

Keeping It Wild
Annual Report 2021-2022

PROTECT 
THE ADIRONDACKS!

Defending Forever Wild and a Wild Adirondack Park

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*Conservation Director
and Counsel*

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Protect the Adirondacks
PO Box 48
North Creek, NY 12853
518.251.2700
info@protectadks.org
www.protecttheadirondacks.org

Cover picture:
The north flank of Mount Marcy.
Picture on the right is looking
south from Giant Mountain.

Dear PROTECT Members,

Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities. Over the last year, our best opportunity to strengthen protections for the Adirondack Park was in the area of reform of Forest Preserve management. Our historic victory in New York's highest court in 2021, where state environmental agencies were found to have violated Article 14, Section 1, the famed "forever wild" clause of the New York Constitution, has forced state agencies to plot a new course. The Conservation and Advocacy report details a number of reforms that are afoot that we hope will start the process of bringing meaningful change, openness, transparency, and improvements to the way that the Forest Preserve is managed.



Chuck Clusen, Chair

This past year also gives us reason to hope that New York will make serious progress on combatting global climate change. Last summer, we saw the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act by Congress, which marked the first national climate change law in U.S. history. National action bolsters the importance in New York to complete a statewide climate change plan, the first in New York's history, as required under the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Earlier this year, a "scoping plan" was released for public comment and the Climate Action Council is now working on a formal draft. We rallied public comments calling for a bold plan that will help New York meet the incredible challenges from a warming climate. In the Adirondacks, we are working to encourage the Adirondack Park Agency to include assessment of climate change impacts in its permitting process as required by the CLCPA.

We also worked across the Adirondacks with grassroots partners who are concerned about major new developments that threaten their rural quality of life and the wildness and beauty of their communities. We're supporting work to remake the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve as places that are welcoming, inclusive, and safe for all people. Through our independent public oversight program we exposed the state's ill-considered work to rebuild a road in a Wilderness Area and we're opposing the state's efforts to significantly expand the mileage of roads in the Forest Preserve. There is no shortage of issues to monitor and work to be done.

We remain tremendously grateful for the support of our members. We simply could not sustain our efforts to defend forever wild over the last ten years, build a long-term water quality monitoring program over 25 years, and monitor and intervene in all of the major issues facing the Adirondack Park without all of you standing by our side. Thank you very much!

— Chuck Clusen, Chair, Board of Directors

Keeping It Wild

2021-2022 spotlighted the importance, and fragility, of wild places in the Adirondacks



Report by Peter Bauer, Executive Director

Wildness is at the heart of the Adirondack Park experience. There are any number of places across the Adirondacks where one can start hiking or canoeing and travel deeper with every step or paddle into ever wilder country. The Forest Preserve has grown in size over the decades and in many places today it's wilder than it was decades ago. It can grow wilder still, especially if we maintain limits on places where motor vehicles can go. The decisions that we make in the next few years around the management of the Forest Preserve will shape the ecological integrity and character of these mighty lands for decades to come. This work was at our core throughout the last year and will continue into 2023. The report that follows highlights our conservation and advocacy efforts in 2021-22.



Peter Bauer, Executive Director



Forest Preserve management reform: Over the last year, Protect the Adirondacks has been in the thick of policy reforms and discussions around Forest Preserve management and natural resource protection in the Adirondack Park. Our successful legal challenge to uphold the “forever wild” protections in Article 14 of the State constitution, decided by the state’s highest court in 2021, has forced changes and revealed the need for widescale reforms in Forest Preserve management by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA).

Many of these reforms have been a long time coming, and have been the focus of advocacy by PROTECT and others for years. As we look down the road in 2023, the possibilities for reform have never been brighter, and never needed more. The 3-million-acre Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park is the finest state public lands system in the U.S. and it deserves the finest management program.

One positive sign is the formation of the Forest Pre-

Above: members of the Forest Preserve Trails Stewardship Working Group talk about a mountainbike trail in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest area. Right: a stretch of the new Cascade Mountain Trail under construction in the High Peaks Wilderness area.

serve Trails Stewardship Working Group. This group was organized by the DEC and APA at the end of 2021, in response to our court victory, for the purpose of revising the state’s trails system. PROTECT’s 2021 legal victory forced the state to reform how it manages public trails on the Forest Preserve. Environmental groups, local government leaders, and trail builders from the Adirondack and Catskill Parks were recruited to help state agencies develop new trail design and maintenance standards for a series of trails on the Forest Preserve, from hiking to mountainbiking to cross-country skiing to snowmobiling, among other activities.

Progress has been slow at the Working Group, but slowly nuts-and-bolts work is being completed. The group is working through revising how Work Plans are



organized for trail work. It's working on basic mission and vision statements. Policies around tree cutting and motor vehicle use also need to be revised. The ultimate goal is a new trails manual that details the best management practices for trail building and maintenance on the Forest Preserve. PROTECT has emphasized throughout that state agencies must uphold Article 14 in all aspects of their management of the Forest Preserve. This has been a hard concept for state agencies that in the past seldom questioned the constitutionality of their work. The timeframe of the Working Group has been extended into 2023.

Visitor Use Management comes to the Adirondacks:

Another bright spot, and potentially a vital building block for Forest Preserve management reform, is the decision by the DEC to get outside professional help to develop prototype Visitor Use Management (VUM) programs for part of the busy and popular High Peaks Wilderness Area in the Adirondacks and the Kaaterskills Falls area in the Catskills. VUM is a proactive and adaptive process that provides a framework for

managing public recreational use in a variety of settings and natural resource conditions. It's meant to encourage public access to public lands, be flexible and iterative, to experiment, and to utilize active scientific monitoring of natural resource conditions and public use experiences. The goal is to make outdoor recreational tourism and visitation sustainable and beneficial for the natural resources of a specific protected area. VUM practices are designed to manage high public recreational use in a sensitive area in a way that sustains, if not enhances, that area's natural or cultural resources. PROTECT has advocated for the use of VUM practices in the Adirondacks for years.

The new Cascade Mountain Hiking Trail (pictured above) is being built in a Wilderness Area with wilderness trail building techniques. A big part of VUM is determining the level of use that a wild area will receive. The new sustainable Cascade Mountain trail is designed to facilitate a high level of public use, require minimal maintenance, and blends in with the Wilderness character of the surrounding lands.



The National Park Service has used VUM programs for years in National Parks. These programs have evolved over the years and have been widely replicated by other federal agencies and at the state level. A VUM plan for part of the High Peaks Wilderness will be put together in 2023-24. PROTECT will actively monitor this effort.

Working to make sure state agencies obey the courts and uphold forever wild: As this annual report goes to print we're still negotiating with the DEC and APA on how these agencies will deal with the 34 miles of extra-wide Class II snowmobile trails that the courts ruled violate Article 14 of the State constitution. During the winter of 2021-22, the DEC managed these trails as if nothing had happened. The 12-mile Seventh Lake Mountain Trail in the Moose River Plains was groomed and used for snowmobiles last winter despite being found illegal by the courts. When questioned about this at a state budget hearing, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos misrepresented what was going on, telling legislators that the department had fully

Above: The Seventh Lake Mountain Trail in January 2022, open for snowmobiles despite a court decision finding this trail illegal. The DEC Commissioner testified to the Legislature that this trail had been closed. On the right is a part of the reconstituted road in the High Peaks Wilderness that PROTECT opposed. This picture shows tire tracks where motor vehicles have driven on the road.

complied with the court's decision, despite the fact that snowmobiles were at that very moment driving on these illegal trails as if nothing had happened.

The DEC Commissioner's misleading testimony followed more than six months of stonewalling by the DEC to deal with the realities of the court's decision. PROTECT was forced to go back to court in an effort to compel the DEC and APA to comply with the constraints on trail building for motorized uses imposed by Article 14. A judge urged the two sides to work out a settlement and we've been in negotiations for most of 2022. Thus far, a final agreement has been elusive. PROTECT is pushing for the closure of these



illegal trails, with limited exceptions, to snowmobiles and motor vehicles. We believe these trails should be converted to other uses, and restored to hiking trail widths, or abandoned and reforested. We believe that the courts' decisions merit policy changes to Forest Preserve management. If negotiations are fruitless, we'll go back to court to seek a court order for the DEC-APA to adhere to the 2021 decision by the state's highest court.

Illegal road in a Wilderness Area: A very strange thing happened in the fall of 2021 in the High Peaks Wilderness Area. The DEC brought heavy equipment into the High Peaks Wilderness to refurbish a road that its work crews had spent two years dismantling. The DEC rebuilt nearly one mile of an old logging road in the Dudley Brook area of the MacIntyre East section of the High Peaks Wilderness. These lands were purchased as part of the 2018 Boreas Ponds deal.

DEC had worked in 2019 and 2020 to tear apart this former logging road, and many others, in this former

timber tract in an effort to expedite the restoration of these logging roads to a more natural wild forest setting. No coherent explanation was provided by the DEC as to why it rebuilt this road, other than saying it was correcting a massive mistake that somehow its leaders in Albany had failed to notice for two years.

These explanations did not add up. This episode was one of the strangest things we've seen in Forest Preserve management at the DEC in the last two decades. PROTECT worked to shine a spotlight on this fiasco.

In 2019, the same DEC leaders who authorized rebuilding the road in 2021 approved a work plan to tear the road apart and to try something new and different. The DEC set out in 2019 and 2020 to expedite ecological restoration and reclaim a series of old logging roads in newly purchased and newly classified lands in the MacIntyre East section of the High Peaks Wilderness. These lands are located on the south side of the Opalescent River, include the southwestern flanks of Allen Mountain, and are bordered by conservation



easement lands and a Primitive Corridor logging road. Since DEC work plans were not published at that time, or easily accessible, and since this is a trailless section of the High Peaks Wilderness where public access is difficult, involving a ford of the Opalescent River, we did not learn about this work right away. We had heard about similar road reclamation work in the Boreas Ponds area in the summer of 2019, but public access to that area had been restricted since the Halloween storm in 2019 had washed out the Gulf Brook Road.

There are many miles of old roads in the Forest Preserve that are slowly reverting to forest. This takes decades and even after 100 years wheel ruts and the road corridor design remain visible. The rehabilitation effort in the new lands in the High Peaks Wilderness was an attempt to expedite forest restoration and remove the road corridor. Unfortunately, the DEC abruptly reversed course and worked frantically in the last months of 2021 to rebuild as much of this road as possible. Heavy rain deterred their efforts and only about one mile of road was rebuilt.

The picture above shows the heavy machinery used by the Department of Environmental Conservation in the fall of 2021 to rebuild nearly one mile of road in the High Peaks Wilderness Area. By definition, no roads should be allowed in Wilderness. The picture on the right shows a new bridge on the 6-mile-long Gulf Brook Road, leading to Boreas Ponds, which was recently rebuilt after a wash-out in 2019.

This episode is an illustration of an agency that doesn't understand that road building is inherently inconsistent with Wilderness management. PROTECT called on the APA to investigate because road building in a Wilderness Area does not conform with Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, but the APA declined to take any action.

State seeks more miles of roads in the Forest Preserve: In early 2022, the APA-DEC embarked on an effort to formally "interpret" a section of the State Land Master Plan to allow for greater mileage of roads in the Forest Preserve. Current interpretations capped road mileage, but state agencies are seeking ways to



authorize many more miles of roads. A public hearing was held in the summer and a decision is expected this fall or early in 2023. At this point, it appears that state agencies are committed to expanding the road network in the Forest Preserve. PROTECT will continue to monitor this issue and intervene where we can.

Five proposed Article 14 Amendments were introduced in the Legislature in 2022: From 2007 to 2017, five amendments to Article 14 of the New York Constitution were passed by the Legislature and approved by the voters across the state. This period marks the busiest point in New York's history for amendments to Article 14. In the wake of this flurry of amendments, five new draft Article 14 amendments have been proposed by different Legislators or the Governor in the last few years. In the most recent legislative session in 2022, all five were formally introduced in legislation. PROTECT takes amendments to Article 14 very seriously and we were actively involved in their legislative review every step of the way. In the end, none of these amendments advanced.

For the constitution to be amended in New York, a proposed amendment must be passed in successive years by two separately elected Legislatures. This is known as "First Passage" and "Second Passage." Each legislature is elected to two year terms. This means that First Passage is sought in the second year of one legislative term, and then Second Passage to be pursued in the first year of the next legislative term. Both the State Assembly and State Senate must pass each amendment. Once passage has been accomplished, the proposed amendment is placed on a statewide ballot. The Governor has no role in a constitutional amendment.

2022 marked the second year of the most current legislative session and there was a flurry of activity on five different amendments around First Passage. In the end the State Assembly passed just one of the five draft amendments and the State Senate passed a different one, so none of the proposed amendments secured First Passage, leaving supporters to try again in 2024.

These five amendments were a mixed bag. PROTECT

Photo by Nancie Battaglia



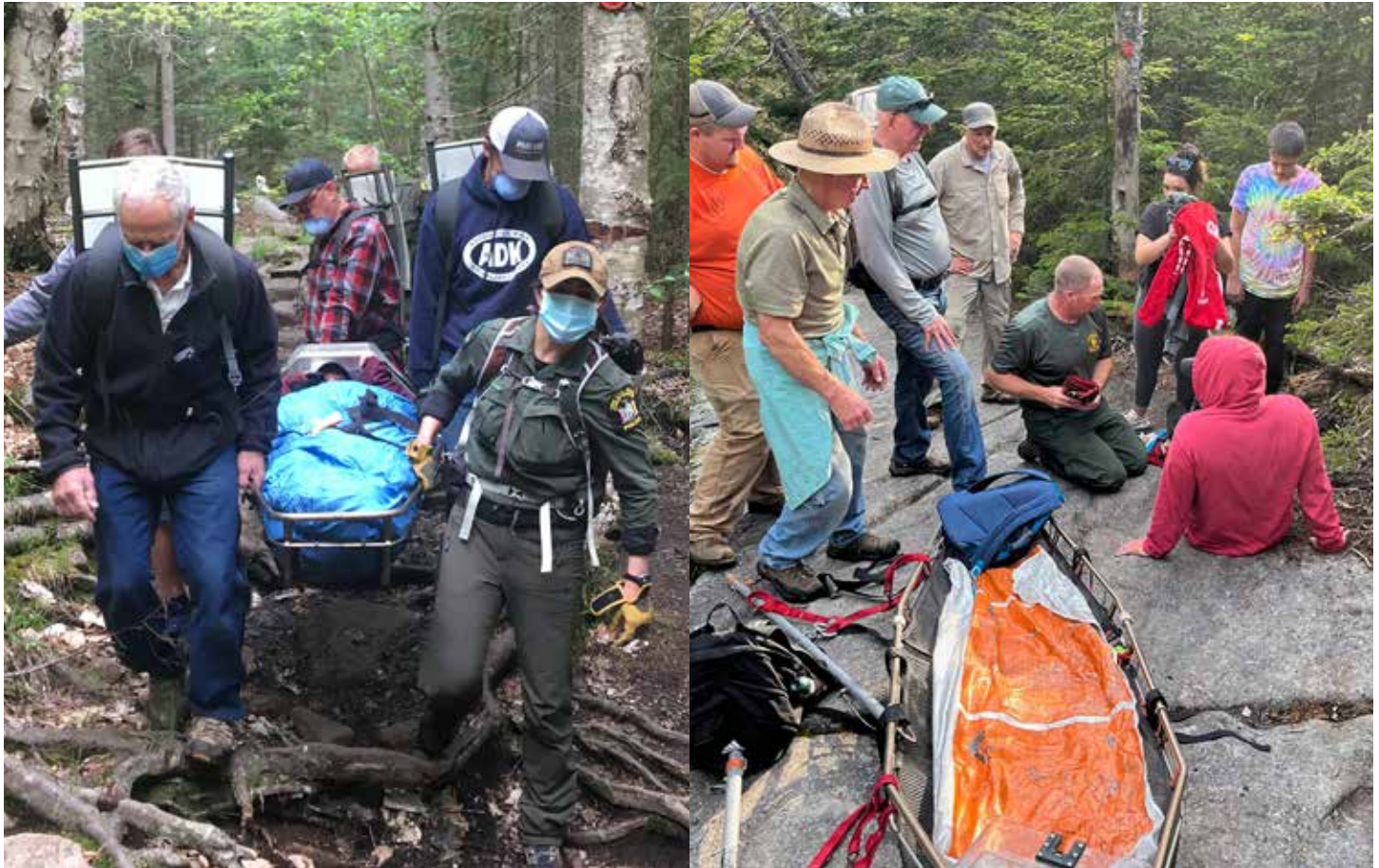
supported an amendment for the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex to authorize various uses and acreage for winter sports, such as cross-country skiing and biathlon. In this way, the Mount Van Hoevenberg facility would be managed through an Article 14 amendment that set limits on its activities, similar to how the Gore Mountain and Whiteface Mountain Alpine Ski areas are managed. This amendment would help to clean up some existing violations of Article 14 at the winter sports complex.

We opposed an amendment for new emergency communications equipment on Cathead Mountain that differed wildly from a consensus effort that we worked on for years. We had worked for four years with the private landowners and local governments towards a solution, but then in 2022 they abruptly changed their positions. We supported an amendment to remove the Camp Gabriels prison complex from the Forest Preserve. We opposed an amendment to privatize the Debar Lodge property on Debar Pond because we believe that this site should be restored and freely open to all

Above clockwise from top left is Debar Lodge, the summit and firetower on Cathead Mountain, the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex, and the NYCO Mine on the edge of the Jay Mountain Wilderness. Page 10 shows two rescues on Blue Mountain led by Forest Rangers with members of the Blue Mountain Lake and Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Departments.

visitors and not made an exclusive private property. We were interested in a very late proposal to place an expiration date on the NYCO mine expansion amendment that was approved in 2013, but it has not advanced. There is a lot of information on the nuances of all of these amendments on our website. We anticipate that all of these amendments, in one form or another, will be in play for First Passage in 2024.

It's time to double the size and diversify the Forest Rangers in New York: These days are a very difficult time for the New York Forest Rangers. This small group is called upon 24 hours a day and seven days a week to help lost and injured hikers using our public



lands. PROTECT has been working with others to expand the number of Forest Rangers.

Right now, there are just 124 Forest Ranger positions in New York State, stationed mostly in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Of this group, there are 17 vacancies, which means we have just 107 active Rangers, but a handful of those are administrative and are not regularly out in the field. Between this year and next year 22 current Rangers are eligible for retirement. As this annual report goes to print, a new Forest Ranger academy is near completion, with a graduating class at the end of November of potentially 38 new Rangers. When retirements are factored in, the new class will bring the Rangers back to the 124 level.

We need to double the size of the Forest Rangers corp across New York, with a special emphasis on the most highly used areas of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. We also need to diversify the Rangers to ensure that there are more women and people of color in the Ranger ranks. This involves building specific new

recruitment methods, changes to Civil Service criteria, and doing more to make the profession of a New York Forest Ranger open and accessible to all interested and qualified people. PROTECT will continue to work with other groups to expand and rebuild the Forest Rangers as we push to double and diversify the Forest Rangers in New York.

New York State gets serious about climate change: In 2019, New York State passed the monumental Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the first major piece of climate change legislation in New York history. This legislation requires the New York Climate Action Council to develop a plan for the state to reach 40% reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as measured by 1990 levels, by 2030, and 85% below 1990 levels by 2050. This is a massive goal that will require major changes across the state. The Climate Action Council produced a draft scoping plan in spring 2022, which outlined a number of options for a comprehensive statewide plan. PROTECT rallied its members to submit comments.



Another major piece of the CLCPA is the requirement that state agencies in New York assess GHG emissions when issuing “permits, licenses, and other administrative approvals and decisions,” in order to determine whether such actions “will be inconsistent with or will interfere with the attainment of the statewide [GHG] emission limits.” To date, unfortunately, the APA has failed to consider climate change impacts and GHG emissions when it reviews proposed development projects. This needs to change.

One example of the APA’s failure to consider climate change impacts in its regulatory work is its review of new subdivisions consisting of new houses, roads, and forest clearing. For example, a proposed new 120-unit development in Jay includes up to 20 townhomes, each 1,800 square feet in size; up to 60 villas, each 3,500 square feet in size; up to 18 estates, each 6,500 square feet in size; up to 6 mansions, each 10,000 square feet in size; and a hotel, restaurant and spa. Overwhelmingly, these buildings will be vacation homes, fueled year-round, but often standing empty.

The pictures on these pages show a residential solar array, a hot water solar system, and a charging port on an electric vehicle. PROTECT is advocating for greater incentives for residential solar systems, electric vehicles, and heat pumps.

Scientists have calculated that construction of a single 2,060-square-foot house creates a four-ton carbon debt. Given the size and number of new homes proposed in this project, it will likely create a carbon debt of hundreds of tons. In addition, clearing one acre of forest creates a carbon debt of 257 tons. Given that a substantial amount of forest clearing is proposed by the applicant for the purpose of new home and road construction, this activity will result in additional thousands of tons of carbon debt. No amount of solar panels or heat pumps associated with this project will recoup the GHG pollution it will cause.

It is high time that the full impacts of climate change are evaluated in land use decisions in the Adirondack Park. The CLCPA is crystal clear in imposing a duty on “all state agencies,” which includes the APA, to evalu-



ate the GHG emissions” when “considering and issuing permits.” The APA issues several hundred permits each year, yet has failed to consider the climate change impacts of those permits.

PROTECT provided the Climate Action Council with many ideas for how forest protection and forest management could be improved in the state to help meet climate change goals. We also provided many ideas for how regulation of land use and development in New York needs to evaluate carbon pollution. A proposed final plan is expected in early 2023. Public hearings will be held across the state. PROTECT will be involved every step of the way.

We are also pushing for greater support to help families in New York transition to carbon free energy by making residential solar, geothermal heat, and heat pumps more affordable. We need to do more as a state to provide incentives through tax credits and grants so that we can boost rooftop or backyard solar production and convert to alternative heating systems. New

York will not be able to meet its goals without incentivizing widespread use of solar panels, geothermal systems, and heat pumps.

Standing up for wolves and coyotes in the Adirondacks and New York State: Last December an 85-pound wolf was killed by a hunter in central New York. The hunter notified the DEC as he was alarmed by the size of the animal. The DEC initially stated it was a coyote, but then two independent DNA tests, one paid for by PROTECT, confirmed that this animal was a wolf, and DEC acknowledged in September that the wolf was a wolf. Under New York State law and the federal Endangered Species Act, any wolf that wanders into New York is protected as an endangered species. Clearly, the wolf shot in central New York never enjoyed such protections. Since this summer, PROTECT has been working with a coalition of groups to improve protections for coyotes and wolves in New York.

Our efforts now are focused on trying to bring reforms to the 6-month-long open coyote hunting season in



Photo by Larry Master

New York where there is no limit on the number of coyotes killed each day or for a season. We believe that coyotes over a certain size and weight should not be hunted and that there should be mandatory reporting of all coyotes killed. The coyote season should be shorter, with limits on the number of coyotes taken. We're also pushing DEC to better educate coyote hunters as to the differences between wolves and coyotes and about how to clearly identify a wolf in the field. We're also pushing for a new statewide coyote study that builds upon DNA studies in the 1980s and 1990s. We'll be pushing for these reforms at the DEC and in the State Legislature.

Independent public oversight for monitoring private land development: The Adirondack Park is experiencing a building boom. While there are just a handful of large developments, like the 120-lot project in Jay mentioned above, most of the development occurs in a house-here, house-there pattern. In the last two years, since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, we've seen a spike in development trends in the Adirondacks.

Above is a gray wolf. On page 14, clockwise from the top left: The Barton Mine on the edge of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area with Thirteenth Lake in the background. The Blue Mountain Lake Stewards from 2022 of Ava Anderson, David Anderson, and Jake Collins. A section of the proposed 120-unit luxury development in Jay. Opposition to the White Lake Granite Quarry in the western Adirondacks.

We've worked with local groups concerned about their quality of life and negative impacts to their small businesses from two mining projects. In the western Adirondacks, we worked with the Adirondack White Lake Association, which is concerned about a new granite quarry permitted in 2022 in Forestport. White Lake is a small rural resort community. Over 1,000 landowners opposed the new mine, but the APA approved it with only minor changes. The Association and PROTECT teamed up with the PACE Environmental Law Clinic to challenge the decision, which is currently on appeal. In the central Adirondacks we've worked with local property owners and groups concerned about the massive expansion of Barton Mines

Photo by Nancie Battaglia



in North River. This is the only mountaintop mine in the Adirondacks and it's seeking to lock in a 24-hour-per-day mining schedule. Neighbors are concerned about chronic noise, dust, water quality, and visual impacts from highly visible tailings piles that are projected to grow 100 feet higher. This mine borders the Siamese Ponds Wilderness and there are noise, dust, and visual impacts to the Forest Preserve. We'll continue to work with local residents on these projects in 2022.

We'll also continue to push for reforms at the Adirondack Park Agency. We're monitoring and commenting on an array of projects across the Adirondacks. We're also pushing for new APA Board members to help reform the Board by bringing on members who are scientists, have experience in land use planning, or public lands management, and can help to reorient the APA from its current misguided priority of economic development.

Online Hiking Trail Guides are incredibly popular:

In 2020, PROTECT started publishing online hiking trail guides to showcase trails and destinations often off the beaten path, outside of the busy High Peaks Wilderness Area, and in all corners of the Adirondack Park. By early 2021, we had posted 100 hikes. These trail guides have proven very popular. We're working in the months ahead to add more hikes and this winter we plan to start posting guides for cross country skiing, paddling, and even more hiking trips. See "Hiking Trails" on our website to read about a variety of great hikes across the Adirondacks.

Blue Mountain Lake Steward Project: 2022 marked the 28th year of PROTECT's administration of the Blue Mountain Lake Steward Project. We manage a team of stewards who provide public education about "Leave No Trace" camping and recreational use on the sensitive island campsites and day use areas on the lake and Eckford Chain. This program has also expanded into work on early detection and surveys of aquatic invasive species. We partner with the DEC, local Ranger, Blue Mountain Lake Association, and foundations.

Longtime environmental leader Christopher Amato joins PROTECT as our new Conservation Director and Counsel:

We're very pleased that Chris Amato joined us as our new Conservation Director and Counsel in August 2022. The Conservation Director and Counsel leads our conservation and advocacy efforts for Forest Preserve protection and management, independent public oversight of private land development and natural resource protection, as well as policy review and legal action. There's a long list of pressing work on all of these issues across the Adirondacks.

Chris has a long history of involvement with Adirondack Park issues, beginning with his work as a Staff Attorney at the Adirondack Park Agency, as Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources at the Department of Environmental Conservation, and as an attorney in private practice and with EarthJustice where he represented Protect the Adirondacks and other advocacy groups. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General. Most recently, Chris worked as Senior Counsel in the New York State Senate Majority Counsel's Office.

Chris's broad experience in Adirondack land use and Forest Preserve issues makes his impact immediate and substantial as he takes the lead on independent public oversight of Adirondack Park management and land use and development.

Adirondack Lake Assessment Program: We're extremely proud that the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) turned 25 years old in 2022. (See a list of enrolled lakes on page 16 on the right.) This program is a partnership between the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute and PROTECT. Over the last 25 years we've successfully built a long-term database of water quality conditions on an array of Adirondack lakes and ponds. This data has helped with watershed management programs, substantiated long-term trends, and identified road salt pollution as one of the chief threats to Adirondack waters. ALAP has become one of the best citizen science water quality monitoring programs anywhere. We're working to make sure that ALAP flourishes for another 25 years.

Challenges and Objectives for 2023: The Adirondack Park faces many challenges next year as we press ahead



Christopher Amato, Conservation Director and Counsel

with Forest Preserve management reforms, bringing the reality of Article 14 legal decisions to state management of the Forest Preserve, and bringing the full force of the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to land use regulation in the Adirondack Park. We'll step up our work to partner with local residents concerned about the impacts of new development projects on their rural quality of life.

We'll campaign for protections for coyotes and wolves, curbs in the use of road salt to protect water quality, and efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species. We'll continue to push for more Forest Rangers in the Adirondacks and Catskills, and greater support for trail crews and sustainable trail building. We'll push to make the Forest Preserve and Adirondack Park more open, inclusive, and welcoming to all people.

Thank you! We are incredibly grateful for the support of our members. None of the work detailed above could be done without your help. We have scored major victories in the past few years where we've won new protections for the Forest Preserve and the wild places in the Adirondack Park. We've been able to build long-term programs that have contributed to our scientific understanding of different challenges facing the Adirondack Park. Thank you so much for your support and let's make 2023 even better!



Adirondack Lake Assessment Program turned 25 Years Old in 2022

The Adirondack Park Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) is a partnership between Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute and Protect the Adirondacks. 2022 marked the 25th season of water quality monitoring. ALAP has grown into one of the best long-term citizen science programs of its kind in New York and the eastern United States.

The annual report for all ALAP lakes is available on the ALAP website: www.adklakes.org. Here's a list of 70 lakes studied in 2022:

Amber Lake
Arbutus Pond

Augur Lake
Austin Pond
Big Moose Lake
Blue Mountain Lake
Brandreth Lake
Butternut Pond
Canada Lake
Caroga Lake (East)
Caroga Lake (West)
Catlin Lake
Chases Lake
Chateaugay Lake (Lower)
Chateaugay Lake (Upper)
Chazy Lake
Cranberry Lake
Deer Lake
Eagle Lake
Eli Pond
Fern Lake
Frank Pond
Friends Lake
Garnet Lake
Green Lake

Gull Pond
Highlands Lake
Hoel Pond
Indian Lake (Franklin Cty)
Irving Pond
Jordan Lake
Kiwassa Lake
Lake Adirondack
Lake Clear
Lake Colby
Lake of the Pines
Lake Titus
Lens Lake
Little Long Lake
Long Lake
Long Pond
Loon Lake (Franklin Cty)
Loon Lake (Warren Cty)
Lower Saranac Lake
Middle Saranac Lake
Mink Pond
Moody Pond
Moss Lake

Mountain View Lake
Osgood Pond
Otter Pond
Paradox Lake
Pine Lake
Pleasant Lake
Raquette Lake
Rich Lake
Silver Lake
Simon Pond
Star Lake
Stoney Creek Ponds
Thirteenth Lake
Tripp Lake
Trout Lake
Tupper Lake
Twitchell Lake
West Lake
White Lake
Windover Lake
Wolf Lake
Zack Pond



Elizabeth Thorndike and Peter S. Paine, Jr. honored with Howard Zahniser Adirondack Award

Howard Zahniser was a towering figure in American conservation history who relentlessly campaigned for the National Wilderness Act, which he modeled in part on the forever wild clause in the New York State Constitution. This award in his name is the highest honor given by Protect the Adirondacks to recognize people who have made outstanding contributions to the environment and success of the Adirondack Park.

Elizabeth W. (“Liz”) Thorndike, Ph.D., of Rochester, was honored for her stalwart and successful work as a leader in protecting and defending the Forest Preserve, environment, and rural communities of the Adirondack Park. Liz Thorndike was the founder and President of the Center for Environmental Information. She served for over 15 years on the APA Board, where she chaired the Park Policy and Planning Committee. At the APA, Liz convened the Public Issues Forum for years, where the committee sought civility and mutual respect in discussions of major Adirondack issues. Liz served on Governor Mario Cuomo’s Environmental Advisory Board and the Board of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. She was on the Board of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, was a founder of the Adirondack Re-

Pictured above with their Howard Zahniser Adirondack Awards in hand, above left is award recipient Elizabeth Thorndike with Peter Bauer, PROTECT Executive Director. Above right is PROTECT Chair Chuck Clusen, award recipient Peter Paine, and Board member Bob Glennon.

search Consortium and the Adirondack Park Institute.

Peter S. Paine, Jr., of Willsboro, has worked for over 50 years to protect and defend the Forest Preserve, open spaces, and communities of the Adirondack Park. Peter has served the Adirondack Park in many exemplary ways, starting with his leadership on the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondack Park under Governor Nelson Rockefeller in the late 1960s, which recommended the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency. He helped author the APA Act, and was the primary author of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, two enduring models for regional and Wilderness environmental protection. For over 25 years, he served on the APA Board. Peter has worked to protect open spaces and wildlands in the Adirondacks through his work with The Nature Conservancy and Adirondack Land Trust. He has also volunteered with Fort Ticonderoga, the Lake Champlain Committee, and the Adirondack Foundation.

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* Deceased at time of publication.

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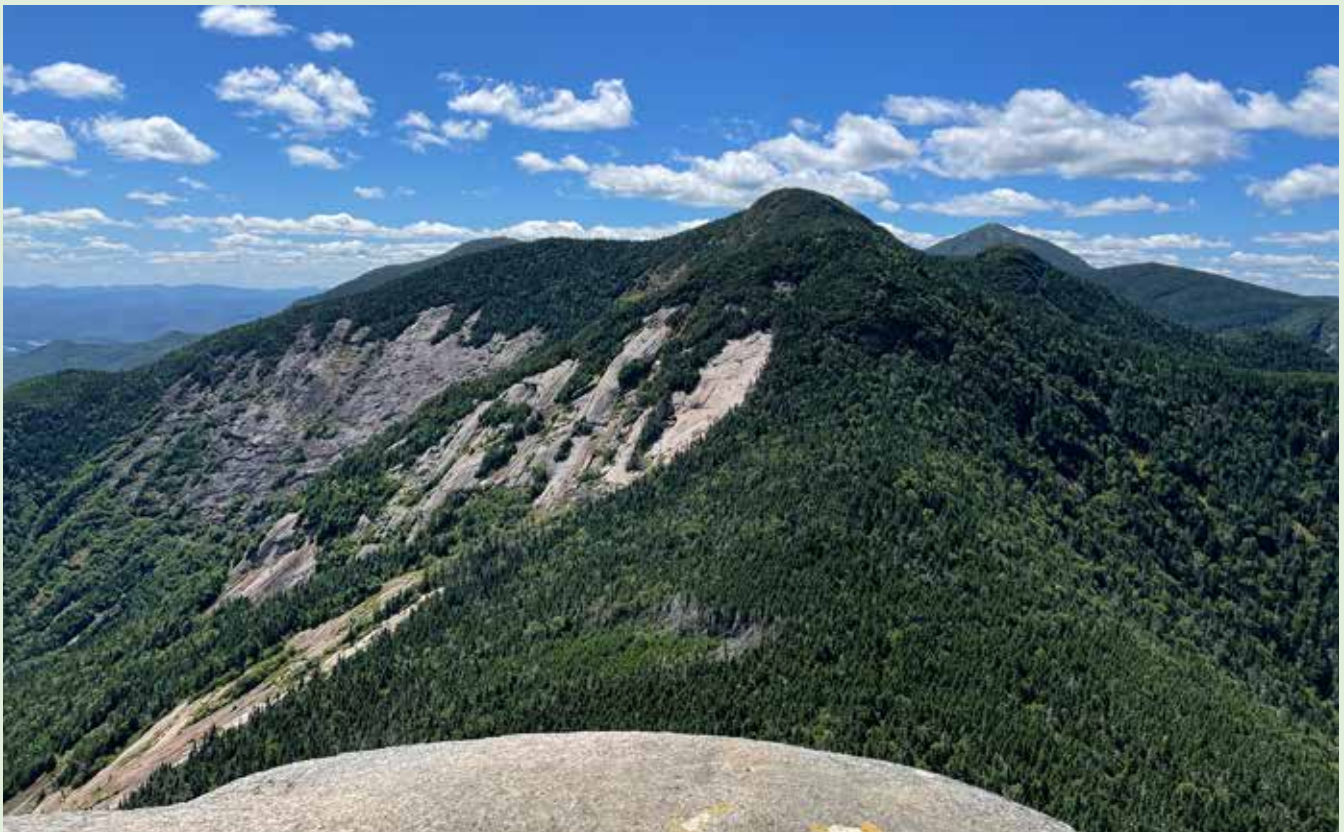
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2021-2022 Financial Summary

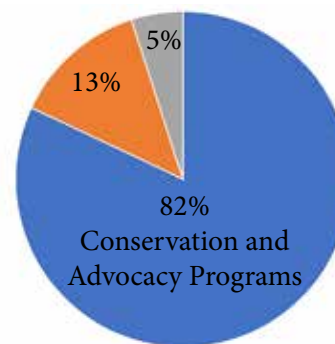
Assets	2021-22	2020-21
Cash	\$164,242	\$170,308
Cash (Designated)	26,864	26,859
Cash (Temporarily Restricted)	75,987	63,823
Cash (Permanently Restricted)	42,660	42,660
Investments - Board Designated	32,528	38,286
Investments - Unrestricted	282,285	89,826
Investments - Permanently Restricted	485,174	560,617
Property (Adirondack Research Library)	450,000	450,000
Property (Headquarters/Furnishings)	214,351	221,545
Total Assets	\$1,774,091	\$1,663,924

Revenues	2021-22	2020-21
Contributions & Grants	\$466,212	\$314,983
Dues & Fees	67,822	65,398
Investment Income	13,301	13,571
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(5,274)	(290)
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(96,929)	62,918
Event Income	0	0
In-Kind Donations	18,470	106,623
Program Services	16,060	22,250
Miscellaneous	855	272
Total Income	\$480,517	\$585,725

Program, Administrative & Fundraising Expenses	2021-22	2020-21
Program Expenses	(82%) \$302,323	(86%) \$377,326
Administrative Expenses	(5%) \$19,519	(4.3%) \$18,817
Fundraising Expenses	(13%) \$49,001	(9.7%) \$42,712
Total Expenses	\$370,843	\$438,855

Expenses	2021-22	2020-21
Salaries	\$172,457	\$178,707
Payroll Expenses & Benefits	29,071	32,092
Contracted Services	2,631	1,210
Insurance	3,269	3,688
Occupancy Costs (Headquarters main.)	10,340	12,525
Supplies	2,998	3,901
Printing	16,156	12,157
Postage	5,614	4,042
Conferences & Events	347	2,243
Bank Charges	1,713	1,729
Advertising	5,325	6,592
Dues & Subscriptions	800	468
Legal Defense	25,609	107,903
Professional Fees & Services	9,595	9,575
Travel	5,526	2,877
Website & Technology Services	16,246	9,973
Investment Fees	0	0
Program Expense	55,951	42,207
Miscellaneous		--
Depreciation and Amortization	7,195	6,966
Total Expenses	\$370,843	\$438,855

2021-22 Total Resource Allocation



Administration 5%
Fundraising 13%
Programs 82%

Protect the Adirondacks is the recipient of the "Gold" level Guidestar seal for organizational transparency.

Gold
Transparency
2022
Candid.

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.

The Adirondack Research Library (\$450,000) is on permanent loan to the Kelly Adirondack Center of Union College in Niskayuna, NY, and PROTECT's headquarters (\$214,351) is located in Johnsburg, NY.



Help secure the future of Protect the Adirondacks

Join the Forever Wild Legacy Group

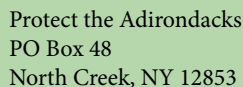
The Forever Wild Endowment Fund will ensure that the advocacy, research, independent public oversight, legal defense, and other vital programs of Protect the Adirondacks are sustained for decades to come.

Gifts to the Forever Wild Endowment Fund are administered by the Board of Directors of Protect the Adirondacks, in partnership with professional financial advisors. The endowment is managed for long-term growth, and income supports PROTECT's programs based on an annual allocation. No matter how one chooses to give, you can direct your gift to support the Forever Wild Endowment Fund.

The Forever Wild Legacy Group are people who have notified us that they have included Protect the Adirondacks as a beneficiary in their wills or estates. These generous donors include:

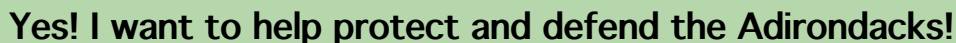
Sidney and Michelle Haring
Hans Himelein and Janice Kyle
Dr. Herbert Hudnut
Eugene and Carolyn Kazcka
James McMartin Long
Phyllis Thompson

For more information on the Forever Wild Legacy Group call (518) 251-2700 or email us at info@protectadks.org. Thank you very much!



Please make a special contribution today to help Protect the Adirondacks continue defending and protecting the wild lands and waters you love. Please help Protect the Adirondacks preserve the wild characteristics of the Adirondack

Park for current and future generations to enjoy. To become a member today and add your voice to many others, visit us online at www.protectadks.org, or return the completed form below.



PO Box 48 North Creek, NY 12853 info@protectadks.org protectadks.org

Payment

Please make checks payable to: Protect the Adirondacks! For credit card circle one:
VISA MasterCard American Express
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Card # _____
Name _____
Exp Date _____
CVV2 code (VISA/MC 3-digit on back)
or (AMEX 4-digit on front) _____

Please sign me up as a Monthly Sustainer.
Charge \$_____ to my credit card once
each month.

Thank you very much for your support!

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

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