



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Group Issues Summary of how Proposed EPA Budget Cuts Could Threaten the Adirondack Region**

**Keene, NY** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency budget cuts proposed by the Trump administration will pose significant threats to the Adirondack Park's air, water and other vital natural and recreational resources according to a report prepared by the nonprofit Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve.

The report is available at the group's website, [adirondackwild.org](http://adirondackwild.org). It's based on conversations with state environmental agencies and officials in Albany and Ray Brook. "EPA budget cuts and elimination of environmental programs from climate change research, to pollution enforcement monitoring, to wetland mapping and more will lead to environmental damage and real costs here in the Adirondacks," said Adirondack Wild's Dan Plumley.

"We face a worse scenario than we did under President Reagan's EPA in 1981 because on a global and regional scale climate change and other pressures make the stakes that much higher today," he added.

"At best, it's unsettling that our state environmental agencies are so uncertain about what the future will hold because they are being told different things from different people in Washington, D.C. At worst, these proposed cuts will significantly affect our Park's environment and our quality of life, from Lake Champlain to the St. Lawrence, Black and Mohawk Rivers."

An important annual work planning meeting between U.S. EPA and New York's DEC was postponed indefinitely by EPA without explanation, Plumley noted. "This is not a good sign."

The EPA budget issues will eventually be clarified by the U.S. Congress over the coming months and will principally impact state-federal programs during the 2018 fiscal year. Adirondack Wild is urging Park residents and all New Yorkers to express their concerns directly to their state and congressional representatives, and to Governor Cuomo.

*Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve* is a not for profit, membership organization which advances New York's "Forever Wild" legacy and Forest Preserve policies in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, and promotes public and private land stewardship consistent with wild land values through education, advocacy and research. More on the web: [www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org).

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