

Large rally at state capitol seeks better protections for Adirondack parks.

by WRGB STAFF

February 10th 2020



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ALBANY, N.Y. ([WRGB](#)) – Adirondack conservationists met at the State Capitol today to seek legislation that would protect the Adirondack Park’s forests, waters and wildlife.

More than 100 activists – decorated in matching red-and-black plaid scarves – converged on the Legislature for an Adirondack Park Environment Lobby Day to discuss the following:

- Protecting the Adirondack Forest Preserve from overcrowding by adding more Forest Rangers and funding projects that promote natural resource preservation
- Reforming the Adirondack Park Agency by securing a full slate of board appointments with diverse backgrounds and expertise, and passing legislation to prevent habitat fragmentation with the Park’s largest subdivisions

- Preserving clean water by strengthening the invasive species transport law in the Adirondacks and by establishing an Adirondack Road Salt Task Force

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"We stand united in seeking critical funding to ensure sustainable trails and overall stewardship in order to protect our State's vital wilderness areas and improve the experience of those who come to recreate," said Michael Barrett, Executive Director of the Adirondack Mountain Club.



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The activists represented the Adirondack Council, Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Wild/Friends of the Forest Preserve, Protect the Adirondacks!, and Sierra Club.

"The Cuomo Administration needs to make a much greater investment in the management and maintenance of the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park," said Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's budget proposal contains a \$3-million increase in funding for wildland protection and stewardship, including more education, trail crews and user management actions. The groups are asking the Legislature to approve an increase of \$10 million, with funding dedicated to managing surging levels of visitor use.

"One of the major goals of the day was to express how important it is for the Governor to appoint a full slate of qualified candidates for the Adirondack Park Agency board," said Adirondack Wild's managing partner David Gibson. "We also sought reform of the APA's rules for development in the park's most remote locations, to better protect wildlife, water quality and intact forests."