



**For Immediate Release
April 11, 2017**

**Joint Statement from Access The Adirondacks
and the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages**

**Boreas Ponds Poll is Misguided Attempt to
Sway Park Agency and Governor**

The recent Boreas Ponds poll paid for by Wilderness advocates is a misguided and misleading attempt to sway the decision of the Adirondack Park Agency commissioners and Gov. Cuomo nearly four months after the close of the public comment period on the classification. We are confident that the commissioners and Gov. Cuomo will see right through it.

The Wilderness advocates' press release about the poll claims that respondents rejected the idea that "an existing dirt road leading to the ponds should remain open to motor vehicles." ***In fact, the poll question did not tell respondents that the road has been used by motor vehicles in the past.*** Specifically, the "dirt road" is a heavy-duty woods road that was built for — and used responsibly for decades by — logging trucks and the cars and trucks of recreationists who leased the land from its former owners, the Finch, Pruyn & Co., Inc. timber company and The Nature Conservancy.

Not only were poll respondents not provided this critical information, 67% acknowledged that they pay little or no attention to state regulations or laws that affect land use in the Adirondack Park, meaning that they were likely unaware of the scientific and legal standards the Park Agency must meet in rendering its classification decision.

In fact: The Adirondack Park Agency Act ***requires*** the Agency to classify state lands according to a scientific evaluation of "their characteristics and capacity to withstand use."

Access The Adirondacks, the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages, and our many supporters documented time and again throughout the public comment period that portions of the Boreas Ponds property, most notably the existing heavy-duty logging road

-More-

leading to and around the ponds, meet the scientific and legal requirements to be classified as Wild Forest based on their characteristics and historic use for timber harvesting and recreation. Further, New York State's promise at the time the Boreas Ponds were purchased with \$14.5 million of taxpayer funds was that the property would be open and accessible to all New Yorkers, not just those capable of hiking a mile or more to see the ponds.

The members of Access The Adirondacks and the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages respect the thorough public input process provided by the Park Agency in late 2016, and we eagerly await the Agency's recommendation to Governor Cuomo based on the evidence presented, and the Agency's independent scientific and legal evaluations.

Media Contact: John Brodt
Behan Communications
(518) 792-3856, ext. 114