

Workgroup 3: Sherm Craig

Thwarting invasive species: aquatic and terrestrial

Vision Excerpts

Community groups, land and lake-owner associations, NGOs and the State collaborate to protect water quality. We manage the forest using science-based stewardship that helps to protect it against threats of climate change and invasive species.

- *Protect waters and forests* from degradation and overuse by working cooperatively with NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Park Agency (APA)

The next twenty five years will be a period of painful change in global and American society. . . . accelerating climate change, environmental disasters -- the list goes on. Our response is to protect our Adirondack resources; the value of the Park's ecosystem services (clean air, clean water, and open space) inexorably rises for both humans and the environment. Our forest's high biodiversity helps keep out invasive species and disease carrying pests. We do more to protect our Adirondack waters by investing in limiting spread of invasive species, waste water treatment, storm water and farm runoff, and inspections of private septic systems. Our air is vulnerable to pollution and warming outside of our control. The quality of our water is largely in our hands, and we protect it.

Adapting to climate change brings hard choices with regard to the Forest Preserve, including ways to expeditiously control damaging invasive species. We have better science and more options now to keep the Park's forest lands and waters more resilient and resistant to nuisance species, while also providing welcoming habitat for desirable southern species moving northward.

Today, our protected landscape is our prime asset and it will remain a major part of our vision throughout.

Events

#105 Changes in Species in the Park Begin to Show

#95 Advanced Forest Management Helps with Climate Adaptation

#100 Feral Swine Go Hog Wild in the Adirondacks

#92 Park Loses Battle to 3 Key Invasive Species

#98 Inspections and Enforcement of Boat Washing at Most Boat Launches

#99 Lake Owner Associations Double Spending on Water Quality

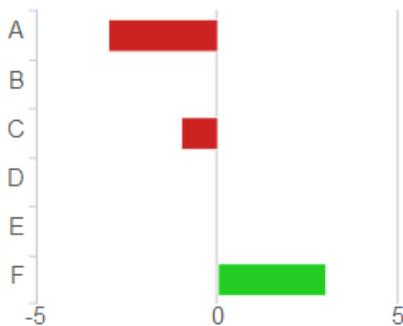
#62 New Stricter Water Quality Regulations Implemented

#97 Park Becomes Center of Water Quality Research in the NE

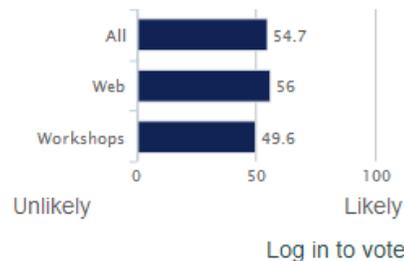
Changes in Species in the Park Begin to Show

Climate change is affecting the types of species that live in the Park. The fall foliage is muted as sugar maples in particular have a hard time. Many species move north (boreal birds, pine marten, moose, loon, etc.) and are less frequently seen in the Park. And some species whose range was north of the Park move south too.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Unusual Butterflies Appear

The Giant Swallowtail Butterfly (the largest in North America) appears in our region, moving north.

[Read the article here.](#)

Willow Tarmigan Appearing in the Region

Some Boreal Birds Declining

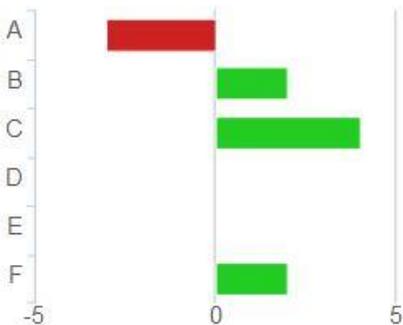
Climate Change Impacts Showing on Farms

Arctic Snowy Owls Showing up in the ADKs

Advanced Forest Management Helps with Climate Adaptation

The northern forest is under tremendous stress from the effects of climate change. The most advanced thinking about forest management is focused on helping the flora and fauna adapt to the changes and to strengthen the overall ecosystem and keep it healthy as it changes. The new consensus is that active forest management is good from a human and a biocentric point of view. You can't just sit there and watch the forest fall apart.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Marcy Dam to be Dismantled

The dam was badly damaged by floods from Irene. It will be slowly dismantled rather than replaced. Perhaps not 'advanced' this is a new sort of thinking. The former pond, now a mud flat, will regrow as it wishes over time.

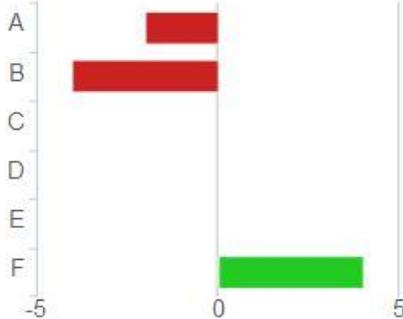
[Read the news story here.](#)

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Feral Swine Go Hog Wild in the Adirondacks

Just like in California, wild boar populations have become a serious problem all over NYS. Eurasian wild boars had become popular on private hunting ranches but some escaped and multiplied rapidly. These animals are intelligent and adaptable, eating almost anything and able to live in a wide range of habitats. Maturing at 400 pounds, these are not your average Porky Pigs and they have become the latest invasive species problem to hit the Park. They can produce litters of 10+ piglets every 4 months.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

New Law Bans Wild Boar Hunting and Trapping

New law bans hunting and trapping of Wild Boar in New York State.

Read the news story here.
Read more detail on the DEC website here.

▶ Feral Pigs Now in 6 NYS Counties

▶ New Law Limits Eurasian Boar

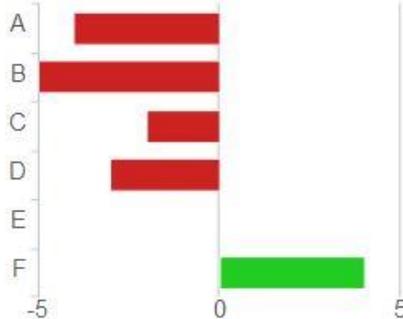
▶ Stopping feral swine in NY continues to be a problem

Log in to add evidence

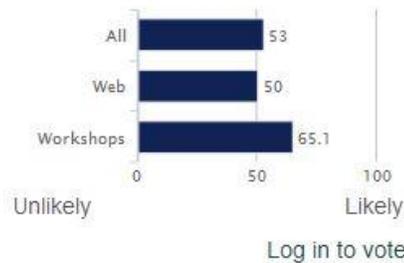
Park Loses Battle to 3 Key Invasive Species

Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long Horn Beetle and Woolly Adelgid are established in central Adirondacks, resulting in large areas with dead trees which present a serious fire risk, but also offer a potential source of biomass. Some want to clear the deadwood in the Forest Preserve.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Hopes Fades for Emerald Ash Borer Control

New science says there is not stopping the bug.

Read the new story here.

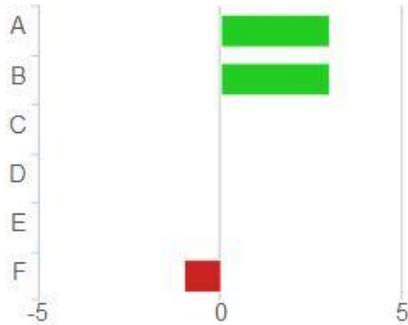
▶ NJ says it has won against the emerald ash borer

Log in to add evidence

Inspections and Enforcement of Boat Washing at Most Boat Launches

In order to stop worsening aquatic invasives, DEC and Lake Owner Associations and Towns has gotten much more serious about policing boats being put into ADK waters. Now there are lake stewards at most of the lakes at risk, in some cases round the clock.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

New Law Extends DEC Boat Launch Regs State-Wide

NYS laws passes the applies the same rules now in place for DEC boat launches to all boat launches state-wide.

[Read the new story here.](#)
[Read the legislation here.](#)

New Regs Go Into Effect for all DEC Boat Launches

LG Boat inspection Website Launched

Sea Lamprey Barrier will Help Lake Champlain

Collaboration on Aquatic Invasives Publishes a Big Plan

Lake George Mandatory Boat Inspections Start May 15

'Frozen Boat' Program for Local Owners

Paul Smiths and NYS Office of Parks Receive \$910k for Invasives Work

DEC Proposes Broad Plan to Fine Boats with Invasives

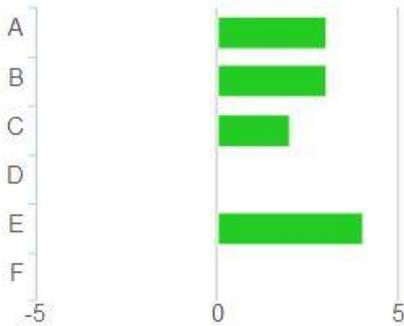
Lake George Mandates Boat Inspections

Lake George issues first tickets for invasives

Lake Owner Associations Double Spending on Water Quality

Lake Owners Associations have ramped up funding to combat invasive aquatic species and monitor and enforce regulations on septic system runoff. The growth in spending is so large that a dozen fast growing companies have sprung up to do the work. Lake cleanup is a big, fast growing, business. These lake front property owners understand that water quality directly affects their property values."

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

▼ Airetta Board Tackles Invasives

Another Town Board get with the program on invasives.

Read the news story here.

▶ Warren Cty Supervisors Decide how to Split Invasives Funds

▶ Big Push to Take Milfoil Out of Lake George

▶ Warren Cty Wins \$482k for Lake George Invasives Controls

▶ New Porous Pavement to be Used in Lake George

▶ Lake George to Get 14 Dry Wells to Capture Road Runoff

▶ Lake George to Get 24-hour Guards Against Invasives

▶ Lawn Fertilizer Awareness Campaign Gaining Traction

▶ Loon Lake chemically treated for milfoil

▶ Spiny water flea invades Lake George

▶ Lake Champlain non-point source mgt plan program

▶ Implementation of the Ausable River watershed mgt plan funded

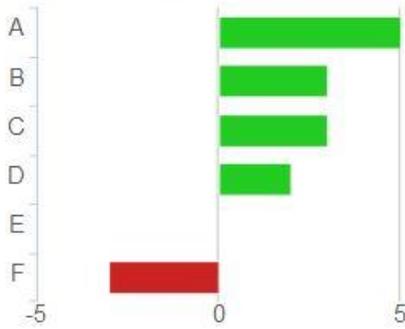
▶ Lake George non-point source storm water work funded

▶ Implementation of Schroon Lake watershed plan funded

New Stricter Water Quality Regulations Implemented

A suite of new rules require septic inspections and reconstruction. All flood plain construction is stopped. A minimum of 100 foot buffers (were 50 foot buffers in 2012) are created between water front and any human activity including homes, farms, grazing, etc. Even larger buffers are created in obvious drainages. Septic systems in hamlets and on waterfront are major targets of the new rules. Waterfront is defined to include small brooks and streams as well as rivers and lakes. The new rules enjoy widespread support among residents who have been noticing declines in water quality.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

LG Bans Fertilizer Within 50 Feet of the Water

Lake George has banned use of fertilizer and lawn chemicals closer than 50 feet to the lake - the same rule are neighboring Queensbury.

[Read the news story here.](#)

▶ [Cross-State Pollution Rule Revived](#)

▶ [Contaminated Drinking Water in Dannemora, for 2 years...](#)

▶ [New Water Withdrawal Regulations from DEC](#)

▶ [New Water System for Ticonderoga](#)

▶ [Town of Lake George to Inspect Septic Systems](#)

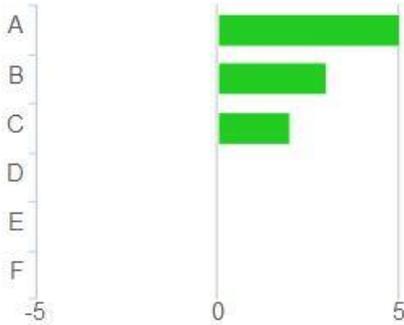
▶ [Tupper Lake Needs New Water Source, Saranac too](#)

▶ [Essex and Washington Counties pass anti-invasives laws](#)

Park Becomes Center of Water Quality Research in the NE

Water quality and supply is the biggest short term problem in the world. The science of water quality needs a lot of work and it turns out the Park, which has large flows of freshwater descending from the mountain dome through lake and river systems with hamlets and villages is an ideal place for researchers in this newly rich field.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Log in to vote

Evidence

▼ New Lab Coming for Lake George Data

The smart lake project will bring real time data to the lab which will be able to produce 3D models of the lake.

[Read the news story here.](#)

▶ New Approach to Controlling Mussels

▶ Lake Trout Research Program at Follensby Pond

▶ Experimental Porous Pavement Project Appears Successful

▶ Lake George 'Smart Lake' Project Underway

▶ Brian Houseal to Run SUNY ESF Adk Ecology Ctr in Newcomb

▶ \$345k EPA Grant for Wetland Citizen Science

▶ Smart phones to help identify and map invasives

▶ Lake George to be fully instrumented

▶ Clarkson to Research Pollution Impact on Property Values

▶ Testing and Fishing Shows Acid Rain Impacts Declining