

Trail Maintaining Affiliate Agreement



between the **North Country Trail Association**
and the **Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy**

By definition, a Trail Maintaining Affiliate of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA):

- is a legally established trails organization that is independently financed;
- maintains existing trails, or plans to establish and maintain trails, a portion of which are or will be followed by the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST); and
- has signed this agreement with the NCTA.

As a Trail Maintaining Affiliate of the NCTA, the Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy (RCTC) agrees:

- To support the Mission of the North Country Trail Association, and its Vision for the North Country Trail.
- To accept responsibility for planning, building, and maintaining the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) in conjunction with the NCTA, according to the trail management practices recommended by the National Park Service along the 16 miles of the NCT that overlaps the Baker Trail in Western PA.
- When possible, to apply for National Park Service certification of completed sections of the NCNST within the aforementioned area.
- To support the National, State and local efforts of the NCTA and the National Park Service to publicly promote the NCNST.
- To support the NCTA in Federal legislative issues related to the NCNST.
- To maintain a paid Organizational membership or its equivalent in the NCTA.
- To maintain RCTC's nonprofit organizational status.
- To report and/or encourage volunteers to report their work hours related to the NCNST to the NCTA national office, in compliance with the needs of the National Park Service Volunteers in the Parks Program.
- To encourage RCTC members to also support the NCTA through membership.

The North Country Trail Association agrees:

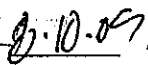
- To support RCTC in all Federal, State and local trail legislation that benefits RCTC and the NCNST.
- To support trail planning, construction and maintenance efforts of the RCTC within the NCNST corridor, and assist in acquiring or providing funding for such activities, whenever possible.
- To maintain an organizational membership or its equivalent in RCTC.
- To provide extended services to RCTC volunteers via National Park Service agreements with the NCTA (i.e. Volunteers in the Parks.)
- To provide the opportunity for RCTC members to be members of NCTA at a reduced rate from NCTA's regular membership dues.
- To encourage NCTA members to also support RCTC through membership.

This agreement shall expire at such time as either of the parties decides to void the agreement by written notice.



President, Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy

Date



President, North Country Trail Association

Date

7/28/2005

Mission Statement

The North Country Trail Association develops, maintains, preserves and promotes the North Country National Scenic Trail by empowering and coordinating a national network of volunteers and partners.

The Association achieves this mission through programs of trail construction and enhancement, public and membership services, and resource and corridor protection in keeping with its Vision for the Trail.

Vision for the Trail

Our vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail is that of a premier footpath of national significance, offering a superb experience for hikers in a permanently protected corridor, traversing and interpreting the richly diverse environmental, cultural, and historic features of the northern United States.

To meet this vision, our goals are for the trail to become:

1. A continuous hiking trail of the highest caliber with foot travel accorded the highest priority to the exclusion of other uses except in short, specifically designated sections;
2. A corridor of consistently and clearly marked treadways, blending with local character as appropriate and permanently protected, whenever possible, as a public hiking trail;
3. Unique among National Trails in showcasing the rich variety of historical, cultural, and environmental features in the northern United States;
4. A model of resource protection and quality recreational opportunity of national significance with emphasis on identifying, interpreting and promoting features for educational and recreational benefit;
5. An example of highly successful partnerships among the various entities providing funding, management of and service to the trail.

Vision for the Organization

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) will be widely recognized as the primary national organization charged with the development, protection and promotion of the North Country National Scenic Trail. To meet this challenge, the NCTA will coordinate, unite and empower volunteers, partner organizations and agencies across the length of the trail.

Each year, the NCTA will complete significant new portions of the North Country Trail, through its own network of volunteers and through ever expanding partnerships. Further, the NCTA will strive to ensure that existing trail segments are continually maintained and upgraded according to common standards and its Vision for the Trail. As an active Land Trust, the NCTA will collaborate with its partners to permanently protect trail corridor, acting quickly and effectively as opportunities arise. Moreover, by providing valued technical support, varied resources and timely leadership, the NCTA will strengthen, facilitate and advance the overall efforts of trail supporters.

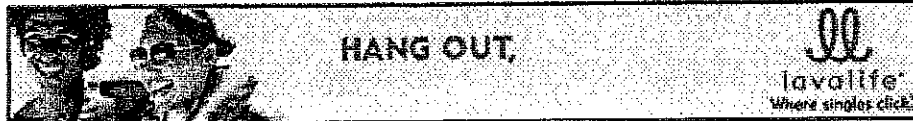
The NCTA also will serve the hiking community, by further establishing itself as the primary source for information and resources on the North Country Trail. Through an active communications program, the NCTA will develop greater support for the trail and awareness of its own role in the management of the North Country Trail.

Lastly, over the planning horizon, the NCTA will establish the organizational capacity, and diversity and depth of funding sources necessary to meet its goals.



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Subject: Trail-maintaining Agreement

Date: Mon, 1 Aug 2005 12:26 EST

From: "Clare Cain" <clarecain@northcountrytrail.org>

To: <Pabrunner2@cs.com>

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Attachment: Rachel Carson- Trail Maintaining Affiliate.doc

Hi Patty,

I hope you are enjoying your vacation. I updated one of the lines on the agreement so I wanted to pass it along. Let me know if the Conservancy would be willing to sign the Agreement by the upcoming NCTA Board meeting. (Aug. 12)

Thanks,

Clare

Clare Cain

Director of Trail Management


North Country Trail Association

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