

DEFENDING THE EAST'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

A GUIDE FOR ADIRONDACK PARK ACTIVISTS

Written and Compiled by:



THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

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If you would like more information on the Council's Activist Network, please contact Lisa Genier or at activists@adirondackcouncil.org, or call toll free at 1-800-824-PARK (7275).

Dear Activist,

Thank you for taking an interest in the Adirondack Council Activist Network. The Adirondack Council has been working for 30 years to protect the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. During that time, our members and activists like you wrote letters, made phone calls, met with legislators, and told their friends about important Park issues, which propelled us to many successes together.

The Adirondack Council is one of the most effective environmental advocacy groups in the nation, due in large part to the support of like-minded individuals who support us and take action on key issues. Due to the participation of activists in our campaigns, state agencies and legislators have received thousands of letters supporting the preservation and protection of the East's last great wilderness – the Adirondack Park. We have fought for water quality, air quality and open space, and prevailed because activist citizens vocally supported our goals.

During our 30th year, the Council is hopeful that more people will join us, and become active participants in our campaigns. Being an activist is one of the most important and valuable actions an individual can take to help protect the environment. Open dialogue between members of the public and elected and appointed officials is the only way sound policy to protect the Adirondack Park will occur. As many activists have said before, "When the people lead, the leaders follow."

In the following pages you will find a guide to advocating for the protection of the Adirondack Park. We hope this guide is helpful to you in beginning or continuing your work to advocate for the protection of the Park from the many threats it faces.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of the Adirondack Park and the Council. We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,


Scott Lorey
Legislative Director



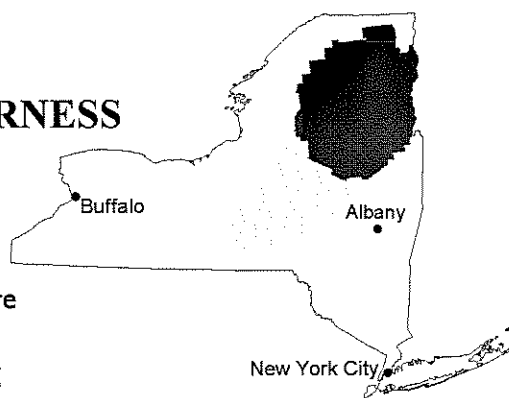
Lisa Genier
Program Analyst

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

THE ADIRONDACK PARK - THE EAST'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

The Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous United States. It is larger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Olympic national parks combined. Located in upstate New York, the Adirondack Park covers an area of more than 9,000 square miles. It contains six million acres, covers one-fifth of New York State and is equal in size to neighboring Vermont.



The Adirondack Park is also unique in that it is a patchwork of public and private lands, where communities of people and wilderness exist side by side. More than half of the Adirondack Park is private land. These 3.4 million acres or 57 percent are devoted principally to hamlets and to agricultural, forestry, and recreational uses. The Park is home to 130,000 residents, and hosts ten million visitors yearly.

The remaining 43 percent of the Park is publicly owned Forest Preserve, protected as "Forever Wild" by the NYS Constitution since 1894. One million acres of these public lands are protected as Wilderness, where non-mechanized recreation may be enjoyed. The majority of public lands (more than 1.3 million acres) is Wild Forest, where motorized uses are permitted on designated waters, roads and trails.

Plants and wildlife abound in the Park. Ninety percent of all plant and animal species in the northeastern United States can be found within the Park. The Adirondacks are home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons, Canada lynx, timber rattlesnakes, beaver, loons, black bear, and moose.

Old growth forests cover more than 100,000 acres of public land. The western and southern Adirondacks are gentle landscapes of hills, lakes, wetlands, ponds, and streams. In the northeast are the High Peaks. Forty-three of them rise above 4,000 feet and 11 have alpine summits that rise above the timberline.

The Adirondack Park includes the headwaters of five major drainage basins. Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence and Mohawk Rivers all draw water from the Adirondack Park. Within the Park are more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, more than 1,500 miles of rivers, fed by an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams.

Three state agencies have the most frequent and significant impact on the Adirondack Park. These include:

The Adirondack Park Agency which governs the use of the 3.4 million acres of private land in the Park, develops general policy for the Forest Preserve and serves as a forum for developing state policies concerning the Park. See page xi for more information.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is charged by law with the care, custody and control of the 2.6 million acres of Adirondack Forest Preserve. See page XI for more information.

The Department of Transportation has responsibility for over 1,100 miles of state highways within the Park.

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PART I

THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVIST NETWORK



Northern Saw Whet Owl

Photo by Bill Brown

AN OVERVIEW

Over the past decade, the Adirondack Council's Activist Network has helped us accomplish vital and lasting improvements in the state and federal policies that protect the Adirondack Park and often other natural areas throughout the state.

The Council's efforts to establish a New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) proved successful in 1993, as the Adirondack Council helped the Senate, the Assembly, and the Governor reach an historic agreement to provide permanent funding for acquiring land and for conservation easements with private landowners. The fund is also used to provide recycling facilities grants, landfill closures and historic preservation projects. The EPF started out with funding of \$100 million per year, but thanks to Council activists, has grown to \$125 million per year. In the Adirondacks, land and water conservation have been the principal uses of the fund, resulting in the expansion of the Forest Preserve and more than 400,000 acres of land protected under conservation easements with landowners.

On the federal level, Council activists urged the federal government to stop acid rain. Acid rain has left over 500 Adirondack lakes devoid of native life. In 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the Clean Air Interstate Rule that, when implemented, will regulate emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides at levels sufficient to stop acid rain in the Adirondacks and allow recovery of the ecosystem to begin.

With these and other landmark victories behind us, it seems hard to believe there is still so much to do. Cell towers, all-terrain vehicles, excessive road salt, invasive species and sprawling development are already affecting the Park. New threats to the Park's ecological integrity and wild charac-

ter emerge constantly. Council activists must be prepared to press for new and improved protections for the Adirondack Park.

With your continued assistance in raising Adirondack issues and concerns in Albany, throughout the state, and in Washington, D.C., the Council will work to ensure that adequate funding is available so that priority parcels in the Adirondacks are preserved and protective legislation and regulations are enacted.

Through our activists, public education programs and advocacy, the Council has consistently raised the level of attention focused on the Adirondack Park. Using the 1992 Centennial of the Adirondack Park to call for enhanced Park protection, we initiated activism that continues today in the Adirondacks and throughout the Northeast.

Since that time, great victories have been won by the Council, due in large part to the dedication of members in the Activist Network. Recent victories include the addition of the 15,000-acre William C. Whitney Wilderness to the Forest Preserve; a law granting local communities the right to ban personal watercraft (a.k.a. jet skis); the first increase in penalties for timber theft from state lands since 1909; a statewide ban on the sale of lead sinkers that poison one of the Adirondack's most unique and well known species, the common loon; millions of dollars in federal funding for an addition to the High Peaks Wilderness; and, tax relief programs that aid land conservation.

Thank you! Your letters, calls, and visits to legislators, and helping to spread information to policymakers, friends, and neighbors are what keep Adirondack Park issues in the forefront of current events and on the minds of the state's most powerful leaders.



West Branch of the Ausable River, North Elba

OBJECTIVES FOR ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVISTS

Throughout the last 30 years, the Adirondack Council has been working on many issues that affect the Park. In order to address the most immediate threats and outline a plan of action for upcoming years, the Council released its Five Year Strategic Objectives. The Council, with the help of its activists will protect the Park from environmental and aesthetic threats and balance the many different types of land use that occur inside the Adirondack Park.

Wilderness Expansion and Protection

The Adirondack Council and its activist members must continue to be vigilant guardians of the Forever Wild clause of the New York State Constitution. In order to do so, we must focus on completing the Adirondack Park Wilderness System, and managing the Forest Preserve properly and carefully.

The proposed Bob Marshall Wilderness is a 408,000-acre area named after Bob Marshall, an Adirondack icon and conservationist. This area is so diverse that it contains nearly every ecosystem found in the Adirondack Park and most of the old growth forest (more than 100,000 acres) in the northeast United States. As land becomes available from willing landowners, advocacy will be needed to ensure it is purchased and protected by the state. Once added to the wilderness system, this would truly be the crown jewel of the Adirondack Park. However, with such a vast area to protect, there is much work to be done. In the end, it may take generations of activists, but the designation and protection of the Bob Marshall Wilderness will be one of the most important achievements of the Council and New York State.

Another area in need of Forest Preserve designation is the 73,000-acre lowland Boreal Wilderness in the northwestern region of the Park. This area represents a subarctic evergreen forest usually found much farther north in Canada. The establishment of this wilderness and surrounding buffer zones will ensure long-term viability of such a special natural community. These types of forest

are particularly important for carbon sequestration, which will assist in the slowing of global climate change.

These are only two examples of areas that are in need of special protection. Additional opportunities will arise to consolidate other Wilderness and Wild Forest areas throughout the Park, and the Council and Council activists must be there to support and advocate for such protections.

Habitat Restoration on Private Lands

The Council recognizes the need to restore the connectivity of wildlife habitat between private lands and core wilderness areas. The changes that happen to ecosystems on private lands could dramatically affect the future of forests, waters, wildlife, and scenic resources throughout the Park. Activists must urge officials to create incentives for ecologically managed forests and farms. State tax reforms are needed to fix broken state programs that, if corrected and properly administered, could be used as tools for excellent stewardship of private lands.

THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL'S FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

- **Wilderness Expansion and Protection**
- **Habitat Restoration on Private Lands**
- **Watershed Management and Water Quality Improvement**
- **Atmospheric Pollution Reduction**

Watershed Management and Water Quality Improvement

A principal reason for the creation of the Adirondack Park was to protect its abundant and pure water. Today, these waters generate hydro-electricity, provide drinking water supplies, and hold recreational and aesthetic value for residents and visitors.

The Council and activists must reach out to local, state, and federal leaders to find solutions to water degradation including controlling shoreline development, upgrading septic systems and regulating their installation and inspection, controlling and mitigating invasive species, and curbing the use of road salt, which contaminates waterways and aquifers Park-wide. Through advocacy in the State Legislature, at the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), and on the local level, activists will ensure that one of the Park's most precious resources is properly protected.

Atmospheric Pollution Reduction

Airborne pollution has been slowly killing forests and aquatic ecosystems, and carbon dioxide emissions are causing global climate change, which will have profound effects on the Park. Council activists have been fighting alongside staff for over a decade working in both the state Legislature and Congress to put an end to acid precipitation and restore the 500 lakes now devoid of life. These years of hard work have not been fruitless. Due to activist advocacy, the state enacted the strongest acid rain causing pollution controls in the nation. Now, in lieu of Congressional action, the EPA has promulgated a rule that would cut emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (the two major pollutants responsible for acid precipitation) to levels deep enough to halt acid rain pollution in the Park and allow recovery to begin. Additionally, activists are needed to continue the fight on both the state and federal levels to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and mercury.



Photo by Gary Randorf

On the summit of Algonquin, second highest Adirondack High Peak

For a copy of the Adirondack Council's Five Year Strategic Objectives publication, call the Elizabethtown office or to view a pdf. version visit our website.

HOW ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVISTS FIT INTO THE POLITICAL PROCESS

There are many opportunities for the public to comment on legislative, budgetary and administrative issues. Some actions taken by the government such as rule changes require the issuance of public notices soliciting public comment, but others, such as changing legislation do not. But that doesn't mean the public cannot or should not provide input.

These opportunities for public comment are vital to the Adirondack Council's success. Too often, the Council's adversaries in matters of public policy are capable of outspending the Council, have larger staffs and teams of attorneys to defend their positions. In order to succeed, the Council must be factually correct, anticipate the actions of our adversaries, and remain prepared to counteract them. And, most crucial of all, we need to capture public attention. Our activists make all that possible.

When issues arise that need your attention and input, the Council will contact you and ask for your assistance. Action Alerts are our most common means of doing this. Staff will send you an alert on the problem at hand and the actions we want you to carry out. We will ask you to send a letter or make a phone call on the Adirondack Park's behalf. We will advise you on which points require the most emphasis. Council Action Alerts are also posted on our website (www.adirondackcouncil.org) and occasionally are included in the Council's newsletters.

Our Action Alerts primarily focus on state and federal legislative and budgetary issues, development projects affecting the public and private lands that come before the Adirondack Park Agency, actions being taken by the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies that affect the Park. Our Alerts will ask you to do something ranging from making a phone call, writing a letter or attending and speaking at a public hearing.

For example, when the state legislature introduces a bill that affects the Park, either positively or negatively, the Council takes a position on that bill. The bill will be directed to the appropriate committees and voted on by the members. If the bill is voted out of the committees, it will go to the floor of the house and wait to be voted on by all of the legislators.

During this process, the Council may call on our activists to write letters to the appropriate state legislators if a bill that will negatively affect the Park is going to be voted on, or if a bill that will positively effect the Park is stalled and needs more public support.

The same is also true of development projects at the Adirondack Park Agency. If a project is going to negatively affect the Park, the Council will ask our activists to write the A.P.A. urging them to reject the project.

The following pages will give you the tools to effectively influence public policy.

A NOTE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT LIVE IN NEW YORK STATE

Even if you do not live in New York State, you can still contact state policymakers on Adirondack Park issues. Lawmakers need to hear from everyone who cares about the future of the Adirondack Park. If you live out of state, but own a seasonal residence in the Park, please mention this in your letter and use this residence as your return address.

It is also important for you to contact your Congressional Representative and U.S. Senators on national issues that affect the Park, such as acid rain or global warming. This lets your representatives know that the Adirondack Park is a special place that deserves protection.

TOOLS FOR THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVIST

Protecting the 6- million- acre Adirondack Park is a challenge that can only be met with the help of numerous people. For activists who have a limited amount of time for advocacy, your use of proven advocacy methods is critical. Here are seven tools that you can use.

■ **Writing Letters**

Effective letter writing is the most compelling way you can influence public policymakers.

■ **Writing Letters to the Editor**

A well-written letter to the editor carries the message for Park protection through the media to the public and back to policymakers.

■ **Speaking at Public Hearings**

Policymakers need to hear from concerned citizens. Speaking at public hearings allows your ideas to be heard.

■ **Meeting with Elected Officials**

Face-to-face meetings with your representatives on protecting the Adirondack Park leave a lasting impression on policymakers. It's important that policymakers who vote on legislation and enact policies understand that the Park is a priority to their constituents.

■ **Attending Activist Training Seminars**

One of the best ways to stay on top of the latest Adirondack issues is to participate in the Council's Activist Training Seminars. These events are fun and keep activists well informed on the latest Adirondack issues and legislation.

■ **Attending an Adirondack Council Activist Lobby Day**

Travel to Albany to participate in a lobby day at the New York State Capitol where you will join Council staff in meetings with state legislators who play a part in crafting policy which affects the Adirondack Park.

■ **Hosting an Adirondack Night or a Member Meeting**

Help spread the word about protecting the Park to friends, relatives, and associates. The more people know about the Park, the more they will understand why it needs protecting. Inviting people to discuss the Adirondacks and the Adirondack Council will help our advocacy efforts. Or host a more formal Member Meeting where Council staff attend.

WRITING LETTERS TO POLICYMAKERS

Writing letters to your representatives is crucial to the enactment and implementation of sound Adirondack Park policies. Since 1975, Adirondack Council members have been vigorous producers of letters to state and federal elected officials and other policymakers. Each and every letter is invaluable in the fight for Park protection.

Both state and federal representatives recognize the letter as the best information link to their constituents. When legislators receive letters, they can assess the general reaction to an issue and then act accordingly. As few as 30 letters to a state agency can change a course of action.

Guidelines for Writing Letters

Proper Form of Address

Most dictionaries include a section that outlines appropriate forms of address for different representatives. Consider investing a few dollars in one of the many guides to the New York State Legislature and Congress. If you do not want to purchase such guides, most are available for use at public libraries. Additionally, the internet is a valuable tool for finding this information. Visit the official websites for the New York State Assembly, Senate, and U.S. Congress. For a listing of these sites and other contact information, check the reference section of this publication.

Examples:

The Honorable Chris R. Smith
U S House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris R. Smith
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

John Doe - Regional Forester
NYS DEC - Region 5
Rte 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977

John Smith -Project Review Officer
Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Clearly Identify Your Issue

In New York State, approximately 12,000 bills are introduced each legislative session and as many as 20,000 bills are introduced in Congress. It is important to reference the issue or bill number you are concerned about. When writing about specific legislation or regulation, list the bill or regulation's number or popular title for example, "Clean Water Bill" "Assembly Bill Number 2345" or "Project Number 2003-14."

Timeliness, Brevity

Write your letter before the legislator or regulatory agency must act on the issue. The Adirondack Council's Action Alerts and letters and e-mails to activists typically describe the timeline for action.

Be brief! A concise letter makes a better impression on policymakers than does a lengthy one. Limiting your letter to one or, at most, two issues is best.

Letter Format

If you can have your letter typewritten, all the better. However, handwritten letters that are legible are equally effective. Make sure to include a complete return address on the letter and the envelope. (See sample letters on pages.

Respond to the Action Alert in Your Own Words

While Adirondack Council Action Alerts provide you with guidance on what to say, it is more effective to write a letter in your own words. Your personal concerns and related experiences about the Adirondack Park send a much stronger message to policymakers than standardized responses, form letters, or petitions. Policymakers will probably have already learned the Adirondack Council's position on the issue, but without hearing your concerns as a constituent, they may not feel obligated to take action.

Take a Stand, Substantiate It, and Be Constructive

Make your position known and substantiate why it should be important to your representatives, legislative leaders, and other policymakers. Establish how the proposed legislation or regulation is not just important to the Adirondack Park, but also to you and other citizens in your community.

Be Specific in What Action You Request from Policymakers

Your letter should clearly detail what action the policymaker must take in order to gain additional protection of the Adirondack Park. It might be voting for or against a bill, sponsoring legislation, or talking to legislative leaders about the issue.

A WORD ABOUT E-MAIL...

The Council has found that, even in this age of technological advances, the handwritten or typewritten letter to policymakers mailed through the post office is more effective than one that is sent via e-mail. Policymakers tend to lend more weight to actual letters than virtual ones. If possible, always send an actual letter.

Politely Correct False Notions of Policymakers if Necessary

State and federal lawmakers and agency officials are not experts in all fields. They often depend on concerned citizens to give them information and guidance. Let them know when it comes to the Adirondacks, your background and experience are available to them. When they are wrong about an issue, correct them, respectfully.

Request a Response and Send Us a Copy

Be sure to request a response from your legislator or agency staff. This will give us an indication of how they feel about a particular issue or about protecting the Adirondack Park. A lack of response to your letter from a policymaker should be interpreted as a lack of interest. Whenever possible, send us a copy of both your letter and any responses that you receive from policymakers. We use these letters to gauge our effectiveness and also to analyze the success of our activist program.

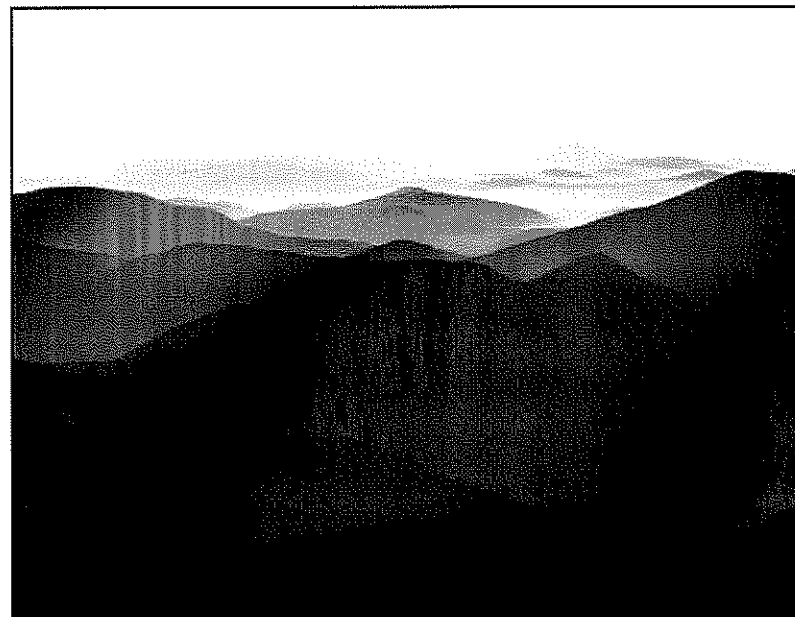


Photo by Gary Randorf

East from Mt. Marcy

SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATORS

Make it easy for legislative staffers to route your letter by indicating which bill you're addressing. (A. ____ if it originates in the Assembly, S. ____ if it originates in the Senate) and by an identifying phrase.

Use your personal or business letterhead if possible.

Keep your letter short. A succinct, one page letter will have more impact than a longer one.

John Doe
Any Street
Anywhere, New York

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Jack Smith
New York State Senate
Albany, New York 12247

Indicate which bill you are addressing by its bill number and name.

Re: S. 321 – Environmental Protection Fund

Dear Senator Smith:

Get to the point of your letter quickly. Indicate your support or opposition to the bill.

I am writing to express my strong support for S. 321, which would establish an Environmental Protection Fund this session. I believe it is imperative that you support immediate action to establish an Environmental Protection Fund for the state's environmental needs, especially in the Adirondack Park.

Be sure to be clear about what action you want the legislator to take.

I am requesting you do two things:

1. Support an Environmental Protection Fund (S. 321) this session and make sure that it includes money in it for land acquisition in the Adirondack Park.

2. Make sure the Majority Leader, Joe Bruno, is aware of your support of S. 321 – The Environmental Protection Fund and the use of its monies in the Adirondack Park.

Later, if the legislator does what you ask him or her to do, be sure to send a "thank you" letter.

I am eagerly awaiting your reply. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Doe

Send a copy of your letter and any response to the Adirondack Council so we can gauge our effectiveness in the Legislature.

**SAMPLE LETTER TO THE
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY**

111 Any Street
Anywhere, New York

July 14, 2004

The Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
Route 86
Raybrook, New York 12977

Re: Project 8000 – Expansion of Mary’s Marina

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I am writing to express my opposition to project number 8000, a proposal to expand Mary’s Marina in the Town of Anywhere. This project may cause environmental problems for the lake and surrounding areas and should be rejected.

Expanding Mary’s Marina would have detrimental environmental impacts on the water quality of the lake and town’s water supply. There is likely to be an increase in the amount of dumping of solid and liquid wastes from the boats as well as an increased fuel spillage into the lake.

Due to the negative environmental impacts of the proposed project, I urge the Agency to reject the application.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Doe

ACTUAL ACTIVIST LETTER

March 13, 2003

Assemblyman
Room xxx - Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Re: EPF

Dear Assemblyman xxx,

We all realize this is a tough budget year. But, Governor Pataki should not be allowed to divert \$20 million from the EPF budget for other non-environmental purposes. And, he also should not be permitted through the use of ‘smoke & mirrors’ to divert from EPF \$6 million to pay salaries in the DEC and OPRHP. Certainly, if we’re truly interested in land preservation now and for those who follow us, Governor Pataki can not be allowed to cut the EPF budget by \$8 million (over 20%) for dedicated land acquisition.

The EPF was created to ensure that environmental projects would go forward even in difficult financial times. The EPF is a dedicated fund that is supposed to be protected from variations in the economy. It was not created to pay for salaries or be diverted to uses outside its original intent. The integrity of the EPF is being compromised. Please work to make sure that this doesn’t happen, weak economy or not.

Thanks for helping to protect and enhance this NY State treasure.

Sincerely,

Joe Adirondacker

WRITING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor in newspapers are a great way to influence opinions and spread the word about important Adirondack issues. Most newspapers provide directions on how to best submit a letter to the editor, but we have outlined some general guidelines for you.

- **Brief letters are best.** Some newspapers have a word limit less than 250 words per letter to the editor. Be sure to check the newspaper to see their guidelines. This information can usually be found in the paper's opinion section, or on their website.
- **Emphasize only one or two points.**
- **Write as a citizen concerned about the future of the Adirondacks.**
- **Substantiate your interest by detailing the importance of the Park to people in your community.** Explain why the readers of the newspaper should be concerned about the Adirondack Park.
- **Promote a positive agenda for protecting the Park.** Suggest ways to resolve issues, as opposed to simply resisting destructive policies. Leave angry criticism to our opponents.
- **Include your contact information.** Just like any other letter you write, be sure to include your full name and address, and also include a phone number. Most newspapers call individuals to alert them that their letter will be printed.

Whenever possible, link your letter to the editor to current policy debates, news stories, recent events, or even statements made by policymakers. By doing this, your letter will have a greater chance of being printed. As always, please send us a copy of your letter to the editor, especially if it is printed.



East Hill, Keene, NY

SPEAKING AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

In order to move forward with legislation, regulations, or projects, many government bodies (ie. NYS Legislature) and agencies (ie. Environmental Protection Agency, Adirondack Park Agency, and Department of Environmental Conservation) hold public hearings where they accept comments from concerned citizens on the subject at hand.

Public hearings on issues related to the Adirondack Park are usually attended by one or more staff members of the Adirondack Council, where we speak about our position on the issue.

While the Council does attend most of these hearings, it is important that our activist members attend and speak as well. Legislators and other policymakers benefit from hearing from citizens on how a policy or project will affect them. Remember, if policymakers don't hear from a lot of people, they can use that as an excuse to kill a bill or project or promote those that are bad for the Park.

If you plan to speak at a public hearing, here are some tips:

- **Call the Council.** Find out if a staff member will be attending so you can meet them at the hearing.
- **Write your thoughts down.** Use your testimony for reference when you are speaking. This will help you stay concise and to the point. Some hearing procedures require you to submit your comments in written form. Bring a copy of your testimony that you are willing to hand in for the record. Make sure to include your name and address.
- **Keep your testimony short.** Usually there is a time limit. Plan to speak for about 3-5 minutes.
- **Speak slowly and clearly.** Don't rush even if your time is running out. If there is a microphone, your mouth should be about six inches from it. Move the mike so it's in the right position for you. If there isn't a microphone, make sure you speak up so everyone can hear you.
- **Use your testimony again.** Perhaps use your testimony to develop a letter to the editor to submit in your local newspaper.

IN YOUR TESTIMONY MAKE SURE YOU...

- Identify yourself.
- State your position for or against the proposed bill or project.
- Use any personal experience you may have on the issue. If the bill or project will impact you directly, make sure you state that in your testimony.
- Sum up your position at the end.
- Thank whomever for the opportunity to comment.

MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Direct Meetings Gain Attention

It is helpful when our members meet directly with their elected representatives. As with writing letters, meeting with legislators influences the course of legislative action. Legislators will want to meet with you to hear your views, especially if you are one of their constituents. Activists who make direct visits to lawmakers to discuss the Park really make a difference.

While the Council's staff usually meet with state representatives in Albany, activists are encouraged to meet with elected officials in their district offices. Normally, legislators are in their districts around national holidays, and during designated periods during and after the legislative session.

State legislators have both district offices and an office in Albany. Congressional representatives have several district offices in the state where you can schedule meetings. You can find the local offices of your representatives listed in your telephone directory's government pages, or you can visit the official website of the elected official. (See reference section - page numbers viii and ix.)

Remember, legislators prefer to make time for organizations that represent a large number of constituents. If you can represent other people in your community there is a greater chance of getting a meeting scheduled.

Telephone the Adirondack Council once you have your meeting scheduled. We can advise you on the latest issues facing the Park and how to make the most of your meeting.

Preparing for the Meeting

Nothing succeeds better in meetings than having a command of your issue. This is where proper preparation comes into play. Identify your primary goal for the meeting. Do you want the legislator to support specific legislation? Do you need the legislator to carry the message of Park protection to legislative leaders? Define what you would like to gain.

If you planned the meeting with a small group of Park supporters, meet ahead of time to divide up responsibilities and plan for an effective meeting. Determine who should act as the spokesperson for the group, and who will contribute what information. It is also a good idea to have someone take notes.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHEDULING YOUR MEETING

- **Telephone the office, identify yourself as a constituent, and request an appointment with the legislator.** You will likely be asked what issue or legislation you wish to discuss. Be specific in your reply, and if possible, reference a bill, regulation or policy number and its commonly used name. (For example, "Senate bill 321, the Environmental Protection Fund," or "water pollution in the Adirondack Park.")
- **Don't get discouraged.** Often a legislator's schedule may make it difficult for you to meet directly with him or her. If this is the case, consider meeting with the legislator's staff person involved with environmental issues. It is the staff person's job to keep the legislator informed.
- **Be Persistent. It pays off.** If you are unable to schedule an appointment in your legislator's state office, request a meeting during his or her next district day. If you cannot get a district office appointment, keep trying!

At the Meeting

If this is your first meeting with your representative, try to make a good impression and keep the meeting on good terms. It's very important to develop a good working relationship with your legislator.

- **Arrive ahead of your scheduled appointment.** Business attire is recommended. Always be polite and remember to introduce yourself and members of your group at the start of the meeting.
- **Begin your discussion with a brief overview of the issue.** Describe your interest in seeing the Adirondack Park gain additional protection.
- **Address and substantiate your specific request of the legislator.** Describe why you believe it would be beneficial to your legislator to take action on this issue.
- **Provide Adirondack Council publications or fact sheets.** Don't worry if you are asked questions you can't answer. State that you will look into the legislator's concern and get back in touch with them in the near future, and make sure you do so. Keep to the issue in which you are interested and ask the legislator to clarify any statements that are unclear.
- **Thank the legislator for taking the time to meet with you.** If possible, leave your name, address, and telephone number and any publications or written information that is pertinent.

Your meeting may not immediately produce the desired results. Even if the meeting went poorly, always be respectful. You may have an opportunity to meet again in the future.

Follow Up to Guarantee Action

Don't stop now! Your effort has only just begun. Send a brief note of appreciation to your legislator and restate your sense of the meeting and its conclusions. Please send us a copy of any letter or statement your legislator makes in response to your meeting or call us and let us know how your meeting went. Any information you can give us is very helpful to our effort.

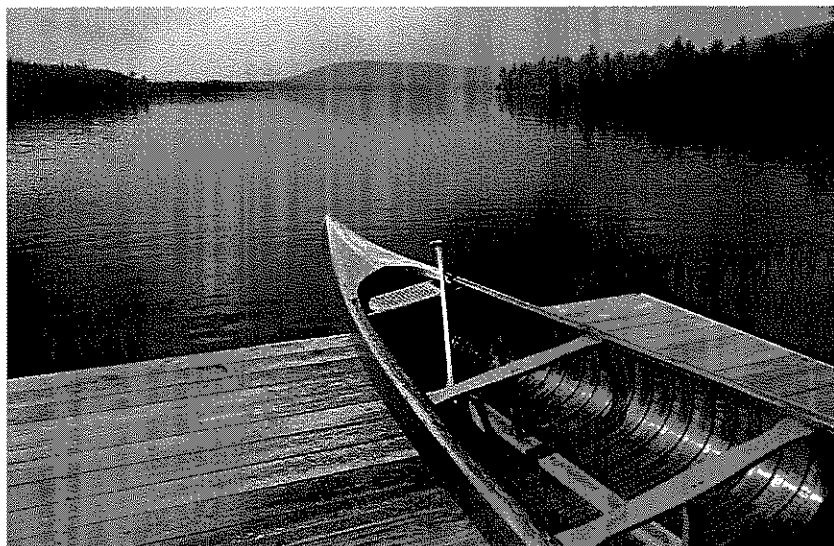


Photo by Gary Randorf

Blue Mountain Lake

ATTEND ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVIST TRAINING SEMINARS

Periodically, the Adirondack Council conducts Adirondack Park Activist Training Seminars. These seminars are intended to give activists the knowledge and skills they need to be fully informed about Adirondack issues and to be more effective in our efforts to preserve the Park.

Whether it is discussing the latest legislative issues in Albany and Washington or how to effectively use the media to help spread the word about Park issues, activist training seminars are fun and informative. You will meet fellow activists and discuss ways to make your advocacy more effective.

Professional staff from the Adirondack Council conduct these seminars and are on hand to answer any of your questions. The seminars are held in various locations around the state throughout the year, so there may be a seminar in your area. The Adirondack Council informs our activists well in advance of the seminars so you will have time to plan to attend.

Past seminars have been held in the Adirondacks, Long Island, Albany, and in the Rochester area. Participants of past seminars have said:

"This training seminar is vital, critical to the success and survival of saving the Adirondacks, and in advocating, promoting, and gathering support for legislative proposals."

"Please bring us together again - Help us keep in touch."

"You had a great balance of informative presentations and workshops, questions and reactions."

"The best part of the seminar was... meeting other people committed to conservation of the Adirondacks."

The Adirondack Council can always use your help in coordinating these seminars. Please contact us to see how you can get involved. Our contact information can be found in the reference section of the manual.

ATTEND AN ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVIST LOBBY DAY IN THE NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL

The Adirondack Council hosts an Activist Lobby Day. Members and activists travel to Albany, New York and join staff in meetings with state legislators who play a part in crafting policy which affects the Adirondack Park.

Activists, regardless of their political expertise, join Council staff members in meetings with legislators on issues including Wilderness protection, land use, tax reforms, and water quality. The role of activists and members in these meetings is important. Legislators understand the Council's position, but hearing from activist members who are also their constituents is a powerful tool in helping them understand why Park protection is so important.

During an Activist Lobby Day, members and activists arrive in Albany and meet the Council staff at the Council's office or another location in downtown Albany. The staff may then give participants a brief overview of current issues that will be discussed in meetings and materials to leave with legislators. Additionally, there is opportunity for activists to receive lobbying tips from experienced staff members. Then on

to the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol to begin a day of meetings.

Throughout the day professional staff members are on hand to answer questions about issues and assist activists when needed. In addition to lobby meetings, the Council may plan a press event that day in order to raise awareness about a current issue.

Following the day of meetings, Council staff and activists in attendance gather back together to discuss the outcome of their day and next steps that should be taken. Activists will be asked to write follow up letters to legislators thanking them for the meeting and reiterating the request made.

Activist Lobby Days are not only a wonderful way to get the word out about the Adirondack Park and what can be done to protect it, but also to meet fellow Adirondack activists and take an active role in the political process.

HOST AN “ADIRONDACK NIGHT” OR A MEMBER MEETING

You can help the Adirondack Park by introducing your friends, relatives, and neighbors to the Adirondack Council and the work that we do. Invite a few people to your house, organize a meeting at a local public venue, or conduct a program at a local club (the Rotary or Kiwanas Clubs, etc.) to discuss the Adirondack Park and the Adirondack Council. At this event, you can tell your guests about the recreational opportunities the Adirondack Park has to offer, the unique biological diversity of the region, and its scenic beauty.

The Adirondack Council has started hosting member meetings throughout the Park and around the state to raise awareness about the Council's work to protect the Park. You may choose to host the more formal member meeting involving the Adirondack Council staff or have the event be your own. Either way, they are both fun and easy ways to get people involved in protecting the Adirondack Park.

At a member meeting or your own Adirondack Night, explain to your guests why the Adirondack Park needs further protection and what they can do to help preserve the Park's natural character. Tell them about the Adirondack Council and how they can get involved by becoming a member and activist. The more people get involved, the better chance we have in succeeding in our efforts to gain true and lasting protection for the Park.

The Council will help you coordinate your event by providing materials about the Park to help make your Adirondack Night a success. (A list of Council publications and resources is included on pages 32 and 33 of this manual.) If you are hosting a member meeting, an Adirondack Council staff member will join you at your home to help you host the event.

If you would like to host an Adirondack Night or a member meeting, or would like to know how the Adirondack Council could help organize the event, please contact us for more information. Our contact information is listed in the reference section of this manual.

PART II
THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL:
WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



Photo by Carl Heilman II

THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

The Adirondack Council is a not-for-profit environmental group that has been working since 1975 to protect the ecological integrity and wild character of New York State's six-million-acre Adirondack Park. Based in the Adirondacks with a second office in Albany, the Adirondack Council has a staff of 14 and a strong and vocal membership of 18,000. The Adirondack Council is the largest environmental group in New York State working full-time to preserve the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Council, working in collaboration with other groups, has defended Article XIV (the "Forever Wild" clause) of the New York State Constitution; fought acid rain at both the state and national levels; prevented motorized intrusion in the Park's public wilderness areas; opposed inappropriate development on the Park's private lands; and prompted Park communities to use biological controls against black flies in place of traditional, indiscriminate spraying of hazardous chemical pesticides. This typifies the Council's day-to-day work – the essential "holding actions" needed to prevent the piecemeal destruction of the Park as we know it.

The Mission

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

The Vision

The Council envisions the Adirondack Park as a conservation model composed of large core wilderness areas connected to a diverse mosaic of biologically intact landscapes. This system will be augmented by vibrant local communities, as well as ecologically-managed forests and farms that demonstrate sustainable economic and recreational activities that enhance the biodiversity of the Park. The Council will use science-based advocacy to educate, encourage, support and guide society toward the achievement of that vision.

Strategies

The Council will focus on the major threats to the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park by designing and implementing strategies that abate those threats, and measuring the results. By using science-based advocacy approaches, and working in partnership with key organizations, we will leverage our resources to produce greater impact. In the pursuit of its mission, the Adirondack Council will use a broad set of strategies to address threats to the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. These include the following:

- **Education and Outreach** – to build awareness about key issues with the general public and targeted audiences via conferences, publications, and electronic/print/broadcast media.
- **Constituency-building** – bringing together and collaborating with key individuals and organizations to affect changes in policies or laws.
- **Science-based Advocacy** – using the best available science to inform the public and policymakers.
- **Lobbying** – interacting with legislators and elected officials and other decision-makers to shape policies and laws.
- **Monitoring and Vigilance** – serving as a watchdog to ensure that the Park is managed as envisioned by Article XIV.
- **Litigation** – as a last resort, taking legal action to ensure that policies or laws are upheld.

BECOME AN ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACTIVIST

Today, more than ever, the Adirondack Council needs people who are interested and eager to share their commitment to the Adirondack Park. Signing up as an activist links you with issues facing the Park – and to other people who wish to get involved with Park protection.

Why is it Important? Each new activist adds to our influence in the Adirondack Park, the New York State government and the federal government. Your voice provides additional clout and enhances and strengthens our efforts.

What Does it Take? The amount of time and personal commitment you dedicate is up to you. If you feel most comfortable writing letters, that is great! If you feel like speaking at a public meeting, that is great too. Anything that you can do to help in the Council's effort to protect the Park is beneficial and greatly appreciated.

How Will I Know When to Get Involved? The Council will send out Action Alerts that provide information and direction on how best you can help on particular issues. Our Action Alerts contain all the information you will need to respond to our request for help - background information on the issues, who to contact, their addresses, and suggestions to help you develop your comments.

Issues and problems can arise suddenly, so sometimes we may need to contact you by telephone or e-mail in order to alert you in a timely fashion. Action Alerts are posted on our website at: www.adirondackcouncil.org. If you do have any questions, we are only a phone call or an e-mail away

How Do I Sign Up? We ask you to fill out the attached Activist Form and send it back to us. It's as easy as that! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a Council staff member toll free at (877) 873-2240 or by email at activists@adirondackcouncil.org.

Please join the Council's Activist Network today. Just a little bit of your time and effort can make all the difference.



Photo by Gary Randorf

On Hopkins Mountain

www.adirondackcouncil.org



The Adirondack Council Activist Form

P.O. Box D-2, 103 Hand Avenue, Elizabethtown, NY 12932 877-873-2240

e-mail: info@adirondackcouncil.org

www.adirondackcouncil.org

Name _____

Address _____

Is this your business or home address? _____

Do you have a second address in the Park? If so, please list here:

Dates you are in residence there: _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Best time to call _____

E-mail _____

Fax _____ home or business? _____

US Congressman _____ District # _____

State Senator _____ District # _____

State
Assemblymember _____ District # _____

Interests (check all that apply)

☐ acid rain ☐ Forest Preserve protection ☐ water quality
☐ development of private lands ☐ wildlife protection
☐ other (please describe) _____

What is your connection to the Adirondack Park? (check all that apply)

☐ native Adirondacker ☐ current resident ☐ Adk Park property owner
☐ seasonal homeowner ☐ recreationist ☐ visitor
☐ wilderness and nature lover ☐ Park Business owner
☐ other (please describe) _____

Would you be willing to write letters to policymakers on Adirondack Park issues?
☐ yes ☐ no

Would you be willing to meet with your elected officials about the Adirondack Park?
☐ yes ☐ no

Would you be willing to attend and speak at public hearings on Park issues?
☐ yes ☐ no

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form!

BECOME AN ADIRONDACK COUNCIL MEMBER

By joining the Council, you will be:

- Protecting the East's last large tracts of wild, open space land.
- Preserving threatened wildlife habitats.
- Helping to keep productive timber lands in forestry and preserving the jobs that go along with them while protecting the lands against development with conservation easements.
- Continuing a century-old tradition of wildland protection, leaving an incredible natural legacy for generations yet to come.

What you will receive as a member:

- Informative newsletters: the issues, people, and trends in the Park.
- Special reports like Acid Rain: A Continuing National Tragedy.
- An invitation to our annual membership meeting and awards dinner: an opportunity to meet other people who share your concerns and appreciation of the Park.
- The Council's annual State of the Park Report: the latest scoop on what elected officials have done for the Park.
- Action Alerts when your attendance at a public meeting or your letter to a policymaker could make the difference.

With your help, we can work to preserve the pristine lakes, rivers, forests, fields, mountains, and wetlands of this great Park for future generations of humans and animals alike.

For more information about becoming a member of the Adirondack Council:

Visit our website at: www.adirondackcouncil.org/membership.html

Call us toll free at: 877-873-2240 E-mail us at: info@adirondackcouncil.org

THE CLARENCE PETTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

For 15 years, the Council has hosted college interns in our main office in Elizabethtown in the Adirondack Park and in our government and communications office in the State Capitol of Albany. The Council's CLARENCE PETTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM offers a challenging internship experience to qualified candidates.

A native of the Adirondacks and now 99 years old, Clarence Petty has spent a lifetime working to ensure good stewardship of the state's public lands and sound decision-making about private land use in the Adirondack Park. He has served on the Adirondack Council's board of directors and is now on the advisory board. The program is named in his honor.

The Adirondack Council is committed to offering interns an experience that will prepare them for employment in an environmental non-profit, government agency, or related field by working alongside 14 professionals at a nationally recognized conservation organization. CLARENCE PETTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM alumni have found jobs with state and federal government agencies and other environmental organizations. Former interns have become full time members of the Council's program team. Others have continued with graduate study in public policy and pursued environmental law degrees. In return, the Adirondack Council has benefited from their enthusiasm and fresh perspective to challenges facing the Park. At the same time, we pleased to be training a new generation of environmental leaders.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

SPECIAL REPORTS

Shifting the Burden: Forest Tax Abatement Programs in the Adirondack Park (2004)

This study looks at New York State's forest tax exemptions. It discusses flaws and provides recommendations to improve the programs.

Tahawus Tract State Land Purchase: Tax Implications for the Town of Newcomb (2003)

This report provides an analysis of the taxes generated from the state's proposed acquisition of 6,300 acres of land adjacent to the Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness Area located in the town of Newcomb.

Status Quo vs Conservation Easement: Tax Analysis of the Hancock Forest Lands (2003)

The purpose of this study is to project the tax implications if New York State purchased a conservation easement from Hancock or a future owner.

Falling Further Behind: The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park (2001)

This report outlines the progress on the Adirondack Park Agency's enforcement programs.

After the Fact: The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park (1999)

This report provides an analysis of the Adirondack Park Agency's enforcement programs.

Forest Preserve or Development? A Tax Analysis of the Proposed Whitney Subdivision (1997)

This study provides an analysis of the taxes generated from the proposed Whitney subdivision parcel, whether it became Forest Preserve or was developed according to the Whitney application.

Property Taxes, Growth & Land Conservation in the Adirondacks (1996)

This report, prepared for the Council by Ad Hoc Associates, looks at various measurements of growth and conservation in 68 Adirondack towns.

PUBLICATIONS

Acid Rain: A Continuing National Tragedy (1998)

This publication discusses acid rain and its degradation on ecosystems in the Adirondack Park and other sensitive areas in New York State and around the nation.

The Adirondack Council - Celebrating 20 Year's of Park Protection (1995)

This publication outlines the history of the Adirondack Council and its accomplishments. Also includes tributes to the Council from policymakers, colleagues and the media.

Mirror of the Mountains - Lake Champlain (1995)

A publication detailing Lake Champlain: its history, its problems and a plan for action to help protect the Lake from further ecological damage.

A Gift of Wildness - The Bob Marshall Great Wilderness (1992)

A publication describing the Council's proposal for the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness that, if completed, would total over 408,000 acres and would be the largest wilderness area in the eastern US north of the Everglades.

Windows on the Park, Scenic Vistas of the Adirondacks (1991)

This publication examines the need to protect the panoramic vistas and road corridors of the Park.

Managing Growth and Development in Unique, Natural Settings (1990)

A publication developed from a conference by the Council in the fall of 1990, it is a resource for those who strive to preserve natural areas and serve the needs of people in the same setting.

2020 Vision Series - Fulfilling the Promise of the Adirondack Park (1988-1992)

The three-volume 2020 Vision series is designed as a plan for fulfilling the dream of creating a true Adirondack Park. It would ensure the preservation and ecological integrity of the Park for the year 2020 and beyond.

Volume 1 - Biological Diversity: Saving All the Pieces (1988)

A 64-page explanation of the most extensive biological survey ever taken on the privately-owned land in the Park.

Volume 2 - Completing the Wilderness System (1990)

A 48-page report intended to serve as policymakers' guide for completing the protection of the Adirondack Forest Preserve designated as Wilderness. Includes mapping and descriptions of critical public and private lands that are recommended for inclusion in the Wilderness system.

Volume 3 - Realizing the Recreational Potential of Adirondack Wild Forests (1990)

A 52-page report mapping and describing the Wild Forest areas of the Adirondack Park and recommending how these scattered parcels can be connected, protected, enhanced, and managed to achieve their full recreational potential for a wide variety of users.

Volume 4 - Private Land Stewardship (2007)

A 40-page, full-color publication, focusing exclusively on private property management.

Beside the Stilled Waters (1987)

The Council's groundbreaking publication on acid rain detailing the destruction in full color.

The Adirondack Wildguide, A Natural History of the Adirondack Park (1984)

This publication was jointly published by the Adirondack Council and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. The Wildguide takes you through the wildlands of the Adirondacks with an ecologist as your guide.

STATE OF THE PARK REPORTS (Annually)

These annual publications detail how the actions of local, state and federal leaders helped or harmed the Adirondack Park throughout that year.

NEWSLETTERS (Semi-Annually)

Seasonal updates on the news and issues that effect the Adirondack Park.

Acid Rain Video

Acid Rain: An Adirondack Tragedy

A short film on what acid rain is and why we need to stop it.

PART III

REFERENCE SECTION

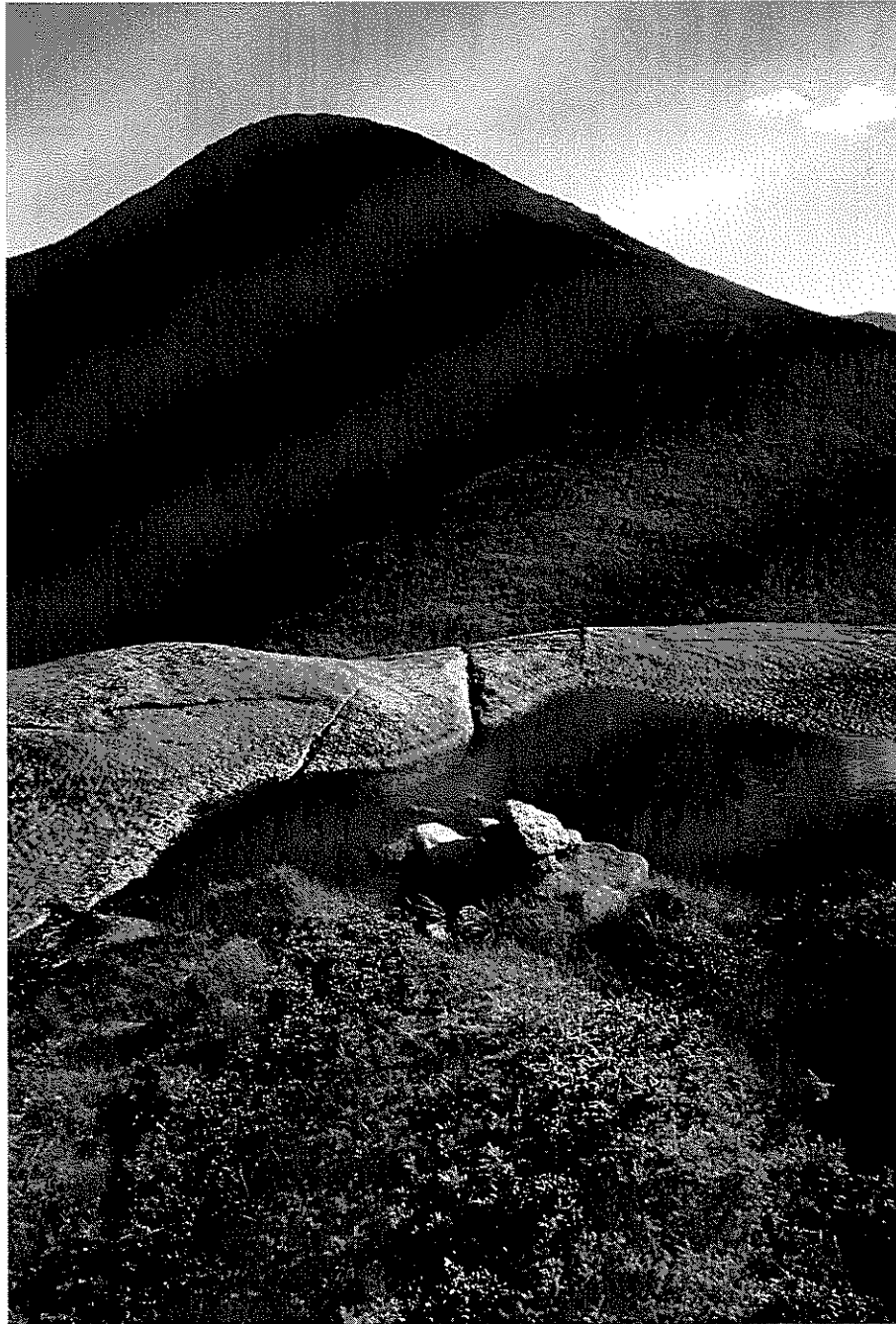


Photo by Gary Randorf

THE ADIRONDACK DEBATE: MYTHS AND REALITIES

MYTH: The Forest Preserve is only available to the hiker and camper elite. Otherwise it is “locked-up” and inaccessible, especially to the elderly and handicapped.

REALITY: The public lands in the Park remain one of the most accessible recreation areas in the world. Eighty-five percent of the Adirondack Forest Preserve lies within three miles of a major road-way or trailhead. Extensive tracts of Forest Preserve can be reached by boat, kayak or canoe, by motorized vehicles in Wild Forest areas, or by float plane. The tops of two Adirondack mountains can be reached by automobile, including Whiteface Mountain, a “High Peak” reaching well above 4,000 feet in elevation. Two Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs), hundreds of trailheads, boat, canoe, and fishing access sites on lakes and rivers, and state-run campgrounds, make the Forest Preserve accessible to millions of people. The public, including people with disabilities, can hunt, fish, and camp with minimal restrictions on most state lands in the Adirondack Park.

MYTH: Environmental regulations hurt the Park’s economy.

REALITY: The timber and tourism industries depend upon the natural resource base of the Adirondacks and preservation of these resources is the best way to build sustainable communities in the Adirondack Park. Millions of people visit the Park each year because of its unique environmental features. In fact, in a July 20, 2004 article in the Observer-Dispatch, Lake Placid Mayor Robert Politi stated, “The Adirondack Park Agency rules and regulations have been good for the community and region because of the way we look.” He went on to add, “We need to maintain not only the spirit, but the character of this special place.” And Chesterfield Town Supervisor Gerald Morrow was quoted in the Oct. 14, 2004 edition of the Press-Republican as saying, “A lot of people say business won’t come to Essex County because it’s in the Adirondack Park,” Morrow said. “That’s what helps attract people. Take a look here today at the beauty that’s all around you,” Morrow said.

MYTH: State purchase of land by conservation easements or full-fee title hurts the Park communities because it prohibits growth and development. Furthermore, state acquisition reduces the local tax base because the state does not pay taxes on the land it owns in the Park.

REALITY: The state makes payments in lieu of taxes on Forest Preserve and easement lands within the Adirondack Park. In 1991, the state’s payments to Forest Preserve localities totaled over \$53 million. As rates have increased over the last decade, so have state payments. State acquisition and easement purchases do not inhibit community growth and development because the lands protected are usually either undevelopable or more valued for their natural resources. In addition, easement acquisition by the state assists locally based timber products companies by providing tax reductions on timber lands and helps tourism related businesses by preserving open space, which in turn brings visitors to the area.

MYTH: The environmentalists and preservationists want to turn the Adirondacks into a National Park and move people out of the region.

REALITY: The only National Park proposal for the Adirondacks came in 1967. It was soundly rejected by a wide spectrum of organizations, including environmental and preservationist groups. The Adirondack Council believes that the Park’s future is best protected by the people of New York State through needed additions to the Forest Preserve, by conservation easements or fee acquisition from willing sellers. Federal cost-share land protection initiatives and continued prudent private stewardship are also important.

ADIRONDACK PARK - FACTS AND FIGURES

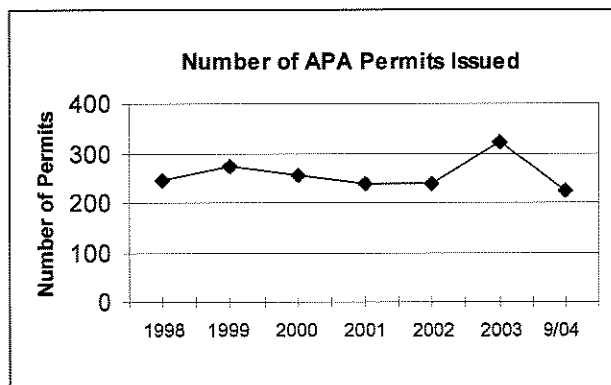
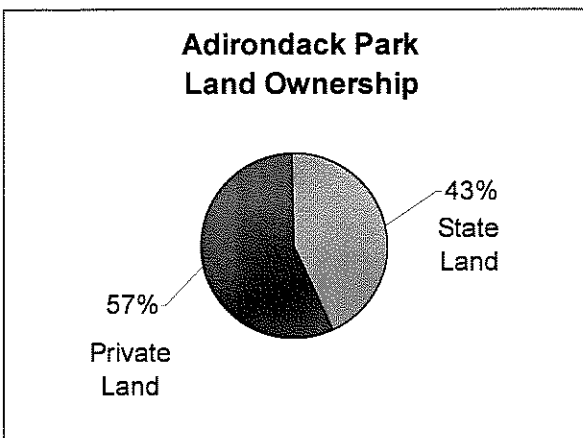
Size of the Adirondack Park: The Adirondack Park is comprised of 5,927,600 acres, or 9,262 square miles. It is roughly the size of Vermont. The Park is larger than the Everglades, Glacier, Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Parks combined!

Ownership: The Park contains roughly 2.6 million acres, (43% of the total Park land) of state-owned land. About 3.4 million acres in the Park are privately owned lands.

Population of the Park: The Park is home to about 130,000 permanent residents and about 130,000 seasonal residents, and is the destination of approximately 10 million visitors annually.

Adirondack Forest Preserve: It consists of land owned by the state within the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA): The APA was created in 1971 to develop long-range land use plans for both the public and private lands in the Adirondack Park. The APA has a staff of 64 employees, including specialists in planning and natural resources. The APA uses density guidelines and resource constraints in determining whether individual permit applications can be approved.



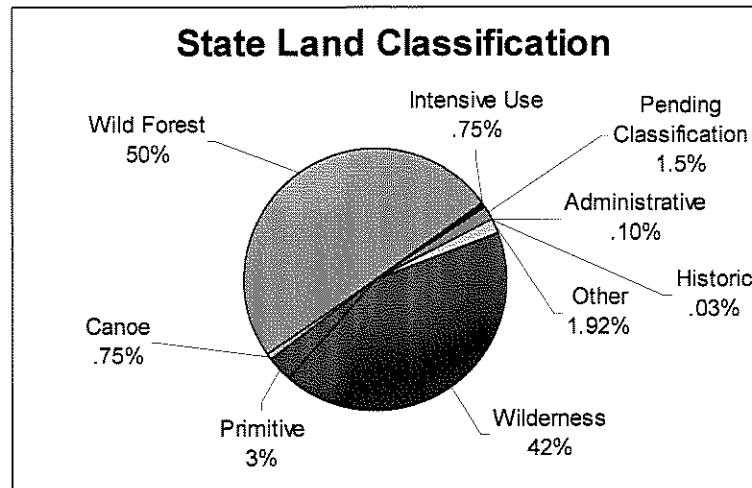
APA Permits Issued: In 2003, the APA issued 323 permits Park-wide. In 1998 through 2002 the Agency issued 246, 274, 255, 238, and 237 permits each year respectively. In the first nine months of 2004, the APA has already issued 225 permits. These permits were for home development, subdivisions, and state agency projects within the Adirondacks.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC): DEC is charged with the stewardship of the publicly owned Forest Preserve. The DEC also has regulatory responsibility for point-source pollution control, timber management practices guidance, wildlife management, the Adirondack Sign Law, mining activities, etc.

Flora and Fauna: The Park provides habitat for 83 species of trees and many rare species of wildflowers. Lichens, mosses, grasses, shrubs, and herbs also thrive in the Park. It is home to 55 species of mammals, 218 species of birds (193 nesting), 35 species of reptile and amphibians, and 86 species of fish. Over the past several years, the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and the lynx have been restored to the Park's wildlife community. The Adirondacks are home to increasing number of moose and coyotes, and it is one of the last three regions in the nation where the eastern timber wolf may be successfully introduced.

State Land

Adirondack State Land Master Plan (ASLMP): This plan classifies the 2.6 million acres of state-owned Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack Park according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use. The plan also sets the policy for the management of these lands. The ASLMP classifies state-owned lands into the following categories.



Wilderness Areas: These areas comprise about 1.1 million acres or 42% of the Forest Preserve. Camping, hunting, fishing, skiing, hiking, and other non-motorized activities are allowed in Wilderness areas.

Primitive Areas: These areas comprise 45,670 acres or 3% of the Forest Preserve. Activities allowed in Primitive areas are similar to those allowed in Wilderness Areas.

Canoe Area: This area comprises 17,634 acres or .7% of the Forest Preserve and consists of numerous lakes and rivers that provide remote recreation in a wilderness setting.

Wild Forest Areas: These areas comprise about 1.3 million acres or 50% of the Forest Preserve. Along with activities allowed in Wilderness areas, mountain bicycles and snowmobiles are also allowed in Wild Forest areas.

Intensive Use Areas: These areas comprise about 19,508 acres or .75% of the Forest Preserve. These are areas where the state provides facilities for outdoor recreation. Types of Intensive Use areas are campgrounds, day use areas, ski centers, beaches, and boat launching facilities.

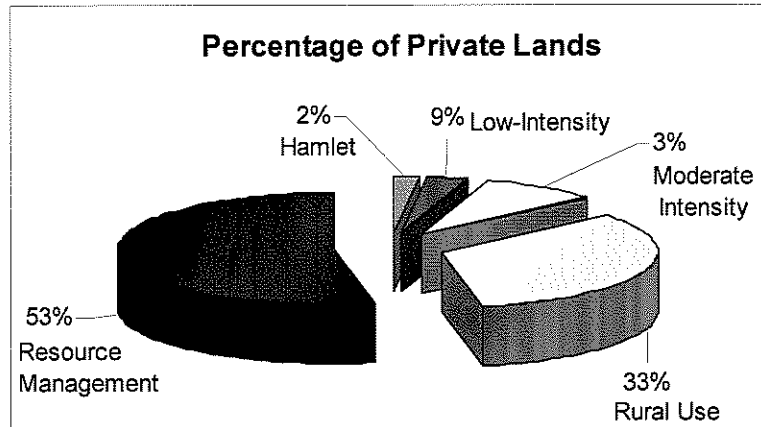
Historic Use Areas: These are areas that have buildings, structures or sites that are significant in the history, architecture, archeology or culture of the Adirondack Park. These areas comprise about 530 acres of Forest Preserve or .03%.

State Administrative Use Areas: These areas comprise about 1,554 acres or about .1% of the Forest Preserve. These are areas where the state provides facilities for a variety of specific state purposes that are not primarily designed to accommodate visitors to the Park.

Pending Classification: These are areas that have not yet been classified under the State Land Master Plan. These areas comprise about 34,931 acres and represent about 1.5 % of the Forest Preserve.

Private Land

Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan: This plan applies to the 3.4 million acres of private land in the Park. This plan is designed to preserve the natural resources and open-space character of the Park, while providing ample opportunity for appropriate development. Under this plan, the Park's private lands are designated as follows:



Hamlet: Hamlets are the growth and service centers of the Park. These areas total 54,770 acres or 2% of the private lands. There are no building density requirements in hamlet areas.

Moderate-Intensity Use Areas: These areas total 103,567 acres, or 3% of the private lands. The density requirement for these areas is 1 building per 1.3 acres.

Low-Intensity Use Areas: These areas total 277,286 acres or 9% of private lands. The density requirement for these areas is 1 building per 3.2 acres.

Rural Use Areas: These areas total 1,028,951 acres, or 33% of private lands. The density requirement for these areas is 1 building per 8.5 acres.

Resource Management Areas: These areas total 1,633,668 acres, or 53% of private lands. Special care is given to protecting the natural character of these lands. The density requirement for these areas is 1 building per 43 acres.

Watersheds

The Adirondacks form the headwaters for most or part of the five major river basins in New York State: Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence, and Mohawk Rivers. Within the Park there are more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, and over 1,200 miles of rivers protected under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The Park also has 1 million acres of wetlands.

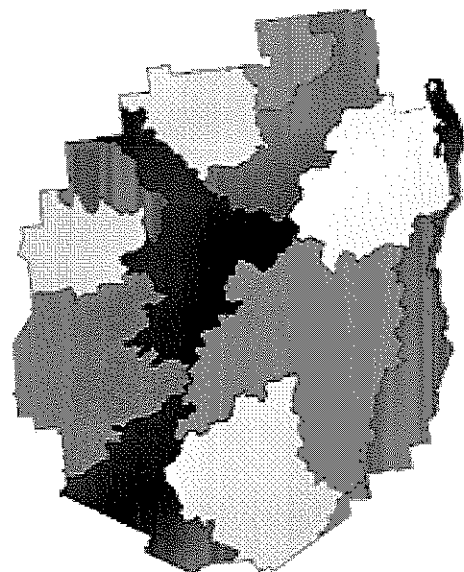
Scenic Vistas

There are 39 officially designated scenic vistas in the Park, but hundreds more deserve recognition and protection.

Other facts about the Park

3,000 miles of trails for hiking, snowmobiling, skiing, and horseback riding; 45 state campgrounds; 80 acres of alpine tundra; The oldest geological formations in the country.

Adirondack Park Watersheds



DATES IN ADIRONDACK HISTORY

1865 – State surveyor, Verplanck Colvin, who became the chief advocate for the Adirondack Park's creation, first travels into the Adirondack Wilderness.

1869 – Rev. William H.H. Murray, a Boston clergyman authors "Adventures in the Wilderness" triggering a flood of tourism into the Adirondack region.

1870 – New York State becomes the leading producer of timber in the nation through extensive Adirondack timber harvesting.

1872 – Colvin is appointed head of the Adirondack Survey. Commission on State Parks calls for protection of forests from "wanton destruction," most of which was caused by irresponsible lumbering.

1885 – New York State creates the Forest Preserve.

1886 – The New York State Legislature enacts a law requiring "like valuation" and "like rate" payments in lieu of taxes on state owned lands within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

1890 – The New York State Legislature makes the first appropriation for Forest Preserve purchases.

1892 – The Adirondack Park is created on May 20th, establishing the "blue line" boundary, which encompasses part of six northern counties and 2.8 million acres.

1894 – The "Forever Wild" clause is made a part of the New York State Constitution, protecting Forest Preserve lands from lease, sale, and cutting of timber.

1916 – \$7.5 million Bond Act is approved for land acquisition. Through 1927, lands containing Mt. Marcy's summit and other High Peaks are acquired.

1920 – Dams proposed for the Moose River begin the 35-year Panther Mountain Dam Battle.

1950 – November 25th, the "Big Blowdown" levels vast stands of Adirondack timber, allowing sanctioned salvage operation of "dead and down" timber until March 1956.

1968 – Construction of the Adirondack Northway is completed.

1968 – A proposal arises for an Adirondack National Park, which is widely opposed by environmental organizations. The Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks is appointed.

1971 – The Adirondack Park Agency Act is passed and signed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller.

1972 – The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan is adopted, categorizing state land in the Park

1972 – The Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act is signed into law.

1973 – The Adirondack Park Private Land Use and Development Plan is adopted, categorizing private lands in the Park.

1975 – The Adirondack Council is formed as a not-for-profit organization.

1975 – 1,000 miles of rivers are added to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers system.

1988 – Diamond International's sale of 96,000 acres of land in the Park and a development boom trigger the creation of Governor Cuomo's Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century.

1990 – The 21st Century Commission releases its report calling for amendments to strengthen the APA Act and recommending initiatives on education, health care and the economy to aid Park communities.

1992 – The Adirondack Park Centennial Year. Park legislation is introduced by Governor Cuomo and the State Assembly.

1993 – Environmental Protection Act is passed creating the Environmental Protection Fund, a dedicated fund for environmental projects such as open space protection, landfill closures, and recycling.

1994 – The Centennial Year of the “Forever Wild” Clause of Article XIV of the NY State Constitution.

1995 – A micro-burst storm occurs in the Adirondacks, leveling thousands of acres of trees on the Forest Preserve. The Council and others successfully stop a proposal by the Department of Environmental Conservation to log the Forest Preserve.

1996 – The Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act is passed, providing money for many projects in the Park.

1998 – A portion of the Whitney Estate is purchased by New York, adding 15,000 acres to the Forest Preserve, including most of Little Tupper Lake, vast forested lands, and nine ponds.

1999 – New York State purchases a conservation easement on the Champion International lands in the Park, adding 110,000 acres to the state's easement holdings. The deal also adds 30,000 acres to the Forest Preserve, protecting important watersheds, river corridors, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

2000 – New York State law passes to further reduce Acid Rain pollution. The law prohibits allowances from New York power plants to be sold to Midwestern plants.

2000 – Legislation passes giving municipalities across New York the authority to regulate and prohibit the operation of personal watercraft (aka. jet skis). The effort was made possible by the backing of a coalition of environmental groups, in which the Adirondack Council played a major role.

2002 – Law to ban the sale of small lead sinkers in New York State passed. The measure would lead to further protection of one of the Park's most famous native residents, the Common Loon.

2003 – Law to increase the penalty for illegally cutting timber on the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves passes. Ten years in the making, the law increases the fine from \$10 per tree to \$250 per tree.

2004 – On Earth Day, the Governor announced the largest land deal in the state's history – the purchase of conservation easements on over 257,000 acres of land owned by the International Paper Company.

THE FOREVER WILD CLAUSE OF THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION

In 1894, a state constitutional convention agreed to an amendment to Article XIV of the New York State Constitution that established the “Forever Wild” clause.” This clause protects the state-owned Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park. It reads,

“The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed, or destroyed.”

There are times, however, when projects can only be completed on Forest Preserve lands. Because the Forest Preserve is constitutionally protected, amendments to Article XIV must be adopted to allow those projects to go forward.

THE PROCESS OF PASSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Passing a Constitutional amendment is a serious undertaking. First, the amendment must be introduced by sponsors in both the New York State Senate and Assembly. Like the introduction of a regular bill, the amendment is assigned a bill number and it is sent to the appropriate committees in each house.

In addition to committee review, an amendment is also referred to the state Attorney General, who within 20 days, must provide an opinion in writing to the Assembly and the Senate on how the amendment will affect the state Constitution. This opinion is advisory and one or both houses may take up the amendment for a vote prior to receiving the opinion.

Once released from committees, the amendment moves to the floor of each house for a vote. Identical versions of the amendment must be passed in each house. Unlike a regular piece of legislation, after the amendment is passed, it does not go to the Governor for his signature. Instead, it is referred to the next regular two-year legislative session which follows each of the general election of the members of the Legislature.

Following second passage of the amendment by the newly elected Legislature, it is placed on the ballot for a statewide voter referendum. Once the amendment is approved by the majority of voters in the state, it is incorporated into the New York State Constitution. Often the amendment will then be sent back to the Legislature so that they can pass implementing legislation to outline how the amendment will be carried out. The implementing legislation could impose further environmental or procedural controls over the project.

See next page for a list of Constitutional amendments to Article XIV.

AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE XIV OF THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION THAT AFFECTED THE ADIRONDACK PARK.

- 1913** - Allowed 3% of state Forest Preserve lands to be used for reservoirs for municipal drinking water supplies and canal purposes.
- 1918** - Allowed the construction of Routes 3, 28 & 30.
- 1927** - Allowed the construction of the Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway.
- 1933** - Allowed the Indian Lake-Speculator road construction.
- 1941** - Allowed 20 miles of ski slopes to be built on Whiteface Mountain.
- 1947** - Allowed the construction of the Gore Mountain Ski Center and 8 miles of trails.
- 1957** - Established a 400-acre land bank for highway construction and alteration.
- 1959** - Authorized the construction of an interstate highway between Albany and the Canadian border.
- 1963** - Allowed the exchange of 10 acres of Forest Preserve land for Saranac Lake to use as a town landfill. Saranac Lake conveyed 30 acres on Roaring Brook to the state.
- 1965** - Allowed for the town of Arietta to receive 28 acres of Forest Preserve land to be used for the Piseco Airport. The town conveyed 30 acres back to the state for incorporation in the Forest Preserve.
- 1979** - Allowed International Paper to trade approximately 8,500 acres of land with the state allowing the state to shed isolated parcels and gain parcels of equal value with directly conjoined existing Forest Preserve lands.
- 1983** - Allowed the state to give 10 acres of Forest Preserve land to the Sagamore Institute to preserve the historic buildings that were on the property. In exchange, the Sagamore Institute gave the state 200 acres of land.
- 1987** - Allowed an increase in the number of miles of ski trails that may be constructed and maintained on Forest Preserve land on Whiteface Mountain in Essex County, Gore and Pete Gay mountains in Warren County and others in the Catskills.
- 1991** - Authorized the town of Arietta to receive 50 acres of state land for runway expansion and landing strip space for their airport, in exchange for 53 acres that would become Forest Preserve in Lake Pleasant.
- 1995** - Allowed the Town of Keene to receive 12 acres of state land for use as a cemetery. In exchange, the town gave the state 144 acres of land along the Ausable River to be incorporated in the Forest Preserve.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

THE WHITE HOUSE

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
Fax: 202-456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
vicepresident@whitehouse.gov

George W. Bush, President
Richard Cheney, Vice President

UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D.C. 20510
www.senate.gov
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

To find out who represents you in the U.S. Senate, go to www.senate.gov and click on the drop down menu below "Find Your Senators." Select your state and both Senators listed that represent you in Congress. You can also find bill status information on this website.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, D.C. 20515
www.house.gov
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

To find out who represents you in the U.S. House of Representatives, go to www.house.gov and click on the drop down menu below "Find Your Representative" and enter your zip code. You can also find bill status information on this website.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460
Phone: (202) 272-0167
www.epa.gov

Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created in 1970, through an executive reorganization plan, as an independent regulatory agency responsible for the implementation of federal laws designed to protect the environment.

NEW YORK STATE DIRECTORY

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor David A. Paterson

The Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224
(518) 474-8390
www.state.ny.us

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Albany, New York 12248
Switchboard: (518) 455-4100
www.assembly.state.ny.us

Speaker of the Assembly - The Honorable Sheldon Silver

Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman - The Honorable Robert K. Sweeney

To find out who represents you in the New York State Assembly:

Go to www.assembly.state.ny.us. On the right side of the page there is a section titled, "Your Assemblymember." Select the link called "Click here to Search by Zip Code." Enter your zip code in the box titled "Member Search" and click "search". You may also find out who represents you in the Assembly by calling the Public Information office at (518) 455-4218.

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Albany, New York 12247
Switchboard: (518) 455-2800
www.senate.state.ny.us

Majority Leader of the Senate - The Honorable Joseph Bruno

Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman - The Honorable Carl Marcellino

To find out who represents you in the New York State Senate:

Go to www.senate.state.ny.us. Select the "Senators" button from the menu on the left side of the page. Then click on "Search by Zip Code" under the section "Who is my Senator?" on the right side of the page. Enter your zip code in the box provided. You may also find out who represents you in the Senate by calling Legislative Information at (518) 455-3216.

To find out the status of a bill call: Statewide Bill Status Hotline:
1-800-342-9860 or (518) 455-7545 You can also visit www.senate.state.ny.us
or www.assembly.state.ny.us for bill status information.

THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

P.O. Box 99
Route 86
Ray Brook, New York 12977
(518) 891-4050
www.apa.state.ny.us

In 1971, the Adirondack Park Agency was created by the NY State Legislature to develop long-range land use plans for both public and private lands within the Park.

The APA is responsible for maintaining the protection of the Forest Preserve, and overseeing development proposals of the privately owned lands. The Agency prepared the State Land Master Plan, which was signed into law in 1972, followed by the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan in 1973. Both plans are periodically revised to reflect the changes and current trends and conditions of the Park. The mission of the APA is to protect the public and private resources of the Park through the exercise of the powers and duties provided by law. This mission is rooted in three statutes administered by the Agency in the Park, they are:

1. The Adirondack Park Agency Act.
2. The New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act.
3. The New York State Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers System Act.

The APA also operates the Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs) in Paul Smiths and Newcomb. Open year-round, the facilities serve the 6-million-acre Park as environmental education and traveler orientation centers.

The APA consists of approximately 64 staff and an eleven-member Board of Commissioners. The Agency Board meets monthly to act on Park policy issues and permit applications. Agency Board meetings take place the second Thursday and Friday of each month and are open to the public.

The APA Board consists of eight private citizens, appointed by the Governor for limited terms, and three state officials: the Commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Economic Development (DED), and the Secretary of the Department of State (DOS). Five of the private citizens must be permanent residents of the Park, three must be permanent residents of the state outside the Park, and not more than five can be affiliated with the same political party.

APA Executive Director - Richard Lefebvre

Appointed Members of the APA

Adirondack Park Residents

Dr. Ross Whaley - Chairman
Art Lussi
Frank Mezzano
Bill Thomas
Leilani Urlich

NYS Residents Outside the Park

Jim Townsend
Cecil Wray

State Representatives

Betsy Lowe - DEC
Randy Beach - DED
Richard Hoffman - DOS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233
(518) 402-8540
www.dec.state.ny.us

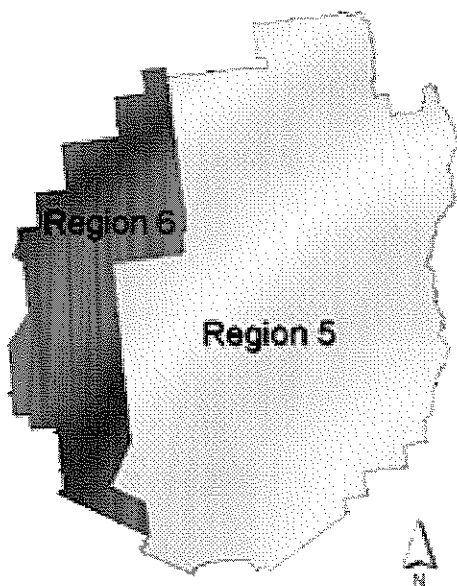
Alexander "Pete" Grannis, Commissioner

Lynette Stark, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources and Water Quality

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is charged with the stewardship of the publicly owned Forest Preserve. The DEC also has regulatory responsibility for point-source pollution control, timber management practices guidance, wildlife management, the Adirondack Sign Law, mining activities, etc. The DEC is divided up into nine regions throughout the state. Regions 5 and 6 govern the Park.

The DEC, under the guidance of the State Land Master Plan (SLMP), in conjunction with the APA, is charged with preparation and implementation of Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for each separate unit of state land within the Park. These UMPs are intended to be more site-specific and detailed than the SLMP, with information on specific natural features and resources.

Information about public recreation opportunities in the Adirondack Park is available from the DEC's website, or main and regional offices.



DEC Regions

DEC Region 5 Office

1115 NYS Route 86
P.O. Box 296
Ray Brook, New York 12977
(518) 897-1200

Regional Director: Betsy Lowe

Serves Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Fulton,
Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.

DEC Region 6 Office

State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, New York 13601
(315) 785-2239

Regional Director: Judy Drabicki

Serves Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida
and St. Lawrence counties.

THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. Founded in 1975, the Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization with 18,000 members.

Adirondack Council Staff

Brian Houseal - *Executive Director*

Lilia Anson - *Accounts Manager*

Julie Ball - *Fund Development Associate*

Katherine Buckley - *Albany Office Manager*

Elaine Burke - *Director of Operations*

John Davis - *Conservation Director*

vacant - *Conservation Associate*

Diane W. Fish - *Director of Fund Development*

Lisa M. Genier - *Program Analyst*

Susan Hughes - *Executive Assistant*

Alanah Keddell-Tuckey - *Legislative Associate*

Kathy Kelley - *Membership Coordinator*

Scott M. Lorey - *Legislative Director*

Leah Nelson - *Conservation Assistant*

John F. Sheehan - *Director of Communications*

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Email: info@adirondackcouncil.org

For additional information, breaking news about the Park, and our most recent Action Alerts, be sure to visit the Council's website at www.adirondackcouncil.org.