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Adirondack Wild conservation group forms

BY STEPHEN WILLIAMS Gazette Reporter

A new land conservation organization has been formed by three former employees of Protect the Adirondacks!, including former executive director David Gibson.

The creation of “Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve” was announced Friday in Keene on the edge of High Peaks.

The founders include Gibson, Dan Plumley, and Ken Rimany, all of whom recently departed from Protect the Adirondacks!

They said they will advocate for wild lands across the state, including the constitutionally protected Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills, and emphasize educating of young people about nature and wild lands.

“New York state has achieved a truly wild-core Adirondacks and Catskills, which stand as a model for wild land conservation for the world,” said Plumley, who was conservation director for Protect the Adirondacks!

Plumley, a Niskayuna native, has consulted on land preservation issues internationally.

“Our mission is to ensure that younger generations become tomorrow’s stewards of the wild,” Plumley said.

“Wild places are central to the human experience and spirit. They also have very significant local and regional economic impacts,” said Gibson, who lives in Ballston Lake. “They deserve a friends organization devoted to them, who will fight for them when necessary, and who will educate about them. That is our niche.”

Gibson, Plumley, and Rimany all left Protect the Adirondacks! this spring as that organization struggled with budget issues and reduced staff. Protect the Adirondacks! was formed last year in the merger of the Association for Protection of the Adirondacks and the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks.

Protect the Adirondacks! continues under the leadership of President Peter Borrelli.

The founders said Adirondack Wild will be funded by private donations and grants, and have offices in Keene, Ballston Lake and Niskayuna.

Gibson said a web site, www.adirondackwild.org, is being developed and should become operational in August.

Scott Lorey, legislative director for The Adirondack Council, said that group respects the work of Gibson, Plumley and Raminy, and welcomes creation of a new conservation organization.

“We welcome diverse groups,” Lorey said. “It helps to have more than one or two groups out there.”