

PROTECT THE ADIRONDACKS!

March 11, 2013

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NYSDEC Region 5
Rte 86, PO Box 296
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Judy Drabicki, Region 6 Director
NSYDEC Region 6
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

RE: Acquisition list for new Open Space Conservation Plan

Dear Regional Directors,

As the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) works to prepare a new draft revised Open Space Conservation Plan for public hearing, Protect the Adirondacks would like to share our thoughts. Below, please find our recommendations for the new plan.

1. No change to Region 5 & 6 priority lists. The lists from the last plan should remain, though we understand the Douglas Property is coming off by request of the landowner and legal actions as well as Mayes Pond, which was recently acquired by a private landowner. PROTECT continues to support inclusion of Whitney Park, Follensby Pond, Northern Rivers, among other stalwart projects.

2. Multi-Region Projects. PROTECT supports the continuation of the existing categories, such as Working Forests, Long Distance Trail Corridors, and Statewide Small Projects. We support a raise in the dollar amount of a "Small Project" as well as the acreage cap.

3. New Region 5 & 6 Projects. PROTECT supports three new Region 5 & 6 categories:

- Protection of riparian corridors and floodplains. This will help to mitigate impacts of severe weather and storms in the future.
- PROTECT also supports the creation of a new Region 5 & 6 project category for Access Enhancement for Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement Lands. The improvement of access to existing lands is of vital importance.

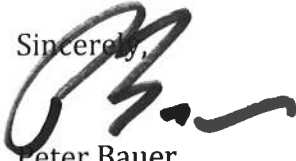
Protect the Adirondacks

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- Conservation Easements Recreational Rights. The overwhelming majority of conservation easements do not include public recreational rights. PROTECT supports a new project category whereby the state can purchase additional recreational rights easements over existing easement lands.

Thank you very much to considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bauer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Bauer
Executive Director