

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AND THE
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND THE
ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC.
CONCERNING THE
ICE AGE NATIONAL AND STATE SCENIC TRAIL

This agreement is made and entered into, by and between the National Park Service, hereinafter referred to as the "NPS," and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as the "DNR," and the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the "IATA," in furtherance of the purposes of and pursuant to the powers and authorities contained in the National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.], hereinafter referred to as the "Act," and in ss. 23.17, 23.09(2)(d)10., 23.293, and 23.295, Wisconsin Statutes. These three partners are collectively hereinafter referred to as the "Triad".

Article I - BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This agreement is for the purpose of cooperating in the completion and long-term management of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, hereinafter referred to as the "Trail," clarifying the responsibilities of each party for the Trail and lands traversed by the Trail, including Trail lands acquired with Wisconsin Stewardship grants and Ice Age Trail dedication, pursuant to the Act and ss. 20.866(2)(tz), 23.17, 23.175, and 23.293(11) Wisc. Stats. This agreement supersedes the 2004 agreement between the NPS, DNR, and IAPTF.

On October 3, 1980, Congress amended the Act to authorize and establish the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as a component of the National Trails System [94 Stat. 1360; 16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(10)]. The Trail meanders through Wisconsin for approximately 1,200 miles from Potawatomi State Park in Door County to Interstate State Park in Polk County, generally following the terminal moraine and other glacial landscape features. The Secretary of the Interior was assigned administrative responsibility for the Trail.

The Act provides, in Section 7(h) [16 U.S.C. 1246(h)], that when determined to be in the public interest, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into written cooperative agreements with States or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals to operate, develop, and maintain any portion of a national scenic trail either within or outside a Federally-administered area. Such agreements may include provisions for limited financial assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, operation, development, or maintenance of such a trail, provisions providing volunteer in the park status (in accordance with the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969) to individuals, private organizations, or landowners participating in such activities, or provisions of both types.

Because the Trail involves only a small portion of Federal lands and the Act provides that the development, operation, and maintenance of the Trail shall be a cooperative venture, with special emphasis on the participation of private volunteer trail organizations, the Secretary of the Interior has determined it

to be in the public interest to enter into this agreement.

The Secretary of the Interior has delegated overall administrative responsibility for the Trail to the NPS. The NPS, in cooperation with the other parties to this agreement, completed a *Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use* of the Trail in September 1983. The NPS is responsible at the Federal level for carrying out the provisions of the Act as they relate to the Trail. The NPS carries out or facilitates trail planning, environmental compliance, and land protection activities. The NPS assists other public and private partners by coordinating, guiding, and assisting their efforts to acquire, develop, operate, protect, and maintain the Trail in accordance with the comprehensive plan and any supplemental plans. The comprehensive plan identifies the DNR and the IATA as cooperators in the long-term effort to develop and manage the Trail. The NPS serves as the primary liaison with other Federal agencies in matters relating to the Trail. In carrying out this role, the NPS reviews and comments on Federal or Federally-assisted/permitted projects and activities that may affect trail segments, such as highway, utility, and other development proposals.

The DNR is the State agency responsible for providing and maintaining outdoor recreation resources of Statewide significance, including trails, in Wisconsin. The Statewide significance of the Trail, the involvement of State recreation facilities in the route of the Trail, and the relationship of the Trail to the State-administered Ice Age National Scientific Reserve form the basis for the DNR's participation in development and management of the Trail. In 1987, the State legislature formalized this role by passing legislation designating the Trail as a State Scenic Trail and assigning the DNR responsibility for coordinating the involvement of State agencies in the Trail project and cooperating with the NPS and private interests in planning, acquiring, developing, and maintaining the Trail. Other legislation has made the DNR responsible for administering financial aids to assist the IATA and others to acquire lands for the Trail. The DNR serves as the primary liaison with other State agencies in matters relating to the Trail. In carrying out this role, the DNR works with other State agencies to ensure that the trail is accommodated within the lands and programs such agencies may manage.

The IATA is a private, nonstock, nonprofit corporation composed of individual members and county chapters. The IATA was incorporated in 1958 and it then and now exists under the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Law. The IATA is exempt from Federal income taxation under sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and is classified under sec. 509(a) as other than a private foundation. The mission of the IATA is to create, support, and protect a thousand-mile foot trail tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin. It does this primarily by organizing and coordinating local government and private sector involvement in such efforts, including fund raising and the recruitment and training of volunteer trail builders/maintainers. It has the primary responsibility to develop and encourage the growth of strong and active local volunteer chapters. The IATA serves as the primary liaison with local governmental agencies and other nonprofit conservation organizations in matters relating to the Trail. In carrying out this role, the IATA works to secure and coordinate the involvement of local government, private interests, and private sector resources in the planning, acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, and protection of the Trail.

Article II - STATEMENT OF WORK

The NPS, DNR, and IATA agree to coordinate their work to establish and manage the Trail in accordance with the attached *Vision Statement and Attributes*, and commit to carrying out various tasks relating thereto, according to the following tables:

TRIAD ROLES

PLANNING THE ICE AGE TRAIL

Wisconsin DNR	National Park Service	Ice Age Trail Alliance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit central office and regional staff to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. lead railway planning process in selected counties b. participate on the railway planning and railway protection strategy core teams in other counties c. lead master planning on State Ice Age Trail Areas (SIATAs) d. advise real estate staff on acquisition decisions to implement plans e. provide technical assistance for site planning on protected lands 2. Interface the Trail with <i>Land Legacy Report</i>, Feasibility Studies, Master Plans for DNR properties, and other DNR-led projects. 3. Ensure that all DNR-led railway planning complies with federal and state laws and regulations. Coordinate with NPS to ensure it complies with Federal requirements. 4. Provide Natural Heritage Inventory information, via an NHI data sharing agreement, to inform and guide Ice Age Trail planning efforts related to endangered resources (rare species, high-quality natural communities, and significant natural features). Provide endangered resources expertise in planning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate the Ice Age Trail corridor planning and railway protection strategy processes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. coordinate assignment of lead responsibility and timing for each county b. monitor progress in each county 2. Commit staff to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. lead railway planning and railway protection strategy processes in selected counties b. participate on the railway planning and railway protection strategy core teams in other counties c. manage planning contracts in counties where a contract agency leads the process d. Provide GIS mapping support 3. Ensure that all NPS-led railway planning complies with federal and state laws and regulations. Coordinate with DNR to ensure it complies with Wisconsin requirements. 4. Enter into an NHI data sharing agreement with DNR's Endangered Resources Review program; use NHI data to generate maps and other information and materials needed to inform the corridor planning process. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit staff to participate on railway planning and railway protection strategy processes core teams. 2. Recruit volunteers to participate on railway planning process core teams. 3. Contact landowners as part of the planning process with the guidance of the core team. 4. Enter into an NHI data sharing agreement with DNR's Endangered Resources Review program; use NHI data to inform the trail layout planning process. 5. Participate in the preliminary scoping process for counties that have not yet had railway planning. 6. Develop chapters/constituencies where needed to support the planning process. 7. Advocate for and support the integration of the Trail into "Smart Growth" planning at the local level. 8. As able, assist with on-the-ground field assessments during the planning process.

<p>efforts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Act as primary liaison with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, especially to ensure safe highway and road crossings and access points, and to notify the other parties of projects that may affect the Trail. 6. Participate in the preliminary scoping process for counties that have not yet had trailway planning. 7. Use all appropriate opportunities to help ensure that the Trail is integrated into "Smart Growth" planning at the local level. 8. Use every available opportunity to ensure that the Trail is incorporated into all appropriate long range County Forest plans. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Submit request for formal Endangered Resources Review of the proposed corridor during the collection of information for the Environmental Assessment. 6. Coordinate the preliminary scoping process for counties that have not yet had trailway planning. 7. Use all appropriate opportunities to help ensure that the Trail is integrated into "Smart Growth" planning at the local level. 	
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TRIAD ROLES

FUNDING THE ICE AGE TRAIL

Wisconsin DNR	National Park Service	Ice Age Trail Alliance
<p>1. Provide DNR staff support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. dedicated Ice Age Trail manager b. regional staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trailway planning - trail implementation - land acquisition - managing SIATAs - technical assistance related to endangered resources c. state trails coordinator assistance, including determining and disseminating policy guidance department-wide d. endangered resources staff support for conducting Endangered Resources Reviews <p>2. Provide capital development funding for trail improvements on department lands,</p> <p>3. Provide capital development grant funding for trail development and facilities.</p> <p>4. Provide land acquisition funding (Stewardship Program and Federal LWCF grant funds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. For DNR acquisitions b. For grants to local governments c. For grants to nonprofit conservation organizations <p>5. Seek accommodation of Ice Age Trail in</p>	<p>1. Provide funding for NPS operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ice Age NST staff and office b. financial support to partners for operational needs via cooperative agreement c. signing, brochures, etc. d. technical support and assistance related to endangered resources e. cultural resource compliance (e.g. Section 106 (of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966) reviews and surveys) <p>2. Fund Challenge Cost Share projects.</p> <p>3. Fund Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - volunteer training - awards and recognition - tools and equipment <p>4. Utilize NPS project funds for development and maintenance projects.</p> <p>5. Administer Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations for Ice Age Trail land protection.</p> <p>6. Seek increased funding through Operations Formulation System (OFS) and Project Management Information System (PMIS).</p> <p>7. Seek accommodation of Ice Age Trail in</p>	<p>1. Provide funding for foundation operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. administration b. volunteer and chapter support c. technical support and assistance related to endangered resources d. programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - newsletter - website - GIS - Mobile Skills Crew - Land stewardship <p>2. Seek congressional and legislative appropriations and private grants.</p> <p>3. Provide funding for selected key acquisitions, as available.</p> <p>4. Seek appropriate funding for long-term stewardship of IATA-held easements and fee lands.</p>

<p>other state or state-assisted projects and programs.</p> <p>6. Provide funding for long-term stewardship of DNR-held easements and fee lands.</p>	<p>other federal or federally-assisted projects and programs.</p> <p>8. Provide funding for long-term stewardship of NPS-held easements and fee lands.</p>	
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TRIAD ROLES

DEVELOPING, MAINTAINING, AND MANAGING THE ICE AGE TRAIL

Wisconsin DNR	National Park Service	Ice Age Trail Alliance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate development, maintenance, and management of the Ice Age Trail on DNR managed properties and facilitate Ice Age Trail on state properties not managed by the DNR. This should be done in accordance with Triad approved <i>Ice Age NST Handbook</i> standards. 2. Provide technical assistance and materials for development, maintenance, and management on DNR owned properties where the IATA or others will develop and maintain the trail. 3. Develop a policy and process that addresses the long term management of State Ice Age Trail Areas. 4. Allow for the development of the Ice Age Trail on State Ice Age Trail Areas in advance of a master plan for the State Ice Age Trail Area, or allow an amendment to an existing master plan that specifically addresses the Ice Age Trail on the property. The location of the Trail and the specifications for trail development shall be agreed to by the Triad. This should be done in accordance with Triad approved <i>Ice Age NST Handbook</i> standards. 5. Participate in the development of a policy that addresses long-term management of the Trail. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate development, maintenance, and management of the Ice Age Trail on NPS managed properties and facilitate Ice Age Trail on properties not managed by the NPS. This should be done in accordance with Triad approved <i>Ice Age NST Handbook</i> standards. 2. Provide technical assistance to public and private partners in all aspects of trail planning, acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, protection, and interpretation. 3. Participate in the development of a policy that addresses long-term management of the Trail. Depending on resources and priority, provide a Resources Management staff position for the Ice Age Trail. 4. Assist with the development of a policy that addresses the long-term management of State Ice Age Trail Areas. 5. Certify Trail segments and provide official Ice Age NST markers. 6. Provide tools, materials, and other use, regulatory, directional, and trailhead signage as resources allow. 7. Develop and maintain trail geospatial and management databases and other information about the trail to support trail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate development, maintenance, and management of the Ice Age Trail on IATA managed properties and facilitate Ice Age Trail on other private lands. This should be done in accordance with Triad approved <i>Ice Age NST Handbook</i> standards. 2. Provide volunteer services for Trail development and maintenance, and management of Trail lands. 3. Build and maintain the trail in accordance with Triad approved Ice Age NST Standards Handbook. 4. Identify other support for trail building and maintenance, and management of Trail lands, where volunteer support is lacking. 5. Assist with the development of a policy that addresses the long-term management of State Ice Age Trail Areas. 6. Participate in the development of a policy that addresses long-term management of the Trail. 7. Submit certification applications to NPS for Trail segments on IATA properties and other private property. Prepare certification applications for lands

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Submit certification applications to NPS for Trail segments on state property. 7. Host and provide GIS support facilities for the IATA GIS function. 8. Appoint a representative in each region to act as an Ice Age Trail clearinghouse for dissemination of Trail information and to help identify and coordinate additional staff resources. 9. Complete DNR required reviews and documentation for Ice Age Trail development projects on DNR lands. 10. Provide technical assistance related to endangered resources, including formal Endangered Resources Reviews, during the corridor planning and trail layout planning processes. 11. Develop camping opportunities and infrastructure improvements on state-owned lands to facilitate long-distance hiking of the Ice Age Trail. 12. DNR land managers will work with IATA staff to obtain necessary permits and meet permit requirements. 13. Provide technical assistance and training to partners for resource management practices, including exotic plant removal and the protection and enhancement of rare and endangered plants, animals, and community types. 14. Review County Forest comprehensive plans to ensure appropriate accommodations for the Ice Age Trail. 	<p>planning and management.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Recognize the IATA and its members as Volunteers-in Parks through an Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services, for purposes of injury compensation and protection from tort liability. 9. Complete NPS required reviews, compliance (cultural resources—Section 106, T&E Species—Section 7, etc.), and documentation for Ice Age Trail development projects. 10. Provide partners with copies of the <i>Ice Age NST Handbook for Trail Design, Construction & Maintenance</i>. 11. Provide technical assistance and training to partners for natural and cultural resource management, such as exotic plant removal and archeological artifact recognition and protection. 12. Develop camping opportunities and infrastructure improvements on NPS-owned lands to facilitate long-distance hiking of the Ice Age Trail. 13. Lead partner efforts to plan and provide for interpretation along the Trail. 	<p>administered by other public partners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Assist in the development and maintenance of a GIS database and produce user-oriented maps and other appropriate information. 9. Assist the DNR and NPS with completion of necessary reviews and documentation for Ice Age Trail development projects. 10. With landowner cooperation, develop camping opportunities and infrastructure improvements to facilitate long-distance hiking of the Ice Age Trail. 11. Assist partners in managing Trail lands. 12. Prepare or assist in preparing applications for needed permits relating to development of the Trail, with permission and on behalf of responsible parties. 13. Develop camping opportunities and infrastructure improvements on IATA-owned lands to facilitate long-distance hiking of the Ice Age Trail. 14. Submit requests for formal Endangered Resources Reviews of proposed trail section layouts well in advance of planned trail construction dates. Conduct and/or coordinate follow-up actions (e.g., site visits) identified in the Endangered Resources Review. 15. Work with County Forests to establish or revise appropriate ordinances, comprehensive plans, and/or land use agreements related to the Ice Age Trail.
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TRIAD ROLES

PROTECTING LANDS FOR THE ICE AGE TRAIL

Wisconsin DNR	National Park Service	Ice Age Trail Alliance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead the acquisition process. At least semi-annually, meet with NPS and IATA to discuss the status of Trail land acquisition efforts and to set or confirm priority areas. 2. Maintain a current list showing the utilization and planned utilization of all Federal funds granted to the state for Trail land acquisition. 3. Participate in the prioritization of lands to be acquired. 4. Directly acquire lands in agreed upon prioritized areas. 5. Dedicate lands under s.23.293, Wisc. Stats. 6. As requested or needed, exchange information with NPS & IATA staff concerning lands that have been or may be acquired in agreed upon priority areas or elsewhere. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer the Special Ice Age Trail LWCF grant program. Prepare and administer grant agreements, process invoices, and monitor compliance with grant program regulations. 2. Participate in the prioritization of lands to be acquired. 3. Acquire and protect lands for the Trail to the extent it has authority to do so. 4. Provide technical and financial support to partners for land acquisition activities. 5. Periodically, as the need and opportunity arise, contact or meet with and exchange information with DNR lands staff in central and regional offices and IATA staff concerning lands that have been or may be acquired in agreed upon priority areas or elsewhere. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in the prioritization of lands to be acquired. 2. Serve as primary advocate at local level for trail protection. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide volunteer support to alert partners of acquisition opportunities and to aid in contacting landowners. b. Facilitate involvement of local government partners in the protection of trailway lands. 3. Secure temporary routes through handshake or license agreements. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Institute and maintain a landowner registry program. b. Institute and maintain a Land Stewardship and monitoring program 4. Advocate for Federal and state funding to protect lands for the Trail. 5. As funding permits, acquire lands in agreed upon prioritized lands areas. 6. Participate in the dedication of Trail lands under s.23.293, Wisc. Stats. 7. Develop policies for determining when to acquire and hold properties, taking in account long-term stewardship

		responsibilities and associated costs.
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TRIAD ROLES

PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE ICE AGE TRAIL

Wisconsin DNR	National Park Service	Ice Age Trail Alliance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for public relations in appropriate DNR publications, communications, and outreach such as State Parks Visitor's Guide, press releases, internet, property maps, etc. 2. Promote the Ice Age Trail by displaying information on state properties, and providing NPS Ice Age Trail brochures and Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation's membership brochures and other appropriate materials at visitor centers and contact stations. 3. Promote Ice Age Trail and Trail related events on the DNR website. 4. Provide interpretive programs on the Trail and the Trail's landscape. 5. Support and host Ice Age Trail events on state properties when and where appropriate. 6. Take the lead in coordinating or facilitating the involvement of other State agencies (DOT, Tourism, etc.) in marketing the Trail. 7. Include the Ice Age Trail in GIS information available to the public. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a variety of promotional material or financial support for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. brochures b. videos c. wayside exhibits d. maps e. publications f. Trail signs 2. Promote the Ice Age Trail on the NPS website. 3. Promote the Ice Age Trail in NPS publications and within the National Trails System. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce for members and trail users: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quarterly newsletter b. Membership brochure c. Trail maps d. Trail merchandise 2. Conduct special events, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parade of Colors Fall Hikes b. National Trails Day Events c. Statewide Trail building, maintenance, or stewardship projects such as Mobile Skills Crew events. 3. Serve as primary advocate with local, state, and national media. 4. Provide easy access to Trail information.

Article III - TERM OF AGREEMENT

This MOU is executed as of the date of the last signature shown below and shall be in effect for a period not to exceed 10 years, at which time it will be subject to review, renewal, revision, or expiration. However, at the end of 5 years, the parties to this MOU will conduct an interim review of its language, tasks, and direction and make any necessary corrections as mutually agreeable.

Article IV - KEY OFFICIALS

The key NPS officials are the Superintendent, Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, and the Manager, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, located at 700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100, Madison, Wisconsin 53711.

The key DNR officials are the Secretary, the Division of Land Administrator, and the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, located at 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

The key IATA official is Executive Director, located at 2110 Main Street, Cross Plains, Wisconsin 53528.

Article V - TERMINATION

This agreement may be terminated upon 60 days advance written notice given by one party to the others, or it may be terminated earlier or revised by mutual consent of all parties. Termination of this agreement does not affect any operation and maintenance agreements or responsibilities under Chapter NR 51, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or those executed separately from the provisions of NR 51.

Article VI - STANDARD PROVISIONS

The obligation of the NPS, DNR, and IATA to perform the responsibilities specified in this agreement is contingent upon the necessary funds being available through governmental appropriations or other sources. No legal liability on the part of the NPS, DNR, or IATA to carry out such responsibilities shall arise unless and until funds are available to cover the expenses associated with performing the responsibilities specified herein.

Additional NPS Provisions

Nothing in this agreement shall affect or interfere with fulfillment of the obligations or exercise of the authority of the NPS or any other Federal Agency to manage the lands along the Trail route (within the boundaries of areas they administer) and the programs under their jurisdiction in accordance with their basic land management responsibilities.

No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

During the performance of this agreement, the participants agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on nondiscrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The participants will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Additional DNR Provisions

Nothing in this agreement shall affect or interfere with fulfillment of the obligations or exercise of the authority of the DNR or any other State agency to manage the lands along the Trail route (within the boundaries of areas they administer) and the programs under their jurisdiction in accordance with their basic land management responsibilities.

In connection with the performance of work under this agreement, the parties agree not to discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, member, volunteer, or trail user because of age, race, religion, color, handicap, sex, physical condition, developmental disability as defined in s. 51.01(5), Wisc. Stats., or national origin. This provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay, or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The parties further agree to take affirmative action to ensure equal employment opportunities. The parties agree to post, in a conspicuous place available for employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

Should the IATA at any time have paid employees working on the Trail on DNR lands, they shall furnish proof to the DNR of worker's compensation coverage in the form of a Certificate of Insurance indicating such for these individuals. The insurance policy shall contain a provision by which the insurer agrees to notify the DNR upon any lapse or change in coverage. Failure to satisfy the provisions of this paragraph will result in the voiding of this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last date written below.



Superintendent, Ice Age National Scenic Trail,
National Park Service

4/15/10
Date



Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

4-7-10
Date



Executive Director, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.

4/12/10
Date

Attachments:

Vision Statement and Attributes: Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail

Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail
Vision Statement and Attributes
 Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation¹
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 National Park Service

I. Vision Statement:

The Ice Age Trail is a continuous footpath through diverse landscapes that:

- Provides superlative outdoor recreation experiences;
- Preserves and commemorates world renowned geological features formed during the Wisconsin Glaciation;
- Provides a natural corridor that protects habitat and enables the movement of wildlife;
- Serves as a lifelong educational resource;
- Provides quiet places for people to form and nurture a spiritual connection with the landscape;
- Promotes the health and vigor of users of all ages and abilities, and
- Links the history and diverse human cultures of the land that we call Wisconsin.

II. Attributes of the Ice Age Trail:

- A. **General Route**—The trail extends approximately 1,200 miles across the State of Wisconsin between Interstate State Park on the St. Croix River in Polk County and Potawatomi State Park in Door County.
- B. **Glacial Features**—The trail generally follows the terminal moraine, which provides the means for a continuous trail linking many other diverse glacial landscapes. A continuous, meandering trail maximizes the number and quality of diverse glacial landscapes incorporated into the Ice Age Trail, while minimizing the additional trail length required to include such landscapes. The trail will thus deviate from the terminal moraine to connect other geological, scenic and cultural resources into the Ice Age Trail.
- C. **Design of Corridor and Trail Route**—The trail and trailway are designed elements within an overall planned and approved corridor of opportunity. The design of the preferred trail route and trailway within the corridor is tailored to highlight regional landscape features and is intended to preserve or afford views of geologic, natural, cultural, scenic and/or biotic resources and provide a variety of educational experiences for visitors in regard to these resources.
- D. **Trail Development Philosophy**—The trail lies lightly on the land. It generally follows natural contours, is constructed of local natural materials, and is a maintained pathway.
- E. **Management Objectives**—The trail and the trailway are managed and maintained in order to enhance users' experiences. Trail quality, aesthetics, and vegetative

¹ At its annual meeting on April 25, 2009, the membership of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Inc., voted to change their corporate name to the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.

management should be incorporated into the design and management of the trail and trailway. Areas with outstanding geologic or biotic features will be managed to preserve or restore those resources. Management plans and maintenance standards to achieve these objectives will be mutually agreed upon by the trail partners.

- F. **Trail Use**—The long-term goal is an off-road trail for public use on foot, providing scenic, aesthetic, educational and sensory experiences for users. The trail provides opportunity for non-consumptive recreation and a variety of challenge levels, including fully accessible segments. To provide essential connections for long-distance users, the Ice Age Trail might temporarily or permanently utilize portions of other trails that permit uses other than hiking.
- G. **Trailway Width**—The width of the acquired or protected trailway varies according to the character of the landscape through which it passes, and the need to either insulate visitors from a view or expose them to it. In urban areas, the trailway may be a sidewalk or other narrow trailway. In non-urban areas, it generally will average 200-1,000 feet, with occasional wider areas to protect a significant natural/cultural feature or viewscape.
- H. **Signs and Marking**—The trail is marked with a system that identifies the trail, regulates usage, provides directions and information, and interprets significant features.
- I. **User Support Facilities**—The Ice Age Trail will rely to a large extent on existing parks and forests, communities, and private sector enterprises to provide many of the basic user needs, such as parking, lodging, restaurants, etc. The trail will in many instances be deliberately routed to take advantage of these amenities. In other instances, connecting trails may be developed or utilized to provide access to these amenities.
- J. **Interpretation**—Major interpretation of the Ice Age and Wisconsin's glacial landscape will occur at Units of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, the companion project of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. However, there are many outstanding glacial landforms and other natural and cultural resources along the trail that are deserving of and need high quality wayside exhibits or other appropriate interpretive media and programs to help trail users understand and appreciate them.
- K. **Use of Roads as Connectors**—The trail may also utilize road rights of way where necessary for continuous linkage. This utilization is temporary except where roadways provide the optimum trail experience or only possible long-term connection.
- L. **Intersection with Other Trails**—The Ice Age Trail will intersect or link with many other trails as it meanders across Wisconsin. New intersecting trails that allow uses other than hiking should be minimized. While such trails may allow uses other than hiking, their connections to the Ice Age Trail must be designed to prevent access of other uses onto the Ice Age Trail.

More specific guidance is found in *Ice Age National Scenic Trail: A Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance*.

Agreement:

/s/ Christine Thisted White
Executive Director, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation

10/28/02
Date

/s/ Darrell Bazzell
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

11/8/02
Date

/s/ Thomas L. Gilbert
Superintendent, National Park Service

10/23/02
Date