

1: NYS GIS Clearinghouse - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - DEC Lands and Campgro

Adirondack Forest Preserve - The Adirondack Forest Preserve is defined as the million acres of state land within the Adirondack Park. Catskill Forest Preserve - The Catskill Forest Preserve is defined as the , acres of state land within southeastern New York's Catskill Park.

This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. February 22, Before: Appeal from a judgment of the Supreme Court Ceresia, J. In and , the state acquired two tracts of land in the Adirondack Park " the 18-acre Essex Chain Lakes parcel and the acre Indian River parcel " and incorporated them into the Forest Preserve. Adjacent areas of state-owned land were then reclassified and combined with the newly-acquired parcels to form the Essex Chain Complex Area hereinafter the Complex Area. Petitioners asserted four causes of action, specifically alleging that the Complex Plan 1 permits the construction of a new snowmobile bridge over a segment of the Cedar River that is designated as scenic, in violation of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act see ECL et seq. In January , Supreme Court dismissed the petition, concluding that the first two causes of action were not ripe for judicial review and the remaining two causes of action failed on their merits [FN1]. We have previously held that an administrative action is final and ripe for review only when "a pragmatic evaluation reveals that the decision-maker has arrived at a definitive position on the issue that inflicts an actual, concrete injury," and, therefore, that an administrative action is not ripe for review "if the claimed harm may be prevented or significantly ameliorated by further administrative action" Matter of Adirondack Council, Inc. In the first and second causes of action, petitioners assert that construction of a bridge over a segment of the Cedar River designated as scenic and opening the Polaris Bridge over the Hudson River to snowmobile traffic in an area that is also designated as scenic would violate the Rivers System Act, which they contend prohibits all motorized open space recreational uses in scenic river areas. However, adoption of the Complex Plan was not alone sufficient to authorize construction of the Cedar River Bridge or use of the Polaris Bridge by snowmobiles. Rather, as Supreme Court correctly noted, permits and variances must be obtained through further administrative action before the proposed uses may be established. Moreover, variances are required for the use of motorized vehicles within scenic river areas see 6 NYCRR Moreover, there is an opportunity for public comment on applications for a permit or a variance see ECL [3] [c]; [2] , and the granting of a permit or variance may be challenged through a CPLR article 78 proceeding. Thus, inasmuch as the harms upon which the first and second causes of action are based may be prevented or ameliorated by further administrative action, Supreme Court correctly concluded that the first and second causes of action are not ripe for judicial review. In that regard, petitioners assert that the Master Plan requires that wild river areas be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas, which, in turn, prohibit the public use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment, regardless of whether such use previously existed. Although the Rivers System Act prohibits access by motor vehicles in wild river areas, except as necessary for forest management see ECL [2] [a] , it permits continuation of existing uses that are not altered or expanded see ECL [2]. Petitioners contend that there is a conflict between the Master Plan and the Rivers System Act regarding continuation of preexisting motor vehicle use and that the conflict of laws provision in the Rivers System Act requires that the relevant terms of the Master Plan be applied because they are more restrictive see ECL The issue of whether there is a conflict between the Rivers System Act and the Master Plan presents a matter requiring interpretation of the language contained in each for which technical expertise or specialized knowledge is not required. Agency v State of N. We conclude that there is no direct conflict between the Rivers System Act and the Master Plan as it relates to continuation of preexisting motor vehicle use in wild river areas located on state-owned land. The Master Plan recognizes the exclusive jurisdiction that has been granted to DEC by statute by acknowledging that DEC has the authority to regulate the uses of river areas located on state land "independent of the [M]aster [P]lan" emphasis added. Having determined that the Rivers System Act, which permits continuation of preexisting uses, is controlling, we must consider whether there was a rational basis for the determination that the use of the one-mile segment of Chain Lakes Road South as a portion of the proposed snowmobile

connector trail is a permissible continuation of a preexisting use, without alteration or expansion. As the administrative determination here was made where a hearing is not required, "[our] review is limited to whether the determination lacks a rational basis and is, thus, arbitrary and capricious. An action is arbitrary and capricious when it is taken without sound basis in reason or regard to the facts. As part of its investigation, DEC considered affidavits that were submitted by 17 individuals who averred that they had personal knowledge of the area that includes Chain Lakes Road South , and that the area " including the roads located therein " have been used by snowmobiles during the winter season continuously since the s. Petitioners do not contest the finding that snowmobiles have historically been used on Chain Lakes Road South ; rather, they argue that such use was limited to members of clubs that leased the surrounding property, and that opening a trail to public use would constitute an expansion of the preexisting use. Nonetheless, the record contains a sufficient basis for DEC to have rationally determined that there would be no alteration or expansion of the preexisting use of snowmobiles on the relevant portion of Chain Lakes Road South , which had included operation by members of the public and an intensity of use commensurate with the proposed use. Four of the individuals who submitted affidavits averred " based on decades of personal experience " that snowmobiles have been operated in the relevant area by members of the general public " as specifically distinguished from members of the clubs that leased the property. One area resident asserted that, although access to the area was restricted during hunting season by gates, the gates were open and the general public was free to use the roads located in the area, including Chain Lakes Road South , at all other times. In contrast to the showing made by respondents, the affidavits submitted by petitioners are, to a great extent, conclusory. A local resident who was a former chair of the APA stated only that it was his "understanding" that the relevant portion of Chain Lakes Road South was closed to the general public. The other resident likewise stated only that "it was well known" that only members or guests of the Gooley Club could "legally" use the road and that the only public access of which he was "aware" was a response to a rafting accident that had occurred on the Hudson River. Although this resident also represented that he had encountered a locked gate at Chain Lakes Road South , he does not state when that occurred. Thus, the determination that the historic prior use of snowmobiles on Chain Lakes Road South by the public would not be altered was rational. The only direct evidence regarding the extent of the prior use consists of affidavits submitted by respondents from two area residents who specifically stated that such use was frequent, consistent or constant. With respect to the extent of the proposed use, DEC found that allowing snowmobiles to continue using an existing multiple use trail largely results in continuation, not an enlargement, of the prior use without creating any new substantial impacts that did not already exist. In the fourth cause of action, petitioners assert that construction of the Class II snowmobile trail connecting Indian Lake with Minerva would violate the Guidance by duplicating an existing snowmobile trail that connects the two communities. The Guidance contains internal guidelines for the siting of snowmobile trails on forest preserve lands in the Adirondack Park; however, it does not commit DEC to a definite course of future action see Adirondack Council, Inc. Thus, Supreme Court properly dismissed the fourth cause of action on the basis that respondents are not bound by the Guidance. McCarthy and Devine, JJ. For the reasons below, we conclude that DEC lacked a rational basis for finding that the snowmobile trail is a permissible continuation of an existing use pursuant to ECL 2. There has been little previous judicial analysis of the Rivers System Act, and this matter poses issues of first impression. To implement this policy, the statute classifies protected rivers as wild, scenic, or recreational, and creates protected corridors along their banks see ECL , , The statute provides that existing uses may continue in such areas, but also specifies that they "may not be altered or expanded" ECL [2]. Against this backdrop, DEC plans to construct a snowmobile trail that will connect two communities and pass, in part, over a one-mile-long portion of Chain Lakes Road South hereinafter the Chain Lakes Road section , an existing road that runs through a designated wild river area. The Chain Lakes Road section and the land it crosses are part of a much larger tract of land that was owned and managed by a private company from the late s until shortly before the state acquired it [FN4]. The owner developed and maintained a system of private roads throughout the property. DEC asserts that, despite the statutory prohibition against motor vehicles in wild river areas, the use of the Chain Lakes Road section as a snowmobile trail is permissible because the previous users operated

motor vehicles, including snowmobiles, on that section and other private roads in the property. However, the record does not support a conclusion that members of the general public previously operated snowmobiles on the Chain Lakes Road section in a density commensurate with that which will result from opening it to public use. Petitioners submitted affidavits from two long-time residents of the area – one of whom is a past chair of the Adirondack Park Agency – who jointly averred that the Chain Lakes Road section has never been open to public use and that it was well known locally that the only means of gaining legal access to the road, other than employment by the owner, was to join the private club that leased the land through which it ran. One of these affiants stated that, during his residency in the community from to the present, he had encountered a locked gate closing off Chain Lakes Road South and signs posting the property "on many occasions. The previous chair further stated that, in his experience, community connector trails, such as the one proposed here, generally receive heavy snowmobile traffic that exceeds the level of use on private trails. The affidavits submitted by DEC do not contradict these assertions. The affiants are former employees of the owner and members or affiliates of the private clubs. None of these individuals assert that the Chain Lakes Road section was legally open to the general public, nor do they describe any form of authorized access to the area other than employment or club membership; instead, they describe either the roles in which they used the roads as employees or contractors, or the years in which they had access because they belonged to or worked for the private club that leased that part of the land. Likewise, although one affiant stated that the private club that owned the land containing the Chain Lakes Road section closed its gates only during hunting season, the fact that some people may thus have been able to gain access to the area at other times of year cannot be considered to be commensurate with the level of use that will result from opening the road to the general public as part of a marked and mapped snowmobile corridor, established for the stated purpose of encouraging snowmobilers to travel between two communities. No record evidence, in the affidavits or elsewhere, contradicts these lease terms or indicates that anyone other than those affiliated with the owner and the clubs had legal access to the area. It is essentially acknowledged that the road was not previously open to the public. Instead, the argument presented is that the Rivers System Act does not require DEC to consider whether the previous use was public or private in considering whether new use of snowmobiles by the general public would cause an alteration or expansion. The majority has, by implication, apparently rejected this statutory interpretation in its stated finding that the record supports a history of prior public use. We find that the Rivers System Act requires DEC to consider the increase in volume that results from opening a previously exclusively private road to unlimited use by the public in determining whether a previous use may continue. On this record, it is irrational to conclude that opening the Chain Lakes Road section to public snowmobile traffic will not expand the previous limited use. Significantly, DEC itself acknowledged, in its statement of findings pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act see ECL art 8 – issued on the same date that DEC approved the planned trail – that an "expected increase in the number of snowmobiles" on the new trail could result in negative environmental consequences requiring mitigation. It was irrational for the agency to disregard its own expectation that snowmobile traffic will increase when determining whether there will be an alteration or expansion of the prior traffic within the contemplation of the Rivers System Act. In light of the clear record evidence that motor vehicle access to the Chain Lakes Road section was limited to a small number of legally authorized users, and closed to the public, opening this wild river area to snowmobile use by the general public will impermissibly alter and expand the prior use. Generally, the Guidance indicates that Class II connector trails may be as much as 9 to 12 feet wide, depending upon the terrain. Matter of Adirondack Council, Inc. The land was conveyed to the Nature Conservancy a few years before its purchase by the state. DEC submitted evidence that public funds were used for this purpose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Notably, it appears that the membership of these clubs was limited in size; for instance, several of the affiants noted that construction of a bridge in another area had permitted one of the clubs to increase its membership from 25 to

2: Mohonk Preserve

New York's Forest Preserve is all the land owned by the state within the Adirondack and Catskill parks, managed by its Department of Environmental Conservation. These properties are required to be kept "forever wild" by Article 14 of the state constitution, and thus enjoy the highest degree of protection of wild lands in any state.

The Adirondack top and Catskill parks within New York. Five years afterward, surveyor Verplanck Colvin beheld the Adirondacks from the summit of Seward Mountain during his mission to map the region. The idea of preserving the lands in some sort of park occurred to him then and there, and after he returned he wrote to his superiors in Albany that action needed to be taken to prevent that kind of despoliation. They appointed him to a committee to study the problem. In , the businessmen began lobbying the legislature in earnest, and were rewarded three years later with the passage of the Forest Preserve Act, which provided that no logging would be allowed on state-owned land. Their solution was to convey some of the land on which they owed the taxes, mostly around Slide Mountain to the state. However, an amended version of the bill was passed, after many deals and compromises among members, that added lands in Ulster, Sullivan and Greene counties to those eligible for Forest Preserve status. One side effect of this deal is that the state pays all local and county property taxes on the Forest Preserve as if it were a commercial landowner. This has helped many local governments remain solvent as they have very little economic assets other than forest resources. Article 14[edit] To manage the land, the state had created a Forest Commission , making New York second only to California in having a state-level forestry agency. Most of its members were either openly or covertly connected to timber interests, however, and routinely approved dodges around the legislation to make sure logging would continue. In the legislature retroactively approved many of these practices by giving the commission the right to sell timber from the lands and trade them as it saw fit. It seemed the Forest Preserve now existed only on paper. But the following year New York held a constitutional convention , and the language of the law was written into the new state constitution with added words to close every loophole the Forest Commission had found. This section, Article 7 of the constitution which was later changed to article 14 , is often referred to as the "forever wild" section even though those two words do not appear next to each other in the text. 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. Nonetheless, they would try. The new provision barely survived an attempt to gut it two years later when they again prevailed upon the legislature to approve an amendment requiring the state to "manage the land in accordance with sound timber management principles. Since then, over 2, amendments to Article 14 have been introduced in the legislature. Of those, only 28 have made it to the ballot, and only 20 have passed. Many of those have been otherwise routine land transfers that enabled the construction or expansion of public cemeteries or airports. Others have allowed for the construction and continued maintenance of reservoirs and highways. The most significant change was a pair of amendments that created the ski centers at Belleayre in the Catskills and Gore and Whiteface in the Adirondacks. The latter includes a toll road to the summit as well. Subsections were later added to allow the construction of reservoirs and make certain that use of the land remained free to the public beyond any reasonable fee the state could charge for a particular activity. Acquisition of new Forest Preserve land[edit] Main article: Blue Line New York State In , when Article 14 was more a matter of settled law, the legislature realized it had to delimit where Forest Preserve would be acquired. Accordingly, that year the Adirondack Park was defined in terms of the counties and towns within it. Two years later, the Catskill Park was defined. Instead of just declaring certain towns to be within the park, however, the legislature also used old survey tract boundaries, streams and railroad rights-of-way to clarify where it would be seeking land in the future. The park boundaries became known as the Blue Line since they were drawn, as they have been ever since, in blue ink on state maps. Methods of land acquisition[edit] While many of the original holdings came from tax foreclosures , over time the state bought huge tracts, aided by bond issues approved by the public. One in the late s proved to be of particular value as the state was able to acquire a great deal of property at minimal prices due to the Great Depression. The state could also theoretically use its power of eminent domain to acquire

Forest Preserve, but in practice it has rarely resorted to this. For the time being, the state is not seeking to expand the Forest Preserve as actively as it has in past years, since many of the most desired properties have been acquired. However, it remains publicly committed to working with any willing seller. Land classifications within the Forest Preserve[edit] Ecological and environmental awareness grew in the later years of the 20th century. Recreational use of the Forest Preserve began to rise to new levels, and newer methods of outdoor recreation became popular. One of its new tasks was to implement more contemporary land management practices. But administration of the state land in both parks was and still is split between different regional offices, and it was hard to get them both following the same principles since they did not communicate much. There was also no serious planning involved. New trails were created, or allowed to be created by outside parties, with little thought to their environmental impact or regional role. Camping was permitted anywhere, and some of the sensitive alpine environments in the Adirondack High Peaks were showing the effects. Two temporary state commissions set up to consider the future course of the Adirondacks and Catskills in the early s both strongly recommended that master plans be created for state lands in both parks. They also called for classifying the large tracts of state land as either wilderness areas or wild forest, depending on the degree of previous human impact and the level of recreational use they could sustain. Both of these were ultimately adopted, along with intensive use area and administrative use area designations for smaller parcels. In the Adirondacks, several additional classifications exist due to the more diverse character of lands in the extensive area of the park: Wilderness areas are those judged to have been far more affected by nature than humanity, to the extent that the latter is practically unnoticeable. No powered vehicles are allowed in wilderness areas. Recreation is limited to passive activities such as hiking , camping , hunting , birding and angling which are themselves subject to some further restrictions to ensure that they leave no trace for later recreationists. Special restrictions were recently imposed to limit impact on the largest and most popular wilderness area, the High Peaks Wilderness Complex in the Adirondacks. Powered equipment, such as chainsaws , may be necessary to keep trails open but such use is permitted only with the express written authorization of the DEC commissioner. Structures other than those that facilitate recreational use, such as bridges and lean-tos , are generally not allowed, either. List of New York wild forests While retaining an essentially wild character, Wild Forests are those areas which have seen higher human impact and can thus withstand a higher level of recreational use. Often these are lands which were logged heavily in the recent past sometimes right before being transferred to the state. They might best be described as wildernesses where, within limits, powered vehicles are allowed. The wide roads left behind by logging operations make excellent trails not only for foot travel but for horses , snowmobiles , and cross-country skiing as well. Hunters prefer to seek game in wild forests because they can use cars or trucks to transport their kills out. Not all vehicle use is permitted, however. Mountain bikers and all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts have been lobbying DEC to allow them use of some Wild Forest trails in recent years. In the Catskills, it has long been informal DEC policy[according to whom? A proposed update[when? Intensive use area[edit] Intensive Use areas are places like state campgrounds or "day use" areas more like a small public park without camping. There may be designated campsites , picnic tables, charcoal grills , public restrooms and shower facilities and swimming areas with lifeguards. There are five day-use areas in the Adirondacks and one so far in the Catskills. Administrative use area[edit] This classification applies to a limited number of DEC-owned lands that are managed for other than Forest Preserve purposes. It covers a number of facilities devoted to research , some prisons , and state fish hatcheries in both parks. Most Administrative Use areas are located close to public roads and are generally in fairly developed areas of their respective parks. Land classifications in the Adirondacks[edit] The categories below are specific to Adirondack Forest Preserve lands; they are not used in the Catskills. Primitive area[edit] A Primitive Area is one that has much the same characteristics as wilderness area, but has some significant obstacles to receiving that status. It may have structures that cannot easily be removed within a given timeframe, or some other existing use that would complicate a wilderness designation. The designation is also applied to areas of less than the minimum area that have environments sensitive enough to require wilderness-level protection. For most practical purposes, then, there is no difference between a primitive area and a wilderness area. Canoe area[edit] Canoe Areas are lands with a

wilderness character that have enough streams, lakes and ponds to provide ample opportunities for water-based recreation. Since they are relatively flat, and the severity of a typical Adirondack winter ensures that most bodies of water will freeze over, they are excellent places to snowshoe and cross-country ski in that season as well. Currently, the Saint Regis Canoe Area is the only such designated area in the park. Wild, scenic, and recreational rivers[edit] There are three levels of classification for Forest Preserve lands around streams, depending on their levels of impoundment and public access. Wild rivers, or sections of rivers, are relatively inaccessible except by foot or horse, have no impoundments and are generally undeveloped except for foot bridges. Scenic rivers, or sections of rivers, may have limited road access, some low-impact human use and can be impounded by log jams. Recreational rivers, or sections of rivers, are readily accessible by road or rail and may be or have been at some point in the past developed or impounded by artificial means. Travel corridor[edit] This classification refers primarily to lands not really considered for recreational use but for those sections of the Forest Preserve constituting the right-of-way and roadbed for sections of the Adirondack Northway , other public highways in the Park, the Remsen -to- Lake Placid Adirondack Scenic Railroad right-of-way and lands immediately adjacent to and visible from them. Forest Preserve lands outside the parks[edit] State law also allows DEC to classify land it acquires outside the Blue Lines, but in counties partially within the parks, as Forest Preserve. These have usually been small detached parcels rarely organized into larger, named units. This is particularly common in the Adirondacks, since the many vast tracts of land under Forest Preserve protection limit economic opportunities in a region where it has always been a struggle to earn a living. Adirondack Park Agency[edit] Main article: Its heavy hand[according to whom? He did this in the hope that someone would step forward to save not only this but the other four fire towers on state land in the Catskill Park. At that time the towers had not been used for fire control for years, and some were no longer safe to climb. In they were added to the National Register of Historic Places. All five and their accompanying cabins have been or will be converted into small interpretive centers, with displays identifying nearby peaks. Similar campaigns were undertaken in the Adirondacks, and hikers can now even receive a patch for their backpacks by visiting all the Forest Preserve firetowers. DEC even built a new trail to the tower on Red Hill in the Catskills, as the road to it crosses private land whose owner will not permit the public to cross it. Wilderness Areas are considered "untouched by man" and a firetower is viewed as a non-conforming structure. As such, the DEC wants it removed for this reason. However, residents of the area have been fighting to keep it since not only is it a popular and relatively easy hike, it is the only fire tower in the High Peaks region. Canisters[edit] Also in the late s, DEC, in its long-delayed management plan for the High Peaks Wilderness Complex, called for the removal of the canisters at the summits of the 20 High Peaks that lacked official trails but were nevertheless climbed frequently by the growing number of hikers seeking membership in the Adirondack Forty-Sixers. Some members are still bitter about this decision since it was taken without consulting the group as a whole. At the same time in the Catskills, however, the situation played out differently. Public comment, mostly from members of the Catskill Mountain Club , which maintains those canisters, persuaded DEC to compromise, accepting ownership of them and some design changes in exchange for keeping them as, like the fire towers, structures that enhanced understanding of the Forest Preserve.

3: New York Proposal 3, Forest Preserve Land Bank Amendment () - Ballotpedia

State Forest Certification - , acres of New York's green certified State Forests shine among the gems of the State's public land holdings. DEC's sustainable management of these lands for multiple benefits including clean water, timber, recreation, wildlife and scenic beauty.

According to the State Land Master Plan, state lands are classified. It defines APA jurisdiction and is designed to direct and cluster development to minimize impact. Land use classifications[edit] Areas rounded to the nearest per cent. Used for residential, agriculture, and forestry. Most development requires an Agency permit. Limited to an average of 15 buildings per square mile. Most uses are permitted; residential uses and reduced intensity development that preserves rural character is most suitable. Limited to an average of 75 buildings per square mile. Most uses are permitted; residential development at a lower intensity than hamlet or moderate intensity is appropriate. Limited to an average of of buildings per square mile. Most uses are permitted; residential development is most appropriate. These are the growth and service centers of the region where the APA encourages development with very limited permit requirements. Activities requiring an APA permit are: Hamlet boundaries usually go well beyond established settlements to provide room for future expansion. There is no limit on the average number of buildings per square mile. Where industry exists or has existed, and areas which may be suitable for future development. Industrial and commercial uses are also allowed in other land use area classifications. Adirondack Park state land use[edit] Wild forest: Areas that have seen higher human impact and can thus withstand a higher level of recreational use. Often these are lands which were logged heavily in the recent past sometimes right before being transferred to the state. Powered vehicles are allowed. These are managed like federal U. Areas far more affected by nature than humanity, to the extent that the latter is practically unnoticeable, for example virgin forest. No powered vehicles are allowed in wilderness areas. Recreation is limited to passive activities such as hiking , camping , hunting , birding and angling which are themselves subject to some further restrictions to ensure that they leave no trace. Lands with a wilderness character that have enough streams, lakes and ponds to provide ample opportunities for water-based recreation. The Saint Regis Canoe Area is the only such designated area in the park. Like wilderness, but may have structures that cannot easily be removed, or some other existing use that would complicate a wilderness designation. For most practical purposes there is no difference between a primitive area and a wilderness area. Places like state campgrounds or day use areas. The developed ski area Whiteface Mountain is in this classification. Sites of buildings owned by the state that are significant to the history , architecture , archaeology or culture of the Adirondacks, those on the National Register of Historic Places or carrying or recommended for a similar state-level designation. Applies to a limited number of DEC-owned lands that are managed for other than Forest Preserve purposes. It covers a number of facilities devoted to research , and state fish hatcheries. Advocacy[edit] Private organizations are buying land in order to sell it back to New York State to be added to the public portion of Park. The Adirondack Council, founded in , is the largest citizen environmental group in New York State. Its mission is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. It sponsors research, educates the public and policy makers, advocates for policies, and takes legal action when necessary to uphold constitutional protections and agency policies established to protect the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Mountain Club has 28, members and has an environmental advocacy program that grew out of the need for responsible public policies to protect these lands. Founded in , the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks AFPA is the oldest non-profit advocate for the long-term protection and health of the natural and human communities of the Adirondack Park. Conservation[edit] The fur trade led to the near extinction of beaver in The elk population increased for several years only to decline due to poaching. This proved to have unanticipated ecological consequences, most notably the overpopulation of deer which was reported by the New York State Conservation Department in Animals in various stages of reintroduction include the raccoon , moose , black bear , coyote , opossum , beaver , porcupine , fisher , marten , river otter , bobcat , and Canadian lynx. Not all of these restoration efforts have been successful yet. There are 53 known species of mammals that live in the park. Many areas within the

park are devoid of settlements and distant from usable roads. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. April Learn how and when to remove this template message An estimated 7â€”10 million tourists visit the park annually. Pisgah Saranac Lake , and Mt. Morris Tupper Lake have been developed as ski areas. Because of these regulations, the large tourist population has not overfished the area, and as such, the brooks, rivers, ponds and lakes are home to large trout and black bass populations. Although restricted from much of the park, snowmobile enthusiasts can ride on a large network of trails. Educational programs are available for school groups as well as the general public. Many of the exhibits are live and include native turtles, otter, birds, fish and porcupines. The Center, which is open year-round, has trails to a river and pond on its campus. The Adirondack Experience contains extensive collections about the human settlement of the park. Some hikers try to climb all of the original 46 peaks and there is a Forty Sixers club for those who have done so. Twenty of the 46 mountains remain trailless. It is the site of the Adirondack Canoe Classic. Flatwater and whitewater canoeing and kayaking are very popular. Hundreds of lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams link to provide routes ranging from under one mile 1. Whitewater kayaking and canoeing are popular on many free flowing rivers in the Adirondacks, particularly in the spring. Whitewater rafting trips are run in the spring on the Moose River near Old Forge. Motorboating is formally restricted on only a few bodies of water. Development and industry[edit] Tourism in Old Forge , While the park does contain large areas of wilderness, some areas developed to a varying degree. Census towns with more than 5, inhabitants include:

4: Catskill Forest Preserve | New Paltz, NY

As noted above, most of New York State's Forest Preserve is located in the Adirondacks, totaling million acres, as well as , acres in the Catskill Forest Preserve. These are the only two areas in the state that are designated as "Forever Wild" - meaning the land is protected under Article XIV of the New York State Constitution.

It is thus necessary to amend it in order to transfer any of these lands to another owner or lessee. Currently there are more than 2. Gradually its inherent worth as a nature preserve came to be seen, as it became a draw for recreation and tourism. The Adirondack top and Catskill parks within New York. Five years afterward, surveyor Verplanck Colvin beheld the Adirondacks from the summit of Seward Mountain during his mission to map the region. The idea of preserving the lands in some sort of park occurred to him then and there, and after he returned he wrote to his superiors in Albany that action needed to be taken to prevent that kind of despoliation. They appointed him to a committee to study the problem. In , the businessmen began lobbying the legislature in earnest, and were rewarded three years later with the passage of the Forest Preserve Act, which provided that no logging would be allowed on state-owned land. Their solution was to convey some of the land on which they owed the taxes, mostly around Slide Mountain to the state. However, an amended version of the bill was passed, after many deals and compromises among members, that added lands in Ulster, Sullivan and Greene counties to those eligible for Forest Preserve status. One side effect of this deal is that the state pays all local and county property taxes on the Forest Preserve as if it were a commercial landowner. This has helped many local governments remain solvent as they have very little economic assets other than forest resources. Article 14 To manage the land, the state had created a Forest Commission, making New York second only to California in having a state-level forestry agency. Most of its members were either openly or covertly connected to timber interests, however, and routinely approved dodges around the legislation to make sure logging would continue. In the legislature retroactively approved many of these practices by giving the commission the right to sell timber from the lands and trade them as it saw fit. It seemed the Forest Preserve now existed only on paper. But the following year New York held a constitutional convention , and the language of the law was written into the new state constitution with added words to close every loophole the Forest Commission had found. This section, Article 7 of the constitution which was later changed to article 14 , is often referred to as the "forever wild" section even though those two words do not appear next to each other in the text. 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. Nonetheless, they would try. The new provision barely survived an attempt to gut it two years later when they again prevailed upon the legislature to approve an amendment requiring the state to "manage the land in accordance with sound timber management principles. Since then, over 2, amendments to Article 14 have been introduced in the legislature. Of those, only 28 have made it to the ballot, and only 20 have passed. Many of those have been otherwise routine land transfers that enabled the construction or expansion of public cemeteries or airports. Others have allowed for the construction and continued maintenance of reservoirs and highways. The most significant change was a pair of amendments that created the ski centers at Belleayre in the Catskills and Gore and Whiteface in the Adirondacks. The latter includes a toll road to the summit as well. Subsections were later added to allow the construction of reservoirs and make certain that use of the land remained free to the public beyond any reasonable fee the state could charge for a particular activity. Acquisition of new Forest Preserve land Blue Line In , when Article 14 was more a matter of settled law, the legislature realized it had to delimit where Forest Preserve would be acquired. Accordingly, that year the Adirondack Park was defined in terms of the counties and towns within it. Two years later, the Catskill Park was defined. Instead of just declaring certain towns to be within the park, however, the legislature also used old survey tract boundaries, streams and railroad rights-of-way to clarify where it would be seeking land in the future. The park boundaries became known as the Blue Line since they were drawn, as they have been ever since, in blue ink on state maps. Methods of land acquisition While many of the original holdings came from tax foreclosures , over time the state bought huge tracts, aided by bond issues approved by the public. One in the late s proved to be of

particular value as the state was able to acquire a great deal of property at minimal prices due to the Great Depression. The state could also theoretically use its power of eminent domain to acquire Forest Preserve, but in practice it has rarely resorted to this. For the time being, the state is not seeking to expand the Forest Preserve as actively as it has in past years, since many of the most desired properties have been acquired. However, it remains publicly committed to working with any willing seller. Land classifications within the Forest Preserve Ecological and environmental awareness grew in the later years of the 20th century. Recreational use of the Forest Preserve began to rise to new levels, and newer methods of outdoor recreation became popular. One of its new tasks was to implement more contemporary land management practices. But administration of the state land in both parks was and still is split between different regional offices, and it was hard to get them both following the same principles since they did not communicate much. There was also no serious planning involved. New trails were created, or allowed to be created by outside parties, with little thought to their environmental impact or regional role. Camping was permitted anywhere, and some of the sensitive alpine environments in the Adirondack High Peaks were showing the effects. Two temporary state commissions set up to consider the future course of the Adirondacks and Catskills in the early s both strongly recommended that master plans be created for state lands in both parks. They also called for classifying the large tracts of state land as either wilderness areas or wild forest, depending on the degree of previous human impact and the level of recreational use they could sustain. Both of these were ultimately adopted, along with intensive use area and administrative use area designations for smaller parcels. In the Adirondacks, several additional classifications exist due to the more diverse character of lands in the extensive area of the park: Wilderness areas are those judged to have been far more affected by nature than humanity, to the extent that the latter is practically unnoticeable. No powered vehicles are allowed in wilderness areas. Recreation is limited to passive activities such as hiking , camping , hunting , birding and angling which are themselves subject to some further restrictions to ensure that they leave no trace for later recreationists. Special restrictions were recently imposed to limit impact on the largest and most popular wilderness area, the High Peaks Wilderness Complex in the Adirondacks. Powered equipment, such as chainsaws , may be necessary to keep trails open but such use is permitted only with the express written authorization of the DEC commissioner. Structures other than those that facilitate recreational use, such as bridges and lean-tos , are generally not allowed, either. Wild forest While retaining an essentially wild character, Wild Forests are those areas which have seen higher human impact and can thus withstand a higher level of recreational use. Often these are lands which were logged heavily in the recent past sometimes right before being transferred to the state. They might best be described as wildernesses where, within limits, powered vehicles are allowed. The wide roads left behind by logging operations make excellent trails not only for foot travel but for horses , snowmobiles , and cross-country skiing as well. Hunters prefer to seek game in wild forests because they can use cars or trucks to transport their kills out. Not all vehicle use is permitted, however. Mountain bikers and all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts have been lobbying DEC to allow them use of some Wild Forest trails in recent years. As of it appears that the former may be allowed to use some trails, particularly the old roads that lead to fire towers in both parks, DEC and most other users feel that even Wild Forest trails could not absorb the impact of ATVs. Powered equipment may be used to maintain trails and roads within Wild Forests. Intensive use area Intensive Use areas are places like state campgrounds or "day use" areas more like a small public park without camping. There may be designated campsites , picnic tables, charcoal grills , public restrooms and shower facilities and swimming areas with lifeguards. There are five day-use areas in the Adirondacks and one so far in the Catskills. Administrative use area This classification applies to a limited number of DEC-owned lands that are managed for other than Forest Preserve purposes. It covers a number of facilities devoted to research , some prisons , and state fish hatcheries in both parks. Most Administrative Use areas are located close to public roads and are generally in fairly developed areas of their respective parks. Land classifications in the Adirondacks The categories below are specific to Adirondack Forest Preserve lands; they are not used in the Catskills. Primitive area A Primitive Area is one that has much the same characteristics as wilderness area, but has some significant obstacles to receiving that status. It may have structures that cannot easily be removed within a given timeframe, or some other existing use that would complicate a wilderness designation.

The designation is also applied to areas of less than the minimum area that have environments sensitive enough to require wilderness-level protection. For most practical purposes, then, there is no difference between a primitive area and a wilderness area. Canoe area Canoe Areas are lands with a wilderness character that have enough streams, lakes and ponds to provide ample opportunities for water-based recreation. Since they are relatively flat, and the severity of a typical Adirondack winter ensures that most bodies of water will freeze over, they are excellent places to snowshoe and cross-country ski in that season as well. Currently, the Saint Regis Canoe Area is the only such designated area in the park. Wild, scenic, and recreational rivers There are three levels of classification for Forest Preserve lands around streams, depending on their levels of impoundment and public access. Wild rivers, or sections of rivers, are relatively inaccessible except by foot or horse, have no impoundments and are generally undeveloped except for foot bridges. Scenic rivers, or sections of rivers, may have limited road access, some low-impact human use and can be impounded by log jams. Recreational rivers, or sections of rivers, are readily accessible by road or rail and may be or have been at some point in the past developed or impounded by artificial means. Historic area These are the sites of buildings owned by the state that are significant to the history, architecture, archaeology or culture of the Adirondacks, those on the National Register of Historic Places or carrying or recommended for a similar state-level designation. Travel corridor This classification refers primarily to lands not really considered for recreational use but for those sections of the Forest Preserve constituting the right-of-way and roadbed for sections of the Adirondack Northway, other public highways in the Park, the Remsen -to- Lake Placid Adirondack Scenic Railroad right-of-way and lands immediately adjacent to and visible from them. Forest Preserve lands outside the parks State law also allows DEC to classify land it acquires outside the Blue Lines, but in counties partially within the parks, as Forest Preserve. These have usually been small detached parcels rarely organized into larger, named units. This is particularly common in the Adirondacks, since the many vast tracts of land under Forest Preserve protection limit economic opportunities in a region where it has always been a struggle to earn a living. Melvil Dewey sounded a common theme in the early 20th century when, advocating another constitutional amendment to open up more land to logging, he complained that the current situation only benefited "the bugs," referring to the blackfly infestations that keep many residents indoors during daylight hours in the early summer. Its heavy hand in enforcing regulations already regarded as too strict led to a severe backlash. Nevertheless, when governor Mario Cuomo announced plans for another temporary commission in the late s, several town boards passed resolutions of intent to secede from New York and join Vermont, and protesters blocked the Northway until Cuomo backed down. The APA was characterized as overly strict when it refused to let loggers haul downed wood off Forest Preserve land in an effort to help the woods regenerate after the ice storm. Fire towers In the late s a DEC forester writing a management plan for the Balsam Lake Wild Forest in the Catskills recommended that the fire tower on top of the similarly named mountain be removed and dismantled as nonconforming. He did this in the hope that someone would step forward to save not only this but the other four fire towers on state land in the Catskill Park. At that time the towers had not been used for fire control for years, and some were no longer safe to climb. In they were added to the National Register of Historic Places. All five and their accompanying cabins have been or will be converted into small interpretive centers, with displays identifying nearby peaks. Similar campaigns were undertaken in the Adirondacks, and hikers can now even receive a patch for their backpacks by visiting all the Forest Preserve firetowers. DEC even built a new trail to the tower on Red Hill in the Catskills, as the road to it crosses private land whose owner will not permit the public to cross it. Wilderness Areas are considered "untouched by man" and a firetower is viewed as a non-conforming structure.

5: The Forest Preserve of NYS - Purple Mountain Press

New York's Forest Preserve is all the land owned by the state within the Adirondack and Catskill parks, managed by its Department of Environmental Conservation. Properties are required to be kept "forever wild" by Article 14 of the state constitution, and thus enjoy the highest degree of protection of wild lands in any state.

When you visit our website you may provide us with two types of information: Personal Information You Choose to Provide We may request that you voluntarily supply us with personal information, including your email address, postal address, home or work telephone number and other personal information for such purposes as correspondence, placing an order, requesting an estimate, or participating in online surveys. If you choose to correspond with us through email, we may retain the content of your email messages together with your email address and our responses. We provide the same protections for these electronic communications that we employ in the maintenance of information received by mail and telephone. Website Use Information Similar to other websites, our site may utilize a standard technology called "cookies" see explanation below, "What Are Cookies? Information gathered through cookies and server logs may include the date and time of visits, the pages viewed, time spent at our website, and the sites visited just before and just after ours. This information is collected on an aggregate basis. None of this information is associated with you as an individual. Broadly speaking, we use personal information for purposes of administering our business activities, providing service and support and making available other products and services to our customers and prospective customers. Occasionally, we may also use the information we collect to notify you about important changes to our website, new services and special offers we think you will find valuable. The lists used to send you product and service offers are developed and managed under our traditional standards designed to safeguard the security and privacy of all personal information provided by our users. You may at any time to notify us of your desire not to receive these offers. Cookies are a feature of web browser software that allows web servers to recognize the computer used to access a website. This makes it easier for a user to move from web page to web page and to complete commercial transactions over the Internet. Cookies should make your online experience easier and more personalized. This information assists us to design and arrange our web pages in the most user-friendly manner and to continually improve our website to better meet the needs of our users and prospective users. Cookies help us collect important business and technical statistics. The information in the cookies lets us trace the paths followed by users to our website as they move from one page to another. We do not use these technologies to capture your individual email address or any personally identifying information about you. Notice of New Services and Changes Occasionally, we may use the information we collect to notify you about important changes to our website, new services and special offers we think you will find valuable. As a user of our website, you will be given the opportunity to notify us of your desire not to receive these offers by clicking on a response box when you receive such an offer or by sending us an email request. When you send confidential personal information to us on our website, a secure server software which we have licensed encrypts all information you input before it is sent to us. The information is scrambled en route and decoded once it reaches our website. Other email that you may send to us may not be secure unless we advise you that security measures will be in place prior to your transmitting the information. For that reason, we ask that you do not send confidential information such as Social Security, credit card, or account numbers to us through an unsecured email. Evaluation of Information Protection Practices -- Periodically, our operations and business practices are reviewed for compliance with organization policies and procedures governing the security, confidentiality and quality of our information. Employee Access, Training and Expectations -- Our organization values, ethical standards, policies and practices are committed to the protection of user information. In general, our business practices limit employee access to confidential information, and limit the use and disclosure of such information to authorized persons, processes and transactions. You may request access to all your personally identifiable information that we collect online and maintain in our database by emailing us using the contact form provided to you within the site structure of our website. We may provide aggregate information about our customers, sales, website traffic patterns and

related website information to our affiliates or reputable third parties, but this information will not include personally identifying data, except as otherwise provided in this privacy policy. We may disclose information when legally compelled to do so, in other words, when we, in good faith, believe that the law requires it or for the protection of our legal rights. Any other reproduction, transmission, performance, display or editing of these materials by any means mechanical or electronic without our express written permission is strictly prohibited. Users wishing to obtain permission to reprint or reproduce any materials appearing on this site may contact us directly. If you have made an error in making your donation or change your mind about contributing to our organization please contact us. Refunds are returned using the original method of payment. If you made your donation by credit card, your refund will be credited to that same credit card. Automated Recurring Donation Cancellation Ongoing support is important to enabling projects to continue their work, so we encourage donors to continue to contribute to projects over time. But if you must cancel your recurring donation, please notify us.

6: Budget Proposal Challenges NYS Tax Payments On Forest Preserve Lands - - The Adirondack Almanac

A plan to replace the closed Middleton Bridge in Warren County, N.Y., has been stopped because the replacement bridge would cross land that is part of New York State's forest preserve in the.

Full of pristine waterways, boreal forests and the towering mountains. It was land ripe for cultivation or conservation, and it was already on the brink of wide-spread deforestation. Within the Adirondack Region is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States. It is also home to towns and villages. The Adirondack Park Forest Preserve Verplanck Colvin, a lawyer, author, illustrator and topographical engineer, was the original surveyor of the Adirondack Park. Through his early work and appreciation of the Adirondack Mountains - he helped raise awareness for the need to create a Forest Preserve and ultimately, the Adirondack Park. Colvin spent several years around the s exploring in the Adirondacks and by , he decided to do a geological survey of the region. One year later, Colvin recorded his ascent of Seward Mountain - where he witnessed the widespread devastation of the logging industry - and presented his observations to the Albany Institute. Over the next year, Colvin and his crews discovered Lake Tear of the Clouds - the source of the Hudson River, and many more Adirondack peaks. No, the Adirondack Park is not a National Park. These are the only two areas in the state that are designated as "Forever Wild" - meaning the land is protected under Article XIV of the New York State Constitution - to preserve the exceptional scenic, recreational and ecological value. So, the Adirondacks are partially a state park, made up of state-designated areas including: This area includes towns and villages, farms, and businesses. The boundary of the park encompasses more than six million acres, nearly half of which belongs to all the people of New York state and is constitutionally protected as a "forever wild" forest preserve. The remaining half of the park is private land including settlements, farms, timberlands, businesses, homes and camps. The Adirondack Park boasts 3, lakes and ponds, and 30, miles of rivers and streams, therefore Adirondack waterways are vast, wild and primal -perfect for New York canoeing and kayaking. The 46 tallest mountains within the park are called the Adirondack High Peaks. Year-round recreation at alpine and cross-country ski centers is also a popular draw throughout the region. Handicap accessible trails are offered in many regions so that everyone can enjoy the wilderness. For a hands-on glimpse into the history of the Adirondacks - from the logging industry to the distinctive architecture of the Adirondack Great Camps - The Adirondack Experience - The Museum at Blue Mountain Lake is the best place to go. Celebrated for their experiential exhibits, these two museums are a must for first time visitors. The New York State Constitution necessitates that any land owned or acquired by the state within the blue line be kept "Forever Wild. Discover the enduring legacy of this wild area during your next family vacation. Wildlife Viewing Old-growth and second generation forests in the Adirondacks are home to a multitude of wildlife and birds. There are over 50 species of mammals that live in the Mountains of the Adirondacks. Mammals in the Adirondacks Below is a small sample of some of the interesting mammal species you might run into during your visit to the Adirondacks:

7: Forest Preserve (New York) - The Full Wiki

New York State's Constitution protects the State's forest preserve as wild forest land and generally prohibits the lease, sale, exchange, or taking of any forest preserve land. The proposed amendment will create two new exceptions to this broad protection of the forest preserve to make it easier for municipalities to undertake certain.

The Adirondack top and Catskill parks within New York. Five years afterward, surveyor Verplanck Colvin beheld the Adirondacks from the summit of Seward Mountain during his mission to map the region. The idea of preserving the lands in some sort of park occurred to him then and there, and after he returned he wrote to his superiors in Albany that action needed to be taken to prevent that kind of despoliation. They appointed him to a committee to study the problem. In , the businessmen began lobbying the legislature in earnest, and were rewarded three years later with the passage of the Forest Preserve Act, which provided that no logging would be allowed on state-owned land. Their solution was to convey some of the land on which they owed the taxes, mostly around Slide Mountain to the state. However, an amended version of the bill was passed, after many deals and compromises among members, that added lands in Ulster, Sullivan and Greene counties to those eligible for Forest Preserve status. One side effect of this deal is that the state pays all local and county property taxes on the Forest Preserve as if it were a commercial landowner. This has helped many local governments remain solvent as they have very little economic assets other than forest resources. Article 14 To manage the land, the state had created a Forest Commission, making New York second only to California in having a state-level forestry agency. Most of its members were either openly or covertly connected to timber interests, however, and routinely approved dodges around the legislation to make sure logging would continue. In the legislature retroactively approved many of these practices by giving the commission the right to sell timber from the lands and trade them as it saw fit. It seemed the Forest Preserve now existed only on paper. But the following year New York held a constitutional convention , and the language of the law was written into the new state constitution with added words to close every loophole the Forest Commission had found. This section, Article 14 of the constitution and every one since, is often referred to as the "forever wild" section even though those two words do not appear next to each other in the text. 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. Nonetheless, they would try. The new provision barely survived an attempt to gut it two years later when they again prevailed upon the legislature to approve an amendment requiring the state to "manage the land in accordance with sound timber management principles. Since then, over 2, amendments to Article 14 have been introduced in the legislature. Of those, only 28 have made it to the ballot, and only 20 have passed. Many of those have been otherwise routine land transfers that enabled the construction or expansion of public cemeteries or airports. Others have allowed for the construction and continued maintenance of reservoirs and highways. The most significant change was a pair of amendments that created the ski centers at Belleayre in the Catskills and Gore and Whiteface in the Adirondacks. The latter includes a toll road to the summit as well. Subsections were later added to allow the construction of reservoirs and make certain that use of the land remained free to the public beyond any reasonable fee the state could charge for a particular activity. Blue Line New York State In , when Article 14 was more a matter of settled law, the legislature realized it had to delimit where Forest Preserve would be acquired. Accordingly, that year the Adirondack Park was defined in terms of the counties and towns within it. Two years later, the Catskill Park was defined. Instead of just declaring certain towns to be within the park, however, the legislature also used old survey tract boundaries, streams and railroad rights-of-way to clarify where it would be seeking land in the future. The park boundaries became known as the Blue Line since they were drawn, as they have been ever since, in blue ink on state maps. Methods of land acquisition While many of the original holdings came from tax foreclosures , over time the state bought huge tracts, aided by bond issues approved by the public. One in the late s proved to be of particular value as the state was able to acquire a great deal of property at minimal prices due to the Great Depression. The state could also theoretically use its power of eminent domain to acquire Forest Preserve, but in practice it has rarely resorted to this. For the time being, the state is not seeking

to expand the Forest Preserve as actively as it has in past years, since many of the most desired properties have been acquired. However, it remains publicly committed to working with any willing seller. Land classifications within the Forest Preserve Ecological and environmental awareness grew in the later years of the 20th century. Recreational use of the Forest Preserve began to rise to new levels, and newer methods of outdoor recreation became popular. One of its new tasks was to implement more contemporary land management practices. But administration of the state land in both parks was and still is split between different regional offices, and it was hard to get them both following the same principles since they did not communicate much. There was also no serious planning involved. New trails were created, or allowed to be created by outside parties, with little thought to their environmental impact or regional role. Camping was permitted anywhere, and some of the sensitive alpine environments in the Adirondack High Peaks were showing the effects. Two temporary state commissions set up to consider the future course of the Adirondacks and Catskills in the early s both strongly recommended that master plans be created for state lands in both parks. They also called for classifying the large tracts of state land as either wilderness or "wild forest," depending on the degree of previous human impact and the level of recreational use they could sustain. Both of these were ultimately adopted, along with an "intensive use" and "administrative use" designations for smaller parcels. In the Adirondacks, several additional classifications exist due to the more diverse character of lands in the extensive area of the park: Wilderness areas are those judged to have been far more affected by nature than humanity, to the extent that the latter is practically unnoticeable. No powered vehicles are allowed in wilderness areas. Recreation is limited to passive activities such as hiking , camping , hunting , birding and angling which are themselves subject to some further restrictions to ensure that they leave no trace for later recreationists. Special restrictions were recently imposed to limit impact on the largest and most popular wilderness area, the High Peaks Wilderness Complex in the Adirondacks. Powered equipment, such as chainsaws , may be necessary to keep trails open but such use is permitted only with the express written authorization of the DEC commissioner. Structures other than those that facilitate recreational use, such as bridges and lean-tos , are generally not allowed, either. List of Wilderness Areas in the Adirondack Park Wild Forest While retaining an essentially wild character, Wild Forests are those areas which have seen higher human impact and can thus withstand a higher level of recreational use. Often these are lands which were logged heavily in the recent past sometimes right before being transferred to the state. They might best be described as wildernesses where, within limits, powered vehicles are allowed. The wide roads left behind by logging operations make excellent trails not only for foot travel but for horses , snowmobiles , and cross-country skiing as well. Hunters prefer to seek game in wild forests because they can use cars or trucks to transport their kills out. Not all vehicle use is permitted, however. Mountain bikers and all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts have been lobbying DEC to allow them use of some Wild Forest trails in recent years. As of it appears that the former may be allowed to use some trails, particularly the old roads that lead to fire towers in both parks, DEC and most other users feel that even Wild Forest trails could not absorb the impact of ATVs. Powered equipment may be used to maintain trails and roads within Wild Forests. A proposed update to the master plan for the park would not only make this formal but extend the limit to 2, feet Intensive Use Intensive Use areas are places like state campgrounds or "day use" areas more like a small public park without camping. There may be designated campsites , picnic tables, charcoal grills , public restrooms and shower facilities and swimming areas with lifeguards. A fee is charged between May 1 and October 1 for most of these activities, and sometimes just for entering the area. DEC manages 45 campgrounds in the Adirondacks and 7 in the Catskills, for a total of 52 public campgrounds elsewhere in New York are under the authority of the state parks. There are five day-use areas in the Adirondacks and one so far in the Catskills. Administrative Use This classification applies to a limited number of DEC-owned lands that are managed for other than Forest Preserve purposes. It covers a number of facilities devoted to research , some prisons , and state fish hatcheries in both parks. Most Administrative Use areas are located close to public roads and are generally in fairly developed areas of their respective parks. Land classifications specific to Adirondack Forest Preserve lands The categories below are currently not used in the Catskills. Primitive Area A Primitive Area is one that has much the same characteristics as wilderness area, but has some significant obstacles to receiving that

status. It may have structures that cannot easily be removed within a given timeframe, or some other existing use that would complicate a wilderness designation. The designation is also applied to areas of less than the minimum area that have environments sensitive enough to require wilderness-level protection. For most practical purposes, then, there is no difference between a primitive area and a wilderness area. Canoe Area Canoe Areas are lands with a wilderness character that have enough streams, lakes and ponds to provide ample opportunities for water-based recreation. Since they are relatively flat, and the severity of a typical Adirondack winter ensures that most bodies of water will freeze over, they are excellent places to snowshoe and cross-country ski in that season as well. Currently, the Saint Regis Canoe Area is the only such designated area in the park. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers This is actually three separate levels of classification for Forest Preserve lands around streams depending on their levels of impoundment and public access. Wild rivers, or sections of rivers, are relatively inaccessible except by foot or horse, have no impoundments and are generally undeveloped except for foot bridges. Scenic rivers, or sections of rivers, may have limited road access, some low-impact human use and can be impounded by log jams. Recreational rivers, or sections of rivers, are readily accessible by road or rail and may be or have been at some point in the past developed or impounded by artificial means. Historic Area These are the sites of buildings owned by the state that are significant to the history, architecture, archaeology or culture of the Adirondacks, those on the National Register of Historic Places or carrying or recommended for a similar state-level designation. Travel Corridor This classification refers primarily to lands not really considered for recreational use but for those sections of the Forest Preserve constituting the right-of-way and roadbed for sections of the Adirondack Northway, other public highways in the Park, Remsen -to- Lake Placid railroad right-of-way and lands immediately adjacent to and visible from them. It results from a mid-1900s amendment to Article 14 that allowed such road construction and maintenance, primarily to complete the Northway. Forest Preserve lands outside the parks State law also allows DEC to classify land it acquires outside the Blue Lines, but in counties partially within the parks, as Forest Preserve. These have usually been small detached parcels rarely organized into larger, named units. This is particularly common in the Adirondacks, since the many vast tracts of land under Forest Preserve protection limit economic opportunities in a region where it has always been a struggle to earn a living. Melvil Dewey sounded a common theme in the early 20th century when, advocating another constitutional amendment to open up more land to logging, he complained that the current situation only benefited "the bugs," referring to the blackfly infestations that keep many residents indoors during daylight hours in the early summer. By contrast, in the Catskills, it is often complained that the state neglects the region to concentrate on the Adirondacks. Its heavy hand in enforcing regulations already regarded as too strict led to a severe backlash. Nevertheless, when governor Mario Cuomo announced plans for another temporary commission in the late 1980s, several town boards passed resolutions of intent to secede from New York and join Vermont, and protesters blocked the Northway until Cuomo backed down. The APA was characterized as overly strict when it refused to let loggers haul downed wood off Forest Preserve land in an effort to help the woods regenerate after the ice storm. Fire towers In the late 1980s a DEC forester writing a management plan for the Balsam Lake Wild Forest in the Catskills recommended that the fire tower on top of the similarly-named mountain be removed and dismantled as nonconforming. He did this in the hope that someone would step forward to save not only this but the other four fire towers on state land in the Catskill Park. At that time the towers had not been used for fire control for years, and some were no longer safe to climb. In they were added to the National Register of Historic Places. All five and their accompanying cabins have been or will be converted into small interpretive centers, with displays identifying nearby peaks. Similar campaigns were undertaken in the Adirondacks, and hikers can now even receive a patch for their backpacks by visiting all the Forest Preserve firetowers.

8: New York State Forest Preserve | Lake George Guide

New York State has one of the oldest land preservation programs in the United States Over a century ago, New Yorkers established the Forest Preserve. An act of the Legislature in declared that State-owned lands in eight Adirondack and

THE FOREST PRESERVE IN NEW YORK STATE pdf

three Catskill counties should "be forever kept as wild.

9: The Adirondack Park | Official Adirondack Region Website

Lands under the care, custody and control of DEC, including Wildlife Management areas, Unique Areas, State Forests, and Forest Preserve. This dataset is a work in progress. Information on state owned recreation land boundaries is available from a number of sources that do not necessarily agree.

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