



A VOICE FOR BALANCE

The Adirondack Council calls for the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to reconsider a proposed change to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) that could open the door for new and increased motorized vehicle access in Wilderness.

The SLMP has guided the management of the Forest Preserve for 50 years and states, “the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount.”

The new definition proposed for motor vehicles is for devices used by people with disabilities, referred to as “other power-driven mobility devices” or OPDMDs. Powered wheelchairs designed to assist people with disabilities are already allowed on Park lands without a permit. Under the proposed definition, OPDMDs would include golf carts, e-bikes, ATVs, UTVs, and trucks, greatly expanding what constitutes a motorized vehicle and where they can go. This new definition would open up Wilderness, Primitive, and Canoe areas—the most ecologically sensitive in the Park—to motor vehicles.

Promote Access. Protect Wilderness.

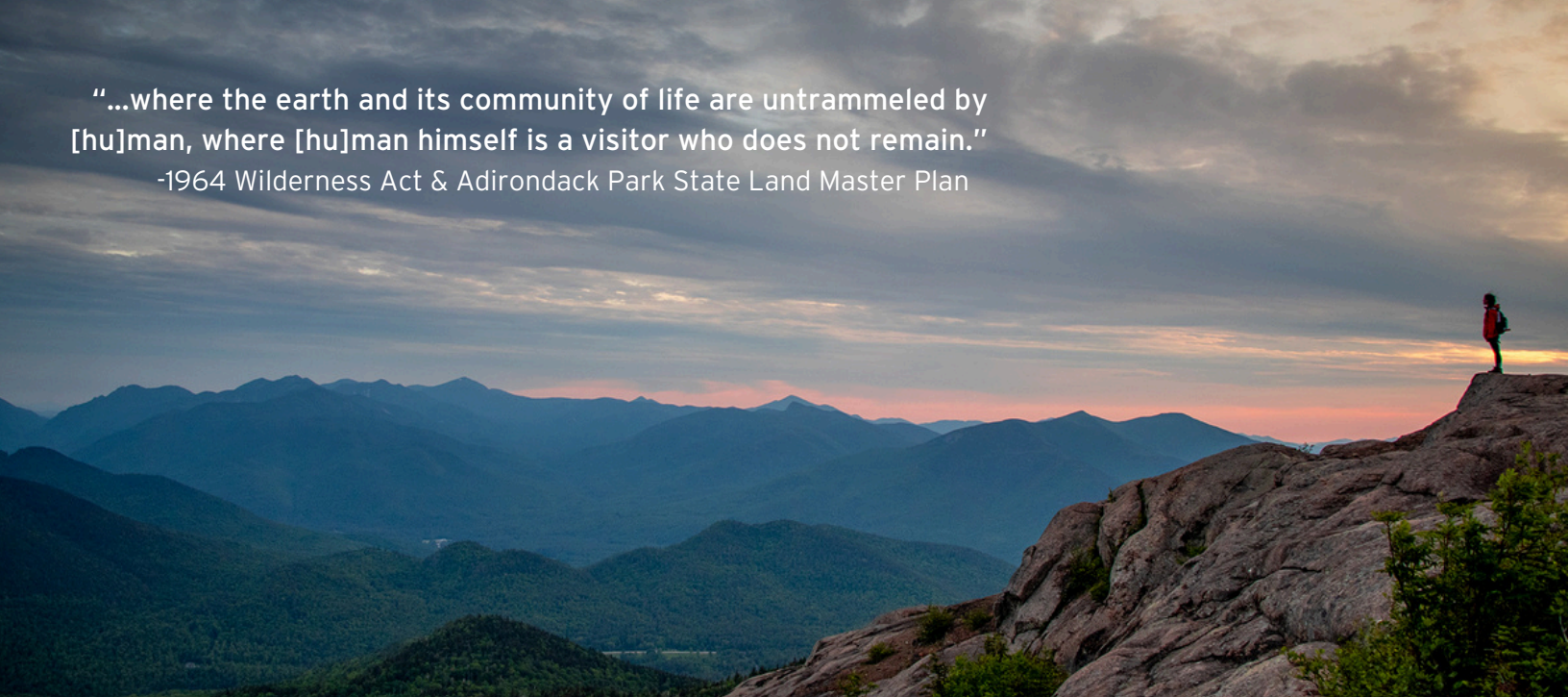
The Adirondack Council Calls For:

- The APA to withdraw its proposal to amend the State Land Master Plan by adding a definition for other power-driven mobility devices, or OPDMDs, and creating an exemption for them in motor-free Wilderness
- The DEC to lead the development of a statewide policy for OPDMD use on state lands. The development of this policy should include robust stakeholder engagement.
- The DEC should set parameters for OPDMDs, including where they can and cannot go (e.g., Wilderness Areas), size and weight limits, trail or route type, and who is qualified to use them.

We believe the state can ensure access for people with disabilities AND wilderness protection. We urge the state to carefully balance the two.

"...where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by [hu]man, where [hu]man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

-1964 Wilderness Act & Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan



Taken from Hurricane Mountain/Wilderness

Forever Wild

Amid challenges posed by climate change, and significant growth in outdoor recreation, wilderness across the country and here in the Adirondacks remains a refuge from our built environment—a place where nature's wildness is the primary influence. Wild Adirondack lands and waters are more than a far-away place on a map, they directly benefit people who have yet to or may never visit by filtering the air we breathe and the water we drink. Over a century ago, the lands within the Forest Preserve were recognized for these and other intangible benefits and enshrined in our state's constitution, securing their protection.

Wilderness belongs to and benefits us all. Its protection rests on our shoulders. Our shared Adirondack legacy is a gift that will become even more precious as time passes; preserving that legacy requires continued vigilance.

PROTECTING ACCESS AND WILDERNESS

1.1

Million acres free of motor vehicles in the Adirondack Park

1.5

Million additional acres of Wild Forest lands open to limited motorized use

750,000

Acres of Conservation Easements are available for public recreation, including motor vehicle access in the Park

Powered wheelchairs are allowed on all Park lands without a permit.