This is a positive step towards the Governor's goal of making 80 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources by 2050.



Part of the Problem

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik voted in favor of a bill that would have prevented the EPA from implementing the Clean Power Plan. Congressional leaders in both houses did nothing to reduce the nation's greenhouse gas emissions or curb the nation's reliance on fossil fuels. In fact, both houses of Congress passed bills that would harm the nation's ability to fight climate change.



NYS Senate on Climate

The NYS Senate had majority sponsors, but failed to approve a bill that would have codified the Governor's climate pledge to reduce the state's carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050. A law would obligate future administrations to live up to Governor Cuomo's pledge.



Setting New Pace in Climate Fight

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative's (RGGI) auction price topped \$6 per ton for the first time in 2015. The milestone is more than twice what carbon allowances had cost emitters at the start of the program. Higher prices force power

“THE SUPREME COURT’S DEEPLY MISGUIDED DECISION TO STAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLEAN POWER PLAN WILL ENABLE THOSE STATES THAT DENY CLIMATE SCIENCE TO SLOW PROGRESS IN REDUCING THE CARBON POLLUTION THAT THREATENS THE HEALTH OF ALL AMERICANS.”

~ U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

Redoubled Fight vs. Invasives

The Governor and Legislature approved a NYS Environmental Protection Fund that more than doubled the annual funding for fighting invasive species, bringing it to \$12 million. It will help to fund a second year of expanded boat inspections and decontamination programs Park-wide and grants for invasive species prevention, mitigation and education.

Stamping Out Invasives

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik introduced legislation that would direct the U.S. Postal Service to offer a special fund-raising stamp that customers could buy at a price above the rate of postage, to make contributions to invasive species control programs at the federal departments of Agriculture and Interior.

Thanks a Million

The EPA awarded \$500,000 each to Paul Smith's College and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for combating the spread of aquatic invasive species in Adirondack Park lakes and rivers. Both train and hire stewards to inspect boats and remove invasive plants and animals.



AmeriCorps Chips in to Fight Invasives

The Federal Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps) gave the Student Conservation Association (SCA) \$475,000 in September of 2015. The SCA used it this summer to protect at-risk ecosystems on public lands in the Adirondack Park and to provide environmental education in rural and urban communities.

Minerva Fights Milfoil

Town of Minerva officials stepped up their efforts to rid Minerva Lake of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil this summer. Officials hired a crew to perform diver-assisted suction harvesting, which allows for rapid, selective removal of milfoil from the lake bottom with an operator ensuring that native plants are not removed. Invasive milfoil can crowd out other native plants and alter lake ecosystems.



Less than Comprehensive

The Lake George Town Board removed all of the proposed land-use controls and storm water runoff regulations in its new comprehensive plan for development before approving it. The weakened plan drew criticism from the Lake George Waterkeeper and other water quality advocates. Lake George is drinking water for many communities and individuals, but its clarity and purity appear to have been declining in recent years.

Safe Roads, Clean Water Compatible

The Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Town of Lake George worked with the Lake George Association to reduce the amount of road salt used in the Lake George basin. Their efforts included the purchase of equipment to more precisely control salt spreading by town crews. Road salt and silt are significant sources of water pollution in the Adirondack Park.



Congress Sidetracked on Oil Trains

Congress has not prohibited oil train traffic through the Champlain Valley. Oil transport by rail through the Adirondacks threatens water quality, public safety, wildlife, and drinking water supplies and the quality of life for residents. In May, the Adirondack Council, local officials and regional and national conservation advocates called on the New York and Vermont Congressional delegations to work to reroute this traffic.

Cool Farms/Healthy Park Program

The Cool Farms/Healthy Park Program is designed to reduce regional carbon emissions, educate the public about global climate change and provide grants to local farmers, so they remain a vital and sustainable part of the Adirondack Park's landscape.

For each \$25 donation to the program, the Adirondack Council will obtain and retire one carbon allowance from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Donors may choose to receive a certificate recognizing their support of a healthy Adirondack Park and climate smart farming.

All proceeds will be used to purchase additional carbon allowances and replenish the farmland grants fund. Make your donation to the Cool Farms/Healthy Park program today at: shop.AdirondackCouncil.org.



Echo Farm in Essex, NY received an Adirondack Council grant to help install a solar-powered watering system.



PRESERVING WORKING FORESTS & FARMS

EPF Protects Forests, Farms

The Governor proposed and the Legislature approved a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund that included \$40 million for open space protection on private forest lands, including the purchase of conservation easements. This is a 50-percent increase over the 2015 budget. Also, funding for farmland conservation easements increased from \$15 million to \$20 million.

Designing with Nature in Mind

Assemblyman Steve Englebright introduced legislation in June that can start a stakeholder dialogue about



Englebright

how to better protect Adirondack water quality, wildlife and forest health when new homes are constructed in the back woods of the Park. The bill proposes a new conservation design standard that would

limit the impact of new development to a compact area, protecting water and wildlife habitat on the remainder.

Top “Farmhand” Meets with Locals

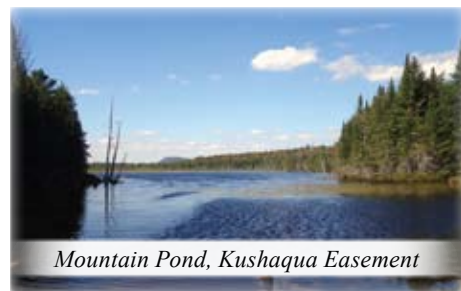
The NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Richard Ball came to the Adirondacks in November 2015 to meet with more than two dozen local farmers and food advocates. Among the topics of discussion were funding and grants, access to capital and credit, state regulations and policies, and the branding and marketing of Adirondack agriculture.



Ball

Eradicating Knotweed Together

The Town of Tupper Lake is working in partnership with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program to eradicate Japanese knotweed. The plant, which has ornamental white flowers and bamboo-like stalks, is extremely difficult to remove and has an aggressive tendency to crowd-out native plants. Biting back: According to Newsweek, guests at the former Great Camp known as The Point (now an inn) can find Japanese knotweed on the dining room’s menu.

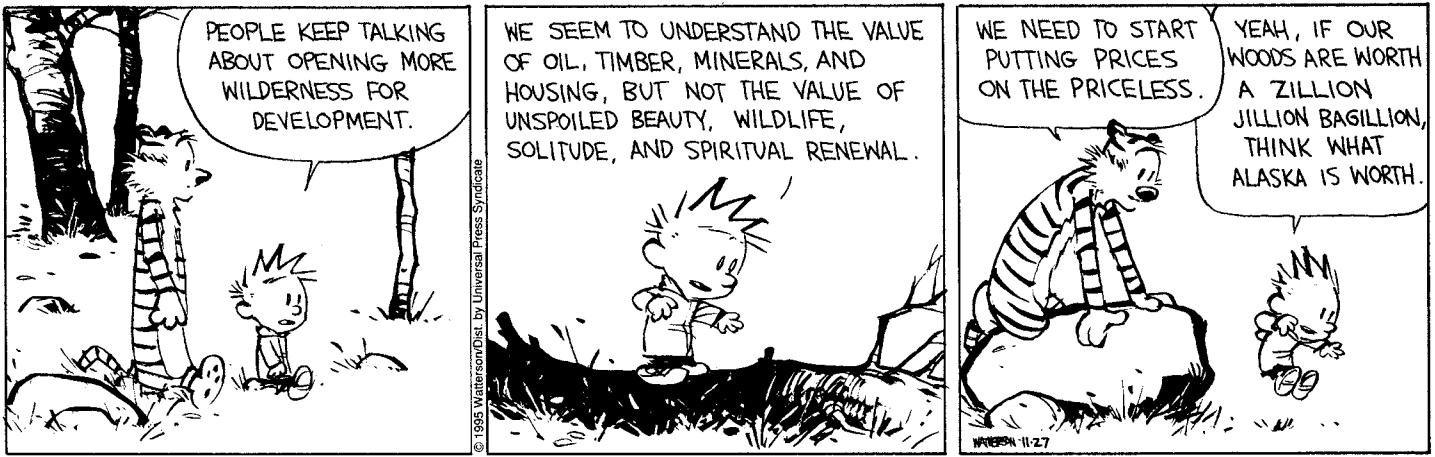


Mountain Pond, Kushaqua Easement

ATV Use Grows

The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) final Recreation Management Plan for the Kushaqua Conservation Easement makes more than 30 miles of roads eligible for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding on this 19,989-acre parcel owned by Lyme Timber Co. of New Hampshire. As part of the easement deal, the state purchased the development rights, various recreational rights and limited public access. While the DEC’s plan for the property allows ATVs on roads where cars, log trucks and other users are already present, greater protection is needed to ensure the conservation and ecological values of the land are preserved and not impaired by wide-scale ATV use.

Above: Champlain Valley farmland. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



CALVIN AND HOBBS © 1995 Watterson. Reprinted with permission of UNIVERSAL UCLICK. All rights reserved.

Clear-Cuts, Cumulative Impacts

As the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) significantly increases the number of issued permits for clear-cutting of commercial forests, efforts by the Agency lag on any comprehensive analysis of the cumulative impact both regulated and unregulated forestry practices are having on Adirondack watersheds and ecosystems. Between 2013 and the start of 2016, the APA granted 10 permits for clear-cuts of 25 acres or more in size on uplands for a total of ~2,900 acres cleared. While these harvests are carefully designed and implemented and represent only a fraction of the forestry within the Park, they still need to be placed within the larger context of forestry impacts, including unregulated cutting, at a regional scale. The Agency had issued only two clear-cutting permits in the previous four decades.

Clear-Cut Permit Review Gets Cloudy

The Adirondack Park Agency board delegated the approval of clear-cutting permits that met specific criteria to the APA's Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs. Done to promote permitting efficiency, the move has reduced direct APA board review and decreased the public transparency of the permit process.

While clear-cut permits are still publicly noted, they will not come before the APA board for discussion unless they exceed newly established criteria or are specifically identified for discussion by staff. In general, the APA board will learn of such permits in routine monthly staff reports, as will the public.

Healthy Forest Incentives Stalled

The Governor and Legislature did not come to agreement on new property tax rules to better incentivize healthy forest management for owners of timberland. State programs that offer tax breaks for sustainably harvested timber have not been adjusted in decades. Abatement rolls are antiquated, incomplete and lack transparency. These programs, including section 480a of the Real Property Tax Law, should be updated and extended to include those who wish to conserve their forests or manage for wildlife, while reimbursing local governments for any lost tax revenue.



Patchwork clear-cutting

What is Clear-Cutting?

Clear-cutting is the practice of removing all trees from an area of forest. While it is recognized as a valid silvicultural practice and can be a useful timber or wildlife management tool under limited circumstances, its use should be well regulated to protect the Adirondack Park's ecological integrity and wild character. Unregulated clear-cutting and subsequent wildfires destroyed millions of acres of Adirondack forests more than a century ago. This contributed to the creation of the Adirondack Park and the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution (Article XIV), which bans all timber harvests on the Park's public Forest Preserve (2.7 million acres, a little less than half of the Park).

FARMERS ARE ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE. NO ONE DEPENDS ON A STABLE CLIMATE MORE THAN FARMERS. WE DEPEND ON FARMERS FOR LOCALLY SOURCED, CLEAN, HEALTHY FOOD AND THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT AND OPEN SPACE.

~ Nathaniel & Courtney Klipper, Founders of the Klipper Fund



TIP OF THE HAT

Partner Contributions

Each year the Adirondack Council recognizes individuals and not-for-profit organizations whose work has advanced environmental protection and shown how nature and people can thrive together in the Adirondack Park. Those making contributions over the past year include:

The **Sierra Club's** first African-American President, **Aaron Mair**, was a keynote speaker for the **Adirondack Diversity Advisory Council** third annual symposium.

Consultants at **Adirondack Research** completed a study showing that the 20,500-acre Boreas Ponds tract in Essex County meets or exceeds the state's requirements for classification as Wilderness.

The **Wildlife Conservation Society** completed an ecological assessment to infuse science into policy decisions related to the classification of the state's new Boreas Ponds tract.

Clarkson University's School of Business and **Center for a Sustainable Environment** joined forces to produce a study showing that buyers were willing to pay up to 25 percent more for real estate near an Adirondack Wilderness Area over the past 10 years than for lands near where motorized recreation could occur.

The **Klipper Fund's** financial investment and advice from the **American Farmland Trust**, **Adirondack North Country Association**, **Essex Farm Institute** and **Open Space Institute** ensured the success of the Adirondack Council's first grants to local farmers.

The **Open Space Institute**, the **Trust for Public Land** and **The Nature Conservancy** with support from the Adirondack Council conducted voter polls showing broad support for the Adirondacks and greater environmental investments by state government.

The **Sierra Club**, the **National Wildlife Federation**, the **Natural Resources Defense Council**, the **Lake Champlain Committee**, and the Adirondack Council together called upon the New York and Vermont Congressional delegations to reroute oil train traffic away from the Champlain Valley and Adirondack Park.

The **Adirondack Futures Project** provided a five-year progress report on its participatory research effort that showed more than 90 percent of people who live, work and play in the Adirondack Park want to protect the beauty and ecology of the region rather than exploit its natural resources.

Students in the **State University of New York at Potsdam sociology program** raised \$150 during the spring semester to retire carbon allowances from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative by making a donation to the Adirondack Council's carbon reduction program.

The **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program** and **Adirondack Watershed Institute** recruited and trained an army of volunteers and stewards for the state's Park-wide boat inspection and decontamination efforts this summer.

*Above: Fulton Chain Lakes from the Bald Mountain fire tower.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.*

“OVERALL, OUR RESULTS SUGGEST THAT WILDERNESS LAND HAS SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACTS ON NEARBY PROPERTY VALUES ... THIS RESULT IS REASONABLE SINCE ALLOWING MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE IN (OTHER LANDS) MAY DESTROY WILDLIFE HABITAT, DEGRADE THE REGION'S BIO-INTEGRITY ... AND PRODUCE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS LIKE NOISE AND POLLUTION.”

~ Clarkson University School of Business



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Martens is Conservationist of the Year

In July, nearly 200 Adirondack Council members and supporters turned out in Northville to congratulate former NYS Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joseph Martens for earning the title of Conservationist of the Year. Martens accepted the award at the Council's Forever Wild Day celebration.

Martens has had a long career as a state official and as an advocate for wild lands at the Open Space Institute (OSI). He has been an exemplary advocate as a private citizen.

Martens' first work in the Adirondack Park came as an employee of the Adirondack Park Agency and then as Assistant Secretary and Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment under Gov. Mario Cuomo. He later served as chairman of the board of the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

Currently, Martens is a Senior Fellow at the Open Space Institute where he is focusing his efforts on national climate change policy and new strategies for promoting smart and effective land conservation in combating climate change.

Above (L-R): Joe Martens, Council Board Chair Bob Kafin and Executive Director William Janeway at Forever Wild Day.



Martens and others at the Goodman Mtn. dedication in Tupper Lake.

Rockefeller Institute of Government Commends Council's Internships

The Adirondack Council was the 2016 recipient of Rockefeller Institute of Government's Outstanding Internship Site/Supervisor Award. The institute is the public policy research arm of the State University of New York. The Council's Clarence Petty Internship Program has hosted Rockefeller graduate student interns in its Albany office for more than a decade. It is the second time the Council has been recognized as the top intern site.



(L-R) Canvassing Coordinator Dana Mancini, Director of State Operations and former Council intern Jim Malatras, and Government Relations Director Kevin Chlad.

Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

The Adirondack Council's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a four-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 four 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.





2017 PRIORITIES

Elected and appointed government leaders will be making critical decisions in the year ahead that will affect the legacy of the Adirondacks for all time. *Priorities for 2017 government actions include:*

- ***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 federal Clean Power Plan. Advance "critical load" air pollution standards for sensitive downwind forests and wildlife.
- ***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, with funding for open space protection, state land stewardship, invasive species, climate change, biodiversity science, and smart growth planning and project grants. Expand clean water grants. Dedicate all Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenues to energy conservation and clean-energy development.

The Council is focused on using our knowledge of the political process, respect for diverse views, and fact-based advocacy to address the Adirondack Park's 21st Century challenges and opportunities. We are working with many partners, promoting diversity, and finding common ground when possible. Together we carry on the legacy of early conservation leaders and ensure the Adirondack Park is known and protected as a national treasure.



THANK YOU!

Thank You, Adirondack Park Advocates!

This year thousands of Adirondack Council advocates took action to address wilderness and wildlife protections, threats to clean water and air pollution, invasive species, state budget funding, and more. Your personal letters, phone calls and emails to policymakers helped secure positive results for the Park. Your continued involvement is essential to our shared goal of protecting the Adirondacks for future generations. Thank you!

Stay Connected With Us

Help us stay connected with you. **Join our growing online community by signing up to receive email**



alerts at: AdirondackCouncil.org. Email is the quickest, most cost-effective way to communicate with you on important Adirondack issues. **If you stopped receiving email from us you may have previously unsubscribed - Sign Up Again Today!**

Above: Kunjamuk Bay, Speculator.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

4,225 individual actions taken

9,900 letters/emails sent to policymakers

10,500+ petition signatures calling for a ban on storing used oil tankers in the Adirondacks

16,000+ petition signatures calling for Adirondack wilderness water, and wildlife protections

18,800+ new Adirondack advocates/constituents taking action from nearly all 50 states and 20 different countries

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CFC #22101

Giving at the Office!

Take advantage of a convenient way to support the Adirondack Council!

You can make a gift to the Council by payroll contributions through EarthShare New York's workplace giving program at numerous private companies, many state and municipal government organizations, and in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), by selecting #22101 on your pledge form.

To find out more about how you and your workplace can support the Adirondack Council through an EarthShare New York charitable giving campaign, visit their website at: earthshareny.org.

Thank you to Adirondack Council supporters who contribute through their EarthShare workplace giving campaigns. We appreciate your interest in protecting the Adirondack Park!



SUPPORT CONSERVATION

Adirondack Gift Shop

Help support Adirondack conservation efforts. Proceeds from the sale of these and other products help us advocate for the Adirondack Park everyday.

Visit us online at: shop.AdirondackCouncil.org, or call us at 1.877.873.2240 to place your order today!

Loon Car Magnet ~ Don't leave a mark on your car with our removable euro-style oval magnet. **\$5**



2017 Forever Wild Calendar ~ Enjoy beautiful Adirondack landscapes from photographer Carl Heilman II. **\$13**

Council Hats ~ Proudly display your support for the Adirondack Council with our loon logo hats. Available in forest green or tan brushed cotton or putty/stone trucker. One size fits all. **\$15**



"Ask Me About" T-Shirts ~ Show your proud support for the Adirondack Council and share your story of helping protect the Adirondack Park. Available in sizes: XS thru XL. **\$20**



Robert Wilson Adirondack Challenge

The trustees of the Robert Wilson Charitable Trust have offered the 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 if 1,000 new supporters donate to the Council by June 2018. At its May 2016 meeting, the Council Board of Directors accepted this ambitious challenge.

The founder of a successful hedge fund, Robert Wilson gave away much of his fortune during his lifetime (1926-2013). He liked to contribute challenge match grants to some of the world's best known conservation organizations to help them build their capacity and have an even greater impact. Mr. Wilson was a long-time supporter of the Adirondack Council.

We are encouraged by the Trust's commitment to the Adirondack Council's programs and projects, and grateful for their interest in helping the Council reach new levels of effectiveness.

For over 40 years, Council supporters have helped us achieve results for the water, wilderness, wildlife, and communities of the Adirondacks. Our supporters inspire us to do even more. We look forward to taking on the Robert Wilson Adirondack Challenge with YOU to secure an additional \$500,000 over two years to enhance our efforts to protect our shared Adirondack legacy and to increase recognition of the Adirondack Park as a national treasure.

Above: Herwitt Lake, Essex County.

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 quiet waters of the Adirondacks. The drawing will be held on December 1, in time to plan your 2017 paddling adventures.



New Tricks Twelve (retail value: \$1,695)

Raffle tickets are available on our website: AdirondackCouncil.org (\$10 for 1 ticket or \$25 for 3 tickets).



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness

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Elizabethtown, NY 12932

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Adirondack Council

The Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous United States. Its wild, natural beauty is a sanctuary for wildlife and people in today's world. The Adirondack Council is the leading voice for Adirondack conservation. We are showing the world how people and nature can thrive together. Not a member yet? Join us at: AdirondackCouncil.org.

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