



Resolution

Proposed Great Eastern Trail

In regard to the proposed Great Eastern Trail

The Southeast Foot Trails Coalition and the newly-formed Mid-Atlantic Foot Trails Coalition have proposed a new north-south long-distance foot trail, west of and generally paralleling the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which would be created by establishing connections between a series of existing trails. They propose to call this trail the Great Eastern Trail

The proposed termini for this trail, as stated in a concept paper, are Key West, Florida, and Crown Point, New York. The route would thus overlay the easternmost 200+ miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail (and a significant portion of the Finger Lakes Trail) and much of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

While the idea of developing additional long-distance foot trails is good, there seems to be little value or benefit from merely adding another trail name designation to the Finger Lakes and North Country Trails. No new hiking opportunities would be created by doing so, unlike other portions of the proposed route. There are disadvantages, including adding yet another trail emblem to trail sign posts and to risk sensitive ongoing negotiations to establish a North Country Trail route through Eastern New York.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the North Country Trail Association, assembled in Lowell, Michigan, on December 3, 2005, that:

1. The North Country Trail Association supports the creation of the proposed Great Eastern Trail to provide additional premier hiking and backpacking opportunities.
2. The Association supports the idea that this proposed trail would connect to the Finger Lakes Trail-North Country National Scenic Trail at a yet-to-be-determined logical and feasible location in Steubin County.
3. The Association does not support and discourages any further consideration of overlaying the Great Eastern Trail designation on the main Finger Lakes Trail and North Country Trail.
4. The officers and/or staff of the Association shall transmit copies of this resolution to those working to advance the Great Eastern Trail proposal.