

ATC Policy on Reassignment of A.T. Club Maintenance Responsibility

Adopted by the ATC Board of Managers in 2001 and amended by the ATC Board of Directors in 2008

A section of the Appalachian Trail that has been assigned by ATC to a particular maintaining club may be reassigned either with the consent of the affected club(s), or following determination that the club is unable to fulfill its management and maintenance responsibilities as defined in the ATC/club memorandum of understanding.

In both instances, if the regional partnership committee chair is a member of the club whose section is being reassigned, that individual will recuse himself or herself from the proceedings to avoid a conflict of interest.

Change of Trail Assignment with Consent of Maintaining Club(s)—Any A.T.-maintaining club wishing to change its existing assignment shall submit a written request for that change to the regional director of the region in which the Trail section is located.

1. If the change would affect multiple A.T.-maintaining clubs, the written request shall be signed by the presidents of all affected clubs. The request should state the reasons for the proposed change, the specific location of the section to be reassigned, and the affected mileage.
2. If the request involves assignment of a section of the A.T. to a club that has had no previous Trail-maintenance assignment, the request should also contain information to substantiate the club's capabilities to manage the Trail section, including the size of the club's membership; trail construction, maintenance, or management experience; and prior activities in behalf of the Appalachian Trail, if any.

Upon receipt of a request for change of Trail assignment by consent, the regional director shall review the proposal in coordination with affected agency partners and the regional partnership committee. The proposed change is subject to the approval of the regional partnership committee and ATC, in accordance with the ATC Policy for the Review and Approval of Management Plans and Project Proposals [see Chapter 1 (D)]. Following the reassignment, the regional director will report the changes to the affected clubs, the RPC, agency partners, the Stewardship Council and Board of Directors.

Change of Trail Assignment without Consent of Maintaining Club—If a request for change of Trail assignment is not accompanied by the consent of the maintaining club(s) affected by the requested change, or if the regional partnership committee chair or regional director is made aware of the need for a change of Trail assignment because of complaints from hikers, agency partners, regional field staff, or others, the regional partnership committee chair shall convene the regional partnership committee.

- 1) The RPC chair shall inform the maintaining club in writing of the request. The maintaining club will be asked if it is willing to relinquish the involved section of the Trail. If not, the maintaining club will be asked to provide the regional partnership committee with information to substantiate the club's capabilities to manage the Trail section, including the size of the club's membership; trail-building or -maintenance experience; and other management activities it has undertaken on behalf of the Appalachian Trail.

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- 2) The regional partnership committee will evaluate the need for a change and will make a recommendation to the ATC Stewardship Council on whether to make the change. The primary considerations of the RPC shall be the condition of the Trail section and the manner in which the maintaining club carries out its management responsibilities as a maintaining club of ATC.
- 3) If the physical condition of the Trail section is the complaint, the regional partnership committee will conduct a site visit to assess the Trail section. At least one member of the RPC, one representative of the maintaining club, and the ATC regional director shall participate in the site visit. The RPC chair shall notify all parties of the date of the site visit.
- 4) After completion of its inquiry, the regional partnership committee in consultation with the regional director shall develop a written recommendation to the maintaining club on a course of action to cure the problem(s), an offer of assistance by ATC or other local maintaining clubs, and a schedule for correcting the problem(s).
- 5) In those rare cases where the RPC or regional director feel that all reasonable efforts to help a club meet its management responsibilities have not borne fruit, one or both may request that the ATC Board of Directors Chair appoint a special committee of volunteers to evaluate the situation and make a recommendation to the Stewardship Council. The Council will review the committee's recommendation, develop its own recommendation, and forward both recommendations and supporting information to the Board of Directors for a decision.