



Foundation Document

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, NY, NJ, PA, MD, WV, VA, TN, NC, GA

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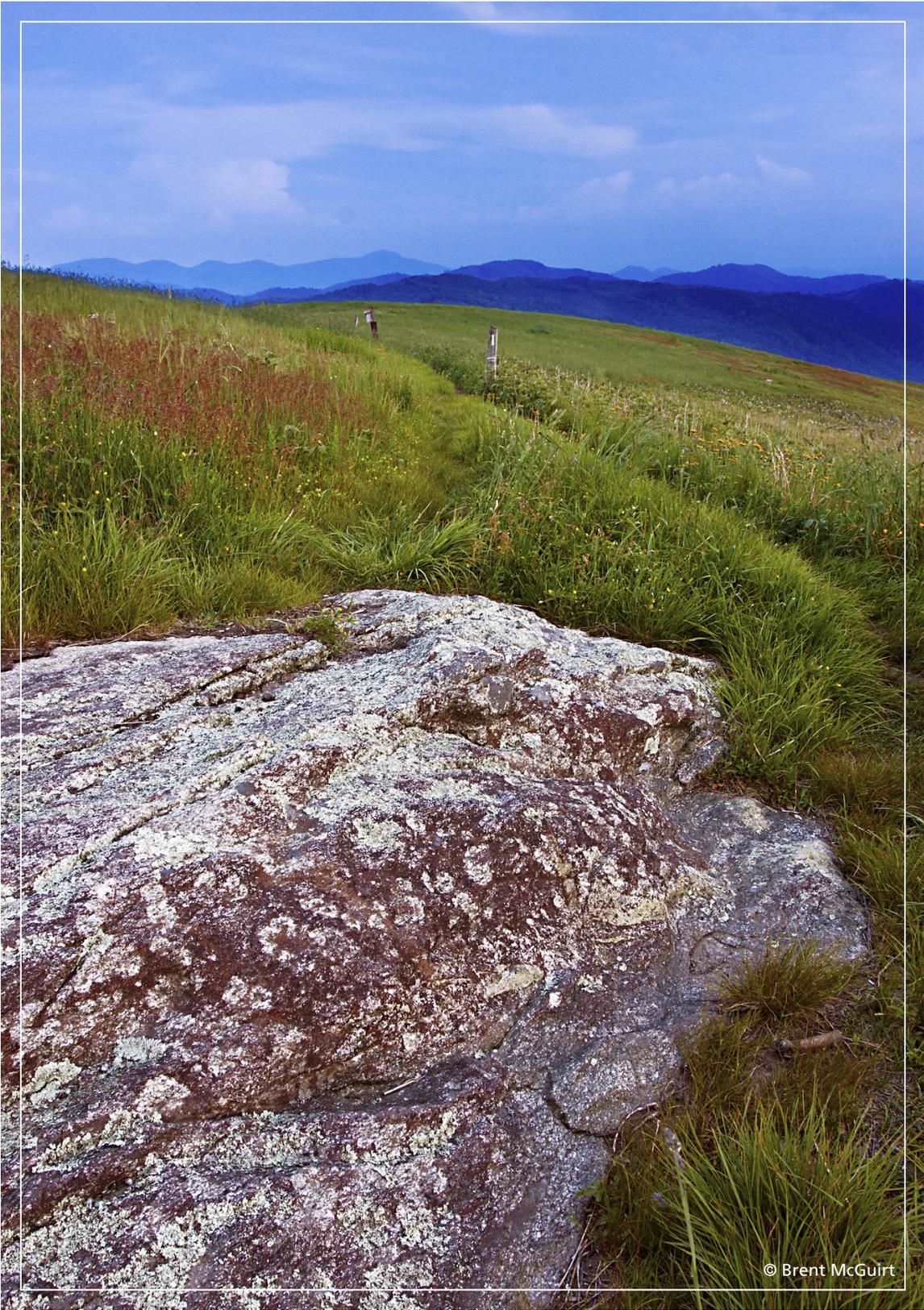


Appalachian National Scenic Trail



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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises 401 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, wild and scenic rivers, scenic trails, historic trails, recreation trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



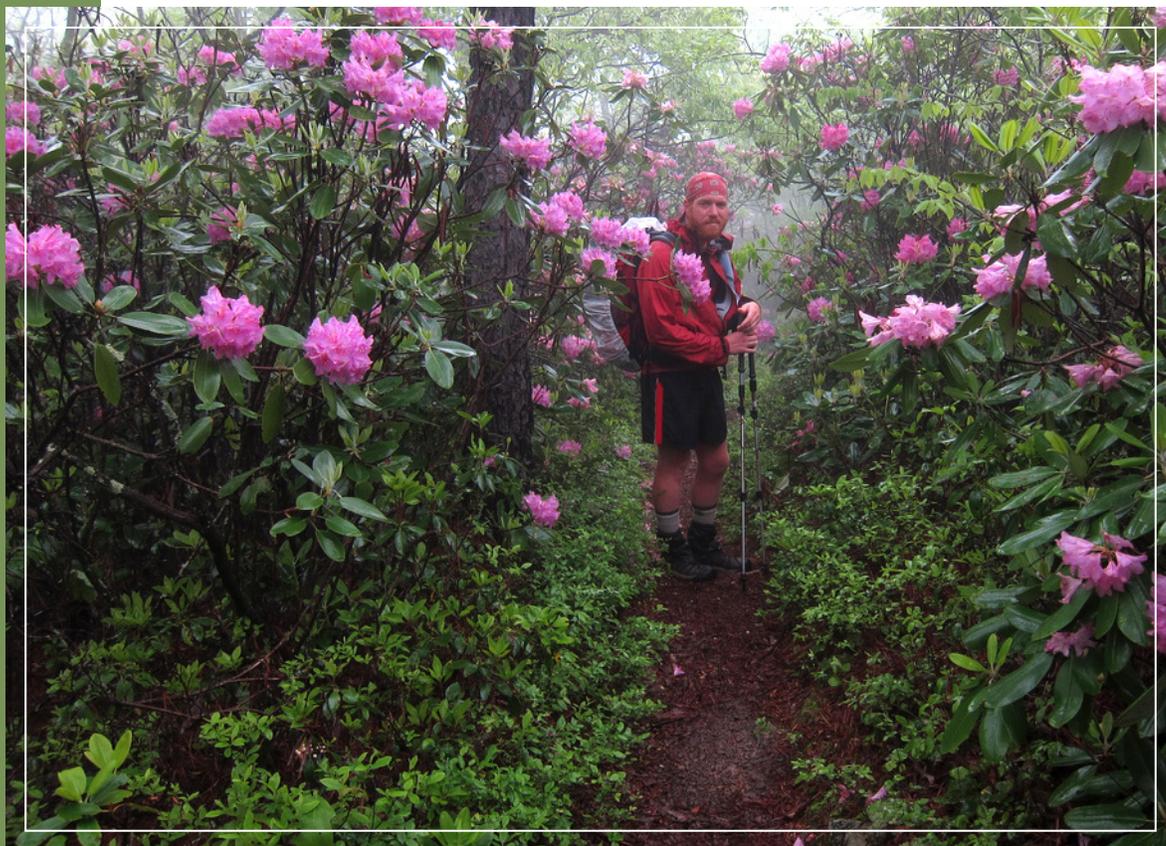
The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine the most important attributes of the park. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Appalachian National Scenic Trail can be accessed online at: <http://imgis.nps.gov/DSC/Viewer>.



Part 1: Core Components

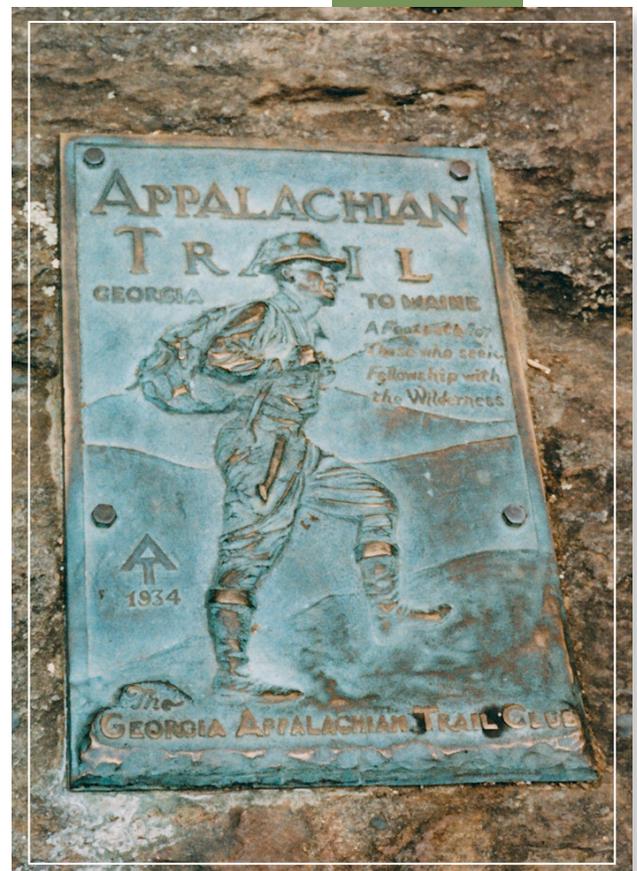
The core components of this foundation document include a brief description of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the nature and purposes of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail—commonly referred to as the A.T. and referenced throughout this document as simply the Trail—is a public footpath that traverses more than 2,100 miles of the Appalachian Mountains and valleys between Katahdin, Maine (northern terminus), and Springer Mountain, Georgia (southern terminus). The Trail winds through scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild, and culturally resonant lands along this ancient mountain range. More than 99% of the Trail's corridor is protected by publicly owned lands.

The Trail has a celebrated grassroots origin. The A.T. idea gained momentum in 1921 with the proposals of Benton MacKaye, a regional planner from Massachusetts. He envisioned a trail as a means to preserve the Appalachian crests and to provide a retreat from increasingly industrialized modern life. The Trail was designed, constructed, and maintained in the 1920s and 1930s by volunteer hiking clubs, brought together by a volunteer-based nonprofit—the Appalachian Trail Conference, now known as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Formed in 1925 and based in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy continues to work in partnership with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), states, local communities, and a federation of 31 volunteer-led hiking clubs. This partnership, along with the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, combined forces to open a continuous trail by August 1937.

The national significance of the Trail was formally recognized in 1968, when the National Trails System Act established the Appalachian National Scenic Trail as one of the first national scenic trails in the United States. Specifically, this legislation directed the National Park Service, in consultation with the U.S. Forest Service, to administer the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The National Trails System Act was amended in 1978 to also authorize funds for the two agencies and the states to protect the entire route with public lands. Today, federal and state agencies remain important in the stewardship of the Trail, and volunteers maintain their long-standing and central role as the heart and soul of the Trail.



Nature and Purposes

The nature and purposes statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular national scenic trail and its predominant characteristics. The nature and purposes statement for the Trail was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The Trail was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on October 2, 1968 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The nature and purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the Trail.

The APPALACHIAN TRAIL is a way, continuous from Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia, for travel on foot through the wild, scenic, wooded, pastoral, and culturally significant landscapes of the Appalachian Mountains. It is a means of sojourning among these lands, such that the visitors may experience them by their own unaided efforts. The Trail is preserved for the conservation, public use, enjoyment, and appreciation of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural quality of the areas through which the trail passes. Purposeful in direction and concept, favoring the heights of land, and located for minimum reliance on construction for protecting the resource, the body of the Trail is provided by the lands it traverses, and its soul is the living stewardship of the volunteers and workers of the Appalachian Trail community.

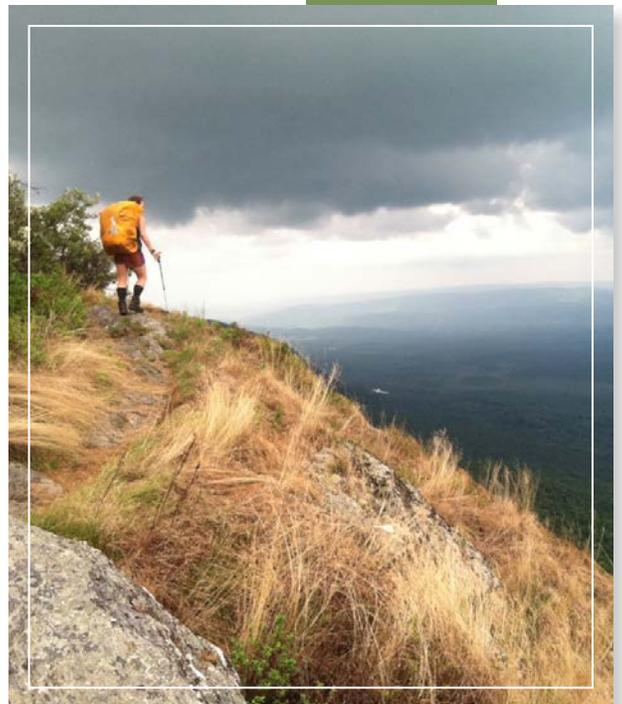


Trail Significance

Significance statements express why a trail's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the nature and purposes of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the Trail and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in Trail planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Appalachian National Scenic Trail. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- Conceived, designed, and constructed by volunteers, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is unprecedented in scale and collaboration; subsequently designated one of the first national scenic trails, it is the longest continuously marked, maintained, and publicly protected trail in the United States.
- The Trail is one of the greatest testaments to volunteerism in the nation. Volunteers are the soul of the Trail and, since 1921, have contributed millions of hours to the creation, conservation, promotion, and management of America's premier long-distance footpath.
- The Trail is an internationally recognized example of a public-private partnership. Hundreds of agencies and organizations, diverse in size and membership, collaborate in the Trail's management. Their initiative and dedication are fundamental to the preservation, traditions, and integrity of the Trail.
- Traversing 14 states through wildlands and communities, the more than 2,100-mile world-renowned hiking trail and its extensive protected landscape protects the most readily accessible, long-distance footpath in the United States. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail offers healthy outdoor opportunities for self-reliant foot travel through wild, scenic, natural, and culturally and historically significant lands. It provides a range of experiences for people of all ages and abilities to seek enjoyment, inspiration, learning, challenge, adventure, volunteer stewardship, and self-fulfillment, either in solitude or with others.
- The Trail's varied topography, ecosystem diversity, and numerous view points offer a visual showcase including wild, natural, wooded, pastoral, and historic environments. The Trail offers opportunities for scenic enjoyment, ranging from the subtle beauty of a trillium to tranquil ponds and streams to the grand view of mighty Katahdin.
- The north-south corridor of the Trail, traversing the highest and lowest elevations and myriad microclimates of the ancient Appalachian Mountains, helps protect one of the richest assemblages of temperate zone species in the world and anchors the headwaters of critical watersheds that sustain more than 10% of the population of the United States.
- The Trail corridor is one of the nation's most significant cultural landscapes, revealing the history of human use and settlement along the Appalachian Mountain range and the resulting distinct regional traditions. Visitors to the Trail have the unique opportunity to interact with the communities and resources representing these diverse eras in U.S. history and prehistory.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the nature and purposes of the Trail and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a trail’s legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the Trail. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the nature and purposes of the Trail and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the Trail nature and purposes and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Appalachian National Scenic Trail:

- **The Trail Itself.** The Trail treadway and many of its supporting structures are significant cultural resources that have continuously evolved in response to broad national trends in recreation, conservation, society, and political history.
- **The Empowered Volunteer.** For a century, volunteers under the leadership and guidance of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy have led nearly every aspect of the Trail’s development, management, maintenance, and protection. In 2013, approximately 6,000 volunteers contributed nearly 250,000 volunteer hours, valued at more than \$5 million. The Trail community is a clearinghouse for conservation skills development and is regarded as one of the most capable and professional conservation volunteer forces in the United States.
- **Enduring Collaborative Spirit.** The Trail’s cooperative management system is recognized as the model for national trails and unrivaled in its scale. Local partnerships are the basic building blocks of this intricate system spanning 14 states, 8 national forests, 6 national park units, 2 national wildlife refuges, 24 wilderness areas, 8 national natural landmarks, 3 national historic landmarks, approximately 60 state protected areas, 88 counties, 164 townships and municipalities, and many other areas. The collaborative spirit among these diverse organizations allows for the protection and perpetuation of a national and international treasure.





- **Experience.** Within reach of millions, the Trail attracts visitors each year for hikes as short as an afternoon's walk and as long as an extended thru-hike from Georgia to Maine. The Trail offers visitors the opportunity to connect with nature and others, relax, and reflect. The Trail also allows people to challenge themselves, physically and mentally, through self-reliant backcountry recreation and long-distance hiking that are among the best in the world.
- **Education.** The Trail and its protected landscape provide opportunities for learning for a broad spectrum of visitors and audiences. Through partnerships with schools, teachers, and educational organizations, the Trail offers access to a variety of educational experiences that enable people to learn about, appreciate, understand, and study the Trail's natural and cultural heritage and help foster the next generation of stewards.
- **Scenery Along the Treadway.** The Trail offers opportunities to view stunning scenery in proximity to the most populated areas of the United States. Within the boundaries of the protected trail corridor, visitors may see native wildlife and flowers, rustic cultural features, seasonal variations, and dynamic weather patterns in environments such as southern balds, pastoral lands, diverse forests, wetlands, rugged outcrops, and mountainous alpine areas.
- **Views Beyond the Corridor.** Traversing the height of land, Trail visitors are afforded sweeping views of vast landscapes extending beyond the Trail corridor and are exposed to the splendid range of landforms and history along the Appalachian Mountains. Enjoyment of far-reaching views and deep starry nights are dependent on clean air and clear skies.
- **Natural Resource Quality and Ecological Connectivity.** The Trail corridor passes through eight separate ecoregions, linking extensive forest landscapes and an extraordinary variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats over a distance of more than 2,100 miles. The Trail unifies understanding, management, and protection of representative natural resources at a scale that no other single entity can provide, while offering visitors the chance to see, hear, and feel nature all around them.
- **A Journey through American Heritage.** The lands along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail are rich in history and include the stories of people—American Indians, pioneers, settlers, farmers, as well as early trailblazers and trail advocates such as Grandma Gatewood—and places, wars, industry, and agriculture. The Trail provides a direct physical link between nationally significant areas such as Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and Green Mountain National Forest.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park unit—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about the park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, Trail nature and purposes, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for Trail staff and partners to facilitate opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all Trail significance statements and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by Trail resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the Trail and its resources. These themes help explain why a Trail story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the Trail.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Appalachian National Scenic Trail:

- **The Trail Itself.** The white-blazed Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which as a whole is greater than the sum of its parts, reflects the vision of its creators, ongoing dedication of its passionate volunteer force, and epitomizes American spirit, ingenuity, and idealism. It now stands as the longest continuously marked and protected trail in the world.
- **Volunteers.** Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. They pioneered and continue a grassroots tradition of service for the Trail and engage in every aspect of its stewardship. Individuals from all walks of life take great pride in their specific trail duties, yet collectively work together toward a shared vision.



- **Partnerships.** The Appalachian National Scenic Trail’s model management system is the embodiment of the cooperative spirit. The cooperative management system allows for diverse perspectives and skills from numerous partners to achieve common goals in service to the Trail and visitors.
- **Visitor Experience.** The Appalachian National Scenic Trail offers the opportunity to experience simplicity, self-reliance, adventure, discovery, and connection with nature as a means of slowing down in a fast-paced society. Through the intimate setting of a fern-filled woodland or the sweeping expanse of an alpine ridge, a personal experience on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail has the power to transform and uplift the human spirit, whether traveling solo or as part of a group of fellow hikers.
- **Natural Resources.** The Appalachian National Scenic Trail threads a diverse array of habitats, such as subalpine forests, open balds, rocky outcrops, meadows, and wetlands, providing a haven for abundant flora and fauna, including rare, threatened, and endangered species. The Trail’s uninterrupted north-south aspect, long length, and varied habitats provide a living laboratory that serves as an important barometer of climate change and ecological health as well as an avenue for adaptation.
- **American Heritage.** Traversing a mosaic of landscapes inhabited by peoples over thousands of years, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is home to countless irreplaceable cultural and historic resources. The combination of the Trail, its travelers, and the resources through which it meanders offers an exceptional opportunity to understand American heritage and values through time.
- **Community.** The Appalachian National Scenic Trail inspires rich connections between people and local communities through the common currency of shared experiences and passions about outdoor recreation, open space, and preservation of Trail values for future generations.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for an NPS unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a trail that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the trail, or through a judicial process. They may expand on trail nature and purposes or introduce elements unrelated to the nature and purposes of the trail. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the trail and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

For more information about the existing special mandates and administrative commitments for Appalachian National Scenic Trail, please see appendix B.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the Trail's resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the Trail's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
2. analysis of fundamental resources and values
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for an NPS unit. Key issues often raise questions regarding Trail nature and purposes and significance and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a trail to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions not directly related to nature and purposes and significance, but which still indirectly affect them. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by trail managers.

The following are key issues for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

Broadening and diversifying the Trail support network. The volunteer force is the lifeblood of the Trail. But many of the Trail's stalwart supporters and long-time volunteers are aging. In addition, some Trail clubs face challenges such as capacity building and leadership succession and have requested assistance with organizational development. Major demographic changes in the country also necessitate broadening and diversifying the network of Trail supporters.

- Related planning and data needs: Visitor use surveys; community outreach plan / volunteer engagement strategy

Responding to the challenges and seizing the opportunities created by increased visitation. Some Trail segments near populated areas have experienced substantial increases in visitation in recent years, leading to greater impacts on Trail resources. Overnight use of Trail shelters and campsites is generally increasing, as are the number and size of large groups using the Trail. There is also an increase in the number of applications for special use permits and in the number of proposals for snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) crossings.

- Related planning and data needs: Visitor use management plan, identify management zones, baseline data on visitor use levels and patterns

Reacting proactively to external threats associated with development, power infrastructure, and industrial operations. The Trail is within a day's drive of two-thirds of the population of the United States. The eastern seaboard continues to grow, as does development and the desire for power and connectivity, resulting in more infrastructure—wind turbines, powerlines, pipelines, and wider roads. These trends create major impacts on Trail viewsheds, soundscapes, ecological systems, and cultural resources. The geographic position and length and width of the Trail make it especially vulnerable to fragmentation and degradation from development. For example, in many areas, the Trail's protected corridor is less than 1,000 feet.

- Related planning and data needs: Scenic and landscape-level protection and response strategy





Providing consistency and promoting excellence in Trail maintenance. The Trail traverses more than 2,100 miles of diverse landscapes, with hundreds of organizations and agencies involved in its management. This creates inherent challenges for Trail managers. Local initiative and creativity must be fostered, but some level of consistency is necessary for an iconic national scenic trail. Clear and consistent standards are needed for signage, trailhead facilities, treadway maintenance, and structures such as shelters, camping areas, and trail bridges. These trailwide standards are necessary to protect resources and to continue providing for high-quality visitor experiences. Any future standards should be simple, practical, adaptable to on-the-ground conditions, and reflect local practices.

- Related planning and data needs: Sustainable trail design and campsite standards (including an optimal location review to determine the ideal location for the Trail in a particular area.); wayfinding plan

Promoting sustainability. Many sections of the Trail treadway and associated facilities require frequent maintenance and periodic reconstruction such as shelters, campsites, bridges, latrines, waterbars, checkdams, stone steps and retaining walls, boardwalks, ladders, and puncheons. This infrastructure is constantly worn down by continual use and natural elements. In addition, increasing visitor use results in accelerated wear and tear on the treadway and associated facilities. In order for the Trail and its facilities to provide for high-quality visitor experiences into perpetuity, sustainable design is important.

- Related planning and data needs: Sustainable trail design and campsite standards

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, and planning and data needs related to management of the identified resource or value. In the tables that follow, the identified opportunities and potential planning and data collection efforts would be carried out collaboratively with Trail partners and stakeholders. Furthermore, the identified planning and data needs are limited to efforts where the National Park Service may need to become directly involved through project management or technical assistance. The list is not intended to capture all the planning and data needs that could be carried out by local communities, trail clubs, or other agencies.



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Fundamental Resource or Value	The Trail Itself
Related Significance Statements	All.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail rerouting projects are being conducted to improve visitor experience and trail sustainability. • The Trail receives heavy use in some segments, particularly near towns and cities. • At least 99% of the footpath is protected through acquisitions, easements, public lands, and other means. • Aging infrastructure is in need of rehabilitation, replacement, or removal (bridges, shelters, etc.). <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tread and trail facilities require frequent maintenance, especially along the oldest portions of the Trail found in the New England region and in high-use segments. • There is a need to make structures accessible for people with disabilities. • There is a growing need for group-use overnight sites in many specific locations. • Severe weather events are becoming more frequent along the Trail; these events often impact the Trail treadway and associated structures.

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Trail Itself
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism threatens resources and structures along the Trail. • Increased visitation and use places additional stress on natural and cultural resources as well as Trail facilities. • Encroachment from neighboring lands on Trail boundary and corridor lands resulting in resource damage. • Potential impacts from climate change including extensive droughts (impacting water availability for hikers) and severe storms (impacting trail conditions due to erosion/ flooding). • Illegal use of the Trail threatens resources and the treadway. • Transmission easements and rights-of-way across the Trail surface add management complexities and degrade the Trail experience. • In some areas, lack of volunteers could negatively impact trail maintenance. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire additional tracts of land for protection, or purchase underlying fee of existing easement lands. • Expand efforts to engage and educate visitors in high-use areas. • Use sustainable trail design to improve Trail conditions for visitor experience and safety as well as resource protection.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail assessment capital plans. • USFS Infrastructure Database (INFRA) provides inventory and condition assessments of trail infrastructure. • Specific NPS facility and condition assessment data in the Facility Management Software System (FMSS).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Maintained landscape inventory. • Trail assessment studies to evaluate trail conditions to document maintenance deficiencies and include a database management component. • Boundary monitoring and maintenance tracking system. • Climate change vulnerability assessment for the Trail and structures along the Trail.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update comprehensive management plan. • Sustainable trail design study and guide. • Administrative history of the Trail. • Cultural landscape reports. • Complete National Register of Historic Places nomination for “The Trail Itself.” • Archeological overview and assessment. • Climate change scenario planning. • Maintained landscape management plan. • Sustainable trail and campsite planning. • Visitor use management plan. • Identify management zones. • Wayfinding plan.



Fundamental Resource or Value	The Empowered Volunteer
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 2.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 31 maintaining clubs for the Trail. • Some volunteer clubs are not near the actual Trail, which creates problems for organizing projects and building relationships with communities. This also creates logistical problems and a greater environmental impact when organizing “shovel work.” • In recent years, the number of volunteers has been approximately 6,000 annually. • Leadership attrition has been an issue. • A significant amount of volunteer hours are unknown or unreported. This has been an issue for many years. • During the last few years, new initiatives have been launched to increase diversity among Trail volunteers; specifically, these efforts have sought to bring in younger volunteers and more female volunteers. • Many volunteers are not connected to the larger A.T. community and may not understand their role in the cooperative management system. • Many of the strongest clubs (largest and most active) are near large population centers. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the last five years, there has been a 2% average increase in reported hours and total volunteers. • Overall, the volunteer force is aging. • Many of the trail clubs are carried by a small core of stalwart members. This is great for institutional knowledge and efficiency, but creates problems for succession planning. For example if a club president retires, all their institutional knowledge and relationships leave with them. • More people are looking for short-term or one-time volunteer opportunities. • Popularity of people seeking group volunteer opportunities (i.e., families and college “alternative spring break”) has increased.

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Empowered Volunteer
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High travel cost for participating in volunteer projects. This issue is compounded by growing environmental awareness about the impacts of personal automobile use. • Loss of institutional knowledge and long-time leaders in trail clubs. • Loss of trail maintenance knowledge. These skills are not widely held in our society. • Lyme and other tick-borne diseases are health and safety concerns for volunteers. • Training funds have been diminishing for important trainings such as saw safety. • Increasing regulation from agencies is a turnoff to volunteers, often discouraging willing volunteers. Volunteers just want to get their hands dirty without bureaucratic red tape. • Inability to enhance opportunities for underserved audiences without expanding paid internships and other employment opportunities such as youth conservation corps. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections could be improved with local land trusts, youth organizations, and educational institutions. • Proactively engage the thru-hiker community and passionate hikers to increase youth representation in the volunteer corps and to fill leadership positions and crew leader positions. This could be accomplished through creating more paid internships for youth. • Engage more educators and youth volunteers from the “Trail to Every Classroom” program. • Effectively use social media to reach and recruit a larger group of supporters. • Increase efficiency in turning people in Trail communities into Trail volunteers, supporters, and advocates. • Update memorandums of understanding. • Plan actively for leadership succession in Trail clubs. • Evaluate the geographic placement of trail ridge runners and caretakers in order to determine whether their total number and placement are adequate.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Local Management Planning Guide” (LMPG). • Local management plans of individual clubs. • Volunteer Leadership Handbook (Appalachian Trail Conservancy). • Appalachian Trail Conservancy Strategic Plan (2014). • Volunteer database maintained by Appalachian Trail Conservancy and larger clubs (CIVICORE).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Trail assessment studies. • Compiling a database/list of project identification and logistics for episodic volunteers (shovel-ready projects). • Volunteer survey focused on volunteer motivations to inform strategies for recruiting new volunteers. • Capture undocumented volunteer hours—to identify the difference between reported and actual hours and identify how to close the gap.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update comprehensive management plan. • Analysis of how to efficiently update local management plans, or perhaps, how to efficiently develop amendments. • Identify management zones.



Fundamental Resource or Value	Enduring Collaborative Spirit
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 3.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most interorganizational relationships among the major players are healthy. • Federal agencies have had increased difficulty participating in planning and management activities due to sequester and budget cuts. • Some state agencies are frequently and closely involved, while others participate infrequently (once a year or once a decade). <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been decreased involvement from state agencies due to budget and travel constraints. • There has been a decrease in funding availability from federal partners. • There has been more involvement from local governments—cities and towns are increasingly at the table. • There has been an increase in requests for special use permits, mainly from recreation guides and outfitters.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Enduring Collaborative Spirit
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnover of agency and organization personnel leads to loss of institutional knowledge. • Decreased funding opportunities from federal agencies make it difficult to maintain meaningful programs. • Increasing agency requirements lead to a decrease in ability and willingness of partners to collaborate. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct more active outreach to state and local agencies, especially along the northern segments of the Trail where there is more municipal and state land. In addition, memorandums of understanding with these organizations should be updated in a timely manner—those processes can also be used to strengthen relationships. • Fold new designated “Trail communities” into the cooperative management system. For example, have them represented in regional partnership meetings. • Increase the number of venues for engagement with Trail communities and to provide training. • Design volunteer projects that are mutually beneficial for communities and Trail organizations. • Have a better process to engage people and communities with limited interaction with the Trail and partners, but who may have an interest in becoming involved. • Share best practices for succession planning to offset the loss of institutional knowledge. • Leverage lessons learned and best management practices (through workshops and conferences already in place) from others in the national trail system. • Establish a better relationship with the Partnership for the National Trails System. • Update state memorandums of understanding and hold periodic meetings with signatories.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Local Management Planning Guide” includes a list of major organizations / agencies involved with the Trail. • Appalachian Trail comprehensive plan.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Better system for maintaining the cooperative partner list. • Economic impact study. • Study of the best practices / best methods for conducting an evaluation of ecosystem services. • The community cost of converting land from one use (open space) to another (suburban, urban, paved). • Database of existing special use activities permitted on or near the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update comprehensive management plan. • Identify management zones.

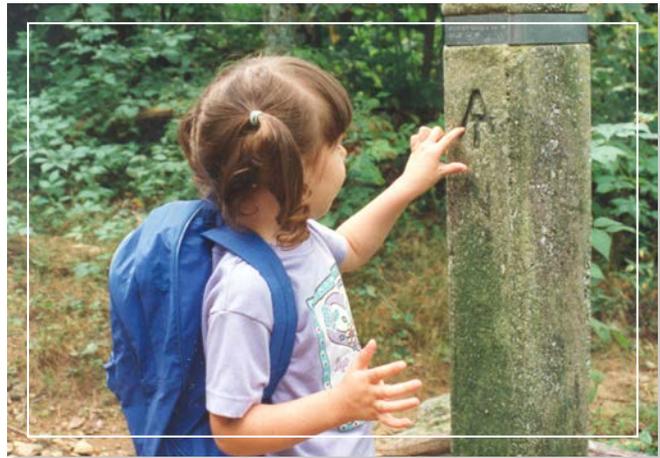


Fundamental Resource or Value	Experience
Related Significance Statements	All.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trail is more than 2,100 miles long and provides a wide array of opportunities to experience nature at a local, regional, or national level. • The Trail and related Trail facilities are maintained primarily by Trail volunteers. • The Trail connects to a variety of places to learn about history and nature. • A variety of partners help to facilitate visitor experiences. • Because the Trail traverses many different properties, the primary visitor experience is that of a primitive trail, but the Trail also passes through some areas that provide interpretation and hiker services. • There is an occasional diminished quality of the visitor experience as a result of high visitor use, particularly at scenic overlooks and overnight sites. • The narrowness of the Trail limits the number of people engaged in any one activity in the same area. • The continuous nature of the Trail requires that the Trail is maintained to a high standard. • The Trail is open year-round and mostly free. • The Trail provides opportunities to experience both solitude and/or camaraderie with fellow users. • Trail communities provide services to visitors and partner with various Trail entities while visitors provide economic benefits to those communities. • The shelters and campsites are part of the overall experience. • Shelters and campsites are open and available continuously along the Trail. • There is a diversity of visitor services and educational materials offered by a variety of partners available along the Trail. • There is information about a variety of hiking opportunities available on blogs and websites from various organizations and individuals, as well as frequent mention in print media, such as magazines and newspaper articles, though their accuracy and quality vary greatly. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing visitation on the Trail. • The Trail has seen a higher number of successful thru-hikers in recent years. • Day hikers are the most prevalent users of the Trail. • There is an increasing desire for adventure sport opportunities among some user groups. • Increasing requests for commercial activities and special park uses such as fund-raising events, long-distances races, organized group uses such as college orientations and summer camps, and filming. • Increasing demand for connectivity and electronic media (cell phones, smartphones, GPS, etc.), among some users. • Some visitors' cultural and recreational values and interests are shifting from traditional hiking and backpacking. • Demographics of Trail users and potential Trail users are shifting, as are the way people recreate and what they consider recreation. • Backcountry preparedness and self-reliance are values that are increasingly being lost. • Visitors are increasingly bringing inappropriate frontcountry habits into the backcountry. • Progressively difficult to coordinate with the wide range of partners with decreased funding. • The number of applications for special use permits has grown considerably in recent years.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Experience
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued lack of preparedness of visitors. • Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases result in health and safety threats to visitors. • Crime and illegal off-road vehicle use. • Decreased ability to respond to incidents and coordinate partners due to decreased funding and increased incidents. • Potentially dwindling volunteer force in the future, making it difficult to continue to maintain Trail and Trail facilities. • Loss of relevancy of the Trail. • Trail users do not reflect the diversity of the United States. • Relationships between partners take work and dedication to maintain. Less engagement could negatively impact the Trail. • External threats, such as boundary encroachment and transmission lines, threaten visitor experience. • Areas of concentrated, extremely high use threaten the visitor experience. • Climate change could negatively impact visitor experience; for example, the projected increased warming trend, along with an increase in extreme precipitation and temperature events, could increase invasive species and pests (e.g., ticks, chiggers), flooding/erosion impacts to the Trail and structures, and declines in water availability along the Trail. • Resource degradation from activities such as encroachment, clear-cutting, and graffiti. • Overcrowding at campsites diminishes the quality of the visitor experience. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase information, orientation, and education services to provide important information to visitors. For example, trailhead kiosks could be used to provide information to visitors on “Leave No Trace” principles. • Work with federal agencies for enhancement of the visitor experience—the Appalachian National Scenic Trail can lead by example with participation on the Federal Interagency Council on Trails and the new Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation. • Increase or develop messaging regarding sustainability and safety. For example, hikesafe.com was developed in the White Mountain National Forest to increase visitor safety and awareness. This type of informational program could be used in other areas. • Identify hotspots and areas where the Trail doesn’t have high-quality wayfinding. • Use sustainable trail and campsite construction techniques to improve the visitor experience. • Take advantage of opportunities to engage diverse audiences, particularly youth, young adults and families, active-duty military, and veterans through outdoor learning experiences. • Provide opportunities for increased availability of non-English messaging. • Leverage funding and personnel from 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to assist clubs with maintaining their sections of the Trail. • Continue to use new technologies to engage and communicate with monument partners and users. • Partner with new service organizations and communities. • Develop high-quality personal and nonpersonal interpretive services program. Interpretive staff could be placed at key locations along the Trail, such as popular trailheads, to better connect with visitors. • Interpretation/education about climate change influences along the Trail.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Experience
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appalachian National Scenic Trail Pilot Survey</i> (2011). • <i>Use and Users of the Appalachian Trail: A Source Book</i> (2000). • <i>Camping Impact Management on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail</i> (2003).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Baseline data on visitor use levels and patterns. • Establishing indicators and thresholds and ongoing monitoring protocols as part of a future visitor use management plan. • Budget and operational analysis to support bringing on the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps. • Economic impact study. • Trail-related weather statistics. • Analysis of which clubs are most successful at incorporating community outreach into their mission and what is leading to those successes, as well as how (or if) those communities are contributing to the visitor experience. • Analysis of changes to parcels of land near the trail that could have a negative impact on visitor experience (related to development). • Curation of all data and plans relevant to the Trail. • Collection of data related to rules and regulations for partners. • Land use / ownership analysis.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update comprehensive management plan. • Wayfinding plan. • Community outreach plan / volunteer engagement strategy. • Development concept plans for specific high-use areas such as McAfee's Knob, Nuclear Lake, and Bulls Bridge, to name a few. • Analysis of how to efficiently update local management plans, or perhaps, how to efficiently develop amendments. • Communication or technology plan. • Visitor use management plan. • Identify management zones.





Fundamental Resource or Value	Education
Related Significance Statements	All.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a wide variety of educational opportunities available along the Trail. • There is a lack of capacity across all partner organizations—especially those far afield—to provide educational opportunities. • The Trail to Every Classroom program is a professional development program that provides K–12 educators with the tools and training for place-based education and service-learning on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. This program offers educators resources needed to engage their students in their local community, while growing academically and professionally. The program has trained more than 300 teachers; their capacity may be under-utilized. • There is a range of commitment to education and community outreach as part of club missions. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail staff are slowly engaging other organizations and partners to help achieve educational goals. • Use of technology has increased in education. • There is a lack of diversity in NPS visitors as a whole, and the Trail sees a similar lack of diversity.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Education
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational opportunities are fragmented in part by underfunding. • There is a lack of relevancy of the Trail. • People are choosing not to use leisure time to participate in educational programs as much as in the past. • Need to diversify educational offerings in order to remain sustainable. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish interpretive standards and training programs with partners. • Develop a suite of educational offerings in addition to the Trail to Every Classroom program. • Connect with diverse audiences and make them feel welcome and engaged. • Engage with other national trails, parks, and forests to share educational and outreach resources and best practices. • Recruit more volunteers to present education programs. • Begin using the NPS “Teaching with Historic Places” program. • Interpretation/education of the influences from climate change along the Trail.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Trail to Every Classroom Participant Manual” (2012). Program Evaluations can be found at http://www.peerassociates.net/products. Curriculum can be found at http://appalachiantrail.org/what-we-do/youth-education/trail-to-every-classroom-resources
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Develop database of all formal and informal educational opportunities, institutions, schools, etc., that teach about the Trail. • Document and catalog all units and lesson plans developed by teachers related to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and make it available online. • Evaluation of impacts of Trail educational programs on student learning and youth stewardship opportunities and career development. • Demographic studies for students who participate in Appalachian National Scenic Trail educational opportunities. • Develop database of all research that pertains to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. • Document success stories from education programs. • Gap analysis of educational and learning opportunities. • Measure effectiveness of initiatives and programs related to all educational efforts.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update comprehensive management plan. • Long-range interpretive and education plan. • Financial strategy for educational programs. • Community outreach plan / volunteer engagement strategy. • Appalachian National Scenic Trail community program planning and branding. • Finalize and implement Appalachian National Scenic Trail Leave No Trace Program. • Identify management zones.



Fundamental Resource or Value	Scenery Along the Treadway
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 4, 5, 6, and 7.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the Trail is designed to incorporate scenic features within its protected corridor, as well as maximize scenic views outside the corridor. • The Trail is surrounded by a largely undeveloped land base, but does pass near and through some highly developed areas. • There is a rich, outstanding variation of natural resources along the Trail. • There are a variety of rustic trail structures (e.g., shelters, rock staircases, bridges). • Visitor-related impacts detract from scenic value (e.g., litter, graffiti, unauthorized trails branching out from the main treadway [social trails]). <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use is increasing, with subsequent impacts. • Evolving science of sustainable trail alignments may not always afford the best scenery. • Rapidly evolving threats have the potential to diminish natural environments. • There is improved documentation of scenic resources and threats.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroachment threatens the aesthetic quality of the Trail corridor. • Over-use throughout the Trail affects the viewscape and visitor experience. • Infrastructure development within the corridor (e.g., pipelines, powerlines, roads). • Increase in invasive species due to climate change (e.g., increased average annual temperature) will change forest composition and the visual landscape. For example, the invasive species kudzu is projected to increase in the Mid-Atlantic region of the Trail. • Lack of management of maintained landscapes reduces scenic opportunities and values. • Decreasing biodiversity (e.g., encroachment of nonnative plants). • Climate change alters ecosystem composition and distribution, which alters scenic resource conditions. • Decreased air quality diminishes extent of scenic vistas. • Increased development near the Trail results in nighttime light pollution impacting the night sky. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several Mid-Atlantic states would benefit from land exchanges or trades between those states and the NPS Trail Office to consolidate state and federal holdings. Right now, the “patchwork quilt” may actually detract from resource protection and public recreation in portions of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. • Ongoing removal of incidentally acquired structures and land restoration. • Provide better documentation of scenic resources. • Take advantage of, and coordinate with, Leave No Trace education efforts. • Work with adjacent communities to improve local planning and zoning to supplement protection of the Trail viewshed.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Scenery Along the Treadway
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian Trail comprehensive plan. • Natural resource management plan (2008). • Other cooperative agency scenery management plans. • Fire management plan (2013). • Baseline viewshed analysis. • Established plans and management zones to protect the scenic values (e.g., U.S. Forest Service forest management plans and park plans). • Trail assessment and capital plans. • Rare plant inventories for 14 states. • Vital Signs Report (2005). • State of the Parks Report (National Parks Conservation Association). • Local management plans. • U.S. Forest Service Scenery Management System. • “Locating and Designing A.T. Shelters and Formal Campsites” (Appalachian Trail Conservancy). • Appalachian Trail Conservancy land protection in high priority areas. • Inventory and monitoring protocols for rare plants, invasive species, and phenology.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Complete visitor use count. • Update viewshed analysis. • Baseline data on visitor use levels and patterns. • Survey unsurveyed tracts. • Develop encroachment database system. • Improved comprehensive invasive species inventory. • Climate change vulnerability assessment for select resources that comprise the surrounding landscapes along the Trail.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish indicators and thresholds and ongoing monitoring protocols as part of a future visitor use management plan. • Invasive species management plan. • Update comprehensive management plan. • Update local management plans. • Maintained landscape management plan. • Identify management zones.



Fundamental Resource or Value	Views Beyond the Corridor
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 3, 4, and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable regional variation of landscapes and viewsheds along the length of the Trail. • There are both undeveloped and developed views overlaid with a variety of land uses. • There are variable air quality conditions along the length of the Trail. • Variable levels of light pollution along the length of the Trail. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative scenic degradation results in significant impacts. • Growing external threats (please see “Threats” below). • Increasing interest in renewable energy development.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External developments (e.g., telecommunication infrastructure, energy development and distribution, industrial developments, housing developments, etc.) and energy transmission lines can negatively impact viewsheds and visitor experience. • Air quality degradation impacts viewsheds along the Trail (e.g., hazy visibility). • Climate change could impact natural resources (e.g., changes in forest composition) and infrastructure (e.g., flooding/storm damage) within the surrounding landscapes. • Landscape fragmentation (e.g., parcelization) changes the visual landscape. • Invasive species are changing the natural composition of ecosystems. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local municipalities and communities on residential and commercial development plans. • Continue ongoing cooperative partnerships to address incompatible external developments and large landscape protection. • Advocate for appropriate siting of renewable energy infrastructure. • Demonstrate air quality impacts through visual depictions and other interpretive mechanisms to educate public. • Educate public about changing land uses and climate and the associated influences on the scenery. • Complete National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Trail to help protect viewsheds.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete viewshed analysis. • USFS Scenery Management System. • Vital signs report (2005). • State of the Parks Report (National Parks Conservation Association). • Land Protection Plan (National Park Service).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of cumulative scenic impacts. • Ongoing scenic threats analysis. • Increased focus on large landscape analysis. • Improved photo documentation of visual resources and current conditions (baseline). • Improved visual simulation capabilities. • Further GIS analysis of land use trends.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Update comprehensive management plan. • Scenic and landscape-level proactive protection and response strategy. (This planning effort could include participation in “A Call to Action” initiatives “Enjoy the View” and “Scaling Up.”) • Identify management zones.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Natural Resource Quality and Ecological Connectivity
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 6.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In places, Trail alignment and construction are not sustainable and are adversely affecting resources and fragmenting habitats. • During peak hiking season, some overnight sites are not large enough to accommodate the number of users. In some cases, this issue has led to the establishment of undesignated campsites, social trails, and loss of ground cover. • Invasive nonnative species are a problem at numerous locations along the Trail. • Rare plant and exemplary natural communities are at risk from a variety of threats including air pollution, invasive species, and visitor use. • There are fourteen national natural landmarks located within five miles of the Trail. • Encroachment on the land base has occurred due to incompatible development adjacent to the Trail. • Greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, power plants, deforestation, and other human activities have increased temperatures around the world and changed other aspects of climate. • Published field research shows that climate change is also altering ecosystems by shifting biomes, contributing to species extinctions, and causing numerous other changes. • According to the NPS Hydrographic and Impairment Statistics database, there are approximately 640.4 miles of perennial and intermittent rivers, streams, and canals within or adjacent to the Trail management area. • Of the approximately 640.4 miles of perennial and intermittent rivers, streams, and canals within or adjacent to the Trail management area, approximately 66.5 miles (10.4%) are considered impaired, meaning they fail to attain one or more of a state's designated beneficial uses. • Water quality impairments occur throughout the Trail management area but are most numerous in the middle portion, which experiences greater development pressure. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest health is declining due to forest pests, pathogens, invasive species, acid deposition, etc. • Poor air quality is affecting ecological health of habitats. • Biodiversity is declining, due in part to invasive species. • High-intensity weather events, changes in phenology, and other possible manifestations of climate change are affecting plant and animal life cycles. • Open areas are being lost to early successional forest. Balds are declining in scope and health. • Some agricultural activities along pastoral portions of the Trail are causing soil loss and adverse impacts on water quality. • Alpine and other high-elevation vegetation is being affected by climate change and visitor impacts. • Increased encroachments are occurring along the Trail corridor near heavily populated areas. • Loss of large predator species has contributed to increases in deer populations and, in turn, the tick population. • There is increasing pressure for incompatible energy development along the Trail corridor. • In New England, 11 of 21 U.S. Historical Climatology Network Stations showed statistically significant decreases in snow as a fraction of all precipitation. • Upslope shifts in northern hardwood forests and northward shifts in bird winter ranges are attributed to climate change.

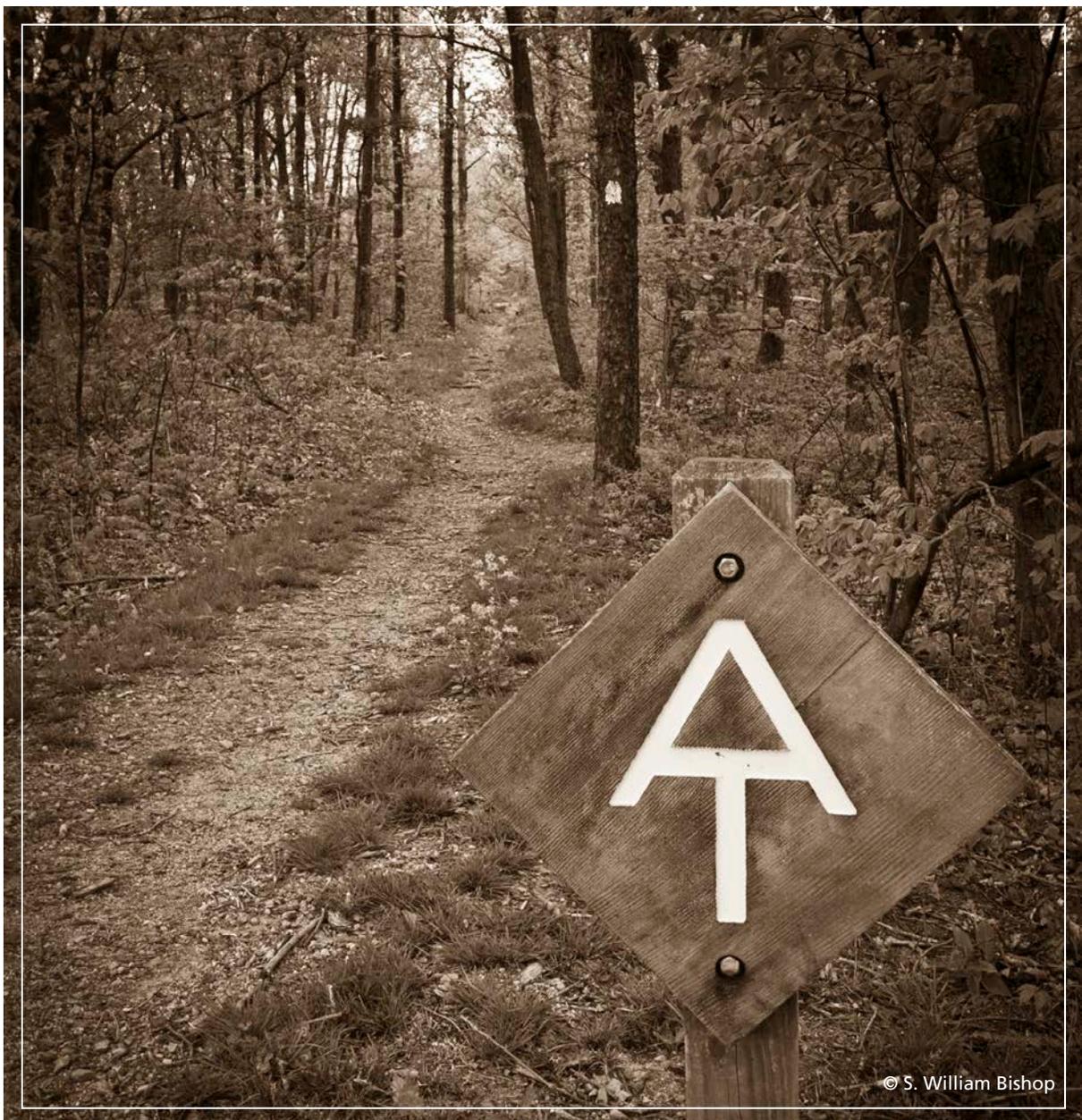
Fundamental Resource or Value	Natural Resource Quality and Ecological Connectivity
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In places, the Trail alignment contributes to soil loss, hydrological alterations, and vegetation/habitat impacts. • Historic fire regimes have changed, affecting the make-up of biological communities. • Climate change is affecting biological communities and may be causing a decline in water resource availability. • Incompatible development along the Trail is resulting in encroachment on natural communities. • Forest fragmentation is affecting species movement. • Degraded air quality is adversely affecting vegetation and overall forest health. The high-elevation ecosystems protected by the Trail are also sensitive to acid deposition. • Loss of biodiversity is occurring from various causes, including invasive nonnatives, pollutants, etc. • Increased visitor use is resulting in concentrated impacts in certain areas. • Analyses of climate projections and modeling of ecosystem and infrastructure changes indicate potential vulnerabilities of species, ecosystems, and other resources from climate change. • Climate change could shift the ranges of numerous tree species in the Appalachian Mountains northward. • Because cold winter temperatures reduce the survival and limit the range of the hemlock wooly adelgid (a pest that has killed extensive areas of forest) future warmer temperatures may favor substantial northward and upslope expansion of the pest across eastern North America. • Modeling of the range of the invasive species kudzu (<i>Pueraria lobata</i>) indicates a potential increase in the Mid-Atlantic. • Experimental increases of atmospheric carbon dioxide in a North Carolina forest indicate that climate change could increase the growth and toxicity of poison ivy (<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>). • Among mammal species, moose and bats are vulnerable to increased mortality with warmer winters. • For New England, modeling of plant phenology projects an average two-week advance of leafing and blooming under emissions scenario A2. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintroduce prescribed fire as a management technique. • Support cooperative weed management areas. • Where possible, acquire additional interests in land for ecological connectivity and to enable improvements to Trail alignment. • Interpret the Trail as an indicator of ecological health, especially with respect to effects of climate change and other impacts caused by air pollution. • Be visionary about large landscape planning. There are opportunities to participate in a number of regional and national (e.g., NPS “Call to Action,” “Scaling Up” and “Enjoy the View”) initiatives regarding topics such as protection of habitats, air quality, and water quality. • Continue to reach out to adjacent landowners to build positive relationships. Strong landowner relationships will assist with management of the boundary and help prevent and reverse encroachment. • Better management of overnight campsites to handle impacts from overnight use. • Carry out an optimal alignment review, incorporating trail sustainability standards for heavily eroded sections of the Trail. • Partnerships could be established with local botanical, horticultural, and gardening clubs to bolster monitoring and removal of invasive plant species. • Establish citizen science stewardship engagement program to facilitate education and outreach.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Natural Resource Quality and Ecological Connectivity
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource management plan. • Acidic Deposition Along the Appalachian Trail Corridor and its Effects on Acid-Sensitive Terrestrial and Aquatic Resources: Results of the Appalachian Trail MegaTransect Study (in review). • Inventory and Monitoring Program monitoring plan. • Vital signs resource assessments. • Vital signs monitoring report. • National Aeronautics and Space Administration decision support system. • Water chemistry report. • Boundary location data. • Trail assessment studies.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Maintained landscape inventory. • Overnight site inventory and condition assessment. • Rare plant inventories for Pennsylvania and Maine. • Continuous weather and forest health data to deal with localized resource situations. • Obtain climate change resiliency models from The Nature Conservancy and stitch data together. • Obtain updated rare, threatened, and endangered plant species data from state heritage offices. • Water quality and quantity assessment. • Geologic map for Trail. • Additional data on invasive species. • Climate change vulnerability assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update comprehensive management plan. • Vegetation management plan. • Integrated pest management plan. • Visitor use management plan. • Communication and outreach plan for environmental monitoring. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Corridor study. • Identify management zones. • Climate change scenario planning.



Fundamental Resource or Value	A Journey Through American Heritage
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 7.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along the Trail, there are 26 specific features on the National Register of Historic Places, 8 historic districts, numerous archeological sites, and 3 national historic landmarks. • There are thirteen national historic landmarks located within five miles of the Trail. • Numerous and varied cultural landscapes representing Appalachian mountain range history and traditions. • Extent of archives unknown. • Trail does not have museum collection items in one location. Trail staff learned in September 2013 of items at other NPS units, but not catalogued for the Trail. The Trail will work with the NPS Northeast Regional Office to consolidate and catalogue collection. • The Trail passes near many towns and communities, each with its own cultural identity, which enriches the experience for hikers who may pass through or visit. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development along the Trail corridor affects cultural resources. • Loss of viewsheds and cultural landscapes. • Lack of understanding of cultural connection to the recreational Trail. • Lack of management of maintained landscapes reduces ability to conserve cultural landscapes. • Without archival survey, critical resources management data will not be identified and will thereby be unavailable for Trail management, research, and education. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued cooperation with federal, state, regional, and local heritage groups. • Increase number of partnerships. • Increase relationship with federally recognized tribes and tribal groups. • Foster youth involvement to increase understanding, communicate relevancy, and promote stewardship of the Trail. • Engage new stakeholders in Trail preservation.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft National Register of Historic Places nominations. • Shenandoah National Park cultural landscape inventory. • “Methodology for Inventorying Cultural Landscapes of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail” (draft), by Margie Coffin Brown and Maciej Konieczny, NPS, Boston, MA 2006. • “Historic Context for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail,” by Dr. Robert Grumet.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary survey data. • Archeological data. • National register data. • Oral histories. • Maintained landscape inventory. • Cultural landscape inventory. • Archeological overview and assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	A Journey Through American Heritage
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update comprehensive management plan.• Complete national register nominations.• Scope of collections statement.• Historic structure reports.• Cultural affiliation study.• Historic resources study.• Maintained landscape management plan.• Cultural landscape report.• Archival survey.• Identify management zones.• Resource stewardship strategy.



Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting the Trail’s fundamental resources and values, significance, and nature and purposes, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of Trail resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

This section identifies high-priority planning and data needs for the entire Appalachian National Scenic Trail, as well as for each of the four geographic regions of the Trail—New England, Mid-Atlantic, Virginia, and Deep South (please see appendix D for maps that delineate the regional boundaries). Regional priorities vary along the Trail due to differences in land ownership, natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, and trail conditions. These high-priority needs are considered to be of the utmost importance. Other planning and data needs were identified as either medium- or low-priority needs, and appear in the FRV analysis tables. These lower priority needs are not included; however, they will be reevaluated once the high-priority needs are accomplished.

The identified planning and data needs that follow are limited to plans and data collection efforts where the National Park Service may need to become directly involved through project management or technical assistance. Each plan or study will be carried out as a collaborative effort with other parties, such as local stakeholders and subject matter experts. As funding becomes available for each project, scoping will take place to better define goals, objectives, and methods. Note that this list is not intended to capture all the planning and data needs that could be carried out by local communities, Trail clubs, or other agencies.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Trailwide Planning Needs			
All	Update comprehensive management plan	H	This overarching plan for the Trail was completed in 1981 and needs to be updated. This strategic document focuses primarily on operation of the cooperative management system for development and management of the Trail and its immediate environs.
Scenery along Treadway; Experience; Volunteers	Update local management plans	H	Local management plans need to be updated with partnering organizations to ensure consistency in management along the entire length of the Trail.
Trail; Experience; Natural	Visitor use management plan	H	The plan would include management of high-use sites and popular areas to better accommodate group use and address visitor use impacts. It would also address capacity for various areas.
Views Beyond the Corridor	Scenic and landscape-level protection and response strategy	H	A strategy is needed for protecting land that lies within important viewsheds and focus areas along the Trail, such as view points from mountaintops, balds, and prominent rock outcroppings. This planning effort could include participation in the “A Call to Action” initiatives “Enjoy the View” and “Scaling Up.”
Trail	Sustainable trail and campsite plan	H	The plan would focus on Trail structures and facilities to better accommodate increased use along the Trail and at overnight sites in order to minimize impacts within high-use areas.
Trail; Scenery Along Treadway; American Heritage	Maintained landscape management plan	H	The plan would identify and prioritize maintained landscapes (e.g., pastoral landscapes) and describe specific management goals and the means to achieve them.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Trailwide Planning Needs			
Experience; Trail	Development concept plans for specific high-use areas such as McAfee's Knob, Nuclear Lake, and Bulls Bridge	H	These plans would tier off the updated comprehensive management plan to provide more site-specific management direction of high-use areas along the Trail.
Experience; Education	Community outreach plan / volunteer engagement strategy	H	The strategy would focus on community outreach and volunteer employment, service, and learning opportunities. It would include strategies for attracting new volunteers from various age and demographic groups such as young adults and families, recently retired individuals, active-duty military, and veterans.
Education	Long-range interpretive and education plan	H	This plan would focus on education and stewardship programs to maintain relevancy with a diverse public and include a financial strategy for expanded educational opportunities.
All	Identify management zones	H	This plan would explore the establishment of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences for different sections of the Trail through the use of management zones. The plan would consider integration of other agencies' approaches to developing desired conditions.
Trail; Experience	Wayfinding plan	H	Wayfinding refers to a system of signs, maps, and other graphic and audible materials used to convey locational and directional information to travelers. This plan would establish strategies for improving trailhead, route marking, and interpretive signage. It would also address the issue of consistency regarding signage along the entire trail.
New England Regional Planning Needs			
Natural	Vegetation management plan	H	The plan would establish management strategies for rare plant communities (e.g., high-elevation balds) as well as invasive plants.
American Heritage	Cultural landscape report	H	This report would include cultural landscape inventories and establish management treatment recommendations.
Natural; American Heritage	Resource stewardship strategy	H	The strategy would focus on achieving and maintaining desired natural and cultural resource conditions along the Trail.
Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Needs			
Natural	Corridor study	H	The study would identify deficiencies in the existing Trail boundary and opportunities to protect resources with targeted boundary adjustments.
Virginia Regional Planning Needs			
No specific regional planning needs were identified. All trailwide planning priorities were ranked high by the Virginia Region.			
Deep South Regional Planning Needs			
Education	Finalize and implement the Leave No Trace planning program	H	This program would educate visitors about Leave No Trace principles to minimize visitor impacts along the Trail. It would focus on thru-hikers at the start of their hike.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Trailwide Data Needs			
Trailwide	Visitor use survey	H	The survey would gather information about visitor demographics and their perceptions at both high-use locations along the Trail (i.e., Bear Mountain State Park) and low-use sections to gain a better understanding of their motivations and interests in visiting the Trail. The information would inform a future visitor use management plan. Also identify why people are not using the Trail.
Experience; Scenery Along Treadway; Trailwide	Baseline data on visitor use levels and patterns	H	The baseline visitor use data would be used to inform the development of indicators, thresholds, and ongoing monitoring protocols as part of a future visitor use management plan.
Collaborative Spirit	Database of existing special use activities permitted on or near the Trail	H	The database would be used to develop a more consistent and unified approach across agencies for special use permits, including group, commercial, and special events.
Views Beyond the Corridor	Large landscape analysis	H	The analysis would be used to determine high-priority areas along the Trail for conserving natural landscape-level connectivity.
Experience; Collaborative Spirit	Economic impact study	H	The analysis would determine the economic impact of the Trail from tourism and visitation to encourage greater community engagement and promote the significance of the Trail at a local level with the ultimate goal of increasing protection of the Trail.
Trail; Volunteer	Trail assessment studies	H	These ongoing assessments would evaluate Trail conditions to document maintenance deficiencies and include a database management component.
Trail; Natural; American Heritage	Maintained landscape inventory	H	The inventory would identify the location of maintained landscapes along the Trail to better understand the extent and distribution of these rare habitats (e.g., grassy balds and meadows) and scenic areas over time.
Experience	Land use / ownership analysis	H	The analysis would study changes to parcels over time that are in proximity to the Trail. Information would be used to identify potential external threats and guide the land acquisition program.
Views Beyond the Corridor	Scenic threats analysis	H	The analysis would focus on ongoing threats to scenic viewsheds along the Trail, as well as analyze cumulative impacts on viewsheds over time.
Education	Effectiveness of educational programs and initiatives	H	The study would measure the effectiveness of initiatives and programs related to all educational efforts, including youth stewardship and career development opportunities. The effort would include documentation and dissemination of effective school curricula used to educate students about the Trail.
American Heritage	Archeological assessment	H	The study would include an inventory and condition assessment of archeological sites along the Trail.
Volunteer	Volunteer survey	H	The survey would focus on volunteer motivations to inform strategies for recruiting new volunteers.
Volunteer	Database of shovel-ready trail maintenance projects	H	The database would be used to maintain a list of shovel-ready projects for episodic volunteer groups.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
New England Regional Data Needs			
American Heritage	National register data	H	The data collection effort would inventory national register sites along the Trail.
Natural	Climate change resiliency model	H	The effort would include obtaining regional resiliency model data from The Nature Conservancy and consolidating the information for areas along the Trail.
American Heritage	Archeological assessment	H	The study would include an inventory and condition assessment of archeological sites along the Trail.
Trail; Scenery Along Treadway; Natural	Climate change vulnerability assessment	H	The study would assess the vulnerability of resources to climate change.
Mid-Atlantic Regional Data Needs			
Natural	Climate change resiliency model	H	The effort would include obtaining regional resiliency model data from The Nature Conservancy and consolidating the information for areas along the Trail.
Natural	Update rare, threatened, and endangered plant species data	H	Special status species information would be routinely updated based on the most current information from state heritage offices.
Natural	Water quality and quantity assessment	H	The effort would assess water quality and quantity to identify trends resulting from climate change.
All	Boundary survey	H	Survey tracts, research deeds, and collect boundary information for priority areas along the Trail.
Virginia Regional Data Needs			
Natural	Update rare, threatened, and endangered plant species data	H	Special status species information would be routinely updated based on the most current information from state heritage offices.
Natural	Overnight site inventory and condition assessment	H	The condition assessment would document changes to overnight sites over time (i.e., rate of expansion into surrounding environs).
Volunteer	Volunteer survey	H	The survey would focus on volunteer motivations to inform strategies for recruiting new volunteers.
Deep South Regional Data Needs			
Natural	Update rare, threatened, and endangered plant species data	H	Special status species information would be routinely updated based on the most current information from state heritage offices.
Natural	Overnight site inventory and condition assessment	H	The condition assessment would document changes to overnight sites over time (i.e., rate of expansion into surrounding environs).
Volunteer	Volunteer survey	H	The survey would focus on volunteer motivations to inform strategies for recruiting new volunteers.
Volunteer	Database of shovel-ready trail maintenance projects	H	The database would be used to maintain a list of shovel-ready projects for episodic volunteer groups.

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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

National Trail System Act of 1968; Enabling Legislation for Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Public Law 90-543, 82 Stat 919)

82 STAT.] PUBLIC LAW 90-543—OCT. 2, 1968 919

Public Law 90-543

AN ACT

To establish a national trails system, and for other purposes.

October 2, 1968
[S. 827]

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

National Trails
System Act.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the “National Trails System Act”.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas of the Nation, trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within established scenic areas more remotely located.

(b) the purpose of this Act is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a national system of recreation and scenic trails, by designating the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail as the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

SEC. 3. The national system of trails shall be composed of—

(a) National recreation trails, established as provided in section 4 of this Act, which will provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas.

(b) National scenic trails, established as provided in section 5 of this Act, which will be extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass.

(c) Connecting or side trails, established as provided in section 6 of this Act, which will provide additional points of public access to national recreation or national scenic trails or which will provide connections between such trails.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with appropriate governmental agencies and public and private organizations, shall establish a uniform marker for the national trails system.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, or the Secretary of Agriculture where lands administered by him are involved, may establish and designate national recreation trails, with the consent of the Federal agency, State, or political subdivision having jurisdiction over the lands involved, upon finding that—

- (i) such trails are reasonably accessible to urban areas, and, or
- (ii) such trails meet the criteria established in this Act and such supplementary criteria as he may prescribe.

(b) As provided in this section, trails within park, forest, and other recreation areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture or in other federally administered areas may be established and designated as “National Recreation Trails” by the

appropriate Secretary and, when no Federal land acquisition is involved—

- (i) trails in or reasonably accessible to urban areas may be designated as “National Recreation Trails” by the Secretary of the Interior with the consent of the States, their political subdivisions, or other appropriate administering agencies, and
- (ii) trails within park, forest, and other recreation areas owned or administered by States may be designated as “National Recreation Trails” by the Secretary of the Interior with the consent of the State.

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

SEC. 5. (a) National scenic trails shall be authorized and designated only by Act of Congress. There are hereby established as the initial National Scenic Trails:

(1) The Appalachian Trail, a trail of approximately two thousand miles extending generally along the Appalachian Mountains from Mount Katahdin, Maine, to Springer Mountain, Georgia. Insofar as practicable, the right-of-way for such trail shall comprise the trail depicted on the maps identified as “Nationwide System of Trails, Proposed Appalachian Trail, NST-AT-101-May 1967”, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the National Park Service. Where practicable, such rights-of-way shall include lands protected for it under agreements in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act, to which Federal agencies and States were parties. The Appalachian Trail shall be administered primarily as a footpath by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

Rights-of-way.

(2) The Pacific Crest Trail, a trail of approximately two thousand three hundred fifty miles, extending from the Mexican-California border northward generally along the mountain ranges of the west coast States to the Canadian-Washington border near Lake Ross, following the route as generally depicted on the map, identified as “Nationwide System of Trails, Proposed Pacific Crest Trail, NST-PC-103-May 1967” which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service. The Pacific Crest Trail shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior.

Administration.

Advisory councils.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior shall establish an advisory council for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an advisory council for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The appropriate Secretary shall consult with such council from time to time with respect to matters relating to the trail, including the selection of rights-of-way, standards of the erection and maintenance of markers along the trail, and the administration of the trail. The members of each advisory council, which shall not exceed thirty-five in number, shall serve without compensation or expense to the Federal Government for a term of five years and shall be appointed by the appropriate Secretary as follows:

Members; term of office.

(i) A member appointed to represent each Federal department or independent agency administering lands through which the trail route passes and each appointee shall be the person designated by the head of such department or agency;

(ii) A member appointed to represent each State through which the trail passes and such appointments shall be made from recommendations of the Governors of such States;

(iii) One or more members appointed to represent private organizations, including landowners and land users, that, in the opinion of the Secretary, have an established and recognized interest in the trail and such appointments shall be made from recommendations

of the heads of such organizations: *Provided*, That the Appalachian Trail Conference shall be represented by a sufficient number of persons to represent the various sections of the country through which the Appalachian Trail passes; and

(iv) The Secretary shall designate one member to be chairman and shall fill vacancies in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture where lands administered by him are involved, shall make such additional studies as are herein or may hereafter be authorized by the Congress for the purpose of determining the feasibility and desirability of designating other trails as national scenic trails. Such studies shall be made in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies administering lands through which such additional proposed trails would pass and in cooperation with interested interstate, State, and local governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and landowners and land users concerned. When completed, such studies shall be the basis of appropriate proposals for additional national scenic trails which shall be submitted from time to time to the President and to the Congress. Such proposals shall be accompanied by a report, which shall be printed as a House or Senate document, showing among other things—

Additional studies.

Report to President and Congress.

(1) the proposed route of such trail (including maps and illustrations);

(2) the areas adjacent to such trails, to be utilized for scenic, historic, natural, cultural, or developmental, purposes;

(3) the characteristics which, in the judgment of the appropriate Secretary, make the proposed trail worthy of designation as a national scenic trail;

(4) the current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;

(5) the estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interest in lands, if any;

(6) the plans for developing and maintaining the trail and the cost thereof;

(7) the proposed Federal administering agency (which, in the case of a national scenic trail wholly or substantially within a national forest, shall be the Department of Agriculture);

(8) the extent to which a State or its political subdivisions and public and private organizations might reasonably be expected to participate in acquiring the necessary lands and in the administration thereof; and

(9) the relative uses of the lands involved, including: the number of anticipated visitor-days for the entire length of, as well as for segments of, such trail; the number of months which such trail, or segments thereof, will be open for recreation purposes; the economic and social benefits which might accrue from alternate land uses; and the estimated man-years of civilian employment and expenditures expected for the purposes of maintenance, supervision, and regulation of such trail.

(c) The following routes shall be studied in accordance with the objectives outlined in subsection (b) of this section:

(1) Continental Divide Trail, a three-thousand-one-hundred-mile trail extending from near the Mexican border in southwestern New Mexico northward generally along the Continental Divide to the Canadian border in Glacier National Park.

(2) Potomac Heritage Trail, an eight-hundred-and-twenty-five-mile trail extending generally from the mouth of the Potomac River to its sources in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including the one-hundred-and-seventy-mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath.

(3) Old Cattle Trails of the Southwest from the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas, approximately eight hundred miles through Oklahoma via Baxter Springs and Chetopa, Kansas, to Fort Scott, Kansas, including the Chisholm Trail, from the vicinity of San Antonio or Cuero, Texas, approximately eight hundred miles north through Oklahoma to Abilene, Kansas.

(4) Lewis and Clark Trail, from Wood River, Illinois, to the Pacific Ocean in Oregon, following both the outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

(5) Natchez Trace, from Nashville, Tennessee, approximately six hundred miles to Natchez, Mississippi.

(6) North Country Trail, from the Appalachian Trail in Vermont, approximately three thousand two hundred miles through the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, to the Lewis and Clark Trail in North Dakota.

(7) Kittanning Trail from Shirleysburg in Huntingdon County to Kittanning, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

(8) Oregon Trail, from Independence, Missouri, approximately two thousand miles to near Fort Vancouver, Washington.

(9) Santa Fe Trail, from Independence, Missouri, approximately eight hundred miles to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

(10) Long Trail, extending two hundred and fifty-five miles from the Massachusetts border northward through Vermont to the Canadian border.

(11) Mormon Trail, extending from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, Utah, through the States of Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

(12) Gold Rush Trails in Alaska.

(13) Mormon Battalion Trail, extending two thousand miles from Mount Pisgah, Iowa, through Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona to Los Angeles, California.

(14) El Camino Real from St. Augustine to San Mateo, Florida, approximately 20 miles along the southern boundary of the St. Johns River from Fort Caroline National Memorial to the St. Augustine National Park Monument.

CONNECTING AND SIDE TRAILS

SEC. 6. Connecting or side trails within park, forest, and other recreation areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture may be established, designated, and marked as components of a national recreation or national scenic trail. When no Federal land acquisition is involved, connecting or side trails may be located across lands administered by interstate, State, or local governmental agencies with their consent: *Provided*, That such trails provide additional points of public access to national recreation or scenic trails.

ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Publication in
Federal Register.

SEC. 7. (a) Pursuant to section 5 (a), the appropriate Secretary shall select the rights-of-way for National Scenic Trails and shall publish notice thereof in the Federal Register, together with appropriate maps and descriptions: *Provided*, That in selecting the rights-of-way full consideration shall be given to minimizing the adverse effects upon the adjacent landowner or user and his operation. Development and management of each segment of the National Trails System shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established multiple-use plans for that specific area in order to insure continued maximum benefits from the land. The location and width of such rights-of-way across Federal lands under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency shall be by agreement between the head of that agency and the appro-

appropriate Secretary. In selecting rights-of-way for trail purposes, the Secretary shall obtain the advice and assistance of the States, local governments, private organizations, and landowners and land users concerned.

Relocation of right-of-way, determination.

(b) After publication of notice in the Federal Register, together with appropriate maps and descriptions, the Secretary charged with the administration of a national scenic trail may relocate segments of a national scenic trail right-of-way, with the concurrence of the head of the Federal agency having jurisdiction over the lands involved, upon a determination that: (i) such a relocation is necessary to preserve the purposes for which the trail was established, or (ii) the relocation is necessary to promote a sound land management program in accordance with established multiple-use principles: *Provided*, That a substantial relocation of the rights-of-way for such trail shall be by Act of Congress.

Facilities on trails.

(c) National scenic trails may contain campsites, shelters, and related-public-use facilities. Other uses along the trail, which will not substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail, may be permitted by the Secretary charged with the administration of the trail. Reasonable efforts shall be made to provide sufficient access opportunities to such trails and, to the extent practicable, efforts shall be made to avoid activities incompatible with the purposes for which such trails were established. The use of motorized vehicles by the general public along any national scenic trail shall be prohibited and nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the use of motorized vehicles within the natural and historical areas of the national park system, the national wildlife refuge system, the national wilderness preservation system where they are presently prohibited or on other Federal lands where trails are designated as being closed to such use by the appropriate Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary charged with the administration of such trail shall establish regulations which shall authorize the use of motorized vehicles when, in his judgment, such vehicles are necessary to meet emergencies or to enable adjacent landowners or land users to have reasonable access to their lands or timber rights: *Provided further*, That private lands included in the national recreation or scenic trails by cooperative agreement of a landowner shall not preclude such owner from using motorized vehicles on or across such trails or adjacent lands from time to time in accordance with regulations to be established by the appropriate Secretary. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with appropriate governmental agencies and public and private organizations, shall establish a uniform marker, including thereon an appropriate and distinctive symbol for each national recreation and scenic trail. Where the trails cross lands administered by Federal agencies such markers shall be erected at appropriate points along the trails and maintained by the Federal agency administering the trail in accordance with standards established by the appropriate Secretary and where the trails cross non-Federal lands, in accordance with written cooperative agreements, the appropriate Secretary shall provide such uniform markers to cooperating agencies and shall require such agencies to erect and maintain them in accordance with the standards established.

Motorized vehicles; prohibition, exceptions.

Uniform markers.

(d) Within the exterior boundaries of areas under their administration that are included in the right-of-way selected for a national recreation or scenic trail, the heads of Federal agencies may use lands for trail purposes and may acquire lands or interests in lands by written cooperative agreement, donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds or exchange: *Provided*, That not more than twenty-five acres in any one mile may be acquired without the consent of the owner.

Acquisition of lands, use.

Acresage limitation.

Right-of-way
lands outside ex-
terior boundaries.

(e) Where the lands included in a national scenic trail right-of-way are outside of the exterior boundaries of federally administered areas, the Secretary charged with the administration of such trail shall encourage the States or local governments involved (1) to enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, private organizations, and individuals to provide the necessary trail right-of-way, or (2) to acquire such lands or interests therein to be utilized as segments of the national scenic trail: *Provided*, That if the State or local governments fail to enter into such written cooperative agreements or to acquire such lands or interests therein within two years after notice of the selection of the right-of-way is published, the appropriate Secretary may (i) enter into such agreements with landowners, States, local governments, private organizations, and individuals for the use of lands for trail purposes, or (ii) acquire private lands or interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds or exchange in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this section. The lands involved in such rights-of-way should be acquired in fee, if other methods of public control are not sufficient to assure their use for the purpose for which they are acquired: *Provided*, That if the Secretary charged with the administration of such trail permanently relocates the right-of-way and disposes of all title or interest in the land, the original owner, or his heirs or assigns, shall be offered, by notice given at the former owner's last known address, the right of first refusal at the fair market price.

Property suit-
able for exchange.

(f) The Secretary of the Interior, in the exercise of his exchange authority, may accept title to any non-Federal property within the right-of-way and in exchange therefor he may convey to the grantor of such property any federally owned property under his jurisdiction which is located in the State wherein such property is located and which he classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal, or if they are not approximately equal the values shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the grantor or to the Secretary as the circumstances require. The Secretary of Agriculture, in the exercise of his exchange authority, may utilize authorities and procedures available to him in connection with exchanges of national forest lands.

Use of con-
demnation pro-
ceedings to
acquire private
lands.

(g) The appropriate Secretary may utilize condemnation proceedings without the consent of the owner to acquire private lands or interests therein pursuant to this section only in cases where, in his judgment, all reasonable efforts to acquire such lands or interests therein by negotiation have failed, and in such cases he shall acquire only such title as, in his judgment, is reasonably necessary to provide passage across such lands: *Provided*, That condemnation proceedings may not be utilized to acquire fee title or lesser interests to more than twenty-five acres in any one mile and when used such authority shall be limited to the most direct or practicable connecting trail right-of-way: *Provided further*, That condemnation is prohibited with respect to all acquisition of lands or interest in lands for the purposes of the Pacific Crest Trail. Money appropriated for Federal purposes from the land and water conservation fund shall, without prejudice to appropriations from other sources, be available to Federal departments for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands for the purposes of this Act.

Limitation.

Pacific Crest
Trail.

Lands within
federally admin-
istered areas.

(h) The Secretary charged with the administration of a national recreation or scenic trail shall provide for the development and maintenance of such trails within federally administered areas and shall cooperate with and encourage the States to operate, develop, and maintain portions of such trails which are located outside the boundaries of federally administered areas. When deemed to be in the public interest, such Secretary may enter written cooperative agreements with the States or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organi-

zations, or individuals to operate, develop, and maintain any portion of a national scenic trail either within or outside a federally administered area.

Whenever the Secretary of the Interior makes any conveyance of land under any of the public land laws, he may reserve a right-of-way for trails to the extent he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Right-of-way reservation.

(i) The appropriate Secretary, with the concurrence of the heads of any other Federal agencies administering lands through which a national recreation or scenic trail passes, and after consultation with the States, local governments, and organizations concerned, may issue regulations, which may be revised from time to time, governing the use, protection, management, development, and administration of trails of the national trails system. In order to maintain good conduct on and along the trails located within federally administered areas and to provide for the proper government and protection of such trails, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall prescribe and publish such uniform regulations as they deem necessary and any person who violates such regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Regulations.

Publication.

Penalty.

STATE AND METROPOLITAN AREA TRAILS

SEC. 8. (a) The Secretary of the Interior is directed to encourage States to consider, in their comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plans and proposals for financial assistance for State and local projects submitted pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, needs and opportunities for establishing park, forest, and other recreation trails on lands owned or administered by States, and recreation trails on lands in or near urban areas. He is further directed, in accordance with the authority contained in the Act of May 28, 1963 (77 Stat. 49), to encourage States, political subdivisions, and private interests, including nonprofit organizations, to establish such trails.

78 Stat. 897,
16 USC 4601-4
note.

16 USC 4601-
4601-3.

(b) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is directed, in administering the program of comprehensive urban planning and assistance under section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, to encourage the planning of recreation trails in connection with the recreation and transportation planning for metropolitan and other urban areas. He is further directed, in administering the urban open-space program under title VII of the Housing Act of 1961, to encourage such recreation trails.

73 Stat. 678;
78 Stat. 792;
81 Stat. 262.
40 USC 461.

75 Stat. 183.
42 USC 1500
et seq.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed, in accordance with authority vested in him, to encourage States and local agencies and private interests to establish such trails.

(d) Such trails may be designated and suitably marked as parts of the nationwide system of trails by the States, their political subdivisions, or other appropriate administering agencies with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Suitable markings.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OTHER PROPERTIES

SEC. 9. (a) The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture as the case may be, may grant easements and rights-of-way upon, over, under, across, or along any component of the national trails system in accordance with the laws applicable to the national park system and the national forest system, respectively: *Provided*, That any conditions contained in such easements and rights-of-way shall be related to the policy and purposes of this Act.

Easements and rights-of-way.

(b) The Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Power Commission, and other Federal agencies having jurisdiction or control over or information concerning the use, abandonment, or disposition of roadways, utility rights-of-way, or other properties which may be suitable for the purpose of improving or expanding the national trails system shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in order to assure, to the extent practicable, that any such properties having values suitable for trail purposes may be made available for such use.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 10. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands not more than \$5,000,000 for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and not more than \$500,000 for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Approved October 2, 1968.

1978 APPA PL95-248 92Stat159 HR8803

PUBLIC LAW 95-248—MAR. 21, 1978

92 STAT. 159

Public Law 95-248
95th Congress

An Act

To amend the National Trails System Act, and for other purposes.

Mar. 21, 1978

[H.R. 8803]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 919; 16 U.S.C. 1241), as amended (90 Stat. 2481; 16 U.S.C. 1244), is further amended as follows:

(1) Amend section 5 (a) (3) to read as follows:

“(3) The Secretary of the Interior shall establish within sixty days of the enactment of this subsection an Advisory Council for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail which shall terminate one hundred and twenty months from the date of enactment of this subsection. The Secretary of the Interior shall consult with such Council from time to time with respect to matters relating to the Trail, including the selection of rights-of-way, standards for the erection and maintenance of markers along the Trail, and the administration of the Trail. The members of the Advisory Council, which shall not exceed thirty-five in number, shall serve for a term of two years without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay, upon vouchers signed by the Chairman of the Council, the expenses reasonably incurred by the Council and its members in carrying out their responsibilities under this section. Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(i) a member appointed to represent each Federal department or independent agency administering lands through which the Trail route passes and each appointee shall be the person designated by the head of such department or agency;

“(ii) a member appointed to represent each State through which the Trail passes and such appointments shall be made from the recommendations of the Governors of such States;

“(iii) one or more members appointed to represent private organizations, including corporate and individual landowners and land users, that, in the opinion of the Secretary, have an established and recognized interest in the Trail and such appointments shall be made from recommendations of the heads of such organizations: *Provided*, That the Appalachian Trail Conference shall be represented by a sufficient number of persons to represent the various sections of the country through which the Appalachian Trail passes; and

“(iv) the Secretary shall designate one member to be chairman and shall fill vacancies in the same manner as the original appointment.”

(2) Amend section 5 by adding the following new subsection (d):

“(d) Within two years of the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall, after full consultation with the Governors of the affected States, the Advisory Council, and the Appalachian Trail Conference, submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, a comprehensive

National Trails
System Act,
amendment.

Advisory Council
for the
Appalachian
National Scenic
Trail.
Establishment;
termination.

Membership.

Appalachian
Trail, plans for;
submission to
congressional
committees.

plan for the management, acquisition, development, and use of the Appalachian Trail, including but not limited to, the following items:

“(1) specific objectives and practices to be observed in the management of the Trail, including the identification of all significant natural, historical, and cultural resources to be preserved; details of anticipated cooperative agreements to be consummated with other entities; and identification of carrying capacity and use patterns of the Trail;

“(2) an acquisition or protection plan, by fiscal year, for all lands to be acquired by fee title or lesser interest, along with detailed explanation of anticipated necessary cooperative agreements for any lands not to be acquired; and

“(3) general and site-specific development plans, including anticipated costs.”

16 USC 1246.

(3) Amend section 7(d) by changing the colon to a period and by deleting the proviso.

Condemnation proceedings.

(4) Amend section 7(g) by deleting the first proviso and inserting in lieu thereof “*Provided*, That condemnation proceedings may not be utilized to acquire fee title or lesser interests to more than an average of one hundred and twenty-five acres per mile.”

16 USC 1249.

(5) Amend section 10, by adding at the end thereof the following: “From the appropriations authorized for fiscal year 1979 and succeeding fiscal years pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (78 Stat. 897), as amended, not more than the following amounts may be expended for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands authorized to be acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Act:

16 USC 4601-4 note.

“(a) (1) The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, not to exceed \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1979, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1980, and \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1981, except that the difference between the foregoing amounts and the actual appropriations in any one fiscal year shall be available for appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year. It is the express intent of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially complete the land acquisition program necessary to insure the protection of the Trail within three complete fiscal years following the date of enactment of this sentence. Until the entire acquisition program is completed, he shall transmit in writing at the close of each fiscal year the following information to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives:

Land acquisition program, completion time.

Information to congressional committees.

“(A) the amount of land acquired during the fiscal year and the amount expended therefor;

“(B) the estimated amount of land remaining to be acquired; and

“(C) the amount of land planned for acquisition in the ensuing fiscal year and the estimated cost thereof.

PUBLIC LAW 95-248—MAR. 21, 1978

92 STAT. 161

“(2) Until the entire acquisition program is completed, the Appalachian Trail Conference shall transmit a report at the close of each fiscal year to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives which shall include but not be limited to comments on—

Report to
congressional
committees.

“(A) the manner in which negotiations for the acquisition program are being conducted for every section of the Trail;

“(B) the attitudes of the landowners with whom negotiations have been undertaken; and

“(C) whether in any case larger interests in land are being acquired than are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

“(b) For the purposes of Public Law 95-42 (91 Stat. 211), the lands and interests therein acquired pursuant to this section shall be deemed to qualify for funding under the provisions of section 1, clause 2, of said Act.”

16 USC 460l-7.

Approved March 21, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-734 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-636 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 123 (1977): Oct. 25, considered and passed House.

Vol. 124 (1978): Feb. 22, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Mar. 7, House concurred in Senate amendment.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS:

Vol. 14, No. 12 (1978): Mar. 22, Presidential statement.

1978 PL 95-625 92Stat3467 S 791

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

92 STAT. 3511

Subtitle B—Trails

Sec. 551. The National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 919; 16 U.S.C. 1241), as amended, is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 2(a) after “promote” insert “the preservation of,”; and after “outdoor areas” insert “and historic resources”. 16 USC 1241.

(2) In section 2(a) delete “(ii)” and the remainder of the sentence and insert “(ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation, which are often more remotely located.”.

(3) In section 2(b) delete “and scenic” and insert “, scenic and historic”.

(4) In section 3 redesignate subsection “(c)” as “(d)”, and insert a new subsection (c) as follows: National historic trails.

“(c) National historic trails, established as provided in section 5 of this Act, which will be extended trails which follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historical significance. Designation of such trails or routes shall be continuous, but the established or developed trail, and the acquisition thereof, need not be continuous onsite. National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment. Only those selected land and water based components of an historic trail which are on federally owned lands and which meet the national historic trail criteria established in this Act, are established as initial Federal protection components of a national historic trail. The appropriate Secretary may subsequently certify other lands as protected segments of an historic trail upon application from State or local governmental agencies or private interests involved 16 USC 1242. 16 USC 1244.

Protected segments, certification.

92 STAT. 3514

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

Nationally significant, qualifications.	trade and commerce, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of native Americans may be included.
	“(C) It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails, and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.”.
16 USC 1244.	(13) In section 5(c), add the following at the end thereof: “(20) Overmountain Victory Trail, extending from the vicinity of Elizabethton, Tennessee, to Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina.”.
Trail advisory councils, establishments.	(14) In section 5 delete subsection (d), and insert a new section 5(d) to read as follows: “(d) The Secretary charged with the administration of each respective trail shall, within one year of the date of the addition of any national scenic or national historic trail to the System, and within sixty days of the enactment of this sentence for the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails, establish an advisory council for each such trail, each of which councils shall expire ten years from the date of its establishment. The appropriate Secretary shall consult with such council from time to time with respect to matters relating to the trail, including the selection of rights-of-way, standards for the erection and maintenance of markers along the trail, and the administration of the trail. The members of each advisory council, which shall not exceed thirty-five in number, shall serve for a term of two years and without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay, upon vouchers signed by the chairman of the council, the expenses reasonably incurred by the council and its members in carrying out their responsibilities under this section.
Term and compensation.	Members of each council shall be appointed by the appropriate Secretary as follows: “(i) a member appointed to represent each Federal department or independent agency administering lands through which the trail route passes, and each appointee shall be the person designated by the head of such department or agency; “(ii) a member appointed to represent each State through which the trail passes, and such appointments shall be made from recommendations of the Governors of such States; “(iii) one or more members appointed to represent private organizations, including corporate and individual landowners and land users, which in the opinion of the Secretary, have an established and recognized interest in the trail, and such appointments shall be made from recommendations of the heads of such organizations: <i>Provided</i> , That the Appalachian Trail Conference shall be represented by a sufficient number of persons to represent the various sections of the country through which the Appalachian Trail passes; and
Membership.	“(iv) the Secretary shall designate one member to be chairman and shall fill vacancies in the same manner as the original appointment.”.
Chairman.	

(15) In section 5 add two new subsections (e) and (f) as follows:

“(e) Within two complete fiscal years of the date of enactment of legislation designating a national scenic trail, except for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, as part of the system, and within two complete fiscal years of the date of enactment of this subsection for the Pacific Crest and Appalachian Trails, the responsible Secretary shall, after full consultation with affected Federal land managing agencies, the Governors of the affected States, the relevant advisory council established pursuant to section 5(d), and the Appalachian Trail Conference in the case of the Appalachian Trail, submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a comprehensive plan for the acquisition, management, development, and use of the trail, including but not limited to, the following items:

16 USC 1244.
Comprehensive plan, consultation and submittal to congressional committees.

Ante, p. 3514.

“(1) specific objectives and practices to be observed in the management of the trail, including the identification of all significant natural, historical, and cultural resources to be preserved (along with high potential historic sites and high potential route segments in the case of national historic trails), details of anticipated cooperative agreements to be consummated with other entities, and an identified carrying capacity of the trail and a plan for its implementation;

“(2) an acquisition or protection plan, by fiscal year, for all lands to be acquired by fee title or lesser interest, along with detailed explanation of anticipated necessary cooperative agreements for any lands not to be acquired; and

“(3) general and site-specific development plans including anticipated costs.

“(f) Within two complete fiscal years of the date of enactment of legislation designating a national historic trail or the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail as part of the system, the responsible Secretary shall, after full consultation with affected Federal land managing agencies, the Governors of the affected States, and the relevant Advisory Council established pursuant to section 5(d) of this Act, submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a comprehensive plan for the management, and use of the trail, including but not limited to, the following items:

Comprehensive plan, consultation and submittal to congressional committees.

“(1) specific objectives and practices to be observed in the management of the trail, including the identification of all significant natural, historical, and cultural resources to be preserved, details of any anticipated cooperative agreements to be consummated with State and local government agencies or private interests, and for national scenic or national recreational trails an identified carrying capacity of the trail and a plan for its implementation; and

“(2) the process to be followed by the appropriate Secretary to implement the marking requirements established in section 7(c) of this Act.”

(16) In section 6 in the first sentence delete “or national scenic,” and insert “, national scenic or national historic”, and in the second sentence delete “or scenic” and insert “, national scenic, or national historic”.

16 USC 1246.
16 USC 1245.

(17) In section 7(a) in the first sentence delete “National Scenic Trails” and insert “national scenic and national historic trails”; in two instances in subsection (b), and in the first sentence of subsection

Appendix B: Inventory of Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Special Mandates

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is managed through a model “cooperative management system” involving the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, numerous other federal and state agencies, the nonprofit Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and 31 volunteer-based trail-maintaining clubs. All of these partners work together to protect and manage the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and each contributes to the Trail’s success. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail follows the policies and regulations of various federal and state entities, such as those pertaining to designated wilderness, state parks, state forests, and state game-lands (among others). In addition, various aspects of trail management are guided by policies developed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

- “The Appalachian Trail shall be administered primarily as a footpath by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture” (Public Law 90-543 [October 2, 1968]).
- Clean Air Act – Class I Airshed Designation. The Trail passes through five mandatory class I areas: Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks (which are managed by the National Park Service), and the James River Face, Lye Brook, Great Gulf wilderness areas (which are managed by the U.S. Forest Service), and is immediately adjacent to the Presidential Range-Dry River Wilderness in New Hampshire. In the Clean Air Act Congress set a national goal “to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, national seashores, and other areas of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic or historic value” (42 U.S.C. §7470(2)). The Clean Air Act bestows an “affirmative responsibility” on federal land managers to protect Class I areas from the adverse effects of air pollution.
- The Wilderness Act of 1964. The Trail passes through 24 wilderness areas, wherein motorized equipment and mechanized transport are prohibited.

Administrative Commitments

These are the core agreements addressing the cooperative management system of the Trail. Numerous other agreements are in place for specific projects and programs pertaining to such things as trail crews, chainsaw certification, volunteers, etc.

ATC Agreements	Partners to Agreement	Start Date	Expiration	Status	Purpose
Cooperative Agreement	NPS, ATC	07/17/2014	07/17/2024	New cooperative agreement signed on 07/17/2014	Identifies a broad spectrum of management roles and transfer of funding.
MOU	NPS, ATC	11/20/2004	11/20/2014	Expired	Addresses the more philosophical aspects of cooperative management and “delegation” of authority. All items addressed in new cooperative agreement.
MOU	NPS, USFS, ATC	08/10/2014	08/10/2019	New MOU signed on 08/10/2014	Provides framework for the training and safety certification of chainsaw and crosscut saw operators.

USFS Agreement	Partners to Agreement	Start Date	Expiration	Status	Purpose
MOU	NPS, USFS	01/26/1993	No Expiration	Amended in 2002 for a specific tract in VT	Administrative transfer of specific lands in NH, VT, and VA, as authorized by the National Trails System Act.

TVA Agreement	Partners to Agreement	Start Date	Expiration	Status	Purpose
License Agreement	NPS, TVA	02/28/2013	No Expiration	May need additional licenses	Allows the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to be constructed and maintained on a portion of TVA lands.

Statewide MOUs	Partners to Agreement	Start Date	Expiration	Status	Purpose
Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Committee (ANSTAC)	Representatives from 14 states, NPS, USFS, Smithsonian, TVA, ATC	12/04/1987	12/04/1992	Sunsetted	Affirming the role of state and federal agencies in the cooperative management of the trail after ANSTAC sunsetted. Recommends state agreements be developed.
Maine statewide MOU	NPS, MATC, ATC, state bureaus (DEC, DOT, Baxter SP, DIFW, LURC)	08/28/1972		In effect, but outdated	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.
New Hampshire statewide MOU	NPS, WMNF, AMC, DOC, ATC, DRED-Forestry, Parks, Safety (State Police), DOT, DF&G	04/01/2009	04/1/2019	Current	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.
Vermont statewide MOU	NPS, GMC, DOC, GMC, state agencies (ANR, DOT)	11/30/1982	11/30/1987	Expired	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.
Massachusetts statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, AMC, state agencies (DCR, EOEA, MHD, DFWELE, MTA, MSP)	06/16/2003	06/15/2013	Update in Progress	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO acquired lands; includes department of highways, turnpike authority and all law enforcement agencies.
Connecticut statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, AMC, state agencies (DEEP, DOT, SP)	06/01/2012	06/01/2022	Current	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.
New York statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, NYNJTC, PIPC, DEC, OPRHP, SBA, SP	06/17/2014	06/17/2024	New agreement signed on 06/17/14	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands. Multiple state and bi-state (NY and NJ) agencies.
New Jersey statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, NYNJTC, USF&WS, NJ-DEP, divisions of Forestry, Parks	04/29/1999	04/29/2009	Expired	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.

Statewide MOUs	Partners to Agreement	Start Date	Expiration	Status	Purpose
Pennsylvania statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, KTA, 11 Trail clubs (STC, BHC, AM, PTC, BMECC, AHC, BVC, SATC, YHC, CVATC, MCM, PATC), state agencies (DCNR, BSP, BOF, PGC, SMRC, PSP, PEMA, DOT, PTC)	06/2/2006	06/1/2016	Current	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands. Includes all land-owning, state highway, and emergency management, agency partners.
Maryland statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, PATC, state agencies (DNR, DOT, SP), Washington County	08/13/2002	08/13/2012	Expired	Cooperative management of A.T. on state, county, and ATPO-acquired lands.
West Virginia statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, PATC, State agencies	10/30/1975		In effect, but outdated	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.
Virginia statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, 9 Trail clubs, state agencies (DCR, DOT, DSP, DGIF, DOF)	01/14/2010	01/14/2020	Current	Cooperative management of A.T. on state and ATPO-acquired lands.
Tennessee statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, Trail clubs	07/5/1972		In effect, but outdated	Cooperative management of A.T.
North Carolina statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, Trail clubs	05/26/1971		In effect, but outdated	Cooperative management of A.T.
Georgia statewide MOU	NPS, ATC, Trail clubs	05/4/1972		In effect, but outdated	Cooperative management of A.T.

NPS Park Unit MOUs	Partners to Agreement	Start Date	Expiration	Status	Purpose
NPS-Delaware Water Gap NRA MOU	NPS-ATPO, NPS DEWA, ATC, BATONA, WTC	3/31/1997	3/31/2007	Expired	Cooperative management of the A.T. in Delaware Water Gap NRA and on adjoining ATPO lands.
NPS-C&O Canal NHP MOU	NPS ATPO, NPS CHOH, ATC, PATC	11/16/2001	11/15/2006	Expired	Cooperative management of the A.T. on the C&O Canal.
NPS-Harpers Ferry NHP MOU	NPS ATPO, NPS HAFE, ATC, PATC	9/21/1998	9/21/2008	Expired	Cooperative management of the A.T. in Harpers Ferry NHP and on adjoining lands.
NPS-Shenandoah NP MOU	NPS ATPO, NPS SHEN, ATC, PATC	7/29/2009	7/29/2019	Current	Cooperative management of the A.T. in Shenandoah NP.
NPS-Blue Ridge Parkway MOU	NPS ATPO, NPS BLRI, ATC, Trail clubs	4/19/2012	4/19/2022	Current	Cooperative management of the A.T. in Blue Ridge Parkway.
NPS-Great Smoky Mountains NP MOU	NPS ATPO, NPS GRSM, ATC, SMHC	4/8/1996	4/8/2006	Expired	Cooperative management of the A.T. in Great Smoky Mountains NP.

Existing Trail Partnerships

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is managed and maintained by 31 trail clubs and multiple federal and state agencies, working in partnership with the National Park Service / Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. These partnerships are at the core of managing the trail.

State	Volunteer Partners	Federal Agency Partners	State Agency Partners
ME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appalachian Mountain Club Maine Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ME Dept. of Conservation ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife ME Warden Service ME Office of State Planning ME Dept. of Public Safety ME Bureau of Parks and Lands Baxter State Park The Hermitage Nature Preserve Bald Mountain Pond Bigelow Preserve Grafton Notch State Park ME Historic Preservation Commission
NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appalachian Mountain Club Dartmouth Outing Club Randolph Mountain Club Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Mountain National Forest Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH Dept. of Fish and Game NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development NH Office of State Planning NH Dept. of Transportation NH State Police Benton State Forest Lead Mine State Forest Mount Washington State Park Crawford Notch State Park Franconia Notch State Park NH Division of Historical Resources
VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Mountain Club Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Mountain National Forest Appalachian National Scenic Trail Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VT Agency of Natural Resources VT Environmental and Water Resources Board VT Dept. of Public Safety VT State Police VT Agency of Natural Resources VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation Gifford Woods State Park Kent Pond (State Fish and Wildlife) Calvin Coolidge State Forest Clarendon Gorge (State Fish and Wildlife) VT Division for Historic Preservation

State	Volunteer Partners	Federal Agency Partners	State Agency Partners
MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMC, Berkshire Chapter • Appalachian Mountain Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs • MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation • MA Division of Fisheries • MA Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement • MA Dept. of Public Safety • Clarksburg State Forest • Mount Greylock State Reservation • October Mountain State Forest • Beartown State Forest • East Mountain State Forest • Mt. Everett State Reservation • MA Historical Commission
CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMC, Connecticut Chapter • Appalachian Mountain Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection • CT Dept. of Transportation • CT State Police • Housatonic State Forest • Housatonic Meadows State Park • CT Historic Preservation and Museum Division
NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York-New Jersey Trail Conference • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian National Scenic Trail • Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historical Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation • NY Division of Fish and Wildlife • NY Dept. of Transportation • NY Bridge Authority • NY Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation • NY Palisades Interstate Park Commission • NY State Police • Depot Hill State Forest • Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park • Hudson Highlands State Park • Bear Mountain State Park • Harriman State Park • Sterling Forest State Park • NY State Historic Preservation Office
NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York-New Jersey Trail Conference • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection • NJ State Police • NJ Dept. of Transportation • Abram S. Hewitt State Forest • Wawayanda State Park • High Point State Park • Stokes State Forest • Worthington State Forest • NJ State Historic Preservation Office

State	Volunteer Partners	Federal Agency Partners	State Agency Partners
PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilmington Trail Club • Batona Hiking Club • AMC, Delaware Valley Chapter • Philadelphia Trail Club • Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club • Allentown Hiking Club • Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club • York Hiking Club • Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club • Mountain Club of Maryland • Potomac Appalachian Trail Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources • PA State Parks • Caledonia State Park • Pine Grove Furnace State Park • Swatara State Park • PA Bureau of Forestry • Michaux State Forest • Weiser State Forest • William Penn State Forest • PA Game Commission • PA Fish and Boat Commission • PA Dept. of Transportation • PA Natural Diversity Inventory Office • PA State Police • Pennsylvania State Game Lands • PA Historical & Museum Commission
MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potomac Appalachian Trail Club • Mountain Club of Maryland • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harpers Ferry National Historical Park • Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park • Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD Dept. of Natural Resources • MD Dept. of Transportation • MD State Police • South Mountain State Park • Greenbrier State Park • Washington Monument State Park • Gathland State Park • MD Historical Trust
WV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potomac Appalachian Trail Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harpers Ferry National Historical Park • Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WV Dept. of Natural Resources • WV Dept. of Transportation • WV State Police • WV Division of Culture and History

State	Volunteer Partners	Federal Agency Partners	State Agency Partners
VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potomac Appalachian Trail Club • Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club • Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club • Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club • Outdoor Club of Virginia Tech • Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club • Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers • Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Washington National Forest • Jefferson National Forest • Harpers Ferry National Historical Park • Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail • Shenandoah National Park • Blue Ridge Parkway • Smithsonian Institution • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation • VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries • VA Dept. of Transportation • VA Dept. of State Police • VA Dept. of Forestry • VA Dept. of Historic Resources • Sky Meadows State Park • G.R. Thompson State Wildlife Management Area • Grayson Highlands State Park
TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoky Mountains Hiking Club • Carolina Mountain Club • Tennessee Eastman Hiking and • Canoeing Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherokee National Forest • Great Smoky Mountains National Park • Tennessee Valley Authority • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation • TN Historical Commission
NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nantahala Hiking Club • Smoky Mountains Hiking Club • Carolina Mountain Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pisgah National Forest • Nantahala National Forest • Blue Ridge Parkway • Great Smoky Mountains National Park • Appalachian National Scenic Trail • Tennessee Valley Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Dept. of Environment, Health and Natural Resources • NC State Historic Preservation Office
GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Appalachian Trail Club • Appalachian Trail Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chattahoochee National Forest • Appalachian National Scenic Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GA Dept. of Natural Resources • Vogel State Park • Amicalola Falls State Park • GA Historic Preservation Division

Appendix C: Related Federal Legislation, Regulations, and Executive Orders

While regulatory responsibility for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is shared among the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and states, what follows below are the federal legislation, regulations, and executive orders that apply to the National Park Service, and in some cases—as with executive orders—other federal agencies. The U.S. Forest Service and states each have their own suite of related regulations that apply to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. While not listed within this document, these non-NPS regulations are an important component of Trail management and regulatory structure.

Legislation and Acts

Americans with Disabilities Act – 1990, as amended

Archeological and Historical Preservation Act – 1974

Archaeological Resources Protection Act – 1979

Clean Air Act – 1977

Clean Water Act – 1972

Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) – 1984, as amended

Department of Transportation Act – 1966

Endangered Species Act – 1973

Historic Sites Act – 1935

National Environmental Policy Act – 1969

National Historic Preservation Act – 1966, as amended

National Parks Omnibus Management Act – 1998

National Park Service Organic Act – 1916

National Trail System Act – 1968

Redwood Act, Amending the NPS Organic Act – 1978

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) – 1976, as amended

Code of Federal Regulations

Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, General Provisions

Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 2, Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation

Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 4, Vehicles and Traffic Safety

Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 5, Commercial and Private Operations



Executive Orders

Executive Order 11514, “Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality”
 Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”
 Executive Order 11988, “Floodplain Management”
 Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands”
 Executive Order 12003, “Energy Policy and Conservation”
 Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards”
 Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”
 Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”
 Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species”
 Executive Order 13186, “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds”
 Executive Order 13195, “Trails for America in the 21st Century”
 Executive Order 13327 “Federal Real Property Asset Management”
 Executive Order 13352, “Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation”
 Executive Order 13423, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management”

NPS Management Policies 2006

NPS Director’s Orders

Order 2-1: *Resource Stewardship Planning*
 Order 6: *Interpretation and Education*
 Order 7: *Volunteers in Parks*
 Order 9: *Law Enforcement Program*
 Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making and Handbook*
 Order 18: *Wildland Fire Management*
 Order 24: *NPS Museum Collections Management*
 Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management*
 Order 28A: *Archeology*
 Order 28B: *Ethnography*
 Order 41: *Wilderness Stewardship*
 Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services*
 Order 45: *National Trails System*
 Order 47: *Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management*
 Order 64: *Commemorative Works and Plaques*
 Order 75: *Civic Engagement and Public Involvement*
 Order 77: *Natural Resource Protection*
 Order 77-1: *Wetland Protection*
 Order 77-2: *Floodplain Management*
 Order 77-7: *Integrated Pest Management*
 Order 77-8: *Endangered Species*
 Order 80: *Real Property Asset Management*

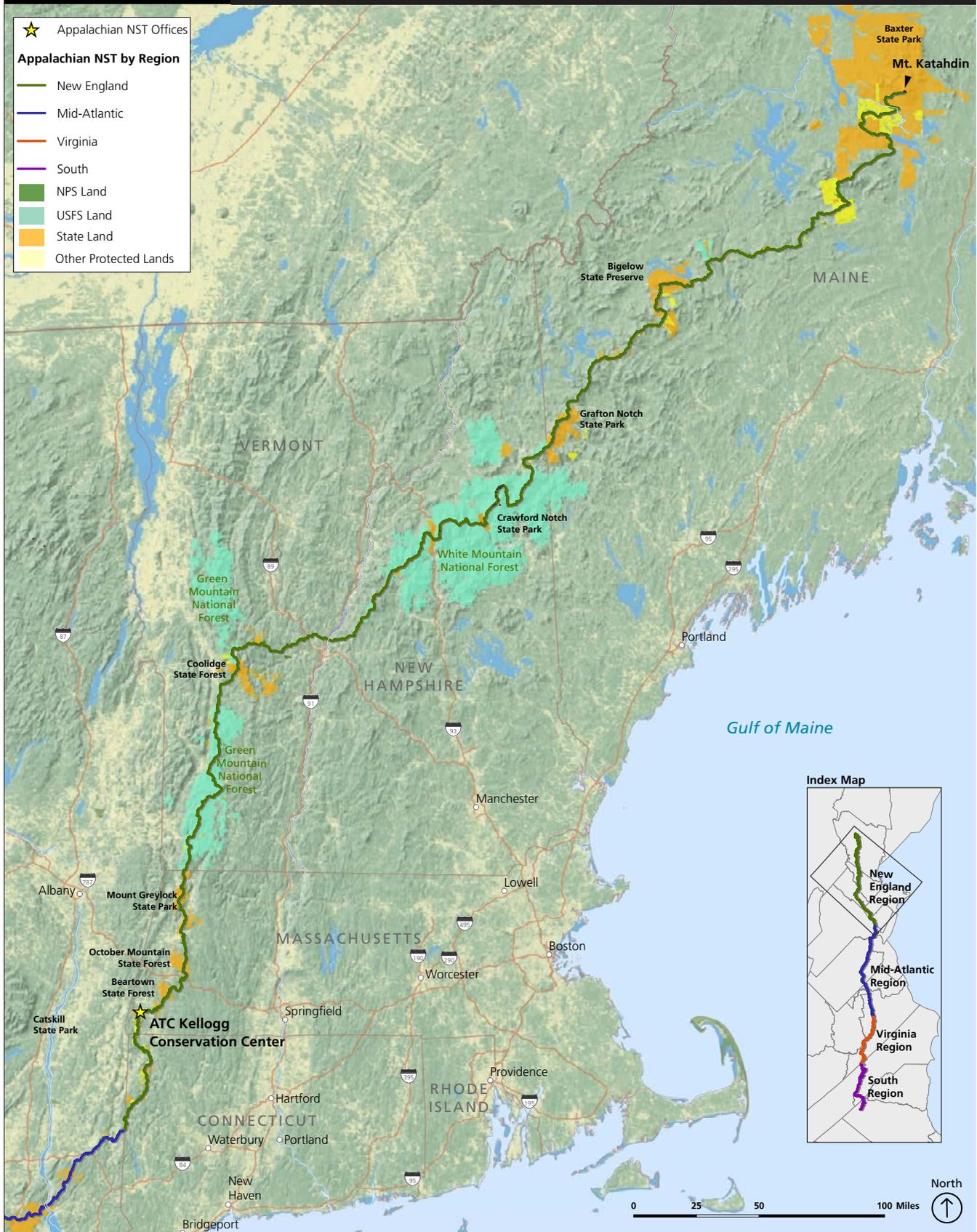
Appendix D: Regional Maps of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

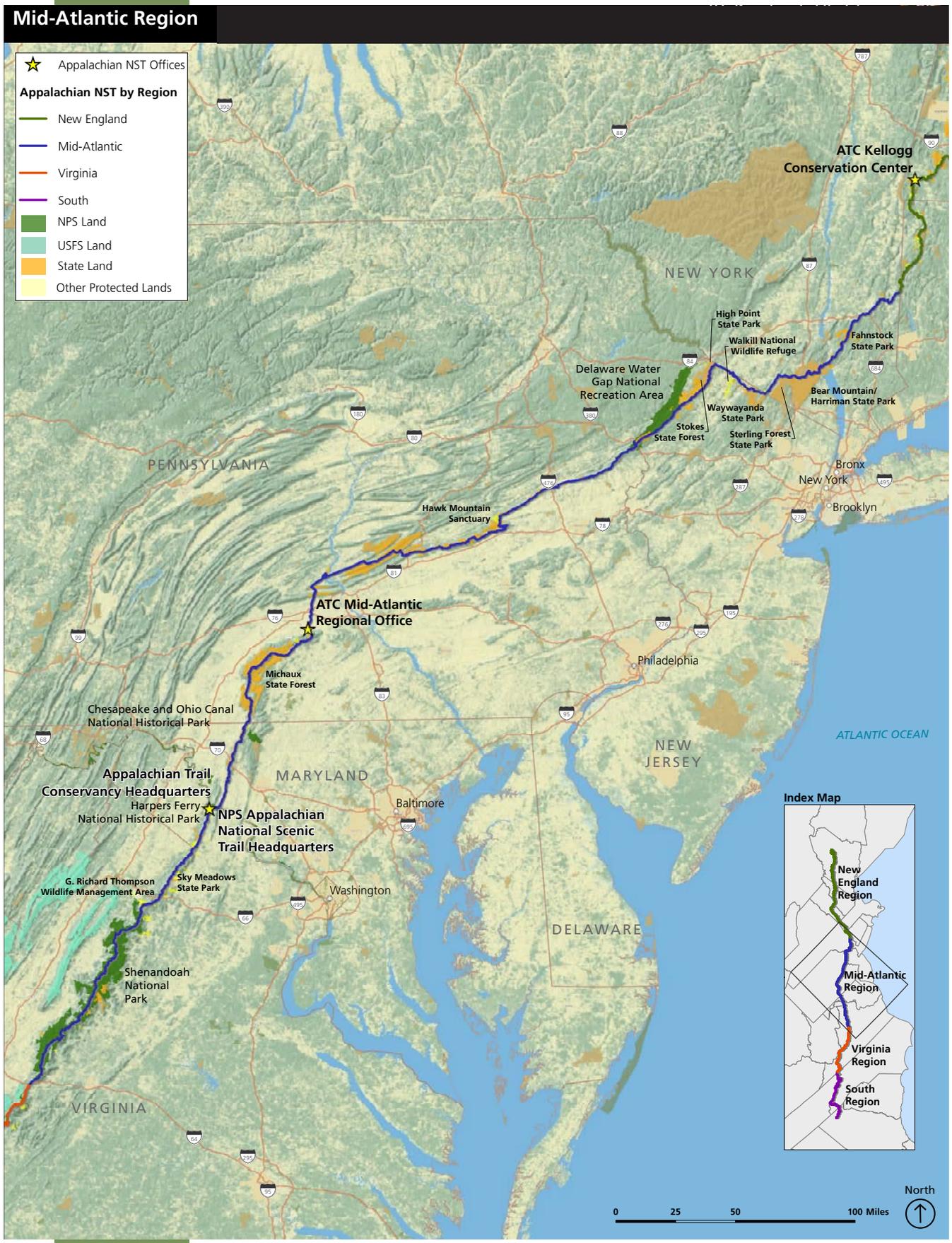
The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is divided into four distinct geographic regions—New England, Mid-Atlantic, Virginia, and Deep South. These regions provide a framework for collaboration between partners, volunteers, and clubs to aid in management of the Trail.



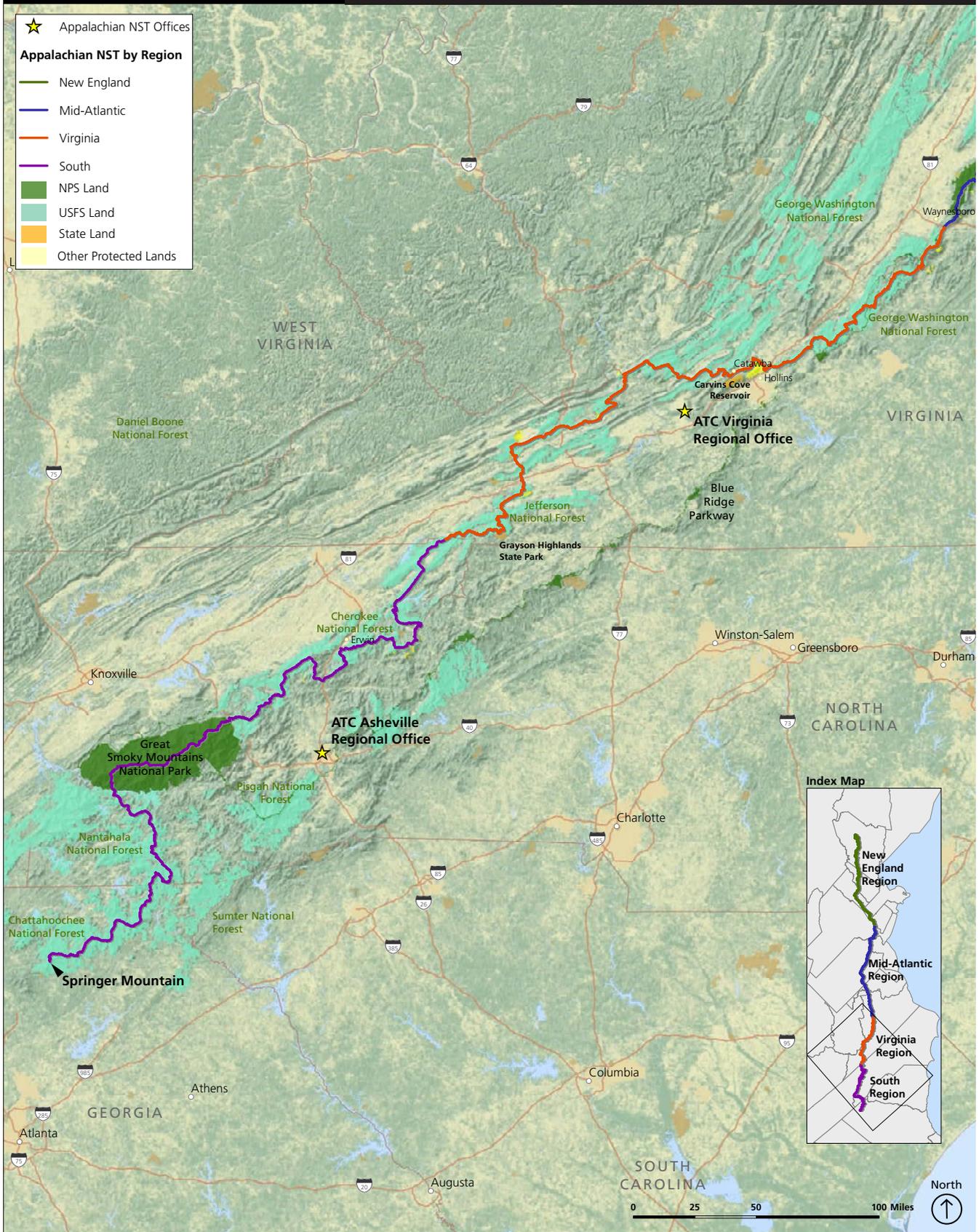
New England Region

- ★ Appalachian NST Offices
- Appalachian NST by Region**
- New England
- Mid-Atlantic
- Virginia
- South
- NPS Land
- USFS Land
- State Land
- Other Protected Lands





Central and Southwest Virginia and





**Northeast Region, National Capital Region, Southeast Region
Foundation Document Recommendation
Appalachian National Scenic Trail**

December 2014

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director, National Capital Regional Director, and Southeast Regional Director.

RECOMMENDED

Wendy K. Janssen, Superintendent, Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Date

CONCURRED

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini, Regional Director, National Capital Region

Date

CONCURRED

Stan Austin, Regional Director, Southeast Region

Date

APPROVED

Michael Caldwell, Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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