

**APPENDIX E3. MATC TRAILHEAD INFORMATIONAL SIGN (EXAMPLE)**

**APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL  
MAINE SECTION 8**

**LOCATION OF THIS SIGN:** THIS POINT MARKS THE NORTHERN END OF SECTION 8 OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN MAINE. BETWEEN HERE AND MAINE HIGHWAY 4, 32.2 MILES TO THE SOUTH, YOU WILL CROSS THREE EXTENSIVE MOUNTAIN RANGES: THE CROCKERS, SUGARLOAF-SPAULDING-ABRAHAM, AND SADDLEBACK.

**TRAIL MARKING:** EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL DOUBLE BLAZES, WHICH INDICATE SHARP OR UNEXPECTED TURNS, THE TRAIL IS MARKED BY SINGLE, RECTANGULAR WHITE BLAZES. BLUE BLAZES DESIGNATE SIDE TRAILS OF THE A.T. SYSTEM.

**TRAIL DIFFICULTY:** DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE TIME NECESSARY TO TRAVEL OVER THIS SECTION. BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN ELEVATION, A COMPLETE TRAVERSE WILL REQUIRE YOU TO CLIMB OVER 10,000 FEET. MUCH OF THE FOOTPATH IS ROUGH, WET, AND STEEP. USE PARTICULAR CAUTION WHEN CROSSING THE EXPOSED SADDLEBACK RANGE DURING BAD WEATHER. THERE IS LITTLE SHELTER ACROSS THE THREE-MILE ALPINE ZONE.

**WATER, STREAM CROSSINGS:** IN DRY WEATHER, DO NOT EXPECT TO FIND DRINKING WATER BETWEEN A POINT JUST NORTH OF SADDLEBACK JR. AND EDDY POND. (WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE PURITY OF ANY WATER ALONG THE TRAIL. NONE OF IT HAS BEEN TESTED.) DURING THE SPRING AND LATE FALL, AND AFTER HEAVY SUMMER RAINS, STREAM CROSSINGS MAY BE HAZARDOUS. THE SOUTH BRANCH OF THE CARRABASSETT RIVER AND ORBETON STREAM CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CROSS DURING HIGH WATER. FORDING STREAMS IN YOUR BARE FEET CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE WADING SHOES, KEEP YOUR BOOTS ON. THEY ARE MUCH EASIER TO REPAIR THAN FEET OR ANKLES.

**LAND OWNERSHIP:** EXCEPT FOR A MILE OF STATE-OWNED LAND, ALL OF THIS SECTION OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL NOW BELONGS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. PLEASE RESPECT ALL OF THIS LAND AS YOU WOULD YOUR OWN, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO FIRE SAFETY.

**TRASH DISPOSAL:** ALL OF THIS TRAIL IS MAINTAINED BY UNPAID VOLUNTEERS. LEAVE NO TRASH BEHIND WHEREVER YOU CAMP. IF YOU CARRIED IT IN, PLEASE CARRY IT OUT. (PLEASE DO NOT USE THE PRIVIES FOR TRASH DUMPS--WE HAVE TO CLEAN THEM OUT OR MOVE THEM WHEN THEY ARE FULL. IT'S A LOT OF WORK.)

**FIRE RULES, SANITATION:** YOU MAY BUILD AN OPEN FIRE ONLY AT THE DESIGNATED CAMPSITES AT CROCKER CIRQUE, SPAULDING MOUNTAIN, POPLAR RIDGE, AND PIAZZA ROCK. SUCH FIRES ELSEWHERE ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. AT THE AUTHORIZED CAMPSITES, USE AS LITTLE WOOD AS POSSIBLE--A STOVE WOULD BE BETTER. IF YOU CAMP ELSEWHERE, BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL TO BURY BODY WASTES, AT LEAST 200 FEET FROM OPEN WATER.

**REGISTERS:** TO HELP US MANAGE AND MAINTAIN THE TRAIL, PLEASE USE THE REGISTERS THAT ARE PROVIDED AT EACH SHELTER AND OCCASIONALLY ALONG THE TRAIL. EXCEPT FOR THIS, WHEN YOU LEAVE, LET THERE BE NOTHING TO SHOW WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN.

**HUNTING SEASONS:** DURING HUNTING SEASONS, ESPECIALLY DEER SEASON (USUALLY EARLY NOVEMBER TO EARLY DECEMBER), WE STRONGLY URGE A.T. USERS TO **WEAR FLUORESCENT ORANGE.**

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP THE TRAIL A PLACE THAT YOU WILL WANT TO RETURN TO.

GOOD HIKING

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May, 2007

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