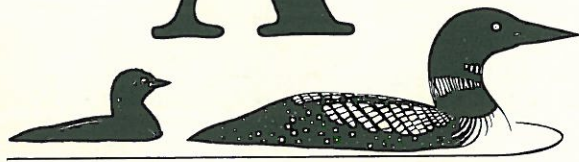


ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER / WINTER 1990

Cuomo Champions New Land Funds

Thanks to urging by the Council and other conservation groups, Governor Cuomo has proposed the largest environmental bond act in state history, totalling \$1.9 billion. Approximately half the money from the 1990 Environmental Quality Bond Act would be dedicated to statewide land acquisition. The new bond act would be slated to fund acquisition efforts through the year 2000.

"As we approach the twenty-first century we will be called upon to define New York's landscape for the next millennium. This is an awesome and inescapable responsibility," said Governor Cuomo on the need for a bond act.

The Council has applauded the Governor for his foresight and for placing public values ahead of private profit. Now the Legislature must be convinced of the urgent need for the bond act, which requires legislative approval before it can go to voters in November.

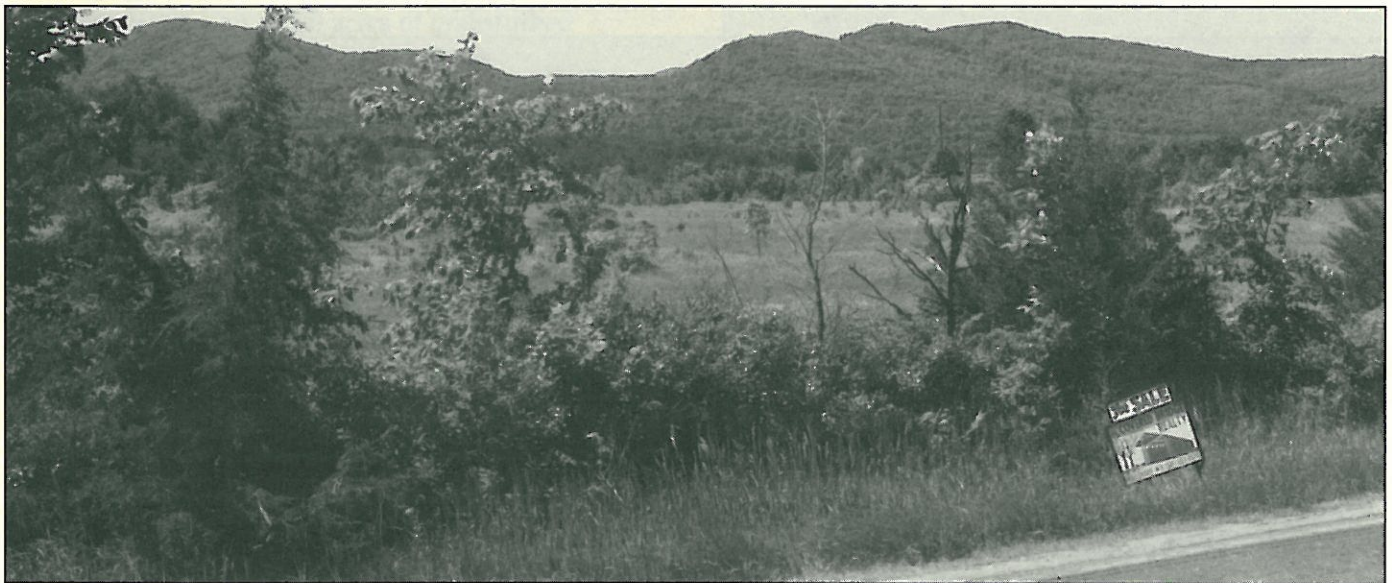
Because of prodding by the Council and other preservationists, the State made a number of important Adirondack acquisitions in the past two years. But, the \$250 million provided by the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act for statewide land purchase is now spent. Without new acquisition money, the State will be forced to stand idly by as vital open space lands are lost

to speculators and developers.

As a consequence, the Council, along with 44 other conservation organizations, united to form the Heritage 2000 Alliance. Having convinced Governor Cuomo of the need to support a new bond act, the coalition is now pressing the Legislature to enact the measure.

Though a bond act is urgently needed to get us through the next few critical years, the State also needs to develop a dedicated source of land acquisition funds to take us beyond the bond act and provide a permanent means of securing land as it becomes available during the decades ahead. Toward this end, the Council has called on Governor Cuomo to appoint a task force on permanent land acquisition funding.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To strengthen our lobbying of key decision-makers in Albany write State Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino and Assembly Speaker Melvin Miller. Let them know that by passing a bond act we can save for all time the acquisition priorities highlighted in the Council's 2020 VISION reports. **WRITE:** The Honorable Ralph Marino, c/o Legislative Office Bldg., Albany, NY 12247, and The Honorable Melvin Miller, c/o Legislative Office Bldg., Albany, NY 12248.



A Tourist's View of Development Threats

Opponents of stricter land-use controls and public-land ownership have accused preservationists of sounding a false alarm.

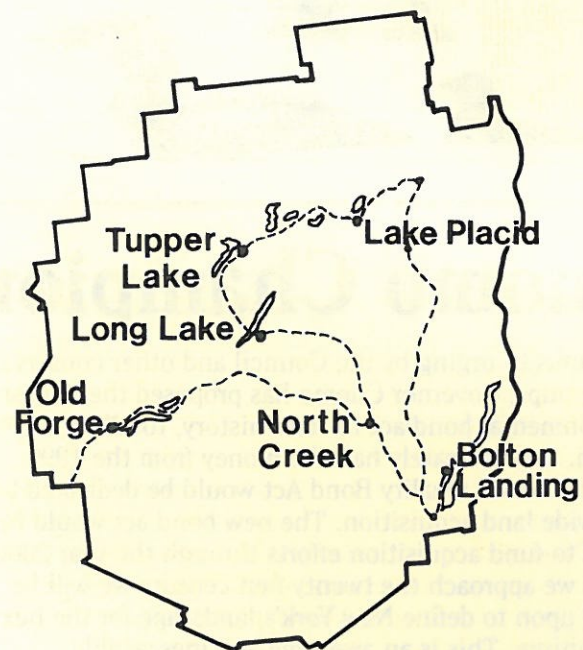
"Where, exactly, is all the development pressure the Adirondack Council is worrying about?" This question was posed by Susan Allen, a Keene Valley realtor, in a letter to the editors of Adirondack newspapers.

In the following response to Ms. Allen, we suggested that she take a trip around the Adirondack Park and see for herself what's happening.

Drive from your Keene Valley home, Ms. Allen, down the Northway to Lake George Village. Then proceed north on NY 9N to Bolton Landing. You will see a 10-mile corridor of motels, road signs, restaurants, bars, marinas, gas stations, cottages and new condominiums walling off the lake from the road. At Bolton Landing, take a boat (or snowmobile) ride back down the lake to the village. You will see the same disruptive development from the water.

A few decades ago, Lake George was perhaps the most beautiful lake in America. Now the southern half looks like overdeveloped lakes everywhere (except for the still-natural mountainsides).

Now swing over to the Fulton Chain of Lakes, approaching from the south on NY 28. You will pass mile after mile of roadside development. It could be the worst of the Poconos, Lake Tahoe, Old Orchard Beach in Maine, or the southern Catskills. At Old Forge leave your car and take to the lakes, along the famed Adirondack Canoe Route. You will notice that the shorelines of the first six (out of eight) lakes in this once-lovely chain are now wall-to-wall cottages, condos, motels, marinas, docks, boathouses, and other "improvements." Only when you get halfway along Seventh Lake, where the state land begins, do you find the original Adirondacks.



Adirondack Park

Now drive over to North Creek and check out the new crop of condos sprouting around Gore Mountain. Continue to nearby Loon Lake, where the loons have been replaced by motorboats and the natural shoreline by houses, docks, motels and other manmade alterations. On your way north observe Goodnow Flow near Newcomb, a water body transformed by haphazard shoreline development. Note the extensive new development along the south end of Long Lake, the Adirondack Mountain Properties subdivision on Tupper Lake, and the new subdivision and development (and newly-scaled shorelines) around Upper Saranac Lake.



Alan Cederstrom

The name of this Lake Placid development memorializes the hillside's former residents.



Alan Cederstrom

Shoreline development along First Lake.

While you're in the neighborhood, check out the Stony Creek Ponds near Corey's. It took only one blockbuster building to alter a once-beautiful shoreline.

On your way through Ray Brook, stop at the Adirondack Park Agency. Ask them to show you their 10-foot-long printout of the project applications for 1989 — over 600 of them. Many of these projects are two-lot subdivisions and single family residences. Others are far more ambitious.

Ski-Area Suburb

Drive on to Lake Placid, through the strip development spreading west from the village along NY 86 (the next "improvement" may be an outlet mall of the sort that has afflicted Freeport, Maine, and North Conway, New Hampshire). Continue to the still-open east side of the village, which boasts one of the finest roadside vistas in the country. In the foreground of this vista, the Gleneagles developers have proposed to carve out 108 building lots around their new golf course. Keep going to Wilmington, where resort development could soon transform the village and its environs into another ski-area suburb, and continue on toward Jay, where the born-again Ausable Acres developers are proposing to put 1,400 houses on 4,000 acres of undisturbed hillside.

On your way home, look back at the ridge on East Hill above Keene, at the new house dominating the mountainside. All it took was this one new structure, prominently displayed on a ridge, to change the natural character of an entire landscape.

All We Will Ever Have

"What's wrong with all this?" you will ask. "Why shouldn't the Adirondacks enjoy the same development that has brought jobs and prosperity to other places?"

Never mind that rural development booms usually create more economic and social problems than they solve. Let's just consider the environmental consequences. The Adirondack Park is the last, generally wild area of significant size north of the Everglades and east of the Mississippi River. What we have here is essentially all we will ever have in this part of the world in

the way of expansive, undisturbed landscapes, and extensive natural ecosystems.

Think about those 600 projects before the APA this year. Then consider that only about half of all Adirondack development projects go before the APA. That means there were some 1,200 projects in 1989 alone. At that rate, during the 1990's we will have 12,000 new projects on the private lands and lakeshores of the Adirondack Park. Now look ahead just one generation from there, when another 24,000 projects will be completed. If we allow that to happen, our grandchildren will inherit a park consisting of parcels of "forever wild" Forest Preserve surrounded by more or less developed private land. The Adirondack Park, as we know it today, will be forever lost.

There is much room for additional development in the Adirondacks. But if the open-space character of this great park is to be preserved, such development must be done carefully and with restraint, in scale and in harmony with the natural setting.

Dick Beamish



Alan Cederstrom

Roadside strip development on Route 28 southwest of Old Forge.

Council Opposes Huge Resort Plan

At a public hearing in Lake Placid early in January, the Adirondack Council stood alone in opposing a massive second-home resort development intended for Lake Placid and its remaining open space. Known as the "Gleneagles project" and proposed by the Lake Placid Resort Partnership (Guinness Corp. and United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company), the project includes a 301-unit hotel, 316 condominiums and townhouses, and the subdivision of 689 acres into 108 building lots around two new golf courses.

Because of the precedent such a development would establish, the Council, in a letter to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), told this project review authority that approval of the Gleneagles project as proposed would "mark the beginning of the end for the Adirondack Park as the East's last great open-space sanctuary."

Costs to Region

After reviewing the developer's 2,000-page application, the APA found that many important questions remained unanswered. The developer devoted hundreds of pages to extolling the benefits of the project but he largely ignored the potential costs to local residents and the impacts of a new second home community on the natural character of the region.

The APA requested the missing information. They asked about the effect of 424 new residences on local traffic congestion, on property values and property taxes, on local water supply, utility rates, schools and medical facilities. They asked about the loss of open space and the effect of putting more than a hundred new building lots in the foreground of one of the park's finest roadside "scenic vistas" — the view south from NY 86 toward the High Peaks (the million dollar view the developer plans to cash in on).

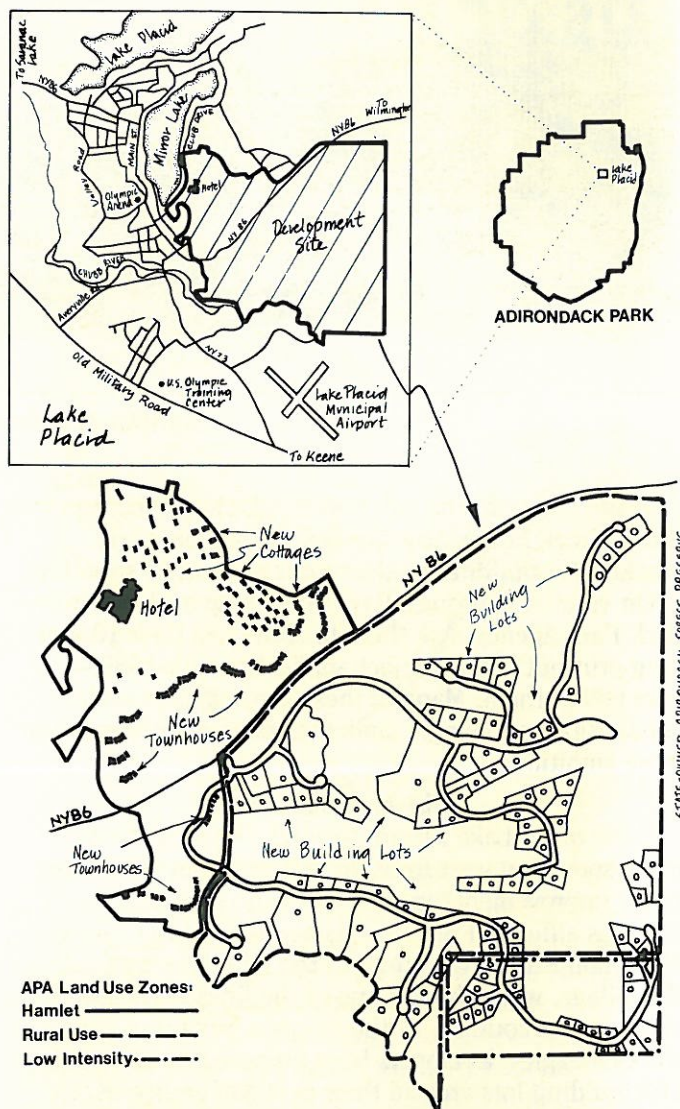
And the APA asked for additional information to help identify any "adverse change in the character of Lake Placid from an Adirondack hamlet to a more urbanized area."

Developer's Threat

The APA's request was met by howls of protest from local boosters, including Adirondack newspaper editors who called the APA's stance "stupid" and "ludicrous" and "obstructionist." And the developer threatened to take his plans and go home.

"This project is now hanging by a thread," warned James Brooks, the attorney for the Lake Placid Resort Partnership who also happens to be the attorney for the Village of Lake Placid.

But the APA held firm and newspaper editorials throughout the State (outside the Adirondack Park) applauded the APA for doing its job. Letters from Council members poured into the APA headquarters, and by mid-January letters had also begun to appear in local newspapers supporting a cautious and critical approach to such grandiose projects.



Proposed Gleneagles Lake Placid Resort

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you haven't already, please tell the APA to deny this project as proposed — and thank them for rigorously reviewing the application and asking the right questions. **WRITE:** Raymond P. Curran, APA, Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977.

2020 Vision Wilderness Volumes Available

If you were intrigued by the Council's Wilderness volume summary, the second in our series of 2020 Vision reports, write us for a copy of the full report. Complete with dozens of photos and maps of proposed additions to the Adirondack Wilderness System, the 48-page report can be obtained by sending a \$10 check (for production and mailing costs) to the Adirondack Council, Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932.



Gary Randorf

Solitary hiker atop Cascade Mountain.

Building Moratorium Urged

“If recent development trends in the Adirondack Park continue, New York State will lose the last great wilderness park in the Northeast.”

— Governor’s Adirondack Commission

In anticipation of tighter development controls stemming from the work of Governor Cuomo’s Adirondack Commission, large-scale developers appear to be rushing to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) for project approval before such controls could take effect. Many of these projects involve subdivision of undisturbed backcountry and pristine lakeshores.

In response to the land rush, the Council has proposed a two-year moratorium on new development projects in environmentally sensitive areas of the Adirondack Park. Such action requires support by the Governor and approval from the Legislature.

The development moratorium proposed by the Council would temporarily halt new subdivision or construction:

- on shorelines outside of APA-designated hamlets;
- along travel corridors (roads and highways) classified

by the APA as low intensity, rural use and resource management;

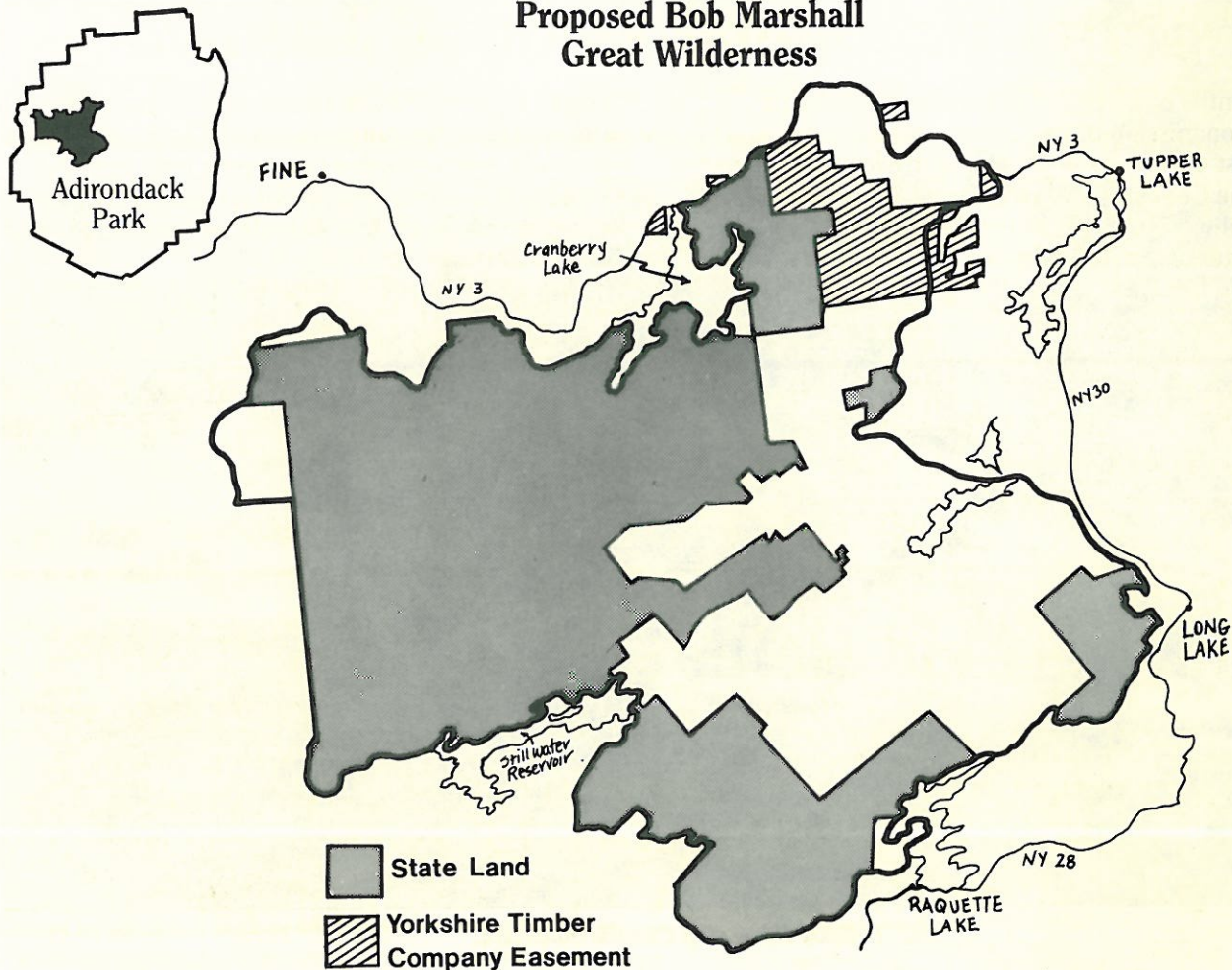
- in any of the APA’s 40 designated scenic vistas along Adirondack roads;
- in privately owned backcountry designated as resource management.

Membership Survey: Help Wanted

In the past three years the Adirondack Council has quintupled its membership to 15,000. The strength of the Council has always been rooted in its members. Your membership is *the* reason for the Council’s success in helping to preserve the Adirondack Park.

In the next several weeks, 1,500 randomly selected Council members will be receiving a questionnaire in the mail. If you get one, please take the time to fill it out and return it. The findings of this survey will help us continue to be the most effective voice in Adirondack preservation.

Proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness



The Yorkshire easements (depicted above) represent another important victory for Adirondack land protection and a significant step toward creating a 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

Key Lands Saved From Development

Thanks to the determination and foresight of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, 19,358 acres of prime forest lands in the Cranberry Lake region are now protected from future development by conservation easements. The Adirondack Council has long been urging this important acquisition.

Situated between the Cranberry Lake and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forests in the western reaches of the park, the tract lies almost entirely within the boundaries of the Council's proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

At a cost of \$3.5 million, the State has purchased development and recreation rights from the Yorkshire Timber Company. While Yorkshire retains the right to manage the acreage for timber harvest, the property can never be developed and the public now has access to the area for cycling, hiking, canoeing, and other recreational activities.

These lands provide a protective buffer for the unique Massawepie Mire wetlands complex. The purchase also

gives canoeists access to nearly seven miles of the South Branch of the Grass River.

The only flaw in the deal is that Yorkshire has followed a precedent set last year, when the State bought easements from Georgia land speculator Henry Lassiter. In both cases the owner has retained exclusive hunting rights on the property for the next 15 years. During each of those hunting seasons public access will be suspended.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By acquiring the Yorkshire easements Governor Cuomo and his Conservation Commissioner have again demonstrated their commitment to protecting the natural character of the Adirondack Park. Please thank the Governor and also remind him that, while Yorkshire is a promising start, the State must now move to protect all 178,000 acres of private land within the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. **WRITE:** Governor Mario M. Cuomo, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224.

Fateful Recommendations Readied

After months of meetings and research, Governor Cuomo's Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century is now completing its recommendations. The Commission's report, due by April 1, will serve as a blueprint for permanently preserving the natural character of the Adirondack Park for the next century.

To arrive at these recommendations, the Commission will have drawn on thousands of comments from interested citizens who spoke out at 14 public hearings statewide or sent letters to Commission offices in Albany.

Commission Chairman Peter A. A. Berle summed up public input in a recent letter to the *New York Times*.

"The striking thing," Berle wrote, "is not that a few wish to eliminate the Adirondack Park Agency, but that most wish to see the values of the park reflected and preserved through effective land-use management and economic development that is both appropriately scaled and sustainable."

The Council's focus has already shifted from the Commission to the Legislature. Transforming recommendations into protective legislation will require a concerted push by all groups and individuals with a stake in preserving the park for future generations. We will keep you informed through action alerts and newsletters on how you personally can further this all-important process.

Action on Acid Rain

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives are now wrestling with reauthorization of the 1970 federal Clean Air Act. Regardless of which house comes up with the new legislation first, to win the war against acid rain a beefed-up bill must include:

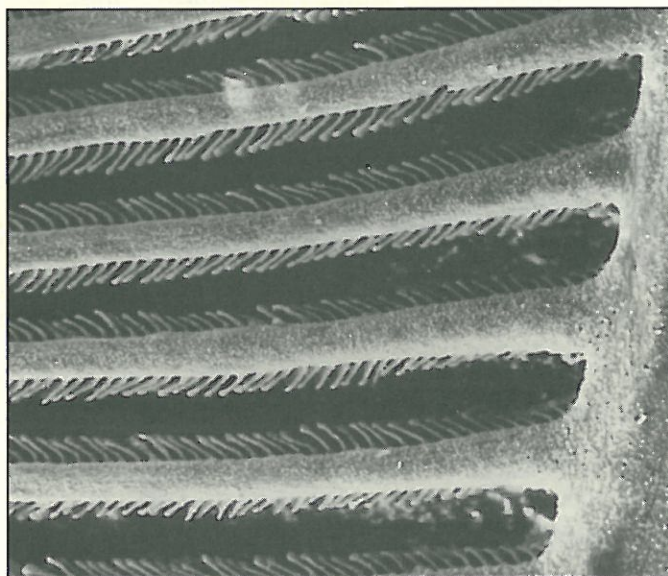
- 1) a 50% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions (12 million tons over the next 10 years),
- 2) a four-million-ton reduction in nitrogen oxides, and
- 3) a cap on future emissions set at 1980 levels.

The Adirondack Council, along with other environmental groups across New York State, has taken the lead in lobbying federal lawmakers to enact a bill which includes these key provisions.

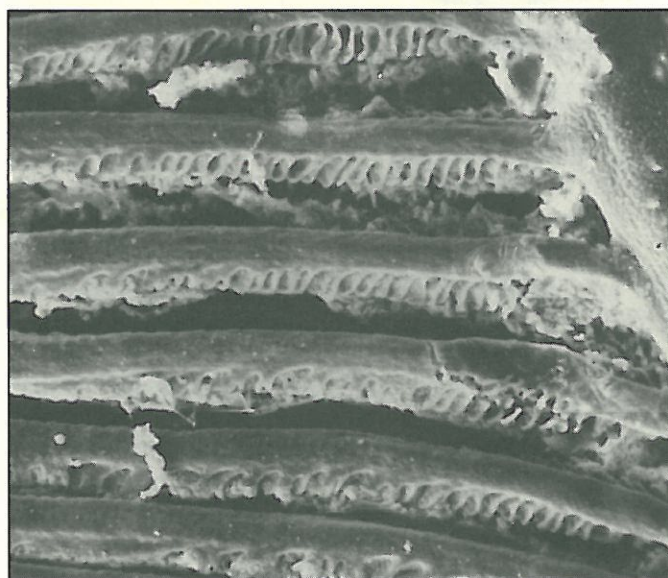
We can't afford to lose any more time. If nothing is done now to curb acid rain, half of all Adirondack lakes and ponds could be too acidic to support fish life by the year 2000. Recent studies also show that acid rain is killing high-elevation red spruce trees, whose needles and roots are continually exposed to conditions as acidic as lemon juice!

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senator and Congressman to push for a strong Clean Air Act. Remind them of the destruction acid rain is causing in the Adirondack Park. Let them know that if the three key provisions described above are not enacted this year the environmental consequences may be irreversible.

WRITE: The Honorable _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or The Honorable _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.



Close-up of a healthy brook trout gill.



Gill irreparably damaged by acid waters.

Dr. Carl L. Schofield

Dr. Carl L. Schofield

Governor to Air Force: Avoid Park Wilderness

"The park is three-dimensional," said the Council in a letter to Governor Cuomo, "Adirondack skies deserve no less protection than the land and water below."

Frustrated by a lack of progress from the Governor's Ad Hoc Committee on Low Level Flights and the continued reluctance of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) to fly higher or avoid park Wilderness altogether, the Adirondack Council sent a plea to Governor Cuomo asking for his help in ending this misuse of Adirondack airspace. The Council reminded the Governor that current law requires the State to "preserve, enhance, and restore, where necessary, the natural conditions of its wilderness resource."

"B-52 bombers, FB-111 fighter bombers and all the other assorted military aircraft flying just above the trees are about as far from 'natural' as you can get," asserted the Council. "Snowmobiles, all-terrain-vehicles, motorboats, and even bicycles are all prohibited in Wilderness, because they degrade the 'natural conditions' we are striving to protect. Low-level military flights should be prohibited, too."

The Governor responded to the Council by asking

SAC to stop flying the most invasive of its Adirondack routes.

Presently, three SAC flight paths criss-cross the Adirondack Park. By avoiding just one of these, referred to as IR-700, SAC planes would instantly avoid nine Adirondack Wilderness areas.

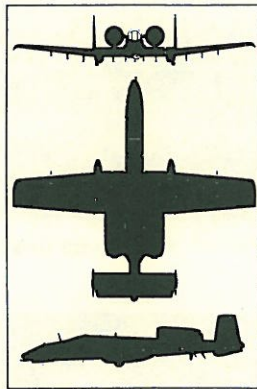
Unfortunately, Governor Cuomo's letter also suggested the creation of a new route in the southern Adirondacks if stopping flights on IR-700 impeded SAC's low-level training. The Adirondack Council would vigorously oppose any new military flight path.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Let the Air Force know just how much the natural serenity of the Adirondacks means to you. Remind them that Adirondack Wilderness areas are just about the last place in the entire Northeast where you can escape the sound, speed and smell of motors on the ground and in the water. B-52s and FB-111s, flying at a few hundred feet over the tree tops, have no rightful place in this peaceful sanctuary. **WRITE:** Gary D. Vest, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, SAF/RQ, Pentagon 4C-916, Washington, DC 20330.

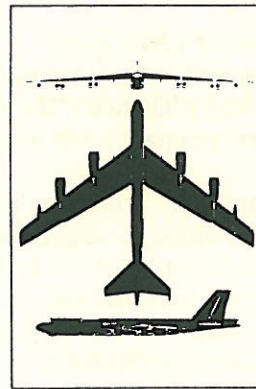
If you spot any of these planes flying low and fast in the park, contact Eric Siy at the Adirondack Council, Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, 518-873-2240. Also phone in your complaint to the Strategic Air Command at 1-800-876-5160. Please be as specific as you can about what, when and where you saw the offending aircraft.



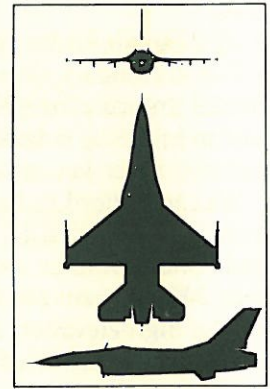
F-111



A-10



B-52



F-16

Skyguard

Federal Consistency Needed

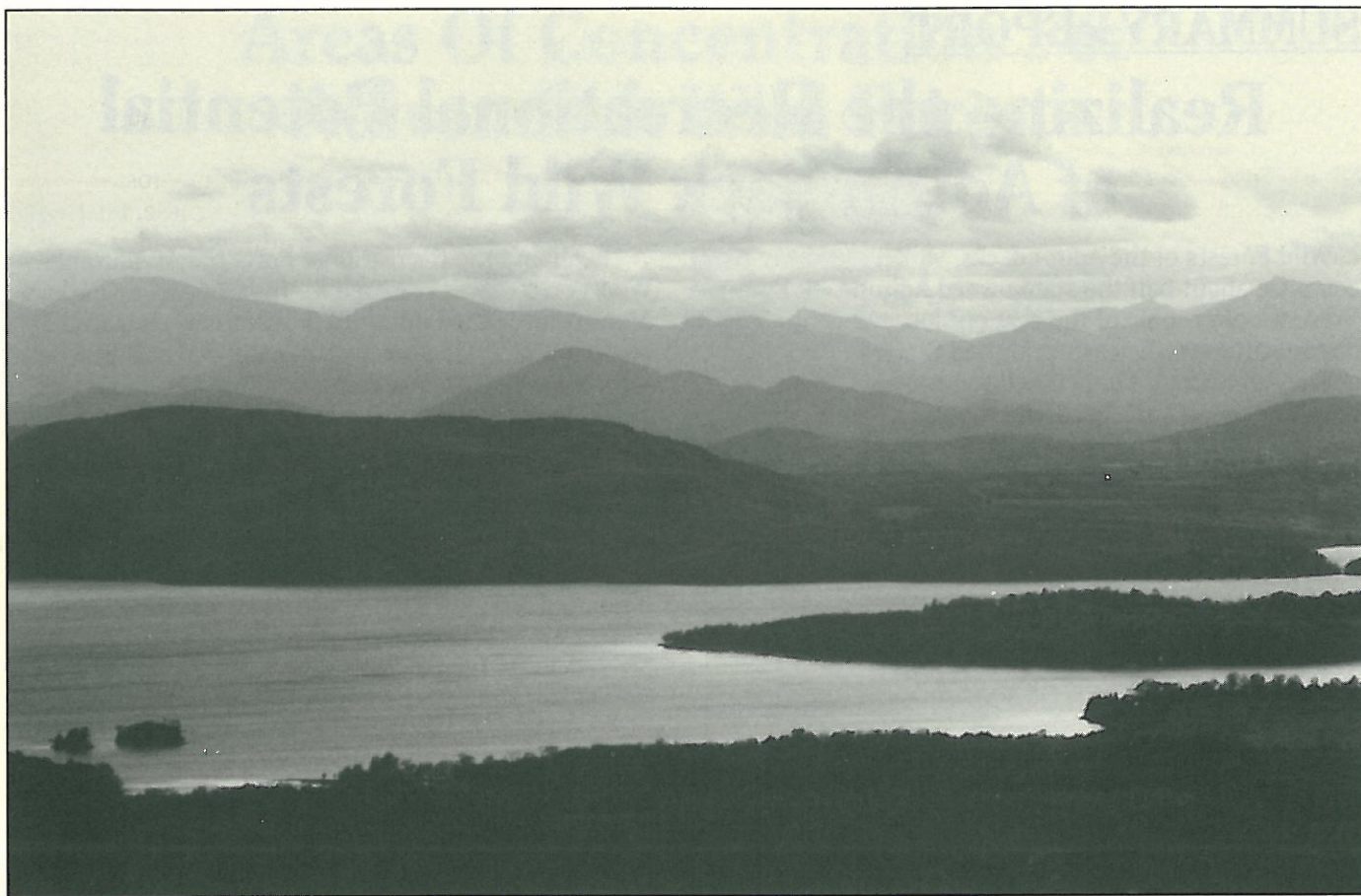
Though the Adirondack Park provides almost 90% of the protected public wilderness lands in the northeastern United States, it plays second fiddle to federal wilderness areas and national parks.

Why? Because it's a *state* park. The skies over similar national sanctuaries are protected by federal guidelines which keep flights at least 2,000 feet above the ground. But over the Adirondacks an "open skies" policy prevails. Air Force, Army, National Guard and Marine units use the Adirondack Park for all kinds of low flying maneuvers.

Inconsistency of federal actions in the Adirondacks

reaches beyond military overflights to include the siting of federal prisons and the potential for federally-approved dams and hydroelectric projects on free-flowing rivers. The Council believes that the time has come for the Adirondack Park to be treated with no less respect than Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Yosemite and the Great Smokies national parks.

As Robert C. Glennon, the Adirondack Park Agency's Executive Director, recently put it: "What more appropriate gift to the Adirondack Park at its centennial in 1992 than a bill from Congress making the feds play by the state's rules."



Gary Randorf

Lake Champlain in the shadow of the High Peaks.

Lake Champlain No Place For Pesticides

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is supporting Adirondack Council objections to the proposed use of chemical poisons to kill sea lampreys, a parasitic fish, in Lake Champlain.

On the other side of the controversy, state officials and sportsmen from New York and Vermont claim that lampreys are harming gamefish populations in the lake. Their solution: apply lampricides starting later this year.

But the Council believes the proposed "cure" could be worse than the alleged illness. And the EPA agrees.

"Non-chemical methods to control the lamprey population problem should be more fully assessed as part of the comprehensive environmental review required under federal law," the EPA advised.

The Council is now using EPA's comments as new ammunition to convince the State to shelve the program until a number of questions can be answered. In an appeal to State Environmental Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, the Council urged the Commissioner to reverse his support of lampricides in light of EPA's recommendations.

A primary concern of both the Council and the EPA is the effect chemical lampricides TFM and Bayer 73 may have on drinking water. Safe concentrations of these two chemicals have yet to be established. Before

proceeding further with the proposal, the Council and the EPA have recommended that research be done to assess the benefits *and* costs of chemical lamprey control.

Currently, 51 public water supply systems in Vermont, New York and Canada rely on Lake Champlain for drinking water. As now proposed, 81 miles of streams flowing into the lake and 850 acres of delta lands would be treated with the lampricides. Chemical treatment would continue over an eight-year period.

While the program could benefit sportfishing interests by reducing fish mortality, the lampriciding scheme ignores the multiple uses and values of Lake Champlain. The Council reminded Commissioner Jorling that overall protection of the lake, a resource already stressed by numerous competing demands, must take precedent. The Council is also pushing for basin-wide planning and land use regulations for Lake Champlain.

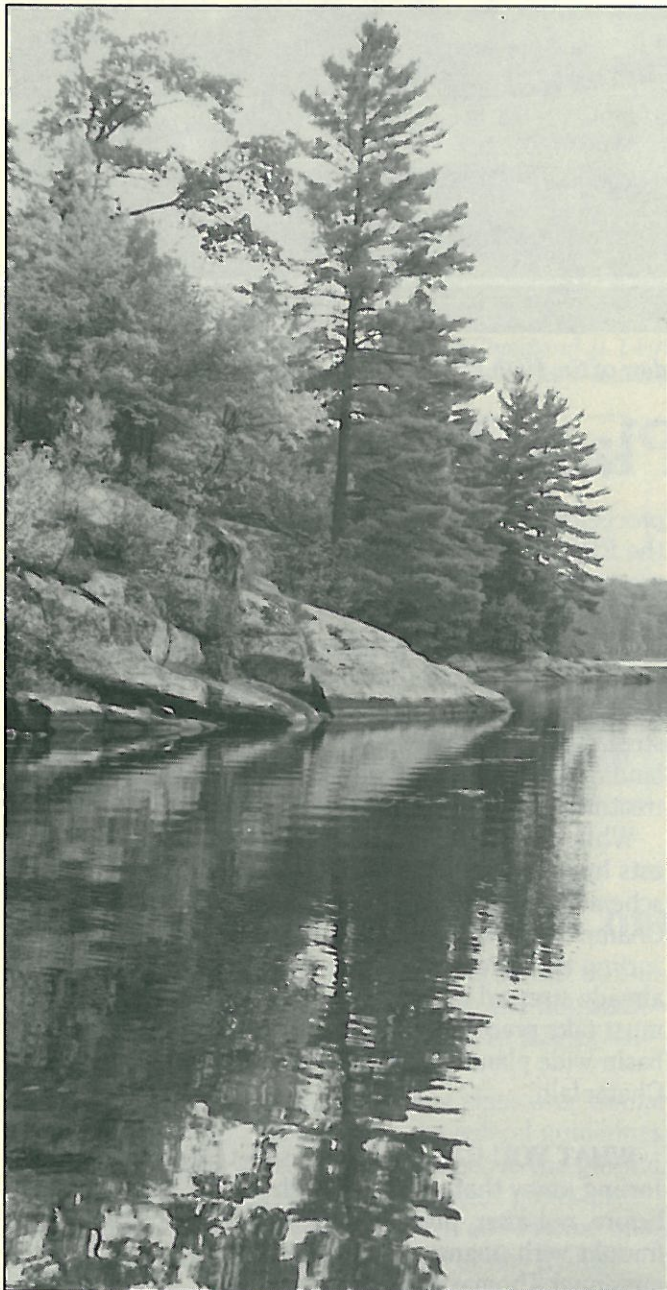
WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please let Commissioner Jorling know that much research needs to be done before, not after, proceeding with a lampriciding plan fraught with unanswered questions. **WRITE:** Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233.

SUMMARY REPORT

Realizing the Recreational Potential of Adirondack Wild Forests

Wild Forests of the Adirondacks, which currently comprise about half the state-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve, offer some of the best outdoor recreation opportunities in the eastern United States.

The Adirondack Council will soon release a 52-page report mapping and describing the Wild Forests of the Adirondack Park and recommending how these many scattered, state-owned parcels can be protected, enhanced and managed to achieve their full recreational potential.



Barbara McMartin

Sacandaga Lake shoreline in the Jessup River Wild Forest.

"Realizing the Recreational Potential of Adirondack Wild Forests" was prepared for the Council by Barbara McMartin, a noted Adirondack historian, recreational planner and guidebook author. Intended as a blueprint for state policymakers, this is the third in a series of 2020 Vision studies designed to insure the preservation and ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park for the year 2020 and beyond.

Most of the publicly owned Forest Preserve is classified either as Wild Forest, where motorized recreation is permitted in designated places, or as Wilderness, where no motorized recreation is allowed. The State Land Master Plan of 1972 is very specific about the purpose of Wilderness (generally the more remote and least trammelled lands of the Forest Preserve) but it barely hints at the ways Wild Forest areas should be utilized.

Putting People in the Woods

The Council's study seeks to fill that void with a recreation and acquisition plan that puts people in the woods and on the waters in a way that preserves the resource and is consistent with the "forever wild" stipulation of the State Constitution. The Council has identified 255,190 acres of private land that should be purchased by the State to complete the Wild Forest System.

"The people of New York own tracts of Wild Forest as undisturbed as any solitary hiker could desire," the Council notes. "Other Wild Forest tracts are laced with gravelly old roads, enticing horseback riders and those who favor motorized recreation. Wild Forest abounds with small lakes and ponds, wooded hills, and ranges of open rock summits affording marvelous views. Yet only a few blocks of Wild Forest have been given adequate consideration for other than motorized recreation."

Poorly Maintained

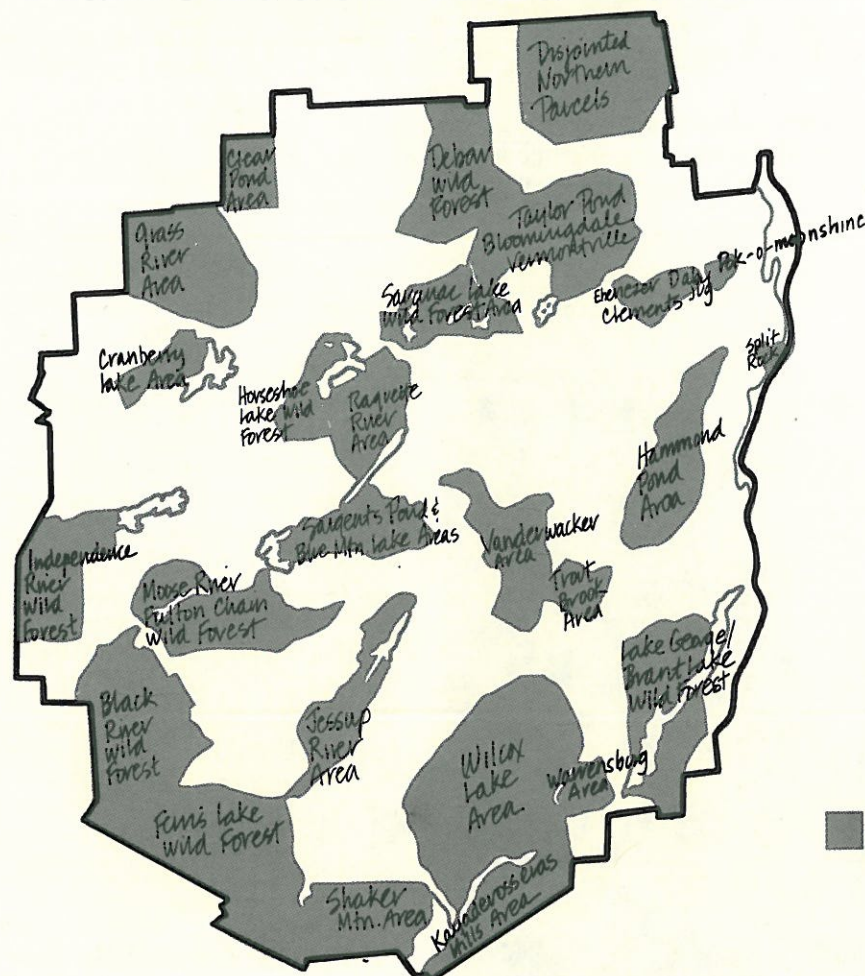
The State has done much to promote hunting in the Forest Preserve and to enhance fishing through reclamation and stocking of ponds and streams. A number of fishing access sites have been acquired and new boat access sites, most accommodating motorboats, have been provided.

"But other forms of recreation cry out for attention," the report reveals. For example, "many of the old logging roads that became snowmobile trails attract hikers and sportsmen year round, but these routes are poorly maintained. Much of the State's budget for trail maintenance has, in response to legitimate needs, been concentrated in the High Peaks region, while less fragile summits in Wild Forests have been neglected."

"In much of the Wild Forest there remains an overall

continued on page 12

Areas Of Concentration For Adirondack Wild Forests



■ Proposed additions to
Wild Forest System

The Eastern Adirondacks

	Additional Acres Needed
Kayaderosseras Hills Wild Forest	11,880
Wilcox Lake Wild Forest	13,280
Lake George Wild Forest	8,560
Warrensburg Wild Forest	4,320
Hammond Pond Wild Forest	11,440
Trout Brook Wild Forest	7,720
Split Rock Wild Forest	4,880
Pok-o-moonshine Wild Forest	3,660
Dab, Jug and the Gulf Wild Forest	7,760
Ebenezer and Rattlesnake Wild Forest	1,360
Clements Mountain Wild Forest	880

The South-Central Adirondacks

Shaker Mountain Wild Forest	7,100
Ferris Lake Wild Forest	7,480
Jessup River Wild Forest	2,000
Blue Mountain Wild Forest	2,300
Sargent Ponds Wild Forest	2,120
Vanderwhacker and Upper Hudson Wild Forest	7,480

The North-Central Adirondacks

Saranac Lakes Wild Forest	600
Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest	10,200
Raquette River Wild Forest	60,000
Debar Mountain Wild Forest	7,000
Taylor Pond Wild Forest	4,400
Bloomingdale Bog and Vermontville Wild Forests	7,920
Disjointed Northern Parcels	8,300

The Northwestern Adirondacks

Cranberry Lake and Tooley Pond Wild Forest	19,280
Grass River Wild Forest	4,000
Stone Dam Wild Forest	50
Chandler Pond Wild Forest	4,000
Clear Pond Wild Forest	140

The Western Adirondacks

Black River Wild Forest	12,560
Independence River Wild Forest	2,000
Fulton Chain Wild Forest	14,720
Moose River Plains Wild Forest	200

WILD FOREST *continued from p. 10*

shortage of marked foot trails to mountain tops, lakes, ponds, waterfalls and other good destinations. Along with the hunter, trapper, fisherman, and snowmobiler, more consideration should now be given the hiker, camper, picnicker, swimmer, boater, canoer, and family on outings."

Good stewardship and wise management of Wild Forests should, the Council recommends, include marking new trails, creating marked footpaths (requiring lit-

tle maintenance), and building lean-tos and trailhead parking. In addition, the State should make sure that snowmobile trails attract different kinds of use in warmer seasons; mark little-used snowmobile trails for cross-country skiers and advertise their availability; create primitive campsites; harden some existing trails for ease of access and build some trails, on suitable terrain, for handicapped access.

Roads a Blessing

Wild Forests tend to have many more jeep trails and old woods roads than does Wilderness. While roads are incompatible with Wilderness, they are one of the blessings of Wild Forests because they provide easier public access and additional recreation opportunities.

To realize the potential of Wild Forest areas requires a different approach from completing the Wilderness System as advocated by the Council in Volume 2 of 2020 Vision. Instead of rounding out and filling in all Wild Forests to the best natural or management boundaries, as the Council has proposed for Wilderness, it is often advantageous to leave the mosaic of Wild Forest and private lands, especially where trespass problems can be controlled.

The existing road network can be most helpful to families seeking short routes to mountains and lakes, for hunters whose travels from roadsides are limited by the distance they can carry big game, and for the growing number of people who seek well-marked trails for quiet recreation. The latter group often includes those who are older and less physically adept — a group that has seldom been the object of recreation planning in the Adirondacks.

Access a Priority

In Volume 2 of 2020, the Council identified many large private holdings that should be acquired by the State to complete the Adirondack Wilderness System. But only a few large private tracts are necessary additions to the Wild Forest System. In fact, the bulk of the big corporate holdings are best protected under conservation easements, where the land remains in private ownership and present open-space uses, such as logging and private recreational preserves, may continue.

Several desirable additions to Wild Forest are smaller private preserves where public acquisition would disrupt the families who have owned these tracts for generations. Such lands should be protected from further development by means of conservation easements, and added to the Forest Preserve only when owners wish to sell. The acquisitions proposed by the Council usually involve only access easements across such lands to currently isolated blocks of Wild Forest.

In many Wild Forest areas, most or all of the surrounding road network is on private land, thus preventing access to the public holdings. Access easements should be acquired by the State whenever such access will facilitate public use and enjoyment of the Wild Forest. Where the public has been granted access by private landowners, easements should be acquired to guarantee such access in perpetuity.



Barbara McMartin, author of the Wild Forest report, in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest.



Barbara McMartin

Backroads like the Powley-Piseco Road in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest provide unlimited opportunities for scenic excursions.

DEFINITIONS

Adirondack Park: Created in 1892 by the New York State Legislature, this largest of all parks in the Lower 48 States contains six million acres of intermixed public and private land. About 58% of the park is privately owned and devoted mainly to forestry, open-space recreation, and agriculture.

Adirondack Forest Preserve: The state-owned land in the Adirondack Park is designated as Forest Preserve and protected by the State Constitution as "forever wild." The hundreds of parcels of Forest Preserve add up to about 2,600,000 acres or 42% of the park.

Adirondack Wilderness System: This category of public Adirondack Forest Preserve totals 1,038,874 acres — about 40% of the state-owned

land and one-sixth of the entire park. The Adirondack Wilderness System consists generally of the wilder, more remote portions of the Forest Preserve — "those areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Adirondack Wild Forest System: This category currently comprises about 54% of all state-owned land in the park. The resources in these areas permit a higher degree of human use than in Wilderness. Yet many Wild Forest areas are less known, and receive less use, than some Wilderness areas. The Adirondack Wild Forest System represents one of the nation's finest and least-utilized recreation resources.

Among 32 Wild Forests Studied by the Council

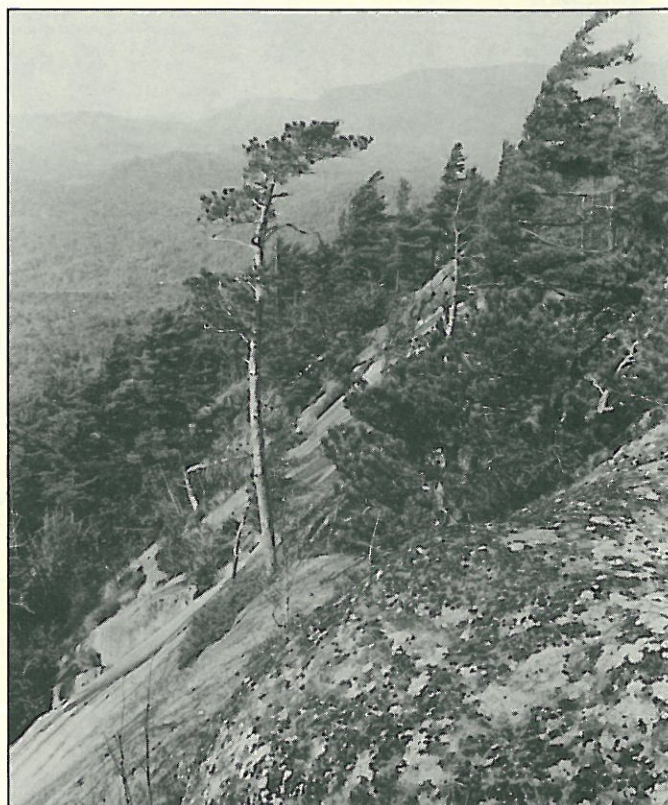
Wilcox Lake Wild Forest: One of the Park's Best Kept Secrets

Few areas in the park have the potential for hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing as does the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest. Larger than most Wilderness areas, close to the capital district, and containing an exceptional array of forest types and recreational opportunities, this could be a premier recreation area.

Spectacular mountains, only two with trails, line the eastern boundary of the Wild Forest. All these fire-scarred open peaks are small, but they rise over 2,000 feet above the Hudson Valley, offering distant views to the High Peaks, Vermont, and the Sacandaga Valley.

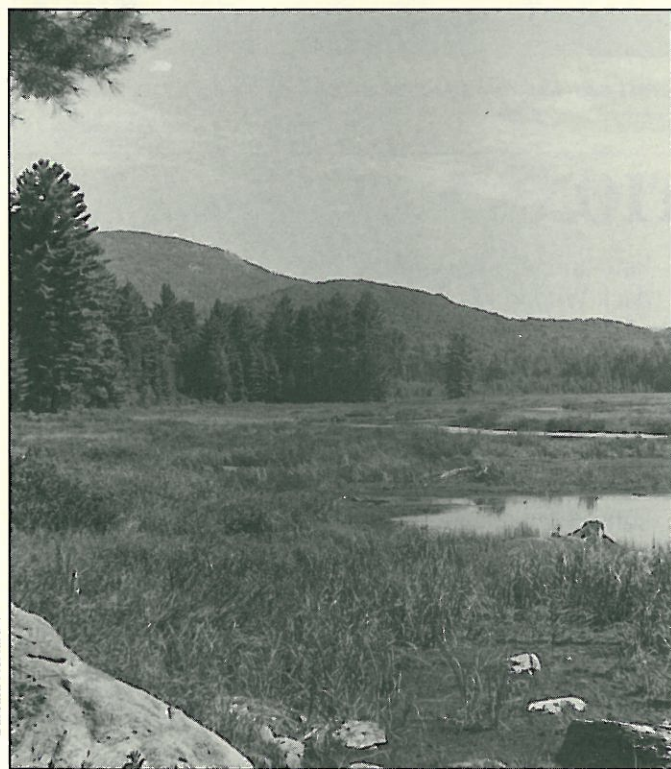
Penetrating roads kept the Wilcox Lake area from Wilderness status. The State should now capitalize on these roads to create the park's most important and accessible recreation area by connecting the long flat trails to a network that joins the open peaks. Needed are a limited amount of public land acquisition, new trailhead and parking facilities, construction of three lean-tos, trails to the open peaks with connecting trails between, and a bit of publicity.

Some 60 miles of hiking and snowmobiling trails along old roads trace the area's historical development. An additional 30 miles of trails will add loops to the network for cross-country skiers and to the open peaks for hikers. Trails to Tenant Creek's three waterfalls and along Stony Creek invite backpackers and long distance skiers. Few other Wild Forest areas are large enough for such long trails as the 25-mile route connecting the hamlet of Hope Falls with the Oregon trailhead.



Barbara McMartin

The view west on Huckleberry Mountain in the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest.



Barbara McMartin

Madison Creek Flow.

Completion of the trail systems and acquisition of 13,280 acres of Forest Preserve in a dozen parcels would:

- Provide trails for day hikes to Rand and Moose mountains on the west side of the Wild Forest and Huckleberry, Baldhead and Moose, Roundtop, and Bearpen mountains and Mount Blue on the east; and provide loop trails between the eastern cluster and the region's other open peaks, Hadley and Crane;
- Allow for the continuation of inholdings at Moosewood Club, Fuller's, and Brownell's Camp, as long as there is access to trails through these properties and trespass problems along them are controlled; limit development of the inholdings and acquire them as they become available;
- Connect the existing snowmobile trails between the Oregon and Bartman trailheads; add trails between Hope Falls and Northville and between the Stony Creek valley and town roads north of the Great Sacandaga Lake;
- Incorporate the Tenant Creek drainage in the Forest Preserve;
- Improve public access to Garnet Lake, Lens Lake, Mud Pond, Middle Flow, and both Upper and Lower Tenant Creek Falls;
- Permit public access to Wolf Pond caves;

- Establish new trailheads at Crystal Brook, Garnet Lake, Paintbed Brook, and Putnam Farm;
- Create loop trails for cross-country skiing through the Jimmy Creek and Crystal Creek-Painted Brook valleys, through the vleys west of Spruce and Cattle mountains, and between the Willis Lake trail and the Stony Creek network;
- Establish nature trails along Wolf Creek, on Moose Mountain, and near Madison Creek Flow, and a canoe-nature trail on Lens Lake;
- Preserve access by road to Harrisburg Lake, Baldwin Springs, and Brownell's Camp;
- Secure an easement over the shortest route to Pine Orchard and consider building a nature trail here for handicapped access to the most impressive stand of old-growth pines in the Adirondacks.

Copies of the full 52-page report on the Adirondack Wild Forest System may be ordered from the Adirondack Council, Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932. To cover production and mailing costs, a donation of \$10 per copy is requested.

Wild Forest Scorecard

Present Wild Forest (1990):	1,355,000 Acres
Proposed Wild Forest Additions:	255,190 Acres
Proposed Wild Forest to Wilderness:	173,000 Acres
Net Gain in Wild Forest:	82,190 Acres
Total Proposed Wild Forest:	1,437,190 Acres



Paddling Fall Stream in the Jessup River Wild Forest.

Barbara McMartin



Gary Randorf

Constable Lake in winter, Pigeon Lake Wilderness.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



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A coalition of the National Audubon Society; The Wilderness Society; Natural Resources Defense Council; Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks; National Parks and Conservation Association; and other concerned organizations and individuals.

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