

APPENDIX H

The Appalachian Trailway Agreement

The Appalachian Trailway Agreement is the basic and controlling policy with respect to the Trail on Federal or State-owned lands. The Federal Appalachian Trailway Agreement follows:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE and THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE for the Promotion of THE APPALACHIAN TRAILWAY

WHEREAS, The Appalachian Trail is recognized as a regional project involving specialized forms of recreational land use; and

WHEREAS, Certain portions of the Trail traverse public lands under the separate jurisdictions of the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government is committed to the policy of fostering and promoting recreation in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the respective Services to cooperate with the Appalachian Trail Conference and with the States through which the Trail passes in its protection and perpetuation;

NOW, THEREFORE, The National Park Service and the United States Forest Service do hereby mutually agree to carry out the following program, looking towards the creation of the Appalachian Trailway, insofar as consistent with their established policies, and subject to appropriate authority under Acts of Congress and the availability of funds therefor:

I

To designate a zone extending for a minimum width of one mile on each side of those portions of The Appalachian Trail which pass through areas under their separate jurisdiction, except in those localities where it descends into the main valleys, within which zone there will be constructed no new paralleling routes for the passage of motorized transportation and no developments which in the judgment of the administering agency are incompatible with the existence of said zone: Provided, that this agreement shall not be construed to effect the location of the Blue Ridge Parkway: Provided, further, that this shall not prevent logging and the construction of logging roads not open to the general public where the Trail crosses areas under management for the production of timber: Provided, further, that within 200 feet of the Trail no cutting primarily for timber production will take place.

II

To relocate wherever desirable and as rapidly as the agencies administering the land have available funds which can be devoted to these purposes and are not necessary

for work of higher priority, and after agreement with the Appalachian Trail Conference, those portions of The Appalachian Trail which lie within one mile of paralleling routes for the passage of motorized transportation.

III

To maintain as well as available funds permit all other portions of The Appalachian Trail which pass through areas under their separate jurisdictions.

IV

To develop and maintain campsites with simple fireplace, water, sanitation and in most cases lean-to or other simple shelter facilities along or near the route of The Appalachian Trail wherever it passes through areas under their separate jurisdictions, and to locate such facilities so that they will not be more than a comfortable day's journey apart.

V

To cooperate with the several States and their political subdivisions in the gradual extension of public holdings along the general route of The Appalachian Trail, wherever the most justifiable forms of land use indicate such acquisition to be desirable, and as rapidly as the agencies administering the land have available funds which can be devoted to these purposes and are not necessary for work of higher priority.

VI

To encourage the acquisition of scenic easements along The Appalachian Trail or land use regulation through rural zoning, which ever appears to be the more feasible and economical means of protecting the scenic values of those portions of the Trailway which are not in public ownership.

VII

It is understood and agreed that this understanding may be terminated or modified in whole or in part upon six months' advance notice in writing given by either party hereto to the other.

Signed this 15th day of October, 1938.

By Arno B. Cammerer,
Director,
National Park Service.

By C. L. Forsling,
Acting Chief,
U.S. Forest Service.

The Agreement with the States, to which all except Maine have adhered, differs in that the area is one-fourth mile on each side of the Trail. This limitation arises out of the limited area of the reservations in State ownership, which make the width in the Federal area, one mile, unworkable on the State-owned lands.