

# Report: State not adequately protecting Adirondacks

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*A lake in the Adirondacks in New York. (AP Photo/Mary Esch)*

ALBANY— State officials are not adequately protecting the Adirondacks from development and motorized vehicles, a new report from an advocacy group claims.

Development projects are receiving less environmental review in the Adirondacks than other projects across the state, said Chris Amato, acting chair of Adirondack Wild. Ecologically sensitive public lands have been opened to motorized vehicles that endanger the wild forest character of the park, he said.

Adirondack Wild's [report](#), released on Monday, contains a number of recommendations, including reforms to residential subdivision development, more rigorous environmental review of some programs, and a scientific analysis of the impact of vehicles and development in the park. The report calls for better resource planning and protection from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency.

"Our State agencies are far too quick to compromise their standards on land use decisions in the Park today," wrote Dan Plumley, co-author of the report. "They have a paramount duty of protection and stewardship, which are also critical to healthy local communities and economies."

Tom Mailey, a spokesman for D.E.C., said the report's findings are "without merit."

"DEC is a national leader in land conservation continually building the public land asset of the Adirondack Park which includes over 900 thousand acres of Conservation Easement and over 2.7 million acres of Forest Preserve lands," he said in a statement. "The management planning process utilized by DEC in consultation with APA is rigorous, open and transparent, inviting the public to participate throughout the entire planning process, including local government leaders and all the diverse stakeholders who care strongly in how these lands will be managed in the future."

Keith McKeever, a spokesman for the Adirondack Park Agency, said the agency's commitment to the park remains strong. Agency staff members, he said, understand "the magnitude of their work" and they "professionally [review] all land use projects."