



**PROTECT**   
**THE ADIRONDACKS!**

Annual Members Meeting  
July 20, 2024, 10:00 AM

## Agenda

1. Welcome by Chuck Clusen, PROTECT Chair
2. Introduction of Board of Directors & Staff
3. 2023-2024 Financial Report by David Quinn, Treasurer
4. 2024 Board of Directors Election and Bylaws Revisions by Barbara Rottier
6. 2024 Conservation & Advocacy Report
7. Questions & Comments
8. Lunch and Adjourn
9. Afternoon Activities





## Board of Directors 2024

Charles Clusen, Chair

James McMartin Long, Vice Chair

Michael Wilson, Vice Chair

Barbara Rottier, Secretary

David Quinn, Treasurer

Nancy Bernstein

John Caffry

Andy Coney

Dean Cook

James C. Dawson

Lorraine Duvall

Bob Glennon

Roger Gray

Evelyn Greene

Sid Harring

Sheila Hutt

Dale Jeffers

Patty Morrison

John Nemjo

Peter O'Shea

Philip Terrie

Chris Walsh

Peter Bauer, Executive Director

Claudia Braymer, Deputy Director

Christopher Amato, Conservation Director and Counsel



## 3-Year Income Comparison (July-June)

Source	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Membership (\$1-\$249)	\$54,154	\$57,335	\$66,597
Large Donors (\$250+)	205,535	161,741	169,044
Corporate Match	1,727	11,109	13,807
Bequest/Memorials	5,025	2,550	201,715
Legal Defense Funds	32,967	1,687	14,145
Foundation Grants	57,000	69,000	67,500
Events, Meetings, Conferences	7,785	2,475	1,225
ALAP	33,525	20,200	10,335
Partnerships	11,538	10,300	5,725
Interest	0	9	14
Misc. Income	6,038	0	855
Office Annual Fund	25,000	15,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$440,294</b>	<b>\$351,406</b>	<b>\$560,962</b>

## 3-Year Expense Comparison

Source	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Salaries and Benefits	\$348,313	\$260,201	\$201,811
Contracted Services	133	6,491	7,012
Office Maint., Utilities, etc.	22,099	13,825	10,341
Insurance	2,771	2,073	3,269
Office Supplies	3,140	3,532	2,858
Printing, Postage	24,218	36,870	21,770
ALAP	40,923	38,898	33,508
Legal Defense Fund	6,085	16,426	7,139
Website	3,233	2,342	2,422
Dues/Subscrip/Licenses	1,226	990	799
Advertising	2,425	1,750	5,325
Events	1,300	0	0
Conferences/Travel/Meetings	11,007	11,874	5,873
Bank Charges/Audit	10,401	10,096	9,413
Equip, Maint., Softwr, Misc.	17,746	18,030	11,326
Program Expenses	14,370	6,476	22,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$509,390</b>	<b>\$429,874</b>	<b>\$344,986</b>

### 3-Year Total Organizational Assets Comparison

Source	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Cash on hand	\$58,535	\$165,848	\$184,120
Temp Restricted Assets	93,002	105,192	125,623
Long-Term Portfolio (Bldg)	515,055	494,611	485,173
Property (ARL)	470,827	470,827	470,827
Property (headquarters)	191,645	191,645	191,645
Endowment	356,327	328,009	311,760
Equipment	6,200	6,200	6,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,691,591</b>	<b>\$1,762,332</b>	<b>\$1,775,348</b>

#### 2022-23 Total Resource Allocation



Administration 5%  
 Fundraising 7%  
 Programs 88%

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



The fiscal year for Protect the Adirondacks is July 1 – June 30<sup>th</sup>.

PROTECT has an annual independent audit completed each year, which is available upon request or from the NYS Attorney Generals Office.

A financial summary is published in our annual report each year.



## Board of Directors Election 2024

(Full 3-Year Terms)

Andy Coney, Stowe, MA; Blue Mountain  
Lake, NY

James C. Dawson, PhD, Plattsburgh, NY

Lorraine Duvall, Keene, NY

Bob Glennon, Ray Brook, NY

Evelyn Greene, North Creek, NY

Sid Haring, Mayfield, NY

Sheila Hutt, Blue Mountain Lake, NY

Dale Jeffers, Elizabethtown, NY



## Vote on Proposed Amendments to PROTECT's ByLaws

1. Rename "Board Development and Governance" Committee to "Board Governance Committee – amended name throughout the ByLaws
2. Reduce number of Vice Chairs from three to two, and add one "at large" Officer member to the Executive Committee – Article VI (Officers), Sec. 1; Article VII (Committees)
3. Vice-Chairs will be "Primary" and "Secondary" with duties assigned by the Chair - Article VI (Officers), Sec. 3
4. Amend annual evaluation process for the Executive Director – Article VI (Officers), Sec. 4
5. Amend Executive Committee to reduce number of Vice-Chairs from three to two, add one "at large" Officer, and state that not fewer than "one-third (1/3)" of the total of six members of the Executive Committee "must be domiciled within the Adirondack Park" – Article VII, Sec. 5





# Adirondack Park

6-million acres, crazy-quality, patchwork of land ownerships of over 5.5 million acres of continuous high forest canopy

Wild landscape of forests, mountains and water

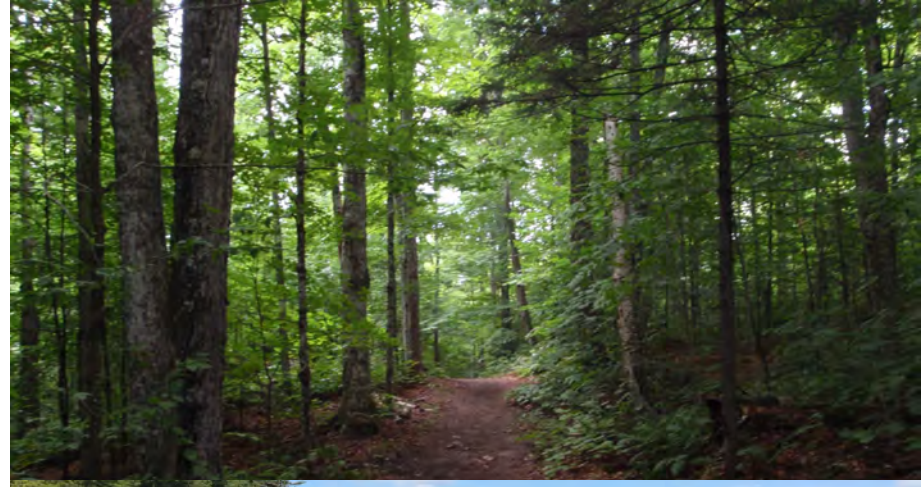
2.7 million acres public Forest Preserve, includes 1.1 million acres of Wilderness

Over 750,000 acres of conservation easements

Over 3,000 lakes and ponds, over 10,000 blue specs on maps, 1 million acres of wetlands, 1,500 miles of rivers 35,000 miles of streams

Parts of 12 counties, 92 towns, 125,000 residents, 250,000 seasonal residents, 12 million visitors

Most accessible wild place in U.S. with over 4,000 miles of various kinds of open trails, 80 million people within a day's drive.



## Top 12 Organizational and Conservation Priorities for 2024-2025

1. Land Protection: 30 by 30, Open Space Conservation Plan
2. Independent Public Oversight and Legal Actions
3. Forest Preserve Management Reform
4. Growth Report: Development Trends 2000-2020
5. Wildlife protections
6. Defense of Article 14
7. Clean Water Advocacy
8. Sustaining Viable Adirondack Communities
9. Making the Adirondack Park More Open, Inclusive and Diverse
10. Long-Term Partnerships
11. Staff Succession
12. Expanding Long-term Organizational Financial Support





# 1. Land Protection

**Advocating for a renewed focus by the State of New York on protecting land**

## PROTECT Report fall 2023

19.7% lands and waters protected in 2023; 6,189,555 acres; 3 million more acres to protect by 2030

## NYS DEC-OPRHP Report in 2024

22% lands and waters protected; 7,639,505 acres; 2.83 million more acres to protect by 2030

Public comments by August 30<sup>th</sup>

Hochul Administration commits to protection of 2.83 million acres

**20% in 2023**

An assessment of the New York State 30x30 Act

**PROTECT THE ADIRONDACKS!**



## 1. Land Protection



### **New Open Space Conservation Plan 1Q 2025**

New plan should be a blueprint for 30 by 30, public hearings in early 2025.

### **Top of the List: Whitney Park**

One of the greatest challenges in upon us all with the threatened development and sale of the 36,000-acre Whitney Park in Long Lake, Hamilton County. This 36,000-acre tract includes 22 lakes and ponds and is border by a Wilderness Area to the north, Wild Forest to the east and south. Historic east-west, north-south canoe routes through tract. Must be preserved and protected.

## 2. Independent Public Oversight – Public Comment



- July 12, 2024: PROTECT Comment Letter to DEC regarding the proposed Endangered Species Act regulations
- July 12, 2024: PROTECT letter to DEC regarding removal of Debar Lodge structures
- July 3, 2024: PROTECT Comment Letter to Town of Cairo regarding proposed Blackhead Mountain Lodge project
- July 3, 2024: PROTECT letter to DEC regarding the New York State 30 by 30 Act and Updates to the Open Space Conservation Plan
- June 24, 2024: PROTECT letter to APA pointing out numerous errors in "White Paper" submitted by Barton Mines, Inc., on its major expansion of the Ruby Mountain mine
- June 20, 2024: Group letter to DEC regarding marina on Lower Fish Creek Pond proposed by USL Marina LLC
- June 17, 2024: PROTECT comment letter to APA and DEC regarding the draft Cranberry Lake Campground UMP amendment
- June 17, 2024: Protect Comments to DEC on Draft Species Status Assessments for State Wildlife Action Plan
- June 14, 2024: PROTECT Comment Letter to Franklin County about the proposed Trail System
- June 13, 2024: PROTECT comment letter to DEC about the update to the policy on Public Rights of Navigation and Fishing
- June 6, 2024: PROTECT submits comment letter to APA regarding proposed cell tower
- May 16, 2024: PROTECT submits comment letter to APA regarding use of ProcellaCOR in Highlands Forge Lake
- May 13, 2024: PROTECT opposes bill mandating consideration of Historic Area classification for structures on the Forest Preserve
- May 13, 2024: Comment letter to APA about proposed project involving ballistics testing in Essex County
- May 10, 2024: Letter to Senator Hoylman-Sigal about a Constitutional Amendment for 3 closed prisons in the Adirondack Forest Preserve
- May 10, 2024: Comment letter to APA about use of ProcellaCOR in the Adirondack Park
- May 9, 2024: PROTECT letter to Village of Lake George about the proposed "LakeWalk" project
- April 25, 2024: PROTECT submits comment letter to APA and DEC about USL Marina proposal on Lower Fish Creek Pond

### Public Comments on Key Proposed Projects, State Agency Policies or Regulations, and Legislation

Comments often require extensive legal and policy history review

All published and accessible on our website for all to see.

2021: 27 letters

2022: 27 letters

2023: 36 letters

2024: 43 letters (through July)





## 2. Independent Public Oversight – Tracking Major Developments

**Stackman Subdivision Proposal, Town of Jay:** 120 lots on 350 acres that will include up to 20 townhomes, 60 villas, 18 estates, 6 mansions, and a hotel, restaurant and spa.

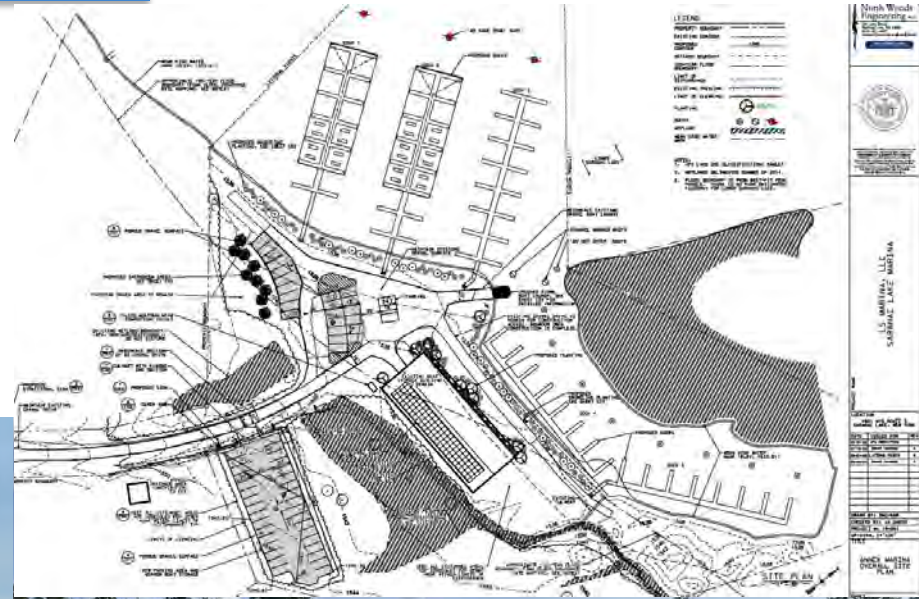


**Barton Mines Expansion, Town of Johnsburg:** Proposal to expand mountaintop mine bordering Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area from 194.5 acres to 267 acres.



## 2. Independent Public Oversight – Legal Action

- Challenge to DEC's Road-Building Activities in the High Peaks (MacIntyre East Tract)
- Challenge to APA Approval of LS Marina Expansion
- Action to Compel DEC to do Carrying Capacity Study of Saranac Lakes Complex





### 3. Forest Preserve Management Reform: Trail Standards



#### Policy Reforms Completed and Underway

PROTECT participates on the Forest Preserve Stewardship Working Group now working on new trail standards for the maintenance and construction of foot trails, bike trails, horse trails, and snowmobile trails. These new standards should be in compliance with *Protect* decision. We'll see.

Forest Preserve Work Plans Policy issued in fall 2023. New policy details ways that state management actions are planned and implemented. New policy ensures public notice and review. Overall step forward, not perfect.

DEC Tree Cutting Policy Rescinded. All trees 1" DBH now counted in compliance with *Protect* decision.

DEC snowmobile trail construction and maintenance policy rescinded in compliance with *Protect* decision.

PROTECT participates on the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee, which is an information sharing forum.

### 3. Preserve Management Reform: Visitor Use Management



#### **Pilot study for new plan for Visitor Use Management in the central High Peaks Wilderness**

PROTECT participates in a stakeholders group that is helping to develop first VUM Plan for the central High Peaks Wilderness. This is a slow, iterative process, using public surveys and assessments to develop management plans.



## 4. Growth Report: Development Trends 2000 to 2019

### **100 Town/Village Local Government Building Permit Review 2000-2019**

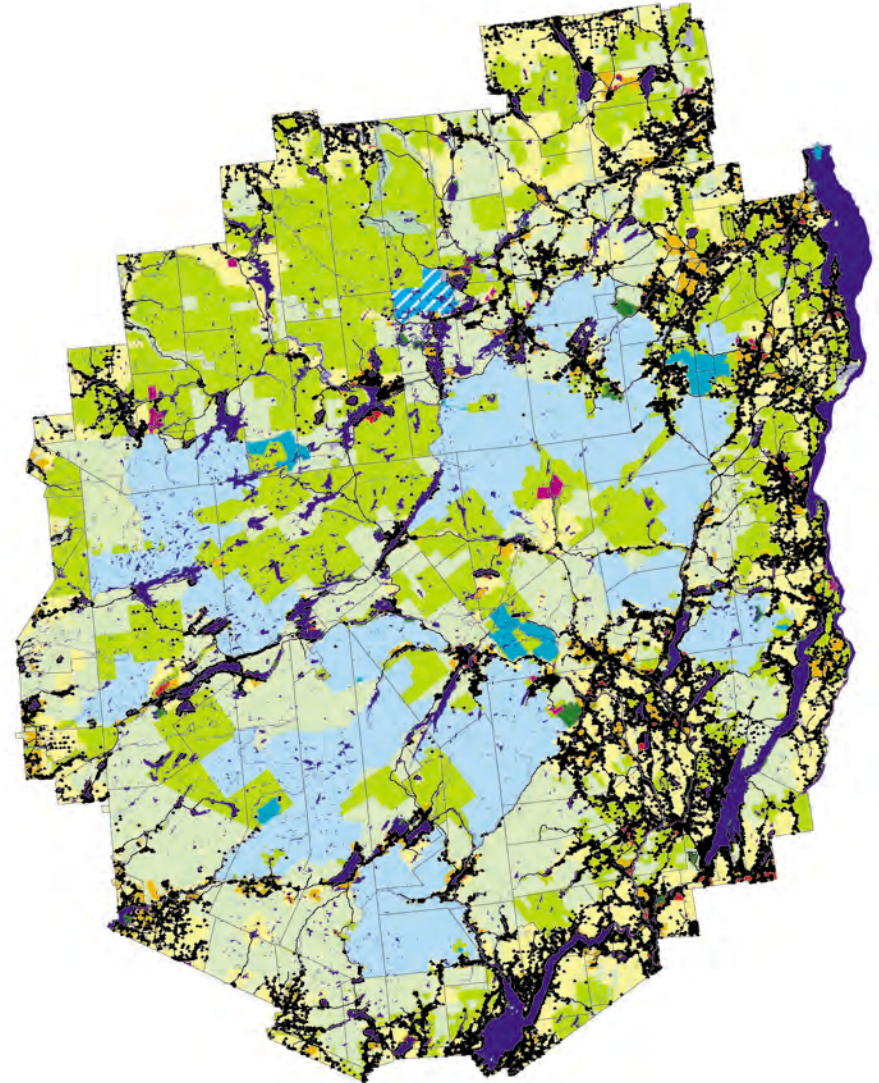
New report builds on development trends report 1990-2009.

78 out 100 towns/villages completed 2000-2019. 79,813 permits issued, 12,656 new houses.

Seeking 2020-2024 data as well.

### **Adirondack Park Agency Permit Review**

Work underway to review information for permits issued by the APA 2000-2019. APA issues 300-400 permits a year on average. It's a challenge to review actual permits and summaries provided to us have significant information gaps. Continue to work with APA.



## 5. Wildlife Protections

- Wildlife Crossing Act passed both houses
- New wolf protection bill introduced in both houses but did not pass
- Comments on draft Species Status Assessments for New York's update to State Wildlife Action Plan
- Comments on DEC's proposed Bobcat Management Plan
- Comments on new DEC wetland regulations
- Comments on DEC endangered and threatened species regulation





## 6. Defense of Article 14 - Snowmobile Trails

### Finalized the Article 14 snowmobile case against DEC

State Supreme Court Judge Connolly signed the Judgment on September 19, 2023 formally granting PROTECT a declaration that DEC’s “construction in the Forest Preserve of the Class II Community Connector trails that were planned and approved as of October 15, 2014 violates NY Constitution, Article XIV, 1” and granting PROTECT a portion of its legal costs



In the Matter of the Application of PROTECT  
THE ADIRONDACKS! INC.,

Plaintiff,

for a Judgment Pursuant to Section 5 of Article 14  
of the New York State Constitution, and CPLR  
Article 78,

- against-

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION and  
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY,

Defendants.

JUDGMENT

Index No. 2137-13  
RJI No. 01-13-ST-4541

HON. GERALD W. CONNOLLY,  
A.J.S.C.,  
ASSIGNED JUSTICE

WHEREAS, Plaintiff Protect the Adirondacks! Inc. (“Protect!” or “Plaintiff”) having commenced this action pursuant to Sections 1 and 5 of Article 14 of the New York State Constitution by a Combined Complaint and Petition dated February 13, 2013 (“Complaint”) and defendants New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) and Adirondack Park Agency (“APA”) (collectively “Defendants”) having appeared herein on September 25, 2013;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff’s first cause of action pursuant to Article 14 of the Constitution sought, *inter alia*, a declaration that Defendants’ construction in the Adirondack Forest Preserve of Class II Community Connector snowmobile trails violates Article XIV, § 1 of the New York State Constitution;

WHEREAS, on a motion by Defendants, the second and third causes of action herein, which were brought pursuant to CPLR Article 78, were dismissed by a Decision and Order of this Court dated December 12, 2014;

WHEREAS, a trial on the first cause of action was held at Albany, New York in March and April of 2017, following which this Court issued a Decision and Order dated December 1, 2017, a copy of which is attached hereto, which dismissed the first cause of action;

WHEREAS, the table on pages 8 to 9 of this Court’s December 1, 2017 Decision and Order contains a list of the trails at issue, which were in varied stages of tree cutting and construction, that were planned and approved as of October 15, 2014;

WHEREAS, upon an appeal by Plaintiff, that Decision and Order was reversed by the Appellate Division, Third Department by an Opinion and Order dated July 3, 2019, a copy of which is attached hereto;

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals affirmed the Appellate Division’s Opinion and Order by an Opinion dated May 4, 2021, a copy of which is attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the submissions of Braymer Law, PLLC, and Caffry & Flower, attorneys for Plaintiff, and based on the decisions attached hereto, it is hereby:

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that Plaintiff’s first cause of action is granted to the extent that it is declared that Defendants’ construction in the Forest Preserve of the Class II Community Connector trails that were planned and approved as of October 15, 2014 violates NY Constitution, article XIV, § 1; and it is further

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that Pursuant to CPLR Section §101, Plaintiff is hereby awarded its costs and disbursements in this action, and its costs and disbursements on appeal to the Appellate Division pursuant to the Opinion and Order of the Appellate Division dated July 3, 2019, and may recover them from the Defendants, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$32,000.00, as agreed upon by the parties.

ENTER.

Dated: 9/29, 2023  
Albany, New York

Hon. Gerald W. Connolly  
Acting Supreme Court Justice



## 6. Defense of Article 14 – Article 14 Amendments



**First Passage for Mount Van Ho:**  
First Passage in both Senate & Assembly was achieved for the Mt Van Hoevenberg draft amendment in 2023.

**No passage:**  
In 2024, “3 Prisons” including Camp Gabriels, Debar Lodge, and the NYCO sunset amendment all saw some action, but did not pass both houses.



## 7. Clean Water Advocacy

### State Budget

- \$500 million for Clean Water Fund, includes money for water, sewer, and septic system projects
- \$100,000 in Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for Adirondack Watershed Institute
- \$15 million statewide for road salt application best management practices and proper salt storage



### State Legislation

- A bill requiring a septic information pamphlet be given to all buyers in a real estate transaction involving a septic system passed the Senate and Assembly. S.8506A(Harckham)/A.9330A(Burdick)
- A bill requiring septic inspections at the time of a real estate transaction was considered but not formally introduced
- A bill establishing a road salt reduction council and advisory committee passed the Senate but not the Assembly
- A bill requiring DOT to create a road salt applicator training program and a plan of action for reduction of road salt was introduced in both houses but did not pass
- A bill enacting a harmful algal bloom monitoring and prevention act passed the Senate but not the Assembly

## 8. Sustaining Viable Adirondack Park Communities



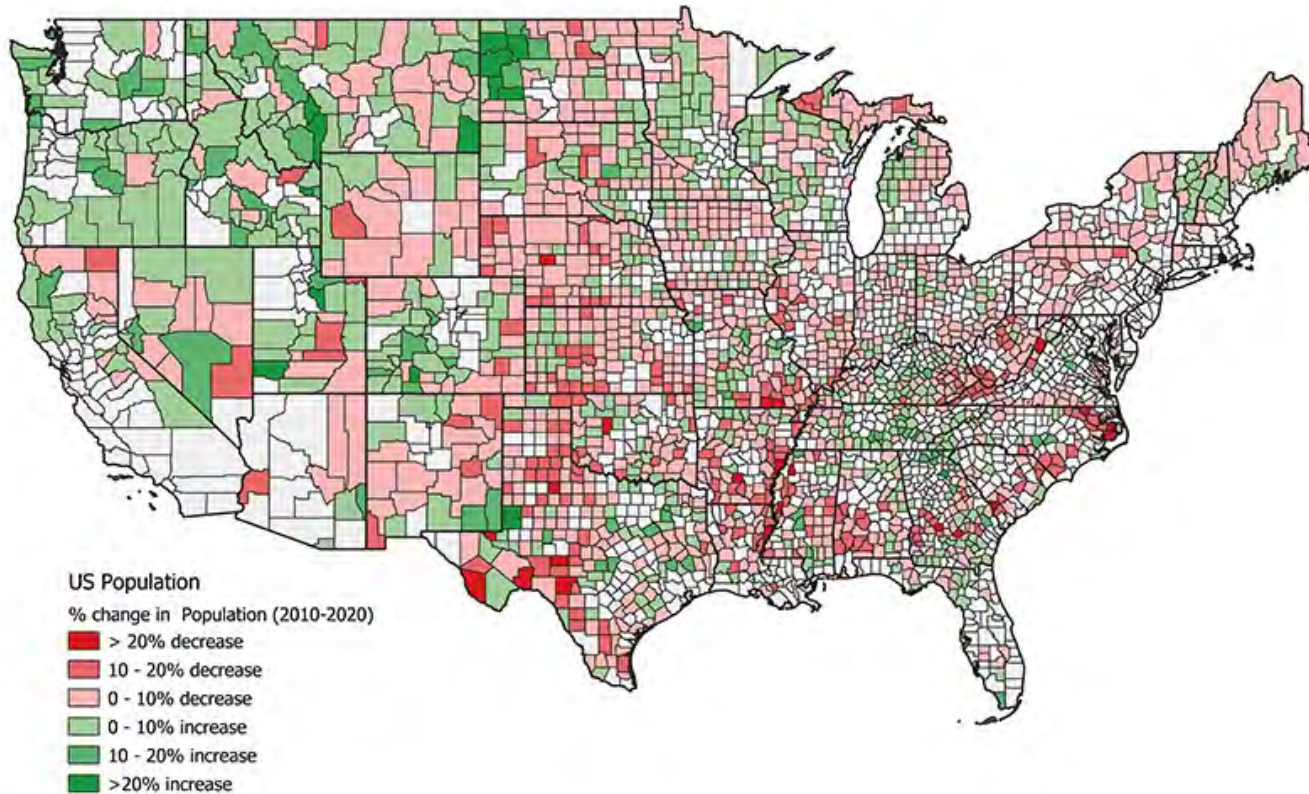
### **Adirondack Park Communities Face Many Challenges**

PROTECT pushed for Adirondack Park Affordable Housing Legislation.

Effort sought to galvanize support for program using taxes on high value housing transfers to fund affordable housing efforts in Adirondack communities.



## 8. Sustaining Viable Adirondack Park Communities

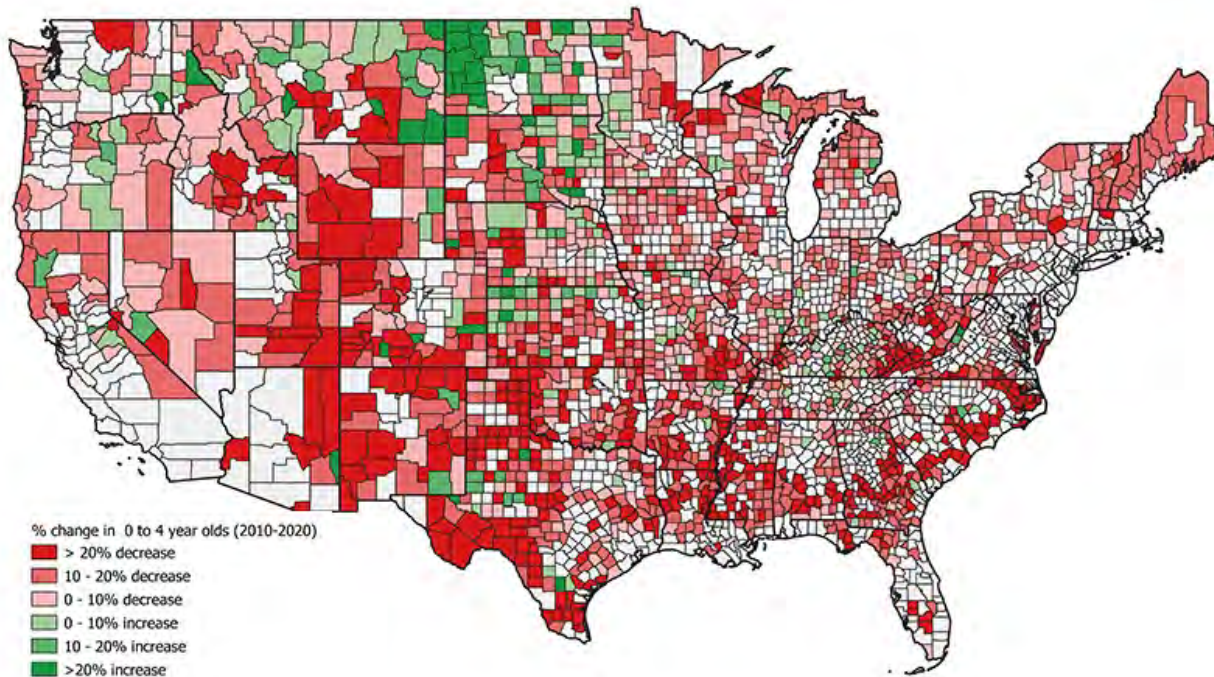


**Stopping the Blame Game on Forest Preserve and APA Act**

**Realities of Rural America Shape Adirondack Park Community Trends**

Half of all U.S. counties experienced population loss 2010-2020. At the same time 66% of Rural America counties experienced population loss. U.S. population increased by 22 million, Rural America population dropped by 37,000.

## 8. Sustaining Viable Adirondack Park Communities



### Changing Rural American Demographics Shape Adirondack Park Population Trends

2010-2020 saw historic change in child births in U.S. NYS 0-17 year olds dropped by 211,000. U.S. 0-17 year olds dropped by 1.9 million. NYS and U.S. numbers of 18-44 year olds increased. Changes even more acute in Rural America.

- 88% of Rural America counties experienced a decrease in children 0 to 4 years old. Collectively, Rural America lost over 371,000 people in this age cohort.
- 72% experienced a decrease in children 5 to 17 years old. Loss of 303,000 people.
- 72% experienced a decrease in young adults 18 to 24 years old. Loss of 292,000 people.
- 59% experienced a decrease in adults 25 to 34 years old. Loss of 59,000 people.
- 67% experienced a decrease in adults 35 to 44 years old. Loss of 264,000 people.
- 88% experienced a decrease in adults 45 to 64 years old. Loss of 811,000 people.
- 96% experienced gains in adults 65 to 84 years old. Gain of over 2 million people.

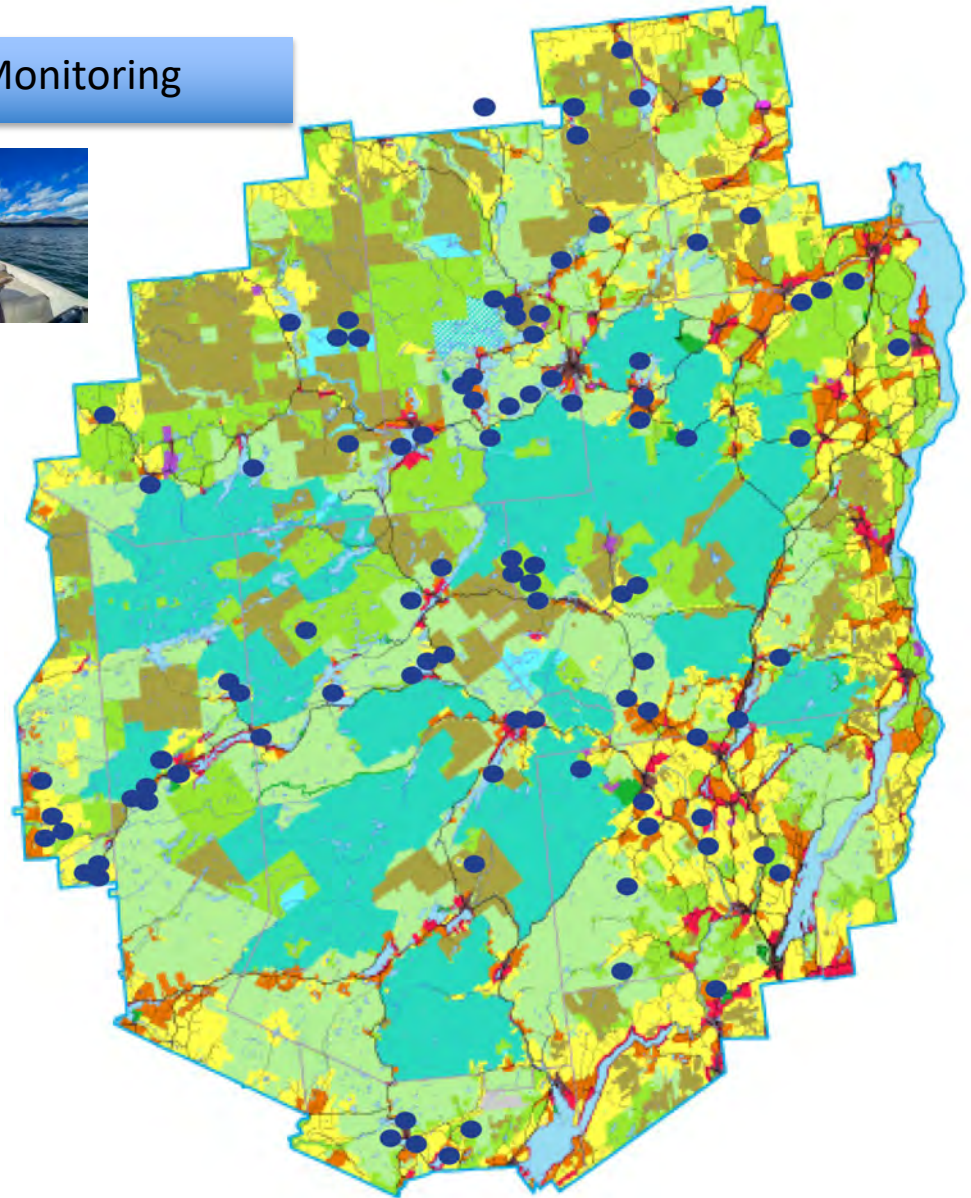


## 9. Making the Adirondack Park More Open, Inclusive and Diverse



Protect the Adirondacks is in the planning process for how we can help to make the Adirondack Park a more open, inclusive and diverse place. The Adirondack Park and the Forest Preserve belongs to everybody and organizations that work to protect and defend the Adirondacks need to make sure that it is a place that is welcoming and safe for everybody. PROTECT is educating itself on these issues and planning for how we can help in this important work. Lobbied for ADI funding. We have a lot of work to do.

## 10. Long-Term Partnerships: Water Quality Monitoring

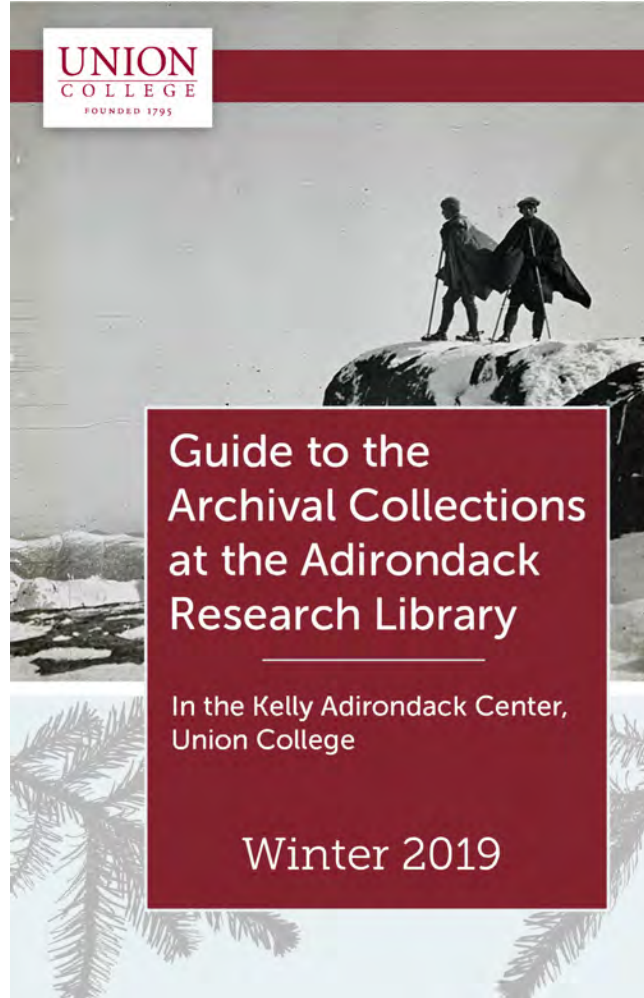


### Adirondack Lake Assessment Program

- 2024 is the 27th year of the partnership between PROTECT and Adirondack Watersheds Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College
- 80 lakes enrolled in 2024
- Analysis of nutrients levels (phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll-a), water clarity/color, and various metals (alkalinity, calcium, aluminum) and chloride/conductivity
- Volunteers gather data, analysis by AWI-PSC
- Reports provided at the end of each season
- Road salt pollution documented by ALAP
- One of best long-term scientific programs in NYS, eastern U.S.



## 10. Long-Term Partnerships: Adirondack Research Library



### Adirondack Research Library Collections

Papers of retired Rangers, Bob Marshall, Louis Marshall, conservationists Harold Jerry, Jr., George Davis, Gary Randorf, Paul Schaefer, papers of Jeanne Robert Foster, collections of historic maps and photographs, and much more.

## 11. Staffing Succession



Adirondack Park Environmental Lobby Day

### Planning for Leadership Changes

2023 saw the hiring of Claudia Braymer as the new Deputy Director. Claudia was hired with the goal that she will take over at Executive Director. An environmental attorney, Claudia began full-time work in January 2024. The plan is for her to take over as Executive Director on January 1, 2025.

PROTECT hired Christopher Amato as Conservation Director and Counsel in 2022.



## 12. Building Organizational Long-Term Financial Viability

### Long-Term Funds to Support Conservation, Advocacy, Legal Action, Research

Protect the Adirondacks has long-term funds to maintain its office and funds for programs. We need to build our long-term funds to support core programs for legal action, research, conservation, and advocacy.

New Adirondack 500 program 500 donors at \$250 - \$10,000 annually. So far, we have 205 signed up.

Get in touch with us today, if you're interested in helping us. Thank you!



### 1% for the Planet

Thousands of businesses are enrolled in 1% for the Planet. Let us know if you have connections to a business that participates.



**Thank you for your support.  
Help PROTECT grow and  
expand our impact and work  
to defend the Forest  
Preserve, waters and  
wildlands of the Adirondack  
Park.**

**Questions and comments?**