



STATE OF THE PARK 2011



THE ADIRONDACK PARK

The Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous United States. It contains six million acres, 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.

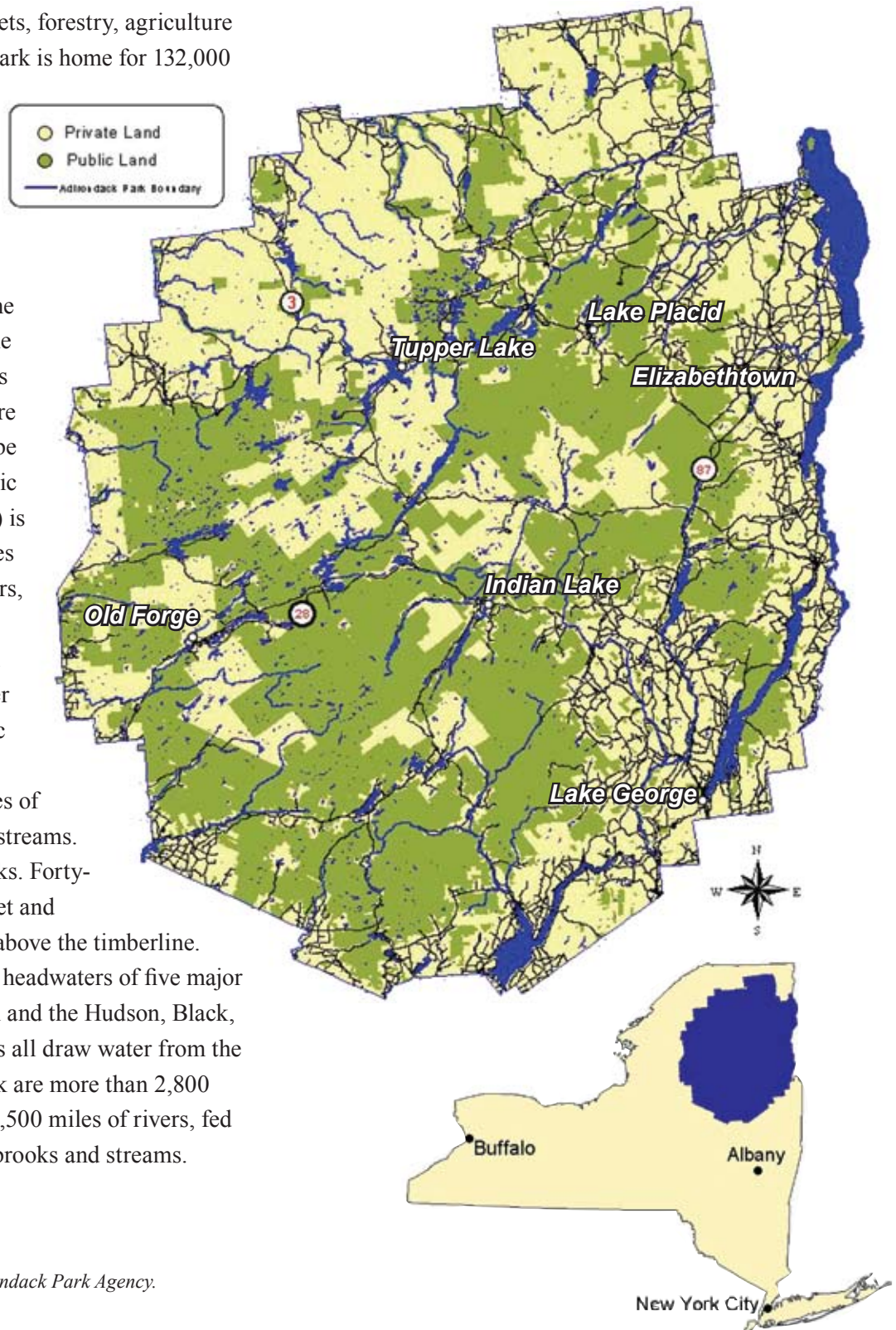
More than half of the Adirondack Park is private land, devoted principally to hamlets, forestry, agriculture and open-space recreation. The Park is home for 132,000 permanent and 110,000 seasonal residents, and hosts ten million visitors yearly.

The remaining 45 percent of the Park is publicly owned Forest Preserve, protected as “Forever Wild” by the NYS Constitution since 1894. One million acres of these public lands are protected as Wilderness, where non-mechanized recreation may be enjoyed. The majority of the public land (more than 1.3 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 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 last remaining great expanse of open space.



Map data provided by the Adirondack Park Agency.

STATE OF THE PARK 2011

A Review of Elected and Appointed Government Officials' Actions Affecting the Adirondack Park

Written and Edited by Adirondack Council Program Staff

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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.

To achieve our vision for the Park, 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, *take legal action* to uphold constitutional protections and agency policies established to protect the Adirondack Park.



State of the Park 2011



Dear Adirondack Council Members and Friends,

The summer of 2011 will be remembered for hot temperatures, strong storms and a huge breakthrough in the fight against acid rain. As you will see in the *Federal Government* section of this report, the approval of the Cross State Air Pollution Rule will mean the beginning of the end of chronic acid rain in the Adirondack Park. The Council and its allies in this multi-generational struggle against air pollution extend our thanks to President Obama and US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson for this landmark rule. They gave us the best tools to fight acid rain since the Clean Air Act was passed more than 40 years ago.

On the state level, Gov. Andrew Cuomo made a favorable first impression by not cutting or raiding the Environmental Protection Fund, and by appointing well-qualified individuals to important conservation roles in state government. However, he will have his hands full with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), which currently has no chair and has four other citizen commissioners serving expired terms. This is happening as the APA finishes the complex permit review for the largest development ever proposed in the Park, the 750-unit Adirondack Club & Resort proposed for Tupper Lake.

The APA seems to be having greater trouble achieving its mission after severe budget cuts over the past three years. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is in the same situation. However, they were both willing to spend time and effort on promoting ecotourism in the western Adirondacks, as they joined the Council in promoting the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex and the 24 gateway communities that surround it.

Unfortunately, both agencies are having trouble following the dictates of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan leading to numerous legal challenges.

On the local government level, we commend the towns of Inlet and Indian Lake in Hamilton County for partnering with the DEC to maintain the Moose River Plains recreation area after state budget cutbacks threatened to close this much-visited Wild Forest area, important to the local communities' summer time economy.

Courts on the local, state and federal level generally ruled in favor of better conservation measures in the Park, while the Attorney General had a good first year and a handful of not-for-profit organizations and businesses earned some well-deserved praise in our *Tip of the Hat* section. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program won our *Conservationist of the Year* award in July. This partnership program is making a big impact on curbing the Park-wide spread of exotic invaders.

As we go to press with this issue of the State of the Park Report, communities in the northeastern part of the Adirondack Park are still busy with recovery efforts following Tropical Storm Irene's damage to trails, roads, businesses and personal property. Our hearts are with the communities and individuals that have suffered losses and with the volunteers that have spent hundreds of hours laboring to help with the recovery.

As you read this report on the Adirondack Park, keep in mind that the Adirondack Council is working every day to protect this wonderful place for current and future generations. Our success is a reflection of your support. We don't accept government grants or taxpayer-supported donations of any kind. That is the only way we can continue to be strong advocates for Park protection and to publish unvarnished accounts of government actions, like this one. Thank you for supporting the Adirondack Park!

Sincerely,

Brian L. Houseal
Executive Director

On the Cover: The Oswegatchie River flows through the heart of the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex in the Five Ponds Wilderness area. Paddlers can enjoy a multi-night trip into the wilderness or a day trip from the community of Wanakena. The Adirondack Council's Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex map and advocacy campaign highlight the 410,000-acre region and the 24 gateway communities surrounding the largest wild lands complex in the east. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



THE GOVERNOR



Fabulous Finch Finale

Despite his repeated attacks on the Environmental Protection Fund, Gov. David Paterson used it to carry out an important land and water protection project in the Adirondack Park just before he left office at the end of 2010. Paterson bought the development and recreational rights to 89,000 acres of former Finch, Pruyn & Co. timberlands in two dozen Adirondack towns from the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. The conservation easement ensures the lands will remain a working forest, while allowing public access via roads and trails. The lands will remain in private ownership and will be harvested under sustainable guidelines. The easement deal included extensive new snowmobile trails, which should take some pressure off more sensitive Forest Preserve trails.



A Mighty Good Joe

In January, Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed Joseph Martens, President of the Open Space Institute, to be Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Martens served as Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment for Gov. Mario Cuomo from 1992-94, and was also assistant to the secretary from 1990-92. He has served as Chairman of the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corp., which conducts lake and stream chemistry tests for the state's acid rain program. Martens was also appointed Chairman of the Olympic Regional Development Authority by Gov. Eliot Spitzer.



No Cuts, No Raids, No IOUs

Gov. Cuomo managed to avoid cutting or raiding the much-abused Environmental Protection Fund in his first year as the state's chief executive. The previous three governors (Pataki, Spitzer, Paterson) either deposited IOUs instead of money into the fund at the start of the budget year, or later changed the budget to remove not-yet-spent funds from the EPF, or both. In all, they removed nearly \$500 million from the EPF since 2003. Gov. Cuomo's plan kept the fund at 2010-11 spending levels for the 2011-12 fiscal year.



Rose Picked for Parks Chief

In February, Gov. Cuomo chose another land conservation expert to lead a state agency when he appointed Rose Harvey as Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Harvey worked for The Trust for Public Land for 27 years, and her most recent positions in the trust were Senior Vice President and National Director of Urban Programs.



Pete & Re-Pete

After what appeared to be the spiteful firing of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis, Gov. Paterson chose a good Acting Commissioner for the remainder of his term in office. Paterson chose former Vice President of the American Lung Association of New York Peter Iwanowicz to replace Grannis. Iwanowicz oversaw the purchase of the Finch easement

and reconsidered a poor administrative decision Grannis had made regarding roads on state lands.



Robbing APA of Power

In August, Gov. Cuomo approved a law guiding permitting for new electric power plants that specifically prohibits the Adirondack Park Agency from conducting a formal review of major plants if one is proposed inside the Adirondack Park. The law also exempts the new permitting entity from local laws and lacks specific requirements for the safe siting of wind turbines, which have become a major new power source located on the outskirts of the Adirondack Park. The new streamlined review process only applies to facilities producing 25 megawatts of power or more.



North-Mohawk-Capital-Park

When he created his Regional Economic Development Councils, Gov. Cuomo appointed some highly qualified people, but split the Adirondack Park among three competing councils. Parts of the Park were divided into the North Country, Capital Region and Mohawk Valley EDCs. The Governor should be treating the Park as a single entity, including consolidating regional state agency offices to conform to the Park boundary.



Commission Out, Tugged Back In

In January, Gov. Cuomo proposed eliminating the Tug Hill Commission from the state budget. The Adirondack Council and others had urged the Governor not to eliminate the commission's important role in rural land-use planning just west of the Adirondack Park. This region shares critical watersheds with the Park and is vitally important for habitat connectivity. The Governor changed his mind and put the commission back in the budget.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Both Houses

No Cuts, No Raids for EPF

This spring, the Legislature worked with Gov. Cuomo to avoid cutting or raiding the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Previous Legislatures agreed with the last three Governors to reduce funding for the EPF, sweeping the cash out of the fund and replacing it with IOUs, or both. This year's plan kept the fund at last year's \$134 million level, a 40 percent reduction from fiscal year 2009.

Swap Sweetens Amendment Deal

Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Lindenhurst, and Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-Rome, sponsored "implementing legislation" that will carry out the land swap authorized by the voters in the 2009 Constitutional Amendment to facilitate a new power supply line for Tupper Lake. The village had only one power supply line and had been suffering repeated power failures. The amendment allowed the NY Power Authority and National Grid power company to receive six acres of constitutionally protected State Forest Preserve along State Route 56 so that the new power line could be built across it. In exchange, the people of the state were to receive at least 10 acres of pristine forest nearby to be added to the Forest Preserve. The legislation specifies that the public will receive 20 acres of forest along the Raquette River in the adjoining Town of Piercefield. Gov. Cuomo signed the bill in August.



Sweeney

Uphill Tug for Commission

Both houses approved continued funding for the Tug Hill Commission, despite Gov. Cuomo's plan to eliminate its funding. The legislature recognized that the

commission serves an important local planning assistance function, limiting sprawl and poorly sited development in the towns surrounding the Army's Fort Drum complex, just west of the Adirondack Park.

Lake Pleasant, Speculator Eligible

Sen. Hugh Farley, R-Schenectady, and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, sponsored a bill that adds sections of the Sacandaga River to a list of inland waterways that are eligible to receive funding through the Department of State's Waterfront Revitalization Program. The waterfront program is paid for by the Environmental Protection Fund. It can be used for a variety of community improvement and environmental enhancement programs. This bill became law in July.



Sayward

Thank You. More, Please!

EnCon Committee Chairmen Sen. Mark Grisanti, R-Buffalo, and Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Lindenhurst, sponsored legislation to maximize public awareness of the many benefits of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). When grants from the EPF are awarded, the recipients are required to list the EPF as a funding source when talking about their worthwhile programs. No costs are associated with the bill. Since its creation, the EPF has provided over \$1 billion in funding for critical environmental projects, but has also been used for the creation of countless jobs and vital municipal programs that save local taxpayers from huge financial burdens. Gov. Cuomo signed this bill in August.

Park Housing May be More Affordable

Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, sponsored one bill proposed by the Adirondack Park Agency intended to encourage affordable housing projects in the Adirondack Park. The legislation allows up to four dwelling units on a single lot within an area zoned for moderate or low intensity use. Previously, the law permitted only one principal dwelling unit per lot in these areas. Under the new law the units can not exceed 1,500 square feet of floor space and are limited to primary, single-family residences for persons with 120 percent or less of the median family income for the county. New homes would have to be within three miles of an existing hamlet and may be no closer than one-tenth of a mile to the shoreline of a lake, pond or navigable river or stream. Gov. Cuomo signed this bill in July.



Little

Amendment on Dead Timber Felled

Both houses of the Legislature balked at a Constitutional Amendment proposed by Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, that would have allowed the removal of dead timber from the Forest Preserve for use as firewood. The bill would grant an exemption from the Forever Wild Clause (Article 14, Section 1) of the NYS Constitution, which prohibits the removal of live or dead trees from the Forest Preserve. The amendment would have led to widespread timber theft from public lands.

Decade of Denial Bill Rejected

Neither house passed a bill sponsored by Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, and Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, that would have

established a 10-year statute of limitations on violations of the Adirondack Park's land-use laws. Such a statute would encourage law-breakers to conceal their deeds and wait for the deadline to pass, rather than clearing up any violations as soon as possible to avoid recurring fines and penalties.

👍 Taking the Toxins Out of Your House

In May, both houses passed legislation to prohibit the sale of mercury-added consumer products. High levels of mercury pose serious health risks to humans and impair brain development. Elevated mercury levels have been recorded in loons, Bicknell's Thrush, and six species of fish found in Adirondack lakes. This bill was sponsored by Sen. Mark Grisanti, R-Buffalo, and Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, D-Suffern.



Jaffee

👍 Whose Water is That?

Environmental Conservation Committee Chairmen Sen. Mark Grisanti, R-Buffalo, and Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Lindenhurst, sponsored a bill that authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to require a permit from any person or company who wants to withdraw more than 100,000 gallons of water per day from any lake, river, stream or underground source. Farms are exempted. There is no fee associated with the permit. The idea is to ensure DEC knows which businesses are using large quantities of water and from where



Grisanti

Local officials from the Town of Greig adopted new zoning guidelines regarding water extraction facilities. A commercial bottling operation proposed withdrawing hundreds of thousands of gallons of water per day from nearby springs and piping it under the Black River.

Photo by John Droz, Jr.



the water is being extracted. Gov. Cuomo signed the bill in August. The DEC must now develop water withdrawal regulations.

👍 Streets More Complete

Sen. Charles Fuschillo, R-Merrick, and Assemblyman David Gantt, D-Rochester, sponsored legislation that requires state, county and local transportation agencies to consider roadway design features that increase the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. "Complete Streets" design principles have been proven to reduce accidents and fatalities. Features to be considered by transportation planners include sidewalks, paved shoulders, bicycle lanes, "share the road" signs, pedestrian control signals, bus pull outs, curb cuts, ramps and other designs to allow pedestrians and motorists to easily coexist. This bill was signed into law by Gov. Cuomo in August.



Fuschillo

👍 Campgrounds, not Subdivisions

Neither house passed legislation sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, that would have eliminated the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) authority to regulate campgrounds. Lax enforcement has led many people to turn their campers into permanent camps by adding porches, decks and foundations. This activity essentially converted those campgrounds into trailer parks, but with sub-standard lot sizes. The sponsors were proposing to turn over the APA's jurisdiction to the Health Department, which has no special rules for campgrounds inside the Park.

👎 APA has No Power over Power

Both houses approved a new law allowing for streamlined permitting for new power facilities. The bill specifically prohibits the Adirondack Park Agency from conducting a formal review of a project if one is proposed inside the Adirondack Park. The new rule also lacks specific requirements for the safe siting of wind turbines, which have become a major new power source located on the outskirts of the Adirondack Park. The new process only applies to plants of 25 megawatts or more.

Senate

👍 It was Just that Bad

The GOP-controlled Senate sent a message to one of its own this session when it was poised to vote down a bill sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, in the Rules Committee. The bill would have prohibited the Department of Environmental Conservation from purchasing any new Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park, allowing only conservation easements. The Adirondack Council had urged Senators to oppose the bill. Many of Senator Little's Republican colleagues were voting against the bill, but then it was quickly removed from consideration once it became obvious it would be defeated.

👍 Low-Salt Diet for Roads

The Senate approved a bill that would allow towns to declare certain roads as "minimum maintenance" roadways. Towns would be allowed to reduce the amount of grading and plowing, keeping the road passable but not perfect. Towns could ignore the general mandate to keep roads clean, dry and clear after a winter storm. The bill would reduce taxpayer costs, reduce the use of harmful road salt, ease sprawl, and curb the spread of invasive species. The bill was sponsored by former Sen. Darrel Aubertine, D-Cape Vincent (now NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets) and former Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito, D-Rome (now NYS Commissioner of the Offices of General Services).

Astounding Tonnage Vehicles (ATVs)

The Senate passed a bill sponsored by Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-Rome, that would have increased the size of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds. Counting passengers and cargo, this new class of four-seat ATVs can reach total weights of 3,200. Such vehicles are too heavy for trails and will cause increased erosion and rutting, leading to storm runoff and water pollution. The bill failed to advance in the Assembly.

ATV damage would have been increased if a new weight class of four-seat ATVs had been approved. At right: ATV damage at the Stillwater Reservoir.

Photo: Anonymous



Assembly

Wilderness, Schmidderness

The Senate approved a bill by Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, that would have stripped the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) of authority over the closure of roads on the state Forest Preserve, even in Wilderness Areas where roads are not allowed. The Senator proposed the bill after local users complained they would no longer be able to access a favorite spot because DEC was scheduled to close a road leading up to the area in the Town of Arietta. The bill, sponsored by Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R- Willsboro, failed to advance in the Assembly.

Cooling Our Planet

In May, the Assembly passed legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Linderhurst, which would have required the Department of Environmental Conservation to create rules regarding the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from sources and reducing those emissions by 80 percent. Limiting the amount of greenhouse gases, including CO₂, emitted by power plants will help to curtail the effects of climate change in the Park. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Tony Avella, D-Whitestone, failed to advance in the Senate.

Heavy Metal Sought

Legislation passed by the Assembly would have increased the safe collection and recycling of home thermostats that contain mercury. Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin that can cause damage to the environment and human health when products containing mercury are disposed of inappropriately. This bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Linderhurst, and Sen. Diane Savino, D-Brooklyn. The Senate did not pass the bill.

COURTS

Appellate Slams Review Board Lawsuit

In July, the Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court unanimously rejected a lawsuit brought against the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) over its 2008 decision to require a variance for the expansion of certain waterfront homes. The APA's Local Government Review Board complained about the regulation when it was approved and vowed to get it overturned. Because a prior Supreme Court decision barred the Review Board from suing the APA, the Board organized a group of local town and county officials who are hostile to the APA to sue the agency using taxpayer money. That suit was rejected last year. Unsatisfied, the Board enlisted a private, property-rights organization to bring an appeal. The Appellate Division said the APA was within its authority to require the variance,

and plaintiffs failed to show what real harm would come from it. In the three years since the regulation was enacted, the APA has received only two requests for such variances. It granted both.

Pay the Dam Taxes!

In June, NYS Supreme Court Justice Richard Aulisi ruled that the Hudson River/Black River Regulating District must pay the taxes on thousands of acres of state Forest Preserve lands it owns along the shoreline of the Great Sacandaga Lake. The district owes more than \$3 million in back taxes to village, town and county boards and school districts in Fulton County. As a state-created steward of Forest Preserve lands, the district has an obligation to pay all local property taxes.

Against the Wall

In June, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court unanimously upheld an Adirondack Park Agency (APA) enforcement order requiring the removal of a stone wall and other structures from the shoreline of Loon Lake, Franklin County. The defendants claimed that the wall, a patio, and staircase were all separate and smaller than 100 square feet each, and thus exempt from APA jurisdiction. The courts disagreed, noted that all the structures were interrelated, and agreed with the APA's assessment that they should be treated as a single structure for which no permit had been obtained.

Court Chokes on DEC's Delays

Justice Thomas McNamara of Albany County issued a temporary injunction blocking continued sales of low-efficiency outdoor wood furnaces. He issued the order at the request of two environmental organizations, who sued when the Department of Environmental Conservation announced it would suspend its April 15 deadline for sales of high-pollution furnaces until July 15. Environmental Advocates and the American Lung Association filed the lawsuit, stating that people across the state would suffer unhealthy consequences.

Rose Pettit Wins, Family to Carry On

In November 2010, NYS Supreme Court Justice Joseph McGuire rejected a motion by Lewis County to dismiss a lawsuit by Town of Greig resident Rose Pettit, who sought to stop the county from opening county roads near her home to all-terrain vehicle traffic. The judge warned the county that the State Legislature intended for ATVs to be off-road vehicles. He also rejected a legal maneuver by the county in which it sought to slightly alter the routes to be opened away from Pettit's home, in an effort to strip Pettit of her legal standing in the case. While the case was still pending, Pettit passed away from injuries suffered in a fire at her home. Family members have been granted permission to carry on in her absence.

Refereed a Clean Match

In November 2009, State Supreme Court Judge Robert Muller ruled against nine Adirondack counties and eight towns that attempted to overturn the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) newly created shoreline and wetland subdivision regulations. The shoreline rules were part of a regulatory revision package the APA approved in 2008 affecting subdivisions with wetlands, lots with roads through them, hunting cabins and the expansion of shoreline structures. The towns filed suit in January 2009, about two months after the rules were adopted.

Planes Must Take Off

In August, NYS Supreme Court Justice Michael Lynch of Albany County ruled that the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are obligated to bar floatplanes from the waters of Lows Lake, the Bog River, Hitchins Pond, and Grass Pond by the end of 2011. According to his ruling, these waters were classified as either Wilderness or Primitive in 1987 when the lands around them were acquired and classified by the state. The DEC avoided removing floatplanes from the area from 1987 through 2003, when a new unit management plan claimed the planes would be removed by 2008. When that deadline expired, the DEC claimed it had not yet secured alternative waters for planes to use and needed more time to comply with the agreement. In April 2009, the DEC announced that it would close the area to planes by the end of 2011. Justice Lynch ruled that not only had the state already classified the lands and waters in 1987, but that it was required to do so. The APA has tried to avoid the matter by not addressing the classification of the water in a vote in November 2009, which spurred the lawsuit by the Adirondack Mountain Club and Protect the Adirondacks.

Wait for It, Wait for It...Now Sue

In September 2010, Supreme Court Justice Gerald Connolly dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Adirondack Council over portions of the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) latest snowmobile trail plan for the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The suit also involved the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), which approved the DEC's plan. Connolly ruled that the Council's complaint about the DEC's "Management Guidance for Snowmobile Trail Siting, Construction and Maintenance on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park" was not yet ripe for judicial review. He found that no actual harm would come to the Forest Preserve until the state incorporates the new guidance into specific trail plans and begins trail construction. The Council has appealed his decision on the grounds that it might have to bring more than 90 separate lawsuits because of all the Forest Preserve units with individual plans that will be affected. A separate case has been filed against the APA and the DEC for finalizing the Jessup River Unit Management Plan, the first plan to use the new guidance.



Lands around Lows Lake were classified as Wilderness and Primitive in 2009. Both prohibit motorized use by the public. The recent Supreme Court decision confirms that the state classification also applies to the water of Lows Lake and, therefore, floatplane use will expire at the end of 2011. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

The Adirondack Council does not accept government or taxpayer funding of any kind.
The Council's work is funded entirely by your private donations, strengthening our advocacy efforts.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Hang Together or Sprawl Separately

In December 2010, the Village of Lake Placid gave final approval to a new joint land-use code with the surrounding Town of North Elba. The combined code allows the village and town to work together on planning for future growth and directing new development into the best locations. It also provides a consistent and reliable system for residents to follow, eliminating confusion and frustration involved in obtaining permits and variances.

Gateways to Green

Town of Webb Supervisor Robert Moore, Tourism Director Mike Farmer, and Hamilton County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Farber joined the Adirondack Council in promoting our Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex ecotourism efforts this summer. Each spoke to the media at a news conference in Old Forge in June, endorsing the plan to promote 24 gateway communities as must-see destinations that are uniquely part of the Adirondack Park experience. APA Chair Curt Stiles, DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki and Forest Preserve Supervisor Karyn Richards were present to support the wild lands complex and economic opportunities for gateway communities.

Green Power Generates Greenbacks

In March, the Fulton County Board of Supervisors agreed on a plan to maximize the benefits of the county landfill's methane-capturing system. The system is collecting methane gas and using it to generate up to 3.2 megawatts of electricity. The resulting smokestack emissions are much cleaner than coal, the nation's most common power plant fuel. The county is receiving money through the sale of both electricity and carbon offsets. A New York City brokerage house is paying the county \$700,000 now for the 140,000 "voluntary carbon credits" the power plant will generate over the next three years because of its use of landfill gas.

More Forest Preserve, Please

In May, the Village of Lake George Board of Trustees approved a resolution urging the Department of Environmental Conservation to purchase the 1,430 acre Berry Pond tract from the Lake George Land Conservancy for inclusion in the state Forest Preserve. The resolution recognized that the purchase would improve local outdoor recreation while helping to protect the West Brook watershed. In 2008, the Conservancy bought the tract from private landowners for \$2.65 million.

Dirty Basin, Clean River

The Town of Wilmington realized last summer that the sediment catch-basin at the State Route 86 bridge was not working properly. It wanted to fix the basin, to protect water quality in Lake Everest and the Ausable River downstream, but the state had no money to help. The town worked with the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District, which collaborated with the Essex County Water Quality Coordinating Committee and the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York to obtain the funding. The new sediment basin allows highway runoff to pool, so solids such as salt, sand and silt settle out before the water reaches the trout stream.

Ski Hill Gets Village Oaky-Doaky

In September 2010, the Village of Speculator signed an agreement with the Hamilton County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to operate the Oak Mountain Ski Center as a year-round attraction for three more years. It has already managed the center for four consecutive ski seasons, following the IDA's acquisition of the facilities from private owners. A concert stage, zip lines and mountain bike trails will generate off-season revenue without relying on real estate sales or commercial development.

AT&T: Rethinks Possible

Officials in the Town of Caroga didn't wait for AT&T to come to them with a plan for cell phone service. The town's Cell Service Committee identified an appropriate site on town-owned land where the new tower will be largely invisible. The Adirondack Park Agency quickly approved the tower site and the town then granted a height and a zoning variance. In addition to improved service, the town will receive about \$1,000 per month in rent for the site.

Snirt Sneaks into Park

The Lewis County Legislature authorized an expansion of the county's annual mud-season all terrain vehicle ride, the Snirt (Snow/Dirt) Run, into the Adirondack Park. The poorly supervised off-road rally formerly was confined to the Tug Hill Plateau, but was expanded this April into the Brantingham Lake area on the Park's western fringe. The county appears to have illegally authorized the opening of at least one state highway for ATV use on the day of the event. Several websites contain videos of participants drinking alcohol while riding, driving recklessly, tearing up wetlands, driving through rivers, ignoring traffic signs, overturning their machines in water, and crossing private property.



ATVs are not allowed on Forest Preserve foot trails, but operators often ignore signs and physical barriers. ATVs cause erosion, wildlife habitat damage, and air and water pollution throughout the Adirondack Park.



The Boreas Ponds tract on the southern edge of the High Peaks Wilderness in Essex County, contains thousands of acres of undeveloped forest. Once used as a corporate retreat by Finch, Pruyn and Co., these lands are now owned by the Nature Conservancy. Despite some vocal minority opposition, the state and many local government officials have voiced their commitment to a plan that will result in state acquisition of these former Finch lands for the Forest Preserve.

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

Failing to Plan = Planning to Fail

In March, the Town of Bangor ignored the approvals of all 24 other towns and voted not to seek a state grant that could have established a Franklin County planning department. The county lost the Department of State grant in 2010 because the towns were not unanimous in their support. The county often fails to qualify for state grants and programs because it has no one to apply for and manage them.

Clean Water Too Much Trouble

The Lake George Town Board first stalled, then backed out of, its agreement to work with the village, Warren County, and the state to purchase and remove the former Gaslight Village so an artificial wetland could be constructed there. The wetland is designed to protect water quality in the lake's southern basin. Since the town did not remain a partner in this endeavor, it delayed completion of the project and drove up costs for the other participants, who had to buy out the town's share in October 2010. The Fund for Lake George and Lake George Association joined forces with the village to purchase the town's share of the land and project for \$210,000.

We Got Ours, Now Forget About Yours

The Adirondack Park Agency's Local Government Review Board continued a campaign aimed at preventing the state from acquiring nearly 56,000 ecologically sensitive acres of the former Finch, Pruyn land. Members of the Review Board have acknowledged belonging to hunting clubs that leased lands from Finch, and would be forced to relocate or disband if the purchase went through. The state's purchase would complete the plan to acquire an interest on all of Finch's former holdings, spread across more than 30 towns. The first half of the plan was completed at the end of December 2010, which involved state acquisition of a conservation easement on about 90,000 acres of productive timberland. The Local Government Review Board urged local officials to approve the deal, since it brought new snowmobile trails to some towns. The second half of the plan involves the state's purchase of 56,000 acres of biologically rich lands in the High Peaks area. The Review Board is now urging local officials to oppose the purchase of the remainder of the land, falsely claiming it would cause large-scale job losses in the local timber industry. Many of the towns continue to honor the original terms of the deal and have not been dissuaded by the Review Board.

Tap, Tap, Tap: Still Waiting

Four years after it gained permission from the state's voters to drill a new water supply well on state Forest Preserve, the Town of Long Lake has still not provided the land it promised to the public in compensation for the lost Forest Preserve. In 2007, the state's voters approved a Constitutional Amendment that allowed a land swap with the town. The town gained permission to drill new water wells on a one-acre parcel of Forest Preserve to replace a non-potable reservoir supply. In turn, it agreed to give back a larger parcel of land for inclusion in the Forest Preserve.

Thank you to all our members for your activism and financial and moral support.

As you can see from all the successes benefiting the Park over the last year, your involvement really does make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support!



ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

Cutting Shorelines a Break

In September 2010, the Agency approved a new set of rules for the construction of boathouses, setting a single standard for all of the Adirondack Park (except Lake George, which already had a standard in place). The new regulations limit boathouses to 1,200 square feet on one floor and 15 feet in height. Boathouses still are prohibited from having plumbing, heating or sleeping facilities in attempt to discourage owners from using boathouses as living spaces. Concentrating human activity close to shorelines is destructive to wildlife and water quality.

Illegal House Still Standing on Ridge

In June, the APA asked a state judge to take action to remove an illegally sited house in Lake Placid, after the owners failed for 10 months to demolish the half-built structure as ordered by the same court. Last summer, a State Supreme Court justice ordered the removal of the Spiegel house in the Fawn Ridge subdivision because it was too large, too near the ridge, and too many trees were cut on the property. If successful, this would be one of the few illegally constructed houses ever demolished by an APA enforcement action in its 40 years. The owners have tried and failed to have the APA's enforcement case nullified by claiming political bias and selective enforcement in federal lawsuits.

Right the First Time

The Agency in October and November 2010 reconsidered and nullified a September resolution that had declared all public lands and waters in the Lows Lake/Bog River complex to be Wilderness. Public use of motorboats and floatplanes is not allowed in Wilderness areas. In an effort to appease two commercial floatplane owners, all three of Gov. David Paterson's ex-officio representatives from state agencies changed their votes to allow

continued use of floatplanes indefinitely. Even though the state had signed an agreement to end floatplane use at the Lows Lake/Bog River complex in 2003, it asked for five more years to work out the details. When five years became seven, two environmental organizations sued and won. Planes are now due to be removed from the area by the end of 2011.

Too Loose with Candy Moose

For several years, the Agency said it wanted to begin enforcing the seasonal limits on the length of time a recreational vehicle (RV) can remain at private campgrounds in the Park. However, in October 2010, the APA gave up when it approved a new campground permit for the 510-site Chocolate Moose Campground in Fort Ann. This 80-acre campground will include 450 sites where RVs can be parked permanently, and some will be rented like cabins. There will also be 60 more sites available for trailers. Seasonal campgrounds are exempted from the minimum lot sizes required of trailer parks and housing developments, where people are expected to live year-round. But when RVs are left in the same place for years, the impact is similar on the land and water around them. The APA also declared that the 20 travel trailers available for rent and other structures such as a laundromat, arcade, and general store are considered accessory uses to the campground and therefore not subject to the overall density requirements. Previous campgrounds had these structures classified as either tourist accommodations or commercial uses.

It's Too Hard – We Quit!

In May, the Agency announced that budget cuts made it impossible for it to continue enforcing its land-use laws in all cases. Anyone who illegally subdivided lands prior to 2000 won't be treated as a violator who is subject to enforcement penalties. The APA will seek after-the-fact permits, regardless of the size and scope of the violation. APA staff said "most" of these violations were the fault of a previous landowner so it didn't make sense to hold anyone accountable, regardless of the individual circumstances. The APA did not seek public comments on this change in enforcement policy, which appears to be a violation of the State Administrative Procedures Act.

Squandering Taxpayers' Victory

After twice winning a lawsuit challenging its authority to require a variance for the expansion of certain shoreline homes, the Agency threw away part of its newly upheld jurisdiction. In 2008, the Agency said it would require a variance for the expansion of shoreline homes that are already too close to lakes or rivers, but were constructed prior to 1973, when the APA began enforcing state land use laws. The NYS Supreme Court and its appellate division have upheld that new rule. In June, the APA announced it would not require a variance if the home expansion faces away from the shore. Any expansion of a home that is already too close to the water should be reviewed before permission is granted.



Seasonal campgrounds with year-round amenities and recreational vehicles that are incapable of leaving the site due to the addition of permanent structures, such as porches, or lack of wheels, result in unapproved residential subdivisions that violate APA lot size requirements.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

No Flinch on Finch & Follensby

In one of his first interviews with the Adirondack press corps, new DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens confirmed that he intended to follow through on the state's commitment to purchase 56,000 acres of pristine lands and waters that formerly belonged to the Finch, Pruyn & Co. paper company. These lands, currently owned by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), include such gems as the Hudson River Gorge, Blue Ledges, the Essex Chain of Lakes, Boreas Ponds and OK Slip Falls. Martens also confirmed the state's commitment to purchasing TNC's Follensby Pond tract near Tupper Lake for addition to the High Peaks Wilderness. All have been priorities in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan since it was created in 1993. These lands were first identified as best-suited to state ownership in the Adirondack Council's 2020 VISION conservation plans, first published in 1988 (www.adirondackcouncil.org/library).

Seeing the Bigger Picture

In June, the DEC introduced a new landscape-wide approach to land-use planning that could revolutionize the state's management of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The DEC started on the Tug Hill Plateau, just west of the Adirondack Park, where it is consolidating the management plans for nine separate state forests into a single Tug Hill North plan. The Adirondack Council is encouraging the DEC to do the same for the Five Ponds, Pepperbox, William C. Whitney, Round Lake, Pigeon Lake and Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness areas, as well as the Wild Forest units (Aldrich Pond, Watson's East Triangle, Fulton Chain, Sargent Ponds, Independence River and Cranberry Lake), located inside the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex.

Deciding to Un-decide

In December, Acting DEC Commissioner Peter Iwanowicz announced that he had reconsidered a decision by former DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis, who had given up the state's authority to ban motorized traffic on the Jackrabbit Trail in the Sentinel Range Wilderness. The trail follows the path of the long-abandoned Old Mountain Road between Keene and North Elba. Grannis' decision was seen as a precedent that could cause a disaster for all 17 Adirondack Wilderness areas, many of which contain trails that were once roads. DEC Commissioner Joe Martens is expected to issue a "clarification" to the Grannis decision soon.



Motorized use would destroy this popular ski and hiking trail, disturb sensitive wildlife, and violate the concept of wilderness. The trail is open now only due to many years of volunteer work by supporters of the Adirondack Ski Touring Council and the Jackrabbit Trail.

Eyes on the Skies

DEC officials found a way to keep open the acid rain and air pollution monitoring station in Wanakena this year, after state budget cuts ordered by Gov. David Paterson had threatened to force the closure of the station. It is vital that the state continue to monitor air quality, especially to confirm the results of air pollution cuts ordered by the US Environmental Protection Agency with the new Cross State Air Pollution Rule. The rule is expected to reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide by more than 70 percent and nitrogen oxides by more than 50 percent by 2014.

New Life for Old Resort

The DEC opened the Scaroon Manor Campground, located on the western shore of Schroon Lake, to camping this summer. It had been neglected for 36 years, becoming a day-use area in 2007. The 240-acre site consists of 60 campsites, hot showers, flush toilets, picnic areas, picnic pavilion, swimming beach, and boat docks. Also it is the state's most universal access-friendly facility in the Adirondacks. The campground occupies the site of the former Scaroon Manor, a sprawling, lakeside resort that was popular following World War II.

No Space for Invaders

In August, the DEC set up two roadside check-points inside the Adirondack Park to stop the flow of insect-infested firewood into the Park's largely non-infested forests. The DEC is attempting to discourage the public from moving firewood far from the place where it was cut to help curb the spread of invasive insects from one part of the state to another. Several tickets and warnings were issued and more checkpoints are likely in the near future. Also, in a separate incident, the DEC arrested three business owners from the Hudson Valley

and from Vermont for allegedly breaking the state's quarantine on shipments of ash timber from areas known to be infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. The violators charged with breaking the quarantine face fines of \$1,000 and up to 60 days in jail for each violation. The alleged violations happened at least eight times during February, March and April.



Emerald Ash Borer. Photo courtesy New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Poor Guidance Leads to Bad Plans

DEC and Adirondack Park Agency (APA) action resulted in a lawsuit from the Adirondack Council last year when they approved DEC's "Management Guidance for Snowmobile Trail Siting, Construction and Maintenance on Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park." The Council sued because the guidance violated the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan in several ways. The policy allows new trails to be constructed virtually anywhere on Wild Forest land in the Park; allows unqualified and unsupervised private individuals to construct Forest Preserve trails; allows other motor vehicles on these trails; and, allows trails to be wider than current law permits. In September 2010, a judge ruled that the suit was premature because the DEC hadn't used the guidance to create or alter a specific snowmobile trail. That changed in January, when the DEC used its

guidance document to complete the Unit Management Plan for the Jessup River Wild Forest. The DEC and APA recently concluded a public comment period for proposed changes to the Independence River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan dealing only with snowmobile trails. At press time, the Council was considering filing a suit to halt the Independence River plan as well.

Stalling on Wood Boilers

After setting an April 1 deadline on the sale of low-efficiency outdoor wood-fired furnaces, the DEC attempted to allow those devices to be sold through July 15. Emissions from such devices are extremely high and can degrade local air quality rapidly. Two environmental organizations filed a lawsuit to prevent the DEC from postponing the sale ban and won.

Balking on Brush Burns

After imposing a ban on the burning of brush at municipal landfills, the DEC backed away from the decision and gave towns permission to continue the practice into 2012.

Any Day Now ...

Another year has passed without a formal all terrain vehicle policy for state lands. In 2005, the DEC proposed a draft plan which banned ATVs from the Adirondack Forest Preserve and most public lands statewide, with limited exception for permitted use by people with disabilities. It was the subject of public hearings and comments, but was never finalized. The public and law enforcement officials deserve clear, enforceable rules for ATVs. The damage to public lands from ATV use continues to mount, especially on the Forest Preserve.



Need Salt Solution to Halt Lake Pollution

Officials from the NYS Departments of Transportation and Environmental Conservation were joined by local officials and activists to discuss plans to reduce road salt use in the Adirondack Park. The conference was hosted in June by ADKAction.org, the Adirondack Council, and the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College. The group is urging the state to use scientific data compiled by the college and others to create a salt-sensitivity map for the Park and to develop plans to reverse the water

pollution road salt has already caused. The college reported that dozens of lakes adjacent to state highways had sodium and chloride levels far higher than federal pollution standards.

Maybe it's the Salt ...

In November 2010, the Department of Transportation (DOT) told the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) that it was no longer going to install rustic guardrails along the Park's highways, opting instead to return to the shiny, gray, galvanized steel used in the rest of

the state. In doing so, the DOT reversed decades of public policy designed to treat the roadsides of the Adirondack Park in a special way. The DOT did not seek public input on this policy change despite the fact that it will alter the look of thousands of miles of roadsides in the Park. DOT officials claimed they made the change because the rustic guardrails wore out faster than galvanized ones, but provided no data to support this claim. Under Executive Order 150, the DOT should have asked permission from the APA and the public before making such a drastic policy change.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Victory in Sight on Acid Rain

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action in early July that will bring a halt to acid rain damage in the Adirondack Park and beyond, giving the Park's fish, forests and wildlife a chance to recover their health and vitality. The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule replaces the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), which was finalized in 2005. It was struck down and then was partially reinstated by a federal court in 2008. The new rule requires a 73 percent cut in sulfur dioxide and 52 percent cut in nitrogen oxides by 2014. Cuts must come from 30 eastern and Midwest states, including all of the states whose emissions fall as acid rain in New York.

Owens, Gibson Band Together on Internet

In June, US Reps. Bill Owens, D-Plattsburgh and Chris Gibson, R-Kinderhook, joined forces to save the US Department of Agriculture's rural broadband grant and loan program from elimination in the House Republicans' annual spending bill for agriculture programs. Critics claimed the program was not needed because nearly the entire nation already has broadband internet access.

High speed internet access is still rare in remote Adirondack communities. At press time, the federal budget for FY 2011-12 was still being debated.



Owens



Gibson

Not City, Not Rural, Bad for Wildlife

In July, the National Science Foundation provided a \$350,000 grant to the Wildlife Conservation Society to assess the impact

of low-volume development and sprawl on birds and small wildlife in the Adirondack Park and in the area surrounding Yellowstone National Park. The study is especially relevant to the Adirondacks, where this type of development is encouraged inside the Park boundary. To date, 90 percent of all Adirondack residences have been built outside of a village or hamlet. The total area occupied by residential development is 600,000 acres, about the size of Long Island.

Just Pay for It!

In October 2010, the Obama Administration authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency to fully fund acid rain and air pollution research programs carried out by state agencies and research colleges around New York. The Adirondack Council has had to seek supplemental funding from the New York Congressional delegation due to frequent across-the-board cuts Congress made to EPA's budget over the past 10 years. The total budget for New York's research programs is less than \$2 million per year. Despite similar EPA-wide cuts forced by a bad budget year in 2010, the administration found a way to pay for the air and water testing without a special appeal to Congress.

US\$ Fish & Wildlife

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) awarded the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College a \$224,000 grant for its lake steward training program. These lake stewards work to curb the accidental introduction of invasive species at dozens of Adirondack boat launches during the summer. The F&WS also handed out \$52,000 to the Ausable River Association to replace culverts and deconstruct dams that act as barriers to fish migration.

Touting Tourism in Park

In August, US Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY, announced he was sponsoring the Travel Regional Investment Partnership Act. If approved by Congress, the act would create a program in the US Commerce Department to award matching grants from \$100,000 to \$1 million to tourism destinations for infrastructure and marketing efforts. High priority would be given to partnerships that incorporate a written plan combining both tourism and local government efforts and those of local non-profits.



Schumer

Inspection Program Expansion Granted

In August, EPA Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck came to the Adirondacks to announce a \$333,000 grant for Paul Smith's College to expand its boat inspection program to the western Adirondacks, including the Oswegatchie, Black and Raquette rivers. The program will replicate work Paul Smith's has done along Lake Champlain boat launches for the last five years. The funds come from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



Enck

Bipartisan Support for Open Spaces

Reps. Bill Owens, D-Plattsburgh and Richard Hanna, R-Auburn, both signed onto a letter supporting appropriate funding levels for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF provides state and local governments with grants to increase open space recreation opportunities such as the expansion of parks and sports fields.



Hanna

Leaders of the Attack

Over the last year, many majority members of the US House of Representatives have made a sport of using the EPA and its regulations as an excuse for the economic situation the country is currently facing. Blaming EPA has become great fodder on Capitol Hill, and House members have attempted to roll back existing regulations, slow down and prevent EPA from finalizing new regulations, and defund important programs at EPA which may create new regulations in the future.

Two More Years (of Dirty Air)

On the Friday before the Labor Day weekend, the Obama administration announced that it was ordering the EPA to withdraw a draft rule that would have provided cleaner air. The proposed ozone rule would have decreased the amount of smog-causing pollution that is allowed to linger in the air. The current rule was put in place in 2008 by the Bush administration. Upon taking office in 2009, President Obama announced he would replace the current rule with a tougher standard by 2010. President

Obama's recent announcement said he was changing his mind on the rule in order to protect jobs by "reducing regulatory burdens and regulatory uncertainty." He didn't explain how a two-year delay would help. The proposed rule would have saved thousands of American's lives per year, and cleanup costs would have been recouped several times over, by avoiding the costs of severe health impacts and lost productivity. The White House stated that the ozone standard will be reconsidered in 2013.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Pursuing Park Polluters

In February, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman made one of his first official actions filing a federal lawsuit against a Pennsylvania power plant for multiple violations of the US Clean Air Act that worsened acid rain in the Adirondack Park. Homer City Station is the largest out-of-state contributor of sulfur dioxide pollution to New York. The plant violated a section of the Clean Air Act that prohibits the



Schneiderman

piecemeal replacement of power plants unless those plants meet the same emissions standards as new ones.

Nothing to Investigate

In May, Attorney General Schneiderman stopped investigating the baseless allegations made by a local official against the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and the state's land acquisition program. Former Attorney General Andrew Cuomo began an investigation of the Conservancy's 2008 deal with the state for lands formerly owned by Domtar Industries. He did so after Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board

Executive Director Fred Monroe told the press that the state intentionally overpaid for the land and should stop buying land in the Adirondacks. The deal was reviewed by 26 state officials, including the Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General Cuomo before the state paid for the land.

Paddling in Right Direction

In February, Attorney General Schneiderman joined the Adirondack Explorer Magazine to defend the right of canoeists and kayakers to travel on streams and other navigable waters that pass through private property in the Adirondack Park. Schneiderman filed papers in state Supreme Court in Hamilton County to force two property groups to remove no-trespassing signs, cameras, and steel cables that block access through Shingle Shanty Brook near Lake Lila in the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area. The Adirondack Council advocates opening navigable canoe routes, but also supports landowners' calls for liability protection and for permission to restrict access to areas where critical fisheries-preservation projects are underway. Property owners, Friends of Thayer Lake LLC and the Brandreth Park Association in 2010 sued Explorer Editor Phil Brown for trespassing after he paddled what they claimed was a private part of the river. The final decision should address other issues including the protection against invasive species introduction and a more detailed definition of navigable waters.



THE BOB MARSHALL WILD LANDS COMPLEX

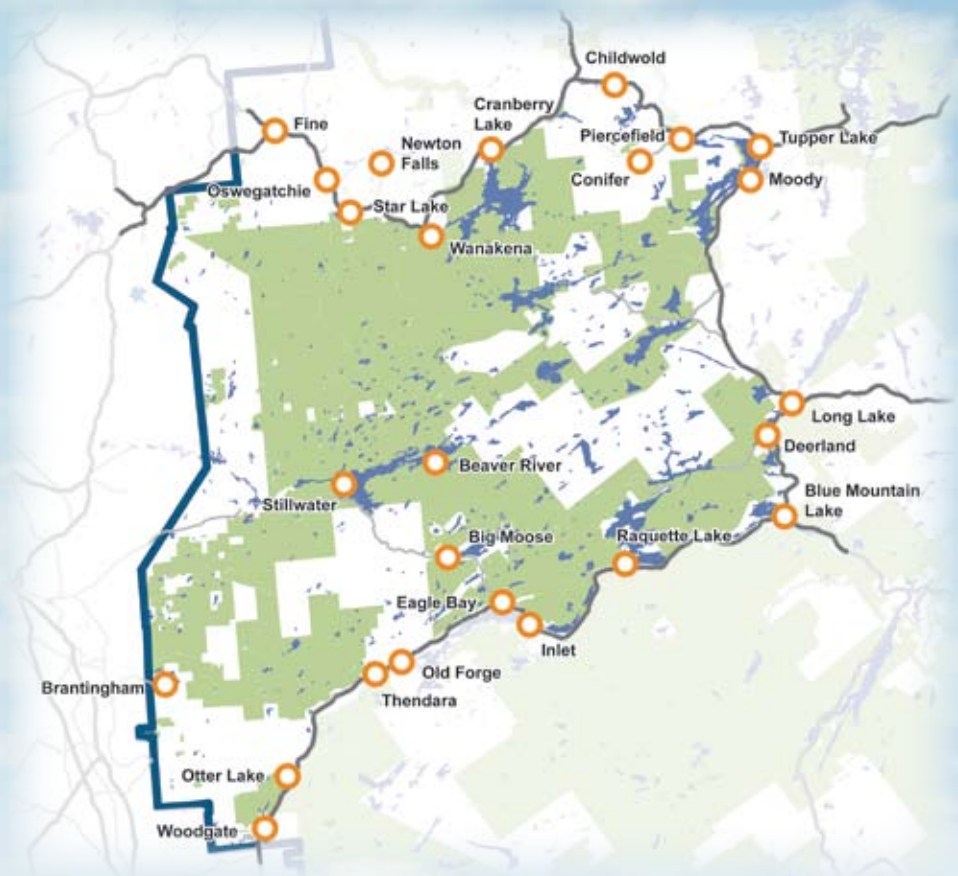
Together we'll make history!

In an effort to help the Adirondack Park's small, rural communities realize the full economic benefits of living so close to the wildest lands and waters in the Northeast, the Adirondack Council initiated an ecotourism promotion effort this summer that is focused on a vast area of the western Adirondack Park.

In general, communities that recognize the economic importance of the Adirondack Forest Preserve are more likely to become partners in protecting it. With that in mind, local and state officials gathered with the Adirondack Council in Old Forge in June to announce the cooperative new effort to assist 24 historic, rural communities draw financial support from more than 500,000 acres of interconnected wild lands and waters they share in the western Adirondack Park. Together, we announced an effort to jointly promote the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex and released a new, waterproof, tourism and recreation map for the area.

The Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex can be promoted as a distinct region within the Adirondack Park -- large enough to attract visitors from around the world, but small enough to help the communities work together on marketing and promotion. The Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex has such well known communities as Old Forge, Cranberry Lake, Tupper Lake and Blue Mountain Lake at its edges, as well as the lesser-known Big Moose, Conifer, Stillwater and Beaver River on its interior.

NYS Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens agreed: "I commend the Adirondack Council for their efforts to showcase the connections between communities and the surrounding lands in their beautiful and informative new map." Webb Town Supervisor Robert Moore, Hamilton County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Farber, Adirondack Park Agency Chairman Curt Stiles and DEC Regional Director Judy Drabicki also spoke at the June news conference. The event drew support from CAP-21, a regional community development organization, the Adirondack Landowners Association and the Adirondack North Country Association,



Above: Twenty four gateway communities ring the *Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex*, a vast area of forest and waters. Each community offers a different set of routes to gain access to the interior lands and waters. Each contains private businesses that offer accommodations, food, fuel, supplies and gear needed for what you will encounter inside *The Bob*. Each community contains people who know these woods, can offer valuable advice, and often, can provide guide services.

Below: *The Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex* map shows outdoor recreation, tourism information and natural history. (Please see page 17 for more information.)

a regional economic development organization.

These are the goals of the Adirondack Council's Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex project:

- Urge the Department of Environmental Conservation to combine the region's 14 Forest Preserve units and manage them as one Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex;
- Advocate for gateway community revitalization grants and business development incentives;
- Distribute maps to the Bob's gateway towns to share with interested people; and,
- Work with town officials, residents and visitors to encourage protection and promotion of the region.



2011 AWARD WINNER

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) received the Adirondack Council's 2011 Conservationist of the Year award in a ceremony at the historic Irondequoit Inn in Piseco on July 9.

APIPP is the 27th winner of the prestigious annual award, and Director Hilary Smith accepted it on the organization's behalf. APIPP has pioneered the effort to get control of the invasive, non-native plants that threaten to destroy and replace the healthy, native trees and plants of our vast Adirondack forests. Under Smith's leadership, APIPP has identified the places that need immediate attention, and has trained and organized an army of volunteers to take on the hard work. It is not easy to identify and then properly remove and dispose of invaders so they don't take root somewhere else. Hilary also pioneered public education efforts on invasive plants by holding workshops and by writing a newspaper column that appears in local publications across the Park.



Hilary Smith accepted the Conservation of the Year Award on behalf of APIPP and addressed Adirondack Council members and friends gathered for the Adirondack Council's annual Forever Wild Day.



Previous Adirondack Council Conservationist of the Year award winners include Adirondack Harvest; Governors George E. Pataki and Mario M. Cuomo; Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation; Adirondack Nature Conservancy; the Open Space Institute; NYS DEC Commissioners Erin Crotty and John P. Cahill; NYS Attorney General Dennis Vacco, and the Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program.

TIP OF THE HAT

Each year in State of the Park, the Adirondack Council recognizes the positive efforts other not-for-profit organizations, groups, individuals and companies have brought to the Park's environment and sustainable economy over the past 12 months. We offer a tip of our collective hats to:

The **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)** and the **Raquette Lake Property Owners Association** worked together to test a remote-controlled vehicle-monitoring system for public boat launches to help curb the accidental introduction of invasive species into Adirondack Park waters. Creatively named I-LIDS, the new internet-based observation system is meant to augment the work of boat-launch stewards who are instructing boaters how to clean their hulls, trailers and bilges of unwanted plants and other aquatic hitchhikers. Signs warn boaters they are being observed and will be prosecuted if they fail to follow precautions.

The **State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry** in Syracuse and **Paul Smith's College** near Saranac Lake, took up the slack this year when the state budget left no money for the Adirondack Park Agency to run its two Visitor Interpretive Centers. The land for the two VICs had been donated to the agency by the two colleges in the hamlet of Paul Smiths and in Newcomb, where SUNY ESF operates its Huntington Forest campus.

Wildland Network's TrekEast and John Davis have taken an amazing 5,000-mile (and counting) trip by foot, bicycle, and boat, traveling north along the eastern United States. John has pulled together conservation-minded individuals and organizations throughout his trip sharing his exploration of habitat connectivity and urging cooperation among organizations. TrekEast has shared John's experience through a variety of media and exposed a wide audience to the importance of wild lands conservation. Follow the journey at <http://www.wildlandsnetwork.org/trekeast>.

The **Open Space Institute** of New York saved the former Girl Scout Camp Little Notch in Fort Ann from the auction block in November 2010, acquiring the 2,300-acre parcel for \$3.95 million. It is working with a group of former campers and local volunteers known as **Friends of Little Notch** to create an outdoor education center on the 400 acres that immediately surround the camp buildings. The remainder will be managed under a conservation easement by a timber company, bringing additional jobs and tax revenue to the Washington County community. The now-protected camp connects a largely intact, forested corridor between Lake George and Lake Champlain.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL 2012 FOREVER WILD CALENDAR



Featuring the Adirondack landscape photography of Carl Heilman II, the Adirondack Council's 2012 calendar brings you into the Park with Carl's breathtaking images. \$13

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

You make a difference when you:

- write letters or make calls to policymakers
- keep up-to-date on issues
- write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- spread the word when action is needed
- join online discussions and speak up for the Park
- encourage family and friends to get involved

Sign up for our email updates at www.AdirondackCouncil.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter, so you'll be sure to know when your actions are needed to make a difference for the Adirondack Park.



Thank you!

The Adirondack Council offers a small collection of books and gifts to help raise the funds needed to advocate for the Adirondack Park every day. You can place an order by calling **877.873.2240 (toll-free)** or order online at www.AdirondackCouncil.org.

Help make history!

A special contribution to support our advocacy for the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex will help strengthen wild lands protection and Adirondack gateway communities. (See page 16.) Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution.

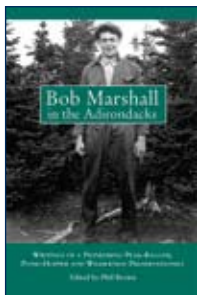
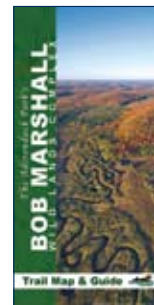
The map is also available **free** to you at http://www.AdirondackCouncil.org/Bob_Complex.html.

With a gift of any amount you can choose to receive a copy of the map. For a gift of \$50 or more, you can choose to also receive the book *Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks*.

THE BOB MARSHALL MAP

The *Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex* map depicts a vast region of public and private lands in the western Adirondacks. One side shows the main trails and water recreation opportunities, as well as roads, gateway communities and amenities. The second side has photographs, natural history, and information about communities, Bob Marshall and the vision for the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex.

Water-proof and tear-proof map, 25 1/2" x 37 1/2", folds to 4 1/4" x 9 1/4", photographs and text.



BOB MARSHALL IN THE ADIRONDACKS: Writings of a Pioneering Peak Bagger, Pond-Hopper and Wilderness Preservationist. Edited by Phil Brown

Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks collects nearly forty writings about the Adirondacks by one of America's greatest champions of wilderness. The writings include numerous accounts of Marshall's explorations in the wild region south of Cranberry Lake and reveal his deep personal connection to the Adirondacks.

Hard cover, 308 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", photographs & maps.

GIVE AT THE OFFICE!



Contributions to EarthShare New York support a broad range of charities committed to protecting public health and our air, land, water and wildlife. The Adirondack Council is a member of EarthShare New York, a statewide federation of our state and this country's most respected environmental and conservation charities. Thank you to Adirondack Council members who contribute through their EarthShare workplace giving campaigns. We appreciate your interest in protecting the Adirondack Park. Contact EarthShare today to talk about bringing EarthShare to your workplace!



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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! www.AdirondackCouncil.org

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