

APPALACHIAN TRAIL  
CONFERENCE

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October 22, 1984

David B. Field, President  
Maine Appalachian Trail Club  
191 Emerson Mill Road  
Hampden, ME 04444

Dear Dave:

You will recall from Board discussions as well as articles in the Appalachian Trailway News and The Register that last winter I signed what will probably be the most important document in my tenure as Chairman of the ATC - the National Park Service's delegation to ATC for management of a major portion of the Appalachian Trail and its associated corridor lands. Secretary of the Interior William Clark and Park Service Director Russ Dickenson joined me in signing this landmark agreement, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

On August 15th, the final document in the NPS delegation was signed, completing the eight month-long process of what constitutes the largest transfer of management responsibility ever from the NPS to a private organization. Conference officers and staff share my feeling that this delegation is one of the most significant events in the history of the ATC and the Trail maintaining clubs.

I am writing to inform you and the MATC that the delegation process is finally complete and to seek your Club's continuing efforts on behalf of the Trail and its corridor lands. ATC wants to work with you to meet this responsibility by assigning to the MATC those lands encompassed by your current maintenance assignment. We feel confident in the MATC's ability to do this work in cooperation with the ATC, Maine's Dept. of Conservation and the National Park Service.

Two attachments to the main delegation agreement were recently completed. Attachment A describes how ATC plans to carry out the delegation. Attachment B is a master land tract listing of approximately 1,000 tracts delegated to the ATC as of August 15, 1984. The Conference's staff is now breaking down this master

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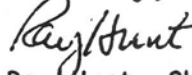
Laurence R. Van Meter  
Executive Director

listing into club lists. The MATC's section currently encompasses only that tract recently purchased at East Carry Pond. However, you can see that MATC's expected acreage on the enclosed "Land Base Overview", is considerable. The staff will send you Attachments A and B in 2-3 weeks. ATC officers and staff will look forward to working with you on the corridor management issues which will inevitably arise after acquisition is complete.

This letter and the mailing to follow will constitute ATC's land tract assignment to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. The program for club monitoring of corridor lands will be an important program for meeting our joint responsibilities. Future drafts of MATC's Local Management Plan should be amended to reflect ATC's delegation and this assignment to MATC for management of these important lands.

We know we have our work cut out for us. We will need to work closely together to guarantee that the Appalachian Trail corridor receives the most responsible volunteer care. Workshops, written direction and financial assistance etc. are available, if needed. You will also recall our Executive Committee discussion about a possible meeting of all club presidents in 1985, to share information about the Appalachian Trail corridor and how the Conference and clubs will meet this responsibility in the future. While no decision has been made about this meeting, I feel it may be important for the clubs and Conference to meet more frequently than has been customary in the past.

Sincerely,



Ray Hunt, Chairman

cc. Earl Jette, ATC Vice-Chairman  
Roger Sternberg, ATC Field Representative  
Lester Kenway, MATC and ATC Board  
Herb Hartman, Director, Maine Bureau of Parks &  
Recreation  
Steve Golden and Dave Richie, National Park Service