



# ADIRONDACK BACKCOUNTRY VISITORS



If you are planning to recreate in the Adirondacks this **Memorial Day Weekend**, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation asks you to please remember the following:

**FIRE DANGER:** Low. Campfires are prohibited in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness.

**HIGH USAGE LEVELS:** Visitors to the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness should be aware that trailhead parking lots and interior campsites will often fill to capacity on Memorial Day weekend. Please plan accordingly and seek backcountry recreation opportunities in other areas.

**TRAIL CONDITIONS:** Trails are wet and muddy. Wear waterproof footwear and gaiters. Walk through, not around, mud and water on trails to avoid further widening and eroding trails.

**MUDDY TRAIL ADVISORY:** Hikers are advised to avoid trails above 3000 feet to protect the trails and surrounding vegetation which are very vulnerable at this time of year. Hikers can cause severe erosion of trails and significant damage to vegetation. Steep, wet and muddy trails are also very slippery. Hikers are asked use low and mid-elevation trails at this time.

**BEAR RESISTANT CANISTERS:** Regulation requires the use of bear-resistant canisters by overnight users in the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness between April 1 and November 30. All food, toiletries and garbage must be stored in the bear resistant canisters at all times. DEC encourages the use of bear resistant canisters throughout the Adirondacks.

**ROADS:** Due to the harsh winter and washouts caused by heavy rains this spring some roads remain closed. Roads that are open may be rough and muddy - use caution. Pickup trucks, SUVs and other high axle vehicles are recommended - four wheel drive vehicles will serve even better. Corey's Road is open and the Elk Lake Road is open beyond the Clear Pond Gate. South Meadow Lane remains closed.

**BITING INSECTS:** The "Bug Season" has begun in the Adirondack. Back flies are present almost everywhere; mosquitoes & ticks may be found in many locations. Follow these steps to minimize the nuisance of biting insects:

- Wear light colored clothing, long sleeve shirts and long pants;
- Tuck shirts into pants, the bottom of pant legs into socks and button sleeves at the wrist;
- Wear a headnet when insects are thick and use an insect repellent with DEET.

**SUMMITS:** Conditions on summits are more extreme – cooler temperatures, stronger winds and possibly snow and ice.

**WATER LEVELS & TEMPERATURES:** Water levels are at or above average spring high levels and water temperatures remain cold. Although Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs, aka life jackets) are not required at this time, paddlers and boaters are strongly encouraged to wear PFDs at all times while on the water. Children under age 12 are required to wear a PFD at all times while on the water. Strong currents and cold water can quickly cause a person without a PFD to lose their ability to keep their head above water.

Visit the **Adirondack Trail Information** web page for current weather forecasts, regulations, safety tips, trail conditions, and more: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7865.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7865.html)