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State Acquisitions for Adirondack Forest Preserve Have Monumental Hunting Impact

Hunting cabins removed, roads and snowmobile trails closed, campsites closed

When the Department of Environmental Conservation announces that the State is acquiring more land for the Adirondack Forest Preserve, it invariably emphasizes that this will improve access by hunters and others to the forest. However, this is not true. As the DEC acquires land, it mandates that most or all camps on land leased to the hunting clubs be removed, and closes logging roads into the forests. The DEC and Adirondack Park Agency have taken away all ATV access, closed large numbers of accessible campsites, closed roads, and closed lakes to motorized use as existing State-owned land is classified.

- 1999 **Champion International** acquisition, 300 hunting camps to be removed.
Whitney Industries acquisition to become wilderness, 20 miles of logging roads closed.
- 2000 **Watsons East Wild Forest**, two roads to inholdings closed.
Santanoni Historic Area, snowmobiles and motorized boats prohibited.
- 2002 **International Paper Round Lake** tract, 24 hunting cabins must be removed.
DEC sued over allowing **Bear Pond Road** to be widened.
- 2003 **Town of Arietta** has to move a snowmobile trail from private land, in order to reclassify 145 acres
Wilderness to Wild Forest, 740 acres in Wild Forest will become Wilderness.
Adirondack Park Agency says roadside campsites are not allowed in **Dix Mountain Wilderness**,
although they are right next to Rt. 73.
- 2004 155 miles of roads closed to ATVs in **Independence River, Aldrich Pond, Black River and
Watsons East Wild Forests**.
Conservation easement on **Long Pond-New River Franklin** timberland requires 37 hunting camps
have to be removed by 2014.
- 2005 Adirondack Park Agency determines that ATVs are not allowed in **Wild Forest** areas, except for
crossings and limited disabled access.
Several campsites along **Keese Mill Road** in **St. Regis Canoe Area** closed, section of road closed.
Four miles of Cooperkill snowmobile trail in **Wilmington Wild Forest** closed.
- 2006 Adirondack Park Agency determines roadside campsites are not allowed in **Wild Forest** areas, modeled on
Shelving Rock in Lake George Wild Forest where sites are 150 ft. away from vehicle parking areas.
Silver Lake Wilderness, roads and roadside campsites closed, two bridges and historic chimney must be
removed.
Jessup River Wild Forest, closed 14 roadside campsites at **Mason Lake**.
White Hill Wild Forest, closed 9 campsites at **Clear Pond**, closed roads.
Watsons East Wild Forest and adjoining conservation easement lands, closed roads to motor vehicles.
Ferris Lake Wild Forest, proposes closure of 17 miles snowmobile trails.
Moose River Plains Wild Forest, proposes closure of 99 roadside campsites and five campsites at
Wakely dam, proposes closing a bridge to motor vehicles and closing 24 miles of snowmobile trails.
Gov. George Pataki says 180 of the **Champion** hunting camps can remain.
- 2008 **A hard cap of 848 miles of snowmobile** trails are allowed in the Adirondacks. This is the maximum no
matter how much new state land is acquired in future.
Adirondack Park Agency votes **against seaplanes on Lows Lake**.
Meeting of **“Quiet Waters”** group campaign to ban motorized boats.
Pending acquisition of **Finch Pruyn** property will require removal of at least 48 hunting camps on lands
leased by clubs, according to partial information available in February 2009.

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Major Land Acquisitions for Adirondack Forest Preserve Over the Last Two Decades

Years	Acres in fee⁽¹⁾	Acres in conservation easements⁽²⁾	Acquired from
1986	16,000		
1987-1989	35,000		
1989-1993	23,000	44,000	
1994-1997	11,000		
1998	15,000	36,000	Whitney Industries
1999	29,000	110,000	Champion International
“	1,100	2,200	Niagara Mohawk
2000		19,000	Long Pond Timber
“	800	200	Bartlett Carry
2001	26,500		International Paper-Round Lake
2002		5,000	Boy Scout Camp Cedarlands
2003	6,000	4,000	NL Industries-Tahawus
2004	2,000	257,000	International Paper-multi-town
“		16,000	“ “ -Dillon Park
2005	20,000	84,000	Domtar/Lyme Timber
2006		300	Barile
“	300		Roden
2007	800		Adirondack Homes
“		52,000	Rayonier
2008 ⁽³⁾	57,700	93,500	Finch Pruyn
“	14,600		McCormick - Follensby Pond
Total⁽⁴⁾	258,800	723,200	

Notes:

1. Land acquired in fee simple becomes part of the “forever wild” Adirondack Forest Preserve. All hunting camps must be removed.
2. No development is allowed on land on which conservation easements are acquired. The status of hunting camps depends on the DEC and the arrangement.
3. 2008 acquisitions not yet complete.
4. Only major acquisitions are listed. In 1992, New York State owned 2,320,462 acres in fee in the Adirondacks, and the practice of acquiring conservation easements had just recently begun. As of January 2009, New York State owns 2,797,975 acres in fee (Forest Preserve), plus 758,043 acres in conservation easements. Acquisitions begun in 2008 are not included, as they are not final.

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