

Mapping our ADK Future..... *where are we now?*

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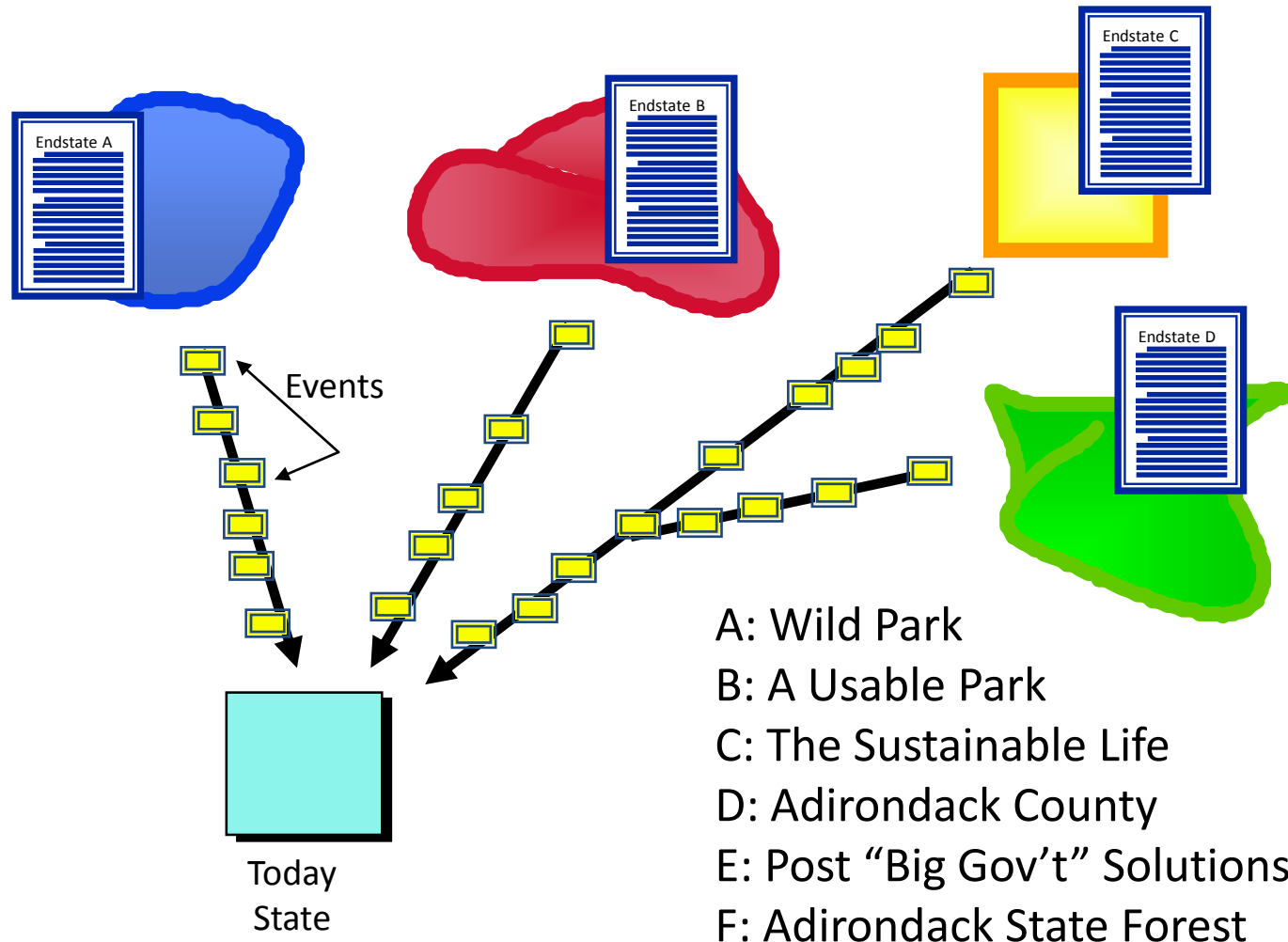
July 18, 2013

Common Ground Alliance Forum

How We've Spent the Last Year

- Workshops with various ADK groups
 - WCS Advisory, ROOST, AATV, ANN
 - 3 HamCo towns: Morehouse, Lake Pleasant and Arietta
 - School groups Long Lake, Indian Lake, Keene and Paul Hai @ESF here in Newcomb
 - Lots of speeches (APA, Gov's Office, ALA, ESF, ADK Museum, ARC, etc.)
- Assisting development of ADK investment fund
- Developing case for Article XIV amendment
- Participated in the NC Sustainability Plan project

Mapping the Scenarios



The Model

C: Sustainable Life + **B: Sustainable Recreational Tourism and Early Retirees**

A: Wild Forest Preserve

The Forest Preserve (A) is the foundation for C plus a sustainable version of B

The Vision Slides

The vision , the result of the work, is in your hands, literally

When presented to the July 2012 Common Ground Alliance forum, 220+ participants were given cards to mark for feedback:

Strongly agree:	64%
Agree:	29%
Somewhat agree:	7%
Disagree:	0%
Strongly disagree:	0%

Since then we have presented the work to many groups and it has been refined and enriched by their ideas in the document you were handed today

Two Topics for Today

- How does the news of the last 12 months compare to the scenarios?
- Demo of a web-based tool we are soon to make available that tracks progress towards the endstates
 - You can help us keep track of what is going on
 - The Park is a big place, a lot is happening, and it isn't easy to be aware of it all

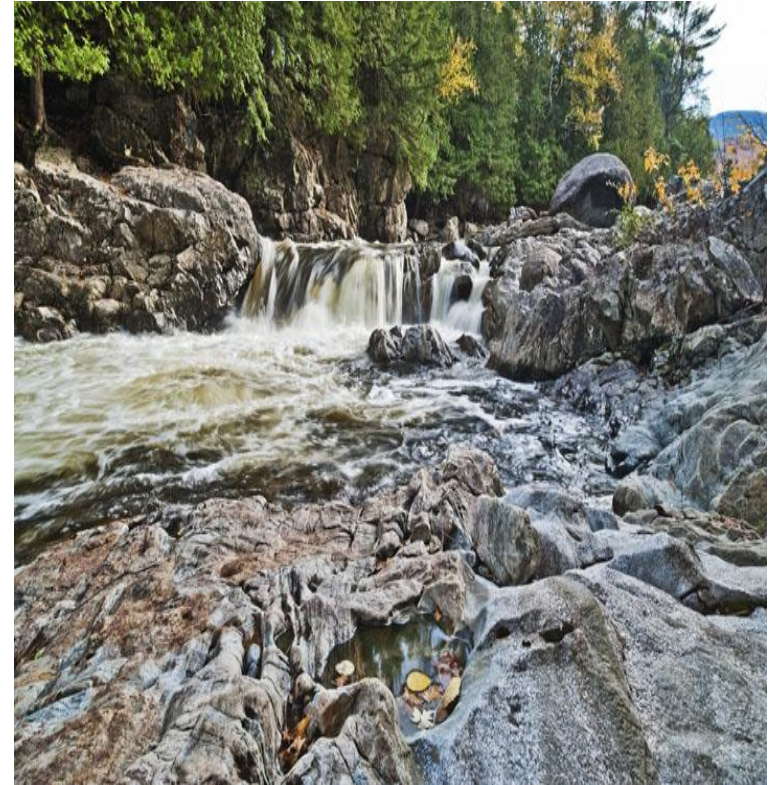
The Wild Park

- Record breaking Finch land acquisitions
 - The civility of the classification hearings has been noted
- 15,000 acres re-classified as wilderness
 - 46 miles of backcountry snowmobile trails closed
 - 2 miles of road closed
- Farm and commercial forest easements in Keeseville and purchase of the Marion River carry
- ACR halted for now



The Wild Park -2

- Lots of water work in process
 - Implementation of watershed plans for Schroon Lake, the Ausable River, and work on stream corridors and storm water in Lake George
 - Non-point source control planning underway for Lake Champlain and Lake George
 - Instrumentation of Lake George
 - Full scale war on aquatic invasives: people, chemicals, machines, smart phone apps --- anything / everything
- Hamilton County population slips a bit more: -1.2% for 2010-2012
- Essex County was down 1%



Usable Park

- The Whole Park recreation plan is done
- A Whole Park Recreation Portal is being built by AATV
- 5 towns working together on Finch land recreation hub
- State puts \$2m into regional tourism promotion
- Governor's whitewater event in Indian Lake
- 12 mile Inlet - Racquette Lake interconnect trail
- Scenic byways project now 14 routes, rail trail issue into UMP review



Usable Park – 2



- Many outdoor facility upgrades
 - Heart Lake hiker facilities, Finch access infrastructure, playing fields in Lake Placid, upgrades at Camp Colby all funded
 - Waterfront upgrades: Bulwaga Bay Port Henry, Wilmington(3), Inlet, Tupper Lake, Northville, Lake George, Second Pond (SLK)
- New 46'er registrations nearly doubled membership in 2012 alone
- Cycling is growing in several forms, zip lines are appearing
- Adirondack Powder Skier Association formed to boost low impact back country winter activity
- Hotels: New 100 room hotel in LP, Sagamore to be open all year, acquires LP Lodge

Usable Park - 3

- Arts: ADK Lakes Summer Festival funded, digital theater conversions
- Attractions: Grants to Great Camp Sagamore and the ADK Museum for restoration and renewal work. Wild Center gets \$1m grant for tree canopy walk.
- Access: Plattsburgh Airport growing from 3 gates to 9, railroad and bus border processing will be at stations in Montreal, rail service to North Creek successful
- Clarkson, SUNY Plattsburgh and Paul Smiths all offer entrepreneurship programs, and Paul Smiths forestry and hotel/food programs link well to the region



Usable Park – 4



- Health Care
 - Medical Home project showing progress, medical network and electronic records working
 - 40,000 sq ft primary care center coming to Warrensburg
 - New assisted living facility in Willsboro
- Nursing homes in turmoil, hospitals being squeezed
- No work being done to attract retirees, elder care issues are growing
- Climate change impacts increasingly an issue, winter and summer
- No casinos will be in the region

Sustainable Life

- Broadband being deployed across the Watertown-Westport trunk, Hamilton Cty, Lyon Mtn, Jay, Wilmington, Thurman, Bellmont, more
 - ADK Teleworks in Indian lake aims to connect people to telework jobs
- Large numbers of cell towers applications are being processed
- Local energy projects growing
 - North Country Sustainability Plan completed
 - Biomass energy projects: numerous schools, Watertown, Old Forge, Tupper Lake district heating
 - Willow plantations, interest in liquid biofuels
 - Community net metering law up for comment S4722, Betty Little sponsor



Sustainable Life - 2

- Local Food
 - CSA food arrangements growing rapidly, including school-farm shares, all developing rich volunteer communities
 - Small slaughterhouse in Ticonderoga, a mobile chicken unit, Wholeshare food distribution to interior areas, new farms, local food restaurants, several community kitchens
 - New craft breweries in Schroon Lake, Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and on a Keeseville farm
 - Rolling Hills farm resort project in Westport approved
 - Working farm easement in Keeseville



Sustainable Life - 3

- Organizing an ADK region venture fund
- Water quality work
 - Sewer system work in Essex, Port Henry, Lake Placid, Saranac Lake and Inlet
 - Science based stewardship coming: the instrumentation of Lake George
 - Large scale invasive control efforts, using people, laws, smart phones, chemicals
- Climate change noted by loggers who need frozen ground to work on – their seasons are getting shorter
 - Climate change attitudes are changing, moving toward action on mitigation and adaptation





Sustainable Life -4



Westport



North Warren

- 5 Park high schools rank among the very best in NY
- Lake George , North Elba, Saranac Lake all have revitalization studies underway
- 300 affordable housing units funded
- New version of TDRs has been proposed
- **Essex County bus ridership low, even with flag-down service**



Adirondack County

- The **county idea is not politically possible**, but a lot of regional efforts underway
- Local Gov't Day was very positive, 300 people
- Adirondack Partnership has funded its economic development project
- APA filled its economic development position, 2012
- Schools changing
 - Increasing resource sharing now a focus in all schools
 - Piseco School has tuitioned it's students to neighboring Lake Pleasant
 - Ausable Forks Catholic school closed, SLK and LP study a merger



Adirondack County - 2

- Strengthening links between towns:
 - The 5 Finch Towns and DEC
 - Keene and Jay, after Irene
 - Clifton-Fine
 - Morehouse-Arietta-Lake Pleasant in HamCo sharing
 - Saranac Lake Village and North Elba joint planning grant, \$463,000
- Whole Park is in one Congressional District
- The tax cap is having impacts on local government and school budgets
 - There have been layoffs and shrinkage in school district employment
- Regional efforts get State rewards



Post Big Government



Keeseville, Improving

- This scenario described some towns doing well, while others fade without much intervention
 - Town-by-town differences become more pronounced
- It is easy to see the mix of improvements and setbacks around the Park. It is not all improving, it is not all failing.
 - The improving towns exhibit restored downtown blocks, new businesses and new buildings
 - The declining towns have more vacant or abandoned property and fewer businesses, especially off-season
- But the weaker towns are garnering considerable attention. They are not being left alone to die. The Governor's whitewater event in Indian Lake is an example.

Post Big Government - 2



- The challenges remain the same:
 - The only bank branch office closes
 - The last gas station closes
 - The local food store closes off-season
 - A couple of small shops close
- School populations are an issue everywhere
- Each town has assets to build upon and people working to improve things, often collaborating with neighboring towns
- Declining towns have plenty of allies
 - But their future remains in the hands of residents
- **Regionalization is being rewarded by the State**



Adk State Forest

- The big negative trends remain and awareness is growing:
 - Climate change: adaptation and mitigation are both needed now
 - Rural / City demographics are diverging
 - Health care and pension costs increasingly burden county/town government and schools
- People point out that any number of possible city crises could drive people to the Park. Terrorism, floods, viral epidemics, heat waves, etc.
- However, the notion that the Forest Preserve needs big changes is not on anyone's mind as a solution - in fact the opposite is the case
 - Most have embraced the question of how to use the Forest Preserve as a solution, not a problem



So Where are We Now?

- The Wild Park, our foundation, is being strengthened
- The Usable Park's recreation focus is making great progress in many dimensions, except the early retired idea
- The Sustainable Life scenario has many diverse projects coming to fruition.
 - The NC Sustainability Plan lays out details and a path to NYS supporting funds
- Regionalization is clearly being favored vs independent solutions in every town
 - Failure of some towns remains possible
- The big negatives all remain: climate, gov't health care and pension costs, and rural/city demographics
 - But these are not distracting people from their projects
 - There is an expectation to do better than average rural regions

What Happens Next?

- A software demo to show how we can track progress and include more people in this ongoing conversation
- We believe the single most promising change is reflected is the number of projects arising from collaborative efforts
- Large numbers of independent projects, rooted in shared intentions, are moving us where we want to go.
 - This is very powerful. It isn't top down. It is us.
 - Government is well suited to helping because of our alignment, as evidenced by the NCREDC's wins in Albany
- We will see you next year with another update (the last of our 3 year commitment to this project)

The Adirondack Future Map

- We have been working with 2 software developers to create a tool to allow anyone to:
 - Explore the **endstates** and **events** for the Adirondack Park, as well as **evidence** about what is actually happening
 - **Rank** the endstates on desirability and attainability
 - **Vote** on the **likelihood** of events
 - Vote on the **influence** each event has on each endstate
 - See what our current expectations about event probabilities indicate about which endstates we expect to happen
 - Add evidence (positive and negative)

Events and Endstates

	Ev 1 P = 80%	Ev 2 P = 20%	Ev 3 P = 50%	Ev 4	Ev 5	...
ES A	I = 5	I = -3				
ES B	I = 3	I = -3				
ES C	I = 2	I = 0				
ES D	I = 0	I = 2				
ES E	I = -2	I = 2				
ES F	I = -5	I = 4				

Expected Impact = (Prob – 50) * Influence

If a good event is unlikely that is bad; if a bad event is likely, that is bad

If a good event is likely that is good; if a bad event is unlikely, that is good