



CALL OF THE LOON

Adirondack Council Newsletter | Winter 2019



Photo: Nancie Battaglia

Governor Urged to Address Overuse

Local government and environmental leaders praised Governor Cuomo for big investments in the Adirondacks. Efforts promoting tourism and acquiring new lands have been good for preservation and communities.

However, high use is hurting portions of the Adirondacks. Other areas are underused. The Governor in his January 2019 State of the State said “current levels of unprecedented high use in popular areas have resulted in challenges to public health and safety as well as impacts to the natural resources and the visitor experience.” Overuse threatens the Park’s wilderness character.

Places such as Keene, Old Forge, Lake Placid, and Lake George get the economic benefit of visitors, but also

feel the negative impacts of crowding. Developing a comprehensive system to address overuse will promote access, protect natural resources, sustain communities, and direct overflow tourism to beautiful underused sites in towns like North Hudson or Indian Lake.

The Council and local elected leaders are urging the state to support the world-class stewardship, long-term planning, Forest Rangers and other staff, improved and expanded access, and the infrastructure investment the Forest Preserve needs. This action would secure the preservation of nationally significant waters, wilderness and communities for current and future generations.

Thanks to all who have urged New York State to act! Haven’t taken action yet? **Sign the petition online at AdirondackCouncil.org/OverusePetition**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1
Governor Urged to
Address Overuse

Page 4
All-Terrain Vehicles
are Most Problematic

Page 6
Acid Rain Experts
Issue Warning



**ADIRONDACK
COUNCIL** PRESERVING WATER,
AIR AND WILDLANDS

Updated Look, Same Loons



William C. Janeway
Executive Director
@WillieJaneway

Dear Supporters,

Notice something new? As we celebrate recent successes in the Adirondack Park, we recognize palpable new threats. These require us to grow our Adirondack Council membership faster than we have before, catalyzing a much larger and more diverse group of people who understand and value all that the Adirondack Park has to offer.

Over the past year, we reflected on the inspiring evolution of the Council and the positive influence it has had on the Park since 1975. In order to continue to engage more people, better motivate government leaders, and have a stronger online appeal to better

protect the Adirondacks for future generations, we adopted a new design of our long-time symbol of the parent and baby loon. Our mission, vision, values, name, and focus on defending the east's greatest wilderness remain unchanged and steadfast.

Thanks to your support, 2018 was another record year with more people engaged and more conservation accomplished. We appreciate your part in many recent successes. Going forward, we know that we can and must do more.

The Adirondack Park is a national treasure threatened by climate change, overuse, acid rain, and invasive species. Thank you for being such an important part of the Adirondack Council and for your continued partnership in preserving the water, air and wildlands of the Adirondack Park.

Sincerely,

William C. Janeway

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Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc

Above: Snowfall along Spuytenduivel Brook, Brant Lake.



Governor & Legislature Prioritize Climate Change, Clean Water

Climate change is the defining environmental challenge of this generation and if left unaddressed, threatens the future of natural and human communities in the Adirondacks.

In his 2019 State of the State address, Governor Cuomo proposed that New York be a national environmental leader. He proposes to fight climate change by committing New York State to a carbon-neutral electrical grid by 2040 and establishing a Climate Action Council, which would create a roadmap to statewide carbon neutrality.

Independently, the state Assembly and Senate are advancing their Climate and Community Protection Act. This bill also establishes a

Climate Council and commits the state to reaching certain renewable energy and other goals to “address and mitigate the effects of climate change in New York.”

The Governor also proposed a Green Future Fund of \$10 billion in capital funding, including \$5 billion for clean water, \$3 billion for clean energy, and \$2 billion for parks, public lands and resiliency. Also proposed, is an effort to establish the state as, “a premiere eco-tourism destination, delivering a superior visitor experience on all New York State lands open to the public for recreational purposes...striving to develop sustainable practices which protect the recreation experience and natural resources.”

The Governor’s budget proposes to add five staff at the Department of Environmental Conservation in support of Frontier Town operations at Exit 29 on the Northway. He did not propose to add additional Forest Rangers, land managers and planners. The Adirondack Council will continue to advocate for additional staff and “boots on the ground.”

Below: Winter morning on the Moose River.



Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc

IN & ABOUT THE PARK

1. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are Most Problematic

New York State Forest Rangers have reported that, “continuing a trend of the last three decades, the most problematic activity... was the illegal use of all-terrain vehicles...” on state lands. With new leadership in the state Senate, the Adirondack Council urges the Legislature to act this year to protect the Forest Preserve from ATV trespass. Inappropriate ATV use is dangerous, damages clean water and wildlife, and detracts from the wilderness character that so many travel to the Park to experience.



2. Proposed Snowmobile Trail in Wilderness Draws Objections

New York State has proposed constructing a new snowmobile trail for a connection between the communities of Indian Lake, Inlet, Raquette Lake, and Long Lake. Several concerns have been raised including the fact that four miles of the proposed trail would be located just inside the boundary of the Blue Ridge Wilderness where motorized uses are usually prohibited.



3. Acid Rain Lawsuit

The Adirondack Council again joined the states of Maryland and Delaware, Environmental Defense Fund, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to enforce the “good neighbor” provision of the Clean Air Act. Federal law prohibits any state from causing harmful levels of smog in downwind states. Maryland petitioned the EPA for protection from coal-fired Midwest power plants, which also pollute the Adirondacks with smog and acid rain. The EPA refused, prompting the new federal lawsuit.

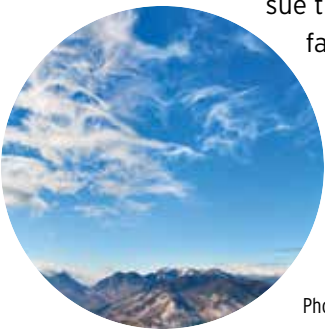


Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc





4. State Funding for Adirondack Water

Water in the Adirondacks should be clean and safe. All too often it isn't. Waste flushed through aging treatment plants threatens lakes and rivers including Lake George, the Fulton Chain of Lakes and the AuSable River. In 2015, the Council and partners launched a clean water campaign. The Governor and Legislature passed the "Clean Water Infrastructure Act." By December 2018, state grants for Adirondack wastewater, drinking water and road salt storage projects exceeded \$53 million for 32 communities including Bolton, Webb and Colton.

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc



5. Essex Farm Institute: for Farmers and Food

The Essex Farm Institute (EFI) offers support and training for farmers to build resilient, diversified farms that are economically viable, socially responsible and environmentally beneficial. The Institute, now a program of the Adirondack Council, worked with the Food Justice Working Group to plan the annual Food Justice Summit. EFI priorities include developing new training opportunities for farmers, facilitating applied research on climate smart farming techniques and creating a plan to become an effective policy advocate for Adirondack farmers.

For the full story, visit Adirondackcouncil.org/essexfarminstitute



6. Woodward Lake Development

A developer has proposed a sprawling 36-home subdivision that would envelop Woodward Lake on 1,100 acres in the southern Adirondacks. While this proposed subdivision is still in a conceptual design phase, the Council is urging the developer to incorporate basic conservation design principles. In Albany, the Council's priorities, along with other advocates, include reforms to Adirondack Park Agency law to require clustering for the largest and more remote projects to protect open space and shoreline habitat in the design plan.



Acid Rain Experts Issue Warning

The Adirondack Council and Environmental Defense Fund brought together 53 acid rain scientists, government officials and advocates for a November conference in Saratoga Springs.

Acid Rain: Protecting Our Gains, Finishing the Job was sponsored in part by the F.M. Kirby Foundation.

Advocates noted that clean water, clean air, public health, and economic progress are threatened by unprecedented Trump administration attacks on science and bipartisan support for pollution cuts. Past cuts have saved lives at little cost, while sparking the recovery of lakes, fisheries and tourism.

Scientists said the Adirondack Park's water chemistry has improved due to reductions in air pollution since 1990, but legacy impacts remain in soils and waters.

Conference participants called upon New York and the federal government to adopt a "critical

loads" standard, banning pollution at levels high enough to deliver a fatal dose of pollution to sensitive plants and animals downwind.

Below: A return of acid rain will threaten native Adirondack brook trout.



Advocating for Sustainable Forestry

The Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve were established in part to protect forests and clean water. Today, industrial forest management is incentivized on approximately 800,000 acres of conservation easement lands protected from subdivision, development or overharvesting. This timber harvesting on private lands is an important component of the culture, landscape and economy of the Adirondacks.

Advocating for sustainable forestry in the Adirondacks focuses on promoting healthy forests, addressing issues with clear-cuts, protecting clean water, and fighting climate disruption by increasing

carbon sequestration. In promoting sustainable forestry, the Council seeks to create a new standard that reframes current best management practices within the unique Adirondack specific context. This Adirondack "model" would foster a new generation of progressive forest practices that support a strong and healthy local forest economy while maintaining the ecological integrity, wild character, and unique cultural heritage of forestry within the Park.

Right: Moody Falls on the Raquette River.



Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc

SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL



Your Support: By the Numbers

Thank you to all Adirondack Council supporters and advocates. Your dedication and generosity to Adirondack conservation is inspiring and makes a positive difference for the Adirondacks!

YEAR-END MATCH

7 - Donors establish a \$66,000 year-end matching challenge

647 - Supporters made gifts toward the challenge

Year-End Match Met and Goal Exceeded - THANK YOU!

ACTION ALERTS

12  TAKEN IN 2018

LETTERS SENT TO

18,200  POLICYMAKERS

Make Your Donation Monthly

Simplify your support for Adirondack conservation by becoming a sustaining member. Instead of making a single gift once a year consider an automatic monthly contribution deducted from a credit card or bank account. Your monthly donation will remain active until you choose to make a change. You will receive a tax receipt each January detailing your donation history and an opportunity to request a special thank you gift.

Start your sustaining membership today! Visit AdirondackCouncil.org or contact Tyler Frakes, Membership Director, at 518.873.2240 Ext. 109, tfrakes@adirondackcouncil.org.



HORNBECK CANOE Raffle Tickets Sold - 1,671

THANK YOU PETER HORNBECK!



Cheers to winner **Larry F.** from Baltimore, Maryland

\$13,390

Total raised in support of Adirondack conservation

Gear Up for Your Adventure

Visit our online shop at AdirondackCouncil.org or call us at 518.873.2240 to purchase a variety of branded merchandise. All proceeds support Adirondack conservation.

Loon Logo Hats - \$20



NEW!

3rd Edition Park Map - \$25/\$40



NEW! - Handmade Mug - \$25

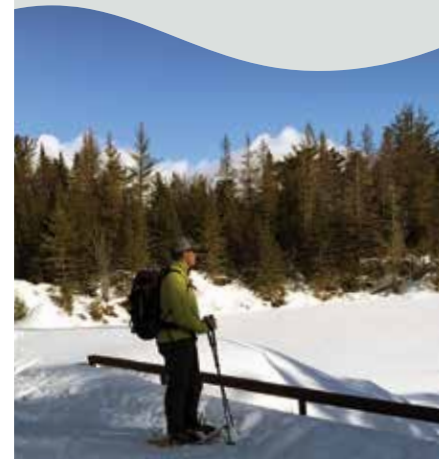


Tote Bags - \$15






Loon Car Decal - \$5

Below: Kevin Chlad Director of Government Relations enjoys the view from Labier Flow.



info@adirondackcouncil.org
www.AdirondackCouncil.org
518.873.2240

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Adirondack VISION: Delivering on the Promise

What will the Adirondack Park look like in 2050? Will climate change, road salt, overuse on public lands, and other challenges denigrate its wild character? Or will it be a place with healthy ecosystems, clean air and water, well-managed Wilderness areas, sustainable working forests and farms, and diverse, vibrant human communities?

The Adirondack VISION Project seeks to address these questions about what the Adirondacks could be, looking through the lens of the natural and human communities and

management of the Park. The goal is a plan, guided by science, which will produce results for the short term while creating an aspirational vision to work toward for the future.

In November, Julia Goren was hired to lead this project. Previously Education Director for the Adirondack Mountain Club, Goren brings a commitment to the future of the Park, a scientific background, and over a decade of experience working with partners throughout the Adirondacks.

Right: Julia Goren, Adirondack VISION Project Director



Photo: Seth Jones

WILD ~ABOUT THE~ PARK

We love seeing your photos from around the Park. Use the hashtag **#WildAboutThePark** and tag us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and we may feature them here in our newsletter, or on social media!

