

APPENDIX B3.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
for the
APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
between the
MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB
and the
APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE

Purpose. This memorandum provides a concise statement of specific understandings and working relationships between the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) and the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC). It applies only to those activities of the MATC that relate to the management of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and Trail corridor lands.

Background. From its inception in 1925, the ATC worked with existing trail clubs, and fostered the development of new clubs, to create the Appalachian Trail. This partnership evolved into a federation of maintaining clubs, coordinated by the ATC towards the common goal of perpetuating and protecting the Trail. In 1968, the National Trail System Act gave overall responsibility for the Appalachian Trail to the Secretary of the Interior. The Trail is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), in consultation with the USDA Forest Service (USFS), and in cooperation with state agencies over whose lands the AT passes. This memorandum acknowledges the ultimate responsibility and authority for federal and state agencies to administer lands under their jurisdictions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Delegation. The Appalachian Trail crosses federal lands in national parks and national forests and lands (“ATPO Lands”), outside of the proclaimed or designated boundaries of existing national forests and national parks, that were acquired by the NPS specifically for the protection of the Trail. A 1980 USFS/ATC Memorandum of Agreement provides guidelines for the cooperative management of the AT on national forest lands. National forest plans designate Appalachian Trail “Management Area” (ATMA) or “Prescription Area” (ATPA) lands along the Trail. In 1984 and 1993, certain ATPO lands (“Transfer Lands”) were administratively transferred to the Forest Service. In 1984, the Forest Service signed an agreement with the ATC that delegated “operations, development, and maintenance responsibilities” for these lands to the ATC, with authority to sub-delegate to member clubs. Also in 1984, the National Park Service amended a 1970 NPS/ATC Memorandum of Agreement for cooperation in the administration of the Trail by delegating to the ATC the responsibility to serve as the guarantor that the AT volunteer community will adequately manage and protect the AT and ATPO corridor lands. Under these authorities, ATC’s Board of Managers, in consultation with Trail maintaining organizations and agency partners, sets policies regarding the protection, management, and use of the Trail. The ATC hereby confirms and the MATC hereby acknowledges the MATC’s authority and responsibility for the maintenance of the Appalachian Trail and related facilities and the management of ATPO lands between Maine Highway 26 and the summit of Katahdin. This memorandum formalizes the MATC’s responsibility for the Trail that the Club assumed on 1 July 1935, and joins with that commitment the delegation of management responsibility for ATPO lands that was originally made to the Club by the ATC on 22 October 1984.

ATC Support. The ATC agrees to regularly provide the MATC with information on laws, regulations, and agency policies with which the Club must comply. The ATC will regularly communicate ATC policies, Trail standards, and local management planning procedures, and provide backup support for the Club’s operational responsibilities. To the extent authorized by the Board of Managers, the ATC will provide technical and financial assistance to the Club for the management of the Trail, monitoring of ATPO lands, and provision of public information and education.

MATC Responsibilities. The MATC agrees to maintain the Trail for which it is responsible to ATC's standards for marking, clearing, and treadway care, as specified in such ATC publications as *Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*. The MATC will manage the Trail, Trail-related facilities, and ATPO lands in accordance with policies presented in the ATC's *Local Management Planning Guide*, as detailed in the Club's *Local Plan for the Management of the Appalachian Trail In Maine* (LMP). Specific MATC authorities and responsibilities include, but are not limited to 1) Trail construction and maintenance (relocation and side trail design and construction; footpath protection and hardening with water diversion structures, puncheon, and rockwork; pathway obstruction removal; route marking with blazes, signs, and cairns), 2) facilities construction and maintenance (shelter, privy, and bridge construction; trash and illegal fire ring removal), 3) Trail and corridor lands management (regular revision of the LMP, Trail assessment, monitoring, regular cooperation and communication with the ATC and agency partners), and 4) information and education (publication of the *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine*, hiker education, and provision of information about the Trail in Maine to the ATC, agencies, and the public). To the extent feasible, the MATC agrees to assist with the Trail protection, management, and monitoring efforts of the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands.

Cooperative Management. The AT cooperative management system is based on a commitment to cooperation, consultation, and collaboration by all partners. Disagreements that arise should be resolved as close to the source as possible. The MATC has sole authority for dealing with issues among its volunteer members. MATC's President or designee will represent the Club in resolving differences between the Club and Maine agencies, federal agencies and the ATC. ATC's Vice Chair for New England, aided by ATC's New England Regional Representative, will represent the Conference in local and regional issues that involve the Club. Questions of Club territorial jurisdiction, acceptance of ATC policies, or Club status within the Conference, and matters that cannot be resolved locally or regionally, are the responsibility of the ATC's Board of Managers, aided by ATC's Executive Director and staff.

Signed _____	Signed _____
David B. Field, Chair	Paul P. Johnson, Jr., President
Appalachian Trail Conference	Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Date <u>11 April 1997</u>	Date <u>11 April 1997</u>