

# Adk. Council looks to spread word about Adk. land swap on Nov. ballot

By Gordon Woodworth  
 Chronicle News Editor

The Adirondack Council's John Sheehan stopped by *The Chronicle* Monday on his statewide tour of newspapers and media outlets to talk about the Nov. 3 ballot proposition that would approve an Adirondacks land swap between the state and National Grid.

Under its not-for-profit status, the Adirondack Council is prohibited from taking a stance on the proposition, Mr. Sheehan said, so "we are playing a public education role, telling folks why we think it would be good for Tupper Lake and the Adirondacks, and good for the Forest Preserve and the state. There is no opposition to the proposition. We're just concerned people won't see it."

He said National Grid originally proposed bringing a new power line to Tupper Lake by going around Forest Preserve land that runs adjacent to Route 56, just west of the Raquette River.

"The power lines would cross 95 wetlands and streams, and would go through an old growth White Pine forest that has never been harvested and is probably 12,000 years old," Mr. Sheehan said. "And in the southern part of the property is the state's best habitat for the endangered spruce grouse."

"We felt the ecological damage would be much greater by doing this than if they put the power lines along the highway, so we proposed putting the power line along Route 56 and said we would then go out and rustle up support for a constitutional amendment for a land swap."

