

I. PREFACE

This document is the "local" plan for the management of the Appalachian Trail in Maine from Maine Highway 26 in Grafton Notch to the summit of Katahdin. It is a part (the other being the Appalachian Mountain Club plan for management of the A.T. from Highway 26 to the New Hampshire boundary) of the Maine component of the *Comprehensive Plan for the Management of the Appalachian Trail*. The *Comprehensive Plan* was developed by the National Park Service, as directed by the 21 March 1978 (PL 95-248) and 10 November 1978 (PL 95-625) amendments to the National Trails System Act of 1968 (PL 90-543). (See Appendix A1¹.) This plan, moreover, is a key element in a cooperative management process for the protection and maintenance in Maine of both the Appalachian Trail and the Trail experience. It is a comprehensive framework, designed to help the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC), the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the National Park Service (NPS), and agencies of the State of Maine to engage in an effective partnership for managing the Trail in Maine. The plan indicates the specific authorities and responsibilities of each party and outlines issues, policies, and procedures related to the management of the Trail.

This management plan has been prepared by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, in consultation and cooperation with the ATC, the NPS Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA), and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL). The policies and actions set forth in this plan are intended to serve as a guide for the MATC in fulfilling its delegated responsibilities for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail from Grafton Notch to Katahdin.

II. THE PARTNERSHIP

The Appalachian Trail in Maine is managed under agreements between and among the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Baxter State Park Authority, the Maine Forest Service, and the Maine Warden Service. These parties have agreed to cooperate in furthering the purposes of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. This partnership is authorized by the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1246 (h), which permits cooperative agreements with states and private organizations "to operate, develop, and maintain any portion of a national scenic trail either within or outside a federally administered area". Further, the Maine Trails System law, 12 MRSA §1892 (See Appendix A2.), permits the Bureau of Parks and Lands to enter into "agreements with private organizations and governmental agencies to provide for the maintenance of established trails." "The Appalachian Trail is included as a primitive trail in the Maine Trails system..." In 1972, Governor Kenneth Curtis signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Park Service (Appendix B0) in furtherance of the National Trails System Act. The partnership with many Trail states was reinforced in November, 1987, with the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix B4) among the principal Federal, state, and private organizations that are concerned with the administration of the Appalachian Trail. Maine signed the MOU in 1987, but it apparently was not renewed after its five-year term ended in 1992.

¹ A complete copy of the Act is available at www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/nts/legislation.html

The general responsibilities of the parties to this partnership are summarized in Table 1, and are more fully described in the following sections.

Table 1. Summary of Management Responsibilities for A. T. Lands in Maine.

Land Base	MATC Role	Agency Role	Other Roles
NPS-acquired A.T. corridor lands ("APPA Lands")	All management functions, including maintenance of footpath and facilities, monitoring and management of corridor lands, preparation of the local management plan	NPS-Appalachian National Scenic Trail: Enforcement of Federal laws and regulations, NEPA compliance, land acquisition, special use permits, oversight for compliance with agency policies	(The following apply to all lands except as noted for Baxter State Park. State and local police and county sheriffs: General enforcement of State laws
State Parks, BPL A.T. lands, BPL A.T. easements, Maine Public Reserved Lands	Physical management of the main footpath, designated side trails, and related facilities; preparation of the local management plan	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands: General oversight, enforcement of BPL regulations; management of campsites and boat launch facility on Nahmakanta Lake under MOU with NPS	Maine Forest Service: Fire suppression, fire law enforcement, LUPC and other State law enforcement Maine Warden Service: Game law enforcement, search and rescue
Spectacle Ponds Tract	Physical management of the footpath	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife: Management of tract primarily for wildlife habitat	LUPC: Land use planning in the Unorganized Territory
Baxter State Park	Maintenance of the footpath	Baxter State Park Authority: All authority for the administration of the A.T. and management of Park lands, including enforcement of Park rules and regulations and State laws	Ditto above, except that the Park has its own search and rescue capability

Relevant documents: 1981 NPS A.T. Comprehensive Plan; 1984, 1989, 1994, 2004 Delegation Agreement between NPS and ATC and re-delegation from the ATC to the MATC; 1997 ATC/MATC MOU; 2012 MATC Local Management Plan; Penobscot Resource Protection Plan; Plans for BPL management units and 2000 BPL Integrated Resource Policy; Fire Management Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail; Letter of 11/1/1985 from IF&W Commissioner Glen Manuel regarding the Spectacle Ponds Tract; Cooperative Agreement of 3 Nov. 2009 between Baxter State Park and the MATC, which expires 3 Nov. 2014.

A. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service holds the primary authority and responsibility for the acquisition, development, and administration of the Appalachian Trail. In cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the NPS will provide the information and coordination needed for this purpose. Through a Cooperative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix B1, a.k.a. "The Delegation Agreement"), the National Park Service has delegated to the ATC the responsibility for the management of certain lands acquired by the NPS for protection of the Appalachian Trail. These lands include all of the Trail lands acquired by the NPS in Maine. Under the terms of the agreement, the NPS retains all responsibilities over these lands with regard to law enforcement, transfers of title or use and occupancy to any lands or interests therein, authority to relocate the overall Trail right-of-way, land acquisition on behalf of the United States, and authority to charge any fee or cost or otherwise utilize any proceeds from the management of the Trail. The NPS also retains responsibility for boundary survey, structure removal, oversight for compliance with NPS policy, responsibility for fire management, and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other Federal laws. The National Park Service administers the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) from the Appalachian Trail Park Office in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

B. APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has agreed, in the Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service, to serve as a guarantor to the NPS that the Trail and the corridor lands included under the Agreement will be adequately managed by the Conservancy and its member clubs. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail between the Appalachian Trail Conference (now the Appalachian Trail Conservancy) and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, dated 11 April 1997 (Appendix B3), the ATC will serve, if necessary, to back up the responsibilities of the MATC. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has its headquarters in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Four regional field offices are located in South Egremont, Massachusetts; Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania; Blacksburg, Virginia; and Asheville, North Carolina.

C. MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club continues to hold the responsibility that it has held since 1935 for the management of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, from the summit of Katahdin to Maine Highway 26 in Grafton Notch. Except for a more limited role in Baxter State Park, the MATC is responsible for all Trail and Trail structure design, construction, and maintenance, for monitoring activities in the A.T. corridor, and for basic public information and education regarding the Trail in Maine. Responsibility for the management of Trail lands in Maine that are owned by the National Park Service was re-delegated to the MATC by the Appalachian Trail Conference (now Appalachian Trail Conservancy) by letter of 22 October 1984 to the MATC (Appendix B2). This delegation, which was authorized by the 26 January 1984 Memorandum of Agreement between the NPS and the ATC, is subject to

the terms of that Agreement, as renewed in 2004, and by the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding between the ATC and the MATC.

Responsibility for the MATC's management of Trail lands in Maine that are owned by, or are under the jurisdiction of the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands was defined in the 1981 Memorandum of Agreement between the of Public Lands and the (now defunct) Bureau of Parks and Recreation (Appendix B6). Under the Agreement, the MATC is responsible for the physical management of the Trail and designated side trails, consistent with the policies and procedures contained in this Local Management Plan and the Comprehensive Plan for the Management of the Appalachian Trail.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club has no permanent headquarters. Except for seasonal work crew leaders, seasonal caretakers, and seasonal ridge runners, its paid staff consists of a part-time Club Coordinator.

D. BUREAU OF PARKS & LANDS

The State of Maine has agreed to pursue the Appalachian Trail protection program in Maine, to the extent that State resources allow, and to hold and administer non-federally-owned segments of the Trail that are acquired for that purpose. State-owned lands that are crossed by the Trail are administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Conservation, Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Baxter State Park Authority.

The BPL is the lead State of Maine agency for the Appalachian Trail. It is responsible (under authority previously held by the Bureau of Parks & Recreation) for administering the Maine Trails System (12 MRSA §1892), of which the Appalachian Trail is a component. It administers all units of the Maine Public Reserved Lands crossed by the AT, as well as lands and easements for the A.T. acquired through donation from International Paper Co. and Great Northern Nekoosa Corp. by the former Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is headquartered in Augusta, Maine, and has field offices throughout the state.

E. THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE

The Maine Forest Service, a.k.a. the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Conservation, Agriculture and Forestry, has statutory authority and responsibility for the prevention and control of wildfires throughout Maine. A 1999 Memorandum of Understanding between the NPS and the MFS (Appendix B7) provides for fire protection, detection, and suppression on NPS lands in Maine. Acadia National Park has agreed to serve as the APPA's representative in wildland fire management matters in Maine. (A detailed Fire Management Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which covers all APPA lands in Maine, was signed by the APPA, the ATC, and Acadia National Park in 2005.) The Maine Forest Service also has certain law enforcement authority on DPL lands that include the AT.

The Maine Forest Service is headquartered in Augusta, Maine, and has field offices throughout the state.

F. THE MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

The Maine Warden Service is the law enforcement arm of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The Warden Service has statutory authority and responsibility for the enforcement of all game laws in Maine and for search and rescue operations (technically, “search for lost persons”). A 1996 Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix B8) among the NPS, the MATC, and the MWS provides for the use, operation, and maintenance by the MWS of two emergency helicopter landing sites in the Gulf Hagas area for search and rescue activities. The NPS and the MWS signed a five-year Cooperative Agreement in 2001 (Appendix B12) under which the NPS will provide financial support to the MWS for search and rescue missions and law enforcement efforts on NPS lands in Maine. [This policy needs updated approval by the NPS, possibly by the next APPA Superintendent.] The Maine Warden Service is headquartered in Augusta, Maine, and has field offices throughout the state.

G. BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY

Baxter State Park holds all authority for the administration of the Appalachian Trail within the boundaries of the Park. To the extent allowed by the Deeds of Trust, whereby the Park was established and is governed, the Baxter State Park Authority may continue to delegate responsibility for the maintenance of the A.T. in the Park to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. (See Appendix B5.) Baxter State Park is administered from its headquarters in Millinocket, Maine.