Reflecting on 2020 and Looking Ahead

Dear Members and Friends,

Please accept our sincere thanks for everything you have done to help preserve the Adirondack Park. This is a vast landscape filled with fragile niches of solace and refuge. In the face of a global pandemic, economic challenges, systemic racism, polarizing politics, and climate change crises, the Park has become more important than ever.

The progress addressing these crises in the past few months has been encouraging. That’s because people who love the Adirondacks pulled together. Rather than trying to shut out the rest of the world, the Adirondacks remained a “Landscape of Hope” open to all. The Park remains a place where people come together to solve problems and work to make the Adirondacks more welcoming and inclusive— even if we have to socially distance from one another for a while. One of those problems that people of all backgrounds and beliefs continue to work on and care about is the overuse of and wear and tear on our most popular wilderness lands and waters. Governor Cuomo, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the state Legislature responded by recognizing the problem, identifying recommended changes in management, and by providing additional funding. Part of the money to pay for these changes will come from the $300 million Environmental Protection Fund; which will aid both wilderness preservation and the economy.

Please enjoy this annual review of elected and appointed officials’ actions affecting the Adirondack Park’s clean water and clean air, wildlands, and communities over the last 12 months. This is the only comprehensive account of the state of the Park and includes a 2020 “report card” and 2021 priorities. In 2020, you and our partners accomplished a great deal on behalf of the ecological integrity, wild character, and people of the Adirondacks.

Thank You,

William C. Janeway
Executive Director

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Executive Director

Our Mission

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

Written and Edited by Adirondack Council Staff
View online at: AdirondackCouncil.org
Copyright 2020 – Adirondack Council
Cover: Lake George from Cat Mountain

Whitney Industries has listed 36,000 acres in Long Lake for sale. It is now possible to permanently protect these lands and waters. The Adirondack Council looks forward to working with colleagues in the land trust community and state and local officials to secure the future protection of these lands, listed as priorities in our 2020 VISION research series and in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan.

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Cover: Lake George from Cat Mountain
The Adirondack Park is the world’s largest intact temperate deciduous forest. It is also the largest park in the contiguous United States. It contains six million acres (9,300 square miles), covers one-fifth of New York State and is equal in size to neighboring Vermont. The Adirondack Park is nearly three times the size of Yellowstone National Park.

More than half of the Adirondack Park is private land, devoted principally to hamlets, forestry, agriculture, and open-space recreation. Nearly 775,000 acres are protected from development by conservation easements held by the state or private organizations. The Park is home for 130,000 permanent and 200,000 seasonal residents in 120 hamlets and 9 villages. The Park hosts 12.4 million visitors yearly.

Nearly half of the Park is publicly owned Forest Preserve, protected as “Forever Wild” by the NYS Constitution since 1894. About 11 million acres of these public lands are protected as Wilderness, where non-mechanized recreation may be enjoyed. Most of the public land (more than 1.4 million acres) is Wild Forest, where motorized uses are permitted on designated waters, roads and trails.

Plants and wildlife abound in the Park. Old growth forests cover more than 100,000 acres of public land. The western and southern Adirondacks are gentle landscapes of hills, lakes, wetlands, ponds, and streams. In the northeast are the forty-six High Peaks. Forty-three of them rise above 4,000 feet and 11 have alpine summits that rise above the timberline.

The Adirondacks include the headwaters of five major drainage basins. Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence, and Mohawk Rivers all draw water from the Adirondack Park. Within the Park are more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, and more than 1,500 miles of rivers, fed by an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams.

Through public education and advocacy for the protection of the Park’s ecological integrity and wild character, the Adirondack Council advises public and private policymakers on ways to safeguard this great expanse of open space.

Elected and appointed government leaders made decisions late in 2019 and in 2020 that affected the legacy of the Adirondacks. Here is a report on the 2020 State of the Park priorities (issued Sept. 2019).

Defend the East’s Greatest Wilderness

The Governor recognized the problem of overuse. The state dedicated more funding, reassigned a few Forest Rangers, and embraced recommendations to better preserve world-class wildlands, protecting visitor safety, natural resources, and the visitor’s opportunity for a wilderness experience. A poorly designed amendment to constitutional protections for “Forever Wild” on Catshead Mt. was set aside.

State: Combat Climate Change and Acid Rain

New York dedicated new funds and staff for and started to execute the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act; fought acid rain in court; promoted clean energy and closed the state’s last coal-fired power plant.

Federal: Combat Climate Change and Acid Rain

The Trump administration’s policy changes rolled back progress combating climate change and acid rain. The Adirondack Council and others successfully challenged some of these changes in court.

Protect Clean Water and Reduce Road Salt Pollution

The state provided a total of $1 billion this year for clean water grants to communities; provided a larger grant for Lake George; and the Senate and Assembly passed bi-partisan legislation to establish a state task force to address road salt pollution and keep roads safe.

Strengthen the Adirondack Park Agency

The Governor and Senate get credit for agreeing on a new, improved full slate of nominees to the APA board, including new and returning board members with needed expertise. However, the Agency can function, it has not indicated that it is stronger and remains underfunded, understaffed, and ill-equipped with outdated conservation tools.

Update Invasive Species Protections

The state extended, but did not strengthen, the law against the transport of invasive species; advocates have another year to persuade state leaders to require that boats and trailers be decontaminated at state inspection stations prior to launch in Adirondack waters.

Support Working Forests and Farms

The state recognized the need for but did not significantly improve incentives, regulations, funding, or policies to help the Park’s ecologically sustainable, climate-friendly working forests and farms. The state authorized $2.5m for climate-resilient farms, again, but none for the Adirondack Park.

Improve Community Communications

The state did not require telecom companies to provide universal broadband access in the Park; or improve cell coverage with incentives for “substantially invisible” infrastructure in communities and on major highways.

Expand Conservation Funding

The state authorized expanded funding including a $3 billion “Restore Mother Nature Bond Act” and a $300 million Environmental Protection Fund together protecting pure water, air, wildlife, and wildlands, and addressing climate change, overuse and pollution. In an historic action, Congress fully funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
Gov. Andrew Cuomo's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic was a master class in public administration. He calmly confronted the reality of a wave of infection that flooded into New York City from Europe, while repeating a message of unity and perseverance. His daily briefings were a reassuring source of calm for listeners from coast to coast, which stood in stark contrast to voices in Washington. Overall, he led the state from the highest rates of infection to the lowest in about two months. He also used this platform to announce police brutality and call for racial justice and equity.

**Bonding Economy and Ecology Cancelled**

In April, the Governor and Legislature approved a $3-billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act, ostensibly showing that environmental protection can be a source of economic recovery in these times of social and financial strain. But in late July, the Governor withdrew it from consideration by the voters, citing a lack of federal support during the COVID-19 crisis and a related concern, noting it had been approved by voters in the November election, the Bond Act could have provided capital projects funding to address climate change, clean water, overcrowding/overuse on the Forest Preserve, and created jobs. State investments in clean water would bring new filtration and treatment plants and much-needed relief to local property taxpayers. The COVID-19 crisis has placed unusual pressures on the state budget this year. Given its potential for local economic stimulation, the Adirondack Council urges the Governor and Legislature to pass and present a new bond to the voters as soon as possible.

**Panel to Form Great Plan**

In February, Governor Cuomo made the final two appointments to his 22-member Climate Action Council, which is responsible for planning how the state will comply with the requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019. The Act, which is the most ambitious climate law in the country, requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, and by at least 85 percent by 2050 (based on 1990 levels).

**Investing in the Future**

In his proposed budget, the Governor did not seek to reduce the amount committed to environmental projects through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). In a difficult state budget year, the EPF remained at $300 million during budget negotiations with the Legislature. The fund's $33 million for parks and open space. The “state land stewardship” part of the EPF increased to $34.4 million from $33 million and includes funding for the Governor's effort to curb overcrowding on the High Peaks Wilderness Area and other popular Forest Preserve destinations. For the first time in years, the budget didn't include a raid on funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

**Agency Rules Antiquated, Staff Decimated (x2)**

The Governor didn't strengthen the Adirondack Park Agency's outdated rules for development, nor did he replace the staff lost to budget cuts made more than a decade ago, during the Great Recession. Environmental science has advanced significantly since the Agency's regulations were last updated in 1987. The APA had 72 employees under Gov. George Pataki. Today it has 54.

**Stronger Communities to Benefit Visitors**

In the final budget approved by the Legislature and the Governor, the EPF included funds to help Park communities. It provides $2 million for community smart growth grants, of which $600,000 was slated for Adirondack communities. Also included is more than $10 million for Climate Smart Communities, plus another $4.5 million for “Climate Resilient Farms.” Funding for invasive species control and community college professor Chad Dawson's term had not yet expired at the time of the nominations but did on June 30, 2020. That leaves Dawson as the only member of the board without the protection of a defined term.

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In a difficult state budget year, the COVID-19 crisis and a sagging state economy. Voters, citing a lack of federal aid during the pandemic, initially withdrew the Bond Act from consideration by both houses. In an attempt to help jumpstart the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sen. Rachel May, D-Syracuse, and Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy, D-Albany, sponsored a bill to create a new Works Progress Administration in New York. The program would put people to work on much needed public infrastructure projects, which would aid the economy and conservation at the same time. Areas of concentration would include digitalizing and recycling information and infrastructure projects, projects to boost New York’s creative economy, and projects that enhance the agricultural sector.

More Work Needed on Key Issues

In a year overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the massive call to action for racial justice, lawmakers had their hands full. Still, there are several issues the Legislature should take action on if it comes back to session in 2020. They include bills that would create incentives for better private forest and farm management, legislation to address the misuse of TVAs and UDIs, and a law to prevent the destruction of the Park’s most sensitive private wildlife habitat, via new, conservation-minded subdivision rules.

Lifting a Legal Stigma

Sen. Peter Harckham, D-South Salem, and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, D-Poughkeepsie, introduced legislation that would remove a significant barrier for those seeking to sell a conservation easement to the state that includes public recreation on private property. The bill would remove any liability for landowners and leaseholders arising from injuries by those using hiking trails on properties covered by a conservation easement. Conservation easements are agreements in which landowners give up certain property rights (such as development and recreational rights) but retain ownership of the land and the rights to farm, harvest timber, etc. Some potential sellers would be reluctant to include recreational rights in their agreements due to concerns over personal injury lawsuits.

Clos ing a Loop hol e

Both houses passed legislation (A.2655/ S.3391) sponsored by Assemblyman Steven Englebright, D-Setauket, and Senator Rachel May, D-Rochester, which would regulate oil and natural gas waste in New York as “hazardous waste.” Despite New York’s ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing, there was a loophole which did not regulate the transportation, treatment, and disposal of oil and natural gas waste as “hazardous waste.” The new law will ensure toxic and harmful oil and natural gas waste is handled with the utmost caution and does not contaminate New York’s water. The Governor signed the legislation into law in August making New York the first in the Nation to close the hydraulic fracturing waste loophole.

May, Fahy Adapt FDR’s Playbook

Environmental Conservation Committee Chairs Englebright and Kaminsky made special trips to the Adirondack Park following the 2019 Legislative Session to address one of the Park’s and its communities’ biggest concerns. Both know and understand the environmental protection and management funding “Essex County Overuse” was included in the land protection and management fund for the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

In a difficult state budget year, the Legislature approved a $3 billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act. The Bond Act would have provided capital projects funding to address climate change, clean water, and overuse on the Forest Preserve. State investments in clean water would bring new water purification and treatment plants, and the people to run them. Clean energy investments would mean new jobs building, improving and maintaining solar, wind, and hydro-power facilities. Energy conservation projects bring new jobs in building and installing modern heating and cooling equipment, and in buttoning up leaky, older buildings. Bond Act monies could also be used for much needed recreational facilities as part of a comprehensive plan to address overcrowding in the High Peaks Initiative. In addition to $31 million for parks salaries from the EPF, which is reserved provision that would have paid state staff final budget agreement also removed a

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**BOND ACT FROM CONSIDERATION BY VOTERS.**

Improving water quality, preventing erosion, and protecting wildlife habitat. In July, Gov. Andrew Cuomo withdrew the Bond Act from consideration by voters.

**Eyesores Won't Improve Coverage**

In late 2019 and 2020, Senator Little joined with some local Park officials in a call to abandon the Adirondack Park Agency’s (APA) successful policy of concealing cell towers from view. Making towers taller and uglier won’t help expand coverage. Contrary to complaints, cell companies report that the APA’s standard has not delayed deployment of towers. Most locations with limited cell coverage lack sufficient potential subscribers to attract vendors. Newer technologies that will allow more coverage to subscribers to attract vendors. Newer technologies that will allow more coverage. The current limit ensures that only smaller (up to two riders) ATVs are allowed on public lands. The higher weight limit would permit much larger UTVs (a.k.a. side-by-sides) which can hold up to six riders and do more damage to roads and trails than smaller ones.

**Farewell to Eco-Champion Brodsky**

Retired long-time Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Richard Brodsky - winner of the Adirondack Council’s Legislator of the Year award - passed away in April of 2021. He helped create the Environmental Protection Fund (1993) and the Clean Water Clean Air Bond Act (1996) as well as legislation to curb acid rain and acid rain. New York power plants from selling pollution allowances to upwind coal-fired power plants. Brodsky was a candidate for state attorney general in 2006 and 2010. Brodsky dropped out of the 2006 race to be a kidney donor for his then 19-year-old daughter. He retired from public office in 2010.

**Senator Little Retires**

State Senator Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, will retire from the Senate at the completion of her term on December 31, 2020. She has represented the 45th District since 2003. Little previously served seven years in the State Assembly after having been elected in a special election in 1995 to represent the 100th District. When Senator Ron Stafford announced his retirement in 2002, Little ran for and won the State Senate seat. Little said her greatest legislative achievement has been the approval of five state Constitutional Amendments to address matters specific to the Adirondack Park. In each case, she collaborated with the Adirondack Council to ensure the amendment would meet with the approval of conservationists and citizens statewide. The 45th Senate District includes six counties, two cities, 83 towns, 20 villages and the U.S. portion of Algonquin, the indigenous Mohawk Nation that straddles the Canadian border.

**ATTVs, BIGGER Isn’t Better**

Assemblyman John Salka, R-Oneida, sponsored a bill that would allow dune-buggy-like Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) to be registered for use for the first time in New York. The bill would raise the current weight limit for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) eligible for registration from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds. The current limit ensures that only that small (up to two riders) ATVs are allowed on public lands. The higher weight limit would permit much larger UTVs (a.k.a. side-by-sides) which can hold up to six riders and do more damage to roads and trails than smaller ones.

**Federal Court Upholds Anti-Pollution Rule**

In September 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld a strengthened country-wide Clean State Air Pollution Rule. This rule is a landmark emission standard under the Clean Air Act’s “Good Neighbor” policy, designed to protect downwind states such as New York from coal-fired air pollution from upwind states. It reduces sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, and the resulting soot, smog, and acid rain. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates this rule will prevent more than 67,000 asthma attacks each year and will provide American families with over $12 in health benefits for every dollar invested. The Council was a party in this case.

**New York High Court Weakens Wild River Protections**

The NYS Court of Appeals misinterpreted state law when it ruled 4-3 that the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) could open a new public snowmobile trail on a formerly private road next to a “Wild” section of the Upper Hudson River. Wild river corridors are supposed to be managed as motor-free Wilderness. Prior to the state’s purchase, the Chain Lakes Road in Indian Lake was used for snowmobiling only by private club members and their guests.

**Federal Court Initially Misapplies Pollution Rule**

In May, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia incorrectly deferred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when it rejected Maryland’s and Delaware’s appeals for protection from upwind air pollution. Coal-fired smokestacks on 36 power plants upwind of these states cause acid rain all year long. Each plant has pollution controls installed to curb sulfur- and nitrogen-based smoke. However, these controls aren’t sufficient in spring and summer to prevent nitrogen pollution from mixing with heat and sunlight to create smog. So these plants also have a second set of controls that they must turn on, but only when the EPA orders them to. Prior EPA administrators routinely granted petitions from states seeking relief from upwind pollution. But in 2017, the Trump administration began denying all such petitions and starting requiring downwind states to meet an unreasonable and unscientific burden in proving harm. New York, Connecticut, and New York City filed similar petitions in 2017. The Council was a party in this case. The victory in the New York case effectively reversed the loss in this case.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

James Lawsuit
Will Save Lives

Attorney General Letitia James saved many lives when she persuaded the three-judge panel of U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in July to issue a unanimous decision to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect New York and New Jersey from smog emitted by other states. Under the “Good Neighbor” policy in the Clean Air Act, it has been illegal since 1990 for any state to emit enough smog-causing air pollution to cause a public health risk in another state. The court said the EPA was obligated to force more than 350 power plants in nine upwind states to turn on already-installed pollution controls. The EPA estimates that the summer smog controls prevent thousands of premature deaths each year in the Northeast, most of them in NYC and NJ and help prevent a return of acid rain. The Trump administration finalized in April weakened the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

In May 2020, the Attorney General sued the Trump administration over its weakening of the Clean Water Act. This Act regulates water quality by making it illegal to discharge pollutants into U.S. waters without a permit. The changes the Trump administration finalized in April weakened the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System and eliminated protections for seasonal tributaries and vernal pools that are important to amphibian and reptile reproduction. The Adirondack Park Agency Act does a better job than federal law of protecting Adirondack waters from pollution. However, water in other areas of New York will suffer from Trump’s actions. Migratory birds and other wildlife can be affected by the quality of waters outside of the Park.

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Suing to Save Water, Birds, and Amphibians

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Reclaiming Railroad Through “Abandonment”

Attorney General Letitia James’ staff pressed ahead with efforts to persuade the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to declare a section of railroad “abandoned” between North Creek and Tahawus. The designation would prevent future rail car junkyards on the site by taking control away from Iowa Pacific Holdings of Chicago, which was storing dozens of decrepit oil tankers there. Local and state officials could then seek public input on the best public uses for the corridor. Part of the railroad was built on state Forest Preserve by order of the federal government in the 1940s to extract minerals needed for fighting World War II. The mine has been closed for roughly 50 years. More recently, rail bike excursion businesses have used part of the line.

Suicide of the Hait

PARTRNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Each year the Adirondack Council recognizes individuals and not-for-profit organizations whose work has advanced environmental protection and shown how nature and people can thrive together in the Adirondack Park.

In October, the Adirondack Mountain Club hired Michael Barrett, an attorney who served in the NYS Assembly Codes Committee and for two governors, to replace a retiring Neil Woodworth as Executive Director.

The Adirondack Diversity Initiative (ADI) hired Nicole Hylton-Patterson as its first Executive Director.

In November 2019, the Wild Center published a tool kit that will allow others to duplicate its successful Youth Climate Summits.

In the face of economic pressure brought by New York’s free tuition program at SUNY colleges in 2019, Clarkson University moved its Adirondack Semester program out of downtown Saranac Lake and on to the Paul Smith’s College campus, helping both private institutions.

In October 2019, the Adirondack North Country Association launched a new grant to fund projects ($2,500 to $45,000) designed to strengthen local farms, food entrepreneurs, food hubs, and cooperatives.

In 2019, the Ausable River Association completed a three-year rehab project to repair trout habitat on the Dream Mile between Wilmington and Black Brook. The Association also warned that Mirror Lake had become so contaminated by road salt, it was no longer turning over in the spring and fall, which will lead to an oxygen-depleted dead zone at the bottom.

In 2019, the Adirondack Land Trust paid $200,000 for five acres on Indian Carry and Indian Point on Upper Saranac Lake, which will be added to the Saranac Lake Wild Forest Area of the publicly-owned “Forever Wild” Forest Preserve.

In the summer of 2019, a state boat launch stewarded by the Adirondack Watershed Institute stopped an infestation of the invasive plant hydrilla into Lake Champlain. In 2020 a boat with zebra mussels was stopped and cleaned before entering Lake Placid. Well-trained stewards are doing an outstanding job of spotting and removing unwanted plants and animals from boats and trailers prior to and following launching on Adirondack waters.

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Whitney History

Founded in 1897, the Whitney’s Adirondack estate in the Town of Long Lake is nearly as old as the Adirondack Park (1892). It was established by William C. Whitney, Secretary of the Navy during the Cleveland administration and a member of a sportsmen’s club on Little Forked Lake. He purchased about 80,000 acres. William C. Whitney was the grandfather of Cornelius Vanderbilt “Sonny” Whitney. Sonny Whitney also cared deeply for the local landscape, returning whenever he could to oversee his timber operation and preserving important fisheries. In 1958, he married actress Marie Louise (Marylou) Schroeder. He sold pieces of the estate to neighbors and associates over the years. He passed in 1992. In 1997, Gov. George Pataki bought for $17 million a 15,000-acre tract containing Little Tupper Lake, which was until then the largest private lake in a single ownership in America. Pataki combined these 15,000 acres with the adjacent Lake Lila Primitive Area to create the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area.

Marylou bequeathed the remainder of the property on her passing in 2019 to her widower John Hendrickson. He has placed the entire estate up for sale. Today, the 36,000 acres or 57 square miles is equal in size to Staten Island, or 2.5 times the size of Manhattan. The property includes the historic Great Camp Deerlands, a 17-bedroom, 11-bath rustic-style mansion with outbuildings including a two-story boathouse on Little Forked Lake built by William West Durant.

An Ecological Paradise

The Whitney property contains more than 30 lakes and ponds and hundreds of miles of brooks and streams, a series of interconnected waterways. Its possibilities as a paddler’s paradise are unrivaled on the East Coast. More importantly, its waters contain sensitive trout habitat, much of which is now in better shape than it was 20 years ago when acid rain was causing daily harm. Vast wetlands serve as the wildlife nurseries to the region, providing protected habitat for local and migratory birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles whose homes are threatened elsewhere. Perhaps most important of all, the Whitney property’s limited development and lack of public highways allow it to connect a broad array of Adirondack wildlife habitats and ecosystems. These uninterrupted connections will be crucial to wildlife survival as climate change forces species to move from current locations to newly suitable homes.

State Open Space Conservation Plan Recommends Protection

The Whitney property comprises the northeastern corner of the Adirondack Council’s proposed 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness or Wildlands Complex, which would be large enough and wild enough to host the return of large Adirondack natives such as the moose, timber wolf, and someday, the cougar. The last moose and last cougar recorded as shot by hunters in the Adirondacks were shot on Whitney property. In 1993, the Council’s plan was incorporated into the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan, which guides the state’s strategic fair market value investments in open space preservation.
Cut Us Loose from Iowa Pacific, Please

In January 2020, the Warren County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to ask the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to declare the railroad tracks between Hadley and North Creek to be abandoned. An abandonment ruling would remove control of the tracks from insolvent operator Iowa Pacific Holdings of Chicago. It would also allow the county to stop spending money maintaining the line for nonexistent freight traffic, while a future use is settled. New York State is seeking a similar abandonment of the tracks just north, from North Creek to Tahawus in Essex County.

Freight Rail Outweighs Actual Fate

In May, Essex County officials opposed the abandonment of the railroad between North Creek and Tahawus, claiming it was still viable for freight. The line runs between an abandoned iron mine ghost town in Newcomb and the village that hosts Gore Mountain Ski Center. Abandonment would not preclude future freight or passenger traffic. It would only remove the bankrupt current operator and give the state, local officials and other stakeholders the option to decide the line’s future.

Visitors in Old Forge, Town of Webb

Sweet Views on Swede Summit

In February 2020, Warren County officials announced that they had worked with landowner Lyman Timber Co. to gain public access to the summit of 1,896-foot Swede Mountain. The summit is near the Hague-Horicon town line. The summit has great views and a 101-year-old fire tower closed since 1968. The county is working with state officials on a rehabilitation plan for the tower and trails.

Park-wide Appeal for Broadband

The AATV 2020 agenda calls upon state officials to provide broadband internet coverage throughout the Adirondack Park. Large areas of the Park remain without service because there are too few potential subscribers to lure commercial operators. It is up to state officials to close the gaps in ways that are affordable for Adirondack residents. Broadband must be universal or rural residents will lag behind the rest of the state economically for the foreseeable future.

Legal Deja Vu in Clare

In 2019, the Town of Clare chose not to oppose the Adirondack Council’s lawsuit which asked a NYS Supreme Court justice to throw out the town’s new ATV trail because it was an illegally converted public roadway. The Council tried to prevent the town from taking the illegal action, warning that it would sue and was confident of victory, as it had won similar lawsuits against Lewis County and the Town of Forestport, Oswego County. However, in July 2020, town officials announced that they were proposing basically the same unlawful rule as before. The Council will continue to monitor and is keeping all options on the table going forward.

Law Enforcement's Mission is to Protect, Serve and Wise-Up

A helicopter accesses a remote, off-grid radio communications network site in Maine. PHOTO: ALPHA ENERGY

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Overuse is Real and We’ll Try to Fix It

In February, DEC Commissioner Seggos told members of the Legislature holding state budget hearings that overuse of the High Peaks Wilderness Area and other popular destinations in the Adirondack Park was a serious issue that requires attention. Boeing vowed to dedicate more of its own staff to solve the problem and work with other state agencies to improve conditions for visitors and protect natural resources. Seggos said good planning was needed to ensure that local communities would benefit from increased tourism.

Action to Preserve Wilderness

In June, Commissioner Seggos endorsed the work of his High Peaks Wilderness Advisory Group, which advised him to take action in seven distinct areas of Wilderness management. The state appointed the group in response to widespread concern over record numbers of visitors and damage to natural resources from overuse of popular hiking trails. These recommendations, which included imposing limits on trails and parking capacity, protect water, wildlife, and far access to the solitude of true wilderness, were meant to provide an action plan for this summer. Another set of recommendations for longer-term use in future years is expected out later in 2020.

Don’t Rush ‘Forever’ Decisions

The DEC waited until late July to provide the Legislature with three proposed Constitutional Amendments, each seeking to amend the “Forever Wild” clause (Article 14, Section 1). The clause protects Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill parks from logging, sale, and development. The subjects of the proposals were important – an emergency radio tower, new water sports facilities and the sale of surplus state buildings. All deserve a full and open public discussion, not a frantic, last-minute effort at deal making.

Inching Toward Capacity Limits

The DEC has made modest advances in controlling illegal parking and consequent overcrowding of trails in popular destinations adjacent to NYS Route 73 in Keene. By stripping the parking spaces, erecting signs banning roadside parking, and enforcing the ban, the DEC made progress in curbing the impact of too many visitors in the Park’s most popular locations. The DEC said the size of parking lots at Wilderness trailheads coincide with its best estimate of how many visitors could recreate there at the same time without causing lasting damage. While the rate of increase slowed for a couple of the popular trails, at most peaks, use increased and foot traffic was roughly twice the Wilderness resource capacity limit.

Building More Sustainable Trails

In response to concerns expressed by the Adirondack Council and others, the DEC continued two major trail construction efforts in the High Peaks Wilderness Area in 2019. New, more gently sloped and more sustainable trails are under construction at Mt. Van Hoevenberg and Cascade Mountain, two of the Park’s more popular summit destinations. Like most of the trails in the High Peaks, these paths were not sustainable in the face of increased levels of use. Trail sections suffer from serious erosion and water damage. The Council identified 130 miles of trails that are too steep, wet, or otherwise unsustainable in their current state within the High Peaks alone.

Has the Authority, Won’t Use It

Since 1999 when the first Unit Management Plan (UMP) was approved for the High Peaks Wilderness Area, the DEC has had the authority to limit the total number of hikers and campers that use the trails and campsites in this area of the Forest Preserve. The same UMP authorized the DEC to mandate the use of bear canisters, ban open fires, and set new group size limits. Even though visitation to High Peaks continues to rise and the Wilderness becomes impacted from this overuse, the DEC has not implemented limits on visitor numbers. It has now been advised by several Adirondack organizations, Leave No Trace and the DEC’s own advisory group that limits are needed (See Action to Preserve Wilderness on pg 18).

Lifting a Cloud of Soot

The DEC approved new emissions standards for so-called “peaker” power plants in the New York City metro area, where the mostly-diesel turbines are used to generate electricity when demand is greatest. Decreasing emissions from peakers will decrease soot and fine particle pollution and prevent lung and heart damage in NYC, Long Island, and Westchester County, while diminishing a small source of acid rain upstream.

Support for Forest Rangers

The Commissioner and the DEC reaffirmed support for the unique and important role of the state Forest Rangers, as a complement to the Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs). The DEC continued to maintain the Forest Ranger force at or near historic “fill levels.” Forest Rangers fulfill a unique and important role as a key element of the DEC’s care, custody, and stewardship of state forests across New York and in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Nope, We’re Good Without More Staff

In April, Commissioner Seggos, as he has done many years in a row, told state Legislators that despite the DEC’s current ban to allow feeding for the Empire State Forest Products Association and for 18 years as manager of sustainability at International Paper Co., he had enough staff to care and protect the Adirondack Park. Proper care of the overused High Peaks Wilderness Area alone will require more Forest Rangers and Assistant Rangers, Environmental Conservation Officers, land managers, planners, trail crews, and engineers. As the Leave No Trace team discovered during their whole-Park survey, the High Peaks are not the only location in need of more attention.

Sometimes the Best Path is No Trail at All

In an effort to protect some of the wildest terrain in the High Peaks region of the Park, the DEC recently approved Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for the Sentinel Range Wilderness Area keeps a 10,000-acre portion of it trailless. Located in the Essex County towns of Jay, Keene, North Elba, and Wilmington, the Sentinel Range sits northeast of the High Peaks Wilderness Area and contains such summits as Killburn and Pitchfork, as well as the Jasketrail Ski Trail. The UMP includes a clear prohibition of ATV’s in the unit, and a moratorium on the use of fire for rock climbing until a working group is convened. The DEC is recognizing that access to Wilderness is important for the public to understand, appreciate and protect it, but there are some wildlife and plant species that cannot sustain contact with people. Trailless Wilderness areas get few human visitors and thus preserve niches for the most sensitive species.

Keeping Salt in the Shaker

In January, the DEC granted the Village of Lake Placid’s $225,000 to construct a salt shed for the highway department. Uncovered salt piles lead to water contamination. The Village of Lake Placid contains Mirror Lake and Lake Placid, as well as sections of Chubb Brook and the Ausable River. The grant came from the NYS Water towns of Jay, Keene, North Elba, and as part of a program that awards monies to improve water quality and protect drinking water.

Better Plan on Deer Feeding

In December 2019, the DEC improved its policy on feeding wild deer when it modified its current ban to allow feeding for the purpose of inculcating deer herds with insects that repel and kill ticks. Deer ticks are the top vector for Lyme disease and can cause the tick-borne neurological ailments in humans and dogs. The DEC has banned deer feeding by the public in an effort to curb Chronic Wasting Disease, which deer can transmit to one another when feeding in groups.
Some ATV Trails Are Just Bad Ideas

The DEC has not publicly opposed the creation of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) connector trail through the Croghan Tract Conservation Easement in Lewis County. While the Adirondack Council has supported limited ATV use on some easement lands, a new trail at this location is inappropriate. The Croghan Tract shares a seven-mile border with the trailless Pepperbox Wilderness Area, one of the quietest corners of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. An ATV trail here would facilitate trespass into this area and add to the ATV-related damage that DEC staff has observed in this part of the Park. White-tailed deer, black bears, and other wildlife are threatened here. ATV trails also are not designed for road use.

Could Help the Cause, But Won’t

When the Lake George Park Commission and towns around the lake wanted to require that anyone launching a boat first get it inspected and decontaminated, it had to overcome opposition from the DEC. Now that the Adirondack Council and others are calling for comprehensive inspections prior to launch anywhere in the Adirondack Park, the DEC is again not supporting the effort. The network of free inspection stations is already in place, but the program leader has said, “our stewards only inspect a fraction of boats launching into Adirondack waters.” Council staff counted trailered boats passing the new inspection station at Exit 18 on the Northway during Memorial Day weekend, and the July 4th weekend and found that more than 85% passed without stopping.

Antiquated Data Yield Obsolete Policies

The DEC’s update of the 30-year-old Fulton Chain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP) on the Croghan Tract attempted to accommodate additional or more intense uses without conducting the research needed to determine the impact. Located in the southwestern part of the Park between Inlet and Old Forge, the unit is very popular with visitors. While the DEC proposes efforts to address overuse at Bald Mountain, it failed to conduct a science-based review of all of the unit’s land and water resources and their capacity to withstand public use. The DEC should not make decisions on how to manage the area over the next decade or more based on 30-year-old data. This has been an unfortunate pattern across several unit plan revisions in the past decade.

Invasive Insect Found in the Park

In August, the DEC confirmed that it had discovered an infestation of the invasive insect Emerald Ash Borer inside the Adirondack Park, in Warren County. This is a success of monitoring but a failure to keep a destructive invasive bug out of the Park. The ash borer digs into the trunk and lives below the bark, causing a D-shaped hole as it emerges. It intercepts the transport of water and nutrients from roots to crown. Leaves yellow and die and the tree expires quickly. The affected trees were found by Department of Transportation personnel at the Warren County Canals Launch on the Schroon River in the Town of Chestertown. A sample was sent to Cornell University Insect Diagnostic Lab for further review. Even if treated, the tree expires quickly. The affected trees were found by Department of Transportation personnel at the Warren County Canals Launch on the Schroon River in the Town of Chestertown. A sample was sent to Cornell University Insect Diagnostic Lab for further review. Even if treated, the tree expires quickly.

Son of Frankenpine Is Less Scary

In 2019, Agency staff worked with AT&T to expand cell phone coverage in the Elizabethtown region without creating an eyesore on an otherwise natural landscape. Located in the hamlet of New Russia, the tower is small enough so that it provides coverage with only a small portion rising above treetops, which is disguised as a pine tree. Its location makes it “substantially invisible” to passing motorists on U.S. Route 9. The Agency also approved, in July 2020, a “substantially invisible” cell tower in Newcomb, behind the water tower. The Agency’s towers policy is working.

Substantially Visible

In January, the APA allowed AT&T to construct a 94-foot monopole cell tower in the Town of Duane, Franklin County but did not require the company to conceal it. Open sky behind the tower will allow it to be seen from public roads.

Visual Clutter

In February, the APA approved two “co-located” cell towers to fill gaps in coverage in Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, and along NYS Route 2B, where one would have sufficed. Due to their location, both the 90-foot and 85-foot towers were disguised as pine trees, but were left in the open rather than partially concealed by forest. AT&T and T-Mobile refused to cooperate on use of a single structure, so the Agency’s “co-location” is really two Frankenpine next to one another.

Tent Site Standards Protect & Provide Access

In September 2019, the APA approved a plan that sets the standards for primitive tent site development and maintenance in Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, and Wild Forest Areas of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Overall, it will minimize impacts to natural resources and improve the user experience by preserving a sense of solitude and establishing standards for maintenance. The Adirondack Council and others provided input into the APA’s plan.

In late September 2019, the DEC proposed efforts to address overuse at Bald Mountain, it failed to conduct a science-based review of all of the unit’s land and water resources and their capacity to withstand public use. The DEC should not make decisions on how to manage the area over the next decade or more based on 30-year-old data. This has been an unfortunate pattern across several unit plan revisions in the past decade. In August 2019, the Council provided recommendations on proposed revisions to the UMP.

Can’t Do Its Duty on ATVs

Unlike prior administrations, the Cuomo administration’s DEC has not taken charge to enforce state policy and law against ATV use on public lands and/or roads. Under the Pataki administration, for example, the DEC said the Warren County Town of Horicon to stop it from using roads on the Forest Preserve as part of an ATV trail network. More recently, the DEC has abdicated this task and private landowners have taken over. It is unlawful for any town or village to use roads on the Forest Preserve as part of an ATV trail network, the DEC said and other new development. The plan’s focus on forest habitats protect timber and Eastern hemlock, spruce and balsam. Otherwise, it failed to conduct a science-based review of all of the unit’s land and water resources and their capacity to withstand public use. The DEC should not make decisions on how to manage the area over the next decade or more based on 30-year-old data. This has been an unfortunate pattern across several unit plan revisions in the past decade. In August 2019, the Council provided recommendations on proposed revisions to the UMP.

Cow Still Loose, Barn Door Missing

In January 2020, the DEC amended the Unit Management Plan for the Sentinel Range Wilderness Area without closing the Jackrabbit Ski Trail to motorized traffic. The trail sits atop a former town road that the DEC closed in 1998. The DEC has abdicated this task and private landowners have taken over. It is unlawful for any town or village to use roads on the Forest Preserve as part of an ATV trail network, the DEC said and other new development. The plan’s focus on forest habitats protect timber and Eastern hemlock, spruce and balsam. Otherwise, it failed to conduct a science-based review of all of the unit’s land and water resources and their capacity to withstand public use. The DEC should not make decisions on how to manage the area over the next decade or more based on 30-year-old data. This has been an unfortunate pattern across several unit plan revisions in the past decade. In August 2019, the Council provided recommendations on proposed revisions to the UMP.
We Have a Few Questions This Time

In March 2020, the APA took a step in the right direction on large, backcountry subdivisions when it issued a Notice of Incomplete Application to several developers seeking a 37-kiloton suburbian-style development around Woodward Lake. The project is in the Fulton County towns of Northampton and Mayfield. The APA requested more information on biological surveys, wetlands, building height, maintenance plans, and construction methods. Next, we will see the developer’s response and the APA’s reaction.

River Permit Scofflaw Gets Rare Treatment

In February, the APA brought a rare enforcement action against the owners of Brantpton Retreat, a resort in Thurman, Warren County, for a series of land use and Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers Act violations dating back to 2017. After 20 phone calls, three site visits, one meeting at the APA offices, four staff letters, and three proposed and subsequently ignored settlements, Agency staff recommended the maximum fine of $15,486,000 for the 1032 days since the first staff letter was sent alleging violations, with some of the penalty suspended. At press time, the violators had not paid the fine, or attempted to negotiate a settlement. The APA has referred the case to the Attorney General for prosecution.

Lyme Timber Plan Sustainable

In December 2019, the APA approved a timber harvest plan submitted by the Lyme Timber Company for lands in Arietta and Lake Placid. The plan fits within the scope and management plan of the conservation easement the state owns on the property. The 509-acre “swelterwood overstory removal” and 134-acre “free thinning treatment” are tools for maximizing economic return on commercial forests within the sustainability standards set by the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification programs. The Council has supported individual forest management permits for what the Agency defines as a “clear cut,” while raising concerns about cumulative impacts and the need for a comprehensive assessment of harvesting.

New Housing Needed in Developed Areas

In July 2020, the APA approved a map amendment for the Town of North Elba to reclassify about 34.5 acres from Moderate Intensity Use to a Hamlet, which could make the creation of new, lower cost housing. The change to Hamlet would lift current limits on the number of principal residences per acre and allow for more intensive commercial development. This paves the way for a conversion of the Cell Science Center property on Barr Road into housing for 2,400 athletes competing in the 2023 World University Games. After the games, it would find a new life as much needed community housing.

Opposed to Conservation Design

The APA’s representatives told the legislature they did not support a “Conservation Design” bill aimed at better protecting water quality, wildlife, and open space in the Park’s most remote private forests. For the most sensitive private lands of the Park, the bill would require clustering of development to conserve the greatest amount of wildlife habitat and allow for cumulative impact assessments. It would also close a loophole that allows some developers to avoid completing wildlife and wetland surveys prior to the APA’s acceptance of their complete application. The bill had support from the conservation community, local government officials, and the Common Ground Alliance core team.

Lyme Timber Harvest in the western Adirondacks

The APA continued to approve intensive forest harvesting methods across the Park in 2019, but still refused to count the cumulative impacts of those decisions. While clear-cutting and other rapid removal techniques can fit within an overall management plan, the APA must take account of what is happening on the larger landscape, not just individual tracts. The state forester has warned that the pace of harvesting on Adirondack commercial forests is too rapid and therefore unsustainable, especially in light of emission reductions called for in the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Cumulative Impact Not So Clear-cut

In May, the Park Agency approved advanced plans to redevelop an historic 119-mile rail corridor connecting Remsen to Lake Placid into a recreational trail for bicyclists, skiers, and snowmobilers to the northeast, and a scenic passenger train for tourists to the southwest. The controversial project has inspired more than 700 public comments to the APA and conflicts between rail enthusiasts and recreationalists. The state gave a share to both sides, proposing that the rails be ripped up between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid for a recreational trail, while the line from Tupper Lake to Remsen be fixed up for trains.

Bi-Partisan Cooperation on Acid Rain

Despite the shutdown of the federal government complex in Washington, D.C. in March of 2020 due to COVID-19, members of the New York Congressional delegation joined to express support for protecting the Adirondacks from acid rain. U.S. Reps Antonio Delgado, D-Hudson, Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, Caroline Maloney, D-Manhattan, and Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, worked together to send letters to House and Senate appropriations committee members. They sought both to protect the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s operating budget and to create a new grant program for acid rain and climate data collection in the Northeast. Federal budget negotiations were continuing at press time.

Refusing to Lend a Hand

In September 2019, New York State, New York City, and Connecticut sued the Trump administration after EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler denied New York’s petition for relief from smog under the “Good Neighbors” policy of the Clean Air Act. The policy forbids any state from causing enough air pollution to create a health hazard in another state. New York’s air is polluted by smokestacks in more than a dozen upwind states. Another NY and CT lawsuit, with the Adirondack Council and others, led to a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, DC reversing this.

Land and Water Fund Revived, Permanent

The U.S. Senate and House approved on bi-partisan votes, and the President signed legislation to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and invest in critical needs within national parks and other public lands. The Great American Outdoors Act, which passed 73-25, restores and makes permanent the $900 million in annual appropriations for the LWCF, as it was originally created in 1964. In addition, it would provide $9.5 billion over the next five years to deferred-maintenance projects on public lands managed by federal agencies.

Burn Baby Burn

The Trump administration’s attempts to re-establish coal as a major fuel source caused air pollution increases of 200% to 323% in the fall of 2019 from coal-fired power plants that cause acid rain and contribute to climate change, harming the Adirondacks and public health. The Park has seen significant reductions in sulfur dioxide air pollution from power plants since 1990. In 2019, as the Adirondacks were nearing recovery from acid rain and making progress on carbon, the numbers began going back in the wrong direction. Power plants emitted more pollution and caused clouds that pass over the Adirondacks to carry more pollution than the year before. The only reason these changes didn’t create a public health crisis is that the COVID-19 economic shutdown took so much traffic off of the highways and slowed so many factories that the air overall got cleaner for many major cities.

Executive Director William Jannay on Capitol Hill to advocate for the Adirondacks

Congress helped countless rural businesses and not-for-profit organizations survive the early phases of the COVID-19 economic shutdown by providing two rounds of timely Paycheck Protection Program grants to businesses across the nation. These loans helped businesses ride out major challenges, and under specific criteria, are forgivable. Combined with direct relief grants to households, the two programs did much to ease suffering in the Adirondacks and beyond.

Setting the Standard for Bad Standards

The Trump administration has by far exceeded the most ruthless acts of any prior administration in tearing down and refusing to enforce federal standards that protect the environment and public health. Among the changes in 2019 were
Pharaoh Lake Wilderness

In 30 states, the majority of those deaths were caused by pollution blowing in from beyond the state’s own borders.

As a result of Pharaoh Lake’s location on the Lake Ontario windward side, winds blow from Lake Ontario to the lake. The lake is also surrounded by a windbreak of trees that slow the wind down.

The lake is a popular destination for boating, fishing, and swimming. However, the presence of invasive species can have a significant impact on the lake’s ecosystem.

The invasive species present in Pharaoh Lake include the muskellunge, alewife, and the round goby. These species can outcompete native species for resources, leading to a decline in fish populations. The muskellunge, for example, can grow to over 50 pounds and is known to prey on smaller fish.

The round goby, a small river fish, has recently been found in the lake. Its presence is concerning because it is a voracious predator that can easily outcompete many native fish species.

The lake’s water quality is also threatened by the presence of various pollutants, including heavy metals and nutrients from nearby agriculture and urban areas.

In conclusion, Pharaoh Lake is a valuable resource that requires active management to ensure its health and sustainability. Strategies to control and prevent the spread of invasive species and minimize pollution are essential to preserve this beautiful lake for future generations.
Federal and state elected and appointed government leaders will be making critical decisions in the year ahead that will affect the legacy of the Adirondacks for all time. Priorities for 2021 include:

**Preserve Wilderness**
Complete and implement plans to address overuse, expand education, build infrastructure, pilot enforcement of Wilderness resource capacity limits and increase personnel, to protect natural resources, and secure community benefits.

**Win Conservation Funding**
Reauthorize a $3-billion Bond Act for water, climate, and overuse and fully allocate the $300-million Environmental Protection Fund, plus $1 billion for clean water, including funds for the Adirondack Park.

**Combat Climate Change and Acid Rain**
Promote clean energy and continue implementation of the new climate law, expand renewable energy, restore federal protections against acid rain, and enhance research funding.

**Stop Invasive Species**
Achieve comprehensive boat inspection compliance Park-wide.

**Support More Vibrant Communities**
Provide funds for planning, smart growth, communications, health care, jobs, housing, and recreation.

**Expand Park Diversity Equity and Inclusion Efforts**
Plan and start to implement actions for a more welcoming, inclusive Adirondack Park that celebrates all kinds of diversity.

**Approve Environmental Agency Reforms**
Increase funding, staffing, and oversight of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency, and update planning and conservation tools to better incentivize private land stewardship.

**Defend the NYS Constitution**
Defend the integrity of the “Forever Wild” clause of the state constitution, and secure second passage of the “Environmental Bill of Rights” so voters may approve it in 2021.

The Adirondack Council is committed to our mission, our values and these priorities. We will use the best available science and respect diverse views in order to achieve these results. We will employ our knowledge of the political process to be the leading environmental advocate for the Adirondacks. We work with partners, promote diversity, and find common ground when possible. We carry on the legacy of early conservation visionaries and ensure the Park is known and protected as a national treasure.
Support Adirondack Conservation

Whether you are in the Adirondacks or elsewhere, you too can show your support for preserving the water, air and wildlands of this national treasure. Visit our online shop at donate.AdirondackCouncil.org or call us at 518.873.2240 to purchase a variety of branded merchandise. All proceeds support our daily advocacy for the Adirondack Park.

Adirondack Advocates Making a Difference

At a time when your voice is essential to protecting the legacy of the Adirondacks for future generations, YOU and other advocates responded. Advocates took action to preserve wilderness, address overuse, protect wildlife, reduce road salt and water pollution, stop EPA environmental policy rollbacks, and more! Over 17,000 individual connections with state and federal policymakers were made over the last year. THANK YOU!

Advocates gather for Adirondack Environmental Lobby Day at the state capitol pre-pandemic

PHOTO: BEN BROSSEAU, ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

NEW! Neck Gaiters | $20
Available in three colors (blue, green or orange) two designs (loon logo or mountains) and two styles (lightweight or insulated) Measures (9.5” x 15.5”)

NEW! 2021 Forever Wild Calendar | $14
12-month calendar featuring award-winning landscape photographer Carl Heilman II

NEW! Tri-Blend Tees | $20
Shown in athletic gray, also available in evergreen, indigo, cranberry or coffee. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL

NEW! Canvas Tote Bag | $15

NEW! 2021 Forever Wild Calendar | $14
12-month calendar featuring award-winning landscape photographer Carl Heilman II

NEW! Circle Car Decal or Bumper Sticker | $5