

A scenic landscape photograph of a lake with mountains in the background and trees in the foreground. The lake is a deep blue, with some ripples on the surface. In the background, there are several mountain peaks, some with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The foreground is filled with dense evergreen and deciduous trees, some with autumn-colored leaves. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**The case for compromise on the
classification of the Boreas Ponds Tract.**



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September 21, 2017

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: The case for compromise on the classification of the Boreas Ponds Tract. All sides could get what they most want and need. Governor Cuomo needs to be able to say "no" to impractical ideas.

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The decision that stands before you on the classification of the Boreas Ponds tract is one of the biggest that you will make in the Adirondack Park. All indications from the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) point to you ultimately making this call. At the July 11th meeting on the Common Ground Alliance in Inlet, New York, Venetia Lannon on your staff addressed the assembled crowd and spoke about her recent tour of the Boreas Ponds and stated that after seeing these extraordinary lands that she was determined that the State of New York gets this classification "right."

Unfortunately, all indications point to you getting it wrong at Boreas Ponds.

If you make the wrong call at the Boreas Ponds it will likely set up a sequence of events similar to what we saw with the Essex Chain Lakes classification where a poor classification begot a flawed Unit Management Plan, which begot the first changes in 45 years to weaken, not strengthen, environmental protections in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. It's quite likely that this sequence of events will be repeated with the classification of the Boreas Ponds where environmental laws that have stood the test of time will need to be subverted to allow poor management decisions.

We urge you to show the leadership and strength that dares to compromise.

Protect the Adirondacks

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The failure of the Essex Chain Lakes classification is born out in the low attendance numbers of those who visit and camp on these lands. In many ways, your decision to cram as many incongruent public and administrative uses into the Essex Chain Lakes area – mountainbiking, canoeing, hiking, DEC patrolling in motor vehicles, and the public driving their cars to the heart of the Essex Chain under a first-come-first-serve permit system (not for disabled people, but anyone) – has alienated people from visiting this area because they simply do not know what to expect once they get there. Few want to undertake the effort of driving on a challenging road to reach the Essex Chain Lakes and the carry one's boat on two carries only to be greeted by a DEC staffer in a truck, bike riders on "The Tube" (a large culvert between Fifth-Sixth Lakes, which should have been removed and the navigable channel between the lakes restored), or others who drove their cars to a parking area within a baseball throw of the lakes.

Public use of the Essex Chain of Lakes area is anemic and dwarfed by places where the public knows that if they put in the effort they'll be rewarded with a wild experience at places like Lake Lila, Little Tupper Lake, Round Lake, Low's Lake, the Oswegatchie River, among others.

Please revisit your assumptions on how the Forest Preserve should be classified. Please reject the bad advice that you are getting from staff at the DEC. Please do not double down on failed policies and repeat at the Boreas Ponds the mistakes you made at the Essex Chain of Lakes.



Third Lake, Essex Chain Lakes

The case for compromise for the one viable classification option that gives multiple stakeholders their highest priorities.

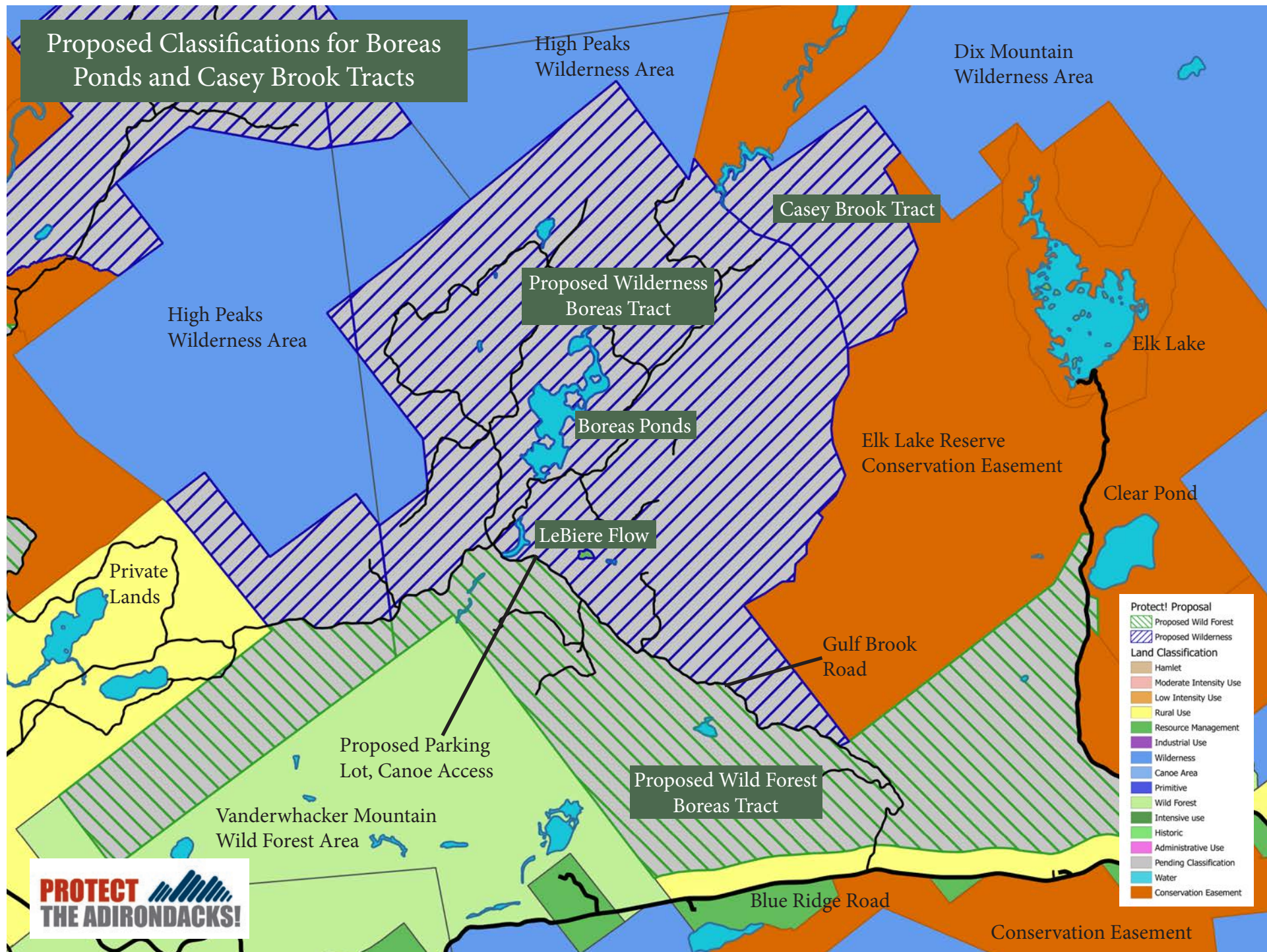
There is a compromise that would work for Boreas Ponds, but a basic formula for a compromise is saying “no” as much as saying “yes” and from what we have observed you and your staff at the DEC have put far more effort into saying “no” to Wilderness and “yes” to motorized uses. The chart below frames a viable compromise, which will only happen with your leadership.

Benefits to Local Government Leaders and Motorized Recreational Users	Benefits to the Environmental Community and Non-Motorized Recreational Users
1. Gulf Brook Road open to motor vehicles to LeBiere Flow.	1. Motorless Boreas Ponds.
2. Wild Forest lands around and south of Gulf Brook Road and Boreas Road.	2. Wilderness lands north of the Gulf Brook Road.
3. Class II Community Connector Snowmobile Trail connection to North Hudson using Boreas Road/Gulf Brook Road.	3. Drive-in access to LeBiere Flow for canoe launch. No public motor vehicle use beyond LeBiere Flow.
4. Mountain biking routes on Gulf Brook Road/Boreas Road and areas south of Gulf Brook Road.	4. No mountain bike trails in Wilderness areas north of Boreas Ponds.
5. Gulf Brook Road/Boreas Road accessible during hunting season.	5. No public buildings for rent, etc., at Boreas Ponds, no Intensive Use area.
6. Retention of cabin at 4 Corners.	6. Removal of Boreas Ponds lodge (done).
7. Opportunity for designated car camping sites along Gulf Brook Road in Wild Forest areas.	7. Opportunity for primitive camping sites around Boreas Ponds in Wilderness areas.
8. Primitive corridor from LeBiere Flow to Boreas Ponds Dam for maintenance/CP-3 access.	

The compromise suggested here is detailed on the map enclosed. We note that this compromise position is the same as that proposed by The Nature Conservancy. The compromise classifies new Forest Preserve lands as Wilderness and other new Forest Preserve lands as Wild Forest. There are at last nine key features to note in the proposed compromise:

1. Whereas some environmental leaders call for all new Forest Preserve lands, and large tracts of existing Wild Forest lands, to be classified as Wilderness, the compromise proposes to use the Gulf Brook (actually areas 500 feet north of it) as the proposed boundary between Wild Forest (south) and Wilderness (north). The compromise does not seek to reclassify any portions of existing Wild Forest areas.
2. Whereas some local government leaders call for dirt roads throughout the Boreas Ponds tract, including a loop around Boreas Ponds and to White Lilly Pond, to be opened for mountain bike use, the compromise calls for limiting mountain bike use to the Gulf Brook Road, Boreas Road, and trails south of the Gulf Brook Road.
3. Whereas some environmental leaders do not provide any viable options, some even refus-

Proposed Classifications for Boreas Ponds and Casey Brook Tracts



PROTECT THE ADIRONDACKS!

ing to consider the issue, of routing a new class II community connector snowmobile trail through the Boreas lands, the proposed compromise calls for utilizing the Boreas Road and Gulf Brook Road as the snowmobile trail linking Newcomb/Minerva and North Hudson. Utilizing the existing road infrastructure allows this trail to be built in a way that does not harm the Forest Preserve or violate Article XIV.

4. Whereas some environmental leaders calls for closing the entire Gulf Brook Road to motor vehicles, the compromise calls for keeping the Gulf Brook Road open to public motor vehicle use from the Blue Ridge Highway six miles to LeBiere Flow. (We also encourage the APA-DEC to explore special provisions to allow motor vehicle use beyond LeBiere Flow on the Boreas Road during the fall hunting season.)
5. Whereas few proposals contemplate the location and needs for a designated CP-3 campsite and access to Boreas Ponds, the compromise provides a viable plan for a narrow Primitive Corridor from LeBiere Flow to the Boreas Ponds dam that will allow for both the siting of an accessible CP-3 campsite and for state maintenance of the Boreas Ponds dam.
6. Whereas environmental leaders called for the removal of the Finch Paper lodge at Boreas Ponds, and some called for the removal of the cabin at the 4 Corners, the compromise calls for retention to the 4 Corners cabin for administrative purposes.
7. Whereas some local government leaders have called for the entire Boreas tract to be classified as Wild Forest and for small motors to be allowed on Boreas Ponds, the compromise calls for classifying the entire shoreline of the Boreas Ponds as Wilderness, except for the area right around the dam that could be part of a Primitive Corridor, and managing the Boreas Ponds as motorless.
8. The compromise utilizes existing Forest Preserve classifications of Wilderness, Wild Forest and Primitive in ways that comply with the State Land Master Plan and do require any new changes or inventive ways to use other classifications, such as Intensive Use.
9. The compromise does not include buildings, hut-to-hut facilities, or any form of permanent or temporary dining and lodging facilities for the public to rent. The compromise creates an opportunity for both primitive camps sites around the Boreas Ponds in Wilderness areas as well as “car camping” sites along the Gulf Brook Road in Wild Forest areas.

As you know compromise has become the exception to the rule in modern American politics. It’s a lost art and it takes courage. We encourage you and your staff to dig deep and summon the courage to compromise, which could provide wins for all sides that offsets and tempers their perceived losses too.

A Backcountry Intensive Use area violates Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Two things have derailed the classification process for the Boreas Ponds. The first is the state’s investigation to create an Intensive Use area island within other Forest Preserve classifications

around Boreas Ponds. The second is the state's investigation of building some form of lodging and dining facilities with permanent or temporary structures of some kind. Both of these options should be abandoned.

The State Land Master Plan is clear in its Basic Guidelines on the whether an Intensive Use Area can facilitate some kind of public rental cabin, tent platform, glamping facility, yurt, or something similar. None of these types of facilities are allowed on an Intensive Use area.

First, the SLMP is instructive on the location of an Intensive Use area:

2. All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park. (p 42)

Any attempt to locate a new Intensive Use area near the Boreas Ponds would clearly violate a clear directive from the SLMP not to locate such a facility near the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness.

The SLMP is also clear in its Basic Guidelines for "Campgrounds" (p 43-44) that Intensive Use area campgrounds must be rustic in nature. The SLMP is explicit on what facilities are allowable in an Intensive Use area.

1. All campgrounds will be of a rustic nature without utility hookups and other elaborate facilities customarily provided by private campgrounds. Each individual site will retain the natural character of the surrounding forest and contain only a fireplace or fire ring, a space for a single vehicle with trailer if needed, picnic table, and appropriate sites. All facilities and appurtenances are to be constructed of natural materials to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the natural environment. Where a campground involves the shoreline of a lake, pond, river or major stream any new, reconstructed or relocated camping sites will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the shoreline and so as to avoid intruding on its natural character or public enjoyment and use thereof. (p 43)

5. Future campgrounds will be located so as to encourage public use on presently underutilized tracts of state land. (p 44)

The SLMP is clear that Campgrounds provide only "primitive camp sites" outfitted with fire rings, tent sites, picnic tables, and parking spaces. What the DEC envisions for "glamping" facilities far exceeds what is allowable in an Intensive Use area.

Further, the SLMP directs location of campgrounds to underutilized tracts of Forest Preserve. The general Boreas Ponds area is not underutilized.

In the July 26, 2017 issue of *Seven Days*, published in Burlington, VT, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos explained how he envisions hut-to-hut facilities on the Forest Preserve: “Calling the proposal ‘conceptual,’ he [Seggos] stressed that it would be ‘a very rustic approach to lodging — you know, cots, dirt floors and that’s it.’” Clearly, Commissioner Seggos envisions some kind of structure above the dirt floors and cots. What the DEC Commissioner envisions is well beyond what the SLMP allows in Intensive Use Areas.

“Huts,” “Glamping,” or “Cabins” on Forest Preserve Violates the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The State Land Master Plan has worked effectively for 45 years to protect the natural resources and manage public recreational use on the Forest Preserve. The SLMP is unequivocal on the matter of cabins or “glamping” tent platforms on the Forest Preserve for public use. They are not allowed.

Three definitions shape SLMP prohibitions on cabins for public use on the Forest Preserve:

19. Improvement - any change in or addition to land, which materially affects the existing use, condition or appearance of the land or any vegetation thereon, including but not limited to foot, horse, and bicycle trails, roads, administrative roads, snowmobile trails, cross country ski trails, improved cross country ski trails, trail heads, picnic areas and individual primitive tent sites. (p 18)

29. Ranger Stations or Ranger Cabins - enclosed buildings constructed or maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation, suitable for human habitation and manned seasonally or year-round by administrative personnel to facilitate administrative control of lands and public use thereof under the jurisdiction of the Department. (p 19)

36. Structure - any object constructed, installed or placed on land to facilitate land use, including but not limited to bridges, buildings, ranger stations or ranger cabins, sheds, lean-tos, pit privies, picnic tables, horse barns, horse hitching posts and rails, fire towers, observer cabins, telephone and electric light lines, mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks and dams. (p 20)

These definitions make it clear that the only time that buildings are allowable on the Forest Preserve is if they are used for state administrative purposes and used by administrative personnel. No buildings are allowed for public residential use. The only buildings allowed on the Forest Preserve are for administrative purposes, such as the caretaker’s cabins at Lake Colden or Raquette Falls or the various buildings used by Rangers and seasonal DEC staff at the state Administrative Area at Little Tupper Lake, among others.

The SLMP also provides clear direction on the question of new structures of the Forest Preserve:

Insofar as forest preserve lands are concerned, no structures, improvements or uses not now established on the forest preserve are permitted by these guidelines and in many cases more restrictive management is provided for. (p 16)

This passage makes it clear that the SLMP does not contemplate new structures or improvements

being allowed on the Forest Preserve where they are not currently established. This passage prohibits some form of hut-to-hut facility on the Forest Preserve.

The issue of “tent platforms” has been raised by the DEC with regards to some form of glamping facility or as a necessary platform for a yurt or canvas tent. The SLMP is clear that tent platforms are not allowed on the Forest Preserve. The SLMP defines as tent platform as:

37. Tent Platform - a platform, with or without walls and other attachments, erected as a base for tenting or similar camping activity. (p 20)

A tent platform is listed as a “non-conforming use” in Wilderness Areas. (p 24) Because tent platforms are prohibited in Wilderness Areas they are also prohibited in Primitive and Canoe Areas. The Wild Forest Area section of the SLMP states “The Department of Environmental Conservation having removed all tent platforms previously existing under Department permit, erection of new tent platforms will be prohibited.” (p 40) As such, tent platforms are not allowed in Wild Forest areas either.

For all the reasons stated above, the SLMP is explicit that hut-to-hut style facilities for public use, whether they be tent platforms, glamping facilities, yurts of some form of other structure are prohibited.

“Huts,” “Glamping,” or “Cabins” on Forest Preserve Violates the Environmental Conservation Law.

The sections detailed above show that the SLMP only allows buildings or glamping style structures on the Forest Preserve for administrative purposes to be used by administrative personnel. These types of structures include the caretaker’s cabins at Marcy Dam, Lake Colden and Raquette Falls or the various buildings used by students and Rangers at Little Tupper Lake, among others. These are not buildings to be used by the general public.

The Environmental Conservation Law was amended in the early 1980s, in the wake of the DEC’s decision to retain the Great Camp Santanoni. ECL Section 9-0109 states that buildings acquired by the State of New York after 1983 must be removed. These structures cannot be retained.

In compliance with this law, any new structures that are purchased on lands added to the Forest Preserve are required to be removed. Thus, no new buildings, such as those on the Essex Chain Lakes or Boreas Ponds tract must be removed and a certainly not available for some kind of hut-to-hut program or public use.

“Huts,” “Glamping,” or “Cabins” on Forest Preserve Violates Article XIV, Section 1 of State Constitution, the “Forever Wild” Provision. Hut-to-Hut plan on Forest Preserve Requires a Constitutional Amendment.

The forever wild provision of the State Constitution prohibits buildings on the Forest Preserve for public use. At issue was Article 14, Section 1 of the State Constitution, the forever wild provision, which states that:

The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.

Public use of “closed” cabins in a network of cabins across the Forest Preserve was voted down in a proposed Constitutional Amendment in 1932, known as the Porter-Brereton Amendment. It is only through a Constitutional Amendment that buildings for public use are allowed on the Forest Preserve. If the Cuomo Administration seeks to use the Forest Preserve as locations for any kind of hut-to-hut network or program, the only lawful way this can be done in through a Constitutional Amendment.

The need for a motorless Boreas Ponds and the myth of abundant quiet waters in the Adirondack Park.

The opportunity to paddle a canoe on a motorless lake surrounded by an unbroken forest shoreline is one of the great experiences offered in the Adirondack Park. Adirondack lakes comprise some the great wild areas in New York, yet one of the great myths in the Adirondacks is that there is an abundance of large lakes and ponds that enjoy motorless protections. The reality is that there are relatively few.

In 2013, Protect the Adirondacks published “The Myth of Quiet Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park.” This report (see attached) focused on the 200 largest lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks. Of these 200 large lakes and ponds, 115 were open to all forms of motorboats, jetskis, and floatplanes. 54 were privately held and prohibited public access. Just 29 were motorless and open to the public. Of these 29, it’s important to note that just 17 were easily accessible for the public.

The great majority of large lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park are either privately owned or are wide open for motorsports. At 338.9 acres, the Boreas Ponds is the 95th largest lake or pond in the Adirondacks. The Boreas Ponds should be a motorless area with its shoreline entirely classified as Wilderness.

Lorraine Duvall is a member of the Board of Directors of Protect the Adirondacks and is an avid paddler of backcountry motorless lakes and ponds. She is over 75 years old and paddles with a group of other women her age. She has accessed many of the lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks at her advanced age with her friends. If Lorraine and her friends can do this, almost anyone else can.

Here’s a statement she wanted included in this letter:

Our Waters
Lorraine Duvall July 15, 2017

I drive the five miles on Gulf Brook Road toward Boreas Ponds, up to the stop sign placed across the road 2.5 miles from the Boreas Ponds. I know I can no longer take my canoe the five miles round trip to and from the ponds, thankful I’d had the opportunity to paddle the ponds a few years before when owned by The Nature Conservancy. I remember and visualize the mountains reflected into the clear mountain waters and the trees and shrubs engulfing the shoreline. I want to paddle these

pristine ponds again.

I visit Cloudsplitter Outfitters in Newcomb and ask the owners, Ruth and Dave, how they might help us get access to the Ponds. "We'll take your canoes on the dolleys and wheel them to the water, just as we did for your group on the Essex Chain Lakes," Dave offered. "Sounds good," I reply.

We had hired Cloudsplitter Outfitters a few years before after the state purchased the Essex Chain Lakes in 2012. I'd been pinning to go to the Lakes after they were purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 2007. By the time the Lakes had been open to the public, my ability to carry a boat, even a lightweight Hornbeck solo canoe, was limited. So I decided I needed help and convinced my canoe buddies to join me in hiring Dave and Ruth to schlep our boats the one mile to Third Lake on the Essex Chain. We walked along carrying our backpacks. I was the youngest of the five of us- 75 - Gail, the oldest, at 87. Gail, as we walked back to our cars, after six hours on the water, said, "This is my last adventure - with my COPD and all. I have my memories. An easy day trip is all I can do. And lunch!"

Yes, we have memories. Ten years before was our first paddling excursion. After three nights canoe camping on Little Tupper Lake my buddies and I returned during a hurricane. We bonded with this adventure and every year thereafter join together and paddle. We've scheduled canoe trips around hip and knee replacements and family caretaking duties - ranging from camping excursions on Lake Lila and Lows Lake, to one-day trips on Lake Champlain and Henderson Lake, to afternoons on Lake Everest in Wilmington.

We are thankful we have many bodies of water to paddle in the Adirondacks that bring us close to nature, waters that are clear and pure, and are 'almost' wilderness, free from crowds and the noise from motorboats and automobiles. We know there are lakes and ponds that are difficult to access as we age. We accept this and make adjustments, as needed. Ask for help, as needed.

I write about our excursions in my book, *In Praise of Quiet Waters: Finding Solitude and Adventure in the Wild Adirondacks*. In the chapter, *Where do we go from here?* I write:

My most noteworthy Adirondack memories center on quiet, wild waters. Thanks to purchases by the state over the last twenty-five years and the availability of affordable lightweight canoes, opportunities to experience wilderness waters abound. Access to the recently purchased Boreas Ponds has the potential of providing paddlers with the experience of "standing in one of the great cathedrals of the world."

Because of the foresight of environmental advocates and government leaders over the years, we now have access to a multitude of wilderness waters ...

The waters of the Adirondacks are an incalculable resource—worth keeping forever wild.

Please find a copy of her book *In Praise of Quiet Waters: Finding Solitude and Adventure in the Wild Adirondacks* enclosed.

The national importance of classified Wilderness in the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

Less than 1% of all lands east of the Mississippi River is designated Wilderness. The 26 states east of the Mississippi River total more than 573 million acres and there's around 4.8 million acres of Wilderness lands. That means that for every acre of Wilderness there's roughly 120 acres of cities, suburbs, small towns, highways, farms, shopping malls, golf courses, snowmobile trails, dirt roads, parking lots, and so much more.

The ratio of 120-1 of developed lands to Wilderness lands east of the Mississippi River shows the importance of Adirondack Wilderness.

Outside of the 1,184,894 acres of Wilderness and Canoe area lands in the Adirondacks, there's another 143,000 acres of Wilderness in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Other than these lands there's 1,380 acres of federal Wilderness on Fire Island, outside New York City, called the Otis Pike High Dunes Wilderness. In the 26 states east of the Mississippi River, there's 1.3 million acres of Wilderness in the Florida Everglades, 354,000 acres in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia, 132,000 acres in Isle Royale in Michigan, and 79,000 acres in the Shenandoah Wilderness in Virginia. The closest large Wilderness area to the Adirondacks is the 61,000-acre Wild River Wilderness in New Hampshire. All told, in the 26 states east of the Mississippi there's just under 3.3 million acres of federal Wilderness lands.

There's another approximately 150,000 acres of state Wilderness areas beyond New York's Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. In total, less than 1% of land east of the Mississippi River (4.8 million out of 573 million acres) is Wilderness and off limits to motor vehicles.

The paucity of Wilderness lands east of the Mississippi River shows a world out of balance. Outside of the Everglades, the Adirondack Park provides the greatest Wilderness opportunities in the east. The importance of Adirondack Wilderness is brought into sharp relief when the populations of 11 Northeast U.S. states and eastern Canada are considered because no other Wilderness system in the country is surrounded by such heavy population densities.

The High Peaks Wilderness has experienced a massive surge in visitors, doubling historic levels on some of the most popular trails in recent years. This shows the upswing in popularity of the largest Wilderness area in the Adirondacks. This high level of public use, which dwarfs the failed classification of the Essex Chain Lakes area, makes the case for expanding the High Peaks Wilderness Area.

Success of CP-3 Program for Access for the Disabled to the Forest Preserve.

One of the major successes of the DEC over the past 20 years has been the development of a comprehensive program to provide for access for disabled individuals and their families to a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The framework for this program has been the DEC Commissioner's Policy-3 "Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities." The compromise offered here embraces siting a CP-3 facility for camping and access to the Boreas Ponds.

Mountain biker riders do not want to ride on former logging roads and dirt roads. Mountain bike riders want specially designed single track trail networks.

One great fallacy in the Adirondacks today is the insistence that large numbers of mountain bike riders are interested in riding former logging roads and dirt roads. This just is not true and has been born out very clearly. Right now, the DEC and APA are in the process of expanding mountain bike riding opportunities that focus on compact "stacked loop" trail networks similar to the successful mountain bike trail systems at The Flume area, and now at a new trail network at the Hardy Road area, of the Wilmington Wild Forest between Lake Placid and Wilmington. In these areas, specially designed singletrack mountain bike trail networks have been built and have proven to be

very successful. These trail networks are growing in popularity. Based on this success, the DEC and APA are now in the process of building new singletrack mountain bike trail networks near Saranac Lake and another near Inlet in Hamilton County.

While singletrack mountain bike trail networks are flourishing in the Adirondack Forest Preserve, and have proven to be very successful, what has failed is efforts by planners to interest the mountain bike community and the general public to ride bikes on dirt roads in the Forest Preserve. Few mountain bike riders chose to ride their bikes on the dirt roads in the Essex Chain Lakes tract. Former logging roads and dirt roads are not pleasant for mountain bike riders and offer a challenging and unpleasant experience. These roads are challenging because of road surfaces of loose stones, sand, and large boulders. They are unpleasant because roadsides are lined with shrubs, former clearcuts, old log landings, while singletrack trails wind through the trees in a way that lets the rider be part of the forest.

The Essex Chain Lakes classification changed the State Land Master Plan to allow mountain bike riding on roads in the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lakes Primitive areas, yet mountain bike riding in these places has been anemic. In addition to failing to attract riders, allowing these activities has alienated others from using the area.

State planners and local government leaders are seeking to utilize former logging roads and dirt roads around Boreas Ponds and to White Lilly Pond, among other places, as part of the Boreas Ponds classification. These efforts will fail just as they have failed at the Essex Chain Lakes area.

A better choice for state planners is to continue to build specially designed mountain bike trail networks based on singletrack trails, as it is doing in Wilmington, Saranac Lake, and Inlet, and not attempt to force mountain biking to places, such as the former logging roads of the Boreas tract, where it will not be successful.



The difference between specially designed mountain bike trails and a Forest Preserve dirt road. Mountain bike riders strongly prefer specially designed narrow mountain bike trail networks.

State got it right at OK Slip Falls.

The OK Slip Falls parcel was purchased by your administration at the same time that you purchased the Essex Chain Lakes. Hikes into OK Slip Falls have been part of the Whitewater Challenge events in Indian Lake. What's notable about OK Slip Falls is how high visitation has been and how popular this new area has become.

A count of public use at the trailhead register at OK Slips Falls was 3,062 visitors from June 1 – August 31, 2017. The main trailhead register for the Essex Chain Lakes leading to Deer Pond had just 281 people signed in from June 1 – August 31, 2017. Visits to the Essex Chain Lakes pales in comparison not only to the High Peaks Wilderness area, where often 500 people a day hike Cascade Mountain, but also pales in comparison with the trail to OK Slip Falls in the Hudson Gorge Wilderness area. As mentioned above, the classification of OK Slip Falls has been successful because the public knows that if it puts out the effort to hike the 3 miles to the falls, it will be rewarded with a scene of tranquility and beauty devoid of motors, mountain bikes, DEC motorized patrols, and snowmobiles, among other things.

Quite simply, the public has voted with their feet for which classification is a success and which is a failure. While a beautiful waterfall accessed from a roadside trailhead is likely to be more popular than a chain of lakes accessed from a difficult dirt road, the 10-fold difference between the two areas is simply startling.

It's also important to point out that of the 281 people who signed in at the Essex Chain Lakes trailhead, the overwhelming majority were there for canoeing. Only a handful – a handful!! – went there to ride a mountain bike.



OK Slip Falls

Adirondack Park offers a broad array of recreational opportunities; Boreas Ponds does not need to provide all things to all people.

One of the great things about the Adirondack Park is that it provides a spectrum of recreational opportunities across its 6 million acres on the public and private lands. The Forest Preserve provides a myriad of things to do from the paved roads of the Intensive Use campground areas to remote and distant Wilderness areas. Because of the abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities provided across the Forest Preserve, all recreational opportunities do not have to be provided in each location.

The mistake with the Essex Chain Lakes classification is that it sought to provide all things in one place – motorless waters, mountain biking, letting the public drive automobiles to the heart of Third Lake, DEC patrolling in motor vehicles, and placing a motorized Wild Forest corridor through the middle of the Essex Chain tract. The result is that rather than seeing a multitude of users take advantage of many different things, the public decided to stay away because no one knows what kind of experience will be found when it gets there.

Lets not make the same mistake at Boreas Ponds that was made at the Essex Chain Lakes.

Conclusion: Compromise can make many winners, but requires making some tough calls.

There is a viable path forward for a compromise on the classification of the Boreas Ponds. This compromise requires that you say “No” to those proposing huts or temporary lodging structures on the Forest Preserve because this can only be done with an amendment to Article XIV on the State Constitution. A compromise also requires that you say no to local government leaders who want mountain bike and snowmobile trails north of the Gulf Brook Road. A compromise also requires you to say no to environmentalists who want everything to be Wilderness and do not want any part of the Gulf Brook Road to be used as a snowmobile trail.

We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you on these matters. Two organizations merged to form Protect the Adirondacks in 2009, one of which was formed in 1908. You have distinguished yourself as the first Governor to refuse to meet with us to discuss Forest Preserve matters. This is unfortunate. We urge you to reconsider your closed-door policy and freely and openly hear out options for compromise at the Boreas Ponds.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Protect the Adirondacks, please accept my gratitude for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Bauer
Executive Director

CC: Executive staff, DEC staff, APA Board and staff



The Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park



Protect the Adirondacks
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A Plea for Natural Resource Protection and Recreational Fairness

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Dear Friends of the Adirondacks,

Through the analysis and preparation of this special report *The Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park*, Protect the Adirondacks is hoping to focus a public discussion on the need for greater public motor-free waters opportunities during the Forest Preserve classification of the Essex Chain Lakes and Boreas Ponds. The classification process of the Essex Chain Lakes has begun and the review of the Boreas Ponds will take place in a few years.

PROTECT supports a Wilderness classification for both of these areas. We believe that a Wilderness classification will protect the natural resources around these lakes and ponds and provide exciting new motor-free opportunities for the public. As readers will see in this report when it comes to big lakes in the Adirondacks, most are overrun with all sorts of motorized watercraft and floatplanes or are privately owned. The public deserves a greater array of motor-free waters opportunities in the Adirondack Park.

Of the 100 biggest lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park, just eight currently provide motor-free opportunities. That's not nearly enough. We need more.

—Chuck Clusen, Chair, Protect the Adirondacks

The photo above is Third Lake, in Minerva, Essex County. At 340 acres, this is the 94th largest waterbody in the Adirondack Park. It is part of the Essex Chain Lakes. The state recently completed purchase of this tract as new Forest Preserve lands. Formal Forest Preserve classification is underway for this lake and surrounding lands. Just eight of the 100 biggest lakes in the Adirondack Park are currently motor-free.



The Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park

Executive Summary

The Adirondack Park is held up as the great wilderness area in the eastern United States. It’s the place where people come for a wilderness experience and to enjoy the great outdoors. Indeed, the Park contains well over 85% of the officially-designated state or federal Wilderness lands from the mid-Atlantic states to Maine.

One great myth about the wild Adirondack Park is that there is an abundance of motor-free lakes and ponds. In fact, the Park faces a scarcity of quiet waters where one can paddle a canoe or kayak without interruption from motorboats, jet skis, floatplanes, and other types of motorized watercraft.

Of the 200 largest lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park, from Lake Champlain, with 262,864 acres, to Round Pond in Indian Lake, covering 134.9 acres, the overwhelming majority of big lakes and ponds provide abundant opportunities for motorized watercraft—but scant opportunity for quiet, motor-free waters.

Among those 200 largest lakes, 114 are open for motorboating, 55 are private with no public access, 29 are motor-free, and public use on 2 others is in the process of being determined. 11 of the 29 motor-free lakes are inaccessible and involve a lengthy hike carrying one’s boat.

If we look at the acreage of the 100 largest lakes in the Adirondack Park, 96% are in waters open for motor boating. Only 2% are in motor-free waters, and some of these can be reached only by long hikes carrying one’s

boat. These numbers shatter the myth of motor-free waters in the Adirondack Park. The perception among public officials and state policymakers is that the Adirondack Park is tilted too far towards non-motorized recreational pursuits. The reality is far from this when it comes to motor-free waters open and easily accessible for the general public.

Protect the Adirondacks 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. 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. There is a great demand for recreational experiences on accessible, motor-free lakes and ponds. The demand is high, but the supply is low.

Two lakes in the Adirondack Park’s Top 200 are soon to be classified by the Adirondack Park Agency: Third Lake (Number 94, 340 acres) and Boreas Pond (Number 95, 338 acres). The APA’s Forest Preserve classification review, which is ultimately made official by approval of the governor, will determine the types of public uses allowable on these lakes. Protect the Adirondacks supports Wilderness classification for these two remote lakes. This would help to correct the imbalance of waters available for all types of motorized watercraft and motor-free waters.

Opportunities for Motorless Waters Experiences on the Biggest Lakes in the Adirondack Park	Motorless Lakes	Motor Lakes	Private Lakes
Biggest 100 Lakes & Ponds*	8	77	13
Biggest 200 Lakes & Ponds*	29	115	54

NOTE: 3 of 8 motorless lakes in Top 100 are remote, not accessible

NOTE: 12 of 29 motorless lakes in Top 200 are remote, not accessible

*Because the use of Third Lake and Boreas Pond has not been determined, they are not counted in this chart.

The Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park

The Myth of Motor-free Waters

The Adirondack Park contains more than 85% of the state- or federally-designated Wilderness lands from the mid-Atlantic states to Maine. Consequently, people come here for a broad range of wilderness experiences. The Adirondacks Forest Preserve offers many wild mountains to climb, trails to hike, and backcountry to bushwhack in, all free of motor vehicles—but the opportunities for a motor-free, quiet lake experience on a big or moderately-sized lake or pond are few.

Low Supply, High Demand

Across the Adirondack Park there are few genuine opportunities for motor-free boating on a big lake or pond. In the top 100 biggest lakes in the Adirondack Park, just five lakes stand out as lakes without motor-boats, jetskis, and floatplanes; Lows Lake, Little Tupper Lake, Round Lake, Lake Lila, and St. Regis Pond. These lakes are all managed as motor-free waterbodies as parts of the Forest Preserve. Three other lakes, Cedar Lake in the West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area, Newcomb Lake in the High Peaks Wilderness, and Pharaoh Lake in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness are also motor-free, but they are largely inaccessible for boating by the general public. They are great lakes to hike to, and extraordinarily beautiful places, but they are difficult to reach with a boat.

Of the 100 biggest lakes in the Adirondack Park, 77 are open for all manner of motorized boating and floatplanes. 13 lakes are privately owned and provide no public access, and just 8 are motor-free. (Charts 1 and 2 detail these breakdowns.) Two lakes in the top 100 are currently in process of being purchased by the State of New York for addition to the Forest Preserve, after which the type of allowable public use will be determined through a public review process. The reality,

Definition: “Motor-free lake” is a public lake or pond where no motorized watercraft of any kind or floatplanes are allowed.

Chart 1: Recreational State of the 100 Biggest Lakes in the Adirondack Park*

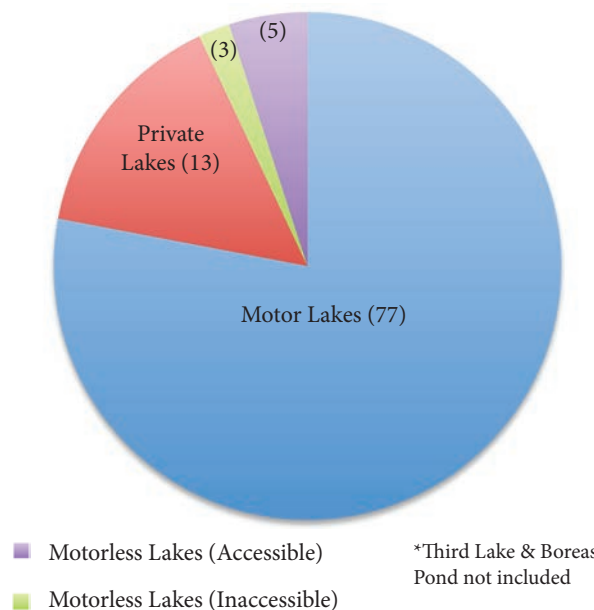
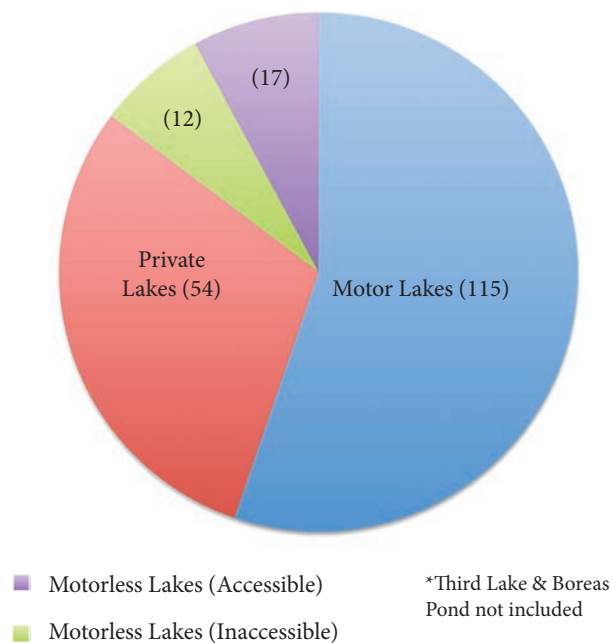


Chart 2: Recreational State of the 200 Biggest Lakes in the Adirondack Park*





therefore, is that more than 75% of the Park's grandest lakes are open for motorized activity while only 8% offer the motor-free option, and just 6% are easily accessible for a motor-free experience.

For those who desire greater motor-free opportunities, the numbers improve slightly in an analysis of the 200 biggest lakes in the Adirondack Park. 115 (57%) of the Park's 200 biggest lakes are open for motorized uses, 54 (27.5%) are privately-owned and thus closed, and 29 (14.5%) are open and motorless. However, of these 29 motor-free lakes, just 17 (9%) are easily accessible without long carries.

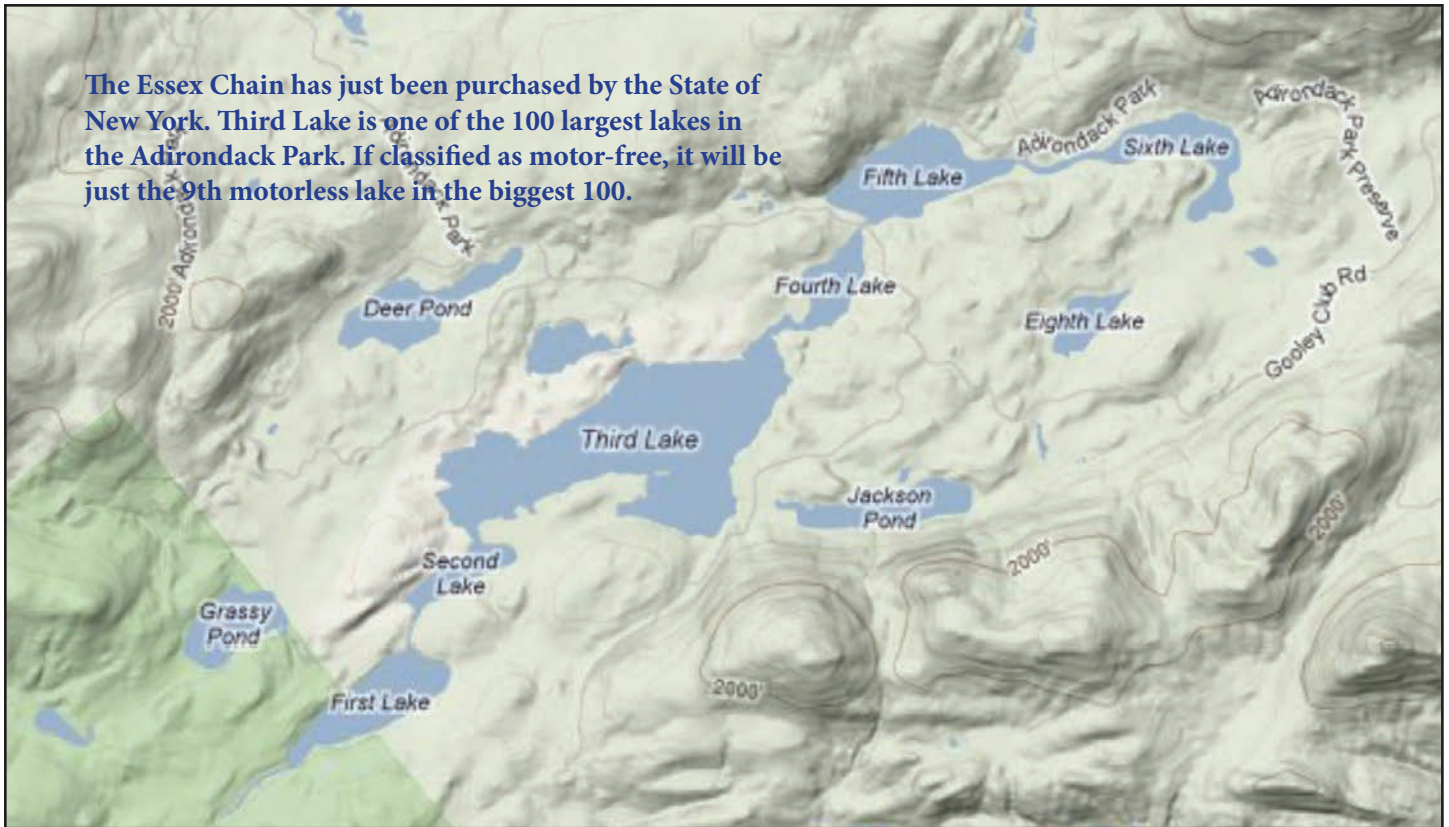
When one compares the acreage of waters open for motor-free and motorized opportunities, the differences are stark. Fully 96% of the total surface water area of the 100 biggest lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park is dedicated to motorized boating; just 2% is open for public motor-free recreation. If we subtract Lake Champlain, which at 262,864 acres is vast and located partly in Vermont, and look only at waterbodies completely

Boreas Ponds, in North Hudson, Essex County. These ponds border the High Peaks Wilderness. At 338 acres, this is the 95th largest waterbody in the Adirondack Park. Currently is private ownership, Boreas Ponds is under contract to be transferred to the state in 2017 as new Forest Preserve lands. After transfer, the state will formally classify these lands, which will determine public use. Just seven of the 100 biggest lakes in the Adirondack Park are motorless. Photo by Melody Thomas.

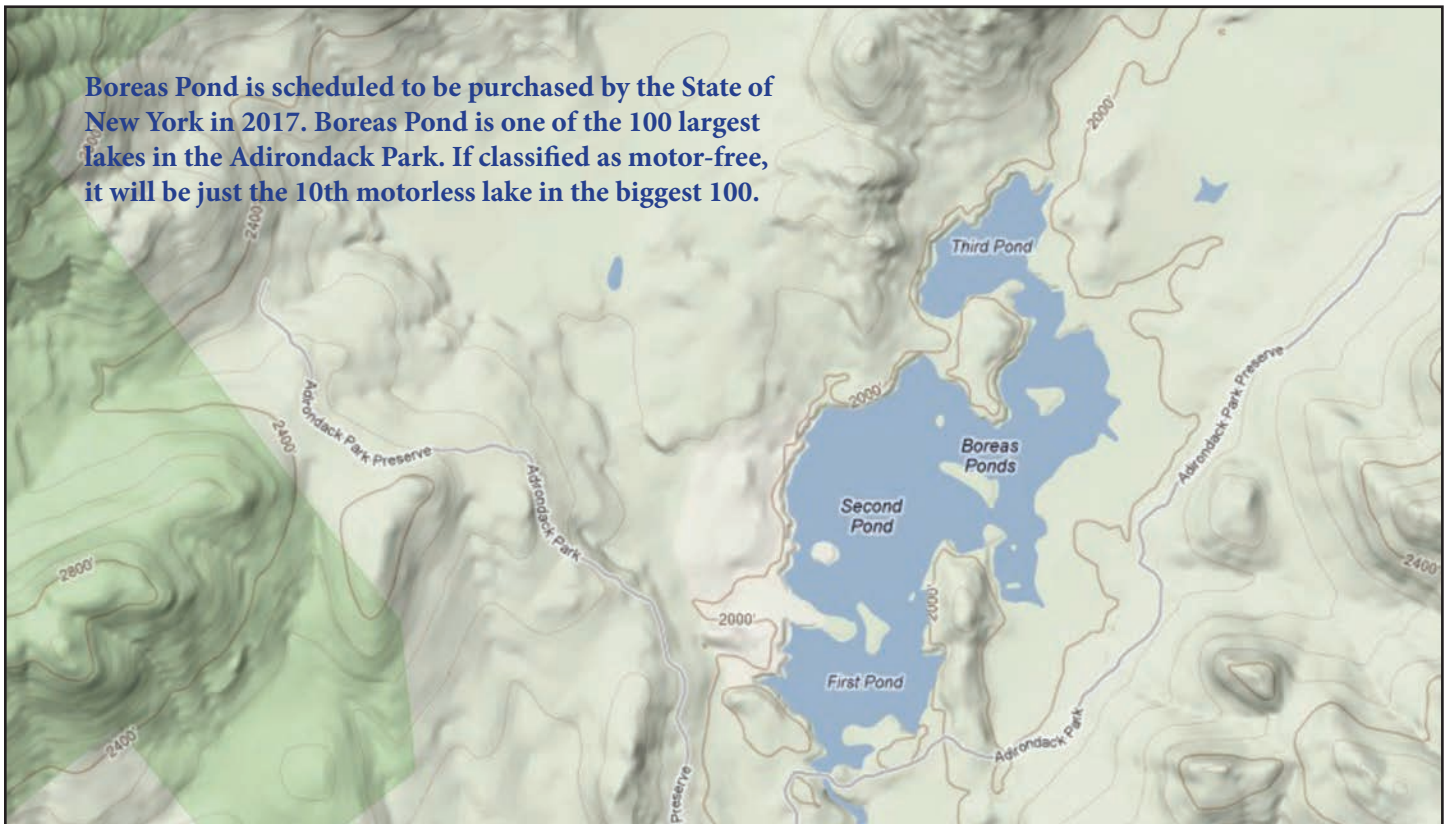
within the Blue Line, the amount of water area dedicated to motorized water uses is 90%. Just 5% is open for public motor-free opportunities. (See charts 3 and 4.)

If we expand our data to look at the surface areas of the 200 biggest lakes in the Adirondack Park (charts 5 and 6), 93% are dedicated to motorized uses. If Lake Champlain is excluded, the figure drops to 84% open for motorized uses. Only 7% of the acreage in these 200 biggest waters is devoted to motor-free use, and this figure includes the acreage for motor-free waterbodies that are difficult to reach with a boat.

The Essex Chain has just been purchased by the State of New York. Third Lake is one of the 100 largest lakes in the Adirondack Park. If classified as motor-free, it will be just the 9th motorless lake in the biggest 100.



Boreas Pond is scheduled to be purchased by the State of New York in 2017. Boreas Pond is one of the 100 largest lakes in the Adirondack Park. If classified as motor-free, it will be just the 10th motorless lake in the biggest 100.



A table is provided at the end of this report listing the 200 largest lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park from Lake Champlain (262,864 acres), to Round Pond (135 acres in the Town of Indian Lake). The table provides the locations of these waterbodies, waterbody acreage and allowable uses.

The Importance of Motor-free Waters

In addition to the fact that there is a low supply of motor-free waters for the big lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park, there are also many other reasons why it's critical to create more motor-free opportunities for the public. The following details the importance of motor-free waters for natural resource protection and public recreational use.

Natural Resource Stewardship: Of all the reasons to expand the number of motor-free waters among the large lakes in the Adirondack Park, natural resource stewardship is vital. Here are some particulars:

- The threat of aquatic invasive species infestations is vastly less for motor-free waterbodies than waters open to motorboating. Evidence is overwhelming that motorboats are the key vectors of spreading aquatic invasive species from lake to lake. The chances of infestation are significantly less for spreading invasives with the "cartop" fleet of boats. It's far easier to see any vegetation or debris hanging on a canoe or kayak and they are easier to clean. There are no boat trailers where water can pool or debris or plants can become suspended. It's much more difficult to transport standing water on a canoe or kayak.
- Motor-free waters provide better habitat for nesting waterfowl and wildlife. Motorboats disturb nesting waterfowl. It's been documented that species, like loons, will nest on a quiet lake, and travel to forage on larger lakes. Motorboats have the impact of forcing nesting birds off their nests and some nests are even swamped by waves.
- Waves and erosion have a major impact along shorelines. Impacts are far greater on waters with heavy motorboating, than on motor-free waters.

Chart 3: Acreage of 100 Biggest Lakes Shown for Motor, Private and Motor-free Recreation*

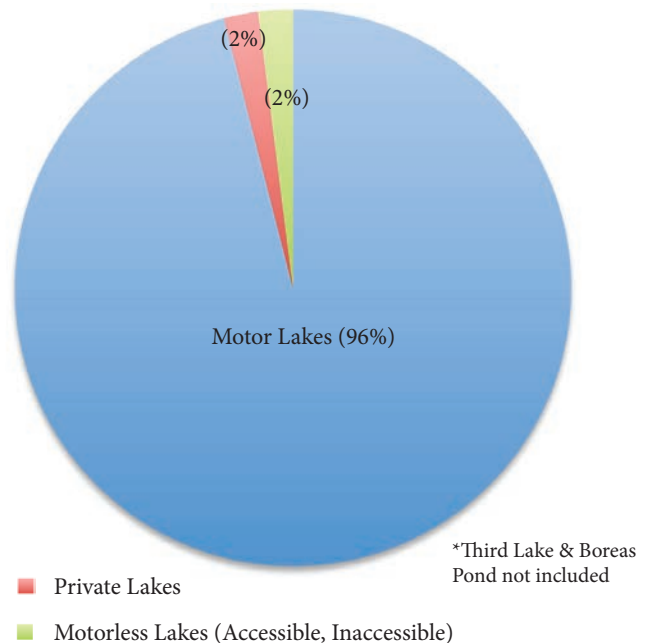
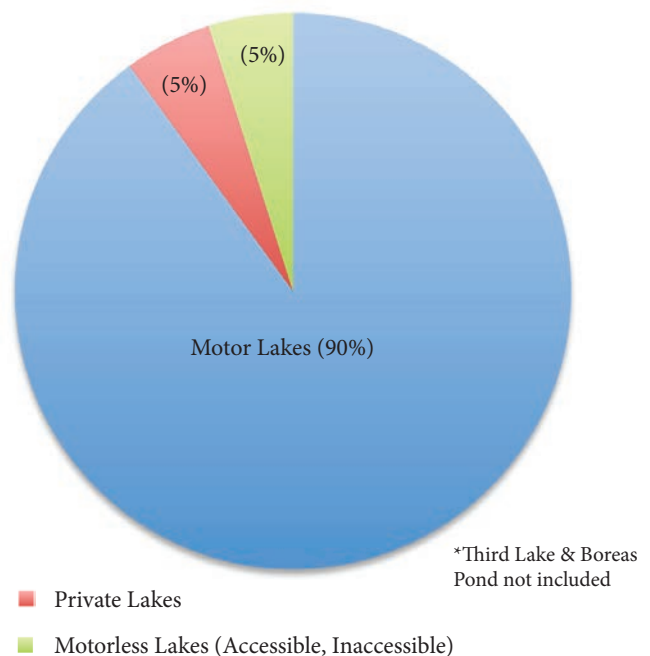


Chart 4: Acreage of 100 Biggest Lakes Shown for Motor, Private and Motor-free Recreation (Lake Champlain omitted)*



Lakes and ponds that experience high levels of motor boat use also experience instances of shoreline erosion due to incessant wave action on busy days.

There are many other benefits to motor-free waters. These include:

Quiet and Solitude: Several dozen canoes and kayaks can be in simultaneous use on a motor-free lake or pond, such as Lake Lila or Round Lake, and the experience remains one of tranquility. Put several dozen motorboats on one such lake and the experience is dominated by the buzz of engines, surge of boat waves, and smell of gasoline.

It is even more critical in our fast-paced life for us to escape the noise, speed and smell of roaring engines. It is good for all of us to have places for refuge and silence, places where we can observe native species and intact ecosystems and enjoy an overnight camping experience. Such wild places grow fewer each year.

It's important that people have accessible wilderness areas. The Adirondack Park offers great opportunities for hiking in wild places, where the longer one hikes the more remote the country one can access, but opportunities to do this by boat are limited. For many, canoe or kayak access is how they get to wild places and enjoy Wilderness. Greater opportunities are needed for this type of experience in the Adirondack Park.

Older People and People with Limited Physical Mobility Deserve Easily Accessible Motor-free Waters: Often the criticism of a motor-free lake is that it discriminates against people with limited mobility. But there are many older people and people with limited mobility who desire to have wild experiences on a motor-free water body. They cannot hike great distance, but they can paddle or ride in a canoe. The vast majority of motor-free opportunities are on small, remote lakes and ponds, which are challenging to reach for older people or people with limited mobility. Easily accessible motor-free waters should be available for these people. Motor-free waters provide a wide range of opportunities for elderly and disabled individuals and groups.

Forever Wild and the State Constitution: In 1894, the framers of the "Forever Wild" clause in the State Consti-

Chart 5: Acreage of 200 Biggest Lakes Shown for Motor, Private and Motor-free Recreation*

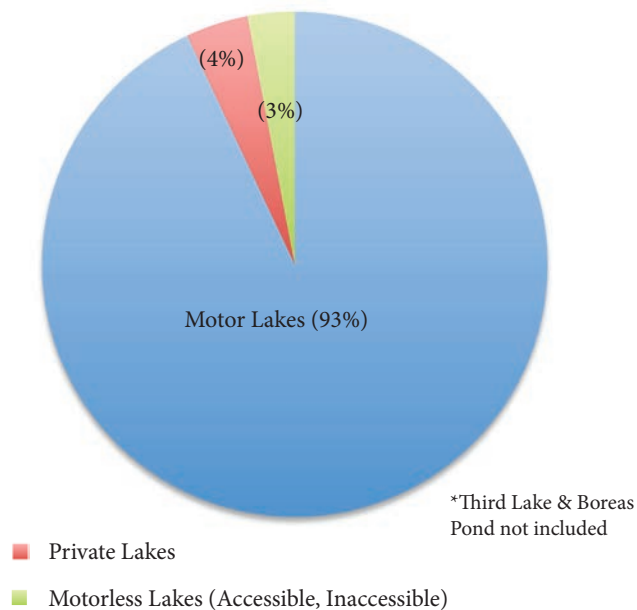
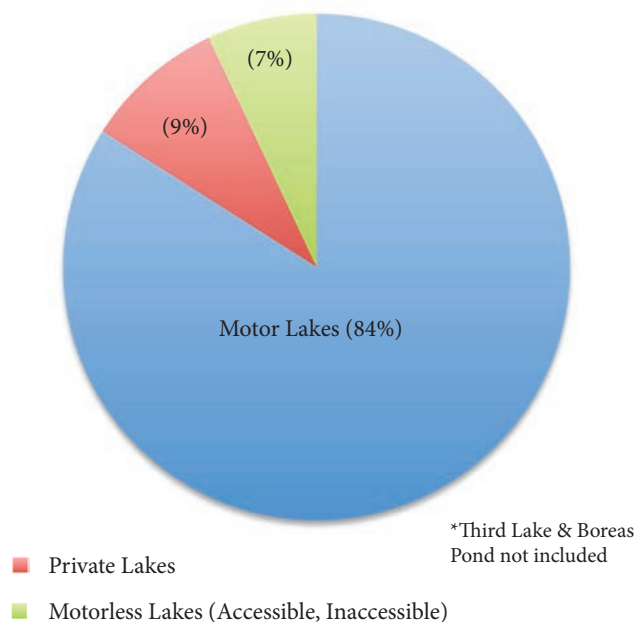


Chart 6: Acreage of 200 Biggest Lakes Shown for Motor, Private and Motor-free Recreation (Lake Champlain omitted)*





tution recognized the need for public opportunities for a close connection to nature. A big part of the leading testimony in support of the “Forever Wild” clause was to provide lands and waters where, in their language, “peace and quiet” would reign forever and the sounds, smells and life of nature would be an unbroken chain from that time onward. Nothing is more faithful for the spirit of “Forever Wild” than a motor-free lake or pond.

Opportunities for New Motor-free Waters in APA Forest Preserve Classification Review

In the spring of 2013, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) started its formal classification review for the new Forest Preserve lands around the Essex Chain Lakes. The Department of Environmental Conservation made its formal submission to the APA. The APA will conduct a formal public hearing process during the summer-fall of 2013. Part of the Essex Chain Lakes and one of the 200 largest lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park is Third Lake (Minerva, Essex County).

Public use will be determined during the APA’s classification hearings. PROTECT supports a Wilderness classification for the Essex Chain Lakes. This provides an opportunity to increase the number of motor-free lakes among the biggest 100 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park from 8 to 9. Boreas Pond is scheduled to be purchased by the state within the next five years.

Lows Lake is a beautiful, accessible and motor-free lake in the central Adirondacks. It’s a place where people can go for long camping trips and have a wild experience. It’s also one of the six accessible motor-free lakes among the biggest 100 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park. The general public needs more motor-free opportunities on big lakes and ponds.

This waterbody is another ideal candidate for motor-free management through a Wilderness classification. If Boreas Pond is classified as Wilderness and managed as a motor-free waterbody it would bring the number of motor-free lakes among the biggest 100 lakes in the Adirondacks to 10 lakes.

In the Adirondack Park’s Forest Preserve, lands designated Wild Forest include over 100,000 more acres than lands designated Wilderness. Wilderness lands should be equal to Wild Forest. For all the reasons detailed in this report there needs to be many more opportunities for easily accessible motor-free waters in the Adirondack Park for the public to enjoy.

Today, just five of the biggest 100 lakes in the Adirondacks are relatively easy to access and motor-free. Just 17 of the biggest 200 lakes are easily accessible and motor-free. The demand is high for motor-free experiences, but the supply is low. This needs to change. The public deserves greater opportunities for motor-free waters across the Adirondack Park.



No.	Type	Water Body	County	Town	Acres	Ownership
1	Motors	Lake Champlain	Clinton, Essex, Washington	14 towns	262,864.3	Public, Private
2	Motors	Lake George	Essex, Warren, Washington	8 towns, 1 village	28,534.1	Public, Private
3	Motors	Great Sacandaga Lake	Fulton, Saratoga, Warren	9 towns	25,583.4	Public, Private
4	Motors	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton, Colton, Fine	6,846.8	Public, Private
5	Motors	Upper Saranac Lake	Franklin	Tupper Lake, Harrietstown, Santa Clara	6,600.5	Public, Private
6	Motors	Tupper Lake	Franklin	Tupper Lake, Piercefield	6,518.2	Public, Private
7	Motors	Stillwater Reservoir	Herkimer	Webb	6,233.3	Public, Private
8	Motors	Raquette Lake	Hamilton	Arietta, Long Lake	5,746.2	Public, Private
9	Motors	Indian Lake/Lewey Lake	Hamilton	Indian Lake, Lake Pleasant, Speculator	4,617.9	Public, Private
10	Motors	Schroon Lake	Essex, Warren	Chester, Horicon, Schroon	4,213.9	Public, Private
11	Motors	Long Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	4,151.9	Public, Private
12	Motors	Carry Falls Reservoir	St. Lawrence	Colton	3,612.1	Public, Private
13	Motors	Fourth Lake	Hamilton, Herkimer	Inlet, Webb	3,206.6	Public, Private
14	Motor-free (Accessible)	Lows Lake	Hamilton, St. Lawrence	Clifton, Colton, Long Lake	3,121.7	Public, Private
15	Motors	Piseco Lake	Hamilton	Arietta	2,805.2	Public, Private
16	Motors	Hinckley Reservoir	Herkimer	Ohio, Russia	2,683.7	Public, Private
17	Motors	Upper Chateaugay Lake	Clinton	Bellmont, Dannemora, Ellenburg	2,565.4	Public, Private
18	Motors	Lower Saranac Lake	Franklin	Harrietstown	2,298.9	Public, Private
19	Motor-free (Accessible)	Little Tupper Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	2,289.8	Public, Private
20	Motors	Lake Placid	Essex	North Elba, St. Armand	1,963.1	Public, Private
21	Motors	Chazy Lake	Clinton	Dannemora	1,827.8	Public, Private
22	Motors	Blue Mountain Lake	Hamilton	Indian Lake	1,721.8	Public, Private
23	Motors	Union Falls Pond	Franklin	Black Brook, Franklin	1,654.7	Public, Private
24	Motors	Middle Saranac Lake	Franklin	Harrietstown, Santa Clara	1,601.7	Public, Private
25	Motors	Sacandaga Lake	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	1,593.2	Public, Private
26	Motors (small)	Forked Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	1,517.2	Public, Private
27	Motors	Brant Lake	Warren	Horicon	1,488.1	Private
28	Motors	Lake Pleasant	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant, Speculator	1,449.5	Public, Private
29	Motors	Upper Saint Regis Lake	Franklin	Brighton, Harrietstown	1,432.9	Public, Private
30	Motor-free (Accessible)	Lake Lila	Hamilton	Long Lake	1,428.2	Public
31	Motors	Peck Lake	Fulton	Bleecker, Caroga, Johnstown	1,379.8	Private
32	Motors	Oseetah Lake	Franklin	Harrietstown, North Elba	1,301.9	Public, Private
33	Motors	Big Moose Lake	Herkimer	Long Lake, Webb	1,234.1	Public, Private
34	Motors	Meacham Lake	Franklin	Brighton, Duane	1,170.1	Public
35	Motors	Lake Clear	Franklin	Harrietstown	1,091.8	Public, Private
36	Motors	Woodhull Lake	Herkimer	Webb	1,087.6	Public, Private
37	Private	Follensby Pond	Franklin	Harrietstown	970.8	Private



No.	Type	Water Body	County	Town	Acres	Ownership
38	Motors	Sixth and Seventh Lakes	Hamilton	Inlet	950.3	Public, Private
39	Motors	Paradox Lake	Essex	Schroon	931.6	Public, Private
40	Private	Big Wolf Pond	Franklin	Tupper Lake	897.2	Private
41	Private	Brandreth Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	893.3	Private
42	Motors	Taylor Pond	Clinton	Black Brook	858.6	Public
43	Motors	Canada Lake	Fulton	Caroga, Stratford	847.7	Public, Private
44	Private	Honnedaga Lake	Herkimer	Ohio	824.1	Private
45	Motors	Silver Lake	Clinton	Black Brook	801.2	Public, Private
46	Motor-free (Accessible)	Round Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	744.5	Public
47	Private	Little Moose Lake	Herkimer	Webb	691.9	Private
48	Motors	Rainbow Falls Reservoir	St. Lawrence	Parishville	681.5	Private
49	Private	Catlin Lake	Hamilton, Essex	Long Lake, Newcomb	678.7	Private
50	Motors	Blake Falls Reservoir	St. Lawrence	Colton, Parishville	667.9	Private
51	Motors	Lincoln Pond	Essex	Elizabethtown	648.5	Public, Private
52	Private	Nehasane Lake	Hamilton, Herkimer	Long Lake, Webb	641.6	Private
53	Motors	Chaumont Pond	St. Lawrence	Clifton	600.9	Private
54	Motors	Loon Lake	Warren	Chester	597.5	Private
55	Motors (small)	Cedar River Flow	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	584.1	Public
56	Motors	Hoel Pond	Franklin	Santa Clara	575.4	Public, Private
57	Motors	Lake Eaton	Hamilton	Long Lake	568.0	Public, Private
58	Motors	Indian Lake	Franklin	Bellmont	565.2	Private
59	Motors	Caroga Lake	Fulton	Caroga	552.3	Public, Private
60	Motors	Lower Chateaugay Lake	Franklin	Bellmont	543.3	Private
61	Motors	Lake Abanakee	Hamilton	Indian Lake	514.4	Public, Private
62	Private	Elk Lake	Essex	North Hudson	513.5	Private
63	Motors	Osgood Pond	Franklin	Brighton	511.5	Public, Private
64	Motors	Rainbow Lake	Franklin	Brighton, Franklin	500.8	Public, Private
65	Motors	South Lake	Herkimer	Ohio	485.4	Public
66	Motors	Limekiln Lake	Hamilton, Herkimer	Inlet, Ohio	470.8	Public
67	Motors	Friends Lake	Warren	Chester	449.0	Private
68	Motors	Franklin Falls Pond	Franklin	Franklin, St. Armand	447.7	Public, Private
69	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Newcomb Lake	Essex	Newcomb	447.5	Public
70	Motors (small)	Massawepie Lake	St. Lawrence	Colton, Piercefield	439.5	Private
71	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Cedar Lakes	Hamilton	Arietta	436.1	Public
72	Private	South Pond	Hamilton	Indian Lake, Long Lake	431.9	Public, Private
73	Motors	North Lake	Herkimer	Ohio	431.6	Public, Private
74	Motors	Soft Maple Reservoir	Lewis	Croghan, Watson	425.6	Private
75	Motors	Eagle Lake	Essex	Crown Point, Ticonderoga	424.4	Public, Private
76	Motors (small)	Goodnow Flow	Essex	Newcomb, Minerva	423.1	Private
77	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Pharaoh Lake	Essex	Schroon	418.4	Public
78	Motors	Fern Lake	Clinton	Black Brook	417.7	Private



No.	Type	Water Body	County	Town	Acres	Ownership
79	Motors	Horseshoe Lake	St. Lawrence	Piercefield	398.6	Public
80	Motors (small)	McRorie Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	397.4	Private
81	Motors	Lake Ozonia	St. Lawrence	Hopkinton	394.6	Private
82	Motor-free (Accessible)	St. Regis Pond	Franklin	Santa Clara	388.1	Public
83	Private	Jerseyfield Lake	Hamilton, Fulton	Morehouse, Salisbury	380.6	Private
84	Private	Rich Lake	Essex	Newcomb	379.9	Private
85	Motors	Lake Kushaqua	Franklin	Franklin	379.5	Public, Private
86	Motors	Spy Lake	Hamilton	Arietta	376.5	Public, Private
87	Motors	Augur Lake	Essex	Chesterfield	373.9	Private
88	Motors	Long Pond	Franklin	Santa Clara	357.3	Public
89	Motors	Loon Lake	Franklin	Franklin	355.4	Private
90	Private	Ampersand Lake	Franklin	Harrietstown	354.7	Private
91	Motors	Little Clear Pond	Franklin	Harrietstown, Santa Clara	352.5	Public, Private
92	Motors (small)	Lake Durant	Hamilton	Indian Lake	351.9	Public, Private
93	Motors	Joe Indian Pond	St. Lawrence	Parishville	343.6	Private
94	Undetermined	Third Lake	Hamilton, Essex	Indian Lake, Minerva	339.7	Public
95	Undetermined	Boreas Ponds	Essex	North Hudson	338.9	Private (until 2017)
96	Private	Canachagala Lake	Herkimer	Ohio, Webb	336.2	Private
97	Motors	Garnet Lake	Warren	Johnsburg, Thurman	328.2	Public, Private
98	Motors	Brantingham Lake	Lewis	Greig	327.4	Private
99	Private	Big Salmon Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	327.0	Private
100	Motors	Beaver Lake	Lewis, Herkimer	Watson, Webb	324.7	Private
101	Private	Ragged Lake	Franklin	Bellmont	320.9	Private
102	Motor (electric)	Thirteenth Lake	Warren	Johnsburg	317.0	Public, Private
103	Private	Lake Madeleine	Franklin	Tupper Lake	316.7	Private
104	Private	Duck Lake	Franklin, Hamilton	Tupper Lake, Long Lake	313.3	Private
105	Motors	Sand Lake	Herkimer	Webb	312.5	Public, Private
106	Motors	Moshier Reservoir	Herkimer	Webb	310.1	Public, Private
107	Private	Plumley Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	309.3	Private
108	Motors	Oxbow Lake	Hamilton	Arietta, Lake Pleasant	307.6	Public, Private
109	Motors	Eighth Lake	Hamilton	Inlet	305.9	Public
110	Motors	Harris Lake	Essex	Newcomb	302.7	Public, Private
111	Private	Long Pond	Essex	Willsboro	297.3	Private
112	Motors	Lake Colby	Franklin	Harrietstown	295.1	Public, Private
113	Private	Gull Pond	Franklin, St. Lawrence	Tupper Lake, Piercefield	292.1	Private
114	Motor-free (Accessible)	Rock Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	282.9	Public
115	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Shallow Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	282.6	Public
116	Motors	Fawn Lake	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	282.5	Public
117	Motors	Black Creek Lake	Herkimer	Ohio	282.2	Public, Private



No.	Type	Water Body	County	Town	Acres	Ownership
118	Motors (small)	Putnam Pond	Essex	Ticonderoga	280.4	Public
119	Motors	Deer River Flow	Franklin	Duane	264.5	Public, Private
120	Motor-free (Accessible)	Henderson Lake	Essex	Newcomb	257.7	Public
121	Private	Trout Lake	Warren	Bolton	254.2	Private
122	Motors (small)	Grampus Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	253.0	Public, Private
123	Private	Ireland Vly	Saratoga	Edinburg, Providence	250.6	Private
124	Motors	Lake Algonquin	Hamilton	Wells	248.6	Public, Private
125	Private	Moose Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	245.1	Private
126	Motor-free (Accessible)	Hitchins Pond	St. Lawrence	Colton, Piercefield	244.4	Public
127	Motors	Lake Rondaxe	Herkimer	Webb	243.8	Public, Private
128	Private	Slim Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	243.6	Private
129	Private	Pleasant Lake	Fulton	Stratford	242.7	Private
130	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	West Canada Lake	Hamilton	Arietta	242.1	Public
131	Motors	White Lake	Oneida	Forestport	240.6	Private
132	Motor-free (Accessible)	McKenzie Pond	Essex	North Elba, St. Armand	239.9	Public, Private
133	Private	Benson Mines Pit Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	232.5	Private
134	Private	Lake Marian	St. Lawrence	Colton	230.2	Private
135	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Round Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	225.3	Public
136	Private	Little River Pond (north of Route 3)	St. Lawrence	Clifton	223.8	Private
137	Motors	Big Otter Lake	Lewis, Herkimer	Greig, Webb	220.6	Public
138	Motor-free (Accessible)	Rock Lake	Hamilton	Indian Lake	210.8	Public
139	Motors	Polliwog Pond	Franklin	Santa Clara	210.5	Public
140	Private	Pickwacket Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	207.2	Private
141	Motors (small)	Kings Flow	Hamilton	Indian Lake, Wells	207.1	Public, Private
142	Motors	Star Lake	St. Lawrence	Fine	205.1	Private
143	Private	Rock Lake	Herkimer	Webb	199.7	Private
144	Motor-free (Accessible)	Nicks Lake	Herkimer	Webb	199.3	Public, Private
145	Private	Lake Kora	Hamilton	Long Lake	197.4	Private
146	Private	Follensby Junior Pond	Franklin	Santa Clara	195.4	Private
147	Private	Hadlock Pond	Washington	Fort Ann	194.2	Private
148	Motors	Lake Adirondack	Hamilton	Indian Lake	192.8	Public, Private
149	Motor-free (Accessible)	Madawaska Pond	Franklin	Santa Clara	190.0	Public
150	Private	Long Pond	Lewis	Croghan	189.0	Private
151	Motors	Grass River Flow	St. Lawrence	Colton	187.0	Public, Private
152	Motors	Stony Creek Ponds	Franklin	Harrietstown	186.8	Public, Private
153	Private	Livingston Lake	Saratoga, Warren	Day, Stony Creek	182.3	Private
154	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Moose Pond	Essex	Newcomb	180.5	Public
155	Motor-free (Accessible)	Spruce Lake	Hamilton	Arietta	178.5	Public
156	Private	Jordan Lake	St. Lawrence	Hopkinton	178.3	Private
157	Private	Clear Pond	Essex	North Hudson	175.5	Private



No.	Type	Water Body	County	Town	Acres	Ownership
158	Motor-free (Accessible)	Sagamore Lake	Hamilton	Long Lake	175.3	Public, Private
159	Motors	Bridge Brook Pond	St. Lawrence	Piercefield	172.7	Public
160	Private	Penfield Pond	Essex	Crown Point, Ticonderoga	171.7	Private
161	Motor-free (Accessible)	Hewitt Pond	Essex	Minerva	170.3	Public, Private
162	Motors	Pine Lake	Fulton	Caroga	166.4	Public, Private
163	Motors	Spectacle Lake	Hamilton, Fulton	Arietta, Stratford	166.4	Public
164	Motor-free (Accessible)	Crane Pond	Essex	Schroon	164.5	Public
165	Private	Steele Reservoir	Saratoga	Edinburg, Providence	161.8	Private
166	Private	Butternut Pond	Essex	Chesterfield	160.6	Private
167	Private	Harrisburg Lake	Warren	Stony Creek	159.3	Private
168	Private	Little Wolf Pond	Franklin	Tupper Lake	159.2	Private
169	Motors	Lower Pond	Hamilton	Inlet, Long Lake	159.0	Public
170	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Moose Pond	Essex	St Armand	157.1	Public
171	Private	Upper Ausable Lake	Essex	Keene, North Hudson	156.4	Private
172	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Trout Pond	St. Lawrence	Colton, Piercefield	156.1	Public
173	Private	Pyramid Lake	Essex	Schroon	152.6	Private
174	Motors	Little Long Lake	Oneida	Forestport	150.8	Public, Private
175	Private	Handsome Pond	Hamilton	Long Lake	149.4	Private
176	Motors	First Lake	Herkimer	Webb	148.7	Public, Private
177	Motors	Wilcox Lake	Warren	Stony Creek	147.7	Public
178	Motors	Jabe Pond	Warren	Hague	147.5	Public
179	Motors	Otter Lake	Oneida	Forestport	147.0	Public, Private
180	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Sister Lakes	Hamilton	Long Lake	147.0	Public
181	Motors	Upper Sargents Pond	Hamilton	Arietta	145.8	Public
182	Private	Whitaker Lake	Hamilton	Speculator	145.1	Private
183	Motors	Big Marsh	Hamilton	Arietta, Morehouse	144.9	Public
184	Private	Eagle Crag Lake	St. Lawrence	Piercefield	143.6	Private
185	Private	Hamilton Lake	Hamilton	Lake Pleasant	143.5	Private
186	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Tirrel Pond	Hamilton	Indian Lake	143.2	Public
187	Private	Little Simon Pond	Franklin	Tupper Lake	142.9	Private
188	Motors	Twitchell Lake	Herkimer	Webb	142.6	Public, Private
189	Private	Lower Ausable Lake	Essex	Keene	141.9	Private
190	Motors	Jones Pond	Franklin	Brighton	141.5	Public, Private
191	Motors	Five Falls Reservoir	St. Lawrence	Parishville	140.2	Public, Private
192	Private	Dart Lake	Herkimer	Webb	139.7	Private
193	Motors	Francis Lake	Lewis	Watson	139.7	Public, Private
194	Private	Wolf Pond	Essex	Newcomb	139.6	Private
195	Private	Impoundment on Oswegatchie River	St. Lawrence	Fine	137.9	Private
196	Private	Unnamed Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	137.5	Private
197	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Beaver Lake	Hamilton	Morehouse	136.8	Public



No.	Type	Water Body	County	Town	Acres	Ownership
198	Motors	Irving Pond	Fulton	Caroga	136.4	Public, Private
199	Private	Mink Pond	Essex	Minerva	135.1	Private
200	Motor-free (Inaccessible)	Round Pond	Hamilton	Indian Lake	134.9	Public, Private

Protect the Adirondacks!

Protect the Adirondacks! Inc. is a private non-profit, grassroots membership organization dedicated to:

- The protection and stewardship of the public and private lands of the Adirondack Park, and to building the health and diversity of its human communities and economies for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Permanently protect the Park's wildlands, with special emphasis on the Forest Preserve.
- Ensuring that the "Forever Wild" clause, Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, is preserved and that the Forest Preserve and other lands are strictly managed according to such Article.
- Promoting the Adirondack Park as a global model of landscape-scale conservation in which strong protection of large, interconnected public wildlands are integrated with sustainably managed, economically viable, private farms and forests that are linked to healthy, diverse rural communities.
- Protecting, preserving, and enhancing the wilderness character, ecological integrity, scenic resources, and appropriate recreational uses of the New York State Forest Preserve.

PROTECT pursues this mission through advocacy, public education, research, grassroots organizing, water quality monitoring, forest stewardship, and legal action.

PROTECT is governed by a 22-member Board of Directors and maintains an office in Lake George. PROTECT formed in 2009 from the merger of two long-standing Adirondack Park environmental organizations; the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks.

Membership information www.protectadks.org



Protect the Adirondacks

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