



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
**Current Interior Conditions in the High Peaks Region**  
Compiled on November 13, 2014

See the **High Peaks Trail Information web page** ([www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9198.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9198.html))

**Weather:** This is the National Weather Service seven-day forecast for the Marcy Dam area of the High Peaks Wilderness on Thursday, November 13. Hikers & campers should expect and prepare for cooler and windier conditions in higher elevations, and more rain if forecast. **Always check current forecasts before entering the back country as the weather forecast can change. National Weather Service Burlington:** <http://www.weather.gov/btv/>

- Tonight: Snow showers likely, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. West wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.
- Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 31. West wind 6 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
- Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 10. Wind chill values as low as zero. West wind 6 to 8 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.
- Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 28. West wind around 8 mph.
- Saturday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 19. Southwest wind around 7 mph.
- Sunday: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 31. Southwest wind 8 to 13 mph.
- Sunday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around 23. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph.
- Monday: A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 34. South wind around 7 mph.
- Monday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. West wind 6 to 8 mph.
- Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 27. West wind 9 to 14 mph.
- Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. Southwest wind 10 to 13 mph.
- Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25. Southwest wind 10 to 14 mph.

### **Backcountry Conditions**

Wilderness conditions can change suddenly. Weather conditions may change at any time, check current weather conditions and short-term forecast before entering the backcountry. All users should plan accordingly, including bringing flashlight, first aid equipment, extra food, plenty of water and clothing. Weather conditions may alter your plans; always be prepared to spend an unplanned night in the woods.

**Weekend Weather:** National Weather Service forecasts temperatures below freezing throughout the weekend with a chance of snow on Sunday. Dress and pack appropriately for these conditions. **Always check the current weather conditions and forecast before entering the backcountry.**

**Trail Conditions:** Trails are hardening with the cold weather. A mix of water, mud and ice are present in the lower elevations – more mud and water in low areas, drainages and along waters. Snow and ice are present in the higher elevations; snow depths are minimal.

**Summits:** Temperatures will be colder, winds will be stronger and snow will be deeper. Sight distance will be limited, sometimes significantly, when clouds cover the summits.

**Proper Footwear:** Boots should be worn on all hikes. Traction devices should be carried and worn when conditions warrant.

**Avoid Hypothermia:** Stay dry and warm. Drink plenty of water, eat food often and stay rested.

**Autumn Conditions:** Plan for cold temperatures and limited daylight hours. Carry extra layers of non-cotton clothing. Put on and take off layers as needed to keep comfortable. Plan your trips to ensure you are out of the backcountry before dark. **Always carry a flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries.**

**Hunting Seasons:** Hunting seasons for big game, small game and waterfowl are open or will open soon. Hikers should be aware that they may meet hunters bearing firearms or archery equipment while hiking on trails. Please recognize that these are fellow outdoor recreationists with the legal right to participate in these activities on the Forest Preserve. There is no record of a hunting related shooting incident in New York State involving a hiker.

**Bear Resistant Canisters:** The use of is required for all overnight users (campers) in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness through November 30 and recommended throughout the Adirondacks.

**Fire Danger:** Low. Campfires and wood burning stoves are prohibited in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness.

## NOTICES

**Clear Pond Gate and Elk Lake Trails:** The Clear Pond Gate on the Elk Lake Road is closed and will remain closed until the end of the spring mud season. The two trails that pass through the Elk Lake property to Panther Gorge in the High Peaks Wilderness and the southern approaches to Dix Mountain in the Dix Mountain Wilderness are also closed, but will reopen at the end of the Northern Zone Regular Big Game Season on Monday, December 8.

**Hurricane Mountain Trail:** The trail from the Route 9N trailhead has been rerouted to bypass areas flooded by beavers. The trail now extends 3.4 miles from the trailhead to the summit. The reroute and new footbridges were completed by the Student Conservation Association Adirondack Program

**Marshall and Other Trail-less Peaks:** Many of the herd paths found on Marshall and some of the other trail-less peaks meander around the slopes of the mountain without reaching the peak. Those climbing these peaks should navigate with a map and compass rather than follow the paths created by others.

**Trap Dike:** Fixed ropes, harnesses and other equipment are often abandoned in the Trap Dike. Due to the age, weatherizing and wearing of these materials they are unsafe and should never be used.

**Closed Campsite:** The designated campsite on Big Slide Mountain Brook in Johns Brook Valley near the intersection with the Phelps Trail has been permanently closed due to site degradation. Other designated campsites are located across from the Howard Lean-to and just past Johns Brook Lodge. Signs on the hiking trail direct hikers to these sites.

**Bradley Pond Trail:** The first foot bridge on the Bradley Pond Trail has been dropped and is unusable. The stream can be forded /rock hopped most of time on the downstream side of the bridge site.

**Northville-Placid Trail:** The trail contains a large area of blowdown near the Seward Lean-to. A detour around the blowdown has been marked with pink flagging.

**Deer Brook Trail:** The low water route through the Deer Brook Flume on this trail to Snow Mountain remains impassable due to severe erosion.

**Southside Trail:** DEC has closed the Southside Trail from the Garden Trailhead to John's Brook Outpost and is not maintaining it at this time.

**Cold Brook Trail:** DEC has closed the Cold Brook Trail between Lake Colden and Indian Pass and is not maintaining it at this time.