

POLICY ON MINIMUM-IMPACT BACKCOUNTRY USE

(As adopted by the Board in November 1998)

The Appalachian Trail Conference actively supports the Leave No Trace (LNT) philosophy as a means of reducing the impact of A.T. visitors on the Trail environment. The Conference will work with Leave No Trace, Inc., Trail-maintaining clubs, and agency partners to develop programs, brochures, signs, and other materials that convey the LNT message to Appalachian Trail users. Where appropriate, ATC guidebooks, maps, and other publications, will carry a Leave No Trace message. Although ATC believes that communications with hikers should occur primarily through guidebooks and other literature distributed off the Trail, ATC encourages ridgerunners, caretakers, and volunteer and professional A.T. managers and maintainers to follow LNT guidelines while on the Trail and to take every opportunity to educate others. ATC in particular supports efforts to develop and disseminate materials that are directed at inexperienced or novice backpackers and hikers, in that the behaviors and actions of those Trail visitors are likely to have a disproportionate impact upon the Trail environment.