



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Current Interior Conditions in the High Peaks Region

Compiled on: May 22, 2014

See the High Peaks Trail Information web page (www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9198.html)

Weather: The following forecast, provided by the National Weather Service (NWS), is based on conditions at low elevations. Hikers & campers entering the High Peaks Region should expect, and be prepared for, conditions which will likely be more severe than those expressed in a general NWS forecast. Check up-to-date forecasts before entering the back country, as weather forecasts can change.

- Tonight: Showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 46. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.
- Friday: Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 11am. Cloudy, with a high near 64. Northeast wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.
- Friday Night: 40 % chance of showers before 2am. Cloudy, with a low around 44. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
- Saturday: Showers likely, mainly between 10am and 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 69. Light and variable wind becoming north 5 to 8 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.
- Saturday Night: 30 % chance of showers before 8pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Northwest wind 3 to 5 mph. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.
- Sunday: 30% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 71. West wind 3 to 8 mph.
- Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. West wind around 8 mph.
- Memorial Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. West wind around 8 mph.
- Monday Night: 40 % chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. West wind around 7 mph.
- Tuesday: 40 % chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. West wind around 6 mph.
- Tuesday Night: 30 % chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. Northwest wind around 5 mph.
- Wednesday: 30 % chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Northwest wind 3 to 6 mph.

Backcountry Conditions

Wilderness conditions can change suddenly. Weather conditions may change at any time. 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.

Memorial Day Weekend: Expect to encounter many people on the trails and waters of the Adirondacks during the three-day holiday weekend. Trailhead parking lots and interior campsites in the High Peaks region will likely fill quickly. Plan accordingly and seek backcountry recreation opportunities elsewhere in the Adirondacks.

Spring Weather: Forecast calls for showers through Saturday, followed by partly cloudy skies on Sunday and Monday. Temperatures are expected to be in the 60s. Water-proof footwear, water-resistant outer wear and layers of non-cotton clothing are recommended. **Always check the current weather conditions and forecast before entering the backcountry.**

Muddy Trail Advisory: Avoid trails above 3,000 feet, in the Dix, Giant and High Peaks Wilderness Areas. Steep trails with thin soils can be heavily eroded when muddy and sensitive vegetation is easily destroyed when trampled.

Spring Trail Conditions: Trails are muddy, wear gaiters and appropriate footwear. Walk through not around wet and muddy areas to avoid further eroding and widening trails. Snow & ice may be present on some trails above 4,000 feet, use caution when hiking on snow or ice. Patches of deep snow can be found in a few locations above 4,000 feet in shaded areas on the Phelps Trail to Mt. Marcy.

Water Levels: Water levels are high in rivers, streams and drainages. Water temperatures are cold. Rivers & streams have lost ice cover. Crossings may not be accessible. Trails adjacent to water bodies may be flooded.

Biting Insects: Black Flies, Mosquitoes & Ticks are present. Minimize the nuisance of biting insects: wear light colored clothing, long sleeve shirts and long pants; tuck shirts into pants, tuck pant legs into socks and button or rubber band sleeves at the wrist; pack a headnet to wear when insects are thick; and use an insect repellent with DEET, follow label directions.

Summits & Other Open Areas: Conditions on and near summits are more extreme – stronger winds, colder temperatures, snow & ice.

NOTICES

Corey's Road: The road is open for public motorized access.

Garden Parking Area: The Garden parking area is open and the Town of Keene is collecting parking fees.

Clear Pond Gate & Elk Lake Trails: The Clear Pond Gate on the Elk Lake Road is open and the public can drive to the Elk Lake Trailhead. The trails to Dix Mountain, the Colvin Range & Panther Gorge through the Elk Lake Easement Lands are open for public use.

South Meadow Lane: The remains closed. The Town of North Elba will reopen once it has dried, firmed and any needed maintenance is completed.

Rock Climbing Route Closures: All rock climbing routes on Moss Cliff in the Wilmington Notch and the Lower and Upper Washbowl Cliffs near Chapel Pond are closed to allow Peregrine Falcons to choose nesting sites.

East River Trail is Open: A new bridge has been constructed on the East River Trail over the Hudson River to access Mt. Adams and the Opalescent River.

Duck Hole-Henderson Lake Trail: A new bridge has been constructed over Roaring Brook near Duck Hole.

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.

Klondike Trail: The bridge over South Meadow Brook on the Klondike Trail has been replaced. The trail can now be accessed directly from the end of South Meadow Road.

Hurricane Mountain Trails: Some areas on the trail from Route 9N are flooded due to beaver activity, reroutes have been developed to get around those areas.

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.

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.

Marcy Brook Foot Bridge: A new bridge has been constructed over Marcy Brook. It is located approximately 200 feet below Marcy Dam, upstream from the low water crossing that had been in use since Hurricane Irene washed away the old bridge over Marcy Dam.

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.

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