



PRESS RELEASE

July 1, 2024

## State of New York Releases Draft “Strategies and Methodology” for how it Plans to Meet Goal of Protecting 30% of NYS Lands and Waters by 2030

*Hochul Administration and DEC/OPRHP state that the State of New York must protect 2,836,161 acres to meet the goals of the 30 by 30 Act passed in 2022*

**For more information:**

Peter Bauer, Executive Director: Cell 518.796.0112

Claudia Braymer, Deputy Director: Cell 703.937.7163

Albany, NY: On July 1, 2024, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) released their draft “strategies and methodology” for conserving lands to meet the 30 by 30 Act goal for land protection by 2030. DEC’s calculations call for protection of an additional 2,836,161 acres across New York State in order to reach the goal of protecting 30% of the state’s lands and inland waters. This marks the first time that the Hochul Administration and state environmental agencies have gone on the record about the urgent need to protect at least 2.83 million acres in order to meet the State’s 30 by 30 goals and the State’s carbon reduction targets and goals for climate mitigation and resiliency. The report also recognizes that the State’s “outdoor recreation industry, which represented 248,000 jobs and over \$25 billion in gross domestic product in 2021, is inextricably tied to the well-being of natural areas”.

See the DEC report here: <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/nys30x30draft.pdf>. The DEC is taking public comments until August 30, 2024.

In 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul signed the “30 by 30” law that establishes a conservation goal for New York State of protecting 30% of the State’s “lands and inland waters” by the year 2030. This landmark environmental protection legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan support, passing the State Senate by a vote of 58 to 3, and the State Assembly by a vote of 137 to 8. The 30 by 30 law commits New York to do its part to reach a similar national goal established by President Joe Biden in 2021, to protect 30% of the nation’s lands and waters by 2030, and is a major step forward to protect New

Protect the Adirondacks!  
PO Box 48, North Creek, NY 12853 (518) 251-2700  
[info@protectadks.org](mailto:info@protectadks.org) [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org)  
Like Us on Facebook Follow Us on Instagram/Threads @ProtectAdkPark

York's open spaces, forests, and wetlands, which are cornerstones of the State's long-term climate resilience and mitigation efforts.

At the end of 2023, Protect the Adirondacks released a new special report "20% in 2023: An Assessment of the New York State 30 by 30 Act" that assessed the level of protected lands and waters in New York State in 2023, the types of lands protected, what constitutes protected lands, and the amount of land that needs to be protected by 2030 to reach the goal of protecting 30% of New York State's lands and waters as set out in the 30 by 30 Act. PROTECT's report found that over 3.1 million acres needed to be protected.

See the complete report here: <https://www.protectadks.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Protect-the-Adirondacks-30-by-30-Report-web.pdf>

"We commend the Hochul Administration for going on the record about needing to protect at least another 2.83 million acres across New York in order to meet the 30 by 30 Act goals. New York has a long and proud history of land protection. We call upon Governor Hochul to set an ambitious land protection goal for her administration," said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks.

Governor George Pataki famously protected over 1 million acres during his 12 years in office. Since 2011, the administrations of Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul have acquired just over 100,000 acres. The new DEC-OPRHP report states that 43,676 acres were acquired by the State over the last five years since 2019.

"In addition to state land purchases for the Forest Preserve or state parks or through new conservation easements, we encourage the Hochul Administration to develop a new private forestland protection program based on long-term carbon storage for landowners across New York. Today, there are millions of acres of privately owned forests where landowners are eager to protect their lands and help the State meet its climate change mitigation goals," said Claudia Braymer, Deputy Director of Protect the Adirondacks.

### **Protect the Adirondacks**

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park's wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, water quality monitoring, education, and legal action. Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Adirondack Park, the Resident's Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (est. 1991) and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (est. 1901).

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 22-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered

office in Johnsbury in the central Adirondacks. For more information see [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org) and @ProtectAdkPark.

##