

[Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.](#)



Appalachian National Scenic Trail Vital Signs Monitoring

Plan now available – The long awaited A.T. Vital Signs Monitoring Plan was finished in May and is available at the following [link](#). The plan follows the traditional Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program model for network monitoring plans but is written with a broader audience, including potential research cooperators, in mind. The plan provides historical background on the Appalachian Trail, describes park research priorities, and describes tools and resources that will help researchers get underway more quickly. Contact [Fred Dieffenbach](#) for more information.

DRAFT Invasive Species Protocol available for testing – In response to growing demand, we began work on an invasive species detection protocol last fall. The protocol integrates information and procedures from other plans but is written with the Appalachian Trail in mind. The protocol is available at [link](#), and includes an overarching strategy and protocol narrative that will help users understand the basis for management initiatives. Because the protocol is in DRAFT form, we encourage people to provide constructive feedback – it also means that some sections are not yet finished! A companion to the protocol is a prioritization utility that integrates the existing Alien Plant Ranking System as well as the Invasive Species Assessment Protocol into a single Microsoft Access database. Contact [Fred Dieffenbach](#) for more information.

Forest Health and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

– Forest health is of particular interest to resource managers but finding a way to efficiently collect forest data specific to the A.T. has proven to be an elusive quest. Past efforts have either been constrained geographically or have focused on certain aspects of the trail (i.e., the footpath). For some time we have looked for ways to utilize data from the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) and Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) programs but working with data from all 14 states has not been easy either. Until now, that is. This past winter we developed a process that distills A.T. related data from the publicly available FIA/FHM state data sets and builds a new data set that is representative of the region through which the A.T. passes. Unlike spatially constrained studies, or those that distribute relatively few forest monitoring plots over the landscape, the new system brings together data from about 4700



Contacts:

[Fred Dieffenbach,](#)

Environmental Monitoring

Coordinator

Northeast Temperate Network

[Casey Reese,](#)

Natural Resource Manager

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

[Laura Belleville,](#)

Conservation Director

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

plots and allows us to answer questions about the A.T. region that could not be answered before. Contact [Fred Dieffenbach](#) for more information.

A.T. Sampling Pack now available - In an effort to support potential research on the A.T. we have brought together nearly 50 GIS datasets that identify baseline features such as hydrology, roads, and the footpath itself but it also includes a number of files that will help researchers solve complex random sampling issues. The pack is not yet on line, but is available on request. Contact [Fred Dieffenbach](#) for more information.

[Matt Stevens,](#)

Environmental Monitoring

Coordinator

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Appalachian Trail Environmental Monitoring

 AT MEGA-Transect

Mailing address:
Northeast Temperate Network
54 Elm Street
Woodstock, Vt 05091

Telephone:
802-457-3368 ext. 36

Copyright (C) 2009 National Park Service, Northeast Temperate Network All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#) from this list.