



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

**Adirondack Council Principles on
Management of the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor**
Approved May 8, 2014

The Adirondack Council is a privately funded not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. The Council envisions a park composed of core wilderness areas, surrounded by working forests and farms and vibrant, local communities. The Council adopts and advocates for the following principles regarding state management of the 122 mile Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor (RLPTC).

1. Keep ecological and environmental protection paramount:

Protect the ecological integrity and wild forest character of the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) makes resource protection paramount. If Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor (RLPTC) corridor portions are open for recreational use, then public education, oversight and enforcement must assure no illegal off-corridor use, including any motorized activity in adjoining wilderness or canoe areas. No all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or similar motorized uses (except snowmobiles and/or trains) should be permitted. Potential negative environmental impacts of alternative uses should be identified, studied, understood and avoided to the maximum extent possible.

2. Protect the integrity of the travel corridor:

Recognize the public value and respect the unique ecological, recreational, and historic heritage of the corridor, as per its inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Protect and strongly support the integrity of the travel corridor right-of-way, and retention of its status as a separate linear land management unit in the SLMP, regardless of the presence or absence of rail. Do no harm to the long-term potential for the corridor to serve energy-efficient and cost-effective transportation needs in future centuries.

3. Support Vibrant Communities:

Consider what corridor use or uses provide communities with the greatest potential short and long-term economic benefits, to achieve and maintain environmentally sustainable communities. Both rail and recreational rail-trail uses offer potential economic support for Adirondack communities. State decision makers should secure independent, third-party economic analysis of rail vs. trails to assist in consideration of options. In the case of competing economic benefits, documented support from local municipalities and affected communities should be a significant factor in decision-making.

4. Consider economic and operational viability and sustainability:

Economic sustainability is desirable for corridor use and communities. State decisions should incorporate independent, third-party review and analysis of the current status of the rail operation (economic viability, infrastructure costs, capital improvements, etc.) and cost/benefit analysis of the capital, infrastructure, operating costs and management structure for both rail and trail options. There must be reasonable and

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

realistic expectations that capital and operational funding needed to make the option or options selected viable is or will be available for the long-term. There should be high confidence in the economic and operational viability of proposed and alternative corridor use and management options. Where multiple use options are possible, they should be embraced.

5. Ensure conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan:

RLPTC management should be consistent with a regularly updated Unit Management Plan (UMP), avoid conflicts with adjoining state land units and compliment the larger land complexes the corridor traverses (such as the Adirondack Council proposed Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex).

6. Ensure a transparent public process:

Any process that updates the corridor's Unit Management Plan should include opportunity for analysis of feasible alternative community connections and full public input, including public hearings inside and outside of the Park.

Consistent with the principles approved by the Adirondack Council above, the Council recognizes the public value and respects the unique ecological, recreational, and historical aspects of the Remsen-to-Lake Placid Travel Corridor.

If train and rail use on all or part of the corridor is consistent with these principles, the Adirondack Council supports that use. If a rail-trail on all or part of the corridor is consistent with these principles, the Adirondack Council supports that too.

Approved 05/08/2014, Adirondack Council Board