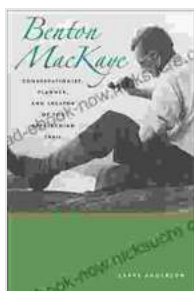


Conservationist Planner and Creator of the Appalachian Trail: Creating the North Country Trail

Benton MacKaye was a visionary conservationist planner who is best known for his work on the Appalachian Trail. However, MacKaye also had a vision for a North Country Trail that would stretch from New York to North Dakota.



Benton Mackaye: Conservationist, Planner, and Creator of the Appalachian Trail (Creating the North American Landscape) by Larry Anderson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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MacKaye first proposed the North Country Trail in 1921, as part of a larger plan for a national system of trails. He envisioned the trail as a way to connect the natural beauty of the northern United States, and to provide a recreational opportunity for people of all ages and abilities.

MacKaye's vision for the North Country Trail was not realized until 1980, when the trail was officially designated by Congress. The trail is now a

4,600-mile footpath that traverses eight states, from New York to North Dakota.

The North Country Trail offers a unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the northern United States. The trail passes through a variety of landscapes, including forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers. Hikers and backpackers can enjoy a variety of activities along the trail, including hiking, camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

The North Country Trail is also a popular destination for cross-country skiers and snowshoers in the winter. The trail is groomed for cross-country skiing in many areas, and there are also a number of snowshoeing trails along the route.

The North Country Trail is a living legacy to Benton MacKaye's vision of a national system of trails. The trail is a valuable resource for hikers, backpackers, and other outdoor enthusiasts, and it is a reminder of the importance of protecting our natural heritage.

Benton MacKaye's Vision for the North Country Trail

Benton MacKaye's vision for the North Country Trail was based on his belief that people need to have access to nature in order to live healthy and fulfilling lives. He believed that the trail would provide a way for people to connect with the natural world and to experience the beauty and solitude of the wilderness.

MackKaye also believed that the trail would have a positive impact on the economy of the northern United States. He envisioned the trail as a catalyst for tourism and economic development in rural areas.

MacKaye's vision for the North Country Trail was a bold one, but it was also a realistic one. He knew that the trail would take many years to complete, but he was confident that it would eventually become a reality.

The Creation of the North Country Trail

The North Country Trail was officially designated by Congress in 1980, but the work to create the trail had begun many years earlier. In the 1920s and 1930s, MacKaye and other volunteers worked to establish a route for the trail and to secure easements from landowners.

After World War II, the National Park Service began to work on the construction of the trail. The Park Service worked with state and local governments, as well as with private landowners, to acquire land for the trail and to build bridges and shelters.

The North Country Trail was finally completed in 1980, and it was officially dedicated in 1981. The trail is now managed by the National Park Service, in partnership with state and local governments and private landowners.

The North Country Trail Today

The North Country Trail is a 4,600-mile footpath that traverses eight states, from New York to North Dakota. The trail passes through a variety of landscapes, including forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers.

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Hiking the North Country Trail

The North Country Trail is a challenging but rewarding hike. The trail is well-maintained, but it is important to be prepared for a variety of conditions. Hikers should be in good physical condition and should be prepared to hike in all types of weather.

The North Country Trail can be hiked in sections or in its entirety. There are a number of resources available to help hikers plan their trips, including the North Country Trail Association website and the National Park Service website.

Hikers can also find a variety of accommodations and services along the trail, including campsites, hostels, and bed and breakfasts.

The North Country Trail is a unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the northern United States. The trail is a challenge, but it is also a rewarding experience. Hikers who are willing to put in the effort will be rewarded with stunning scenery, solitude, and a sense of accomplishment.

Benton MacKaye was a visionary conservationist planner who dedicated his life to creating a national system of trails. The North Country Trail is a testament to MacKaye's vision and his commitment to protecting our natural heritage.

The North Country Trail is a valuable resource for hikers, backpackers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The trail offers a unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the northern United States, and it is a reminder of the importance of protecting our natural heritage.



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