



State of New York

Executive Chamber

P r o c l a m a t i o n

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State are pleased to join in Commemorating milestones that illustrate our commitment to precious natural resources and those cherished lands which reflect our noble environmental heritage and whose presence has meaningful impact upon the lives of New Yorkers – such as the Catskill Park – which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary; and

Whereas, from the earliest days of our nation, the Catskill region has always had a significant role in shaping the United States and influencing its culture as the birthplace of American fly fishing, the backdrop for paintings by the Hudson River School of artists, the home of the legendary Rip Van Winkle and the beloved naturalist and writer John Burroughs, one of the first resort destinations in the nation, and as the watershed which provides pure water for millions of New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the Catskill Park was created by an act of the New York State Legislature on April 5, 1904 for the express purpose of extending protection and recognition to this remarkable mountainous area that runs longitudinally along the eastern region of the State; and

Whereas, the original Catskill Park, its borders designated on official State maps by a blue line, encompassed 92,708 acres of State Forest Preserve lands within a pristine 576,120-acre region that included portions of Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster counties – throughout the 19th, 20th and in this century, the Park has grown to encompass 287,514 acres of State Forest Preserve lands within a 1,102 square-mile area of 705,500 acres that include 35 mountains over 3500 feet in elevation, and countless reservoirs, lakes and rivers; and

Whereas, public use and enjoyment of the Park has been enhanced by the development of seven State campgrounds, the Belleayre Ski Center, two Day Use Areas, 21 fishing access sites on 60 miles of rivers and streams, 303 miles of hiking, 76 miles of snowmobile trails, 30 miles of horse trails, 187 primitive campsites and 33 lean-tos, and public visitations to the Catskill Park that now attract in excess of 550,000 people yearly; and

Whereas, the historic New York City Watershed Agreement of 1997 has led to renewed efforts to protect New York City's critical water supplies, including those located in the Catskill Park, while encouraging investments in local communities, forestry and farms; and

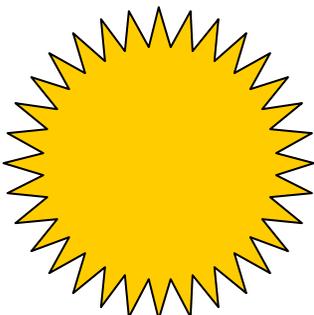
Whereas, the hamlets, villages and towns surrounding the Catskill Park offer charm and warmth, and their residents welcome visitors from this State and beyond who are eager to enjoy many cultural assets as well as a host of natural assets and outdoor enrichment possibilities available at the Park; and

Whereas, it is appropriate and fitting, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Catskill Park, that we celebrate its storied past and look forward with its residents and visitors to a future build upon vibrant communities, pure water, unsurpassed scenery, sustainable economies, working farms and forests, and eternally magnificent natural resources;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim 2004 as the year of

The Catskill Park Centennial

in recognition of its significance to this State and Nation, and with respect for its glorious past, as we hail a new century of celebration of the Park, its people, communities and setting of such unsurpassed beauty.



John P. Cahill

Secretary to the Governor

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at
the Capitol in the City of Albany this nineteenth
day of March in the year two thousand and four.

George E. Pataki
Governor