

## **I. Organizational Overview**

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), a non-profit organization with more than 93,000 members, promotes the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the mountains, rivers and trails of the Appalachian Region.

The AMC takes a leading role in conservation issues through such efforts as performing trail maintenance in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest; and working with other organizations and agencies, landowners and local citizens to help ensure the future health of the 26-million acre Northern Forest in New England and New York.

The AMC leads educational workshops from Acadia National Park to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area to help participants learn about natural history and conservation and to develop the outdoor skills necessary for safe and fun backcountry recreation.

A promoter of backcountry safety, the AMC is an active member of the volunteer search and rescue network in the White Mountains, participating in an average of 70 search and rescue missions each year.

The AMC offers lodging at huts, shelters, camps, and lodges throughout the Northeast. AMC's programs and facilities are open to members and non-members alike.

The AMC has been a steward of the Alpine area in the Northeast for generations. Our volunteers and staff are considered leaders at alpine trail maintenance techniques. We operate a alpine ridgerunner program on the Franconia Ridge in partnership with the USFS in order to educate folks firsthand on the fragile alpine environment. Our research department plays an active role by monitoring and advocating for the protection and preservation of the alpine ecosystem.

## **II. Project Description/ Justification**

AMC requests a (36/64) match of **\$5000** to fund the planning, design and construction of an interpretive kiosk that would be installed at the trail head to the Bridle Path and Falling Waters trails located in Franconia Notch State Park

It is estimated that close to 15,000 day-hikers and overnight visitors a year hike to the Franconia Ridge via the Bridle Path and/or Falling Waters trails. Most are seeking the sweeping views and intrigue of this unique alpine ecosystem, while others are testing themselves in some of the Northeast's harshest environment. A large number of these visitors come unprepared for the potentially life-threatening weather that is frequently encountered in the alpine zone; an equal number of users are also unaware of the uniqueness and fragility of the alpine area and how their impacts can be potentially harmful. Agency and organizational partners recognize a need to better educate visitors of this unique area in New Hampshire

The project would be a joint partnership among the New Hampshire State Parks, the White Mountain National Forest, the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory and the Appalachian Mountain Club, all of whom shoulder the array of management responsibilities in this area. It is agreed that a kiosk would be an excellent medium to augment a visitor's experience along the trails and Franconia Ridge. Kiosks are proven instruments that offer quality interpretive value by providing convenient, useful information in an economical and durable format to a wide range of visitors.

The kiosk would be placed in an area in proximity to the main parking area so as to capture the hikers attention before they head out on the trail. The kiosk would be designed to highlight safe travel practices and to focus on the alpine ecosystem. One interpretive panel would focus solely on the uniqueness and fragility of the alpine area itself. Another panel would focus on educating hikers in safe backcountry travel techniques and the challenges hikers may face. There would also be an space that would be used to present general rules and regulations of Franconia Notch State Park and the White Mountain National Forest, as well as other information that would be useful and necessary for the public to know.

### **Design**

A three- paneled kiosk would be architecturally designed to fit the site. Materials would be chosen that are durable and appropriate for the environmental conditions of the site. There would be two interpretive panels and a separate area that would support separate informational and regulatory signs and to post current notices.

A professional graphic designer would be employed to conceptualize, develop and produce the sign layout on a computer and transfer the information to a disk that the fabricator can use to make the panels. The designer would work with the fabricator to choose the appropriate sign material that would meet the interpretive goals and environmental challenges that exist.

### **Construction/Installation**

The construction of the kiosk may be completed with a combination of in-house, agency, volunteer and contracted labor. A capable project leader, who is familiar with construction craftsmanship, will be in charge of overseeing the building and installation of the kiosk. The kiosk will be maintain by a joint effort among the various agency and organizational partners.

### **Project Timeframe**

The expected timeframe for project completion is as follows:

**Planning** – Develop themes, compile background text – Fall/Winter 2002

**Design and development of signs/kiosk** – includes: graphic design work, fabrication of signs, development of kiosk design – Winter – Summer 2002-2003

**Construction and Installation of Kiosk** – Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

**III. Project Attachments:** Please see attached letters of support

**IV. Environmental Analysis-** N/A

**V. Plan for final Report** – The project administrator will submit a final report of the project upon completion. The report will consist of: contents of the display(s) in computer and hardcopy form; records/addresses of fabricators, designers and material suppliers and a list of contacts that are responsible for maintenance/ management of the kiosk.

## **VI. Budget**

In preparing the project budget, I consulted the publication “National Scenic and Historic Trails: Wayside Exhibit Guidelines” which recommend the following budget for a wayside exhibit (kiosk): 16% costs for planning, 21% for design and development, and 63% of the costs for panel and base fabrication.\*

The cost breakdown for the 3 paneled interpretive kiosk with roof is as follows:

- **Planning**
  - 1) Salary(s) for planning – Project Administrator, Graphic Designer - \$2000.
- **Design and Fabrication of 2 interpretive panels**
  - 1) Graphic Designer costs for design and development = \$3000.
  - 2) Panel fabrication – 2 @ \$2000 each = \$4000.
- **Fabrication and Installation**
  - 1) Kiosk would be a 3 paneled upright kiosk with a roof to protect them and visitors from sunlight, rain and snow. Two of the panels would be interpretive panels and the space to be used for rules/regulations/ weather reports/ shuttle times etc.  
  
Cost for fabrication: \$4000.
  - 2) Installation would be done by a possible combination of contractor, force account and volunteer labor. Requires preparing ground for concrete base, installing concrete, erection of kiosk.  
  
Costs for installation: \$1000.

**Total project costs (planning, design, fabrication, installation) = \$14000.**

**Proposed expenses to be funded by the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund - \$5000.**

The project is also hoping to be funded in part by the New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program Educational Fund, Funds from the NH Natural Heritage Inventory and the USFS.

- \* Information gathered from National Scenic and Historic Trails: Wayside Exhibit Guidelines, USDI NPS publication March 1998.