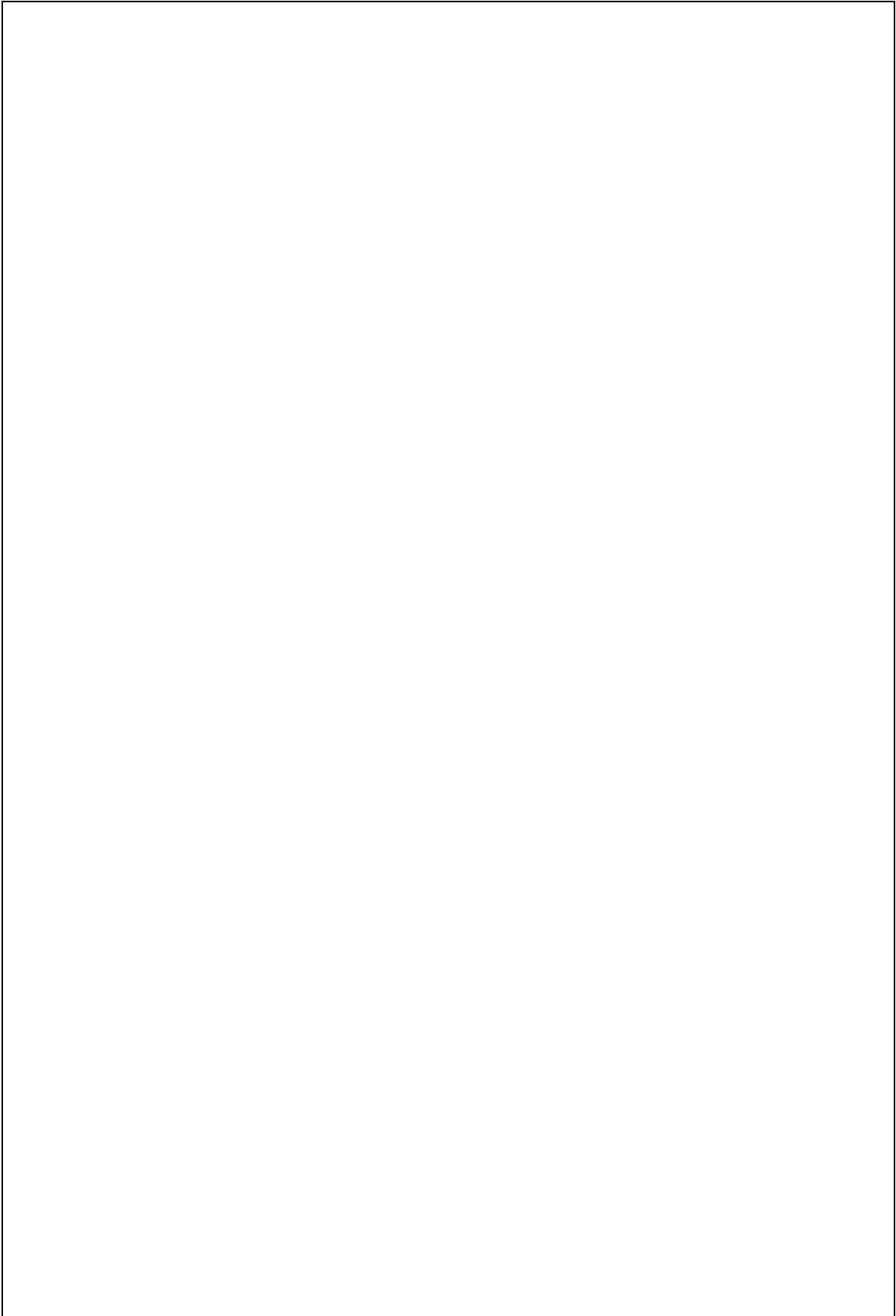


LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
THE APPALACHIAN
TRAIL
IN MASSACHUSETTS

PREPARED BY:
MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS APPALACHIAN
TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB BERKSHIRE
CHAPTER
and the
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND RECREATION
and the
APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

March 2006



The Appalachian Trail is a way, continuous from Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia, for travel on foot through the wild, scenic, wooded, pastoral, and culturally significant lands of the Appalachian Mountains.

PURPOSE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS APPALACHIAN TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. To serve, guide and aid the Appalachian Trail (AT) Management Partners: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), National Park Service (NPS), Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Berkshire Chapter by providing a comprehensive and workable local framework for the management and protection of the Appalachian Trail and its Corridor Lands.
2. To guarantee the role of the Trail volunteer in the management process.
3. To provide continuity and coordination for the present and future management of the Trail between the above referenced partners and other agencies and organizations.
4. To increase public understanding and input into the management of the Trail.
5. To comply with state and federal mandates that specify how the Trail be protected and managed.
6. To fulfill the requirements of the “Memorandum of Understanding for the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts”. This document identifies which agency or organization is responsible for each management component of the Appalachian Trail.
7. To fulfill the local management planning component of the *Comprehensive Plan for the Protection, Management, Development and Use of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail*, prepared by the National Park Service AT Project Office.
8. To document the policies and principles of the Committee and to provide continuity over the years.

Acknowledgements

This document is the result of countless hours of thinking, typing and research by volunteers serving on the Massachusetts AT Management Committee, both past and present.

This update of the Local Management Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Massachusetts was reviewed in detail and prepared with the assistance of Committee volunteers Jim Pelletier, Steve Smith, and Debra Weisenstein.

A great debt is also due our management partners acting through the persons of Don Owen and Bob Gray at the National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office, JT Horn and Val Stori at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's New England Regional Office, Ted Weber at the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Becky Barnes at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

I came to this document as a relative newcomer to the AT Committee. As the primary editor of this update, I had no previous history with it, and found the document to be a curious combination of accurate descriptions of the current state of AT management and desired outcomes of management initiatives that have not yet come to pass.

In discussing this dichotomy with my colleagues on the AT Committee and other management partners, I found some peace with the two seemingly opposing viewpoints. In fact, this combination of successful, hard headed and practical management in some areas and wished for, but not yet implemented outcomes in others truly reflects the nature of AT management. Its outwardly cumbersome, multi-headed and diverse structure manages to place effective operation of this country's premiere outdoor recreational experience firmly in the hands of citizen volunteers.

With humble thanks to who have gone before and those who will continue,

Cosmo Catalano
AT Management Committee Chair
March 2006

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1A. OVERVIEW OF THE TRAIL

The Appalachian Trail (AT) in Massachusetts lies in the far western end of the state. It runs north and south for a distance of about 88 miles, parallel to and about ten miles east of the New York State border. The location of the Trail is a reflection of the geological forces that created the north-south pattern of mountains and valleys in the Appalachians of which the Berkshires are a small part. In general, the Trail follows the ridgeline wherever possible as it traverses an upland plateau approximately 2000 ft. in elevation, but descends at several points to cross valleys cut through the plateau by the Hoosic and Housatonic Rivers. The Trail runs mainly through wooded country, composed of abandoned farmland or woodlots from which the original timber has been harvested. However, a few isolated stands of older forests still remain.

The AT enters the state at the Massachusetts/Vermont border in the north. This is also the southern terminus of Vermont's Long Trail. From the state line, at an elevation of about 2300 ft., the Trail runs south through Clarksburg State Forest and after four miles descends to and crosses the Hoosic River and Route 2. This crossing of the Hoosic (el 640 ft.) is the lowest point on the Trail in Massachusetts. The Trail then continues south and in about five miles reaches the summit of Mount Greylock, within the Mount Greylock State Reservation. At 3491 feet, this is the highest point in the Commonwealth.

Descending Mount Greylock to the south, the trail crosses active farmlands, Route 8 and the Hoosic River again in Cheshire. From Cheshire, the Trail climbs past a scenic quartzite outcropping, named the Cheshire Cobbles, to an upland plateau of about 2000 ft. and continues south about four miles to Gore Pond. Approximately five miles south of Gore Pond, the Trail drops down into the town of Dalton, travels along High Street, crosses Route 9 and the Housatonic River (el 1000 ft.) and rises again to the upland plateau. The Trail continues at an elevation of about 2000 ft. through lands comprising part of the Pittsfield watershed and into October Mountain State Forest, where it skirts past Finerty Pond.

The Trail then crosses Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike and heads generally southwest past Upper Goose Pond then descends to the Tyringham Valley (el 1000 ft.). In Tyringham, the Trail runs southwest, crosses Hop Brook, the Trustees of Reservations' Tyringham Cobble, and several agricultural fields, then rises again to about 2000 ft. as it traverses Beartown State Forest.

The Trail proceeds south, descending to cross the Route 23 valley and the inflow of Lake Buel, then climbs again, past Ice Gulch, to reach a ridge on East Mountain State Forest about 800 feet above the valley floor. Seven miles later the Trail descends to the Housatonic Valley, crosses the Housatonic River (el 660 ft.), Route 7 and proceeds west through forest, open fields and farmlands for two miles, passing the Shay's Rebellion Monument. The Trail re-enters the woods on the west side of South Egremont Road, crosses Route 41 and continues to the west side of the Housatonic Valley near Jug End.

The Trail then rapidly gains 1000 feet in elevation and runs south along the eastern crest of the Taconic Range through Mount Everett State Reservation, traversing Mount Bushnell, Mount Everett and Mount Race. Nine miles south of Jug End, the Trail drops into Sages Ravine and cuts west through the ravine for one half mile. The Trail then turns south into the state of Connecticut.

While most of the Trail in Massachusetts follows the wooded upland plateau ridges, parts of the section between Jug End and the Massachusetts/Connecticut line, follows open, rocky ledges that offer frequent panoramic views. This is one of the most spectacular sections of the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts.

Although the political border between Massachusetts and Connecticut is slightly south of Sage's Ravine, the Trail Committees of both states have agreed to make the stream crossing in the Ravine the "management boundary" between the two club's jurisdictions.

Also of note, much of the AT in Massachusetts is located on State property. Roughly 49 miles of Trail lie within various state forests, thereby making the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation an integral management partner. The role of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and agency partners from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the National Park Service (NPS) are described in Chapter 2 of this document.

1B. THE HISTORY OF LAND PROTECTION FOR THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN MASSACHUSETTS

In 1933, complete as a continuous way in Massachusetts, the trail passed through State Forests and the privately owned land that lay in between. Verbal agreements with private landowners were the basis for the Trail crossing on private tracts.

However, between the late 1930s and the late 1960s increasing development on private land caused the Trail in Massachusetts to be placed in jeopardy. When landowners who had initially agreed to allow the Trail on their property sold their land, the new landowners frequently refused to allow the Trail to remain. Requests to relocate the Trail and instances of development on or near the Trail route increased. This often resulted in relocating the Trail onto existing roads. By 1968, 21.8 miles (of a then 85.0 mile total) were relocated onto roads.

Congress recognized the need to protect the AT and other trails of national significance in the United States and in 1968 passed the National Trails System Act. The AT and the Pacific Crest Trail were designated as the first National Scenic Trails. The Act authorized federal acquisition of lands for protection of the AT and encouraged states to take the initiative with their own acquisition programs.

Massachusetts was the first state to follow federal action by enacting legislation of its own. This was accomplished in 1969 with the passage of Chapter 627, "An Act to Protect the Appalachian Trail". The legislation directed DCR, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, (then the Department of Natural Resources when the law was enacted, and later the Department of Environmental Management) to acquire lands in fee simple, easements, conservation restrictions, or gifts.

The DCR was given the responsibility of implementing the State's land acquisition program to protect the Appalachian Trail. During the next 7 years, DCR acquired 20 parcels and two watershed easements. Nationally however, not all states were as agreeable to land protection efforts as Massachusetts, and in 1976, Congress amended the National Trails System Act by authorizing the National Park Service (NPS) to become actively involved in protecting and acquiring lands for the AT.

The National Park Service began working cooperatively with DCR on protection of the AT in Massachusetts. In 1977, the Park Service funded a land survey of the Trail, except for those portions that were then located on state forest lands. The survey established the Trail "center line" and the land ownership patterns for 40 miles of the Trail.

From this plan, it was agreed as to which portions of a protected land corridor for the AT would be purchased by the State, and which would be purchased by the National Park Service.

Significant progress has been made in State and Park Service efforts to acquire land for the protective trail corridor. By 1998, DCR and the National Park Service had worked together to protect 49 miles of trail in addition to the 31 miles of trail already protected within State parks and forests. The DCR committed \$878,000 in State funds for the protection of the Trail. This funding was matched by federal money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Park Service, through April, 1998, expended approximately \$12 million for trail protection in the Commonwealth. Protection of the trail is ongoing, with the most recent DCR purchase of land adjacent to the trail in Monterey.

At this time (2006) all but a few hundred feet of Trail lie on land protected by the NPS, DCR or by Right of Way on watershed properties of North Adams and Pittsfield.

Protection of the AT goes beyond the footpath and has resulted in tangible benefits for residents of the Commonwealth. Some of our most scenic areas in Berkshire County have been preserved. For example, most of the parcels surrounding Upper Goose Pond in Lee and Tyringham were purchased in the mid-1980's to ensure that this beautiful area will remain in its natural state. Other unique areas that have been protected include: Sages Ravine, Mount Race, Jug End, Ice Gulch, Gore Pond, Warner Hill, the Cheshire Cobbles and Sherman Brook.

1C. THE HISTORY OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN MASSACHUSETTS

Benton H. MacKaye of Shirley Massachusetts first conceived the idea of the AT in 1921. In 1922 Walter Pritchard Eaton of Sheffield heard of MacKaye's scheme for a long-distance, north-south trail and did some investigation and planning of his own. However, by 1926 both men had little to show for their effort. In 1926 the Berkshire Hills Conservancy launched a county-wide promotional campaign for the trail in Massachusetts, with Walter P. Eaton of Sheffield, Archie K. Sloper of Lanesboro and Franklin L. Couch of Dalton taking responsibility for the northern, central and southern sections of the proposed trail. By 1931, with Couch as the leader, most of the trail through Massachusetts had been built through private and state-owned lands. The volunteers who cut most of the trail were: in the north, members of the Williams

Outing Club and Williamstown school principal, John B. Clark; south of Mt. Greylock, Archie Sloper and the Boy Scouts; and in the south, S. Waldo Bailey, a naturalist from Pittsfield, and the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). After the trail was cut, the follow-up maintenance was accomplished by many diverse clubs, groups and individuals. The Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club first became involved with the Trail in 1931. They improved the Trail between 1932 and 1935, but due to lack of communication and disagreements with the Berkshire Hills contingent, little was accomplished after the initial construction.

From 1937 to 1940, the Mt. Greylock Ski Club provided maintenance from Upper Goose Pond north to the Vermont state line. In 1938 Max Sauter, an engineer from General Electric in Pittsfield, emerged as a one-man trail crew and devoted four decades to maintaining and improving the Trail. The Metawampe (Massachusetts State College, Faculty Club - now known as University of Massachusetts at Amherst) was another group that came to the rescue in 1937. This group maintained the central section of the Trail between Tyringham and Washington. The Berkshire Chapter AMC continued to maintain the southern portion of the trail to the Connecticut state line. (NOTE: The preceding paragraphs are a synopsis of an article entitled "Trail Builders" by Guy and Laura Waterman and published in the Berkshire Week August 1, 1986. The material was researched for the Waterman's book, *Forest and Crag, A History of Hiking, Trailblazing and Adventure in the Northeast Mountains*, published by AMC in 1989.)

Following the amendment of the National Trails System Act in 1978 when federal funds became available for land acquisition, a need developed for better communications between volunteer trail maintaining groups, the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. -The need for greater accountability by the maintaining groups for management and maintenance of the Trail was also apparent. The ATC recommended the consolidation of the three maintaining groups, and in the spring of 1979, the Berkshire Chapter AMC with the concurrence of the other maintaining groups agreed to establish an Appalachian Trail Management Committee that would have the responsibility for management and maintenance of the entire AT in Massachusetts. The agreement was made with the understanding that the Metawampes and the Mt. Greylock Ski Club could continue to work on their sections as before.

A "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" was signed by ATC. and the AT Committee of the Berkshire Chapter (A.M.C.) in 1998, that gave the AT Committee of the Berkshire Chapter, official responsibility for volunteer management and maintenance of the Appalachian Trail and Trail corridor lands, in Massachusetts.

In 2003, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and it's state agencies, the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club entered into a similar agreement outlining the cooperative roles and responsibilities in the management, maintenance and operation of the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts. Copies of both MOU are in Appendix A3.

CHAPTER 2--THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

2A. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRAIL MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

Management Principles:

1. Communication is essential between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), trail abutters, municipal government, state agencies, federal agencies, and other public groups.
1. The Trail is managed on the local level by the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club's AT Management Committee and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of State Parks and Recreation. Volunteers will assume as much responsibility for on-the-ground management of the Trail as they realistically can take on, in consultation with their management partners (AMC, DCR, ATC and NPS).

The organizations involved in the cooperative management of the Massachusetts AT are described below. Their roles and responsibilities are detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding found in this document as Appendix A3.

2B. CLUB ROLES

- a. **Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC):** The AMC is a non-profit volunteer organization that, for over 100 years, has been committed to providing the public with outdoor recreation opportunities in the Northeast. The AMC--one of the largest active volunteer conservation and recreation organizations in North America--promotes the protection, enjoyment and wise use of the mountains, forests, open space and rivers of the Northeast. Trails program staff and hundreds of volunteers are responsible for the construction, maintenance and management of approximately 1400 miles of hiking trails and related backcountry facilities throughout the region. The AMC has 12 regional chapters. The specific chapter concerned with the AT in Massachusetts is the Berkshire Chapter. The Appalachian Mountain Club supports the work of the AT Management Committee, of the Berkshire Chapter
- b. **The Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club:** The Berkshire Chapter of the AMC has been maintaining a section of the AT since the 1930's. In order to increase the effectiveness of the volunteer maintenance of the Trail, and in recognition of the increased management responsibilities of the volunteers (resulting from the NPS land protection program), the Berkshire Chapter agreed to coordinate the volunteer management of the entire AT in Massachusetts in April 1979. At that time--with the assistance of the then DEM Division of Forests and Parks, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy--the Berkshire Chapter took the lead in management of the Trail in the State.

To assist in this effort the Berkshire Chapter's "AT Management Committee" was created. The AT Management Committee of the Berkshire Chapter has been assigned by the Chapter the responsibility for all matters pertaining to the AT, including the following activities:

- Management and operation of the Trail in Massachusetts
- Trail construction, relocations and maintenance of the footpath and related facilities

- Locating, constructing and maintaining parking and backcountry overnight facilities including shelters, tentsites and privies
- Maintaining trail signage.
- Providing information and education about the AT to trail visitors and the general public.
- Updating the Massachusetts AT Local Management Plan
- Corridor Monitoring
- AT Volunteer recruitment, training and recognition

The AT Committee has the option to participate in other programmatic areas related to Appalachian Trail management such as:

- Natural heritage monitoring
- Environmental monitoring
- Corridor boundary maintenance (painting)
- Open areas management
- Ridgerunning and usage monitoring

Management decisions that affect state owned lands are made cooperatively with the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation.

The current composition of the AT Committee of the Berkshire Chapter consists of the following (up to 20) volunteer representatives:

- Committee Chair nominated by the Berkshire Chapter AT Committee and elected by the Berkshire Chapter at its Annual Meeting in November.
- AT Maintenance Coordinators (three)
- AT Corridor Monitoring Coordinators (up to three)
- Additional voting members (not to exceed 13) may be appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Committee. These members will include the following positions: shelter coordinator, work party/volunteer coordinator, secretary, treasurer, and others as necessary for the effective management of the Trail.
- In addition, one staff representative each from the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy sit as ex-officio members of the Committee.

The AT Committee meets five times per year, on the first Monday of September, November, January, March, and May. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis for effective management of the Trail.

2C. THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION OF STATE PARKS AND RECREATION:

The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation works with the AT Management Committee concerning the location and management of the Trail, and in the development of this AT Management Plan. In addition, it assists trail volunteer efforts by supplying expert advice, materials, tools and transportation. In addition staff support is provided in the form of the Regional Trail Coordinator, and also the DCR AT Ridgerunner Program as sufficient resources allow.

The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation recognizes the importance of the AT Corridor protection program to the state, and has taken a leadership role among other state agencies in support of the Trail. Approximately 49 of the 88 miles of AT are on state-owned property. Management authority for the AT on state lands ultimately rests with the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation, following the principles described in the MOU (Appendix A-3).

2D. THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY:

The Conservancy is a federation of 30 hiking, outdoor and trail maintaining clubs that manage designated sections of the AT. Since 1925, the ATC's sole focus has been the construction, maintenance and protection of the Appalachian Trail. Since 1984, it has expanded to include the protection and stewardship of Trail Corridor lands. Management responsibility for National Park Service lands has been delegated to the ATC by the NPS. The ATC assigns maintenance and management responsibilities for sections of the Trail to the member clubs, such as the AMC's Berkshire Chapter.

The Conservancy's primary role is coordination of management along the entire AT. In this capacity, it provides technical assistance, in the form of skills workshops and training, funding via grants and cyclical maintenance funds and staff support to the Berkshire Chapter and other volunteer clubs trailwide.

The ATC also acts as a liaison between federal and state agencies, AT clubs, local governments and other organizations. The ATC assumes the primary responsibility for maintaining boundary lines of NPS Trail Corridor lands, monitoring natural heritage sites, and environmental monitoring,

2E. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, APPALACHIAN TRAIL PARK OFFICE

The National Trails System Act (PL 90-543) designated the AT as the nation's first National Scenic Trail, and delegated authority to administer the AT to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary in turn has designated responsibility for management of the trail to the National Park Service (NPS). Within the NPS, the Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) is the administrative arm responsible for NPS management of the trail. In this Management Plan, references to the NPS typically mean the ATPO.

In addition to its primary role in the acquisition of lands for the Appalachian Trail, the Park Service works closely with the ATC to build effective management of the Trail. In the *Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian Trail*, the Park Service emphasizes the importance of volunteer management of the Trail through the ATC and the AT clubs in conjunction with state and federal land managing agencies. The *Comprehensive Plan* defines a cooperative management system for Trail lands.

The NPS retains law enforcement jurisdiction on National Park Service lands. The NPS is responsible for boundary surveys and environmental compliance associated with all projects on NPS lands. Local law enforcement agencies will normally act as first responders for emergency safety and law enforcement incidents and assume overall management of those incidents.

2F. RELATIONSHIP WITH LANDOWNERS AND COMMUNITIES

Background

Relations between landowners and the Appalachian Trail volunteers have generally been positive. Historically, it was only through the generosity of private and municipal landowners that the AT passed through their property.

In the process of discussing permanent protection of the AT, landowners identified a number of concerns about management of the Trail. These concerns are taken seriously by the Trail managers and include the following: trespass, vandalism, careless use of fire, littering and disrespect by Trail users of landowners. Each of these concerns is addressed in later chapters of this plan.

The protected Trail corridor makes us neighbors to a variety of landowners. As the years go by, development of adjacent areas will increase the numbers of landowners bordering the Trail corridor. The AT Committee will work diligently to maintain and foster cooperation and communication with all trail neighbors.

Management Principles

Landowners, both private and municipal, are considered neighbors. The AT Committee and the DCR will work for the continuation of the cooperative relationships that have been established over the years with landowners.

Action Plan

1. Landowners, or communities with problems related to the AT are encouraged to contact the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the AT Committee. Problem resolution will be a combined effort of the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the AT Committee. For problems on NPS lands, the AT Committee and NPS and ATC will work to resolve any problems.
2. The AT Committee will organize a land management program that uses volunteers to monitor the conditions of the Trail corridor lands for both state and federal properties (see Corridor Monitoring, Chapter 6B). AT Committee Corridor Monitors and Coordinators will be the lead contacts for neighbors abutting NPS-owned lands.
3. The AT Committee will periodically contact, by letter, the governing officials of the towns through which the AT passes, in order to maintain good communications.

CHAPTER 3--TRAIL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

3A. TRAIL DESIGN

Design Principle

The Trail should be a narrow, rustic footpath that considers hikers' safety while still providing an opportunity for challenge and solitude. The Trail should be located, built and maintained to minimize resource degradation. Unnecessary construction should be avoided.

Action Plan

1. The Trail shall be designed, located, constructed and maintained in accordance with general standards set by the ATC Stewardship Manual, "Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance" by Birchard and Proudman, with consideration for local and state practices.
2. The Trail shall be located in a manner that minimizes conflicts with adjacent landowners.
3. The Trail design and location should minimize the impact of hikers and should seek to prevent the degradation of the areas through which the Trail passes. Special attention will be paid to the location and design of the Trail on steep slopes, riparian zones, shorelines, sub-alpine and bog areas, areas with significant natural or cultural resources and other fragile environments.
4. The Trail design will provide a reasonably safe, but not necessarily easy hiking experience; i.e. a steep trail will not be relocated to easier terrain unless resource damage is present.
5. Trail location and design should seek to minimize future management problems.
6. All Trail locations on state lands will be decided upon jointly by the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the AT Management Committee.

3B. RELOCATION WITHIN THE AT CORRIDOR

Management Principles

1. Trail relocations should be used to minimize and eliminate road walks, as solutions for hiker safety, to reduce resource degradation, to minimize future management problems, to bypass flooded area and to improve the hiking experience.
2. Trail relocations should not diminish, nor detract from, the primitive quality of the Trail. Relocations should be equal to, or better than--in terms of treadway and visitor experience--the existing location. Relocations should not be justified on a basis of abandoning the existing problem and creating a similar one in a different location. Care should be taken to remediate and close the former footpath where relocation is necessary due to resource degradation and to prevent continued use.

Action Plan

1. All Trail relocations on state owned land will be decided upon jointly by the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the AT Committee.
2. Confirm that a relocation is needed for permanent improvement in the footpath, to improve hiker safety, protect the natural resource or provide a permanent solution to an ongoing maintenance or management problem.
3. Verify that sufficient land or interest in land has been acquired for public access and verify boundaries on public land involved in the relocation via survey maps and field visits.
4. The proposed relocation will be scouted and flagged by an experienced trail volunteer and AMC and/or DCR staff. ATC will be notified and asked to comment on any significant trail relocations.
5. State and federal regulations (including the National Environmental Policy Act) will be met when applicable. This shall include all relocations on NPS lands, including relocations through any areas having sensitive habitats such as wetlands, areas containing inventoried Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species, or when significant ground disturbance is contemplated. Sites of cultural or historical interest shall also be considered when planning relocations.
6. Determine if the local maintainer is experienced enough and willing to undertake the needed construction, or if AT Committee help is needed. Coordinate work on major relocations that will involve resources from outside the Committee.
7. Consider the following related Trail issues: location of overnight facilities, parking, trailheads, water sources and side trails.
8. DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and/or the AT Committee will notify local fire departments and police of any major trail relocation. (See Chapter 4).
9. The Committee will identify and prioritize planned relocations as part of the Trail Assessment or five-year plan.
10. The Committee will map major relocations or advise ATC of a relocation requiring mapping.

3C. MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

Management Principles

1. The AT Committee is the principal agent in maintaining and managing the Trail in Massachusetts and can elicit assistance from agency partners and management partners as needed.
2. Maintenance responsibility is delegated by the AMC Berkshire Chapter to the AT Committee.

3. Maintenance and construction will be performed in accordance with the standards set forth in the ATC stewardship manual, "Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance". Local modifications in these standards must be approved by the AT Committee and the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation.
4. Care shall be taken to identify NPS-inventoried Rare, Threatened or Endangered plant and animal species near the treadway. Maintainers and construction project leaders will follow ATC recommendations to protect any such species at or near the work area.

Action Plan

1. Inspection of the condition of the Trail is the responsibility of the AT Committee, and will be performed at regular intervals.
2. The AT Committee organizes the selection and training of volunteer maintainers for each section of trail. Maintainers are responsible for maintaining clear blazes, removing litter, keeping the pathway clear, housekeeping of overnight sites, clearing drainage structures of debris and minor trail hardening.
3. Maintainers are further responsible for identifying and reporting to their Coordinator any problems or recommendations that are beyond their abilities to carry out. Maintainer Coordinators and the AT Committee will use this information to establish a schedule of work parties each season to complete major footpath projects. (See Chapter 8, AT Committee Action Plans.)

3D. OVERNIGHT USE FACILITIES

Management Principles

1. Shelters and designated campsites shall be located at approximately one-day hiking intervals and situated for minimum environmental impact, as well as to discourage abuse, vandalism and littering.
2. Camping is allowed only in designated shelters and camping areas.
3. Siting for overnight facilities will be decided upon by the AT Committee, and management partners.
4. All overnight sites will be located and constructed in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the ATC "Checklist for the Location, Design and Construction of Shelters and Campsites", "Backcountry Facilities: Design and Maintenance", by Leonard, Spencer and Plumley, and other authoritative resources. All backcountry overnight facilities will be in compliance with appropriate local, state and federal regulations.

5. Fires will be permitted only at designated areas (fire rings); only fallen wood will be permitted for fires. Backpacking stoves are preferred. Fires are not permitted at the following locations: Laurel Ridge Campsite. When necessary, due to drought, disease, resource damage or other environmental or public safety factors, fires may be prohibited at any or all overnight sites and on Trail Corridor lands by the AT Committee with approval of DCR and/or NPS.
6. The length of stay at an overnight location is limited to two consecutive nights.
7. All shelters and designated campsites will have privies. See 3(J) Sanitation
8. Shelters should be located as far as practical from points of vehicular access, the Trail footpath, and at least 200 feet from streams, ponds, lakes and corridor boundaries.
9. Shelters will be constructed using wood as the predominant building material. Efforts will be made to blend the structure into the surrounding environment.
10. Shelters should be sited so as to minimize resource damage by concentrating environmental and social impacts of overnight visitors
11. Registers will be maintained at all shelters and designated campsites. Appropriate signage will direct visitors to water sources and privies.
12. Initial proposals for new shelters or campsites must be addressed to the AT Committee. Proposals for new facilities on National Park Service lands must be reviewed by the NPS AT Park Office and ATC for need and compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act. Proposals for shelters or campsites on state land will be similarly reviewed by the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation.
13. All designated overnight use areas will be shown on maps in Appendix A-1.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will assign a coordinator to be responsible for overall maintenance of shelters and designated camping areas. The Coordinator will seek volunteer shelter adopters to assist in the upkeep and maintenance of overnight facilities.
2. Facilities will be inspected semi-annually by trail maintainers or shelter adopters.
3. Trail maintainers or shelter adopters will visually inspect trees at overnight use areas and arrange for removal of any visibly diseased, dead or dying trees (hazard trees) within 75 feet of designated overnight sites. The AT Committee and the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will assist in the removal of hazard trees upon request.

4. For new shelter proposals on NPS lands, the AT Committee will provide detailed plans and site information to the NPS AT Park Office who will assist them in their preparation of an environmental assessment of the proposed site, in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). A similar review process will apply to proposals on state owned lands. This information will be provided to NPS at least six months prior to the anticipated date of site preparation or construction.

Table 3-1 Overnight Sites

Miles S of VT	Site Name	Built Year	Est. Cap.	Constr. Type (P&B+Post & Beam)	Roof Material	Privy Type	Informal Tentsites	Tent Pads/Pltf	Access Tr.
2.3	Sherman Brook					pit		3	0.10
7.1	Wilbur Clearing	1970	8	Stick Built	Onduline	pit	4	2	0.30
13.7	Mark Noepel	1985	16	P&B w/ Loft	Onduline	pit	2	2	0.20
22.7	Crystal Mountain					pit	4	0	0.20
30.4	Kay Wood	1980	12	P&B w/ Loft	Onduline	pit	2	0	0.20
39.2	October Mountain	1980	12	P&B w/ Loft	Onduline	pit	4	0	0.00
48	Upper Goose Pond		20	Stick Built	Onduline	2,moldering	0	5	0.50
57.9	Shaker					pit	2	2	0.00
62	Mt. Wilcox North	c1930	10	Log	Onduline	pit	3	0	0.30
62.8	Mt. Wilcox South	c1930	6	Log	Onduline	pit	0	4	0.10
69.1	Tom Leonard	1970	16	P&B w/ Loft	Onduline	pit	2	1	0.10
0.4	Glen Brook	1978	6	P&B single storey	Onduline	pit	6	2	0.20
83.5	The Hemlocks	1999	10	P&B w/ Loft	Onduline	moldering	2	0	0.10
85.3	Race Brook Falls					moldering	3	3	0.40
88.2	Laurel Ridge	2001				moldering	1	8	0.00

3E. BLAZES AND SIGNS

Management Principles

1. Blazes and signs will be kept to a minimum, consistent with prudent land management and hiker safety, to retain the primitive character of the Trail. Signs and blazes are meant to direct hikers onto the footpath, protect the natural resources of the Trail environs, educate hikers about appropriate backcountry use, inform hikers about site-specific regulations, direct hikers to shelters, campsites and side trails, and provide emergency information.

Action Plan

1. The AT Management Committee, and it's trail adopters in cooperation with DCR will be responsible for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of signs along the AT.
2. The Trail will be blazed according to ATC standards with a vertical 2" X 6" crisply painted white blaze. Cairns or posts will be used in treeless areas in addition to blazing.
3. Side foot-trails for access to the AT, alternate routes that may be used during bad weather, and trails to off-trail overnight sites will be identified by 2" x 6" vertical blue blazes.
4. Offset double blazes will be used to signify direction changes.
5. Regulatory signs will be developed cooperatively with the land-managing agency partners (DCR and NPS), and will be posted and maintained by the AT Committee.
6. Access information signs shall be located where parking is provided.
7. Signage will be kept to a minimum.
8. Signs will be provided at shelters, designated campsites, trail junctions, trailhead kiosks and for direction to other areas that are not directly visible from the footpath.
9. Permanent AT signs will be brown-stained with white routed letters. Signs for temporary use such as relocations, logging operations, and wildlife activity may be of a variety of materials, and will be removed promptly when no longer needed.
10. The content and format for state highway crossing signs will be coordinated with the Massachusetts Highway Department.
11. Leave No Trace© or similar signs will be installed at parking areas and shelters.
12. Official NPS Appalachian National Scenic Trail signs ("pregnant triangles") will be posted on town roads at trail crossings.
13. All other signs not approved or maintained by the AT Committee shall be removed promptly.

3F. PARKING AND TRAILHEAD FACILITIES

Management Principle

Adequate parking is a necessity for use of the AT. Designated parking areas can control how much use the trail receives, and provides the first chance to educate trail visitors via kiosk signage. Parking areas should provide a safe location to leave a vehicle and should be monitored for litter and vandalism regularly.

Action Plan

1. Use of approved private and municipal parking areas will be encouraged before consideration is given to construction of new areas.
2. Parking will be provided at designated trailheads and access trails. Responsibility for construction will be determined jointly on a case by case basis by the AT Committee and the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation.
3. Planning for parking facilities should include appropriate federal, state and local agencies. Before any new parking areas are developed, careful study should be made of the actual space needed, safety requirements, town, state, and trail neighbor concerns and impacts on the trail and nearby overnight facilities. State and federal environmental policies and regulations shall be followed.
4. The size of parking areas will be kept to the minimum necessary for adequate parking in accordance with the character of the Trail.
5. A list of parking areas and trailheads is provided in Table 3-2, below.
6. Parking areas will be identified by appropriate signs.
7. The AT Committee will work with local agencies to provide law enforcement and litter removal at trailhead parking.
8. Parking area locations shall be forwarded to entities publishing trail guides.
9. Where practical, sign boards (kiosks) shall be erected in or near parking areas to provide trail visitors with information on appropriate use, facts about the nearby section of trail, and emergency contact information. A standard set of signs for trailhead parking kiosks will be developed.
10. Parking areas should be visible from the main road so as to discourage vandalism.
11. Along busy roads, highway safety engineers should be contacted for designing and approving proposed parking.

12. On NPS lands, the Appalachian Trail Park Office will be contacted to conduct an environmental assessment prior to construction of new parking areas. A similar process will be initiated for projects on state-owned lands

Table 3-2 Parking Areas

Location, Dist Fr. AT, Trail East/West	Dist , VT Line	Description	Est. Cap.	Day/Overnight	Ownership	Notes
Mass Avenue	3.8	Side of Street	2	Day	Public	
Rt 2,100Yds East	4.1	Greylock Comm. Club	8	Overnight/Long Term	Private	Obtain Permission
Pattison Rd	5	Gravel Lot	5	Day	Public	
Notch Rd., 300yds W	7.2	Gravel Lot	10	Day	DCR, Mt. Greylock	
Mt. Greylock Summit	10.4	Paved	75	Day/Overnight	DCR, Mt. Greylock	\$2 Fee
Notch Rd. 50 yds E	10.9	Gravel	6	Day	DCR, Mt. Greylock	
Rockwell Rd, 20yds E	11.1	Gravel	4	Day	DCR, Mt. Greylock	
Rt. 8, Cheshire	18.1	Grass	2	Day	NPS	
RailRoad St., Cheshire	18.6	Paved	50	Day	DCR, Rail Trail	
Gulf Rd., Dalton	26.4	Gravel, Kiosk	5	Day/Overnight	Public	Not Rec. for Overnight Use
Grange Hall Rd, Dalton	30.1	Wide Shoulder	2	Day	Public	
Blotz Rd.	33.8	Gravel	3	Day/Overnight	Public	Not Rec. for Overnight Use
Pittsfield Rd. (Washington Mtn Rd)	37	Gravel	6	Day/Overnight	Public	Not Rec. for Overnight Use
West Branch Rd.	38.5	Dirt. Shoulder	2	Day	DCR, Oct Mtn SF	
County Rd.	41	Dirt	2	Day	DCR, Oct Mtn SF	
Rt 20, 200yds W	46.4	Gravel	6	Day/Overnight	Mass Highway	
Goose Pond Rd. 50yds East	48.8	Gravel	4	Day/Overnight	NPS Property	
Tyringham Main Rd., 50yd W	55	Grass	2	Day	Public	

Tyringham Cobble, Jerusalem Rd., 200yds West	56.1	Gravel	8	Day	Trustees of Reservations	
Beartown Mtn Rd. 20yd W	61.4	Dirt. Shoulder	3	Day/Overnight	DCR, Beartown SF	Not Rec. for Overnight Use
Benedict Pond, 0.5m W	65.1	Gravel	50	Day/Overnight	DCR, Beartown SF	\$2 Fee
Mass Rt 23	67.1	Dirt, Kiosk	6	Day/Overnight	DCR, Beartown SF	
Lake Buel Rd.	68	Gravel, Kiosk	5	Day/Overnight	NPS Property	
Homes Rd.	72.6	Dirt. Shoulder	2	Day	Public	
South Egremont Rd	77.3	Gravel, Kiosk	4	Day/Overnight	NPS Property	
Jug End Rd. (Curtiss Rd.)	80	Dirt. Shoulder	2	Day		
Mt Everett Access Rd.	83.9	Gravel	6	Day/Overnight	DCR, Mt Everett	Access Rd. currently closed
Rt 41, Race Brook Falls Tr., 1.0m East	85.3	Paved, Kiosk	6	Day/Overnight	DCR, Jug End	
Rt 41, Undermountain Tr. 1.5m East	91.8	Gravel, Connecticut	8	Day/Overnight	CT Trails Committee	

3G DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES AND WATER QUALITY

Management Principle

The AT Committee will make an effort to protect the quality of water along the Trail and on Corridor lands, but will not guarantee the potable quality of any backcountry water supplies along the footpath. Providing for safe drinking water is the responsibility of the individual hiker. The AT Committee recommends appropriate treatment of drinking water from all backcountry sources.

Action Plan

1. Signs at publicized water sources shall read "water" only, not "drinking water" or other similar text.
2. Brochures and informational signs will indicate that purity of water is not guaranteed, and that all water from natural sources along the Trail should be boiled, filtered, or chemically treated before use.
3. Water sources that are identified will normally be maintained by the AT Committee in an undeveloped condition. Some may be improved minimally by construction of a catch basin or spring box to improve the collection of water. Any major improvements will comply with the policies of the appropriate land managing agency.
4. Campsites, shelters and privies shall be located at least 200' from water sources.

3H. THE SIDE TRAIL SYSTEM See Appendix A-5(a)

Management Principles

Hiking side trails provide important access to the AT and alternative hiking areas. Hiking trails on public lands that intersect the AT shall be blazed with blue markers or paint blazes. Side trails also include specific alternate "bad weather" routes that may be more easily traveled in some weather conditions than the official white blazed footpath.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee and the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will maintain a list of hiking side trails to the AT to be appended in this Management Plan. See Appendix 5(a).
2. The AT Committee and the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will review the status of each side trail as to its physical condition and public access. Where the physical condition merits improvement, the AT Committee may take appropriate action, with landowner's permission. Volunteers or DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation adopt-a-trail workers may be assigned to maintain these side trails.

3. Proposals for new side trails will be reviewed by the AT Committee, DCR/NPS and evaluated using the same standard as Chapter 3, sections A and B.
4. Unauthorized side trails on State or NPS lands will be closed.
5. Proposals to close existing side trails will be reviewed by the AT Committee and the appropriate agency partners.
6. All side trails (including multi use trails that cross the AT) will be inventoried.
7. The Committee will work to close or relocate existing side trails that negatively impact the hiking experience or natural resources within the trail corridor.

3I. BRIDGES AND STREAM CROSSINGS

Management Principles

1. A simple, well-designed ford or a few step stones suffice for most stream crossings during all or most of the year, except after heavy rains or spring runoff. Others cannot be safely crossed without bridging. Bridges are, however, expensive and need frequent maintenance. Bridges may be installed to improve hiker safety, enhance the hiking experience, or protect environmentally fragile or sensitive areas from impacts from hikers.
2. It should be recognized that not all stream crossings require bridges. Hikers should exercise appropriate care and judgment and are responsible for their own safety. Un-bridged crossings may not be passable at all water levels.
3. New bridges must meet ATPO and ATC standards of design, construction and inspection.
4. Prior to the construction of new bridges on NPS lands, compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is required.

Action Plan

1. Due to the high cost of installation and maintenance, and the emphasis in maintaining natural, primitive surroundings, bridges will be kept to a minimum. When possible, considering the nature of the stream crossing, stream flow characteristics and use of the Trail section, natural fords are the preferred type of crossing.
2. When bridges are needed, they will be of the minimum standard necessary and as aesthetic and unobtrusive as possible while being safe and durable under normal conditions.
3. On National Park Service (NPS) lands, bridges 35' or longer shall be reviewed and approved and inspected by a qualified civil engineer, at the time of installation or replacement. On Massachusetts State lands, all bridges 20' or longer shall be approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Division of Parks and Recreation at the time of installation or replacement. (The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is able to provide maintaining

clubs with approved Bridge Designs as well as technical information) Bridges will be inspected annually by the maintainer, with repairs or replacement made as necessary.

3J. BACKCOUNTRY SANITATION

Management Principles

Facilities for the safe disposal of human waste will be provided at every overnight facility, and maintained in working order.

They will be maintained by volunteers from the AT Committee or DCR staff as necessary.

Where possible, privies will be of the “mouldering” or “composting” variety described in the ATC “Back Country Sanitation Manual”.

Action Plan

1. Privies will be inspected regularly for soundness and their future capacity estimated.
2. Privies will be moved and/or maintained as necessary to prevent overfilling.

3K. MANAGING THE TRAIL FOR A PRIMITIVE EXPERIENCE (See ATC Policy Appendix 7(d))

Management Principles

The Massachusetts AT Committee should take into account the effects of Trail management and maintenance programs and policies on the primitive and natural qualities of the Appalachian Trail and the primitive recreational experience the Trail is intended to provide. Although these guidelines are intended to apply primarily to the effects of actions or programs on predominantly natural, wild, and remote environments along the Trail, they may apply to certain pastoral, cultural, and rural landscapes as well. Even in sections of the Trail that do not pass through remote or primitive landscapes, care should be taken not to inadvertently overdevelop or improve the Trail tread or facilities in these environments.

Trail improvements, including shelters, privies, bridges, and other facilities, should be constructed only when appropriate to protect the resource or provide a minimum level of public safety. Design and construction of these facilities should reflect an awareness of, and harmony with the Trail's primitive qualities. Materials and design features should emphasize simplicity and not detract from the predominant sense of a natural, primitive environment.

The Trail treadway, when constructed, reconstructed, or relocated, should wear lightly on the land and be built primarily to provide greater protection for the Trail footpath or Trail resource values. Trail-management publications should include appropriate references to the potential effects of Trail-management activities on the primitive qualities of the Trail.

In developing programs to maintain open areas, improve water sources, provide sanitation, remove structures, and construct bridges, signs, trailheads, and other facilities, Trail managers should consider whether a proposed action or program will have an adverse effect on the primitive qualities of the Trail, and, if such effects are identified, whether the action or program is appropriate.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will take appropriate measures to protect the primitive quality of the Trail.
2. Trail improvements, both treadway and structural, will be constructed only when appropriate, and will be done in a simple and unobtrusive way. Criteria for improvements will be based on natural resource management decisions and public safety.
3. Shelters and privies will be simple by design and will be built to best protect the resource.
4. Care will be taken to maintain a certain level of solitude and challenge for the hiker.
5. The Committee will evaluate all AT projects considering these questions:
 - Is this project necessary?
 - Does it protect the AT Corridor?
 - Is it in harmony with the natural environment?
 - Can it be accomplished in a less obtrusive manner?
 - Is this a long-term solution to the initial problem?
 - Is the resource being damaged under the current condition?
 - Will the primitive backcountry be degraded?

3L. TRAIL CREW SAFETY AND SKILLS TRAINING

Management Principles

AT Committee field project leaders will make the safety of themselves, crew members and the hiking public their first priority.

Action Plan

1. All field work projects will have a leader
2. Field project leaders will have the necessary training and experience to lead a group on routine trail projects. The AT Committee will provide for training or outside leaders for projects requiring skills not held by the Committee. For example: high line rock transport, chain saw use.
3. The AT Committee in conjunction with agency partners will provide opportunities for field work training sessions or workshops conducted by qualified persons on a regular basis.
4. Persons performing field work will follow all applicable State and Federal safety regulations. Chain saw work will be performed by, or under the direct field supervision of, a sawyer holding current ATC certification of Class B or higher (See Section M below).

5. All project leaders must meet Leadership Guidelines as adopted by the AT Committee (See Appendix 8(a)).
6. Injuries from field work must be reported to ATC/NPS within 24 hours using forms provided by ATPO.
7. Injury claim forms will be distributed to all maintainers, corridor monitors and work project leaders.

3M. CHAINSAW AND CROSSCUT SAW USE AND CERTIFICATION (SEE APPENDIX 7G)

Management Principles

1. Appalachian Trail workers have primary responsibility for their own personal safety and for compliance with the requirements for chain-saw and crosscut-saw operators. This includes valid First Aid/CPR certification and USFS/OSHA approved personal protective gear.
2. Appropriate training and safety equipment will be provided for volunteers engaging in trail maintenance or other work projects requiring the use of chain saws or cross cut saws.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee requires all persons performing field work with chainsaws and crosscut saws on AT lands or related projects to hold a Class B or better ATC certification, or be under the supervision of a B-certified or higher, qualified instructor. NOTE: for volunteers to be covered by VIP, they must have this certification for working anywhere on the AT regardless of land ownership.
2. With the assistance of the ATC, the AT Committee will seek to provide opportunities, and when possible, funding for volunteers to attend certification classes in the region.
3. The AT Committee will not require volunteer trail maintainers to hold sawyer certification to perform their routine duties. The Committee will support and make available a sufficient number of Class B (or higher) certified volunteer sawyers to address trail maintenance tasks that require chain saw or cross cut saw use.
4. DCR, to the extent of its available resources, will make available State-trained sawyers for large or complex tree felling and/or removal problems as requested by the AT Committee.

CHAPTER 4—VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Overview

1. Use of the trail and trail facilities will be managed with the primary objective of preserving the primitive nature of the trail experience and the sense of solitary communion with nature. Where these principals have been eroded, actions will be taken to restore them.
2. Use of the trail and trail facilities will also be managed with the objective of preserving the trail's natural and cultural resources.
3. Areas with heavy use or significant group use will be closely monitored, and measures will be taken to minimize--or where necessary to reduce—impacts from high use to acceptable levels.
4. Data will be gathered on trail and trail facility use from Registers, data collected by Ridge Runners and other available sources. Periodically, the data will be analyzed and presented to the Committee.

4A. SEARCH AND RESCUE

Management Principles

1. In Massachusetts, Search and Rescue is the mandated responsibility of the Massachusetts State Police. The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service are to be notified as soon as possible by the State Police regarding any search and rescue operations on AT Lands.
2. Limited manpower for Search and Rescue is available from the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation, local emergency response aid and other sources known to the Berkshire County Communications Center.
3. Although having no legal authority or responsibility for Search and Rescue, AT Committee volunteers with specific information about sections of the AT and AT Lands may be available to assist in search and rescue efforts.

Action Plan

1. Topographic maps with Trail locations and emergency access routes can be provided to the Massachusetts State Police and the Division of Law Enforcement by the AT Committee and the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation.
2. The AT Committee will assist whenever possible in the search and rescue procedures developed by the Massachusetts State Police, Division of Law Enforcement, and DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation. (A list of contacts is provided in Appendix A2 and A4).
3. Emergency phone numbers for appropriate AT management agencies are provided in Appendix 4. (Appalachian Trail Conservancy Directory).

4. The Committee will notify ATC and ATPO of any known emergencies and incidents on the Trail and corridor lands within 24 hours.

4B. FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION

Management Principles

1. The local and/or state fire chief or warden has jurisdiction over all lands within his/her municipality, including State property and NPS lands.
2. The NPS has completed a fire management plan (FMP) for the lands administered by the NPS in Massachusetts. The plan is a suppression only plan, meaning that any fires on NPS-AT lands, whether ignited by humans or weather, will be put out. Working with state and local wildland firefighting resources, the NPS will encourage responders to use minimum impact suppression techniques (MIST) and to consult with the NPS to reduce impacts to cultural and natural resources to the greatest degree possible. A letter from the Appalachian Trail Park Office explaining implementation of the FMP is included in Appendix 5(g).

Action Plan

1. Topographic maps with the location of the Trail and Corridor lands will be provided to local fire chiefs by the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and/or the AT Committee.
2. Use of camp stoves instead of campfires will be encouraged through on-going educational programs.
3. The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation has developed plans addressing rules and regulations for the use of fires on the AT corridor, CMR 15.15 (Appendix 5(e)).
4. The AT Committee has no legal responsibility to respond to fire emergencies. However, the Committee will work with ATC, ATPO, DCR, and other state and local agencies to prepare emergency plans, and is willing to supply information to the responding agencies in fire emergencies.
5. Through signage and contacts with Ridge Runners and trail volunteers, the Committee will impart information to Trail visitors on the safe and appropriate use of campfires at designated overnight sites.

4C. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Management Principles

1. The NPS corridor in Massachusetts is considered as "proprietary jurisdiction". The federal government has limited jurisdiction and the state government has superior jurisdiction in almost all criminal matters. The NPS relies heavily on state and local officials to enforce state and local

laws on NPS property. These agencies include state and local police, the Division of Law Enforcement and Division of State Parks and Recreation (DCR Park Rangers). Enforcement of laws affecting private individuals and personal property on all trail corridor lands is primarily the responsibility of the Massachusetts State Police and local law enforcement agencies. Prosecution and investigation of misdemeanor criminal activity on NPS lands is the responsibility of NPS in cooperation with State and local agencies.

2. DCR Park Rangers are personnel of the Division of State Parks and Recreation who have been trained specifically to enforce Division rules and regulations. They cannot be considered as ordinary police because their jurisdiction is limited by statute.
3. State and local law enforcement agencies have the primary responsibility for responding to and prosecuting crimes that occur on the AT or directly affect its hikers. ATC, AMC and the AT Committee will cooperate in facilitating responses, but have no legal authority.
4. Hikers are encouraged to report incidents that threaten their security to local law enforcement agencies, recognizing that hikers themselves are ultimately responsible for their own safety and comfort.
5. NPS Rangers may legally enforce Federal regulations on NPS lands.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will work with the NPS and DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation to initiate and continue meetings with the various agencies to discuss coordination of law enforcement responses on the Appalachian Trail.
2. Clauses C and F in the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding (See Appendix 3) define the enforcement roles of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law and the Massachusetts Department of State Police. The AT Committee, through DCR will update these management partners regarding changes in the trail and its facilities on an annual basis

4D. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Management Principle

Education is the preferred tool for management of the trail and, whenever possible should precede enforcement. Education efforts inform the public on how to travel safely on the Trail, and how to use the Trail without damaging natural and cultural resources. The main goal of this effort is to increase awareness of the AT as a national public resource, and teach low impact use of the Trail and the surrounding resource. The Committee recognizes the need to educate local communities about the AT to encourage proper use of the Trail and to generate enthusiasm and local support for the Trail.

Action Plan

1. The Committee will educate the public for the need to minimize their impact on natural and cultural resources along the trail through publications, press releases, field programs, public outreach, Ridgerunners, public presentations, etc.
2. Ridgerunner Program: An effective method to support these public information and education goals is the Ridgerunner Program. The basic principle of this program is to have appropriately trained people on the Trail to meet and educate visitors on low impact use, and disseminate information about the AT and its local maintaining clubs to visitors. They also report on particular conditions and use patterns on the trail and overnight sites.
 - a. At present, the Connecticut AMC paid Ridgerunners provide coverage to Sage's Ravine and north to Jug End when resources are available as part of their regular duties.
 - b. As funding allows, The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation hires 2 seasonal Ridgerunners to cover the Trail from Laurel Ridge Campsite to the Vermont state line. Efforts will be made to ensure that funding will be available, so this DCR Ridgerunner Program can continue.
 - c. Following a similar program in Connecticut, paid and volunteer weekend Ridgerunners, are fielded to specific overnight sites and adjacent sections of trail in Massachusetts to supplement the AMC and DCR Ridgerunners during times of high use. This effort is supported in part by the AT Committee and managed through the AMC Regional Office.
3. Trail Education: The AT Committee, ATC, DCR Division of Forests and Parks, and the AMC are committed to hiker education and will continue to expand and coordinate public outreach programs to groups such as scouts, schools, hiking clubs, and environmental organizations about proper trail use and low impact techniques.
4. Trail Program Coordination: The AMC has established a regional office for trail program coordination for Connecticut and Massachusetts. This office, under the direction of the AMC Regional Trails Coordinator, oversees programs for volunteer trail maintenance, AMC Ridegrunners, publications and community relations. These responsibilities are implemented in consultation with the AT Committee and the other Trail management partners.
5. ATC Guidebook: A guide and map to the AT in Massachusetts and Connecticut are published by the ATC, and updated about every three years. The field editor is selected for each edition by the Publications Committee of the ATC. The AT Committee, the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the AMC cooperate fully in producing this guide.
6. Other Guidebooks: The AT Committee assists other guidebook publishers with accurate information regarding the Appalachian Trail.
7. AT Brochures: The AT Committee will review the use of brochures and/or pamphlets as a means of education and volunteer recruitment. These brochures are reviewed jointly by the DCR State Parks and Recreation and the AT Committee before publication. Trail publications will encourage responsible backcountry use by trail visitors, and encourage volunteer participation in trail maintenance, corridor monitoring and other Committee activities.

8. Trailhead kiosks will be utilized to disseminate information on trails, Leave No Trace®, volunteer efforts, and emergency contact information.

4E. FISHING AND HUNTING

Management Principle

The AT Committee will work with the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation to ensure the safety of hikers on all portions of the AT during hunting seasons.

On State-owned Corridor Lands:

Management Principles

1. Fishing and hunting are considered compatible uses and will be permitted as per state and local laws.

Action Plan

1. Local (Town/City/State) Offices will have hunting season publications and schedules by region. Hikers have the responsibility to familiarize themselves with this information during hunting season. Hunting season information should be posted on trailhead kiosks.
2. The AT Committee and DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will encourage trail users and volunteers to be aware of local hunting seasons and take appropriate precautions, such as wearing blaze orange.

On National Park Service Lands

Management Principles

1. National Park Service regulations, as revised in July 1984, prohibit hunting on any Park Service lands, including those purchased for AT protection.
2. Fishing is allowed on NPS lands. Appropriate state licenses must be obtained and regulations observed.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will post signs prohibiting hunting on selected sections of NPS lands as needed.
2. Although hunting is prohibited, on NPS lands, the Committee urges all trail visitors to wear blaze orange during hunting season regardless of where they are hiking.

4F. LIABILITY

Management Principles

1. The AT hiker is expected to be self-reliant. The AT Committee makes every effort to make the trail and trail structures as safe as possible, without reducing the primitive, backcountry experience of the Appalachian Trail. The Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee takes no responsibility for the AT visitor.
2. The volunteers with the AT Committee of the Berkshire Chapter AMC are covered while performing work on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail against tort claims through the "Volunteers in the Parks" (VIP) agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Volunteers must comply with appropriate NPS regulations to be covered under this agreement. (See Appendix 7(a), N.P.S. Policy).
3. Landowners receive limited protection from liability in Massachusetts when they offer their land for free dispersed recreational use under current Massachusetts Law. (Massachusetts: Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. Ch. 21, Section 17C) Refer to Appendix-8(a)

4G GROUP USE

Management Principles

1. For purposes of this section, group use is considered to be a number of hikers traveling together sponsored by an organization and under the leadership of one or more people. See Management Principles outlined at the beginning of this Chapter for more information.
2. The AT is a popular destination for groups of hikers of all kinds. Large groups can have a significant negative impact on the experience of other trail visitors seeking a remote backcountry experience and the natural resources of the trail. Group size should be limited to respect the needs of all trail visitors. Conduct of groups on the trail should respect other trail visitors. The AT Committee supports and will promote the following principals:
 - Overnight groups shall be no larger than 10.
 - Day use groups shall be no larger than 25.
 - Where provided, overnight groups shall stay at sites that can accommodate them.
 - a. Paradise Lane/Sages Ravine (CT AT Committee)
 - b. Laurel Ridge
 - c. Glen Brook
 - d. Race Brook Falls
 - e. Other future group use areas
 - Use tent platforms and group area, not shelters.
 - "Quiet time", 8pm to 7am

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee through the AMC Regional Office and DCR will contact as many groups as possible to educate them about appropriate use of the trail and overnight facilities
2. The AT Committee, AMC and DCR will publicly make available information regarding group use.
3. AMC and DCR Ridgerunners will greet groups on the trail, find out if they have received group use information, and record the contact info of the sponsoring entity for future updates. They will also monitor use of the trail and overnight sites and report any concerns to their supervisors.
4. The AT Committee will post information regarding group size limits and guidelines at trail head kiosks and sign boards.

4H. KIOSKS AND SIGNBOARDS (Appalachian Trail Message Centers)

Management Principals

1. Information for visitor safety, resource protection, trail updates, emergency information and volunteer trail opportunities will be posted on signboards or kiosks at major parking areas and trail heads. Trail related business may post information on these structures provided it does not obscure or contradict official information. The AT Committee's decision is final regarding the suitability of any commercial postings.
2. NPS Policy prohibits advertising on NPS trail corridor lands. (See Appendix 4(j))

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will approve, design, erect and maintain all Kiosks and Signboards, unless it specifically grants that responsibility to other groups.
2. The AT Committee, through its trail maintainers, will monitor the use of the signboards and remove or update information as necessary.
3. DCR will provide necessary State Parks and Recreation information signs, such as hunting seasons, emergency contact information, and State Park regulations.
4. Table 4-1 is a listing of current signboards.

Table 4-1--Kiosk/Signboard Locations

Location	Dist Fr. VT Bdr.	Land ownership/Kiosk maintenance responsibility
Rt 2, Greylock Community Club Parking Area	4.1	Private/AT Committee
Notch Rd Parking Area	7.2	Maintained by DCR, Mt Greylock
School St., Cheshire	18.6	Public/AT Committee
Gulf Rd., Dalton	26.4	DCR/AT Committee
Rt 20, Becket	46.4	Mass Highway, Installed by Jacob's Ladder Highway AT side of sign maintained by AT Committee
Rt 23, Great Barrington	67.1	DCR/AT Committee
Lake Buel Rd, Great Barrington	68	NPS/AT Committee
South Egremont Rd, Sheffield	77.3	NPS/AT Committee
Rt 41, Race Brook Falls Trailhead	NA	DCR/AT Committee

4I. LEAVE NO TRACE© EDUCATION

Management Principals

1. Leave No Trace© principals are excellent guides for appropriate backcountry use and behavior. Effort should be made to provide local Leave No Trace© training for trail volunteers, group leaders, trail visitors and the general public on a regular basis.

Action Plan

1. Working with ATC and AMC, the AT Committee will sponsor and arrange facilities for LNT training, and encourage trail volunteers to participate in such sessions.
2. Ridgerunners will use LNT Guidelines when communicating with trail visitors.

4J. ADVERTISING ON TRAIL LANDS

Management Principals

1. The backcountry setting is not an appropriate place for any advertising. Advertising may be appropriate in some “front country” locations along the AT, provided it is in keeping with other existing forms of communication.
2. NPS regulations prohibit advertising on NPS Trail Corridor lands.

Action Plan

1. Advertising is limited to certain trailhead and parking areas only, and must meet the approval of the AT Committee
2. Advertising is not permitted along the treadway, at shelters or overnight sites, or at trailheads and parking areas unless it is on official sign boards or kiosks.
3. The AT Committee directs trail maintainers and Ridgerunners to remove and dispose of all advertising, except where permitted.
4. Certain life safety and health information such as emergency contact info, GPS coordinates, and notification regarding unusual animal behavior is not considered advertising, and is permitted at shelters and campsites and other locations. The AT Committee will review and approve the design, placement and posting of this type of information. (See Blazes and Signs, 3E, and ATC Policy for Advertising on the Trail, Appendix 7(e))

4K POLICY ON MINIMUM IMPACT BACKCOUNTRY USE (As adopted by ATC Board of Directors in November 1998)

Management Principle

The Massachusetts AT Committee supports the ACT Policy on minimum impact use of the trail, which states:

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy actively supports the Leave No Trace© (LNT) philosophy as a means of reducing the impact of AT visitors on the Trail environment. The Conservancy will work with LNT, Inc., Trail-maintaining clubs, and agency partners to develop programs, brochures, signs, and other materials that convey the LNT message to Appalachian Trail users. Where appropriate, ATC guidebooks, maps, and other publications will carry a LNT message. Although ATC believes that communications with hikers should occur primarily through guidebooks and other literature distributed off the Trail, ATC encourages Ridgerunners, caretakers, and volunteer and professional AT managers and maintainers to follow LNT guidelines while on the Trail and to take every opportunity to educate others. ATC in particular supports efforts to develop and disseminate materials that are directed at inexperienced or novice backpackers and hikers, in that the behaviors and actions of those Trail visitors are likely to have a disproportionate impact upon the Trail.’

4L NON-HIKING RECREATIONAL USE OF CORRIDOR LANDS (SEE APPENDIX 7(h))

Management Principles

1. The Appalachian Trail is intended as a footpath open to any and all who travel by foot.
2. Except for isolated instances where historically recognized non-conforming uses are allowed by legislative authority, the footpath and adjacent lands acquired and managed for the trail are not to be used for any other purpose.
3. Other recreational uses of the AT and Corridor lands may be compatible if they do not require any modification of design and construction standards, cause damage to the treadway or trail

facilities, require an engine or motor, do not diminish the opportunity for solitude, do not detract from a sense of the remote, or adversely affect the Trail experience.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee with its management partners will seek through means outlined in other sections and chapters of this Plan to
 - Monitor lands facilities and the footpath for misuse
 - Monitor and review Special Use Permits
 - Educate the general public and trail visitors on appropriate use of trail lands and facilities
 - Preserve a primitive trail experience for all visitors

CHAPTER 5—Resource Management

Overview

The Appalachian Trail, as the nation's foremost National Scenic Trail, is a resource of greater significance than simply the main footpath. While the protection and maintenance of the footpath remains the primary consideration in the management of the Appalachian Trail and its corridor, natural resource management is a key component to this effort. The outstanding natural, scenic and cultural resources of the Appalachian Trail Lands enhance a visitor's experience of the Trail. Thus, the Appalachian Trail must be regarded as more than a mere footpath, but as a contiguous zone of protected lands with extraordinary--and often rare--natural resources of national significance.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), in its constitution, has included the preservation and restoration of the natural environment as an integral management component of its mission. Thus, the Trail is seen as a means to conserve the surrounding environment as a natural resource. Natural resources include a vast array of scenic landscapes, fragile and rare habitats, flora and fauna, soils, watersheds, waterways, mountains, meadows and alpine habitats, archeological and historic sites, and paleontologic resources. These resources are worthy of protection, conservation and preservation as they not only add to the diverse character of the Trail, but also add to the long-term diversity of the planet.

Protecting the natural resources of the Trail lands requires simple stewardship, as well as knowledge of the resources that exist. These resources can be affected not only through natural changes in the landscape, but also by anthropogenic causes. Examples of human threats to these resources include trampling, overuse, poor waste management, treadway erosion, and harvesting and collection of rare plants and animals.

Effective trail management can set the desired conditions for natural resource management, and can help to mitigate deteriorated natural conditions. Examples of effective management strategies include: inventories, periodic surveys, data collection, on-the-ground measures, protection from deleterious sources, and long-term objectives. Although resource management can be a subjective decision-making process, its management focus should strive to promote the primitive and wild character of the landscape. The Conservancy and its maintaining clubs have made exceptions for scenic vistas, balds, areas with sensitive species, and historic meadows. Similarly, the Conservancy has chosen to remediate and restore areas that have been adversely affected by anthropogenic causes to their natural state.

However, federal and state agencies retain the primary responsibility for setting natural resource management policies on their lands. For example, lands of the National Park Service are managed to provide an environment minimally influenced by humans. The NPS aims to protect the natural resources on Park Service lands not only for their inherent value, but also for the opportunity for enjoyment and benefit of the American public. The NPS achieves these goals in accordance with a variety of environmental laws such as the

National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Club Policy

The Berkshire AT Committee recognizes the value inherent in protecting the natural, cultural and scenic resources of the Appalachian Trail and the Appalachian Trail Lands. To this effect, the Committee has developed resource-specific policies to manage the various resources. The Committee will choose, as determined by their volunteer and budgetary capacity, which natural resource management programs it is willing and able to undertake. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will ensure that the minimum standards set by the NPS are met while cooperating and supporting the AT Committee's management efforts. The ATC also will seek to recruit new members and volunteers for natural resource protection initiatives.

5A. OPEN AREAS AND VISTAS

Management Principles

1. From the AT's beginning, the scenic opportunities provided by open areas in the forest cover have been considered one of the most important features of the Trail experience. Over the years, many of these opportunities have been lost through reforestation and abandonment to natural succession from former agricultural uses. Presently, trees and shrubs are rapidly growing in many areas along the Trail that were once open fields and meadows. Concern has been expressed in the Trail community that, unless active measures are taken to maintain these open areas, the landscape's diversity will be diminished and, with it, the Trail experience.
2. The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service have purchased open lands expressly for their scenic values, expecting that they will be managed to preserve their open character. The AT Committee endorses the ATC policy for vista and open areas management. The management of fields and vistas will be given a high priority.
3. Site-specific mowing guidelines have been suggested for certain areas with rare, threatened or endangered species. ATC will have primary responsibility for managing these sites, but will welcome volunteers who are willing to assist in the care of these sites. ATC will inform the AT Committee of any mowing or other field activities.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will undertake an inventory of the open areas, including vistas, potential vistas, fields, meadows, and pastures. This inventory should include historic balds and fields which might be reestablished, and existing open areas, including viewpoints, which may not be on the Trail but would be easily accessible with signs and side trails.

2. Site specific management actions will be specifically tailored to each site according to its unique blend of historic, biological, geographic, aesthetic and other qualities and limitations. Methods including mowing, grazing and hand cutting will be determined considering the above site characteristics as well as potential environmental impacts, accessibility, cost, and long-term feasibility
3. Management activities should be monitored, evaluated periodically and adapted to meet changing conditions or to reflect new knowledge and technology.
4. Records, including photographs and GIS data, should be kept to document management activities at each site where active management is undertaken.
5. The Committee will work with the ATC to develop a management plan for open area and vista maintenance. These open areas and vistas should be entered into a database, and should be mowed on a rotational basis, as determined by the Committee, DCR and ATC.
6. Mowing or brush clearing may be performed by trail volunteers or outside contractors as resources and abilities dictate.
7. Specific areas that are kept cleared for the enhancement of Rare, Threatened or Endangered plant species may have specific mowing requirements regarding frequency, time of year, or height of cut.

5B. TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber harvests within the Trail corridor can cause undesirable impacts to the scenic nature of the Trail. However, some private land/easement holders may retain timber-harvesting rights, and may remove timber from within the corridor. These partners will use best forest management practices to minimize impacts to the soil and water, and to preserve the scenic nature of the Trail.

On National Park Service Lands

Management Principles

1. No commercial timber harvesting is allowed on lands acquired in fee for the Appalachian Trail by the National Park Service. However, a small number of landowners have chosen to retain timber rights in some cases where the trail corridor has been protected by easements. There are no known locations in Massachusetts with this ownership arrangement.
2. Forest management practices should assure maximum aesthetic, recreational and primitive values as part of the Trail experience.

Action Plan

1. The National Park Service will work with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to develop appropriate regulations to guide forest management on a Trailwide basis, and with the AT Committee on Trail lands in Massachusetts.
2. The AT Committee will seek to inventory all timber rights easements on NPS lands and develop contingency plans to put into effect when and if timber harvests take place.

On DCR Lands

The Committee shall work with the State to review and comment on timber management proposals within the Trail corridor as outlined in the 2003 MOU agreement signed by all parties. The MOU seeks to arrive at consistent trail-wide standards. The Club will be notified by DCR of any proposed harvests in the primary and secondary zones outlined below.

Management Principles

1. A "Primary Zone" shall extend 200 feet on each side of the footpath (400 feet total width). The Primary Zone shall be wider than 200ft when necessary to include existing overnight facilities and water sources. The Primary Zone management principles do not apply to the War Memorial Park area on the Mt. Greylock summit.

Within the "Primary Zone":

- a. The Appalachian Trail will be the primary feature for which the lands are managed.
- b. Non-Trail related structures and new roads are prohibited within the Primary Zone. Forest management practices shall be limited to those practices that are directly beneficial to the Trail.
- c. Logging trails will avoid crossing the Trail wherever possible. Whenever a proposed logging trail will cross the Appalachian Trail, the AT Committee and management partners will be notified at the earliest possible convenience and at least two weeks before logging operations commence. Where crossings occur, they will be designed to minimize the impact on the Trail. Slash will be kept outside the Primary Zone.

2. A "Secondary Zone" shall extend 300 feet on either side of the Primary Zone (600 feet total addition). The combined Primary and Secondary Zones create a management corridor 1000 feet wide centered on the footpath.

Within the Secondary Zone:

- a. Timber harvests will be designed to minimize any aesthetic impact, generally using uneven aged harvesting techniques. Where practical, harvests in this zone will be conducted during the winter months.
- b. Appropriate uses and mitigation measures for high visibility/audibility projects proposed within or adjacent to the "Secondary Zone" will be addressed by the AT Committee, whose approval is not required for DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation projects within and beyond the Secondary Zone.
- c. On State lands, the combined Primary and Secondary Zones shall be referred to as the "Appalachian Trail Corridor"

Action Plan

1. Before any timber harvesting within the Secondary Zone occurs, the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will notify the AT Committee in writing in order to allow them the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed harvest.
2. The management partners will coordinate efforts to identify and map the Primary and Secondary Zones.
3. The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will work with the AT Committee to develop appropriate regulations to guide forest management on state lands in Massachusetts that are affected by the Appalachian Trail Corridor.

5C. VEGETATION, INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

1. Chemical Spraying

Management Principles

The AT Committee regards native pests and diseases as part of the natural environment and thus does not advocate controlling outbreaks that occur under natural conditions. Extenuating circumstances that might allow for pest management and the minimum application of chemical pesticides include diseases/pests that threaten public health and safety, compromise rare, threatened or endangered species, have the potential to outbreak into neighboring populations, and have the potential to destroy the diseased species.

The AT Committee is opposed to chemical methods for control of vegetation or insects within the AT Corridor except in circumstances such as those outlined above. All reasonable efforts should be made to protect trail visitors and the natural environment of the Trail Corridor from negative effects of spray programs, if they should occur.

Pesticide application should employ techniques to minimize adverse ecological impacts. Pesticides and herbicides used within the Trail Corridor should be biodegradable.

Application of any chemicals on NPS lands must meet NEPA compliance.

Action Plan

1. Plans for use of chemicals for these purposes within the Trail Corridor will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the AT Committee and must be approved by the appropriate land owning agency (NPS and DCR).
 2. Utility companies who at present spray transmission corridors crossing the AT will be contacted and asked that they notify the AT Committee when they plan to spray.
 3. Measures to protect open water sources potentially used by trail visitors will be taken.
 4. Signs will be posted to advise hikers of any land, air or water pesticide applications.
2. Control of Non-Native Species (See Section M below)

Management Principles

1. The most common vegetation management practice on Appalachian Trail lands will be to take no action other than routine actions necessary to keep the footpath open.
2. Active measures may be used to control the invasion of non-native (exotic) species, when they are a threat to a significant natural resource, scenic resource, or cultural landscape. Invasive species that threaten Rare, Threatened or Endangered species will be monitored and controlled.

Action Plan

1. Significant populations of particularly aggressive exotic plant species should be noted and monitored. Control measures will be developed in consultation with the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation, NPS and ATC, and implemented where necessary.
2. Satellite populations should be controlled or destroyed as soon as possible by monitors and/or maintainers. In most cases, this can be accomplished by hand pulling or cutting.

3. Maintainers will be advised and educated about invasive species in their area through the AT Committee with information and training provided by NPS and ATC. During routine trail maintenance, care will be taken not to encourage the spread of exotic invasives.

5D. RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES, NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Management Principles

1. The AT Committee, in conjunction with its management partners, will comply with all local, state and federal policies regarding the preservation of all species of special concern, as well as their habitats as defined in the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and its subsequent amendments. Though the Act only makes reference to Threatened and Endangered species, rare species and species of local significance will be monitored as determined by the ATC and NPS in consultation with State Natural Heritage Offices.
2. The Committee supports efforts to promote the protection of federally listed species, and will ensure that Trail-maintaining endeavors of its volunteers do not compromise or adversely affect known threatened or endangered species.

Action Plan

1. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Inventory identifies, maps and makes protection and monitoring recommendations for rare, threatened and endangered species that have been found within the AT Corridor in Massachusetts.
2. To the extent possible, the Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Committee will assist in monitoring those species deemed "most threatened". Volunteer Monitors will be trained on how to perform rare species monitoring by NPS, ATC and other experts in the field.
3. Local trail maintainers will be informed by their respective coordinator about species of concern in their maintenance section, and provided with information regarding the location of threatened and endangered species and recommendations on how to proceed with ongoing trail maintenance in these areas.
4. Prior to any trail work other than routine maintenance in areas containing species of concern, the AT Committee will seek instruction on the best way to avoid or mitigate damage to the species or it's habitat.

5E. WILDLIFE

Management Principles

1. The AT Committee shall follow all regulations as they pertain to wildlife management on state lands.
2. On NPS lands, the Committee shall follow regulations consistent with NPS policy.
3. The Committee will ensure that all Trail activities will not harm wildlife nor interfere with critical habitat. This includes deer yards, bear feeding areas, and bird nesting areas. The Committee will ensure that all mowing activities in designated mowing areas do not occur until after the breeding season.
4. Overnight sites should be kept clean. Hiker's food should be stored so as to prevent it from being eaten by wildlife. Waste should be packed out so as not to further attract animals to the area.

Action Plan

1. At certain overnight sites, the Committee will provide means to store trail visitor's foodstuffs in animal resistant devices such as boxes or cable hoists.
2. The Committee will provide information at overnight sites outlining recommended practice for food storage and waste removal.

5F. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES

The Committee seeks to protect areas of cultural and historical significance. In addition, the Committee recognizes the obligations imposed by federal statute upon the National Park Service for the protection of cultural resources, the significance of the Trail's cultural and historical resources and the unique historical attributes they bring to the Trail experience. To that endeavor, the Committee through ATC and NPS will ensure that a professional archaeologist will survey any Trail projects with ground-disturbing activities.

Management Principles

1. The Trail will be located to minimize adverse impact on historic, cultural and natural features (See Appendix, A-5 (b) and (c)).
2. Locations for new large scale Trail projects will first be reviewed by a professional archaeologist as deemed necessary by the NPS or DCR. See Relocations (3C)

Action Plan

1. Once identified, significant historic, cultural and natural features will be cataloged by the AT Committee as part of the trail assessment conducted by NPS/ATC. Management actions will be taken to protect these features as needed.
2. The Committee recognizes the need for conducting a survey on any structure more than 50 years of age before conducting any major repairs, renovations, or additions.
3. A Cultural Resource Inventory has not yet been conducted for Massachusetts. However, numerous significant cultural resources exist along the Trail in Massachusetts and should be protected. Both identified and unidentified cultural resources are protected by state and federal laws.

5G AGRICULTURAL USE

Hiking the Appalachian Trail is a means to explore and experience the natural and historical elements of the Appalachian Mountains. Historically significant lands of the Appalachian Trail and its corridor include pastoral and agricultural lands. The AT Committee recognizes these open areas offer a unique and diverse experience along the AT, and offer a welcomed relief from the wooded hills through which much of the Trail traverses.

Thus the Committee supports pastoral and agricultural efforts on Appalachian Trail lands where such use has been historic and *where the continuation of such practices confers a direct benefit to the Trail*. These farming practices must enhance the Trail experience, and not compromise the ecological integrity of Trail lands. Nor should they displace the footpath from its optimal location. Agricultural and pastoral practices can aid in the maintenance of open areas and scenic vistas.

Management Principle

In general, grazing of livestock, haying and raising crops are compatible with the Trail where such use presently exists. In rare cases, clearing of trees to restore a historic field or meadow to agricultural use may be considered. Special-use permits for agricultural use on the Appalachian Trail will be granted by the NPS and administered by ATC with assistance from Committee volunteers.

Action Plan

1. Special Use Permits (SUP) and reserved rights granted by the NPS will be used and monitored to ensure that agricultural uses are consistent with trail management objectives. (See Section 6-C and Appendix A-7(B) for more information on Special Use Permits).

2. The ATC will be the primary contact for the SUP holder.
3. The AT Committee, through its Corridor monitoring duties will monitor SUP permitted lands for compliance with the practices stated in the permit (See Chapter 6c for more info)
4. Riparian areas and waterways will be protected, and erosion control measures will be set in place and monitored. Agricultural and pastoral practices will neither compromise nor damage rare, threatened or endangered species, or fragile natural areas.

5H. MINING AND EXCAVATION

Management Principles

1. The AT Committee deems mining or excavating on trail lands to be an inappropriate use of the resource.
2. No new mining is permitted on NPS lands (36 CFR 9.10[2]).

Action Plan

1. Mining or excavations on state lands within the Primary or Secondary Zones will be opposed by the Committee (see 5B(2)).
2. The Committee may also oppose operations in cases where the Commonwealth is interested in excavation of earth, rock or gravel outside of the Primary and Secondary Zones, but where the proposed activity may be visible or audible from the Trail.

5I. SUMMIT DEVELOPMENT

The Committee opposes construction or development of any new facilities on Appalachian Trail Corridor lands.

The AT Committee is generally opposed to utility development on mountaintops and ridgelines in the foreground and middle-ground zones potentially visible from the Appalachian Trail. Such development detracts from the Trail experience and the scenic values of the Trail. Summits, ridgelines and balds offer unique scenic vistas and often are home to unique natural resources. (See also Chapter 6I and 6M of this document)

Management Principles

1. Summit utility development (radio communication towers, wind turbines, transmission facilities, service and access roads, airplane beacons, power lines, shelters, ski-lifts, etc.) detract from the aesthetics of the Trail, and are considered incompatible uses.

Action Plan

1. Plans for summit and ridge top development will be reviewed by the AT Committee on a case-by-case basis to determine the impact on the Trail. The Committee will then provide recommendations to the appropriate agencies.
2. Proposals for summit and ridge top development will be reviewed using established foreground/midground criteria. (See 6N, Development on Adjacent Lands)

5J. WATERSHED LANDS

Management Principles

Approximately 6 miles of the AT in Massachusetts are located on municipal watershed lands.

- The City of Pittsfield watershed lands in Washington and Hinsdale,
- The City of North Adams watershed lands in North Adams.

Protection of water quality is the primary concern in these municipal watershed areas.

Action Plan

1. Overnight use is prohibited on these lands.
2. Signs identifying watershed lands and the No Camping policy will be posted where the corridor and Trail enters these watershed lands.
3. Within the watershed areas of streams serving municipal water sources--but outside watershed properties--designated camping areas, shelters or privies will be carefully located to avoid contamination of the water supply.
4. To the extent possible, the Trail will be located away from streams, lakes and ponds that serve as municipal water sources.

5K. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (NEPA) COMPLIANCE

Management Principles

The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969 directs federal agencies to consider the potential impact of a proposed action or policy upon the environment before implementing the action or policy. "NEPA Compliance" is the term used to describe the process of evaluating and documenting the potential impacts of an action upon the environment. Each federal agency must follow this process for any proposed agency action (or action on agency lands) with the potential to affect the environment.

The NPS Appalachian Trail Park Office requires preparation of an environmental assessment for the following activities on NPS acquired lands:

- Construction of a new shelter
- Construction of a major bridge (more than 35' long, or requiring significant excavation)
- Construction of a Parking Lot with a capacity for 10 or more vehicles
- Major or minor relocations of the footpath (see Chapter 3B)
- "Open-Areas" projects
- Any action that includes a significant amount of soils disturbance or removal of vegetation

The AT Committee recognizes the importance of sound environmental planning in conjunction with any Trail project activities listed above. The AT Committee will consult with the NPS, appropriate local agencies, and the local community on the potential environmental impacts of its proposals.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will provide the NPS Appalachian Trail Park Office with timely notice for any project that may require NEPA compliance.
2. The AT Committee will update its five-year plans (trail assessment) annually so that all projects of larger scope have adequate lead time for environmental review.
3. The AT Committee will cooperate with local and state agencies that may have jurisdiction in areas where trail related projects are planned.

5L. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Management Principles

1. The Appalachian Trail Corridor provides a unique opportunity to study the environment over many different ecosystems as it traverses the spine of the Appalachian Mountains.

2. Collecting information on and studying variations in water and air quality and wildlife populations over a wide area will add significantly to our base of knowledge about the land the trail crosses.
3. Where possible, volunteers should be trained to regularly collect and report specific, quantifiable data on environmental conditions such as ozone levels in the air and acidity and nitrate levels in surface water.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will work with the NPS and ATC to find and train volunteers to participate in a trailwide environmental monitoring program.
2. This program will be administered by the ATC Regional office.
3. Other non-AT groups will be encouraged to form partnerships with the AT Committee and ATC to expand the monitoring program.

5M. EXOTIC SPECIES

Management Principals

1. Exotic Species are defined as species, either plant or animal, occurring in a given place outside of their native ranges as a result of human actions. Exotic species that pose a threat to the native species of the area they occupy are considered invasive.
2. Areas where invasive exotic species pose a threat to native plants and/or animals should be monitored.
3. Control of invasive exotic species should be managed by DCR, NPS and ATC in accordance with the ATC Policy on Invasive Exotic Species. (Appendix 7F)

Action Plan

1. As resources permit, the AT Committee will participate in the monitoring and control of invasive exotic species under the direction of DCR, NPS, ATC or their designated contractors
2. The AT Committee will advise and educate AT trail maintainer and corridor monitor volunteers about invasive species on trail lands, and develop actions volunteers can take to reduce or limit the spread of exotic/invasive species on their sections.

CHAPTER 6—Conflicting and Competing Uses

Introduction

This chapter of the Local Management Plan describes some of the management challenges created by activities that are incompatible with the nature and purpose of the Trail and the policies, programs, and tactics designed to respond to them.

6A CORRIDOR BOUNDARIES

Overview

On lands acquired by the Federal Government for corridor protection, the Park Service is ultimately responsible for marking and maintaining boundaries. In State Forests or other state lands acquired for AT protection, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation carries that responsibility. Volunteers organized by the Massachusetts AT Management Committee may assist in maintaining these boundaries, but are not authorized to survey, axe blaze, or negotiate changes in Corridor boundaries.

Management Principles

1. All AT NPS Corridor boundaries will be marked. It will be the responsibility of the NPS to see that these boundaries are properly surveyed and appropriately marked. Trail volunteers will maintain marked boundaries, but are not permitted to re-establish missing boundaries, ax blazes or monuments.
2. The National Park Service is responsible for law enforcement on NPS Corridor lands.
3. On DCR lands, property boundaries will be marked. The Trail Corridor on DCR lands (See Chapter 5B) is not generally marked.

Action Plan

1. The AT Management Committee has accepted delegated responsibility from the NPS and ATC for maintaining survey boundaries on NPS lands. Assistance in this maintenance from ATC staff is appreciated from time to time.
2. Boundaries of NPS acquired lands were surveyed and marked at the time of purchase. Boundaries of State acquired lands for the Appalachian Trail corridor have in some cases not been adequately marked or maintained. The AT Committee will work with DCR to have these boundaries marked to facilitate the activities of volunteer corridor monitors in monitoring and maintaining these boundaries.
3. The AT Committee will advise the ATC Regional Office of tracts requiring assistance in maintaining boundaries.

6B. MONITORING THE TRAIL CORRIDOR

Management Principles

1. There must be regular inspections of Corridor lands to identify and report conflicting uses (such as off-road-vehicles and horses), trespass (such as dumping, encroachments, and timber theft) and easement violations. The AT Committee has accepted the responsibility of administering a program that monitors both National Park Service (NPS) and Commonwealth AT Corridor lands.
2. Reporting the condition of monitored tracts is an essential goal of the monitoring program.

Action Plan

1. Tracts will be inspected and monitored based on a priority system, with the most vulnerable lands receiving the most frequent inspections. Monitor Coordinators will determine a tract's priority in consultation with monitors and management partners. The highest priority tracts are those susceptible to off-road vehicle use, dumping, timber theft, illegal camping, vandalism, and the like. Potential problem areas, such as tracts with roads, power lines, easements, structures, or adjacent development, are assigned a high or medium priority, depending on the previous number and extent of problems at the site. The lowest priority is established for remote and fairly inaccessible tracts of land that have no record of prior incidents.
2. Volunteer Monitor Coordinators (MC's) will be named by the AT Management Committee to coordinate this effort within the North, Central, and South regions of the AT in Mass.
3. The MC will recruit and assign a monitor to be the "eyes and ears" for each tract, or group of tracts.
4. Each monitor will:
 - a. Walk the boundaries, or Primary Zone, and in the case of large properties, the interior sections of the tracts according to a tract's priority:
 - High Priority: 2 times a year (at a minimum)
 - Medium Priority: 1 time a year
 - Low Priority: every two years
 - b. Report any observed problems to the Monitor Coordinator. After each visit, fill out and submit to the MC a tract inspection report, noting any irregularities or problems found, as well as the condition of the boundary markers and/or blazes.

- c. When irregular activities are perceived, the monitor should act to gather as much information as possible about the activity and PROMPTLY report it to the MC.
 - d. At the option of each Monitor, contact abutting landowners and neighbors to make them aware of the corridor monitoring program. If this option is unsuccessful or inappropriate, the monitor will contact the Monitor Coordinator will report to the AT Committee. The Committee will decide to:
 - Instruct the MC to contact the adjacent landowner and/or local officials to attempt to resolve the issue, or
 - Report the incident to the ATC Regional Office for further action.
 - Report problems on State owned corridor lands to the DCR Trail Coordinator's Office.
 - e. Land management problems of an immediate threat to Corridor lands such as
 - Active encroachment or new evidence of a survey
 - Resource theft or damage
 - Active Dumping
 - Observed large scale ATV/ORV, Horse, Mountain Bike use
 are to be reported immediately to the MC. Other non-active incidents or conditions are to be reported to the MC in a timely manner.
5. Each Monitor Coordinator will:
- a. Supply each monitor with all pertinent information for the assigned area; including segment maps, essential legal descriptive material and abutters' names where applicable, and work toward the goal of complete current information for her/his region in both written and graphic forms. Provide copies of the "Handbook for Corridor Monitoring of the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts" and field training to each volunteer monitor as needed. Maps and legal documents for NPS lands are provided to MC's by the Park Service through the ATC Regional Office.
 - b. Serious problems will be reported to the ATC and local AMC and DCR office, depending on whether the problem occurs on NPS owned or state owned corridor lands. **The NPS Appalachian Trail Project Office must be notified within 24 hours of any major incident.** Major incidents include all emergencies, law enforcement action and any land management incidents in which there is an estimated loss or damage in excess of \$1000.00.
 - c. Provide periodic Monitoring updates at AT Management Committee Meetings.

- d. Submit an annual written report to ATC, AMC, DCR and the the AT Committee regarding the monitoring program. The report is due by March 31st for the previous year's activities.
6. The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will make available material regarding state owned AT corridor properties for the purpose of the monitoring program
7. In the event insufficient volunteer monitors or Monitor Coordinators are available, the AT Committee will appoint a Lead Coordinator who will:
 - Bring monitoring issues to the Committee for action
 - Serve as ATC/NPS liaison
 - Draw up a prioritized list of Hot Spots for concentrated monitoring efforts, and determine which areas can receive less than annual inspections
 - Organize several group monitoring projects to take place over the course of the year
 - Seek out and recruit more monitor volunteers to provide more complete coverage of AT Corridor Lands, and restore monitoring program to the structure described in paragraphs 1-6 above.

6C. SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Management Principle

Appalachian Trail lands have numerous potential uses, including historical activities that created the present setting for the AT. Farming and livestock grazing in particular, can enhance the Trail environment by providing a pastoral, open landscape. Special Use Permits are used by the NPS to allow for and control such non-recreational uses on NPS-owned lands. (See Appendix A7(B), NPS and ATC Policy for Special Use Permits). Although these permits benefit the permittee, their primary purpose is to serve a particular management purpose, such as maintaining an open area or preserving a historical activity. Special uses will only be considered in cases where there is a direct benefit to the trail or the resource.

Action Plan

1. The NPS is responsible for issuing special use permits (SUPs) on their lands in Massachusetts. Specific SUP terms and conditions will be developed on a case by case basis by the ATC Regional Office, in consultation with the NPS and the AT Committee.
2. The AT Committee, through its corridor monitoring program, will periodically check on SUP lands for compliance and report any suspected violations to the ATC Regional Office. Enforcement of SUP terms is the responsibility of the ATC Regional Office and NPS.

3. The ATC Regional Office will also maintain an inventory of all SUPs in effect and update the AT Committee (and thus Monitor Coordinators) regarding changes in any SUP's.

6D. INCIDENTALLY ACQUIRED STRUCTURES

Management Principle

While acquiring lands for the protection of the trail, occasionally structures are also acquired. However, neither the AT Committee nor the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation wishes to keep structures as part of its trail maintenance responsibilities, unless such facility meets certain conditions. Reference is made to ATC Board Policy, dated Nov, 1997-"Amended Structure Policy Statement".

Action Plan

1. Each structure should be removed, and the AT corridor restored as early as possible to a natural condition, unless:
 - a. The structure must be retained for historic reasons
 - b. The AT Committee and its agency partners, agree that the benefits derived from the structure outweigh the costs of retention.
2. The AT Committee, working with ATC and the appropriate agency partner (NPS or DCR), will evaluate each acquired structure individually with the aim of preservation or removal/returning the site to a natural condition.
3. By law, if a structure is over 50 years of age, it requires formal evaluation of its value as a historical site.
4. On NPS lands, ensure that a retained structure complies with the NPS "Life and Safety Code". At a minimum, this will entail annual inspection, liability insurance for all management parties, and conformance with local building codes.
5. Develop a list of remaining structures on NPS and DCR lands, and develop a time line for their removal or use.

6E. SPECIAL EVENTS AND LARGE GROUPS

Management Principle

Use of the Trail by large groups, commercial outfitters, sponsored spectator events, races or endurance competitions generates impacts that are generally inconsistent with the concept of a simple footpath. Large groups of spectators can cause serious damage to soils along the margins of the footpath and trample vegetation over wide areas. The use

of the Appalachian Trail for large group activities is generally incompatible with the stated purposes of the Trail.

Action Plan

1. Consistent with the ATC Board of Managers' policy on special events and group use (November 14, 1987), the trail shall not be used for special events or group activities (publicized spectator events, commercial or competitive activities) that degrade its natural and cultural resources or social values.
2. The AT Committee and its Management Partners will seek to contact organizers of special events and/or public assemblies on or adjacent to the trail corridor to find ways to avoid use of Corridor lands, degradation of the trail experience, treadway, trail structures or natural resources.

6F MILITARY MANEUVERS

Management Principles

The physical impact of military training exercises can significantly detract from the experience of hiking the Appalachian Trail and may also create safety hazards for hikers. The Massachusetts AT Committee endorses ATC policy that military maneuvers should not be permitted on, or in the low-altitude space above, Appalachian Trail corridor lands, except in unusual circumstances.

Action Plan

1. The Massachusetts AT Committee will encourage public agencies to find alternative locations for a military exercise and assist in identifying other locations if the Committee's help is requested.
2. If authorization for military exercises is considered by a landowning agency, the Committee will recommend permission only if the exercises are essential for national defense and are not feasible in any other location.

6G HANG GLIDING

Management Principles

The Massachusetts AT Committee believes that hang-gliding (including paragliding), being a non-motorized and a non-mechanized pursuit, may be suitable in certain locations along the AT in Massachusetts. The remote recreational experience of the Trail and the resources that enhance this experience must be carefully considered and protected, and will have priority in consideration for launch and landing areas. Launch and landing sites must be managed in a manner that is consistent with the over-all management philosophy

of the AT corridor and will not harm the basic resource or the experiences of trail visitors.

Action Plan

1. The Massachusetts AT Committee will review and make recommendations concerning any new landing and launching site proposals. Any new sites proposed as launch or landing areas must not detract from the natural or cultural resources of the Trail Corridor or adversely affect the primitive values of the Trail experience.
2. Sites currently used as hang-gliding launch or landing areas will continue to be permitted, providing no additional areas are cleared of vegetation and hiker and/or resource conflicts are not present.
3. The hang-gliding organization will be responsible for management and maintenance of any approved launch or landing area, and will coordinate that work with the Committee before it takes place.

6H. LITTER AND VANDALISM

Management Principle

Litter and vandalism are recognized as on-going problems. “Carry in, carry out” is the Committee’s policy. Trash receptacles will not be provided at trailheads or overnight sites.

Action Plan

1. Education explaining appropriate camping and use of the AT will be provided through ridgerunners, guidebooks, signs, brochures and other appropriate sources.
2. Monitoring of the Trail and overnight sites will be performed by both paid and volunteer ridgerunners.
3. As necessary, a litter pick-up program will be organized through the AT Committee Regional Coordinators.
4. Special attention will be paid to those areas most susceptible to litter and vandalism problems, including trailheads, overnight sites and parking areas. The AT Committee will work with state and local government agencies to resolve these problems.
5. Caretaker programs may be developed at overnight sites susceptible to litter or vandalism problems.

6. Contact with adjacent landowners will occur as necessary to help monitor, identify and resolve littering and dumping problems.

6I. ROAD CLOSURE AND ACCESS CONTROL

Management Principles

The National Trails System Act and NPS regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on the Appalachian Trail lands. The AT Committee and its management partners will take steps to prevent vehicle access except where the Trail is on a public road or legal rights of access exist.

Action Plan

1. A comprehensive list and a map of access roads and trails that can accommodate off road vehicles (ORV) will be compiled for use by the AT Committee, and for distribution to local law enforcement and fire protection agencies for their emergency use.
2. Motor vehicle road access to AT lands will be limited to emergency response by authorized personnel. Gates will be installed where necessary. Appropriate agency partners will be provided with a key or combination to all locks.
3. Woods roads and/or abandoned town roads which cross the AT will not be blocked off unless problems arise. Closure of these ways will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If problems arise, such roads may be closed by a locked gate or by permanent closure. Cables may not be used. Where the Trail is crossed by public road or legal right of way, steps will be taken by the Committee to sign the Trail as a footpath only. Where the Trail is on State land, the AT Committee will consult with the DCR on a case-by-case basis.

6J OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ORV's—including mountain bicycles, snowmobiles and motor bikes)

Management Principles

1. Wheeled vehicles (i.e., motorized dirt bikes, three- and four-wheeled ATVs, mountain bikes, bicycles, four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles) seriously affect the physical Trail and the "wilderness experience" of hikers. Therefore, the AT Committee fully endorses the ATC and Federal policy that prohibits motorized or non-motorized wheeled vehicles on the AT and corridor lands. Exceptions to this policy are in cases of emergency by authorized responders, necessary maintenance and management purposes, for deeded Rights-of-Way (ROWS), for Special Use Permits (SUPs), historical use, and where the Trail

follows established public or private roads. These rare exceptions will be allowed only if there is no significant negative impact to the resource.

2. The current DCR Division of Parks and Recreation ORV policy is that trails are closed to ORV use unless specifically allowed.
3. The Committee will not support the establishment of new trails for ORV use within the 1000 foot Appalachian Trail Corridor (see Chapter 5B) on Commonwealth lands.
4. The National Trails Act prohibits the use of snowmobiles on NPS lands. The regulatory exception to this restriction is in the Upper Goose Pond area in Tyringham. NPS acquisition of land in the Upper Goose Pond area included the land located at the south end of the AT foot bridge over the Massachusetts Turnpike, officially blocking snowmobile access to the bridge. Since this is the only crossing of the Turnpike in the area, NPS amended the Trails Act to allow snowmobile access to a specific designated trail in this area. (NPS 36CFR, Part 7.11, (4), see Appendix 5F).

Action Plan

1. Inventory and include in the Trail Assessment report all existing instances where wheeled vehicles either cross, or use, the AT and corridor lands.
2. Work with snowmobile clubs to closely monitor the designated snowmobile crossing in Tyringham and snowmobile use on Upper Goose Pond.
3. Contact other motorized recreation user groups and inform them of regulations regarding vehicular use on the AT corridor.
4. Except in flagrant cases, enforcement will be educational in nature. Monitors and others will identify off-Trail points of access to corridor lands and post them with signs identifying Corridor lands and prohibited activities. For those Trail sections that are being used by wheeled vehicles, signs will be used to emphasize the "foot travel only" policy. In instances where an offender can be identified, the person should be informed of the regulations and cooperation emphatically requested. In cases of repeated and belligerent use by known users of wheeled vehicles on NPS land, the services of local, state and federal law enforcement authorities may be requested by the Committee. Similar abuses of the Trail on state land will be reported to officers of the DCR.
5. Whenever possible, access routes will be closed.
6. Work with agency partners to identify appropriate crossings of the AT for motorized recreation.

6K. ROAD CROSSINGS AND HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT

Management Principles

1. New road development is not compatible with the Trail. Where such improvements are planned near or adjacent to the AT, the AT Committee will work with the Regional Planning Commission, town planning boards and agency partners to provide adequate protection for the Trail.
2. On State owned Corridor lands, the Committee will not support new roads that are within the Appalachian Trail Corridor, or will have a visual or acoustic impact on the Trail.
3. Reference is made to the ATC Board Policy on Roads and Utility Development, dated April, 2000.

Action Plan

1. DCR will consult with the AT Committee regarding major improvements on existing state roads that enter or cross the Appalachian Trail Corridor on state property.
2. As detailed in MOU Sections D and E, MassHighway and MassPike authorities will inform the AT Committee and other agency partners as early as practical in the planning phase of construction or maintenance activities that may impact the Appalachian Trail Corridor. (See Appendix 3).
3. Any proposal for a new road or upgrade of existing road(s) that cross the Trail or Trail Corridor will be considered on a case by case basis, and must meet the following criteria:
 - a. The proposed development represents the only prudent and feasible alternative,
 - b. Any new proposal should attempt to coincide with existing trail crossings,
 - c. Any adverse impacts of a proposed development shall be sufficiently mitigated so as to result in no net loss of recreational values,
 - d. The proposed development shall avoid sensitive natural, cultural, and historic resource areas.

6L. HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

Management Principle

Horses and pack animals seriously affect the physical Trail and the "wilderness experience" of hikers. Therefore, the AT Committee fully endorses the ATC and NPS policy prohibiting horses and pack animals on the AT and will make every effort to

enforce this policy. Exceptions to this policy are in cases of emergency by authorized responders, for necessary maintenance and management purposes, for deeded ROW, for SUP, historical use, and where the Trail follows established public or private roads. Specific horse crossing routes on the Trail or on corridor lands will be investigated on a case by case basis. No horse riding will be allowed on the Trail.

Action Plan

1. Inventory and include in the Trail Assessment report all existing instances where horses or pack animals either cross, or use, the AT and Corridor lands
2. Except in flagrant cases, enforcement will be educational in nature. Monitors and others will identify off-Trail points of access to corridor lands which will be posted with signs identifying land ownership and prohibited activities. For those Trail sections that are attractive to horses and pack animals, signs may be used to emphasize the "footpath only" policy. In instances where an offender can be identified, the person should be informed of the regulation and cooperation emphatically requested. In cases of repeated and belligerent use by known users of horses or pack animals on NPS land, the services of local, state or federal law enforcement authorities may be requested. Similar abuses of the Trail on state Corridor lands will be reported to officers of the DCR.
3. On Commonwealth land, bridle trails may be allowed to cross the AT at designated points to be determined by the DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation and the AT Committee.
4. The DCR Division of State Parks and Recreation will consult with the AT Committee when any new bridle trails are proposed within the 200 foot Primary Zone in State Forests and Parks.

6M. UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Management Principles

Utility lines, communication sites, wind-power generation facilities, airport hazard beacons and other mountaintop structures, along with access roads to service these facilities, are generally considered incompatible with the purposes and scenic values of the Appalachian Trail. It is the policy of the AT Committee to oppose construction of new utility lines or communication site facilities on or adjacent to AT corridor lands unless it can be demonstrated that

1. The proposed project is of overriding public benefit
2. Locating the proposed project on or across AT corridor lands is the only feasible and prudent alternative
3. Adverse impacts to the scenic, cultural, and natural resources of the Appalachian Trail can and will be adequately mitigated.

In addition, the Massachusetts AT Committee believes a "no-net-loss" approach should be established as the minimum threshold for approval of any new or upgraded utility lines that cross the Appalachian Trail Corridor Lands. If it is determined that it is in the public interest for a utility line to cross the Appalachian Trail, then sufficient mitigation must be incorporated into the proposed project so that there is no net-loss to Trail values or quality of Trail experience.

The analysis of the impacts of such a proposal must include an analysis of the cumulative impact of utility-line crossings upon Trail resources and Trail values, including the sense of remoteness and connection to the natural environment of the Appalachian Mountains that the Trail presently provides.

The Massachusetts AT Committee also opposes development of communication sites, wind-power generation facilities, airport hazard beacons and other mountaintop facilities on currently undeveloped mountaintops, ridgelines and other visible areas in the foreground and view-shed of the Appalachian Trail (as determined using the USDA Forest Service's scenery management system) unless the visual and aural impacts to the Appalachian Trail can be satisfactorily mitigated on-site. (See also Chapter 5I)

The Massachusetts AT Committee will further recommend to governmental agencies that shared use of existing communication towers, facilities, corridors and rights-of-way be encouraged in preference to new construction. New towers and facilities that are built should be multi-user. Permits should also include clauses for the removal of towers and facilities that are no longer required or are inactive. See also Chapter 5 I of this document.

Action Plan

1. The Massachusetts AT Committee will seek to be notified of all utility, communications facility or beacon proposals in the vicinity of the AT
2. On NPS land, the actual right of way for any such projects may be granted only by the NPS. However, the AT Committee will take an active role in reviewing the potential impacts to the Trail for projects within or adjacent to the Trail Corridor.
3. The AT Committee will help monitor construction activity to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued for AT Corridor lands.
4. A comprehensive list of existing utilities and communications facilities on AT corridor lands will be compiled and included in the Trail Assessment.
5. The AT Committee will work with local town planning boards to determine the best siting of new communications facilities that may impact the Trail.

6N. DEVELOPMENT ON ADJACENT LANDS AND VIEWSHEDS

Management Principles

Although the Appalachian Trail has a corridor of protected land surrounding it, various kinds of development near the corridor may have serious negative effects on the Trail. Reference is made to the ATC Board Policy on Impacts of Development in the Vicinity of the Appalachian Trail (dated 11/17/01).

Action Plan

The AT Committee will make every effort to be aware of development proposals planned for lands surrounding the AT Corridor. Any concerns of negative effects that these developments will or could have on corridor lands or the trail experience will be expressed to the appropriate authority, and the Committee will work with agency partners and appropriate town officials to limit adverse impacts of development adjacent to trail lands.

Chapter 7--Special Management Areas

Introduction

The entire Appalachian Trail (AT) in Massachusetts is managed in accordance with this Local Management Plan. There are areas along the Trail, however, which, due to their uniqueness, size or specific problems, warrant special consideration in the overall plan. Areas for special consideration in this management plan are the land surrounding Upper Goose Pond, the Sages Ravine area on the Connecticut border, and the Tyringham Cobble.

7A UPPER GOOSE POND

Introduction

Upper Goose Pond (UGP) is an approximately 60 acre pond located partly in the town of Lee, and partly in the town of Tyringham. The pond is one of the last remaining undeveloped bodies of water in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

All of the shoreline and the adjacent land surrounding the pond, comprising some 684 acres, is owned by the National Park Service. The NPS land was acquired as part of the protective corridor along the Appalachian Trail, and also to protect the property as a natural area. The Trustees of Reservation also owns 112 acres abutting the NPS property. By statute, the pond itself is under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs.

The overall management principle for Upper Goose Pond area is to maintain the area in a state relatively free from ongoing human disturbance. All efforts will be made to protect and enhance the natural character, while allowing for public access and passive recreation.

A. Camping

The shores of UGP have been, attractive to overnight campers. Unfortunately, camping has been accompanied by problems including litter, dangerous fires, loud parties and fireworks. Campsites were often on inappropriate soils and were degrading the natural resources of the area.

Management Principles

Camping is permitted only at designated locations adjacent to the Upper Goose Pond Cabin area so use can be concentrated, activities monitored, and visitors educated about approved backcountry techniques.

Action Plan

1. Camping is allowed only at designated camping areas. One camping area will be provided for AT users near the Upper Goose Pond Cabin (UGPC) on the north shore of the pond.
2. The Cabin serves as an overnight facility for hikers. A volunteer caretaker program oversees the use of the cabin, and all other facilities. The Cabin itself is owned by the National Park Service and must be maintained and operated in accordance with NPS regulations.
3. The AT Committee will assign a UGPC Coordinator to oversee the volunteer caretaker program and organize the ongoing maintenance and operation of the Cabin. The Committee will consider the Cabin and its adjacent facilities as part of its regular trail maintenance duties.

B. Campfires

Management Principles

Indiscriminate campfires have undesirable side effects on the land--such as evidence of their use (fire rings), the collection of fuel from the surrounding woodlands and potential to spread to the surrounding forest--and are in conflict with the overall UGP management principle of preserving UGP as a unique and natural area.

Action Plan

1. All wood and charcoal fires are prohibited except in the designated fire rings at designated overnight sites.
2. Camp stoves are allowed in the designated camping areas. Camp stoves are prohibited inside the cabin.
3. The Caretakers at the UGPC will be an education resource to inform visitors about the campfire policy in this area.
4. All unauthorized fire rings will be removed.

C. Information and Education

Management Principles

There should be an ongoing educational effort focusing on low-impact use of the area. Whenever possible, education should precede enforcement as a management tool.

Action Plan

1. Caretakers: Through the UGPC Coordinator, the AT Committee will provide volunteer caretakers for the area, who will be on duty between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and on weekends during the pre-season and post-season. All caretaker coverage will be accomplished through this volunteer caretaker program.

Major caretaker duties include hiker information and education, monitoring use of area, and enforcing regulations described in this chapter of the AT Management Plan. The caretakers will be an emergency presence for fire protection, assistance with law enforcement, search and rescue, collection of use information, and care for the property as described in the UGP Operation and Maintenance Instructions (Appendix A8(c)).

2. Signs: Signs will be used to inform UGP area visitors of appropriate use guidelines and regulations. All signs will be in accordance with AT Committee standards, and will be located according to the Upper Goose Pond trail map (See Appendix 8(d)).

D. Parking

Management Principles

Hiker parking shall be provided near enough to allow for day use of the area, but far enough away to allow for an adequate hike.

Action Plan

1. Parking for hikers south bound to the UPG area is provided 200 yards west of where the AT crosses Rt 20.
2. Parking for north bound hikers is provided 50 yards east of the AT crossing of Goose Pond Rd at a graveled area on the former Heath property.

E. Law Enforcement, Fire Protection and Search and Rescue

Management Principles

As described in Chapter 4 of this document, ultimate responsibility for law enforcement, fire protection and search and rescue will continue to belong to the appropriate state and local authorities. However, the AT Committee will make every effort to prevent incidents from occurring in the UGP area through educational programs, and through the seasonal presence of caretakers.

Action Plan

1. A current list of emergency phone numbers and procedures will be posted both inside and outside the cabin.
2. State police and the Lee and Tyringham Fire Departments will be provided with up-to-date maps of the UGP area, indicating structures, camping areas and points of access.
3. Local fire departments will be provided with information describing any available source of reimbursement for fighting fires on NPS land. See Chapter 4B.

F. Watercraft

Management Principle

1. Loud, powered watercraft adversely affect the unique experience at UGP. In view of their impact, their use shall be discouraged on the Upper Pond.

Action Plan

1. Continue to pursue with town officials the possibility of limiting engine size for motorboat use on UGP.
2. A 5 mph speed limit sign is posted at the channel.
3. Provide Caretakers with contact information to alert local authorities about inappropriate boating activities on UGP.
4. Because of the size of Upper Goose Pond, Massachusetts boating regulations prohibit the use of Personal Water Craft (PWC, Jet Skis) on the upper pond.

G. Snowmobiles

Management Principles

1. The National Trails Act prohibits the use of snowmobiles on NPS lands. A regulatory exception to this restriction is near the Upper Goose Pond area in Tyringham. NPS acquisition of land in the Upper Goose Pond area included the land located at the south end of the AT foot bridge over the Massachusetts Turnpike, officially blocking snowmobile access to the bridge. Since this is the only crossing of the Turnpike in the area, NPS amended the Trails Act to allow snowmobile use on a specifically designated trail in this area. (NPS 36CFR, Part 7.11, (4), see Appendix 5F).
2. A designated snowmobile trail passes to the north of the cabin—off of NPS owned land. This trail re-enters NPS lands briefly on its way to the south end of the Mass Pike footbridge.
3. Snowmobile operation on any other portions of the UGP area lands is prohibited by NPS regulations.
4. Because the surface of the Upper Pond is regulated by the state, snowmobile travel is permitted on the frozen pond.

Action Plan

1. Work with snowmobile clubs to closely monitor the designated snowmobile crossing in Tyringham and snowmobile use on the pond.
2. Report any motorized use of UGP area lands to the Mass Environmental Police and the AT Committee.

H. Reservations by private landowners and sellers to NPS

The following tracts or easements are still held by some private landowners in the UGP area. Some of these are term estates and once expired, the property will revert to the NPS and become part of the UGP Natural Area. (See Appendix 8E)

1. Scenic easement from Henry Smith
2. Stillwell's 50 year tenancy (YR 2030)
3. George property. Located on the channel leading to the Lower Pond, it is presently private property. However NPS has a signed contract and the deed will transfer to NPS in year 2010. The cottage will be taken down at that time in accordance with the contract.

I. Serenaker Tract

The Serenaker Tract is a 136 acre tract of land located in the Town of Lee and was purchased by the Scenic Highways program of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in 1996. This tract is located between Highway 20, lands owned by the Trustees of Reservations and the National Park Service Appalachian Trail lands.

The Serenaker Tract is managed by DCR as part of the State owned Appalachian Trail lands, and provides an important link in the snowmobile and hiker crossing of the Mass Pike via the AT footbridge mentioned above. Caretaker and maintenance access to the Cabin is through portions of this property.

Management Principle

This property will be managed as Appalachian Trail Corridor, State owned land.

Action Plan

1. This tract has been incorporated into the AT Corridor Management program.
2. Corridor Monitors closely monitor the designated snowmobile crossing, and report any incidents of motorized travel on AT lands, other than that allowed for access to the Mass Pike foot bridge.

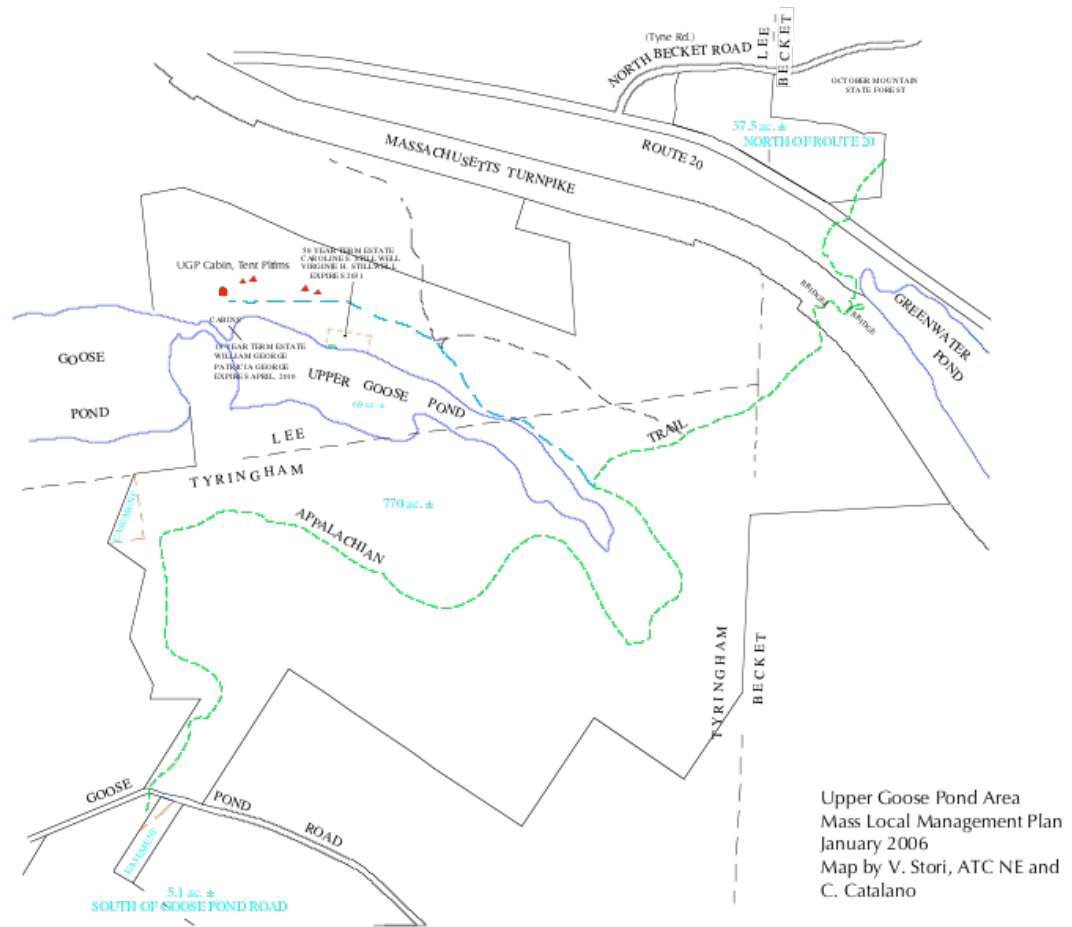


Figure 7-1. Upper Goose Pond, Management Area

Additional information can be found in the Upper Goose Pond Cabin Caretakers Guide and Operations Manual found at the back of this Local Management Plan

7B. SAGES RAVINE

Background

Sages Ravine, located just north of the Massachusetts-Connecticut border, is an area that deserves special management attention. Proximity to Bear Mountain in Connecticut and Bear Rock Falls in Massachusetts, as well as the many cascades and pools on Saw Mill Brook, draws many hikers and campers to Sages Ravine and the adjacent area.

Historically, the Saw Mill Brook crossing (not the State Line) has represented the division of responsibility for AT management between the AMC Berkshire Chapter to the north and the AMC Connecticut Chapter to the south. This arrangement was instituted due to the fact that the Connecticut Chapter used to own and manage much of the Ravine and subsequently sold the land to the State, and the stream provides a natural and logical maintenance boundary.

The Ravine area (300 acres) has been protected by DCR as part of the Appalachian Trail Protection Program. The AMC continues to provide on-site management through ridgerunners and overnight site caretakers of these public lands so that future generations may enjoy the natural beauty.

Management Problems

Over the years the inherent beauty of the Ravine has attracted a considerable number of hikers and campers to the area. Unregulated camping, overuse and abuse has led to trampling of vegetation, debarking of trees, soil compaction along the brook, and problems with human waste disposal. Campfires have been the single largest detraction from the natural setting of the Ravine.

Prior Management Solutions/Actions

In response to the deteriorating state of the Ravine area, the AMC instituted a paid ridgerunner program in the summer of 1979 to provide information and education about low impact camping to users of the area. This program was supplemented by volunteer ridgerunners.

The Brassie Brook Shelter (formerly known as the BOND SHELTER) was constructed two miles south of the Ravine to draw use away from the immediate Ravine area. Also, tent platforms were constructed at Bear Rock Falls and Race Brook Falls, providing additional camping destinations away from the area adjacent to Saw Mill Brook. In addition, a privy was placed in the Ravine for use by overnight visitors. Educational signs were erected requesting the public's cooperation in preserving the area.

These management steps had a positive impact, but it seemed evident that a greater presence was needed to effectively deal with the remaining problems. In 1984, a camping area was constructed by the Connecticut AT Committee on the north side of the brook, complete with a privy and individual campsites. The site was managed by a full time caretaker, and an overnight use fee was instituted. This fee had two purposes: one was to discourage over-use of the area, and to help pay for the caretaker. A re-vegetation program and more aggressive information/education efforts were also instituted. Within two seasons, ground vegetation began growing back, and the area has since begun to return to its natural state.

Following these successes, the overnight user fee was abolished in 1990. A full time caretaker still monitors the area during the summer season. This action did increase use of the area, but the hikers' impacts are now confined to the designated campsite. More hikers have been dispersed to Bear Rock Falls and Race Brook Fall Campsite.

Recent Management Actions

In 2000, Laurel Ridge Campsite was constructed approximately 500ft south of the Bear Rock Falls overnight site, due to impacts from overuse and safety issues at Bear Rock Falls. Bear Rock Falls Campsite was subsequently closed, and a re-vegetation process is ongoing. Laurel Ridge Campsite consists of one mouldering type privy, three tent platforms and 6 hardened tent sites. To continue to preserve this heavily used area, fires are not permitted at Laurel Ridge, and patrolling the campsite has been added to the duties of AMC ridgerunners.

7C TYRINGHAM COBBLE

A. Purpose

1. To serve, guide and aid The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), the National Park Service (NPS) and the Massachusetts AT Committee in providing sound land and trail management for the Appalachian Trail (AT) corridor on Tyringham Cobble.
2. To provide continuity and coordination for present and future management of the AT corridor on Tyringham Cobble among the above referenced partners.
3. To increase public awareness, understanding and input into the management of the Tyringham Cobble and the organizational goals of TTOR and the AT Management Committee.

B. Introduction

Tyringham Cobble is a TwTOR property of approximately 206 acres, located off Jerusalem Road in Tyringham, Massachusetts. This property is composed of steep upland pasture and woodland, includes a part of Hop Brook, and provides spectacular views of Tyringham Valley and the village below. A wide variety of trees and wildflowers grow on the property. The Appalachian Trail crosses a portion of the property.

The property was a gift of Dr. Rustin McIntosh, Mrs. Francesca G. Palmer and Edward N. Perkins in 1963. An endowment given by Mrs. Olivia James in 1963 was increased in 1983 and 1984 by local residents.

C. History

Generations of farmers, poets, playwrights and artists have loved, maintained and protected the magnificent pastoral Tyringham Valley.

125 years ago, the treeless Cobble was owned by the religious group known as the Shakers and served as pasture land for their sheep and cattle. In 1876 the dwindled group of Shakers sold out and moved to other communities at Hancock, Mass and Enfield, Conn.

While the Cobble remained in private hands in the late 19th and 20th centuries, it became a local landmark and was the focus of many town festivities.

Between 1935 and 1939 a group of public spirited residents purchased the Cobble and its surrounding pastures in several parcels to assure its protection and preservation. In 1963 the survivors of the original group deeded the Cobble to the Trustees of Reservations. Today the 206-acre Tyringham Cobble Reservation is maintained by TTOR for passive recreation hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing and nature study.

D. Management

It is the goal of TTOR to preserve and maintain Tyringham Cobble for public use as a scenic overlook to Tyringham Valley. At the same time TTOR tries to encourage and enhance, where possible, the educational, agricultural and silvicultural potential of the property. Trails and vistas that provide views to the valley are maintained, and agricultural practices such as the production of forage crops are encouraged. Public events provide opportunities to attract visitors to the Cobble and raise funds for its continued management.

These activities as well as any others occurring on the Cobble, are monitored and supervised by the staff of TTOR with the advice and assistance of the Tyringham Cobble Committee, a group of resident volunteers concerned with the care and management of the Cobble.

E. Management Partners

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)—
Founded in 1891, TTOR is a privately administered charitable corporation established for conservation purposes to preserve for the public "beautiful and historic places and tracts of land" within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is the policy of TTOR to acquire and maintain properties of a distinctive character to satisfy a wide range of public interests.

Preservation in perpetuity is the purpose of TTOR, which distinguishes the organization from resource agencies whose primary interest may be providing opportunities for recreation. Where enjoyment and preservation of a property may come in conflict, TTOR thinks first of its duty to preserve scenic and ecological values.

TTOR is also involved in the interpretation of the resources of its properties for visitors. With landscaped and natural areas, it means an opportunity to learn about their history or design, the delicacy of their environments and the intricate patterns of their ecosystems.

The governing board of TTOR is its 25-member Board of Directors that meets regularly. The full-time staff totals more than 130 employees.

Other management partners are The National Park Service (NPS), the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and the, Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee of the AMC's Berkshire Chapter. Details concerning these other management partners can be found in Chapter 2 of this Management Plan.

The management of the AT on Tyringham Cobble Reservation is most effectively be executed by treating the Trail footpath and corridor as a separate management area of the Reservation. A separate protective easement for the AT establishes a corridor through Reservation lands. Management principles in this easement corridor are consistent with the existing Management Plan for the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts described in this document, and TTOR Management Guidelines for the Cobble.

F. Maintenance Standards

FOOTPATH STANDARDS

Management Principles

1. The Trail shall be designed, located, constructed and maintained in accordance with ATC and AMC guidelines so as to minimize the impact of hikers and to prevent degradation of the Cobble Reservation.
2. The footpath shall be for foot travel only as per State and Federal legislation.

LOCATION/RELOCATION

Management Principles

1. The existing trail location of the AT was decided upon jointly by TTOR and AMC.
2. Initial trail location was laid out to minimize future management problems.
3. If relocation is necessary, the new location will be decided upon jointly by TTOR and the AMC Mass AT Committee.

MAINTENANCE/CONSTRUCTION

Management Principles

1. The AMC Berkshire Chapter Mass AT Committee is responsible for maintenance and construction of the Appalachian Trail.
2. Maintenance responsibility will be delegated to responsible individuals and groups through the AT Committee.
3. Construction of the Trail footpath will be performed in accordance with standards described in this Management Plan. TTOR reserves the right, and is definitely welcome, to assist the AT Committee in trail maintenance as resources permit.

OVERNIGHT FACILITIES

Management Principles

1. Shelters, designated campsites and dispersed camping zones shall not be allowed in this area.
2. TTOR and the AT Committee mutually agree that camping is prohibited on Tyringham Cobble Reservation.

Action Plan

1. TTOR shall see to it that their posted signs include regulations prohibiting camping.
2. AT Committee signs shall include information on where overnight sites are located elsewhere on the AT.

SIGNS AND MARKING

Management Principles

1. The Trail will be blazed according to standards described elsewhere in this Management Plan with 2" x 6" white blazes. Cairns or posts (with blazes) will be used in treeless areas.
2. Information signs shall be located at Trail access points to the Cobble. Sign size and location will be mutually agreed upon by TTOR and the AT Committee..
3. TTOR reserves the right to erect and maintain its own property and/or interpretive signs at the Trail entrance to the property.

Action Plan

1. The AT Committee will install a "CARRY IN/CARRY OUT" sign at the Jerusalem Road entrance to the Cobble.
2. TTOR will maintain "regulations" signs at both Trail entrances to the Cobble.

PARKING/TRAILHEAD FACILITIES

Management Principles

1. Existing parking area will not be enlarged without consent of TTOR.
2. Existing parking area should be for day use only. Overnight parking is to be prohibited.

Action Plan

1. TTOR "NO OVERNIGHT PARKING" signs are needed.

SIDE TRAILS

Management Principles

1. The existing side trail to the Cobble summit will be maintained as an unmarked path.
2. A sign indicating location of summit will be maintained by TTOR at the trail junction.
3. Future changes in status of existing side trail or new trails will be made jointly by TTOR and the AT Committee.

Action Plan

1. TTOR will maintain the side trail.
2. TTOR will maintain the "summit" sign in accordance with TTOR sign standards.

LITTER/VANDALISM

Management Principles

1. Litter and vandalism are recognized as an ongoing problem and should be controlled.

Action Plan

1. Education regarding the proper use (IE. carry in/carry out) of the AT will be provided by the AT Committee through ridgerunners, guidelines and signs.

2. A litter pick-up program by AT Committee volunteers and sectional trail maintainers will occur as needed. TTOR will attempt to control litter problems on its trails and thereby discourage its spreading to other areas.

FARMING/LAND CLEARING

Management Principles

1. In general, existing farming in the area is compatible with the AT
2. The Trail right-of-way (easement area) should remain in permanent pasture where practical.
3. Where grazing cannot control vegetation, mechanical means can be used so as to retain the scenic character of the Cobble.

Action Plan

1. Planning for the pasturing of livestock or mowing of vegetative growth will be done jointly by TTOR and AT Committee as necessary.
2. Cattle stiles where the AT crosses fence lines shall be installed and maintained by The AT Committee.

OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ORVs)

Management Principles

1. Off road vehicles on the AT and Tyringham Cobble are prohibited by law and every effort will be made to eliminate such use.

Action Plan

1. Fence stiles will be constructed, maintained by the AT Committee at the two access points so as to prevent any ORV from utilizing the AT on the Cobble.
2. Attempts will be made by TTOR and AMC to educate ORV users about the damage caused by such vehicles.

HORSES

Management Principle

1. Horses shall not be allowed on the Trail because of the steepness of terrain and soil conditions.
2. The Appalachian Trail is designated for foot traffic only.

Action Plan

1. Signs should be posted at access points stating TTOR regulations on the Appalachian Trail.
2. Fence stiles where the AT crosses fence lines will be constructed and maintained by the AT Committee so that livestock cannot pass through.

FORESTRY

Management Principles

1. A 100 ft. no cut zone is to be maintained on either side of the AT footpath, except in open and/or pastured areas.
2. Crossing of the AT footpath for forestry practices will occur only by mutual consent of TTOR and the AT Committee.

Action Plan

1. A skid road through the AT right-of-way easement will be designated by the AT Committee and TTOR when needed.

G. Management Principles for the Tyringham Cobble Reservation

The following items apply specifically to the area of the Tyringham Cobble Trail Corridor that is protected by a scenic easement held by the NPS for the Appalachian Trail.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF SCENIC EASEMENT

Management Principle

A representative of TTOR agrees to meet annually with a representative of the AT Committee as the NPS's representative to walk the Scenic Easement area.

COOPERATIVE WORK PROJECTS

Management Principle

As resources permit for either organization, work projects that will enhance the scenic quality of the Tyringham Cobble Scenic Easement will be undertaken by AT Committee volunteers and TTOR staff and volunteers.

Action Plan

The Superintendent of Tyringham Cobble will inform the AT Committee of yearly projects in the Scenic Easement area that could utilize Trail volunteers. Cooperative efforts will only be undertaken as time, policy and funding permits.

CHAPTER 8--AT COMMITTEE ACTION PLANS

8A. ANNUAL AND LONG RANGE PLANS

Management Principles

1. Both annual and long range plans necessitate clear understandings and communication with the various partners in the management process.
2. The AT Committee, as the central managing partner for the AT in Massachusetts, is responsible for long range planning and the establishment of goals and priorities. Specific work plans will be developed, approved, publicized and reviewed annually.
3. The NPS 5 year project cycle and trail assessment will be the primary mechanism for long term planning

Action Plan

1. At the beginning of each calendar year, the AT Committee Chair will see that goals and priorities are established and approved by the AT Committee. These will be publicized and will serve as the focus for the AT Committee's yearly activity and effort.
2. A trail assessment will serve as a yearly resource in establishing the goals and priorities. This assessment will be reviewed at the end of each Trail work season. Communications with other management partners will also serve as key resources in this process.
3. Work projects in order of priority for each upcoming year will be updated through the above process, and will form the basis of the next year's work plan. The 2005 work plan is included in Appendix 9 as an example. Annual updates will be sent by the AT Committee to the following agency officials and organizational representatives (and to any other individuals who so request):
 - DCR Region 5 Trails Manager
 - New England Regional Office , Appalachian Trail Conservancy
 - Regional Program Director, Appalachian Mountain Club
 - Chair, Berkshire Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club
4. Using the NPS trail resource assessment and other sources, the AT Committee will create and maintain a list of major projects that may require funding through NPS or ATC. This list will be updated annually. The current 2005 5 Year Plan can be found in Appendix 9

APPENDICES

A1. MAPS OF THE AT IN MASSACHUSETTS

- (a) Segment Maps
- (b) Overview Map

A2. THE AT ORGANIZATION IN MASSACHUSETTS (Organizational chart and Contact Information)

- (a) The AT Management Committee of the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club—July, 2005

A3. DELEGATION AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS

- (a) Cooperative Agreement for AT Management in Massachusetts: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- (b) Memorandum of Understanding for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Between the Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter and the Appalachian Trail Conference
- (c) Internal Memorandum of Understanding within the Appalachian Mountain Club for the Volunteer Maintenance and Management of the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts

A4. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

- (a) Directory

A5. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

- (a) AT Side Trails
- (b) Historical/Cultural Areas and Sites
- (c) Natural Scenic Areas
- (d) Massachusetts AT History
- (e) Commonwealth CMR 15.15 Use of Appalachian Trail
- (f) Snowmobile Legislation (Mass Pike Bridge)
- (g) NPS Fire Management Plan cover letter from ATPO. (See www.nps.gov/appa for full text of FMP)

A6. DEFINITIONS FOR THIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

A7. NPS AND ATC POLICY STATEMENTS FOR:

- (a) Volunteers In Parks (VIP)
- (b) Special Use Permits (SUP's)
- (c) Trail Club Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- (d) Managing for a Primitive Experience
- (e) Advertising on the Trail Corridor
- (f) Exotic Invasive Species
- (g) Chain Saw and Cross Cut Saw Training and Certification Policy
- (h) Non-Hiking Recreational Use of Corridor Lands

A8. OTHER REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- (a) AT Committee Project Leadership Qualifications
- (b) MGL 21, Section 17C—Limitation of Liability
- (c) Upper Goose Pond Cabin (UGPC) Manual
- (d) Upper Goose Pond Area Map
- (e) Upper Goose Pond Inholding Deeds (George and Stillwell)

A9. TRAIL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION—ONGOING DATA COLLECTION

- (a) NPS Trail assessment data to date (On CD)
- (b) 2005 season work plan
- (c) 5 year plan for major projects