

Adirondack Mountain Club CONSERVATION UPDATE

APA Classifies Lows Lake as Wilderness

On Friday, Sept. 11, the Adirondack Park Agency classified Lows Lake as Wilderness, providing added protection to two important wilderness canoe routes.

This landmark decision also confirms that when the state wholly owns the bed and waters of a lake in the Adirondack Park, as it does with Lows Lake, it is part of the Forest Preserve, protected by the Forever Wild clause of the state Constitution.

Lows Lake is the hub of two multi-day wilderness canoe routes: Bog River to Lows Lake to Little Tupper Lake via Bog Lake, Lake Lila and Rock Lake, and the route from Bog River through Lows Lake to the Oswegatchie River in the heart of the Five Ponds Wilderness.

APA's action is a vital step in protecting the wild character of these canoe routes, which offer rare opportunities in the Adirondacks for quiet canoeing and kayaking. This is the proper follow-up to the agency's decision to phase out [floatplane](#) use on the lake by the end of 2011.

The APA, by a 6-4 vote, added most of the waters and bed of Lows Lake to the Five Ponds Wilderness. The rest of the lake was classified as Primitive, which also prohibits motorized uses. The classification plan now goes to Gov. Paterson for final approval.

This classification is a clear statement by the APA that it is committed to fulfilling its obligation under the Master Plan to manage Lows Lake as Wilderness, and prevents potential backsliding in the future.

We'd like to thank the many ADK members who wrote to APA and supported this classification plan.

[Read](#) APA's staff memo describing the classification.

Neil Woodworth
Executive Director