

NEWS IN AND ABOUT THE SIX-MILLION-ACRE ADIRONDACK PARK

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Thinking Big: New Adirondack Wilderness

A national legacy in the making

The state expects to buy the Boreas Ponds tract (20,494 acres) by April 1, 2016. Boreas Ponds is the final state acquisition of the 161,000-acre historic Finch-Pruyn/Nature Conservancy land protection project. The MacIntyre parcels, totaling 11,600 acres, were purchased earlier. When the majority of these parcels and the contiguous Casey Brook tract are classified as Wilderness and connected with existing Wilderness areas nearby (High Peaks and Dix Mountain), the result will be a motor-free protected area of over 272,000 acres.



The Boreas Ponds looking southeast.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

You can make a difference and show that “Forever Wild” is more than just an ideal - it is our shared heritage and our greatest gift to future generations. The decision about how these lands will be used and managed forever depends on YOU! To achieve a historic win for Wilderness, the Governor needs to hear from every person that cares about the legacy of the Adirondack Park. Let’s make Wilderness! Continue to read more about the Council’s Adirondack Wilderness Campaign on pages 6-7.

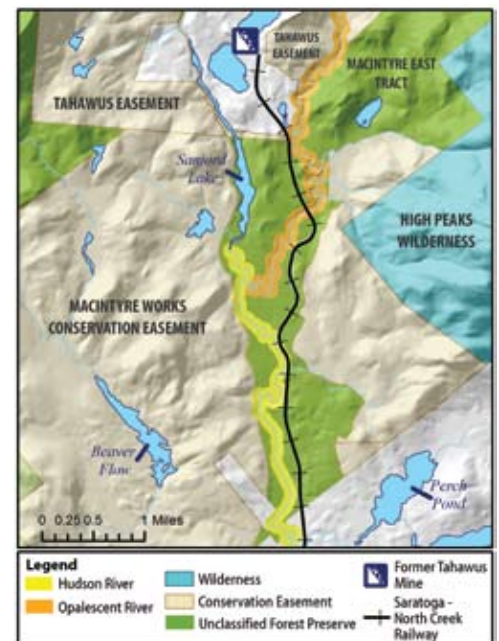
Victory: Adirondack Oil Tanker Junkyard Turned Back

Council will continue to monitor

In October, Chicago-based Iowa Pacific Holdings announced a plan that seemingly voids their previous proposal to indefinitely store obsolete oil tanker cars on a railroad line that runs through Forest Preserve lands and alongside the Hudson, Opalescent and Boreas Rivers in the Adirondack Park. The company announced it is close to an agreement to remove stone tailings from former mines in Tahawus, which will keep the rail line open and preclude tanker car storage. This turn around is a great victory for all who love the Adirondacks.

The company’s plan to create an oil tanker junkyard in the Adirondacks would have harmed the Park’s environment and the economy, and was contrary to Governor Cuomo’s vision for wilderness protection and new tourism in the Adirondack High Peaks region. Thank you to all who wrote to the Governor urging him to keep this proposal from moving forward.

The Council will still monitor this issue to make sure this final agreement is good for wildlife, wilderness and communities of the Adirondacks, and prevents oil tanker storage on this rail line.



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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff
unless otherwise noted.

We Need More Wilderness

Boreas Ponds and the High Peaks

Flying south over Mount Marcy this summer, I caught a bird's eye view of New York's tallest peak along with the spectacular 20,494-acre Boreas Ponds tract scheduled to be purchased by the state, according to Governor Cuomo, by April 2016. The purchase will be the final part of the 161,000-acre Adirondack Nature Conservancy/Finch-Pruyn project.

Exploring on the ground also provided me with an opportunity to see first-hand some of the new lands the state has purchased. One day, before going into the office in Elizabethtown, I hiked up and had breakfast on Marcy, and checked out the view of the Boreas Ponds and surrounding mountains. The summit was empty and cold at that hour, but the view, priceless. For future generations to benefit from the resource that is the Adirondack Forest Preserve, we must protect that view. The Adirondacks don't have enough wilderness to protect forests, wildlife and water, and to attract visitors in a growing global tourism market that will help sustain our communities.

The legacy of Governor Cuomo will be determined by whether or not he decides to protect the Boreas Ponds and other recently acquired or adjoining Adirondack lands as Wilderness. The Governor has invested in previous purchases. He and his team supported the establishment of the Hudson Gorge Wilderness (it was previously mostly a Primitive Area) and a new Primitive designation for the Essex Chain of Lakes, eliminating the expansion of motorized use in and around those lakes. However, his administration has also expanded opportunities for motorized access and recreation in other areas.

An expanded Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness will protect forests that filter water flowing into streams and ponds that are the headwaters of New York's Hudson River. The forests and waters also serve as home to diverse wildlife, including loons, otters and the elusive native brook trout. There are 238,000 acres in the state owned High Peaks and Dix Wilderness areas. These lands have the strongest legal safeguard in the world: constitutionally protected Forever Wild forest lands designated and preserved as Wilderness, enhanced and as necessary restored, with opportunities for solitude. The Boreas Ponds should be forever protected within an expanded High Peaks Wilderness.

Thank you for your extraordinary generosity and increasing engagement, giving the Adirondack Council team strength, resolve and new levels of financial capacity. Thank you for being part of a team well positioned to expand efforts to protect more wilderness. It's the right thing to do for the future of the Park's wildlife, clean water, residents, and visitors.

Happy Trails,



William C. Janeway
Executive Director



Mount Marcy summit and Boreas Ponds.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

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.

CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY



Above: Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Willie Janeway (center) and former Vice-President Al Gore pledge state action to address climate change. Photo courtesy Executive Chamber

Looking Forward: 2016 Legislative Session

Transformational change within reach

The Adirondack Council will engage with policymakers, agency staff, local governments, fellow stakeholders, and our members and supporters to advance the following 2016 priorities, for the sake of the water, wilderness, wildlife, and communities of the Adirondack Park:

WILDERNESS AND WILDLIFE:

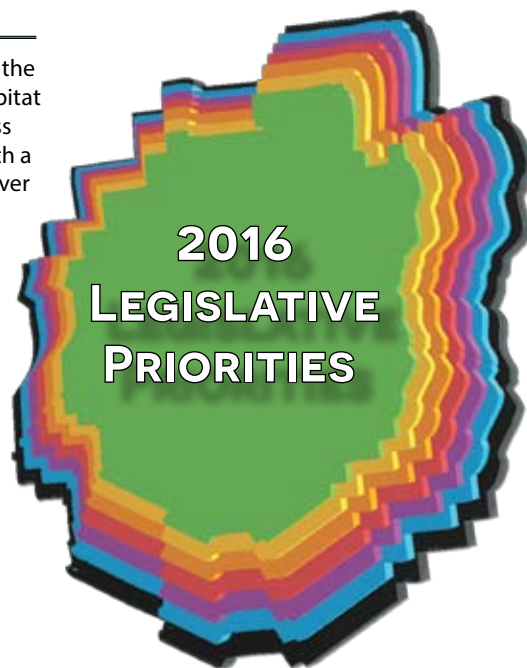
Protect the 20,000-acre Boreas Ponds tract, the Upper Hudson and surrounding wildlife habitat as Wilderness while expanding public access and recreation and linking communities with a multi-use trail. Defend Article XIV, the "Forever Wild" clause of the constitution.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES:

Expand last year's \$200 million in clean water grants for communities. Address legitimate road utility infrastructure needs while protecting "Forever Wild."

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY:

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



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 invasive management efforts.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

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

AGENCY ACTIONS:

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

Excelsior Conservation Program Created

50 positions will help environment

In September, Governor Cuomo announced the creation of the Excelsior Conservation Corps (ECC), a NYS AmeriCorps program run by the Student Conservation Association. The ECC will offer 50 full-time positions in conservation and leadership for 10 months to New York residents from diverse and underserved populations. The ECC members will fight invasive species, build and improve trails, complete energy efficiency upgrades for state facilities, and educate over 1,000 volunteers that assist with their projects.



Carbon Price Up to \$6/ton

Auction nets \$59 million for New York

The last auction of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the cap-and-trade agreement between nine northeastern states, saw the price of carbon dioxide (CO₂) reach a new high of \$6.02/ton. This earned \$59 million for New York's home energy efficiency projects. The Adirondack Council has taken part in these auctions and has purchased 15,000 allowances equaling the right to emit 15,000 tons of CO₂. The Council permanently retires these credits with your help.



Correction: In the State of the Park 2015, we incorrectly noted that the Assembly sponsor for microbead-banning legislation was EnCon Chairman Steve Englebright. This legislation is actually sponsored by Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel. We appreciate the leadership shown by the Assemblywoman on this issue and applaud both members for their care for water quality.

CONSERVATION MATTERS



EPA's Clean Air Proposals

Keeping Adirondack ecosystems healthy
This year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had four proposals that would have helped clean the air in the Adirondack Park and the nation.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan will cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, to reduce climate change. Also, in August, the EPA proposed a rule that would cut methane leakage from new oil and gas wells by 40 to 45 percent below 2012 levels within 10 years. Then in September, the EPA set a new nationwide limit of 70 parts per million (ppm) for ground level ozone (smog), a cut of 5 ppm from the current standard. Health and environmental organizations had urged a standard of 60 ppm.

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard would have been the nation's first regulation to curb smokestack mercury and reduce mercury emissions by 75 percent. Unfortunately, the rule was vacated in June by a 5-4 decision by the Supreme Court, which held that the EPA emphasized public health benefits over polluter costs. Mercury pollution continues to be a significant source of contamination in aquatic ecosystems throughout the Northeast, but especially in high-elevation forests and waters like those in the Adirondacks.



Above: A new trail dedicated to Joe Martens, Former Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), pictured here with his wife Kathleen. In July, Martens stepped down as DEC Commissioner. The Council thanked Martens for his service, civility and dedication to the Adirondacks.

Clearcutting Permits on the Rise

Council reviewing impacts

Since December 2013, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has granted ten permits for harvests that exceeded the 25-acre threshold for a regulatory defined clearcut. These harvests, totaling 2,829 acres, involved land restricted under conservation easement. While the number of acres permitted by the APA for shelterwood clearcuts is only a small amount given the ~800,000 acres of working forest lands in the Park, it represents an exponential increase in the number of permits granted over the past 15 years. As the rate of permits increases and the number of acres grows, the Council is taking a renewed look at cumulative impacts, annual clearcutting thresholds, permit review/post-harvest monitoring, and sustainable yields.

Above: Council staff tour a portion of the "Dead Creek" conservation easement in the Town of Piercefild, St. Lawrence County.

Recreation Plan for Easement Released

Kushaqua conservation easement

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is in the final stages of drafting a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Kushaqua Conservation Easement, a 19,989-acre parcel of land that is owned by Lyme Timber Company. The RMP will guide public access and recreational use on this private land, located in the towns of Brighton and Franklin, Franklin County.



Mountain Pond in the Kushaqua Conservation Easement.

The Council's comments on the plan were generally supportive of the DEC's use of RMPs throughout the Park that balance public recreation, the landowner's interests and rights and the natural resource protection goals outlined in the conservation easement. However, the Council did object to parts of the plan because it failed to adequately limit all-terrain vehicle use to avoid ecological impacts and include more passive recreational opportunities.

Invasive Species Pilot Program a Success

Increased funding needed

In September, the Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program and the Department of Environmental Conservation reported that the Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Pilot Program showed positive results in the decontamination of watercraft attempting to access popular Adirondack waterbodies. Increased funding and continued partnerships and coalitions are crucial to the success of the program. The Council will continue to call for \$10 million from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) in the 2016 budget to address invasive species, and \$300 million for the total EPF.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

November 2015



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for joining us in our continuing quest to protect and preserve the Adirondacks. We are strengthened and energized by the large number of people who share our vision of a Park with clean air and water, large wilderness areas and vibrant rural communities. Your support for the Council's programs and projects provides the resources we need to be an effective participant in the policy debates and activities that affect the future of the Park.

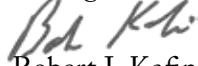
The need for the Council's watchdog efforts never ends because events that can change the Adirondacks are unending. Sometimes they are forces of nature: storms, invasive species and climate change. Other times they are political: constitutional amendments, election of different officials, passage of new laws and regulations. And there are economic and social changes: demographic shifts, real estate development proposals, public interest in new forms of outdoor recreation. But, whatever comes along, the Council stands ready with its knowledge of history, science, law, and the political process to educate the public and press for outcomes that are protective of the unique qualities of the Park's resources.

Our Executive Director, Willie Janeway, and his excellent staff work hard to make sure the Council is involved in every issue that has the potential to impact the Park. They do this in a way that is reasoned, collaborative, and respectful of competing interests. That gives us credibility. It ensures that we will be consulted by decision-makers and that our voice will be heard and meaningfully influence what happens. But, we reserve the right to protest vigorously and, when needed, go to court when we believe some action or decision will impair the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondacks.

The Council has strived this past year to formulate appropriate management guidelines for the new additions to the Forest Preserve of lands formerly owned by Finch Paper/Nature Conservancy. These are spectacular properties with unspoiled waters, such as the Essex Chain of Lakes in the central Adirondacks. Decisions being made now will determine future recreational uses of this property as well as set a precedent for the next State acquisition of 20,000 acres including the Boreas Ponds. One of the determinants of what type of place this will be is how ATVs, snowmobiles and other motorized equipment are controlled. The Council is operating in every available forum to push for appropriate limitations and controls to keep these devices in appropriate places.

That is only a part of the future challenges we face. While we have had a good year and feel good about our results, the work on behalf of the Park and its communities continues. Thank you for your involvement in the Adirondack Council's activities and your trust in us to zealously represent your interests in this national treasure we all love.

With gratitude,


Robert J. Kafin
Board Chair

Fall foliage on Friends Lake. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

ANNUAL GIFTS TO THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

Listed below are individuals, foundations and corporations that have given gifts of \$250 or more to the Adirondack Council's operating fund. The commitment of ALL Council members and donors to a wild and resilient Park, makes the Adirondack Council the largest, most effective advocacy organization working on behalf of New York's six-million-acre Adirondack Park. **THANK YOU** for caring about the Adirondacks!

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WILDERNESS:
Challenging oil car
tanker storage in the
Forest Preserve, pushing
for reforms for all-terrain
vehicle riding, and
improving science-based
land protection and
wildlife management.

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Adirondack Foundation
Wild Woods Foundation
E. Richard and Janet Yulman
Brian Zeglis
F. Anthony and Sally Zunino

**VIBRANT
COMMUNITIES:**
Providing for a range of
outdoor activities on new
public lands, including
a community connector
multi-use trail sought by
nearby towns.

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FARMS & FORESTS: Identifying improvements to forestry regulations and urging the evaluation of cumulative impacts over time.

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 Gene and Carolyn Kaczka
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 Pamela P. Kindler
 Justin Klabin
 Miriam and John Klipper
 Scott G. Knickerbocker
 William F. Koebbeman
 Nelly M. Kutchukian
 Dara and Todd La Porte

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNMENT:

Ensuring a pro-Adirondack budget with funds for invasive species, agency staff, land protection, and smart growth planning.

George and Nancy Lamb
 Carl and Judy Lamm
 Stephanie Landis
 David Landy
 Douglas and Arlene Langdon
 Mark Langworthy
 Mark Larsen
 Leona and Meyer Laskin
 Anne Adams Laumont
 Lee & Turbayne Family Fund
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 Caroline and Serge Lussi
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 Kelly and Michelle Maggs
 Jerry and Maddy Malovany
 Amey Marrella
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 Barbara W. Meyer
 Carol and John Morris
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Moore
 Melissa and Timothy Moriarty
 Jim and Marcia Morley
 Ruth Morton
 Harold and Mary Nash
 Peter Neusel
 Karen Nichols
 Gary and Cathie Nielsen
 John J. Nigro
 Ted and Pat O'Leary
 Victoria and Mark Oliva
 Alison and Alexander Packard
 Jerome Page
 Walter Timothy Palmer and Susan H. Angell

Nancy and William Paternotte
 Peabody Family Fund of the New
 Hampshire Charitable Foundation
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 Edward Pfeiffer
 Wendy Pierce
 Antonio Poglianich and Peter O'Kuhn
 Peter W. Post
 Katharine M. Preston and John Bingham
 Rosemary and Frank Pusateri
 Raker Family
 Elisabeth A. Raleigh
 Fred and Barbara Rankin
 Martha J. Reddout
 Theresa Reiser
 Paul and Nancy Resnick
 Jane and Kenneth Robbins
 Lisa Norton and Paul Rose
 Richard Rosen
 John Rosenthal
 Cindy Rosenwald
 Matthew Rowe
 Bryan Rutledge
 Art and Nancy Saltford
 Peg Schutze
 Robert Shaw and Judith Crowell
 Thomas F. Shaw
 Jody Collins Skinner
 Amy L. Smith and Donald J. Ream
 Sally Smith
 Rick and Evelyn Spann
 E. Michael and Ruth E. Specht
 Thomas M. Sternberg
 Alexis C. Strongin
 Heather and Dan Sullivan-Catlin
 David P. Tapscott and Gail F. Epstein
 Dave Thompson and Gloria Koch
 Maury Tigner
 Michael B. Trister and
 Nancy Duff Campbell
 Lynette and Michael Tucker
 Bill Veronesi
 Vivian and Edward Wachsberger
 Gary and Jean Ward
 Sally Woods
 Blaikie and Bob Worth
 Fred Yosca
 Barbara Zajac
 Robert Zipf
 Donald Zulch

Clarence Petty Internship Fund, Adirondack Foundation

Evergreen Fund,
 Adirondack Community Trust
 Charles and Nancy Trautmann
 Trautmann Family Fund

"No longer is there a question of whether a Park, or what sort of Park, so much as how best to integrate the private lands into the landscape of the Park."

~ Kim Elliman
 Board Chair 1985-89
 Forever Wild Day 2015

* deceased friend of the Council

The Adirondack Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you discover an error, please contact us at 877.873.2240.

Matching Gift Companies

Amazon Smile Foundation
Avon Foundation for Women
Bank of America
C.R. Bard Foundation
BlackRock
BNY Mellon Community Partnership
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Chevron
Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation
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The Prospect Hill Foundation
Prudential Foundation
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
United Technologies
Universal Leaf Foundation
Verisk Analytics
Verizon Foundation

Gifts made In-Kind

Sheri Amsel
Michael & Ellen Bettmann
e-NABLE Business Solutions
ES11 Web Development
John and Margot Ernst
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Casey Fish
Gregory Mountain Products
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Michael Skarbinski
SKDKnickerbocker
Uihlein Foundation
Heaven Hill Farm
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
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Baker & Moore LLC

Pictured on opposite page:

Top left: Ethan Friedman, Alex Sonneborn, Stephanie LeVeque

Top right: Sara Jane DeHoff, Meredith Prime, Willie & Mary Janeway

Bottom left: Ed Petty, K.C. Cusumano

Bottom right: Paul Zachos & Barbara Glaser

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Often, there are people who touch our lives in a meaningful way and we look to honor or remember them in an equally special way. We are honored to share the names of these special people and those who chose to recognize them.

MEMORIALS

William Eldridge
Rachel A. Weiner
Stanley Benson
Wilfred A. Relyea
Joseph M. Cantanucci, Jr.
Anonymous
Bob & Marci Bird
Jennifer & Stephen Bolton
John Chiaramonte
Douglas Conant
Benjamin Conant
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Marc Goldstein
Peter Kalikow
David M. & Sondra Mack
Norman I. Massry
Robert & Cathy McKenna
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Dr. J. Michael Purcell
Shellie & Edwin Raquet
Marie & Michael Schongar
Gilles & Joan Senecal
Douglas & Susan Stevens
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Helene A. Kruger and
Dr. Frederick Christian Kruger
Jan C.K. & Steven Anderson
Bill Mead
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Joe and Eleanor Morris
Cynthia E. Morris
Michael Quinn
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Richard Ralph
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Michelle Degnan
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Mary & Jeffrey Bijur
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Larry Hurlbert

Adirondack Legacy Society

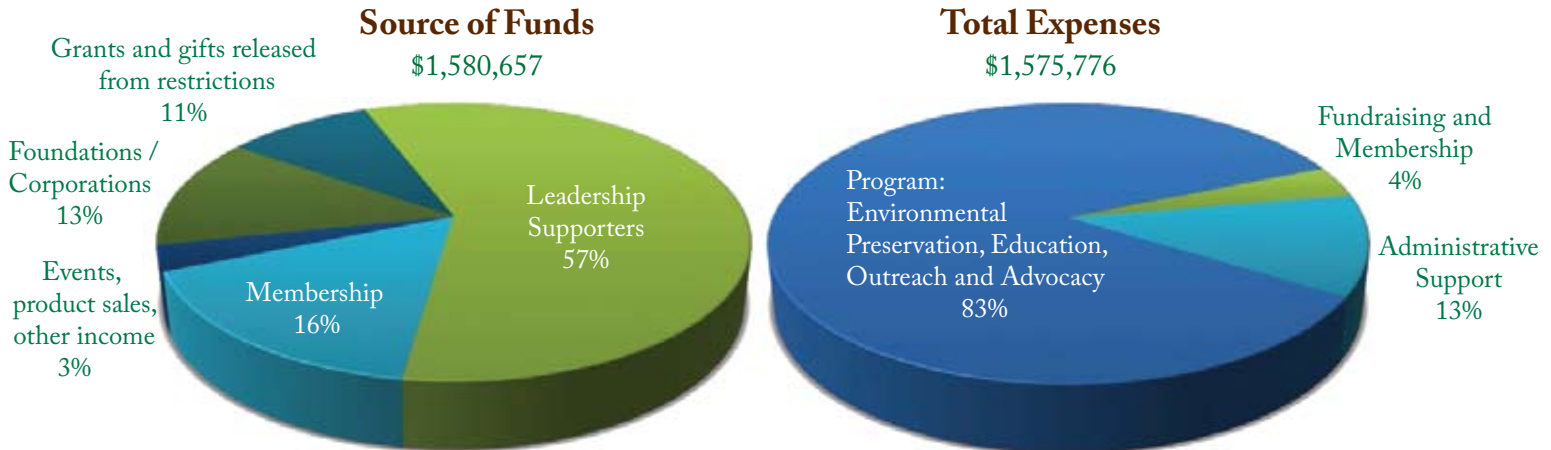
We are grateful to the following members who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy of their support for the Adirondack Park by including the Adirondack Council in their estate plans.

Anonymous
James K. Au
David & Stephanie Banks
Arthur J. & Evelyn C. Barrett
Hans J. Barschel
Jane M. Barton
Reginald & Jennifer Bedell
Frances E. Blaisdell
Mary Ellen Bliss
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Sue A. Whan
Tricia & Philip Winterer
Tony Zazula

SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS SUMMARY

Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

The pie charts represent financial activity for the Council. In addition, the Adirondack Council received \$2,386,414 in new endowed and operating reserve gifts, realized bequests and pledges toward the Council's Forever Wild Fund.



Note: the Adirondack Council does not accept government funding of any kind.

Further financial details can be viewed in the Council's audited financial statement which can be obtained by calling the Adirondack Council at 877.873.2240, on our website, or through the office of the New York State Attorney General. You can also view the Adirondack Council's IRS 990 at www.AdirondackCouncil.org or at www.guidestar.org.



The Adirondack Council's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-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 4 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.



FOREVER WILD CAMPAIGN



Through your generosity, the Forever Wild Fund campaign to raise \$3 million is a resounding success. The campaign funds, combined with those already in the quasi-endowment fund, strengthen the Council's programs and ability to be proactive in our mission to protect the Adirondack Park.

In addition to the core Forever Wild Fund, the Adirondack Foundation manages the Adirondack Council Fund, which is another way donors can support the Campaign and ongoing work of the Council. The Adirondack Foundation also manages The Clarence Petty Intern Fund, created by Barbara Glaser in 2010, to support the Council's intern program. Both Foundation funds are part of the Forever Wild Fund.

We are deeply grateful to our campaign supporters who have given and pledged additional support above their annual sustaining contributions. THANK YOU!

Forever Wild Fund

\$500,000+

Alan Belmont Cobham*
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Snyder

\$250,000 - \$499,999

Cloudsplitter Foundation
John and Margot Ernst

\$100,000 - \$249,999

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Eugene and Emily Grant
Lookout Fund
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Foundation

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Curt and Kathy Welling

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Jim and Marcie Sonneborn
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Ethan and Emily Friedman

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Jim and JoAnn McKenna
Sarah Meyland

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Adirondack Council Fund

Meredith M. Prime

Clarence Petty Intern Fund

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Stephanie J. West
Ann K. Western
Keith Whittingham
Sarah Whittle
John and Christine Zimmer
Alicia M. and Steve F. Zucatti
Donald Zulch

* deceased friend of the Council

The Adirondack Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you discover an error, please contact us at 877.873.2240.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

40 YEARS AND COUNTING

1975: Adirondack Council founded.

1975-present: The state and partners protect over 1 million acres of land through conservation easements and acquisitions for the Forest Preserve.

1975-present: Monitors projects before the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) helping to redesign poorly conceived projects, opposing projects that destroy ecological integrity or wild character, and supporting projects that promote sustainable development.

Defends the APA from lawsuits seeking to abolish its authority over private land use.

1987: The Council's publication "Beside the Still Waters" helps educate the nation about the relationship between power plant emissions and acid rain damage in the Adirondack Park.

1988-1990s: The 2020 Vision Series published by the Council provides a blueprint for protecting biological diversity, expanding recreation, and completing the Wilderness areas in the Park.

1991-92: The Department of Environmental Conservation announces its support for the Council's proposed 408,000 acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness (90% protected through easement and acquisition today).

1992 – present: Works with a wide coalition of conservation organizations to create and then advocate for funding in the Environmental Protection Fund, a dedicated fund for open space protection, land stewardship, waterfront revitalization, community planning grants, landfill closures, recycling and other environmental projects.

1996: The Council helps advocate for successful passage of the Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act, providing money for many projects in the Adirondack Park.

2002: Advocacy by the Council leads to a ban on the sale of small lead sinkers in NYS to protect the Park's most famous native resident, the Common Loon.

2004-2012: Participation in the review, negotiation and mediation for the proposed Adirondack Club and Resort project contributing critical scientific and planning information that improved the project permit and will help improve outdated APA regulations.

2006: The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is formed to bring together diverse stakeholders to speak to Albany with one voice about Adirondack issues.

2007: The Adirondacks receive \$1 million in NYS Smart Growth grants as a result of the Council's advocacy in coalition with the CGA.

2008: The Council participates in the new carbon emissions auction through the newly formed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

2009: Media outreach across the state by the Council results in passage of a Constitutional Amendment to provide power to the local communities while protecting old growth forest.

Legal action results in DEC enforcement of the Clean Water Act to address salt contamination issues in Lake Colby after Council publishes Low Sodium Diet.

The Council receives an award from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program for advocacy to secure federal research funding for acid rain monitoring.

2010: The Council successfully advocates for the inclusion of the Sacandaga River in the state's listing of inland waterways eligible for community revitalization grants.

2011: Council helps successfully advocate for a new regulation to implement a permitting system for large-scale water withdrawals.

Council publishes the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex map, encouraging people to explore the region's outdoor recreation opportunities and visit 24 gateway communities that ring the 410,000 acres of public and private land that make up the Bob.

2012: The Council's advocacy helps defend a legal challenge to the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and secure federal regulations to reduce power plant emission that cause acid rain and mercury pollution.

2013: Two constitutional amendments receive second passage by the NYS Legislature following state endorsement of the Council's criteria for land swaps in the Adirondack Park. The amendments were approved by NYS voters in 2014.

To encourage the local farming economy and associated land conservation, the Council helped secure passage of legislation that will encourage the procurement of local foods at state facilities.

2014: The Governor signed the classification for 34,000 acres of new Hudson River Gorge wilderness, including a motor-free Essex Chain of Lakes, after the Council, partners and towns helped the Adirondack Park Agency develop a plan for protection and access.

Council members successfully advocated to the Federal Communication Commission against a proposal that threatened the policy in the Adirondack Park of expanding cell service while keeping new towers well hidden.

2015: The Council and others successfully called for the withdrawal of a flawed draft management plan for the Essex Chain of Lakes.

Council and partners review and input on state wildlife management plans has resulted in a state commitment to improved, science-based management for the Park's wildlife.

Co-leading a state-wide coalition, the Council helped secure legislative approval for the New York State Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Act, a \$200 million, three-year plan that will pay for matching grants to communities for local drinking water and wastewater treatment projects.

Through coalition efforts, the New York State budget included a \$1.15 million increase to the Invasive Species Control Programs for a total of \$5.85 million with \$1 million dedicated for a new Adirondack Park-wide Invasive Species Prevention strategy.

The State purchased the 6,200-acre MacIntyre West parcel formerly owned by Finch Paper/Nature Conservancy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2015-16

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Vice-Chair

Meredith M. Prime
Vice-Chair

Curtis R. Welling
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John L. Ernst

Philip R. Forlenza
Ethan Friedman
Sarah C. Hatfield
Sheila M. Hutt
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Lawrence Master, Ph.D.

James B. McKenna
Sarah J. Meyland
Sherry Nemmers
Richard L. Reinhold
Brian Ruder
Daniel J. Ryterband
Laurel Skarbinski
Joel H. Treisman
Ethan Winter



Above (L to R): Executive Director Willie Janeway and former Chairs Ann Carmel, Brian Ruder, Patricia Winterer, Barbara Glaser, Kim Elliman, Frances Beinecke, Lyn Jerry (representing the late Harold Jerry), and John Ernst.

2015 CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Adirondack Council, all 11 Chairs of its Board of Directors were honored for their individual and collective leadership in protecting the pure water, wilderness and communities of the Adirondack Park.

R. Courtney Jones
1975 to 1977

Harold A. Jerry
1977 to 1980

Frances Beinecke
1980 to 1985

Christopher "Kim" Elliman
1985 to 1989

Barbara L. Glaser
1989 to 1991

Peter Borrelli
1991 to 1995

John Ernst
1995-1999

David Skovron
1999 to 2003

Patricia Winterer
2003 to 2007

Brian Ruder
2007 to 2011

Ann Carmel
2011 to 2015

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL STAFF

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JOHN F. SHEEHAN
Director of Communications
jsheehan@adirondackcouncil.org



IN AND ABOUT THE PARK

Billionaire Buys 28,000+ Acre Parcel

Waverly and Santa Clara

In June, Jack Ma, a Chinese businessman, purchased a 28,100-acre property known as Brandon Park in the towns of Waverly and Santa Clara, Franklin County for \$23 million. This was the highest price paid for private land in the Adirondacks. Mr. Ma, founder of Alibaba, the online commerce shop, plans to manage Brandon Park for conservation purposes, and also use it as a personal retreat.

Remsen-Placid Travel Corridor

Remsen-Lake Placid

In June, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released a Draft Unit Management Plan Amendment for the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor (on map in brown ■) which outlined the preferred plan for the corridor's future use.



The Remsen-Placid Travel Corridor near Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

Known as "Alternative 7," this option proposes to invest in rail service from Remsen to Tupper Lake, and establish a multi-use recreational trail from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid. In its comments, the Council applauded the DEC for developing an alternative that secures the integrity of the corridor, provides positive outcomes for local communities, and protects the adjoining Forest Preserve.

Essex Chain Management Plan

Polaris Bridge controversial

The Adirondack Council helped assemble and applauded the basic agreement that led to the classification of the majority of the Essex Chain of Lakes tract (on the map in blue ■) as motor-free. But the new state plan also includes use of the Polaris Bridge across the Upper Hudson River, just outside the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, as part of a Community Connector snowmobile trail. Allowing snowmobiles on this former logging bridge would violate the rules that protect all Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers. The Council is frustrated and disappointed that the proposed final complex management plan includes the use of this bridge.



The historic Bluff Point Lighthouse on the Valcour Island Primitive Area.

Photo courtesy Judith Corigliano.

Champlain Islands Draft Plan

Lake Champlain

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released the Draft Unit Management Plan for the Lake Champlain Islands Management Complex, which encompasses over 1,100 acres of Forest Preserve lands on six Lake Champlain islands. The Draft UMP proposes to increase access to the area.

The Council's comments to the DEC raised concern over the continued use of non-conforming recreational infrastructure that pose increased threats to the rare species that exist on the islands, including Giant Pine-Drops and Sweet Coltsfoot.

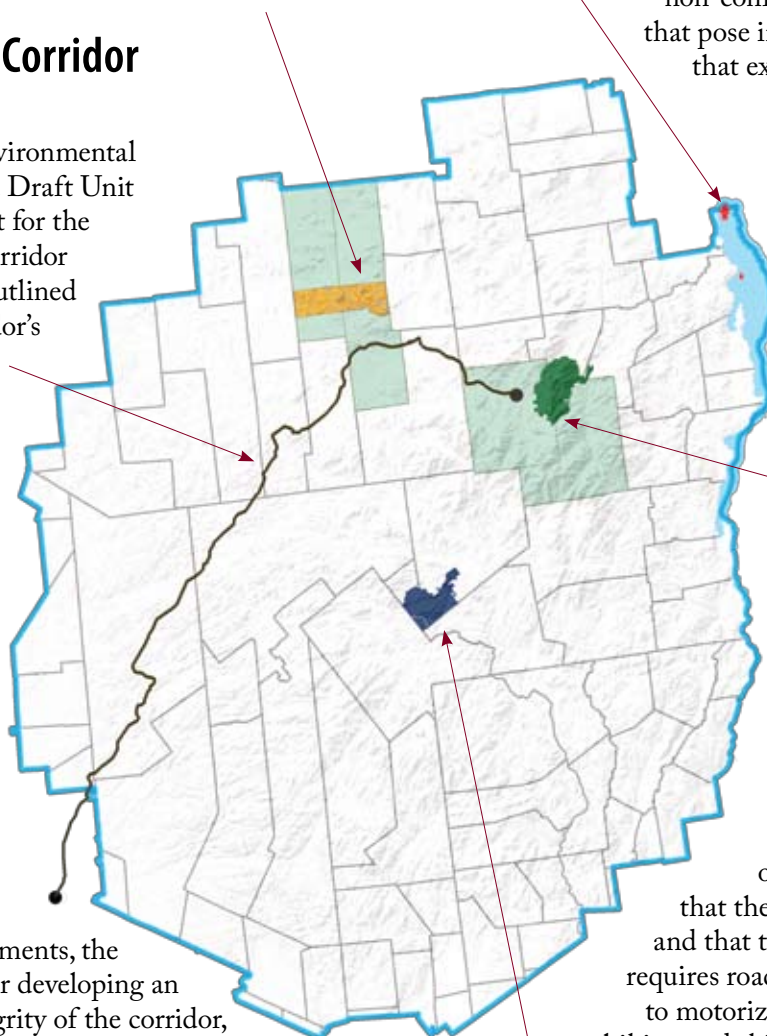


The Old Mountain Road in the Sentinel Range Wilderness.

Ruling Closes Old Mountain Road

Keene and Lake Placid

One of the last actions taken before Commissioner Joe Martens resigned from the Department of Environmental Conservation was to rule that Old Mountain Road should remain a trail and be closed to motor vehicles. A prior decision that opened the road failed to recognize that the towns legally abandoned the road and that the State Land Master Plan, which requires roads in Wilderness areas to be closed to motorized traffic, does apply. This popular hiking and ski trail is within the Sentinel Range Wilderness Area (on map in green ■).



Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



Thinking Big: New Adirondack Wilderness

A national legacy in the making

The MacIntyre and Boreas tracts have long been identified by the Adirondack Council and other conservation stakeholders as critical Wilderness additions to the Adirondack Forest Preserve. While classification of these parcels is expected to officially start in 2016, informal campaigning by stakeholders (user groups, conservation groups, municipalities, etc.) has been ongoing since the Essex Chain of Lakes classification process. Voter research conducted by the Council in 2014, showed overwhelming statewide support for protection of wilderness, water and wildlife in the Adirondack Park.

State acquisition of the Boreas and MacIntyre tracts is the next step in protecting them for wildlife habitat and clean water, providing recreational opportunities, and fostering economic benefits to neighboring communities. Under the State Land Master Plan, whenever the state purchases land and adds it to the Forest Preserve, the lands are then classified to one of seven categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, State Administrative, Historic or Intensive Use. It is only when Forever Wild Forest Preserve lands are classified as Wilderness that they have the ultimate in protection.

These new Forest Preserve parcels will provide opportunities for mountain biking, hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. Especially exciting will be the new southern access to the High Peaks region. The approaches from the north and east are heavily traveled by people climbing Mt. Marcy, New York's highest peak, and many of the other 46 peaks over 4,000 feet (the "High Peaks"). New access from the south and west will take some of the pressure off of the trails that start near the towns of Keene and Lake Placid and provide new opportunities for the communities of North Hudson, Newcomb, Minerva, Long Lake, and Indian Lake.

In addition, the public will have new access to a network of rivers and streams including the confluence of the Opalescent River and the upper Hudson River, and access to remote flat-water paddling on the Boreas Ponds.

Activities will be possible for folks of all abilities, while preserving water quality and the opportunities for solitude that make this place so attractive. Surrounding communities will stand as "gateways" to the Forest Preserve, providing food, lodging, supplies, and services for those looking to experience this attraction. A new snowmobile community connector trail could be open south of the Wilderness boundary.



Council staff receive an update on the key features of the Boreas Ponds tract from Conservation Director Rocci Aguirre.



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

Above: The 20,494 acre Boreas Ponds tract looking north over the High Peaks Wilderness on a breathtaking fall day.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



What Can You Do?

Join the Adirondack Wilderness Campaign.



LEARN

The decisions that will determine the future of these wild lands and waters are complicated and political. We will do our best to give you the information you need to feel confident about standing up for new Wilderness lands.



ENGAGE

Your letters, emails and phone calls to key policymakers DO make a difference. Please be sure we have your current email address so we can quickly notify you when your voice will make a difference for Adirondack Wilderness.



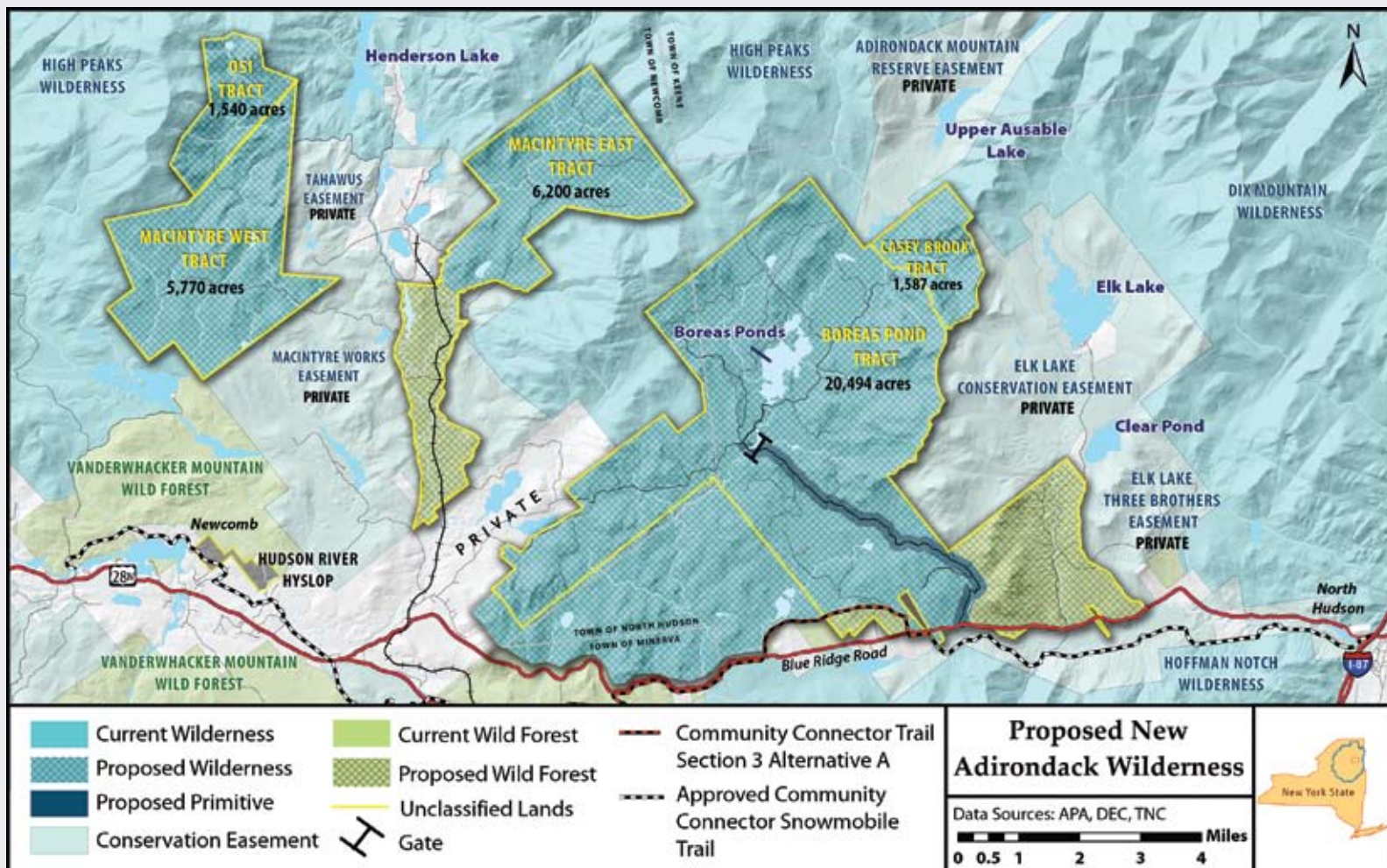
SHARE

Forward emails, share on social media, and invite family and friends to get involved. Policymakers need to know that New York residents and visitors from around the country and the globe support new motor-free Wilderness lands in the Adirondacks.



DONATE

The Council is committing significant resources to the Adirondack Wilderness Campaign. Special contributions for this historic campaign will secure the Adirondack Park Wilderness forever. Let's make Wilderness!





ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness

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Support Conservation

Proceeds from the sale of t-shirts, hats and other products help us protect the Adirondack Park everyday! Place an order by visiting shop.AdirondackCouncil.org.

T-shirts : \$20.00 - Hats: \$15.00



Save the Date

2016 Forever Wild Day
Saturday, July 9, 2016
Inn at the Bridge
641 Bridge Street
Northville, NY 12134



New Staff Strengthen Council Programs

Meet Deb Pastore, Nicole LaBarge, Greg Redling



Debbie Pastore is the Council's new Fund Development Associate. She graduated from Mount St. Mary College with a BA in Public Relations and brings over two decades of development experience working in both educational and cultural institutions. In addition, she also brings her life-long passion for the Adirondacks. After their twins went off to college, Debbie and her husband Tom dealt with the empty nest syndrome by moving full time to their home in Westport.

Through her belief in the Council's mission and vision, Debbie found her "perfect fit" when she joined the Council staff to work with supporters of the Park. When she is not working, Debbie can be found hiking, kayaking, or perpetually trying to "green up" her black thumb in the garden!



Nicole LaBarge is the current Clarence Petty Intern working in the Council's Elizabethtown office with a special focus on climate change and GIS. Nicole is a recent graduate of Hamilton College, where she received a degree in Environmental Studies with a focus on Geology. This summer, Nicole expanded the Council's ability to collect field data and create GIS maps that can be shared with constituents, including the creation of a new Adirondack Wilderness map.

Nicole will continue to work through the fall on climate change and researching unit management plans and other policies affecting the Park. As a hiker, novice photographer and supporter of local agriculture, Nicole cannot imagine a more perfect place to live than in the Adirondacks.



Greg Redling joined the Adirondack Council in September as our Advocacy and Outreach Assistant. He will assist in monitoring legislation and proposed regulatory changes and lobbying policymakers. Greg will also design and implement a new Advocacy Ambassador program for the Council. This program will organize and train a network of individuals to engage public officials and promote the Council's message and priorities.

Greg is a 2014 graduate of Paul Smith's College and holds a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management and Policy with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). When he's not working, you'll likely find Greg hiking, backpacking, kayaking, cross country skiing, playing basketball, and singing.