

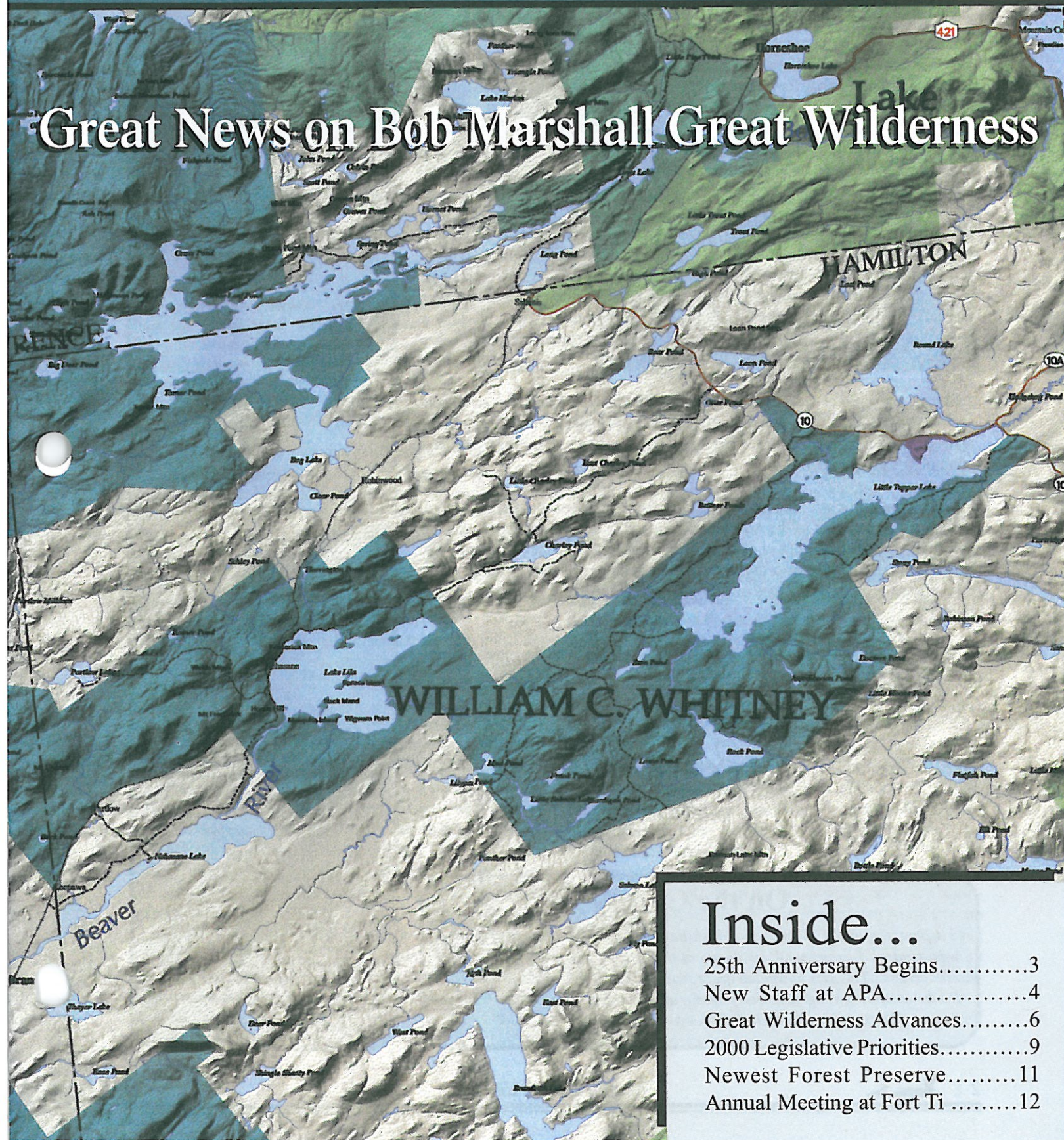


Adirondack Council

March 2000 Newsletter

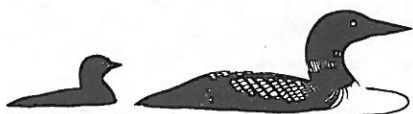
Member Organizations: Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, National Audubon Society, National Parks & Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Wilderness Society

Great News on Bob Marshall Great Wilderness



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March 2000

Dear Members and Friends,

It doesn't get any better than this. Forty-one thousand six hundred acres of new Wilderness in the western part of the Adirondack Park. We congratulate the Adirondack Park Agency for recommending Wilderness protection for these lands. Governor Pataki recently approved the APA's recommendations.

The Wilderness classification of 41,600 acres within the boundary of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness is a giant step forward toward the eventual establishment of this 408,000-acre roadless expanse, which would be the largest Wilderness east of the Mississippi and north of the Everglades. Sixty percent is now part of the publicly-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve.

It was approximately 70 years ago when Bob Marshall identified a large, roadless area in the western part of the Adirondack Park that was suitable for the creation of a great wilderness. For the past 25 years, the Adirondack Council has made the preservation of this vast expanse of forests, lakes and streams one of our top priorities.

Since proposing the creation of the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness over a decade ago, the Council has worked diligently to put in place the plans, funding, land acquisition programs and management actions necessary to advance the creation of this unique area.

I hope that all of our members, friends, activists, donors and associates will join the board and staff of the Adirondack Council in celebrating this great conservation victory. Hundreds of our members wrote letters, made phone calls and spoke at public hearings over the last 6 months to help make this possible. Your efforts have secured a precious gift for all New Yorkers and for future generations.

With your help, the Adirondack Council will continue to be the most effective advocate for the future of our Adirondack Park.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Burke
Executive Director

On the Cover

A partial glimpse at the Adirondack Park Agency's latest map of the west-central Adirondack Park, home of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. The APA has made great strides in its Geographic Information System mapping program. See pages 6 and 7 for an update on the brighter future of the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

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Our Mission

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000-member, privately funded not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the natural character and human communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy and legal action.



Council's 25th Anniversary Celebration Begins . . .



Above, Council board and staff meet with supporters in January, with the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop. Photo by Dave Greenwood. Right, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer shows off a token of the Council's appreciation with staff members Greenwood & Anne Trachtenberg.



U.S. Sen. Schumer, Former Chairman Elliman Look to History & Future

At a small Manhattan gathering in January, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and former Adirondack Council Chairman Kim Elliman congratulated the Adirondack Council on its 25th Anniversary, with Mr. Elliman recalling the Council's early years and Senator Schumer looking toward the future.

Senator Schumer said he had been pleased to work with the Council in 1999 in support of legislation to stop acid rain damage. He pledged to make it a top priority again this year. He plans to seek strong air pollution controls from the utility industry before agreeing to ease current regulations governing those companies' energy sales and non-utility business holdings.

Schumer thanked the Council for its support of his work and the work of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who first proposed the Acid Deposition and Ozone Control Act. Council Chairman David Skovron thanked Schumer for his leadership and noted that the Council will count on him to be a voice for the environment in Washington for years to come.

Chairman Skovron then presented Schumer with a framed print of Anne Lacy's painting of a mother loon and chick, which also adorns the front cover of the *Adirondack Wildguide*.

Kim Elliman chaired the Adirondack Council's Board of Directors from 1985 to 1989, and is currently a member of the Council's Advisory Board. He harkened back to the mid-1970s and 1980s, when the Council grew from a full time staff of one to its current level of 14 and from a membership of fewer than 3,000 to more than 18,000 today.

"I want to remind you all where the Council has come from; what it has accomplished in preserving the Park and building itself as an institution; how it became a role model for regional conservation and other regional conservation groups; and to note the ways in which the Council and the Adirondacks have the opportunity -- perhaps the imperative -- to consider the larger region of the Northern Forest," he said, noting the Council's decision to become a charter member of the Northern Forest Alliance, a group whose interests span New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

He added that the Council's example in building a successful regional environmental organization served as a model for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the Northern Forest Alliance.

"Over the past ten years, thanks to Tim and staff and board, the Council has self-consciously built alliances which have set you apart. While environmentalism is a more fragmented movement, what you see in the Council, I would argue, is its more mature expression."

"The history and experience of the Council have spawned land-protection not only of the Adirondacks, but of the Northern Forest and other regions, from the coast of Alaska, to the Red Rock of Utah and the geysers of Yellowstone. You have had a pathbreaking past. You have had a vision and an ability to implement. I have confidence that a legacy of preservation of wild places and a smarter, more inclusive sort of environmentalism will continue for another 25 years. Well done," Elliman concluded.

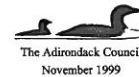
Governor, Attorney General Respond To Council's APA Enforcement Report



After the Fact:

The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park

An Analysis of the Adirondack Park Agency's Enforcement Programs



The Adirondack Council
November 1999

Officials at Camp Gabriels State Correctional Facility, left, constructed 26 buildings in fewer than 10 years without an APA permit. Photo by Gary Randorf.

Both Pledge Help for Overworked APA Staff in 2000

At the end of January, Gov. George E. Pataki announced that he was amending his FY 2000/01 budget proposal to include roughly \$150,000 to hire three new staff members at the Adirondack Park Agency.

In February, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office also noted that staff would be assigned to help the Park Agency deal with its enforcement backlog.

While the addition of three people would mean little to most state agencies, the APA has fewer than 70 full-time employees and the additions would represent a major increase in personnel.

In October, the Council issued a report detailing the problems that the APA has experienced in enforcing even the most rudimentary land-use laws and regulations.

Titled *After the Fact: The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park*, the report showed that the APA had only three enforcement officers and a similar number of attorneys assigned to handle all violations in the more than 9,000-square-mile Adirondack Park. (See the Council's web page for a full copy of the report: www.crisny.org/not-for-profit/adkcncl.)

In contrast, the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection has more than 60 enforcement personnel to watch over the Catskill watershed, which is only 2,000-square-miles, or less than a quarter of the Adirondack Park.

The report added that the overextended APA enforcement team was faced with a backlog of more than 1,000 unresolved cases and that the agency often responded to violations by

simply providing an after-the-fact permit without levying fines or ordering the removal of illegal structures. The report stressed the need for more enforcement help and greater APA authority to order immediate fines for violators. The recommendation for additional help included a suggestion to the Attorney General to assign a small task force to assist APA attorneys in clearing the backlog of enforcement cases.

In a letter to the Adirondack Council in February, Attorney General Spitzer's chief environmental attorney responded to the Council's request for more assistance to the APA. Peter Lehner's Feb. 25 letter notes:

"[Your] spotlight on enforcement was a welcome development ... This office has already met with representatives from the Agency to discuss the Agency's backlog of enforcement cases. It is clear to us that the Agency needs strengthened legal authority and additional resources in order to address violations of the Act more effectively ... For our part, the Department of Law is prepared to handle enforcement cases that the Agency refers to this office for civil action. We intend to meet again soon with Agency counsel to see how we can better utilize our combined existing enforcement capabilities to enforce the Act more effectively."

Governor Pataki told reporters that he felt the APA's backlog in enforcement was ample justification for adding three staff members in his budget. If the budget is approved on time, the staff could be hired this spring. The Council will advocate that the Legislature include increased staffing for the Park Agency in the state budget.



This series of mostly interconnected ponds and lakes is the scene that unfolds as one looks south from Little Tupper Lake to the far reaches of the 36,000-acre Whitney Estate. After successful completion of a deal in which the state purchased 14,700 acres around Little Tupper and then classified it Wilderness, the Whitneys may soon be ready to discuss another land sale.
Photo by Gary Randorf.



Governor's 2000/01 Budget Includes \$61.5 Million for Open Space Projects

Governor George E. Pataki's \$80-billion-plus spending plan for fiscal year 2000/01 continued his long practice of placing emphasis on Adirondack-related environmental programs. While it would be hard for anyone to top the Governor's support for recent major projects (i.e., Whitney and Champion International open space projects), there are some areas where improvements are warranted.

The Council will work with the Governor's staff and the Legislature to improve those proposals.

Environmental Protection Fund

The Governor's plan for the Environmental Protection Fund contains a total of \$125 million, which last year would have been considered full funding for this trust fund. However, this year, the Governor is proposing to add new projects to those that qualify for EPF funding without adding any money to the EPF to cover the new expenses. The main source of revenue for the EPF has been the Real Estate Transfer Tax and a handful of smaller sources. For example, the Governor's plan adds the state's expenses for six interstate commissions to programs supported by the EPF. Last year, those commissions were paid for by the Department of Environmental Conservation's General Fund appropriation.

Land Acquisition/Open Space Protection

The Governor has proposed spending \$61.5 million, or about \$10 million less on open space protection funding this year than last year from the combined sources of the EPF and the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

Essex County Landfill Agreement

On the brighter side, the Governor proposed another

\$495,000 for the closure of Essex County's ill-advised landfill in the Town of Lewis. The state is giving the county the money it needs to cap and monitor the landfill, and establish a new means of disposal that doesn't include a dump in the Adirondacks.

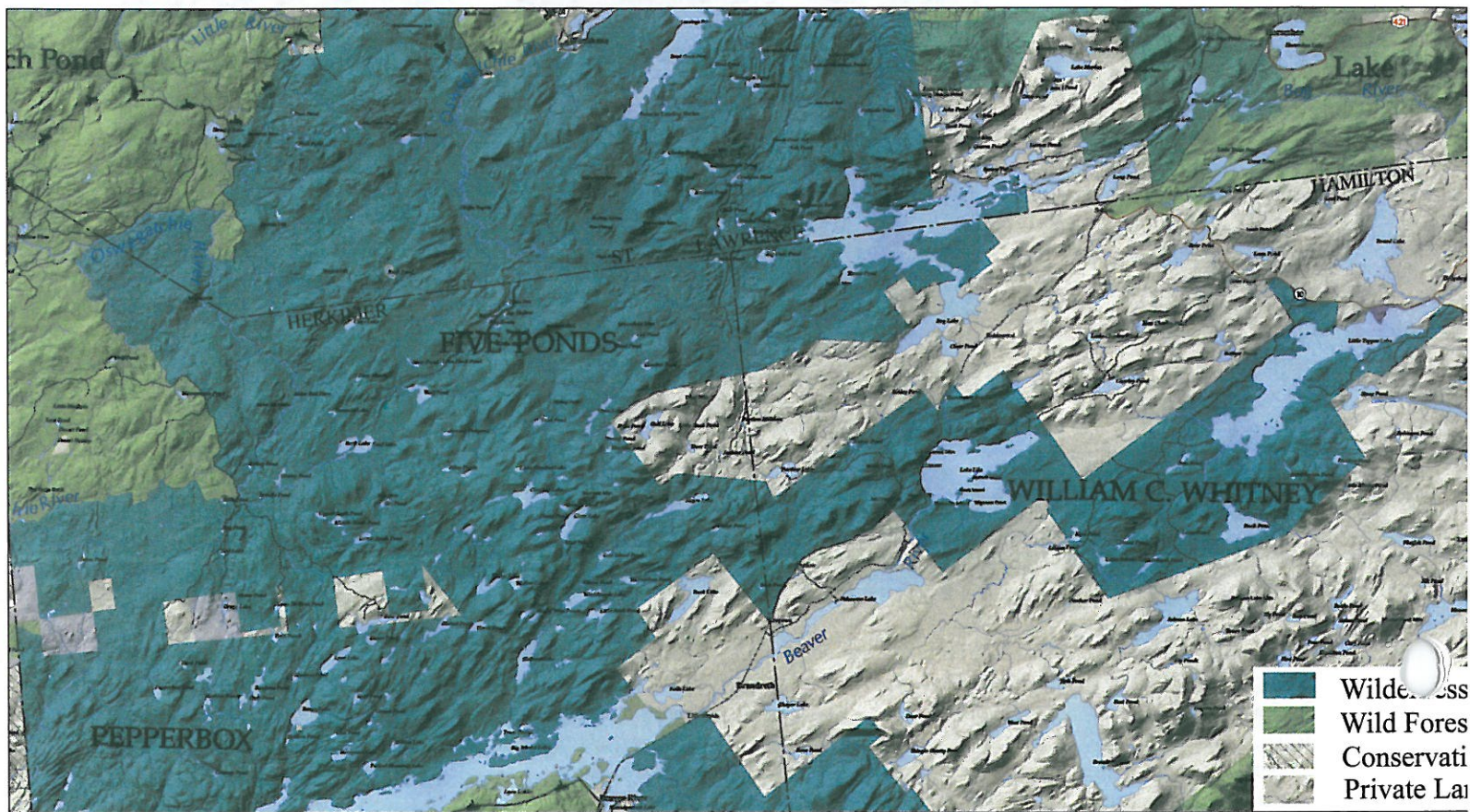
Local Taxes

The Governor again proposed to reimburse the worst-hit communities in the Adirondacks and Catskills for revenues lost when the state grants a property tax abatement to a local landowner. The abatements are granted to owners of large parcels who agree to commit their land to timber production for a 10-year period. The tax breaks were designed to encourage the production of forest products, a legitimate state endeavor that should be supported with state revenues.

The cost of reimbursement under the Governor's partial-reimbursement plan would be \$3.3 million per year. While this sum is small in the state's budget, the impact on Adirondack local governments is significant, especially in the Park's sparsely populated communities. The Council supports full reimbursement for local governments, which would cost more than the Governor's plan.

However, the Governor's plan comes with the same catch. As last year's unsuccessful proposal. It is slated to come from the EPF's limited resources instead of the state's overflowing General Fund. As proposed, it will be opposed by most environmental organizations, including the Council, who would support it if the money came from the General Fund. Currently, its prospects are bleak, since Assembly leaders have also opposed the use of the EPF for this purpose.

Council Members & Friends Advancing *Dream that Took Shape on Council's Drawing Board*



Making Progress: 60 Percent of Proposed Great Wilderness Already Protected, Roadless Council's Plan Calls for Continued Acquisition from Willing Sellers to Reach 408,000 Acres

Thanks to a strong group effort on the part of five leading New York environmental organizations, the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness is now 41,600 acres closer to reality than it was just a few months ago.

And thanks to the efforts of the Adirondack Council, 2,000 of those acres were added to the Adirondack Park Agency's Wilderness recommendation at the last minute. The plan must now be approved by the Governor, who is expected to sign it.

Last summer, the APA's initial staff recommendations for the classification of four major parcels of the Forest Preserve were discouraging. Adirondack Council members received a four-page action alert, urging attendance at statewide hearings on the management of those parcels.

The four tracts are located inside the proposed 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness -- a plan created by the Adirondack Council in 1990. The APA staff's unofficial recommendations could have allowed some level of motorized traffic on all four parcels.

The parcels included the William C. Whitney Area, Lake Lila Primitive Area, Alice Brook Wilderness and Watson's East Triangle, totaling

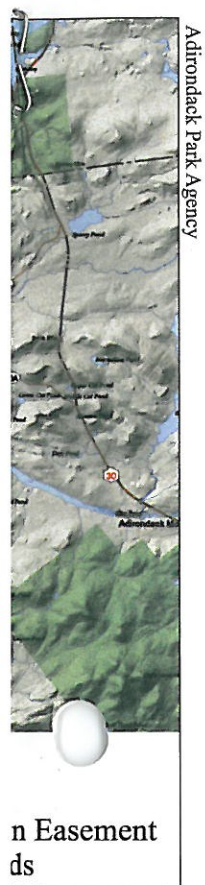
roughly 46,000 acres. Also under discussion was the fate of acres of isolated Wild Forest near the Pepperbox and Five Ponds Wilderness Areas. The APA staff's suggestions included:

Alice Brook Wilderness (2,000 acres): Staff proposed grading this area, which has been Wilderness for two decades, to Wild Forest, to accommodate snowmobile traffic. A management change could have opened the door not only to snowmobiles, but to substantial, year-round motorized traffic of all varieties, including all-terrain vehicles. More importantly, it would have intentionally eliminated a Wilderness Area and opened it to those seeking motorized access.

William C. Whitney Area (14,700 acres): Purchased for \$17 million. The APA staff took no position on how it should be classified, but there was substantial pressure from some quarters to make it Wild Forest, or a Canoe Area. Canoe and Wilderness areas are similar in appearance, so that personnel and non-government permit holders are allowed

ance Bob Marshall Great Wilderness

d a Decade Ago Is Now 41,600 Acres Closer to Reality



vehicles in Canoe areas. Vehicles are also allowed in Wild Forest. This would severely degrade the serenity, solitude and tranquility of this area, qualities which the general public would expect in an area where they were prohibited from using motor vehicles.

Lake Lila Primitive Area: (7,200 acres): Lake Lila is the second-largest Forest Preserve lake -- after Little Tupper -- in the Adirondacks where motorboats and other motorized vehicles are banned. It could have become a Canoe Area under the APA's initial suggestions at the public hearings (see Whitney above).

Watson's East Triangle and detached parcels (34,380 acres): The staff's initial plan was to protect only 19,215 acres as Wilderness. Of that, 10,275 had been Wild Forest and 8,940 had been unclassified. The remaining 15,165 of the area would have been opened to vehicular traffic. The lands make up the principal watershed for the West and Middle branches of the Oswegatchie River.

Much to the Council's dismay, some environmental organizations failed to support Wilderness for all of the acreage. This severely diminished the Council's chances of success.

Over the past 10 years, the Council has led an effort to complete the land-use planning and secure the funds for the completion of the Bob Marshall proposal. As funds have become available from the state, the Council has led the effort to acquire key parcels, such as the William C. Whitney Area, add them to the Forest Preserve and manage them as Wilderness.

During the public comment period on the four classification plans, Wilderness opponents offered only their desire to drive on one or more of the four parcels as justification for their position. No one publicly disputed the extensive research in the Council's 2020 VISION studies on Wilderness or biological diversity, which were the basis of the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness proposal.

Council members made a strong showing at the hearings, calling unanimously for Wilderness. They argued that the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness would be a boon to the local economy, providing a roadless, motorless expanse unequaled in the eastern United States. They noted that such places grow more rare and precious each year and would bring visitors from around the world. (The trailhead registers at Whitney and Lila show that this is already true.)

As the hearings began in October, the Council organized a news conference along with Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Environmental Advocates, National Audubon Society and Sierra Club to ask the APA's Board of Commissioners to support Wilderness designations for all the lands.

The Council brought the groups together again in January, just before the APA Board of Commissioners met to act on the classifications. The strong turnout of Wilderness advocates at the hearings, combined with the Council's lobbying and letters, helped convince the APA staff to change its recommendations.

The APA staff now recommended Wilderness management at Whitney and most of Lake Lila, combining them into the William C. Whitney Wilderness. Another portion of Lake Lila was slated for inclusion in the Five Ponds Wilderness. Alice Brook would remain a Wilderness, with a single path to allow snowmobilers to pass. The proposal for Watson's East now included an additional 600 acres of Wilderness.

At this point, the Adirondack Council was the lone organization that continued lobbying the Park Agency for changes. But there was still a 1,400-acre non-Wilderness area near Lake Lila, surrounding an old rail station. The Council continued to push for more Wilderness at Lake Lila and Watson's East.



Sustainable populations of moose and other former natives could again find refuge here once "the Bob" is completed.

On the first day of the APA's three-day meeting, the commissioners met to discuss the staff proposals and decide which ones to approve on the third day. To his credit, Dept. of Environmental Conservation Commissioner John P. Cahill asked his fellow APA board members to remove all but an acre of the 1,400-acre "buffer" around the Lake Lila parcel's Nehasane rail station and add it to nearby Wilderness areas.

The APA board's plan was then submitted to Gov. George E. Pataki, who must sign or reject it unaltered. The Council will continue to push for the completion of the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness as additional lands become available from willing sellers. For now, Council members can celebrate the fact that our dream of creating the largest and most ecologically significant Wilderness in the Eastern United States is 41,600 acres closer to reality.

... See Related Stories on Next Page

New Partnership Aids Wilderness Fight

The Adirondack Council has struck up an exciting new working relationship with a unique telephone company -- one that has already yielded tremendous benefits for the struggle to complete the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

Working Assets is a San Francisco-based long distance telephone company that has been helping its customers speak out on national and local political issues since 1991. Its customers generated nearly one million letters, phone calls and faxes to policymakers last year alone.

Last fall, Working Assets and the Council crafted a campaign that ran in conjunction with the Council's Action Alert on the reclassification of lands in the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. Thousands of the Council's members attended the public hearings, testified, wrote letters and made phone calls in support of managing the entire area as Wilderness.

On top of the Council's efforts, nearly 10 percent of Working Assets' New York customers responded to the Action Alert in their December/January phone bills. The company reported in February that the issue drew the second-largest response from its New York customers in the company's history.

That means 2,154 additional letters were sent and 287 more phone calls were placed in support of the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

Marshall-Scholle Family Creates Wilderness Fund

Ellen Marshall Scholle has established a Charitable Lead Trust to provide support to the Adirondack Council for actions undertaken to preserve and protect Adirondack Wilderness Areas and the Adirondack Forest Preserve, primarily efforts to establish the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. The Marshall-Scholle Family Wilderness Protection Fund is named in memory of her grandfather Louis Marshall and her father and uncles, James, Bob and George Marshall. This year the Fund helped to make possible a range of actions, including the Council's recent successful efforts to promote wilderness classification for 41,600 acres in "the Bob."

Mrs. Scholle has served as an active member of the Adirondack Council Board since 1994. Through The Marshall-Scholle Family Wilderness Protection Fund, she is enabling the Adirondack Council to carry on the tradition that the members of the Marshall and Scholle families have exemplified in their lives and careers. The Adirondack Council greatly appreciates the family's long-term support.

This new relationship with Working Assets helps the Council to multiply its impact on policy makers and reach a broad, new audience of environmentally concerned New Yorkers. Following the success of the Adirondack Wilderness Action Alert, Working Assets expressed enthusiasm for working with the Council in the future.

Communications Towers Cropping Up on Park Peaks, Hillsides

Concern is rising among local property owners, lake associations and environmental groups over the proliferation of proposals to build communications towers in the Park. The Adirondack Park Agency has fielded several applications over the past few weeks to either upgrade and expand existing towers, or install new ones, on Park summits (including Pilot Knob, Lake George, right).

The purposes of these towers range from providing emergency ambulance and fire service to allowing cellular telephone and pager users to have continuous coverage anywhere in the Adirondacks. On the horizon are proposals to provide "high definition television (HDTV)" service to Adirondack communities.

But at what price do full cellular phone coverage and crystal-clear television pictures come? Are they really necessary in the far reaches of the Adirondacks? Since all of this technology operates on "line of sight" transmission, providers seek the highest places to locate towers. Towers are often eyesores of gleaming metal on an otherwise natural landscape, despite the efforts of regulators to make them "blend in." Plans to cluster communications towers are only part of the answer, since signals from separate compa-

nies' transmitters and receivers can sometimes interfere with one another. Federal regulators require companies to provide service to 75 percent of local populations or geographic areas.

However, many of the tower sites now being sought by companies are to provide blanket coverage that exceeds federal licensing requirements.

Aside from working with the APA to cluster new facilities on existing towers whenever practical, the Council has called on the APA to require comprehensive plans from applicants, which must include all intended tower sites, before approving individual towers.

This is consistent with the APA's rules and regulations and the State Environmental Quality Review Act, which require that the impacts of a project being undertaken in segments (i.e., installing several towers to provide coverage to a service area) be thoroughly reviewed before any portion of the project (i.e., siting an individual tower) is approved.



Acid Rain Leads Council's State, National Legislative Agenda

Curbing acid rain and timber theft from the Forest Preserve, providing aid to local governments and enacting new regulations for personal watercraft are at the top of the Adirondack Council's state Legislative agenda for the 2000 session. On the federal level, the Council will continue to press for a national solution to the acid rain problem, while also seeking federal money for open space protection projects.

State Acid Rain Bill

Bills have been introduced in both houses that would discourage New York power plants from permitting their leftover sulfur dioxide allowances to be used by Midwest polluters whose emissions cause acid rain here. The Senate



Dave Greenwood, center, testifies on timber theft at joint Legislative hearing.

and Assembly versions are similar, but there are still minor differences over the date of implementation.

The legislation is needed to complement New York's own acid rain clean-up effort, which has been much more ambitious than any Midwestern state. Since New York's emissions are far below federal standards, New York companies will have huge amounts of leftover pollution allowances, which they are free to sell. If they are sold to plants directly upwind of New York, some of the pollution will still fall on New York and cause damage.

Timber Rustling

For years, the Council has urged the Legislature to increase the outdated penalties for stealing trees from the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. This year, the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources held a hear-

ing and heard testimony on the scope of the problem from around the state. The Council testified on the need for increased penalties, speaking on behalf of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Citizens Campaign for the Environment and National Audubon Society.

The current penalty for timber theft from Constitutionally protected forests is an absurd \$10 per tree. The penalty has not changed since 1909. State officials note, however, that theft is on the rise, along with prices for rare and valuable hardwoods that have grown unfettered for up to a century, or more, on the Forest Preserves.

In past years, the Council had encountered opposition to an increase in the fine from the Senate and the timber industry. However, recent surges in theft of trees from private forests may act as a catalyst for legislation that increases the penalties for public and private theft. Timber officials indicated at the hearing in February that they would be willing to support a penalty increase this year.

Personal Watercraft

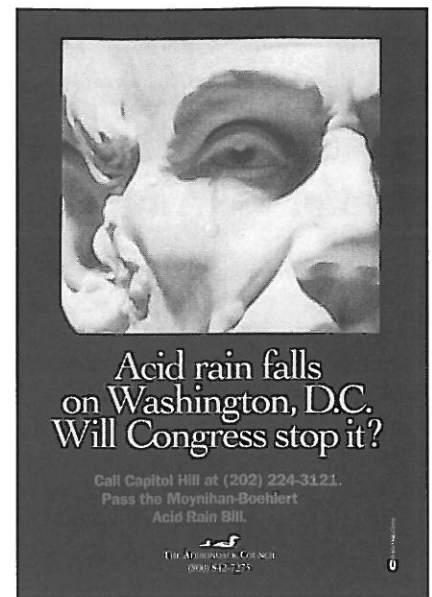
The Council is working with a variety of other organizations on legislation that would allow local governments to set standards on a new class of power boats known as personal watercraft, or jet skis. For the first time, municipal governments would have the authority to ban the noisy, high-speed crafts.

A jet ski's design allows it to navigate shallow waters, intruding on previously undisturbed shoreline habitat and endangering swimmers as well as canoeists.

Currently, communities may use only the State Navigation Law to regulate jet skis. The law allows governments to set limits on the hours of operation, but little else.

Aid to Local Governments

While the Council doesn't support the Governor's current plan for reimbursing local governments for the costs of state-mandated property tax abatements, a simple change in the funding



source would bring the Council on board and garner support from most environmental organizations. (See *Local Taxes* section of *Governor's Budget*, Page 5.)

Federal Acid Rain Bill

With the help of the New York Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica, the rest of the delegation and a host of other organizations, the Council will again press for a new law to control smokestack emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Last fall, a Senate environmental subcommittee chaired by Sen. James Inhofe, R-OK, held hearings on the Clean Air Act, starting with the current acid rain program. The Council testified in favor of the Acid Deposition and Ozone Control Act, which would require an additional cut of 50 percent in sulfur dioxide and of 70 percent in nitrogen oxides, from power plants across the nation.

When Gov. George E. Pataki announced that he would require New York companies to meet the standards set in the federal bill, whether it passes or not, Sen. George Voinovich, R-OH, said Pataki's example would make it easier to persuade Midwestern lawmakers to approve the bill.

The death of Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Chafee, R-RI, last fall was a setback to the acid rain effort. Chafee's support for environmental protection and his interest in acid rain were encouraging signs. New

... Continued on Page 10

Public Service Announcements Reaching National Radio, TV Audience

The Adirondack Council's Acid Rain Public Service Announcement Campaign for radio and television has been a huge success to date, with generous air time allotments and telephone responses from a wide audience.

In addition, the Council has recently completed an outdoor advertising campaign on acid rain in the Washington, D.C. public transportation system.

The educational radio and television ads are narrated by multiple Grammy Award winning musicians Bonnie Raitt and Natalie Merchant. Each artist recorded several individual spots. Merchant is a native of Jamestown, NY, and

lives in the Hudson Valley. Raitt spent summers as a child at an Adirondack camp not far from Saranac Lake.



All three areas are affected by acid rain.

Our Acid Rain Hotline has received calls from the 23 states where the ads were placed. The ads have been playing since last summer on stations from Maine to Florida, plus Mississippi, Colorado and California.

Areas of all 23 states are being harmed by acid rain damage. Those who call receive an acid rain action packet with information on the extent of the problem and ideas on how individuals can help solve it.

Last fall, the Council purchased space with the help of a special foundation grant to place a series of large-format posters in the Washington subway system and on bus shelters (see ad at the top of Page 9).

The ads were placed in several prominent locations, including the subway stops directly outside both houses of Congress and in high traffic areas such as DuPont Circle and near the National Press Building and Washington Post.

DEC Enforcement Action Nets Midwest Sulfur Dioxide Pollution Allowances

In February, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation signed an enforcement agreement with the Guardian Glass Co. of Geneva, NY. The company has agreed to purchase and donate to the Adirondack Council roughly 80 tons worth of sulfur dioxide pollution allowances.

Pollution allowances are issued to power companies by the federal government. Each company gets one allowance for every ton of sulfur dioxide air pollution it is allowed to emit. Anyone can buy or sell allowances, but they can only be used by power companies.

Since sulfur dioxide is a main component of acid rain, the Adirondack Council has been "retiring" pollution allowances since 1997 by obtaining them from various sources and withholding them permanently from the market.

The Guardian Glass consent order came in response to air pollution emissions violations at the Guardian plant. The company makes glass for automobiles, construction and commercial applications. On top of a \$25,000 cash fine, Guardian agreed to purchase \$10,000-worth of pollution allowances and donate them to an organization that will "retire" them. Guardian and DEC agreed that the Adirondack Council would be that organization.

Guardian will buy the allowances from American Electric Power of Columbus, Ohio, a power company whose emissions contribute to acid rain damage in the Adirondack Park. The Council will immediately place them into its "retired" account with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In June of 1998, the Council performed a similar service when it accepted and retired 500 allowances from the Long Island Lighting Co. as part of another enforcement agreement.

The Council has excluded both the Lilco and the Guardian allowances from its Clean Air Certificate Program, in which individual donors help offset the cost of retiring allowances by making a contribution to the Council.

The Council doesn't accept government grants or donations and any allowances that come to us as a result of an enforcement agreement will not benefit the organization financially.

State, Federal Legislation, Continued from Page 9 ...

chairman Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire, lives in a state with clear acid rain damage, but is not a cosponsor of the Acid Deposition and Ozone Control Act.

In January, however, Smith said he would make new clean air legislation a priority for his committee. This year will also be the last for the bill's main sponsor, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Sen. Charles Schumer has pledged his support for acid rain legislation, as has every member of the New York Congressional delegation. The Council will work with Moynihan's successor to ensure he or she will make acid rain a high priority.

Federal Open Space Funding

The Council has been working closely with the other 38 organizations of the Northern Forest Alliance, as well as the Pataki Administration, to increase funding for open space protection projects through two major federal sources. The two funds are the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy Program. Both have been languishing in under-funded obscurity for several years. This year, through his Lands Legacy initiative, President Bill Clinton has boosted funding for both programs.

As the Council had urged, the Forest Legacy program increased from \$5 million to \$30 million this year. And a bill co-sponsored by 300 members is awaiting action in the House, which would fully fund LWCF at \$900 million in FY 2001. The bill, HR 701, is the Conservation & Reinvestment Act (CARA).





State Buys Lake George Shoreline Parcels From Basin Land Conservancy for \$1.5 M

Famous Rogers Slide, Above, Included in Three Parcel Deal

Governor George E. Pataki announced in late January that the state would acquire 341 acres of new Forest Preserve on the east and west shores of Lake George.

The three parcels protected in the deal include two miles of undeveloped shoreline along the lake's north end. A state management plan is slated for completion by the end of 2000.

The state is buying the land from the Lake George Basin Land Conservancy of Bolton Landing. Two of the parcels are on the east shore, in the Town of Putnam, and were purchased by the Conservancy in 1998. The other, Rogers Slide, was donated to the Conservancy in 1997 by Thomas T. and Virginia S. Adams as well as Marcelino E. and Justin P. Lavin.

A sheer rock face that rises 400 feet above the lake on the western shore, the slide is the site of Capt. Robert Rogers's legendary escape from his French and Native American pursuers, who ambushed his small British/colonial force in March of 1758. Historical accounts suggest Rogers threw his pack from the top of the 70-degree slope and retraced his steps in the snow. Using another path to the lake, he and a

handful of his 240 men retreated south to Fort Edward.

His pursuers assumed he had jumped to his death and broke off their chase. They were astounded when they saw him escaping over the solid ice of the lake, clearly unharmed. The stunt earned Rogers a mythical reverence among the Native Americans in the Lake George Basin. But the military defeat ended his career. Rogers's exploits were recounted in the Hollywood movie *Northwest Passage*.

The state purchase will cost \$1,575,000 -- the same total paid by the Conservancy to the previous landowners. Funding will come from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996.

Conservancy officials said they would turn their attentions next to a 1,300-acre parcel in the lake's Northwest Bay, owned by Mills Brooke Equities, Inc. The Conservancy will likewise offer the parcel for sale to the state.

Organizations such as the Conservancy can act more quickly than the state to purchase and protect lands already identified as priority acquisitions for the Forest Preserve. The Adirondack Council works to secure adequate state funding for the purchases.

Keene Valley Land Exchange Could Be Completed Soon

The land exchange between the Town of Keene and the State of New York approved by the voters years ago will come a step closer to fruition this spring, thanks to a \$75,000 Pataki Administration grant, paid for mainly by the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

Along with it comes money for two other Adirondack towns and an historic preservation project, which received much-needed funding to improve tourism and the local quality of life.

The recent grant will allow the Town of Keene to demolish its highway department garage, improve parking facilities and create a trail along the Ausable River.

The land swap with the state, which must be approved by the Legislature, would provide the town with 12 acres of land adjacent to its nearly full cemetery in exchange for 144 acres of town land along the Ausable River. The highway garage must be removed along with other manmade structures, when the land is added to the Forest Preserve. The 144-acre parcel is located along State Route 73, directly across from Marcy Field, the town's grass-runway airport.

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Join us at Historic Fort Ticonderoga on July 15 To Celebrate the Council's Silver Anniversary

The Adirondack Council's Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner will be held at Fort Ticonderoga on Saturday, July 15, 2000. Join the Council's staff and board of directors for a day of updates on the issues and the Council's accomplishments over the past year.

The Council was founded in 1975 to help defend the fledgling Adirondack Park Agency, as well as the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution. Today, the Council is a statewide leader in environmental protection. Its diverse, professional staff and dedicated board of directors provide the talent and expertise to make a positive impact on each and every project and issue of parkwide significance.

Spend an afternoon listening to the staff describe the highlights of the previous twelve months. Then relax for an evening of honors and fellowship as the Council announces its *Conservationist of the Year* and presents other well-deserved accolades to people who have made significant contributions to the Park's environmental and cultural health.

Fort Ticonderoga was the site of several struggles for dominance in North America by the great powers of the 18th Century. Enjoy breathtaking views of Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains from the Fort's towering walls.

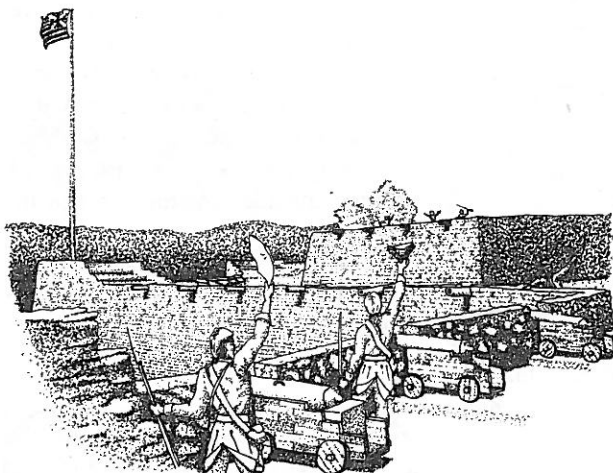
The Annual Membership Meeting will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon on the lawn of The

Pavilion, the summer home of William Ferris Pell. Complimentary admission to the Fort's Museum is available for all members attending the annual membership meeting. Come early and enjoy the world-renowned collection of artifacts from the French and Indian War and the American Revolution on display documenting the experience of soldiers and Native peoples who lived and fought at the Fort.

The Annual Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday evening under the tent at The Pavilion at 6:00 p.m. A cocktail reception in the King's Garden will precede dinner at 5:00 p.m. Reservations are required.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to explore some of our nation's history, as well as to meet other folks who care about the Adirondacks. And join the celebration of our 25th Anniversary!

Please contact Elaine at (518) 873-2240 or adkcouncil@aol.com for more information. Please consider making lodging reservations early – we can send you a list of hotels, bed & breakfasts and campsites in the area.



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