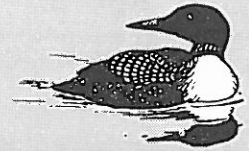




The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



to keep supporters informed of our activities

Vol. 5

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No. 15

THE LONG RANGE PLAN

During 1980, The Adirondack Council decided to prepare a long range plan that would serve as a guide for its day-to-day activities. A board-staff committee was formed consisting of Richard Lawrence, Harold Jerry, Frances Beinecke, Clarence Petty, Jim Rogers, Gary Randorf, and Stephen Scholle. Richard Beamish provided essential editorial review of the final draft. The long range plan will serve as a guiding tool for activities of the Council and will furnish the public with a concise and detailed picture of just what the Council does and will be doing over the next few years. We present it to you so that you may better understand the various issues The Adirondack Council confronts in protecting the Adirondack Park. Your comments are welcome.

The plan is divided into five goals with ongoing projects addressed to each goal. Specific tasks, in turn, address each project.

Introduction

The six-million-acre Adirondack Park is the largest park by far in the 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. 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--62% private, 38% 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 lakeshore to alpine; and a diversity 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 four conservation groups and 1,500 individual members of its own, dedicated to protecting the wild and scenic character of the Adirondack Park for present and future generations.

Statement of Purposes

The general purposes of The Adirondack Council are:

- To support programs that enhance the harmonious relationship of man and nature in the Adirondack Park.
- To prevent, through legal remedies if necessary, human activities that threaten the natural integrity of the Park.
- To defend Article 14 of the State Constitution.
- To uphold and strengthen the Adirondack Park Agency Act and insure its proper implementation.
- To foster a healthy Adirondack economy compatible with the natural resources of the Park.

- To monitor, influence and assist government agencies whose activities affect the environment of the Park.

- To inform and educate the public about the special qualities of the Adirondack Park, and about public and private actions that affect these qualities.

- To work in concert with other conservation organizations dedicated to protecting the Adirondack Park.

GOAL #1: FOSTER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE OPEN-SPACE VALUES AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE PARK, AND OF ANY THREATS THERETO

Project #1: Inform the general public.

Tasks: Prepare audio-visual presentations on the Park.

Selectively schedule and answer requests for speaking engagements and audio-visual presentations.

Develop booklets on the natural history of the Park.

Present annual awards for exemplary uses of and developments within the Park.

Host a wilderness conference.

Produce a 16mm movie on Adirondack history and issues.

Continue to publish bi-monthly Newsletters on Adirondack issues.

Project #2: Establish good media relations.

Tasks: Keep editors, editorial writers, reporters, TV and radio outlets regularly and systematically informed of important developments and interesting story ideas through personal visits, phone calls, letters, and press releases.

Project #3: Work with educational institutions.

Tasks: Complete life-zone slide show for classroom presentations (as well as general use).

Promote environmental education through teacher workshops.

Influence curriculum development at local and state levels.

Project #4: Promote state-operated interpretive programs for Park visitors.

Tasks: Prevail upon state authorities to install interpretive signs at highway rest stops and scenic overlooks.

Promote state-operated visitor and information centers.



GOAL #2: PROMOTE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE WILD, SCENIC AND HISTORIC QUALITIES OF THE PARK.

Project #1: Combat acid rain and related visible pollution.

Tasks: Publicize the issues both inside and outside the region.

Disseminate information to interested individuals and groups.

Join with and rally other organizations in attacking the problem through legal action and federal legislation as required.

Project #2: Help develop a state-land acquisition policy.

Tasks: Help formulate an acquisition policy that considers such factors as the need for additional acquisition of key tracts, the need for public access to state lands and Adirondack rivers bordered by private land, and the need to preserve scenic vistas.

Project #3: Advance conservation-easement acquisition program.

Tasks: Promote state acquisition of easements through gift or purchase.

Promote legislation to correct deficiencies in state common-law easement.

Promote state-aid to municipalities when easements are held by the state.

Project #4: Advance real property taxation policies that preserve open space and related land uses.



MANSION HOUSE,
ELIZABETHTOWN, N. Y.

Tasks: Aid the wood-using industry by promoting equitable forest land taxation.

Advance the concept of having land assessed for property taxation according to its classification by the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map.

Project #5: Promote state program for historic preservation.

Tasks: Help develop administrative policy, legislation, or constitutional amendment providing for historic preservation of historic structures in the Park.

Project #6: Monitor and advise State Legislature on legislation affecting the Park.

Tasks: Promote a Wild and Scenic Lakes Study Bill or other shoreline protection measures.

Initiate a bill amending the Rivers System Act to include certain additional rivers.

Initiate a bill that would make lake and pond shorelines Critical Environmental Areas requiring APA review of projects proposed on private land.

Initiate a bill that would make private travel corridor lands classified Moderate Intensity Use and Low Intensity Use Critical Environmental Areas.

Defend the APA Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and Freshwater Wetlands Act from weakening amendments.

Defend the "forever wild" Forest Preserve from weakening Constitutional amendments.

Project #7: Support energy policies and initiatives that reflect Council purposes.

Tasks: Monitor NYS Public Service Commission regulation of large transmission and distribution lines in Park.

Work to prevent the construction of new hydroelectric dams in the Forest Preserve and on Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers.

Promote rehabilitation of existing dams for hydroelectric purposes.

Support wood-energy policies that do not compromise Article 14 (the "forever wild" provision).

Promote energy conservation and solar energy in the Park.



GOAL #3: INSURE THAT MANAGEMENT OF STATE LANDS IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE "FOREVER WILD" CHARACTER OF FOREST PRESERVE AND THAT USE OF PRIVATE LANDS IS CONSISTENT WITH OPEN-SPACE CHARACTER OF THE PARK.

Project #1: Uphold Article 14 and the State Land Master Plan.

Tasks: Litigate violations of Article 14 as necessary.

Monitor and work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in their management of the Forest Preserve.

Monitor and provide input in to the periodic updating of the State Land Master Plan.

Assist and encourage DEC in developing Unit Management Plans for Forest Preserve tracts.

Project #2: Monitor the Adirondack Park Agency's implementation of the APA Act.

Tasks: Attend monthly APA meetings, hearings, and other relevant gatherings.

Issue periodic evaluations of APA's performance.

Counteract any undue adverse influence exerted by the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and other anti-APA interests.

Project #3: Monitor and influence other government actions that affect the Park.

Tasks: Prevail upon the DEC to mark state land boundaries.

Monitor pesticide spraying and curb indiscriminate pesticide use.

Monitor highway corridor management.

Monitor long-term management policies governing state campsites and other visitor facilities.

Advocate motorboat controls on lakes that are adversely impacted by their pollution or overuse.

Promote wilderness classification of state land acquired by Perkins Clearing land exchange.

Prevail upon DEC to remove the remaining non-conforming facilities and uses in wilderness and primitive areas.

Promote reduced or dispersed use of currently overused areas of the Forest Preserve.

Project #4: Promote ecologically sound forestry practices in private sector.

Tasks: Encourage sustained-yield timber harvesting.

Monitor and participate in APA's timber harvesting study.

Project #5: Promote DEC wildlife policy that places equitable emphasis on non-game species and non-hunting uses.

Tasks: Resist attempts to manage the Forest Preserve primarily for game species.

Support federal non-game fish and wildlife programs.

Work to amend the Environmental Conservation Law to eliminate the need for local approval of

proposed DEC wildlife refuges in the Forest Preserve.

Work to establish no-hunting zones in the Forest Preserve to provide "safe" areas for non-consumptive users.

Project #6: Monitor the long-term management and financing of the Olympic facilities to encourage uses compatible with the Park.



GOAL #4: TO INFORM OUR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC OF THE ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS OF THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL.

Project #1: (Same as Goal #4 above).

Project #2: Establish liaison with other groups and build coalition of Adirondack-oriented conservation groups.

Tasks: Seek out compatible organizations, communicate effectively with them, cooperate on matters of mutual concern, and invite their representatives to join the Council's Board of Directors as appropriate.



GOAL #5: IMPROVE THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Project #1: Institutionalize fund raising.

Tasks: Broaden membership base; maintain higher renewal rate; issue year-end appeals; conduct special fund drives; enlist support of more foundations, corporations, and individuals, with emphasis on recruiting large contributors.

Project #2: Improve administrative procedures.

Tasks: Keep statistical records and analysis of contributions, project annual budget, obtain annual audit, do quarterly analysis of new memberships and renewals, prepare monthly financial and fund-raising reports.

Project #3: Improve planning procedures.

Tasks: Seek added involvement of individual Directors in Council activities.

Prepare for and follow-up on policies set forth in Board of Directors meetings.

Prepare policy papers on major issues.

Review staffing.

Periodically update the long-range plan.



*A copy of the last financial report filed with the New York Department of State may be obtained by writing: New York Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, Albany, NY 12231 or The Adirondack Council.

The Adirondack Council is funded solely through private contributions and grants.

If you are not yet a contributor, please consider lending us your financial support. Send contributions to the address at right. Please make checks payable to: The Adirondack Council.

*Contributions are tax deductible

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The Adirondack Council

Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

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

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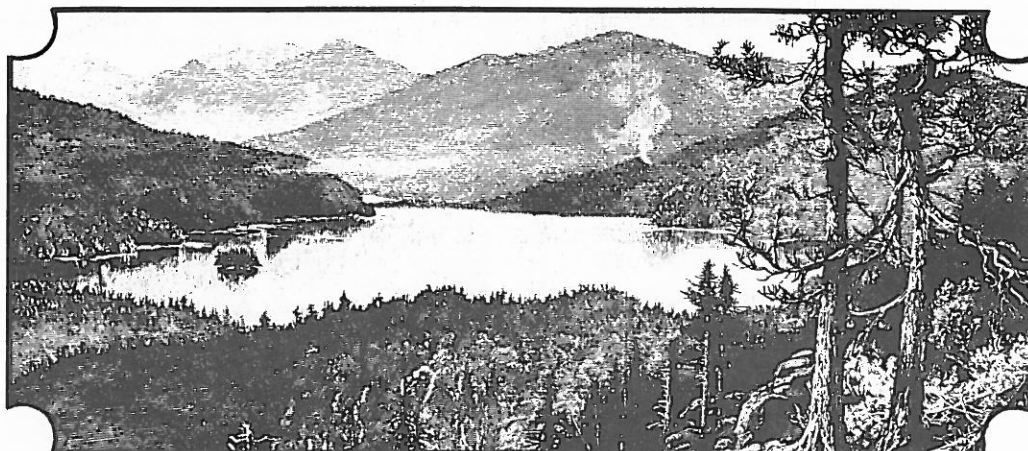
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