National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



To Our Partners in Stewardship,

Beginning in 2015, ATC, APPA, and the trail clubs embarked on a trail-wide inventory project, counting every location (privy, campsite, parking area, etc.) and feature (waterbar, step, stair, cribwall, etc.) along the AT corridor. The NPS Regional office provided us with nearly \$800,000 to complete this work. As we reach the end of the inventory fieldwork process, we have begun to utilize the data, review outcomes, and produce outputs. By the end of this process we will have:

- Captured every "contributing" facility location and feature currently in place along the AT. This in turn will help us all to better understand what facilities we have, their current replacement value, and how best to prioritize our limited funds and resources toward their continued preservation.
- Acquired the necessary information to: develop more accurate cost estimates for project work; improve project development, tracking, and reporting; develop better project justifications; and improve project scores to make APPA more competitive for federal funds.

While the overall benefits of having this information certainly outweigh the cost of this inventory, it would not be feasible to conduct an update at this scale every 5 years, as is required at typical Parks across the NPS. Instead, we are moving forward with a process in which work completed and reported by ATC and/or the trail club volunteers will be collected and collated on a rolling basis. This data will inform an annual update of the APPA Facility Management Software System (FMSS) and a public ArcGIS WebApp.

The update forms in this packet are based on the current inventory forms many of you are familiar with. Each facility type, also known as an FMSS Location, has its own form. It is important to remember that these forms are to be used to report completed improvements and alterations, NOT for planning purposes.

I want to thank you for all of your hard work during this endeavor. Without your support, this project would not have been possible. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at <u>APPA\_Facilities@nps.gov</u>, or reach me directly at (304) 535-5093.

eich Storan

Keith Stegall Facility Manager Appalachian National Scenic Trail

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The Inventory Update Process:

# **Complete Trail Work**

ATC Trail Crews, contractors, or club volunteers add, remove, or substantially modify AT FMSS Locations (i.e. Shelters, Bridges, Treadway) and/or Features (i.e. Steps, Waterbars, Railing) during routine maintenance or planned project work.



# Fill Out Form

Section Maintainers, ATC Staff, or other club volunteers report inventory updates by filling out the form associated with the FMSS Location/Feature type being modified (i.e. Bridge additions/removals are reported using the Bridge Update Form).



#### Submit Form

ATC staff or volunteers email a copy of the completed form and accompanying photographs to **APPA\_Facilities@nps.gov.** 



#### **Process Data**

APPA staff review and verify data submitted via Update Forms and request additional information as needed.



# **Update Systems**

Processed data from the Trail Inventory Update Forms are used to update FMSS and GIS records on an annual basis, in January of the following year.



# **Report Back to ATC and Clubs**

APPA provides ATC staff and club volunteers with updated Trail Inventory data via the GIS WebApp in advance of Spring RPC Meetings.

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