The Essex Chain of Lakes, now part of the NY State Forest Preserve, is targeted for public access this coming fall. It will offer great opportunities for wild solitude and recreation. Comprised of 13,000 acres at the very heart of the Park, it abounds with wildlife, sensitive shorelines thick with spruce and fir, swamp and bog, and pristine lakes with a rich fishery. In sum, the Essex Chain of Lakes epitomizes wilderness and should be protected as wilderness.

The NYS-DEC is not recommending wilderness management at all. Instead, it is advocating a Wild Forest classification that will allow, for the very first time, floatplane access to the very center of this area. Over time, motorized access with its cumulative impacts will degrade this quiet, wild resource.

Please join Adirondack Wild in urging the APA to manage the Essex Chain of Lakes for its wilderness values, and to classify it as Wilderness or Canoe.

See our Action Alert at: www.adirondackwild.org

Express your views and write to: Leilani Ulrich, Chair, Adirondack Park Agency, PO Box 99, Ray Brook, New York 12977, or Fax to: (518) 891-3938.

For more on our wild land stewardship training and other programs, or to sign up for our free newsletter, please visit our website.