

**Campsite Related Information from the Local Management Plan**

**01/16/2012**

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**8. Campsites**

The Trail in Maine includes a continuous chain of campsites (a.k.a. “overnight-use areas”) (Table 8 in section VI), most of which include a log "lean-to" (Adirondack shelter). These campsites are designed to encourage Trail users to camp at a limited number of designated sites, rather than at random along the Trail. Dispersed camping can quickly lead to the establishment of permanent camping in areas that are often unsuited for repeated use. The MATC has no effective means of enforcing any prohibition against dispersed camping, so encourages the opposite behavior with developed sites. However, camping away from designated sites allows hikers more flexibility in trip planning and during a hike and can contribute favorably to the goal of a solitary recreational experience. Such camping can be done in most areas by knowledgeable, responsible hikers without damage to corridor resources.

"Since 1925, ATC policy has supported 'a connected series of primitive lean-tos and camps' as an integral part of the Trail experience. ATC policy is to perpetuate and improve the shelter and campsite system with well-located, -designed, -constructed, and -maintained facilities. Proposed facilities should comply with the National Environmental Policy Act...Section 6 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and state and local building and health codes and environmental laws." The 1981 AT *Comprehensive Plan* states that "shelters are a tradition on the AT, but use of the Trail should not depend upon them. No attempt is made to provide such amenities for every possible user, so each person must be prepared to do without them. Shelter density and design should be consistent with the sense of the natural." (LMPG Ch. 2 (G))

The ATC has expressed particular concern regarding sanitation at Trail overnight facilities (LMPG Ch. 2 (I)). The basic policy, adopted by the Board of Managers in 1989, is that "ATC, the clubs, and land-managing agencies should install privies or toilets, located and designed to meet local conditions, where other options to maintain sanitary conditions are not effective...and should conduct educational programs for the hiking public about proper sanitary techniques and the challenges of maintaining and improving sanitary conditions..." Both ATC and NPS policies regarding sanitation relate primarily to concern over contamination of drinking water supplies. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club maintains 45 privies at AT campsites in Maine.

National Park Service policy requires that an environmental assessment be prepared by the NPS to evaluate new shelter or campsite proposals for NPS lands. In accordance with the ATC Board's 1984 "Review Policy for Proposed Shelters and Campsites on Delegated NPS lands", the MATC uses the ATC's "Checklist for Location, Design, and Construction of Shelters and Campsites" (revised 4/27/93). The club also complies with the 1977 "AT Overnight Use Management Principles", which were approved by the ATC Board of Managers and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Advisory Council. ATC's very detailed *Guidance for Locating and Designing A.T. Shelters and Formal Campsites*, adopted by the Stewardship Council in 2007, calls for overnight site proposals to be submitted by a club's President for review and approval by the agency partner, the ATC Regional Partnership Committee, and the Chair of the ATC Stewardship Council.

## **Management Policies**

1. Dispersed camping is permitted along the Appalachian Trail in Maine unless explicitly prohibited (as in Baxter State Park) by the landowner or where unacceptable resource damage resulting from such camping is highly probable. Because of the latter consideration, camping above timberline or in a sub-alpine zone (zones, adjacent to alpine zones, where trees are generally less than eight feet tall) is prohibited. Evidence of damaging dispersed camping (e.g., soil damage or trash at heavily used sites near water) and illegal camping activities (such as fire rings) shall be removed regularly to discourage a repetition of such behavior. Special rules have been written for Nahmakanta Lake (Appendix C6) and have been approved for Crawford Pond (MATC Exec. Com. 11/5/93). The Nahmakanta Lake Management Plan permits camping around the lake only at designated sites. Camping will be prohibited along the shore of Crawford Pond. These policies have been necessary to control camping by non-hikers. Similarly, camping is prohibited on either side of the Kennebec River at the ferry crossing. Finally, because of the special values and fragile resources of the Gulf Hagas and Hermitage National Natural Landmark areas, camping is prohibited on all ATPO corridor lands south of the Gulf Hagas Cutoff Trail and north of the West Branch of the Pleasant River. (Last sentence: MATC Executive Committee 9-5-08)

2. The Appalachian Trail in Maine passes through remote areas, where there are few private and public camping facilities other than those provided for the AT. Although dispersed camping is generally permitted along the Trail in Maine, it is necessary and desirable, for hiker convenience and safety, and for the protection of natural resources, to maintain campsites at regular intervals along the Trail.

3. Campsites should be provided at least at intervals of about a full day's journey for average hikers and a half day's trip for strong hikers--roughly 8 to 12 miles.

4. Each campsite shall provide the following minimum facilities: a) a pit privy or composting facility, located, constructed, and maintained in compliance with the provisions of Section 9.12 of the Maine State Plumbing Code, as administered by the Maine Department of Human Services, Division of Health Engineering; b) a reliable natural water source; c) a lean-to and/or prepared tenting platforms or designated tent sites for at least six to eight people. Most, but not all campsites should also include a Maine Forest Service-approved fire area.

5. Extended periods of rain are common in Maine. Although adequate for protection from rain while one is sleeping, backpacker tents are very awkward facilities within

which to cook, unpack, pack, or dry gear during rainy weather. Accordingly, we consider lean-tos both appropriate and desirable camping facilities and should endeavor to provide one or more at most campsites along the Trail.

6. Where use patterns indicate a need, each camping area with a lean-to should also have one to three designated tent sites. Overnight sites without shelters should have an adequate number of prepared tent sites. There is a particular need to examine opportunities for group camping areas at overnight sites.

7. Ideally, campsites should be located on short side trails, rather than directly on the AT

8. To discourage non-Trail-related uses and vandalism, campsites should be located at least three miles from road crossings. For the same reasons, lean-to sites should not be located on the shores of lakes or ponds.

9. Lean-tos should be located so as to minimize damage to natural resources at the site. Landowner permission shall be received before facilities are constructed or replaced. If a Land Use Regulation Commission development permit is required, or if a variance is sought, the MATC shall prepare the appropriate applications, which will be co-signed, if necessary, by the landowner. (The LURC application requires the signature of the landowner of record.)

10. No AT relocation shall be opened without adequate provision for overnight facilities.

11. Lean-tos shall be built primarily with native materials (that is, logs cut from nearby trees--spikes, roofing, and bunk platform boards are normally carried in) according to standard MATC lean-to plans (MATC, 1989). Tent platforms/sites may use native log cribwork for leveling but the surface will usually be of earth, rather than wood. Wooden platforms may be appropriate where ground conditions are difficult for earth pads.

12. Hiker registers shall be maintained at all campsites (MATC Exec. Com. 9/11/92).

13. To reduce impacts on campsites, information in the Maine *Guide* and on trailhead signs shall encourage hikers to use portable stoves rather than open wood fires.

14. Information in the Maine *Guide* and on trailhead signs should encourage hikers to use prepared campsites, rather than camping between such sites.

15. Campsites and lean-tos are provided by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club for Appalachian Trail hikers. Extended use by any camper is incompatible with the purposes of the Trail and should be discouraged, through informational signs at trailheads and campsites and in the Maine *Guide*. ATC policy (BOM 4/24/93) suggests discouraging use of shelters and overnight-use areas for more than three consecutive nights in any 30-day period by any individual or group. Further, ATC policy on group use (BOM 11/87) has been amended (BOM 11/21/93) to recommend that "groups spending one or more nights on the Trail should not exceed 10 members at any one overnight-use area and day-

use groups should not exceed 25 members at any one location, unless clubs designate otherwise in their local management plan." This plan accepts the ATC policy.

16. Overnight use areas will be inspected on a regular basis by MATC maintainers. MATC will repair or replace any facilities in need of major repairs and will remove any identified hazards, including trees that threaten an overnight facility.

## **9. Water Sources**

Water is important to hikers for drinking, cooking, bathing, and fire safety at campsites. Water is available from numerous lakes, ponds, streams, and natural springs along the Trail in Maine. Few of these water sources are near significant human populations, agricultural lands, or industrial activities. However, water sources can be contaminated by surface runoff, wild animals, hikers' pets, and careless hikers. In recent years, cysts of the intestinal parasite *Giardia lamblia* have become increasingly common in the many water bodies along the Trail that are frequented by beavers and other mammals. No source of water along the Trail can be trusted to be safe for consumption without treatment.

Despite precautions, water along the Trail may also occasionally be contaminated from insecticides and herbicides that are used to control insects and undesired vegetation on commercial forest lands adjacent to the Trail corridor.

Some high mountain areas along the Trail in Maine offer little water during dry seasons. In particular, Katahdin, White Cap, the Barren-Chairback Range, Bigelow, Crocker, Saddleback, Bemis, Wyman, Baldpate, and sections of the Mahoosucs can be rather dry.

Concern over water quality, enhanced by amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, led to an extended discussion among Trail partners during 1992 and 1993. In November 1993, ATC's Board of Manager's adopted a major policy on drinking water supplies and water quality (LMPG Ch. 2(H)). One of the principal distinctions in this statement is that between "natural or backcountry water sources" and "water systems". All water sources along the AT in Maine are of the former kind, which may include sources that are minimally improved by "construction of small catchment basins or other primitive collection devices that clearly do not indicate to the user that water is being provided from a developed, protected water system." According to ATC policy, "primitive collection devices" can include spring boxes, short lengths of pipe, or other devices, but not faucets, spigots, or cisterns. The Safe Drinking Water Act and related Maine law require *very* burdensome testing and protection measures for "water systems".

### **Management Policies**

1. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club cannot guarantee the purity of any water along the Trail in Maine. Hikers must be responsible for treating water. The public shall be made

aware of this policy through information in the *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine* and on trailhead signs. The *Guide* should advise hikers that water from unprotected natural sources should be boiled, filtered, or chemically treated before use.

2. Water sources shall be identified by directional sign only where they are not visible from the Trail.

3. The *Guide* shall continue to describe water sources along the Trail.

4. Hikers shall be advised, through the *Guide* and trailhead signs, where it is advisable to carry water.

5. No water source will be improved to the degree that it qualifies as a "water system". Wherever a natural water source is modified to improve water collection, a sign shall be posted nearby stating, "Water Not Tested".

6. Every effort should be made to cooperate with private landowners and State agencies in providing special notice of forest management practices that involve the use of herbicides and pesticides in the vicinity of the Trail. (To date, landowners involved in such activities have been careful to give the NPS and the MATC advance warning and have used both signs and foot patrols to inform hikers.)

## **10. Winter Trail Use**

The Appalachian Trail in Maine has been designed and is maintained primarily for use when the ground is free of snow. Winter use of the Trail is not prohibited, but winter users must be prepared to deal with harsh and demanding conditions. Travel is often restricted to snowshoeing and can be slow and tiresome. The Trail in Maine offers no heated or enclosed shelters. Open lean-tos are sometimes completely buried by snow, which can reach depths in the mountains of as much as fifteen feet. The standard height to which brush is cleared from the AT is eight feet, so blazes may be hidden by the snow and winter hikers may encounter tree limbs as low as their feet. Clearing for winter use would be extremely difficult, and would detract from the appearance of the Trail during the normal hiking season.

Winter hikers sometimes cause damage by hacking away obstructing limbs as they use the Trail. Winter hikers also have caused substantial damage at campsites by indiscriminate cutting of live trees for bedding and fuel. This practice has been especially damaging at ad hoc campsites in fragile alpine areas where, under stress, unprepared hikers apparently abandon their normal concern for the Trail's environment out of fear for their own safety.

Open streams may be impossible to cross safely during the winter.

## **Management Policies**

1. The Trail is open year-round, but users are responsible for their own safety and should be knowledgeable about and equipped for winter travel.
2. An effort should be made to educate winter hikers regarding damage that they may cause to the Trail and to campsites.

### **11. Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience**

In April, 1995, the ATC's Board of Managers adopted a policy on managing the Appalachian Trail for a primitive experience. "Primitiveness" has become an increasingly important concern as Trail use increases and aids such as cell phones and global positioning system (GPS) devices challenge the concept of experiencing solitude and a natural environment through the hiker's "own unaided efforts". As technological changes affect hiking gear, clothing, and even packaged food, philosophical questions about the Trail experience will increase.

Clubs are asked to "consider the effects of individual management actions...on the primitive character of the Trail" through a five-question test (LMPG Ch. 2(J)):

- 1) Will this action or program protect the AT?
- 2) Can this be done in a less obtrusive manner?
- 3) Does this action unnecessarily sacrifice aspects of the Trail that provide solitude, or that challenge hikers' skill or stamina?
- 4) Could this action, either by itself or in concert with other actions, result in an inappropriate diminution of the primitive quality of the Trail?
- 5) Will this action help to ensure that future generations of hikers will be able to enjoy a primitive recreational experience on the AT?

### **Management Policies**

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club will consider the above five questions before adopting management policies or implementing management projects.

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### **3. Fire Prevention and Suppression**

The Appalachian Trail passes through the vast working forest of Maine. Almost all of the land along the Trail corridor is managed for the commercial production of timber. It is of critical importance, both to preserve the physical environment of the Trail and to protect the commercial forests adjacent to the Trail, that every reasonable precaution be taken to avoid human-caused forest fires. There is continuing evidence of hiker carelessness in the use of open wood fires at sites other than those approved for such use. Such fires are prohibited by Maine law on all lands, including NPS corridor lands, unless the builder holds a current, valid fire permit, issued by the Maine Forest Service with landowner permission, or the fire is at an authorized site. Within the AT

corridor, on both NPS and Maine public lands, open wood fires are allowed only at AT overnight campsites, in authorized fire sites that have been approved by the Maine Forest Service. Permits are not required at authorized fire sites.

The Maine Forest Service has statutory authority for the enforcement of Maine fire laws on both Park Service and non-Federal land (Appendix D2). Under the 1999 MOU (Appendix B7), the Maine Forest Service has command responsibility for ATPO lands upon its arrival at a fire. It is to use minimum fire suppression efforts necessary to protect life and property. The 1999 MOU also calls for the Superintendent of Acadia National Park to act as the representative for the ATPO in Maine for all fire suppression and prevention activities. On 28 December 2005, the ATPO distributed copies of the Fire Management Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail that had been approved by the ATPO, the National Capital Regional Office of the NPS, Acadia National Park, and the ATC in May and June, 2005. (See [www.nps.gov/appa/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm](http://www.nps.gov/appa/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm)) The plan covers only those portions of the Trail corridor that are administered by the Appalachian Trail Park Office. These lands total about 80,000 acres, 43 percent of which are in Maine and under the jurisdiction of the MATC. The fire management plan is a suppression-only plan. It makes no provision for using fire as a management tool. In negotiating implementation of the plan with local fire suppression authorities, the NPS will strongly encourage those authorities to follow the "Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics" (MIST). These tactics are designed to minimize lasting physical impacts to corridor resources during suppression activities, but are subordinate to decisions related to the safety of fire fighters.

### **Management Policies**

1. Most designated campsites along the AT in Maine shall include a fire area that has been inspected and approved by the Maine Forest Service. Where fuel is limited or a high forest fire hazard exists, open wood fires will not be permitted.
2. Hikers shall be encouraged, through the *Guide* and trailhead signs, to camp only at designated sites and shall be informed (through the *Guide*, trailhead signs, and campsite signs) that open wood fires may be built only in approved fireplaces. The use of portable stoves shall be encouraged in the *Guide* and on trailhead signs. Special signs that ask hikers not to build fires should be placed along the Trail at undesignated campsites where frequent use of illegal fires is apparent.
3. On 6 March 1987, the MATC Executive Committee voted to prohibit open wood fires, except at designated campsites, on NPS land. Acting as land agent for the National Park Service, the MATC notified the Maine Forest Service to issue no permits for such fires on NPS Trail lands.
4. Information and education efforts shall include information on the safe and proper handling of fires and warnings regarding penalties for the violation of Maine fire laws.

#### **4. Litter and Vandalism**

Except for facilities located near roads and at a few heavily used sites, litter and vandalism are minor problems along most of the AT in Maine. Problems include theft of and damage to signs at trailheads, accumulation of trash at campsites, major physical damage to shelters, and the cutting of live trees for firewood and bough beds. There have been a few incidents of vandalism against hikers' cars, especially at the Grafton Notch parking area and on Maine Highway 17. Except for the fact that hikers have been writing and carving names and dates on lean-to log walls since the first Trail shelter was built, the only graffiti problem along the Trail in Maine is at the Highway 15 trailhead. Local students have long used the ledges beside the road to record immortal messages.

Facility location is an important factor in dealing with litter and vandalism. Campsites located on popular fishing ponds and near roads have always been a problem. Policies listed earlier under "Overnight Facilities" should help to control litter and vandalism.

The ATC is a member of the national Leave-No-Trace program and encourages clubs to incorporate LNT principles and practices into their education and outreach programs. Clubs are urged to design Trailhead signs that include a brief minimum-impact message.

On ATPO lands, "littering and graffiti are illegal. It is, however, very difficult to enforce these laws; the offenders must be caught in the act. In some cases, where an offender can be identified by a hiker or club member, a federal agency will issue a citation upon receipt of a carefully documented report by a hiker or club member." (LMPG Ch. 4(C))

Under Maine law (12 MRSA §12661, sub-§3) abandoned ice fishing shacks are defined as "litter" and may be removed or destroyed by the landowner on whose property a shack is left, with costs recovered from the shack owner in a civil action.

#### **Management Policies**

1. The MATC's trash disposal policy is "Carry-in, Carry-out". Standard signs announcing this policy are posted at all trailheads and campsites.
2. Facility design can be an important factor. Signs should be sturdy and securely mounted. Unstained log shelters tend to be more tolerant of writing and carving than other types, and shall be used.
3. On-site caretaking is clearly an effective approach for controlling litter and vandalism at back-country sites and should be considered for severe problem areas. Caretaking can be particularly effective in providing guidance and education to hikers on Leave No Trace (LNT) practices.

4. If a site cannot be managed effectively without on-site caretaking, and if that level of management is not feasible, then the abandonment or relocation of the facilities should be considered.

5. Local Maintainers shall be responsible for removing litter and making repairs to damage caused by minor vandalism.

6. Portable stove use can reduce problems caused by indiscriminate firewood cutting. Such use shall be promoted in the *Guide* and on trailhead signs.

7. As a last resort, State law enforcement officials may be asked to enforce litter laws at problem sites.

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## **11. Special Events and Large Group Use**

The use of the Appalachian Trail for fund-raising "Hike-A-Thons" or other large-group activities is incompatible with the purposes of the Trail. Consistent with the ATC Board of Managers' policy on special events and group use (11/87, as amended 11/93), both public and AT club hiking groups spending one or more nights on the Trail should not exceed 10 persons, and day-use groups should not exceed 25. Further, the Trail shall not be used for special events or group activities (publicized spectator events, commercial or competitive activities) that degrade its natural or cultural resources or social values. NPS policy specifically prohibits special events and commercial uses of its lands without a permit, issued by the superintendent (AT Park Manager).

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### **Campsite Maintainers**

A Campsite Maintainer is expected to check periodically for contamination of the water supply, trees that threaten a facility, and any other potential hazards that should be remedied; clean up around campsites, clean out and rebuild any approved fire area, remove all trash, maintain a gray water pit at those sites where one has been installed with MATC approval; inspect and clean out structures, and maintain a hiker register at sites with shelters. Prompt reporting of work done is an important part of the assignment.

Campsite Maintainers agree to inspect their assignments as early each spring after snowmelt as possible, and to report conditions and plans for the season's work promptly to the District Overseer. Needs for additional support for special work projects must be reviewed with the Overseer.

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### Campsites

A complete list of campsites and shelters that are maintained by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club is presented in Table 8. Table 8 also shows plans for new campsites and for shelter replacement. **Responsibility:** Campsite Committee and ad hoc campsite construction leaders.

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Table 8. MATC campsite inventory and action plan.

Campsite	Fac. <sup>a</sup>	Status	Action Plan
1. Hurd Brook	L,P	Completed 1959, 1975	Regular maint.
2. Rainbow Spring	C,P	Completed 1994, 1994	Regular maint.
3. Rainbow Stream	L,P	Completed 1971, 1987	Regular maint.
4. Wadleigh Stream	L,P	Completed 1981, 1982	Regular maint.
5. Nahmakanta Str.	C,P	Completed 1997, 1997	Regular maint.
6. Potaywadjo Spring	L,P	Completed 1995, 1981	Regular maint.
7. Antlers Campsite	P	Completed 1989	Regular maint.
8. Cooper Brook	L,P	Completed 1956, 1985	Regular maint.
9. East Branch	L,P	Completed 1996, 1996	Regular maint.
10. Logan Brook	L,P	Completed 9/83	Regular maint.
11. Tappan Campsite	C,P	Improved 1991	Regular maint.
12. Carl Newhall	L,P	Completed 1986	Regular maint.
13. Chairback Gap	L,P	Completed 1954, 1988	Regular maint.
14. Cloud Pond	L,P	Completed 1992, ?	Regular maint.
15. Long Pond Stream	L,P	Completed 1990, 1990	Regular maint.
16. Big Wilson	L,P	Completed 1993, 1993	Regular maint.
17. Leeman Brook	L,P	Completed 1987, 1987	Regular maint.
18. Horseshoe Canyon	L,P	Completed 1991, 1991	Regular maint.
19. Moxie Bald Mt.	L,P	Completed 1958, 1991	Regular maint.
20. Bald Mt. Brook	L,P	Completed 1994, 1994	Regular maint.
21. Pleasant Pond	L,P	Completed 1958, 1991	Regular maint.
22. Pierce Pond	L,P	Completed 1970, 1981	Regular maint.
23. W. Carry Pond	L,P	Completed 1989, 1989	Regular maint.
24. Little Bigelow	L,P	Completed 1986, 1986	Regular maint.
25. Safford Notch	C, P	Opened 1984, 2002	Regular maint.
26. Avery Memorial	C,P	1953, 1995	Regular maint.
27. Horns Pond	2L,P	Completed 1998, 1996	Regular maint.
28. Horns Pond S. T.	C,P	Initial planning	
29. Cranberry Stream	C,P	Completed 1995, 1995	Regular maint.
30. Moose Falls	C,P	Completed 1996, 1996	Regular maint.
31. North Crocker	C,P	Initial planning	
32. Crocker Cirque	T,P	Completed 1975, 1979	Regular maint.

<sup>a</sup> L = Lean-to, P = Privy, C = Campsite, T = Tent Platform

33. Spaulding Mt.	L,P	Completed 1989, 1989	Regular maint.
34. Poplar Ridge	L,P	Completed 1961, 1981	Regular maint.
35. Redington Stream	C,P, T	Completed 2010,2011	Regular maint.
36. Piazza Rock	L,P	Completed 1993, 1994	Regular maint.
37. Little Swift R. Pd.	C,P	Completed 1975, 1999	Regular maint.
38. Sabbath Day Pond	L,P,T	Completed 1993, 1993	Regular maint.
39. Bemis Mountain	L,P	Completed 1988, 1988	Regular maint.
40. Hall Mountain	L,P	Completed 1978, 1999	Regular maint.
41. Frye Notch	L,P	Completed 1983, 1983	Regular maint.
42. Baldpate	L,P	Completed 1995, 1994	Regular maint.

<sup>a</sup> L = Lean-to, P = Privy, C = Campsite, T = Tent Platform

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Appendix C6, pages 4, 6-10

### **Management Policies**

Except for differences stated in this section, all of the management policies that are spelled out in the *Local Management Plan for the Appalachian Trail in Maine* (LMP) apply to the Nahmakanta Corridor. Policies of particular interest to managers and users of the Nahmakanta Corridor include:

1. All signs within the corridor must conform with MATC standards.
2. Open wood fires are prohibited except at designated, prepared sites that have been authorized for safe fire use by the Maine Forest Service. No permit is required at such a site. At all sites, users are encouraged to use stoves rather than wood fires.
3. No trash may be deposited on corridor lands.
4. Horses, and pack animals are prohibited on corridor lands.
5. Hunting and trapping are prohibited on corridor lands.
6. No live vegetation may be cut within corridor lands, except in connection with Trail and campsite management.
6. Special uses (including research activities) are permitted on corridor lands only by special use permit. Guidelines require that the permitted use not derogate the values or purposes of the AT, that the permit be temporary (not more than five years), non-transferable, and revocable at the discretion of the NPS. There must be a clear need for the permitted use.
7. Corridor use may not jeopardize the existence or the habitat of a threatened or endangered species.
8. Projects that involve the development of new campsites, or that require a significant amount of soil disturbance or removal of vegetation require preparation, by the NPS, of an environmental assessment according to the terms of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The following text focuses on policies that have been modified for the Nahmakanta Corridor.

## Overnight Facilities

LMP policies specify that camping is permitted anywhere within the NPS Appalachian Trail corridor except where unacceptable resource damage resulting from such camping is highly probable. The policy for the Nahmakanta Corridor is that **camping is prohibited at other than designated sites from the Pollywog Stream bridge to the road crossing south of Nahmakanta Lake.**

### Facilities Development

Four locations along the lake (Figure C6-3) may be developed for primitive camping sites. The following general policies apply to all sites:

1. Sites should be designed so as to be generally invisible from the Appalachian Trail. Exact locations will be determined through field work by the BPL and the MATC. Both the BOL brochure for the area and signs at the sites will inform the public that camping is allowed only at sites designated as tenting areas, and that tenting is not allowed directly on the beaches.

2. Campsite facilities will generally be primitive in design. Except for Site 5, developments will be limited to a standard BPL fire place, subject to Maine Forest Service approval, and a primitive toilet facility. Rustic tables may be allowed, on a case-by-case basis. However, lake campers often carry tables down to the shore, so some means will have to be designed to fix any tables in place.

3. No trash may be deposited at any of the sites. All users must carry out what they carry in.

**Site 1:** This is a large, attractive beach with good access (i.e., reasonably deep water up close to the beach). Two distinct use areas have developed near different sections of the beach. Fires have been built in both areas, and both live and dead trees have been cut (the latter for firewood, the former for a shelter frame). A grove of large hemlock on high ground behind the westernmost of the two sites offers an attractive camping area. This site probably offers the best potential for a developed boater-access facility. Two designated overnight sites may be developed at this location.

**Site 2:** This site includes deep-water access to a small beach. The land behind the beach is rather low and not attractive for camping. However, one designated overnight site may be developed at this location.

**Site 3:** This site is a prominent beach, with deep-water access, on a point about half a mile from Wadleigh Stream Lean-to on the Appalachian Trail. The beach along the point is separated from another beach in the cove, near the AT footpath and an important spring, by Wadleigh Stream. Access to the second beach is much shallower, but no real problem for a small boat. The land behind the beach along the point is low and flat, but apparently dry. The land behind the beach in the cove, except for a narrow wooded strip,

is mostly under water. Two designated overnight sites may be developed at this location north of Wadleigh Stream.

**Site 4:** This site is an attractive beach. Access by water is good, but the AT goes directly across the beach. The area behind the beach is a beaver flowage, and channels in the sand indicate that water sometimes runs across the beach itself from this wetland. The beach is bracketed by ledges. Presence of the A.T. and the wetland make this site unsuitable for overnight use, but day use will probably continue. No facilities may be developed at this site.

**Site 5:** This site is the extensive beach at the south end of the lake, which extends from the lake's outlet into Nahmakanta Stream to near the Appalachian Trail. The area behind the beach includes the long gravel berm that was constructed as part of the old dam and a grassy area between the beach and the site of the old Nahmakanta Lake Lean-to. The area near the outlet and the area crossed by the AT near the old lean-to site are separated by scrub woods and an old gravel borrow area. Two designated overnight sites for the general public may be developed at this location, in the vicinity of the two existing use areas nearest the old dam spillway. A full toilet facility must be provided for this location, to accommodate both overnight and day use expected at the south end of the lake. Design will depend on the suitability of the soils, but maintenance vehicle access should be included in the plans for the area, so a pump-out vault would be possible. Access to the toilet facility would be over the existing roadway.

**Site 6:** This site is a narrow beach adjacent to the A.T. footpath. It may be managed for day use only, with no facilities development.

### **Administration of Developed Sites**

The MOA stipulates that all costs associated with the development, maintenance, and monitoring the use of parking and camping facilities within the Nahmakanta Corridor will be paid by the State or these activities will not occur. (Although not specifically listed in the MOA, it is understood that the State accepts similar obligations for day-use facilities that it develops.) It is understood that, under the terms of the MOA, the NPS is providing the land upon which camping, parking, and day-use facilities may be developed, but that no fees may be charged for the use of the land itself. However, the State may charge fees, for the use of the developments, that are comparable to fees charged on other State-owned developments in the area. The State may retain a third party, such as the North Maine Woods organization, to carry out the physical maintenance of developed facilities and to collect any fees that are charged for use of the sites.

If the BPL elects to charge fees for the use of the sites developed on NPS land, then anyone passing through a road access gate who wishes to camp at one of these sites must pay the designated fee. "Appalachian Trail Backpackers", defined as those who are traveling along the Appalachian Trail and are carrying all of their food and camping gear

on their persons, may use the sites without charge. Use of all sites will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The terms of the MOA indicate that the State is responsible for monitoring the use of developments provided for the public (other than Appalachian Trail Backpackers). Monitoring must ensure, among other purposes, that allowing continuing traditional uses of the lake will be done in such a way as to preserve an environment that is harmonious with the use of the Nahmakanta Corridor as a national scenic trail. It is critically important to the successful implementation of this plan for the management of Nahmakanta Lake lands that State-controlled developments be monitored regularly and frequently, and that the rules and regulations (both State and Federal) that apply to these developments be enforced rigorously. Monitoring will be judged adequate only if violations of development-related rules and regulations have no significant impact on the quality of the experiences of users of the Appalachian 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, the facilities must be removed and the site(s) restored. The plan for the administration of State-controlled developments must be approved by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the National Park Service before any facilities are constructed.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club, under authority delegated by the National Park Service through the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, is responsible for the overall management of the Nahmakanta corridor. This authority does not include law enforcement, transfers of title or use and occupancy to the lands, issuance of special use permits, or charging of any fees or costs. As a part of its normal corridor-monitoring program, the MATC will share a responsibility for monitoring any facilities that are developed by the BPL under the MOA, but will have no authority or responsibility for law enforcement or the maintenance of those facilities. Normal corridor monitoring requires only a few visits to a given area each year, so offers no substitute for regular supervision of public use of the proposed facilities.

The Nahmakanta Lake corridor lands owned by the National Park Service are held under "proprietary jurisdiction" rather than sovereign Federal jurisdiction. All Maine laws apply to these lands. The NPS is due the same protection under State law as any private landowner and exercises all rights of a private party. The State is expected to exercise its full civil and criminal jurisdiction over private activities on NPS-owned Trail lands. However, only commissioned NPS Rangers may legally enforce Federal regulations on these lands, unless these regulations or similar regulations have been adopted by the Maine Legislature.

The BPL has no law-enforcement arm, so relies on Maine Forest Service Rangers, game wardens, sheriffs and the State Police, as appropriate, to deal with law enforcement matters. Both existing and prospective BPL rules and regulations would be unenforceable on lands other than those under BPL jurisdiction. The MOA provides no authority for the BPL with regard to NPS lands other than for facilities construction and management.