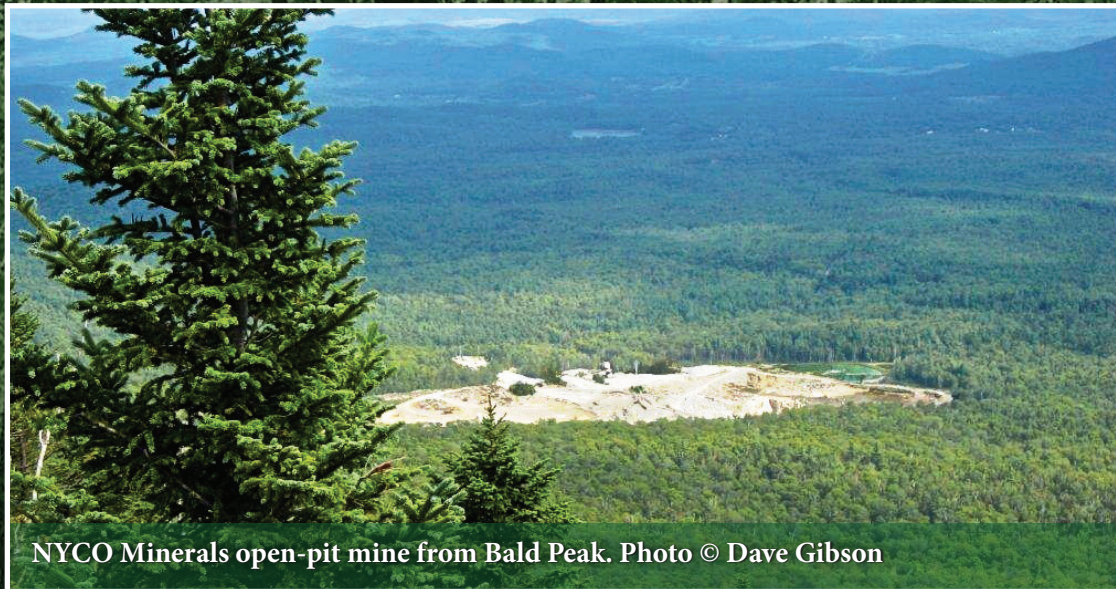




# WILDERNESS MUST BE PRESERVED. FOREVER.

- GOVERNOR MARIO M. CUOMO, 1985



NYCO Minerals open-pit mine from Bald Peak. Photo © Dave Gibson

Lot 8, a 200-acre parcel in the Jay Mountain Wilderness Area is at risk of drilling by NYCO. Photo © Dan Plumley

In 1985, Governor Mario Cuomo said that . . . “the wilderness areas of this state are not a disposable resource to be consumed and discarded. They must be preserved. Forever.”

In a 2014 opinion published in *The New York Times* (October 8, 2014 edition), our Advisory Council member Ed Zahniser wrote:

“It is especially disconcerting that, in this 50th anniversary year of the federal law (The Wilderness Act), the state of New York is promoting mining in its own wilderness. Mining and wilderness are antithetical.”

“Governor (Andrew) Cuomo could end this now. The state is not required to open up this wilderness to mining. The amendment merely said the state ‘may’ do so. The governor could heed what his father said 29 years ago.”

“If Mr. Cuomo won’t reverse course, he must ensure that the process is guided by legislative standards. He may not share his father’s appreciation for the wilderness, but his administration must follow the statutes and regulations that still protect the state’s nearly three million acres of forest preserve. The governor is not above the law.”

Commercial exploitation of the Forest Preserve through drilling is being permitted while the land remains public Wilderness. **This is unprecedented.**

Readers are asked to express their concerns to Governor Andrew Cuomo by contacting him at:  
<http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

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