



ATC Conservation and Trail Management Policy on Cultural Resources

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), a §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works closely with Appalachian Trail volunteer maintaining clubs (“Clubs”) and other public and private partners to ensure the protection and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and experiential resources of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (known as ANST, A.T., or “the Trail”). Approximately fifty federal, state, or other public agencies have authority or jurisdiction over lands and resources within the protected A.T. corridor. ATC has a central management role by virtue of its Cooperative Agreement with the USDI National Park Service and its close working partnership with the USDA Forest Service and other agencies.

ATC's Trail management and conservation policies are meant to provide guidance for (a) dissemination to the public; (b) use and implementation by the ATC and the Clubs; and (c) recommendations for land-managing and other agencies. It is the agencies who work within their defined procedures to propose, administer, and enforce public policy. ATC policies are recommendations developed to support appropriate, coordinated Trailwide management.

Policy

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) seeks to preserve and protect cultural-resource sites, including those that are nominated, eligible, or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. To this end, ATC will seek to ensure that its actions, in concert with the actions of Trail-maintaining clubs and agency partners, do not adversely affect any cultural-resource site eligible or potentially eligible for such designation.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy recognizes cultural resources as an integral part of the Trail environment and the obligations that are imposed by federal statute upon federal agencies (and by state law upon state agencies) for protection of cultural resources. It is the policy of ATC to support and endorse efforts to protect and enhance cultural resources located on or adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. ATC also believes that its principal mission, which is to protect and promote the Appalachian Trail, can aid efforts to protect cultural resources. As a matter of policy, ATC is confident that the Trail can coexist with and provide protection for cultural-resource sites. Should conflicts arise, ATC will resolve matters through consultation with its management partners. If a situation arises where protection or use of the Trail has the potential to affect a cultural-resource site, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will enter into formal consultation procedures with the involved agency partner(s), Trail-maintaining club(s), and the State Historic Preservation Office prior to undertaking any action that could adversely affect a significant or potentially significant cultural resource.



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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will further cooperate with Trail-maintaining clubs and agency partners in efforts to promote and interpret important cultural-resource sites, where appropriate, and efforts to prevent vandalism, damage, or destruction of identified sites and artifacts.

For questions related to this policy please contact the Appalachian Trail Conservancy at www.appalachiantrail.org, or P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV, 25425-807.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mission is to protect, manage, and advocate for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.