



ATC Policy on Threatened and Endangered Species

Adopted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in 1989

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy recognizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing the continued existence of threatened and endangered species and the obligations imposed by federal statute upon federal agencies (and by state law upon state agencies) for protection of threatened or endangered species. It is the policy of ATC to support and endorse efforts to ensure and promote the existence of federally listed, state listed, locally listed, and candidate threatened or endangered species. ATC also believes that its principal mission, which is to protect and promote the Appalachian Trail, can aid efforts to maintain and enhance the existence of threatened and endangered species. As a matter of policy, ATC is confident that the Trail can coexist with occurrences of threatened or endangered species without adverse impact to the species. Should conflicts arise, ATC will resolve matters on a case-by-case basis through consultation with its management partners and other concerned parties.

ATC will seek to ensure that its actions and the actions of Trail-maintaining clubs do not destroy, modify, or adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitat. ATC will support and cooperate in efforts by federal agencies, state agencies, and other concerned parties to inventory occurrences of threatened or endangered species on Trail corridor lands. Except in unusual circumstances where public notification is necessary to promote the existence or reestablishment of threatened or endangered species (such as a peregrine falcon hacking project), ATC will not publicize, or make available to the general public, information regarding the existence or location of any population of threatened or endangered species. ATC will further emphasize cooperation with agency procedures for review of proposed surface-disturbing activities (such as relocations or shelter-construction projects) and ensure that Trail planning and design take into account any potential for impact to threatened or endangered species prior to surface disturbance.

In November 1987, ATC adopted the following policy statement on peregrine falcons:

The Board of Directors of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy applauds and supports efforts, both public and private, to reintroduce and protect the peregrine falcon on A.T. lands and urges the A.T. community to support this effort. The Board of Directors recognizes that protection efforts may require temporary relocations of short sections of the Trail and or short-term limitations on access to certain sections of the Trail to hikers. In selecting sites for release efforts, the responsible organization(s) should consider: (1) limiting potential conflicts with other users, and (2) potential problems in controlling public access to the release site. The Board of Directors requests that, when falcon release or protection efforts potentially involve A.T. lands, the responsible organization(s) include representatives of the Trail community at the earliest stages of the decision-making process. This is in recognition, not only of the responsibilities of ATC and the Trail community for Trail lands, but also in recognition of the assistance the Trail community can give in site selection and efforts to limit disturbance at a site.