



Bob Marshall was one of the first foresters of the US Forest Service, created in 1905. Bob inventoried the remaining wilderness areas of our country and found only one place east of the Mississippi River that met the criteria of being larger than 300,000 acres and without roads – an area in the western sector of the Adirondack Park. Amazingly, that opportunity still exists today.

Together we'll make history!

The Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex

- 410,000 acres
- 441 lakes and ponds
- 400+ miles of hiking trails
- 71 miles of Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers
- 22 gateway communities

Protecting water, forests and wildlife

Providing solitude and adventure

Strengthening gateway communities



Dear Adirondack Council member,

I am writing to let you know about an effort underway to strengthen wild lands protection and Adirondack communities.

I hope you will consider a special gift to the Adirondack Council as we launch the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex project. By completing the enclosed post card to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and spreading the word to others who care about the Adirondacks, you can bolster the impact of your gift.

In 1990, the Council proposed protecting 410,000 acres of Adirondack old-growth forest and lakes as the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. Today, more than 85% of the lands within the "Bob" are now protected either by state acquisition or conservation easements. Individual and family landowners carefully steward the adjacent private lands.

This is a major achievement. It's time to celebrate and move the idea of the Bob forward! This summer the Council is promoting this unique region in the western Adirondacks with the release of our new Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex map. We will be reaching out to communities, agencies and the public to advocate for the wild lands and surrounding gateway communities.

All the best,

Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director



Why now?

Since 1990, the New York State Open Space Plan has recognized this area as the proposed Bob Marshall – Oswegatchie Wilderness. Today, we believe that it should be designated as a 'wild lands complex' as the proper definition of its ecological significance and land ownership patterns. The area is a mix of protected public and private lands with multiple uses ranging from roadless wilderness, to mixed-use wild forest and primitive areas, to commercial forests and other private lands.

The Bob can be a model for consolidation of management for the Adirondack Park, public-private partnerships involving gateway communities, and private sector entrepreneurship built on the Park's greatest assets, its wild lands and waters.

Today there is a unique opportunity for Council members to help make the designation of the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex a reality.

Who will benefit?

Scientists have known for decades that core wilderness areas and habitat connectivity – continuous natural lands and water – is essential for large, shy, and wide-ranging species, like bear, moose, wolf, fisher, cougar, eagle and salmon.

Large protected wild lands are important to our human population too. As the renowned wilderness advocate Bob Marshall said,

"For me, and for thousands with similar inclinations, the most important passion of life is the overpowering desire to escape periodically from the clutches of a mechanistic civilization. To us the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas is absolutely essential to happiness."

By designating the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex as one region, the state can develop large-landscape plans that strengthen protection for the land and waters of the region. As one management unit, the state can work with communities to develop connected trail systems, hut-to-hut experiences and other recreational opportunities. Gateway communities will be able to attract visitors to the region with the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex as a centerpiece for myriad outdoor recreation opportunities.



Photos by Larry Master, masterimages.org

What can you do?

Support the Bob project.

Your special contribution by July 30th will help the Council:

- Urge the Department of Environmental Conservation to combine the region's 14 Forest Preserve units and manage them as one Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex;
- Advocate for gateway community revitalization grants and business development incentives;
- Distribute 5,000 complimentary maps to the Bob's gateway towns;
- Work with town officials, residents and visitors to encourage protection and promotion of the Bob.

Take Action!

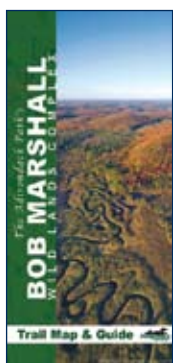
Send a Post Card: Your voice makes a difference. Policymakers tell us that your opinion influences their decisions. Please add a personal message to the enclosed post card. You can either mail it on your own, or use the enclosed pre-paid envelope and mail it us. We will be sure it gets to the DEC Commissioner for you.

Spread the Word: Please include your current email address when you return the enclosed reply envelope. We will be launching online campaigns to advocate for the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex. You can help by encouraging family and friends who care about the Adirondacks to join in the advocacy campaigns.

Your special contribution to the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex project will help the Council draw attention to the greatest wild lands area in the East. Your gift will support the Council's advocacy to strengthen the region's conservation and recreation planning.

Any contribution will make a difference. In appreciation for your contribution, you can choose to receive a special "Bob" gift, to help you learn about Bob Marshall and the vast wild lands that inspired him.

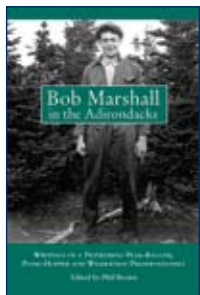
With a contribution of \$25 you can choose to receive our new *Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex* map. With a contribution of \$50 or more, you can choose to receive the map and the book, *Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks*. (See back for details.)



THE BOB MARSHALL MAP

The *Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex* map depicts a vast region of public and private lands in the western Adirondacks. One side shows the main trails and water recreation opportunities, as well as roads, gateway communities and amenities. The second side has photographs, natural history, and information about communities, Bob Marshall and the vision for the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex.

Water-proof and tear-proof map, 25 1/2" x 37 1/2", folds to 4 1/4" x 9 1/4", photographs and text. For a larger view of the map go to www.AdirondackCouncil.org.



BOB MARSHALL IN THE ADIRONDACKS: Writings of a Pioneering Peak Bagger, Pond-Hopper and Wilderness Preservationist. Edited by Phil Brown

Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks collects nearly forty writings about the Adirondacks by one of America's greatest champions of wilderness. Bob Marshall's passion for wilderness was nurtured in the Adirondack Mountains. The writings include numerous accounts of his explorations in the wild region south of Cranberry Lake and reveal Marshall's deep personal connection to the Adirondacks. Hard cover, 308 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", photographs & maps.

