



PRESS RELEASE

February 2, 2018

## **PROTECT Cheers APA's Approval of Boreas Ponds as State's Newest Wilderness Wilds in Adirondack Forest Preserve**

*Compromise protects Boreas Ponds as Wilderness, while enabling easy public access and a variety of recreational uses on neighboring Wild Forest lands*

*Wilderness Classification for the Boreas Ponds is major milestone in the history of the Adirondack Park, only 140,000 acres of Wilderness Approved since 1970; 25,000 acres approved today*

### **For more information:**

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The Adirondack Park Agency today approved the Boreas Ponds as the state's newest Wilderness lands in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The APA approved 11,400 acres of lands around Boreas Ponds as Wilderness and nearly 15,000 acres of other lands that border the High Peaks as Wilderness.

"The High Peaks Wilderness was expanded by 25,000 acres today. That's a historic accomplishment. The Boreas Ponds and 11,000 acres around them was classified as Wilderness and that too is a great accomplishment," said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks.

"Since 1970, the Adirondack Forest Preserve has seen an expansion of lands classified as Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe from 1,072,000 acres to 1,210,000 acres, roughly a growth of 138,000 acres in nearly 50 years. Over 25,000 acres was added by the Adirondack Park today at its meeting. Clearly, gaining new Wilderness lands in the Adirondacks is always challenging, always difficult, always hard. This puts into perspective the accomplishment of the APA to expand Wilderness in the Adirondack Forest Preserve by 25,000 acres," said Peter Bauer.

The APA's decision caps a process that started with the state's acquisition of 69,000 acres of the former Finch, Pruyn & Company lands from 2012-2016, purchased from The Nature Conservancy. Protect the Adirondacks congratulates Governor Cuomo, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation for this classification. We salute the great work of The Nature Conservancy for acquiring and protecting this land.

Protect the Adirondacks!  
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Public uses on these newly classified lands will be determined through Unit Management Plans (UMPs). The Wilderness lands around the Boreas Ponds will be added to the High Peaks Wilderness and the Wild Forest lands will be added to the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest area. Both UMPs are expected to be revised in the summer of 2018. Under this classification, public motor vehicle use could be as close as ¼ mile to the shoreline of Boreas Ponds. Under this classification, the Gulf Brook Road could be retained as a Forest Preserve road open to bicycles and motor vehicles and used as a snowmobile trail. The Wilderness area around the Boreas Ponds limits public uses to canoes, kayaks or rowboats, hiking, cross-country skiing and camping.

### **Protect the Adirondacks**

Protect the Adirondacks, Inc. (PROTECT) is a privately funded, IRS-approved not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park in northern New York. PROTECT was formed through the merger of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks in 2009. PROTECT pursues its mission to protect the Adirondack Park and defend the public "forever wild" Forest Preserve through citizen advocacy, grassroots organizing, education, research, and legal action. PROTECT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. PROTECT maintains an office in Lake George. For more information see [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org).

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