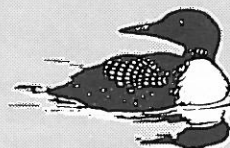




The Adirondack Council SPECIAL REPORT



to keep supporters informed of our activities

November 1985

THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL LONG RANGE PLAN

During 1980, The Adirondack Council decided to prepare a long range plan to serve as a guide for its day-to-day activities. The long range plan has served as a guiding tool for activities of the Council and has furnished the public with a concise and detailed picture of just what the Council does and will be doing in the future.

In 1985 a board-staff committee consisting of Kim Elliman, Frances Beinecke, Dean Cook, James C. Dawson, Harold Jerry, Gary Randorf and George Davis has updated the long range plan to identify and help establish the Council's priorities over the next five years and beyond.

THE PARK AND THE COUNCIL

The six-million-acre Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous 48 United States, containing within its boundaries the most significant remnant of natural, undisturbed open spaces east of the Mississippi River.

Although the Adirondack Park is within a day's drive of 55 million people and only a few hours from the country's largest city, the human population of the Park remains sparse, with only 125,000 permanent residents. It is notable that more people live in one square mile of Brooklyn, New York, than in the entire 9,000 + square miles of the Adirondack Park.

The Park's ownership pattern--60 percent private, 40 percent public--provides a unique and generally complementary blend of uses and landscapes.

But the most distinctive quality of the Adirondack Park is its diversity--of wildlife and vegetation; of landscapes that encompass mountains, valleys, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, meadows, and unbroken forests; of life zones ranging from open water to alpine; and, of people, from blue collar worker to trapper, logger, farmer, resort operator and wealthy landowner.

The Adirondack Council was formed in 1975. The Council is a coalition of five conservation groups with a combined membership of nearly 750,000 members and 3,500 individual members of its own, dedicated to protecting the wild and scenic character of the Adirondack Park for present and future generations.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Adirondack Council is a non-profit environmental advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Adirondack Park and the Adirondack Forest Preserve for present and future generations. The Council strives to maintain and enhance the Park's wildness and natural, open space character.

The Council further strives to:

1. Prevent, through legal remedies if necessary, human activities that threaten the integrity of the Park.
2. Defend Article XIV (the "forever wild" provision) of the state constitution.
3. Inform and educate the public about the special qualities of the Adirondack Park and about public and private actions that affect these qualities.
4. Uphold and strengthen the Adirondack Park Agency Act and promote the open space character and future viability of the Park's privately owned forest, agricultural, and recreational lands.
5. Monitor, influence and assist government agencies whose activities affect the environment of the Park, as well as the state legislature and Governor's office.
6. Foster a healthy Adirondack economy compatible with the natural resources of the Park and centered on forest products, tourism, and other open space uses.



GOALS

GOAL ONE

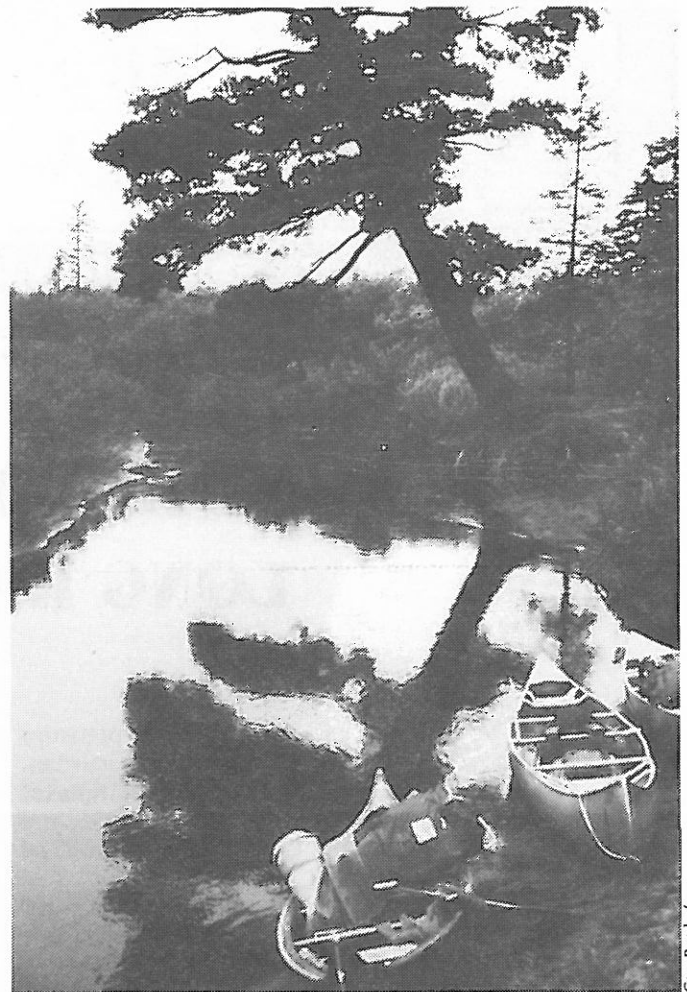
Counter threats to the integrity of the Park

- Combat acid rain and related visible pollution through legislative lobbying, litigation in state, federal and international arenas, and through education.
- Advise the state legislature on legislation threatening the Park.
- Defend the Adirondack Park Agency Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and Freshwater Wetlands Act from weakening amendments.
- Monitor and discourage pesticide spraying programs and curb indiscriminate pesticide use. Advocate switching to Bti and other biological controls. Call for further analysis of pesticide effects.
- Work to prevent the construction of new hydroelectric dams in the Forest Preserve and on Wild, Scenic and Recreational rivers.

GOAL TWO

Defend Article XIV and ensure that management of state lands is compatible with the "forever wild" character of the Forest Preserve

- Litigate violations of Article XIV as necessary.
- Oppose weakening constitutional amendments to Article XIV.
- Monitor and advise the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency in their implementation of the State Land Master Plan and in periodic updatings of the State Land Master Plan, as well as the development of Unit Management Plans. Insure that the SLMP and UMP's are consistent with Article XIV.
- Press for a land acquisition policy that rounds out wilderness and primitive areas, protects highway corridors, protects Wild, Scenic and Recreational River corridors, protects critical environmental areas, and acquires development rights through conservation easements. Analyze state Forest Preserve acquisitions annually.
- Suggest to the Department of Environmental Conservation appropriate parcels for acquisition.
- Advocate the control of overuse. Establish recreational use levels that are compatible with state land designations and natural carrying capacities.
- Seek state funding to allow the Department of Environmental Conservation to mark state land boundaries.
- Oppose unwarranted intrusions into the Forest Preserve including the establishment of primitive corridors. Advocate the termination of existing primitive corridors as soon as legally feasible.
- Promote access for the handicapped on the Forest Preserve that is consistent with the State Land Master Plan and encourage the Department of Environmental Conservation to identify areas where this can be accomplished.
- Press for the establishment of non-hunting areas in the Forest Preserve.
- Prevail upon the Department of Environmental Conservation to remove the remaining non-conforming facilities and uses in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.
- Oppose all new uses of motor vehicles on the Forest Preserve except the relocation of snowmobile trails as specifically provided for in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.



Oswegatchie River

Gary Randorf

GOAL THREE

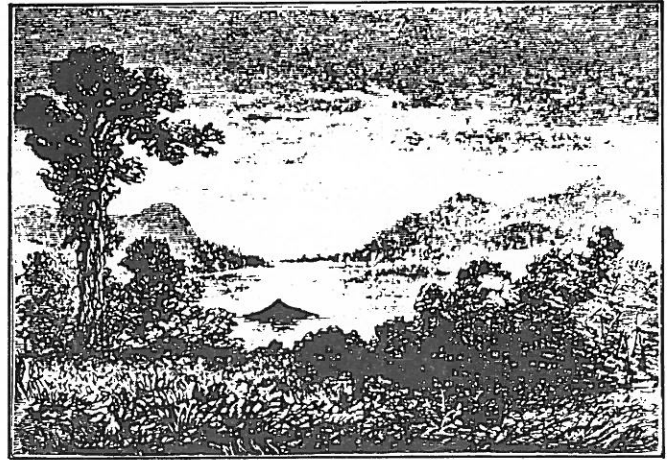
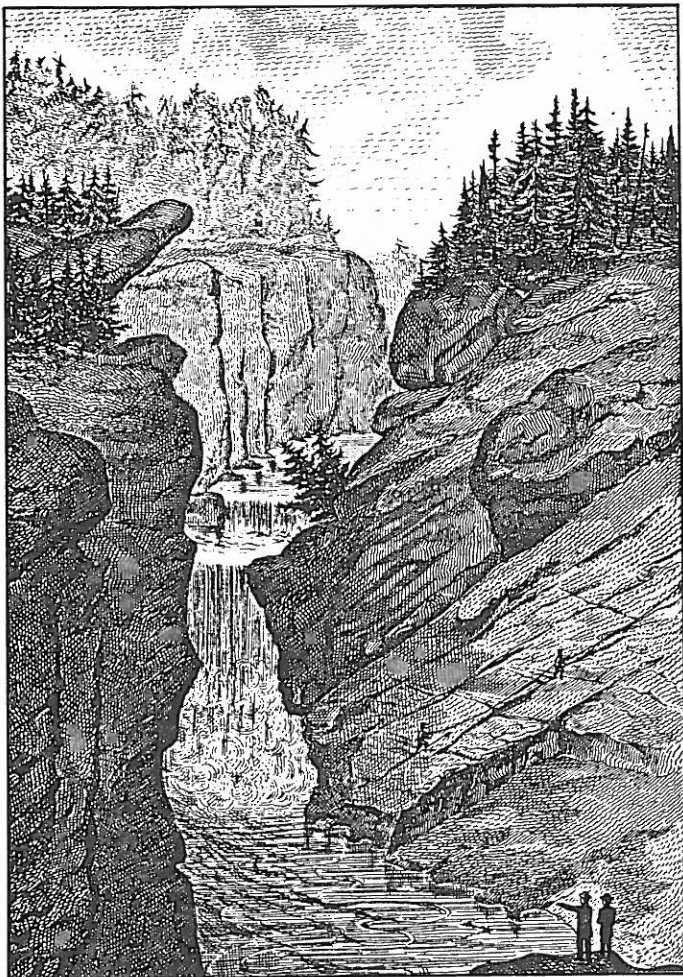
Inform and educate the public

- Schedule and answer requests for speaking engagements and prepare and present audio-visual presentations on the Park.
- Underwrite a series of articles for the Park Centennial (1992).
- Promote and assist in the development and operation of state-operated educational and interpretive facilities and programs for Park residents and visitors, with emphasis on the Park's natural history.
- Present annual awards for exemplary conservation, government, and economic activities.
- Publish regular newsletters and timely special reports on Adirondack affairs and issues.
- Keep state-wide media informed and suggest story ideas regularly through personal contacts, phone calls, letters, and press releases.
- Work closely with educational institutions and promote Park and environmental education, including the provision of curriculum materials.

GOAL FOUR

Protect the open space character of the Park. Uphold and strengthen the Adirondack Park Agency Act and promote the future viability of the Park's privately owned forest, agricultural, and recreational lands.

- Monitor the Adirondack Park Agency's implementation of the Adirondack Park Agency Act.
- Review and comment on the Adirondack Park Agency's actions relative to project reviews, local land use plans, and map amendment proposals.
- Advance real property taxation policies that preserve open space and related land uses, and promote land assessment according to its classification by the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map.
- Encourage landowners to use conservation easements as a mechanism for preserving the Park's open space character.
- Promote equitable forest land taxation.
- Promote a Wild and Scenic Lakes Study Bill and other shoreline protection measures, including a measure to make shorelines critical environmental areas.
- Continue to press for amendment of the State Rivers System Act to include certain additional rivers.
- Promote energy policies and initiatives that are environmentally compatible, including energy conservation, passive solar, and rehabilitation of "run of river" hydroelectric projects.
- Support selected wood energy policies where they are compatible with Park purposes.



Lake George, N. Y.

GOAL FIVE**Monitor and influence state offices and policies**

- Ongoing monitoring of the following state offices: Adirondack Park Agency, Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Highway Council, Olympic Regional Development Authority, Public Service Commission, Department of Transportation, Board of Equalization and Assessment, Department of Correctional Services, the Executive Chamber and the State Legislature.
- Monitor highway corridor development and management and promote additional highway corridor protection measures.
- Monitor New York State Public Service Commission regulation of transmission and distribution lines in the Park. Oppose large transmission lines inside the Park and work to minimize the aesthetic impact of all utility lines. Promote undergrounding of utility lines.
- Promote management for natural ecological communities and wildlife policies that places equitable emphasis on both game and non-game species.
- Monitor the activities of the Olympic Regional Development Authority to encourage uses and activities that are compatible with the Park and oppose new facilities on the Forest Preserve.

GOAL SIX**Foster a healthy Adirondack economy**

- Present annual awards for exemplary and compatible land uses and development within the Adirondack Park.
- Foster policies that enhance state land/private land relationships in ways that are consistent with the open space character of the Park. This should include the development of a comprehensive and compatible recreation plan for Forest Preserve lands that complements the private sector's tourism and recreational industries.
- Promote ecologically sound forestry practices and encourage sustained yield and environmentally sensitive timber harvesting.
- Promote the forest products industry as a primary economic activity and communicate with the industry about their central role in the private sector.
- Promote interpretation of the historical, cultural, and natural resources of the Park to promote longer stays on the part of visitors.
- Encourage environmentally compatible business ventures.

THE ADIRONDACK LAND TRUST

The *Adirondack Land Trust*, a support organization of the Council, has approved a long range plan with the following goals:

- Develop an "Open Space Protection Priority Plan" for all 13 northern New York State counties. Criteria that will be used include: prime agricultural soils; productive forest soils; designated agricultural districts; key tracts essential to protect critical state holdings; wild, scenic and recreational river corridors; scenic vistas; important travel corridors; established or legally protected open space lands; and critical resource areas.
- Approach the owners of critical open space lands to determine potential interest in preserving such lands and work

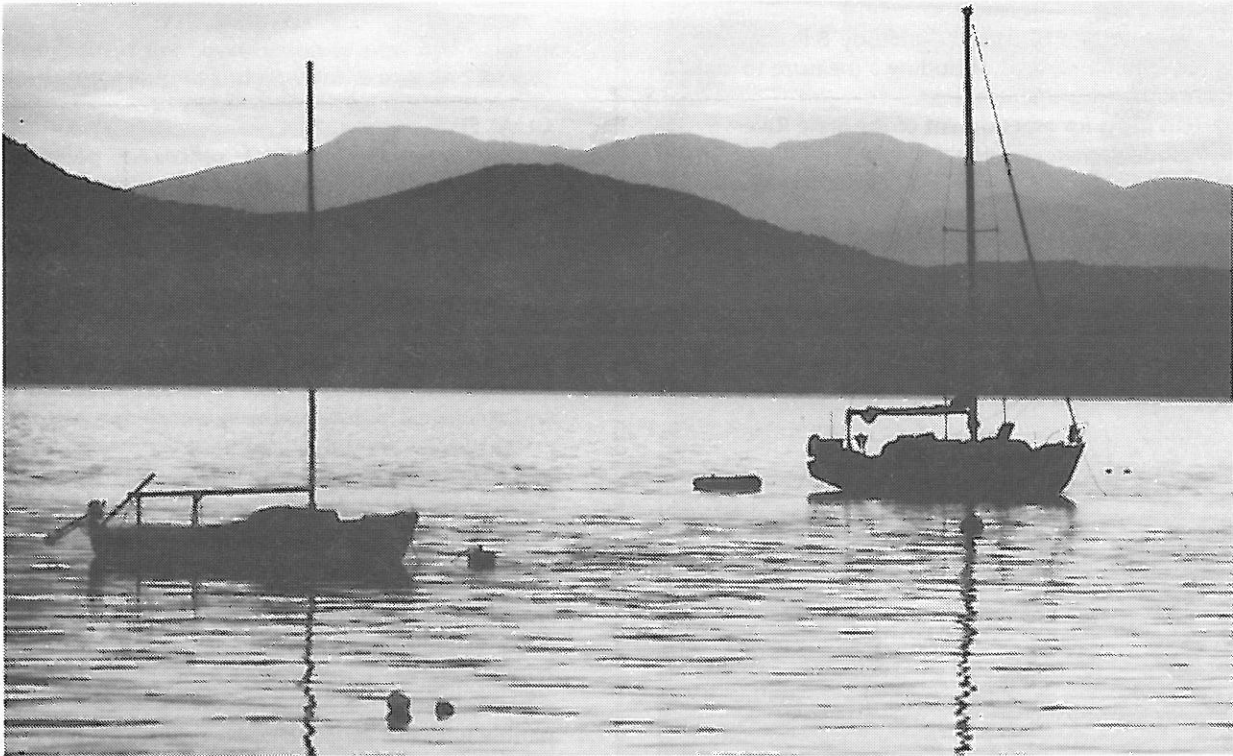
closely with interested owners to develop a mutually satisfactory method of preserving their lands.

- Educate the public to the value of open space resources and the methods of protecting them.

- Accept, hold and monitor conservation easements and other interests in land where the Trust is the most logical organization to hold such interests.

- Undertake special projects designed to protect the agricultural, forest and open space resources of northern New York State. Such projects are expected to focus on travel corridor protection, cooperative forest management, and agricultural land preservation.

Copies of the Adirondack Land Trust Long Range Plan are available on request.



Lake Champlain

Gary Randorf



The Adirondack Council

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November 1985

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

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