Understanding Local Perceptions of Management and Values of Long Distance Trails

By: Julie Judkins
Dr. Elizabeth Shapiro-Garza

April 23, 2015

Masters project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Duke Environmental Leadership Masters of Environmental Management In the Nicholas School of the Environment
Executive Summary

Long distance trails provide immeasurable benefits far beyond a challenging hike. Their corridors and the ecosystems within them give economic, environmental, and social benefits to human and natural communities. Local communities can enjoy economic support and ecosystem services, such as clean water and clean air. Trails may mitigate floods, storms, and drought or provide veterans a chance to ‘walk off the war’ (Small, 2009). Whether it be a rural community utilizing outdoor recreation as an income, or an individual finding peace with life, long distance trails provide something for all of us.

Our population will keep growing. Our resources will not. Increased development breeds increased demands for energy, food, and infrastructure, which will continue to threaten the connected greenways that many treasure.

Those living in the vicinity of a long distance trail have the most to lose if the protection, land use, or environmental integrity is degraded. Those communities and regional voices also have the most power to advocate for the trails’ protection. It is vital that trailside communities care for, understand, and become partners in the management of these significant trails and to assist in protection and promotion of these national treasures.

This research project investigates local perceptions, values, attitudes, and knowledge of selected trailside communities neighboring two national, long distance trails.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the literature and research relevant to long distance trails. Particular attention is paid to how trails were developed, why community engagement is important, what the attitudes, and perceptions are of those living near trails, and how those perceptions, attitudes, and values are important for the future of conservation, management, and protection of the trails.

Chapter 2 describes the two sites that were chosen for this study and why. Two national trails and two trailside communities along each trail, for a total of four communities, are examined.

Chapter 3 discusses the methodology of stakeholder analysis through semi-structured interviews, which were conducted at each of the four communities, and the strategies used to collect information on the interviewees. A summary of stakeholder roles in the community is provided.

Chapter 4 provides a description of the statistical analysis used. A discussion follows of the key themes that emerged from the interviews and analysis, including perceived trail benefits, understanding of trail management, and attitudes about management given the historical context.

Chapter 5 provides conclusions based on the results of the study and includes recommendations to trail managers on how to best engage trailside communities given the values, attitudes, and perceptions that surfaced during the study. The results suggest that, in two different countries, trail-related values are similar. The differences
in historical development of the national trails in two different countries, however, require a special appreciation of the cultural context in order to grasp any points of view that are shaded by that history.

Based on the research conducted, several key results and recommendations are provided:
- Local community residents value economic and promotional benefits of long distance trails.
- Engaging and educating community residents on the value of the long distance trail as a local, community asset is essential for sustaining stewardship.
- Community Based Environmental Management is a model to use to engage community stakeholders, as it utilizes a holistic approach in considering economic, environmental and social conditions, including community values and attitudes.
- Trail managers and volunteers should ‘have a face in the community’. Connections build positive perceptions. They can increase knowledge of management and encourage stewardship.

For more information contact jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org

“In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation, trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation which are often more remotely located” - National Trails System Act, 2009
# Table of Contents

**Executive Summary** .............................................................................................................. 2

1. **Introduction** .................................................................................................................. 5

**The Need for Community Engagement** ............................................................................ 7
   Community Based Environmental Management .................................................................. 7
   Community Perceptions, Attitudes and Values ................................................................. 8
   Attitudes Towards Managers and Agencies ....................................................................... 8
   Where Attitudes and Values Begin .................................................................................. 9

**Research Questions and Objectives** ............................................................................... 9

2. **Site Description** ........................................................................................................... 10
   Justification ..................................................................................................................... 10
      The Dream of a Long Distance Trail ........................................................................... 11
      The Appalachian National Scenic Trail ..................................................................... 12
      The Pennine Way ....................................................................................................... 17

3. **Methodology** ............................................................................................................... 22
   Sampling Method ......................................................................................................... 22
   Data Collection ............................................................................................................. 22
   Data Analysis ............................................................................................................... 24

4. **Results and Discussion** ............................................................................................. 24
   Analysis of Stakeholder Perceived Benefits and Impacts ............................................ 24
   Analysis of Stakeholder’s Management Comprehension .............................................. 27
   Needs ............................................................................................................................. 28

5. **Recommendations** ...................................................................................................... 29
   Promotion, Marketing, Development and Communications ........................................... 29
   Conservation, Management and Protection ................................................................... 31

**Conclusions** .................................................................................................................. 32

**References and Relevant Literature** ............................................................................. 33
1. Introduction

Long distance trails can provide recreational opportunities for many people, economic stimulus for neighboring communities, education and research opportunities for students and academics, and lifelong activity that is both healthy and free for everyone. Long distance trails provide connectivity for human passage that allows us access to the very rocks and soil on which mastodons and our ancestors may have walked. For many, these footpaths offer an experience of a lifetime. For some, these treks offer a pilgrimage of reflection, contemplation, or spiritual awakening. For others, they may offer a daily run, a break from the hustle and bustle. Most importantly, the lands that wilderness trails--- and for some cultural and historic trails--- traverse are protective corridors. They provide ecosystem services, valuable wildlife migration pathways, significant natural resources and biological diversity.

A definition of a trail appears in a report to the National Park Service:

“A trail is a linear corridor, on land or water, with protected status and public access for recreation or transportation. Trails can be used to preserve open space, provide a natural respite in urban areas, limit soil erosion in rural areas, and buffer wetlands and wildlife habitat along waterways. Trails may be surfaced with soil, asphalt, sand and clay, clam shells, rock, gravel or wood chips. Trails may follow a river, a ridge line, a mountain game trail, an abandoned logging road, a state highway. They may link historic landmarks within a city.” - Trails for All Americans, 1990.

The protection given to these trails differs from the general protection given to large parcels of land in ‘protected areas’ or national parks. Many of the originating national parks were designated as large swaths of land that were not necessarily adjacent to settlements. In contrast, trails are delicate ribbons traveling across numerous land management areas, municipalities, counties, and states (Vinch, 1999). They are “delicate” because, as infrastructure continues to surge to meet our growing population, the corridors become more fragile and more susceptible to encroachments and incursions by cell phone towers, roads, gas lines, and housing developments (Vinch, 1999). The wilderness experience desired by so many becomes much less accessible with these growing threats.
Trailside or “gateway” communities provide significant support for, and are integral components of long distance trails. Serving as access points and offering important services, they provide resupplies, transportation, restaurants, laundry, and lodging to hikers, walkers, and trekkers. At the same time, these communities often receive significant economic benefit from the trail users (Econsult Corporation, 2007; Johnson, 1998). These localities, moreover, have a vested and common interest in assuring that they have access to the healthy ecosystem provided by trail conservation that protects water and foodsheds (EPA, 1997). Gateway communities, in other words, are necessary partners in stewardship of the natural and cultural systems that are made possible by trails.

It is clear that engaging gateway communities in the active management, promotion and decision-making related to long distance trails is crucial in order to truly promote and protect long distance trails. Research shows that local community participation in decision-making processes within protected areas is the most significant variable relating to the community’s level of compliance with Protected Area policies (Andrade, 2012). In his report, Andrade states that “the higher the level of participation, the higher the level of compliance.” A number of studies have also shown that local advocacy is often times the most effective means of protecting or promoting protected areas. In 1982, the World Congress of National Parks stressed that including communities as participants in the planning, management, and protection of protected areas and national parts was a priority (Wells, 1992).

Successful community programs have strong communication and education linked to their public lands. Healthy watersheds, ecological restoration, and natural resource management all are more successful given local, public support (Petursdottir, 2013; EPA, 1997). Community conflicts are minimized, and park values are promoted with engaged partners (Liu, et al 2010). Education and communication positively influence perceptions, and citizens are more supportive of participatory management (Dimitrakopulos, 2010).

Without the support of gateway communities, or an understanding on their part of how long distance trails provide important ecosystem protections, the trails may become irrelevant, lose social support, and become prone to development, misuse, and environmental degradation (Repanshek, 2009). To better identify incentives to boost
engagement and participation in the stewardship necessary to protect the trails, and to provide effective outreach, education, and conservation strategies, planners and managers trails need to understand the values and perceptions of those living in trailside communities (Pavlikakis and Tsihrintzis, 2003). Such values and perceptions may focus on cultural assets, recreation, economic development, biodiversity, clean air and water, scenery, or even the cultural diversity that is added by new visitors coming into trailside communities (USFS, 1997).

My research examines the relationship of adjacent communities to two long distance trails: the Appalachian Trail in the United States and the Pennine Way in Great Britain. I examined my primary research question, ‘How do trail managers best engage trailside communities in long distance trails?’ through a case study approach, analyzing the differences and commonalities between community perception of and engagement with each trail.

**The Need for Community Engagement**

**Community Based Environmental Management**

Bringing communities into the process of decision-making, promotion and direct management of long distance trails will help to ensure that true engagement occurs. Community-based environmental management provides a valuable set of tools and principles for engaging communities in the management of their local environment.

Kellert (2000) describes the characteristics of Community Based (or Natural Resources) Environmental Management as (1) involving local citizens and institutions, (2) decentralizing from federal/state government to local, (3) connecting socioeconomic development and environmental protection, (4) defending local and/or indigenous resources and property rights, and (5) including traditional values in current resource management.

Berkes (2007) describes community based environmental management and its cooperative quality as a “knowledge partnership.” His article about the evolution of co-management discusses how bridging organizations can facilitate the creation and movement of knowledge at different levels. Among the most essential responsibilities of the bridging organization, he states, are social learning, learning together through
reflection, problem solving with like-minded networks, or learning networks. Berkes (2008) describes a strategy for co-management known as ‘Bridging Knowledge”, which “incorporates multiple knowledge systems and multiple scales which enhances environmental decision-making. The potential in partnerships can be captured by combining complementary knowledge, skills and capacities of different actors at different levels of organization.” Working together to solve local, regional and national level problems through social networks incorporates “new knowledge to deal with problems at increasingly larger scales,” (Berkes, 2008).

**Community Perceptions, Attitudes and Values**

Commonly shared social and cultural values within a community and region can create a sense of community or place (EPA, 2002). These values can be assessed and results can suggest solutions for environmental action (EPA, 2002).

Tuan’s (2013) recent book, *Topophilia: A Study of Environmental Perceptions, Attitudes, and Values*, describes environmental problems as human problems that hinge on people’s motivations, values and attitudes. Topophilia, which is the bond between human and place, has a positive correlation to quality of life (Heimer, 2005).

Research by Polaski (2008) indicates that, when setting conservation priorities, it is necessary to consider limited resources. It is also necessary when mitigating threats to understand the social, economic, and political systems integrated within the place. “Not adequately taking account of social, political, and economic realities in conservation planning will cause the implementation of conservation plans to be ineffective or cause the failure of conservation strategies” (Polaski, 2008).

Indicators of community attitudes and values on trails and their management may include historical context, social, cultural or economic factors (Cinner, 2004).

**Attitudes Towards Managers and Agencies**

Trust is an important issue between communities and the Federal Government, as it relates to the government’s ability to successfully manage programs (USFS, 1997). “People’s tastes and preferences change, their perspectives on natural resources are
influenced by knowledge, and their acceptance of differing management practices may shift as experience is gained...” (USFS, 1997).

Wells (1992) warns that when projects involving locals are developed short-term simply to create credibility, the impacts can be superficial. The real need is for active participation in implementation and planning for a long-term vision. Wells also suggests that many local residents residing near national parks or protected areas perceive that the parks are barriers---as opposed to avenues---to income.

Conflicts over the rights to natural resources for local use can jeopardize conservation goals and management practices, both within and outside of park boundaries. Strategies during the development of the parks are important in fostering healthy relationships with residents (Nepal, 2012).

Community Based Environmental Management is an important way for communities to contribute to management of their local trails and natural resources.

Where Attitudes and Values Begin

Understanding environmental values and attitudes begins with the social, economic, and demographic composition of the public. Raymond’s 2009 study used GIS to map natural capital values and ecosystem services values as well as threats. Interviews showed that participants assigned highest value to water and biota assets. Of ecosystem services, highest value went to recreation, tourism, and water and food sheds. Results show how values can define management priorities.

Research Questions and Objectives

My research focuses on community perceptions, values, and knowledge of management along long distance trails. The key research question—“How do trail managers best engage communities along long distance trails”—will provide important pathways and strategies for protection, promotion, and building relevancy for a sustainable trail.

Looking across the different cultures of two similarly managed, long distance wilderness trails will allow analysis of similarities among stakeholders, as well as the differences, that can help managers recognize some coalescing principles for
management that could be applicable across cultures. Likewise, by looking at the
differences and similarities between two adjacent communities, one characterized as
engaged, or partnering with trail managers in some way, versus a community not known
to be engaged with management partners, managers can understand their own impact
and influence on community perceptions and values.

This paper explores:

1- What local trailside communities value about long distance trails, and the
   negative impacts of those trails on those communities.
2- The communities' knowledge, understanding, and interest in management of the
   trails.
3- How the differences in historical context influence the values and attitudes of
   two national trails in separate countries.

Understanding the attitudes and perceptions of the trail-side communities will
provide context for managers to develop meaningful, collaborative strategies for
engagement. Understanding the current level of knowledge about management, and
what actions community members are taking to be involved, will inform managers on
the greatest needs in terms of communication and engagement.

2. Site Description

   Justification

My research focuses on case studies in communities adjacent to two long
distance trails:

1) The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.), following the ridges of the Eastern
   seaboard of the United States, from northern Georgia through Maine, and
2) The Pennine Way, beginning in Edale in the Peak District national park, England
   and crawling up the middle of the country to Kirk Yetholm, Scotland.

I selected these two iconic trails for comparison because the A.T. was one of the
first National Scenic Trails to come into existence after the National Trails Act in 1968. I
have worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for more than a decade and have an
understanding of its history and management. The Pennine Way was the first National Trail in the United Kingdom, opening in 1965. Both trails are for foot travel only, are considered wilderness trails, are built for scenic recreation, and connect a series of national parks, forests, and protected areas.

I selected two communities adjacent to each Trail for interviews. One of the communities for each trail was considered an active or engaged community (Damascus, Virginia, and Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, England), because trail managers, staff, or volunteers work directly in the communities. The other community does not describe itself as a ‘trail town’ (Rural Retreat, Virginia, and Malham, Yorkshire Dales National Park), and does not have direct interaction with trail managers. Looking at the differences and similarities in the attitudes, perceptions and historical context of the trails between the engaged vs. non-engaged community for each trail will provide insight into why one community is more active in trail promotion, management, and protection. Trail managers from each trail were involved in selecting the communities for this research.

The Dream of a Long Distance Trail

Benton MacKaye, forester and regional planner, held a radical vision for a long distance trail along the spine of the Appalachian Mountains. In his revered 1921 article, he described a “skyline along the top of the main divides and ridges of the Appalachians [that] would overlook a mighty part of the nation's activities. The rugged lands of this skyline would form a camping base strategic in the country's work and play” (MacKaye, 1921). MacKaye’s paper, “An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning,” shook the nation into planning and establishing such a trail, the first of its kind in scope and forethought. Not only did his paper spur groups of volunteers and agency partners to come together to develop an Appalachian Trail, it also catalyzed a greater movement with the development of long distance trails. In 1968, President Johnson signed the National Trails System Act, which designated the Appalachian Trail as a National Scenic Trail in the United States (Act, 2009). Across the world, the Appalachian Trail became a legend and model.
Not long after MacKaye published his article, another famous write-up was published in what was Great Britain’s *The Daily Herald*. In ‘Wanted - A Long Green Trail’ author Tom Stephenson sought a similar walking ‘track’ for Great Britain: “But let us have this through route to health and happiness for this and succeeding generations who may thus make acquaintance with some of the finest scenery in the land” (Stephenson, 1935). Now known as the Pennine Way, Britain’s first National Trail follows ancient Roman paths and is often called ‘the backbone of England.’

But MacKaye’s Appalachian Trail vision was not merely about a walking path. MacKaye, being a regional planner, understood the important social, cultural, and political factors that contribute to the development of such a trail. His vision never separated the Trail from the people — an important aspect of sustaining both environmental and human systems.

In his paper, MacKaye described four integral parts to trail planning: (1) the Trail, (2) shelter camps, (3) community groups, and (4) food and farm camps. The cooperative camping communities that MacKaye envisioned were self-sustaining and non-industrial. These small communities might “be organized for ... recreation, for recuperation and for study” (Mackaye, 1921). Although the community groups and farming camps never materialized, many important components did. Volunteers came together to build and develop the Trail, the shelters (lean-tos for hikers a day’s walk apart), and the access to the Trail.

For close to a century, the significant 31 Volunteer Trail Clubs that now manage the Appalachian Trail have remained vital stakeholders in the development, management, conservation, and protection of the Trail. Many of these clubs and their members don’t reside directly next to the Trail and travel hundreds of miles each year to steward their section of Trail.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail

History

The introduction of this paper mentions Benton MacKaye’s article on developing a trail across the ridges of the Appalachian mountain chain. What followed was also
revolutionary—the creation of a cooperative management system made up of public-private partnerships invested in building, protecting, and maintaining the A.T.

In 1925, just a few years after his article was published, an Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) brought together volunteer groups, land managers, and government agencies to discuss the promotion and development of the Trail. That Appalachian Trail Conference spurred an organization of the same name—now known as the non-profit Appalachian Trail Conservancy—to pick up the tools and lead the efforts of organizing, building, and connecting established trails together to form the long distance trail. The new leaders, as recreational hikers, shifted the project to more of a hiking-based trail (King, 2000).

At a conference in 1937, the trail partners celebrated the completion of the trail. At that conference, Myron Avery, the ATC chairman who led the bulk of the effort, stated: “Rather than a sense of exultation, this situation brings a fuller realization of our responsibilities. To say that the Trail is completed would be a complete misnomer. Those of us, who have physically worked on the Trail, know that the Trail, as such, will never be completed” (King, 2000). Although connected by a series of existing trails and roads, the A.T. was far from ‘complete.’ It was, however, a victory for those in the grassroots effort mapping it, developing it, and creating handshake agreements with private landowners allowing hikers to walk its route.

At the same conference, Edward Ballard, a National Park Service employee and Appalachian Mountain Club member, proposed a resolution calling for “an Appalachian Trailway”—a protected “buffer strip of land through which the Trail and its surroundings would be protected, on private and public lands alike” (King, 2000). This Avery-Ballard vision, embraced by ATC, became the new wave of finding protection for the footpath—through government agency support for public lands.

After the war, development and encroachment increased, as did lobbying efforts by the growing cadres of club volunteers in favor of greater protection. In 1968, Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed legislation that President Johnson signed into law. The National Scenic Trails Act created the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and put it under federal protection and management. At the same time, the Act delegated the responsibility for acquiring and protecting the Trail to the 14 states through which the Trail passes (Vinch, 1999). A 1978 amendment to the National Scenic Trails Act
expanded the federal government’s ability to acquire lands for the Trail, giving the Department of Interior authority to condemn up to 125 acres per mile and provided $90 million for acquisition (Vinch, 1999).

In the late 70s, as demand for scenic lands increased in response to private development, policies implemented by the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire land for protection became more aggressive, even dubbed the ‘get tough’ acquisition policies (Mittlefehldt, 2010). Because of the Trail’s unique cooperative partnership and its geographic location proximate to settled areas, the acquisition process remained a bottom-up approach, using veteran volunteers as liaisons. This model for land acquisition was unprecedented. The model mitigated what, in other areas, were great conflicts around the growth of federal government and its effect on civil liberties and property rights (Mittlefeldt, 2010).

There were still conflicts, however. The Trail’s new status as a National Park Unit required NPS to acquire additional lands to buffer the Trail. The transition from handshake agreements for “rights to walk” to an active land acquisition process by NPS, and sometimes volunteer trail advocates, created confusion and resentment at a time when there was a growing political movement against federal expansion. This new level of acquisition left some landowners feeling “unconsulted, unnotified, and misled to the point of confusion as to whom they were confronting regarding their land and the Trail” (Kent, 1983).

Because of the unique partnership of volunteer-based clubs and their leadership in managing, building, maintaining, and protecting the Trail, the Department of Interior delegated responsibility of some management aspects to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, which, in turn, delegated out responsibility to each club.

The Cooperative Management System

The National Trails Act passed administration of the trail to the NPS, but it also highlighted the need for volunteer participation in trail management. Section 11 of the Act states that “the heads of any Federal agency administering Federal lands, are authorized to encourage volunteers and volunteer organizations to plan, develop, maintain and manage, where appropriate, trails throughout the Nation” (Act, 1968).
As described in the Comprehensive Management Plan, adopted by the NPS in 1981, ATC works to ensure that the Trail is maintained and managed in a primitive state. It does so in cooperation with its land-managing agencies and volunteer partners (Vinch, 1999). ATC describes the partnership as a three-legged stool, with each leg representing one of the partners needed to make a decision.

- Agency Partner/Land Manager
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy Staff
- Appalachian Trail Volunteer Trail Club

A.T. Communities

In 2000, ATC went through a restructuring of its organization and recognized that without education, increased monitoring of natural resources, and engagement of its trailside communities, the trail’s resources may be at risk. In 2005, the organization shed its original Appalachian Trail Conference name and adopted a more fitting name, Appalachian Trail Conservancy. At the same time, the organization launched three new programs: the Appalachian Trail Community™ program, the Trail to Every Classroom program, and a program to engage citizen-scientists to monitor and manage the trail’s special ecosystems. The organization piloted the A.T. Community™ program in two different communities in two different regions of the Trail. Each community was asked to comment about what a community program might look like and what level of interest there was in such a program. Given the different comments received, the ATC decided to launch a designation program, with an application that would outline what communities would do to promote and protect the Trail. Today, 37 designated A.T. Communities™ participate in the program, and Damascus, Virginia, is one of them (ATC website).

Damascus, Virginia

Damascus is a small town in Washington County, in Southwest Virginia, one of the few towns that the Appalachian Trail travels directly through. With a population of 813 (2013 Census), it sits approximately 450 miles from the Trail’s start at Springer
Mountain, GA, and another 1715 miles from its northern terminus at Katahdin in Baxter State Park, Maine (Chazin, 2013).

The town is known for its many trails, including The Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail, The Transcontinental Bicycle Trail, the Iron Mountain Trail, the Daniel Boone Trail, and of course the A.T. (Medeiros, 2014). The town is lovingly referred to as “Trail Town, USA” (Damascus website). As part of the 50th anniversary of the Trail’s completion, the town, hikers, and local citizens organized a celebration to honor the thru-hikers coming through the town on their northbound journey to the terminus of Katahdin in Maine. It was the first of what would become one of the biggest hiking festivals in the nation, and probably the world. More than 20,000 people flock to Damascus for the famous Trail Days event that happens every (Appalachian Trail Community Application). Damascus’s tourism base is dependent upon trail users (Cox, et al. 2011).

Damascus went through the application process to become one of ATC’s designated A.T. Communities™ in 2010. On the application, Mayor Jack McCrady wrote: “All who know Damascus understand that it was hiking, biking and other forms of ecotourism which brought the Town out of the economic slump of the late 1980’s. This and other reasons have made the Town a strong advocate of the long term wellbeing of the AT. We protect not only the natural resources surrounding the AT but the cultural resources as well. Geographically the AT runs down Laurel Avenue which is our most traveled street. Our outfitters have an interdependent relationship with many of the people who use the trail and Damascus is known to the hiking community as the friendliest Town on the trail. In short we as the governing body feel that the Town of Damascus should receive this designation and hope to become the standard by which Appalachian Trail Communities are measured.”

Rural Retreat & Atkins, Virginia

With a population of 1483 (2010 Census), Rural Retreat is in Wythe County, Virginia. The town was originally settled by German, Scotch Irish, and French Huguenots (Commission, 1980). The railroad came through in 1855, and the community developed around the depot (Commission, 1980). Rural Retreat’s comprehensive plan (1980)
describes the importance of the trail to the community: “The Appalachian Trail can also be reached from the [Blue Ridge] Parkway at more than 20 overlooks and parking areas in the Commonwealth and provides opportunities to hike sections of this popular national scenic trail.”

With a population of 1,143 (2010 Census), the unincorporated community of Atkins is in Smyth County Virginia. The A.T. goes right through the town, which is just north of Damascus, by approximately 85 trail miles (Chazin 2013), and is approximately 8 miles from Rural Retreat’s downtown. The town has not had previous known partnerships with trail or land managers.

🔗 The Pennine Way

History

Historically, hikers in England were denied access to areas of open country. In his article, “A Historical Outline of Land Ownership in England,” Dr. Gilbert Slater described the history of the Enclosure movement:

“Early in the 18th century there begins the great series of private acts of enclosure, of which 4,000 in all, covering some 7,000,000 acres were passed before the General Enclosure Act of 1845. During the same period it is probable that about the same area was enclosed without application to Parliament.” (Slater, 1913).

By the 1930s, in the midst of the Depression, many of West Yorkshire’s mill and industrial workers escaped their gloomy weeks by going to the countryside to walk along the moors. “I may be a wage slave on Monday, but I am a free man on Sunday,” (BBC, 2005) said one of the 400 walkers that participated in the Kinder Scout Trespass in 1932 (Ramblers, 2015). This historic event was an act of willful trespass at Kinder Scout in Derbyshire, England, that intended to highlight the fact that walkers could not access areas of open country. As Benny Rothman wrote: “We ramblers, after a hard week’s work in smoky towns and cities, go out rambling for relaxation, a breath of fresh air, a little sunshine. But what we find when we go out, that the finest rambling country is closed to us, just because certain individuals wish to shoot for about ten days a year” (Speakman, 2011).
Leading up to the Kinder Scout Trespass, six regional federations joined forces to create the National Council of Ramblers Federations (Ramblers, 2015). The purpose of the national group was to establish walker rights. Now known as the Rambler’s Association, the group is made up of 500 local groups and over 110,000 members (Ramblers, 2015).

The Kinder Scout Trespass spurred the beginning of a campaign for ramblers to have the “right to roam” (Speakman, 2011). The campaign was successful, culminating in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in 1949. The Act provided the framework for creating the national trail system in England, addressed the public’s right of access to open land, and required footpaths in England and Wales to be recorded in “definitive maps.” Recording paths on these maps provided conclusive evidence that the public had the right of access to the land. The publication of the Definitive Maps of Rights of Way for England and Wales was seen as an important right for millions, who did not own land or estates, to have access and opportunity to enjoy the experience of the landscape or countryside (Speakman, 2011).

The “right to roam” was still being advocated in 2000, when the Countryside and Rights of Way Act was passed, safeguarding public access to “mountain, moor, heath and downland” (Ramblers, 2015).

Just as MacKaye’s 1935 article sparked the A.T. movement in the United States, Tom Stephenson’s article about a long green path, sparked a movement in England. By 1938, A Pennine Way Association convened and asserted that “the wide, health-giving moorlands and high places of solitude, the features of natural beauty and the places of historical interest along the Pennine Way give this route a special character and attractiveness which should be available for all time as a natural heritage of the youth of the country and of all who feel the call of the hills and the lonely places” (BBC, 2005). Stephenson served as the Association’s secretary for many years, and, in 1965, 30 years after his article was published, there was a ceremony in Malham to celebrate the completed Pennine Way footpath (BBC, 2005).
The New Deal: New Management Direction

The Pennine Way’s 268 miles are managed by a partnership made up of local authorities responsible for the footpath, a National Trail Officer, highway authorities, landowners and many volunteers. The funding is provided by the government through Natural England and Natural Resources Wales (NPA, 2015). Natural England, through grants, funds approximately 75% of the management and upgrading of England’s National Trails, which are all marked and branded with the upside down acorn (S. Westwood, personal communication, 11/11/14). Locally, work is completed by highway authorities and three national park rangers (Natural England, 2013). Under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, Natural England has legal authority to create new and amend existing trails (Natural England, 2013).

Management is changing, however, soon to be delegated from Natural England to Yorkshire Dales National Park, which sits in the middle of the Pennine Way (Dales NP, 2015). As stated by Natural England’s New Deal (2013 pg 8), revised management standards will focus on:

- **Experience** - enable as many people as possible to enjoy a variety of experiences along National Trails
- **Enhancement** - make constant improvement to the Trail and its associated routes. Contribute to the enhancement of the landscape, nature and historic features within the trail corridor.
- **Engagement** - build and sustain a community of interest in caring for the Trail and the landscape through which it passes.
- **Economy** - create opportunities for local businesses to benefit from the use of Trails”
Under the New Deal, marketing is delegated to Walk Unlimited, which is expected to expand promotion nationally and internationally (Natural England, 2013). Walk Unlimited, formerly Walk England, describes itself as a social enterprise company that works to promote walking initiatives and provide expertise on mapping, web development, wayfinding, interpretation, route maintenance and support, training and community engagement (Walk Unlimited website).

Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, England

Like many of the rural towns along the Appalachian Trail, Hebden Bridge was an industrial town that went through economic decline and is finding that outdoor recreation is a marketing opportunity for economic growth. Hebden Bridge lies near the Pennine Way and is a popular location for hikers and walkers.

Hebden Bridge was once a mill town, manufacturing textiles, fustian in particular. The town experienced a drastic economic downturn in the 50s and 60s, when many people left the area. In the mid-60s, revitalization focused on the town’s

Figure 1 from Natural England, 2013
landscape character, heritage, and recreational assets (Hebden Bridge Partnership, 2013). New initiatives, including restoration of the canal that runs through the town, began. Receiving national attention for its grassroots, community-led support, the town has revived itself, although not without challenges. In 2012, for example, devastating floods impacted the area severely, and the community is now working on ways to restore the moors, a vital ecosystem serving as a sponge in the hills (Hebden Bridge Partnership, 2013).

The branding of ‘walkers are welcome’ highlights the community’s efforts to support outdoor recreation in a ‘hiker friendly’ town – an initiative that has grown to over a 100 towns in the United Kingdom (Hebden Bridge Partnership, 2013). Promoted by the local group, Hebden Bridge Walkers’ Action, Hebden Bridge supports services for walkers and provides stewardship for the area’s pathways and walks. Now viewed as a ‘funky’ town--- indeed proclaimed to be the fourth funkiest town in the world by British Airways magazine--- the residents of Hebden Bridge promote tourism for walkers and host a diverse group of artists (Gray, R. personal communication, 11/12/14).

Malham, Yorkshire Dales National Park, England

“I won’t know for sure if Malhamdale is the finest place there is until I have died and seen heaven (assuming they at least let me have a glance), but until that day comes it will certainly do” – Bill Bryson (Hall, 2012, pg 67).

North of the Peak District, and spanning the middle of the Pennines, is Yorkshire Dales National Park. The park is managed by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, which is an independent organization within the local governance and created by the Environmental Act of 1955 (Yorkshire Dales National Park website). Unlike national parks in the United States, the park does not define itself as a wilderness area but, instead, as a ‘working environment and home to over 20,000 people’ (website). One of the 40 dales, or communities, in the southern part of the National Park is Malhamdale, and within it, the village of Malham.

Malham has over 2000 years of history (Malhamdale, n.d.). With just over 250 inhabitants, it makes its bread and butter from the tourists, walkers, and outdoor
recreationists that come to enjoy the beautiful limestone formations and views from the natural amphitheater made perfectly for climbing and viewing the valley.

3. Methodology

Sampling method

To gain an understanding of the attitudes, values and perceptions of trailside communities, as well as their understanding of trail management, I conducted semi-structured stakeholder interviews. Specifically, I sought interviews with key actors in each of the four communities, including community members in the service industry who have interactions with hikers, as well as community leaders and staff of local community organizations. Stratified purposeful sampling was used to reach a cross-section of stakeholders, and to find similarities and differences among subgroups.

Data collection

I selected the interviewees using suggestions from trail managers and service industry representatives within each community.

Before each interview, the interviewee was informed of the objectives of my study and asked to sign a consent form (Appendix A). The forms were signed at the end of the interviews, so the interviewees could decide if they wanted any of the data to remain anonymous or if they wanted any content to be deleted. Interviews were held at each site, within each community.

Thirty interviews were conducted across the four communities. Table 1 depicts the number of interviews within each community, and the role (Classification by Affiliation) of the participant. The Duke University Institutional Review Board approved the research design, data collection methods, and interview questions (Appendix B).
Table 1 Interviews Conducted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of affiliation</th>
<th>Hebden Bridge</th>
<th>Malham</th>
<th>Damascus</th>
<th>Rural Retreat and Atkins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Leader/Works for Town</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Industry or Business</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail/Land Manager/Volunteer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiker/Retired/Unaffiliated</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In England, no one turned down an invitation to be interviewed. In Atkins, VA, eight people (in a row) declined interviews, each a business representative. While these eight explained that they did not feel comfortable being interviewed, they agreed that the A.T. was beneficial to the community. My assumption is those turning down interviews in Atkins were not comfortable with being asked about the trail, and saw me as an outsider that they didn’t trust.

Interviews generally took approximately 20 - 30 minutes. In England, I spent a longer time with Trail Managers and some NGOs, because, in addition to answering the prepared interview questions, they provided me with background information about the Pennine Way.
Data Analysis

All of the interviews were transcribed and uploaded into the Nvivo 10 software program for analysis. Each interview was coded into multiple nodes then grouped into four separate themes:

1) Benefits the trail provides
2) Negative impacts and conflicts, including historical references
3) Management
4) Needs

4. Results and Discussion

“If park managers do not engage with the history of a place or with its people, we will quickly forget who lived or worked there, what happened there and to whom and why the place is important” – Brown, 2009 (pg 28).

Analysis of stakeholder perceived benefits and impacts

Benefits

Figure 3 is a diagram of the responses related to benefits provided by both trails. The three dominant, perceived benefits across all communities and trails are 1) economic and promotional, mentioned by 24/30 different respondents; 2) positive changes within the community, mentioned by 17 different respondents; and 3) outdoor recreation, mentioned by 13 respondents. Unique references (some participants mentioned the benefits more than once throughout the interview) added up to 56 total references for economic and promotional benefits, 25 references for positive changes in the community, and 21 references for outdoor recreation.
In all four communities, respondents recognized the many benefits provided by trails. The economic benefits were mentioned by many of the interviewees. For example, an interviewee in Damascus said: “We owe the fact that we stay afloat as a community because of the A.T.; after industry left, that was all we had.” An interviewee from Malham said: “Absolutely—there is a financial benefit from tourism. Two-hundred people live in Malham. Tonight there are probably 400 people staying in Malham. It is like a gateway—maybe 1000 visitors came tonight.” A number of the respondents recognized that traffic on the trail leads to traffic in local businesses, which of course boosts the local economy.

One respondent in Hebden Bridge thought that trail walkers were a “limited economic driver” because they travelled light and were sometimes “wild camping.” That respondent nonetheless said: “The benefit is there—it’s difficult to quantify. But the profile that the Pennine Way brings to this area is huge. They’ll remember it, know they can follow it. Know its reputation for iconic landscapes, and it’s profile raising.”

The benefit most often cited was the ability to leverage the reputation of the National Trails to boost tourism. Some respondents noted that, because of the boost to tourism, their communities made efforts to promote trail use. As one respondent said: “We have an effort to promote hiking trails and the area as a gateway community.”
Clearly, the theme of economic prosperity was the dominant trail benefit mentioned by the respondents.

While mentioned less frequently, other benefits included recreational opportunities for community members themselves, protection provided by government designation, international and cultural exchange, and scenic beauty. “Different types of people come through – other cultures, you find out things – it is a big benefit to learn in that way,” said a respondent from Rural Retreat.

In sum, a majority of the interviewees described direct benefits from having a national trail pass through their communities, indicating that trails are highly valued within each of the four communities studied.

Impacts and Historical Context

Any mention of a trail’s negative impacts to communities was minimal, and most of the negative impacts mentioned came from interviews along the Pennine Way. Some of the main concerns from Malham and Hebden Bridge were based on user impacts to the trail itself. For example, there was concern that the treadway crosses sensitive moorland habitat in places and that the soggy surface is easily eroded from walkers not staying on the path. A farmer living along the trail was concerned about unleashed dogs disturbing sheep stock and open gates that allowed sheep to escape. The farmer, who also owns a bed and breakfast, stated: “I’d dig it up [the Pennine Way] and throw it away if I had anything to do with it. It takes up an acre of my land—which takes up 10% of the fields—and I’m not reimbursed at all. No compensation.”

Along the A.T., there was definite angst among A.T. Community respondents about the federal government, and many thought all trail managers were government agents. When asked about trail management, one librarian from Damascus said: “[We] don’t want big brother presence... even someone like a mayor would be intimidated by a large, faceless bureaucracy.” Another Damascus store owner, when asked about who manages the trail, answered: “The Federal government cause it don’t matter what I say no way. That trickles down through the state and trail clubs. There’s a way that people live in a cubicle and then there is a way we local people live. When we see something
that needs to happen, I’m talking the maintaining, we just move it or go get it or do it. It isn’t complicated as a pen and paper.”

The work that an Americorps VISTA volunteer was doing within the community of Damascus was very highly respected, however, even though the VISTA program is federally funded. “The person we like the most is Brady [VISTA volunteer]; we are so going to miss him. He is going to be truly missed. He’s brought so much more awareness to the area—now we know where the trail is! It has brought so much here; it has changed Damascus and revitalized it. We don’t have a lot of chances here—and we are booming. He has made all the difference. The way he’s integrated into the community and the NPS. Boy oh boy has he been a benefit... He’s been a fantastic advocate.” Another interviewee added, “We feel much more comfortable going to him with ideas—it is much easier. [It’s] good for both partners.”

This dissonance with the federal government wasn’t brought up in the England interviews. In fact, interviewees expressed pride when discussing how walkers/hikers were able to access the land. When referring to the Kinder Scout Trespass revolt bringing awareness to the land access issue, one interviewee described the “long time rambler, anarchist walker” as “acting on behalf of the greater good.” He went on to say that it was a “big deal, the perception that we are no longer banned from those areas [of the countryside]. Our belonging to the countryside gives us more of a sense of place.”

The conflict described by interviewees along the Pennine Way was between the walkers and the farmers or landowners. Only one farmer, also a bed and breakfast owner in one of the communities, was interviewed. As most of the farmers don’t live within the communities, further research is needed to define farmers’ attitudes and perceptions about the Pennine Way.

**Analysis of Stakeholder’s Management Comprehension**

To gain understanding of residents’ level of management comprehension, open ended questions were asked, such as “What can you tell me about who manages, promotes or protects the Trail.” If the response had “I don’t know” or “not sure”, they were put into a node of ‘low to none’ understanding of trail management. For example,
one Hebden Bridge service worker responded, “I don’t know. There must be some sort of committee of walking types.” One third of respondents, 10/30, had low to none understanding of management. The understanding of management was higher in the engaged communities vs those without partnerships with trail managers, with only 2/10 of the respondents coded in the ‘low to none’ coming from the engaged communities.

Fourteen respondents had ‘some’ understanding, generally limited to knowing that the trail is managed by the National Park Service, or Natural England. For example, a Hebden Bridge Bed and Breakfast owner said, “The Pennine Way Coordinator? There is a lot of work going on for restoration. Not sure of what Natural England’s involvement is.” When asked if their community contributed to trail management, many businesses and organizations described their contributions as promotional efforts and services to walkers, not direct management of the trail itself. The Damascus town manager said, “Yes, we do a lot of marketing through different grants, VA tourism, advertising assets like the trails.”

**Needs**

Over 24 references suggested ways to increase the trail’s use by locals and visitors, including by creation and expansion of day hikes, loop hikes, section hikes, and access information. Several respondents said there was no need to focus on long-distance hikers, as they already know how to access services along the trail, how to prepare for a hike, etc. It was more important to focus on day hikers and those visiting, who might be unfamiliar with the advantages and pleasures of trail hiking. One volunteer from Damascus suggested that trail visibility could be increased by integrating the trail more into the entire community through establishment of a Trail Center, which could act as a training facility for outdoor recreation and youth development and could be a magnet to bring people to the area. This Trail Center idea is now under development in Damascus. One manager outside of Malham described support for service providers as a need, “Lifting the game of providers and ‘Walkers are Welcome’. Our organization has a role in supporting these businesses and communities. Dark sites – star gazing. This is the sort of things we need to do. Should we be looking at day
packages? We could do much more on that and the tourism industry could help them. Drying rooms, boot rooms, being there the hours that people come. It isn’t just breakfast, it’s being adaptable to the customer. It’s more to do about engaging them, giving them the knowledge about economic impact.”

Many respondents were concerned that local youth do not understand the geology, geography, and assets of their own communities. These respondents stressed the need to raise awareness locally at the school level. One such respondent from Damascus said: “I grew up here and never knew the trail went right through here.” A 19-year-old interviewee, who could see the Pennine Way from the window of the establishment where he worked, said: “I don’t know what parts are the [Pennine Way] versus the other trails.”

Service providers and local residents alike emphasized the need to promote and highlight areas that are more rural. They also noted the need for a central information source and for maps that are accessible to everyone.

If trail managers can support these community needs---improved information on access and educational resources---it will strengthen partnerships between community leaders and trail managers. Understanding these needs is important for trail managers to focus resources and strategies that will contribute to the community. The needs defined are relevant to both parties, trail managers and communities, and by working collaboratively together partners can meet common goals.

5. Recommendations

Several recommendations can be made based on themes that emerged from the interview data analysis, the literature review, and background of management from each trail. These recommendations are broken into two main themes: promotion and protection.

Promotion, Marketing, Development and Communications

Given the stakeholder consensus on the promotional and economic benefits of the trails, managers should leverage this interest to support communication strategies that will increase awareness of local assets. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, in
cooperation with the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, and other National Trails within the United States, could look at the Walk Unlimited model, a private, specialized company with expertise in interpretation and signage, for mapping and promotional assistance. If trail communities provided content to a central source for information, they could leverage national networks and sites while providing added value for the local citizen and visitor.

I found that respondents from both trails indicated that there was a need and desire to involve youth in trail–related activities and generally raising awareness about trail-related assets. To address these issues, community groups, club volunteers and trail managers can cooperatively work to promote youth involvement and create programs, activities and stewardship opportunities that would attract families, and employ youth. This can increase opportunities for and benefit local businesses, supporting local economies. These initiatives would be tailored to local needs and interests, but might include:

- Interpretive information, such as websites housing suggested itineraries, showing ranges of accommodations and prices.
- Wayfinding and interpretive information such as maps and access to trailheads. One example of this is the Northern Forest Canoe Trail’s multi-day and suggested day trips along the waterways of New England (NFCT, n.d.).
- Encourage comprehensive planning to address and integrate easy loop hikes for day use, building connections from the trail to the town. Increasing the connectivity through community trails, short local trails that provide access to and loops from the larger, long distance trails can provide opportunities for diverse users. For example, Hebden Bridge is creating one to connect to the Pennine Way (Hebden Bridge Times, 2015).

Another important educational need can be met if trail managers provide teachers with resources, curriculum and materials that will raise awareness about the local, and regional assets within the trail.
**Conservation, Management and Protection**

Strengths from the Appalachian Trail show that the non-profit Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) excels with its cooperative management system and coordination through its volunteer and agency partnership. The model of regional partnerships that include volunteer, land manager representatives, and ATC staff provides a structure that supports ongoing communication. Looking at this as a model, the Pennine Way could bring representatives from the different local partnerships, walking organizations, friend and volunteer groups together into an organizational structure which could provide a mechanism for more cohesive communication. Both trail management groups could integrate community representatives in a stronger manner.

Community Based Environmental Management (CBEM), as described in chapter 2, is a means for engaging communities, especially important along federally owned land. Providing opportunities and mechanisms for local and regional partners to provide input in trail decisions can strengthen communication, mitigate threats and create stronger policies. One technique of CBEM is participatory planning, and utilizing public participation GIS (PPGIS) techniques to provide values and priorities for conservation, restoration, management and planning (Raymond, 2009).

If community residents had a greater understanding of trail management, there may be an opportunity to dispel the barrier of ‘federal government’ perceptions. Utilizing the strategies of “Bridging Knowledge” and “Knowledge Partnerships” described in the CBEM section (Berkes, 2009), managers and community residents both can leverage social capital to support each’s motivations. This would include efficient, effective management for trail managers, and ability to leverage promotional efforts for supporting community vitality.

Most importantly, having a staff person or volunteer in the community can change attitudes and increase connections to build trust and positive perceptions, can increase knowledge of management, and encourage participation of stewardship. One example is the Americorps VISTA program, where a volunteer can support communities and act as a liaison between agencies and localities.
Conclusions

Understanding the motivational basis of attitudes can aid managers in engaging residents in trail management. Reciprocity is the act of exchange for mutual benefit. Partnerships are necessary for the symbiotic relationship between that of a long distance trail and its trailside inhabitants. Trail management decisions can impact local community values, and local/regional decisions can affect trails and their resources. Given the complex management across multiple jurisdictions, coalition groups must find ways to integrate community input into decisions, find communication techniques to add participatory involvement, and create strategies for raising awareness at the local level. Trust is necessary for partners to provide reciprocity, and with trust, cooperative management and ‘knowledge partnerships’ can create meaningful advances in the protection and promotion of long distance trails.

This research confirms the needs from long distance trail managers to 1) engage with trailside neighbors 2) promote the trail as a local asset and 3) be cognizant of historical context. Having a ‘face’ in the community, or assuring volunteers and staff are providing management information and requesting input could provide several opportunities. Youth can be engaged and employed through volunteer service or employment programs like Americorps VISTA, and youth engagement can increase knowledge of trail management and inspire opportunities for stewardship. The best way for managers to engage with communities is by expanding on the benefits that local communities see. Providing increased awareness, education, interpretation and promotional assistance will meet needs and encourage cooperation.

Finally, there is very little research or collaboration across international long distance trails, and management, or promotional support for them. Initiatives such as the World Trails Network, a new organization looking to develop more collaboration and communication for long distance trails on a global level (http://worldtrailsnetwork.org/) and the Partnership for the National Trails System, a coalition of National Scenic and Historic Trails in the U.S., could provide important content and leadership for development of promotional materials.
References and Relevant Literature


Appendix A

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

| Project Title: Local Perceptions of the Environmental & Economic Value of Long Distance Trails | Organization: Duke Univ., Nicholas School of Environment |
| Principal Investigador: DEL-MEM Julie Judkins julie.judkins@duke.edu | Phone: +1 828-582-0179 |
| Location: Other Investigators: Lisa Appel, assistant researcher |

Please read carefully over this consent form. Please ask as many questions as you like before you decide whether you want to participate in this research study. You are free to ask questions at any time before, during, or after your participation in this research.

PROJECT INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY
You are being asked to participate in a study designed to better understand how trail managers can engage trailside communities and provide conservation strategies for the Trail. Information gathered in this survey will inform the trail managers of long distance trails world-wide, support their missions, and conserve trail conditions and resources.

PROCEDURES
You will be asked about the history of trail hikers in your town, the impact they have on your community, what you feel are the values of having the trail in or near your community and how trail managers have fostered collaboration to support the trail.

USE OF THE RESEARCH MATERIAL
Your responses to the interview questions will be used in a research paper that is a requirement to complete a master’s degree in environmental management at Duke University.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
There is no financial compensation for your participation in this research.

CONFIDENTIALITY
I will ask for your name, workplace, and contact information, so I may contact you again if I need follow-up information, and also I will know which notes pertain to your survey if you want me to add or delete anything. I will also record the interview. I will get your permission before the interview, and again at the end of the interview, I will ask you if I can use your name and workplace in my final research paper. You can choose then whether you’d like me to keep your name confidential. If you do not wish for your contact information, name and affiliation to be known, all identifiable information will be discarded, and will be deleted from the recording after any potential follow-up that may be needed.

PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY
You are free to choose whether or not to participate in this study. You are free to answer questions as briefly or in detail as you wish and to skip questions. You can decide to stop participating at any time, and you can decide if you want me to keep or delete the information you have given me.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please contact me, Julie Judkins, Principal Investigator, with any questions. If you would like to participate, please fill in the lines below. Please keep the second copy of this sheet so that you have this information.

Participant Name:____________ Signature:____________ Date:____________

39
Appendix B

Name:
Email Address:
Town:
Profession;
Age:
Gender:
Date of Interview:
Location of Interview:
Length of Interview:
Audio Recording Y N

What can you tell me about who manages, protects or promotes the trail?

Who in your community is most involved in the management, protection or promotion of the trail? In what ways are they involved?

What management contributes to the protection, promotion and development of the trail, and who is leading that effort?

Are you yourself involved with the management, protection or promotion of the trail? If so, in what ways are you involved?

Do you feel there is value in having the trail located close to your community? If so, what are the most significant benefit?

Are there ways that you feel the trail could provide more benefits to you and your community? What would need to happen in order to make those change and who would need to be involved?

Do you feel that there are negative impacts of having the trail near your community? If so, what are the most significant negative impacts?

Are there ways that you feel the negative impacts of the trail on you and your community could be reduced? What would need to happen in order to make those changes and who would need to be involved?