

# Active Conservation and You

AMC Priorities and Advocating for the Outdoors



Mark Zakutansky, Director of Conservation Policy Engagement

# What we'll cover today

- About AMC
- AMC 150 and Active Conservation
- Conservation in Action
- Research and Policy Approach
- 2020 Policy Priorities
- What YOU can do!



Pochuck Boardwalk  
Appalachian Trail  
Vernon, New Jersey

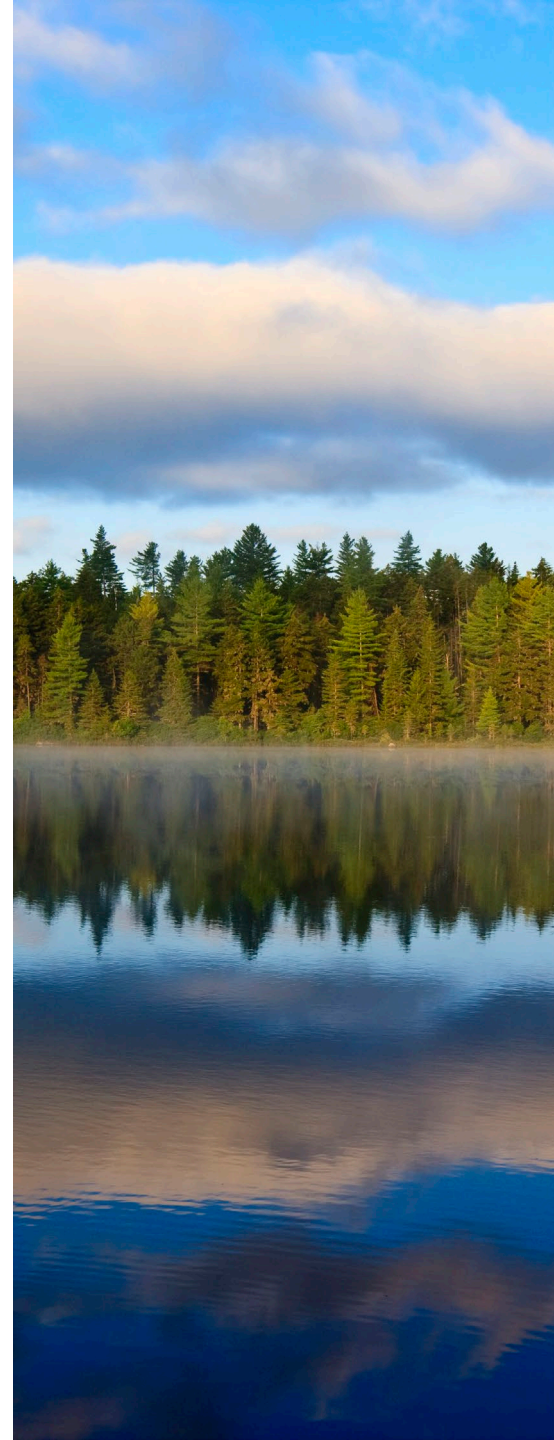


# Vision

We envision a world where being outdoors is an integral part of people's lives; where our natural resources are loved and protected; and where we are working together on solutions for a healthier climate.

## Core Values

- Respect for people and nature
- Lifelong Engagement
- Prepared Leadership
- Intrinsic Worth of the Outdoors
- Fun



# AMC 150 – Strategic Themes



**Active  
Conservation**



**Outdoor  
Journey**



**Recreational  
Network**





## Mission

The mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club is to foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors.



# AMC 150 – Active Conservation

AMC is a recognized and impactful leader in science-based advocacy protecting land, trails, and water, promoting resiliency and natural climate change solutions, and setting the stage for net zero emissions by 2050 within AMC.

AMC Land and Water Conservation Fund Hike along the Delaware River Canal, Pennsylvania





# Conservation in Action

# Active Conservation Today

- Build outdoor ethics through Leave No Trace education
- Host tree plantings and invasive removals
- Care for trails
- On the front lines communicating with people about conservation
- Partner with other organizations and partner with staff
- Participate in Citizen Science
- Advocate and communicate with decision makers
- Lead conservation trips, such as for #FundLWCF





# Volunteer Power





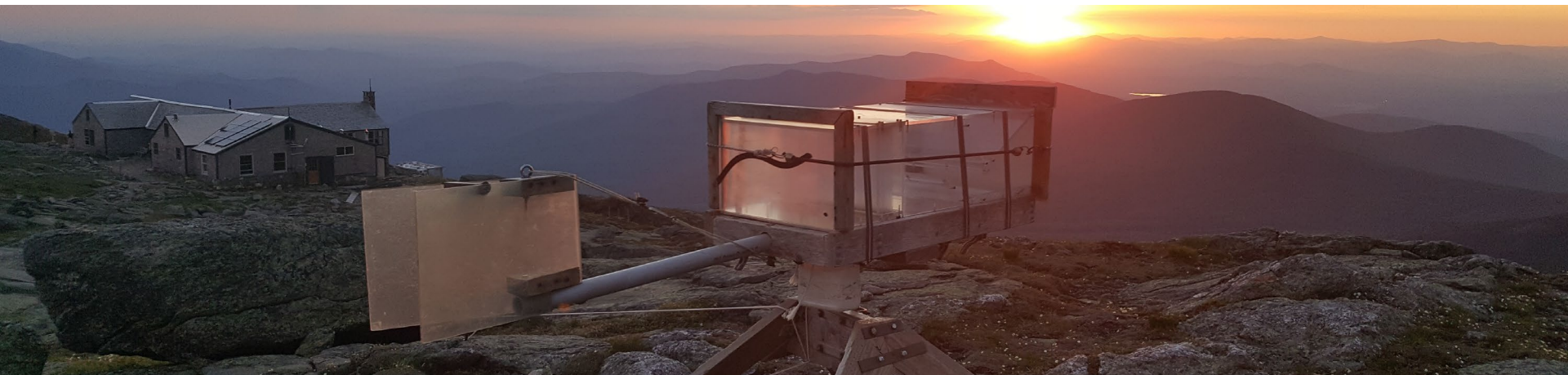
# AMC's Research and Policy Approach

# AMC's Research and Science Priorities:

Core goal: Provide credible and reliable scientific information and analysis to support AMC positions and actions across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

- Climate and carbon
- Mountain environmental research
- Cartography and spatial analysis
- Connect the dots to highlight science-based success stories
- Engage members and a variety of public audiences in science of the outdoors using tools like citizen science

AMC's cloud catcher at Lake of the Clouds Hut







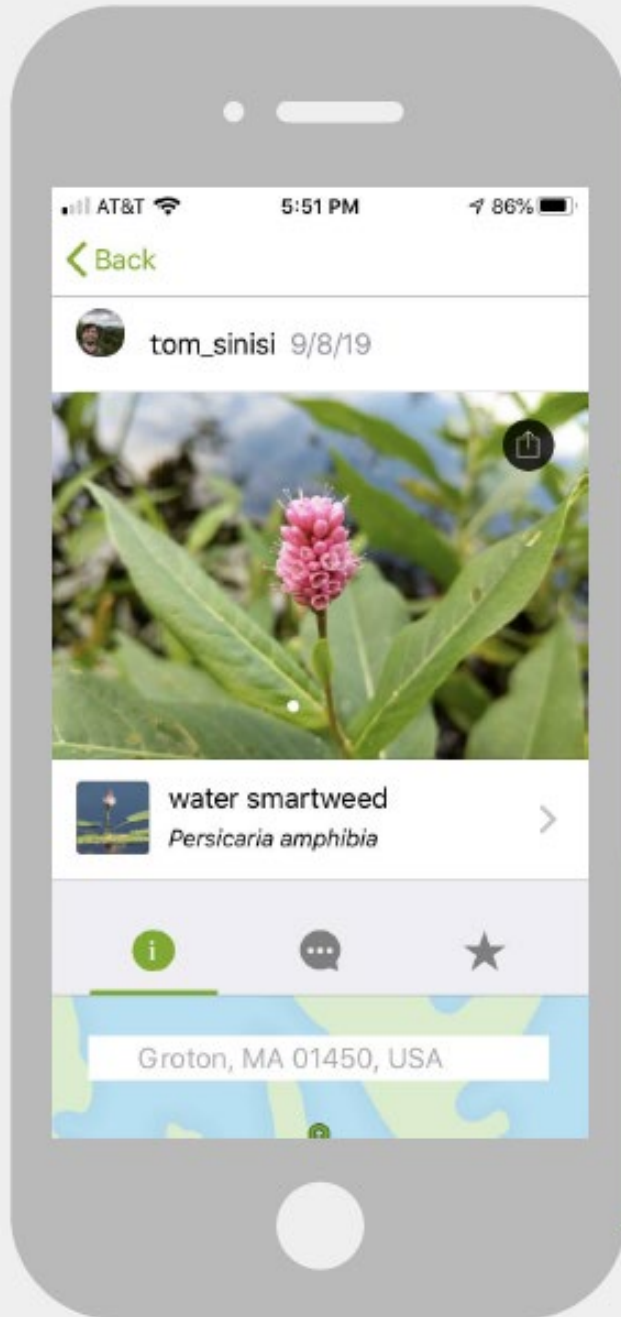
We've now been studying **cloud water chemistry** at the **Lakes of the Clouds Hut** since 1984!





iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society.

From the summit of Mt Washington to your own backyard!

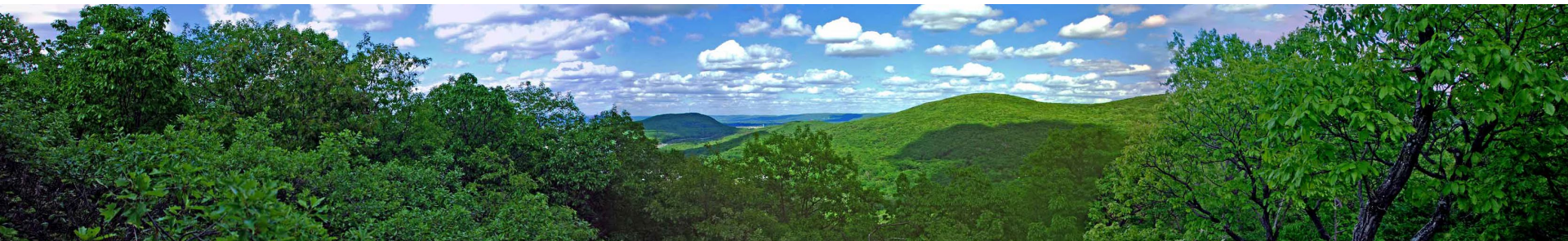




# 2020 Policy Priorities

# Recent Success in Research and Policy

- Successfully reauthorized the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** permanently.
- Celebrated NH Supreme Court rejecting **Northern Pass'** final appeal.
- Submitted over 1,600 comments on attempts to **rollback environmental regulations.**
- New Jersey (re)joined the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.**
- Intervened in the **New England Clean Energy Connect** transmission line in Maine and testifies.
- *And much more!*





# 2020 Policy Campaigns

- **Combat & Prepare for Climate Change**
  - Net Zero Emissions by 2050
  - Appropriate energy development for resilient lands, waters and recreation
  - Defend against rollbacks
- **Protect Forests, Waters, Mountains & Recreational Experiences**
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - Highlands Conservation Act & other conservation programs
  - Federal and State public lands management and funding
  - Outdoor recreation economies
  - Defend against threats and rollbacks
- **Regional Trails Systems & Community Connections**
  - Complete and protect trails
  - Trails for resiliency
- **Active Conservation**
  - Earth Day & EPA 50<sup>th</sup> campaign
  - Environmental Voter Pledge





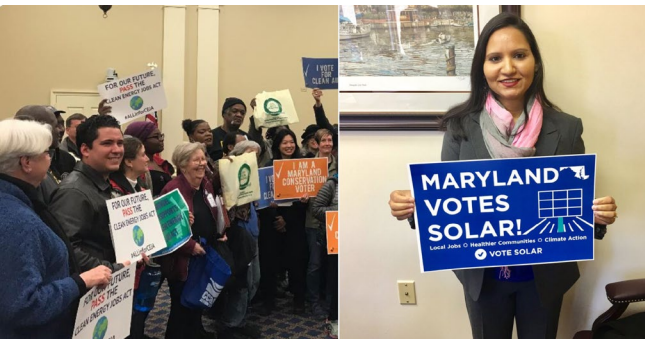
# Net Zero Emissions by 2050

IPCC reports that global carbon emissions must decline by nearly half to 2030 and reach **net-zero by 2050** to have at least a 50% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C and avoiding the worst effects of climate change.



# Net Zero – Programs and Legislation

- Green New Deal
- CLEAN Future Act
- State Renewable/Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards










# Energy Development Projects:

- Northern Pass
- New England Clean Energy Connect
- PennEast Natural Gas Pipeline
- Solar Development
- And much, much more...

**Mountain Valley Pipeline rendering from the Appalachian Trail**



# Environmental Rollbacks

	58	37	95
	ROLLBACKS COMPLETED	ROLLBACKS IN PROCESS	TOTAL ROLLBACKS
 Air pollution and emissions	16	9	25
 Drilling and extraction	10	9	19
 Infrastructure and planning	11	1	12
 Animals	7	3	10
 Toxic substances and safety	5	3	8
 Water pollution	4	6	10
 Other	5	6	11





# The Land & Water Conservation Fund

LWCF Act: Enacted in 1965 to help **preserve**, develop and ensure **access to natural and recreation** resources for **future generations**.







**BE  
OUTDOORS**  
APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

Whitecap Mountain in the 100-Mile  
Wilderness of Maine, protected with  
LWCF funding in 2018

© T. Wentzell



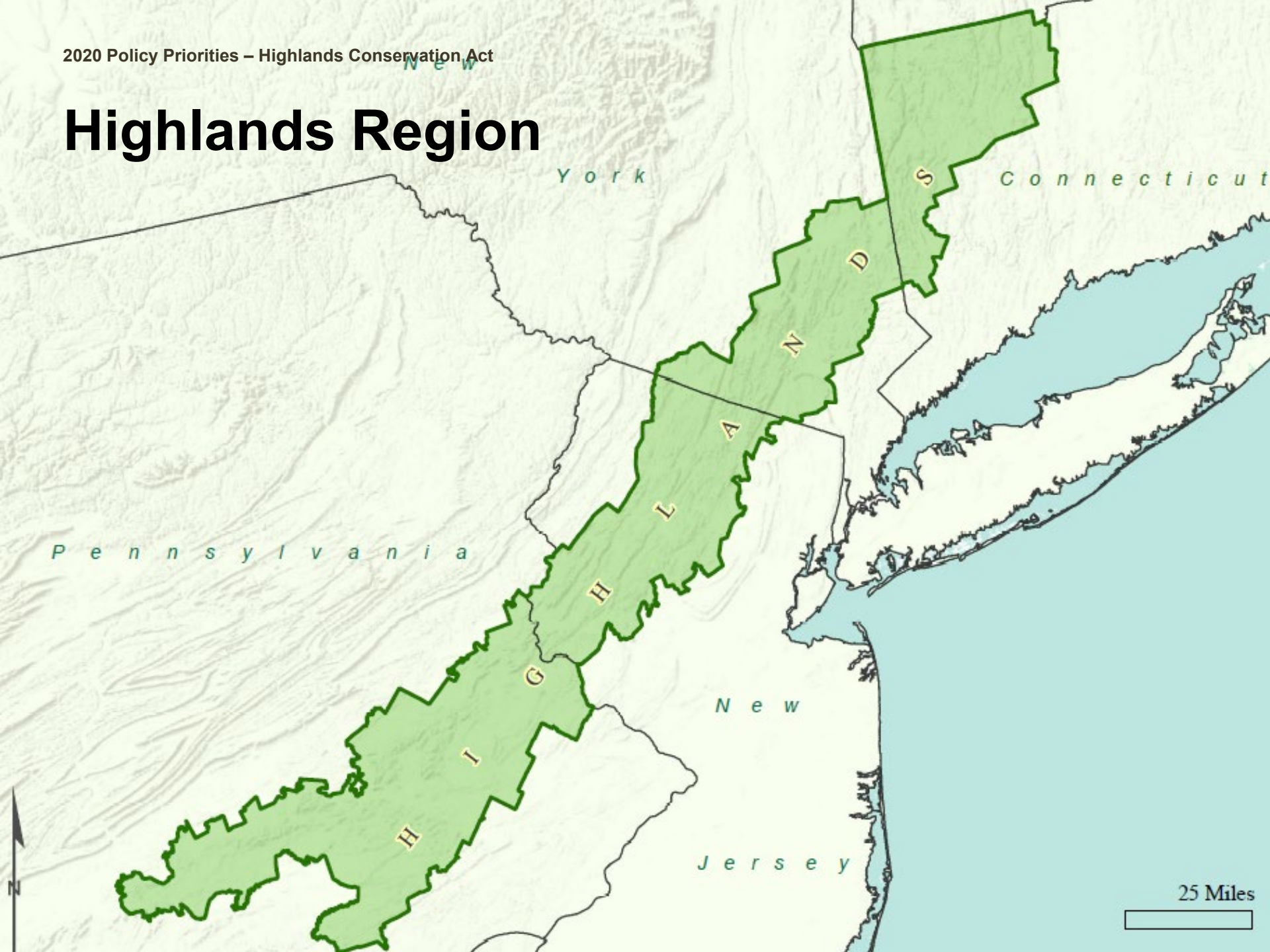
# Delaware & Connecticut River Watersheds

- Funding Programs:
  - Delaware River Basin Conservation Act
  - Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge
- Resilient Trails and Active Transportation
- Water Trails and overnight use
- Dams and Hydropower

Delaware River, looking upstream at Delaware Water Gap



# Highlands Region



25 Miles

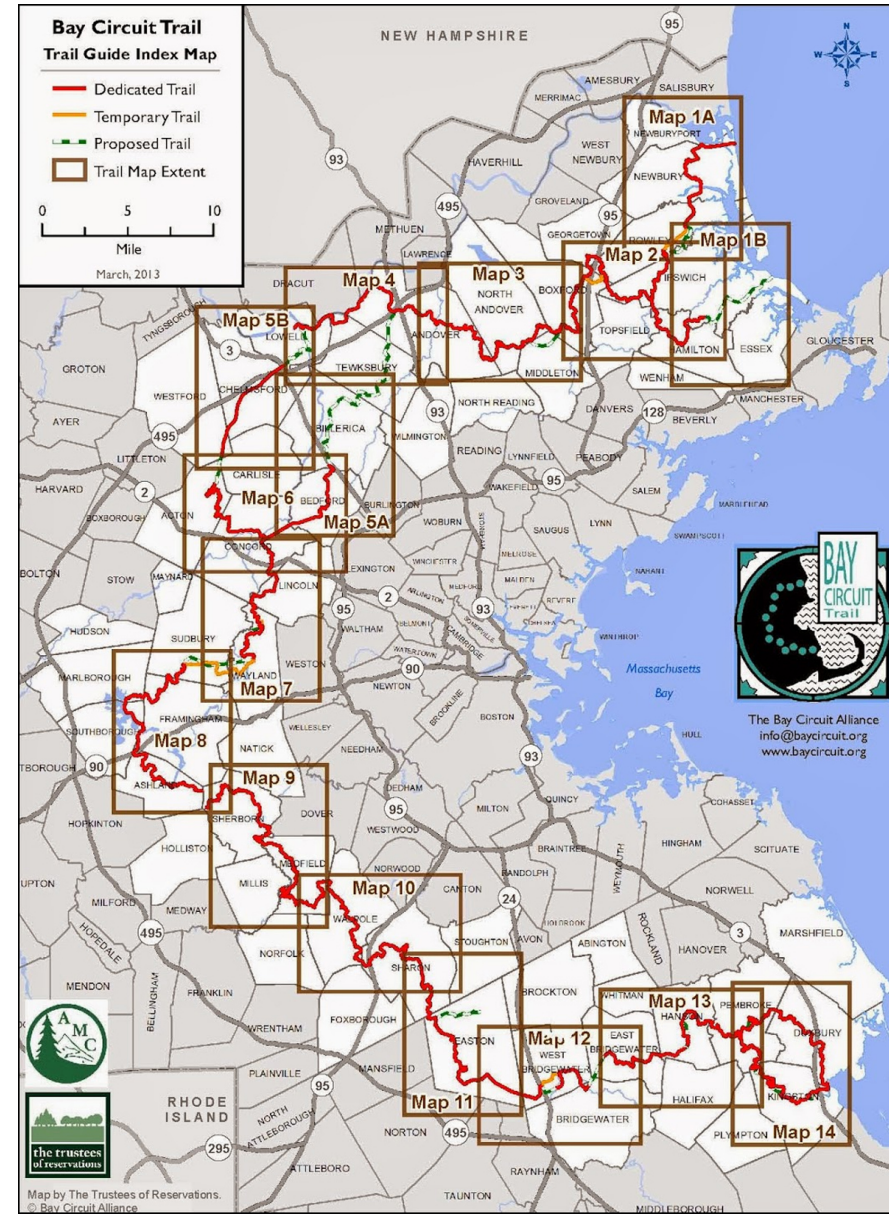
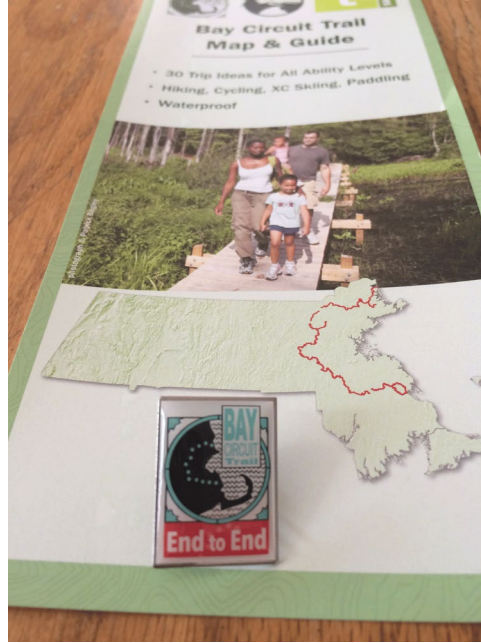


# Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network





# Bay Circuit Trail





# New England National Scenic Trail



# Environmental Voter Pledge

***Outdoors.org/vote***



## Sign the Environmental Voter Pledge

**"I pledge to be a consistent voter, and I will always prioritize environmental issues."**

Why pledge? Most people just need a small nudge to remember to vote, so the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Environmental Voter Project are working together to remind you to vote in each election! Studies have shown that these simple reminders can dramatically increase someone's likelihood of voting.





# What YOU Can Do!

# *Active Conservation*

## **What YOU Can Do!**

- Find new ways to incorporate conservation and Leave No Trace principles
- Advocate for the outdoors through AMC's Conservation Action Network
- Host conservation oriented outdoor activities
- Talk about climate change
- Participate in Citizen Science
- Vote
- *What else?*



# Conservation Action Network

## CONSERVATION ACTION NETWORK

### WELCOME TO AMC'S CONSERVATION ACTION CENTER!

Join AMC in protecting the mountains, rivers, forests, and trails of our region. Learn about and speak up on issues that threaten the Northeast outdoors as well as opportunities to ensure that treasured locations and landscapes can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Below are updates on current issues and recent activities. Your voice will help! Sign up for AMC's online Action Network to stay up to speed on the most pressing issues and receive periodic notices to take action.

#### Sign up for CAN

Join the Conservation Action Network to follow hot issues and ways to get involved.

SIGN UP



