



THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF OUR LAKES

Second Pond, Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. Photo by D. Gibson

The Issue:

The Adirondack Park's three-thousand lakes are shared public and private resources and are the lifeblood of the Adirondack Park's environment and economy. Human pressures on these waterbodies are increasing, but their carrying capacity, or ability to withstand a variety of human uses, from physical, social and biological standpoints, is poorly understood.

Who is studying these Adirondack jewels to gauge their capacity to withstand all of our recreational and other uses? What are desired conditions for these waterbodies? Given climate change, what should we be measuring, monitoring, and changing to assure that desired lake conditions are achieved?

The Problem:

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan states that a comprehensive study of Adirondack waterbodies should be conducted by our Department of Environmental Conservation, adding that first emphasis should be given to lakes and ponds surrounded by the Forest Preserve.

DEC promises it will someday conduct these studies. However, in the meantime it approves the expansion of public boat launches, while the APA permits private marina expansion, all without carrying capacity information.

What You Can Do:

Please write to your regional DEC and APA offices in Ray Brook to ask that a comprehensive lake study get underway. DEC email is: info.r5@dec.ny.gov. APA email is SLMP_UMP_Comments@apa.ny.gov.

Adirondack Wild launched a conversation about *Cooperative Stewardship of Adirondack Lakes and Ponds* at the Paul Smith's Visitor Interpretive Center on October 14. To learn more and to join in, follow our progress at www.adirondackwild.org.

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*.



WE'RE ON THE WILD'S SIDE...

SAFEGUARDING THE WILD | EXTENDING THE WILD | EDUCATING FOR THE WILD

WWW.ADIRONDACKWILD.ORG

Founded 1945