Council Joins Suit to Enforce Clean Air Act
Pollution controls must be turned on

In October, the Adirondack Council joined with the State of Maryland and a coalition of environmental and health organizations in suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to protect public health from smog and acid rain and not responding to a petition for action.

Air pollution generated by Midwest coal-fired power plants is carried for hundreds of miles by prevailing winds. Some falls to the ground as acid rain and soot, and in the summertime the pollution remains a gas – such as ozone (smog) – and harms the lungs of people and wildlife. Under the “good neighbor provision” of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is supposed to order the 36 dirtiest Midwest power plants to turn on additional, summertime-only pollution control equipment. These pollution controls are already installed and, if running, would save lives and prevent environmental damage.

Co-plaintiffs include the Environmental Defense Fund, the Environmental Integrity Project, the Maryland Environmental Health Network, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Sierra Club, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

New Boreas Ponds Proposal
Wilderness at risk

The success of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s investment in Adirondack Wilderness, the Boreas Ponds and vibrant communities, to “leave it even better than before for our children,” is threatened by proposals to compromise world-class protections for this national treasure.

There are proposals for new public motorized and mechanized recreational uses near, on and around the Boreas Ponds threatening the sensitive ecology and the future wilderness character of these remote former Finch-Pruyn/Nature Conservancy lands.

The Governor’s Adirondack Park Agency (APA) indicated they would soon make a final recommendation. If the APA follows the science, the law, public opinion, and the state’s progressive conservation tradition, the Adirondack Council stands ready to applaud. Wilderness and communities win if the Governor listens to the 12 editorials that supported the compromise advocated for by the Council, the BeWildNY coalition and other partners. The Adirondacks can be a beacon of hope for the country. It’s more important now than ever that you let your opinion be heard. Please go to AdirondackCouncil.org/takeaction today to send a letter to Governor Cuomo! Thank you!
Navigating Troubled Waters

Dear Supporters of the Adirondacks,

This fall I checked something off my bucket list by paddling and carrying a solo canoe 90 miles from Old Forge to Saranac Lake. The “90 miler” is known as the “Adirondack Canoe Classic.” 600 paddlers and hundreds of boats compete in what is usually a three-day race. I paddled from Old Forge to Blue Mountain Lake, from Long Lake to near Tupper Lake, and from Upper Saranac Lake to Lake Flower in “downtown” Saranac Lake.

On the traverse I saw great Adirondack conservation successes you helped make real including protected Wilderness, clean water, rebounding loon populations, and important community revivification projects. I didn’t set records, but it was fun.

Brian and Grace MacDonald of Mac’s Canoe Livery and the Adirondack Watershed Alliance organize the event. (This was the 31st year.) They do a great job with support from many sponsors, state agency staff and volunteers.

You and the Adirondack Council have been an integral part of conservation victories across this Adirondack landscape, as have many partners. Without donors, members, and collaborators from across the country and the globe and without leadership from New York elected leaders including two Governor Cuomos, New York State would not be the Great conservation victories and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s national progressive leader it is today. The Adirondacks would not be what they are today.

Great conservation victories and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s successes in the Adirondacks are now threatened by dangerous Trump administration rollbacks of acid rain protection. State agency proposals for more intensive and motorized recreational uses, a private railroad junkyard in the park, and additional threats to the Governor’s success.

We need to preserve the Adirondacks now more than ever. With your support we will navigate past these challenges and preserve forever the ecological integrity, wild character, wilderness, and communities of this national treasure.

Thank you.

William C. Janeway
Executive Director

Adirondack Acid Rain Program on Chopping Block

Clean water and air progress threatened

Following an announcement by the Trump administration that it would cut the budget of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 31 percent, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Willsboro, pledged to work to restore proposed cuts to the EPA’s budget for acid rain research and monitoring.

Critical funding for the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corp’s lake chemistry testing and air monitoring comes from the EPA. These programs provide the scientific data needed to show whether emissions controls for acid rain, fine particles and smog rules are actually working. U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney, D-Manhattan, Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, and John Faso, R-Kinderhook, also said they would fight for the EPA’s acid rain budget.

The budget passed by the House of Representatives in September contained a 16-percent cut to the EPA’s Science and Technology budget, from which the acid rain research is funded. The current budget and debt ceiling agreement is due to expire at the end of 2017.

NY Helps Form Climate Alliance

Goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

In response to the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change, Governors Andrew Cuomo, Jay Inslee of Washington and Jerry Brown of California created the United States Climate Alliance.

This bi-partisan coalition of states is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Members of the coalition include Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. Coordinated state and regional action can ensure that the United States continues to contribute to the global effort to address climate change. New York also participates in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a mandatory carbon reduction program for power plants in nine Northeast states. State leadership on climate and clean air may help inspire national action.

State Mulls New Emissions Rules for Small Mills

Air quality at stake

The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) held three stakeholder meetings in July to gather input on its plan for tightening compliance rules for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. DEC officials said they want to reduce the allowable levels of fine particles from commercial and institutional boilers and furnaces, especially those burning wood. Wood is becoming more popular as a fuel at schools and businesses. While it has some advantages over fossil fuels for the local economy, it can create more particle pollution when burned.

State regulations for small stationary sources have not been updated in decades. Air quality in Adirondack communities is often poor between midnight and dawn in winter, as inefficient wood stoves and boilers get choked down and smolder.

After the stakeholder sessions, the DEC said it would develop a new regulatory plan and announce a proposed rule soon. The rule would then be subject to public input using the state’s standard rulemaking procedures.

Photo courtesy © Nance Battaglia

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to encourage the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities.
Leave No Trace Principles
Outdoor ethics minimize human impact
As we enjoy recreational activities in the woods and water of the Adirondacks, and elsewhere, it is important to be a good steward of places we visit. Below are seven best practices that can be followed to help limit human impacts, protect our natural resources and respect the experience of others.

1. Plan ahead and prepare - research your destination, know the regulations and pack for the expected weather.

2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces - use established trails and campsites and avoid sensitive areas.

3. Dispose of waste properly - pack it in, pack it out. Deposit human waste in a 6”-8” deep hole away from trails, camp and water.

4. Leave what you find - leave natural objects as they are found and preserve cultural/historical structures and artifacts.

5. Minimize campfire impacts - establish fires where permitted, keep fires small and burn all wood and coal to ash.

6. Respect wildlife - observe wildlife through a camera or binoculars, never feed and avoid encounters during mating and nesting.

7. Be considerate of other visitors - Respect the experience of others, yield to other trail users, avoid loud voices and noises, and manage your pets.

The Future of New York Trout
DEC trout stream management evaluated
For over 30 years DEC has generally managed trout streams across the state for a desired catch rate, or the number of fish caught per hour, as the overall management objective. The Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) program has long worked on the assumption that anglers preferred to catch (and keep) as many fish as possible and DEC stocking and management practices reflected this belief. But over the decades, angler perspectives have slowly shifted to place increased emphasis on catch-and-release efforts, and more anglers are willing to catch fewer fish if the ones they catch are larger and wilder fish than the generic 8” “silver bullets” hatchery fish that are the mainstay of DEC’s stocking program.

In a sign of proactive management, DEC is currently hosting statewide public informational hearings on possible revisions to the trout stream program that would update stocking objectives and management techniques. The core purpose of these meetings is for DEC to get a better sense of how angler philosophies have changed and what the average fisherperson values. Given that in 2016, DEC stocked over 440 streams across the state, this effort is substantial and could have long ranging impacts on the types of fish and more importantly, the types of fishing opportunities that are available to the general public.

In Region 5 and 6, which encompass the whole Adirondack Park, DEC trout stream management takes on even more important implications. As impacts from climate change begin to grow and waterbodies and streams begin to noticeably warm, the Adirondacks become a vital refuge for the Eastern brook trout. Brook trout are notoriously fickle fish that have a very low tolerance for waters above 65 degrees and tend to be easily displaced or eaten by other more aggressive trout such as brown and rainbow trout. The Adirondack Council offers one of the last great places for brook trout to thrive in the cold water habitats that they need.

As we look to a warming future, DEC should be commended for their efforts to reevaluate their trout stream management program. It is up to all of us to remind them of the need for stronger ecological protections for wild and native fish populations, particularly heritage strain brook trout in the Adirondacks.

Supporting the Council

In Memoriam
Joanne Waldron Dwyer (1934-2017)
Former Adirondack Council Board Member Joanne Waldron Dwyer passed away on Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, at Morristown Memorial Hospital after a long illness. She was 83.

Joanne spent her early years living in Saranac Lake, where she acquired her love for the Great Woods. After her father completed his treatment for tuberculosis, the family returned to New Jersey and took up residence in Montclair, New Jersey. She had a passion for chemistry and nurtured hundreds of students through the rigors of the chemistry lab at the College of New Rochelle. Over the years, she embarked on hiking trips; conquered several bouts with cancer, two knee replacements, and a fractured neck; and volunteered on many boards. Her heart remained always in the Adirondacks and after the death of her husband, Arthur, she purchased a home on Green Pond near Saranac Lake to which she enjoyed a very “active” retirement.

The Adirondack Council was truly blessed by nearly three decades of her loyal support and infinite wisdom. She will be sorely missed.

Support Adirondack Conservation
Purchase calendars, hats, playing cards, and more!
Proceeds from the sale of Adirondack products help us advocate for water, wilderness, wildlife and communities of the Adirondacks everyday! Place an order today at AdirondackCouncil.org or call toll-free 1.877.873.2240.

Combat Acid Rain in the Adirondacks!
The proposed rollbacks of environmental laws and regulations threaten the progress we have made over the past two decades in limiting acid rain-causing pollution in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. Gutting public health and environmental programs aimed at ensuring pollution reductions and monitoring progress is unacceptable!

I support the strengthening (not abandoning) of our policies to protect the Adirondack Park from acid rain.

Signature

Email

Please detach and return in the enclosed envelope. Thank You!
More Motorized Recreation Proposed
Future Raquette-Jordan Boreas Wilderness at Risk

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has released a draft amendment to the Raquette-Jordan Boreal Primitive Area (RJBPA) Unit Management Plan that will allow for the construction of a road between two isolated conservation easement areas in a remote northwest area of the Park. Construction of this 1.25 mile “connector” road will allow motor vehicle access for the first time to thousands of acres of remote private lands. The Council identified the RJBPA in our 2020 VISION reports as being a prime candidate for reclassification to a Wilderness Area. We remain concerned that increased motorized use to access these remote and sensitive lands and waters may result in impact threatened spruce grous habitat and weaken the wild forest character of the Park.

Conservation Easement Recreation Plan Developed
Long Lake

In July, the DEC released its Draft Cedarlands Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the ~4,900-acre Boy Scout-owned property in Long Lake. The Council strongly supports this RMP as it gives due consideration to the natural resources of the tract, voluntarily limits high impact motorized recreation like snowmobiling and prioritizes recreational access for persons with disabilities. Also, the terms of the conservation easement do not allow for public ATV use on the property. Cedarlands is one of the few large-scale private lands under conservation easement in the Adirondack Park that is not primarily a working forest easement.

Management Plan for Travel Corridors Released
Highways in the Park

Recently, the Department of Transportation (DOT), in collaboration with the DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency, released its Draft Generic Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan for State Highway Corridors in the Adirondack Park. The State Land Master Plan classifies highways within the Park as unique travel corridor units whose natural and physical resources must be assessed and protected. The plan provides guidance for the DOT on sustainable management practices, project design, maintenance activities, vegetative management, and highway operations such as mowing and snow control. The Council supports the release of this plan and encourages additional efforts to identify and manage invasive species, road salt impacts, wildlife corridors, the Adirondack Sign Law, road side utilities, viewsheds, and parking along popular trailheads.

Saranac Lake Wild Forest
Draft management plan released

In June, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the 94,000-acre Saranac Lakes Wild Forest (SLWF), a fragmented unit that consistently receives a high degree of human use. The Council submitted comments supporting the majority of the management actions within the draft UMP including proposed motor restrictions, campsite closures and relocations and fisheries management. However, the Council reiterated ongoing concerns about additional natural resources considerations and carrying capacity issues that needed to be addressed. The draft UMP is lacking required technical inventories and analysis to reflect the current state of the unit, current carrying capacity studies, invasive species control methods for sensitive waterways, and opportunities to expand non-mechanized recreation opportunities.

Two Invasive Species Threaten Forests
Lake George and Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties

Recently, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was found on Prospect Mountain in Lake George and Emerald Ash Borers (EAB) were discovered on tribal lands outside the Park in Franklin County. The treatment for HWA includes injections of the tree with two insecticides to control the current infestation and provide for longer-term prevention. The Department of Environmental Conservation treated 218 trees within a 250 ft. buffer around the original infestation. The EAB were discovered by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in northern Franklin County. Ash borers attack all ash species - white, black and green - in the Adirondacks and spread easily, predominantly by transporting contaminated firewood. Unlike HWA, whose northern range is currently restricted by cold temperatures, the climatic range of the ash borer includes northeastern North America. EAB control efforts are limited to cutting and removing infested trees and tend to be ineffective against large-scale infestations.

Proposed Railcar Junkyard a Scenic Blight
North Creek - Tahawus

Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC is proposing to use a portion of its line in Warren County to store junked, decaying railroad cars inside the Adirondack Park near some of the wildest stretches of the Hudson River between North Creek and the hamlet of Tahawus in Essex County. This proposal threatens the scenic beauty and wild character of the Adirondack Forest Preserve and the success of the Adirondack Park as a tourism destination.
ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A HORNBECK CANOE!

RAFFLE TICKETS:
$10 each or 3 for $25

Drawing held December 21, 2017

Purchase tickets online AdirondackCouncil.org or call toll-free at 1.877.873.2240.

All proceeds benefit Adirondack Park conservation!

#WildAboutThePark
Tag us in your Adirondack photos on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to be featured on social media, or in our next newsletter!

Printed on Mohawk Options recycled paper (100% post-consumer content) in a facility that is certified 100% wind powered.
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Are we loving the Adirondack Forest Preserve to death? Recent years have brought remarkable achievements to the Adirondack Park. We have seen significant additions to the Forest Preserve, including the priceless Boreas Ponds Tract and the Essex Chain of Lakes. And, there has been a striking increase in public interest in vigorous outdoor recreation in the Park, bringing more visitors wanting to explore our global treasure. They also help the vibrancy of Adirondack local communities by buying goods and services there.

Affection and attention, however, are a mixed blessing. A new challenge is managing these successes in a way that protects the wild character and ecological integrity of the Park, while allowing people to enjoy its clean air, pure waters and unspoiled forested landscapes. The carrying capacity of trails, summits, campsites, swimming holes, water courses, and other destination points is not infinite. Too much use, or the wrong kinds of uses, or poorly managed uses can degrade the very natural features and resources that are attracting the users to visit and enjoy them.

The Adirondack Council has always been an advocate for intelligent policies and adequate means to govern the State’s care and custody of the public, open space resources of the Forest Preserve and for optimizing world class recreational opportunities there. But, as we look at today’s circumstances, we are feeling a great need for a serious update in the understanding of how increased quantity of public lands and conservation easements, greater and more intensive human uses, new invasive species, climate change, fiscal austerity, scientific advances, and even social media have made many existing public land management practices and traditions no longer appropriate. And, with a new understanding must come the development and application of modernized and state-of-the-art management planning, strategies, and techniques.

This is the topic to which the Council is now turning more focused attention. This will not be an easy job. It will not be an inexpensive one. It will not be without controversy and conflict. But it is driven by our mission and essential to safeguarding our wild, biodiverse, and beautiful public spaces. It is also the outgrowth of the many successes the Council has achieved with the generous help of its members and supporters.

The growth in membership and revenue this year has given us increased capacity to continue to build the strength and influence of our Council and enhance its ability to conduct our important work. Thank you for making this possible.

We greatly appreciate your support and invite your continued participation in the Council’s endeavors. This is a collaborative effort. We can never stop our advocacy, large landscape planning, and conservation work if we want to preserve the Adirondack Park as a model of people and the natural environment thriving together.

With gratitude,

Robert J. Kafin
Board Chair

The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.
Listed below are individual donations of $250 or more to the Adirondack Forever Wild Fund. For a complete listing, visit adkforeverwild.org.

For more information about donating, contact Development Director Enos T. and Muriel B. Throop Foundation at 518-523-9100.

For more information about donating, contact Development Director Enos T. and Muriel B. Throop Foundation at 518-523-9100.
Progress toward Council 2014-2020 strategic objectives achieved with partners and member support. View more accomplishments online at AdirondackCouncil.org. Thank you for supporting our conservation advocacy!

WILDERNESS: Ensuring the wild character and ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve.

Promoted the Be Wild New York campaign with a coalition of regional and national conservation organizations for expansion of the Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness, commissioned polling, scientific studies, and economic analysis supporting a Wilderness classification.

Concern about overuse and stewardship needs in the High Peaks. Cheered the announcement by the Department of Environmental Conservation for initial actions to manage overuse.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES: Fostering a more resilient, sustainable Adirondack Park with vibrant communities.

Secured an additional $2.5 billion for clean water infrastructure improvement grants for local communities in the state budget on top of the $350 million previously approved for 2016/2017.

Worked with an array of Adirondack partners to gain final legislative approval of a Constitutional Amendment to create a health and safety land account for town and county roads allowing local municipalities to straighten curves and install drainage on roads that cross the “forever wild” Forest Preserve. It would also allow the installation of telecommunications lines and other utilities, infrastructure, and bike paths within or near the road right of way.

WATER & AIR: Fighting for clean water and clean air; combating invasive species and climate change.

Worked with NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and other state officials to oppose the Trump administration plan to repeal the Clean Power Plan and supported a petition filed by Maryland, Delaware and Connecticut calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to order Midwest power plants to turn on pollution control devices. (See up date on page 1)

Secured $13 million of state funding to combat invasive species, including funds dedicated to an Adirondack Park-wide boat wash program, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, $450,000 to fight invasive species in Lake George, plus grants to other communities and lake associations.

FARMS & FORESTS: Preserving open space and supporting working forests and farms.

Provided $30,000 in Cool Farms/Healthy Park sustainability micro-grants to local farms and small businesses, supporting energy-efficiency and the low-carbon economy.

The Council advocated for principles to guide sustainable forestry within the Adirondack Park to address clearcutting, biomass, forest health, invasive species, sustainable forestry certifications, aesthetic impacts, and economic development issues.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNMENT: Leading, expanding and diversifying the Park’s constituency.

Joined a broad coalition of organizations opposing a Constitutional Convention that would be held in 2019 if voters approve the question on the November 2018 ballot;

Provided resources to build capacity of the Adirondack Diversity Initiative to begin a search for a full-time coordinator to manage the group’s activities, including the annual Adirondack Diversity Symposium.
MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Often, there are people who touch our lives in a meaningful way and we look to honor or remember them in an equally special way. We are honored to share the names of these special people and those who chose to recognize them.

TRIBUTES

Jean Buchwald
Bobbie and Brad Landers
The Carr, Munnell Family
Morse Family
Cheswold Cranford
Universal Corporation
Alessandro del Perro
Beverley S. Meginley
Laufer, Bike and Trent
Harry A. and Deborah S. Bernheim
IAHFIAW
Marilyn Yousem and Sandy Benter
Susan Gallant
Don Walters

GIFTs-IN-KIND

Adirondack Apparel
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Depot Theatre
E-Web Business Solutions
ESI Web Development
Fitch Prost Papel
Fitch Papers
Diane and Peter Fish
Ice River Canoeing
Barbara Gliner
Carl Holden II, Wild Ventures, Inc.
Gus Strenser & Brett Lake Club
Sarah E. Hollis
Consortial Integrated Marketing
William C. James
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Philippe Leclerc
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Elizabeth Nagering and Carl Hofmann
Town of Newcomb
Robert Padlin
Bob Puddles Wild Canoe Cartage
Patterson-Beldin Whay & Tyler
Pendragon Saut
Peter Adirondack Evan and Hilary Williams
Richard Rianda, Willie Farr & Galghee, LLP
Douglas & Abbey McGinn
Leland Shorow
SKMoffin
Denise and Margaret Sullivan
Thomas Thomson
Thomas Cobden
James and John Train
Gingras
t
Signature Water
Dana West Photography/Susan McGraw
Winchester Ostrander & Harris LLP
Edwin Hane
Young Women’s Roundtable

CHARITY NAVIGATOR 4-STAR AWARD

The Adirondack Council’s sound financial management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4-stars — a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. The Council is also one of just 17% of organizations earning a 4-star rating for 3 consecutive years. We hope the Adirondack Council’s 4-star rating gives you even more confidence in your hard-earned dollars being used efficiently and responsibly on behalf of the Adirondack Park.

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

AARP • Assurant Life • ASC • AXA • AXA Bank of America • Best Buy • BNY Mellon • Bristol-Myers Squibb • Charter • CNA • Coca Cola Foundation, Inc. • Exosonic F. Cook & Co. Inc. • GRM Holdings, Sacks & Co. • Goldman-Dow Coates • IBM • Johnson Controls • KeyCorp • NYSE Euronext • Pepsi Co. • Procter & Gamble •突出

Funds & Corporate

Operating Income

Fiscal Year 2017 stood at $6,308,281 up from $5,612,950 at year-end of the previous fiscal year.

In addition to contributions for operating support, gifts totaling $397,807 were donated to the Adirondack Council’s Forever Wild Fund in FY17 (July 1 - June 30). Net assets at year-end of Fiscal Year 2017 stood at $3,008,281 up from $3,012,950 at year-end of the previous fiscal year.

YOU Can view the Adirondack Council’s IRS 990 at www.guidestar.org. A complete audit financial statement can be obtained by calling the Adirondack Council at 877-873-2240 or through the office of the New York State Attorney General.