

EmpireStateNews.net  
March 5, 2010

## Adirondack Council backs 'low salt diet' for park roads

ALBANY – The Adirondack Council today joined with AdkAction.org and the Adirondack Watershed Institute to urge three state agencies to create a “salt sensitivity map” of the Adirondack Park to identify specific places where drinking water, important plants and wildlife habitat are endangered by excessive use of road salt.

The map is just one of the recommendations of a new study on road salt damage conducted by the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith’s College, and underwritten by AdkAction.org. The new report is the third major study released in the past year that calls for changes in the way government road crews de-ice highways. All three urge more effort to halt water pollution, loss of native plants and wildlife, and damage to roads, bridges, vehicles and buildings.

“We think the water, plants and wildlife of the Adirondack Park deserve special treatment from roads crews to protect them from harm,” said Daniel Kelting, Executive Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith’s College. “Creating an official salt-sensitivity map is the logical first step toward better protections.”

“AdkAction is proud to support this outstanding research effort by the Watershed Institute,” said Lee Keet, chair of the water quality committee of AdkAction.org. “We will work with the Adirondack Council and others to gain attention for it and to promote the need for the salt-sensitivity map. It is our hope that there will be a salt-sensitivity map for the whole state one day. This is the right place to start.”

The two previous studies were issued by the Adirondack Council in February 2009 and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine in February 2010.

“We agree that New York needs a map identifying the places where special care should be taken with road salt. We will work to make that happen,” said Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director of the Adirondack Council. “Our 2009 report Low Sodium Diet: Curbing New York’s Appetite for Road Salt called on state and local officials to make changes to the way their road crews store and use road salt, sand and other de-icing chemicals.” It is available at [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).