For Immediate Release
April 8, 2014

For More Information:
David Gibson, 518-469-4081, dgibson@adirondackwild.org
Bob Bullock, 518- 443-5837, Robert.Bullock@rockinst.suny.edu

Wilderness 50th Anniversary Announced

Albany, NY - Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government have partnered to create a new logo which commemorates the 50th Anniversary of The National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. The logo will be used to help promote a variety of commemorative activities being planned later this year at college campuses and other venues stretching from Syracuse and the Adirondack North Country, to the Capital Region, the Catskill Region, and Hudson Valley.

The theme for this year’s celebration is New York: Where Wilderness Preservation Began – Motivating New Leadership. Informative Wilderness 50th website pages have been posted at www.adirondackwild.org. The logo is provided as a unifying visual element and is available to any institution willing to host events or activities. The website will feature events and activities throughout the year, and indicate whether they are open to the public. It also hosts background papers and news articles, historic photographs, and more.
The Wilderness Act’s chief author, Howard Zahniser, took his inspiration from New York’s “forever wild” constitutional protection of the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve. That constitutional protection also has its 120th anniversary this year (1894-2014). Zahniser wrote that New York State set the example for the national Wilderness movement.

The New York State Wilderness 50th steering committee is comprised of Adirondack Wild, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Committee members are visiting colleges to encourage activities which engage each campus in dialogue and demonstration about what wilderness preservation and stewardship mean today. The goal is to encourage younger leaders to engage in thoughtful appreciation, care and stewardship of wild lands.

“These anniversaries give all New Yorkers the chance to rekindle the spirit and meaning of New York’s forever wild constitutional protection and of the significance of wild places in our lives today and to foster new leadership for how we are to sustain wild nature today and tomorrow. Please join our efforts,” said Adirondack Wild’s partner Dan Plumley based in Keene, the Adirondack High Peaks region.

“We are very pleased to be working with a variety of college campuses to mark this historic wilderness anniversary with meaningful celebrations, speakers, and dialogue. The new logo and web pages will help us to do that job better,” added Bob Bullock, Deputy Director for Operations at the Rockefeller Institute.

“New Yorkers will be joining a national celebration of Wilderness,” added Adirondack Wild’s partner David Gibson. New York events will also be posted on the national website, www.wilderness50th.org.

“Howard Zahniser often said that once the Wilderness Act was passed, the greatest challenge would be to keep wilderness wild,” Gibson added. “That remains one of our biggest challenges in the Adirondacks, the Catskills and across the country. We invite people of all ages to explore how we can become better stewards of our wilderness areas during the anniversary.”