



The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the ADIRONDACK PARK for current and future generations.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ASSESSING LAND SWAPS IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

Any proposed exchange of land in the Forest Preserve for land not now in the Forest Preserve will be judged against the following considerations:

1. The proposed land exchange must be narrowly defined, specific in purpose, limited in scope, and be supported by important public policy objectives;
2. The land currently in the Forest Preserve proposed for exchange cannot have unique biological, environmental, or hydrologic features, cannot include critical wildlife pathways, and cannot be part of a contiguous parcel that would become non-contiguous after the exchange;
3. The ecological, biological, hydrological, physiographic, and/or locational qualities of the parcel(s) to be received should be superior to those of the parcel(s) being exchanged, and these qualities of the parcel(s) to be exchanged should be such that the parcel(s) would be a candidate for addition to the Forest Preserve absent any exchange proposal.
4. If
 - a. the land received will not add significantly more acres to the Forest Preserve than contained in the acreage of lands taken out of the Preserve, or
 - b. the appraised value of the parcel(s) being received is not substantially higher than the appraised value of the parcel(s) being given up,

then the parcel(s) to be received must be overwhelmingly superior to that being exchanged, taking into consideration biodiversity, flora, fauna, animal pathways, watershed characteristics, streams, lakes and other waterbodies in the parcel(s);

5. Any impact of the proposed exchange on local communities must be, on balance, substantially to the benefit of those communities;
6. Taken as a whole, the proposed land exchange must achieve a significant improvement to the Forest Preserve and/or a long term benefit either to the local communities being affected or to the People of the State in general.

Each land transfer that requires an Article XIV Amendment will be treated as an individual and unique event, requiring its own review, assessment, and comment.

Adopted by the Board of Directors
Adirondack Council
February 7, 2013

DEFENDING THE EAST'S GREATEST WILDERNESS

103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3 P.O. Box D-2 Elizabethtown, New York 12932-0640 tel 518.873.2240 fax 518.873.6675
342 Hamilton Street Albany, New York 12210 tel 518.432.1770 fax 518.449.4839 info@adirondackcouncil.org

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