



Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy

*Preserving and Promoting Community Trails in Western Pennsylvania*

Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 35  
Warrendale, PA 15086-0035  
info@rachelcarsontrails.org  
www.rachelcarsontrails.org

March 10, 2005

Mr. Brad Meyers  
Chief, Federal, State Coordination Division  
Pennsylvania State Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Mr. Meyers,

The Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy, a volunteer-run nonprofit 503(c) organization, is the overseer of the Baker Trail, a 141-mile hiking and backpacking trail north and east of Pittsburgh. The trail was developed, and up until 2004 this role was filled, by the Pittsburgh chapter of Hostelling International (formerly AYH), which turned over responsibility to our organization due to financial difficulties.

The Baker Trail was blazed over 55 years ago and has seen thousands of people pass over its treadway. In recent years, trail maintenance has fallen behind due to lack of use. Our goal is to reverse this trend. We intend to do this by staging a running event on the trail, specifically a 50-mile 14-hour "ultramarathon," on Saturday, August 27, 2005. This event will: (1) raise funds to help maintain the trail; (2) encourage use of the trail by raising public awareness of it; (3) generate foot traffic on the trail as people train for the event; and (4) give people a reason to maintain the trail. We have used this same strategy to revive the Rachel Carson Trail, a 34-mile trail just outside Pittsburgh. Every year near the summer solstice we stage the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge, where participants attempt to hike the entire trail in one day.

In order to include as much of the Baker Trail as possible, the course will change every year. This year, the inaugural year, we plan to start at the northern trailhead above Vowinckel, run south on the trail for 40 miles, then turn east at Summerville over back roads for 10 miles, and end at the Brookville High School.

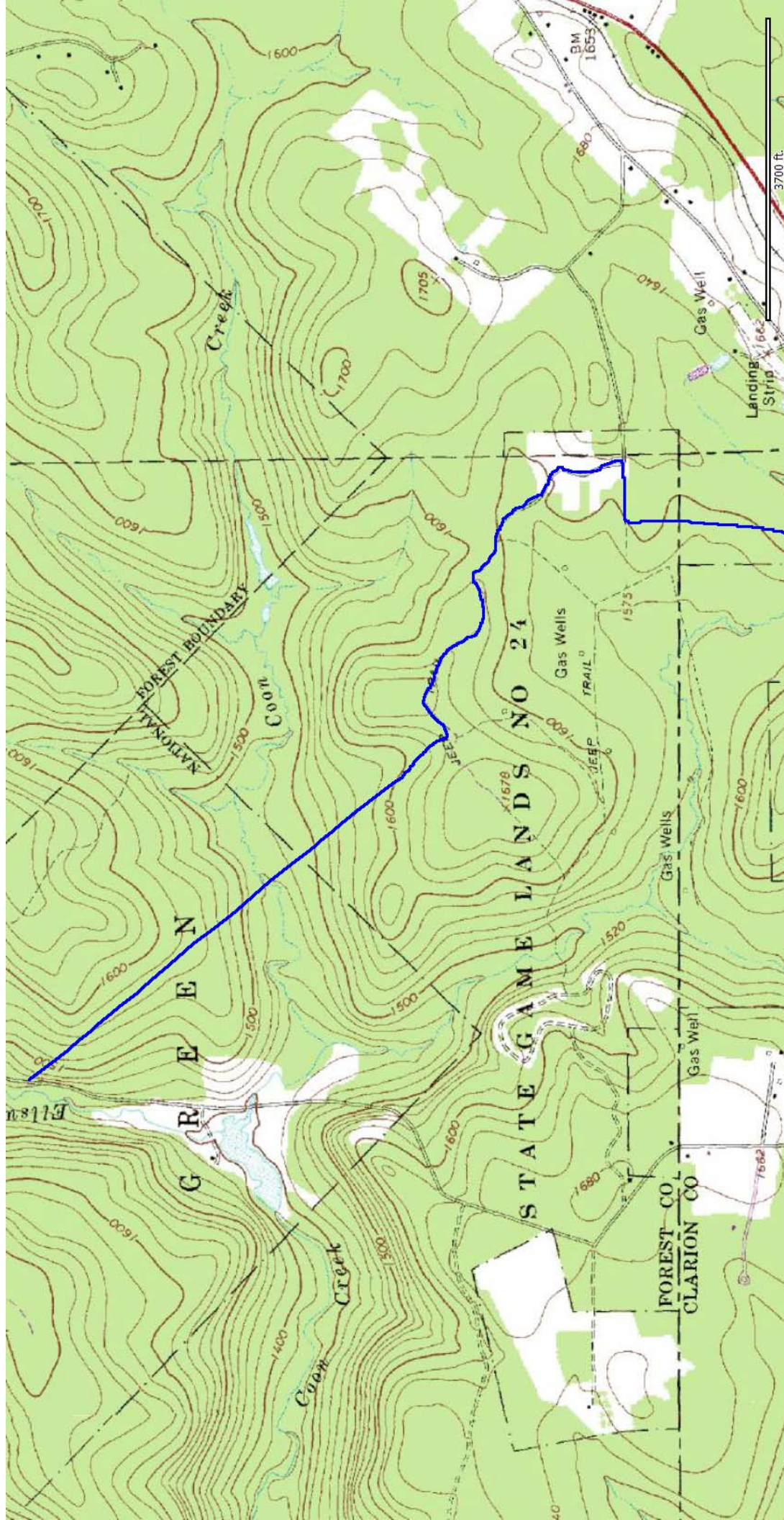
This course takes participants through State Game Lands 24, 283, and 74 (see the enclosed maps). We anticipate there will be up to 150 runners and the field will spread out fairly quickly, meaning there won't be a large group of people at any one place. We expect no impact on the game lands as a result.

We seek permission from the Game Commission for this event. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at via the phone number below or the address above.

Kind Regards,

Steve Mentzer  
Executive Director  
Baker Trail Ultra  
412-512-4544

Encl.



3700 ft.



