



GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN GEORGIA

DECEMBER 2006

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- A. FSH 2309.18 Trails Management Handbook, WO Amendment 2309.18-91-2, effective 11/8/91.
- B. ATC Stewardship Series: Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance by W. Birchard, Jr. and R. D. Proudman. Second edition, 2000
 - A.T. Fieldbook, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Volunteers, second edition
- C. Trail Signs and Trail Markings (Master Sign List and Sign Policy). Attached CD, USFS Sign and Poster Guidelines
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List of Abbreviations

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| ANST | Appalachian National Scenic Trail |
| A.T. | Appalachian Trail |
| ATC | Appalachian Trail Conservancy |
| ATPO | Appalachian Trail Park Office |
| C-ONF | Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests |
| DNR | Department of Natural Resources (GA) |
| DOT | Department of Transportation (GA) |
| DR | District Ranger |
| FMSS | Facility Management Software System |
| FSORAG | Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines |
| FSTAG | Forest Service Trails Accessibility Guidelines |
| GATC | Georgia Appalachian Trail Club |
| LRMP | Land and Resource Management Plan |
| Mrx | Management Prescription |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NPS | National Park Service |
| RD | Ranger District |
| RPC | Regional Partnership Committee |
| SARRWAG | Southern Appalachian Recreation/Rivers/Wilderness Advisory Group |
| SIO | Scenic Integrity Objective |
| SMS | Scenery Management System |
| SO | Supervisor's Office |
| USFS | US Forest Service |

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purposes of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) Plan for Management of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia are:

To provide a basis for the cooperative management of the assigned miles of Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and associated side trails in Georgia by the GATC and its management partners.

To provide a continuous framework for future management as circumstances and personnel change.

To preserve the primary role of local volunteers in the management of the A.T. in Georgia.

To fulfill management obligations resulting from the passage of the 1968 National Trails System Act which were further delineated in the 1981 National Park Service (NPS) Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan and supporting documents and memoranda of agreement. (Appendices I-A through I-I.)

To define the desired conditions of the A.T. in Georgia.

B. BACKGROUND AND LOCATION OF THE A.T. IN GEORGIA

The Georgia section of the A.T. extends for approximately 76 miles across the Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Georgia generally in a northeasterly direction from Springer Mountain to Bly Gap, just across the North Carolina state line. (See the map of the Georgia section of the A.T. accompanying this plan.) The A.T. is almost entirely in the Chattahoochee National Forest (C-ONF). It borders or passes through eight counties: Gilmer; Fannin; Union; Lumpkin; Towns; White; Habersham; and Rabun; and four C-ONF Ranger Districts: Toccoa, Chattooga, Brasstown, and Tallulah. Approximately 40 miles of the Georgia A.T. is within Congressionally designated Wilderness areas: Blood Mountain Wilderness, Raven Cliffs Wilderness, Mark Trail Wilderness, Tray Mountain Wilderness, and Southern Nantahala Wilderness. Approximately 12 miles of the A.T. and the Approach Trail (are) within the Ed Jenkins (Springer Mountain) National Recreation Area (NRA). An 8-mile approach trail leading to remote Springer Mountain begins at Amicalola Falls State Park on Highway 52. From its southern terminus at Springer Mountain, the A.T. descends at times to low valleys, crossing several streams, but mostly follows ridges at elevations around 3000 feet and rises at times to summits over 4000 feet. Outstanding peaks along the A.T. include Springer Mountain, Big Cedar Mountain, Blood Mountain, Cowrock Mountain, Rocky Mountain, Tray Mountain, and Kelly Knob. The Trail crosses major highways at Woody Gap, Neels Gap, Tesnatee Gap, Hogpen Gap, Unicoi Gap, and Dicks Creek Gap. In addition to the Springer Mountain

Approach Trail from Amicalola Falls, other side trails that connect to the A.T. that are maintained by the GATC include the Hike Inn Trail, trails to shelters, two trails leading to Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area, the Jacks Gap Trail, the Freeman Trail leading around the south side of Blood Mountain, the Byron Reece Trail, the Dockery Lake Trail, and the Rocky Mountain/Indian Grave Gap trail. (Appendix II – I).

In the early 1930's, the A.T. in Georgia was planned and built mostly under the direction of a handful of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) personnel, who also organized the GATC at that time with both the A.T. and GATC under the general oversight of the ATC. From these early days a strong working relationship has continued between the GATC, the ATC, and the USFS.

For its first 25 years, the Georgia A.T. was almost entirely a ridge crest trail from Mount Oglethorpe to Bly Gap. Only a small section of the A.T. (about 15 miles) was on private land. After World War II major relocations between Springer Mountain and Gooch Gap removed the Trail from forest roads along the ridgecrest and into more remote valley locations. In the late 1950's the A.T. southern terminus was moved from Mount Oglethorpe to Springer Mountain, thus removing the A.T. from about 13 miles of private land. Since 1980 the USFS has acquired the last few remaining private lots of land which the Trail crossed.

Responsibility for maintenance of the A.T. has historically rested jointly on the GATC and the C-ONF. Between World War II and 1968 the GATC assumed a major role in trail maintenance and shelter construction. The USFS supplied materials and the GATC laid out and constructed the trails with USFS approval. With the passage of the National Trails System Act of 1968, the USFS assumed the major responsibility for trail relocation and major construction. In the 10 years between 1968 and 1978 the C-ONF handled almost all of the trail and shelter construction, trail relocation, and heavy maintenance, while the GATC generally took responsibility for trail clearing and blazing. In 1978, following the passage of the amendment to the National Trails System Act, the GATC again assumed a major role in trail design and construction.

In 1984 the ATC and U.S. Dept. of Interior signed an agreement delegating unprecedented responsibilities for management, development and maintenance of the A.T. to ATC and its member clubs. Though USFS lands are managed under separate agreements between the USFS and individual A.T. maintaining clubs, the spirit of this agreement has been incorporated into Forest Service/Trail Club relationships as well. In 1985, the first set of Regional Standards and Guides for the Appalachian Trail Management Area in USFS Region 8 were completed. This document was updated in 1993. In 1999-2003, as part of the southern Appalachian forest plan revision process in USFS Region 8, the A.T. standards and guides were again revised. The standards were incorporated into the C-ONF Land and Resource Management Plan of 2004(Appendix I-A) while the more detailed guidelines were incorporated into an "Implementation Guide

for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail” (Appendix I-B). This consensus document was the work of the Southern Appalachian Recreation/Rivers/Wilderness Advisory Group (SARRWAG) team and represents a collaborative effort by USFS staff, ATC staff and ATC volunteers.

See Appendices:

I-A. C-ONF Land and Resource Management Plan, 2004

I-B Implementation Guide for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

I-C. Forest Service Manual 9/83 Region 8 Supplement 42

Title 2300 - Recreation Management.

I-D. GATC Position Statement On Forest Management.

I-E. MOU between GATC and C-ONF.

I-I. MOU for the ANST between GATC and ATC.

All policies and actions contained in this plan are subject to all federal and state agency regulations.

Part 7 of this management plan describes management direction in Federally designated wilderness areas and where applicable takes precedence over policy stated in Parts 1 through 6.

II. THE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Cooperative Management System is the concept of joint management of the A.T. by the ATC, the maintaining trail clubs, the NPS, the USFS and such other organizations or individuals that have a delegated responsibility for the A.T. It is detailed in the Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Appendix I-H).

The GATC subscribes to the philosophy expressed in the ATC's Local Management Planning Guide that cooperation leads to the best results in the management of the A.T. Each of the partners should do what it does best among the many tasks to be done. These roles should be negotiated through ongoing cooperative working relationships between the partners.

THE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

A. The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.

The GATC, founded in 1930, is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that accepts management responsibilities for A.T. in Georgia as assigned by the ATC (see MOU between GATC and ATC (App I-I.)). The GATC provides maintenance and management of its assigned trail section and also builds shelters, privies, bridges, etc. The GATC adheres to the standards in ATC's *Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*, Second Edition, 2000, by Birchard and Proudman, as well as USFS and ATC guidelines for relocations and other management procedures. Although the USFS has never formally delegated management of the trail corridor to the ATC and its clubs (as did the NPS in 1983), all partners have accepted the USFS's Scenery Management System (SMS) for protection of the trail corridor in Georgia. The GATC's primary role is to manage the A.T. to provide as primitive an experience as possible. In order to do this the GATC does continual monitoring, evaluation and maintenance. The primary maintenance is accomplished by regularly scheduled trail maintenance trips. Through a system of trail section overseers (Apps II-K, IV-K), the GATC provides recurring light maintenance on the A.T. The GATC solicits assistance from other agency partners and the ATC when maintenance requirements exceed the GATC's capabilities. The GATC is also responsible for preparing a local management plan delineating its responsibilities, policies and planned actions for its assigned section of the A.T. The GATC has the lead role in preparation of its local management plan. The GATC will consult with the USFS, ATC, local and state officials, and other concerned organizations in preparing this plan. The GATC also assumes responsibility for writing the plan, and amending it as necessary to reflect new club policies and goals.

B. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The ATC, headquartered in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, provides oversight and support and delegates management responsibility to the A.T.- maintaining clubs. This responsibility derives from the cooperative agreements signed by the ATC and its agency

partners. The agreement with the NPS was signed in 1970. The agreement with the USFS was signed in 1980. These two major agreements formally authorized the conference's and the volunteers' traditional stewardship of the trail. The ATC serves as guarantor to its agency partners for the responsible stewardship of lands in public ownership. In general, the clubs carry out the on-the-ground management of the trail while the ATC provides oversight and support, a working partnership that has served the trail community well for years. The ATC offers to the maintaining clubs workshops, specific training, the trail crew programs, grants for various projects (shelters, bridges, etc.), publications, advice and support by its staff. The ATC is also responsible for reviewing and approving local management plans. In general the ATC's approach to clubs is supportive and respectful of these clubs' own volunteer traditions. ATC also provides national leadership on issues such as landscape-scale protection for the A.T., resource management, and education/outreach efforts. In 1997, the ATC and GATC signed an MOU defining the specific understandings and working relationships between the two organizations regarding the management of the A.T. and Trail corridor. This agreement was updated and revised in 2006. (App I-I.) GATC works with ATC primarily through the ATC regional office in Asheville, NC.

C. The National Park Service

The 1968 National Trails System Act assigned ultimate responsibility for the administration of the A.T. to the Department of Interior (National Park Service) but stipulated that the Department of Interior should work closely with the Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service). Since all of the Georgia A.T. lies within the proclamation boundaries of the C-ONF and since no private lands along the A.T. in Georgia have been purchased by the NPS, the GATC's ties are primarily with the USFS. The senior officer of the NPS Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia is the responsible manager for the A.T. as a whole and has developed an NPS resource management plan for the A.T. The ATPO reviews local management plans to ensure consistency with overall A.T. objectives. The ATPO provides broad support in a variety of ways to ATC and Trail maintaining clubs. The GATC meets with the ATPO representatives at Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) meetings and other ATC Meetings.

D. The U.S. Forest Service

Since the A.T. in Georgia is on USFS land, within the C-ONF, the GATC works with the USFS as its primary agency partner. USFS personnel in the Region 8 office in Atlanta, in the C-ONF Supervisor's office in Gainesville, and in several ranger districts are all involved in this partnership. The close relationship between the GATC and the C-ONF dates from the 1930's and is described in detail by a memorandum of understanding signed originally in 1980 and revised in 1986, 1993, and 2006 (App I-E.). In 1987 a Wilderness Management Agreement was signed, which is incorporated into the 2006 agreement. Multiple use management of the C-ONF is governed by the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), which is subject to periodic revision. This plan is produced by USFS planners with extensive public review and comment. Within the

current LRMP, adopted in 2004(App I-A), the A.T. zone is delineated principally as Management Prescription 4.A (and also prescriptions 1.A, 1.B, 3.C, and 4.H), with boundaries as defined by the USFS Scenery Management System (SMS). Desired Conditions, Objectives, and Standards for management and protection of the A.T. within Management prescription 4.A are detailed in this document. Guidelines for implementation are contained in “Implementation Guide for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail” (Appendix I-B). The GATC has become knowledgeable in the use of USFS management tools such as SMS and with NEPA requirements and processes in order to be an effective and credible partner in Trail management.

The GATC meets periodically with the Forest Supervisor, his/her staff, and District Rangers and their staffs to review trail management issues and develop appropriate policies and actions to respond to those issues. The Forest Supervisor and staff are responsible for review and input on the GATC Management Plan for the A.T. All planning for trail relocations or trail structures is done in close cooperation with the C-ONF, especially the District Rangers and District staff personnel.

E. The State of Georgia

The A.T. in Georgia crosses lands under the jurisdiction of the State of Georgia at highway crossings and at a small tract of land associated with Walasi-Yi Inn at Neels Gap. Highway crossings are under the responsibility of the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) and Walasi-Yi Inn is under the aegis of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The GATC meets periodically with DOT and DNR to discuss mutual concerns (App I-F).

The Approach Trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to Springer Mountain and the Hike Inn Trail cross both state (DNR) and C-ONF (USFS) lands.

F. Other A.T. Maintaining Clubs

The GATC has established a working relationship with other A.T. maintaining clubs through national and regional meetings such as:

- 1). The ATC's Biennial Conferences.
- 2) ATC's Club Presidents' Meeting usually held every two years where A.T. maintaining-club presidents meet and share ideas.
- 3). The Multi-Club meet over Labor Day weekend, a meeting of all of the southern A.T. maintaining clubs and an event in which the GATC has participated since the meeting was a three club meet in the 1930's;
- 4). ATC Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) meetings, periodic meetings of southern clubs, agency partners and the ATC. The RPC meetings supercede Southern Regional Management Committee meetings that have been held since 1980. These meetings provide a forum where information and mutual concerns are exchanged.

G. Environmental Groups

The GATC cooperates with environmental groups in preserving the North Georgia area, and in particular the A.T. and its associated corridor. Environmental concerns not directly related to the A.T. are addressed on a case-by-case basis.

H. Landowners

Since all of the Georgia section of the A.T. lies within the C-ONF or on state lands, the GATC has little reason to deal directly with landowners concerning the trail corridor. From time to time the club will meet with private landowners to discuss land acquisition proposals for the A.T. viewshed.

III. THE PHYSICAL TRAIL

Perspective:

The A.T. in Georgia was located in the early 1930's as a ridge crest trail extending from Bly Gap, North Carolina, to Mount Oglethorpe. It has been rerouted in part over the ensuing years. Industrial development on the southern end of the A.T. around Mount Oglethorpe eliminated the wilderness aspect of this area in the 1950's. Strong sentiment developed to change the southern terminus of the Trail to a more suitable location. Springer Mountain was selected as a peak providing a remote setting and was officially designated as the southern terminus in 1958. Since then the white-blazed trail has remained unchanged except for minor relocations for the Richard Russell Parkway and to provide for optimal location of the trail.

Policy: The GATC is committed to the policy adopted by the ATC in 1995 for managing and maintaining the Trail for a primitive experience. (App III-E.)

A. TRAIL STANDARDS

Perspective:

Since 1979, the GATC and the USFS have operated under a memorandum of understanding that defines the conditions of maintenance, construction and relocation. (App I-E.). Trail standards that have been adhered to are those of the C-ONF (App I-A and III-A) and the ATC (App III-B). The GATC has followed the trail standards specified by the ATC Stewardship Manual. The consideration of trail problems with agreement among the GATC, the ATC, and the USFS as to their solution (i.e. the Cooperative Management System) has proven to be a satisfactory method, addressing trail problems from the viewpoint of both trail volunteer and interfacing government agency.

GATC Policy:

The GATC in cooperation with the ATC, the USFS and the State of Georgia will continue to apply the trail standards of the ATC and the USFS, C-ONF in maintaining the A.T. in Georgia. The guidelines in the memorandum of understanding between the GATC and the USFS define a workable approach to incorporating the functions of trail design, construction and management into a trail management plan (App I-E.) The GATC has a similar cooperative agreement with the State of Georgia (App I-F.)

The agreed-upon trail standards will apply to all management areas in C-ONF and to all state lands through which the A.T. and associated side trails pass. (App I-A, III-A, III-B, III-C.)

B. TRAIL DESIGN/LOCATION/RELOCATION

Perspective:

The A.T. is primarily designed, constructed and maintained by volunteer labor to serve as an area of solitude and detachment from the dense population of eastern America, and to

expose hikers to the culture of the region through which it passes. It is routed to take advantage of the outstanding peaks of the Georgia Blue Ridge (as described in the Federal Register of 1981). Relocations have been evaluated using the Appalachian Trail Relocation Procedures (which are incorporated into the Forest Service Manual Supplement R-8 SUPP42 (App I-C. and IV – B.)

The Optimal Location Review (OLR) was developed in the early 1980's to allow the USFS, trail maintaining clubs, and the ATC to reach agreement systematically and objectively on the best location for the A.T. During the period from 1984 to 1988 the GATC, the ATC and the USFS conducted an OLR on the entire trail in Georgia (App IV-A) to determine the most desirable location for the A.T.

GATC Policy:

The GATC bases its design principles on the concept of the A.T. as a primitive footpath. The GATC will be guided by the aforementioned trail standards and by the Optimal Location Review in the design of future relocations. Refer to Appendices III-A, III-B, III-C, IV-A, IV-B. Relocations under consideration are listed in the GATC Trail Assessment (App IV-D.)

C. TRAIL CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE

Perspective:

The GATC and the USFS established the A.T. in Georgia. Early members of the GATC surveyed the route and cleared, constructed and maintained the original A.T. with help from the USFS and the CCC during the 1930's. The GATC reestablished the A.T. after the dormant years of World War II. During the ensuing years, the GATC and the USFS have remained partners in the maintenance and management of the A.T. The GATC-USFS partnership has continued under a memorandum of understanding first signed in 1979. The USFS furnishes supplies, materials, equipment, and expertise regarding statutory and regulatory guidelines, and the GATC furnishes volunteer labor for construction and maintenance of the A.T. With ATC support, the GATC also furnishes supplies and materials for construction projects. Since 1979, the GATC has corrected specific erosion problems with waterbars, log or rock steps and cribbing, grade dips or minor relocations so as to harden the entire Georgia Trail.

GATC Policy:

The GATC is responsible for all construction and maintenance of the A.T. in Georgia, including associated structures and certain connecting trails (App II-F, II-G, II-I.) The GATC will adhere to the construction and maintenance standards of the ATC and the USFS, C-ONF. Utilizing data from available monitoring sources, the GATC will produce and provide a detailed maintenance plan to the USFS each year. The GATC will schedule regular activities that will be open to GATC members and guests for the purpose of trail construction and maintenance.

Organization and conduct of all maintenance activities is the responsibility of the Trails Supervisor (App IV-I), assisted by District Leaders (App IV-J), who assume responsibility for major portions of the trail (App II-K). The GATC also relies on trail section overseers

for routine maintenance (APP IV-K). The Trails Supervisor, utilizing the procedures of the ATC Trail Assessment Handbook, information gleaned from FMSS monitoring, and in conjunction with the ATC and C-ONF, identifies the major maintenance projects and assigns priorities.

D. TRAIL SHELTERS AND CAMPSITES

Perspective:

The original shelters along the A.T. in Georgia were cabin types constructed by the CCC. Beginning about 1955, these cabin type shelters have been replaced by three-sided Adirondack, Nantahala or timber frame shelters built by the USFS and the GATC.

GATC Policy:

The GATC believes that shelters should be simple structures in keeping with the policy of maintaining the trail as a primitive experience (App III – E). GATC supports a system of shelters and designated off-trail campsites (App II-F). The structures will be in a usable condition so as to provide reliable shelter to hikers from inclement weather. Each shelter should satisfy the following criteria:

- Location - Distance from other shelters will usually be between 8 and 12 miles (can be closer in high use areas) and one mile or more from ungated roads.

- Shelter - Floored Adirondack, Nantahala, or timber frame type; typically to provide shelter for 6 to 12 people.

- Water - will be within 1/4th mile of a year-round water source.

- Sanitation – Moldering Privies will be built at each shelter site

For building or relocation of shelters, the GATC will follow the ATC Shelter Approval Checklist contained in Appendix IV-H, which also includes USFS approval procedures, including the removal of hazard trees. In addition to maintaining the shelter system, the GATC will, with USFS district coordination, develop and maintain off-trail campsites as needed to reduce and control the environmental impact of misuse along the trail corridor.

Each off-trail campsite should satisfy the following criteria:

- Location - Out of sight of the A.T. where possible with a year-round spring and away from outstanding trail features such as scenic overlooks.

- Topography – Tent pads will be constructed on sloping ground so as to confine campsite sprawl to the designated levelled tenting areas.

- Sanitation - Privies will not be provided at off-trail campsites. Cat-holing will be encouraged away from the campsite.

Camping within sight of the trail should be discouraged. In the case of excessive environmental impact, camping in specific areas should be prohibited by the USFS, after consultation with GATC and ATC.

E. TRAIL SIGNS AND TRAIL MARKINGS

Perspective:

Originally, all trail signs, blazes and metal A.T. markers were placed by the GATC. Subsequently trail signs indicating location and distance became the responsibility of the USFS. Trail blazes continued to be the responsibility of the GATC. In 1979, the GATC began a program of updating and replacing all signs. These new signs were built and routed to conform to USFS standards. This program was completed in 1985. Repair and replacement of signage is accomplished periodically. Sign design and placement are governed by the Forest Service Sign Handbook and GATC Sign and Marking Policy (App III-C).

GATC Policy:

The GATC will utilize both signs and blazes in marking the A.T. in Georgia and conform to the official sign placement policy. The GATC will coordinate with the USFS in maintaining a master sign list detailing the location, type, size and information on each sign (App III-C). The GATC will be responsible for all sign maintenance and for painting and maintaining the markings on the A.T. The GATC, in consultation with the USFS and the ATC, will determine the location and frequency of markings based on trail characteristics.

F. BRIDGES AND STREAM CROSSINGS

Perspective:

In the past the GATC has relied on existing USFS bridges. In 1981 the GATC built bridges across Justus and Blackwell Creeks. These were replaced in 1986 with prefabricated bridges. Bridges were built over Stover Creek and Chester Creek in 1990. The Blackwell Creek bridge was replaced by stepping stones during a 2001 trail relocation.

GATC Policy:

Where the Trail crosses permanent or intermittent watercourses or poorly drained areas, certain improvements may be developed and maintained for hiker safety and convenience. These improvements may consist of drainage ditches, stepping stones, cribbing, bridges, or similar construction. Wherever possible, the Trail route will be located to avoid areas subject to seasonal water problems. As a matter of policy, streams crossed by the A.T. in Georgia shall be bridged only when a bridge is essential to hiker safety during normal hiking conditions. Where the Trail route follows a stream, the Trail will be located, to the extent possible, above the high-water level and should minimize stream crossings. When necessary to ensure public safety, bridges will be provided for safe crossing of large permanent or seasonal streams. Bridges will generally be built at narrow points and be of sturdy construction. Foundations, abutments, cribbing, or other embankment reinforcement will be constructed where required for stability. Safety will be the primary design consideration. Particular attention will be given to providing hikers with secure footing in inclement weather. All construction will follow ATC and USFS standards and guidelines. Construction may be a joint enterprise of the GATC and the USFS. For larger structures, engineering expertise and construction assistance may be sought. Bridge designs should be in character with the surroundings when consistent with safety. The USFS should be responsible for periodic inspection of bridges for safety. Any bridge greater than 20 feet in length will require the use of an engineer approved design, and will entail a commitment to

regularly scheduled inspections as per the ATC policy on stream crossings and bridges (App III – G)

A list of bridges is provided in Appendix II-G.)

G. TRAIL HEADS AND PARKING

Perspective:

Parking facilities have consisted of wide shoulder areas at gaps and, in some instances, parallel or gravel parking at the more popular areas. These maintained facilities were normally built for purposes other than trail use and sometimes have other facilities such as restrooms, drinking water, etc. They were built by the DOT or by some other governmental agency such as the State Parks Division of the Georgia DNR, and the USFS.

Paved or gravel parking is available at Amicalola Falls State Park, FS 42 north of Springer Mountain, Woody Gap, Neels Gap, Tesnatee Gap, Hog Pen Gap, Unicoi Gap, and Dicks Creek Gap. Restroom facilities are available at Amicalola Falls State Park, Woody Gap and Neels Gap.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will check each major access point periodically. The Georgia DOT, the Georgia DNR or the USFS will be informed of needed facilities, repairs, and/or maintenance to preserve the wilderness character of the A.T. and to insure hiker safety. See Appendix II-H for list of roads crossing the A.T.

H. TOOLS

Perspective:

Prior to 1979, the GATC owned a small number of hand tools with most of the tools used for trail maintenance being provided by various volunteers. In 1979, the USFS provided additional trail maintenance tools for the GATC's use through the Memorandum of Understanding (App I-E). In recent years GATC has purchased needed tools using its own resources.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will provide all tools necessary for trail work to volunteers and will assume responsibility for the storage, upkeep and maintenance of these tools. The GATC will maintain an inventory of all tools either owned by the GATC or on loan from the USFS. Volunteers may provide their own tools as a matter of individual choice. (App I-E and IV-E.)

I. WATER SOURCES

Perspective:

Water sources are an integral feature of the trail and essential to its use and enjoyment. These sources have been identified and maintained with the same care as the treadway of the trail. Water from backcountry sources should not be considered safe for consumption unless treated before use. A list of water sources is identified in Appendix II – L.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will identify, inspect and clean water sources at every shelter and at reliable sources along the trail. The GATC will determine the general condition of all water sources on a regular basis. No improvement beyond pipes or simple catch basins will be installed at water sources. The GATC does not consider water along the Georgia section of the A.T. and side trails as potable, and cannot guarantee the purity of water from any source along the Appalachian Trail. The GATC will assist the USFS in educating trail users to boil or treat water before use. See Appendix I-C.

J. TRAIL MONITORING TECHNIQUES

Perspective:

The GATC has always sought to be aware of conditions along the entire length of the A.T. in Georgia. The Trail is hiked by volunteers with the specific purpose of evaluating Trail conditions and reporting these evaluations in systematic fashion. The trail evaluation information has been provided to the Trail Supervisor for use in planning the maintenance program for the year. The evaluation of sections and districts of the trail has been the continuing responsibility of section overseers and district leaders. Thus, one or more individual members oversees every section of the trail and reports on its condition. In 1992, the GATC completed its first Trail Assessment. The Assessment was updated in 1994, and periodically thereafter as required. GATC participates with ATC in collecting trail assessment data for inclusion in the Facility Management Software System (FMSS), and also to update data bases maintained by USFS.

GATC Policy:

The GATC annually walks the entire trail and specific conditions are recorded. Section Overseer reports and reports from scheduled hikes throughout the year are used to furnish additional information on trail conditions. GATC members are encouraged to solicit information from hikers and forward this information to the Trails Supervisor. The Trails Supervisor provides input to cooperative partners concerning long range maintenance and construction requirements. See App IV-C and IV-D for GATC/A.T. Assessment Procedure and Forms.

K. SIDE TRAILS

Perspective:

The ATC policy for side and connecting trails is at Appendix III – H. The GATC maintains side trails as listed in Appendix II-I.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will continue to manage and maintain designated side trails. Additional side trails will be established as needed to disperse hiking activity along the A.T. and to limit use based on the guidelines of the USFS. Every effort will be made to have side trails intersect the A.T. at right angles to avoid confusion. In all cases where additional side trails are required, they will be established with the concurrence of and in cooperation with USFS and the ATC.

L. SAFETY

Perspective:

Trail maintenance and construction activities often require use of sharp tools, heavy lifting, and technical knowledge and skill. These activities also often take place in fairly remote locations, and occasionally take place in inclement weather. Workers must practice safe work habits to insure personal safety and the safety of others.

GATC Policy:

The GATC considers safety to be of prime importance in carrying out its trail management and maintenance duties. All GATC members and guests are expected to abide by GATC policy (App IV-F) regarding safety while participating in GATC-sponsored activities.

GATC members and guests are encouraged to practice safe work habits, wear appropriate protective clothing and utilize protective equipment as they pursue their maintenance activities. Where appropriate, all trail maintainers should be encouraged to wear hard hats, eye protection, gloves, shin guards, and boots with skid-resistant soles, and such other equipment as will enhance safety. GATC members will receive first aid/CPR, chain saw, and or crosscut saw training before using these saws in any GATC maintenance activity. Before beginning work on Club sponsored work trips, a discussion on safety is conducted for the benefit of all participants. All members and guests will sign a GATC waiver and release form prior to participating in a work party. Completing the form registers all guests and members as Volunteers in the Forest, eligible for Federal Workers Compensation in the event of an injury. Accident reporting procedures are outlined in Appendix IV – F.

M. SANITATION

Perspective:

With the dramatic increase in Trail and shelter use in the 1980's, the GATC became more concerned with the public health aspects of impacted areas along the Trail and began installing open style privies at shelter sites beginning at the most heavily used sites, Springer and Blood Mountain shelters. After a trial of the moldering privy at the Gooch Mountain shelter (2001-2002), GATC and USFS agreed to install this type of privy at all shelters in Georgia.

GATC Policy: It is GATC policy to install and maintain sanitation facilities at shelter sites.

N. MEMORIALS/MONUMENTS

Perspective:

From time to time requests have been made of the GATC by parties or individuals wishing to establish a memorial along the trail. The club has opposed such markers on the A.T., and in 1996 passed a policy regarding such. To the Club's knowledge neither the USFS nor the ATC has a policy regarding memorials or monuments along the trail.

GATC Policy:

GATC is opposed to the placement or construction of monuments or other memorial material to commemorate a person or event in a location that can be viewed directly from the A.T., or associated side trails.

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, a small plaque (not to exceed 8 by 10 inches) may be placed inside a Trail structure, such as a shelter or privy, to acknowledge the donation of labor or material used in the construction of that structure and said plaque may contain memorial comments related to a person or event.

IV. - ISSUES AND POLICIES--PUBLIC USE, PUBLIC INFORMATION, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A. EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Perspective:

Responses to law enforcement, fire control and search and rescue emergencies are dependent upon the established jurisdictions for the lands on which the A.T. is located. Such responses are outside the capability of the GATC.

In Georgia, the A.T. is located entirely on National Forest lands. National Forest lands are under proprietary jurisdiction, which means that the USFS as landowner is entitled to law enforcement and emergency services provided by the local governmental agencies just as is any private landowner. The C-ONF, however, also has law enforcement personnel as well as trained fire suppression personnel. Search and Rescue operations are legally the responsibility of the county sheriffs departments in Georgia.

Camp Frank D. Merrill near Dahlonega is the site of the mountaineering training division of the U.S. Army Ranger training program. While this unit has no official law enforcement powers, they have training units in the field on a regular basis and provide an additional resource for emergency awareness and assistance along the southern-most sections of the Georgia A.T.

Since the A.T. in Georgia is entirely within the C-ONF, any law enforcement, fire control or search and rescue operations involving the Trail will be coordinated by the C-ONF.

GATC Policy:

In emergency situations involving GATC sponsored activities, the GATC trip leader and co-leader will notify proper authorities and will remain on the scene to provide assistance as necessary until the emergency is resolved. In any other security or emergency situation involving the A.T., the USFS should inform the GATC in a timely manner. The GATC will then notify ATC of any major emergency situation involving the A.T. The GATC will continue to stress responsible leadership for all its events, and through its educational program will encourage responsible hiking practices. The GATC will advocate the posting of emergency telephone numbers at all major highway crossings by the USFS, and has posted such information at shelters in Georgia. Emergency telephone numbers are listed in the GATC Yearbook, which is distributed annually to all club members and to the USFS.

B. SPECIAL EVENTS AND LARGE GROUP USE

Perspective:

The number of people using the A.T. is increasing. Use of the A.T. by large groups can compromise the experience of others who seek quiet recreation using a “simple footpath”. User conflicts can occur when large groups fill trail shelters, leaving no room

for individual hikers. Use of the A.T. by large groups or for fund-raising "Hike-A-Thons" is incompatible with the concept of the A.T. as a wilderness footpath. At present there are no regulations concerning absolute limits on group size on the A.T. in Georgia, however, both the ATC and the GATC have endorsed policies encouraging limits on group size on the A.T. See ATC policy on Special Events and Large-Group Use (Appendix III-F).

There has also been increasing demand for outfitter-organized recreational use of the Appalachian Trail, which includes activities for which participants must pay a fee. The USFS requires such groups to secure a special use permit for these activities. The A.T. Comprehensive Plan states that: "Commercial endeavors designed to profit from visitor use are not an acceptable component of the Trail corridor." This issue has been the debated at length for over a decade.

GATC Policy:

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club has adopted the following guidelines for GATC groups hiking and camping on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia:

- (1). The GATC has adopted the ATC guidelines for group size on the AT; i.e., 10 hikers maximum for overnight use, 25 hikers for day use. The 25-hiker limit applies to non-wilderness areas. In wilderness areas the GATC has adopted a limit of 12 hikers for day use.
- (2). Groups should practice Leave No Trace camping and hiking.
- (3). Groups should avoid shelter areas along the A.T. and should use tents for normal overnight camping. Shelters should be used only in emergency or extreme weather conditions.
- (4). Groups should limit camping at a single location within the A.T. corridor to no more than one night. Groups larger than 10 hikers or groups desiring to camp more than one night at a location should camp outside the A.T. corridor.
- (5). The A.T. should not be used for competitive or timed events such as races.
- (6). Groups should attempt to distribute activities to other trails such as the Benton MacKaye or Duncan Ridge.
- (7). Groups should be cognizant of heavy spring use of the A.T. by through hikers and should seek alternative trails to hike during this season.

No limits are imposed on numbers of participants on Trail maintenance trips. Requests for special events or very large groups will be handled on a case-by-case basis in consultation with C-ONF Recreational Staff.

The GATC will work through its Ridgerunner/Caretaker program to encourage user groups to restrict group size as appropriate and to follow the guidelines above that are used for GATC groups.

In response to the increasing demand for use of the A.T. for which participants must pay a fee, the following language was adopted for the Appalachian Trail management prescription in the 2004 C-ONF LRMP (Appendix I-A)

"Authorize recreational special-uses only when they do not adversely affect A.T. values and resources as described by the A.T. management prescription. Limit recreation events such as foot races or horseback endurance events to designated crossings only. Only temporary authorizations of one year or less for use of the footpath are allowed due to the probability of changing trail conditions or management needs except for existing permits. Existing permits may be renewed when there is no proposed change in use, or changes in trail conditions or management needs. Permits will not be issued for overnight camping at A.T. shelters or within 300 feet of the footpath."

GATC will work with USFS when permit requests are received and will help to develop the specific restrictions for each permit. GATC will assist in the location of suitable campsites for these groups when necessary. GATC will also work closely with the USFS when permit renewal applications are received. Acceptance of a system by which permits for A.T. use may be issued reflects the recognition that responsible use by groups that require a fee for participation may be a legitimate use of the A.T. under appropriate and defined circumstances.

C. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Perspective:

The A.T. is a public resource and dissemination of information pertaining to its physical location and education concerning the use of this resource are the responsibility of its managers.

GATC Policy:

The GATC has a Director of Information and Education who oversees a variety of programs directed toward both club members and the general public. A series of workshops is presented to club members and their guests throughout the year. Requests from other groups for educational programs or trail-related exhibits are also honored. New programs are developed on a continuing basis.

GATC has its own web site (<http://www.georgia-atclub.org/>) to provide the public with information about both the GATC and the AT in Georgia. Information includes a list of club activities, description of the Georgia portion of the AT, directions to the trail, locations of road crossings, hiking tips, a list of shuttle providers, links for contacting club officers, and links to other club sites as well as to the ATC web site. A members page provides administrative assistance to GATC members.

GATC is also developing capacity to reach out pro-actively to groups such as communities along the AT, underserved or minority populations, groups contacted by the ridgerunner, and school systems to help them appreciate the Trail and use it wisely.

Since most long-distance hikers begin their journeys at the southern end of the A.T., the GATC receives numerous requests for information. An information packet is sent to each of these people and specific questions not covered in the general packet are answered on an individual basis. Hikers are also referred to ATC for the series of guidebooks and maps as well as associated books on long distance hiking.

The GATC has also produced and published a brochure on the A.T. in Georgia. This is available to local Chambers of Commerce and to the USFS for use in informing the public about the location of the Trail. It is also used by the GATC for public information purposes.

Sign boards erected by the C-ONF are located at several road crossings and trail junctions. These are used to inform people of trail location details and also to educate them concerning appropriate use of the trail both from the perspective of hiker safety and from the aspect of resource protection. Information concerning natural and cultural history of the area can also be displayed at these sites. Information displayed on these signs is developed cooperatively by the GATC and the C-ONF.

GATC designed and produced a permanent AT interpretive exhibit for the Amicolola Falls State Park visitors' center that was dedicated in 2005.

Len Foote Hike Inn. The Len Foote Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls opened in 1998. The Appalachian Education and Recreation Services (AERS), a not for profit corporation which is affiliated with the GATC, operates the Hike Inn under contract with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Its voting members are persons who serve on the Board of Directors of the GATC. The purpose of AERS, and the Hike Inn, is to promote the conservation of all natural resources, both within and without the state of Georgia; to foster in the general public an appreciation of outdoors recreation; to encourage the preservation of wilderness areas; to coordinate with governmental agencies, the GATC, and other organizations to educate the public concerning conservation of natural resources, and the practice of outdoor safety.

The GATC will continue its active information and education program, modifying and adding various programs as the need arises.

D. CARETAKER AND RIDGERUNNER PROGRAMS

Perspective:

Caretakers provide information and education to the public at a fixed site and ridgerunners provide similar information while hiking along the trail. These programs can be staffed either by volunteers or by paid seasonal workers.

GATC Policy:

The GATC believes that an educational influence on hikers can be achieved by caretaker and ridgerunner programs. In particular, caretakers and ridgerunners are effective at conveying the message of "Leave No Trace" to hikers on the trail.

A ridgerunner program was implemented in 1994 with the joint support of the USFS, the GATC, and the ATC.)

The GATC is committed to supporting caretaker and ridgerunner programs, and will work with its principal partners to insure reliable, ongoing funding sources, and will continue to evaluate the effectiveness and need for these programs.

E.ACCESSIBILITY.

Perspective: After passage of the Architectural Barriers Act (1968), implementation guidelines were initially developed to address issues only in highly developed environments. Since the mid-1990's, the Access Board has been developing guidelines for the recreational environment, including the backcountry trails. The Access Board has involved the trails community and land management agencies in the process. ATC has been heavily involved in the proceedings and has kept GATC and other clubs informed throughout. The USFS has developed a set of guidelines (Forest Service Trails Accessibility Guidelines, FSTAG), and Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG), finalized in May 2006, which will be incorporated as an amendment to FS Manual 2350. GATC has pro-actively sought to identify segments of the A.T. in Georgia that might be appropriate for universal design, which enables access by some persons with disability. GATC has also begun to make Trail shelters and privies accessible and will consider accessibility issues in all new facility construction.

GATC Policy: GATC recognizes that persons with disabilities should be able to use and enjoy the A.T. where appropriate, and that technological advances in design of equipment that would allow disabled persons to access the backcountry have occurred and will likely continue. GATC is also strongly committed to managing the A.T. as a primitive footpath that "lies lightly on the land". GATC has supported the guidelines in the FSTAG/FSORAG documents that indicate that the fundamental character of a trail or the trail environment should not be altered to provide disabled access.

V. – CONFLICTING USES AND COMPETING USES

A. VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Perspective:

Federal laws and regulations prohibit motor vehicle and bicycle use on A.T. lands, except for certain explicitly defined circumstances. Primary applicable federal references are the National Scenic Trails Act, Section 7(C); Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Section 4.19 and Section 7.1. In addition, the USFS Supervisor of the C-ONF has issued an order prohibiting such usage on the A.T. in the State of Georgia. The approach trail to the A.T. begins on state land in Amicalola Falls State Park. State policy is that vehicular traffic is not allowed on trails. MRx 1.A, and 1.B of the C-ONF 2004 LRMP (App I-A), prohibiting motorized access, apply to wilderness areas and recommended wilderness study areas, respectively. Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) are not permitted anywhere in wilderness areas and in the Ed Jenkins NRA, MRx 1.A and MRx 3.C, respectively. MRx 4.A of the C-ONF 2004 LRMP prohibits motorized vehicle and bicycle use in the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor, with specific stated exceptions.

GATC Policy:

The GATC fully endorses existing federal and state prohibitions against motorized and mechanized vehicles on the A.T. As circumstances warrant, the GATC will recommend to the USFS the installation of effective barriers to vehicular traffic or the reinforcement of existing barriers at locations where violations have occurred. GATC will report evidence of illegal vehicular incursions to USFS for appropriate law enforcement action. GATC fully supports adequate levels of USFS law enforcement presence for containment of illegal vehicular traffic.

B. ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY

Perspective:

Hikers and other forest users, who do not subscribe to Leave No Trace principles, may frequently abandon, cache, or discard personal gear and food in the Forest. GATC recognizes geocaching and unattended Trail Magic as forms of abandonment.

GATC Policy:

Abandoned personal property will be collected and carried out on regularly scheduled club work trips and hikes by work trip and hike participants, and by section overseers, ridgerunners and caretakers. The GATC embraces the principles of Leave No Trace. All entering the A.T. corridor are encouraged to carry with them something in which to carry out abandoned personal property, when they exit. Geocaching is not permitted in the C-ONF (see Appendix I – A). GATC opposes the practice of geocaching, throughout the C-ONF, consistent with Leave No Trace principles. Trail Magic, a largely A.T. social phenomenon, can add to the enjoyable Trail experience of hikers. However, unattended caches of food that can be accessed by wild animals are in violation of certain federal statutes. GATC actively opposes unattended caches of food, and will discourage it. GATC will report findings of geocaches and unattended caches of food to the Forest Service. GATC prefers that any trail magic be limited to trailheads and road crossings.

C. HUNTING

Perspective:

Hunting is permitted on USFS lands, including wilderness areas and the A.T. corridor. The A.T. in Georgia is wholly on USFS lands; thus legal hunting will occur during the state-defined hunting seasons.

GATC policy:

The GATC will promote safety education of hikers through notices placed in the club newsletters sent to members, through instructions given to trip leaders of GATC hikes and other activities on the A.T. in Georgia, and through information posted on the GATC Web site, which includes hunting season dates for the current year. The GATC will also work with the USFS, Georgia DNR, and the ATC to promote hiker safety during hunting seasons by encouraging hikers to wear blaze orange and other bright colors during those times. A cooperative program has existed since 2003 among USFS, DNR and GATC to print and post Hunter-Hiker Advisory Signs, alerting each to the presence of the other, and encouraging wearing blaze orange during hunting seasons. These advisory signs are located at trailheads and other access points to the A.T., approach and side trails.

B. D. HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

Perspective:

The National Trails System Act, NPS regulations, and the USFS prohibit the use of horses and pack animals on the A.T. Carefully controlled crossing of the A.T. by horse trails is permitted.

MRx 1.A of the C-ONF 2004 LRMP (App I-A) specifically prohibits horses and packstock on the footpath of the A.T., in wilderness areas. MRx 4.A prohibits horses and packstock on the A.T., in non-wilderness areas, with stated exceptions.

GATC Policy:

The GATC recommends that all horse trails be designed for minimum impact on the A.T., and that necessary crossings of the A.T. occur on USFS roads, or state highways.

E. ROADS

Perspective: The ATC policy on roads and utilities is in Appendix III – I. Roads and highways that encroach on the Trail corridor are in direct conflict with the concept of a National Scenic Trail. Construction of roads or trails for motorized use in wilderness areas and recommended wilderness study areas is prohibited. See MRx 1.A and 1B respectively, of the C-ONF 2004 LRMP (Appendix I-A).

GATC Policy:

The GATC opposes further highway or USFS road construction along or across the A.T. corridor. All forest roads used for timber harvesting or other USFS management procedures, which approach the A.T. corridor, should be gated for restricted access when not in actual use. The GATC will monitor such roads and when necessary will request the USFS to gate them. When there is no longer any valid management use for such

roads, the GATC will request the USFS that they be permanently closed and the terrain restored. (See App I-D)

The GATC has established a line of communication with the Georgia DOT and will monitor all proposed widening or other changes to existing highways that cross the A.T. All such cases will be evaluated for potential effect on the A.T. and appropriate recommendations will be made to the Georgia DOT. (A listing of road and highway crossings of the A.T. in Georgia is in App II-H.)

F. SPECIAL USES

Perspective:

The USFS is permitted by existing federal regulations to issue Special Use Permits to individuals and organizations. The Special Use Permits can be for such things as recreational homes, resorts, organization camps, grazing, communication sites, and utilities. They are both revocable and terminable. Although special use permits are categorically excluded, by NEPA, from mandatory public comment periods, the USFS has historically issued, to interested forest users of record, notice of applications for special use permits. The policy stated in the C-ONF 2004 LRMP regarding recreational special uses is quoted in Part IV, Section B of this document.

GATC Policy:

The GATC opposes Special Use Permits in Wilderness Areas, and Recommended Wilderness Study Areas. Special Use Permits within the A.T. Management Area, but outside Wilderness Areas, should only be authorized when they enhance the A.T. or when they provide for an overriding public purpose. All groups applying for Special Use Permits should adhere to the GATC guidelines as stated in Part IV, Section B of this document.

GATC will monitor special use applications by establishing and maintaining a presence on USFS distribution lists for notices of applications for special use permits, released by both RD's and the SO. Comments consistent with this document will be submitted as appropriate. Immediate impacts beyond the A.T. corridor may be considered in the preparation of comments.

G. UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Perspective:

ATC policy is in Appendix III – I. Electrical transmission lines, pipelines, and communication facilities are in general not compatible with the A.T. The USFS policy requires that an overriding public benefit be shown before public utilities are allowed to encroach on the A.T. corridor.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will oppose requests for any new construction of these types of facilities. The GATC will request that the USFS keep the GATC advised of any applications for these types of facilities that could have an impact on the A.T.

C. H. OIL, GAS, AND MINERAL EXPLOITATION.

Perspective:

At the present time there are no oil, gas, or mineral leases on the C-ONF. The area is available for oil and gas leasing with a “no surface occupancy” stipulation. The prescription area is unavailable for other Federal leasable materials. (C-ONF LRMP, Mrx 4A). The USFS has agreed to restrict all exploration and exploitation from the corridor of the A.T. except that temporary exploration operations may cross the trail. It has further agreed to adhere to its visual management plan for long term oil or gas recovery program. Pipelines will be prohibited from crossing the A.T. where reasonable alternate routes are available. If a pipeline must cross the A.T., it will be constructed to yield minimal visual and environmental impact.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will cooperate with the USFS and other principals in establishing guidelines to minimize the impact of any drilling or mining operation on or near the A.T. if either exploration or exploitation plans develop.

D. I. MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Perspective:

The US Army operates a ranger training camp, Camp Frank D. Merrill, under contract with the USFS. It is located near the A.T., west of Dahlonega, Georgia, and uses the National Forest for its training exercises. A supplemental agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, and the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (App I-G) specifies that the military is excluded from the A.T. except for non-vehicular crossings at right angles. In the past the USFS has been the liaison between the GATC and the military. In recent years, the GATC has established closer relationships with the personnel at Camp Merrill and now meets with them on a regular basis to discuss mutual concerns. Army personnel at Camp Merrill have assisted GATC and the USFS in shelter and privy construction and trail maintenance. Their assistance has had a major impact on the timely construction of several of the newer shelters.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will continue to foster a good working relationship with the Army personnel at Camp Merrill, meet with the camp commander from time to time, and endeavor to resolve any conflicts that arise. The GATC will oppose the use of the A.T. Management Area for tactical maneuvers when such maneuvers would detrimentally affect either A.T. resources or users.

J. CORRIDOR MONITORING

Perspective:

The GATC believes that the A.T. corridor, as defined by the SMS, must reflect the outdoor experience provided through traditional A.T. management practices as summarized in the Desired Condition statement of the C-ONF LRMP.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will maintain a continuing surveillance of the A.T. and its surrounding environment for incompatible usage. This monitoring is done by Section Overseers while maintaining their sections of the trail, by GATC members on regularly scheduled trips or hikes, by individual members at random intervals on personally scheduled hikes, and through input received from Trail users, other than GATC members, and by Conservation Committee personnel in network with them . If conflicting uses are observed, they will be reported to the USFS by the Conservation Director, or the Trail Supervisor, given first opportunity.

VI.– RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The GATC will seek to manage the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the A.T. corridor in Georgia in such a manner that the corridor resources are preserved and protected.

A. OPEN AREAS AND VISTAS

Perspective:

The scenic opportunities provided by open areas in the forest have been considered one of the most important features of the Trail experience. Many of these opportunities could be lost through reforestation and abandonment to natural succession from former uses. In Georgia, trees and shrubs rapidly grow in areas along the Trail that were once open fields and meadows.

Active measures need to be taken to maintain these open areas, and thereby the diversity of the Trail experience. A list of those open areas and vistas which have historic and current use is included in Appendix II-J.

GATC Policy:

Existing vistas will be maintained by the GATC by cutting in a way that retains the natural appearance of the area. Where new vistas are desirable, the GATC and the USFS should mutually agree on the location and the degree of opening. Human intervention in wilderness areas for the purpose of creating/managing vistas is prohibited in reference I – A.

B. TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Perspective:

The SMS foreground of the trail corridor of the A.T. in Georgia is primarily designated as Management prescription 4A in the 2004 Chattahoochee-Oconee FLMP LRMP (App I-A). Management prescription 4A has a SIO of “High”. This area was defined by visual survey of the A.T. The mapping of this area was subsequently reviewed and revised. (App II-A.)

Resource management to enhance the trail corridor or to assure hiker safety is the only permitted activity within Management prescription 4A. Examples would be vista openings, or the removal of dead or diseased trees that are a threat to hiker safety.

GATC Policy:

The GATC endorses the use of the USFS SMS and the consultation procedures described in the Forest Service Manual Supplement for the A.T. (FSM 2353 – App I-C.) Other lands beyond the foreground (Management prescription 4A) that can be seen from the trail should be managed to mitigate and minimize the visual impact of timber harvesting

through the use of reduced levels of harvest and alternate techniques for timber harvesting such as shelterwood cutting. Forest Wide Objective 095 in the C-ONF 2004 LRMP states: “Meet the Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) of Moderate for the areas seen in the middle ground distance zone of the Appalachian Trail prescription, and manage them for a Natural Appearing Landscape Character theme”.

Under the current timber harvesting planning process, the GATC, as a management partner, is an interested party in the scoping phase for all of those compartments which are viewed from the A.T. As a management partner and an interested party, the GATC should automatically be notified of any planned timbering activity. (See App I-D on timbering.)

Upon notification, the GATC will review the timber harvesting plans. If the GATC has concerns, it will work with the USFS and ATC to resolve them.

C. PEST MANAGEMENT

Perspective:

All reasonable efforts should be made to protect the hiker from the negative impacts of chemical pest control. Pest infestations and other threats that are a danger to the hiker should be controlled by mechanical means whenever possible.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will review with the USFS, on a case-by-case basis, all plans for the use of chemical, biological, or mechanical means for pest control within the A.T. corridor, and encourages the use of Integrated Pest Management techniques. (See App I-D on use of herbicides and insecticides.)

D. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Perspective:

Threatened and endangered species of plants and animals are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and similar state legislation. The federal list, as well as the state list, is used in the management of the C-ONF.

GATC Policy:

The GATC supports efforts to ensure protection of, and promote the existence of, these threatened and endangered species. The GATC will cooperate in preparing inventories of threatened and endangered species within the trail corridor. ATC/ATPO contracted in 1999 for a professional survey of rare, threatened and endangered species along the A.T. in Georgia. GATC participates in the Natural Heritage Program to monitor these plants regularly. Volunteers are trained by ATC/ATPO to visit sites and record findings in a systematic database managed by ATPO. Trail maintainers and designers are encouraged to be careful that maintenance and construction do not jeopardize the survival of these threatened and endangered species.

E. WILDLIFE

Perspective:

The opportunity to view wildlife is an intrinsic part of the hiking experience along the A.T.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will cooperate with the USFS and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to maintain and enhance opportunities for hikers to view wildlife along the A.T. in Georgia.

GATC has installed food hoist systems at all shelter sites (with the exception of Blood Mountain) to prevent bears from becoming habituated to human food.

The GATC will plan club activities to consider possible conflicts with hunting activities, and will work with DNR and USFS to educate both hikers and hunters concerning safety issues, and to assure that proposals to enhance wildlife within the AT Rx also enhance the AT environment (See Part V, Section C.).

F. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND RECLAMATION.

Perspective:

Vegetation management involves the manipulation of plant species or habitat to meet some desired goal.

Mechanical methods of management should be used to keep the treadway of the AT open in Georgia. Chemical, prescribed fire and biological methods (for example, herbicide use or livestock grazing) should be used only in exceptional circumstances. Conditions under which vegetation management activities may be acceptable within the A. T. management prescription area are specified in the C-ONF 2004 LRMP Mrx 4A (Appendix I – A.)

Reclamation efforts may be required because of man-caused damage and misuse. These should be considered jointly by the GATC and the USFS on a case-by-case basis. Required projects should then be included in the annual plan for trail maintenance.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will use mechanical methods for vegetation control along the A.T. Any deviation from this policy will be after consultation with, and with approval of, the USFS. The GATC fully endorses the ATC policy on vegetation management and reclamation. (App III-D.) See also Appendix I-D on Control of Natural Fires.)

G. HISTORICAL/CULTURAL/NATURAL RESOURCES

Perspective:

The lands crossed by the A.T. in Georgia have a rich history. They were major travel routes, and gaps and springs were used by early travelers. Campsites, farms, and Indian battlefields were also on these lands. Therefore, these areas are important to historians and archaeologists. Two known structures of historical significance are the Blood Mountain shelter and the Walasi-Yi Inn at Neels Gap. Cultural sites can be affected by trail and shelter construction or relocation. They can also be impacted by simply opening a new area to more public use. For example, vandalism may increase.

GATC Policy:

The GATC will manage the A.T. in Georgia in such a manner as to insure the preservation of the historical, cultural, and natural features encompassed in its corridor and adjacent lands. GATC supports the ATC/ATPO plan to inventory historic and cultural resources along the A.T. in Georgia and will cooperate in management of any resources that are identified in that process. GATC will endeavor to educate its members about the conservation of cultural resources along the AT, both historic and pre-historic.

VII. – WILDERNESS

Perspective:

The A. T. in Georgia traverses areas designated by Congress as wilderness as defined in the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1984, the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986, and the Chattahoochee Forest Protection Act of 1991 (App I-L, I-M, I-N). Statements concerning appropriate management techniques for the A.T. in wilderness are contained in report language which accompanied the Virginia Wilderness Bill of 1984 (App I-K), the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986 (App I-L), and the Chattahoochee Forest Protection Act of 1991 (App I-M). The GATC in cooperation with the ATC and the C-ONF has developed guidelines to provide adequate management of the A.T. within these wilderness areas. An amendment to the Cooperative Agreement between GATC and C-ONF, which detailed management practices for the A.T. in Georgia, was adopted in 1987. These guidelines are based on the trail standards in Appendix III – B and Appendix I-B). MRx 1.A, Designated Wilderness Areas, C-ONF 2004 LRMP (Appendix I-A) applies.

Certain regions of the C-ONF have been recognized as potential future wilderness areas. MRx 1.B, C-ONF 2004 LRMP applies to these for recommendation to Congress for designation as wilderness areas. MRx.1.B specifically states that Wilderness management standards apply to the A.T. in these areas. All policy stated in this Part of the GATC Plan for Management of the A.T. applies to these Recommended Wilderness Study Areas.

GATC Policy:

The continued use of shelters, privies, food hoist systems, traditional trail markings, non-motorized footpath maintenance and relocations should be permitted and are desirable for the protection of the wilderness and the health and safety of persons within the area.

It is recognized that the Appalachian Trail requires management that is unique with respect to wilderness, and that adequate trail standards may require exceptions to the standard conventions of wilderness management. The following principles are common to all of the wilderness areas in the state of Georgia and to the legislation which established them.

A. MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT

Mechanized or motorized tools will not be used for maintenance or other work in wilderness areas except in extreme emergencies. The Regional Forester of the USFS must specifically authorize the use of power tools in wilderness areas. Emergency uses may include search and rescue operations, wildfire suppression, clearing of severe blowdowns from the A.T. treadway, aircraft accident investigations, and other emergencies as determined by the appropriate official of the USFS.

The GATC will follow the guidelines developed by the USFS, ATC, and GATC for requesting use of hand held power tools in wilderness areas along the A.T. (Appendix I-O.)

The USFS requires volunteer personnel using non-motorized tools, crosscut saws, axes, etc, for the purpose of clearing the treadway in Wilderness be trained and certified in their use. GATC will encourage interested members to attend periodic training and certification sessions. GATC volunteer trail workers will be given the opportunity to further develop their skills in the use of these tools. (There is a condition to this tool use certification involving further training in First Aid and CPR. GATC will, in cooperation with ATC, periodically hold First Aid and CPR training sessions to fully qualify the volunteer work force.)

B. TREADWAY IMPROVEMENT

Waterbars, bog bridges, Cowetta dips and other treadway structures along the trail will be constructed and maintained to ensure adequate tread stabilization, erosion control, and prevention of resource damage. In isolated areas, if deemed necessary by both the USFS and the GATC, bridges may be built to provide an adequate level of user safety or to protect the wilderness resource. The design of any reconstructed bridge or erosion control structure along the treadway should emphasize low profile, rustic materials, and workmanship.

C. TRAIL STANDARDS

The presently accepted criteria for managing and maintaining the A.T. and associated side trails in Georgia as related to trail construction and maintenance, trail signs, trail markings and water sources are compatible with the wilderness concept. These criteria are explicitly stated in the Appendices I-A, I-C, III-A, III-B, and III-C.

Materials for trail construction and maintenance will be obtained locally where it is not reasonably practical to transport the material from outside the wilderness. Where possible, natural methods of erosion control such as grade dips will be used. Rock will be used for such erosion control features as waterbars or cribs. When rock is not available or practical to use, cut trees will be used for these purposes as per Forest Service Manual 2300, Section 2323.53. When trees are used for trail construction and maintenance, they will be selected and cut so as to minimize the impact on the local environment and will be inconspicuous from the trail itself.

D. SHELTERS

Shelters provide protection for the hiker in fairly remote locations and are considered an essential element in concentrating camping and reducing impact on the surrounding areas. Existing shelters will be maintained in their present location and condition. MRx1.A- LRMP (2004) (Appendix I-A) states “when existing trail shelters deteriorate to the point that they must be replaced or reconstructed, analyze the shelter location. When possible, relocate shelters to appropriate sites outside of wilderness”. Accordingly, GATC assigns very high priority to maintenance of existing shelters located in Designated Wilderness Areas. Further, GATC encourages low impact activities at shelters in Designated Wilderness Areas.

Materials used during repair or restoration should reflect sensitivity to wilderness values. Relocation of existing shelters will be considered only if adverse impacts to

wilderness values will be reduced and where A.T. values are enhanced by such action. The historic integrity and value of the shelters should be maintained during any repair, restoration, or relocation.

E. SCENIC VISTAS

MRx1.A, Desired Condition, (Appendix I-A) states “The natural evolving landscape character in wilderness expresses the natural evolution of biophysical features and process with very limited human intervention.” Primarily a ridge top trail, the A. T. traverses areas containing a number of scenic vistas that give panoramic views of the Georgia Blue Ridge and Piedmont. While the GATC feels that these vistas should be maintained in their present state by judicious trimming of small bushes, saplings, and shrubs, it will abide by the current USFS policy on wilderness management. No new vistas will be cleared along the A.T. within the wilderness areas without agreement between the GATC and the USFS that such clearing will enhance the wilderness environment along the trail and without approval from the appropriate administrative level within the USFS. (See Attachment II-J.)

F. SIGNS AND TRAIL MARKINGS

The A.T. will be marked with a minimum number of white vertical paint blazes as described in Appendix III-C.

Signs will be used only where necessary to provide for basic information essential for navigation and public safety. Signs will be used to indicate direction and distance to shelters and water sources, precautions for use of water, and other such information as is necessary to protect wilderness values and hiker safety. If a regulatory or educational sign is needed, it will be placed outside the wilderness area. Signs will be simple and as small as possible, be made of natural wood, and be designed to minimize their contrast with the natural environment. The current signing of the A.T. is in compliance with the principles. (Appendix III-C.)

G. RECREATION MANGEMENT

The A.T. in Georgia, as in other areas, is receiving ever-increasing numbers of users. With the designation of Wilderness for an extensive portion of the A.T., and a concern for the perpetuation of these areas, the GATC participated with the USFS, and other interested persons, in establishing guidelines for management of recreation in Wilderness areas based on the concept of Limits of Acceptable Change.

The GATC will follow the guidelines developed for recreational management in Wilderness Areas as formulated by the Limits of Acceptable Change process. (Appendix I-P.)

The committee reports accompanying the wilderness bills mentioned above should be used as guidelines in interpreting the wilderness bills passed by Congress.

VIII. – NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA

Perspective:

The A.T. from Springer Mountain to the crossing of FS 251 in the vicinity of Hickory Flats Cemetery, most of the Approach Trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to Springer Mountain, and portions of the Hike Inn Trail are included within the boundaries of the Ed Jenkins NRA, as established by the Chattahoochee Forest Protection Act of 1991. The report that established the NRA contained essentially the same language as that establishing the Blood Mountain Wilderness and the Mark Trail Wilderness, with one modification: the use of motorized tools for trail maintenance is permitted in the NRA. (App I-M.) See also Management prescription 3.C, Ed Jenkins National Recreational Area, C-ONF LRMP, January 2004. (Appendix I-A).

GATC Policy:

The A.T. should be managed in the NRA consistent with Appendix I-B., and Management prescription 4A, C-ONF LRMP, January 2004 (Appendix I-A), which states: “The A.T. management prescription is being held to be completely compatible in intent and practice with the purposes for which the Ed Jenkins was created and the A.T. prescription will apply without modification within the NRA.” .

IX. – THE GATC ACTION PLAN

A. ANNUAL WORK PLAN.

As agreed in the memorandum of understanding between the GATC and the C-ONF (App I-E), the GATC will prepare an annual work plan covering actual trail location, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance, which must be approved by the Forest Service before the beginning of the Fiscal Year October 1. Data for this work plan will be obtained from the GATC Trail Assessment reports, from trail maintainers, hikers, and other sources.

The GATC will also prepare an annual work plan for actual location, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance for the A.T. and side trails where they traverse lands administered by the state of Georgia DNR. (App I-F.)

All work on National Forest lands will be done in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (App I-E), the GATC Safety Policy Agreement (App IV-F) and in compliance with the NEPA.

B. LONG RANGE PLAN.

GATC's principal management partners, the ATC, NPS, and USFS have developed data bases which record major AT construction and rehabilitation projects forecast for the next five-year period. ATC/NPS employ the Facility Management System Software (FMSS) to catalog the work required, and use the projects to justify funding from Congress and to plan the work of ATC volunteer crews. The USFS uses the INFRA and TRACS data bases for similar purposes.

GATC will develop and update annually a five year plan which forecasts major construction and rehabilitation projects required on the AT in Georgia. This information will serve as input for the data base systems maintained by its principal cooperative management partners.

The GATC will update the GATC Trail Assessment (Attachment IV-D) as necessary.



**APPENDICES TO THE PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE
APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN GEORGIA, PART 1
DECEMBER 2006**

APPENDIX I – A

Land and Resource Management Plan, Chattahoochee-
Oconee National Forests
January, 2004

Available at: www.fs.fed.us/conf/

APPENDIX I – B

Implementation Guide for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

.....DRAFT.....March 14, 2003.....

(NOTE: The basis of this implementation guide was developed by the SARRWAG group and ATC representatives between 1999 and 2002. The group started with the 1993 Region 8 set of AT standards and guidelines. Direction that was determined to be a guideline rather than a standard was transferred to this Implementation Guide. The topic area headings have been revised to follow the format used for standards in the Plan Revision. ATC believes that consistent adoption of this Implementation Guide for the Appalachian Trail by all AT Forests as an appendix of the revised plan is essential. Additional guidelines may need to be added to this Implementation Guide based upon the final outcome of Management Prescription 4.A.).

This Implementation Guide provides management guidelines for the management of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) which supplement the management direction found in the Forest Plan for management prescription 4A (Appalachian Trail Corridor), and management prescriptions 1A and 1B (Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness Study Areas).

General

The forest will participate in the established local management planning process described in the ATC Local Management Planning Guide.

Establish an “annual plan of work” with each local AT Club for projects on their respective AT sections based on the ATC trail assessment process.

Study and, if appropriate, develop, execute, and maintain an agreement delegating responsibilities for AT operations, development, and maintenance to ATC and the appropriate local AT clubs for National Forest System lands within the proclamation boundaries of the forest (similar to the agreement between Forest Service and ATC for National Park Service-acquired AT corridor lands).

Use the Optimal Location Review (OLR) process to initiate the decision making process for AT relocations and follow approved relocation procedures.

Water, Soil, and Air

Inform users that all backcountry water sources are subject to contamination and all water should be treated prior to consumption.

Follow construction and maintenance standards found in ATC Stewardship Manual: “Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance” which will result in minimizing adverse soils and watershed impacts.

Watershed improvement projects may be implemented to correct erosion problems. Activities will be carried out within SMS and ROS objectives, standards, and guidelines.

Terrestrial and Aquatic Species

Improve opportunities for wildlife viewing as a part of the AT experience.

Manage habitats that are complementary to the AT experience. Management will be carried out within SMS and ROS objectives, standards, and guidelines.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

Conduct, maintain, and periodically update an inventory of proposed, endangered, threatened, sensitive (PETS) and locally rare species within the prescription area in cooperation with ATC and the State natural heritage program.

Perform habitat protection and improvement activities needed to meet recovery objectives for T&E species, and conserve sensitive and locally rare species. Coordinate with ATC and local AT club.

The AT prescription area should serve to protect and enhance the native biological diversity of species that exist within the area.

Vegetation and Forest Health

Maintain open areas and vistas that enhance the scenic qualities of the AT in cooperation with ATC and local AT club.

Vegetation changes that enhance the AT environment may be permitted in the AT prescription area. This may include management activities that meet trail construction and maintenance needs, maintain and create scenic vistas or openings, protect soil and water, control insects and disease, enhance wildlife habitat, or provide for public safety or resource protection.

Where appropriate, reestablish historic views and open areas.

Use IPM practices as the strategy in managing pest populations to achieve resource management objectives for the prescription area.

Place emphasis on evaluating hazard potential and determining if efforts are needed to prevent or control loss of AT values.

Recreation

Construct, reconstruct, and maintain the AT and its associated facilities in accordance with the “Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance (ATC Stewardship Manual, second edition, 2000)”.

Trail shelters and associated facilities will be constructed, managed and maintained in accordance with AT Overnight-Use Management Principles; the Checklist for the Location, Construction, and Maintenance of Campsites and Shelters on the Appalachian Trail (ATC Stewardship Series, revised 1989; and the Local Management Plan. Diversity in appearance of facilities is welcome within limits agreed to by the Forest, ATC, and the local Trail Club. Shelters will be designed to blend into the surrounding landscape.

When existing trail shelters deteriorate to the point that they must be replaced or reconstructed, analyze the shelter location. New and reconstructed shelters should be located and maintained only at locations where there is a demonstrated need. These will be located away from the AT footpath and will not be accessible by open road.

Occupancy limits for shelters will be two consecutive nights or three nights in any 30-day period.

Where the AT is located on old woods roads, the tread is allowed to revegetate to normal AT tread widths of 12–18 inches on flat sections and 18–24 inches on sidehill sections.

Use of treadway structures—such as stiles, steps, cribbing, bridges, and waterbars—is minimized to the greatest extent possible. Where necessary for resource protection or safety, emphasis is on the simplest rustic design with the least natural resource disturbance to address the concern.

Exercise care that AT relocations and improvements will not cause a loss of the primitive quality or simplicity of the footpath.

Design the treadway according to soil, drainage, vegetation, topography, and other constraints. Consider safety in trail design, construction, and maintenance, without sacrificing the aspect of the AT that challenges a hiker's skill and stamina.

Provide sufficient signing to inform hikers of significant features and distances to major road crossings.

Limit additional development to recreation facilities that support, enhance, and are compatible with the AT. Manage existing AT-related facilities to meet AT hiker needs. Facilities will be limited to shelters, tent platforms, privies, stiles, bridges, spring boxes, registers, trailheads, and other facilities agreed to by the ATC, appropriate local AT clubs, and Forest Service.

Trail shelters should provide AT users with places to eat and sleep after a day of walking. Design and management of the shelter system will reflect a sympathetic concern for the special needs of long-distance hikers, while basically maintaining the shelter system for hikers of all distances.

Where feasible, locate new shelters no closer than two trail miles from open roads and other access points.

Educate users on “leave no trace” camping practices, including sanitation practices that minimize the potential for contamination of water sources.

Develop and distribute information about the Appalachian Trail and appropriate use of the trail in cooperation with ATC and the local AT club.

Scenery

The Scenery Management System (SMS), with professional landscape architect consultation, will be used to manage the scenic experience or desired landscape character seen from the Appalachian Trail and designated shelters, viewpoints, campsites, water sources, and the spur trails linking these features.

Computer modeling of topography may be used in conjunction with site visits to generate “seen area” maps.

SMS inventory mapping will be done during the leaf-off season using topography only to determine the foreground boundary. The visible foreground area can result in a corridor having a maximum width of ½ mile on either side of the AT footpath. The corridor has a minimum width of 100 feet on either side of the AT footpath for protection from social, aural, and other impacts, but this minimum width is considered only when the visible foreground zone does not extend beyond 100 feet on either side of the AT footpath.

Management activities needed to preserve or create vistas and desirable open areas will be high priority.

Methods used to create or maintain vistas and open areas will, to the extent possible, result in openings that appear to be the result of natural processes.

Minerals and Geology

Identify unique or important geologic features for potential interpretation to enhance the experience of AT users.

Roads and Parking

Open roads that cross or closely parallel the AT prescription area are not compatible with AT values. The number of system roads within ½ mile of the AT footpath will be held to a minimum and carefully planned and managed to mitigate impacts on the AT.

Provide parking facilities to serve AT management needs. Where feasible, provide parking facilities at locations where the AT can be accessed by a short spur trail rather than locations where the AT footpath crosses a road.

Roads crossing the AT will be at right angles wherever possible. Road crossings will be designed to keep sight distances along the road to the level for public safety.

Vehicular access to AT shelters and designated campsites will be limited to access for administrative purposes only. Minimize open roads within ½ mile of shelters and designated campsites.

Road maintenance may be performed as needed on drainage structures, closure devices, and the roadbed. Grass may be allowed to grow in local roads (maintenance level I, II, or III).

Lands and Special Uses

Impacts from public utilities and rights-of-way are not allowed unless they represent the only prudent and feasible alternative to meet an overriding public need.

Heritage Resources

Cultural resources will be considered an integral part of the AT experience.

Where appropriate, interpret cultural sites through maps, guidebooks, sign, and other AT-appropriate means.

The Forest Archeologist will maintain an inventory of heritage, cultural, and historic resources and will recommend appropriate protection methods and interpretive opportunities.

Law Enforcement

Keep hiker regulations as unrestrictive as possible. Foster an atmosphere to encourage self-reliance and respect for AT values, and Leave No Trace ethics.

Create and apply regulations only to the extent proven necessary to protect the AT, its environment, the interests of adjacent landowners, and the AT users.

Incompatible activities will be controlled by educational efforts and, failing these, by enforcement of laws and trail regulations.

Respond to and investigate trail incidents in a timely manner. Randomly patrol trailheads and easily accessible facilities, particularly those with a history or pattern of incidents.

Report incidents of criminal behavior to ATC and the local AT club.

Wilderness (These guidelines apply to the Appalachian Trail within management prescriptions 1A and 1B, and are in addition to the standards in those prescriptions).

Wilderness is an integral part of the Appalachian Trail experience. Manage the Appalachian Trail within designated wilderness and wilderness study areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the specific enabling legislation, FSM 2320, and wilderness planning documents.

Involve the ATC and the appropriate Trail Club(s) in all stages of planning and development of wilderness planning documents for wildernesses traversed by or adjacent to the AT.

Proposals for new AT shelters and associated facilities will undergo the Minimum Requirements Analysis.

Shelters are designed to blend into the surrounding landscape.

Blazing uses 2- by 6-inch white paint on trees. Avoid blazing rocks or installed posts. No more than one blaze should be visible at one time in either direction. Where the footpath is obvious, place blazes at a frequency of no more than six per mile in either direction.

APPENDIX I – C

Forest Service Manual 9/83 Region 8 supplement 42 Title
2300 – Recreation Management (FSM 9/83 R-8 SUPP 42)

Available in hard copy only.

APPENDIX I – D

GATC POSITION STATEMENT ON FOREST MANAGEMENT

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club Position Statement

December 2006

The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) has adopted the following position regarding the use of the Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forests (C-ONF) by both the US Forest Service and the general public.

Timbering

The GATC would prefer that no commercial timbering take place within the C-ONF. However, the GATC recognizes that, at the present time, commercial timbering is a legitimate multiple use activity within the forest. Therefore, the GATC recommends that commercial timbering, as a multiple use activity, within the C-ONF be subject to the following criteria:

1. All timbering should conform to the requirements and restrictions of the Scenery Management System (SMS).
2. Appropriate harvesting alternatives such as clearcut, shelterwood, seedtree, group selection, and thinning should be considered for each stand within a compartment selected for timbering.
3. The impact on biological diversity, cultural effects, water quality, recreation, and economics should be given strong consideration in selecting compartments for timber harvesting.
4. All management areas classified as Very Low, Low, or Moderate under the “Scenic Integrity Objectives” should be reviewed at maximum intervals of ten years to determine if conditions warrant reclassification to a more restrictive category. These objectives are defined with regard to increasing protection as: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High, and Very High.

Roads

The GATC supports the position that:

1. The construction of new all-weather roads within the boundary of the C-ONF should be minimized. Any new road construction should be

undertaken only after an environmental impact study is made and positive response from the public is obtained.

2. Present all-weather roads including FS 15, FS 26, FS 28, FS 42, FS 44, FS 46, FS 58, FS 77, FS 79, FS 80, FS 251, FS 283, and FS 698 should be maintained for passenger car travel. These roads are identified as:

FS 15 - Gaddistown to Cooper Gap

FS 26 - Wildcat Creek to Addis Gap to Mill Creek

FS 28 - Nimblewill Church to Camp Frank Merrill

FS 42 - Suches to Double Head Gap

FS 44 - Robertstown to Unicoi Gap (Chattahoochee River)

FS 46 - Amicalola Falls SP to Hike Inn

FS 58 - Three Forks

FS 77 - Winding Stair Gap to Nimblewill Church

FS 79 - Robertstown to Tray Gap

FS 80 - Camp Frank Merrill to Cooper Gap

FS 251 - FS 58 to Hickory Flats

FS 283 - GA 75 to Indian Grave Gap

FS 698 - Swallow Creek to Tray Gap

3. All secondary system roads used for timber harvesting should be gated for restricted access.

Horses and Mountain Bicycles

Horses and mountain bicycles should be prohibited from hiking trails. Standards should be adopted by the Forest Service to ensure that the resources of the C-ONF are protected in areas where horses and mountain bicycles are permitted. Environmental conditions such as soil compaction, erosion, and stream pollution should be considered in establishing horse and mountain bicycle trails.

Control of Natural Fires

The Forest Service should continue its present policy of controlling fires in the C-ONF. In areas designated as wilderness, the Forest Service should use its professional judgement in fighting fires. Small fires under non-dry conditions should be allowed to burn out. Larger fires under dry conditions, where the fire cannot be contained, or where private areas are endangered, should be controlled. A fire should be allowed to burn if fighting it would cause more destruction than the fire itself.

Use of Herbicides and Insecticides

Generally the GATC is opposed to the extensive use of herbicides and insecticides in the C-ONF. We recommend that where these types of chemicals are used, that the

Forest Service exercise its professional judgement to ensure that the chemicals are environmentally safe.

New Trails in Wilderness

The GATC generally supports the construction of additional trails in wilderness areas to provide access and to spread and reduce the impact of users. Additional trails should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Established Campgrounds

Campgrounds should be established in heavy use, non-wilderness areas in the C-ONF. These campgrounds should have parking areas and privies, and should have designated campsites to restrict the number of campers.

Trash Removal

At the present time, where the public has road access to heavy use areas, trashcans have been provided and emptied regularly. For the future, the ethic of Leave No Trace should be extended to the entire forest, including the established campgrounds.

Geocaching

The GATC opposes geocaching within the Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forest, especially within the Appalachian Trail Corridor. If geocaching is allowed by the Forest Service, we recommend that Special Use Permits be required of the individual or groups conducting this activity.

Trail Magic

The GATC believes that trail magic events should not be allowed in wilderness areas. Trail magic should only be conducted where roads cross the AT. People conducting trail magic events should be required to clean up after such events including the disposal of all discarded hiker food as a result of such event. No unattended food should be left anywhere for hikers.

APPENDIX I –E.

Memorandum of Understanding Between GATC and USDA Forest Service, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, hereinafter referred to as GATC, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as Forest Service.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to continue to develop and expand a framework of cooperation between GATC and the Forest Service to construct, manage, and maintain the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Georgia.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

The GATC has been instrumental in the construction and maintenance of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Georgia, hereinafter referred to as the Appalachian Trail, since its inception and is charged with the conservation of the natural resources of the United States. GATC is interested in working with the Forest Service to continue to construct, maintain, and manage the system of trails comprising the Appalachian Trail and associated side trails across parts of the Chattahoochee National Forest exclusively for human foot travel. The USDA Forest Service manages the National Trail System within the State of Georgia and desires the cooperation of the GATC in the management of this trail.

C. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Coordinate with the GATC in locating, constructing, maintaining, and managing the Appalachian Trail in conformance with the approved Forest Management Plan.
2. Coordinate with the GATC in actual on-the-ground location of the Appalachian Trail in accordance with item 4 below.
3. Furnish supplies, materials, equipment, and facilities as deemed necessary by the Forest Service in the construction and maintenance of the trail.
4. Follow the "Appalachian Trail Relocation Procedures" agreed upon by the Forest Service and the GATC when proposing trail relocations.

D. GATC SHALL:

1. Construct, maintain, and manage the Appalachian Trail across the Chattahoochee National Forest.
2. Prepare an annual work plan covering actual trail location, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance which must be approved by the Forest Service before the beginning of the Fiscal Year on October 1. (If conditions warrant, this plan may be amended by mutual agreement.)
3. Take necessary precautions to prevent fires, control erosion, and minimize impact, and cleanup all work areas to the satisfaction of the Forest Service.
4. Provide annually to the Forest Service a list of the members of GATC who are available to contribute volunteer services (GATC Yearbook) as an attachment to Form FS-1800-8 "Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services" under the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of May 18, 1972, P.L. 92-300, as amended. Also furnish the names of additional members, prospective members, and guests who work on the trail (waiver and release form). GATC will obtain parental/guardian consent for each individual under 18 years of age and will comply with child labor laws. In the event of an accident, GATC will comply with procedures outlined in the GATC Safety Policy in Appendix IV – F of the Local Management Plan.
5. Provide the Forest Service annually with a list of participants and total person hours contributed to the maintenance of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia.
6. Promote the public use and recognition of the Appalachian Trail in the National Forest.
7. Follow the "Appalachian Trail Relocation Procedures" (Exhibit I), FSM 9/83 R-8 Supp 42, Title 2300 – Recreation Management, agreed upon by the Forest Service and the GATC when proposing trail relocations.
8. The President of the GATC or his/her designated representative will serve as club liaison with the Forest Service in day-to-day operations under this agreement.

E. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

1. Work performed by GATC volunteers under this agreement will be under the immediate supervision of GATC officials. The Forest Service will provide such operational supervision, technical advice, guidance and inspection as it considers necessary for the proper conduct of project work.

2. Improvements placed on National Forest land at the direction of either of the parties, shall thereupon become the property of the United States, and shall be subject to the same regulations and administration of the Forest Service as all other National Forest improvements of a similar nature.
3. Permission to camp and to perform work on National Forest lands, under the terms of this agreement, does not in any way convey to the GATC, their officials, or any person or persons working with the GATC in the performance of said work, employee status other than for the purpose of tort claims and compensation for work injuries, to the extent not covered by the sponsor.
4. Managing and maintaining the Appalachian Trail in federally designated wilderness areas is governed by the management prescription for wilderness in the C-ONF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).
5. The trails and improvements will be opened to the general public, and the GATC will in no way control access to or control use of the trails or improvements.
6. Any information furnished to the Forest Service under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
7. This instrument in no way restricts the Forest Service or the Cooperator from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
8. This MOU takes effect upon the signature of the Forest Service and GATC and shall remain in effect for two years from the date of execution. This MOU may be extended up to five years or amended upon written request of either the Forest Service or GATC and the subsequent written concurrence of the other. Either the Forest Service or GATC may terminate this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other.
9. The Forest Service and GATC and their respective agencies and offices will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

10. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

Forest Service Project Contact

Tom Fearington
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
1755 Cleveland Highway
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Phone: 770-297-3066
FAX: 770-297-2939
E-Mail: tfearington@fs.fed.us

Cooperator Project Contact

Gary Monk
Trail Maintenance Supervisor
5665 Aven Road
Marietta , Georgia 30068
Phone: 770-993-0391
FAX:
E-Mail: gmonk@bellsouth.net

Forest Service Administrative Contact

Larry Luckett
Engineering/ Recreation Staff Officer
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
1755 Cleveland Highway
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Phone: 770-297-3033
FAX: 770-297-2939
E-Mail: lluckett@fs.fed.us

Cooperator Administrative Contact

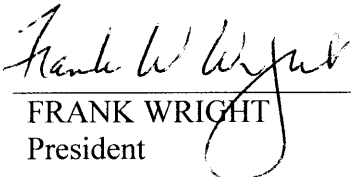
Frank Wright
President GATC
11017 Big Canoe
Jasper , Georgia 30143
Phone: 706-579-2253
FAX:
E-Mail: fwright@windstream.net

11. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either the Forest Service or GATC to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the Forest Service and GATC will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.
12. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
13. By signature below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL
CLUB

USDA FOREST SERVICE
CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE
NATIONAL FORESTS

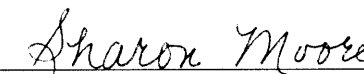
 12/07/2006

FRANK WRIGHT DATE
President

 12/6/06

KATHLEEN ATKINSON DATE
Forest Supervisor

The authority and format of this
instrument has been reviewed and
approved for signature.

 11/28/06

SHARON MOORE DATE
FS Agreements Coordinator

APPENDIX I –F.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
Between
THE GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB, INC.
And
THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THIS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, is made and entered into by and between the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, hereinafter referred to as the GATC, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as the DNR, for the management and maintenance of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Approach Trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to Springer Mountain, hereinafter collectively referred to as the AT, and the Hike Inn Trail, and other mutually agreed upon side trails within the state of Georgia which are on lands owned by the state of Georgia administered by the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division of DNR within the confines of Amicalola Falls State Park owned by the State of Georgia, hereinafter collectively referred to as side “trails.”

WHEREAS, the GATC has been instrumental in the construction, management, protection, and maintenance of the AT as an affiliate of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy whose authority was established by the National Trails Systems Act of 1968 (PL 90-543) and its amendments, and the GATC desires to establish a cooperative relationship with DNR in the management and maintenance of the AT and other trails; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of DNR as the administrator of certain lands owned by the state of Georgia which are traversed by the AT and side trails, desires the cooperation of the GATC in the management and maintenance of these trails,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties hereto agree as follows:

A. The GATC shall:

1. Be represented by the President of the GATC, or other person designated by the President, in negotiations with the DNR.

2. Manage and maintain the AT to standards defined by the “Georgia Appalachian Trail Club Plan for the Management of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia”, a component of the Comprehensive Plan for the protection, management, development, and use of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and *The Appalachian Trail Stewardship Series – Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance* by W. Birchard, Jr. and R.D. Proudman, published by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and adapted by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as the standard for AT maintenance.
3. Manage and maintain the side trails to standards mutually agreed upon by GATC and DNR.
4. Prepare an annual work plan for the AT and for the side trails where they traverse lands administered by the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of DNR covering actual trail location, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance which must be approved by DNR prior to the start of the year in question. If conditions warrant, this annual work plan may be amended by mutual agreement.
5. Take necessary precautions for prevention of fires, control erosion, and minimize impact, and clean up all work areas to the satisfaction of the DNR.
6. Follow the “Appalachian Trail Relocation Procedures on State Lands” which are attached hereto as Exhibit I and are agreed upon by the DNR and the GATC for use when proposing trail relocations.

B. The DNR shall:

1. Be represented by a designated official of the DNR in negotiations with the GATC. The President of the GATC will be notified of any change of this designated official.
2. Coordinate with the GATC in the GATC’s functions of managing and maintaining the AT.
3. Coordinate with the GATC in the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of DNR’s functions of managing and maintaining the AT on lands owned by the State of Georgia.
4. Inform the GATC of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of DNR’s management and maintenance plans for the trails on lands owned by the State of Georgia.
5. Follow the “Appalachian Trail Relocation Procedures on State Lands” which are attached hereto as Exhibit I and are agreed upon by the DNR and the GATC for use when proposing trail relocations.

6. Provide materials, as they are available, for use in maintenance of the AT and for construction of signs, and shelters or other structures, where such improvements are on lands owned by the State of Georgia and administered by the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division of DNR.
7. Restrict the AT to foot traffic only, except in emergency situations where more expedient access is required. In those instances, the DNR Site Manager would represent DNR as spokesperson.

C. It is mutually agreed upon and understood by and between the said parties that:

1. The GATC will be granted permission to perform work related to the trails on land owned by the State of Georgia and administered by the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites division of DNR. Under mutually agreed upon circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, the GATC will be given permission to use facilities without payment of fees on land administered by the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of DNR to conduct functions related to the management and maintenance of the trails.
2. Permission to camp and to perform work on DNR lands under terms of this agreement does not in any way convey upon GATC, its officials, or any persons working for or with GATC in the performance of such work, the status of an employee of DNR or the State of Georgia, or extend to them the benefits afforded State employees, including workers compensation.
3. Work performed by the GATC under this agreement will be under the immediate supervision of GATC Trip Leaders. The DNR will provide such operational supervision, technical advice, guidance, inspection, and help as it considers necessary for the proper conduct of work related to the trails.
4. Improvements on state land, related to the AT, by either of the parties shall become the property of the State of Georgia, but shall be subject to the same regulations and restrictions as outlined by the National Trails System Act.
5. Improvements related to the trails on land owned by the State of Georgia and administered by the DNR by either of the parties shall become the property of the State of Georgia, and shall be subject to the same regulations and administration of DNR as all other DNR improvements of a similar nature.
6. The trails and improvements covered by this agreement will be open to the general public, and the GATC will in no way control access to or use of the trails or improvements.

- IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

Department of Natural Resources
Commissioner

EXHIBIT I

RELOCATION PROCEDURE ON LAND OWNED BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA

It is important that the efforts to protect a safe and scenic route for approaches to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) through Georgia on land administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) be continued. For this activity to be effective, it is essential that there exists a system for communication, coordination, and approval of proposals between the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to relocate segments of the trail approaches. The following procedures are adopted to provide orderly and uniform handling of proposals to relocate segments of the approach trails to the AT.

A. GATC Relocation Proposal -

1. Discuss the need for relocation and general area with the designated DNR official to determine future plans for the area and possible conflicts.
2. If the discussions with DNR are satisfactory, scout the new route and flag it on the ground.
3. Send a map showing the present location and proposed relocation to the DNR official along with a statement of need for the change.
4. DNR will review and evaluate the request.
5. Upon concurrence, DNR will file any documents necessary to satisfy DNR policy.
6. If GATC and DNR agree on construction requirements for the relocation, GATC will proceed with the construction.
7. GATC will coordinate with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in planning and completing the relocation to any degree necessary to satisfy GATC policy.
8. When relocation is completed, the old trail will be physically closed and deblazed.

B. DNR Relocation Proposal

1. DNR will discuss the need for the relocation and the impact on the trail corridor with GATC.

2. DNR will flag proposed relocation on the ground.
3. DNR will send a map showing the present and proposed relocation to the GATC President along with the need for the change.
4. GATC will review and evaluate the proposal.
5. Upon GATC concurrence, DNR will file any documents necessary to satisfy DNR policy.
6. If GATC and DNR agree on construction requirements for the relocation, DNR will proceed with the construction.
7. GATC will coordinate with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in planning and completing the relocation.
8. When relocation is completed, the old trail will be physically closed and deblazed.
9. This relocation procedure does not apply to relocation of side trails for which DNR will inform the GATC of any changes in management or maintenance.

APPENDIX I – G

Agreement between US Army, Camp Merrill, and the
US Forest Service, Chattahoochee-Oconee National
Forest

Available in Hard Copy Only

APPENDIX I – H

Comprehensive Plan for the Protection, Management, Development, and Use of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

APPENDIX I – I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING for the APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL between the GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB and the APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

Purpose. This memorandum provides a concise statement of specific understandings and working relationships between the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). It applies only to those activities of the GATC that relate to the management of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and Trail corridor lands.

Background. From its inception in 1925, the ATC worked with existing trail clubs, and fostered the development of new clubs, to create the Appalachian Trail. This partnership evolved into a federation of maintaining clubs, coordinated by the ATC towards the common goal of perpetuating and protecting the trail. In 1968, the National Trail System Act gave overall responsibility for the Appalachian Trail to the Secretary of the Interior. The trail is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), in consultation with the USDA Forest Service (FS), and in cooperation with state agencies over whose lands the AT passes. This memorandum acknowledges the ultimate responsibility and authority for federal and state agencies to administer lands under their jurisdictions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Delegation. The NPS and the Forest Service have delegated to the ATC the authority and responsibility to act as the guarantor that the AT volunteer community will adequately manage and protect the AT and its corridor lands. Under this authority, ATC's Board of Directors, in consultation with Trail maintaining organizations and agency partners, sets policies regarding the protection, management, and use of the Trail. The ATC hereby confirms and the GATC hereby acknowledges the GATC's authority and responsibility for the maintenance of the Appalachian Trail and related facilities and the management of Trail corridor lands between Amicalola Falls State Park and Bly Gap. This memorandum formalizes the GATC's responsibility for the Trail that the Club assumed on 1 November 1930, and joins with that commitment the delegation of management responsibility for National Park Service corridor lands that was originally made to the Club by the ATC on 22 October 1984.

ATC Support. The ATC agrees to regularly provide the GATC with information on laws, regulations, and agency policies with which the Club must comply. The ATC will regularly communicate ATC policies, Trail standards, and local management planning procedures, and provide backup support for the Club's operational responsibilities. To the extent authorized by the Board of Directors, the ATC will provide technical and

financial assistance to the Club for the management of the Trail, monitoring of corridor lands, and provision of public information and education.

GATC Responsibilities. The GATC agrees to maintain the Trail for which it is responsible to ATC's standards for marking, clearing, and treadway care, as specified in such ATC publications as *Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*. The GATC will manage the Trail, Trail-related facilities, and delegated Trail lands in accordance with policies presented in the ATC's *Local Management Planning Guide*, as detailed in the Club's *Plan for the Management of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia* (LMP). Specific GATC authorities and responsibilities include, but are not limited to 1) Trail construction and maintenance (relocation and side trail design and construction; footpath protection and hardening with water diversion structures, puncheon, and rockwork; pathway obstruction removal; route marking with blazes, signs, and cairns), 2) facilities construction and maintenance (shelter, privy, and bridge construction; trash and illegal fire ring removal), 3) Trail and corridor management (regular revision of the LMP, Trail assessment, corridor monitoring, regular cooperation and communication with the ATC and agency partners), and 4) information and education (revision of the *Appalachian Trail Guide to North Carolina-Georgia*, hiker education, and provision of information about the Trail in Georgia to the ATC, agencies, and the public). To the extent feasible, the GATC agrees to assist with the Trail protection, management, and monitoring efforts of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Land Trust.

Cooperative Management. The AT cooperative management system is based on a commitment to cooperation, consultation, and collaboration by all partners. Disagreements that arise should be resolved as close to the source as possible. The GATC has sole authority for dealing with issues among its volunteer members. GATC's President or designee will represent the Club in resolving differences between the Club and Georgia agencies, federal agencies, and the ATC. The Chair of the Southern Regional Partnership Committee (RPC), aided by ATC's Regional Director for Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, will represent the Conservancy in local and regional issues that involve the Club. Questions of Club territorial jurisdiction, adherence to ATC policies, or Club status within the Conservancy, and matters that cannot be resolved locally or regionally, are the responsibility of the ATC's Board of Directors, aided by ATC's Executive Director and staff.

Signed _____
Chair
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Date _____

Signed _____
President
Georgia Appalachian Trail Club
Date _____

APPENDIX I – J

List of Georgia Wilderness and NRA Acts

Public Law 98-514, Oct 19, 1984, “The Georgia Wilderness Act of 1984”

Southern Nantahala Wilderness

Public Law 99-555, Oct 27, 1986, “The Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986”

Raven Cliffs Wilderness

Tray Mountain Wilderness

Public Law 102-217, Dec 11, 1991, “Chattahoochee National Forest Protection Act of 1991”.

Blood Mountain Wilderness

Mark Trail Wilderness

Springer Mountain National Recreation Area (Ed Jenkins NRA)

APPENDIX I – K

Georgia Wilderness Act of 1984 (PL 98-514)

PUBLIC LAW 98-514 —OCT. 19, 1984

GEORGIA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

Public Law 98-514

98th Congress

An Act

Oct. 19, 1984
[S. 2773]

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia as wilderness, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the “Georgia Wilderness Act of 1984”.

Georgia
Wilderness Act
of 1984.
National
Wilderness
Preservation
System.
National Forest
System.

DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the State of Georgia are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately two thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Ellicott Rock Wilderness Addition—Proposed”, dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in, and shall be deemed to be part of, the Ellicott Rock Wilderness as designated by Public Law 93-622; and

(2) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately twelve thousand four hundred and thirty-nine acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Southern Nantahala Wilderness Addition—Proposed”, dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in, and shall be deemed to be part of, the Southern Nantahala Wilderness as designated by Public Law 98-324.

16 USC 1132
note.

Ante, p. 263.

MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the United States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such map and description may be made by the Secretary. Each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

Public
availability.

ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS

SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilder-

16 USC 1131
note.

ness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

EFFECT OF RARE II

SEC. 5. (a) The Congress finds that—

Conservation.

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the State of Georgia and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

Congress.

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the KARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in States other than Georgia, such Statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

16 USC 1600
note.

(3) areas in the State of Georgia reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

16 USC 1604.

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Georgia are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be

16 USC 1600
note.

Prohibition.

required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Georgia which are less than five thousand acres in size.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to—

(1) the Georgia portion of the Big Frog Wilderness Study Area as designated by Public Law 93-622; and

(2) the following areas in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Chattahoochee National Forest RARE II Inventory", dated June 1984, and which are known as—

(A) "Raven Cliff", comprising approximately nine thousand one hundred acres;

(B) "Overflow", comprising approximately five thousand acres;

(C) "Blood Mountain", comprising approximately nine thousand four hundred acres;

(D) "Chattahoochee River", comprising approximately twenty-one thousand six hundred acres;

(E) "Tray Mountain", comprising approximately thirty-six thousand six hundred acres;

(F) "Hemp Top", comprising approximately two thousand seven hundred acres;

(G) "Mountain Town", comprising approximately six thousand seven hundred acres;

(H) "Rich Mountain", comprising approximately fifteen thousand six hundred acres;

(I) "Brasstown", comprising approximately three thousand six hundred acres; and

16 USC 1132
note.

(J) “Wolf Pen”, comprising approximately seven thousand seven hundred acres.

These areas shall be considered for all uses, including wilderness, during preparation of a forest plan for the Chattahoochee National Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended.

16 USC 1604.

Approved October 19,1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2773:

SENATE REPORT No. 98-611 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):

Oct. 2, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 4, considered and passed House.

APPENDIX I – L

Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986 (PL 99-555) and Committee Report

Ninety-ninth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the twenty-first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six

An Act

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Georgia Wilderness Act of 1988".

SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1181), the following lands in the State of Georgia are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System—

(1) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 8,562 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Raven Cliffs Wilderness—Proposed", dated September 1986, and which shall be known as the Raven Cliffs Wilderness;

(2) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 11,405 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Brasstown Wilderness—Proposed", dated September, 1986, and which shall be known as the Brasstown Wilderness;

(3) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 9,702 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Tray Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated September, 1986, and which shall be known as the Tray Mountain Wilderness;

(4) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 9,649 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Rich Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated September, 1986, and which shall be known as the Rich Mountain Wilderness; and

(5) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 2,940 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Cohutta Wilderness addition—Proposed", dated September, 1986, and which is hereby incorporated in and shall be part of the Cohutta Wilderness as designated by Public Law 93-622.

SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the United States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such map, and legal descriptions may be made. A copy of each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the

Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and in the Office of the Supervisor of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Sec. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

9/23/86

COMMITTEE REPORT

H.R. 5496

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5496) to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment, and recommends that the bill as so amended do pass.

The amendment adopted by the Committee, is as follows:

(

((insert amendment))

Amendment to H.R. 5496 (Georgia Wilderness Act)

Delete all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"Section 1. That this Act may be cited as the "Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986".

5 SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness
6 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131), the following lands in the State
of Georgia are hereby designated as wilderness and, there-
fore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation
System—

(1) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National
Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 8,562
acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Raven
Cliffs Wilderness—Proposed," dated September 1986,
and which shall be known as the Raven Cliffs
Wilderness;

(2) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National
Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 11,405
acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled
"Brasstown Wilderness—Proposed," dated
September, 1986, and which shall be known as
the Brasstown Wilderness;

(3) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 9,702 acres, generally depicted on a map entitled "Tray Mountain Wilderness—Proposed," dated September, 1986, and which shall be known as the Tray Mountain Wilderness;

(4) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 9,649 acres, generally depicted on a map entitled "Rich Mountain Wilderness—Proposed," dated September, 1986, and which shall be known as the Rich Mountain Wilderness; and

(5) certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 2,940 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Cohutta Wilderness addition—Proposed," dated September, 1986, and which is hereby incorporated in and shall be part of the Cohutta Wilderness as designated by Public Law 93-622.

SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-

trition, and Forestry of the United States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act; Provided, however that correction of clerical and typographical errors in such maps and legal descriptions may be made. A copy of each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and in the Office of the Supervisor of the Chattahoochie National Forest.

SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act."

BACKGROUND AND NEED

This bill would designate as wilderness five areas in the Chattahoochie National Forest in Georgia, as recommended by the Department of Agriculture. These areas total approximately 42,258 acres in the rugged mountains of north Georgia.

The bill was introduced by Representative Ed Jenkins, in whose Congressional District the affected areas are located, and has bipartisan support in the Georgia delegation.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Several of the wilderness proposals in this bill are traversed by portions of the Appalachian Trail. In designating the wilderness areas in this bill, the Committee believes that the Trail and its related structures represent a desirable existing use which is compatible with the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Specifically, it is the intent of the Committee that the Forest Service should continue traditional, nonmotorized management and maintenance for this use, including trail marking and footpath maintenance, and the maintenance of existing shelters.

The Committee also notes the important contribution the Appalachian Trail Conference, its associated hiking and outing clubs, and other private organizations and individuals have made to the maintenance and use of the Appalachian Trail, and the Committee urges the Forest Service to consult closely with the Appalachian Trail Conference and other interested organizations and individuals when making management decisions

affecting the Trail and its immediate environs, particularly in the development of wilderness management plans for those wilderness areas including portions of the Trail.

THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The Committee adopted an amendment to H.R. 5496 to include corrected map references and to amend the language of the bill to conform to that customarily used in wilderness bills previously enacted into law.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 - Short title.

Section 2 - Designates five areas in the Chattahoochie National Forest as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 3 - Incorporates the standard provisions of all wilderness bills regarding maps and descriptions.

Section 4 - Provides that areas designated as wilderness by this Act shall be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

COST AND INFLATIONARY IMPACT

Pursuant to clause 2(1)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that enactment of H.R. 5496 will have no inflationary impact on the national economy. The analysis of the Congressional Budget Office on the costs of this legislation follows:

(INSERT CBO REPORT HERE)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On September 18, 1986, the Subcommittee on Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 5496 in Washington, D.C., and received testimony from Representative Ed Jenkins, the Administration, and public witnesses.

On September 23, 1986, the Subcommittee on Public Lands adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 5496 and reported the bill as amended favorably to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs by voice vote.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On September 24, 1986, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 5496 and ordered the bill as amended reported favorably to the House, by voice vote.

OVERSIGHT STATEMENT

No recommendations were submitted to the Committee pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

ADMINISTRATION VIEWS

The Committee requested a report on H.R. 5496 from the Department of Agriculture. Their report is as follows:

(INSERT DEPARTMENTAL REPORT HERE)

APPENDIX I – M

Chattahoochee Forest Protection Act of 1991 (PL 102-217)

Public Law 102-217
102d Congress

An Act

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia as wilderness, and for other purposes.

Dec. 11, 1991
 [H.R. 3245]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chattahoochee National Forest Protection Act of 1991”.

Chattahoochee
 National Forest
 Protection Act of
 1991.

Conservation.
 16 USC 460ggg
 note.
 16 USC 460ggg.

SEC. 2. WILDERNESS.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the State of Georgia are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 7,800 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Blood Mountain Wilderness—Proposed”, dated October 1991, and which shall be known as Blood Mountain Wilderness.

16 USC 1132
 note.

(2) Certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 16,880 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Chattahoochee Headwaters Wilderness—Proposed”, dated July 1991, and which shall be known as Mark Trail Wilderness.

16 USC 1132
 note.

(3) Certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest; Georgia, which comprise approximately 1,160 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Brasstown Wilderness Addition—Proposed”, dated July 1991, and which is hereby incorporated in and shall be part of the Brasstown Wilderness as designated by section 2(2) of the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 3129).

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.

(a) **DESIGNATION AND PURPOSES.**—For the purposes of protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, special ecological features, watershed integrity, mature forest habitat, scenic recreation opportunities and other distinctive values of certain lands in Georgia, the lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 7,100 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Coosa Bald Scenic Area—Proposed”, dated July 1991, are designated as a national scenic area and shall be known as the

16 USC
 460ggg-1.

Coosa Bald National Scenic Area (hereafter in this section referred to as the "scenic area").

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the scenic area in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System in such a way as to further the purposes of this section.

(2) The Secretary may permit additional road construction in the scenic area in furtherance of the purposes for which the scenic area is established. Except as provided in this section, the Secretary may not conduct timber harvesting in the scenic area. The Secretary may remove timber in the scenic area in furtherance of this section, but only in a manner which does not impair the purposes for which the scenic area is established. Salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe, or are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack, is authorized to maintain forest health. Timber harvesting is authorized to provide for visitor safety.

(3) By virtue of this designation alone, the Secretary need not change patterns of public access or closure on existing permanent national forest development roads. At his discretion, however, the Secretary may open or close such existing roads for public use for reasons of sound resource management.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent the completion of existing timber sales under contract.

(5) The scenic area is hereby withdrawn from the operation of all laws pertaining to mineral leasing.

(6) The Secretary may also permit, in his discretion, the continued maintenance of existing wildlife openings, in cooperation with the State of Georgia and other Federal, State, and private cooperators, and may permit new wildlife openings in furtherance of the purposes for which the scenic area is established.

(7) The Secretary shall protect, enhance, and promote the public's opportunities for primitive and semiprimitive experiences in the scenic area.

SEC. 4. RECREATION AREA.

(a) **DESIGNATION AND PURPOSES.**—For the purposes of ensuring the protection of certain natural, scenic, fish and wildlife, historic and archaeological, wildland and watershed values, and providing for the enhancement of the recreation opportunities associated with these values, certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 23,330 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Springer Mountain National Recreation Area—Proposed", dated October 1991, are hereby designated as a national recreation area and shall be known as Springer Mountain National Recreation Area (hereafter in this section referred to as the "recreation area").

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the national forests in such a way as to further the purposes of this section. Except as provided in this section, the Secretary may not conduct timber harvesting in the recreation area. The Secretary may remove timber in the recreation area in furtherance of this section, but only in a manner which does not impair the purposes for which the recreation area is established. Salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other

catastrophe, or are in imminent danger from ~~insect~~ or disease attack, is authorized to maintain forest health. Timber harvesting is authorized to provide for visitor safety.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prevent the completion of existing timber sales under contract. The Secretary may permit additional road construction in the area in furtherance of the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

(3) By virtue of the designation under this section, the Secretary need not change patterns of public access or closure on existing permanent national forest development roads. At his discretion, however, the Secretary may open or close such existing roads to public use for reasons of sound resource management.

(4) Lands within the recreation area are hereby withdrawn from the operation of all laws pertaining to mineral leasing.

(5) The Secretary may permit, in his discretion, the continued maintenance of existing wildlife openings, in cooperation with the State of Georgia and other Federal, State, and private cooperators, and may permit new wildlife openings in furtherance of the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

(6) The Secretary shall protect, enhance, and promote the public's opportunities for primitive and semiprimitive recreation in the recreation area.

(7) Designation by this section shall not interfere with rights of access to privately held lands.

SEC. 6. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

16 USC
460ggg-3.

APPENDIX I – N

Management of the A.T. Within U. S. Forest Service Managed Wilderness in Georgia (August 1987)

Management of the Appalachian Trail Within
U.S. Forest Service Managed Wilderness in Georgia

The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in Georgia traverses three areas designated by Congress as wilderness as defined in Section 2(C) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) and the committee report for the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986. These areas are known respectively as Raven Cliffs, Tray Mountain and Southern Nantahala. The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conference and the U.S. Forest Service, Chattahoochee National Forest, has developed guidelines to provide adequate management of the Appalachian Trail within these wilderness areas. These guidelines are based on the trail standards of the Chattahoochee National Forest Standard Specifications and the Appalachian Trail Conference publication, "The Appalachian Trail Stewardship Series - Trail Design, Construction, And Maintenance", and are subject to the constraints of the U.S. Forest Service AT Manual Supplement FSM 9/83R-8 Supp 42.

It is recognized that the Appalachian National Scenic Trail requires a management situation that is unique with respect to wilderness, and that adequate trail standards may require exceptions to the standard conventions of wilderness management.

Motorized Equipment

Motorized equipment such as chainsaws and weed eaters will not be used for maintenance and construction of the Appalachian Trail in wilderness areas in Georgia with the following exceptions:

1) In the event of excessive storm damage which causes major obstructions to the A.T., and where non-motorized tools would be inefficient in clearing the trail, hand-held motorized equipment may be authorized for use to reopen the trail in a timely manner.

2) In the event that major trail construction or reconstruction is required to avoid a detrimental effect on either the Appalachian Trail or the associated wilderness area, hand-held motorized equipment may be authorized for use in order to expedite the construction and minimize the overall impact on the wilderness area.

When the above conditions exist which would justify the use of motorized equipment, the GATC, with the verbal or written concurrence of the appropriate District Ranger, will request written

permission for the use of motorized equipment from the Forest Supervisor of the Chattahoochee National Forest based on Forest Service Manual 2300, Section 2326, Item 2326.1. The ATC will be notified of this action.

Trail Standards

The presently accepted criteria for managing and maintaining the Appalachian Trail and associated side trails in Georgia as related to trail construction and maintenance, trail signs, trail markings and water sources are compatible with the wilderness concept. These criteria are explicitly stated in the following documents:

- 1) Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest - Standard Specifications;
- 2) The Appalachian Trail Stewardship Manual - Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance;
- 3) Cooperative Agreement between the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Inc. and the Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forest.

Materials for trail construction and maintenance will be obtained locally where it is not reasonably practical to transport the material from outside the wilderness. Where possible, rock will be used for erosion control features such as waterbars or cribs. When rock is not available or practical to use, cut trees will be used for these purposes as per Forest Service Manual 2300, Section 2323.53. When trees are used for trail construction and maintenance, they will be selected and cut so as to minimize the impact on the local environment and will be inconspicuous from the trail itself.

Shelters

Shelters provide protection for the hiker in fairly remote locations and are considered an essential element in concentrating camping and reducing the impact on the surrounding areas. Existing shelters will be maintained in their present location and condition. Appropriate repairs will be made as necessary to insure that they conform to the standards for the Appalachian Trail and do not adversely impact the wilderness character of the surrounding region.

Upon approval by the GATC Board of Directors and the Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, this document will become an attachment to the "The Georgia Appalachian Trail

Club Plan for Management for the Appalachian Trail in Georgia" and will serve as the guide for the GATC in managing and maintaining the Appalachian Trail within wilderness areas in Georgia.

Marianne J. Skeen

Marianne Skeen, President
Georgia Appalachian Trail Club

8/11/87

Date

W. Pat Thomas

W. Pat Thomas, Forest Supervisor
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

8/24/87

Date

APPENDIX I - O

Process for Requesting the Use of Chainsaws in Wilderness on the Appalachian Trail Following a Catastrophic Storm Event

File Code: 2300

Date: March 5, 1997

Route To:

Subject: Process for Requesting the Use of Chainsaws in Wilderness
on the Appalachian Trail Following a Catastrophic Storm Event

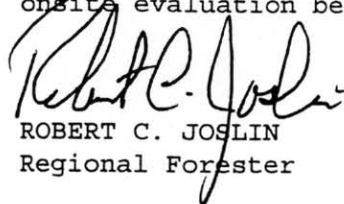
To: Forest Supervisors

Enclosed is an outline of the process to be used in requesting the use of hand-held power tools in designated Wilderness along the Appalachian Trail (AT) following a catastrophic storm event. This process is also recommended for other trails in Wilderness throughout the Region.

Using this tool will help ensure that appropriate and needed data is relayed to the Regional Office for an informal decision. This process is to be implemented when the local Trail maintaining Club, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) Regional Representative, and the Forest Supervisor agree that the need for using power tools to open the Appalachian Trail in Wilderness is evident and warranted. As stated in the enclosed paper, the intent of the process is to gather and report pertinent data in a timely and efficient manner, not to create exhaustive trail logs or assessments.

The paper was developed cooperatively with input from Forest Service staff at the RO, SO, and District levels; ATC staff; club representatives; and The Wilderness Society. A draft was distributed for review to the AT community as well as to Forest Supervisors at the end of last summer. This topic has been discussed at a number of Forest Service and ATC meetings. After incorporating changes based on input from reviewers, the enclosed final process paper received the endorsement of the ATC board of Managers in November 1996.

From the many discussions that have taken place, it is apparent that internal and external Trail managing partners appreciate the fact that permission will be granted for the use of power tools in Wilderness only in the wake of a catastrophic event and only when resource damage and/or safety of volunteers or Trail users is an issue. It should also be understood that going through the process does not mean that permission to use power tools will be automatically granted. However, I have given my assurance that either permission will be granted or I will send a representative from the RO Recreation staff for an on-site evaluation before making a decision.



ROBERT C. JOSLIN
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc:

David Startzell, Executive Director, ATC
David Field, Chair, ATC Board of Supervisors
James Hutchings, Southern Vice Chair, ATC Board of Managers
Peter Kirby, The Wilderness Society
Bob Jacobs, Regional Forester, Eastern Region
Donna Hepp, White Mountain National Forest
Jim Bartelme, Green Mountain National Forest
Lyle Laverty, Washington Office

PROCESS FOR MAKING REQUESTS FOR USING HAND-HELD POWER TOOLS
ALONG THE APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
IN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS
FOLLOWING CATASTROPHIC STORM EVENTS

PREAMBLE

Catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and serious ice storms are rare, but they do occasionally cause severe damage to the Appalachian Trail in the National Forests. Examples include Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Opal in 1995. Each event affected hundreds of miles of the Appalachian Trail, including many miles within federally designated Wildernesses. Keeping the Trail open and passable is important to maintain the continuity and integrity of this nationally recognized recreation resource.

The use of motorized equipment in designated Wildernesses is prohibited under the Wilderness Act. However, the Act provides for special exceptions, including emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area. Requests for use of power tools in Wilderness areas on National Forests in the Southern Region (Region 8) must be approved by the Regional Forester. In the National Forests in the Eastern Region (Region 9), this decision-making authority has been delegated to the Forest Supervisors.

This process paper was developed to provide a timely and efficient method, for Forest Service staff and maintaining Trail Club representatives, to follow as they evaluate the need for using hand-held power tools in response to a catastrophic event along the Appalachian Trail in Wilderness areas. The process is not intended to require the creation of exhaustive trail logs or assessments nor detailed written justifications, but to ensure that relevant factors are considered in making a recommendation. If it is determined that a request will be made to allow the use of hand-held power tools in Wilderness, that request should include a concise written summary of conditions and factors that were considered. Due to the inherent urgent nature of the need to make such a request, it should generally not exceed two pages in length.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS

Following a catastrophic storm event, the Club and the Ranger District will perform an assessment of the condition of the Appalachian Trail. A catastrophic storm event may be a hurricane, tornado, flood, ice storm, blizzard, or any other extraordinary storm event which is outside the "normal" weather patterns of the area. Based on the factors that follow, they determine whether a request should be made to the Forest Supervisor for the use of hand-held power tools. In the Eastern Region, the Forest Supervisor will make the decision. In the Southern Region, if the Forest Supervisor agrees with the recommendation, a request for approval is sent to the Regional Forester.

COMPONENTS OF THE REQUEST TO USE CHAINSAWS IN WILDERNESS

Generally, the request should limit power tool use to a few days when impact to Wilderness character and values would be minimized to the extent possible, recognizing that the workforce is comprised primarily of volunteers. As described on the following page, the request should focus only on specific areas with a large number of blowdowns and/or large diameter blowdowns; provide a description of the affected area; identify the workforce available to respond; estimate the number of hikes that would normally be anticipated during

that season of use; and identify the anticipated consequences if power tools are not used.

Specifically, the factors to be considered by the Club and District during their assessment and included in the request to the Regional Forester (Region 8) or Forest Supervisor (Region 9), are divided into the three categories that follow:

Safety of Maintainers

- Description of hazards along representative sections of Trail:
 - locations of hazards and physical barriers (steep slopes, cliffs, bluffs, boulders)
 - number of hazards;
 - size of piles: width, height, length along Trail;
 - number of broken and windthrown trees (approximate number of stems in an identified length of Trail);
 - diameter of trees;
 - hanging trees (widow-makers), etc.
- Season of use; weather conditions that are of a concern
- Duration of exposure to hazards
- Club/District resources available (people, funds, tools)
- Consequences anticipated if power tools are not used; if power tools are used.

Safety of Users

- Description of hazards along identified sections of Trail (description may refer to that in the above category):
 - locations of hazards and physical barriers (steep slopes, cliffs, bluffs, boulders);
 - number of hazards;
 - size of piles;
 - numbers of trees (approximate number of stems in an identified length of Trail);
 - diameters of trees;
 - hanging trees (widow-makers), etc.;
- Numbers and skill levels of users (access points, seasonal variations, proximity to population centers);
- Options available to the user (anticipated reroutes created by users);
- Options available to managers (Trail closure, reroute);
- Availability of Wilderness and Trail use information;
- Consequences anticipated if power tools are not used; if power tools are used.

Resources Damage

- Probability of sustained resource damage, such as braided trail and switchbacks;
- Duration of impacts and length of temporary trails;
- Damage to Trail tread, such as knocking/sloughing down outside edge;
- Presence of sensitive species;
- Trespasses;
- Number of users: access points, seasonal variations, proximity to population centers;
- Ability or inability to effectively close the Trail for length of time;
- Availability of Wilderness and Trail use information to the public;
- Consequences anticipated if power tools are not used.

BASIS FOR FINAL DECISION

The final decision regarding chainsaw use lies with the Regional Forester in Region 8 and the Forest Supervisors in Region 9. Requests to use chainsaws following catastrophic storm events will be decided on a case-by-case basis, with considerations for both Wilderness values and Appalachian Trail values.

In summary, the decision will be based on the above categories for safety of maintainers, safety of users, and resource damage. There will be an emphasis on timeliness, use patterns, season of use, and specific location. Also, a special consideration will be given to the consequences of closing the Trail.

Because the decision is made at the Regional level for Region 8, an additional criteria is included. If the Regional Forester has any questions or concerns regarding the need or appropriateness of chainsaw use for any particular request, a representative from the RO Recreation staff will visit the area in question and meet on site with Club representatives and Supervisor's Office or District Office staff prior to a final decision being made.

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly "WV" and "RDB", in the bottom right corner.

APPENDIX I – P

Guidelines Developed for the Use of Blood Mountain and Mark Trail Wilderness Areas by the Limits of Acceptable Change Process

ATTACHMENT 1-6

Guidelines Developed for the use of Blood Mountain & Mark Trail Wilderness Areas by the Limits of Acceptable Change Process (1996)
Opportunity Class Descriptions

Opportunity Class I

Resource Conditions: Area is predominantly natural, characterized as having no developed, maintained trails or evidence of previous campsites. Past evidence of human activity is not readily apparent. There are no obvious exotic plant species present. Natural ecological processes dominant the landscape.

Social Conditions: Opportunities for isolation and solitude are maximum, the likelihood of contact with other wilderness visitors is low. The highest degree of challenge, risk and the application of outdoors skills will be in this opportunity class. People's thoughts tend to be focused on the appreciation of the attributes of the physical location, i.e., being only one of a few to find this spot. Group size minimal.

Management Settings: Likelihood of contact between wilderness visitors and Forest Service personnel is low. Area will be free from the evidence of management restrictions and control except those needed for resource degradation caused by human activities. Management actions when prescribed will be conducted with the minimal tool and technology to accomplish management goals. No commercial activity (outfitting and guiding) allowed.

Opportunity Class II

Resource Conditions: Area is classified as one of transition from Opportunity Class I to other Opportunity Classes. Area is characterized by a limited number of low standard trails with narrow trail widths and clearing limits. Discernible, unmaintained travel routes resulting from previous off-trail use may also exist. Evidence of previously used campsites is uncommon with no evidence of large group camping. Past evidence of human activity is less apparent. There are no obvious exotic plant species present. Natural ecological processes dominant the landscape.

Social Conditions: Opportunities for isolation and solitude should be high. Contact with other wilderness visitors may be minimal to low. The degree of challenge and risk should be moderate, at times requiring a fair amount of outdoor skills. People's thoughts tend to be focused on the appreciation of the attributes of the physical location, although a greater appreciation on the recreation activity engaged in is recognized. Group size is small.

Management Settings: Likelihood of contact between wilderness visitors and Forest Service personnel is low. There is some evidence of management restrictions and control and maintenance and compliance activities are scheduled on an "as needed" basis. Management actions when prescribed will be conducted with the minimal tool and technology to accomplish management goals. No commercial activity (outfitting and guiding) allowed.

Opportunity Class III

Resource Conditions: Area is characterized by a defined trail system that is developed to accommodate a variety of users at a fairly high use rate. Trails are designed and constructed with visible improvements evident and intended to provide visitors with access to destination areas. Discernible, unmaintained travel routes resulting from off-trail use may exist. This opportunity class includes the perimeter along private property and state lands as well as roadways. Evidence of previously used campsites is seen with some evidence of large group camping. Campsites show evidence of concentrated human use. Vegetation may be lost and mineral soil exposed. Well used campsites will be dispersed throughout the area in such a manner that campers may hear others but cannot see them. Past evidence of human activity is apparent. There are no obvious exotic plant species present. Natural ecological processes are present in the landscape.

Social Conditions: Isolation and solitude are not an essential part of most visitors experience but visitors feel like they are in an unconfined, natural area where the risk and challenge associated with adverse weather, primitive travel methods and lack of rapid communication may be present. Visitors are focused on the activity but include a sense of renewal and connection to the land. Groups may be large in size.

Management Setting: Likelihood of contact between wilderness visitors and Forest Service personnel is moderate. There is evidence of management activity. Maintenance and compliance activities are scheduled on a recurring basis. Management actions when prescribed will be conducted with the minimal tool and technology to accomplish management goals. Commercial activity (outfitting and guiding) may be allowed.

OPPORTUNITY CLASS AT

Resource Conditions: Area is characterized by a defined trail system that is limited to foot travel only, at a moderate to high level of use. Improvements may be evident along the trail. Discernible, unmaintained travel routes resulting from off-trail use may exist. Evidence of previously used campsites is seen with some evidence of large group camping. Campsites show evidence of concentrated human use. Vegetation may be lost and mineral soil exposed. Past evidence of human activity is apparent. There are no obvious exotic plant species present. Natural ecological processes are present in the landscape.

Social Conditions: With the exception of the Appalachian Trail shelters, there is a good chance of solitude for an extended period of time. Isolation and solitude are not an essential part of most visitors experience but visitors feel like they are in an unconfined, natural area where the risk and challenge associated with adverse weather, primitive travel methods and lack of rapid communication may be present. Visitors are focused on the activity but include a sense of renewal and connection to the land. Groups size is small.

Management Setting: Likelihood of contact between wilderness visitors and Forest Service personnel is moderate. There is evidence of management activity. Maintenance and compliance activities are scheduled on a recurring basis. Management actions when prescribed will be conducted with the minimal tool and technology to accomplish management goals. No commercial activity (outfitting and guiding) allowed.

MARK TRAIL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Level A - Continue or begin implementation.

Information and Education.

- Continue both public and private efforts.

Group Size Limit (10) - officially establish by Forest Supervisor's Order.

Seek corporate sponsorship for Ridge Runner program in Mark Trail Wilderness.

Incorporate trail system that is outlined in the Upper Chattahoochee River Area Strategy.

Allow horses in the Mark Trail Wilderness until trails are built and then they will be restricted to designated trails only.

Level B - Future Options (if unacceptable impacts continue to occur).

Initiate campfire ban wilderness-wide.

Forest Supervisor Closure Order prohibiting the possession of certain equipment within wilderness (hand saws, axes) except for legitimate reasons such as fire-fighting, trail maintenance, etc.

Forest Supervisor Closure Order prohibiting camping within 25 feet of any live stream.

Designated campsites (voluntary compliance).

Level C - Future Options (if unacceptable impacts continue to occur).

Construct trail to Double Culvert Falls.

Designated campsites with required campsite permit. Closure order limiting camping to designated sites and imposing a length of stay restriction.

Visitor Permit system, fee charged for processing of permit.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Level A - Continue or begin implementation.

Information and Education.

- Continue both public and private efforts.
- Install an informative display/brochure rack at Walasi-Yi Center.

Extend campfire ban wilderness-wide.

Group Size Limit (10) - officially establish by Forest Supervisor's Order.

Develop MOU with State Park for Forest Service to manage Byron Reece Parking Lot. Forest Service could then:

- Designate parking spaces and restrict parking to designated spaces only.
- Charge for parking.

Revise existing MOU with State Park for trail maintenance on Bear Hair and Coosa Backcountry to include removing blazes in wilderness and installing a bulletin board with warning message at boundary of wilderness trail.

Develop MOU with State DOT to install guard rails and "No Parking" signs from Byron Reece parking lot to Walasi-Yi Center along Highway 129.

Closure of existing shelter at Blood Mountain. New construction of a shelter outside of wilderness, possibly near Turkey Stamp.

Seek corporate sponsorship for Ridge Runner program on Blood Mountain.

Modification/rehabilitation of AT on the north side of Blood Mountain.

Realign Slaughter Gap trail junction (minor trail relocations).

Forest Supervisor Closure Order prohibiting the possession of certain equipment within wilderness (hand saws, axes) except for legitimate reasons such as fire-fighting, trail maintenance, etc.

Level B - Future Options

Re-route (new construction) of the AT on the north side of Blood Mountain (if possible).

Campsite ban from Slaughter Gap to Neels Gap (day use area).

Level C - Future Options (if unacceptable impacts continue to occur).

Designated campsites with required campsite permit. Closure order limiting camping to designated sites and imposing a length of stay restriction.

Re-route of AT along the Freeman Trail, closure of existing trail on north side of Blood Mountain.

Visitor Permit system, fee charged for processing of permit.

| Indicators | Opportunity Class | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Resource | OC I | OC II | OC III | OC AT |
| <u>Campsite Conditions</u> | | | | |
| Vegetative ground cover onsite (percentage based on form rating) | N/A | ≥ 96% | ≥ 26% | ≥ 26% |
| Vegetative ground cover offsite (percentage based on form rating) | N/A | ≥ 96% | ≥ 76% | ≥ 76% |
| Soil exposure (form rating) | N/A | ≤ 5% | ≤ 25% | ≤ 25% |
| Number of trees damaged | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of tree stumps | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of fire rings per campsite | N/A | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Amount of litter | N/A | None | None | None |
| Evidence of human waste | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of trails at campsite | N/A | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| <u>Water Conditions</u> | | | | |
| Water turbidity | Not Evident | | | |
| Evidence of accumulated sediment | Not Evident | | | |
| Evidence of trampling | Not Evident | Not Evident | Minimal | Minimal |
| <u>Trail Conditions</u> | | | | |
| Number of areas/linear feet per trail mile that show trail damage from recreation use such as trail width expansion (feet), cutting of switchbacks (number), slipped trail (linear feet), etc. | N/A | None | None | None |
| Number of campsites per linear mile (within trail corridor/OC) | N/A | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Number of campsites visible from trail per linear mile (as above) | N/A | 2 | 5 | 2 |

| <u>Indicators</u> | <u>Opportunity Class</u> | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Social | OC I | OC II | OC III | OC AT |
| Party size | 2 | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| Number of inter-party contacts | 80% probability of no encounters | 80% probability of 2 or fewer encounters | 80% probability of 12 or fewer encounters | 80% probability of 24 or fewer encounters |
| Number of commercial users (outfitter and guides) | ----- No Outfitter and Guide Use----- | | | |
| Number of campsites within sight of each other | N/A | 0 | 0 | 1 |

APPENDIX I – Q

Wilderness Designation and Management (March 1996)

March 23, 1996

WILDERNESS DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Appalachian Trail in Georgia passes through five congressionally designated Wilderness areas. Approximately half of the total miles of A.T. in Georgia are now included in wilderness. As part of the Chattahoochee National Forest Plan revision process, specific management direction for these wilderness areas will be developed through a process called "Limits of Acceptable Change". This overview of wilderness legislation and existing management direction is designed to provide GATC members some background for participation in this important process.

LEGISLATION

WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964. This act established "a National Wilderness System for the permanent good of the whole people". The system would be comprised of federally owned areas which "shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness and to provide for...the preservation of their wilderness character". Wilderness was defined as an area where "in contrast to those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, ...is a area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain". It was further defined as an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" and which has "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfirmed type of recreation".

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION. Subsequent legislation established specific wilderness areas or groups of areas in various parts of the United States. These lands are administered by the federal agency (National Park Service, US Forest Service, etc) which had jurisdiction over them immediately before their inclusion in the Wilderness system. The wilderness areas in Georgia through which the A.T. passes were established in three separate pieces of legislation and are all administered by the US Forest Service.

LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURE AND INTERPRETATION. Congressional legislation in general is stated fairly concisely in the body of the bill itself and is then accompanied by a report from the congressional committee which studied that particular bill. The committee report is used by administrators and managers to interpret the intent of Congress as to how the legislation should be implemented. In court cases, legal authorities frequently turn not only to the committee report, but also to the testimony and the floor debate which are part of the Congressional Record in order to determine the intent of the law.

EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

GENERAL US FOREST SERVICE POLICY. Since all the Wilderness areas in GA are administered by the USFS, only that agency's policies will be examined here, but it's worth noting that wilderness management philosophies differ significantly among agencies and that the USFS is arguably the most conservative.

FOREST SERVICE MANUAL 2300. This is the agency guide for general recreation management. Chapter 2320 addresses Wilderness management specifically. There is a broad range of issues encompassing all aspects of recreation, including boating, use of pack stock, management of grazing, etc. The issues of special interest to A.T. Managers include those involving trails, visitor use, and use of motorized equipment. Some relevant sections from FSM 2320 are quoted below:

Where there are alternatives among management decisions, wilderness values shall dominate over all other considerations except where limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent legislation, or regulations. 2320.3.1

Each wilderness area is unique as established by law; therefore, each will be identified as a separate management area. 2322.03.1

Minimize direct controls and restrictions. Apply controls only when they are essential for protection of the wilderness resource. Use information, interpretation, and education as the primary tools for management of wilderness visitors. 2323.12

Provide facilities and improvements only for protection of the wilderness resource. Install facilities as a last resort. 2323.12

Do not designate campsites except as a last resort. Relocate or remove existing camps to allow maximum opportunity for solitude and to minimize the evidence of human use. 2323.13a

As a last resort to protect the wilderness resource, pit or vault toilet structures may be used. Servicing or replacement should be by nonmotorized means. 2323.13a.3

Except for Alaska, provide no new shelters. Shelters that existed at the time of wilderness designation may be maintained if allowed by specific legislation, or until they require extensive maintenance. Remove them at this time. 2323.13b

Design and locate trails so that nonmotorized and nonmechanical equipment can be used for construction and management. Maintain trails by nonmotorized methods except for situations described in section 2326. 2323.13f.1

Provide bridges only when no other route or crossing is reasonably available, where the crossing...cannot be negotiated afoot safely,...or where unacceptable bank damage will occur from visitors seeking crossing. 2323.13f.2

Do not permit competitive events. 2323.13h

Use a minimum of signs in wilderness. Along with accurate maps, and wilderness education materials, provide a minimum number of signs for either the routing or location of the traveler or the protection of the wilderness resource. Conform to the standards and guidelines for wilderness signing (see below). 2324.33f

Allow the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport only...to meet minimum needs for protection and administration of the area as wilderness...as follows:...An essential activity is impossible to accomplish by nonmotorized means because of such factors as time or season limitations, safety, or other material restrictions. (Other conditions are listed but this one is most pertinent for A.T. Management) 2326.1

FOREST SERVICE RECREATION SIGN GUIDELINES. Section 11 covers signage in wilderness areas. Visitor information and interpretive materials should be located on signs at trailheads. Interior sign and markings should be as follows:

Use signs within Wildernesses and Primitive areas sparingly. Limit messages to those essential to protect the resource and to provide for visitor location, orientation, and safety.

Mount signs on trees (preferred) or posts. Cut blazes, cairns, logo brands, and natural guide poles are the only reassurance markers permitted in the wilderness. The plastic national trail marker will not be used in wilderness. Do not use interpretive signs in wilderness.

POLICIES RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO MANAGEMENT OF THE A.T. IN WILDERNESS

FOREST SERVICE RECREATION MANUAL. Chapter 2353 of the Forest Service Recreation management manual relates specifically to management of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and contains the following language:

If Trail use depreciates the wilderness, permits or Trail relocation will be considered. Existing facilities within wilderness areas may be maintained, but new facilities will not be constructed. 2353.4.3f

Shelters are an integral part of the Trail experience. ...Shelters will not be removed unless there are compelling environmental or managerial reasons for doing so. ...Existing shelters in Wilderness areas that are needed to protect and manage the wilderness resource may be maintained until adverse impacts are determined or extensive maintenance needed, at which time they shall be removed. 2353.4.6f

FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK. Section 2309.18.2.24 deals with wilderness considerations in trail management in general. The section addressing signing and blazing states that:

With the exception of boundary markers, special trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, portal signs and bulletin boards at entry points, signs should only be used to eliminate or curtail resource damage. Blazes should not be used except in special cases, such as the Appalachian Trail, where special permission is granted.

KNOXVILLE REPORT. In 1989 a meeting was held in Knoxville, TN, to address major issues for management of the A.T. on Forest Service lands. In attendance were representatives of volunteer Trail maintaining clubs, ATC staff, and Forest Service personnel. After the meeting, task groups were set up to study each of the issues in further detail and to generate a report which would serve as a working document to provide consistent guidance for Trail managers. The "Knoxville Report" was issued in 1992 after intense work and extensive discussion among the management partners. The report contains four pages of discussion relating to management of the Trail in Wilderness. Some of the most pertinent sections are excerpted below:

The guidelines are based on a generally supported presupposition that the Appalachian Trail and its related facilities are fundamentally compatible with designated wilderness and that the preservation of wilderness in the vicinity of the A.T. can significantly enhance the experience of Trail users.

In general, the Trail and its related facilities represent a desirable existing use that is compatible with wilderness designation. In most cases, traditional management practices

should continue, including Trail marking and maintenance, but Trail maintainers must comply with agency constraints on types of tools, equipment, materials, and methods.

Maintenance of shelters and footbridges should be permitted and is desirable for the protection of wilderness values and the health and safety of persons using the Appalachian Trail within designated wilderness.

Federal agencies and Trail-maintaining clubs should deal with specific shelter and Trail-marking issues on a case-by-case basis through wilderness management plans and club local management plans.

TRAIL MARKING: The A.T. should be marked...by 2" x 6" white...blazes. Signs should be used only where necessary to provide basic information essential for navigation and public safety. Signs should be as simple and as small as possible, be made of natural wood, and be designed to minimize their contrast with the natural environment.

TRAIL SHELTERS, OVERNIGHT USE FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES: The system of Trail shelters spaced at approximate one-day hiking intervals is an integral component of the A.T. Environment. If permitted in the wilderness-designating act (or, where reference has been made to permitting traditional maintenance of the Trail in the legislative history), existing shelters... should be maintained, repaired, and restored as necessary. Material used...should reflect a sensitivity toward wilderness values. Privies should be considered an option if necessary to address sanitation concerns, but only when necessary to prevent resource damage and provide a minimum standard of public safety.

USE OF MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES: Use of power tools or motor vehicles ...must be specifically authorized in advance by the appropriate official of the land-managing agency. ...May authorize use...in situations that involve an inescapable emergency and temporary need for speed beyond that available by primitive means.

TREAD IMPROVEMENTS: Waterbars, bog bridging, and other treadway structures along the Trail should be constructed and reconstructed to ensure adequate tread stabilization, erosion control, and prevention of resource damage.

REGION 8 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES. In 1993 a set of revised standards and guidelines for management of the A.T. In Region 8 of the US Forest Service was issued. These guidelines were developed following extensive coordination between ATC, the Forests, and the Regional office. The intent was to provide a "consistent management approach for the management area containing the Appalachian National Scenic Trail". The accompanying letter from the Regional Forester stated that these guides "should be incorporated into your plans as you revise them". Since Region 8 includes the Chattahoochee, Nantahala, Pisgah, Cherokee and Jefferson and George Washington National Forests, these guides affect major sections of A.T. throughout the southern Region. The statements regarding A.T. Management in Wilderness are quoted below:

Wilderness is an integral part of the Appalachian Trail experience. Manage the A.T. within designated wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the specific area-designating act, and the area wilderness implementation schedule.

GATC LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE A.T. IN GEORGIA. The GATC, in consultation with the Chattahoochee National Forest and ATC, has developed a plan for management of the A.T. In Georgia. It was revised in 1995. Management direction concerning usage of motorized equipment, maintenance of shelters, and trail marking is consistent with the Knoxville report and incorporates much of the specific language from that report. In addition, the GATC management plan states that:

Existing vistas should be maintained by judicious trimming of small bushes and shrubs. No new vistas will be cleared along the A.T. within wilderness areas without agreement between the GATC and the USFS that such clearing will enhance the wilderness

environment along the trail, and without approval from the appropriate administrative level within the USFS.

Specifically, the GATC feels that the continued use of shelters, traditional markings, non-motorized footpath maintenance, relocations and the maintenance of existing scenic vistas should be permitted and are desirable for the protection of the wilderness and the enjoyment, health and safety of persons within the area. The committee reports accompanying the wilderness bills...should be used as guidelines in interpreting the wilderness bills passed by Congress.

COMMITTEE REPORTS ACCOMPANYING CONGRESSIONAL WILDERNESS LEGISLATION. The Committee Report accompanying the Chattahoochee Forest Protection act of 1991, which established the Blood Mountain, Mark Trail, and Brasstown Addition Wilderness areas, the Coosa Bald Scenic area, and the Ed Jenkins NRA, contained the following language (which is similar to that accompanying the Virginia Wilderness Bill of 1984 and the Georgia Wilderness Bill of 1986):

The Committee notes that some of the lands designated by this bill as wilderness are traversed by portions of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The Committee believes that the trail and its related trails and structures are a desirable existing use which is compatible with wilderness. Specifically, the Committee requests that the Forest Service continue traditional trail marking and non-motorized footpath maintenance. Appalachian Trail shelter maintenance should also be permitted and is desirable for the protection of the wilderness and the health and safety of persons within the area.

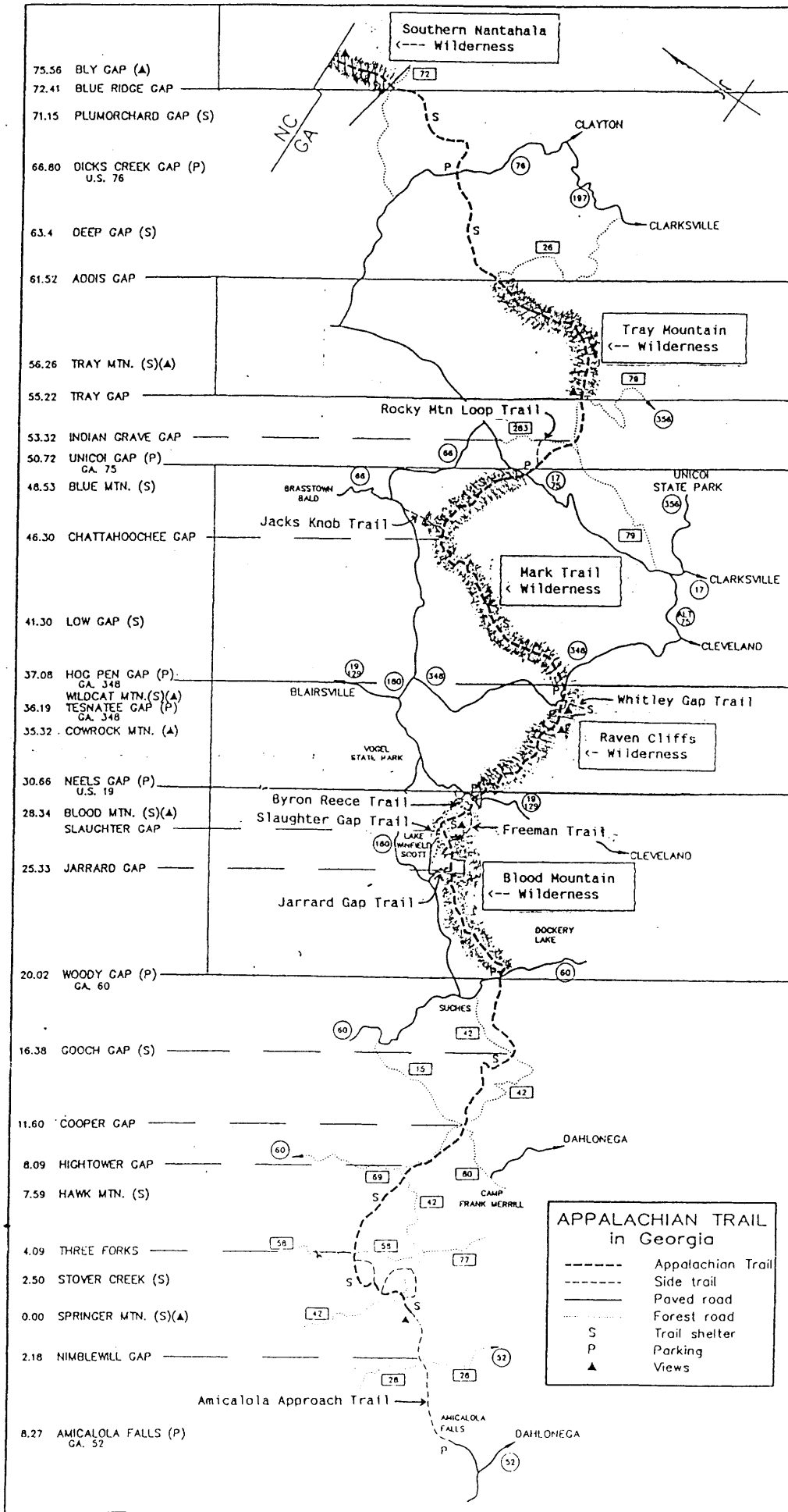
DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR WILDERNESS AREAS--THE LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE (LAC) PROCESS.

The Forest Service has developed a process for generating recreation management direction for specific wilderness areas which involves discussions among "citizens, managers, specialists, and researchers". A series of open meetings is held and participants work through a nine step procedure which basically identifies the current condition of the area, identifies changes which are acceptable and ways of monitoring the area to determine what changes occur over time. Existing laws and regulations which may affect the management decisions will be reviewed at the beginning of the process.

The LAC has been developed in response to the need of managers for a means of coping with increasing demands on recreational areas in a visible, logical fashion. The LAC also represents a reformulation of the recreational carrying capacity concept, with the primary emphasis now on the conditions desired in the area rather than on how much use an area can tolerate. The challenge is not one of how to prevent any human-induced change, but rather one of deciding how much change will be allowed to occur, where, and the actions needed to control it.

The LAC process for the Blood Mountain and Mark Trail Wilderness areas will begin in the spring of 1996. All aspects of recreational use of these areas will be considered; the A.T. is just one component of the system. The GATC will be an active participant in these meetings.

GATC Trails & Wilderness Areas





**APPENDICES TO THE PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN GEORGIA, PART 2
DECEMBER 2006**

APPENDIX II – A

SMS Mapping of the Georgia AT (2004)

Available only on hard copy map

APPENDIX II – B

**Trail Corridor Maps: CHATTAHOOCHEE OCONEE
NATIONAL FORESTS, GEORGIA, US Forest Service,
2000**

Available only in hard copy

APPENDIX II – C

Trail Mileage By Ranger District (See map at Appendix II – B)

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Toccoa Ranger District

Springer Mountain to Cooper Gap (mile 0 to Mile 11.6)

Brasstown Ranger District

Cooper Gap to Neels Gap (mile 11.6 to mile 30.7)

Chattooga Ranger District

Neels Gap to Unicoi Gap (mile 30.7 to mile 50.7)

Brasstown Ranger District

Unicoi Gap to Addis Gap (mile 50.7 to mile 61.5)

Tallulah Ranger District

Addis Gap to Bly Gap (mile 61.5 to mile 75.6)

APPROACH TRAIL

Toccoa Ranger District

Amicalola Falls State Park boundary to Springer Mountain (mile 1.7 to mile 8.8)

HIKE INN TRAIL

Toccoa Ranger District

Amicalola Falls State Park boundary to Len Foote Hike Inn (mile 0.5 to mile 5.9)

APPENDIX II – D

Trail Mileage by Wilderness Area

See Appendix I-Q

APPENDIX II – E

See map attached at Appendix II - B

Trail Mileage by NRA

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Toccoa Ranger District

Springer Mountain to Hickory Flats (USFS 251) (mile 0 to mile 5.8)

APPROACH TRAIL

Toccoa Ranger District

Frosty Mountain to Springer Mountain (mile 4.1 to mile 8.8)

HIKE INN TRAIL

Toccoa Ranger District

Amicalola Falls State Park boundary to Len Foote Hike Inn (mile 0.5 to mile 5.9)

APPENDIX II – F

SHELTERS ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN GEORGIA

PLUMORCHARD GAP SHELTER

Built in 1993 in a cooperative effort by the GATC, USFS and Upper Loft Designs to replace the shelter built in 1959 by the USFS. Loft, privy; water may be found at creek that crosses trail to shelter. Accommodates 14.

DEEP GAP SHELTER

Built in 1991 by the GATC, USFS, and Upper Loft Designs, after the shelter at nearby Addis Gap was removed. Loft, privy. A spring is adjacent to the shelter. Accommodates 12.

TRAY MOUNTAIN SHELTER

Built in 1971 by the USFS. It is the third shelter on Tray Mountain. The first was built by the CCC in 1934, and the second by the USFS in 1960 down the hill beside the spring. The present shelter was moved back to the top of the hill near the site of the original one. Water can be found about 800 feet downhill to the right of the shelter. Privy is to the left down a short trail. Accommodates seven.

BLUE MOUNTAIN SHELTER

Built in 1988 by the GATC and USFS, after the shelter at nearby Rocky Knob was removed. Affords fine views in the winter months. Spring is located on the west side of the Trail 0.1 mile south on the A.T. Accommodates seven. Privy built in 2005.

LOW GAP SHELTER

Built in 1972 by the USFS. Water is available at a small stream near the shelter. Accommodates seven. Privy built in 2006.

WHITLEY GAP SHELTER

Built by the USFS in 1973. About 0.2 mile behind the shelter is a spring. Accommodates six. Reached via a 1.2-mile, blue-blazed trail along the Wildcat ridge crest. Privy built in 2005.

BLOOD MOUNTAIN SHELTER

The two-room stone shelter at the summit of the mountain was built in 1934 by the CCC, and is considered a building of historical interest. It was refurbished in 1981 by the GATC and the USFS. Unfortunately for

hikers, the top of Blood Mountain has no firewood or water, and campfires are banned within 300 feet of the Trail in the 3.3-mile section between Slaughter Creek and Neels Gap. The ban is an effort to allow overused areas to return to their natural state. Fires are prohibited in the shelter as well. Blood Mountain is the most-visited spot on the A.T. south of Clingman's Dome, and the impact of more than 40,000 visitors a year has taken its toll.

The nearest water sources are near Flatrock Gap, 1.4 miles north on the Trail, and at Slaughter Creek (where camping is also available), 0.9 mile south, but they are unreliable.

A privy is available near the shelter.

WOODS HOLE SHELTER

Built in 1998 by the GATC to accommodate the overflow from the Blood Mountain shelter. Water can be found at a small stream crossing the trail to the shelter about mid-way, unreliable in dry months. Privy is on a side trail leading from the front of the shelter. Accommodates seven.

Woods Hole is dedicated to Roy and Tillie Woods of Roswell, Ga., who for many years provided food and shelter to hikers at their "Wood's Hole" hostel in Virginia. Funds to build the shelter were donated by thru-hikers Jerry and Minnie Bowden.

GOOCH MOUNTAIN SHELTER

Constructed in 2001 by the GATC, the shelter has a loft and picnic table. A privy is located behind the shelter along a blue-blazed trail. Water is also down a trail behind the shelter at a spring. Tent pads constructed in the area behind and to the side of the shelter offer more privacy to hikers and help to protect the shelter area from abuse. Accommodates 14.

This shelter replaces one built near Gooch Gap in 1960. Funds for the shelter were donated by the family of Kurt vonSeggern, a hiker, who died at age 40. His sister, Dolly Hawkins, was the architect for the shelter.

HAWK MOUNTAIN SHELTER

Built in 1994 by the GATC, USFS, and Upper Loft Designs. Water is located at a stream about 400 yards behind the shelter. Loft, privy. Accommodates 12.

This is the third shelter erected on Hawk Mountain. The first was built in 1960 by the USFS and was located near the summit. In 1979 that shelter was relocated to the small flat area where the present blue-blazed trail leads west to the current shelter.

STOVER CREEK SHELTER

A new timber frame shelter, designed by Goshen Timber Frame of Franklin, NC, was constructed by GATC in 2006. It replaces the oldest wooden shelter on the Georgia Trail, built in 1960 by the USFS and located at Big Stamp Gap on USFS 42. In 1977 it was relocated to a nearby area called Cross Trails, and finally in 1984 it was moved to Stover Creek. New shelter accommodates twenty. Water from a nearby spring or the creek. Privy. Tentpads.

SPRINGER MOUNTAIN SHELTER

Shelter built in 1993 by the GATC. Replaces shelter formerly located about 0.5 miles north on former A.T. Camping is prohibited on the summit of Springer, but a large camping area and tent sites are available near the shelter. Midway along trail to shelter, a side trail to left leads to large open area with campsites. To the right is a privy. Another privy is behind the shelter. On the trail past the shelter is a spring, and beyond are more campsites/tent pads. Accommodates 12.

BLACK GAP SHELTER

The shelter was "reconstructed" in 1993 by the GATC. Its frame was formerly part of the old Springer Mountain shelter, which was moved to Black Gap by helicopter, thanks to the Army Rangers at nearby Camp Merrill. A new roof was then installed by the GATC. Water is downhill to the east several hundred yards. Privy is behind shelter.

| Name | Latitude | Longitude | Zone | Easting | Northing | Elevation |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Black Gap Shelter | 34.61753 | -84.19879 | 16S | 756841 | 3834002 | 3179 |
| Springer Mtn Shelter | 34.62917 | -84.19289 | 16S | 757346 | 3835308 | 3699 |
| Stover Creek Shelter | 34.65030 | -84.19722 | 16S | 756609 | 3837461 | 2937 |
| Hawk Mtn Shelter | 34.66590 | -84.13645 | 16S | 762406 | 3839528 | 3128 |
| Gooch Mtn Shelter | 34.65553 | -84.05003 | 16S | 770361 | 3838607 | 2777 |
| Wood's Hole Shelter | 34.73712 | -83.95503 | 17S | 229441 | 3847672 | 3598 |
| Blood Mountain Shelter | 34.73992 | -83.93754 | 17S | 231051 | 3847936 | 4446 |
| Walasi-yi Center | 34.73507 | -83.91788 | 17S | 232836 | 3847345 | 3111 |
| Whitley Gap Shelter | 34.71238 | -83.83438 | 17S | 240413 | 3844609 | 3360 |
| Low Gap Shelter | 34.77613 | -83.82460 | 17S | 241508 | 3851657 | 2990 |
| Blue Mountain Shelter | 34.81713 | -83.76678 | 17S | 246926 | 3856057 | 3880 |
| Tray Mountain Shelter | 34.80397 | -83.67688 | 17S | 255112 | 3854374 | 4233 |
| Deep Gap Shelter | 34.88237 | -83.64601 | 17S | 258166 | 3862996 | 3456 |
| Plumorchard Gap Shelter | 34.94583 | -83.58839 | 17S | 263617 | 3869898 | 2996 |

APPENDIX II - G

List of Bridges Along the A.T. in Georgia

- (1) Stover Creek one half mile south of Three Forks.
- (2) Chester Creek at Three Forks.
- (3) Justus Creek.

List of bridges on the Slaughter Creek Trail

- 1). Slaughter Creek ¼ mile from Lake Winfield Scott
- 2). Slaughter Creek feeder 1 mile from Lake Winfield Scott

List of Bridges on the Dockery Lake Trail

- 1). Waters Creek feeder 1 mile south of Miller Gap

List of Bridges on the Hike Inn Trail

- 1). Bridge over small stream at mile 2.7
- 2.) Bridge over small stream at mile 3.6
- 3). Bog walks between mile 4.5 and 4.6
- 4.) Bridge over Cochran Creek at mile 4.6

APPENDIX II - H

List of Roads Crossing the A.T. in Georgia

- 1) Forest Service 42 - gravel - crosses the A.T. 1 mile north of Southern Terminus at Springer Mountain.
- 2) Forest Service 58 - gravel - crosses the A.T. at Three Forks.
- 3) Forest Service 251 - gravel - crosses the A. T. at Hickory Flats.
- 4) Forest Service 42 - gravel - crosses the A.T. at Hightower Gap.
- 5) Forest Service 10 – gravel – enters the A.T. corridor at Hightower Gap.
- 6) Forest Service 42 - gravel - enters the A.T. corridor at Horse Gap.
- 7) Forest Service 42 - gravel - crosses the A.T. at Cooper Gap.
- 8) Forest Service 80 – gravel – enters the A.T. corridor at Cooper Gap.
- 9) Forest Service 15 – gravel – enters the A.T. corridor at Cooper Gap.
- 10) Forest Service 42 - gravel - crosses the A.T. at Gooch Gap.
- 11) Georgia Highway 60 - paved - crosses the A.T. at Woody Gap.
- 12) Jarrard Gap Road - gravel - gated - crosses the A.T. at Jarrard Gap.
- 13) U.S. Highway 19, 129 - paved - crosses the A.T. at Neels Gap.
- 14) Georgia Highway 348 - paved - enters the A.T. corridor at Tesnatee Gap.
- 15) Georgia Highway 348 - paved - crosses the A.T. at Hogpen Gap.
- 16) Georgia Highway 17, 75 - paved - crosses the A.T. at Unicoi Gap.
- 17) Forest Service 283 - gravel - crosses the A.T. at Indian Grave Gap.
- 18) Forest Service 79 - gravel - crosses the A.T. approximately 1/2 mile north along the A.T. from Indian Grave Gap.

- 19) Forest Service 79 - gravel - crosses the A.T. at Tray Gap.
- 20) Forest Service 698 - gravel - enters the A.T. corridor at Tray Gap.
- 21) Forest Service 26 - gravel - gated - crosses the A.T. at Addis Gap.
- 22) U.S. Highway 76 - paved - crosses the A.T. at Dicks Creek Gap.
- 23) County Road - 4WD - crosses the A.T. at Blue Ridge Gap.

The Approach Trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to Springer Mountain.

- 1) Amicalola Falls Lodge Road - paved - crosses the Approach Trail near the top of Amicalola Falls.
- 2) Forest Service 46 - gravel - crosses the Approach Trail near the northern boundary of Amicalola Falls State Park.
- 3) High Shoals Church Road - gravel - crosses the Approach Trail south of Frosty Mountain.
- 4) Forest Service 28 spur - gravel - crosses the Approach Trail between Frosty Mountain and Nimblewill Gap.
- 5) Forest Service 28-2 – gravel – crosses the Approach Trail at Nimblewill Gap.

The Hike Inn Trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to the Len Foote Hike Inn.

- 1) Amicalola Falls Lodge Road – paved – crosses Hike Inn Trail near the top of Amicalola Falls.

APPENDIX II - I

List of Side Trails to the Appalachian Trail

The GATC maintains the following side trails:

- (1) The blue-blazed trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to the southern terminus of the A.T. at Springer Mountain.
- (2) The blue-blazed trail from Lake Winfield Scott to Jarrard Gap on the A.T.
- (3) The blue-blazed trail from Lake Winfield Scott to Slaughter Spring on the A.T.
- (4) The blue-blazed trail from the A.T. between Hog Pen and Tesnatee Gaps to the Whitley Gap Shelter.
- (5) The blue-blazed trail from the A.T. on the south side of Rocky Mountain to the A.T. at Indian Grave Gap.
- (6) The blue-blazed trail from the Byron Reese Memorial to the A.T. at Flat Rock Gap.
- (7) The blue-blazed trail from Jacks Gap to the A.T. at Chattahoochee Gap.
- (8) The Freeman Trail from the A.T. at Bird Gap, around the south side of Blood Mountain, to the A.T. at Flat Rock Gap.
- (9) The Hike Inn Trail from Amicalola Falls State Park to the Len Foote Hike Inn, and north to the Approach Trail south of Nimblewill Gap.
- (10) The Dockery Lake Trail from the A.T. at Miller Gap to Dockery Lake.
- (11) The blue-blazed trail from the A.T. at Bird Gap to the Woods Hole shelter.

APPENDIX II – J

LIST OF VISTAS AND OPEN AREAS

Springer Mountain - plaque, helicopter pad, and one-half mile north along ridge.

Ram Rock Mountain summit

Black Mountain - rock outcropping

Woody Gap – looking southeast from south parking lot

Big Cedar - rock outcropping, commonly known as Preaching Rock
(Blood Mountain Wilderness)

Blood Mountain - north, south, east on summit- rock outcroppings
(Blood Mountain Wilderness)

Neels Gap – looking southeast from Walasi-Yi

Levelland Mountain - east end
(Raven Cliffs Wilderness)

Wolf Laurel Top - summit to the south
(Raven Cliffs Wilderness)

Cowrock Mountain - east overlooks Town Creek
(Raven Cliffs Wilderness)

Wildcat Mountain - south overlooks on ridge to Whitley Gap shelter
(Raven Cliffs Wilderness)

Coon Den Ridge – views of Brasstown Bald
(Mark Trail Wilderness)

Blue Mountain shelter – views to north and east

(Mark Trail Wilderness)

Rocky Mountain - rock outcroppings along trail on south east side.

Tray Mountain - Summit

(Tray Mountain Wilderness)

Kelly Knob – off trail to the east.

Powell Mountain - off trail camp site

Bly Gap (Southern Nantahala Wilderness)

APPENDIX II - K

A.T. Districts and Sections in Georgia

District 1

Amicalola to Springer Mtn.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 0.0 miles, Appalachian Trail | 1 Shelter |
| 8.8 miles, Amicalola Approach Trail | 1 Side Trail |
| 8.8 Total miles | 8 Overseer Sections |

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-----------|---------|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. | 1.1 | Visitor Center to Lodge Rd. | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| 2. | 1.2 | Lodge Rd. to USFS 46 | .3 | 1.6 |
| 3. | 1.3 | USFS 46 to Cemetery Rd. | 1.6 | 3.2 |
| 4. | 1.4 | Cemetery Rd. to Frosty Mtn. Steep Ascent | .9 | 4.1 |
| 5. | 1.5 | Frosty Mtn. Steep Ascent to USFS 46 | 1.0 | 5.1 |
| 6. | 1.6 | USFS 46 to Nimblewill Gap | .9 | 6.0 |
| 7. | 1.7 | Nimblewill Gap to Black Gap (Black Gap SHELTER) | 1.3 | 7.3 |
| 8. | 1.8 | Black Gap to Springer Mtn. | 1.5 | 8.8 |

District 2

Hike Inn Parking Lot to Approach Trail

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 0.0 miles, Appalachian Trail | 0 Shelters |
| <u>5.9</u> miles, Len Foote Hike Inn Trail | 0 Side Trails |
| 5.9 Total miles | 7 Overseer Sections |

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-----------|---------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 9. | 2.1 | Hike Inn parking lot to Marker 1.2 | 1.2 | 10.0 |
| 10. | 2.2 | Marker 1.2 to Marker 1.9 | .7 | 10.7 |
| 11. | 2.3 | Marker 1.9 to Marker 2.6 | .7 | 11.4 |
| 12. | 2.4 | Marker 2.6 to Marker 3.3 | .7 | 12.1 |
| 13. | 2.5 | Marker 3.3 to Marker 3.9 | .6 | 12.7 |
| 14. | 2.6 | Marker 3.9 to Hike Inn | 1.0 | 13.7 |
| 15. | 2.7 | Hike Inn to Approach Trail | 1.0 | 14.7 |

District 3
Springer Mtn. to Hightower Gap

8.1 miles, Appalachian Trail

0.0 miles, Side Trail

8.1 Total miles

3 Shelters

0 Side Trails

9 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-----------|---------|--|------------|-------------|
| 16. | 3.1 | Springer Mtn. to Springer Gap (Springer Mtn. SHELTER) | .9 | 15.6 |
| 17. | 3.2 | Springer Gap to Rich Mtn./BMT Junction | .9 | 16.5 |
| 18. | 3.3 | Rich Mtn/BMT Junction to Stover Creek (Stover Creek SHELTER) | .7 | 17.2 |
| 19. | 3.4 | Stover Creek to Stover Creek Bridge | 1.1 | 18.3 |
| 20. | 3.5 | Stover Creek Bridge to Three Forks | .5 | 18.8 |
| 21. | 3.6 | Three Forks to Long Creek Falls Trail | .9 | 19.7 |
| 22. | 3.7 | Long Creek Falls Trail to USFS 251 | .8 | 20.5 |
| 23. | 3.8 | USFS 251 to | | |

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|------|
| | | Old A.T. Hawk Junction | 1.1 | 21.6 |
| 24. | 3.9 | Old A.T. Hawk Junction to Hightower Gap (Hawk Mtn. SHELTER) | 1.2 | 22.8 |

District 4

Hightower Gap to Woody Gap

11.9 miles, Appalachian Trail
0.0 miles, Side Trail
 11.9 Total miles

1 Shelter
 0 Side Trails
 11 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|--------------|------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| 25. | 4.1 | Hightower Gap to Camp Gap | 1.2 | 24.0 |
| 26. | 4.2` | Camp Gap to Horse Gap | .7 | 24.7 |
| 27. | 4.3 | Horse Gap to Sassafras Mtn. | 1.0 | 25.7 |
| 28. | 4.4 | Sassafras Mtn. to Cooper Gap | .6 | 26.3 |
| 29. | 4.5 | Cooper Gap to Brookshire Gap | .9 | 27.2 |
| 30. | 4.6 | Brookshire Gap to Justus Creek | 1.1 | 28.3 |
| 31. | 4.7 | Justus Creek to Gooch Mtn. Shelter (Gooch Mtn. SHELTER) | 1.4 | 29.7 |
| 32. | 4.8 | Gooch Mtn. Shelter to Gooch Gap | 1.4 | 31.1 |
| 33. | 4.9 | Gooch Gap to Grassy Gap Roadbed | 1.0 | 32.1 |
| 34. | 4.10 | Grassy Gap Roadbed to Ramrock Mtn. | 1.2 | 33.3 |
| 35. | 4.11 | Ramrock Mtn. to Woody Gap | 1.4 | 34.7 |

District 5

Woody Gap to Jarrard Gap

5.6 miles, Appalachian Trail
3.7 miles, Side Trail

0 Shelters
 1 Side Trail

9.3 Total miles

10 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|--------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 36. | 5.1 | Woody Gap to Preaching Rock | 1.0 | 35.7 |
| 37. | 5.2 | Preaching Rock to Dan Gap | 1.3 | 37.0 |
| 38. | 5.3 | Dan Gap to Miller Gap | .6 | 37.6 |
| 39. | 5.4 | Miller Gap to Henry Gap | 1.1 | 38.7 |
| 40. | 5.5 | Henry Gap to Burnett Field Mtn. | 1.0 | 39.7 |
| 41. | 5.6 | Burnett Field Mtn. to Jarrard Gap | .6 | 40.3 |

District 5 Side Trails

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | | DOCKERY LAKE TRAIL | | |
| 42. | 5.7 | Miller Gap to Bridge Crossing | 1.0 | 41.3 |
| 43. | 5.8 | Bridge Crossing to Big Tree Blowdown | .7 | 42.0 |
| 44. | 5.9 | Big Tree Blowdown to Trail Junction | 1.0 | 43.0 |
| 45. | 5.10 | Trail Junction to Dockery Lake | 1.0 | 44.0 |

District 6 Jarrard Gap to Neels Gap

5.2 miles, Appalachian Trail
6.9 miles, Side Trail
12.1 Total miles

2 Shelters
5 Side Trails
12 Overseer Sections

| # of | Sec. | Trail Sections | Sec. | Trail |
|------|------|----------------|------|-------|
|------|------|----------------|------|-------|

| Sec. | #. | | Total | Total |
|------|-----|---|-------|-------|
| 46. | 6.1 | Jarrard Gap to Horsebone Gap | .7 | 44.7 |
| 47. | 6.2 | Horsebone Gap to Bird Gap Fred Engel | .7 | 45.4 |
| 48. | 6.3 | Bird Gap to Sixteen Steps (Wood's Hole SHELTER) | .7 | 46.1 |
| 49. | 6.4 | Sixteen Steps to Blood Mtn. (Blood Mtn. SHELTER) | .7 | 46.8 |
| 50. | 6.5 | Blood Mtn. to Flatrock Gap | 1.4 | 48.2 |
| 51. | 6.6 | Flatrock Gap to Neels Gap | 1.0 | 49.2 |

District 6 **Side Trails**

| #of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-------------|------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | | JARRARD GAP TRAIL | | |
| 52. | 6.7 | Lake Winfield Scott to Jarrard Gap | 1.2 | 50.4 |
| 2. | | SLAUGHTER CREEK TRAIL | | |
| 53. | 6.8 | Lake Winfield Scott to Slaughter Creek Spring | 1.7 | 52.1 |
| 54. | 6.9 | Slaughter Creek Spring to Slaughter Gap | 1.0 | 53.1 |
| 3. | | FREEMAN TRAIL | | |
| 55. | 6.10 | Flatrock Gap to Bird Gap | 1.8 | 54.9 |
| 4. | | BYRON REECE TRAIL | | |
| 56. | 6.11 | Flatrock Gap to Byron Reece Parking | .7 | 55.6 |
| 5. | | WOOD'S HOLE SHELTER TRAIL | | |
| 57. | 6.12 | Bird Gap to Wood's Hole Shelter | .5 | 56.1 |

District 7

Neels Gap to Hogpen Gap

6.4 miles, Appalachian Trail
1.2 miles, Side Trail
7.6 Total miles

1 Shelter
1 Side Trail
7 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-----------|---------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 58. | 7.1 | Neels Gap to Bull Gap | 1.1 | 57.2 |
| 59. | 7.2 | Bull Gap to Swaim Gap | 1.0 | 58.2 |
| 60. | 7.3 | Swaim Gap to Wolf Laurel Top | 1.3 | 59.5 |
| 61. | 7.4 | Wolf Laurel Top to Cowrock Mtn. | 1.3 | 60.8 |
| 62. | 7.5 | Cowrock Mtn. to Tesnatee Gap | .8 | 61.6 |
| 63. | 7.6 | Tesnatee Gap to Hogpen Gap | .9 | 62.5 |

District 7 Side Trails

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-----------|---------|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. | | WHITLEY GAP SHELTER TRAIL | | |
| 64. | 7.7 | Wildcat Gap to Whitley Gap Shelter (Whitley Gap SHELTER) | 1.2 | 63.7 |

District 8 Hogpen Gap to Unicoi Gap

13.6 miles, Appalachian Trail
2.2 miles, Side Trail
15.8 Total miles

2 Shelters
1 Side Trail
15 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 65. | 8.1 | Hogpen Gap to White Oak Stamp | .9 | 64.6 |

| | | | | |
|-----|------|---|-----|------|
| 66. | 8.2 | White Oak Stamp to Sapling Gap | .7 | 65.3 |
| 67. | 8.3 | Sapling Gap to Wide Gap | .9 | 66.2 |
| 68. | 8.4 | Wide Gap to Sheep Rock Top | 1.1 | 67.3 |
| 69. | 8.5 | Sheep Rock Top to Low Gap (Low Gap SHELTER) | .6 | 67.9 |
| 70. | 8.6 | Low Gap to Poplar Stamp Gap | 1.4 | 69.3 |
| 71. | 8.7 | Poplar Stamp Gap to Horsetrough Mtn. Spur | 1.2 | 70.5 |
| 72. | 8.8 | Horsetrough Mtn. Spur to Cold Springs Gap | 1.2 | 71.7 |
| 73. | 8.9 | Cold Springs Gap to Chattahoochee Gap | 1.2 | 72.9 |
| 74. | 8.10 | Chattahoochee Gap to Spaniards Knob Spur | 1.3 | 74.2 |
| 75. | 8.11 | Spaniards Knob Spur to Blue Mtn. (Blue Mtn. SHELTER) | .9 | 75.1 |
| 76. | 8.12 | Blue Mtn. to Cut Locust Gap | 1.0 | 76.1 |
| 77. | 8.13 | Cut Locust Gap to Unicoi Gap | 1.2 | 77.3 |

District 8 **Side Trails**

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | | JACKS KNOB TRAIL | | |
| 78. | 8.14 | Jacks Gap to Brookshire Top | 1.0 | 78.3 |
| 79. | 8.15 | Brookshire Top to Chattahoochee Gap | 1.2 | 79.5 |

District 9

Unicoi Gap to Dicks Creek Gap

16.1 miles, Appalachian Trail
1.0 miles, Side Trail
 17.1 Total miles

2 Shelters
 1 Side Trail
 17 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 80. | 9.1 | Unicoi Gap to Rocky Mtn. | 1.3 | 80.8 |
| 81. | 9.2 | Rocky Mtn. to Indian Saddle | .8 | 81.6 |
| 82. | 9.3 | Indian Saddle to Indian Grave Gap | .6 | 82.2 |
| 83. | 9.4 | Indian Grave Gap to USFS 79 | .7 | 82.9 |
| 84. | 9.5 | USFS 79 to Tray Gap | 1.0 | 83.9 |
| 85. | 9.6 | Tray Gap to Tray Mtn. (Tray Mtn. SHELTER) | 1.1 | 85.0 |
| 86. | 9.7 | Tray Mtn. to Wolfpen Gap | 1.2 | 86.2 |
| 87. | 9.8 | Wolfpen Gap to Young Lick Knob | 1.0 | 87.2 |
| 88. | 9.9 | Young Lick Knob to Blue Ridge Swag | 1.2 | 88.4 |
| 89. | 9.10 | Blue Ridge Swag to Sassafras Gap | 1.1 | 89.5 |
| 90. | 9.11 | Sassafras Gap to Addis Gap | .8 | 90.3 |
| 91. | 9.12 | Addis Gap to Kelly Knob | 1.1 | 91.4 |
| 92. | 9.13 | Kelly Knob to Deep Gap (Deep Gap SHELTER) | .7 | 92.1 |
| 93. | 9.14 | Deep Gap to McClure Gap | 1.1 | 93.2 |
| 94. | 9.15 | McClure Gap to Moreland Gap | 1.2 | 94.4 |

| | | | | |
|-----|------|---------------------------------|-----|------|
| 95. | 9.16 | Moreland Gap to Dicks Creek Gap | 1.2 | 95.6 |
|-----|------|---------------------------------|-----|------|

District 9 **Side Trails**

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|--------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | | ROCKY MTN. LOOP | | |
| 96. | 9.17 | Rocky Mtn. Spur to USFS 283 | 1.0 | 96.6 |

District 10 **Dicks Creek Gap to Bly Gap**

8.8 miles, Appalachian Trail
0.0 miles, Side Trail
 8.8 Total miles

1 Shelter
 0 Side Trails
 8 Overseer Sections

| # of Sec. | Sec. #. | Trail Sections | Sec. Total | Trail Total |
|--------------|------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| 97. | 10.1 | Dicks Creek Gap to Little Bald Spur | 1.1 | 97.7 |
| 98. | 10.2 | Little Bald Spur to Cowart Gap | .7 | 98.4 |
| 99. | 10.3 | Cowart Gap to Bull Gap | 1.4 | 99.8 |
| 100. | 10.4 | Bull Gap to Plumorchard Gap (Plumorchard SHELTER) | 1.1 | 100.9 |
| 101. | 10.5 | Plumorchard Gap to Blue Ridge Gap | 1.3 | 102.2 |
| 102. | 10.6 | Blue Ridge Gap to Rich Cove Gap | 1.2 | 103.4 |
| 103. | 10.7 | Rich Cove Gap to Hightower Bald Vista | 1.3 | 104.7 |
| 104. | 10.8 | Hightower Bald Vista to Bly Gap | .7 | 105.4 |

APPENDIX II - L

List of Water Sources

| Mile | Location |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 0.1 | Bly Gap |
| 1.3 | Rocky Knob |
| 4.2 | Plumorchard Gap shelter |
| 7.0 | s. of Cowart Gap |
| 7.5 | Little Bald Knob |
| 9.1 | s. of Dicks Creek Gap |
| 9.8 | Moreland Gap |
| 11.5 | Wolfstake Knob |
| 12.0 | Deep Gap shelter |
| 14.7 | Sassafras Gap |
| 19.1 | Tray Mountain shelter |
| 20.9 | s. of Tray Gap |
| 21.8 | n. of Indian Grave Gap |
| 24.1 | n. of Unicoi Gap |
| 26.8 | Blue Mountain shelter |
| 27.2 | Henson Gap |
| 27.3 | Rocky Knob |
| 29.1 | Chattahoochee Gap |
| 31.3 | e. of Horsetrough Mountain |
| 31.6 | e. of Horsetrough Mountain |
| 32.7 | Poplar Stomp Gap |
| 34.1 | Low Gap shelter |
| 34.5 | s. of Low Gap |
| 38.2 | n. of Hogpen Gap |
| 40.9 | Baggs Creek Gap |
| 42.0 | Rock Spring Top |
| 43.7 | Bull Gap |
| 44.8 | Neels Gap |
| 48.4 | Slaughter Creek |
| 50.3 | s. of Jarrard Gap |
| 52.3 | Lance Creek |
| 53.9 | n. of Big Cedar Mountain |
| 55.4 | Woody Gap |
| 58.9 | n. of Gooch Gap |
| 59.6 | s. of Gooch Gap |

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 59.9 | Horseshoe Ridge |
| 60.9 | Gooch Mountain shelter |
| 61.2 | Blackwell Creek |
| 61.9 | Justus Creek |
| 67.9 | Hawk Mountain shelter |
| 69.7 | Long Creek |
| 71.0 | Three Forks |
| 71.5 | Stover Creek |
| 72.6 | Stover Creek |
| 74.0 | s. of Rich Mountain |
| 75.2 | Springer Mountain shelter |

Water is also available at:

- Whitley Gap shelter
- On trail to Woods Hole shelter
- Black Gap shelter (Approach Trail)
- Cochran Creek (Hike Inn Trail)

APPENDIX III - A

**FSH 2309.18 Trails Management Handbook,
WO Amendment 2309.18-91-2, effective
11/8/91.**

FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

APPENDIX III - B

A.T. Design, Construction, and Maintenance

**By William Birchard, Jr and Robert D
Proudman**

Second edition, 2000

A.T. Fieldbook, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Volunteers

Second edition

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

APPENDIX III – C

GEORGIA APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB SIGN POLICY

These policies are intended to prevent over signing and to assure that consistent formats are used that meet USFS regulations.

General Guidelines:

Distances will be shown in miles where needed.

Trail direction (North or South) will be used, not compass direction.

Arrows will be used to indicate direction.

The front edge of the sign will be beveled and the corners will be rounded.

Signs are routed with a “V” bit in natural wood with 1 ½ inch letters.

2X8's are used for one line signs and 2X12's for two line signs.

Signs are mounted on 4X4 posts with tamper proof hardware.

Signs will be located away from road crossings to reduce vandalism.

Education and Regulation signs will be provided by the USFS and will be used at road crossings and other locations as needed. Common signs are:

Pack it in Pack it out
Water treatment directions
AT National Scenic Trail symbol
Foot Travel Only

These signs are not included in the Master sign list.

Gaps:

Gaps with road crossing will have a sign with the gap name on each side of the road.

Major gaps without road crossings will have a sign which shows the name of the gap.

Road Crossings:

Shelters will not be mentioned at road crossings to reduce vandalism and unwanted uses.

The distance to significant topographical features may be given.

Off Trail Camp Sites:

A sign with an arrow will be used to provide the direction to the campsite and to water.

Shelter Sites:

Signs will identify location of water, privy, and camping pads.

(SEE ALSO CD FOR USFS SIGN AND POSTER GUIDELINES)

LIST OF SIGNS ON THE A.T. IN GEORGIA

| Miles | Locations | Sign |
|-------|--|---------------------------|
| 75.40 | Bly Gap | "BLY GAP " |
| 73.20 | homesite | " < WATER " |
| 72.2 | Blue Ridge Gap N. | " BLUE RIDGE GAP " |
| 72.2 | Blue Ridge Gap N. | " BLY GAP 3.1 " |
| 72.2 | Blue Ridge Gap S. | " BLUE RIDGE GAP " |
| 72.2 | Blue Ridge Gap S. | "DICKS CREEK GAP 5.6 " |
| 70.9 | Plumorchard Gap | " PLUMORCHARD GAP " |
| 70.9 | Plumorchard Gap | " SHELTER > " |
| 70.9 | Plumorchard Gap at shelter | " < WATER > " |
| | | " < PRIVY " |
| 68.4 | Cowart Gap | " < WATER " |
| 68.4 | Cowart Gap | " COWART GAP " |
| 67.7 | Little Bald Knob | " CAMPING > " |
| 67.7 | Little Bald Knob | " < WATER " |
| 66.6 | Dicks Creek Gap N | " DICKS CREEK GAP " |
| 66.6 | Dicks Creek Gap N | " BLUE RIDGE GAP 5.6 " |
| 66.6 | Dicks Creek Gap S | " DICKS CREEK GAP " |
| 66.6 | Dicks Creek Gap S | " ADDIS GAP 5.3 " |
| 65.4 | Old Snake Mtn. Shelter | " WATER " |
| 63.1 | Deep Gap | " DEEP GAP " |
| 63.1 | Deep Gap | " SHELTER > " |
| 63.1 | at shelter | " Privy > " |
| 63.1 | at shelter | " WATER > " |
| 61.3 | Addis Gap | " ADDIS GAP " |
| 61.3 | Addis Gap | " WATER .5 > " |
| 61.3 | Addis Gap | " DICKS CREEK GAP 5.3 > " |
| 60.5 | Sassafras Gap | " WATER " |
| 17.9 | Steeptop Gap | " WATER " |
| | 56 Montray Shelter Trail at shelter | " SHELTER > " |
| | | " WATER > " |
| 54.9 | Tray Gap N | " TRAY GAP " |
| 54.9 | Tray Gap N | " ADDIS GAP 6.6 " |
| 54.9 | Tray Gap S | " TRAY GAP " |
| 54.9 | Tray Gap S | " INDIAN GRAVE GAP 1.7 " |
| 54.1 | S. of Tray Gap, Cheese Factor | " < WATER " |
| 53.2 | Indian Grave Gap N | " INDIAN GRAVE GAP " |
| 53.2 | Indian Grave Gap N | " TRAY GAP 1.7 " |
| 53.2 | Indian Grave Gap S | " INDIAN GRAVE GAP " |
| 53.2 | Indian Grave Gap S | " UNICOI GAP 2.7 " |
| 51.4 | Rocky Mountain Trail | " ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAIL " |
| 50.5 | Unicoi Gap N | " UNICOI GAP " |
| 50.5 | Unicoi Gap N | " INDIAN GRAVE GAP 2.7 " |
| 50.5 | Unicoi Gap S | " HOGPEN GAP 13.6 " |
| 50.5 | Unicoi Gap S | " UNICOI GAP " |
| 48.3 | Blue Mountain Shelter | " SHELTER " |
| 48.3 | Blue Mountain Shelter | " < WATER " |
| 47.9 | Spainiard Knob | " CAMPING " |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 47.9 Spainiard Knob | " WATER > " |
| 46.1 Chattahoochee Gap | " CHATTAHOOCHEE GAP " |
| 46.1 Chattahoochee Gap | " WATER > " |
| 46.1 Chattahoochee Gap | " < JACKS GAP TRAIL " |
| 41.1 Low Gap | " SHELTER > " |
| 41.1 Low Gap | " LOW GAP " |
| 36.9 Hogpen Gap N | " HOGPEN GAP " |
| 36.9 Hogpen Gap N | " UNICOI GAP 13.6 " |
| 36.9 Hogpen Gap S | " HOGPEN GAP " |
| 36.9 Hogpen Gap S | " TESNSSTEE GAP .9 " |
| 36.7 Whitley Gap Shelter Side Trail at shelter | " < WHITLEY GAP SHELTER 1.2 " |
| 36 Tesnatee Gap N | " TESNSSTEE GAP " |
| 36 Tesnatee Gap N | " HOGPEN GAP .9 " |
| 36 Tesnatee Gap S | " TESNSSTEE GAP " |
| 36 Tesnatee Gap S | " NEELS GAP 5.5 " |
| 34.7 Baggs Creek Gap | " < WATER " |
| 32.6 Swaim Gap | " < WATER " |
| 30.5 Neels Gap N | " NEELS GAP " |
| 30.5 Neels Gap N | " TESNSSTEE GAP 5.5 " |
| 30.5 Neels Gap S | " NEELS GAP " |
| 30.5 Neels Gap S | " WOODY GAP 10.6 " |
| 29.5 Flatrock Gap | " < BYRON REESE TRAIL " |
| 29.5 Flatrock Gap at Byron Reese Parking Area | " FREEMAN TRAIL > " |
| 27.3 Slaughter Creek Campsite | " BYRON REESE TRAIL " |
| 27.2 Slaughter Creek Trail | " WATER > " |
| 26.9 Bird Gap | " < SLAUGHTER CREEK TRAIL " |
| 26.8 Woods Hole Shelter Trail | " FREEMAN TRAIL > " |
| 25.5 Jarrard Gap | " SHELTER " |
| 25.5 Jarrard Gap | " < WATER " |
| 25.5 Jarrard Gap | " JARRARD GAP " |
| 25.5 Jarrard Gap | " < NEELS GAP 5 " |
| 25.5 Jarrard Gap | " WOODY GAP 5.6 > " |
| 22.8 Dockery Lake Trail | " < LAKE WINFIELD SCOTT TRAIL " |
| 19.9 Woody Gap N | " DOCKERY LAKE TRAIL > " |
| 19.9 Woody Gap N | " WOODY GAP " |
| 19.9 Woody Gap S | " NEELS GAP 10.6 " |
| 19.9 Woody Gap S | " WOODY GAP " |
| 16.3 Gooch Gap N | " GOOCH GAP 3.6 " |
| 16.3 Gooch Gap N | " GOOCH GAP " |
| 16.3 Gooch Gap N | " WOODY GAP 3.6 " |
| 16.3 Gooch Gap S | " WATER > " |
| 16.3 Gooch Gap S | " GOOCH GAP " |
| 16.3 Gooch Gap S | " COOPER GAP 4.7 " |
| 14.9 Gooch Mountain Shelter Trail | " SHELTER " |
| 14.9 Gooch Mountain Shelter Trail | " WATER " |
| 14.9 Gooch Mountain Shelter Trail at shelter | " CAMPING " |
| at shelter | " PRIVY > " |
| 11.6 Cooper Gap N | " < WATER " |
| 11.6 Cooper Gap N | " GOOCH GAP 4.7 " |
| 11.6 Cooper Gap S | " COOPER GAP " |
| | " HIGHTOWER GAP 3.5 " |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11.6 Cooper Gap S | "COOPER GAP " |
| 10 Horse Gap | " HORSE GAP " |
| 8.1 Hightower Gap N | " COOPER GAP 3.5 " |
| 8.1 Hightower Gap N | " HIGHTOWER GAP " |
| 8.1 Hightower Gap S | " HIGHTOWER GAP " |
| 8.1 Hightower Gap S | " THREE FORKS 4 " |
| 7.6 Hawk Mountain Shelter Trail | " SHELTER " |
| at shelter | " WATER > " |
| 4.9 Long Creek Falls | " < LONG CREEK FALLS " |
| 4.1 Three Forks N | " HIGHTOWER GAP 4 " |
| 4.1 Three Forks N | " THREE FORKS " |
| 4.1 Three Forks N | " LONG CREEK FALLS 1 " |
| 4.1 Three Forks S | " THREE FORKS " |
| 4.1 Three Forks S | " SPRINGER MTN. 4.1 " |
| 2.5 Stover Creek Shelter Trail | " SHELTER " |
| at shelter | " < WATER " |
| at shelter | " PRIVY > " |
| 0.9 USFS 42 | " < SPRINGER MTN. .9 " |
| 0.2 Springer Mtn.Shelter Trail | " SHELTER " |
| 0.2 Springer Mtn.Shelter Trail | " WATER " |
| 0.2 Springer Mtn.Shelter Trail | " CAMPING " |
| at pads | " < CAMPING " |
| at pads | " PRIVY > " |
| at shelter | " < CAMPING " |
| at shelter | " < WATER " |
| at shelter | " < PRIVY " |
| 0 Springer Mountain | |
| 8.8 Springer Mountain | " APPROACH TRAIL > " |
| 7.3 Black Mtn. Shelter | " < SHELTER " |
| 7.3 Black Mtn. Shelter | " WATER > " |
| 6 Nimblewill Gap N | " NIMBLEWILL GAP " |
| 6 Nimblewill Gap S | " NIMBLEWILL GAP " |
| 6 Nimblewill Gap S | " < AMICALOLA VISITOR CENTER 6 " |

APPENDIX III - D

ATC Policy on Vegetation Management and Reclamation

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(Local Management Planning Guide)

APPENDIX III - E

ATC Policy on Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(Local Management Planning Guide)

APPENDIX III - F

ATC Policy on Special Events and Large Group Use

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(Local Management Planning Guide)

APPENDIX III - G

ATC Policy on Stream Crossings and Bridges

Available at:

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(Local Management Planning Guide)

APPENDIX III - H

ATC Policy on Side Trails

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(Local Management Planning Guide)

APPENDIX III - I

ATC Policy on Roads and Utilities

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(Local Management Planning Guide)

APPENDIX IV - A

The Optimal Location Review

Available from GATC on CD and in hard copy.

APPENDIX IV - B

Class II and Class III Relocation Requests

CLASS II RELOCATION REQUEST

Date _____

(All requests to be accompanied by USGS 7.5 min quad or 15 minute if the 7.5 minute is not available.)

A. The relocation was proposed by

B. The relocation was suggested by

C. _____ landowner(s) with a combined trail length of
_____ (no. of landowners)

miles agree with the proposed relocation.

_____ landowner(s) with a combined trail length of
_____ (no. of landowners)

miles do not agree with the proposed relocation.

D. A short general description of the location and a short narrative of the reasons for the change, the benefits to be realized through approval of the change, and any negative consequences of the change; to include information concerning the number of miles of Trail removed from or moved to roads, the number of miles of Trail to be removed from or placed on public lands, the increase or decrease in the length of the Trail, and an explanation of landowner disagreement, if any. (If more space is needed for narrative, use a separate sheet of paper and attach to the form.)

E. The relocation has been coordinated with the

(Maintaining Trail Club)

which agrees with the recommendation.

Agency Field Official or Trail Club Official

Date

RECOMMENDED

(Authorized official of the governmental agency or where
applicable the Appalachian Trail Conservancy)

Date

APPROVED/REJECTED_____

(Designee of the Secretary of the Interior)

Date

CLASS III RELOCATION REQUEST

Date _____

(All requests to be accompanied by USGS 7.5 min quad or 15 minute if the 7.5 minute is not available)

A. The relocation was proposed by

B. The relocation was suggested by

C. The wording of the Federal Register should/should not be amended on page

By deleting the words

“

_____” and substituting in lieu thereof the
words

“

_____.” The Federal Register map

_____ correction is attached.

D. _____ landowner(s) with a combined trail length of

(no. of landowners)

miles agree with the proposed relocation.

_____ landowner(s) with a combined trail length of

(no. of landowners)

miles do not agree with the proposed relocation.

E. (Optional – does not have to be filled in)

Trail construction work to be done by:

Estimated cost of Trail construction:

- F. A short general description of the location and a short narrative of the reasons for the change, the benefits to be realized through approval of the change, and any negative consequences of the change; to include information concerning the number of miles of Trail removed from or moved to roads, the number of miles of Trail to be removed from or placed on public lands, the increase in the length of the Trail, and an explanation of landowner disagreement, if any. (If more space is needed for narrative, use a separate sheet of paper and attach to the form.)**
- G. The relocation has been discussed with the**
-

(Maintaining Trail Club)

which agrees/ does not agree with the recommendation.

(Agency Field Official or Trail Club Official)

Date

RECOMMENDED

**(Authorized official of the governmental agency
or where applicable the Appalachian Trail Conservancy)**

Date

APPROVED/REJECTED

(Designee of the Secretary of the Interior)

Date

CLASS III RELOCATION CHECKLIST

The purpose of this checklist is to evaluate the quality of the proposed relocation. It is the aim of this procedure to document the impact of the relocation on the Trail experience.

For the following criteria of the proposed relocation mark:

- + for the criteria that improve the quality of the Trail
- 0 for the criteria that do not significantly affect the quality of the Trail
- for the criteria that diminish the quality of the Trail

A. Setting. The Trail should be located to:

- _____ Give the feeling the land mass is below rather than above traveler.
- _____ Prevent monotony and provide seclusion by curving with the land rather than cutting across the land, and have when possible a gently undulating grade as opposed to a long uniform grade.
- _____ Avoid, or lead users away from heavily used areas or those of potential concentration.
- _____ Avoid areas where there would be excessive exposure to noise.
- _____ Give consideration to the total cost of providing and maintaining the Trail.
- _____ Avoid, if practical, areas of excessively unstable soil or geology.

B. Scenic Considerations. The trail should be located to:

- _____ Display a variety of scenery and vegetative types.
- _____ Present distant view when possible, and to provide the most impressive approach to scenic attractions.
- _____ maximize the aesthetic values of the corridor.

C. Cultural Features. The trail should be located to:

- _____ Avoid existing or planned residential areas including subdivisions and commercial areas.

_____ Have a natural or planned screen such as topography or vegetation protecting the user from viewing esthetically objectionable activities.

D. River, Highway, and Road Crossings. The trail should be located to:

_____ Provide safe crossings by means of bridges or underpasses, except at low volume roads or railroads that can be safely crossed on grade.

_____ Take advantage of natural or existing features to afford an easy and quick crossing without breaking the continuity of the Trail.

_____ Utilize, where practical, existing crossings of multi-laned freeways or major rivers, where the cost of providing an exclusive crossing would be prohibitive.

_____ Coordinate plans with future highway construction to make the crossing as esthetically pleasing as possible, and to maintain the recreation experience by use of special grade separation designs.

_____ Cross man-made features such as roads, aqueducts, and power transmission lines in such a fashion as to avoid prolonged visual contact.

E. User Facilities. In selecting new routes the Trail should be located to:

_____ Take advantages of opportunities to provide drinking water.

_____ Provide access at varying distances along the Trail so users can choose different trips of varying lengths.

F. Other pertinent comments or needed explanations:

APPENDIX IV – C

Trail Assessment procedure.

Available only in hard copy.

APPENDIX IV – D

Trail Assessment Forms

ON CD (ATC 2004 & 2005 CONDITION
ASSESSMENTS)
ALSO IN HARD COPY

APPENDIX IV – E

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Tool Inventory Report
16 July 2005
Hand Tools Stored at R Ranch Tool Shed at Dahlonega,
Georgia
(Updated March 1, 2006)

| Tool Name | Tool Description | Quantity |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Crosscut Saw | Assymmetric, 55" | 1 |
| | Assymmetric, 36" | 5 |
| | Symmetric, Felling 6' | 2 |
| | Symmetric, Bucking 6' | 4 |
| | Simmonds, felling 5.5' | 1 |
| | Atkins, bucking 4.5' | 1 |
| | Atkins, bucking 4' | 1 |
| 2. Bow Saw | Small, 21" blade | 5 |
| | Medium, 30" blade | 3 |
| | Large, 36" blade | 4 |
| | Razor, w/scabbard | 5 |
| 3. Axe | Single Bit, Yankee, 4 lb | 2 |
| | Yankee, 3 lb | 2 |
| | Yankee, 2 ¼ lb | 1 |
| | Double Bit, Western, Small | 2 |
| | Western, Medium | 1 |
| | Crown, Large | 1 |
| 4. Pulaski | | 24 |
| 5. McLeod | | 25 |
| 6. Fire Rake | | 19 |
| 7. Pick | | 2 |
| 8. Cutter Mattock | Small | 5 |
| | Medium | 6 |
| | Large | 4 |
| 9. Pick Mattock | | 4 |
| 10. Shovel | Round Point Shovel, Long Handle | 16 |
| | Round Point Shovel, Short Handle | 8 |
| 11. Lopping Shears | Hook Cutting Blade | 5 |
| | Anvil Cutting Blade | 6 |

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Tool Inventory Report
Hand Tools Stored at R Ranch Tool Shed at Dahlonega, Georgia

16 July 2005

| Tool Name | Tool Description | Quantity |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 12. Bank Blade | | 1 |
| 13. Bush Hook | | 5 |
| 14. Swedish Brush Axe | | 6 |
| 15. Swing Blade | Cutter 2" x 14" blade, steel handle | 5 |
| | Cutter 2" x 14" blade, wood handle | 9 |
| 16. Sledge Hammer | Double face, driving sledge, 6 lb | 1 |
| | Double face, driving sledge, 8 lb | 1 |
| | Double face, driving sledge, 10 lb | 1 |
| 17. Stone Sledge | Cross pein | 1 |
| 18. Stone Chisel | ¾" star drill | 1 |
| 19. Nailing Hammer | Small | 1 |
| | Medium | 1 |
| 20. Crow Bar (rock bar) | 60" length, 18 lb, hot forged iron | 3 |
| 21. Cant Hook | | 1 |
| 22. Drawknife | 10" | 1 |
| | 10" | 1 |
| 23. Post Hole Digger | | 4 |
| 24. Grip Hoist | Includes following items: | |
| | Gear and lever hoist mechanism | 1 |
| | Level handle | 2 |
| | Snatch blocks | 4 |
| | Braided cable 5/16" dia, 100' | 1 |
| | Assorted webbing, unrated | 5 |
| | Assorted webbing, rated | 6 |
| | Anchor sling/cover (3" x 4') | 1 |

| Tool Name | Tool Description | Quantity |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 25. Come Along | Ratchet cable hoist | 1 |
| 26. Chain Saw | Stihl with safety bar | 1 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 27. | Powered Weedwacker | | 5 |
| 28. | Gasoline | 1 Gallon fuel for chainsaw | 1 |
| 29. | Kerosene | 5 gallon container | empty |
| 30. | Chaps, for chain saw | | 3 pr |
| 31. | Shin/Knee Guards | | 20 pr |
| 32. | Safety/Construction Helmets | | 17 |
| 33. | Cargo nets | Nylon webbing, 5' x 3' | 3 |
| 34. | Coal Bag (rock bag) | Heavy canvas, 16x6x17.5, 4 handles | 2 |
| 35. | Buckets | Plastic, 5 gallon capacity | 14 |
| 36. | Wheelbarrow | Contractor type, pneumatic tire | 1 |
| 37. | Goggles/ Safety Glasses | | 6 pr |
| 38. | Mill Files | For Pulaski and axe blade sharpening | 4 |
| 39. | First Aid Kit | | 1 |
| 40. | Small Pruning Tools | Hand pruner | 5 |
| | | Folding razor saw | 5 |
| | | Pruner saw | 1 |
| 41. | Electric Grinder | Milwaukee 4 1/2" hand held grinder | 1 |
| 42. | Swedish Tree Ladders | 10' sections and bear rigging tools | 6 |
| 43. | Food hoist cable installation kit | | 1 |
| 44. | Large tool chest | | 1 |

| Tool Name | Tool Description | Quantity |
|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 1. Electric Extension Cord | Length 28' | 2 |
| 2. Motor Oil | 2 cycle trimmer oil, 4 oz cans | 4 |
| 3. Motor Oil | Outboard 2 cycle oil | 1 qt |
| 4. Cable | Braided 1/4" dia, 4' | 2 |
| 5. Hose Casing | 15' fire hose | |
| 6. Box | Miscellaneous fasteners | |
| 7. Plier | 6" Channel Lock pliers | 1 |
| 8. Wrench | 6" Crescent wrench | 1 |
| 9. Drill | 3/8" dia auger bit | 1 |
| 10. Box | Contents: Assorted coloured trail marking pin flags | |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| 11. Bag | Nylon bag of trail marking sign boards | |
| 12. Ear Sound Muffs | Ear protection | 3 pr |
| 13. Water Cans | 5 gallon capacity | 10 |
| 14. Storage Boxes | Clear plastic container with lids | 2 |
| 15. AT Metal Signs | | 125 |
| 16. Work Gloves | | 3 pr |
| 17. Oil Paint | Light blue (mark AT approach trail) | 1 gal |
| 18. Oil Paint | Orange (mark tool handles) | 1 gal |

APPENDIX IV – F

GATC SAFETY POLICY

With the signing of the Volunteers in the Forest Agreement at the June 1993 meeting of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the GATC, GATC volunteers engaged in trail maintenance on the Trail in the National Forest will be covered by Worker's Compensation Insurance in the event of an injury. This coverage does not include other activities of the GATC, nor trail maintenance on trail not in the National Forest.

There are several "criteria" which must be adhered to by volunteers:

- 1) All volunteers must be "registered" with the USFS. The GATC will supply a list of its members to the USFS. Since this list will not include prospective members or guests, the list of participants on a maintenance trip (Waiver and Release Form) will also be supplied to the USFS. It will be necessary for trip leaders to be sure that all participants on a trail maintenance trip sign the Waiver and Release form. If a person arrives late for a trail maintenance trip, that person should seek out the Trip Leader and sign the form.
- 2) Appropriate safety gear must be worn. The GATC, with the aid of the USFS, will supply such gear. Individuals may supply their own gear if it is equivalent to safety gear supplied by the GATC.
- 3) A safety lecture will start each trail maintenance trip. At this time, the necessary safety gear for the various activities will be noted.
- 4) The Trails Supervisor and the Trip Leader will be aware of medical facilities in the area that accept and treat Worker's Compensation cases.
- 5) On all trail maintenance trips, necessary accident forms will be available from both the Trails Supervisor and the Trip Leader.
- 6) In the event of an accident, the Trails Supervisor, Trip Leader, or a knowledgeable designated representative will accompany the injured person to an approved medical facility. The Trails Supervisor, Trip Leader, or designee must inform any attending medical personnel that the injured person is being treated under FEDERAL Worker's Compensation.
- 7) Any accidents that are treated under Worker's Compensation will be reported to the appropriate USFS Ranger District by the Trails Supervisor. (Payment comes out of the District Budget.)

**MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE A.T. IN GEORGIA
THAT ACCEPT WORKER'S COMPENSATION CASES**

1. GILMER COUNTY

North Georgia Medical Center
1362 S. Main St., Ellijay, GA 30540
PH: (706) 276-4741
FAX: (706) 276-3698
www.northgeorgiamedicalcenter.com

2. FANNIN COUNTY

Fannin Regional Hospital
2855 Old Highway 5 North, Blue Ridge, GA 30513
PH: (706) 632-3711
FAX: (706) 632-7216
www.fanninregionalhospital.com

3. UNION COUNTY

Union General Hospital
214 Hospital Circle, Blairsville, GA 30512
PH: (706) 745-2111
FAX: (706) 745-7677
www.uniongeneralhospital.com

Big Rock Clinic
3693 Highway 60
Suches, GA 30572
PH: (706) 747-1421

NOTE: Not a full service hospital. Limited treatment. Hours: M 9-3; TTF 9-4.

4. TOWNS COUNTY

Chatuge Regional Hospital
110 Main St., Hiawassee, GA 30546
PH: (706) 896-2222
FAX: (706) 896-7872

5. RABUN COUNTY

Mountain Lakes Medical Center
196 Ridgecrest Circle, Clayton, GA 30525
PH: (706) 782-4233
FAX: (706) 782-2564

6. HABERSHAM COUNTY

Habersham County Medical Center
541 Historic Highway 441-N, Demorest, GA 30535
PH: (706) 754-2161
www.hcmcmcd.org

7. WHITE COUNTY

Neighborhood Health Care Center
1331 Helen Highway, Cleveland, GA 30528
PH: (706) 865-1234

NOTE: Not a full service hospital. Limited treatment. Hours 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday-Friday.

8. LUMPKIN COUNTY

Chestatee Regional Hospital
227 Mountain Drive, Dahlonega, GA 30533
PH: (706) 864-6136
FAX: (706) 864-1356
www.chestateeregionalhospital.com

9. HALL COUNTY

Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Main campus: 743 Spring St., Gainesville, GA 30501
PH: (770) 535-3553
Lanier Park campus: 675 White Sulphur Rd, Gainesville, GA 30501
PH: (678) 343-4000
www.nghs.com

GROUP LEADER'S TAILGATE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Date: _____

Description of event: _____

NOTE: SELECT ALL TOPICS FROM THE LIST BELOW THAT APPLY TO YOUR EVENT, AND COVER THESE TOPICS WITH ALL ATTENDEES.

1. GENERAL GUIDELINES.

- X A. Listen to your team leader!
- X B. Pace yourself. Don't overdo.
- X C. Never attempt something you are not comfortable doing.
- X D. There are no stupid questions.

2. WEATHER

- _____ Heat/Cold
- _____ Sunburn/windburn
- _____ Hydration/Dehydration
- _____ Hypothermia
- _____ Rain/snow/ice/mud
- _____ Frostbite/exposure
- _____ Lightning

3. FRIENDS IN THE FOREST

- _____ Ticks/chiggers/spiders
- _____ Mosquitoes/gnats/noseeums
- _____ Bees/scorpions
- _____ Snakes
- _____ Bears
- _____ Poison Ivy/Briers/Vines

4. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- _____ Long pants/long sleeves
- _____ Boots
- _____ Gloves
- _____ Hard Hats
- _____ Shin guards
- _____ Goggles/eyewear
- _____ Chaps
- _____ First Aid Kit

5. HIKING IN/OUT TO WORKSITE

- _____ Safe interval on trail between workers
- _____ How to carry tools. How to drop tools if you slip and fall.
- _____ Treadway condition – rocky, roots, mud, ice, etc.

6. TRAIL WORK (SIDEHILL, DIPS, WATERBARS, CRIBS)

- ____ Tools have sharp edges
- ____ Look before you swing
- ____ Let workers know you're passing through
- ____ Safe distance apart while working
- ____ Maintain good footing: No backward somersaults!

7. ROCK WORK

- ____ Don't mix hands and tools
- ____ Watch fingers and toes
- ____ Don't overestimate what you can lift
- ____ Alert others to runaway rocks. **"ROCK!!!"**
- ____ Use straps, nets, bars, and picks
- ____ Observe grip hoist protocols
- ____ Crush and fill; crusher must use hard hat, shin guards and goggles. Others turn heads away.

8. BUCKING, LIMBING, FELLING

- ____ Sawyer must have appropriate certification (Chainsaw/crosscut)
- ____ Sawyer must be graded for task to be performed (i.e. felling 15" tree)
- ____ Sawyer must complete job hazard analysis before cutting
- ____ Sawyer and aides must plan escape routes

9. IN EVENT OF ACCIDENT OR INJURY

- X Let leader know ASAP!
- X Find and use first aid kit.
- X Volunteers in Forest (VIF) provisions
- X Location of nearest medical treatment facility

10. REMEMBER THE PAPERWORK

- X **Make sure all attendees have signed waiver and release form**
- X Make sure all attendees under age 18 have signed parent/guardian waiver

CERTIFICATION TO TRAILS SUPERVISOR:

On _____, 20__, I gave a tailgate safety briefing covering the above checked items, to GATC members and guests attending the

(Name of Event)

(Signature of event leader)

APPENDIX IV – G

Trail Maintenance and Construction Tasks, Their Hazards, and Recommended Safety Gear

Compiled by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

This chart was prepared by ATC using trailwork job-hazard analysis by U.S. Forest Service district personnel, A.T.-club volunteers, ATC volunteer-crew leaders, and ATC management staff. The information provided in the chart represents a distillation of information about accidents that have occurred or that are likely to occur during different types of trailwork.

The ATC skills-training and Trail-crew safety policy, adopted by the ATC Board of Managers in April 1993, emphasizes the importance of safety equipment and job-hazard analyses in preventing work-related accidents.

This chart is only a guide. Common sense and awareness are the best tools you can use on any task.

Basic safety equipment for all Trail work should include: sturdy boots, work gloves, long pants, and appropriate dress for the weather.

Maintain tools in good working condition, know your abilities and limits, and take breaks before you are tired.

Tailgate Meetings

Perhaps the most important part of any trail-maintenance or trail-construction project occurs during the first few minutes. This is when the project leader should call everyone together and take a few minutes to talk about *safety* and the proper use of tools. (a.k.a., a “tailgate” meeting).

Safety is a concern for everyone, not just “first-timers.” Some “old-timers” tend to become complacent and forget about safety, too. Even if there are only a few people involved, it’s good to remind ourselves that trail tools—especially swinging tools and cutting tools—can do a great deal of damage to the human body.

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION TASKS
THEIR HAZARDS, AND RECOMMENDED SAFETY GEAR
COMPILED BY THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY**

Basic safety equipment for all trail work: boots, work gloves, long pants, and appropriate dress for the weather. Maintain tools in good working condition, know your abilities and limits, take breaks before you are tired.

| Trail Tasks | Likely Job Hazards | Recommended Safety Gear | Additional Comments |
|---|---|--|--|
| Clearing balds | Sharp tools, back and arm strain, dehydration, loud noise (if using power equipment), lightning, overexposure to sun, rain, or wind | Gloves, boots, sun hat, sunscreen, goggles, Weedeater harness, and hearing protection (if using power equipment) | Drink at least two quarts of water per day, keep proper spacing between workers, leave ridgecrest before lightning storms |
| Cutting brush | Sharp tools, spring poles, loose footing, flying brush, poison ivy, bee stings, snakebites, ticks | Gloves, boots, goggles, shin guards (optional) | Have soap and wash water available, know who is allergic to bee stings and poison ivy |
| Carpentry | Sharp tools, splinters, flying nail chips or sawdust, smashed fingers or thumbs | Gloves and goggles | Measure twice, cut once |
| Using chain saws | Severe, ragged cuts from the chainsaw, kickback, fire, back or muscle strains, falling trees or limbs, loud noise | Gloves, boots, chainsaw chaps, hardhat, eye and hearing protection, wedges, extra chain | Agency certification required , two-person crew minimum (one as a spotter), cool saw before fueling, keep saw tuned and chain sharp and tight |
| Tree felling (nonmotorized) | Falling trees or limbs, hollow trees, bee stings, barber-chairing | Hard hat, boots, gloves, goggles, ropes or winches, wedges | Two-person crew minimum (one as a spotter); know who is allergic to bee stings and poison ivy |
| Crush and fill (site-made gravel) | Rock shrapnel, splinters or broken tool handles, carpal tunnel syndrome, working too close to others | Goggles, gloves, boots, shinguards, hardhats, long pants and sleeves | Keep wrists rigid when swinging sledgehammer; keep proper spacing between workers |
| Log work (peeling, rolling, setting) | Sharp tools, slippery logs, rolling logs, back or muscle strains | Gloves, boots, shinguards (optional) | Keep back straight, lift with legs or mechanical advantage; work in unison; keep tools sharp |
| Power mowing | Loud noise, thrown debris, poison ivy, ticks | Gloves, boots, goggles, hearing protection, long pants | Do not operate near other people; cool engine before refueling |
| Rigging (winch work) | Frayed cable, improper attachment of load or anchors, standing in the | Gloves, boots, hardhat, | Station lookouts, inspect equipment frequently, protect trees from damage, |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | "bight," use of inadequate climbing hardware, overhead loads, hard-to-see cable, overloading system & parts | | avoid improper use of winch (do not be seduced by the power of the winch) |
| Rock work | Crushed extremities, slippery or unstable footing, back or muscle strain, rattlesnakes | Gloves, boots (steel-toed optional), shinguards, hardhat | Keep back straight, lift with legs or mechanical advantage, work in unison |
| Sharpening | Cuts from tools, flying filings | Gloves, goggles, file handle and knuckle guard | |
| Sidehill trail construction | Back or muscle strain, carpal tunnel syndrome, sharp tools, slippery or unstable footing, steep slopes, working too close to or walking by other workers, | Gloves, boots, shinguards, goggles (optional), hardhat | Keep wrists rigid when swinging tools, place one foot in front of the other, and keep back straight when swinging or pulling digging tools; keep proper spacing between workers. |

APPENDIX IV - H *ATC SHELTER* *APPROVAL CHECKLIST*

Shelter Name: _____

—

AT Maintaining Club: _____

Date: _____

Submitted by: _____

Agency Partner: _____

New site ____ new shelter at existing campsite ____ Replaces existing shelter ____ existing privy ____

Is this proposal identified in the club Local Management Plan? Y__ N__ Trail Assessment? Y__ N__

Project Description

Type of shelter; materials to be used in construction, etc. Use additional sheet if needed. _____

Cost(Total estimated materials only-purchased/onhand/donated/etc.) _____

Name of next shelter/overnight site and distance from the proposed site:

North _____ South _____

Distance of proposed site from the AT (if on a side trail): _____ miles

Distance from nearest open road: ____ miles. Distance from nearest closed road: ____ miles. Describe the situation. _____

Agency Approvals

USFS/NPS NEPA compliance: Information submitted to agency _____. EA completed _____

State/Local Agency approval received: Yes ____ No ____ Not Needed _____. Describe _____

Biological Evaluation completed (T&E species review): Yes ____ No ____

Cultural Resource Evaluation completed: Yes ____ No ____

Other approvals? Describe: _____

Attachments:

____ Map of project location (use NPS segment map, USGS quadrangle, guidebook map, etc.)

____ Site plan: (showing side trail, shelter, tent platforms, privy, water source, etc.)

____ Shelter design (sketch, or, if available, detailed plans)

____ Materials List

____ Other:

Approved by:

President of AT Club

Date

District Ranger

Date

ATC Regional Representative

Date

APPENDIX IV – I

TRAILS SUPERVISOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The Trails Supervisor is responsible for monitoring the condition of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia and all assigned connecting and approach trails. He/she oversees and coordinates all trail maintenance and construction activities, and delegates responsibility to the District Leaders and Trails subcommittees. Specific duties include:

To appoint District Leaders who assume responsibility for recurring maintenance of their assigned portion of trails and who lead scheduled monthly work trips. The District Leader, in conjunction with the Trail Supervisor, will recruit, designate and supervise Section Overseers, who assume responsibility for monitoring the condition of individual trail sections and for performing and reporting routine maintenance.

To keep and maintain GATC trail maintenance tools. Ensure that the necessary tools are available and in good condition for each work trip

To maintain a system to record the number of work trips and hours worked on trail maintenance activities by GATC members and guests. Provide recognition to those who make significant contributions. Report total hours worked annually to the US Forest Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

To develop the annual work plan for trail maintenance, and to submit the plan to the US Forest Service.

To appoint an Advisory Subcommittee, that assists the Trails Supervisor in the long range planning and management of the trail corridor.

To foster a harmonious working relationship with the US Forest Service and other agency partners.

To identify major relocation, rehabilitation, and construction projects. Coordinate with the US Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and other agency partners to schedule required environmental and archeological surveys. Coordinate the efforts of external volunteer organizations and ATC volunteer crews. Assign project managers where appropriate. Inform club membership and the general public of significant changes in treadway or shelter locations.

To appoint and oversee a Structures Subcommittee that will be responsible for the construction and recurring maintenance of shelters, privies, bear cables, bridges, and other structures, in accordance with USFS and ATC guidelines.

To educate and inform GATC members about trail maintenance techniques and proper, safe use of trail maintenance tools. Training can be conducted in-house by the Trail Skills Subcommittee or arranged through ATC or USFS sources.

To appoint and oversee a Trail Signs Subcommittee that will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of trail signs in accordance with the GATC Management Plan and USFS and ATC guidelines.

APPENDIX IV – J

DISTRICT LEADER JOB DESCRIPTION

The District Leader is responsible to the Trails Supervisor for a major designated segment of the Georgia Appalachian Trail and/or approach and connecting trails. She/He directs the work of several Section Overseers who perform the routine and recurring maintenance of her/his assigned district. Specific duties include:

Recruiting, assigning, and replacing club members for section overseer positions.

Training overseers to perform basic maintenance tasks such as weeding, lopping, blazing, and clearing the treadway, and constructing and maintaining erosion control devices such as dips, waterbars, and steps.

Communicating with overseers periodically, giving timely reminders to cut weeds, clean waterbars, repaint blazes, etc. and to inform them of storms or other incidents that may have affected their sections.

Receiving from overseers reports of hours worked and tasks performed and passing on reports for entry into the club maintenance data base. Monitoring overseers to make certain that work is performed on a regular and timely basis. Keeping the Trails Supervisor informed of the status of trail maintenance in his/her district.

Identifying and prioritizing work projects in the district that are beyond the capabilities of individual overseers. Scheduling club work trips with the Trails Supervisor to address these needs. Organizing and leading club work trips within assigned district.

Identifying to the Trails Supervisor major trail relocations, campsite rehabilitation, shelter construction or repair that are candidates for special club projects.

Monitoring the trail for evidence of incompatible use or illegal activity, with personal observations and reports from section overseers. Reporting instances to the Trails Supervisor and the Conservation Director for their information and cooperative action.

In concert with the Trails Supervisor, maintaining a harmonious working relationship with the supporting USFS Ranger District and other agency partners.

Recognizing superior achievement by section overseers.

APPENDIX IV – K

SECTION OVERSEER JOB DESCRIPTION

The section overseer is one of the most important jobs in the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club. What the overseer does, or does not do, has both immediate and lasting impact on the hiking experience of all visitors to the AT and connecting trails. The overseer should have first-hand knowledge of the condition of the trail in her/his section. No one else is as uniquely positioned to observe the long-term effectiveness of stewardship techniques applied to his/her treadway.

The Section Overseer is responsible to the District Leader for the recurring maintenance along his/her assigned section of trail. He/she shall be a member of the GATC. The Overseer is expected to accomplish these specific tasks:

- a. Weeding and lopping. The overseer should do this as often as required. Usually once or twice in the spring and summer months will suffice.
- b. Removing blowdowns. Bowsaws, handsaws and axes may be used without restriction other than the use of proper safety techniques. The use of chain saws and crosscut saws in the Chattahoochee National Forest requires Forest Service certification. This certification requires the completion of a first aid/CPR course and either a chain saw and/or crosscut saw courses.
- c. Painting or renewing blazes, in accordance with GATC blazing policy.
- d. Cleaning dips, waterbars, and drainage structures (recommended twice a year in late fall and early spring).
- e. Enhance/ repair treadway. This includes removing loose rocks, removing roots that may cause hikers to walk around and widen the treadway, repairing slipped and/or braided trail, etc.
- f. Monitoring the trail to ascertain maintenance needs and also for evidence of incompatible use, i.e. ATV, horses, fire rings in unauthorized locations, illegal activity. Reporting such incidents to the District Leader.
- g. Picking up trash and discarded or abandoned items. Practicing Leave No Trace.
- h. Reporting to the District Leader any damage to signage on the section.

After appropriate training and instruction from the District Leader, the Section Overseer may build log and/or rock steps and drainage structures, i.e. dips and waterbars.

The Section Overseer should report needed maintenance tasks that are beyond his/her capability (i.e. large blowdowns, heavily eroded or slipped trail) to the District Leader.

Overseers should keep a record of travel hours and work hours expended for each work trip and send a work report to the District Leader. Overseers should perform a minimum of four work trips a year on their assigned section.

Overseers who are responsible for a shelter site should regularly inspect the shelter, bear cables, moldering privies, and water sources for any needed repairs and insure structures are in good working order. Overseers should re-supply wood chips and red worms to the privy as usage demands. If the problem is beyond the overseer's capability to fix, he/she should report it to the District Leader.

Attending regularly scheduled club maintenance functions when possible to keep abreast of accepted maintenance practices and techniques, and to share "what works" with the District Leader and other overseers.

Greeting and assisting hikers met while working on section. Where necessary advise hikers on Leave No Trace principles and backcountry etiquette.

To assist each overseer, GATC will provide a copy of the *Appalachian Trail Fieldbook, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Volunteers*. Overseers should read and become familiar with its maintaining techniques.

Remember: The section overseer is "the face" of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.

APPENDIX IV – L

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Local Management Planning Guide

Available at: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

