

The Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund
Grant Application
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Project Administrator: Julie Clemons

Organization: Dartmouth College

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Project Name and Location: Mt. Moosilauke Alpine Zone Protection, Benton and North Woodstock, NH

Application Information: Non Profit

Grant Information: Grant Requested: \$2400
 Match Pledge: \$1645
 Project Total: \$4045

- **Organizational Overview:** The Dartmouth Outing Club was founded in 1911 and began to build trails in that very same year. Since that time the club has swelled to approximately 1300 undergraduate members and has responsibility for seventy-five miles of the Appalachian Trail, associated shelters and backcountry facilities, ten cabins, and various and sundry side trails to the AT and on Mount Moosilauke. Dartmouth College owns 5,000 acres on Mount Moosilauke comprising most of the south and east side of the mountain as well as the summit area itself. The Dartmouth Outing Club is responsible for maintaining over thirty miles of trail on this land.
- **Project Description:**
Mount Moosilauke is one of the only bald 4,000 foot peaks in New Hampshire outside the National Forest. As such, it is not protected by group size restrictions at this point. Additionally, free parking is provided at the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge and the trails to the summit are quite gentle and protected as compared to trails on other big New Hampshire peaks. As a consequence, Moosilauke tends to attract a) inexperienced hikers and b) large groups such as Scouts, school groups and camps. Despite very carefully marked trails and numerous signs, people frequently choose to make side trips all over the summit area, impacting the fragile vegetation and spreading the sand areas unacceptably. Ridgerunner Les Myers reports having counted as many as 160 people on the summit at once. Also, over the years many trails have been relocated on the mountain. As a result on the summit there are "old" and "new" trails. The old trails are blocked off with brush in an attempt to let them revegetate, but unfortunately people, through simple ignorance or stubbornness, continue to use these trails that go nowhere.

Currently a presence is maintained on the summit by the White Mountain National Forest in the form of a Ridgerunner.. Les's schedule allows him to spend time on the summit every other weekend. Les performs both maintenance tasks and outreach tasks. A grant from the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund would allow us to hire a student for a ten week period in the summer to enhance the work that Les does. We would have a presence on the mountain for more of the time, as well as enhancing trailwork efforts in the alpine zone and educational efforts at the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge and possibly also at trailheads as well.

The project would involve hiring a Dartmouth student for a ten week summer period (approximately mid-June to late August). This student would receive training ahead of time in alpine ecology, public relations and the history of Mt. Moosilauke. The student would be responsible to:

- develop educational materials and plans, both static and interactive, to be used by guests and staff at the Lodge and posted at trailheads.
 - Maintain a presence on the summit during the most heavily trafficked parts of the season, coordinating with the WMNF Ridgerunner to avoid duplicating services,
 - Research and put into action the best plans for mitigating hiker impact on Moosilauke's alpine zone. This would probably include both physical barriers and educational efforts.
- Project Attachments: none
 - Environmental Analysis: none
 - Plan for Final Report

The student hired will be expected to present a written final report on her/his activities and their efficacy, as well as ideas for moving forward.

- Budget

The amount of grant monies requested would reflect what is necessary to pay this student at the same wage rate as the regular Trail Crew at Moosilauke (\$6/hour x 40 hours/week x 10 weeks = \$2400). The student would be provided with room and board at the Lodge for the duration of her/his employment, which would constitute the match (Bunkhouse, 3 meals = 23.50, x 7 days/week x 10 weeks, = \$1645).