



ATLP ANNUAL MEETING



Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership

Annual Meeting

Part 3 of the 2021 ATLP Annual Event

April 8, 2021

Online – Zoom+Covision

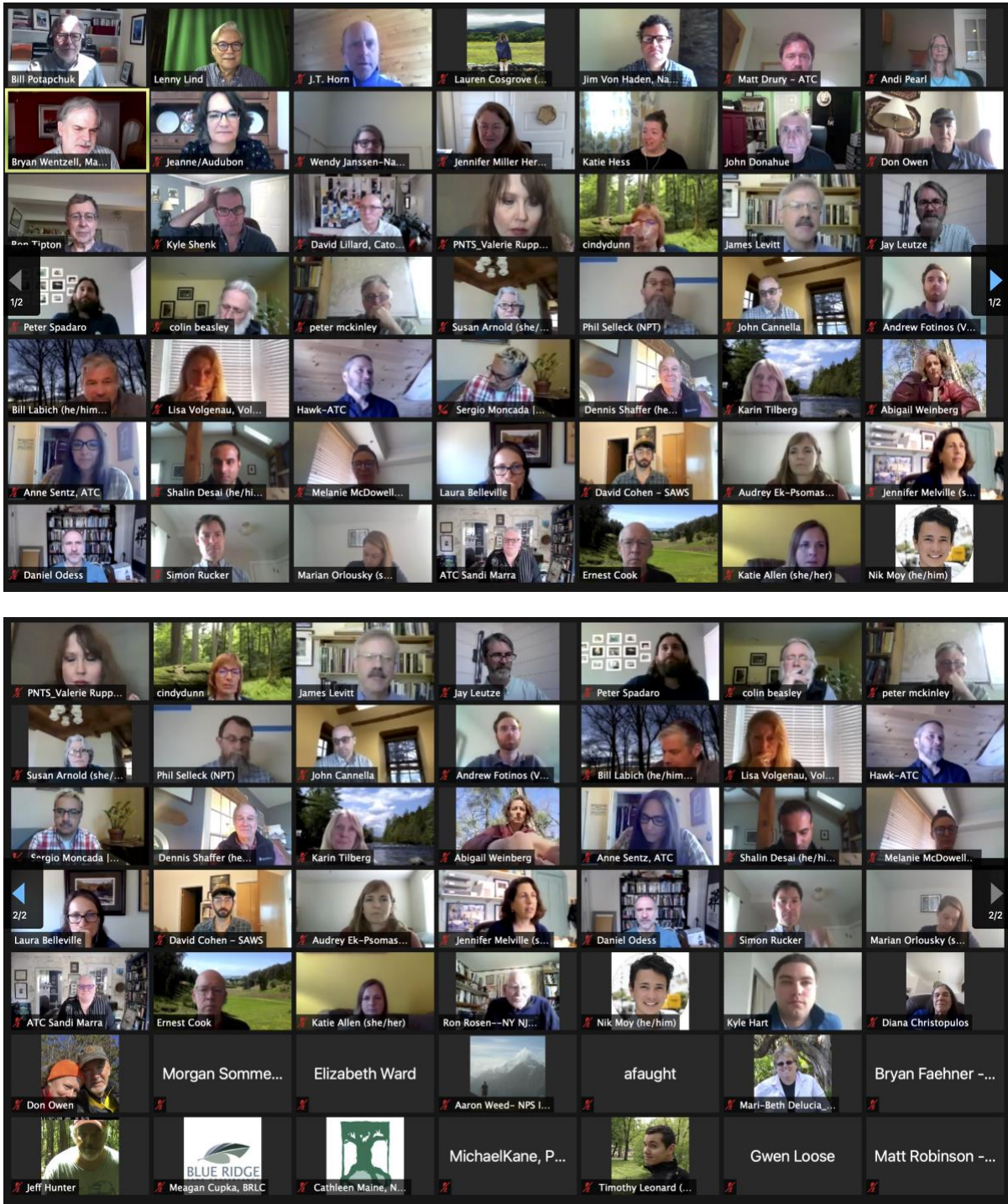
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Screenshots



Taken at 9:55a 4/8/21 62 participants (screens overlap)

01 Your Role

What is your role within the A.T. landscape?

(Participants chose up to 7 items)

Item	Checks	Percentage of Voters
I work for a land trust or conservation organization	41 	66%
I am an advocate for land conservation	29 	47%
I have hiked a substantial portion of the A.T.	15 	24%
I volunteer for a land trust or conservation organization	13 	21%
I work for a federal or state government agency	11 	18%
Other (add in space below)	5 	8%
I am an A.T. Community partner	2 	3%
Total Checks	116	

Other Roles

- 001 funder
- 002 Funder
- 003 working on wildlife issues in and around the trail in NC & TN
- 004 Make grants to other conservation groups
- 005 Focused on saving land on AT in Virginia
- 006 I direct an international network focused on private and civic land conservation
- 007 I am volunteer curator for the A.T. museum. We are preparing an exhibit on the A.T. and its large landscapes. I am listening today to this Zoom mtg to get info that may relate to our exhibit.

How do you generally describe your cultural, ethnic, or racial identity?

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 White, female Baby Boomer

- 002 White
- 003 Irish/German/PA Dutch
- 004 White
- 005 A strong warrior woman.
- 006 I am a human woman.
- 007 white
- 008 White
- 009 Caucasian
- 010 I like that - human!
- 011 Human in transitions
- 012 my totem is the mountain lion
- 013 Caucasian
- 014 Human. Jewish culturally. Buddhist spiritually.
- 015 Dog mom
- 016 White privileged female.
- 017 white
- 018 I am Colombian-American, Latinx.
- 019 White Anglo-Saxon but not Protestant
- 020 Multidimensional.
- 021 white Caucasian
- 022 White American of Gaelic and Polish descent
- 023 I am an overeducated white male with strong rural affinities who is stuck in the suburbs.
- 024 white
- 025 Older white male!
- 026 White, female, European
- 027 Chinese-American
- 028 Lover of the land
- 029 Dirt loving tree hugger
- 030 White, cisgender male of the outdoor culture
- 031 I am a middle-aged military brat Irish Catholic mom
- 032 northern New Englander
- 033 White, Anglo-Saxon protestant
- 034 white woman

- 035 Cisgender female, white, somewhat southern US with many other cultural influences
- 036 white female conservationist
- 037 white american woman
- 038 White hetero male
- 039 scotch, irish, english, french, swedish, or so I'm told
- 040 Woman, native New Mexican, mother, conservationist, social scientist
- 041 white old male -- no beard
- 042 White
- 043 My family celebrated 400 years in North America last year, reinforcing my identity as someone who cares for the land and works to keep it healthy
- 044 American
- 045 White
- 046 Four legged mammal spinning around on a ball of rock and water in a limitless universe
- 047 latinx, queer, nonbinary
- 048 white guy
- 049 White, female. Conservationist! Hiker! Advocate! Trying to be an Ally for DEI work.
- 050 I am a Jewish kid Kansas City. Now firmly implanted as a Red Sox fan.
- 051 American, of Scots/Irish descent
- 052 Humanist
- 053 white, senior hiker
- 054 Midwestern white American man, with Mid-western sensibilities
- 055 Mainer, Nova Scotia roots, son of an immigrant,
- 056 white guy
- 057 same as most other land trust workers, beard and all
- 058 white male

02 Focusing on ATLP Landscape as a Climate Corridor

- **Work as a team to develop ideas for how to move work forward on your topic. What would be the goal of this work?**
- **Who needs to be involved (think JEDI)?**
- **What would be the initial steps?**

For all of this, be as specific as possible.

Topic #1: Climate Advisory Group

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Initial steps -- create an inventory of what states are starting to do
There are concerns about federal land grab -- important to have side-boards and messaging
The need to move so fast, we need to proceed in a manner that does not leave underserved groups out of the conversation
- 002 Goal: policy, science and communication coming together to determine what an East coast climate corridor would look like, who is the audience, the communications strategy, and the science needed to prioritize actions.
- 003 Trying to bridge the gap between practitioners and science behind climate research.
- 004 East coast climate corridor, compared to the rest of the country, should consider population concentrations and industrial use.
- 005 Is there data on the effects of dense populations/industry on climate?
- 006 What is the relationship between decreasing green space/open space and climate change?
Mapping the connection between resiliency hotspots and community infrastructure.
- 007 Is this a science focused group or covering all these topics we discussed today?
- 008 Get diverse representation on this group! Climate is impacting some people more than others. Can we make space to hear them? Can we also have an equity advisory group?
- 009 Protecting areas for climate stabilization often looks at areas away from large populations.
From a JEDI perspective, we should think about the people and places most affected by climate change, and how do we connect the benefits of a resilient landscape to the needs of underserved communities.

How do we go about engaging in an open way without pre-selecting who needs to be involved? Learning what is of interest to communities, tribes, etc. Are there other

groups/organizations that have begun a similar communication process? What have they learned that we can draw from?

- 010 Great place to start engaging tribal groups, indigenous knowledge, along with more traditional climate science.

Develop plan to move forward on climate action.

Composition-- USET, doing a lot of work on climate issues; local communities adjacent to A.T.-- front line; think about who is most impacted- downstream impacts; build out lists for invites; iterative participation; will need to convince some folks that this is a relevant issue -- relevant to their own lives; need communication message; A.T. less as a hiking adventure more as a land base in everyone's backyards to build shared vision.

Build an advisory group -- tomorrow? Committee should consider the communications.

Engage more people immersed in climate science - aware of diversity of efforts, all happening, avoid duplicating efforts.

Universities -- not enough now.

Funders

"Translators" - translate science to make it relevant for action more broadly.

Communications - treat as focus group, understand receiving end of messages. Pay attention to activists - how do they create gateway to be part of a solution.

Need more bridge-builders - perhaps fewer scientists

People that have real-world experience - practitioners

Include representation enviro justice movement- give voice

Folks focused on policy

Segmentation-- issues to address, topics at hand-- science (land, climate) created opportunities for engagement in "think tank".

- 011 Identifying how the AT corridor connects to other corridors. Instead of thinking in terms of a corridor, think about it as a web.

Tremendous overlap to watershed protection and the watershed approach.

- 012 Storytelling -- important

Topic #2: State Level Alignment

PARTICIPANT INPUT

001 Karin Tilberg

002 how do states reach a common understanding of the issue?

003 Forestry departments at the state level - within staff, not political level - can be aligned based on science and best practices. USFS can work to coordinate with that through the two eastern FS regions.

- 004 State-level engagement around ATLP goals and alignment among state level entities
- 005 state agencies align with ATLP goals
- 006 Find ways to garner local support for climate by focusing on other issues that still protect climate-resilient lands: hunting, fishing, economic development, recreation, tourism, etc. The work can get done by having messages that matter to particular audiences, bringing together shared learning.
- 007 land trusts aligned and coordinating with state agencies and NGO community
- 008 looking more at cultural aspects of AT will help bring in new groups
- 009 Shared learning across the departments. Big tent approach. Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, recreation planners associations, etc. Incorporate climate science into SWAPs and SCORPs.
- 010 indigenous land trusts
- 011 Aligning with the US climate alliance states and helping them achieve their climate goals is critical. Helping them see how the AT is part of the solution.
- 012 EPA Watershed Program focusing on headwaters areas - big issue at state level. FEMAs for states focused on flooding mitigation and watershed protection. Multi-state watershed orgs (like Chesapeake) can cross state boundaries and have common goals for multiple states.
- 013 broadening context of what we mean by a climate corridor
- 014 leaders in NGO community convening state-level
- 015 State recreation priorities can be more in-focus for state parks. NPS is not looking to expand holdings, so states need to be at the table at the outset.
- 016 Sportsman community messaging can help with WMAs and lands to hunt on.
- 017 breakdown ATLP participation by state and have each state build out their own priorities and framework to better understand aligning messaging and goals
- 018 Get outside and private funding sources to have the same priorities to increase the alignment. State and federal agencies at the staff level do not typically have the authority to drive these priorities. Top down approach.

Topic #3: Increase Connectivity

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Locate specific parcels trail-wide
- 002 Be interested in feeders
- 003 GIS experts, scientists, landowners
- 004 identify private lands in pinch points and focus land trust activity there
- 005 looking at the "pinch points" and underrepresented habitats as opportunities to reach out to new partners. Can we focus our work here and acknowledge and track value of these outcomes as well as (just) acres

006 What would be the goal of this work?

- Be comprehensive
- Steward and restore land rather than simply acquire
- Expand definition of connectivity past "habitat to wildlife"

Who needs to be involved (think JEDI)?

- Define and identify JEDI audience/communities.
- Incorporate demographics data into landscape assessment (incorporate the human/social dimensions) and include urban and suburban communities
- Transit to Trails Act

What would be the initial steps?

- Leverage GAOA and LWF for land acquisition
- Address staffing issues
- Continue using OSI to update land trust priorities
- Get the information to land use planning decision makers

007 What would be the goal of this work?

- Be comprehensive
- Steward and restore land rather than simply acquire
- Expand definition of connectivity past "habitat to wildlife" - to include connections amongst people, wildlife, habitat, history, one another; expand into human diversity
- Connectivity infrastructure; wildlife bridges, underpasses

Who needs to be involved (think JEDI)?

- Define and identify JEDI audience/communities.
- Incorporate demographics data into landscape assessment (incorporate the human/social dimensions) and include urban and suburban communities
- Transit to Trails Act
- Reflect goals in hiring
- Not just who "needs" to be involved but who "wants" to be involved; ask people what they know, what is needed, and recommendations on how to do it; meet people in their communities and on their sites

- Acknowledge current power dynamics and address them by giving power (decision making) to diverse and/or new partners through new processes

What would be the initial steps?

- Leverage GAOA and LWF for land acquisition, as well as state and local funding
- Address staffing issues
- Continue using OSI to update land trust priorities

-Get the information to land use planning decision makers

008 We need input human diversity to:

- Ensure protection of pinch points that go through more human dominated landscapes
- where do the JEDI outdoor groups need connector trails?
- returning access/stewardship/usage to native tribes

009 BIG POINTS

There is a large amount of private landscape within the middle section of the AT realm near the larger populations. There are more people and less corridor and that needs to be addressed.

There are many partners out there that need to be included in this discussion and actions. There are 900 system trails and we need more partners.

All habitat types need to be part of the AT ecosystem. Some are found only on very small acreage parcels, but needs to be addressed as well as our large acreage purchases.

Social/cultural issues are part of the solution.

We need to include social values along with the biological values we already focus on.

We need to answer question: “ why should inner city and minority populations be involved?” and what will they see as a good reason for doing so.

WHO

All Americans need to be part of this .

Our existing partners across the country

AT Communities are a great educational opportunity to reach broader public

Large trail groups like AMC and NY/NJ Trail group

Diversity and inclusion will be beneficial

INITIAL STEPS

Continue on with existing programs

Seek to enhance the welcome at AT communities to all visitors

Develop a cohesive message to the larger public about the AT as a climate solution

Make our messaging clear regarding the value of day hikers and section hikers and use through hikers as ambassadors to those groups by refuting any condescension.

Topic #4: Public Policy

PARTICIPANT INPUT

001 Consider the political/policy background

- 002 Make sure we coordinate with FCWG. Do we need our own work here or can we partner with them to make the AT focused group there? I think there is rational for that given the AT landscape (broadly defined) is actually 16% of US forest carbon sequestration in the future.
- 003 How do we bring in constituent groups that don't see the value of the AT as a climate corridor, but may be appealed to, for example, on an economic basis.
- 004 Outdoor recreation economy could be an attractive way to build coalitions
Clear and coordinated vision on how to focus GAOA funding on the A.T. landscape
- 005 Friendly administration gives us a great opportunity to move big ideas right now
Highlands Act could be a good model -- example of a successful earmark
- 006 Need a big idea -- designated climate corridor
- 007 We have 3 years and 9 months to make a strong case with the administration. We have the data to make a legitimate case for the A.T. as a nationally recognized climate corridor. The opportunity is huge, and we have to understand there is urgency.
The Appalachian Trail is so well positioned to be one of the highest priority areas to mitigate climate change impacts.
- Action Items:
1. Ensuring we have a cascading approach to policy efforts: "Cascading" the 30x30 commitment to the community level and bringing those advocacy efforts back up to the "top." Alignment with goals and messaging will be critical. ("30x30 level to the parcel level.")
 2. Creating a values statement that will resonate with all communities--and that values statement needs to include all communities.
 3. Evaluating the percentage of conserved lands within the A.T. landscape and, if we are beyond 30 percent, setting a goal for the landscape that people can rally behind.
 4. Ensuring private landowners understand the importance of conserving land, and how the conservation of that land is part of this global picture of mitigating climate change, AND ensuring landowners are educated on private conservation opportunities and how policy can support those opportunities.
- 008 Collaborative Landscape Planning Obama era -- LCC's
- 009 30x30 is going to be an elephant -- so broad, could be easy to attach and more difficult to explain and defend. Presents both a great opportunity but could also be challenges because of the challenges that go with it
- 010 The general public does not understand the meaning of 30x30
Different thoughts between those in the west and those in the east
- 011 Congress appears to be moving back towards earmarks -- this can be an opportunity for us to work with members willing to champion the A.T. landscape
Need to recognize highly controversial nature of our politics -- might be better to work outside of 30x30 since it is likely to be viewed as a Biden administration initiative
- 012 Need a big idea that we can all get behind -- like an official Climate Corridor Designation
There is going to be a need for capacity building so all partners have the ability to participate -- especially our non-traditional partners. Need bridging to bring everyone along!

03 Focusing on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Work as a team to develop ideas for how to move work forward on your topic. What would be the goal of this work? Who needs to be involved (think JEDI)? What would be the initial steps? For all of this, be as specific as possible.

Topic #1: Deepen our JEDI Knowledge

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 LTA is developing a learning curriculum for LTA members
Great start with Alexa's workshop
Network for Landscape Conservation has a JEDI committee working on recommendations -- but no specific set of actions -- under development
PNTS is also on a similar journey
Can there be a coordinated effort to assist our respective organizations
Central VA work on indigenous community
Diversity is on the Trail but our partnerships do not reflect that diversity
Diversity has to include all communities that are not benefiting the A.T. and its surrounding lands
Not just history, but case studies are important
What are the first steps to take -- can be resistance
What is your elevator speech
Need to engage board level leadership in committing the resources to help with the learning journey
- 002 This journey has to be done on a personal and professional level; the commitment to both must be there.
Some initial steps to make our work more equitable and just:
- Redistribution of power; stepping aside when necessary
- Sharing resources
- More listening; less talk
- Understanding what truly serves communities vs. thinking we know what serves communities (this is where listening comes in)
Tangible ideas:

- Yearlong curriculum within the ATLP with dedicated representatives each organization involved
- 003 Landscape scale conservation by its nature includes large population centers -- our partners have their own activities but we build specific sessions that target these communities -- targeting the human resources

Topic #2: A.T. is welcoming and safe for all

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Use existing minority groups to get started
- 002 -Say it more; signage to articulate our values, leaders talking about it often, continuous communications, diversification is happening and we want to be a part of this
- 003 -reflect goals in diversity and train in how to welcome new clients
- 004 -External: meet communities and community organizations/networks where they are (go to their place) and understand their goals and mutual alignment
-Internal: redefine what the A.T. experience is; redefine what it means to belong to the A.T. community
- 005 -consider shifting away the glorification of the long distance hiker to also focus on short family hikes, parking, other values
- 006 -public transportation options to get all to the trail
- 007 -train Ridge Runners in group dynamics, Leave No Trace, deescalate
-education and communication, a multipronged effort; work with local partners on this; everyone should be welcomed and know the place that they are visiting
- 008 - road walks on AT were problematic in '77. Locals with pickups and guns. Occurred in the south.
- Some hostels are sporting confederate flags
What is the goal? How do we make the trail welcoming & safe for all?
- The Forest Service is concerned about this issue. What's within our control? What are we doing? How do we want to represent, and show up? We should focus on ourselves.
- In designated AT communities - there is some sphere of control.
- PA was an issue in '99 and remains an issue. How do we respond?
- Most of use in PA is day hikers. Thru-hiker self-entitlement is an issue. Mostly men.
- thru-hiking is small part of the AT hiking community
- Access to the trail (trailheads) is difficult in some areas.
- We need to focus on what we can control
- 009 -best opportunities along population centers; train volunteer maintainers, ridge runners... in welcoming and engaging

- 010 -ask those at risk what they need to feel welcomed and safe
- 011 -how do we follow-up when people have been threatened or put at risk? It is really important to know how we will react because it is a very important to respond and build trust that way.
- 012 - There is diversity at DE Water Gap. How can we replicate that elsewhere?
 - Educate users about
 - remove shelters that are continual flashpoints (ex: Gov Clement Shelter in VT)
 - removing shelters could be perceived as less inclusive
 - use of public transit to get ppl to trail. That can reduce congestion w/ cars at trailheads.
 - Not every trail needs every single amenity that everyone may want.
 - AT is the only NST with a shelter issue.
 - It's not enough to create the space. We need to have outreach programs. Would local communities assist

Topic #3: Biodiversity and underserved communities

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 There are likely more pressing JEDI issues for the ATLP (internally).
- 002 UMaine professor Jessica Leahy did study in rural Maine on economic future for youth - many people there do not have the same relationship with the A.T. landscape. For them it can mean lack of opportunity.
- 003 How are we defining "underserved communities"? Can we map the biodiversity in these communities and prioritize that?
- 004 Putting access to these places front and center for groups that have been excluded by past practices (access to clean water, air, health, etc.).
- 005 Goals: help cultivate more folks an understanding the importance of biodiversity. Moving transactional to transformational. Shape environmental literacy by understanding the value of having the AT protected and maintained as a resource - see priorities for justice in clean water, air, etc. to advocate for support. Make priorities relevant to the basic life support systems that biodiversity provides for all communities.

Look how we authentically need underserved communities to be successful. Communities are critical to developing the corridor - pinch points need local, underserved communities to meet AT corridor goals. Demonstrating both what we need and ask what communities need - solutions may be broad around job creation, child care, etc. could contribute to biodiversity sustainability in creative ways. Explore systems approach that provides support to all critical communities equitable to meet goals.
- 006 Who: Provide message to funders that goals around underserved communities is just as important as land deals.
- 007 Who: Communities

- 008 What does biodiversity mean to underserved communities? What is their understanding of this concept and its importance? Success is locally based - we need to have a connection and be able to communicate.
- 009 We should not be defining this term and then pushing it out. Need communication channels. We need to be open to flexibility so this is not an exclusionary concept.
- 010 How: identify community needs to be resilient, sustainable - beyond land use planning, but livability
Identify where are underrepresented biodiversity needs/gaps are and align to communities. Develop mutually supportive priorities.
- 011 Biodiversity is a lightning rod concept - we can talk about plants and animals without resorting to jargon like "landscape".
- 012 We need to be open to searching for other priority lands that have meaning to communities. Not just about going for biodiversity at the expense of other priorities in other communities.
- 013 Who: Use data/science as foundation, identify community advocates/champions, trusted and respected, to bring communities along. Develop direct relationships/active listening of direct opposition or gaps in represented groups. Allow for ownership of underserved communities with support/fuel of resources, connections, etc. to achieve/balance economic development, conservation, and other goals at a community-driven level.
- 014 Biodiversity is also important in developed areas - Central Park birdwatching etc. This can also be an entry to larger world of biodiversity and the A.T.
- 015 Other activities where traditionally underrepresented individuals can be drawn in - fishing, hunting, etc. (i.e. not necessarily conservation related activities).
- 016 Who: Engaging kids in discovery and awareness
- 017 Make sure the mapping has environmental science and social science expertise! Make sure there is DEI knowledge and experience on that team.
- 018 -people who don't feel safe are not coming to the trail - how do we engage with them, learn from, respond to them?

Topic #4: Indicators of success

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 New groups are already at the table before we move forward to protect the lands.
If the people who are participating and benefiting the efforts - if they look more like the American public than they do currently that would be an indicator of success.
- 002 Do we understand what the organizations represented here look differently? Need to create that baseline - can't measure success if you don't know where you are starting.
- 003 We need to do more than issue invitations - we need to make "going" part of the expectation - obligation to participate in the partnership and get funding.

- 004 JEDI is not necessarily data or key performance driven - it is a value system and culture you are building ground zero. Instead of thinking about "success" consider "process."
1. Internal participation - invitations
 2. External engagement - necessary translation service
 3. Consistent audit
 4. Are we moving toward justice - first define justice for ATLP
 5. What does relevancy mean
 6. Conditions for participation
 7. Assessment of what access means - physical, education, psychological
 8. Power distribution - are resources allocated to local communities to set priorities?
- 005 Create framework for assessment and then conduct periodic audits
- 006 What do our diverse partners think of our efforts?
- 007 Percent of actions that recognize the cultural heritage- cultural values.
- Unsolicited feedback new groups - shows engagement.
- Broader stakeholder representation in the ATLP - empowered, decision-making.
- Map cultural heritage values -- a cultural "resiliency" map to benchmark what needs to be conserved, where, why -- valuestribal perspective, POC, others.
- New visitors to A.T. -- changed policies and programs to accommodate engagement.

2021-23 ATLP Strategic Plan — Vision, Mission, Values

How would you improve Section II (Mission, Vision, Core Values) of the draft strategic plan?

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Results Oriented risks shortchanging Process, which is critical for advancing JEDI.
- 002 I like it
- 003 Put more JEDI clarity into the mission and vision
- 004 +1
- 005 Be consistent with acronym--JEDI versus DEIJ
- 006 Should we be direct in stating connecting people to people?
- 007 I like the emphasis on people and communities.
- 008 JEDI in vision
- 009 Attempt to dovetail with 30x30 goals to remain relevant
- 010 "people of diverse communities" in the vision
- 011 In the mission, say "with" its surrounding landscape. Not and.
- 012 connections to communities, conservation is local
- 013 +1 on dovetailing with 30x30 goals
- 014 Include "innovation" in the core values along with results-oriented
- 015 Use existing trail communities as an avenue for outreach and education
- 016 ...by expanding the number and diversity of partner organizations....
- 017 Shorter. Word economy! These should be easily memorable.
- 018 Place importance on communities and regions that are already engaged and not only places that align with narrow datasets.
- 019 What do we mean by diverse? We should say what we mean
- 020 "Wild East" is vague. What does it mean?
- 021 +1 on 17
- 022 +1 on 17 also
- 023 Ask for review of mission / vision / values by equity-focused groups not currently involved in strategic planning process
- 024 Mission: Do cultural wonders include people? Or is that in surrounding landscape? Where is the people? Yes, the people part is not strong enough.

- 025 Instead of “appreciating” differences maybe embracing, acknowledging, or valuing?
Appreciating seems too easily dismissible
- 026 what type(s) of diversity does the ATLP Steering Committee represent? geographic, racial, ecological, etc.?
- 027 permanently?
- 028 Include recreation as an important part of the broader landscape to increase opportunities for quality of life experiences.
- 029 Provide ATLP leadership role opportunities to local group representatives up and down the trail (beyond this current group).
- 030 Agree with being consistent with acronym--JEDI or DEI-- which is it?
- 031 a mutually agreed definition of justice should be part of the first core value - that's what we're really talking about
- 032 I wish that when we talk about ensuring place-based initiatives consider populations that are disadvantaged, economically distressed and non-white that we instead found a way to give them a voice in the future of the trail and their roles in it.
- 033 I love the word "wild" but others have very different sense of wild. Does wild mean without people or does it include people and culture? Does wild mean unsafe?
- 034 +1 on 17
- 035 Idea of involving the socio-ecological concept of human communities as part of the ecosystem (i.e. dynamic heterogeneity). This advance the concept of diversity of all species as well as human diversity concepts.
- 036 We should be clear that the AT founders saw the trail as an element of social improvement for urban populations as well as through hikers
- 037 It's really strong
- 038 Where does agriculture fit into this work? Clearly articulate this in the plan. Is it under Climate and Biodiversity, Natural Beauty, ..?
- 039 Ensure that in addition to JEDI - our activities are community-driven and that includes rural communities
- 040 Mission is missing a protection/preservation goal
- 041 Seeing policies/ordinances developed/adopted at the local level (within communities, townships, counties) that recognize the value of the A.T. would be nice and a measure of success.
- 042 The "How" needs more about outreach and education
- 043 invite and engage more people in the conversation, including (a) local communities; (b) BIPOC representatives; and (c) trail clubs.

2021-23 ATLP Strategic Plan — Key Action Areas

How would you improve Section III (Key Action Areas) of the draft strategic plan?

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Go beyond Land Protection; stewardship and restoration is also needed.
- 002 More than federal policy - state and local too
- 003 +1
- 004 +1
- 005 +1 on 001
- 006 State as well as federal policy
- 007 Why? For the strong public benefit of ALL people.
- 008 focus on the social values of the AT
- 009 JEDI needs to be explicit
- 010 Under "Why": how about adding some element about human health? Mental and physical; clean air, emotional, with the recreation!
- 011 Perhaps, instead of Public Access, we should focus on Equitable Access given the core values we've identified
- 012 I think the plan is good, but lack of stewardship capacity is now becoming one of the biggest barriers to conservation acquisitions
- 013 Right now a key action area is using the administration's priorities to advance our agenda
- 014 +1 on 9
- 015 I think JEDI needs to flow through everything and doesn't necessarily need to be inserted everywhere.
- 016 +1 on 7
- 017 Ditto on 002
- 018 The "Why" section is missing recognition of cultural/heritage values
- 019 safe and accessible outdoor rec
- 020 Collaboration needs to be more specific; we want to drive collaboration, right? Does this mean providing resources to local partners for boots on the ground?
- 021 Tie biodiversity to the dynamism of a changing forest. Do we stand for preservation, or do we encourage artificial disturbances to enhance habitat and biodiversity?
- 022 +1 002

- 023 +1 on 10
- 024 How? By engaging with the broadest possible stakeholder community.
- 025 +1 on 11
- 026 The myth of the through hiker needs to include that every day hiker is a potential through hiker
- 027 Work with communities, townships, counties, etc. to develop policies/ordinances that recognize the value of the A.T. and potentially offer some level of protection.
- 028 +1 on 026
- 029 + 1 020
- 030 +1 on state and local policy. Assistance on models that work in states and county governments.
- 031 +1 on 21 focus on health and ecosystem function
- 032 Build stewardship capacity by engaging and training diverse stakeholders.
- 033 'How: Mapping' should include demographics and social values as well as ecological values.
- 034 +1 011
- 035 I think the Natural Beauty "why" is a bit to temporally framed... we need to define the long term "why" of protecting natural beauty on the A.T. It's not the threats today that drive our work, but the long term goal
- 036 +1 on 026, virtually all thru-hikers were day hikers first
- 037 on How: use the A.T. Communities to help with JEDI and local protection efforts
- 038 To this: ● Federal Policy: Partners work together to advance policies that support landscape conservation and do not endanger the A.T. landscape.

Alignment: EO14008 states, "30x30 goal will be achieved by supporting local, state, private, and tribally led nature conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America."
- 039 Community vibrancy for A.T. communities is a precursor to achieving some of the landscape conservation goals

2021-23 ATLP Strategic Plan — Goals

How would you improve Section IV (Goals, Outcomes, Tactics, Metrics) of the draft strategic plan?

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Provide local communities and organizations with Leadership roles within this group.
- 002 Goal #1 reads too much as a bucks and acre goal
- 003 Goal 4: invite more organizations to become stakeholders
- 004 Goal 3; change "Accessible" to "equitable"
- 005 Strategic Land Protection should also be stakeholder-informed. Need to incorporate stakeholder priorities and values. Including those around history and heritage.
- 006 Nest goal #1 with 30x30
- 007 Is there a strategic land protection working group? How does the collaboration happen where the maps are drawn, which then drives where funds and effort will go?
- 008 +1 for 004
- 009 Define high priority lands in a way that incorporates health and social values, not only a narrow dataset based on biodiversity.
- 010 Community and stakeholder engagement needs to be more of a two-way street. ATC and partners need to ask what communities need the trail (economic opportunity, improved access, hunting or motorized recreation), not just what the trail needs communities.
- 011 Goal 1 - can conservation be broader to include restoration, mitigation, working landscapes the reinforce biodiversity, climate resiliency goals?
- 012 Goals have to go beyond protection in terms of land acquisition, but needs to include long-term management and preservation.
- 013 +1 on 005
- 014 +1 for 5
- 015 Do we need to have a goal that says we know when the A.T. landscape is fully protected? How do we know when the A.T. landscape is fully protected? Do we need a measurement beyond 100,000 acres in 3 years?
- 016 Making it clear that the AT was always intended to provide nature based recreation and inspiration for the same urban population that we see as not being included.
- 017 I think we need to distinguish between accessibility to the landscape and the accessibility of our work. Engagement happens when the work we do is understandable and compels people to action. In other words: when we translate the science to support. Maybe we say the A.T. Landscape and the work of the ATLP is broadly relevant and accessible?
- 018 Partners will protect an additional 100,000 acres of priority lands over the next three years.

- At a range of \$1000 to \$10,000 an acre in the A.T. landscape, is there a parallel and targeted fund raising strategy?
- 019 Potentially link acreage goal with an equitable access goal
 - 020 Continue to build engagement of caucus members to make members of Congress feel accountability and connection to the work we're accomplishing
 - 021 What is the longer goal after 100,000 acres?
 - 022 I think goal 3 needs to be expanded to recognize that the potential benefits we might identify could differ those that those who have been disproportionately impacted by environmental racism. We have to first reach out and ask them what would benefit them. We can't assume we already know.
 - 023 Do we need an overall AT Landscape prioritization map (bullet point 1 under Goal 1)?
 - 024 Goal 3: not just the local tribes, but other specialty groups, like veterans, women's groups,
 - 025 convene multiple orgs and agencies to manage and steward lands at landscape level.
 - 026 Partner with state forestry agencies for hardwood management
 - 027 +1 to 21 - stewardship
 - 028 Might be important to frame AT as part of community. Want AT landscape to be accessible and equitable, but sounds separate and apart the AT communities
 - 029 Goal 1 - linkages to and between contiguous lands is paramount too.
 - 030 get more kids, school groups, and institutions out on the trail.
 - 031 +1 on fundraising
+1 on overall prioritization map
 - 032 +1 on 29
 - 033 defining the limits of land acquisition within a vision for the future and not an unending desire for more land
 - 034 Who decides on priorities?? Different values will yield different priorities, but mostly they are no-regrets.
 - 035 +1 on fundraising and prioritization map.
 - 036 What is the tactic for promoting the AT as a global resource? Who to involve/target?
 - 037 +1 on 22
 - 038 +1 on 036 - need to assign
 - 039 Like watersheds, trails connect our communities and therefore our culture, economies, and diversity. AT landscape protection provides those connections in addition to the stated natural resource benefits. Worth considering enhancing/protecting (Human) community connections (or something similar) as a goal?
 - 040 +1 on what Katie said

05 Advice for the Partnership

Given our conversations today, what advice can you pass along to the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership?

PARTICIPANT INPUT

- 001 Bring more diversity into this partnership
- 002 It is good that ATC and NPS are emphasizing JEDI issues!
- 003 Looking forward to seeing the strategic plan finalized and the workplan coming out of it
- 004 We should all work to attend the meetings that our prospective partners hold, even (or particularly) if their purpose is not directly linked to conservation.
- 005 We need to consider to refine roles and responsibilities. As a partnership we also need to find ways to share work around priorities.

Specific to the Strategic Plan we need to do further work to develop KPI's around each goal/strategy and also assign "ownership."
- 006 Stay with it! Endless focus, endlessly applied
- 007 THINK BIG like the landscape
- 008 Achieving these goals is like hiking the AT. We reach each peak one step after the other.
- 009 As Jay said, if we are to be true to the values we are expressing, then we have to bring new voices to the table now. But we need to recognize that we can't merely invite them to help us achieve the goals we have already identified. We need to be genuine in offering all participants a voice in articulating new goals.

Saved Chat Text:

(Only relevant chats saved; time coding in local U.S. Eastern time)

09:00:07 Lauren Imgrund : Good morning!

09:00:43 afaught : Good morning everybody

09:02:25 cindydunn : great to see new and old friends!

09:18:11 Simon Rucker : We should have a separate session where we try and guess the people

09:18:29 Jeff Hunter : Yankee fans are here too

10:15:12 cindydunn : The USFS entity I mentioned in the state breakout...Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. USFS Northern Research Station

10:15:50 Bill Labich (he/him) Highstead : What are the concerns people are hearing about 30 by 30?

10:16:15 Jay Leutze : "Federal land grab" concerns are being voiced

10:16:40 Jennifer Melville (she/her) OSI : Big opposition in the west - including private landowners.

10:18:28 ATC Sandi Marra : This is why conversations at state level around water, recreation, local values of nature and views can still get us there without the words 30 by 30 or climate change

10:18:33 Jay Leutze : Some groups are raising the specter of eminent domain to gin up opposition

10:19:01 Jay Leutze : Well said, Sandi. I agree

10:19:08 Diana Christopulos : Virginia has exceptionally good incentives for private property owners to do conservation easements. cuts across all political boundaries. significant for 1/4 of AT.

10:20:27 Simon Rucker : Diana's is a good point and in areas like the mid-Atlantic where many of the priority lands are likely not conservable via fee (due to price, current land use, etc.) it would be good to think outside the box - paying landowners for carbon management etc.

10:24:33 Wendy Janssen-National Park Service-APPA : EO14008 states, "30x30 goal will be achieved by supporting local, state, private, and tribally led nature conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America."

10:25:22 Wendy Janssen-National Park Service-APPA : Opportunities with LWCF Stateside and Local Assistance Program.

10:25:49 Jeanne/Audubon : Getting the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape (PA) designated as a "Climate Refuge" is a Strategic Plan goal.

- 11:05:20 Jennifer Melville (she/her) OSI : Don't underestimate the history of and present racism in the north. As a lifelong New Englander we need to take responsibility. I live in Freeport Maine and people fly confederate flags here too. I don't want my southern colleagues to feel that this is not our work to do too.
- 11:06:37 Dennis Shaffer (he/him) : Totally agree Jennifer!!!
- 11:06:44 Shalin Desai (he/him) : Amen, Jennifer.
- 11:07:42 Jay Leutze : This last election really ramped up the number of confederate and other unwelcoming flags flying throughout much of the country, and it persists in my part of Appalachia.
- 11:08:46 Jay Leutze : In approaching one of the most popular entry points to the Trail in our landscape: Yellow Mountain Gap, you pass dozens of unwelcoming flags.....
- 11:09:55 Diana Christopulos : I see them every time I go the back way to McAfee Knob.
- 11:10:46 Phil Selleck (NPT) : Many in Pennsylvania too...
- 11:11:10 Katie Hess : We don't say "biodiversity." We say "wildlife and habitat."
- 11:11:17 Jeanne/Audubon : In PA a local supervisor once told me that they don't want the "city" people up there.
- 11:13:04 Diana Christopulos : It might help to write a story to tell elementary school children, which would require use of clear, simple English. We need that to reach the broadest audiences.
- 11:17:00 Don Owen : Thank you Shalin!
- 11:17:02 Lauren Cosgrove (she/her) : If we are going to be asking communities what they want and how they'd like to engage with the AT, we need to be prepared to compensate them for their time
- 11:17:10 Katie Hess : I agree with Shalin that process is #1. There are also metrics that could help us to capture some indicators about the growth and diversification of this network.
- 11:17:20 Wendy Janssen-National Park Service-APPA : Absolutely, Shalin!
- 11:17:48 Katie Hess : Lauren's comment is also important. Thank you, Lauren!
- 11:18:47 Wendy Janssen-National Park Service-APPA : Thank you, Strategic Plan team!
- 11:28:10 Jeff Hunter : I need to drop off. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in these important conversations.
- 11:28:53 Jennifer Melville (she/her) OSI : Nice to see you all. Sorry to have to sign off early.
- 11:43:22 Diana Christopulos : great job with large group
- 11:45:44 Elizabeth Ward : Well said, Jay.
- 11:45:51 Daniel Odess : Well said Jay.
- 11:45:59 Dennis Shaffer (he/him) : agree Jay!!!
- 11:46:05 Katie Hess : Agreed, Jay.

- 11:46:20 Wendy Janssen-National Park Service-APPA : Thank you, Jay!
- 11:46:20 Bill Labich (he/him) Highstead : How does all of our respect for inclusion and belonging and understanding it future mean for the WildEast campaign? Do we need a different messaging campaign?
- 11:48:16 David Lillard, Catoctin Land Trust : +1 Katie
- 11:50:58 Katie Hess : To Bill's comment - Wild East is fantastic and provided a lot of opportunities for threading it all together. Wondering, like Bill, where are we with that?
- 11:52:44 Bill Labich (he/him) Highstead : Yeah, maybe I just mean how can WildEast be made more relevant to people who live in the marginalized communities we hope to engage.
- 11:53:02 Simon Rucker : Well said Sandi!
- 11:53:15 Simon Rucker : Let's do stuff