

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2015

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (the "Conservancy"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2015, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Conservancy's financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Conservancy's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Conservancy's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy as of December 31, 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

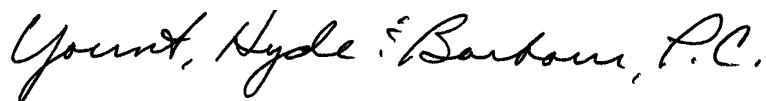
Other Matters

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of functional expenses is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* (Circular A-133) (for funding agreements prior to December 26, 2014) and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) (for funding agreements subsequent to December 26, 2014), is presented for purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 13, 2016 on our consideration of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Winchester, Virginia
May 13, 2016

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2015

Assets	General Fund	Land Acquisition Fund	Life Membership Fund	Monitoring Fund	David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund	Annuity Fund	Total All Funds
Current Assets							
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2, 6, 18)	\$ 462,613	\$ 593,382	\$ 291,259	\$ 19,214	\$ 454,936	\$ 29,341	\$ 1,850,745
Accounts receivable, net (Note 4)	1,981,720	2,072	1,745	--	39,763	52	2,025,352
Pledges receivables, net (Note 5)	111,163	--	--	--	--	--	111,163
Interfund receivables	390,410	649,141	225,184	44,487	142,289	121,948	1,573,459
Inventory	395,680	--	--	--	--	--	395,680
Prepaid expenses	66,486	--	--	--	--	--	66,486
Total current assets	\$ 3,408,072	\$ 1,244,595	\$ 518,188	\$ 63,701	\$ 636,988	\$ 151,341	\$ 6,022,885
Non-Current Assets							
Long-term investments (Notes 3, 6, 13, 18)	--	124,451	1,775,168	152,976	5,489,489	880,413	8,422,497
Property and equipment, net (Note 7)	553,109	515,803	--	--	--	--	1,068,912
Other assets, deposits	5,517	--	--	--	--	--	5,517
Land held in conservancy (Note 8)	--	2,150,880	--	--	--	--	2,150,880
Total assets	\$ 3,966,698	\$ 4,035,729	\$ 2,293,356	\$ 216,677	\$ 6,126,477	\$ 1,031,754	\$ 17,670,691
Liabilities and Net Assets							
Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenues							
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 463,263	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 1,750	\$ 465,013
Deferred revenues (Note 15)	1,626,676	--	--	--	--	--	1,626,676
Interfund payables	142,289	--	--	--	1,431,170	--	1,573,459
Current maturities of long term debt	4,289	--	--	--	--	--	4,289
Current maturities of annuities payable (Note 13)	--	--	--	--	--	391	391
Total current liabilities and deferred revenues	\$ 2,236,517	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 1,431,170	\$ 2,141	\$ 3,669,828
Long-Term Liabilities							
Long-term debt, less current maturities	\$ 8,221	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 8,221
Annuities payable, less current maturities (Note 13)	4,426	--	--	--	--	303,188	307,614
Total liabilities and deferred revenues	\$ 2,249,164	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 1,431,170	\$ 305,329	\$ 3,985,663
Net Assets							
Unrestricted (Notes 14 and 19)	\$ 1,129,822	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 3,754,618	\$ 482,079	\$ 5,366,519
Temporarily restricted (Note 17)	587,712	3,479,428	--	216,677	10,782	244,346	4,538,945
Permanently restricted (Notes 17 and 19)	--	556,301	2,293,356	--	929,907	--	3,779,564
Total net assets	\$ 1,717,534	\$ 4,035,729	\$ 2,293,356	\$ 216,677	\$ 4,695,307	\$ 726,425	\$ 13,685,028
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,966,698	\$ 4,035,729	\$ 2,293,356	\$ 216,677	\$ 6,126,477	\$ 1,031,754	\$ 17,670,691

See Notes to Financial Statements.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

	General Fund	Land Acquisition Fund	Life Membership Fund	Monitoring Fund	David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund	Annuity Fund	Total All Funds
Changes in unrestricted net assets:							
Revenue and gains:							
Public support, contributions	\$ 1,753,254	\$ 287,601	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 316,924	\$ --	\$ 2,357,779
In-kind contributions	239,709	--	--	--	--	--	239,709
Membership	1,474,572	--	--	--	--	--	1,474,572
Contractual services (Note 9)	2,155,294	--	--	--	--	--	2,155,294
Sales	1,183,366	--	--	--	--	--	1,183,366
Investment income (Note 3)	1,761	--	--	--	117,078	18,620	137,459
Other	554,033	--	--	--	--	--	554,033
Investment fees	--	--	--	--	(49,486)	--	(49,486)
Net unrealized and realized gains (losses) on investments (Note 3)	4,186	--	--	--	(130,858)	(23,627)	(150,299)
Total unrestricted revenues and gains	\$ 7,366,175	\$ 287,601	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 253,658	\$ (5,007)	\$ 7,902,427
Net assets released from restrictions:							
Release of investment income (Note 3)	\$ --	\$ 15,773	\$ 86,250	\$ --	\$ 204,763	\$ --	\$ 306,786
Satisfaction of program restrictions (Note 16)	203,318	49,035	16,344	14,805	--	7,479	290,981
Total net assets released from restrictions	\$ 203,318	\$ 64,808	\$ 102,594	\$ 14,805	\$ 204,763	\$ 7,479	\$ 597,767
Total unrestricted revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 7,569,493	\$ 352,409	\$ 102,594	\$ 14,805	\$ 458,421	\$ 2,472	\$ 8,500,194
Expenses							
Program Services:							
Conservation	\$ 3,262,675	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 3,262,675
Land trust	88,225	15,268	--	13,461	--	--	116,954
Membership services	1,138,407	--	--	--	--	--	1,138,407
Public information	160,551	--	--	--	--	--	160,551
Education and outreach	145,202	--	--	--	--	--	145,202
Publications and communications	1,933,432	--	--	--	--	--	1,933,432
Total program services	\$ 6,728,492	\$ 15,268	\$ --	\$ 13,461	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 6,757,221
Supporting Services:							
Development	\$ 466,570	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 466,570
Management and general	943,952	33,767	16,344	1,344	--	7,479	1,002,886
Total supporting services	\$ 1,410,522	\$ 33,767	\$ 16,344	\$ 1,344	\$ --	\$ 7,479	\$ 1,469,456
Total expenses	\$ 8,139,014	\$ 49,035	\$ 16,344	\$ 14,805	\$ --	\$ 7,479	\$ 8,226,677
Other Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets							
Transfer of investment income to general fund (Note 3)	\$ 306,786	\$ (15,773)	\$ (86,250)	\$ --	\$ (204,763)	\$ --	\$ --
Transfer of investment income to general fund (Note 3)	286,326	--	--	--	(286,326)	--	--
Annuity actuarial adjustment (Note 13)	--	--	--	--	--	(28,861)	(28,861)
Reclassification to unrestricted net assets (Note 20)	--	--	--	--	1,056,481	--	1,056,481
Total other changes in net assets	\$ 593,112	\$ (15,773)	\$ (86,250)	\$ --	\$ 565,392	\$ (28,861)	\$ 1,027,620
Changes in unrestricted net assets	\$ 23,591	\$ 287,601	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 1,023,813	\$ (33,868)	\$ 1,301,137

See Notes to Financial Statements.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Statement of Activities (continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

	General Fund	Land Acquisition Fund	Life Membership Fund	Monitoring Fund	David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund	Annuity Fund	Total All Funds
Changes in temporarily restricted net assets:							
Public support, contributions	\$ 191,474	\$ 6,433	\$ --	\$ 9,369	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 207,276
In-kind contributions	--	1,200	--	--	--	--	1,200
Contractual services (Note 9)	--	43,346	--	--	--	--	43,346
Investment income (Note 3)	--	2,513	--	3,264	--	--	5,777
Other	--	900	--	--	--	--	900
Net unrealized and realized (losses) on investments (Note 3)	--	(5,129)	--	(4,041)	--	--	(9,170)
Release of investment income to general fund (Note 3)	--	(15,773)	--	--	--	--	(15,773)
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 16)	(203,318)	(49,035)	--	(14,805)	--	(7,479)	(274,637)
Changes in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>\$ (11,844)</u>	<u>\$ (15,545)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (6,213)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (7,479)</u>	<u>\$ (41,081)</u>
Changes in permanently restricted net assets:							
Public support, contributions	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Membership	--	--	26,115	--	--	--	26,115
Investment income (Note 3)	--	--	37,478	--	--	--	37,478
Net unrealized and realized (losses) on investments (Note 3)	--	--	(47,556)	--	--	--	(47,556)
Release of investment income to general fund (Note 3)	--	--	(86,250)	--	(204,763)	--	(291,013)
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 16)	--	--	(16,344)	--	--	--	(16,344)
Reclassification from permanently restricted net assets (Note 20)	--	--	--	--	(1,056,481)	--	(1,056,481)
Changes in permanently restricted net assets	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (86,557)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (1,261,244)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (1,347,801)</u>
Changes in net assets	\$ 11,747	\$ 272,056	\$ (86,557)	\$ (6,213)	\$ (237,431)	\$ (41,347)	\$ (87,745)
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>1,705,787</u>	<u>3,763,673</u>	<u>2,379,913</u>	<u>222,890</u>	<u>4,932,738</u>	<u>767,772</u>	<u>13,772,773</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 1,717,534</u>	<u>\$ 4,035,729</u>	<u>\$ 2,293,356</u>	<u>\$ 216,677</u>	<u>\$ 4,695,307</u>	<u>\$ 726,425</u>	<u>\$ 13,685,028</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Change in net assets	\$ (87,745)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used in) operating activities:	
Depreciation and amortization	89,809
Net realized and unrealized (gains) on investments	(207,025)
Receipt of permanently restricted contributions and life membership income	(26,115)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
(Increase) in receivables	(521,345)
(Increase) in inventories	(22,178)
Decrease in prepaid expenses	1,137
(Decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(28,852)
(Decrease) in annuities payable	(27,300)
Increase in deferred revenues	480,905
Net cash (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ (348,709)</u>

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Purchase of equipment	\$ (215,072)
Purchase of long-term investments	(723,738)
Proceeds from sale and maturity of long-term investments	1,451,857
(Increase) in other assets	(250)
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>\$ 512,797</u>

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Receipt of permanently restricted contributions and life membership income	\$ 26,115
Payments on long-term debt	(4,289)
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>\$ 21,826</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 185,914

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Beginning	<u>1,664,831</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 1,850,745</u>

Supplemental Schedule of Noncash Investing and Financing Activities

Stock donations	<u>\$ 62,644</u>
Various equipment and donated services	<u>\$ 240,909</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Nature of Activities and Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Activities

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (the Conservancy) is a nonprofit, volunteer-centered corporation organized in 1925 and incorporated in 1936 under the laws of the District of Columbia. The Conservancy was organized to promote, construct and manage the Appalachian Trail and its associated lands in the public interest for hiking and other recreation on foot and for the study of nature along the ridgcrests of the Appalachian Mountains through 14 states from northern Georgia to central Maine. Beginning in the 1920s, Conservancy volunteers conceived, blazed and maintained the Appalachian Trail, which is approximately 2,200 miles long.

The Conservancy works closely with 30 autonomous local member clubs along the Appalachian Trail in a coordinated effort to carry out the Conservancy's missions. Under a series of agreements, dating back to the 1930s, with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and various state agencies, these clubs, in coordination with the Conservancy, help to maintain the footpath and its facilities (shelters, bridges, signs, etc.) and manage approximately 108,841 acres of National Park Service land that has been acquired specifically to protect the footpath from incompatible uses and development.

Additionally, the work of the Conservancy extends beyond resource management and into the realm of public information and education. The Conservancy has an extensive publications program that includes guidebooks, maps, newsletters, and other books about the Appalachian Trail and its resources. Our communications extend to our visitor's center, which plays host to almost 15,000 people annually. Our information staff addresses almost 30,000 mail and e-mail inquiries each year, and our Website averages 100,000 visits each month.

The Conservancy is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and similar sections of state statutes.

A summary of the significant accounting policies is as follows:

Financial Reporting

The Conservancy's financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The Conservancy's management has standards for external financial statements provided by not-for-profit organizations and requires the Conservancy to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the "net asset" concept. Net assets are segregated by unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted categories. A statement of financial position, a statement of activities and a statement of cash flows are required.

Notes to Financial Statements

Fund Accounting

In order to ensure the observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Conservancy, its accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund. Fund balances are classified on the statement of financial position as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets based on the absence or existence and type of donor-imposed restrictions.

Unrestricted Funds

The General Fund represents funds that are derived primarily from support and revenues in the form of contributions, governmental contracts, membership dues, and sales of publications. Resources are used to help meet the costs of providing the Conservancy's programs and supporting services, and plant and equipment, both purchased and donated.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are used to record the Conservancy's activities that are supported by resources whose use is limited by external parties to specific operating purposes. The principal sources of restricted funds are contributions from donors; contracts and grants; endowment income; and other sources where resource providers have stipulated the specific operating purposes for which the resources are to be used.

The Monitoring Fund is a restricted fund representing contributions received that have been restricted for use in the maintenance and protection of specified lands on or near various portions of the Appalachian Trail.

Endowment Funds

There are three types of endowment funds: permanent endowment; term endowment; and quasi-endowment. Permanent endowment refers to amounts that have been contributed with donor-specified restrictions that the principal be invested in perpetuity. Donors may also restrict income from those investments. A term endowment is similar to permanent endowment, except that at some future time or upon the occurrence of a specified future event, the resources originally contributed become available for unrestricted or purpose-restricted use by the entity. Quasi-endowment refers to resources designated by an entity's governing board to be retained and invested for specified purposes for a long but unspecified period. The Conservancy's endowment funds contain a combination of the different types described above. The investment income received on the Land Acquisition, Life Membership and David N. Startzell Stewardship Funds is transferred in accordance with the Conservancy's investment and spending policy which establishes a spending limit of up to 4.5 percent of the portfolio's market value as measured on the last day of the past twelve (12) quarters.

Notes to Financial Statements

The Life Membership Fund consists of receipts from full Conservancy Life Members or time payments on Conservancy Life Memberships. The principal of the Life Membership Fund is restricted; however, some earnings from investments held by the Life Membership Fund are transferred to the General Fund in accordance with the Conservancy's investment and spending policy.

The David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund, formerly reported as the Stewardship Fund, consists of endowment funds intended to offset the costs associated with trail construction, maintenance, and land management activities. Part of the principal of the David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund is restricted; however, some earnings from investments held by the David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund are transferred to the General Fund in accordance with the Conservancy's investment and spending policy.

Land Acquisition Fund

The Land Acquisition Fund consists of assets restricted for the purposes of acquiring land and interests in land along the Appalachian Trail. Proceeds from the sale of such lands to various Federal and state agencies, as well as individual conservation buyers, are deposited in this fund for future acquisitions. The principal of the Land Acquisition Fund is restricted; however, some earnings from investments held by the Land Acquisition Fund are transferred to the General Fund in accordance with the Conservancy's investment and spending policy.

Annuity Funds

The Annuity Fund is used by the Conservancy to account for resources provided by donors under various kinds of agreements in which the Conservancy has a beneficial interest in the resources but may not be the sole beneficiary. As described in more detail in Note 13, the Conservancy participates in various charitable trusts and offers charitable gift annuities.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of reporting, cash and cash equivalents include cash on deposit with financial institutions, and all highly liquid debt instruments.

Inventories

Inventories consist of materials held for sale by the Conservancy and are stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out method) or market.

Investments

Investments that are received as gifts are recorded at their market value at the date of the gift, which then becomes the cost basis.

Notes to Financial Statements

Land Held in Conservancy

Lands held in conservancy are recorded at cost or, if donated, at the estimated fair market value of the land on the date of the donation. Because the Conservancy intends to hold the lands held in conservancy indefinitely, write-downs for permanent impairments in the value of the lands are not recorded.

The Conservancy, at times, sells assets at less than fair market value to individual landowners in exchange for conservation restrictions placed upon the landowner's lands. The Conservancy records such transactions as expenditures in the period incurred.

Property and Equipment

Expenditures for the acquisition of property and equipment are capitalized at cost. The fair value of donated assets at the date of the gift is similarly capitalized. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from three to thirty years. The depreciation expense was \$89,909 for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Resources restricted by donors for plant replacement and expansion are added to the unrestricted fund balance to the extent expended within the period.

Donated Goods, Services and Facilities

Donated materials, equipment and other assets are reflected as contributions in the accompanying financial statements at their estimated fair market values at the date of the gift. The Conservancy recognizes contribution revenue for services requiring specialized skills received at the fair value of those services. During the year, the Conservancy received donated services of \$209,652 and donated goods of \$31,257. In addition, 6,827 volunteers donated 272,477 hours to the Conservancy's programs, fund-raising campaigns and management for which no amounts have been recognized in the financial statements since no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

Contributions

The Conservancy's management has adopted the standard that requires revenues to be recognized for all unconditional promises to give, including those with donor imposed restrictions, at the time of receipt of the promise. The standard also requires certain disclosures for receipts of contributed services and promises to give.

Gifts of cash and other assets are presented as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Notes to Financial Statements

Gifts of land, buildings and equipment are presented as unrestricted support unless explicit donor stipulations specify how the donated assets must be used. Gifts of long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used and gifts of cash or other assets that must be used to acquire long-lived assets are reported as restricted support. Absent explicit donor stipulations about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, the Conservancy reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired long-lived assets are placed in service (as the assets are used in the Conservancy's activities).

Revenue Recognition

Grant revenue is recognized when the related costs are incurred. Deferred revenue is recorded for grant funds that the Conservancy has been awarded but for which it has not incurred related expenses.

Government support is recognized when the services have been provided and the related expenses have been incurred for which the Government support has been restricted.

Membership dues are recognized as revenue on a pro-rata basis over the period to which the dues relate, for only the portion of the dues for which the member receives goods or services. The remaining contribution portion of the dues is recognized as revenue in the year the dues are received.

Donations are recognized as income in the period in which they are received and are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. However, if a restriction is fulfilled in the same period in which the contribution is received, the Conservancy reports the support as unrestricted.

Expense Allocation

Overhead expenses that are not specifically identified with a particular service are allocated to the various program services based upon a percentage of dollars spent on salaries for Conservancy staff in performing program functions.

Credit Risk

The Conservancy grants credit to its trade customers on terms it establishes for each customer type and does not require collateral for credit extended.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that may affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Notes to Financial Statements

Fair Value Measurement

Accounting standards establish a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under the standards are described as follows:

Level 1 – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in active exchange markets. Valuations are obtained from readily available pricing sources for market transactions involving identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Valuations for assets and liabilities traded in less active dealer or broker markets. Valuations are obtained from third party pricing services for identical or similar assets or liabilities or other inputs observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly through corroboration with observable market data. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, a Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Valuations for assets and liabilities that are derived from other valuation methodologies, including option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques, and not based on market exchange, dealer, or broker traded transactions. Level 3 valuations incorporate certain assumptions and projections in determining the fair value assigned to such assets or liabilities.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the application of valuation techniques applied to similar assets and liabilities has been consistent. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value:

Investments

The fair value of assets restricted for long-term purposes is the market value based on quoted market prices, when available, or market prices provided by recognized broker dealers.

The carrying amounts of the Conservancy's financial instruments not described above arise in the ordinary course of business and approximate fair value.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Conservancy believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Cash Concentrations

The Conservancy may from time to time have deposits with commercial financial institutions in excess of the federal insured limit during the year.

Note 3. Investments

The Conservancy carries investments at fair market value. Investments with a fair value of \$8,422,497 as of December 31, 2015, consisted of stocks and fixed income securities.

The following schedule summarizes the investment return and its classification in the statement of activities for the year ended December 31, 2015:

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Investment income	\$ 137,459	\$ 5,777	\$ 37,478	\$ 180,714
Net realized and unrealized (losses)	<u>(150,299)</u>	<u>(9,170)</u>	<u>(47,556)</u>	<u>(207,025)</u>
	<u>\$ (12,840)</u>	<u>\$ (3,393)</u>	<u>\$ (10,078)</u>	<u>\$ (26,311)</u>

The Conservancy manages its investments on a total return basis. Under this concept, the Conservancy focuses on the overall return on their investments, including both investment income and net appreciation. It uses a spending-rate formula to determine how much of that return is available to support current operations. Investment income was released to support general operations in accordance with Conservancy's spending policy as follows:

Land Acquisition Fund	\$ 15,773
Life Membership Fund	86,250
David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund	<u>204,763</u>
	<u>\$ 306,786</u>

During the year, the Board authorized an additional transfer of \$286,326 from the Daniel N. Startzell Stewardship Fund in order to support the implementation of the Conservancy's strategic plan.

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable at December 31, 2015, consisted primarily of trade receivables, bequests receivable, and amounts due from the National Park Service. Net accounts receivable consist of the following:

Federal	\$	1,812,223
State		13,074
Trade		90,730
Other		129,076
Allowance for doubtful accounts		<u>(19,751)</u>
	\$	<u>2,025,352</u>

The allowance for doubtful accounts is computed as ½ of 1% of current year sales and any account over 120 days past due.

Note 5. Pledges Receivable

As of December 31, 2015, contributors to the Conservancy have unconditionally promised to give \$111,163. The promised contributions are due as follows:

Within one year	\$	75,000
Within one to five years		<u>50,000</u>
	\$	125,000
Discount of long-term pledge receivable		<u>(13,837)</u>
Total pledges receivable	\$	<u>111,163</u>

Note 6. Investments

Investments are carried at fair value based on quoted prices in active markets and consist of the following at December 31, 2015:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Gain (Loss)</u>
Cash or cash equivalents	\$ 1,049,754	\$ 1,049,754	\$ --
Stocks	6,652,239	6,762,699	110,460
Fixed income securities	<u>1,746,243</u>	<u>1,659,798</u>	<u>(86,445)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,448,236</u>	<u>\$ 9,472,251</u>	<u>\$ 24,015</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 7. Property and Equipment

A summary of property and equipment is as follows:

Land	\$	20,000
Building and improvements		1,865,123
Furniture and equipment		816,132
Computer software		<u>370,148</u>
	\$	3,071,403
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization		<u>(2,002,491)</u>
	\$	<u>1,068,912</u>

Note 8. Land Held in Conservancy

The Conservancy holds title to various parcels of real estate located along the Appalachian Trail. Such lands are classified by the Conservancy as land held in conservancy. The Conservancy is not in the development or real estate business but a guardian of the lands adjacent to the trail. Land held in conservancy at December 31, 2015 amounted to \$2,150,880 and represents real estate held by the Conservancy that it intends to hold indefinitely or sell to a Federal or State agency that governs the portion of the Appalachian Trail in which the real estate lies, or to conservation-minded individuals interested in acquiring land with significant restrictions designed to protect the trail.

Note 9. Contractual Services and Revenue Concentration

The Conservancy receives a significant amount of its support and revenue from cooperative agreements and cost-share agreements with the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service and various state agencies. Support received from these agencies was \$2,198,640 during the year ended December 31, 2015. A significant reduction in the level of this support, if this were to occur, may have a significant impact on the Conservancy's programs and activities.

Note 10. Pension Plan

The Conservancy has an IRC 403(b) Employer Contributory Tax Deferral Annuity Plan (a defined contribution plan). Employees can contribute to the plan effective immediately upon date of hire. To be eligible for employer contributions, the employee must have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours within a twelve-month consecutive period. Total covered payroll for eligible employees' compensation is \$2,403,780 and total payroll for all employees was \$3,102,278 for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Notes to Financial Statements

The pension plan covers all of the Conservancy's employees who meet the requirements stated above. Members' rights to contributions vest immediately. Contributions to the pension plan by the Conservancy are based on 2% of eligible employees' compensation. In addition, in 2001, the Conservancy approved a matching contribution up to 3% to encourage participation. Total contributions to the pension plan by the Conservancy were \$115,118 for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Note 11. Lease Commitments and Total Rental Expense

The Conservancy leases facilities to house its regional offices and various equipment under arrangements that are classified as operating leases. The leases generally require the Conservancy to pay for all normal maintenance, utilities and liability insurance costs. Rental expense for the year ended December 31, 2015, was \$103,154.

The future minimum lease payments under noncancellable operating leases are as follows for the years ended December 31:

2016	\$	97,582
2017		83,493
2018		80,411
2019		77,030
2020		50,058
	\$	<u>388,574</u>

Note 12. Related-Party Transactions

Among the Conservancy's Board members and officers are volunteers from the financial, legal and environmental community who provide valuable assistance to the Conservancy in the development of policies and programs and in the evaluation of awards and grants. Under the Conservancy's conflict of interest disclosure policy, the Executive Director reviews all transactions with related parties. Based on their review, significant transactions are submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. For the year ended December 31, 2015, substantially all awards and grants, which approximated \$29,000, were disbursed to groups with which one or more Board members were associated as volunteers. These groups maintain the Appalachian Trail in their local areas.

Note 13. Annuities Payable

The Conservancy administers various charitable remainder trusts. A charitable remainder trust provides for the payment of distributions to the grantor or other designated beneficiaries over the trust's term (usually the designated beneficiary's lifetime). At the end of the trust's term, the remaining assets are available for the Conservancy's use. The portion of the trust attributable to the present value of the future benefits to be received by the Conservancy is recorded in the Statement of Activities as a temporarily restricted or permanently restricted contribution in the period the trust is established. When necessary, the Conservancy revalues the liability to the designated beneficiaries. There were no charitable remainder trusts established during 2015.

Notes to Financial Statements

Assets held in charitable remainder trusts and in fulfillment of charitable gift annuity contracts totaled \$880,413 at December 31, 2015 and are reported at fair market value in the Conservancy's Statement of Financial Position. The present value of the estimated future payments for remainder trusts is calculated using discount rates determined at the inception of the trust and applicable mortality tables.

A charitable gift annuity is an arrangement between a donor and the Conservancy in which the donor contributes assets to the organization in exchange for a promise by the organization to pay a fixed amount for a specified period of time to the donor or to individuals or organizations designated by the donor. The assets received are held as general assets of the Conservancy, and the annuity liability is a general obligation of the Conservancy; however, they are maintained in the Annuity Fund. The Conservancy had no new annuity contracts in 2015.

Adjustments to the annuity liability were made to reflect amortization of the discount and changes in life expectancies. For the year ended December 31, 2015, the annuity actuarial adjustment amounted to \$28,861. Total liability under split-interest agreements totaled \$308,005 at December 31, 2015.

Note 14. Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets are often designated by the Board of Directors for particular purposes and programs. Board designations in effect at December 31, 2015 were as follows:

David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund – bequests designated in accordance with contributions policy	<u>\$ 3,754,618</u>
--	---------------------

Note 15. Deferred Revenues

Deferred revenues consisted of the following at December 31, 2015:

Deferred memberships	\$ 77,123
Deferred - National Park Service (NPS)	1,514,041
Deferred - other	<u>35,512</u>
	<u>\$ 1,626,676</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 16. Net Assets Released from Restrictions

The sources of net assets released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by the occurrence of events specified by the donors were as follows for the year ended December 31, 2015:

General Fund:	
Pledges, time restriction	\$ 75,000
Conservation projects	128,318
	<u>\$ 203,318</u>
Land Acquisition Fund:	
Acquisition expenditures	\$ 49,035
Life Membership Fund:	
Life member expenses	\$ 16,344
Monitoring Fund:	
Monitoring expenses	\$ 14,805
Annuity Fund:	
Annuity expenses	\$ 7,479
Total net assets released from restrictions	<u>\$ 290,981</u>

If a restriction is fulfilled in the same period in which the contribution is received, the Conservancy reports the support as unrestricted. The Conservancy received \$343,418 in contributions during 2015, where the restrictions were fulfilled by year-end.

Note 17. Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes:

Conservation Projects (General Fund)	\$ 476,549
Pledges, time restriction	111,163
Acquisition of land/interests along the Appalachian Trail (Land Acquisition Fund)	3,479,428
Monitoring Fund, monitoring of Appalachian Trail Conference Lands	216,677
David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund	10,782
Annuity Fund, annuity trust agreements	244,346
Total temporarily restricted net assets	<u>\$ 4,538,945</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

Permanently restricted net assets are restricted as follows:

Land Acquisition Fund		
Acquisition of land/interests along the Appalachian Trail	\$	556,301
Life Membership Fund		
Investments in perpetuity, the income of which may be expended to support ATC general and program expenditures	\$	2,293,356
David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund		
Investments in perpetuity, the income from which may be expended for trail construction and maintenance and trail-land management activities	\$	192,486
Sperling Memorial Shelter - Improvement Fund		5,912
Michael Bequaert - Andrew Kingery Shelter Memorial Fund		63,827
Smart Family Foundation		11,854
The George Ebenstein and Ernest Wallach Fund		13,862
The Ilus and Dr. Bernard Grünstein Fund		13,862
The William T. Foot Memorial Endowment Bridge Fund		14,790
The Ingram Fund		11,756
The Janelle C. Maurer Fund		22,605
The Michael L. Howell Memorial Fund		578,953
Total David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund	\$	929,907
Total permanently restricted net assets	\$	3,779,564

Note 18. Fair Value Measurements

The following table presents the balance of financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Cash or cash equivalents	\$ 1,049,754	\$ --	\$ --
Stocks	6,762,699	--	--
Fixed income securities	1,659,798	--	--
	\$ 9,472,251	\$ --	\$ --

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 19. Endowment

The Conservancy's endowment consists of three funds established for land acquisition, life membership and stewardship. Its endowment includes both donor-restricted endowment funds and funds designated by the Board of Directors to function as endowments. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the Board of Directors to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Board of Directors of the Conservancy has interpreted the state law as allowing the investment income and appreciation/depreciation (unrealized and realized gains and losses) to be accumulated or depreciated from the respective funds. As a result of this interpretation, the Conservancy classifies as permanently restricted net assets the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment and the accumulations to the permanent endowment.

The Conservancy has adopted an investment policy to provide current income to support programs of the Conservancy and to achieve such growth of principal and income over time that purchasing power will be preserved or increased. The Conservancy will invest in index mutual funds or exchange-traded funds using historical data to achieve target returns (inflation adjusted) while minimizing risk as measured by expected volatility. The investment committee will review the portfolio periodically and make modifications as it deems appropriate to reflect market history and changing long term market conditions.

The Conservancy has adopted a spending policy for distribution each year which allows distribution up to 4.5 percent of the portfolio's market value as measured on the last day of the past twelve (12) quarters.

Changes in endowment net assets for the year ending December 31, 2015 were as follows:

	Unrestricted (Board Designated)	Permanently Restricted
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ 2,730,805	\$ 5,127,365
Reclassification	<u>1,056,481</u>	<u>(1,056,481)</u>
Endowment net assets, beginning of year, adjusted	\$ 3,787,286	\$ 4,070,884
Investment return:		
Investment income, net of fees	117,078	37,478
Net depreciation (realized and unrealized)	<u>(130,858)</u>	<u>(47,556)</u>
	\$ (13,780)	\$ (10,078)
Contributions	316,924	26,115
Investment fees	(49,486)	--
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	<u>(286,326)</u>	<u>(307,357)</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 3,754,618</u>	<u>\$ 3,779,564</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 20. Reclassification

The Conservancy reclassified \$1,056,481 from the permanently restricted portion of the David N. Startzell Stewardship Fund to unrestricted net assets. This reclassification was to properly reflect unrestricted funds, previously reported as restricted, as of December 31, 2014.

Note 21. Subsequent Events

The Conservancy has evaluated all subsequent events through May 13, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. The Conservancy has determined there are no subsequent events that require recognition or disclosure.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Schedule of Functional Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2015

Program Services

	Trail Management and Protection			User and Supporter Services						Program Services Total	Development	Management and General	Total Expenses
	Conservation	Land Trust	Total	Membership Services	Public Information	Education & Outreach	Publications	Communications	Total				
Salaries, wages and payroll taxes	\$ 1,891,785	\$ 77,911	\$ 1,969,696	\$ 229,728	\$ 126,622	\$ 4,476	\$ 240,156	\$ 196,079	\$ 797,061	\$ 2,766,757	\$ 244,404	\$ 406,217	\$ 3,417,378
Employee benefits	185,814	--	185,814	8,097	23,559	--	34,977	18,368	85,001	270,815	40,390	83,528	394,733
Contract services	525,121	21,819	546,940	279,988	--	28,601	16,642	166,553	491,784	1,038,724	55,053	173,435	1,267,212
Supplies	140,720	2,458	143,178	4,342	2,721	4,019	31,745	2,025	44,852	188,030	959	25,083	214,072
Postage	10,825	126	10,951	314,141	4,090	254	107,594	57,403	483,482	494,433	6,699	2,635	503,767
Printing	4,736	594	5,330	204,185	--	3,064	13,937	95,985	317,171	322,501	4,194	414	327,109
Personnel development	7,247	1,195	8,442	393	100	--	750	1,089	2,332	10,774	348	1,650	12,772
Promotional	--	--	--	104	--	27	8,256	15,120	23,507	23,507	--	--	23,507
Fulfillment	2,153	--	2,153	16,318	38	--	594,516	487	611,359	613,512	14,520	245	628,277
Travel	151,523	3,374	154,897	5,710	754	19,328	10,258	10,537	46,587	201,484	14,390	20,570	236,444
Meetings and conferences	44,735	170	44,905	2,983	165	62,767	440	2,579	68,934	113,839	2,783	33,921	150,543
Licenses and fees	630	50	680	56,039	--	--	39,139	285	95,463	96,143	24,910	83,419	204,472
Grants	171,829	--	171,829	--	--	--	--	8,211	8,211	180,040	2,145	772	182,957
Organization infrastructure	93,718	6,623	100,341	171	--	20,789	124,521	868	146,349	246,690	297	63,782	310,769
Other expenses	31,839	2,634	34,473	16,208	2,502	1,877	5,141	129,771	155,499	189,972	55,478	156,701	402,151
Total expenses	\$ 3,262,675	\$ 116,954	\$ 3,379,629	\$ 1,138,407	\$ 160,551	\$ 145,202	\$ 1,228,072	\$ 705,360	\$ 3,377,592	\$ 6,757,221	\$ 466,570	\$ 1,052,372	\$ 8,276,163

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

To the Board of Directors
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (the “Conservancy”), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2015, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Conservancy’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 13, 2016.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Conservancy’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of the expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Conservancy’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Conservancy’s internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Conservancy’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Conservancy's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Conservancy's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Yount, Hyde & Barbour, P.C.

Winchester, Virginia
May 13, 2016

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR
FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE**

To the Board of Directors
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2015. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of United States; and the audit requirements of U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* (Circular A-133) (for funding agreements prior to December 26, 2014) and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) (for funding agreements subsequent to December 26, 2014). Those standards, Circular and Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2015.

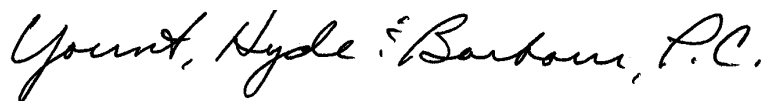
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of OMB Circular A-133 and the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Winchester, Virginia
May 13, 2016

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

<u>Federal Grantor / Pass-Through Grantor / Program Title</u>	<u>Federal CFDA Number</u>	<u>Total Federal Expenditures</u>
U.S. Department of Interior		
Passed through the National Park Service (Contract Number H050000002)		
Base	15.935	\$ 379,893
Repair Rehab	15.935	397,040
Cyclic	15.935	374,097
Challenge Cost Shares	15.935	8,851
SUP	15.935	13,241
Other NPS accounts	15.935	491,133
Total U.S. Department of the Interior		<u>\$ 1,664,255</u>
U.S. Department of Agriculture		
Passed through National Resources Conservation Service		<u>\$ 56,001</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>\$ 56,001</u>
U.S. Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration		
Passed through Virginia Department of Conservation and Natural Resources		
Recreational Trails Program Funding	20.219	<u>\$ 116,614</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration		<u>\$ 116,614</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$ 1,836,870</u>

The accompanying note is an integral part of this schedule.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

Note 1. *Basis of Presentation*

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards includes the federal grant activity of The Appalachian Trail Conservancy under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2015. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* (Circular A-133) (for funding agreements prior to December 26, 2014) and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) (for funding agreements subsequent to December 26, 2014). Because the Schedule represents only a selected portion of the operations of the Conservancy, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, change in net assets or cash flows for the Conservancy.

Note 2. *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in OMB Circular A-133 and the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended December 31, 2015

I. SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes _____ X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ Yes _____ X None Reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? _____ Yes _____ X No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes _____ X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ Yes _____ X None Reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: Unmodified

- Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516(a) _____ Yes _____ X No

Identification of major programs: CFDA Number: 15.935; U.S. Department of Interior Passed through the National Parks Service under contract Number H0500000002

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs \$187,500

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? _____ X Yes _____ No

II. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

No matters were reported.

III. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

No matters were reported.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

No findings reported for the year ended December 31, 2014.