



The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the ADIRONDACK PARK for current and future generations.

March 2014

Dear State Legislator:

I am pleased to enclose a re-released copy of *Adirondack Waters: Resource at Risk*. This Adirondack Council publication highlights threats to clean water in the Adirondacks.

Adirondack Waters is a useful tool for anyone who wants to protect a fresh water supply in a rural area. It provides valuable information on how to counter eight dangerous threats.

Protecting clean water is still a timely issue. Below we've updated recommendations for what can be done to address these threats. We hope that you find the information helpful as you consider how to deal with these and other similar issues, in your Adirondack Park, or elsewhere.

THREAT	RECOMMENDATIONS
Acid rain	Support federal regulations and legislation that limits power plant emissions; conserve energy
Mercury contamination	Seek strong state and federal emissions reductions; conserve energy
Global climate change	Support federal power plant and automobile standards; building efficiency standards; RGGI
Aquatic invasive species	Support local and state legislation and funding for education, prevention, boat wash stations and rapid response eradication
Inadequate water treatment	Adopt local legislation to require septic inspections upon property transfer; state and federal grants for localities to upgrade facilities
Exurban development	Update APA Act to protect backcountry, use conservation design; reform 480-a tax program; adopt "smart growth" principles
Water diversion	Enact zoning changes to strictly limit water withdrawals and ensure state water permitting systems are fully enacted
Road salt and deicing	Seek alternatives to traditional road salt; state funding for new storage facilities and innovative programs

All the water this planet has, and will ever have, is already here. The Adirondack Park encompasses nearly six million acres of land, an area of more than 9,000 square miles and 130 communities. Your park contains

DEFENDING THE EAST'S GREATEST WILDERNESS

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

the state's highest mountain peaks and the headwaters of five major drainage basins: Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence, and Mohawk Rivers. In all, the waters of the Adirondack region include 2,800 lakes and ponds, 1,500 miles of rivers and an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams.

Adirondack water is shared across a wider region of the United States and Canada. Adirondack water is a resource we hold in trust for future generations in a world where pure water is increasingly scarce. For drinking, recreation, jobs, the quality of life in our communities, and wildlife, water is the lifeblood of the region and a resource to be treasured and protected.

The clean Adirondack landscape helps prevent contamination of water from pollutants common in other areas. But air pollution and ever-increasing development take their toll, as do aging septic systems, road salt use, global climate change, water diversions, invasive species and other threats. Each threat can be reduced or eliminated when we work together and take action, as citizens, government, and organizations like the Adirondack Council.

The Adirondack Council is committed to collaborating with individuals and organizations who share our commitment to protecting and improving your Park's and your State's waters. Together as partners, and with other stakeholders, we can educate citizens and policymakers in New York State about what we can all do, now and in the future, to preserve this precious resource. We hope you will read this report, our recommendations, discuss this with others, and join us in taking action.

We look forward to working with you on one or more of the issues addressed in this publication. If you have any suggestions for how we can work together to resolve the water issues your community may be facing, please contact us at (518) 873-2240.

Sincerely,



William C. Janeway
Executive Director

Enclosure