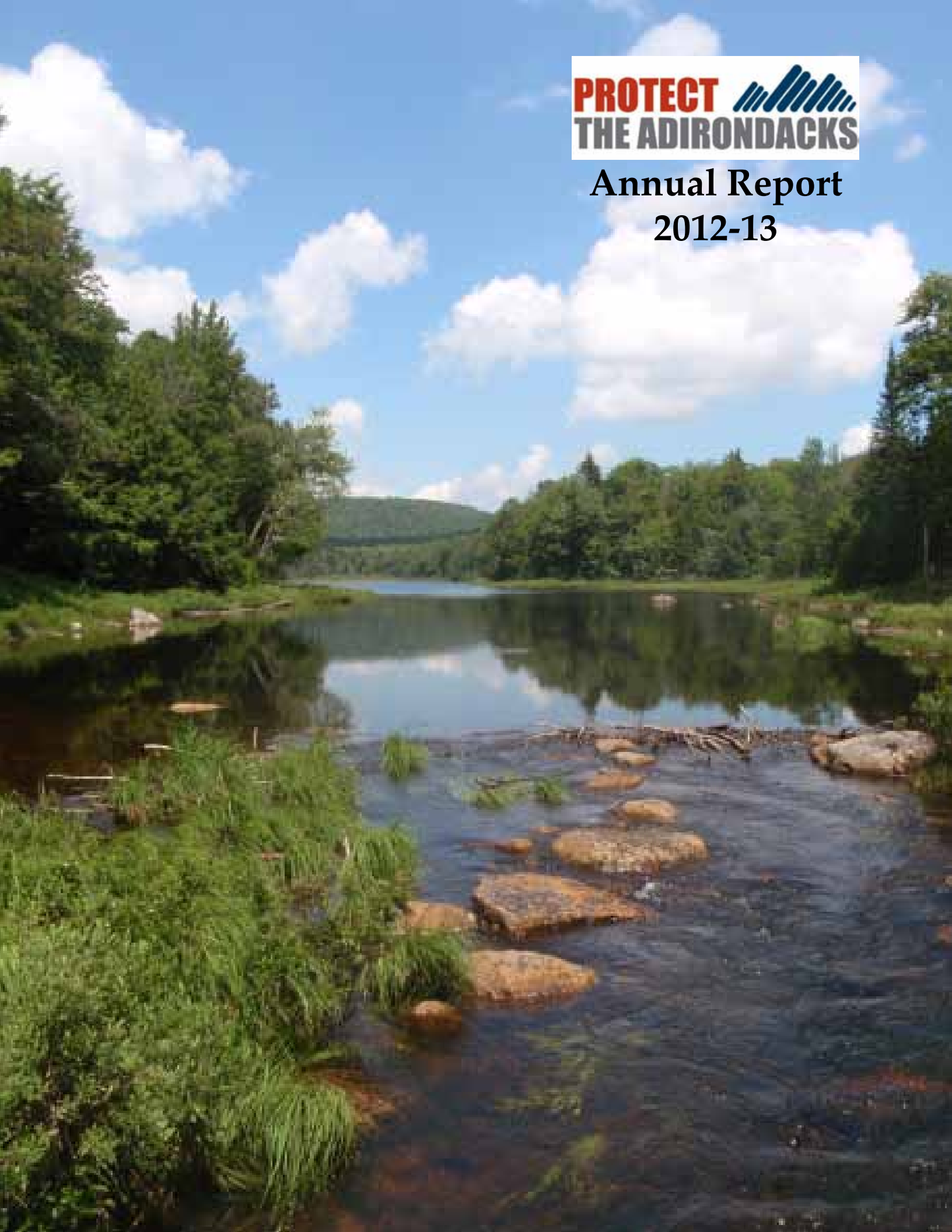




Annual Report 2012-13



Letter from the Chair of Protect the Adirondacks

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*Cover picture Irving Pond,
Shaker Mountain Wild Forest*

Dear PROTECT Members,

PROTECT has had a busy and productive year as you can see by reading through the program report. There is no shortage of challenges facing the Adirondack Park and PROTECT has done its best to meet them.

Take a look at the PROTECT Action map on the right-hand page. You'll see that PROTECT has been active in all corners of the Adirondacks. We're out in the field studying the issues, generating media coverage to educate the public of important issues, testifying at hearings, organizing the grassroots and monitoring the actions of the APA, DEC, Legislature and Executive Chamber. We're conducting research, protecting Adirondack waters and the Forest Preserve, and intervening into the permitting proceedings of environmentally damaging and unwise proposed private land developments.

We're very pleased by a major legal success in our lawsuit on Low's Lake. We believed that Low's Lake should have been classified as Wilderness and the court agreed. Last summer, the state withdrew its option to appeal this decision. PROTECT is very gratified that beautiful Low's Lake will be managed as a Wilderness area in the future.

Actions to protect and enhance the "forever wild" Forest Preserve were a major focus of our work. PROTECT proposed a 38,500-acre Wilderness area that included the newly purchased lands from the Nature Conservancy on the Hudson River and Essex Chain Lakes. After extensive advocacy, letter writing, public hearings, and state agency reviews two new wild areas were created – a 23,500-acre Hudson Gorge Wilderness and a 10,000-acre Essex Chain Lakes Primitive area. PROTECT is heartened by the 33,300 acres of motorless Forest Preserve lands, but believe an historic opportunity was missed for a grand new Wilderness area.

PROTECT's research around the relative lack of motorless waters on big lakes in the Adirondacks heightened the importance of managing the Essex Chain Lakes as a new quiet waters destination.

Other program highlights are detailed in this annual report for PROTECT's legal actions, advocacy, and research on major issues such as the proposed expansion of clearcutting, extension of bobcat hunting, stronger water quality protections, improved controls for aquatic invasive species, our opposition of an unwise state Constitutional Amendment, and our partnership for the Adirondack Research Library.

PROTECT is most grateful for the terrific financial support of our members. Without your generosity we would not be able to undertake the breadth of advocacy, grassroots organizing, research and legal actions. Without your passion and willingness to take a stand we would not have been able to mobilize the voices for wilderness of the wild Hudson River area and motorless management for the Essex Chain Lakes.

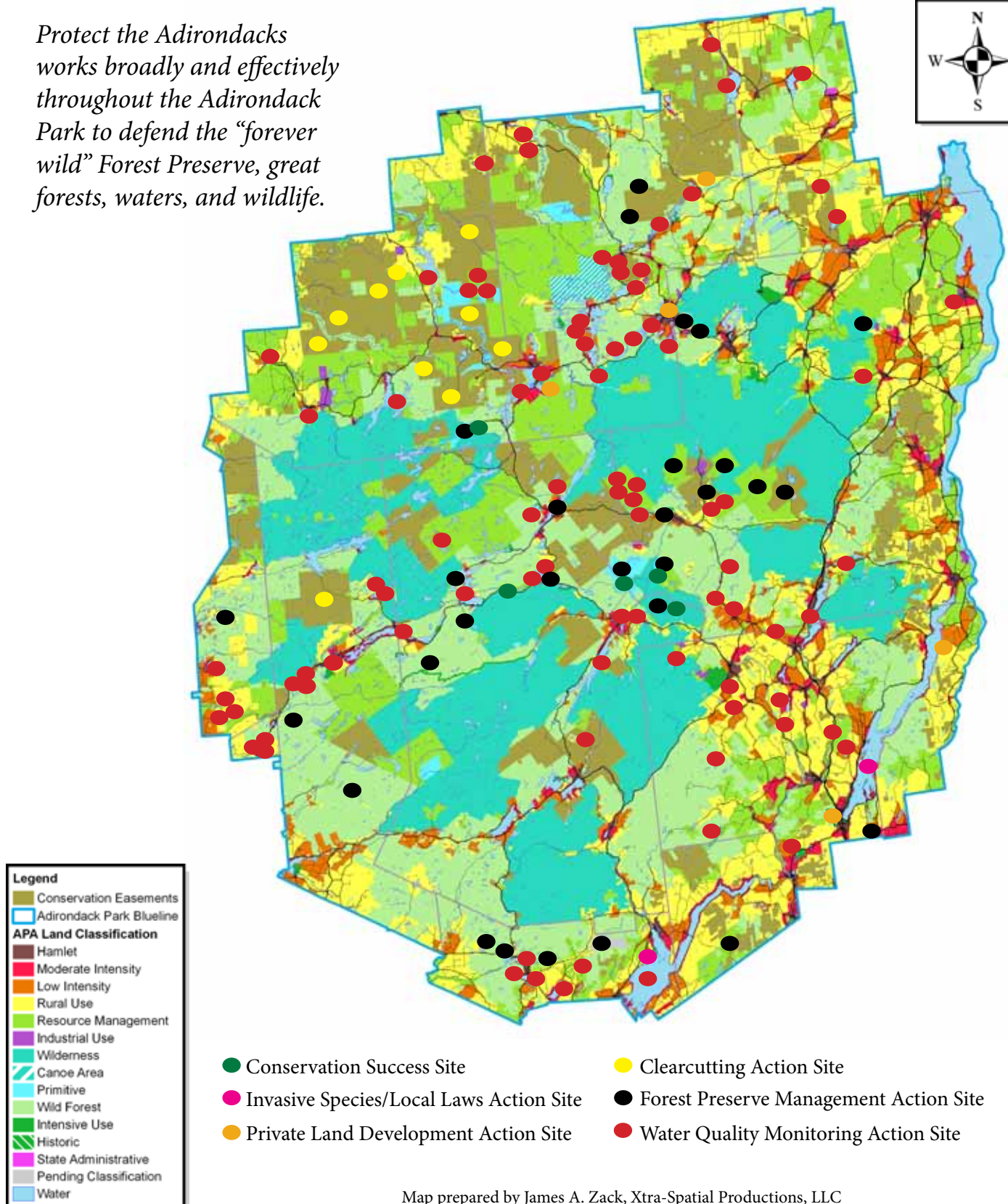
We thank you for your imperative support and strong assistance. This coming year we have an even more ambitious agenda as we continue our work to defend the beauty and wilderness of the Adirondack Park. It can and will be done with our continuing partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Chuck Clusen, PROTECT Chair

Protect the Adirondacks Action Map

Protect the Adirondacks works broadly and effectively throughout the Adirondack Park to defend the “forever wild” Forest Preserve, great forests, waters, and wildlife.



Map prepared by James A. Zack, Xtra-Spatial Productions, LLC

PROTECT Cheers new Motorless Essex Chain Lakes



The new Essex Chain Lakes Primitive area is centered on management of the 13 out of 14 lakes as motorless. First Lake will continue to see float plane use.

PROTECT successfully advocates for new motorless waters and a new Wilderness Area

In the fall of 2012, PROTECT released a proposal for a 38,500-acre Wilderness Area that encompassed the Essex Chain Lakes and Hudson River Gorge area. This proposed new Wilderness area included lands recently purchased by the State of New York from The Nature Conservancy as well as existing Forest Preserve lands.

PROTECT utilized many tactics to advocate for the creation of a new Wilderness area in the central Adirondacks. We sponsored an online petition, issued a report on sparse availability of motorless waters on large Adirondack lakes and ponds, organized to turn-out speakers at public hearings and generate written comments, and publicly advocate for motorless waters and wilderness. PROTECT members showed up at every hearing and put in hundreds of letters. This activism made the difference.

In December 2013, the APA recommended a classification package to Governor Andrew Cuomo that involved a total of over 42,000 acres of newly purchased lands and existing Forest Preserve lands. The APA recommended the

PROTECT advocated for a motorless Essex Chain Lakes as part of a new 38,500-acre Hudson Headwaters Wilderness area. The APA recommended the creation of a 9,940-acre Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and a 23,500-acre Hudson Gorge Wilderness area. PROTECT's "Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters" report helped to focus the debate on the need to provide more motorless waters opportunities in the Adirondack Park.

creation of a new 23,500-acre Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area to protect the wildest stretch of the Hudson River. The APA also recommended the creation of a 9,940-acre Essex Chain Primitive Area, which is centered on a motorless Essex Chain Lake area. A separate 1,000-acre Primitive area will be added to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness in 2018.

All told, of the 42,000 acres classified, over 35,000 acres will have a Primitive or Wilderness classification. This requires management as large motorless areas with few exceptions. Given the political climate in New York today, this is a significant accomplishment. The creation of permanently protected wild lands is one of the most unusual and important things that we can do in this century to buffer our civilization against the effects of climate change.

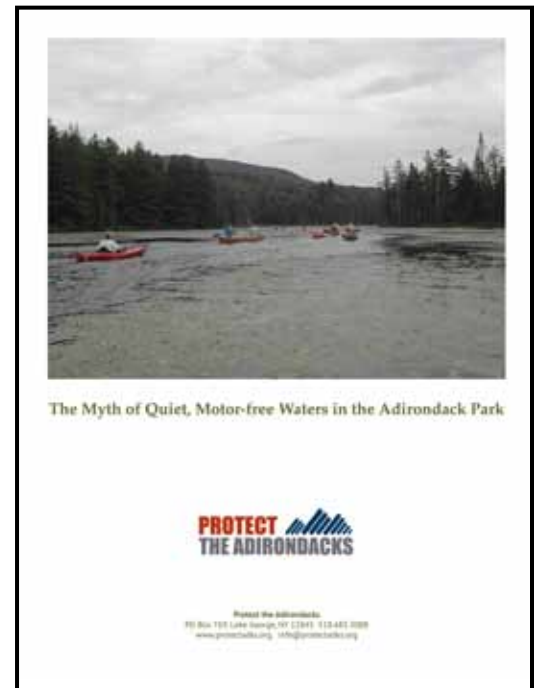
PROTECT Cheers new Hudson Gorge Wilderness



This classification package includes some policy low points, however. The new Wilderness and Primitive areas are separated by a 500-foot-wide Wild Forest corridor that will function as a snowmobile and mountain bike trail. To achieve its access goals this corridor also involves compromises of Wild and Scenic Rivers protection: maintaining a bridge over the Hudson River and an initiative to build a new bridge over the Cedar River. PROTECT will monitor the planning and implementation of this motorized corridor in 2014 and beyond.

PROTECT released a report *The Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park* in June 2013. This report analyzed the public uses on the 200 largest lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park. What we found is that there are relatively few opportunities for motor-free experiences on the biggest, most accessible lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks.

PROTECT believes that the largest lakes in the Adirondack Park provide the most accessible opportunities for public water-based recreation. But the supply of motor-free experiences on these waterbodies is low when compared to the abundance of opportunities for motorized watercraft. In addition to limiting the pollution and invasive aquatic invasion that motors bring, there needs to be greater equity for motor-free waters recreation so that the Adirondack Park can better meet the public's demand for a wide spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities. This report is available on PROTECT's website (www.protectadks.org).



This report is available on PROTECT's website (www.protectadks.org).

The Importance of Independent Public Oversight



Successful Independent Public Oversight

A core program of PROTECT is independent public oversight of the various state agencies that manage public and private lands policy and regulation for the Adirondack Park. This involves keeping tabs on review of private land development applications to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and local governments throughout the Park, and monitoring public Forest Preserve management planning and actions by the APA and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). We actively monitor highway management by the Department of Transportation and actions by other smaller state agencies as well, such as the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

PROTECT advocates to strengthen environmental protections for the Adirondack Park and “forever wild” Forest Preserve. We intervene when necessary and work to ensure that these agencies comply with existing laws and regulations. PROTECT researches policy and legal issues involved with various private land development projects and public Forest Preserve management decisions.

PROTECT brings this information to public officials and recommends a course of action that will best protect the natural resources of the Adirondack Park and long-term in-

terests of Adirondack communities. Independent oversight is a critical program for the Adirondacks.

Whenever we find that state agencies have violated the law, if a precedent with Park-wide implications is at stake, and all other remedies prove ineffective, we take legal actions. In the last year, PROTECT has pursued three different legal actions and successfully resolved one of them (see page 8 for our victory at Low’s Lake).

In February 2013, PROTECT launched a new lawsuit challenging an APA-DEC initiative that will intensify motorized use and significantly degrade the mandated wild character of the Forest Preserve. This lawsuit focuses on the design, construction and management of road-like Class II Community Connector (C2CC) snowmobile trails that are being built throughout areas designated Wild Forest. The stakes are high with this action as the APA and DEC plan to build an extensive network of these trails in the years ahead.

These snowmobile trails are designed for maintenance by large tracked groomers the size of bulldozers, which the State Land Master Plan specifically limits to existing roads and areas designated for intensive use. The Seventh Lake Mountain C2CC trail in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest area saw the cutting down of over 2,200 trees. Moreover,



as the pictures above demonstrate, these “trails” are extensively graded, flattened, widened with bench cuts into side slopes, and understory vegetation, rocks and stumps are removed. The lawsuit thus argues that the State Constitution was violated during trail construction due to significant degrading of the “wild forest character” of public lands. This degradation of the Forest Preserve will be dramatic if the planned network of these trails is constructed in the years ahead. A decision on this lawsuit is likely in 2014.

In another major action, PROTECT has challenged the lawfulness of the approval by the APA of 11 permits for the Adirondack Club & Resort (ACR) project. This project is the largest ever approved in the Adirondacks and involves over 700 units spread throughout 6,000 acres. Chief among causes of our action is the project’s plan for thirty-nine “great camps” sprawled across more than four thousand acres classified as Resource Management lands, a damaging precedent for subdivisions in the Park’s other 1.5 million similarly classified acres.

This lawsuit has been a major undertaking since it was filed in early 2012. All submissions have been filed and oral arguments will take place this spring before the NYS Appellate Court. We expect a decision in the second half of 2014.



Pictures on the top left and right shows construction on the Seventh Lake Mountain snowmobile trail in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. This road-like trail saw significant alteration during construction through extensive grading and even the removal of bedrock. Above is an aerial picture of Cranberry Bog with the Big Tupper Ski Area in the background, the centerpieces of the controversial 6,000-acre ACR development project.

Major Legal Victory makes Low's Lake a Wilderness



Victory for Wilderness at Low's Lake

In the summer of 2012, New York's Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced that the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) would drop their appeal of a state Supreme Court decision that classified Low's Lake as Wilderness. This means that the State Supreme Court decision will stand, reversing APA's actions that had undermined a Wilderness classification.

Low's Lake, on the Hamilton-St Lawrence county line, had been the focus of controversy for years as a result of the state's failure to classify it as Wilderness despite the requirements of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. In August 2011, a Supreme Court decision ruled that the lake is Wilderness and the state must manage it as such. Brought by Protect the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Sierra Club, this lawsuit opposed action by the APA and DEC to reverse an earlier decision to phase-out floatplane and motorboat use and manage Low's Lake as a Wilderness area. This reversal had fol-

Low's Lake is one of the great flatwater canoeing destinations in the U.S. PROTECT's successful legal action ensures this paradise will be managed as Wilderness.

lowed political pressure from local government officials and advocates for motorized use.

The state's action formally to withdraw its appeal of the Supreme Court decision means that Low's Lake will permanently and irrevocably be managed as Wilderness under state law. This was a great victory for wild open spaces and for maintaining Low's Lake as a motorless Wilderness area.

Low's Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in the Adirondack Park and the Northeast U.S. It has many remote campsites on beautiful bays and points that are well worth the long paddle and portages to reach. This successful legal action by PROTECT and others ensures that Low's Lake will provide wild, peaceful and beautiful opportunities for decades to come.

PROTECT Works to Stop New Era of Big Clearcuts



Action to Stop New Era of Big Clearcuts

Over the past year the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has worked to loosen restrictions for large clearcuts in the Adirondack Park. Current law limits clearcuts to 25 acres without an APA permit. Large industrial landowners, many of whom own the forest management rights on conservation easements lands, have pushed the APA to change its law and regulations to streamline permit review and make it easier to undertake large clearcuts.

The APA started this effort with the release of a deeply flawed general permit, which PROTECT and others opposed and the APA withdrew. Since that time, the APA has convened a working group that includes PROTECT. Various proposals are currently being scrutinized.

Heavy cutting of private commercial forestlands already characterizes many conservation easement tracts. These lands, such as the Long Pond tract west of the Carry Falls Reservoir pictured above, have seen many small clearcuts of fewer than 25 acres, strip cuts, and shelterwood

The Long Pond tract, west of Carry Falls Reservoir, has seen many small clearcuts of less than 25 acres as well as strip clearcuts. Note the difference with the Forest Preserve lands, which are characterized by extensive unbroken high forest canopy. PROTECT is working to improve forest management on conservation easements lands.

clearcuts which are designed to avoid APA permit review. Most of the conservation easement lands are certified under two sustainable forestry certification programs, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) programs. The APA argues that these systems allow wide-scale clearcutting and that the APA should follow suit. The large landowners claim that much of their lands were poorly managed for decades while lands were owned by pulp making papermills and now they need to undertake clearcutting as a necessary tool for “restoration forestry.”

PROTECT is currently gathering clearcutting information from other states and consulting with forest ecologists about ways to improve current forest management.

PROTECT Completes 16 Years of Water Quality Monitoring

PROTECT has long recognized the threats to water quality throughout the Park, largely a consequence of intensive shoreline development. 2013 saw completion of the 16th year of the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP), a “citizen science” water quality monitoring project jointly managed in a partnership between PROTECT and the the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith’s College. PROTECT manages the water sampling by volunteers. AWI developed the scientific protocol used by volunteers, analyzes the samples and compiles the reports. Most of the lakes and ponds that are monitored are done so through a lake association or community group.



Established in 1998, ALAP has grown to one of the largest, most professional, volunteer driven water quality monitoring programs in the Adirondack Park. Under ALAP, 70 lakes and ponds were studied in 2013. PROTECT is now collaborating with AWI on a regional water quality assessment based on analysis of long-term water quality data from ALAP and other programs in the Adirondacks.

ALAP tests for a variety of leading water quality parameters including pH, alkalinity, calcium, calcite saturation index, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, Secchi disk transparency, nitrate, chloride, conductivity, color, aluminum, and dissolved oxygen. Results from analysis of these parameters

inform volunteers and lake associations about short- and long-term water quality trends. There are openings in 2014 to enroll your lake or pond. For more information about how to enroll a lake or pond go to PROTECT’s website at www.protectadks.org.

A big project for PROTECT and AWI in 2014 is completion of a regional water quality assessment of ALAP lakes and other lakes studied by AWI. This will involve analysis of data from lakes and ponds from across the Adirondacks and provide one of the best profiles of water quality in the Adirondacks ever produced.

Lakes and Ponds Enrolled in the Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program

Adirondack Lake	Fish Creek Pond	Lower Chateaugay Lake	Seventh Lake
Amber Lake	Floodwood Pond	Lower Saranac Lake	Sherman Lake
Arbutus Pond	Follensby Clear Pond	Lower St. Regis Lake	Silver Lake
Auger Lake	Garnet Lake	McRorie Lake	Simon Pond
Austin Pond	Great Sacandaga Lake	Middle Pond	Snowshoe Pond
Balfour Lake	Gull Pond	Middle Saranac Lake	Spitfire Lake
Big Moose Lake	Hewitt Lake	Moss Lake	Sprague’s Pond
Blue Mountain Lake	Hoel Pond	Mountain View Lake	Star Lake
Brandreth Lake	Indian Lake (Fran. County)	Nick’s Lake	Stony Creek Ponds
Brant Lake	Indian Lake (Ham. County)	Oseetah Lake	Sylvia Lake
Buckhorn Pond	Jordan Lake	Osgood Pond	Thirteenth Lake
Bullhead Pond	Kiawassa Lake	Otter Pond	Tripp Lake
Canada Lake	Lake Abanakee	Oven Mountain Pond	Trout Lake
Carry Falls Reservoir	Lake Colby	Paradox Lake	Trout Pond
Catlin Lake	Lake Durant	Perch Pond	Tupper Lake
Chapel Pond	Lake Easka	Pine Lake	Twitchell Lake
Chazy Lake	Lake Eaton	Pleasant Lake	Upper Cascade Lake
Cranberry Lake	Lake Flower	Polliwog Pond	Upper Chateaugay Lake
Deer Lake	Lake of the Pines	Raquette Lake	Upper St. Regis Lake
Dug Mountain Pond	Lake Ozonia	Rich Lake	White Lake
Eagle Lake	Lake Tekeni	Rock Lake	Windfall Pond
Echo Pond (Essex County)	Lake Titus	Rollins Pond	Wolf Lake
Egg Pond	Lens Lake	Rondaxe Lake	Zach Pond
Eli Pond	Little Long Lake	Sagamore Lake	
Fern Lake	Long Pond	Schroon Lake	
Fifth Lake	Loon Lake (Town of Franklin)	Second Pond	

(reports are available online at PROTECT’s website)

Statewide Action is Needed to Control Aquatic Invasive Species

Over the past year, PROTECT and others successfully advocated for action by the NYS Lake George Park Commission and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to create a new mandatory boat inspection and decontamination program for all boats on Lake George. Modeled after the highly successful program at Lake Tahoe to stop new infestations of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS), this program was widely supported by local government officials, environmental groups and businesses all around Lake George.

New York State lags significantly behind dozens of other states in the U.S. for control and management of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Bold measures are needed by your administration and the DEC to combat AIS, all of which have been successfully used in other states to combat AIS.

The time for action is now. Upstate New York and the Adirondacks are often cited as an economically depressed area. Yet these areas are rich in incredible lakes, ponds and rivers. Water quality is vital to these local economies and supports a number of businesses, resorts, vacation homes, and high property values. AIS can rapidly degrade the ecology of a lake, wetland, stream or river as well as significantly impair recreational enjoyment. The DEC and Cuomo Administration need to make a much greater investment in combatting AIS in order to protect the Upstate economy and environment as well as its quality of life.

New York needs to adopt a handful of measures that have been proven effective in other states. Here is a five-point program that PROTECT has advocated to significantly improve AIS control and management.

1. NYS should pass legislation that criminalizes the transport of AIS and fully empowers state and local law enforcement at every level to enforce this law. Fines must be serious. Neither the DEC or Cuomo Administration has supported a "transport law." Such laws are in effect in Vermont, Washington, and Minnesota, among others.
2. NYS should pass legislation that criminalizes the launching of an infested boat into a water body by a boat owner as well as by the boat launch operator. Such laws are standard parts of comprehensive statewide AIS programs.
3. NYS should help to build a comprehensive inspection and decontamination infrastructure across the state. Willing partners exist across New York in the Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM). APIPP manages the Adirondack Park PRISM, one of eight statewide. This will involve building both a statewide network of



Asian clam control project on Lake George involved extensive use of benthic barrier to try and suffocate the clams.

scores of decontamination stations and effectively policing public and private boat launches.

4. NYS should organize a registry of infested and non-infested waterways and continuously update this database. Many states currently do this. Minnesota maintains an excellent database.

5. Adequate, sustained funding is badly needed for AIS management. Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) funding at \$4.6 million annually is inadequate. A dedicated funding source is needed. Successful AIS control programs, such as seen on Upper Saranac Lake or on Lake Tahoe, are based on continuing efforts that are properly funded. Successful management and prevention programs are funded and operated annually so that there are no gaps in service, when AIS can rebound or be introduced. New York should pass an annual surcharge on boat registrations for a dedicated fund for AIS control as part of the Invasive Species account in the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The states of Oregon, Minnesota, and Maine, among others, have successfully implemented AIS surcharges to boat registrations.

The threat to the rest of the Adirondack Park is enormous. According to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), 94 lakes are infested and 11 different AIS. But, unlike the rest of New York, most of the major lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks remain un-infested so action now can save many Adirondacks waters.

PROTECT Stands Up for Wildlife

Effective advocacy and protective regulation have enabled remarkable recent recoveries for some major wildlife species in North America. The Yellowstone gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) recovery project has been a major success. Cougars have moved out of high areas of the mountainous west to recolonize areas from Washington to the Dakotas. These successes have brought a backlash as western states have opened expansive hunting seasons to cull new burgeoning populations, and the federal Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed new rules that will contain the gray wolf.

In New York, we've experienced a similar reversal in the state's policies on bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) hunting. Based on the dubious science of surveying trappers about bobcat populations (at a time when bobcat hunting increased due to high fur prices), the state approved a plan to allow bobcat hunting in new areas of New York and to extend the season in the Adirondacks. PROTECT opposed implementation of the state's new bobcat management plan because it is not based on a scientifically sound field study of the state's bobcat population as required by the state law. PROTECT urged that a responsible study be completed before the final plan was released. Despite public comments that were heavily opposed to the state's plan, the new regulations to significantly expand bobcat hunting limits started in the fall of 2013.

PROTECT will continue to monitor this new policy and intervene where necessary. Our website has lots of information about the state's new controversial bobcat management program (www.protectadks.org).

PROTECT also took action to defend the gray wolf by opposing a new proposal from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), which announced last summer that it was proposing a new rule to eliminate protections for the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Based on the success of the Yellowstone wolf recovery project and viable, healthy gray wolf populations in Minnesota and other Great Lakes states, the FWS proposed last fall to "delist" the gray wolf from ESA protections. Many scientists and wildlife experts opposed this action, arguing that existing populations were not fully recovered and that it would reduce the possibility of the gray wolf recolonizing such suitable habitat as the Adirondacks and other areas in the Northeast U.S. PROTECT opposes this proposal and recommended that the FWS continue to provide ESA protections for the gray wolf. See our comment letter at www.protectadks.org.

The stakes are high for the Adirondack Park and Northeast



Bobcat pictures by Susan Morse.

U.S. with the FWS action to delist the gray wolf. If this action is approved, it will mean that for all practical purposes the gray wolf population in the U.S. will remain as it is today and not grow and expand, with viable populations constricted to the West, the greater Yellowstone Park area, and the Upper Midwest. If a gray wolf population is ever to be established in the Adirondack Park, and our native ecosystem fully restored, federal protection under the ESA is essential.

In early January 2014, an independent scientific peer review, ordered by the FWS, stated that the panel was unified in its conclusion that the delisting rule does not currently represent the "best available science." The FWS has posted this report online, and extended the public comment period an additional 45 days in light of this new scientific review.

PROTECT will continue to monitor this proposal and provide public comments.

PROTECT Calls for a Ban on ATVs on the Forest Preserve



In 2013, Protect the Adirondacks called for a ban on the use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the “forever wild” Forest Preserve. In our view, expansion of ATV riding on the public Forest Preserve would be a grave mistake because of the enormous damage to natural resources that ATVs inflict and the longstanding failure of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to control illegal ATV use on the Forest Preserve. PROTECT believes that ATV riding is an intensive and environmentally abusive recreational activity that should, like the sport of motocross racing, be relegated to private parks and industrial forestlands where the state has purchased conservation easements, and which have an adequate network of maintained roads.

ATV impacts are very different than other types of motor vehicles in nine ways:

1. ATV use destroys road and trail surfaces and Forest Preserve facilities, such as bridges, and cause soil and wetlands damage in ways that other motor vehicles do not.
2. ATV use creates deep ruts and mud pits on roads and trails that become impassable. It seems that ATVs are often ridden for the backwoods riding experience where one can make the mud fly and tear up an area. This damage makes a road difficult to travel for all other users.
3. Roads and trails are widened by ATV users to avoid a damaged, impassable area, which causes further damage to the corridor’s natural resources and wild character.
4. The wild forest character and the Forest Preserve experience are damaged by ATV use. Non-motor vehicle users that use the roads and trails damaged by ATVs find

Pictures above of ATV damage on the Forest Preserve in the southern and western Adirondacks. PROTECT believes that ATVs should be banned on the Forest Preserve.

their Forest Preserve experience diminished as the roads are unattractive, deeply rutted, widened, and mud-filled swamps.

5. ATVs regularly leave designated roads to illegally blaze new trails through the Forest Preserve. ATV bushwhacking off roads is very destructive.

6. ATVs regularly trespass around gates and boulders that are erected to control motor vehicle traffic. ATVs can blaze trails through the forest to circumvent barriers in ways that other motor vehicles cannot.

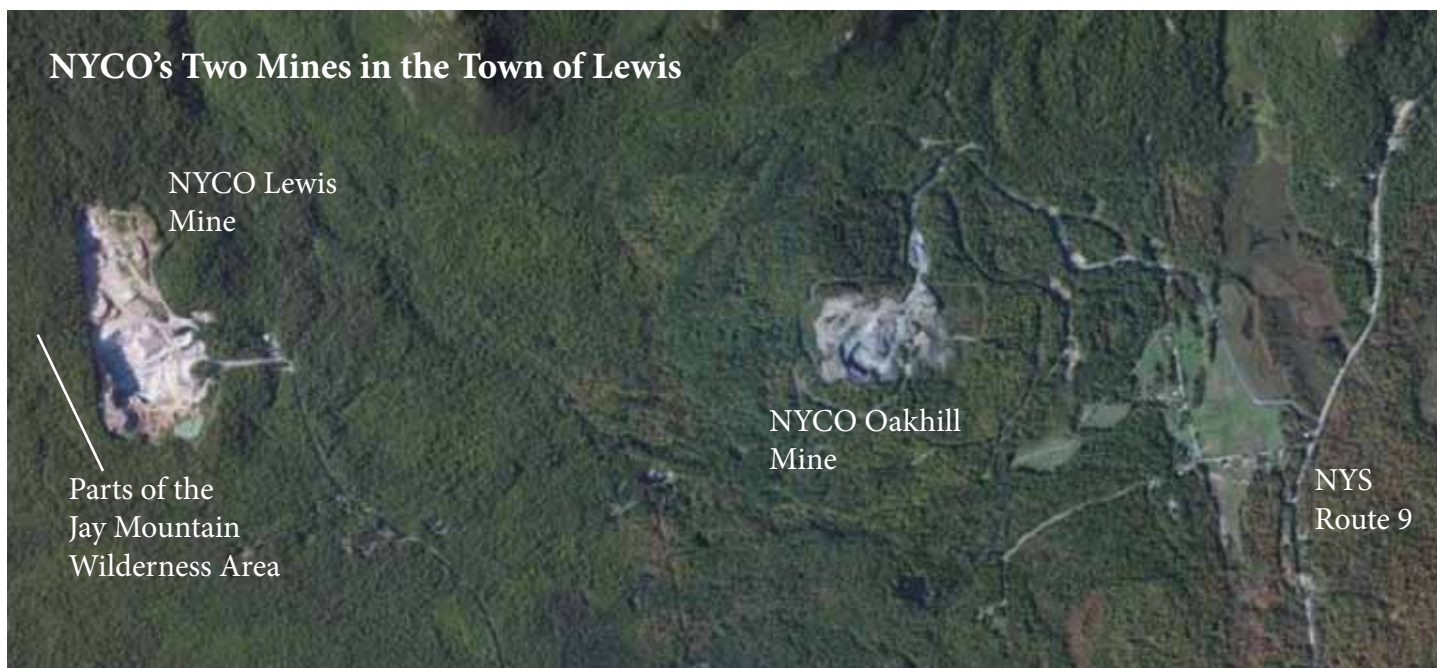
7. ATVs regularly drive through streams, creeks and wetlands for sport rather than use bridges that provide motor vehicles with access over a stream, creek or wetland.

8. ATVs regularly trespass on snowmobile trails, designated roads that prohibit ATV use, and footpaths that intersect with roads. In short, ATV operators often go where they want.

9. ATV use has led to vandalism of Forest Preserve facilities, such as gates that control access.

These impacts are particular to ATVs. ATV damage remains widespread across the Forest Preserve due to illegal trespasses. PROTECT will continue its work to document ATV abuses and advocate for a ban on public lands with groups across New York.

Amending “Forever” in “Forever Wild”



PROTECT Helped to Rally over 1 million voters to “Vote No” on the Proposed Constitutional Amendment for NYCO Minerals, Inc., on Election Day

Two Forest Preserve proposals were on the state ballot on Election Day 2013 to amend the State Constitution. A proposal to resolve a century-old land Forest Preserve/private land title dispute on Raquette Lake was supported by PROTECT and passed overwhelmingly with 78% of the state vote. This approval enables a process for the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Attorney General to resolve a longstanding controversy between hamlet residents and the state..

On a second, more controversial Constitutional Amendment, PROTECT and other groups opposed Proposal 5 -- the NYCO Constitutional Amendment -- to sell 200 acres of old growth forest in the Jay Mountain Wilderness to a NYCO Minerals, Inc., an international company that mines wollastonite at its open pit mine in Lewis.. Even with NYCO spending over \$600,000 to pass this amendment, it was narrowly approved 53-47%. PROTECT was on the one hand gratified that well over 1 million New Yorkers looked at this issue and voted no; on the other, the outcome suggests a diminishing familiarity among voters with the history of purposes of the “forever wild” article as the bulwark of public lands in the Adirondack Park.

Since both proposals involve land swaps and other provisions that remain uncertain, PROTECT will monitor the

NYCO Minerals, Inc., owner and operator of two mines in the Town of Lewis, Essex County, won the right to conduct mineral exploration on 200 acres of Jay Mountain Wilderness adjacent to its Lewis Mine in a Constitutional Amendment last November. The vote ran 53% - 47%, the closest Forest Preserve vote in more than 50 years.

implementation of these two amendments in 2014 and beyond. Proposition 5 entails a two-step process. First, NYCO will undertake “mineral exploration” on the 200 acre tract to determine if the supply of wollastonite there is worth buying the land. The exploration phase will involve extensive road building and clearing areas for drilling. PROTECT and others have informed the DEC and other state agencies that all state laws must be obeyed during this exploration phase. Second, if NYCO is satisfied that there is wollastonite on the 200 acres of the Forest Preserve that it would like to mine, it must work out a purchase price with the state and have this deal approved by the Legislature.

PROTECT will monitor and intervene in all phases and decisions on this issue. Past Constitutional amendments have in some measure directly served some public interest; this is first time that part of the Forest Preserve has been, in effect, sold to serve the profits of a private corporation. Article XIV, Section 1 states that the “forever wild” Forest Preserve “shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation....” A precedent that so clearly flouts the letter of the Constitution merits a high level of scrutiny, public oversight, and further public education.

In Brief: Kelly Adirondack Center moves ahead, Climate change action, and the Blue Mountain Lake Steward works to protect sensitive Forest Preserve islands

Adirondack Research Library

PROTECT partners with Union College to maintain the Adirondack Research Library at the Kelly Adirondack Center in Schenectady. Union College uses this facility for research and educational activities focused on the Adirondacks, including lectures, conferences, musical performances, and academic internships.

PROTECT applauds a new grant secured by Union College that will catalogue and organize the Paul Schaefer and John Apperson papers, two stalwarts of Adirondack environmental protection in the 20th century.

PROTECT supported reductions of carbon emissions under Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The past year saw inaction at the national level, but there were some hopeful points at the state and local levels. Severe weather that brings tropical storms with intense rainfall into the northeast U.S. and Adirondacks is now the new normal in the era of climate change. PROTECT cheered an action early in 2013 by the Cuomo Administration to actively participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This new agreement sets new caps across the nine participating states that seek to reduce annual carbon emissions from 165 million tons to 91 million tons. The agreement also plans to enact a forest management carbon offset modeled after California's new program, but no details are yet available.

Blue Mountain Lake Steward patrols sensitive Forest Preserve islands each summer

The Blue Mountain Lake Steward is a project managed by PROTECT in partnership with the Blue Mountain Water-Watch group. The purpose of this program is for the Lake Steward to monitor public use of the campsites and day use areas on the islands and north shore of Blue Mountain Lake so that these sensitive natural resources are protected and enjoyed for the long-term. The Lake Steward explains Forest Preserve rules to campers about things such as no tree cutting.

The Lake Steward also monitors Blue Mountain Lake for the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and inspects the entire littoral zone of the lake each year. Blue Mountain is fortunate that there have not been any AIS found there. Emmy Held, pictured on the right, worked as the Blue Mountain Lake Steward in 2013.



Top: The Kelly Adirondack Center in Niskayuna. Middle: Climate change protest at the White House. Above: Emmy Held, the Blue Mountain Lake Steward in 2013.

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Adirondack Ecological Center
Adirondack White Lake Association



A quiet bay on beautiful Low's Lake.

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Protect the Adirondacks makes every effort to assure the accuracy of this list of generous donors. If you see an error on this list please bring it to our attention. Thank you very much.

2012-2013 Financial Summary

Assets	2012-13	2011-12
Cash	\$34,636	\$83,535
Grants Receivable	25,000	25,000
Property (Research Library/Office)	468,514	470,827
Cash (Designated)	112,845	112,845
Cash (Temporarily Restricted)	56,722	39,055
Investments - Unrestricted	5,000	5,000
Investments - Restricted	3,342	3,108
Mortgage Closing Costs		0
Security Deposit		700
Total Assets	\$706,059	\$740,070

Liabilities	2012-13	2011-12
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$37,555	\$48,601
Demand Notes Payable		0
Long-Term Debt		0
Total Liabilities	\$37,555	\$48,601

Expenses	2012-13	2011-12
Salaries	\$112,441	\$31,443
Payroll Expenses & Benefits	22,252	5,925
Contracted Services	4,203	26,741
Insurance	4,274	4,944
Occupancy Costs	6,451	3,324
Telephone	1,613	1,840
Supplies	2,112	2,794
Printing	18,915	7,983
Postage	14,853	6,196
Conferences & Events	1,627	1,382
Bank Charges	796	651
General Misc.	156	0
Advertising	12,135	0
Interest Expense	0	9,912
Dues & Subscriptions	716	1,756
Legal Defense	45,609	112,257
Professional Fees/Services	13,859	25,158
Travel	3,771	214
Website & Internet	16,220	3,620
Investment Fees	85	8,222
Program Expense	19,588	9,942
Repairs & Maintenance	0	136
Amortization	5,528	(8,544)
Total Expenses	307,204	\$272,984

Income	2012-13	2011-12
Contributions & Grants	\$196,244	\$230,717
Dues & Fees	\$50,119	29,734
Investment Income		600
Realized Gain on Sale of Investments		3,202
Realized Loss on Sale of Assets		0
Investment Holding Loss		49
Event Income	4,845	0
Lease Income		0
In-Kind Donations	15,940	0
Program Services	16,650	
Total Assets	\$260,425	\$264,302

Program, Administrative & Fundraising Expenses	2012-13	2011-12
Program Expenses	(76%) \$234,322	(85%) \$231,508
Administrative Expenses	(19%) 58,751	(7%) 18,856
Fundraising Expenses	(5%) 14,131	(8%) 22,620
Total Expenses	\$307,204	\$272,984

Notes

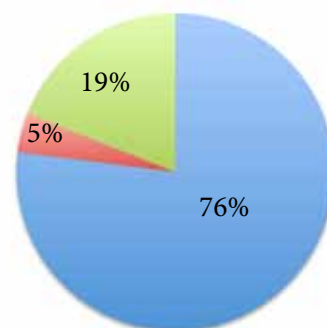
Protect the Adirondacks' fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30th.

An independent audit was prepared by Cusack & Company in Latham, New York.

All information reported in this summary is also available in PROTECT's NYS CHAR 5500 and federal 990 filed with the NYS Attorney General's Office.

The \$468,514 listed under Assets "Property" is the contents of the Adirondack Research Library on permanent loan to the Kelly Adirondack Center of Union College in Niskayuna, New York.

2012-2013 Total Resource Allocation



Administration 19%
Fundraising 5%
Programs 76%



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Save the Date: July 6, 2014 Annual Meeting at the Great Camp Sagamore

Special Guest: Judith Enck, EPA Region 3 Administrator, will speak about acid rain and climate change.

PROTECT is excited to announce that our 2014 annual meeting will be at the historic Great Camp Sagamore in Raquette Lake on Sunday July 6th. The day will include reports on PROTECT's activities, tours of historic Great Camp Sagamore, paddling on Sagamore Lake, children's nature programs, and a keynote speech by Judith Enck on federal clean air and climate change initiatives.

Registration is open on the PROTECT website. More information will be mailed.

Make sure the lake you love is being monitored

In partnership with the Adirondack Watersheds Institute at Paul Smith's College PROTECT manages the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondack Park. This year we had over 70 lakes and ponds enrolled in the Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program (ALAP)

ALAP provides good data for landowners, lake associations and local governments about the long-term water quality trends of specific lakes. Good science drives good public policy. PROTECT and its partner at the Adirondack Watersheds Institute are working to provide good data to public understanding about water quality.

Help build the membership of Protect the Adirondacks. Send info to family and friends

We need your help to build PROTECT's membership. Please send your friends and family to join us online at www.protectadks.org. Or, send us a recommendation and we'll mail out a membership package.

PROTECT is the environmental leader in the Adirondacks. We've taken the important and needed stands to protect the Adirondack Park and now we need you to stand with us. Join today.

Contact PROTECT at info@protectadks.org for more information on any of these subjects.



Protect the Adirondacks
PO Box 769
Lake George, NY 12845

Support Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks works to defend the forests and waters, Forest Preserve, and rural communities of the Adirondack Park. PROTECT continues to manage the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondacks, a sustainable forestry stewardship program, and an active research program. The stakes have never been higher for the natural resources and the public Forest Preserve across the Adirondack Park. Thank you for your support. PROTECT is deeply grateful.



Membership Information

PO Box 769 Lake George, NY 12845 info@protectadks.org protectadks.org

Payment

Please make **checks** payable to: Protect the Adirondacks! For **credit card** circle one:
VISA MasterCard American Express

Amount \$ _____

Card # _____

Name _____

Exp Date _____

CVV2 code (VISA/MC 3-digit on back)
or (AMEX 4-digit on front) _____

Please sign me up as a Monthly Sustainer.

Charge \$ _____ on the 1st of each month
to my credit card.

☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500
☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 Family ☐ \$50 Individual

Name(s)

Permanent Mailing Address

Adirondack Park Mailing Address

City State Zip City State Zip

Email Address Phone number Smartphone number

Signature

Thank you very much for your support!

My company _____ has a matching gifts program.

Become a Monthly Sustainer of PROTECT: A Great Way to Help the Adirondack Park

A great way to help Protect the Adirondacks is to join our Monthly Sustainer program. Sign up for a monthly credit card gift at the amount of your choice. This will ensure stalwart support year-round and help PROTECT meet the many challenges facing the Adirondack Park. This is a great way to give. Total gifts will be acknowledged at the end of each year. To become a Monthly Sustainer complete the credit card information above or go to the web address below. Thank you!

Contribute online at www.protectadks.org