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Group Applauds Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Action to Ban Hydraulic Fracturing Citing Environmental and Human Health Impacts

Niskayuna and Keene, NY – Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve applauds Governor Andrew Cuomo’s decision today to ban horizontal, high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) in New York State. “We recognize Governor Cuomo, Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens and Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker for their historic affirmation of the critical importance of safeguarding our state’s environment and our public health,” stated Dan Plumley, Staff Partner with Adirondack Wild.

Although most of the Adirondacks lack exploitable shale where natural gas is concentrated, areas near the Park’s southern border are rich in shale formations which could potentially be exploited some day. Today’s decision sets aside that worry, as well as concerns about how the state would have analyzed cumulative environmental impacts from HVHF, including impacts to forest and wildlife habitat fragmentation and ground water conservation.

“Public policy decisions about the Marcellus Shale and HVHF relate to how well the state protects our natural resources overall and to the challenges facing the publicly-owned Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks and their large, vulnerable landscapes and watersheds which have tremendous economic as well as non-market values,” Plumley added.

Adirondack Wild had opposed HVHF in its 2012 comments on NYS DEC’s Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement. “The Governor’s decision is both leading and visionary,” stated Adirondack Wild’s David Gibson. “By taking it, the Governor and his team demonstrate their understanding that the long-term health of our state’s environment and its economy are inextricably intertwined, not mutually exclusive goals. By taking it, serious threats to public health, natural resources, entire landscapes and diverse wildlife...
habitats are averted. Many New Yorkers are breathing easier today thanks to this decision.”

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 that is consistent with wild land values through education, advocacy and research.

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