

IV. THE MANAGEMENT/PLANNING PROCESS

Planning for the management of the Appalachian Trail in Maine has required the cooperation of many interested parties. Communication and cooperation between Trail managers, Trail users, and landowners along the Trail corridor must continue if this plan is to be effective. Although their degree of involvement in the day-to-day management of the Trail will vary greatly, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, owners of land adjacent to the Trail corridor, and town, regional, State, and federal agencies should all be involved in the planning process. This section identifies and describes the roles expected of the principal parties.

A. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The ultimate responsibility for the Appalachian Trail rests with the National Park Service. The Congressional mandates of 1968, 1978, 1983, and 1988 required not only an aggressive Federal program for the acquisition and protection of the A.T. but also a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Trail. This Maine plan is a part of the comprehensive planning process. National Park Service involvement continued, after the protection program was completed, through oversight of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and local activities, and through direct involvement in matters (such as law enforcement) that the NPS has not delegated to the ATC.

B. APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY¹

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail—ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come. Traditionally a federation of organizations and individuals that exists to promote and oversee the protection and management of the entire Appalachian Trail, ATC broadened its mission in the past decade to reach out to new stakeholders, including public school educators and students, local communities and scientific and land-trust organizations interested in broader conservation initiatives. The Conservancy coordinates planning and management by: 1) assigning responsibility for sections of the A.T. to major maintaining organizations, 2) developing and publishing Trail standards, 3) developing Trail-wide management policies, 4) serving as a liaison between the Trail organizations and the National Park Service, and 5) working cooperatively with Trail organizations and state and local agencies and organizations, as needed and requested by the Trail organizations, to promote Trail interests at the state and local levels. ATC/MATC relations are clarified in the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix B3). The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has also served as a land trust actively supporting agency or local land-trust acquisitions of fee and easement interests in lands near the Appalachian Trail. The ATC occasionally acquires such interests directly on behalf of the APPA.

² Formerly the Appalachian Trail Conference. The name was changed by vote of the Board of Managers in November, 2003, effective in July 2005.

C. MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club has been assigned the responsibility, by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, for the maintenance of the Appalachian Trail from the summit of Katahdin to Maine Highway 26. During the Trail protection program, the Club determined the permanent location of the A.T. footpath, delineated the protection corridor along the footpath, and presented to and discussed with landowners proposals for the acquisition, by the State or the National Park Service, of development and management rights within the corridor that were sufficient to permanently protect the natural surroundings of the Trail. The final stages of these negotiations were carried out by the State and the Park Service.

D. MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL LAND TRUST

The mission of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT) is "to preserve and protect land surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Maine for public benefit." Organized in June, 2002, the Portland-based group works closely with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. It has already contributed greatly to the protection of lands on Mt. Abraham and on the Saddleback Mountain Range adjacent to the APPA corridor as part of its Western Mountains Campaign, and is actively involved in further collaborative efforts along the Trail in Maine. On 12 September 2003, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club Executive Committee approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the MATLT, the MATC, and the ATC (Appendix B11) that clarifies the mutually supportive roles of the three organizations.

E. AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF MAINE

1. Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

The Bureau of Parks and Lands, an agency of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, is the lead organization for the State's involvement in the protection and management of the Appalachian Trail. The Maine State Trails System Act of 1973 directed the (then) Bureau of Parks & Recreation to establish a Maine Trails System, and to include in that system the Appalachian Trail as a "primitive trail...in a manner consistent with the National Trails System Act." The 1973 Act authorizes the State to acquire fee or lesser interests along trails to protect them from incompatible developments, and authorizes the Bureau to adopt rules and regulations for the Appalachian Trail and other trails that are components of the Maine trail system.

Under a June, 1972, Memorandum of Agreement between the State and the National Park Service, the Maine Forestry Department agreed to pursue the Appalachian Trail protection program in Maine and to "hold, develop, and administer non-federally owned segments of the Trail acquired by it", subject to the overall authority of the Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service. The 1973 Act shifted responsibility for the

administration of the State's interests in the A.T. from the Maine Forest Service to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, which was later merged with the Bureau of Public Lands into a new Bureau of Parks and Lands.

The BPL is also responsible for periodic revisions of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and has been designated as the State agency responsible for administering funds allocated to Maine under The National Recreational Trails Fund Act (Symms Act) of 1991. In order to remain eligible to receive Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund monies, the Bureau of Parks and Lands must submit an updated action plan to the National Park Service every other year. This plan includes information regarding the management of the A.T. and the Trail protection program. The SCORP must be reviewed and updated every five years (12 MRSA §1817, Subsection 7). The MATC participates in these reviews. The most recent SCORP was approved by the NPS for the period 2009-2014. The full document is available at www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/SCORP.

The Symms Act provides Federal funding to states for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized uses. Maine's Governor designated the Bureau of Parks and Recreation (now the BPL) as the State agency to administer the funds that are allocated to Maine. One of the requirements for eligibility to receive funds was the establishment of a Trails Advisory Committee that represents the various trail groups in the state. The MATC participated in meetings of this Committee and of the Maine Trails Coalition, both of which provided useful forums for discussing conflicting uses of the A.T. with leaders of groups whose members are involved in those conflicts. However, the Maine Trails Coalition has not met for several years.

Through a cooperative agreement, dated 30 October 1981 (Appendix B6), the former Bureau of Parks and Recreation agreed to limited responsibility for the management of a 1000-foot corridor, centered on the A.T. where it crossed property of the former Bureau of Public Lands. Policies for the management and use of this zone are included in Appendix B6. **[Note: Given the merger of the BPR and the BPL, these policies should be revisited and revised.]** Several of the Unit management plans described below call for updating the 1981 A.T. management agreement to "give all of the organizations involved more timely information and provide greater opportunities for input on management activities for that portion of the A.T. located on the [respective] Unit. This will allow more responsiveness to A.T. management needs and more efficient coordination of overall Unit management responsibilities."

The Bureau revised its "Integrated Resource Policy for the Public Reserved Lands of Maine", which provides overall direction for management of those lands, in December, 2000. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club was represented on an Advisory Committee that helped with this process.

BPL lands currently crossed by the A.T. within the MATC's jurisdiction include state parks, lands and rights donated for A.T. protection to the former Bureau of Parks and

Recreation, and Public Reserved Lands (PRL). From south to north, the specific units include Grafton Notch State Park, the Mahoosuc Management Unit (PRL), the Four Ponds Management Unit (PRL), the Redington tract (PRL), the Bigelow Preserve (PRL), the Bald Mountain Pond Tract (PRL), the Bodfish Tract, the Barren Mountain Tract (Long Pond Stream in Ellitsville to the Ellitsville/T7R9 town line), and the Nahmakanta Management Unit (PRL). The BPL also holds easement rights along the A.T. on lands formerly of Great Northern Nekoosa Corp., from the TAR10/T1R10 town line to the T1R10/T1R11 town line and from the outlet stream of the Murphy Ponds in T2R11 to the T3R10 town line. From Abol Bridge to the T3R10 boundary, this easement overlaps another easement held by the BPL for the "Penobscot Resource Protection Zone", described more fully below. The underlying fee to these easement lands is now held by the National Park Service (from the TAR10/T1R10 town line to the T1R10/T1R11 town line), the Nature Conservancy (from the outlet of the Murphy Ponds to just south of the "Golden Road", and Baxter State Park from just north of Abol Campground to the T3R10 town line.

The public reserved lands support commercial forests that are managed for timber production, wildlife habitat, public recreation, and watershed protection and also non-forested areas. Special areas such as Bigelow Ridge and the high elevations of the Mahoosucs, as well as designated zones at lower elevations, are managed primarily for recreational uses and protection of special resources. The Bureau's policies include care for the visual environment of the AT. The following sections describe the planning processes for the major BPL management units that are crossed by the AT. In recent years, the Bureau has changed its procedure for management planning to the development of 15-year regional plans, rather than plans for individual management units. BPL lands crossed by the A.T. are now covered by the Western Mountains Region Plan (completed 1/4/11), the Flagstaff Region Management Plan (completed 6/12/07), and the Central Penobscot Region Management Plan (in process). The Western Mountain Plan includes the Mahoosuc and Four Ponds management units and Grafton Notch State Park; the Flagstaff Plan includes the Redington Township Lot, Mt. Abraham Lands, and the Bigelow Preserve; the Central Penobscot Plan includes the Nahmakanta Lake Management Unit. The completed plans are available on line at www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/prl.html. The A.T. also crosses Public Reserved Lands in Caratunk and Bald Mountain Township. (These will be covered in an upcoming management plan.) Overall, planning for and management of BPL lands is guided by the Integrated Resource Policy (IRP), revised and adopted in December, 2000. Planning includes a "Resource Allocation System" (RAS), developed in the 1980s and formalized in the IRP.

The IRP assigns management policies "based on resource characteristics and values according to a hierarchy that ranks resources along a scale from those that are scarce and/or most sensitive to management activities to those that are less so." The hierarchy defines the type of management that will be applied, using "dominant" and "secondary" use or management designations, using seven allocation categories:

1. Special Protection Areas (including Ecological Reserves and Significant Natural Areas)
2. Backcountry Recreation Areas (Motorized and Non-mechanized)

3. Wildlife Areas (essential wildlife habitat, significant habitats, and specialized habitat areas and features including rare natural communities)
4. Remote Recreation Areas
5. Visual Protection Areas
6. Developed Recreation Areas
7. Timber Management Areas

The Bureau also designates “ecological reserves” on Department of Conservation, Agriculture and Forestry lands. “In accordance with the legislative intent, these ecological reserves were established as 1) benchmarks against which biological and environmental change could be measured; 2) habitats adequate to maintain viable populations of species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on other lands; and 3) sites for scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education. In addition, public access, hunting, and fishing are among the allowed uses on ecological reserves.” One of these (The Carlo-Speck Ecological Reserve) encloses much of the Appalachian Trail between Maine Highway 26 and New Hampshire.

Western Mountains Region Management Plan

The Western Mountains Region Management Plan was adopted on 4 January 2011. Advisory Committee members included Mike Ewing, Assistant Overseer of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club’s Baldpate District. Twenty five miles of the A.T. are located on the three Bureau properties in this region: The Mahoosuc Unit, Grafton Notch State Park, and the Four Ponds Unit. The 38-mile Grafton Loop Trail is also located on the Grafton and Mahoosuc properties.

Mahoosuc Unit. A “Special Protection (Historic/Cultural) Dominant” zone extends along the A.T. and the Grafton Loop Trail for 100 feet on each side of the footpath where not already contained within a large Special Protection or Backcountry non-mechanized Dominant Allocation. This zone is also designated backcountry non-mechanized as a secondary allocation. From the point where the A.T. leaves Grafton Notch State Park and enters The Mahoosuc Unit near Table Rock, north to the 2700-foot elevation west of Baldpate Mt., a 400-foot Backcountry Non-mechanized Dominant zone is added on each side of the A.T. to the Special Protection Zone. Where the Special Protection or Backcountry zones do not apply, a 400-foot “Remote Recreation Dominant” zone extends on both sides of the A.T. and the Grafton Loop Trail from the 100-foot special protection area on each side of the trails. These areas are also subject to “Visual Class I” designation.

Four Ponds Unit. A “Special Protection (Historic/Cultural) Dominant” zone extends along the A.T. for 100 feet on each side of the footpath. An additional 400 feet on each side of the Trail carries a “Remote Recreation Dominant” allocation except where allocated “Wildlife”. Each side of the A.T. is subject to Visual Class I allocation beyond the Special Protection 100-foot buffer.

Flagstaff Region Management Plan

The Flagstaff Region Management Plan was adopted on 12 June 2007. Advisory Committee members included J. T. Horn of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Richard Fecteau of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. The Appalachian Trail crosses two Bureau properties in this region: The Bigelow Preserve and the Redington Township Lot. In addition, the MATC's Mt. Abraham Side Trail and Mt. Abraham access trail cross the Mt. Abraham property, much of which was donated to the State of Maine by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust.

Bigelow Preserve. By citizen referendum in June, 1976, the Maine Department of Conservation and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife were authorized and directed to acquire a public preserve of approximately 40,000 acres surrounding and including the Bigelow Mountain range. The Bureau of Parks and Lands has overall management responsibility for the Preserve. The Bureau coordinates all activities with the other appropriate State agencies and interest groups. The Appalachian Trail, together with its system of side trails, is the central recreational feature of the Preserve. (The MATC maintains 17.6 miles of the A.T. and 14.8 miles of side trails in the Preserve.) Management plans for the A.T. must be coordinated with plans for the Preserve through the BPL. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club's Bigelow District Overseer facilitates this process.

Land management allocations under the Bureau's Resource Allocation System have been designated for the Bigelow Preserve. Much of the land crossed by the A.T. in the Preserve is part of the 10,561-acre "The Horns Ecological Reserve". This land is allocated to the "Special Protection" management zone. A 100-foot no-cut buffer zone is specified on each side of the Appalachian Trail through the Preserve as well as the associated side trails. These trails also are provided with a secondary allocation as "Backcountry Non-mechanized". In addition, a 400-foot corridor on each side of the 100-foot Special Protection zone along the A.T. and related side trails is allocated to the "Remote Recreation" management category except where the trails are located within the Ecological Reserve or Bigelow Backcountry Non-mechanized area. The legal status of the Bigelow Preserve, distinct from other lands managed by the Bureau, has led to the creation of "Bigelow Backcountry Non-Mechanized" designation, within which roads for timber management and multi-aged timber management is permitted as a secondary use. No new forest management roads are allowed within 500 feet of the Appalachian Trail or any of its related side trails. Motorized recreational uses are prohibited. A second category, "Bigelow Backcountry", is the same except that snowmobiles are allowed on designated trails and mountain bikes can be allowed on designated roads and trails. A variable width Visual Class I zone applies to the A.T. and related trails "for purposes of view management and management of allowed activities that could affect visual quality".

Redington Township Lot. About 6,000 feet of the Appalachian Trail passes through the 1,020-acre Redington Lot. A "Dominant Special Protection no-cut area" exists along a 100-foot corridor on each side of the Appalachian Trail, with an additional 400 feet on each side allocated to "Dominant Remote Recreation" zoning. A Visual Class I of variable width

exists on both sides of the A.T. New timber management roads or motorized recreation are not allowed within 500 feet of the A.T.

Mt. Abraham. Most of the property is in “special protection” for the ecological reserve. All hiking trails on the Mt. Abraham property have 100-foot no-cut buffer zones on each side of the footpaths. In addition, a 400-foot corridor on each side of the 100-foot Special Protection zone along hiking trails not within the Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve is allocated to the “Remote Recreation” management category.

Central Penobscot Region Management Plan

The Appalachian Trail passes through only two management units within this region: the Nahmakanta Lake Management Unit and the Penobscot Resource Protection Zone. The 15-year planning process for the region began in 2011.

Nahmakanta Lake Management Unit. In the fall of 1990, the Land for Maine's Future Board and the National Park Service (NPS) purchased 29,692 acres in T1R11 and the south half of T2R11 WELS from Diamond Occidental Forests, Inc. Diamond retained ownership of 103 acres of land under and around Nahmakanta Lake Sporting Camps, subject to a conservation easement on the development and use of those camps that was purchased by the NPS. Those 103 acres were purchased by the National Park Service in 2004, with a continuation of the sporting camps lease.

The National Park Service now owns 1,923 acres in the township, including the entire shoreline of the lake. The NPS fee ownership extends along the Appalachian Trail from the T1R10/T1R11 line on Nahmakanta Stream to the confluence of the outlet of the Murphy Ponds and Rainbow Stream, including a 250-foot strip of land along the northerly shores of Nahmakanta Stream and Nahmakanta Lake, the easterly side of Rainbow Stream, and the westerly side of Polywog Stream. The ownership along the southwesterly shore of the lake varies in width from 1,000 to 3,500 feet, and includes Nesuntabunt Mountain and Crescent Pond. The State owns the land around the A.T. corridor and, under Maine law, the lake itself and the land under the water.

When the NPS acquired the corridor lands, it signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Maine Department of Conservation to plan for management practices that would allow continuation of "appropriate traditional uses" on NPS lands around the lake "while also preserving an environment harmonious with the use of the property as a national scenic trail". The Maine Appalachian Trail Club worked with the BPL, the ATC, and the NPS to develop a plan for the management of those NPS lands. This plan (Appendix C6) has been incorporated into the BPL's Nahmakanta Unit Plan. ATC and MATC representatives participated in the development of the Unit Plan, which was adopted in July, 1995. A final Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the Nahmakanta Lake property was signed by the NPS and the BPL on 9 June 1997 (Appendix B9a), for a period of ten years and renewed in March, 2008 (Appendix B9b).

The MATC Plan for the Management of Nahmakanta Lake Lands and the 1997 MOU provide for BPL management of facilities that allow public access for hand-launch of boats at the south end of the lake. Snowmobiles are permitted to cross the A.T. corridor to the lake over the same access route that is used for boat launching in the summer. Four water-access overnight use sites with primitive camping facilities and two day use sites with no improvements or facilities are managed for public use along the shore of the lake. Camping by A.T. hikers and others is prohibited on corridor lands except at designated sites. The State is responsible for maintaining the facilities described and for monitoring and regulating their use. According to the MOU, "State monitoring of the Property must ensure, among other purposes, that traditional uses of the lake and lakeshore, including camping, ice-fishing, boating, and snowmobiling, are exercised in a manner that preserves an environment that is harmonious with the use of the Property as a national scenic trail...If the public's use of the proposed facilities results in repeated and substantial interference with hikers' use of the Appalachian Trail, as determined by the Service or the State, the facilities may be closed and the site(s) restored..."

Penobscot Resource Protection Zone

From a point 500 feet north of the confluence of Nesowadnehunk Stream and the West Branch of the Penobscot River to a point where the Trail turns south from the former Great Northern Paper's "Golden Road", the A.T. passes through the Penobscot Resource Protection Plan Zone. Within this zone, all recreational development rights are held by the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands. The following policies have been established for this section of the Appalachian Trail:

1. Motorized vehicle traffic and snowmobiling are allowed only on those portions of the Trail that are located within a right-of-way of a roadway or utility line or where authorized crossings have been established by the MATC.
2. Timber harvesting, land management roads and water crossings, mineral extractions, road projects, and signs require a permit from the Land Use Regulation Commission unless those activities are located within 50 feet of the centerline of Great Northern's management roads.
3. Recreational management of the Penobscot Corridor will recognize the particular character of the Appalachian Trail and avoid establishment or encouragement of activities that would substantially alter or degrade this experience or the Trail environment.
4. Proposed activities that would have an impact on the Trail or the Trail experience will be submitted to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club for its review and comment before they are approved by the Bureau of Parks & Lands.

In 1997, Baxter State Park purchased Great Northern Nekoosa's lands between the south boundary of T3R10 and the Penobscot River. The A.T. crosses these new Park lands from Abol Stream to the T3R10 line. The BSP purchase was subject to both the existing

Penobscot River easement and the Appalachian Trail easement. [Has the BPL ceded these rights to BSP?]

2. Baxter State Park

Baxter State Park is not a part of the State Park System that is administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. BSP is administered by the Baxter State Park Authority, according to the Deeds of Trust whereby former Governor Percival P. Baxter gifted to the people of Maine the lands that make up the park. The *Baxter State Park Management Plan: Policies and Concepts*, and the unit plans for transportation and public use, impact the ten miles of the A.T. that lie within the Park north of the conservation easement that is held by the Bureau of Parks & Lands. Maine Appalachian Trail Club planning for, and activities along the A.T. within BSP, must be approved by the Park Director. A summary of Baxter Park management regulations that are relevant to the Appalachian Trail is presented in Appendix D5.

3. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife owns a parcel of land (The Spectacle Pond Tract) in the northeast corner of the town of Monson that includes about a half a mile of the Appalachian Trail. Planning for this wildlife management unit will be coordinated with the IF&W biologist in the Greenville regional office. IF&W has provided written permission for the A.T. footpath to cross this land (Appendix B10), but no corridor protection has been established.

F. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

The Trail passes through areas under the jurisdiction of three Regional Planning Commissions: 1) the Androscoggin Valley RPC (Oxford and Franklin counties), 2) the North Kennebec RPC (Somerset County), and 3) the Penobscot Valley RPC (Piscataquis County). These commissions are involved in a wide range of planning activities and work with towns, some of which are close to the Trail. They also review the proposed use of Federal funds (A-95) in their areas for the State Planning Office. While their level of interest may not often include Trail-related issues, the RPCs should be kept informed of Trail actions that are of local significance.

G. LOCAL TOWNS

The Appalachian Trail in Maine passes through only three organized townships: Monson, Caratunk, and Carrabasset Valley. The Trail also passes through three semi-organized plantations (political subdivisions similar to towns but with very small populations and only partial local government): Blanchard, The Forks, and Sandy River. The towns of Andover, Rangeley, Stratton, Brownville, and Millinocket, although not on the Trail, are close enough to Trail highway crossings so that A.T. hikers commonly use them for provisioning and rest stops. Summer visitors to all of these communities are frequent users

of the Appalachian Trail. Interest in and influence on the A.T. varies among these communities, but open communications with them should be a part of the long-term management plan for the Trail. In 2012, Monson and Rangeley were designated official A.T. "Trail Towns". Millinocket was added in 2013 and Kingfield in 2016. The Trail Towns program is intended to enhance communication along the length of the Appalachian Trail, provide support for land issues, and for sustainable economic development, in particular centered on outdoor recreation and eco-tourism, and to increase visibility for the designated towns.

H. PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

1. The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy now owns the underlying fee title to lands crossed by the Appalachian Trail from the confluence of the outlet of the Murphy Ponds and Rainbow Stream in T2R11 to the "Golden Road" corridor in T2R10. Management planning for these lands is under way and MATC representatives are engaged in that planning with the Nature Conservancy.

2. The Appalachian Mountain Club

The Appalachian Mountain Club now owns lands bordering the A.T. corridor through Township 7 Range 9 WELS and the Bowdoin College Grant West (Township 8 Range 10 NWP). This section of the Trail extends from the eastern portion of the Barren-Chairback Range to Gulf Hagas Mountain. Representatives of the NPS, the ATC and the MATC have been actively engaged with AMC planners to discuss matters of mutual interest such as access to the A.T. across AMC lands, possible crossings of the A.T. by an AMC trail, and management of AMC lands and facilities that might have some impacts on the A.T.

3. Other Private Landowners

Private landowners along the corridor continue to influence, and be influenced by, users and managers of the Trail. Some owners will be actively involved in Trail activities; others will take an interest only from time to time. The important thing will be to maintain open lines of communication with these landowners so that potential conflicts may be recognized and dealt with before they occur, and opportunities for mutually beneficial actions can be identified before they are lost. This has become especially important in recent years as extensive areas of private lands bordering the corridor have changed ownership.

I. PERIODIC REVIEWS

Planning for the Appalachian Trail in Maine did not end with the first two editions of this document, nor will it with the third. It shall be the responsibility of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to regularly monitor the condition of the Trail and related facilities and to initiate corrective action where necessary. The Club shall be responsible for

monitoring activities on, and the condition of, the A.T. corridor lands held in fee ownership or under easement by the National Park Service. The Club and, where necessary, the Bureau of Parks and Lands, shall maintain contacts with other parties that hold an interest in the Trail program to keep them aware of matters that require their attention, advice, or aid.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club, the Bureau of Parks and Lands and, when appropriate, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service, shall meet periodically to review the effectiveness of Trail management activities in the state. The Management Plan itself shall be reviewed annually and revised whenever necessary to keep it up to date and effective. The full plan shall be maintained and updated on the MATC web site (www.matc.org).

The President of the MATC shall meet annually with the Director of the BPL or his/her designee, and other agency representatives whom the Director may invite. This meeting, which will normally be held in January, following the MATC January Executive Committee meeting, shall be initiated by the MATC. The purpose of the meeting will be to review progress during the past year and to initiate the State's involvement in revisions of the Five Year Plan and the work program for the coming field season. Plans for cooperative field efforts shall be completed by April first.