



Forest Preserve purchases are key to a wild and protected Park

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Cover picture is looking northeast from the Vanderwhacker Mountain firetower. Dear Members,

As you read this we're all in the middle of public hearings on the formal classification of the New York's newest Forest Preserve lands — the Boreas Ponds. The question is whether these lands will be classified as Wilderness, which prohibits motorized recreational uses, or Wild Forest, which allows motorized recreational uses. These are big questions, but it's important to bear in mind how far we have come. The most important thing was the protection of the Boreas Ponds by the Nature Conservancy and purchase of this 21,500-acre tract by the State of New York for the Forest Preserve. These lands became forever wild this year. Had these lands been sold to a private buyer they could have been commercially developed, subdivided



into building lots, or developed as a large resort. If that had happened, we would all be embroiled in an entirely different kind of public debate and very different public hearings.

The purchase of the Boreas Ponds by Governor Andrew Cuomo completed his commitment to purchase 69,000 acres that had been owned and managed as timberlands by Finch, Pruyn and Company since the Civil War. All of these lands have been added to the Forest Preserve. The Governor has also purchased other important new lands such as Cat Mountain and Thomas Mountain in Bolton, the Berry Pond tract on the flanks of Prospect Mountain above Lake George, and the Casey Brook tract north of Elk Lake.

The Cuomo land buys followed purchase of 95,000 acres of conservation easements by Governor David Paterson. Governor George Pataki famously protected over 700,000 acres through purchases of conservation easements and another 125,000 acres of new Forest Preserve lands. Governor Mario Cuomo purchased over 150,000 acres of new Forest Preserve lands and 100,000 acres of the state's first conservation easements. Governor Andrew Cuomo has ably continued this long and fine New York tradition of protecting vital lands and expanding the Forest Preserve. This bipartisan, multi-generational tradition has made the Forest Preserve one of New York's greatest accomplishments.

There are many who have worked on dozens of major state land purchases and we're grateful to the many players who made these land buys a reality. This has been terrific work.

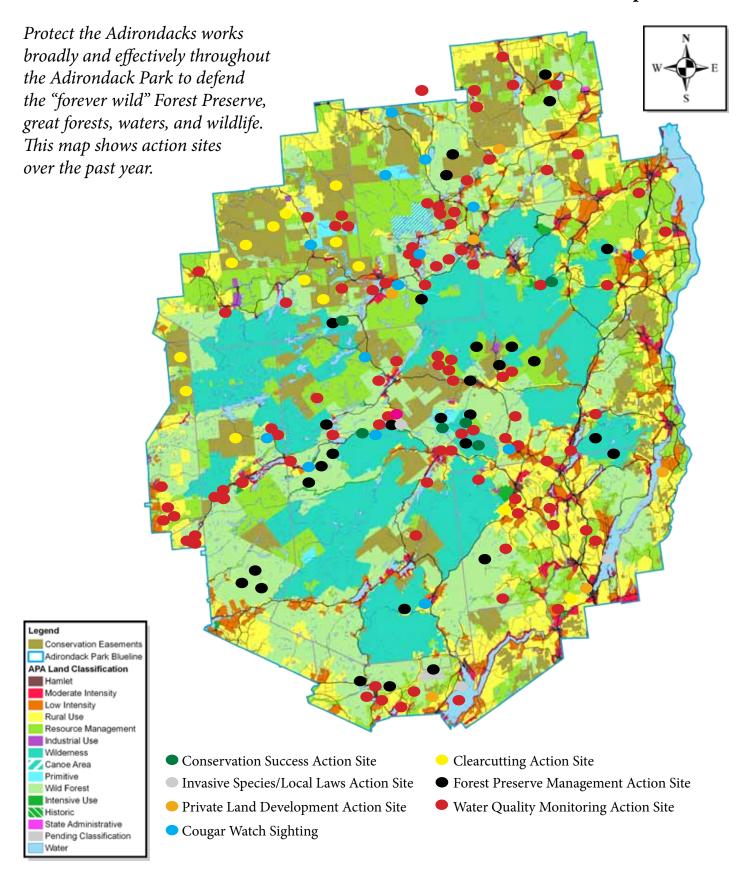
Each year, Protect the Adirondacks advocates for public land protection funding in the Environmental Protection Fund as part of the state's annual budget. We lobby legislators and promote the importance of different purchases and the benefits of public land protection. We lobby the Governor and state agencies for the purchase of specific lands. Widespread public support across the state for land protection in the Adirondack Park is a major reason why the State of New York has made such an amazing investment over the past three decades.

Beyond, land protection advocacy, this annual report is chock full of action and results. We've worked to uphold the forever wild provision, stop tree cutting on the Forest Preserve, defend wild rivers, and expand water quality monitoring, among other actions. We could not do this important work with out the support of our members. We're very grateful for your steadfast support. Your support keeps us going and helps defend and protect the Adirondack Park. Thank you.

-Chuck Clusen, Chair, Board of Directors



2015-2016 Protect the Adirondacks' Action Map





Membership survey says to defend the Forest Preserve, protect water quality, and expand Wilderness areas



Last spring, Protect the Adirondacks distributed a "Members Survey" along with invitations to our annual meeting. We received a response from about 8% of our members. This survey yielded good feedback from our members on both the work of Protect the Adirondacks and the major issues facing the Adirondack Park.

With all that is going on in the Adirondack Park right now, the Board works hard to allocate our limited resources in the most effective ways. We all agree that we wind up spending much of our time simply "fighting fires" as we respond to new and ongoing threats to the Adirondack Park and the Forest Preserve. We are concerned with setting the right priorities and saw this opportunity to take stock of the thoughts of our membership. The survey form was deliberately short, so people would take the time to fill it out, but also substantive, asking members what they thought of our work and the major challenges facing the Adirondacks.

We found the results very useful in a number of ways. First of all, we were very impressed with the depth of knowledge our membership has about Forest Preserve issues, which seem to be the passion point for many. The core values expressed in the survey reflect the goals of the organization: first and foremost defend and expand the Forest Preserve.

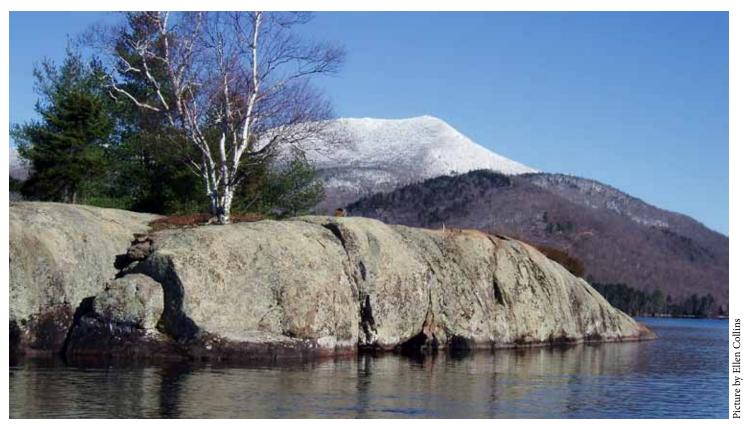
Second, the Board wanted to learn from differences of opinion within the organization. And there were differences. While some want to focus on the struggles with the Depart-

ment of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Adiron-dack Park Agency (APA) over wilderness areas, backcountry development and motorized use of the Forest Preserve, others were more concerned about the long-term impact of climate change on the Park. Other members expressed a concern about local economic development and balancing the needs of communities with these ecological goals.

There was some conflict in these positions as some members urged us to stay local, and not concern ourselves with broader issues, like climate change. Others members were concerned about invasive species, degraded water quality, and snowmobile use of the backcountry. All in all, these substantive comments covered a broad range of issues that provided important feedback from our membership that the Board takes into account and which we will use in the months ahead in our strategic planning.

One part of the survey asked members to rank the importance of a dozen different issues and challenges facing the Adirondack Park. The members voted that "Defense of the Forest Preserve" was the top priority of PROTECT. "Water quality monitoring and protection of clean water" came in a close second in importance. "Monitoring private land use and development" came in third. "Rebuilding the Adirondack Park Agency" and "Expansion of Wilderness areas" came in fourth and fifth. These selections affirmed our focus on these issues with our existing programs and conservation and advocacy work.





Some of our members wrote very supportive comments about the work that PROTECT has done: "You people are strong advocates". Others praised our "willingness to take uncompromising positions on issues affecting the Adirondacks." Others took us to task and we appreciate the disagreements as well. Some expressed opposition to any reintroduction of carnivores, others with our position against clearcutting on private forest lands. Some praised our aggressiveness in protection of the Park, while others thought we might be overly provocative and needed to reach out more to Park residents. Others were strongly supportive of our overall work and approaches, but thought that PROTECT needs better "marketing" of our message.

The Adirondack Park faces a complex range of issues, including matters that reasonable people might disagree on. Indeed, the Board has disagreements over some of these issues. We appreciate the views of our members and please remember that you do not need a survey in order to communicate your views of these issues directly to the Board and staff. Send us letters or emails any time.

One full time resident, who mirrors the majority of the respondents, when asked about the most significant environmental issues facing the Park, stated, "over development, climate change, and invasive species." He feels PROTECT's major strengths are "strong advocacy, sticking up for the Forest Preserve"; and our weakness, "lack of money."

When asked "What do you see as the barriers for expanding environmental protections for the Adirondack Park?" over half indicated political will, blaming local and state government (including the Cuomo Administration, the APA and DEC.) The call for more economic development was the second most prevalent reason, followed by poorly educated citizens and human indifference. The last two are tied together by one comment about barriers: "Poorly educated citizenry on the economic value of wilderness areas for the ecological services they provide."

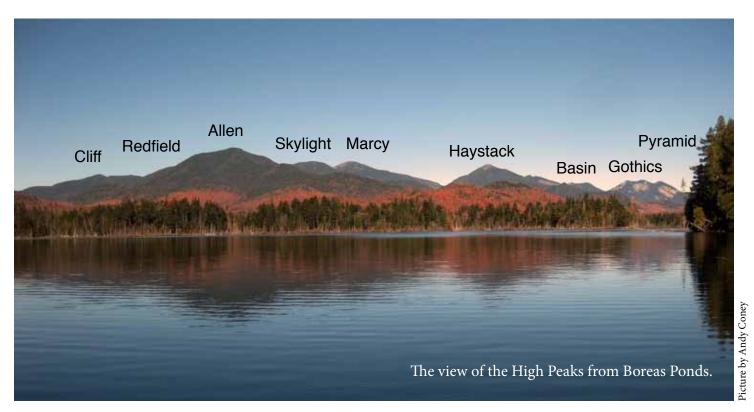
PROTECT is concerned with our use of litigation to protect the environment. When asked if this was an effective strategy, over 90% said "yes", some with caveats, such as "If you think you have a good case", "perhaps dollars better spent in education and training", and "Yes, if used carefully, and communicated to the public very, very clearly." This last issue was indicated in a number of ways, directed toward making our case to the residents and visitors and to local government.

We read every survey and discussed them at Board meetings. This survey is one important tool to help with a strategic planning process that is currently underway. PROTECT is working on a short-term 3-year strategic plan to expand staffing, our budget and membership, and our overall impact on Adirondack issues. The Adirondack Park will always face serious challenges and it's important to sustain and grow the voice of Protect the Adirondacks.



The work of protecting the Adirondack Park and defending the "forever wild" Forest Preserve never stops.

In the last year, Protect the Adirondacks played a key role in many of the major issues and challenges facing the Adirondack Park the Forest Preserve.



Each year, the Adirondack Park is confronted by a range of challenges. The Park's complex landscape of a great unbroken forest dotted with small rural communities presents numerous issues each year, some new and many enduring. Unfortunately, beautiful and wild places are never safe and secure forever, but always under threat. Scientists tell us that disturbances, such as wind, rain, snow and ice, fire, and a changing climate, among other things, drive ecological changes in the forest and other natural systems. The Adirondack Park landscape is also changed by the decisions that humans make such as where we build houses. place roads, or purchase and add lands to the forever wild Forest Preserve, among others. These decisions are driven by elected leaders, state agencies, and local governments and various organizations that work to work to protect the Park's environment, build communities, or strengthen the local economy.

In the past year, Protect the Adirondacks has worked to take advantage of opportunities to advance environmental protections and to stand firm on matters where the wild places and natural resources of the Adirondacks are threatened. We work on a variety of issues to protect the forests and waters of the Adirondack Park. We defended Article XIV, the forever wild provision, of the state constitution, against plans to clear scores of acres and build many miles of road-like trails through the Forest Preserve. We're working on the classification of new Forest Preserve lands, including



Peter Bauer

the newly purchased Boreas Ponds, to make sure that these lands are protected and classified to manage public recreational use that is appropriate and does not damage the resources. We worked to stop motorized incursions and trespasses on the Forest Preserve, to stop oil trains from storing dirty oil tanker cars on rail lines that cut through the





Forest Preserve, and to protect wildlife such as coyotes and bobcats. We worked to defend the Park's wild rivers, to reform and modernize the Adirondack Park Agency Act to improve regulation of large subdivisions, and we worked with local communities to expand broadband access and meet community needs for management of highways and utilities. We also manage the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondack Park in partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College.

Here are the highlight of our work to protect the Adirondack Park and defend the Forest Preserve over the past year.

Historic Expansion of the Forest Preserve: Earlier this year, the Nature Conservancy transferred the 21,500-acre Boreas Pond tract to the State of New York. This was the final transfer of 69,000 acres of former Finch, Pruyn and Company lands, which Governor Andrew Cuomo committed to purchase in 2012. The Boreas Ponds tract will be combined with over 15,000 acres of other newly purchased lands in a massive 54,000-acre official Forest Preserve classification public hearing in November-December of 2016. Final decisions on classification of these lands will be made by state agencies in early 2017.

Protect the Adirondacks is advocating for a comprehensive classification package of 29,000 acres of Wilderness, 14,000 acres of Wild Forest, and reclassification of over 9,000 acres of Wild Forest to Wilderness. There is roughly

10,000 acres of non-controversial classifications. PRO-TECT is working to organize public comments in support of classifying the entire shoreline of the Boreas Ponds as Wilderness and adding these lands to the High Peaks Wilderness area. We believe that the Gulf Brook Road should be retained to provide public access via two carries to the Boreas Ponds. PROTECT is also advocating for over 10,000 acres on the flanks of Santanoni Mountain and another containing over 4 miles of the Opalescent River to be added to the High Peaks Wilderness.

West Stony Creek Wilderness Area: In the southern Adirondacks, west of Northville, PROTECT is advocating for a new 12,000-acre West Stony Creek Wilderness area. This new wilderness area would include 3,000 acres of newly purchased Forest Preserve lands and over 9,000 acre of current roadless Forest Preserve lands in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest area. This 9,000 acre tract contains old growth forests, steep slopes, a number of 1,500-foothigh mountains, and wetlands. The two tracts combined contain over 7 miles of the West Stony Creek river corridor, which is classified as "Scenic" under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The newly purchased also lands contain a vast wetland complex. We're working to make sure that the proposal for a new West Stony Creek Wilderness area gets a fair hearing in the upcoming public hearing.

PROTECT's website has full descriptions and action steps





for the current public hearing on the classification of the Boreas Ponds tract, among other lands, and the West Stony Creek Wilderness; go to www.protectadks.org. We're urging members to submit letters by December 30, 2016.

Defending Article XIV, the "Forever Wild" Provision of the State Constitution: Throughout the last year, Protect the Adirondacks has continued to build our lawsuit to uphold Article XIV, the forever wild provision of the NYS Constitution, against plans by the State of New York to build a network of road-like trails that destroy tens of thousands of trees and clear scores of acres. We believe that this trail network, due to the acres cleared and trees destroyed, requires a constitutional amendment and should not have been undertaken solely by state agencies. The framers of the forever wild provision were quite clear that they intended to put major decisions about the future use of the Forest Preserve in the hands of the people and not politicians or state administrative agencies or bureaucrats who could be susceptible to political pressures. The framers believed that major decisions about the use of the Forest Preserve should be subject to approval by the people.

This past year, PROTECT has focused on putting experts in the field to document the impacts and level of tree cutting from construction of new 9-12 foot wide class II community connector snowmobile trails. We have also worked to win injunctions against tree cutting and trail building on these trails until the case has been resolved.

During the 2015 and 2016 field seasons, PROTECT put experts in the field to count trees that were cut down on recently constructed trails. We photographed over 12,000 tree stumps on trails in the Moose River Plains, Vanderwhacker Mountain, and Wilmington Wild Forest areas. We also documented numerous places where trails changed the wild forest character of the Forest Preserve due to construction work by state agencies to widen trails, cut down trees, build enormous bridges capable of holding multi-ton vehicles, and to change terrain with extensive bench cutting into side slopes and grading trail surfaces flat. We also documented instances where new trails have experienced erosion, become infested with invasive species, and where trails have become vast long grassy fields, starkly different from the surrounding forests. In several instances, state agencies built these trails, or have proposed to build trails, through old growth forests, something that the state failed to take into account during its planning.

This fall, attorneys for PROTECT have submitted a series of filings and replies on this case, all of which are posted on our website. There will be oral arguments in December on a motion for summary judgement by the state. A trial has been set for March 2017.

This summer, PROTECT's attorneys were successful in stopping tree cutting on the Forest Preserve. While the state cut out over 4 miles of new trails in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, between Newcomb and Minerva,





we won injunctions for most of July and August and stopped tree cutting for the season in September. These temporary injunctions were successful in keeping over 8,000 trees standing in the Forest Preserve. PROTECT's field work has documented the scope of potential damage to the Forest Preserve. So far the state has completed or cut out over 20 miles of these road-like trails. Another 16 miles or more have also been approved. Our field work found that if the state builds over 36 miles of trails approved to date this will result in cutting down over 31,000 trees and clearing over 50 acres of Forest Preserve lands. No other Forest Preserve recreational activity has resulted in this level of land clearing unless it was approved through a constitutional amendment, such as building Gore Mountain and Whiteface Mountain Ski Areas.

Protect the Adirondacks strongly believes that the stakes are high and that the future of Article XIV, Section 1, the forever wild provision of the state constitution, is on the line. If state agencies can clear 50 acres, and that's just a start, of Forest Preserve lands and cut down over 30,000 trees to create a new recreational motor vehicle network, then any number of new and destructive uses could be allowed. It's vital that we continue to build our case and win this lawsuit.

Defending Wild Rivers in the Central Adirondacks: In another legal action, PROTECT has gone to court to defend wild rivers in the central Adirondacks. This stems

from the Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Essex Chain Lakes area that was approved in 2015 by state agencies to authorize a new bridge to be built over the Cedar River and retention of the Polaris Bridge over the Hudson River. Both will be used as part of a new class II community connector snowmobile trail that connects the hamlets of Indian Lake and Minerva.

The locations of both bridges are designated as "Scenic River" corridors under the NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. Scenic rivers prohibit use of motor vehicles for public trails and limit trail widths, and by extension bridge widths, to just four feet. State regulations prohibit motorized recreational uses in Scenic River corridors. These lands had been owned for nearly 150 years by the timber company Finch, Pruyn and Company. During these years, these lands were used for forest management and hunting and fishing clubs through exclusive recreational leases. These activities relied upon extensive use of motor vehicles. The state is arguing that the historic motorized uses that occurred on these lands somehow exempt new public motorized uses in Scenic River corridors from the Rivers Act prohibitions. We disagree with this interpretation of the law and filed this lawsuit to keep public motorized recreation out of designated Scenic River corridors.

As part of this lawsuit, we're also challenging the decision by the state to retain the Chain Lakes Road South as public motor vehicle road. More than 1 mile of this road is





within a designated "Wild River" corridor, where the road borders a stretch of the Hudson River. The Rivers Act states that a 1-mile corridor, .5 miles on each side, of classified Wild Rivers are to be managed as Wilderness. Motor vehicle uses are allowed on private lands within Wild River corridors for certain activities, such as forest management. Motor vehicle uses are specifically prohibited in Wild River corridors on public lands.

PROTECT is being represented in this lawsuit by Earthjustice and is joined by Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve. Oral arguments have been made in this case and we're currently awaiting a decision, which is likely to be issued in 2017. This decision will determine how rivers across the Adirondack Park and New York are managed under the Wild. Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act.

State Acts to Weaken Forest Preserve Protections:

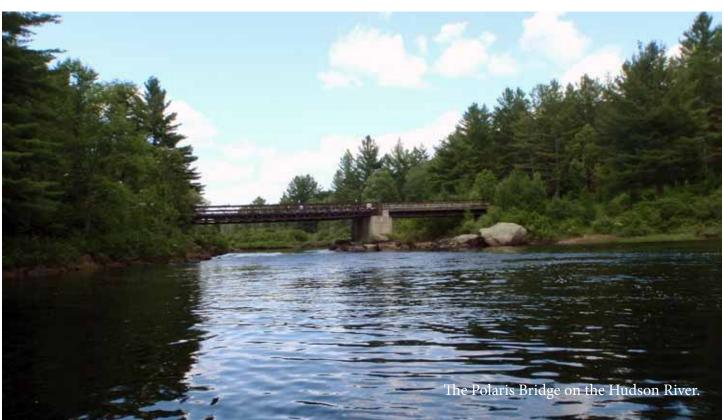
For this first time in the 45-year history of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), it acted to weaken, not strengthen, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the rulebook that sets management policy for the Forest Preserve. Though public comments were overwhelmingly in opposition to these changes, the APA voted to amend the Master Plan to allow motorized uses for state management and public bicycle use in Forest Preserve areas classified as Primitive, which are supposed to be managed the same as Wilderness. This marked a major step backwards for management of the Forest Preserve. PROTECT vigorously op-

posed this decision by the Adirondack Park Agency and the Cuomo Administration, but they were intent on finding ways to expand motorized access in the Essex Chain Lakes area, even if it meant changing the rules to do it.

Defending Wildlife: Last spring, PROTECT worked to oppose legislation to allow snares to be used in New York to trap coyotes and other canids. These snares are called "live cable restraints" and involve use of steel cable noose to capture coyotes, which are then constrained. As the animal tries to free itself, the noose gets tighter. While trappers that use snares would be required to check traps every 24 hours, many would go unchecked for days. In states where this snares are allowed, animals are found dead or with severe damage to paws, necks, and mouths. Animals that are unintended targets also suffer injuries during captivity. The State Senate passed this bill in routine fashion last spring, but the State Assembly opposed it and let it die in committee. We expect this legislation to be reintroduced in 2017 and we will work to defeat it.

Defending against ATV Abuse in the Southern Adirondacks: Protect the Adirondacks challenged a local law, in partnership with local residents, passed by the Town of Ohio in the southwest Adirondacks to open a series of town roads to All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). These types of laws are often passed in Adirondack and North Country towns and violate state law. Once this lawsuit was filed, the Town of Ohio rescinded its law.





Successful Legislative Action in 2016: Adirondack issues figured prominently at the close of the state Legislative session in the spring of 2016. Protect the Adirondacks worked on three issues involving Article XIV constitutional amendments, appointments to the APA Board, and new legislation to require conservation design standards for large subdivisions in the Adirondacks. Our efforts helped to improve these measures and advance protections for the Adirondack Park.

In June, the State Legislature passed a new draft constitutional amendment for Article XIV, Section 1, that authorizes three actions. First, the amendment would allow location of utilities and bike trails within state highway corridors that are bordered by Forest Preserve. Second, the amendment would do the same for town and county highway corridors. Third, the amendment would create a 250-acre "health and safety land account" accessible to local communities in the Adirondack and Catskill parks for maintenance of local roads and utilities where lands outside the highway corridor need to be removed from the Forest Preserve. This amendment is important for expansion of broadband service in the Adirondacks. The "health and safety land account" could also be used for the location and construction of wells to support municipal water supplies.

Legislative approval of this draft amendment constituted "1st passage" of a new constitutional amendment. "2nd passage" would take place in the next successive Legisla-

ture, most likely in 2017. The amendment would then need to be approved by the voters in a general election referendum, again most likely in November 2017. If passed, the amendment will likely require legislative approval of an administrative plan in 2018 or thereafter. The health and safety land account of 250 acres will need to be replaced by purchase of new Forest Preserve lands.

There were two major issues that drove this new amendment. The first was the need to resolve legal issues for state and local highways that traverse the Forest Preserve in order to locate utilities on roadsides, such as broadband. There have been some instances where highway corridors were inaccessible for new utility uses. The second major issue was the need to improve how local governments maintain local highways. In 1957, a constitutional amendment was passed to provided a 400 acre "land bank" for the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) to utilize for management and maintenance of state highways in the Adirondacks. To date, the DOT has used about 250 acres for various highway maintenance operations where they needed to go outside the legal highway corridor into the Forest Preserve. The new amendment creates a similar program for local roads. This is for legally recognized local roads and not for things like the Crane Pond Road or the West River Road that illegally extend into Wilderness areas. PROTECT believes that this amendment meets the critical needs of local communities throughout the Adirondacks and Catskills, while protecting the Forest Preserve.





Township 40 Amendment Set to be Completed: The State Legislature approved legislation in the spring of 2016 to begin implementation of the Township 40 agreement authorized through a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2013. This amendment authorized resolution of longstanding conflict of ownership of over 100 properties around Raquette Lake. These lands had existed under clouded title for decades, with both the state and private landowners claiming title. Over the years, 10 different lawsuits failed to resolve all issues, though they did clear title for some state lands and some private lands.

Under the terms of this legislation, all participating landowners must assent to a process administered by the NYS Attorney General and pay a settlement fee. These funds will establish a fund at the Town of Long Lake that will be used to help purchase new Forest Preserve lands. This process is expected to be completed in 2017. The state has also committed to purchasing the 200-acre Marion River Carry tract that connects the Marion River to Utowana Lake and the Eckford Chain.

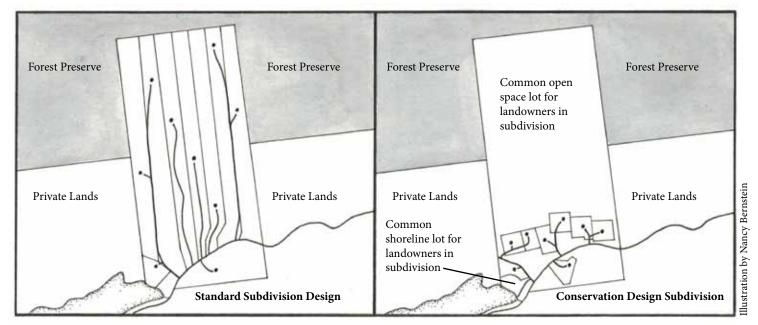
Three New APA Board Members Seated: In June, Governor Cuomo appointed Sherman Craig, from Cranberry Lake, as the new Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Board. Lani Ulrich of Old Forge stepped down after more than 10 years of service. Three new appointments to the APA Board were also made by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the APA Board in June. Under state law, three

APA Board members represent state agencies, five must be residents of the Adirondack Park, and three are residents of counties outside the Adirondack Park.

The three appointments include two from outside the Adirondack Park, including Dr. Chad Dawson, a retired professor from SUNY-ESF, who resides in Onondaga County, and John Ernst from New York County, who also owns the Elk Lodge and Elk Lake Reserve in North Hudson. Both have a long track record in Adirondack conservation matters. One in-Park seat was filled with Barbara Rice of Saranac Lake (Franklin County), owner of Rice's Furniture and active in Village of Saranac Lake and Franklin County government. Outspoken environmental leader Richard Booth resigned his seat on the APA Board in June.

Reforming the APA Act to Require Conservation Design Standards for Large Subdivisions: In June, Steve Englebright, chairman of the Assembly Conservation Committee, introduced legislation to amend and update the Adirondack Park Agency Act to require Conservation Design standards for large subdivisions subject to APA review. This amendment would require a new system to evaluate, plan, and approve large subdivisions starting with a comprehensive ecological inventory. The ecological study would ensure that all important natural resources and wild-life habitat are identified. Building lots, roads, power lines, among other structures, would need to be designed in a way that protects these important natural features. Building





Pictures on the left (clockwise) show a coyote caught on a trail camera in the Champlain Valley, utility lines on a state highway bordering Forest Preserve, APA Headquarters, the Raquette Lake Fire House, a parcel provided clear title under the Township 40 Amendment. Above a before and after map of a subdivision utilizing conservation design. Note how conservation design minimizes roads, clusters house lots, and creates common lots for lake access and open space.

lots would be clustered and new infrastructure would avoid critical environmental areas. Conservation Design is widely used across New York and the U.S. This would mark the most substantial change to the APA Act since 1973.

Expanding the Largest Water Quality Monitoring Program in the Adirondack Park: Protect the Adirondacks has long recognized the threats to water quality throughout the Adirondack Park, largely a consequence of intensive shoreline development and stormwater pollution from roads. 2016 saw completion of the 19th year of the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP), a "citizen science" water quality monitoring project jointly managed in a partnership between PROTECT and the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College. PROTECT manages the water sampling by dozens of volunteers. AWI developed the scientific protocol used by volunteers, analyzes the samples and compiles the reports, which are posted on the PROTECT website. Most of the lakes and ponds that are monitored are done so through a lake association or community group.

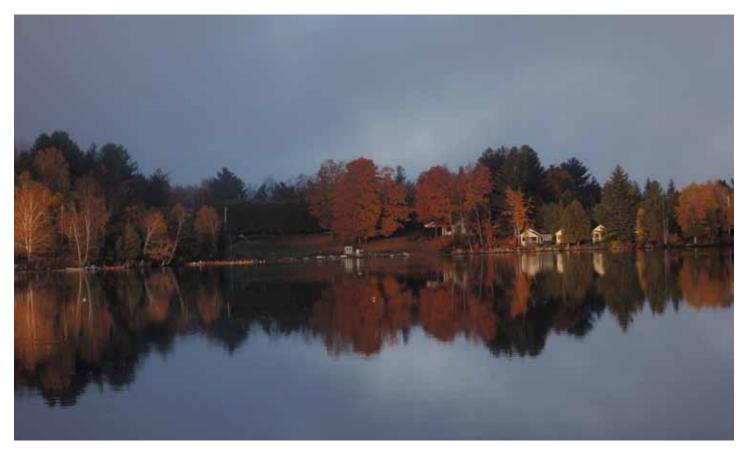
Established in 1998, ALAP has grown to one of the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondack Park. Under ALAP, over 70 lakes and ponds were studied in 2016. ALAP tests for a variety of leading water quality parameters including pH, alkalinity, calcium, calcite saturation index, total phosphorus, cholorophyll-a, Secchi disk transparency, nitrate, chloride, conductivity, color,

and aluminum. Results from analysis of these parameters inform volunteers and lake associations about short- and long-term water quality trends. 2017 marks the 20th year of the ALAP. There are openings in 2017 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.

Looking Ahead to 2017: We're looking ahead to a full agenda in 2017. We'll face major decisions on the classification of Forest Preserve lands, a full house of legislative action where our top priority is amending the APA Act to require Conservation Design standards for large subdivisions, and we'll work hard to sustain and complete legal challenges. We're also monitoring new Forest Preserve and Adirondack Park planning efforts, such as the Great South Woods project and the hut-to-hut hiking and lodging plan, as well as major development projects.

Protect the Adirondacks is deeply grateful for the stalwart support of our members. We could not advocate for a wild Adirondack Park without your support. The work of protecting and defending the great forests and waters of the Adirondack Park and the forever wild Forest Preserve is continuous day after week after month after year. The grassroots advocacy voice of Protect the Adirondacks is vital to the major decisions facing the Adirondack Park. We working to get as many people involved as we can and bring the voices of thousands to the debate over the future and work of protecting the Adirondack Park.





Lakes and Ponds Enrolled in the Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program in 2016

Adirondack Lake Amber Lake **Arbutus Pond** Augur Lake Austin Pond **Balfour Lake** Big Moose Lake Blue Mountain Lake Brandreth Lake **Butternut Pond** Canada Lake Caroga Lake (East) Caroga Lake (West) Catlin Lake Chapel Pond Chase Lake Chateaugay Lake (Lower) Chateaugay Lake (Upper) Chazy Lake

Eli Pond Fern Lake Frank Pond Garnet Lake Gull Pond Hewitt Pond Hoel Pond Indian Lake (Franklin Cty) Indian Lake (Hamilton Cty) Iordan Lake Kiwassa Lake Lake Abanakee Lake Clear Lake Colby Lake Durant Lake Eaton Lake Flower Lake of the Pines Lake Titus Lens Lake Little Long Lake Long Lake Long Pond

Loon Lake (Warren Cty) Lower Saranac Lake Lower St. Regis Lake Middle Saranac Lake Mink Pond Moss Lake Mountain View Lake Osgood Pond Otter Pond Oven Mountain Pond Paradox Lake Pine Lake Pleasant Lake Raquette Lake Rich Lake Rondaxe Lake Schroon Lake Sherman Lake Silver Lake

Loon Lake (Franklin Cty)

Stoney Creek Ponds
Sylvia Lake
Thirteenth Lake
Tripp Lake
Trout Lake
Tupper Lake
Tupper Lake
Upper Cascade Lake
Upper St. Regis Lake
White Lake
Wolf Lake

(The reports for all ALAP lakes are available online on PROTECT's website www.protectadks.org.)

Simon Pond

Spitfire Lake

Star Lake

Cranberry Lake

Dug Mountain Pond

Deer Lake

Eagle Lake





Save the Date: July 15, 2017 for the Annual Meeting for Protect the Adirondacks

Mark your calendars for Saturday July 15, 2017 for the Protect the Adirondacks Annual Meeting. More details and the meeting location will be forthcoming. The annual meeting is where members meet the Board of Directors, vote for new directors, and get an updates on PROTECT's financials and programs. The highlight is the conservation and advocacy report as well as a hike or paddle. It's a fun day, so mark your calendars and set an alarm on your smartphone.



PROTECT welcomes Marilyn DuBois and Roger Gray to the Board of Directors

Protect the Adirondacks is very pleased to welcome Marilyn DuBois and Roger Gray as new members of our Board of Directors. Marilyn Murphy DuBois lives in Glenville. Marilyn has been a long-time advocate for protection of the environment, promoting energy conservation and renewable resources, public health protection and historic preservation. She has devoted much of her 55 year career to these causes, including positions as the Executive Director and Lobbyist for the Environmental Planning Lobby (now Environmental Advocate), Conservation Director of the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Deputy Director of the NYS Assembly Legislative Commission on Science and Technology, Chief of the DEC Pesticide Management Bureau, and the NYS Assembly Commissions on Solid Waste Management and Toxic Substances/ Hazardous Wastes. She retired at the end of 2014, but not from environmental activism. She and her family have hiked, skied, camped, sailed, kayaked and vacationed in the Adirondacks for most of their lives.

Roger Gray lives Albany, but has been a regular at Silver Lake where his family owns a camp. Roger recently retired from a career working for the NYS Commission for the Blind. He also worked for a variety of other human service state agencies. He has been a longtime activist with the Sierra Club, coordinating its Adirondack Committee for a number of years. He has worked as a licensed Ski Instructor at Gore Mountain and has wondered far and wide through the wild places in the Adirondacks.







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Protect the Adirondacks makes every effort to assure the accuracy of this list of generous donors. This list is for donors from July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. If you see an error on this list please bring it to our attention. Thank you very much for your support.



2015-2016 Financial Summary

Assets	2015-16	2014-15
Cash	\$16,321	\$22,085
Grants Receivable	13,750	15,000
Property (Research Library/Office)	450,965	456,814
Cash (Designated)	96,460	96,201
Cash (Temporarily Restricted)	67,346	46,705
Investments - Unrestricted	18,754	19,671
Investments - Restricted	3,559	3,726
Total Assets	\$667,155	\$660,202

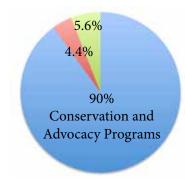
Liabilities	2015-16	2014-15
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$7,000	\$5,871
Long-Term Debt	0	0
Total Liabilities	\$7,000	\$5,871

Revenues	2015-16	2014-15
Contributions & Grants	\$195,222	\$183,872
Dues & Fees	57,142	54,239
Investment Income	368	81
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(294)	7
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(615)	46
Event Income	3,970	280
In-Kind Donations	129,055	49,522
Program Services	20,825	18,975
Miscellaneous	1,246	1,140
Total Income	\$406,919	\$308,162

Program, Administrative & Fundraising Expenses	2015-16	2014-15
Program Expenses	(90%) \$361,387	(90%) \$272,092
Administrative Expenses	(5.6%) \$21,944	(6%) \$18,432
Fundraising Expenses	(4.4%) \$17,764	(4%) \$12,643
Total Expenses	\$401,095	\$303,167

Expenses	2015-16	2014-15
Salaries	\$112,538	\$114,430
Payroll Expenses & Benefits	24,905	21,812
Contracted Services	2,773	4,370
Insurance	5,387	5,598
Occupancy Costs	6,900	6,900
Telephone	1,187	1,222
Supplies	1,746	3,845
Printing	21,626	14,767
Postage	11,996	7,090
Conferences & Events	5,208	9,917
Bank Charges	1,239	939
Advertising	3,699	3,455
Dues & Subscriptions	338	200
Legal Defense	148,054	50,646
Professional Fees & Services	9,845	12,537
Travel	6,172	3,249
Website & Technology Services	8,316	7,998
Investment Fees	505	474
Program Expense	21,774	26,590
Miscellaneous	1,038	1,278
Amortization	5,849	5,850
Total Expenses	\$401,095	\$303,167

2015-16 Total Resource Allocation



Administration 5.6% Fundraising 4.4% Programs 90%

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 500 and Federal 990 filed with the NYS Attorney General's Office.

The \$450,965 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.



Help Defend Forever Wild

The "trail" above is one stretch of over 36 miles that have been constructed, cleared, or planned by state agencies that manage the "forever wild" Forest Preserve. The state is working to build a network of these "class II community connector snowmobile trails" across the Forest Preserve. These trails will see over 31,000 trees cut down, over 50 acres cleared of all trees, and many miles graded flat with heavy machinery. The picture above shows a typical stretch of this new trail network.

The stakes are high. The future of the "forever wild" Forest Preserve is on the line. Protect the Adirondacks is challenging the legality of this trail network. We believe that these trails violate Article 14, Section 1, the forever wild provi-

sion of the state constitution, due to the immense amount of tree cutting, land clearing, and massive changes to forestlands and terrain. There have been few lawsuits over the years to uphold Constitutional protections for the Forest Preserve, but this lawsuit is an important and necessary action. This lawsuit is the only thing standing in the path of plans to build hundreds of miles of new road-like "trails" through wild parts of the Forest Preserve.

We need your help today to protect and defend forever wild from expanded motorized uses. It's vital that we make this stand now to protect the Forest Preserve. Please use the envelope enclosed or the form on the back cover to make a contribution to help save the forever wild Forest Preserve.



Protect the Adirondacks PO Box 769 Lake George, NY 12845



Special appeal to protect Forever Wild: Please help now

Please make a special contribution today to help defend our "forever wild" Forest Preserve from a massive expansion of motorized recreational uses. State leaders and agencies are administering the greatest expansion of motorized use in the Forest Preserve in its history as they work to build a network of road-like snowmobile trails.

Protect the Adirondacks has gone to court to challenge the state's plans, which we believe violate the State Constitution. This is a critical moment in Forest Preserve history and if this expansion of motorized uses is not contained, the Forest Preserve will endure long-lasting natural resource damage. Please help with a generous contribution today.

PROTECT ////////. THE ADIRONDACKS!

Yes! I want to help protect Forever Wild

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