

View from Cathead Mountain overlooking the Silver Lake Wilderness. Photo by Dave Gibson

#### What's at issue?

Due to the mountainous terrain, southern Hamilton County and State Route 30 have suffered from unreliable emergency communications for many years. People's lives are at risk. Public safety requires a more reliable system.

### **Proposed Solution:**

A local hunting and fishing club below Cathead Mountain is willing to:

- exchange some of the club's private lands to enlarge the adjacent Forest Preserve and prevent development of their remaining land which would also give the club improved access to their clubhouse;
- permit an electric line to reach modern equipment and make the county's emergency communications far more reliable.

A way to achieve all the above objectives is to authorize a land exchange by amending Article 14, the Forever Wild clause, by positive legislative action and public vote. There could be a large net benefit for the Forest Preserve. Over 400 acres around Cathead Mountain could be added to the Silver Lake Wilderness area in exchange for about 45 acres.

## **Mutually Beneficial Outcome:**

Adirondack Wild is convinced that achieving reliable emergency communications to benefit the county's residents, hikers and paddlers is an urgent and necessary public need that justifies amending Article 14. The potential for a win/win constitutional solution requires that stakeholders come together with state legislators, have dialogue, and reach a consensus to solve this persistent, urgent problem.

#### WE CAN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU!

For a FREE copy of our report, *The Adirondack Park at a Crossroad: A Road Map for Action* or our guidebook, *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park: Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions*, please visit our website, www.adirondackwild.org, and download them from the main menu under: Media/Publications.

While you're there, we also invite you to make a donation to become a member and to sign up for our award-winning eNewsletter, *Dialogue for the Wild*.



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