

To: Candace Gallagher, American Trails, and Others

**Hugh A. Duffy, Key Sustainable Mountain Trails Documents**

- 2014 American Trails Webinars (leader and presenter) Sustainable Mountain Trails  
1. “Foundations: It Can Be Done, You Can Do It!”  
2. “Fundamentals: One Trail at a Time / One Mile at a Time!”  
3. “Towards a Mountain Trail Sustainability Ethic ...”
- 2007 Guide to Sustainable Mountain Trails, An Assessment, Planning & Design Sketchbook (a.k.a.: “Sketchbook”) (for the National Park Service, highly graphic, 164 pages).
- 2006 Sustainable Mountain Trails, A Sketchbook, Tools and Techniques for Successful Trails Advocacy (for the Colorado Outdoor Training Initiative (COTI) which is now the Outdoor Stewardship Institute (OSI), highly graphic, 132 pages)
- 1992 National Park Service Reference Manual 77, Backcountry Management Guideline (Contributor on Backcountry Trails Sustainability), also, see quote below.
- 1992 Mountain Trails Management: An Outline with many appendices (235 pages)
- 1991 Developing Sustainable Mountain Trail Corridors: An Overview (4-page newsletter)

**Foundational Definition of Mountain Trail Sustainability**

*Sustainability of backcountry trail corridors is defined as the ability of the travel surface to support current and anticipated appropriate uses with minimal impact to the adjoining natural systems and cultural resources. Sustainable trails have negligible soil loss or movement and allow the naturally occurring plant systems to inhabit the area, while allowing for the occasional pruning and removal of plants necessary to build and maintain the trail. If well-designed, built, and maintained, a sustainable trail minimizes braiding, seasonal muddiness and erosion. It should not normally affect natural fauna adversely nor require re-routing and major maintenance over long periods of time.*

*– NPS Reference Manual 77, Backcountry Management Guideline, 1992, also similarly defined in 1991.*

Please contact me directly for a complete Sustainable Trails Résumé or for technical assistance. Maybe I can help your agency or non-profit organization strengthen your approach to Sustainable Mountain Trails through research, communication / creative document production (BMPs or Guidelines), Case Study documentation, a “walk & talk” training, a webinar, building capacity, or an on-site project visit. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

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