

9. Property described in a deed from Fred N. Wheeler to Odell Manufacturing Company, dated February 27, 1912, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 156, Page 72, being part of land conveyed by Odell Manufacturing Company to Groveton Papers Company, dated August 14, 1940, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 311, Page 184.
 10. Property described in a deed from Royal M. Cole, et al. to Odell Manufacturing Company, dated August 2, 1912, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 158, Page 356, being part of land conveyed by Odell Manufacturing Company to Groveton Papers Company, dated August 14, 1940, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 311, Page 184.
 11. Property described in a deed from Zephir Riendeau to Groveton Papers Company, dated January 12, 1960, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 451, Page 293.
 12. Property described in a deed from Connecticut Valley Lumber Company to Odell Manufacturing Company, dated October 8, 1918, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 190, Page 344, being part of land conveyed by Odell Manufacturing Company to Groveton Papers Company, dated August 14, 1940, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 311, Page 184.
 13. Land in Stratford described in a Deed from James Phelan, et al. to Groveton Papers Company, Inc., dated September 20, 1920, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 204, Page 273, being part of land conveyed by Groveton Paper Company, Inc. to Coos Realty Corporation, dated January 1, 1926, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 236, Page 131 and from Coos Realty Corporation to Groveton Papers Company dated August 14, 1940, recorded at Coos Deeds, Volume 311, Page 189.
- V. Excepting and reserving from the above, certain earth and granular materials situated within the property described herein and certain easements relating to the right to enter upon the property and remove such materials for a period of seven (7) years from the date hereof, all as more specifically described in an agreement between the State of New Hampshire and Rancourt Associates of New Hampshire, a New Hampshire general partnership, dated August 24, 1988. All earth and granular materials and easement rights excepted and reserved herein were conveyed by Diamond International Corporation to Rancourt Associates of N.H., Inc. by deed dated October 27, 1988 and recorded in Coos County Registry of Deeds Book 737, Page 840.

D.R.E.D.

AUG 16 1989

RECEIVED

Nash Stream

November, 1994

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NASH STREAM FOREST

ACQUISITION

The Nash Stream Forest is a unique parcel of land in Northern New Hampshire. Its acquisition in 1988, through a collaborative effort between the state of New Hampshire, the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for New Hampshire Lands, and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is equally unique, and serves as a milestone in state, private and federal cooperation.

The diversity of the groups represented in this effort is almost as diverse as the wildlife that exists within the Nash Stream Forest and the topography of the land itself. Yet over an eighteen-month period, representatives from each of these groups worked together, to negotiate an

arrangement which all felt was in the best interest of the land and the people who use it.

MULTIPLE USE STRESSED

All of the groups involved in the purchase and future management of the Nash Stream Forest recognized the importance of protecting the Forest from development, as well as the importance of continuing to use the land in a "multiple-use" manner—for education and research; as a key watershed area; for fish and wildlife; recreation; scenic qualities; and as a sustainable timber resource. These mutual concerns led to the successful purchase of the property, and to a gubernatorially-appointed Advisory Committee to focus public input and provide technical expertise.

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since December, 1989, this Committee has been hard at work, holding public listening sessions to gather input, working with a Technical Committee to review research on the past and present use of the Nash Stream Forest, and developing a working Management Plan. This final Plan will serve as a model of environmentally sound public land stewardship so that future generations may enjoy this unique property.

GATHERING PUBLIC INPUT

As has been done throughout the development of the draft Management Plan, we continue to seek public input from any group or individual interested in the Nash Stream Forest. Your input will help us formulate the final Management Plan, which will ultimately determine the future use of the Nash Stream Forest. For more information about the impact of public input on the Management Plan, see the article on page 6.



Whitcomb Pond, Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Pond and Lower Trio Pond in the Nash Stream Forest.

**Nash
Stream NEWS**

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Department of Resources and
Economic Development,
Division of Forests and
Lands.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS About The Nash Stream Forest

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NORTHERN FOREST AND THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

The Nash Stream Forest is a 39,601 acre tract owned by the state of New Hampshire, managed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development, with a Conservation Easement held by the United States of America. The tract lies within a four-state region known as the Northern Forest that stretches from the coast of Maine, across northern New Hampshire and Vermont into New York, totaling 26 million acres. The Northern Forest is one of the largest expanses of continuously forested land in the nation with about 85% in private ownership. Forest-based economies, recreation, and environmental diversity are traditional to the area as are clean air and water.

The breakup of Diamond International Co. lands in 1988 led to both state acquisition of the Nash Stream Forest and national concern about the future of the Northern Forest lands. Congress authorized the U.S. Forest Service to study Northern Forest issues in cooperation with a four-state Governors' Task Force. Congress later created the Northern Forest Lands Council in 1990 to continue the work begun by the Task Force. The Council's report was released in the fall of 1994.

WILL THERE BE A FEE TO USE THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

Although allowed by the Conservation Easement, there are no plans to charge a fee for public entry or general use of the Nash Stream Forest.

WILL THE PROPERTY BE OPEN TO MOTOR VEHICLES?

Yes. Traditional vehicle access into the Forest is recommended in the Plan. The main gate will be opened each spring when road conditions allow for access by conventional motor vehicles to the Main Road (11.1 miles) and Fourteen and a Half Road (3.3 miles), and closed in early December. All other interior roads will be gated and maintained for controlled access to keep maintenance costs and safety risks down, to minimize disturbance to wildlife, and to provide for non-motorized recreation opportunities.

WILL THERE BE A VISITORS' CENTER OR GATE KEEPER AT THE ENTRANCE?

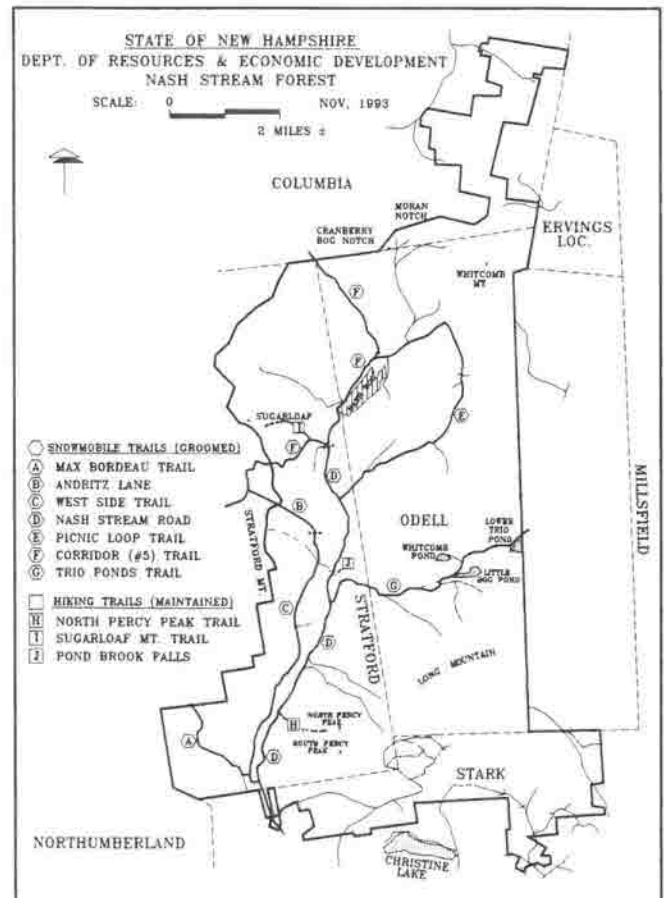
No. There are no plans to build a visitors' center nor is a gate keeper for the entrance road recommended in the Management Plan. Visitor information will be made available at the entrance as well as at the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster and the DRED office in Concord.

WILL THERE BE HANDICAPPED ACCESS?

Reasonable accommodations will be made to provide access to individuals with disabilities. Contact the Regional Forester, North Country Resource Center in Lancaster at (603) 788-4157.

CAN I USE MY ATV OR TRAIL BIKE AT NASH STREAM?

No. Snowmobiles are the only OHRVs permitted on roads and trails specifically designated for their use; there will be no off-trail, cross country use. Mountain bicycles are allowed on established roads and trails unless otherwise posted.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

The Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is responsible for administering the Conservation Easement on behalf of the United States. The role of the Forest Service is to ensure that the terms and conditions of the Easement are satisfied and does not include active involvement with management. The WMNF staff serve as advisors to the state and provide assistance when needed, primarily with management support and technical advice.

ARE THERE ANY THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THE PROPERTY?

There are 5 rare plant species identified on the property in as many locations. They are: Black Crowberry, Marsh Horsetail, Three-forked Rush, Broad-lipped Twayblade, and Millet-grass. Four of the five are listed as threatened by the NH Native Plant Protection Act. The other, Three-forked Rush, is relatively rare but is not state-listed. All of these plants occur within designated natural preserve areas.

No federally listed animal species are known to breed on the property. Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles nest within 20 miles of the property and may frequent the Forest from time to time. Several state listed animal species occur or potentially occur on the property. Common Loons nest regularly and Northern Harriers have nested in some years. Lynx and Marten may occur as transients if not residents.

WILL HUNTING AND TRAPPING BE ALLOWED?

Yes. Hunting and trapping will be permitted in accordance with state law.

WILL THERE BE ANY NEW (HIKING) TRAILS?

Only modest increases in the trail system are under consideration, such as adding a hiking loop via a short connector between the Percy Peak Trail and an old logging road (north of the Peak) that follows Long Mountain Brook down to Nash Stream. A Nash Stream Trails Advisory Group is recommended in the Management Plan to assess the current trail system, its condition and use, and recommend trail improvements. It is recommended that the Trails Advisory Group consist of representatives of hiking, dog sledding, cross country skiing, bicycling, hiking and snowmobiling to ensure adequate representation of these user groups.

WILL CAMPING BE ALLOWED?

Camping is not currently available. By department policy, camping is not allowed on any state

forest or park where overnight camping facilities are not available. The Management Plan does not recommend development of a campground or camping facilities. However, the Plan leaves open the possibility of future backcountry camping along selected hiking trails, subject to the availability of staff and funds for proper monitoring and maintenance.

ARE THERE PLANS TO STOCK FISH?

Yes. Stocking will occur where natural spawning is poor or non-existent. Lower Trio Pond, Little Bog Pond, and possibly Whitcomb Pond will be stocked annually with brook trout. Until the status of the wild trout population in Nash Stream can be determined, stocking of hatchery brook trout in the mainstem will continue. Nash Stream is unlikely to support a recreation fishery in the near future without an annual stocking program due to a current lack of pool habitat in the stream.

WILL THERE BE A CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHERIES PROGRAM?

Fisheries management will emphasize natural populations of fish species consistent with habitat capabilities of the ponds and streams. Special fishing regulations such as catch-and-release, minimum fish lengths, and fishing gear restrictions may be implemented to protect spawning stock in order to maintain wild populations of brook trout.

HOW MUCH OF THE FOREST WILL BE NATURAL PRESERVE OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED?

About 46% (18,339 acres) of the Forest is considered ecologically significant, fragile or sensitive and will be preserved or under restricted management. Much of this area coincides with boundaries of areas on which the Conservation Easement prohibits logging (10,665 acres). Protection will be accomplished by several means as follows:

Natural preserves (8,113 acres) are areas of uncommon ecological significance that encompass 9 different natural communities and 1 pond located primarily on the side slopes and mountain tops of Sugarloaf, Whitcomb and Long Mountains and Percy Peaks. There will be no intentional disturbances to these areas.

Preserve buffers (5,115 acres) are lands surrounding natural preserves with soils and topography capable of serving as shock absorbers to protect natural preserves. Management activities will be limited in preserve buffers.

A corridor (515 acres) of pure softwood forest forms a natural drainageway connecting the natural preserves and buffer areas on Whitcomb and Long Mountains. This corridor is located just west of Little Bog Pond.

A 150 foot zone around each pond is protected from logging by the Conservation Easement. These zones total 55 acres.

Other high elevation sites above 2,700 feet elevation where logging is prohibited by the Conservation Easement and not otherwise protected total 49 acres. Other steep slopes of 35% or more where logging is prohibited by the Conservation Easement and not otherwise protected total 925 acres. Other wet, rocky or otherwise fragile soils not otherwise protected total 3,050 acres. And, other fragile mountain tops below 2,700 feet elevation total 516 acres.

<i>Natural Preserves and Other Protected Areas</i>	
DESIGNATION	ACRES
Natural Preserves	8,113
Natural Preserve Buffers	5,116
Corridor	515
150 ft. Pond Buffers	55
Other High Elevation >2,700 ft.	49
Other Mountain Tops <2,700 ft.	516
Other Steep Slopes >35%	925
Other Group II Soils	3,050
TOTAL	18,339

WHAT ARE CONTROL AREAS AND WHY ARE THEY NECESSARY?

One control area will be established in each natural community type under timber management for the purpose of comparing unmanaged (control) areas to ecologically similar areas subjected to logging. This provides a means of assessing the impact of timber management on ecological resources called for in the "Vision".

Although established under different criteria, control areas will also complement natural preserves because they will help preserve, for study, natural communities not represented in natural preserves. In this manner, control areas will help satisfy the "Management Vision" that calls for *"The system of core natural areas will include representatives of the full range of ecological communities..."*.

WHY ARE MOST OF THE NATURAL PRESERVES HIGH ELEVATION ECOSYSTEMS?

High elevation sites, more than any other locations, qualify for natural preserve designation by existing department standards. High elevation sites (above 2,700 feet elevation) remain the least impacted by human activity and contain rare elements or

exemplary natural communities that have retained most, if not all, of their natural character, and/or contain features of scientific and/or educational interest. A total of 8,113 acres of the Forest qualify as natural preserve, of which 8,099 acres are at high elevations on which the Conservation Easement prohibits logging.

HOW DOES THE EASEMENT AFFECT TIMBER MANAGEMENT?

The Conservation Easement protects and conserves resources with a primary emphasis on the sustained yield of forest products. Logging is prohibited on 27% (or 10,665 acres) of the forest which consists of steep slopes (2,462 acres), high elevation (8,148 acres), and buffers (55 acres) around Lower Trio Pond, Whitcomb Pond and Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Pond.

The Easement also requires that timber be managed on a sustained yield basis; clearcuts be no larger than 30 acres; clearcuts total less than 15% of the total easement area in any ten year period; logging on areas near streams, ponds and public highways are subject to the provisions of state law; logging shall be conducted in conformance with current federal and state laws and regulations, including use of "best management practices" for erosion control and other activities.

HOW MUCH OF THE FOREST WILL BE MANAGED FOR TIMBER?

More than half (52%) of the Nash Stream Forest will be managed under a multiple-use, sustained yield timber management program. Occasional and restricted timber cutting will be allowed on another 22% of the forest (e.g. buffers, corridors, Group II soils) but only to enhance non-timber values such as wildlife habitat or recreation resources. The remainder of the property is considered ecologically sensitive or protected from logging by the Conservation Easement.

HOW SOON WILL THE FIRST STATE TIMBER HARVEST TAKE PLACE?

It is hoped that the first commercial timber sale will be made within two years of formal adoption of the Management Plan. However, the immediate potential for significant sawlog harvests is low. A 1988 timber cruise identified only 11% (3,140 acres) of forest as sawtimber size (≥ 9.6 inches in diameter) with limited commercial value because it is widely scattered. However, there are significant widespread opportunities for commercial thinning operations over many areas, and since the Forest is restocking through growth, there is a bright future for long-term yield of timber products.

Q & A's (continued)

WILL THERE BE CLEARCUTTING?

Yes. Clearcutting is allowed by the Conservation Easement and the "Management Vision", but with restrictions. The practice will be used only when other cutting methods will not achieve timber and wildlife management goals and forest conditions defined in the "Vision."

WILL THE NASH BOG DAM BE REBUILT?

There were mixed views at the 1990 public listening sessions on whether or not to rebuild the dam. After the dam breached in 1969, a new dam was proposed at a cost of just under \$3.5 million in 1974 dollars. Lack of state and federal funding at the time caused the proposal to be shelved. The conservation easement would allow the dam to be rebuilt, at or in the immediate vicinity of the old Nash Bog Pond Dam, for fish and wildlife and recreation purposes only. However, the Management Plan does not call for rebuilding the dam.

WILL LOCAL COMMUNITIES BE PAID IN LIEU OF TAXES?

Yes. State and federal land reimbursement is authorized by RSA 219:32 which states "...any town in which national forest land and land held by the state for operation and development as state forest land are situated...may apply...for the payment of an amount not exceeding the taxes for all purposes which such town might have received from taxes on said lands...". The

amount of "taxes on said lands" is determined annually by the NH Department of Revenue Administration based on a formula. This amount is then reduced by payments towns receive from federal distributions generated from timber cuttings on the national forest system. Only White Mountain National Forest towns (Stark) receive this payment. For tax years 1990 and 1991, the state's payment, distributed to the towns of Stratford, Columbia, Stark and the unincorporated place of Odell, totaled just under \$110,000. Federal distributions for the same period totaled just under \$26,000.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER AS A SUPPORTER OF THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

Volunteers will be encouraged to participate in organized work projects or groups. Individuals and organizations should contact the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster and register their name, affiliation, and area of interest or expertise. Emphasis will be given to focused volunteer work days with logistical support from the department. Work areas for volunteers may include an appointed advisory committee, trail monitoring and maintenance, organized cleanup days, erosion control and restoration projects, natural interpretive programs, and specialized wildlife surveys to name a few. Department efforts will include maintaining a list of appropriate volunteer projects, providing safety and host training for volunteers, keeping a log of volunteer hours and accomplishments, and recognition of outstanding volunteer efforts.

DRAFT PLAN AVAILABLE

Copies of the (draft) Nash Stream Forest Management Plan are available for viewing at the following locations. Written comments on the Plan will be received **UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 1995**.

- Bedford Public Library
- NH Technical College - Fortier Library and Berlin Public Library (Berlin)
- U.S. Forest Service - Ammonoosuc Ranger Station (Bethlehem)
- Merrimack County Ext. Office (Boscawen)
- Rockingham County Ext. Office (Brentwood)
- Fiske Free Library (Claremont)
- Colebrook Public Library
- NH Law Library and Concord Public Library (Concord)
- Carroll County Ext. Office (Conway)
- Strafford County Ext. Office (Dover)
- UNH - Diamond Library (Durham)
- Franklin Public Library
- U.S. Forest Service - Androscoggin Ranger Station (Gorham)
- Groveton Public Library
- Dartmouth College Library (Hanover)
- New England College - Danforth Library (Henniker)

- Keene State College - Mason Library and Cheshire County Ext. Office (Keene)
 - Belknap County Ext. Office and Laconia Public Library (Laconia)
 - Weeks Memorial Library and North Country Resource Center (Lancaster)
 - Littleton Public Library
 - Manchester City Library, St. Anselm College - Geisel Library, and NH College - Shapiro Library (Manchester)
 - Hillsborough County Extension Office (Milford)
 - Nashua Public Library
 - Sullivan County Ext. Office (Newport)
 - Peterborough Town Library
 - Plymouth State College - Lamson Library (Plymouth)
 - Portsmouth Public Library
 - Stark Public Library
 - North Country Office - NH State Library (Twin Mountain)
 - Grafton County Ext. Office (Woodsville)
- If you have comments or questions, please call the Division of Forests and Lands in Concord, NH (603) 271-3456, or write to:
- Department of Resources and Economic Development
ATTN: Nash Stream Forest
Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

DRED
Division of Forests and Lands
P.O. Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

HOW THE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDRESSES PUBLIC CONCERNS

Two earlier public listening sessions were held in Groveton and Concord. The key points which emerged from these public sessions were:

- Maintaining local influence;
- Keeping the Nash Stream Forest tract undeveloped;
- Eliminating the gravel mining rights of Rancourt Associates;
- Providing for multiple recreation uses;
- Restoring tax yield to local towns; and
- Stressing sound forestry management practices.

This input was factored into the development of a "Vision" statement, and Management Goals and Objectives for the Nash Stream Forest's Management Plan.

Following are some examples which show how specific concerns raised at these listening sessions were addressed and implemented in the draft Management Plan. These are just two of many examples showing how public concerns have been integrated into the Management Plan.

EXAMPLE #1

PUBLIC COMMENT: *"More local input into Forest (Tract) Management."*

MANAGEMENT PLAN RESPONSE: "A Citizen Advisory Group will be appointed and scheduled to meet regularly to serve as a focused source of public input and assistance. Public notification will be made for significant proposed management activities such as timber harvests, major recreation developments, and emergency closures. Local municipalities will be notified of any actions within its boundaries that directly affects that municipality."

EXAMPLE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT: *"Maintain and protect existing roads; no new roads or trails."*

MANAGEMENT PLAN RESPONSE: "The network of existing roads will be maintained. No new permanent roads are planned. Traditional public access by conventional motor vehicle will be continued on the Main Road and Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Road. All other interior roads will be gated and maintained for controlled access in order to provide for public safety and prudent resource utilization and protection."

Additional public input is being sought through written comments on the draft Nash Stream Forest Management Plan. These additional comments will be factored into the final Management Plan to be completed this winter.



November 11, 2020

Mr. Jared Chicoine, Chair
New Hampshire Council of Resources and Development
107 Pleasant Street, Johnson Hall, 3rd Floor
Concord, NH 03301

RE: CORD Assessment of ATV/UTV use of Kelsey Notch Trail

Dear Mr. Chicoine and CORD members:

We appreciate the time, attention and diligence you have shown in examining the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail in the Nash Stream Forest. Our organizations have provided comments to you in the past, both independently as well as together.

We submitted comments on August 20, 2020 regarding the failure of the Kelsey Notch Trail to comply with many of the statutory requirements of RSA 215-A. Further, on September 21, 2020, a memo was provided to CORD by the Appalachian Mountain Club outlining the different legal and regulatory standards applied to snowmobiles and ATVs/UTVs in New Hampshire.

The purpose of this letter is not to reargue points made in our preceding communications. Rather, we would like to take the opportunity to respond to the October 26, 2020 letter from the NH Off Highway Vehicle Association ("the Association") and their conclusion that "CORD's statutory duties require" that the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail remains open. We also question the Association's statement that "the clear intent of the parties to the Easement is to allow the use of ATVs/UTVs in the Nash Stream Forest."

The clear intent of the Easement is perpetual public use consistent with the traditional uses of the land.

The Association argues that the intent of the parties to the Easement was to allow ATV use in the Nash Stream Forest. This version of events is not supported by the historical record nor the clear and plain language of the Easement.

An important component of conservation easements are the recitals – the rest of the easement flows from them. The recitals or "whereas" clauses set forth background information that helps to frame the legal and factual basis for an easement. In the case of the Nash Stream Forest Conservation Easement, the relevant section states that:

WHEREAS, the parties mutually seek to assure through the conveyance of this conservation easement the perpetual public use and protection of the Nash Stream Tract

with primary management emphasis being the sustained yield of forest products consistent with traditional uses of the land, including public access, and the conservation of other resource values.

A clear decision was made to continue the management policy of the previous landowner and continue to exclude ATV use, as it was not considered low impact, dispersed, or traditional nor consistent with the Vision for the Forest. The original 1995 Nash Stream Management Plan, which took the many stakeholders involved in the protection of the Nash Stream Forest more than 6 years to complete continued to allow traditional recreational uses of the land and did not allow ATV/UTV access.

If the intent of the parties to the Easement was to include ATV's as a traditional use of the land, either the Easement - which notably does list the traditional recreational uses of the property - or the original management plan would have included their use. ATV use on the property was considered at the time of purchase, as well as during the creation of the first management plan, and was not included as an appropriate use.

If ATV use was "expressly permitted by the terms of the Easement", then it would follow that the founding documents and management plan would have allowed their use. The absence of reference to ATV restrictions does not mean they were intended to be allowed.

CORD's statutory duties

We take issue with the Association's conclusion that CORD's statutory duties require that it keep the Kelsey Notch Trail open. In the case of the Nash Stream Forest, CORD's statutory obligations are quite clearly articulated.

Role of Council of Resources and Development

The Council on Resources and Development (CORD) was created to provide a forum for interagency cooperation to assure consistency in implementation of established policies relating to the environment, natural resources, and growth management issues under [RSA 162-C](#).¹ Specifically, per RSA 162-C:6, II & III, CORD has management and administrative responsibilities for state lands purchased under the LCIP.

II. In addition to its other responsibilities, the council shall manage and administer the lands acquired and funds established under the land conservation investment program under the former RSA 221-A, according to the provisions of this subdivision and consistent with agreements entered into with persons with ownership interests in such lands.

III. The council shall manage the lands acquired under the former RSA 221-A so as to preserve the natural beauty, landscape, rural character, natural resources, and high quality of life in New Hampshire. The council shall maintain and protect benefits derived from such lands and maintain public access to such lands, where appropriate.

In reviewing RSA 162-C:6, it is evident that CORD has both the statutory responsibility to ensure that LCIP lands are being managed in accordance with state law and regulations, and the authority to affect the on the ground management of these properties. There is no other agency or office of state government authorized in statute with the oversight responsibilities of these important lands, purchased using public dollars, and held in the public trust. It is critical that CORD exercise its statutory authority when

¹ <https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/cord/>

management of these lands is shown to be detrimental to those natural resources, or in clear violation of state statute.

In the specific case of Nash Stream, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) is responsible for the day to day management of these lands, following an established Management Plan, and adhering to existing state statutes governing the agency and its work. If CORD finds that DNCR is not properly managing LCIP lands under its control, CORD needs to take corrective action in the interests of the state and the public interest for which the state is holding these lands.

Authority to close trails

CORD clearly has the statutory responsibility to ensure that Nash Stream management is consistent with established state statute, and the original purposes for which the LCIP acquired the land. The citizens of the state of New Hampshire invested more than \$7 million to protect and steward these lands. As the entity with fiduciary responsibility for this investment, CORD must ensure that all trails on Nash Stream are compliant with the law, and if they are not, they should not be open for use.

The State is responsible for managing the Nash State State Forest in accordance with the terms of the Conservation Easement, which is built on a commitment to a primary management emphasis “consistent with the traditional uses of the land”. Public access was intended to be low impact and dispersed, and the State has the right to reasonably restrict and regulate access to ensure prudent resource utilization and protection of all the conservation values of the property.

RSA 215-A:42,II provides that DRED may close trails if:

(a) ATV or trail bike use on the property is not in conformance with this chapter;

CORD has the statutory obligation to maintain public access to LCIP lands, “where appropriate.” Because the Kelsey Notch Trail is not in conformance with the law, as outlined in our August 20, 2020 letter and previous communications, we ask that the Council take immediate action to suspend all ATV use on the Kelsey Notch Trail.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue, and for your continued oversight of the Nash Stream Forest.

Sincerely,

Susan Arnold

Vice President for Conservation
Appalachian Mountain Club
sarnold@outdoors.org

Jim O'Brien

Director of External Affairs
The Nature Conservancy in NH
jim_obrien@tnc.org

Matt Leahy

Public Policy Manager
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
mleahy@forestsociety.org

Southern Region-Milwaukee Office
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200W
Milwaukee WI. 53203-2240
Telephone: (414) 297-3774
FAX: (414) 297-3763

TO: Paul Stockinger
Director, Lands and Minerals
Eastern Region, Forest Service
FILE: F&L 15 (GEN)

FROM: Gene Alan Erl
Deputy Associate Regional Attorney

SUBJECT: Nash Stream Easement

This is in response to your request for an opinion on whether the State of New Hampshire may permit the use of all terrain vehicles (ATV'S) on the Nash Stream Forest. The United States holds a conservation easement over the property by virtue of a deed from the State, dated August 4, 1989. We understand the State is in the process of revising its management plan for the area. In response to public requests, it is considering such use.

The Nash Stream Conservation Easement Deed is a so-called reserved interest deed. This means all interests in the property were conveyed, except for those expressly reserved by the grantor. As pertinent here, the State, as grantor, reserved "public recreation" uses, including trails and specifically the... "construction, operation and maintenance of... snowmobile trails..." (deed, para. II. C and II. C. 1) The mention of snowmobile trails as a subset of trails indicates that motorized use of trails is permitted. Thus, because both accommodate motorized vehicles, a reasonable interpretation would be that snowmobile trails being of the same kind, class or nature as ATV trails could be regulated by the State.

The public access provision of the deed, paragraph II. F, also gives to the State the discretion to "reasonably restrict and regulate access and use." This seems directly relevant as to whether the State may regulate ATV recreational use of trails on the easement area. Finally, the multiple use provision of the deed, paragraph II. C. 4, seems broad enough to give the State discretionary regulatory authority over determining how the public may use the trail and road system.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, we are of the opinion that the State may ban/allow/regulate public ATV use of trails and roads for recreational purposes. However, we think it would be more difficult to conclude that off-trail or off-road (i.e., dispersed) ATV use by the public has been reserved by the State.

cc: James Snow

Deputy Assistant General Counsel
Natural Resources Division, OGC

Thomas G. Wagner
Supervisor, White Mountain NF

Southern Region-Milwaukee Office
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200W
Milwaukee WI. 53203-2240
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The public access provision of the deed, paragraph II. F, also gives to the State the discretion to "reasonably restrict and regulate access and use." This seems directly relevant as to whether the State may regulate ATV recreational use of trails on the easement area. Finally, the multiple use provision of the deed, paragraph II. C. 4, seems broad enough to give the State discretionary regulatory authority over determining how the public may use the trail and road system.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, we are of the opinion that the State may ban/allow/regulate public ATV use of trails and roads for recreational purposes. However, we think it would be more difficult to conclude that off-trail or off-road (i.e., dispersed) ATV use by the public has been reserved by the State.

cc: James Snow

Deputy Assistant General Counsel
Natural Resources Division, OGC

Thomas G. Wagner
Supervisor, White Mountain NF

Nash Stream Forest Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

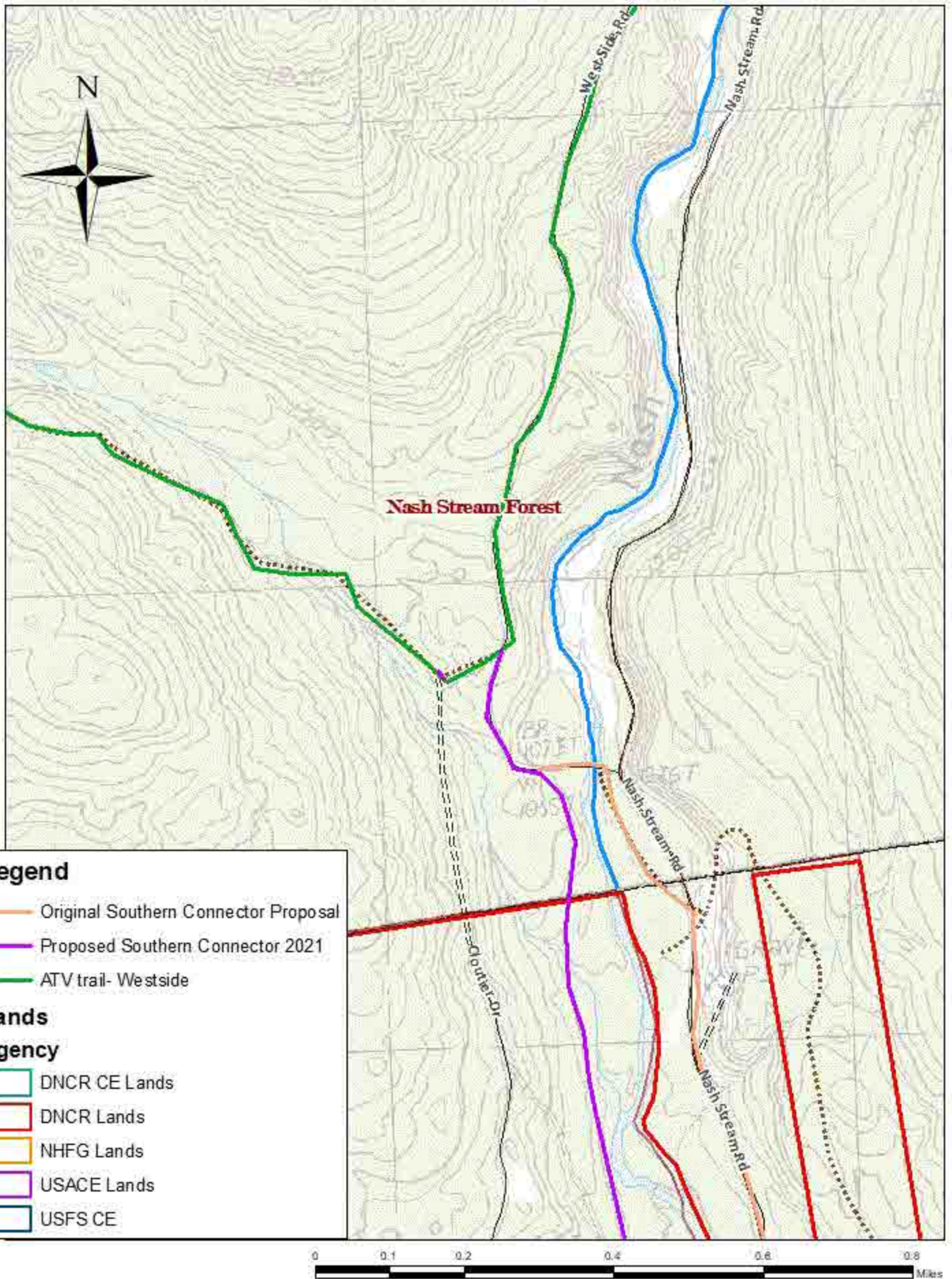
**November 16, 2021
6:00 to 8:00 PM
North Region Headquarters
629B Main Street
Lancaster, NH**

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Timber harvests, road maintenance activities, and forest resource inventory updates – Maggie Machinist, Regional Forester
- Kelsey Notch OHRV Trail status update and Revised Southern Connector OHRV Trail proposal – Clint Savage, Regional Trail Supervisor
- Next meeting date
- Other business
- Additional public comments

PUBLIC WELCOME

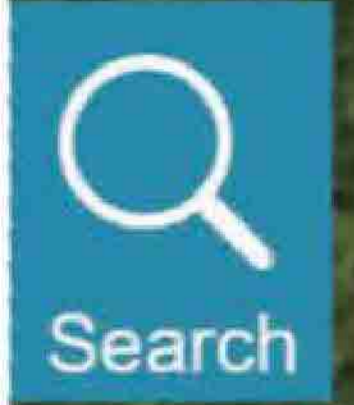
Proposed OHRV Southern Connector





Stratford, NH

Contact



Search



Abutters



Layers

Map of the proposed link route for additional recreational traffic, specifically UTV/ATV
 Current area in question is already an approved snowmobile route known as Coridor 5 N/S and ties West-side road to Nash Stream road along the westerly banks of Nash stream.
 Area is approx 1100ft +/-
 NH Heritage Bureau Data-Check found no records for the footprint noted 2.5 acres approximately NHB - 21-0970
 Submitted by:
 Tim Emperor
 Trails Administrator
 Northern Gateway Trails Club
 Groveton-Stark NH

Stratford
Stark

Stark



Guinn, William

From: Cam Bradshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: Nash Stream West Side OHRV trail extension

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It is clear to me that it is premature to move forward with an extension of the West Side OHRV trail. At the least, more data needs to be collected on the current West Side Trail and Kelsey Notch Trails as per the recommendations of the Tech Team. OHRV clubs and the BOT should bear the costs of these studies. They should also contribute to the funding of additional Fish and Game officers to patrol these trails.

But ideally all OHRV trails in Nash Stream Forest would be permanently closed. The original management plan forbids them and the clubs and BOT have not followed through on the promised monitoring and data collection. Instead they continue to clamor for more access, requiring resources to be spent to examine their demands. Ban OHRVs in Nash Stream and resolve at a stroke one of its biggest management headaches.

Connector OHRV trails are not a solution, they are a problem. This proposed route connects a trail that never should have been approved with a 25 mile road ride. There is significant opposition to OHRV traffic along this road. One half of Ride the Wilds is on public roads and residents along these routes have been blindsided by having their quiet rural routes turned into a "trail".

Furthermore, funding for OHRV trails is flawed. Since half of their trail system is on public roads they should not get funding from the GIA program, and in fact they should be required to support the maintenance of these roads. And they should not get funding for multiuse trails because no one else wants to share their trails. I have personally been driven out of Jericho State Park and off the rail trail between Berlin and Gorham by OHRVs. These are places I used to recreate but the noise, dust and speed of OHRVs are not compatible with any experience I want to have.

Thanks for listening. Please forward my comments to the Nash Stream Citizens Committee.

Cam Bradshaw
Berlin, NH

Katherine Hartnett ([REDACTED])
[REDACTED], Lancaster NH 03584
15 November 2021 (via email)

TO: William Guinn, NH Division of Forest and Lands (william.t.guinn@dncr.nh.gov)
FOR: Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee
FROM: Katherine Hartnett, resident, Lancaster NH
RE: Proposed Nash Stream Southern Connector Request

Please forward my comments to the committee. Thank you.

I write as a 16 year resident of Coos County, having lived in Berlin from 2005-2019, and in Lancaster since 2019. I to urge the Committee, at a minimum, to follow the findings of the *Nash Stream Forest OHRV Briefing Paper on the Revised Southern Connector Trail Proposal 2021*, distributed in advance of your 16 Nov 2021 meeting in Lancaster. My reasoning is based on the following considerations:

1995 NASH STREAM FOREST (NSF) VISION: As described in that Briefing Paper page 1, History, based on early planning work with extensive diverse stakeholder and public input, "*...a balance was struck to maintain Nash Stream Forest as a working forest, utilizing ecologically based, sustainable forestry, and to continue to provide traditional, low impact, dispersed recreation.*"

RECENT TRACK RECORD: The track record of the previous "pilot" in Kelsey Notch demonstrates that the required management, law enforcement, maintenance, and monitoring has not happened.

THE QUESTION: Why further trail expansion would be allowed, given:

- a) the initial excellent 1995 vision for NSF,
- b) the failure to perform the required work for the Kelsey Notch Trail,
- c) the documented negative impacts of erosion, sedimentation, and invasives,
- d) the potential but unstudied impacts on wetlands habitats and associated fish, reptiles, amphibians, and wildlife in summer,
- e) the continued absence of any credible study that shows substantial benefit of OHRV's over traditional, low impact, dispersed recreation,
- f) an assessment of potential impacts, including noise, dust, increased traffic volume and speed, and wildlife disruption to other types of outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching that also contribute significant dollars to local and state economies,
- g) the shrinking area left unfragmented by motorized use,
- h) the absence of a coherent OHRV plan for the North Country.

It is very clear that keeping a diversity of quality outdoor experiences is the key to New Hampshire's economic future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Guinn, William

From: David Evankow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:02 AM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: Proposed ATV trail in Nash Stream Forest

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern;

It is altogether preposterous to be even considering another ATV trail in Nash stream Forest given the fact that the existing Kelsey Notch OHRV Trail has failed to meet the basic requirements of the pilot program, not to mention being illegal.

Further with the issues of looming climate change we (NH) have no business promoting this wasteful carbon intensive pastime in the state let alone in Nash Stream Forest. It is disruptive, damaging and a violation of the NSF management plan.

Please honor the Management plan and support fighting climate change and deny this new request for a southern ATV trail. And vote immediately to close Kelsey notch trail to ATVs due to the well documented multiple violations.

Thank You for your time and consideration of this matter.
David Evankow
Gorham, NH

Guinn, William

From: nancy decourcey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 6:26 AM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: proposed ATV trail

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Adding a southern connector through the Nash Stream is illegal and unnecessary. The management plan should be adhered to and pressure from those who want to increase already out of control ATV traffic in the North Country is a detriment to our environment and personal well being. Put me down as against this foolish proposal and forward my comments to the committee. Thank you. Nancy DeCoursey

[REDACTED]
Jefferson, NH 03583

Nancy cell: [REDACTED]

Will cell: 60 [REDACTED]

Guinn, William

From: Whittet, Dan <dwhittet@fas.harvard.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 10:57 PM
To: Guinn, William
Cc: Abby Evankow
Subject: ATV trails in Nash Stream Forest are wrong for NH natural and cultural resources

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Mr. Guinn

It is my understanding that the mission of the NH DNCR is to *protect, preserve, promote and manage the State's natural and cultural resources, supporting New Hampshire's high quality of life and strengthening the experiences of our residents and guests*. As a resident of Berlin, NH, my family has been coming to the Northern Forests for the experience of nature and the serenity of the forests for over 100 years.

I feel that ATV use in COOS county has been sold to an economically disadvantaged population as a solution, much as the polluted rivers and air of the paper mill era was before. ATV use destroys the very environment we cherish, and does not bring the kind of economic benefit the manufacturers of these machines would lead us to believe.

When I am out enjoying "the State's natural and cultural resources, supporting New Hampshire's high quality of life" I am appalled when a line of loud, emissions belching machines invade my experience of nature. Nature, as in Natural Resources.

Please do what you can to prevent further encroachment and development of ATV trails, especially in the pristine Nash Stream Forest. The idea that this is a political win is very wrong headed. As a sustainability professional I can tell you that building an economy based on internal combustion of fossil fuels would be like investing in steam engines. The fossil fuel recreation industry is over. Our climate change crisis demands new alternatives.

Please contact me if you would like more information on why I feel this way. I appreciate your devotion to the mission of the DNCR and trust you will forward my comments to the Committee.

Respectfully

Dan Whittet sustainability consultant, LEED AP Assoc AIA
Green Buildings, Urban Resilience, and Sustainability in Communities, Harvard Extension

[REDACTED]
Berlin, NH 03570
[REDACTED]

Guinn, William

From: Racheal Stuart [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 12:13 PM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: Nash Stream Southern Connector Request - public comment
Attachments: CoosRoadMap.pdf

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To: William Guinn, Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee
Re: Proposed Nash Stream Southern Connector Request

I am writing to express my opposition to any additional ATV/OHRV Trails in the Nash Stream Forest, including the proposed Southern Connector.

As a general principle, I believe ATV use is inconsistent with the original Nash Stream conservation easement purposes, and the downsides of off-road motorized vehicle use in *and around* the Nash Stream far outweigh the potential benefits.

There are some places that should just not be open for OHRVs and the Nash Stream Forest is one of them. I have attached an old Coos road map showing the Nash Stream forest and surrounding road network. This map is a bit dated, so it doesn't even show some of the newer roads (such as the road to the Phillips Brook wind towers). As you can see, there is significant fragmentation in northern Coos, including immediately surrounding the Nash Stream Forest. Additional motorized trails will make it even more difficult to sustain our populations of large animals such as bear, moose and big cats.

More specifically, I am opposed to the Southern Connector for the following reasons.

1. As noted in the 2021 Nash Stream OHRV Briefing, the proposed connector will likely result in a significant increase in OHRV traffic, compounding the negative impacts on everyone. Increased OHRV use negatively affects water and air quality, wildlife habitat

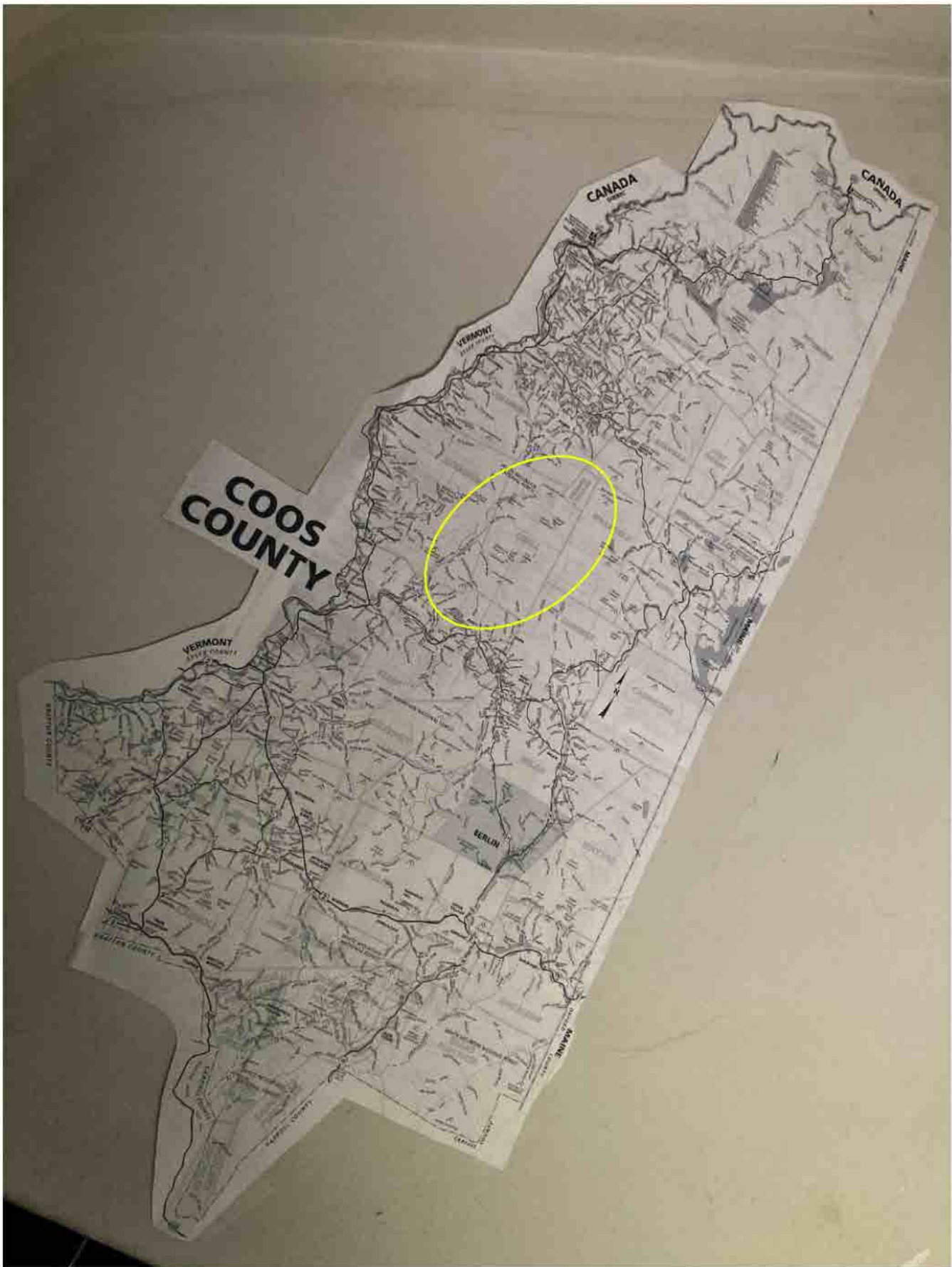
and movement, the experience of other users, and the peaceful use and enjoyment of camp owners and landowners in and around the Nash Stream area.

2. The claim that opening the Nash Stream will result in any meaningful economic benefits is unfounded. Increased OHRV activity in the North Country threatens to drive out other uses and the possibility of growing a diverse economy. Increased ATV activity on our highways, village streets and yes, on so-called multi-use trails drives out other uses, prevents local residents from peaceful use and enjoyment of their homes, and prevents long-time visitors from returning.
3. Additional data collection is clearly needed to understand the impacts of the existing Kelsey Notch "pilot" trail before any new trails are added. The 2021 Nash Stream OHRV Briefing does a good job of outlining some of the data needed, and additional input from local residents in communities around the Nash Stream should also be considered.

Please decline the request to open a southern connector trail, and insist on the resources needed to properly study the impacts of the existing pilot OHRV trails in the Nash Stream Forest. It is a resource for all of New Hampshire, not just the few resident and out-of-state OHRV riders.

--
Racheal Stuart





Coos County Road Map with Nash Stream Forest Area and Surrounding Fragmentation

Guinn, William

From: David Govatski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Hackley, Patrick; Machinist, Margaret; Guinn, William
Subject: Fwd: Nash Stream Advisory Committee input from Bob Baker
Attachments: DRED 1994 Nash Stream Overview.pdf

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

FYI.

David Govatski
Jefferson, NH

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Baker <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 13, 2021 at 13:05:52 EST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nash Stream Advisory Committee
Reply-To: Bob Baker <[REDACTED]>

Good afternoon, Dave:

I understand that you are chairing a Nash Stream Advisory Committee Meeting this coming Tuesday evening. Alas my wife Wendy and I will miss seeing you. Wendy is in need of chauffer services for a medical appointment that she has out of state and, not surprisingly, I have been selected. So, we won't be able to attend.

To the extent that ATV use of the Nash Stream Forest is to be discussed, we were planning on speaking briefly about our opposition to any new ATV trails being opened and our continued opposition to the ATV uses previously permitted by the State, including the Kelsey Notch trail and the West Side Trail. They are noisy, dusty, greenhouse gas-spewing and erosion-creating intrusions into what should be a wilderness where wildlife have a chance to thrive and procreate without constant interruption by this unhealthy and unnecessary form of human activity.

Of equal concern is the precedent and loss of faith that ATV activity in the Nash Stream Forest has created. Those of us who were here in the 90's well remember receiving the wonderful news that the State was acquiring the Nash Stream Forest. Among the great parts of that news was that ATVs would not be permitted. We were all promised this by the State in its News releases, including the attached November 1994 "Nash Stream News" Overview published by DRED. I call your attention to page 2 where there is a one word clear and unequivocal "NO" answer to the question, "Can I use my ATV or trail bike at Nash Stream?" That 1994 promise must be kept. There were no exceptions or weasel words involved. It was a clear "NO." If that promise is not to be

kept, then many citizens will lose faith in the State as a conservation property manager that can be trusted. And that would be a shame.

Thanks for passing this comment on to your committee.

Best regards, Bob Baker

Alan Robert Baker

[REDACTED]
Columbia NH 03590

Tel. [REDACTED]

Cell [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Nash Stream

November, 1994

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NASH STREAM FOREST

ACQUISITION

The Nash Stream Forest is a unique parcel of land in Northern New Hampshire. Its acquisition in 1988, through a collaborative effort between the state of New Hampshire, the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for New Hampshire Lands, and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is equally unique, and serves as a milestone in state, private and federal cooperation.

The diversity of the groups represented in this effort is almost as diverse as the wildlife that exists within the Nash Stream Forest and the topography of the land itself. Yet over an eighteen-month period, representatives from each of these groups worked together, to negotiate an

arrangement which all felt was in the best interest of the land and the people who use it.

MULTIPLE USE STRESSED

All of the groups involved in the purchase and future management of the Nash Stream Forest recognized the importance of protecting the Forest from development, as well as the importance of continuing to use the land in a "multiple-use" manner—for education and research; as a key watershed area; for fish and wildlife; recreation; scenic qualities; and as a sustainable timber resource. These mutual concerns led to the successful purchase of the property, and to a gubernatorially-appointed Advisory Committee to focus public input and provide technical expertise.

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since December, 1989, this Committee has been hard at work, holding public listening sessions to gather input, working with a Technical Committee to review research on the past and present use of the Nash Stream Forest, and developing a working Management Plan. This final Plan will serve as a model of environmentally sound public land stewardship so that future generations may enjoy this unique property.

GATHERING PUBLIC INPUT

As has been done throughout the development of the draft Management Plan, we continue to seek public input from any group or individual interested in the Nash Stream Forest. Your input will help us formulate the final Management Plan, which will ultimately determine the future use of the Nash Stream Forest. For more information about the impact of public input on the Management Plan, see the article on page 6.



Whitcomb Pond, Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Pond and Lower Trio Pond in the Nash Stream Forest.

**Nash
Stream NEWS**

is published by
New Hampshire's
Department of Resources and
Economic Development,
Division of Forests and
Lands.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS About The Nash Stream Forest

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NORTHERN FOREST AND THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

The Nash Stream Forest is a 39,601 acre tract owned by the state of New Hampshire, managed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development, with a Conservation Easement held by the United States of America. The tract lies within a four-state region known as the Northern Forest that stretches from the coast of Maine, across northern New Hampshire and Vermont into New York, totaling 26 million acres. The Northern Forest is one of the largest expanses of continuously forested land in the nation with about 85% in private ownership. Forest-based economies, recreation, and environmental diversity are traditional to the area as are clean air and water.

The breakup of Diamond International Co. lands in 1988 led to both state acquisition of the Nash Stream Forest and national concern about the future of the Northern Forest lands. Congress authorized the U.S. Forest Service to study Northern Forest issues in cooperation with a four-state Governors' Task Force. Congress later created the Northern Forest Lands Council in 1990 to continue the work begun by the Task Force. The Council's report was released in the fall of 1994.

WILL THERE BE A FEE TO USE THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

Although allowed by the Conservation Easement, there are no plans to charge a fee for public entry or general use of the Nash Stream Forest.

WILL THE PROPERTY BE OPEN TO MOTOR VEHICLES?

Yes. Traditional vehicle access into the Forest is recommended in the Plan. The main gate will be opened each spring when road conditions allow for access by conventional motor vehicles to the Main Road (11.1 miles) and Fourteen and a Half Road (3.3 miles), and closed in early December. All other interior roads will be gated and maintained for controlled access to keep maintenance costs and safety risks down, to minimize disturbance to wildlife, and to provide for non-motorized recreation opportunities.

WILL THERE BE A VISITORS' CENTER OR GATE KEEPER AT THE ENTRANCE?

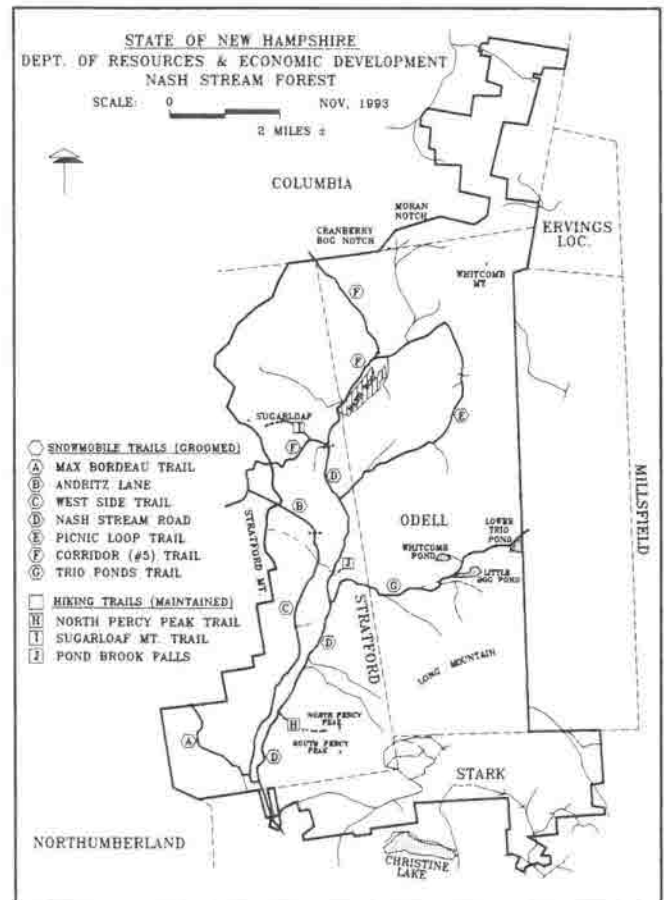
No. There are no plans to build a visitors' center nor is a gate keeper for the entrance road recommended in the Management Plan. Visitor information will be made available at the entrance as well as at the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster and the DRED office in Concord.

WILL THERE BE HANDICAPPED ACCESS?

Reasonable accommodations will be made to provide access to individuals with disabilities. Contact the Regional Forester, North Country Resource Center in Lancaster at (603) 788-4157.

CAN I USE MY ATV OR TRAIL BIKE AT NASH STREAM?

No. Snowmobiles are the only OHRVs permitted on roads and trails specifically designated for their use; there will be no off-trail, cross country use. Mountain bicycles are allowed on established roads and trails unless otherwise posted.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

The Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is responsible for administering the Conservation Easement on behalf of the United States. The role of the Forest Service is to ensure that the terms and conditions of the Easement are satisfied and does not include active involvement with management. The WMNF staff serve as advisors to the state and provide assistance when needed, primarily with management support and technical advice.

ARE THERE ANY THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THE PROPERTY?

There are 5 rare plant species identified on the property in as many locations. They are: Black Crowberry, Marsh Horsetail, Three-forked Rush, Broad-lipped Twayblade, and Millet-grass. Four of the five are listed as threatened by the NH Native Plant Protection Act. The other, Three-forked Rush, is relatively rare but is not state-listed. All of these plants occur within designated natural preserve areas.

No federally listed animal species are known to breed on the property. Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles nest within 20 miles of the property and may frequent the Forest from time to time. Several state listed animal species occur or potentially occur on the property. Common Loons nest regularly and Northern Harriers have nested in some years. Lynx and Marten may occur as transients if not residents.

WILL HUNTING AND TRAPPING BE ALLOWED?

Yes. Hunting and trapping will be permitted in accordance with state law.

WILL THERE BE ANY NEW (HIKING) TRAILS?

Only modest increases in the trail system are under consideration, such as adding a hiking loop via a short connector between the Percy Peak Trail and an old logging road (north of the Peak) that follows Long Mountain Brook down to Nash Stream. A Nash Stream Trails Advisory Group is recommended in the Management Plan to assess the current trail system, its condition and use, and recommend trail improvements. It is recommended that the Trails Advisory Group consist of representatives of hiking, dog sledding, cross country skiing, bicycling, hiking and snowmobiling to ensure adequate representation of these user groups.

WILL CAMPING BE ALLOWED?

Camping is not currently available. By department policy, camping is not allowed on any state

forest or park where overnight camping facilities are not available. The Management Plan does not recommend development of a campground or camping facilities. However, the Plan leaves open the possibility of future backcountry camping along selected hiking trails, subject to the availability of staff and funds for proper monitoring and maintenance.

ARE THERE PLANS TO STOCK FISH?

Yes. Stocking will occur where natural spawning is poor or non-existent. Lower Trio Pond, Little Bog Pond, and possibly Whitcomb Pond will be stocked annually with brook trout. Until the status of the wild trout population in Nash Stream can be determined, stocking of hatchery brook trout in the mainstem will continue. Nash Stream is unlikely to support a recreation fishery in the near future without an annual stocking program due to a current lack of pool habitat in the stream.

WILL THERE BE A CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHERIES PROGRAM?

Fisheries management will emphasize natural populations of fish species consistent with habitat capabilities of the ponds and streams. Special fishing regulations such as catch-and-release, minimum fish lengths, and fishing gear restrictions may be implemented to protect spawning stock in order to maintain wild populations of brook trout.

HOW MUCH OF THE FOREST WILL BE NATURAL PRESERVE OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED?

About 46% (18,339 acres) of the Forest is considered ecologically significant, fragile or sensitive and will be preserved or under restricted management. Much of this area coincides with boundaries of areas on which the Conservation Easement prohibits logging (10,665 acres). Protection will be accomplished by several means as follows:

Natural preserves (8,113 acres) are areas of uncommon ecological significance that encompass 9 different natural communities and 1 pond located primarily on the side slopes and mountain tops of Sugarloaf, Whitcomb and Long Mountains and Percy Peaks. There will be no intentional disturbances to these areas.

Preserve buffers (5,115 acres) are lands surrounding natural preserves with soils and topography capable of serving as shock absorbers to protect natural preserves. Management activities will be limited in preserve buffers.

A corridor (515 acres) of pure softwood forest forms a natural drainageway connecting the natural preserves and buffer areas on Whitcomb and Long Mountains. This corridor is located just west of Little Bog Pond.

A 150 foot zone around each pond is protected from logging by the Conservation Easement. These zones total 55 acres.

Other high elevation sites above 2,700 feet elevation where logging is prohibited by the Conservation Easement and not otherwise protected total 49 acres. Other steep slopes of 35% or more where logging is prohibited by the Conservation Easement and not otherwise protected total 925 acres. Other wet, rocky or otherwise fragile soils not otherwise protected total 3,050 acres. And, other fragile mountain tops below 2,700 feet elevation total 516 acres.

<i>Natural Preserves and Other Protected Areas</i>	
DESIGNATION	ACRES
Natural Preserves	8,113
Natural Preserve Buffers	5,116
Corridor	515
150 ft. Pond Buffers	55
Other High Elevation >2,700 ft.	49
Other Mountain Tops <2,700 ft.	516
Other Steep Slopes >35%	925
Other Group II Soils	3,050
TOTAL	18,339

WHAT ARE CONTROL AREAS AND WHY ARE THEY NECESSARY?

One control area will be established in each natural community type under timber management for the purpose of comparing unmanaged (control) areas to ecologically similar areas subjected to logging. This provides a means of assessing the impact of timber management on ecological resources called for in the "Vision".

Although established under different criteria, control areas will also complement natural preserves because they will help preserve, for study, natural communities not represented in natural preserves. In this manner, control areas will help satisfy the "Management Vision" that calls for *"The system of core natural areas will include representatives of the full range of ecological communities..."*.

WHY ARE MOST OF THE NATURAL PRESERVES HIGH ELEVATION ECOSYSTEMS?

High elevation sites, more than any other locations, qualify for natural preserve designation by existing department standards. High elevation sites (above 2,700 feet elevation) remain the least impacted by human activity and contain rare elements or

exemplary natural communities that have retained most, if not all, of their natural character, and/or contain features of scientific and/or educational interest. A total of 8,113 acres of the Forest qualify as natural preserve, of which 8,099 acres are at high elevations on which the Conservation Easement prohibits logging.

HOW DOES THE EASEMENT AFFECT TIMBER MANAGEMENT?

The Conservation Easement protects and conserves resources with a primary emphasis on the sustained yield of forest products. Logging is prohibited on 27% (or 10,665 acres) of the forest which consists of steep slopes (2,462 acres), high elevation (8,148 acres), and buffers (55 acres) around Lower Trio Pond, Whitcomb Pond and Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Pond.

The Easement also requires that timber be managed on a sustained yield basis; clearcuts be no larger than 30 acres; clearcuts total less than 15% of the total easement area in any ten year period; logging on areas near streams, ponds and public highways are subject to the provisions of state law; logging shall be conducted in conformance with current federal and state laws and regulations, including use of "best management practices" for erosion control and other activities.

HOW MUCH OF THE FOREST WILL BE MANAGED FOR TIMBER?

More than half (52%) of the Nash Stream Forest will be managed under a multiple-use, sustained yield timber management program. Occasional and restricted timber cutting will be allowed on another 22% of the forest (e.g. buffers, corridors, Group II soils) but only to enhance non-timber values such as wildlife habitat or recreation resources. The remainder of the property is considered ecologically sensitive or protected from logging by the Conservation Easement.

HOW SOON WILL THE FIRST STATE TIMBER HARVEST TAKE PLACE?

It is hoped that the first commercial timber sale will be made within two years of formal adoption of the Management Plan. However, the immediate potential for significant sawlog harvests is low. A 1988 timber cruise identified only 11% (3,140 acres) of forest as sawtimber size (≥ 9.6 inches in diameter) with limited commercial value because it is widely scattered. However, there are significant widespread opportunities for commercial thinning operations over many areas, and since the Forest is restocking through growth, there is a bright future for long-term yield of timber products.

Q & A's (continued)

WILL THERE BE CLEARCUTTING?

Yes. Clearcutting is allowed by the Conservation Easement and the "Management Vision", but with restrictions. The practice will be used only when other cutting methods will not achieve timber and wildlife management goals and forest conditions defined in the "Vision."

WILL THE NASH BOG DAM BE REBUILT?

There were mixed views at the 1990 public listening sessions on whether or not to rebuild the dam. After the dam breached in 1969, a new dam was proposed at a cost of just under \$3.5 million in 1974 dollars. Lack of state and federal funding at the time caused the proposal to be shelved. The conservation easement would allow the dam to be rebuilt, at or in the immediate vicinity of the old Nash Bog Pond Dam, for fish and wildlife and recreation purposes only. However, the Management Plan does not call for rebuilding the dam.

WILL LOCAL COMMUNITIES BE PAID IN LIEU OF TAXES?

Yes. State and federal land reimbursement is authorized by RSA 219:32 which states "...any town in which national forest land and land held by the state for operation and development as state forest land are situated...may apply...for the payment of an amount not exceeding the taxes for all purposes which such town might have received from taxes on said lands...". The

amount of "taxes on said lands" is determined annually by the NH Department of Revenue Administration based on a formula. This amount is then reduced by payments towns receive from federal distributions generated from timber cuttings on the national forest system. Only White Mountain National Forest towns (Stark) receive this payment. For tax years 1990 and 1991, the state's payment, distributed to the towns of Stratford, Columbia, Stark and the unincorporated place of Odell, totaled just under \$110,000. Federal distributions for the same period totaled just under \$26,000.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER AS A SUPPORTER OF THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

Volunteers will be encouraged to participate in organized work projects or groups. Individuals and organizations should contact the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster and register their name, affiliation, and area of interest or expertise. Emphasis will be given to focused volunteer work days with logistical support from the department. Work areas for volunteers may include an appointed advisory committee, trail monitoring and maintenance, organized cleanup days, erosion control and restoration projects, natural interpretive programs, and specialized wildlife surveys to name a few. Department efforts will include maintaining a list of appropriate volunteer projects, providing safety and host training for volunteers, keeping a log of volunteer hours and accomplishments, and recognition of outstanding volunteer efforts.

DRAFT PLAN AVAILABLE

Copies of the (draft) Nash Stream Forest Management Plan are available for viewing at the following locations. Written comments on the Plan will be received **UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 1995**.

- Bedford Public Library
- NH Technical College - Fortier Library and Berlin Public Library (Berlin)
- U.S. Forest Service - Ammonoosuc Ranger Station (Bethlehem)
- Merrimack County Ext. Office (Boscawen)
- Rockingham County Ext. Office (Brentwood)
- Fiske Free Library (Claremont)
- Colebrook Public Library
- NH Law Library and Concord Public Library (Concord)
- Carroll County Ext. Office (Conway)
- Strafford County Ext. Office (Dover)
- UNH - Diamond Library (Durham)
- Franklin Public Library
- U.S. Forest Service - Androscoggin Ranger Station (Gorham)
- Groveton Public Library
- Dartmouth College Library (Hanover)
- New England College - Danforth Library (Henniker)

- Keene State College - Mason Library and Cheshire County Ext. Office (Keene)
 - Belknap County Ext. Office and Laconia Public Library (Laconia)
 - Weeks Memorial Library and North Country Resource Center (Lancaster)
 - Littleton Public Library
 - Manchester City Library, St. Anselm College - Geisel Library, and NH College - Shapiro Library (Manchester)
 - Hillsborough County Extension Office (Milford)
 - Nashua Public Library
 - Sullivan County Ext. Office (Newport)
 - Peterborough Town Library
 - Plymouth State College - Lamson Library (Plymouth)
 - Portsmouth Public Library
 - Stark Public Library
 - North Country Office - NH State Library (Twin Mountain)
 - Grafton County Ext. Office (Woodsville)
- If you have comments or questions, please call the Division of Forests and Lands in Concord, NH (603) 271-3456, or write to:
- Department of Resources and Economic Development
ATTN: Nash Stream Forest
Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

DRED
Division of Forests and Lands
P.O. Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

HOW THE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDRESSES PUBLIC CONCERNS

Two earlier public listening sessions were held in Groveton and Concord. The key points which emerged from these public sessions were:

- Maintaining local influence;
- Keeping the Nash Stream Forest tract undeveloped;
- Eliminating the gravel mining rights of Rancourt Associates;
- Providing for multiple recreation uses;
- Restoring tax yield to local towns; and
- Stressing sound forestry management practices.

This input was factored into the development of a "Vision" statement, and Management Goals and Objectives for the Nash Stream Forest's Management Plan.

Following are some examples which show how specific concerns raised at these listening sessions were addressed and implemented in the draft Management Plan. These are just two of many examples showing how public concerns have been integrated into the Management Plan.

EXAMPLE #1

PUBLIC COMMENT: *"More local input into Forest (Tract) Management."*

MANAGEMENT PLAN RESPONSE: "A Citizen Advisory Group will be appointed and scheduled to meet regularly to serve as a focused source of public input and assistance. Public notification will be made for significant proposed management activities such as timber harvests, major recreation developments, and emergency closures. Local municipalities will be notified of any actions within its boundaries that directly affects that municipality."

EXAMPLE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT: *"Maintain and protect existing roads; no new roads or trails."*

MANAGEMENT PLAN RESPONSE: "The network of existing roads will be maintained. No new permanent roads are planned. Traditional public access by conventional motor vehicle will be continued on the Main Road and Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Road. All other interior roads will be gated and maintained for controlled access in order to provide for public safety and prudent resource utilization and protection."

Additional public input is being sought through written comments on the draft Nash Stream Forest Management Plan. These additional comments will be factored into the final Management Plan to be completed this winter.

From: [Guinn, William](#)
To: [REDACTED]; ["david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov"](mailto:david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov); [Elizabeth Bell](#); [Jamie Saven](#); ["kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu"](mailto:kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu); [Mason, Scott](#); [Sally Manikian](#); [Stewart, Sarah](#); [Tim Emperor](#)
Cc: [Hackley, Patrick](#); [Machinist, Margaret](#); [Boisvert, Tracey](#); [Stanwood, Sabrina](#); [Sherman, Steven](#); [Francher, Susan](#); [Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:17:16 PM
Attachments: [2021_OHRV_briefing_paper_Revised_Southern_Connector_Proposal_FINAL.pdf](#)
[Map11_Recreation.pdf](#)

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is the Tech Team report on the revised Southern Connector OHRV Trail Proposal. Also attached is the recreation map from the 2017 management plan for your reference. The report contains a significant amount of history regarding OHRV use at Nash Stream Forest and refers to various sections of the 2017 management plan which can be found on our website here: <https://www.nh.gov/nhdfi/documents/complete-book-nash-stream-book-part-1.pdf>.

Most of you should also have hard copies of the management plan in specially prepared three-ring binders that go with your particular position on the Committee. If any new committee members were unable to obtain their binders from their predecessors, please let me know.

Below is a very brief and informal summary of the Tech Teams findings. I ask that you all read the attached document in its entirety so that we may have a well-informed discussion regarding this new proposal.

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 - c. In both scenarios, the shorter Bordeau Trail section of the West Side Trail would remain open to allow passage from the Southern Connector Trail.
4. Additional data for monitoring impacts has been identified by the Tech Team, and funding for collecting that information via qualified experts will need to be the responsibility of the club as time and resources of the state agencies are limited.

Again, this summary only scratches the surface of the attached report. Please take the time to read it all. I will see everyone next Tuesday evening.

Thank you.

-Will

William T. Guinn, Administrator

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NH Division of Forests and Lands
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2645
nh.gov/nhdf

From: Guinn, William

Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:12 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
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Thank you.

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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
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Attached is the agenda for the November 16th Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting. I have also attached the *revised* Southern Connector OHRV Trail request and some maps of the new route for your review prior to the meeting. The Technical Team is scheduled to conduct a site review of the new route on Nash Stream Forest later this month. I will provide you with feedback from the group after the visit and prior to the meeting as well.

As it has been over two years since we last met, and there are several new members, I am providing a brief synopsis of what has transpired regarding the Southern Connector OHRV Trail proposal.

The Southern Connector Trail Proposal (discussed in the 2017 management plan, Pgs. 160-161) was put forth as a means to reach fuel and amenities south of Nash Stream via the existing Bordeaux and Westside OHRV Trails on the west side of the property (these two trails were established in the 2002 management plan amendment). The initial Southern Connector Trail proposal was over a mile long, and involved crossing Nash Stream over an existing snowmachine bridge on the property, as well as utilizing a portion of the Nash Stream Road that provides access for camp owners, public

recreation, and forest management activities. There was no unified consensus from the Tech Team review when this trail proposal was presented to the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee in June of 2019, but rather a compilation of individual comments/concerns. This resulted in the Committee tabling the proposal and asking the Tech Team to provide additional information to make a decision. Due to the potential impacts of the initial proposal, the amount and depth of information the Tech Team identified for collection was extensive and costly, and as a result the project stalled. In the meantime, newly installed NH Snowmobile Club Representative for the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee, Tim Emperor, secured permission from the individual landowners adjacent to the property that would allow for a much shorter route utilizing an existing woods road/corridor snowmachine trail, resulting in the revised proposal - see attachments.

I hope this summary helps to refresh everyone's memories for now, and this topic will be presented and discussed in much greater detail at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all next month.

-Will

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172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2645
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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
Jamie Sayen <[REDACTED]>; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
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Subject: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Please save the date of Tuesday, November 16th for a long overdue, in-person meeting at the Lancaster office from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Agenda to follow in early October.

Thank you.

-Will

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To: [REDACTED];
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[Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:22:54 PM
Attachments: [Public Comments.pdf](#)

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We welcome written comments based on publicly distributed materials such as the agenda, especially in light of the pandemic. Ultimately the briefing paper is also a public document, but it was meant for the Citizens Committee Members in preparation for tomorrow's meeting. It now has the appearance that some of those in opposition of the trail proposal may have been given an opportunity to review and weigh in on the Tech Team's findings and recommendations in advance of the meeting. When reviewing these comments, please be mindful that this may have been an opportunity that those in favor of the trail proposal may not have been equally offered as well.

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From: Guinn, William
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:16 PM
To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; [Elizabeth Bell](#) <[REDACTED]>;
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Concord, NH 03301

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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:12 PM

To: [REDACTED]

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'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell [REDACTED];
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Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52 PM

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Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:35 PM

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[Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:05:24 AM
Attachments: [Public Comments 2.pdf](#)

Hello Committee Members,

Please see attached. I have received additional comments in opposition to the southern connector OHRV trail proposal and additional reference to the briefing paper. I must reiterate my concern that it appears this document was provided to a targeted audience to solicit comment prior to the meeting.

-Will

From: Guinn, William
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:23 PM
To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; [Elizabeth Bell](#) [REDACTED];
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Cc: Hackley, Patrick <Patrick.D.Hackley@dncr.nh.gov>; Machinist, Margaret
<Margaret.O.Machinist@dncr.nh.gov>; Boisvert, Tracey <Tracey.L.Boisvert@dncr.nh.gov>;
Stanwood, Sabrina <Sabrina.m.stanwood@dncr.nh.gov>; Sherman, Steven
<Steven.L.Sherman@dncr.nh.gov>; Francher, Susan <susan.r.francher@dncr.nh.gov>; Rennie, Craig
<Craig.D.Rennie2@dncr.nh.gov>; Savage, Clinton <Clinton.J.Savage@dncr.nh.gov>; Bryce, Philip
<Philip.a.Bryce@dncr.nh.gov>

Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is the Tech Team report on the revised Southern Connector OHRV Trail Proposal. Also attached is the recreation map from the 2017 management plan for your reference. The report contains a significant amount of history regarding OHRV use at Nash Stream Forest and refers to various sections of the 2017 management plan which can be found on our website here:
<https://www.nh.gov/nhdf/documents/complete-book-nash-stream-book-part-1.pdf>.

Most of you should also have hard copies of the management plan in specially prepared three-ring binders that go with your particular position on the Committee. If any new committee members were unable to obtain their binders from their predecessors, please let me know.

Below is a very brief and informal summary of the Tech Teams findings. I ask that you all read the attached document in its entirety so that we may have a well-informed discussion regarding this new proposal.

1. Only 13 of the 14 abutting property owners have signed an agreement granting the necessary permission to cross their lands.
2. There is a raptor nest within 330' feet of the proposed route which is not permissible under the Course and Fine filter for state lands.

3. The Tech Team is proposing the use of OHRV counters and existing studies of the impacts of OHRV traffic on wildlife to set two pre-determined thresholds on the longer West Side Road portion of the West Side Trail:
 - a. If increased OHRV traffic reaches the first threshold, a seasonal restriction on the use of this portion of the trail would go into effect, limiting use in the spring during sensitive species breeding seasons.
 - b. If OHRV traffic continued to increase to the second threshold, the West Side Road portion of the West Side Trail would be closed.
 - c. In both scenarios, the shorter Bourdeau Trail section of the West Side Trail would remain open to allow passage from the Southern Connector Trail.
4. Additional data for monitoring impacts has been identified by the Tech Team, and funding for collecting that information via qualified experts will need to be the responsibility of the club as time and resources of the state agencies are limited.

Again, this summary only scratches the surface of the attached report. Please take the time to read it all. I will see everyone next Tuesday evening.

Thank you.

-Will

William T. Guinn, Administrator

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NH Division of Forests and Lands
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Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2645
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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:12 PM

To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell [REDACTED];
Jamie Sayen [REDACTED]; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
<kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu>; Mason, Scott <Scott.R.Mason@wildlife.nh.gov>;
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<Philip.a.Bryce@dncr.nh.gov>

Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is the final NHB report on natural communities based on information gathered during 2018 and 2019. Some of this information was presented at the last Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting in 2019. Unfortunately, NHB staff will not be able to attend this meeting to provide a follow-up, but we will have a few slides to share during "other business" on the agenda.

The Tech Team met at Nash Stream Forest last week and reviewed the new Southern Connector OHRV Trail proposal. We are gathering comments from the Tech Team members and creating a summary document with proposed recommendations on how to move forward, which I hope to get to you by next Wednesday for your review prior to the meeting.

Thank you.

-Will

William T. Guinn, Administrator

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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52 PM

To: [REDACTED]

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'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell [REDACTED];
Jamie Sayen [REDACTED]; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
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Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is the agenda for the November 16th Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting. I have also attached the *revised* Southern Connector OHRV Trail request and some maps of the new route for your review prior to the meeting. The Technical Team is scheduled to conduct a site review of the new route on Nash Stream Forest later this month. I will provide you with feedback from the group after the visit and prior to the meeting as well.

As it has been over two years since we last met, and there are several new members, I am providing a brief synopsis of what has transpired regarding the Southern Connector OHRV Trail proposal.

The Southern Connector Trail Proposal (discussed in the 2017 management plan, Pgs. 160-161) was put forth as a means to reach fuel and amenities south of Nash Stream via the existing Bordeaux and Westside OHRV Trails on the west side of the property (these two trails were established in the 2002 management plan amendment). The initial Southern Connector Trail proposal was over a mile long, and involved crossing Nash Stream over an existing snowmachine bridge on the property, as well as utilizing a portion of the Nash Stream Road that provides access for camp owners, public recreation, and forest management activities. There was no unified consensus from the Tech Team review when this trail proposal was presented to the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee in June of 2019, but rather a compilation of individual comments/concerns. This resulted in the Committee tabling the proposal and asking the Tech Team to provide additional information to make a decision. Due to the potential impacts of the initial proposal, the amount and depth of information the Tech Team identified for collection was extensive and costly, and as a result the project stalled. In the meantime, newly installed NH Snowmobile Club Representative for the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee, Tim Emperor, secured permission from the individual landowners adjacent to the property that would allow for a much shorter route utilizing an existing woods road/corridor snowmachine trail, resulting in the revised proposal - see attachments.

I hope this summary helps to refresh everyone's memories for now, and this topic will be presented and discussed in much greater detail at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all next month.

-Will

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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:35 PM

To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
Jamie Sayen <[REDACTED]>; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
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<Steven.L.Sherman@dncr.nh.gov>; Francher, Susan <susan.r.francher@dncr.nh.gov>
Subject: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Please save the date of Tuesday, November 16th for a long overdue, in-person meeting at the Lancaster office from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Agenda to follow in early October.

Thank you.

-Will

William T. Guinn, Administrator

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From: [Guinn, William](#)
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Cc: [Hackley, Patrick](#); [Machinist, Margaret](#); [Boisvert, Tracey](#); [Stanwood, Sabrina](#); [Sherman, Steven](#); [Francher, Susan](#); [Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52:38 PM
Attachments: [Nash Stream COMMITTEE AGENDA 11-16-21.pdf](#)
[Revised Southern Connector Request.pdf](#)
[nash_stream_southern_connector2021.jpg](#)
[Proposed New ATV Route USE.pdf](#)

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STATE AND FEDERAL LAND PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Section A (To Be Completed by BOT District Supervisor for Club's District)

Property Name: West side rd area Nash Stream

Town Property In: Stark NH

State Land

Federal Land

- DNCR Forest and Lands
- DNCR Parks and Recreation
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- NH Fish and Game Department
- NH Department of Transportation
- Other: _____

- National Park Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Other: _____

Property Contact: M Machinist

Title: Regional Forester

Telephone: 603 788-4157

FAX: _____

Section B (To Be Completed by Club Trail Administrator)

Remember to ATTACH a DETAILED MAP and other required supporting documents

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Why is the project necessary, purpose, benefits, etc.):

Utilize approx 1100 feet of existing snowmobile Primary corridor 5 for combined ATV/Snowmobile/Hiking route.
The property lies between existing ATV route and ATV route D and the newly constructed ATV exclusive bridge
spanning NASH Stream. This parcel already in recreational use will complete the tie between both North
South and East West ATV system adding to the economy of the entire Southern Coos county area and
more importantly eliminate the need potentially forever for ATV access to NASH Stream Road and areas.

A. If the project involves bridges, please describe them (how many, span, proposed materials, width, etc.):

NO Bridges as a 100ft bridge spanning NASH Stream has been erected already

B. Are there wetlands in the project area? Yes No

If yes, will the project require a Trails Notification be filed with DES? Yes No

If yes, describe how the club will deal with them:

NOTE: As reviewed with NH Dept of Forest and NH Bureau of Trails representatives appropriate trail culvert(s) and trail upgrades in materials will be done.

While at this time no permitting appears to be required under existing rules/statutes, should that change the NG Trails club is prepared to navigate any and all compliance needs as prescribed by rule or statute.

C. Describe existing roads/trails that are in the project area (uses, etc.):

Existing State of NH trails and logging roads known as West-side road and ATV trail C/D

The area adjacent to the 1100 foot area of consideration to the North and South are already maintained as snow corridor 5.

The only other alternative to link the existing ATV route would be to open a portion of NASH Stream road which is an undesirable option.

D. Are there any wildlife concerns in the project area such as deer yards? Yes No

If yes, describe here:

Additional Comments:

The area in question is of course owned by the State of NH and maintained for the public's use and benefit. Currently 8 mos of the year this small link is literally mostly unused by the public due to gates and bars. While not only completing the link of ATV trail system to all areas North/South/East/West and the struggling economic areas of all Coos county, the opening of this link will ensure appropriate motorized and non-motorized recreation to all of NASH Stream

Date: 01 MAR 2021

Signature of Club Trail Administrator:


1. EMPEROR - 603-477-3333

Date: _____

Signature of BOT District Supervisor: _____

NASH STREAM FOREST OHRV BRIEFING PAPER

Revised Southern Connector Trail Proposal 2021

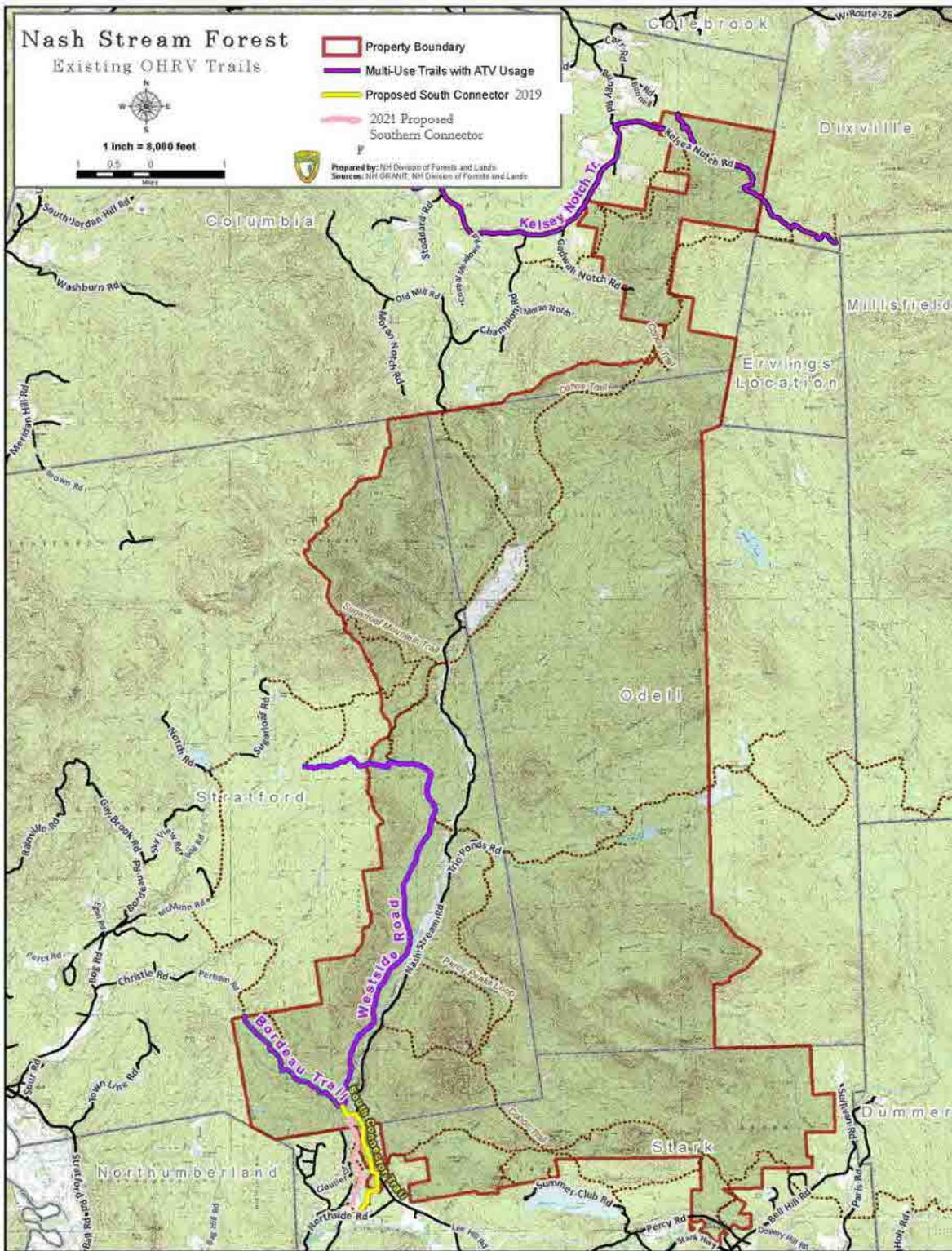
History:

At nearly 40,000 acres, Nash Stream Forest (NSF) is the largest state reservation in New Hampshire. When the lands that make up Nash Stream Forest came on the market in 1988, there was great concern by the conservation community, government officials and the public that a large area of the North Country could potentially be purchased and developed, forever changing the character, ecology, and way of life in this part of the state. In an unprecedented show of cooperation and collaboration between the state of New Hampshire through the Land Conservation Investment Program, the Nature Conservancy, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the federal government, funds were secured to permanently protect this piece of property which ultimately resulted in state ownership under a conservation easement held by the federal government (for more information refer to pg. 10 in the 2017 Nash Stream Forest Management plan (NSF Plan 2017)).

Work on the first Nash Stream Management Plan began shortly after the purchase. The plan was written over a seven-year period by a technical team, with considerable public input. Finalized in 1995, the plan stressed the protection of the natural resources, but recognized the importance an area of this size contributes to the forest-based economy of the North Country. A balance was struck to maintain Nash Stream Forest as a working forest, utilizing ecologically-based, sustainable forestry, and to continue to provide traditional, low-impact, dispersed recreation. In addition, large portions of the forest, including sensitive and unique areas, high elevation forests and control areas, were set aside during the planning process to allow the natural processes of forest succession to take place without human disturbance.

In 2002, due in part to strong political interest, the plan was amended to develop an Off Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) trail on the property. A nine-mile section of trail known as the “West Side Trail” was identified, studied and finally approved as a pilot trail to allow OHRV riders to enter onto the property from Stratford and make a loop, parallel and west of Nash Stream, and then exit the property (refer to **Map 1** on page 2).

Map 1 – Nash Stream Forest OHRV Trails



Since that time, OHRV use has grown significantly in popularity and has become an economic driver in the North Country. New Hampshire now has one of the largest OHRV trail networks in the nation.

In December 2017, the first full revision of the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan (NSF plan, 2017) was completed and signed into effect. During the four-year revision process, the technical team (Tech Team), which consisted of professional staff from state agencies with a diverse area of expertise, and the Nash Stream Citizen's Advisory Committee, a statutorily defined committee of members who make recommendations on the management of the property, worked closely together. Many public meetings and several listening sessions were held during the process as well as over 165 public comments received. One of the most contentious issues was the question of OHRV expansion in Nash Stream Forest. There was both significant support and opposition from the public on both sides of this issue.

OHRV use on the property continues to be one of the most challenging management issues. The 2017 NSF plan established Recreation Management Guidelines (Section 11.5) for OHRV's based on the findings of the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) (pg. 163). Under the Implementation section (Section 11.4) of the Recreation chapter, the NSF plan reviewed proposals for expansion throughout the property and with guidance from CORD, came up with a way to move forward to address OHRV trail use during the life of the current plan (pg. 160). CORD's involvement in this issue is a result of its statutory responsibility for oversight of lands acquired through the Land Conservation Investment Program.

The Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail was implemented before the 2017 revision and was one of the drivers behind the revision. The trail needed to be added to the management plan in order to be compliant with the management plan, which had previously called for no ATV expansion. The 2017 NSF plan allowed for limited expansion, which included continuing the use of the Kelsey Notch trail for a three-year provisional period that ended in 2020. At the end of the provisional period, CORD reviewed the annual reports and determined that the trail could remain open for an additional two years with some additional information gathered during the continued pilot period.

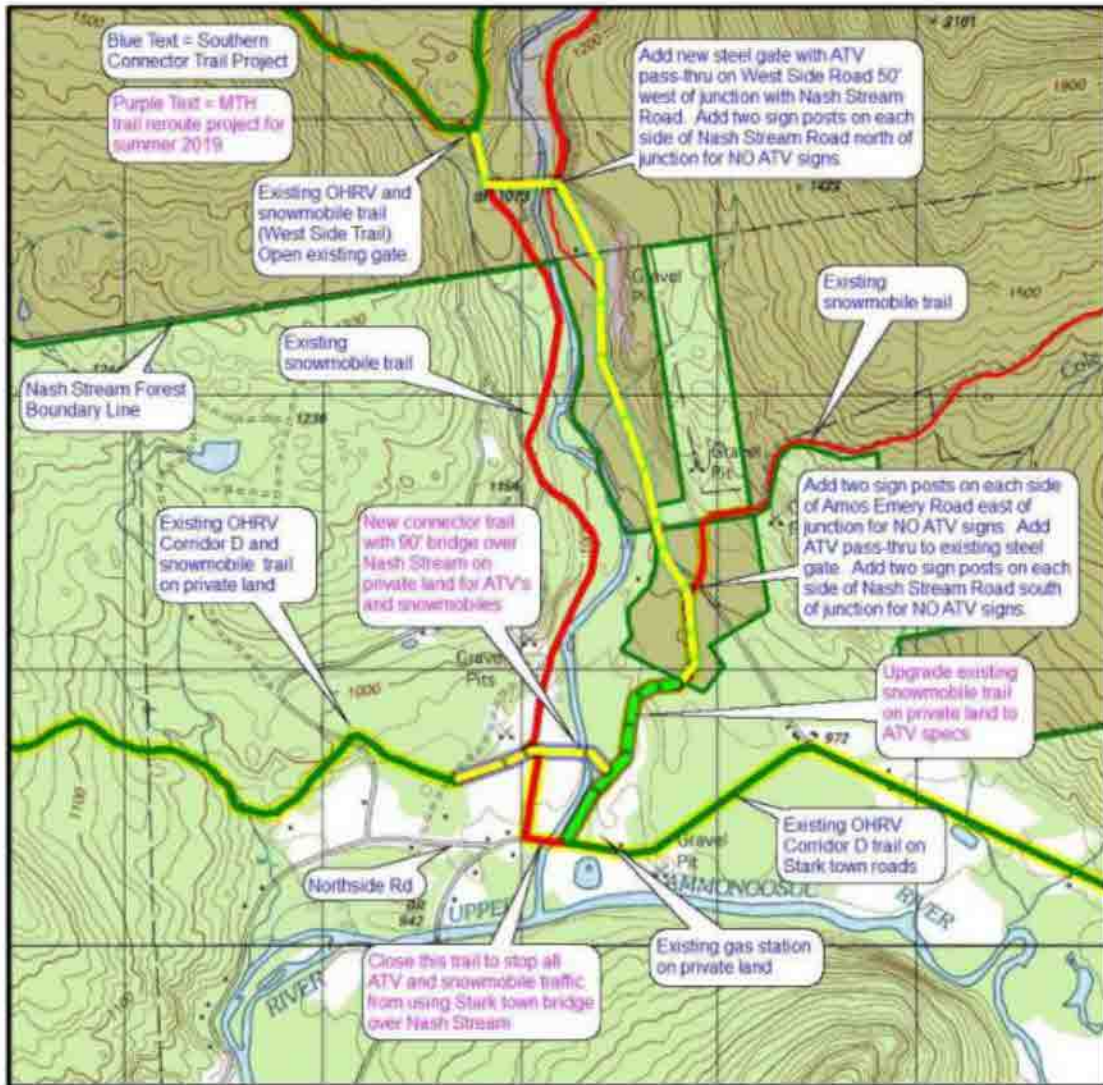
The 2017 NSF plan also addressed two new OHRV proposals; 1) the East-West Corridor and 2) the Southern Connector. After extensive review, the Tech Team found that the proposed location of the East-West Corridor would negatively impact several resources at Nash Stream Forest and would be inconsistent with the Vision of the NSF plan. This was detailed in a briefing paper prepared by the Division of Forests and Lands dated October 25, 2016. At the December 8, 2016 meeting, CORD found that the East-West Corridor was not consistent with the Vision or with RSA 162-C:6.

The Southern Connector trail proposal was an offshoot of the East-West Corridor and was retained in the plan for consideration as a stand-alone request to be brought forward through the process during the 10-year span of the 2017 NSF plan (Pgs. 160-161). Under the current plan, it is the only OHRV expansion that will be considered at this time.

The Southern Connector OHRV trail request was formally proposed at the June 25, 2019 meeting of the Nash Stream Citizen’s Advisory Committee to connect the existing OHRV trail system to the west of the property with trails and fuel to the south of the property via the existing West Side Trail through Nash Stream Forest. The initial 2019 Southern Connector Trail proposal would have traveled south from the existing West Side Trail (West Side Road/Bordeau Trail junction), crossed an existing bridge over Nash Stream onto the main Nash Stream Road, then continued south down the main Nash Stream Road onto a side road that connects to an abutter’s property (refer to **Map 2**).

Map 2 – Original 2019 Southern Connector OHRV Trail Proposal

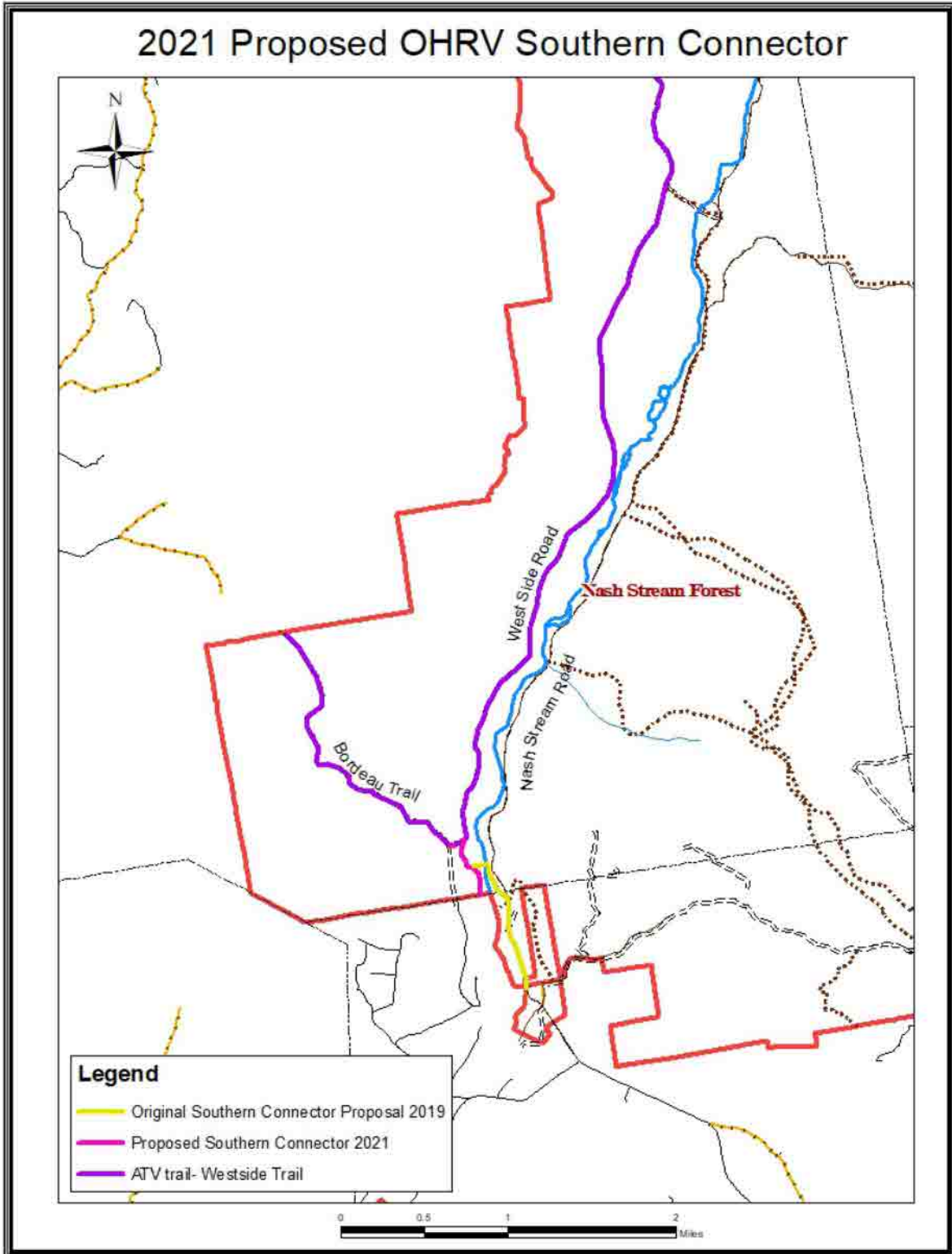
Proposed Southern Connector Trail – Topo Map



The Tech Team reviews of the proposed trail were also provided at this meeting. There was a lot of discussion between committee members as well as public comment (refer to pg. 3 of the June 25, 2019 meeting minutes of NSF Citizens Committee). The NSF Citizens Committee asked the Tech Team to come up with a list of data and information that would need to be collected and monitored to make a recommendation regarding the trail proposal and what information would be needed to potentially allow the Southern Connector Trail a provisional status similar to the Kelsey Notch Trail.

A subsequent meeting of the Tech Team identified numerous areas that would require baseline data collection and continued monitoring due to the potential impacts of the initial 2019 proposal. One of the main concerns was run off and impacts to water quality due to the lengthy and steep approach and departure from the bridge. Another large concern was impacts to the state maintained Nash Stream Road that provides access for camp owners, public recreation, and forest management activities. Shared use of Nash Stream Road also raised the concern of the inability to stop OHRV traffic from illegally continuing up the main road as well as changing the quiet atmosphere of the property for long time visitors and camp owners along the main road. Other major concerns included increased OHRV use on the existing West Side Trail and the impacts this may have on wildlife and other recreational users.

The amount and depth of information the Tech Team identified for collection was extensive and costly, and shortly after this time the pandemic was upon us all, and as a result the project stalled. In the meantime, newly installed NH Snowmobile Club Representative for the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee, Tim Emperor, secured permission from 14 individual landowners adjacent to the property that would allow for a much shorter route utilizing an existing woods road/corridor snowmachine trail, resulting in a revised Southern Connector Trail proposal. The revised proposal would eliminate the need to cross Nash Stream or share the Nash Stream Road, by keeping the Southern Connector Trail on the west side of Nash Stream, and would also reduce the amount of trail on the property to approximately 1,200 feet. (refer to **Map 3**)



Review and Recommendations by the Technical Team:

The Tech Team met on site in October of 2021 to review the revised Southern Connector Proposal. The new proposal would still travel south from the existing West Side Trail (West Side Road/Bordeau Trail junction) and head south down the snowmobile trail to private property to connect to services and the existing trail OHRV network to the south of the property.

While many of the issues with the 2019 proposal were eliminated as a result of the new proposal no longer crossing Nash Stream or sharing Nash Stream Road, the Tech Team still had concerns regarding the anticipated increase in OHRV traffic on the existing West Side Road and Bordeaux Trail that make up the West side Trail loop. Currently, the West Side Trail is an “off the beaten path” loop trail and more of an occasional destination or scenic loop for riders. The incorporation of the Southern Connector Trail will result in the West Side Road and Bordeaux Trail becoming through trails serving as shorter, convenient connectors to a larger trail network to the east and north. Serving as such a connector and pinch point between the two existing trail networks will most likely result in a significant increase in OHRV traffic with potential impacts to trail erosion, water quality, wildlife and diminished experiences for other users.

During the discussions of the original southern connector, it was clear to the Tech Team that no significant OHRV data had been collected since the inception of the West Side Trail. During the 2021 season, the NH Bureau of Trails did place counters on the Westside Trail to determine present OHRV usage as well as on the Kelsey Notch Trail to the North.

While this data is useful, additional data is needed to evaluate and monitor the potential impacts to resources and users, and therefore, the Tech Team proposes a second season to gather additional data and information to determine if the pilot trail proposal could be conditionally approved. Based upon discussions in the field and via emails, the Tech Team would like the following information to be collected during the 2022 season and monitored each year during the pilot status of the trail:

- Additional OHRV trail counter information on the West Side Trail and Kelsey Notch Trail during the 2022 season and annually during the pilot status.
- OHRV trail counters to the south of Nash Stream to help establish anticipated increase in OHRV traffic during the 2022 season and annually during the pilot status.
- Measure the distances from the existing West Side Road to Nash Stream, as well as the distance from the proposed Southern Connector Trail to Nash Stream.
- Determine the slope of the terrain to the stream from the existing West Side Trail.
- Survey traditional user groups (fisherman, hunters, hikers, etc) during the 2022 season and annually during the pilot status to determine impacts on those recreationalists.
- Botanical and Natural Community surveys within the vicinity of the trail in the 2022 season.

- Determine if any wetlands would be directly impacted by the proposal.
 - Ideally, baseline data would also be collected on reptiles, amphibians and birds, but more importantly monitoring should occur annually during the pilot period to determine impacts.
 - A survey of vernal pools in relation to the southern connector, Bordeaux Trail and West Side Trail should be completed. Amphibians have the potential to be significantly impacted by expanded OHRV use if there are vernal pools nearby.
 - There is also a concern for nesting wood turtles, if they are found within the trail project area.
 - A bird survey is also recommended, with data collection points spaced out along the existing trail and proposed route to determine presence, abundance and reproductive capacity and potential impacts.
- Fish and Game's greatest concern was to the impact to wildlife in the river corridor along the longer West Side Road portion of the West Side Trail. Over the next year, they would like to gather and review existing research to develop a potential threshold or carrying capacity of OHRV traffic before there is a detrimental effect on certain wildlife species. It was discussed that a few focal species be chosen to help in this determination. If comparable data is not available in the research literature, the only way to determine a potential threshold is through actual data collection. Utilizing these data, they may propose a shortened season for the West Side Road portion of the Westside Trail if OHRV numbers reach or exceed a certain level. If OHRV numbers continued to increase to a second, pre-determined threshold the West Side Road portion of the Westside Trail may be closed all together. In both of these scenarios, the much shorter Bordeaux Trail would remain open to facilitate the southern connection.
- During the Tech Team's field visit, a raptor nest was identified in close proximity to the trail. In order to be in compliance with the Course and Fine Filter (RSA 215-A:43), a raptor nest cannot be within 330 feet of a proposed OHRV trail on state lands. Fish and Game will visit the nest a few times during breeding season to determine if the nest is active and determine what species is using it.
- Finally, the largest hurdle for this proposal may come back to landowner permission. The Tech Team was just informed this past week that 13 of the 14 landowners have signed off in agreement to cross their properties, but the 14th landowner has had a change of heart and has refused to sign the agreement.

Pilot Trail Status

If the Southern Connector OHRV trail is granted pilot status, it will be necessary to continue to gather the number of OHRV trips on both the West Side Road and the Bordeau Trail annually. The Bordeau Trail, is the shorter leg of the West Side Trail, and will likely be the preferred OHRV route. The West Side Road is much longer and runs close to Nash Stream in several areas and increased OHRV use on this section will likely have more impact on wildlife and traditional recreational users. Therefore, the Tech Team developed the seasonal restrictions and/or closure of this portion of the West Side Trail discussed above in recommendations. Additionally the Tech Team felt frequency of use was an important part of the equation as well, meaning if traffic increased significantly on weekends or specific holidays that made it detrimental for certain species breeding then this would play into the decision making process. Additionally, the length of the OHRV season on Nash Stream Forest is longer than most of the surrounding trail networks - remaining open until December 15. How this longer season affects hunters utilizing the property should also be considered.

Ultimately, if all these data in the recommendations above are collected and monitored as described, and the requirements of the Course and Fine Filter are met, along with securing all landowner permissions, the Tech Team anticipates that this trail proposal could move forward with conditional approval of a five-year pilot trail. This time-frame is similar to the other pilot programs that have occurred on NSF. A monitoring report should also be prepared annually by the same members of the Tech Team that prepare the Kelsey Notch annual report. If at any time during the pilot status negative impacts to the resources highlighted in the recommendations are reported, verified, and documented by the same annual review members of the Tech Team, the trail shall be shut down promptly, until the negative impacts are properly mitigated. If repeated incidents occur, the trail may be suspended and brought back to the Nash Stream Citizen's Committee and CORD for reconsideration of pilot status.

Finally, it is important to note that while the various state agencies on the Tech Team may be able to provide some of the initial baseline data and some of the annual monitoring, such as OHRV trail counts, limited time, resources, and funding will necessitate that many of the annual surveys identified in the recommendations be carried out by third party contractors hired by the requesting club. Any third party survey methods would require review and approval by the appropriate members of the Tech Team prior to any data collection.

From: Ibarguen, Derek -FS
Sent: Mon, 31 Jan 2022 12:43:50 +0000
To: Currier, Morgan - FS, CAMPTON, NH
Cc: Hankens, Sarah -FS; Brown, Brooke - FS; Sjostrom, Joshua - FS
Subject: FW: [External Email]Nash Stream
Attachments: Revised Southern Connector Request.pdf,
re91anashstreamsouthernconnectoratvtrail.zip

Morgan –

Please set up a 1 hour meeting this week with Sarah, James Detzel and Josh to discuss this topic.

Derek



Derek Ibarguen (he/him/his)
Forest Supervisor

Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest

p: 603-536-6202

d(b)(6)

derek.ibarguen@usda.gov

71 White Mountain Drive
Campton, NH 03223

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Kris pastoriza <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 5:06 AM
To: Ibarguen, Derek -FS <derek.ibarguen@usda.gov>; Brown, Brooke - FS <brooke.brown@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Nash Stream

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Dear Derek and Brooke,

since the Forest Service is an easement holder for Nash Stream State Forest, should this application for another ATV trail in Nash Stream S.F. ('Revised Southern Connector Request') have had 'Forest Service' checked off on the application, and a copy have sent to the Forest Service?

And could the same be said of the Kelsey Notch Trails and West Side Trails?

Kris Pastoriza
Easton, N.H.



STATE AND FEDERAL LAND PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Section A (To Be Completed by BOT District Supervisor for Club's District)

Property Name: West side rd area Nash Stream

Town Property In: Stark NH

State Land

Federal Land

- DNCR Forest and Lands
- DNCR Parks and Recreation
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- NH Fish and Game Department
- NH Department of Transportation
- Other: _____

- National Park Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Other: _____

Property Contact: M Machinist

Title: Regional Forester

Telephone: 603 788-4157

FAX: _____

Section B (To Be Completed by Club Trail Administrator)

Remember to ATTACH a DETAILED MAP and other required supporting documents

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Why is the project necessary, purpose, benefits, etc.):

Utilize approx 1100 feet of existing snowmobile Primary corridor 5 for combined ATV/Snowmobile/Hiking route.
The property lies between existing ATV route and ATV route D and the newly constructed ATV exclusive bridge
spanning NASH Stream. This parcel already in recreational use will complete the tie between both North
South and East West ATV system adding to the economy of the entire Southern Coos county area and
more importantly eliminate the need potentially forever for ATV access to NASH Stream Road and areas.

A. If the project involves bridges, please describe them (how many, span, proposed materials, width, etc.):

NO Bridges as a 100ft bridge spanning NASH Stream has been erected already

B. Are there wetlands in the project area? Yes No

If yes, will the project require a Trails Notification be filed with DES? Yes No

If yes, describe how the club will deal with them:

NOTE: As reviewed with NH Dept of Forest and NH Bureau of Trails representatives appropriate trail culvert(s) and trail upgrades in materials will be done.

While at this time no permitting appears to be required under existing rules/statutes, should that change the NG Trails club is prepared to navigate any and all compliance needs as prescribed by rule or statute.

C. Describe existing roads/trails that are in the project area (uses, etc.):

Existing State of NH trails and logging roads known as West-side road and ATV trail C/D

The area adjacent to the 1100 foot area of consideration to the North and South are already maintained as snow corridor 5.

The only other alternative to link the existing ATV route would be to open a portion of NASH Stream road which is an undesirable option.

D. Are there any wildlife concerns in the project area such as deer yards? Yes No

If yes, describe here:

Additional Comments:

The area in question is of course owned by the State of NH and maintained for the public's use and benefit. Currently 8 mos of the year this small link is literally mostly unused by the public due to gates and bars. While not only completing the link of ATV trail system to all areas North/South/East/West and the struggling economic areas of all Coos county, the opening of this link will ensure appropriate motorized and non-motorized recreation to all of NASH Stream

Date: 01 MAR 2021

Signature of Club Trail Administrator:


1. EMPEROR - 603-477-3333

Date: _____

Signature of BOT District Supervisor: _____

NASH STREAM FOREST OHRV BRIEFING PAPER

Revised Southern Connector Trail Proposal 2021

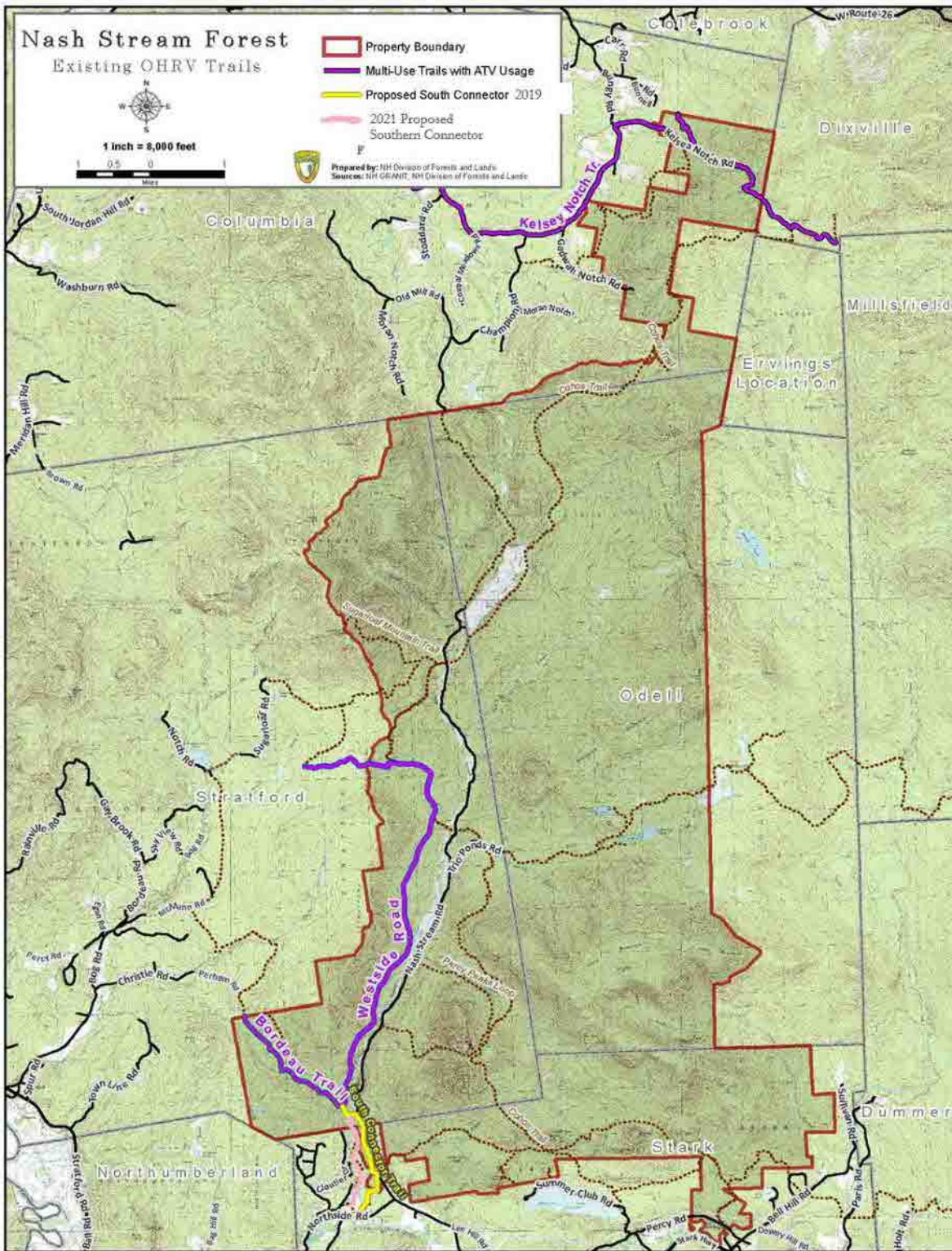
History:

At nearly 40,000 acres, Nash Stream Forest (NSF) is the largest state reservation in New Hampshire. When the lands that make up Nash Stream Forest came on the market in 1988, there was great concern by the conservation community, government officials and the public that a large area of the North Country could potentially be purchased and developed, forever changing the character, ecology, and way of life in this part of the state. In an unprecedented show of cooperation and collaboration between the state of New Hampshire through the Land Conservation Investment Program, the Nature Conservancy, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the federal government, funds were secured to permanently protect this piece of property which ultimately resulted in state ownership under a conservation easement held by the federal government (for more information refer to pg. 10 in the 2017 Nash Stream Forest Management plan (NSF Plan 2017)).

Work on the first Nash Stream Management Plan began shortly after the purchase. The plan was written over a seven-year period by a technical team, with considerable public input. Finalized in 1995, the plan stressed the protection of the natural resources, but recognized the importance an area of this size contributes to the forest-based economy of the North Country. A balance was struck to maintain Nash Stream Forest as a working forest, utilizing ecologically-based, sustainable forestry, and to continue to provide traditional, low-impact, dispersed recreation. In addition, large portions of the forest, including sensitive and unique areas, high elevation forests and control areas, were set aside during the planning process to allow the natural processes of forest succession to take place without human disturbance.

In 2002, due in part to strong political interest, the plan was amended to develop an Off Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) trail on the property. A nine-mile section of trail known as the “West Side Trail” was identified, studied and finally approved as a pilot trail to allow OHRV riders to enter onto the property from Stratford and make a loop, parallel and west of Nash Stream, and then exit the property (refer to **Map 1** on page 2).

Map 1 – Nash Stream Forest OHRV Trails



Since that time, OHRV use has grown significantly in popularity and has become an economic driver in the North Country. New Hampshire now has one of the largest OHRV trail networks in the nation.

In December 2017, the first full revision of the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan (NSF plan, 2017) was completed and signed into effect. During the four-year revision process, the technical team (Tech Team), which consisted of professional staff from state agencies with a diverse area of expertise, and the Nash Stream Citizen's Advisory Committee, a statutorily defined committee of members who make recommendations on the management of the property, worked closely together. Many public meetings and several listening sessions were held during the process as well as over 165 public comments received. One of the most contentious issues was the question of OHRV expansion in Nash Stream Forest. There was both significant support and opposition from the public on both sides of this issue.

OHRV use on the property continues to be one of the most challenging management issues. The 2017 NSF plan established Recreation Management Guidelines (Section 11.5) for OHRV's based on the findings of the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) (pg. 163). Under the Implementation section (Section 11.4) of the Recreation chapter, the NSF plan reviewed proposals for expansion throughout the property and with guidance from CORD, came up with a way to move forward to address OHRV trail use during the life of the current plan (pg. 160). CORD's involvement in this issue is a result of its statutory responsibility for oversight of lands acquired through the Land Conservation Investment Program.

The Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail was implemented before the 2017 revision and was one of the drivers behind the revision. The trail needed to be added to the management plan in order to be compliant with the management plan, which had previously called for no ATV expansion. The 2017 NSF plan allowed for limited expansion, which included continuing the use of the Kelsey Notch trail for a three-year provisional period that ended in 2020. At the end of the provisional period, CORD reviewed the annual reports and determined that the trail could remain open for an additional two years with some additional information gathered during the continued pilot period.

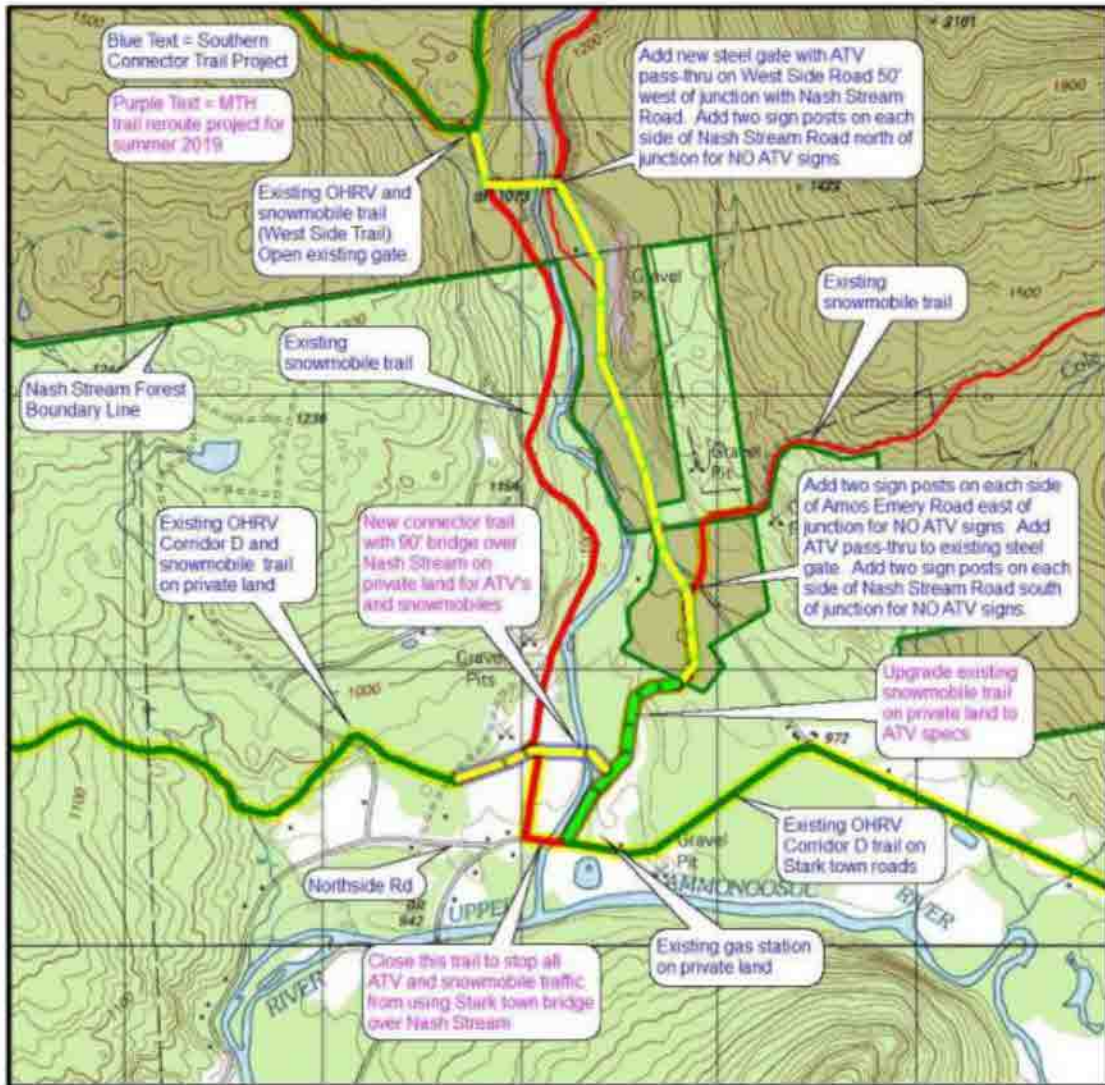
The 2017 NSF plan also addressed two new OHRV proposals; 1) the East-West Corridor and 2) the Southern Connector. After extensive review, the Tech Team found that the proposed location of the East-West Corridor would negatively impact several resources at Nash Stream Forest and would be inconsistent with the Vision of the NSF plan. This was detailed in a briefing paper prepared by the Division of Forests and Lands dated October 25, 2016. At the December 8, 2016 meeting, CORD found that the East-West Corridor was not consistent with the Vision or with RSA 162-C:6.

The Southern Connector trail proposal was an offshoot of the East-West Corridor and was retained in the plan for consideration as a stand-alone request to be brought forward through the process during the 10-year span of the 2017 NSF plan (Pgs. 160-161). Under the current plan, it is the only OHRV expansion that will be considered at this time.

The Southern Connector OHRV trail request was formally proposed at the June 25, 2019 meeting of the Nash Stream Citizen’s Advisory Committee to connect the existing OHRV trail system to the west of the property with trails and fuel to the south of the property via the existing West Side Trail through Nash Stream Forest. The initial 2019 Southern Connector Trail proposal would have traveled south from the existing West Side Trail (West Side Road/Bordeau Trail junction), crossed an existing bridge over Nash Stream onto the main Nash Stream Road, then continued south down the main Nash Stream Road onto a side road that connects to an abutter’s property (refer to **Map 2**).

Map 2 – Original 2019 Southern Connector OHRV Trail Proposal

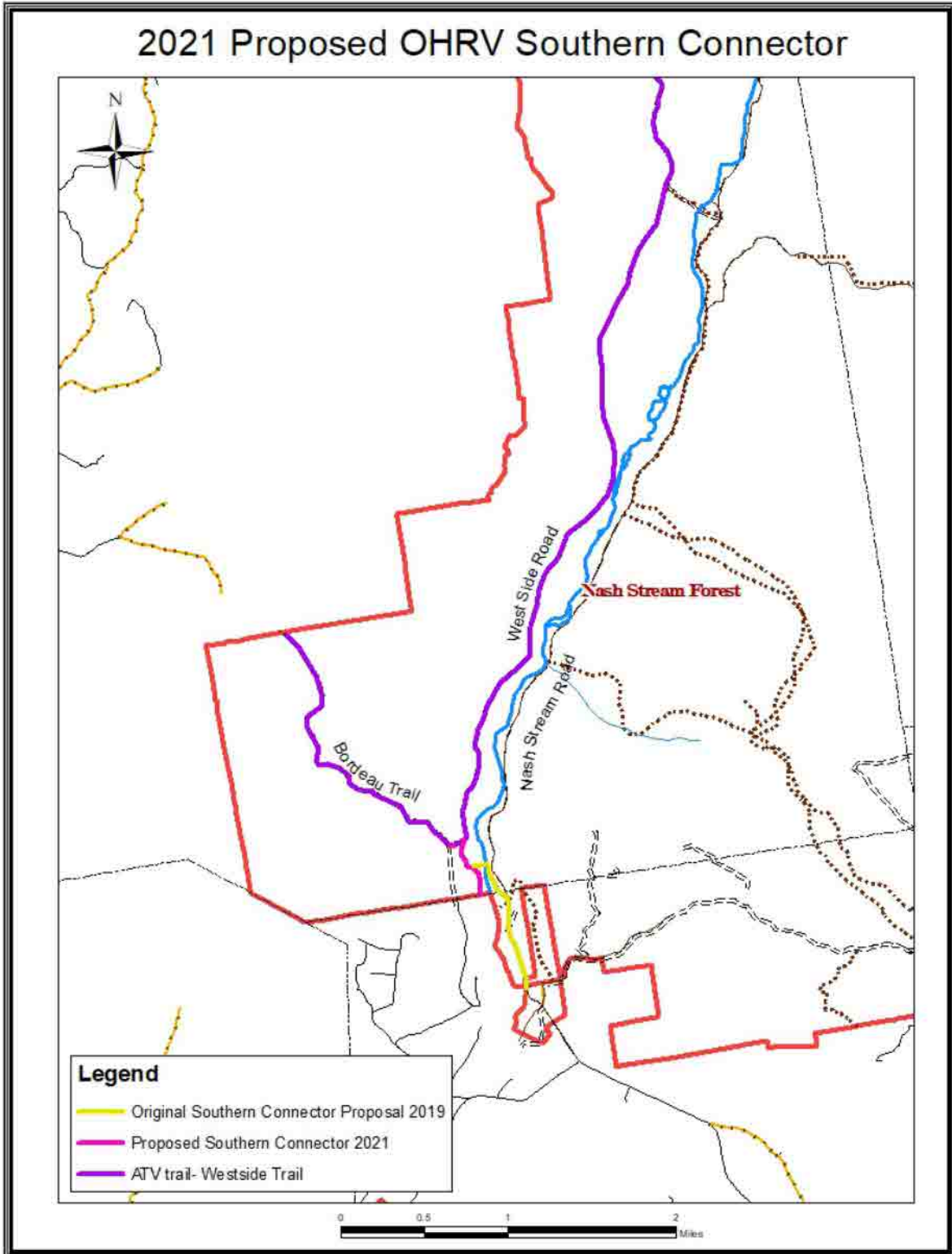
Proposed Southern Connector Trail – Topo Map



The Tech Team reviews of the proposed trail were also provided at this meeting. There was a lot of discussion between committee members as well as public comment (refer to pg. 3 of the June 25, 2019 meeting minutes of NSF Citizens Committee). The NSF Citizens Committee asked the Tech Team to come up with a list of data and information that would need to be collected and monitored to make a recommendation regarding the trail proposal and what information would be needed to potentially allow the Southern Connector Trail a provisional status similar to the Kelsey Notch Trail.

A subsequent meeting of the Tech Team identified numerous areas that would require baseline data collection and continued monitoring due to the potential impacts of the initial 2019 proposal. One of the main concerns was run off and impacts to water quality due to the lengthy and steep approach and departure from the bridge. Another large concern was impacts to the state maintained Nash Stream Road that provides access for camp owners, public recreation, and forest management activities. Shared use of Nash Stream Road also raised the concern of the inability to stop OHRV traffic from illegally continuing up the main road as well as changing the quiet atmosphere of the property for long time visitors and camp owners along the main road. Other major concerns included increased OHRV use on the existing West Side Trail and the impacts this may have on wildlife and other recreational users.

The amount and depth of information the Tech Team identified for collection was extensive and costly, and shortly after this time the pandemic was upon us all, and as a result the project stalled. In the meantime, newly installed NH Snowmobile Club Representative for the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee, Tim Emperor, secured permission from 14 individual landowners adjacent to the property that would allow for a much shorter route utilizing an existing woods road/corridor snowmachine trail, resulting in a revised Southern Connector Trail proposal. The revised proposal would eliminate the need to cross Nash Stream or share the Nash Stream Road, by keeping the Southern Connector Trail on the west side of Nash Stream, and would also reduce the amount of trail on the property to approximately 1,200 feet. (refer to **Map 3**)



Review and Recommendations by the Technical Team:

The Tech Team met on site in October of 2021 to review the revised Southern Connector Proposal. The new proposal would still travel south from the existing West Side Trail (West Side Road/Bordeau Trail junction) and head south down the snowmobile trail to private property to connect to services and the existing trail OHRV network to the south of the property.

While many of the issues with the 2019 proposal were eliminated as a result of the new proposal no longer crossing Nash Stream or sharing Nash Stream Road, the Tech Team still had concerns regarding the anticipated increase in OHRV traffic on the existing West Side Road and Bordeaux Trail that make up the West side Trail loop. Currently, the West Side Trail is an “off the beaten path” loop trail and more of an occasional destination or scenic loop for riders. The incorporation of the Southern Connector Trail will result in the West Side Road and Bordeaux Trail becoming through trails serving as shorter, convenient connectors to a larger trail network to the east and north. Serving as such a connector and pinch point between the two existing trail networks will most likely result in a significant increase in OHRV traffic with potential impacts to trail erosion, water quality, wildlife and diminished experiences for other users.

During the discussions of the original southern connector, it was clear to the Tech Team that no significant OHRV data had been collected since the inception of the West Side Trail. During the 2021 season, the NH Bureau of Trails did place counters on the Westside Trail to determine present OHRV usage as well as on the Kelsey Notch Trail to the North.

While this data is useful, additional data is needed to evaluate and monitor the potential impacts to resources and users, and therefore, the Tech Team proposes a second season to gather additional data and information to determine if the pilot trail proposal could be conditionally approved. Based upon discussions in the field and via emails, the Tech Team would like the following information to be collected during the 2022 season and monitored each year during the pilot status of the trail:

- Additional OHRV trail counter information on the West Side Trail and Kelsey Notch Trail during the 2022 season and annually during the pilot status.
- OHRV trail counters to the south of Nash Stream to help establish anticipated increase in OHRV traffic during the 2022 season and annually during the pilot status.
- Measure the distances from the existing West Side Road to Nash Stream, as well as the distance from the proposed Southern Connector Trail to Nash Stream.
- Determine the slope of the terrain to the stream from the existing West Side Trail.
- Survey traditional user groups (fisherman, hunters, hikers, etc) during the 2022 season and annually during the pilot status to determine impacts on those recreationalists.
- Botanical and Natural Community surveys within the vicinity of the trail in the 2022 season.

- Determine if any wetlands would be directly impacted by the proposal.
 - Ideally, baseline data would also be collected on reptiles, amphibians and birds, but more importantly monitoring should occur annually during the pilot period to determine impacts.
 - A survey of vernal pools in relation to the southern connector, Bordeaux Trail and West Side Trail should be completed. Amphibians have the potential to be significantly impacted by expanded OHRV use if there are vernal pools nearby.
 - There is also a concern for nesting wood turtles, if they are found within the trail project area.
 - A bird survey is also recommended, with data collection points spaced out along the existing trail and proposed route to determine presence, abundance and reproductive capacity and potential impacts.
- Fish and Game's greatest concern was to the impact to wildlife in the river corridor along the longer West Side Road portion of the West Side Trail. Over the next year, they would like to gather and review existing research to develop a potential threshold or carrying capacity of OHRV traffic before there is a detrimental effect on certain wildlife species. It was discussed that a few focal species be chosen to help in this determination. If comparable data is not available in the research literature, the only way to determine a potential threshold is through actual data collection. Utilizing these data, they may propose a shortened season for the West Side Road portion of the Westside Trail if OHRV numbers reach or exceed a certain level. If OHRV numbers continued to increase to a second, pre-determined threshold the West Side Road portion of the Westside Trail may be closed all together. In both of these scenarios, the much shorter Bordeaux Trail would remain open to facilitate the southern connection.
- During the Tech Team's field visit, a raptor nest was identified in close proximity to the trail. In order to be in compliance with the Course and Fine Filter (RSA 215-A:43), a raptor nest cannot be within 330 feet of a proposed OHRV trail on state lands. Fish and Game will visit the nest a few times during breeding season to determine if the nest is active and determine what species is using it.
- Finally, the largest hurdle for this proposal may come back to landowner permission. The Tech Team was just informed this past week that 13 of the 14 landowners have signed off in agreement to cross their properties, but the 14th landowner has had a change of heart and has refused to sign the agreement.

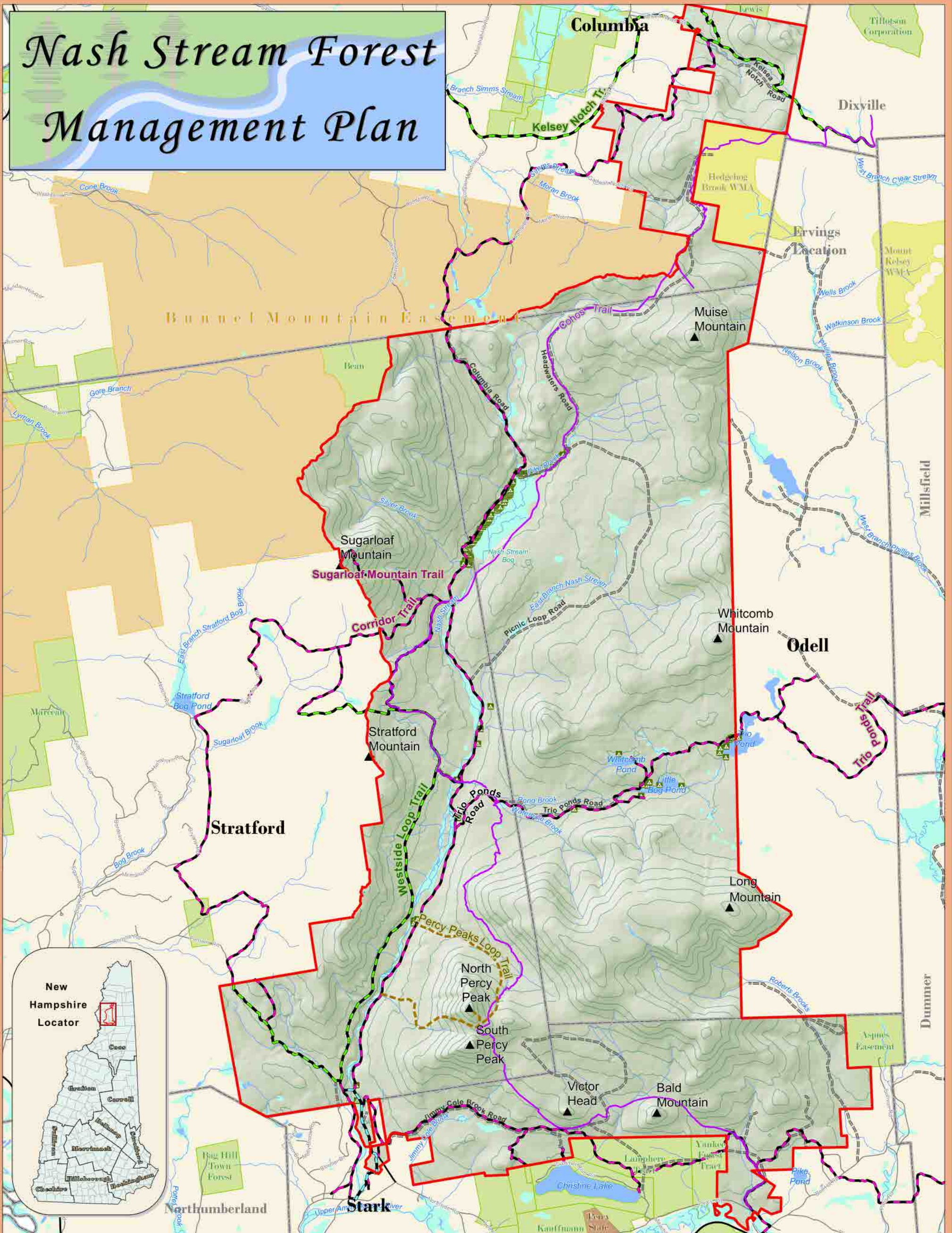
Pilot Trail Status

If the Southern Connector OHRV trail is granted pilot status, it will be necessary to continue to gather the number of OHRV trips on both the West Side Road and the Bordeau Trail annually. The Bordeau Trail, is the shorter leg of the West Side Trail, and will likely be the preferred OHRV route. The West Side Road is much longer and runs close to Nash Stream in several areas and increased OHRV use on this section will likely have more impact on wildlife and traditional recreational users. Therefore, the Tech Team developed the seasonal restrictions and/or closure of this portion of the West Side Trail discussed above in recommendations. Additionally the Tech Team felt frequency of use was an important part of the equation as well, meaning if traffic increased significantly on weekends or specific holidays that made it detrimental for certain species breeding then this would play into the decision making process. Additionally, the length of the OHRV season on Nash Stream Forest is longer than most of the surrounding trail networks - remaining open until December 15. How this longer season affects hunters utilizing the property should also be considered.

Ultimately, if all these data in the recommendations above are collected and monitored as described, and the requirements of the Course and Fine Filter are met, along with securing all landowner permissions, the Tech Team anticipates that this trail proposal could move forward with conditional approval of a five-year pilot trail. This time-frame is similar to the other pilot programs that have occurred on NSF. A monitoring report should also be prepared annually by the same members of the Tech Team that prepare the Kelsey Notch annual report. If at any time during the pilot status negative impacts to the resources highlighted in the recommendations are reported, verified, and documented by the same annual review members of the Tech Team, the trail shall be shut down promptly, until the negative impacts are properly mitigated. If repeated incidents occur, the trail may be suspended and brought back to the Nash Stream Citizen's Committee and CORD for reconsideration of pilot status.

Finally, it is important to note that while the various state agencies on the Tech Team may be able to provide some of the initial baseline data and some of the annual monitoring, such as OHRV trail counts, limited time, resources, and funding will necessitate that many of the annual surveys identified in the recommendations be carried out by third party contractors hired by the requesting club. Any third party survey methods would require review and approval by the appropriate members of the Tech Team prior to any data collection.

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



- Multi-Use Trails with Snowmobile Usage
- Multi-Use Trails with ATV Usage
- Proposed South Connector (ATV)
- The Cohos Trail
- Percy Peaks Loop Trail
- Woods Road
- Peaks

- Camp Leases
- Nash Stream Forest Property Boundary
- DNCR Lands
- DNCR Conservation Easement Lands
- NH Fish and Game Lands
- Other Conserved Lands

- Town Boundaries
- Rivers and Streams
- Waterbodies
- Wetlands
- Local Roads
- Main Access Road
- State Routes

Map 11: Trails & Recreation



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Last updated: 8/25/2017

Data Sources:
NH GRANIT Digital Data (1:24,000)
NH Department of Transportation
DNCR Forests & Lands

DNCR makes no representations or guarantees to the accuracy of the features and designations of this map.

Map Produced by GIS Service
DNCR Forests & Lands.
Contact: Lisa.Scott@dnr.nh.gov;
Ph: (603) 271-2679

This map is for planning purposes only. It is not to be used for legal boundary determinations or for regulatory purposes.

Nash Stream Forest Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

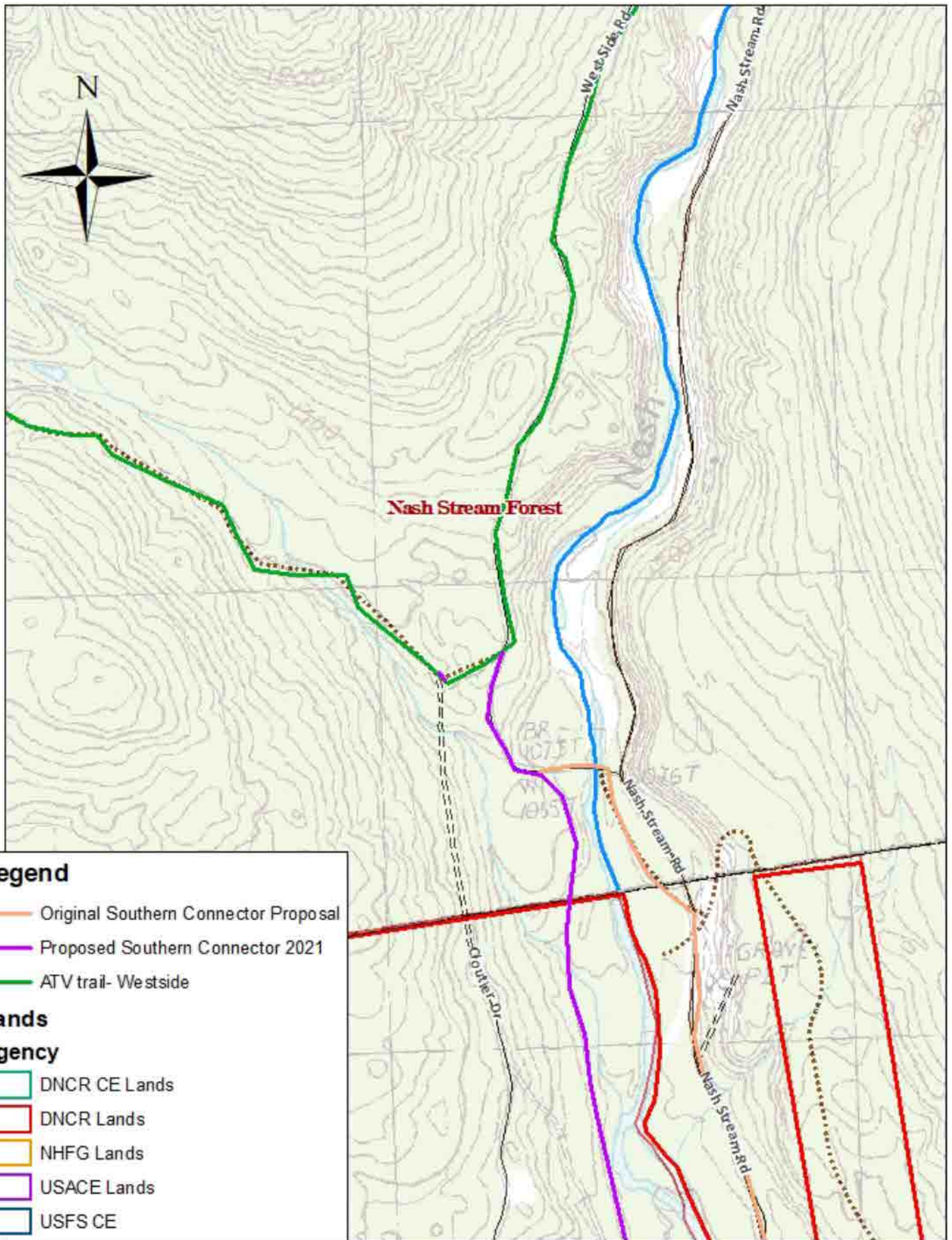
**November 16, 2021
6:00 to 8:00 PM
North Region Headquarters
629B Main Street
Lancaster, NH**

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Timber harvests, road maintenance activities, and forest resource inventory updates – Maggie Machinist, Regional Forester
- Kelsey Notch OHRV Trail status update and Revised Southern Connector OHRV Trail proposal – Clint Savage, Regional Trail Supervisor
- Next meeting date
- Other business
- Additional public comments

PUBLIC WELCOME

Proposed OHRV Southern Connector



Legend

- Original Southern Connector Proposal
- Proposed Southern Connector 2021
- ATV trail- Westside

Lands

Agency

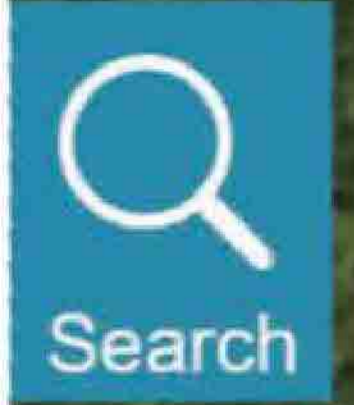
- DNCR CE Lands
- DNCR Lands
- NHFG Lands
- USACE Lands
- USFS CE





Stratford, NH

Contact



Search

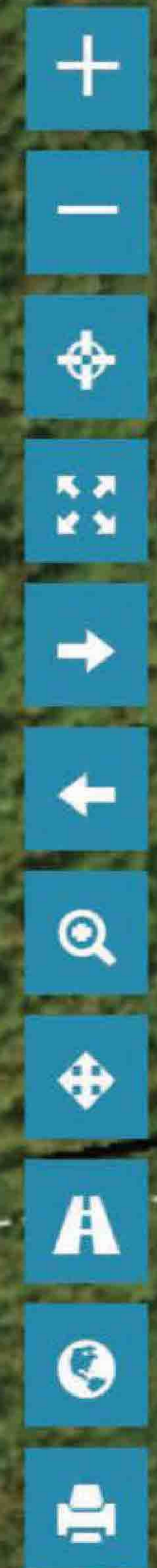


Abutters



Layers

Map of the proposed link route for additional recreational traffic, specifically UTV/ATV
 Current area in question is already an approved snowmobile route known as Coridor 5 N/S and ties West-side road to Nash Stream road along the westerly banks of Nash stream.
 Area is approx 1100ft +/-
 NH Heritage Bureau Data-Check found no records for the footprint noted 2.5 acres approximately NHB - 21-0970
 Submitted by:
 Tim Emperor
 Trails Administrator
 Northern Gateway Trails Club
 Groveton-Stark NH



Stratford
Stark

Stark



Guinn, William

From: Cam Bradshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: Nash Stream West Side OHRV trail extension

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

It is clear to me that it is premature to move forward with an extension of the West Side OHRV trail. At the least, more data needs to be collected on the current West Side Trail and Kelsey Notch Trails as per the recommendations of the Tech Team. OHRV clubs and the BOT should bear the costs of these studies. They should also contribute to the funding of additional Fish and Game officers to patrol these trails.

But ideally all OHRV trails in Nash Stream Forest would be permanently closed. The original management plan forbids them and the clubs and BOT have not followed through on the promised monitoring and data collection. Instead they continue to clamor for more access, requiring resources to be spent to examine their demands. Ban OHRVs in Nash Stream and resolve at a stroke one of its biggest management headaches.

Connector OHRV trails are not a solution, they are a problem. This proposed route connects a trail that never should have been approved with a 25 mile road ride. There is significant opposition to OHRV traffic along this road. One half of Ride the Wilds is on public roads and residents along these routes have been blindsided by having their quiet rural routes turned into a "trail".

Furthermore, funding for OHRV trails is flawed. Since half of their trail system is on public roads they should not get funding from the GIA program, and in fact they should be required to support the maintenance of these roads. And they should not get funding for multiuse trails because no one else wants to share their trails. I have personally been driven out of Jericho State Park and off the rail trail between Berlin and Gorham by OHRVs. These are places I used to recreate but the noise, dust and speed of OHRVs are not compatible with any experience I want to have.

Thanks for listening. Please forward my comments to the Nash Stream Citizens Committee.

Cam Bradshaw
Berlin, NH

Katherine Hartnett ([REDACTED])
[REDACTED], Lancaster NH 03584
15 November 2021 (via email)

TO: William Guinn, NH Division of Forest and Lands (william.t.guinn@dncr.nh.gov)
FOR: Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee
FROM: Katherine Hartnett, resident, Lancaster NH
RE: Proposed Nash Stream Southern Connector Request

Please forward my comments to the committee. Thank you.

I write as a 16 year resident of Coos County, having lived in Berlin from 2005-2019, and in Lancaster since 2019. I to urge the Committee, at a minimum, to follow the findings of the *Nash Stream Forest OHRV Briefing Paper on the Revised Southern Connector Trail Proposal 2021*, distributed in advance of your 16 Nov 2021 meeting in Lancaster. My reasoning is based on the following considerations:

1995 NASH STREAM FOREST (NSF) VISION: As described in that Briefing Paper page 1, History, based on early planning work with extensive diverse stakeholder and public input, "*...a balance was struck to maintain Nash Stream Forest as a working forest, utilizing ecologically based, sustainable forestry, and to continue to provide traditional, low impact, dispersed recreation.*"

RECENT TRACK RECORD: The track record of the previous "pilot" in Kelsey Notch demonstrates that the required management, law enforcement, maintenance, and monitoring has not happened.

THE QUESTION: Why further trail expansion would be allowed, given:

- a) the initial excellent 1995 vision for NSF,
- b) the failure to perform the required work for the Kelsey Notch Trail,
- c) the documented negative impacts of erosion, sedimentation, and invasives,
- d) the potential but unstudied impacts on wetlands habitats and associated fish, reptiles, amphibians, and wildlife in summer,
- e) the continued absence of any credible study that shows substantial benefit of OHRV's over traditional, low impact, dispersed recreation,
- f) an assessment of potential impacts, including noise, dust, increased traffic volume and speed, and wildlife disruption to other types of outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching that also contribute significant dollars to local and state economies,
- g) the shrinking area left unfragmented by motorized use,
- h) the absence of a coherent OHRV plan for the North Country.

It is very clear that keeping a diversity of quality outdoor experiences is the key to New Hampshire's economic future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Guinn, William

From: David Evankow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:02 AM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: Proposed ATV trail in Nash Stream Forest

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To whom it may concern;

It is altogether preposterous to be even considering another ATV trail in Nash stream Forest given the fact that the existing Kelsey Notch OHRV Trail has failed to meet the basic requirements of the pilot program, not to mention being illegal.

Further with the issues of looming climate change we (NH) have no business promoting this wasteful carbon intensive pastime in the state let alone in Nash Stream Forest. It is disruptive, damaging and a violation of the NSF management plan.

Please honor the Management plan and support fighting climate change and deny this new request for a southern ATV trail. And vote immediately to close Kelsey notch trail to ATVs due to the well documented multiple violations.

Thank You for your time and consideration of this matter.
David Evankow
Gorham, NH

Guinn, William

From: nancy decourcey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 6:26 AM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: proposed ATV trail

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Adding a southern connector through the Nash Stream is illegal and unnecessary. The management plan should be adhered to and pressure from those who want to increase already out of control ATV traffic in the North Country is a detriment to our environment and personal well being. Put me down as against this foolish proposal and forward my comments to the committee. Thank you. Nancy DeCoursey

[REDACTED]
Jefferson, NH 03583

Nancy cell: [REDACTED]

Will cell: 60 [REDACTED]

Guinn, William

From: Whittet, Dan <dwhittet@fas.harvard.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 10:57 PM
To: Guinn, William
Cc: Abby Evankow
Subject: ATV trails in Nash Stream Forest are wrong for NH natural and cultural resources

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Mr. Guinn

It is my understanding that the mission of the NH DNCR is to *protect, preserve, promote and manage the State's natural and cultural resources, supporting New Hampshire's high quality of life and strengthening the experiences of our residents and guests*. As a resident of Berlin, NH, my family has been coming to the Northern Forests for the experience of nature and the serenity of the forests for over 100 years.

I feel that ATV use in COOS county has been sold to an economically disadvantaged population as a solution, much as the polluted rivers and air of the paper mill era was before. ATV use destroys the very environment we cherish, and does not bring the kind of economic benefit the manufacturers of these machines would lead us to believe.

When I am out enjoying "the State's natural and cultural resources, supporting New Hampshire's high quality of life" I am appalled when a line of loud, emissions belching machines invade my experience of nature. Nature, as in Natural Resources.

Please do what you can to prevent further encroachment and development of ATV trails, especially in the pristine Nash Stream Forest. The idea that this is a political win is very wrong headed. As a sustainability professional I can tell you that building an economy based on internal combustion of fossil fuels would be like investing in steam engines. The fossil fuel recreation industry is over. Our climate change crisis demands new alternatives.

Please contact me if you would like more information on why I feel this way. I appreciate your devotion to the mission of the DNCR and trust you will forward my comments to the Committee.

Respectfully

Dan Whittet sustainability consultant, LEED AP Assoc AIA
Green Buildings, Urban Resilience, and Sustainability in Communities, Harvard Extension

[REDACTED]
Berlin, NH 03570
[REDACTED]

Guinn, William

From: Racheal Stuart [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 12:13 PM
To: Guinn, William
Subject: Nash Stream Southern Connector Request - public comment
Attachments: CoosRoadMap.pdf

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

To: William Guinn, Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee
Re: Proposed Nash Stream Southern Connector Request

I am writing to express my opposition to any additional ATV/OHRV Trails in the Nash Stream Forest, including the proposed Southern Connector.

As a general principle, I believe ATV use is inconsistent with the original Nash Stream conservation easement purposes, and the downsides of off-road motorized vehicle use in *and around* the Nash Stream far outweigh the potential benefits.

There are some places that should just not be open for OHRVs and the Nash Stream Forest is one of them. I have attached an old Coos road map showing the Nash Stream forest and surrounding road network. This map is a bit dated, so it doesn't even show some of the newer roads (such as the road to the Phillips Brook wind towers). As you can see, there is significant fragmentation in northern Coos, including immediately surrounding the Nash Stream Forest. Additional motorized trails will make it even more difficult to sustain our populations of large animals such as bear, moose and big cats.

More specifically, I am opposed to the Southern Connector for the following reasons.

1. As noted in the 2021 Nash Stream OHRV Briefing, the proposed connector will likely result in a significant increase in OHRV traffic, compounding the negative impacts on everyone. Increased OHRV use negatively affects water and air quality, wildlife habitat

and movement, the experience of other users, and the peaceful use and enjoyment of camp owners and landowners in and around the Nash Stream area.

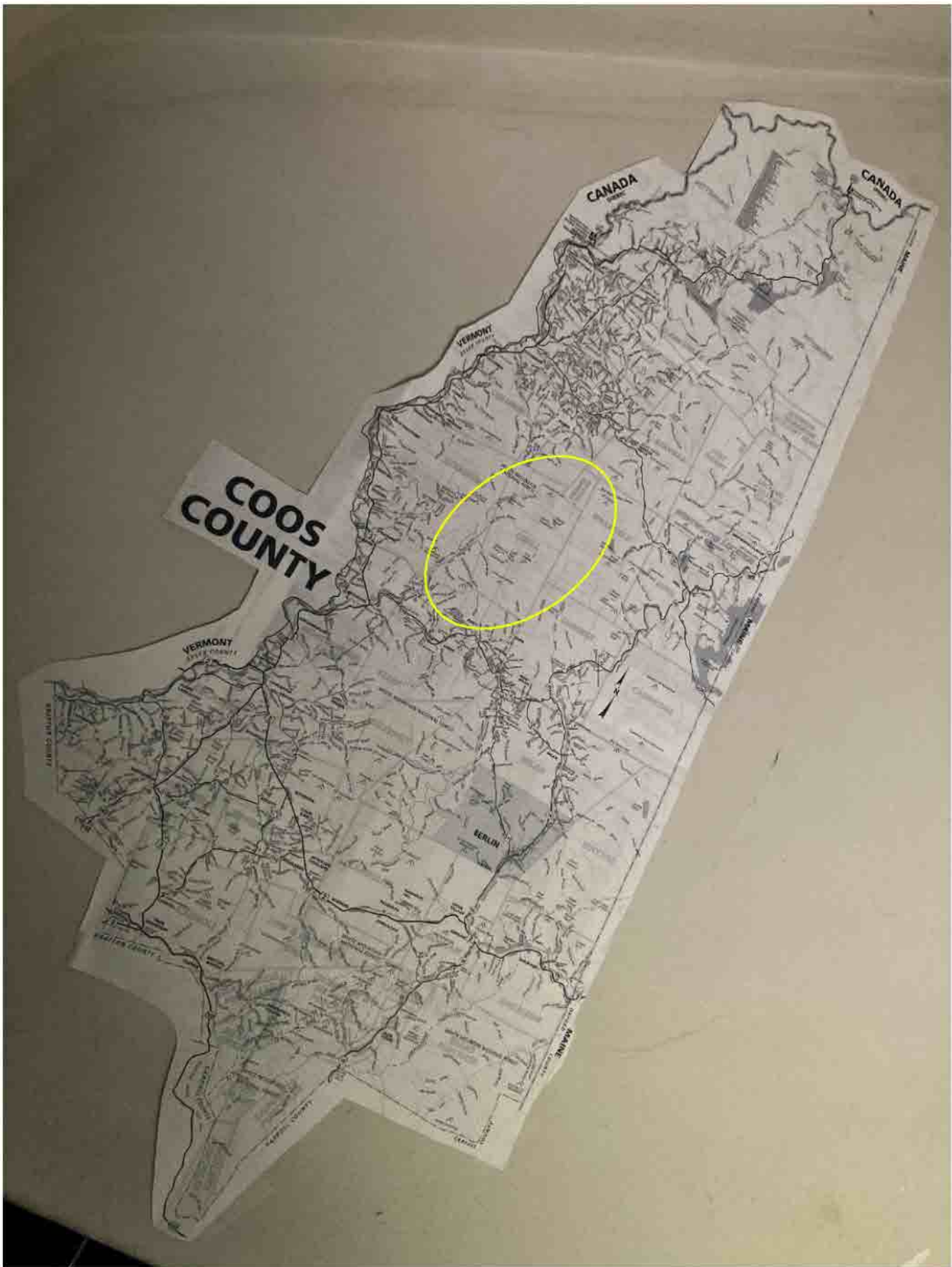
2. The claim that opening the Nash Stream will result in any meaningful economic benefits is unfounded. Increased OHRV activity in the North Country threatens to drive out other uses and the possibility of growing a diverse economy. Increased ATV activity on our highways, village streets and yes, on so-called multi-use trails drives out other uses, prevents local residents from peaceful use and enjoyment of their homes, and prevents long-time visitors from returning.
3. Additional data collection is clearly needed to understand the impacts of the existing Kelsey Notch "pilot" trail before any new trails are added. The 2021 Nash Stream OHRV Briefing does a good job of outlining some of the data needed, and additional input from local residents in communities around the Nash Stream should also be considered.

Please decline the request to open a southern connector trail, and insist on the resources needed to properly study the impacts of the existing pilot OHRV trails in the Nash Stream Forest. It is a resource for all of New Hampshire, not just the few resident and out-of-state OHRV riders.

--

Racheal Stuart





Coos County Road Map with Nash Stream Forest Area and Surrounding Fragmentation

Guinn, William

From: David Govatski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Hackley, Patrick; Machinist, Margaret; Guinn, William
Subject: Fwd: Nash Stream Advisory Committee input from Bob Baker
Attachments: DRED 1994 Nash Stream Overview.pdf

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

FYI.

David Govatski
Jefferson, NH

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Baker <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 13, 2021 at 13:05:52 EST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nash Stream Advisory Committee
Reply-To: Bob Baker <[REDACTED]>

Good afternoon, Dave:

I understand that you are chairing a Nash Stream Advisory Committee Meeting this coming Tuesday evening. Alas my wife Wendy and I will miss seeing you. Wendy is in need of chauffer services for a medical appointment that she has out of state and, not surprisingly, I have been selected. So, we won't be able to attend.

To the extent that ATV use of the Nash Stream Forest is to be discussed, we were planning on speaking briefly about our opposition to any new ATV trails being opened and our continued opposition to the ATV uses previously permitted by the State, including the Kelsey Notch trail and the West Side Trail. They are noisy, dusty, greenhouse gas-spewing and erosion-creating intrusions into what should be a wilderness where wildlife have a chance to thrive and procreate without constant interruption by this unhealthy and unnecessary form of human activity.

Of equal concern is the precedent and loss of faith that ATV activity in the Nash Stream Forest has created. Those of us who were here in the 90's well remember receiving the wonderful news that the State was acquiring the Nash Stream Forest. Among the great parts of that news was that ATVs would not be permitted. We were all promised this by the State in its News releases, including the attached November 1994 "Nash Stream News" Overview published by DRED. I call your attention to page 2 where there is a one word clear and unequivocal "NO" answer to the question, "Can I use my ATV or trail bike at Nash Stream?" That 1994 promise must be kept. There were no exceptions or weasel words involved. It was a clear "NO." If that promise is not to be

kept, then many citizens will lose faith in the State as a conservation property manager that can be trusted. And that would be a shame.

Thanks for passing this comment on to your committee.

Best regards, Bob Baker

Alan Robert Baker

[REDACTED]
Columbia NH 03590

Tel. [REDACTED]

Cell [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Nash Stream

November, 1994

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NASH STREAM FOREST

ACQUISITION

The Nash Stream Forest is a unique parcel of land in Northern New Hampshire. Its acquisition in 1988, through a collaborative effort between the state of New Hampshire, the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for New Hampshire Lands, and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is equally unique, and serves as a milestone in state, private and federal cooperation.

The diversity of the groups represented in this effort is almost as diverse as the wildlife that exists within the Nash Stream Forest and the topography of the land itself. Yet over an eighteen-month period, representatives from each of these groups worked together, to negotiate an

arrangement which all felt was in the best interest of the land and the people who use it.

MULTIPLE USE STRESSED

All of the groups involved in the purchase and future management of the Nash Stream Forest recognized the importance of protecting the Forest from development, as well as the importance of continuing to use the land in a "multiple-use" manner—for education and research; as a key watershed area; for fish and wildlife; recreation; scenic qualities; and as a sustainable timber resource. These mutual concerns led to the successful purchase of the property, and to a gubernatorially-appointed Advisory Committee to focus public input and provide technical expertise.

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since December, 1989, this Committee has been hard at work, holding public listening sessions to gather input, working with a Technical Committee to review research on the past and present use of the Nash Stream Forest, and developing a working Management Plan. This final Plan will serve as a model of environmentally sound public land stewardship so that future generations may enjoy this unique property.

GATHERING PUBLIC INPUT

As has been done throughout the development of the draft Management Plan, we continue to seek public input from any group or individual interested in the Nash Stream Forest. Your input will help us formulate the final Management Plan, which will ultimately determine the future use of the Nash Stream Forest. For more information about the impact of public input on the Management Plan, see the article on page 6.



Whitcomb Pond, Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Pond and Lower Trio Pond in the Nash Stream Forest.

Nash
Stream NEWS

is published by
New Hampshire's
Department of Resources and
Economic Development,
Division of Forests and
Lands.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS About The Nash Stream Forest

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NORTHERN FOREST AND THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

The Nash Stream Forest is a 39,601 acre tract owned by the state of New Hampshire, managed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development, with a Conservation Easement held by the United States of America. The tract lies within a four-state region known as the Northern Forest that stretches from the coast of Maine, across northern New Hampshire and Vermont into New York, totaling 26 million acres. The Northern Forest is one of the largest expanses of continuously forested land in the nation with about 85% in private ownership. Forest-based economies, recreation, and environmental diversity are traditional to the area as are clean air and water.

The breakup of Diamond International Co. lands in 1988 led to both state acquisition of the Nash Stream Forest and national concern about the future of the Northern Forest lands. Congress authorized the U.S. Forest Service to study Northern Forest issues in cooperation with a four-state Governors' Task Force. Congress later created the Northern Forest Lands Council in 1990 to continue the work begun by the Task Force. The Council's report was released in the fall of 1994.

WILL THERE BE A FEE TO USE THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

Although allowed by the Conservation Easement, there are no plans to charge a fee for public entry or general use of the Nash Stream Forest.

WILL THE PROPERTY BE OPEN TO MOTOR VEHICLES?

Yes. Traditional vehicle access into the Forest is recommended in the Plan. The main gate will be opened each spring when road conditions allow for access by conventional motor vehicles to the Main Road (11.1 miles) and Fourteen and a Half Road (3.3 miles), and closed in early December. All other interior roads will be gated and maintained for controlled access to keep maintenance costs and safety risks down, to minimize disturbance to wildlife, and to provide for non-motorized recreation opportunities.

WILL THERE BE A VISITORS' CENTER OR GATE KEEPER AT THE ENTRANCE?

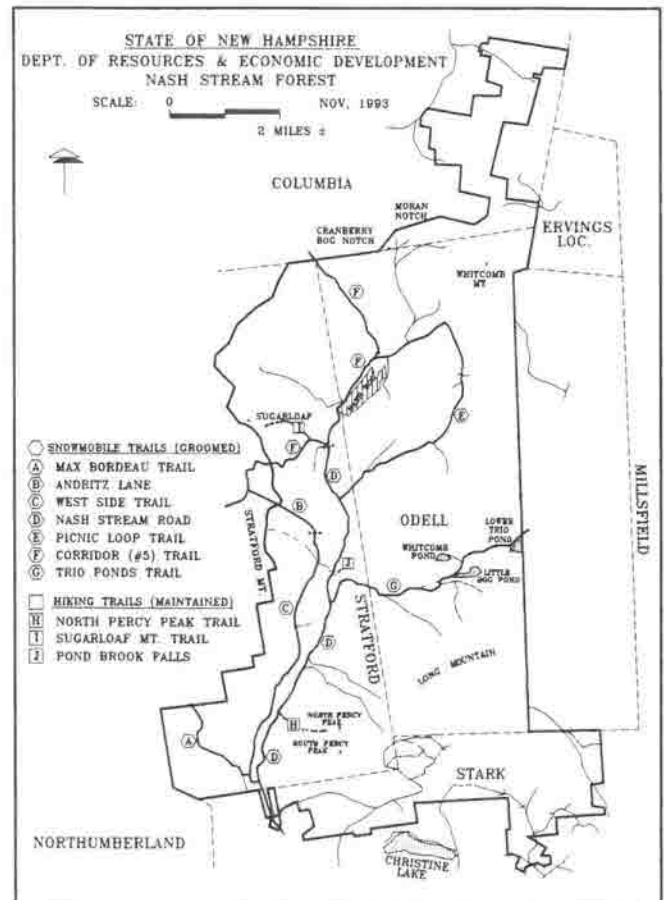
No. There are no plans to build a visitors' center nor is a gate keeper for the entrance road recommended in the Management Plan. Visitor information will be made available at the entrance as well as at the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster and the DRED office in Concord.

WILL THERE BE HANDICAPPED ACCESS?

Reasonable accommodations will be made to provide access to individuals with disabilities. Contact the Regional Forester, North Country Resource Center in Lancaster at (603) 788-4157.

CAN I USE MY ATV OR TRAIL BIKE AT NASH STREAM?

No. Snowmobiles are the only OHRVs permitted on roads and trails specifically designated for their use; there will be no off-trail, cross country use. Mountain bicycles are allowed on established roads and trails unless otherwise posted.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

The Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) is responsible for administering the Conservation Easement on behalf of the United States. The role of the Forest Service is to ensure that the terms and conditions of the Easement are satisfied and does not include active involvement with management. The WMNF staff serve as advisors to the state and provide assistance when needed, primarily with management support and technical advice.

ARE THERE ANY THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THE PROPERTY?

There are 5 rare plant species identified on the property in as many locations. They are: Black Crowberry, Marsh Horsetail, Three-forked Rush, Broad-lipped Twayblade, and Millet-grass. Four of the five are listed as threatened by the NH Native Plant Protection Act. The other, Three-forked Rush, is relatively rare but is not state-listed. All of these plants occur within designated natural preserve areas.

No federally listed animal species are known to breed on the property. Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles nest within 20 miles of the property and may frequent the Forest from time to time. Several state listed animal species occur or potentially occur on the property. Common Loons nest regularly and Northern Harriers have nested in some years. Lynx and Marten may occur as transients if not residents.

WILL HUNTING AND TRAPPING BE ALLOWED?

Yes. Hunting and trapping will be permitted in accordance with state law.

WILL THERE BE ANY NEW (HIKING) TRAILS?

Only modest increases in the trail system are under consideration, such as adding a hiking loop via a short connector between the Percy Peak Trail and an old logging road (north of the Peak) that follows Long Mountain Brook down to Nash Stream. A Nash Stream Trails Advisory Group is recommended in the Management Plan to assess the current trail system, its condition and use, and recommend trail improvements. It is recommended that the Trails Advisory Group consist of representatives of hiking, dog sledding, cross country skiing, bicycling, hiking and snowmobiling to ensure adequate representation of these user groups.

WILL CAMPING BE ALLOWED?

Camping is not currently available. By department policy, camping is not allowed on any state

forest or park where overnight camping facilities are not available. The Management Plan does not recommend development of a campground or camping facilities. However, the Plan leaves open the possibility of future backcountry camping along selected hiking trails, subject to the availability of staff and funds for proper monitoring and maintenance.

ARE THERE PLANS TO STOCK FISH?

Yes. Stocking will occur where natural spawning is poor or non-existent. Lower Trio Pond, Little Bog Pond, and possibly Whitcomb Pond will be stocked annually with brook trout. Until the status of the wild trout population in Nash Stream can be determined, stocking of hatchery brook trout in the mainstem will continue. Nash Stream is unlikely to support a recreation fishery in the near future without an annual stocking program due to a current lack of pool habitat in the stream.

WILL THERE BE A CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHERIES PROGRAM?

Fisheries management will emphasize natural populations of fish species consistent with habitat capabilities of the ponds and streams. Special fishing regulations such as catch-and-release, minimum fish lengths, and fishing gear restrictions may be implemented to protect spawning stock in order to maintain wild populations of brook trout.

HOW MUCH OF THE FOREST WILL BE NATURAL PRESERVE OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED?

About 46% (18,339 acres) of the Forest is considered ecologically significant, fragile or sensitive and will be preserved or under restricted management. Much of this area coincides with boundaries of areas on which the Conservation Easement prohibits logging (10,665 acres). Protection will be accomplished by several means as follows:

Natural preserves (8,113 acres) are areas of uncommon ecological significance that encompass 9 different natural communities and 1 pond located primarily on the side slopes and mountain tops of Sugarloaf, Whitcomb and Long Mountains and Percy Peaks. There will be no intentional disturbances to these areas.

Preserve buffers (5,115 acres) are lands surrounding natural preserves with soils and topography capable of serving as shock absorbers to protect natural preserves. Management activities will be limited in preserve buffers.

A corridor (515 acres) of pure softwood forest forms a natural drainageway connecting the natural preserves and buffer areas on Whitcomb and Long Mountains. This corridor is located just west of Little Bog Pond.

A 150 foot zone around each pond is protected from logging by the Conservation Easement. These zones total 55 acres.

Other high elevation sites above 2,700 feet elevation where logging is prohibited by the Conservation Easement and not otherwise protected total 49 acres. Other steep slopes of 35% or more where logging is prohibited by the Conservation Easement and not otherwise protected total 925 acres. Other wet, rocky or otherwise fragile soils not otherwise protected total 3,050 acres. And, other fragile mountain tops below 2,700 feet elevation total 516 acres.

<i>Natural Preserves and Other Protected Areas</i>	
DESIGNATION	ACRES
Natural Preserves	8,113
Natural Preserve Buffers	5,116
Corridor	515
150 ft. Pond Buffers	55
Other High Elevation >2,700 ft.	49
Other Mountain Tops <2,700 ft.	516
Other Steep Slopes >35%	925
Other Group II Soils	3,050
TOTAL	18,339

WHAT ARE CONTROL AREAS AND WHY ARE THEY NECESSARY?

One control area will be established in each natural community type under timber management for the purpose of comparing unmanaged (control) areas to ecologically similar areas subjected to logging. This provides a means of assessing the impact of timber management on ecological resources called for in the "Vision".

Although established under different criteria, control areas will also complement natural preserves because they will help preserve, for study, natural communities not represented in natural preserves. In this manner, control areas will help satisfy the "Management Vision" that calls for *"The system of core natural areas will include representatives of the full range of ecological communities..."*.

WHY ARE MOST OF THE NATURAL PRESERVES HIGH ELEVATION ECOSYSTEMS?

High elevation sites, more than any other locations, qualify for natural preserve designation by existing department standards. High elevation sites (above 2,700 feet elevation) remain the least impacted by human activity and contain rare elements or

exemplary natural communities that have retained most, if not all, of their natural character, and/or contain features of scientific and/or educational interest. A total of 8,113 acres of the Forest qualify as natural preserve, of which 8,099 acres are at high elevations on which the Conservation Easement prohibits logging.

HOW DOES THE EASEMENT AFFECT TIMBER MANAGEMENT?

The Conservation Easement protects and conserves resources with a primary emphasis on the sustained yield of forest products. Logging is prohibited on 27% (or 10,665 acres) of the forest which consists of steep slopes (2,462 acres), high elevation (8,148 acres), and buffers (55 acres) around Lower Trio Pond, Whitcomb Pond and Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Pond.

The Easement also requires that timber be managed on a sustained yield basis; clearcuts be no larger than 30 acres; clearcuts total less than 15% of the total easement area in any ten year period; logging on areas near streams, ponds and public highways are subject to the provisions of state law; logging shall be conducted in conformance with current federal and state laws and regulations, including use of "best management practices" for erosion control and other activities.

HOW MUCH OF THE FOREST WILL BE MANAGED FOR TIMBER?

More than half (52%) of the Nash Stream Forest will be managed under a multiple-use, sustained yield timber management program. Occasional and restricted timber cutting will be allowed on another 22% of the forest (e.g. buffers, corridors, Group II soils) but only to enhance non-timber values such as wildlife habitat or recreation resources. The remainder of the property is considered ecologically sensitive or protected from logging by the Conservation Easement.

HOW SOON WILL THE FIRST STATE TIMBER HARVEST TAKE PLACE?

It is hoped that the first commercial timber sale will be made within two years of formal adoption of the Management Plan. However, the immediate potential for significant sawlog harvests is low. A 1988 timber cruise identified only 11% (3,140 acres) of forest as sawtimber size (≥ 9.6 inches in diameter) with limited commercial value because it is widely scattered. However, there are significant widespread opportunities for commercial thinning operations over many areas, and since the Forest is restocking through growth, there is a bright future for long-term yield of timber products.

Q & A's (continued)

WILL THERE BE CLEARCUTTING?

Yes. Clearcutting is allowed by the Conservation Easement and the "Management Vision", but with restrictions. The practice will be used only when other cutting methods will not achieve timber and wildlife management goals and forest conditions defined in the "Vision."

WILL THE NASH BOG DAM BE REBUILT?

There were mixed views at the 1990 public listening sessions on whether or not to rebuild the dam. After the dam breached in 1969, a new dam was proposed at a cost of just under \$3.5 million in 1974 dollars. Lack of state and federal funding at the time caused the proposal to be shelved. The conservation easement would allow the dam to be rebuilt, at or in the immediate vicinity of the old Nash Bog Pond Dam, for fish and wildlife and recreation purposes only. However, the Management Plan does not call for rebuilding the dam.

WILL LOCAL COMMUNITIES BE PAID IN LIEU OF TAXES?

Yes. State and federal land reimbursement is authorized by RSA 219:32 which states "...any town in which national forest land and land held by the state for operation and development as state forest land are situated...may apply...for the payment of an amount not exceeding the taxes for all purposes which such town might have received from taxes on said lands...". The

amount of "taxes on said lands" is determined annually by the NH Department of Revenue Administration based on a formula. This amount is then reduced by payments towns receive from federal distributions generated from timber cuttings on the national forest system. Only White Mountain National Forest towns (Stark) receive this payment. For tax years 1990 and 1991, the state's payment, distributed to the towns of Stratford, Columbia, Stark and the unincorporated place of Odell, totaled just under \$110,000. Federal distributions for the same period totaled just under \$26,000.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER AS A SUPPORTER OF THE NASH STREAM FOREST?

Volunteers will be encouraged to participate in organized work projects or groups. Individuals and organizations should contact the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster and register their name, affiliation, and area of interest or expertise. Emphasis will be given to focused volunteer work days with logistical support from the department. Work areas for volunteers may include an appointed advisory committee, trail monitoring and maintenance, organized cleanup days, erosion control and restoration projects, natural interpretive programs, and specialized wildlife surveys to name a few. Department efforts will include maintaining a list of appropriate volunteer projects, providing safety and host training for volunteers, keeping a log of volunteer hours and accomplishments, and recognition of outstanding volunteer efforts.

DRAFT PLAN AVAILABLE

Copies of the (draft) Nash Stream Forest Management Plan are available for viewing at the following locations. Written comments on the Plan will be received **UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 1995**.

- Bedford Public Library
- NH Technical College - Fortier Library and Berlin Public Library (Berlin)
- U.S. Forest Service - Ammonoosuc Ranger Station (Bethlehem)
- Merrimack County Ext. Office (Boscawen)
- Rockingham County Ext. Office (Brentwood)
- Fiske Free Library (Claremont)
- Colebrook Public Library
- NH Law Library and Concord Public Library (Concord)
- Carroll County Ext. Office (Conway)
- Strafford County Ext. Office (Dover)
- UNH - Diamond Library (Durham)
- Franklin Public Library
- U.S. Forest Service - Androscoggin Ranger Station (Gorham)
- Groveton Public Library
- Dartmouth College Library (Hanover)
- New England College - Danforth Library (Henniker)

- Keene State College - Mason Library and Cheshire County Ext. Office (Keene)
 - Belknap County Ext. Office and Laconia Public Library (Laconia)
 - Weeks Memorial Library and North Country Resource Center (Lancaster)
 - Littleton Public Library
 - Manchester City Library, St. Anselm College - Geisel Library, and NH College - Shapiro Library (Manchester)
 - Hillsborough County Extension Office (Milford)
 - Nashua Public Library
 - Sullivan County Ext. Office (Newport)
 - Peterborough Town Library
 - Plymouth State College - Lamson Library (Plymouth)
 - Portsmouth Public Library
 - Stark Public Library
 - North Country Office - NH State Library (Twin Mountain)
 - Grafton County Ext. Office (Woodsville)
- If you have comments or questions, please call the Division of Forests and Lands in Concord, NH (603) 271-3456, or write to:
- Department of Resources and Economic Development
ATTN: Nash Stream Forest
Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

DRED
Division of Forests and Lands
P.O. Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

HOW THE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDRESSES PUBLIC CONCERNS

Two earlier public listening sessions were held in Groveton and Concord. The key points which emerged from these public sessions were:

- Maintaining local influence;
- Keeping the Nash Stream Forest tract undeveloped;
- Eliminating the gravel mining rights of Rancourt Associates;
- Providing for multiple recreation uses;
- Restoring tax yield to local towns; and
- Stressing sound forestry management practices.

This input was factored into the development of a "Vision" statement, and Management Goals and Objectives for the Nash Stream Forest's Management Plan.

Following are some examples which show how specific concerns raised at these listening sessions were addressed and implemented in the draft Management Plan. These are just two of many examples showing how public concerns have been integrated into the Management Plan.

EXAMPLE #1

PUBLIC COMMENT: *"More local input into Forest (Tract) Management."*

MANAGEMENT PLAN RESPONSE: "A Citizen Advisory Group will be appointed and scheduled to meet regularly to serve as a focused source of public input and assistance. Public notification will be made for significant proposed management activities such as timber harvests, major recreation developments, and emergency closures. Local municipalities will be notified of any actions within its boundaries that directly affects that municipality."

EXAMPLE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT: *"Maintain and protect existing roads; no new roads or trails."*

MANAGEMENT PLAN RESPONSE: "The network of existing roads will be maintained. No new permanent roads are planned. Traditional public access by conventional motor vehicle will be continued on the Main Road and Little Bog (Fourteen and a Half) Road. All other interior roads will be gated and maintained for controlled access in order to provide for public safety and prudent resource utilization and protection."

Additional public input is being sought through written comments on the draft Nash Stream Forest Management Plan. These additional comments will be factored into the final Management Plan to be completed this winter.



STATE AND FEDERAL LAND PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Section A (To Be Completed by BOT District Supervisor for Club's District)

Property Name: West side rd area Nash Stream

Town Property In: Stark NH

State Land

Federal Land

- DNCR Forest and Lands
- DNCR Parks and Recreation
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- NH Fish and Game Department
- NH Department of Transportation
- Other: _____

- National Park Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Other: _____

Property Contact: M Machinist

Title: Regional Forester

Telephone: 603 788-4157

FAX: _____

Section B (To Be Completed by Club Trail Administrator)

Remember to ATTACH a DETAILED MAP and other required supporting documents

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Why is the project necessary, purpose, benefits, etc.):

Utilize approx 1100 feet of existing snowmobile Primary corridor 5 for combined ATV/Snowmobile/Hiking route.
The property lies between existing ATV route and ATV route D and the newly constructed ATV exclusive bridge
spanning NASH Stream. This parcel already in recreational use will complete the tie between both North
South and East West ATV system adding to the economy of the entire Southern Coos county area and
more importantly eliminate the need potentially forever for ATV access to NASH Stream Road and areas.

A. If the project involves bridges, please describe them (how many, span, proposed materials, width, etc.):

NO Bridges as a 100ft bridge spanning NASH Stream has been erected already

B. Are there wetlands in the project area? Yes No

If yes, will the project require a Trails Notification be filed with DES? Yes No

If yes, describe how the club will deal with them:

NOTE: As reviewed with NH Dept of Forest and NH Bureau of Trails representatives appropriate trail culvert(s) and trail upgrades in materials will be done.

While at this time no permitting appears to be required under existing rules/statutes, should that change the NG Trails club is prepared to navigate any and all compliance needs as prescribed by rule or statute.

C. Describe existing roads/trails that are in the project area (uses, etc.):

Existing State of NH trails and logging roads known as West-side road and ATV trail C/D

The area adjacent to the 1100 foot area of consideration to the North and South are already maintained as snow corridor 5.

The only other alternative to link the existing ATV route would be to open a portion of NASH Stream road which is an undesirable option.

D. Are there any wildlife concerns in the project area such as deer yards? Yes No

If yes, describe here:

Additional Comments:

The area in question is of course owned by the State of NH and maintained for the public's use and benefit. Currently 8 mos of the year this small link is literally mostly unused by the public due to gates and bars. While not only completing the link of ATV trail system to all areas North/South/East/West and the struggling economic areas of all Coos county, the opening of this link will ensure appropriate motorized and non-motorized recreation to all of NASH Stream

Date: 01 MAR 2021

Signature of Club Trail Administrator:


1. EMPEROR - 603-477-3333

Date: _____

Signature of BOT District Supervisor: _____

From: [Guinn, William](#)
To: [REDACTED]; ["david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov"](mailto:david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov); [Elizabeth Bell](#); [Jamie Saven](#); ["kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu"](mailto:kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu); [Mason, Scott](#); [Sally Manikian](#); [Stewart, Sarah](#); [Tim Emperor](#)
Cc: [Hackley, Patrick](#); [Machinist, Margaret](#); [Boisvert, Tracey](#); [Stanwood, Sabrina](#); [Sherman, Steven](#); [Francher, Susan](#); [Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:17:16 PM
Attachments: [2021_OHRV_briefing_paper_Revised_Southern_Connector_Proposal_FINAL.pdf](#)
[Map11_Recreation.pdf](#)

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is the Tech Team report on the revised Southern Connector OHRV Trail Proposal. Also attached is the recreation map from the 2017 management plan for your reference. The report contains a significant amount of history regarding OHRV use at Nash Stream Forest and refers to various sections of the 2017 management plan which can be found on our website here: <https://www.nh.gov/nhdfi/documents/complete-book-nash-stream-book-part-1.pdf>.

Most of you should also have hard copies of the management plan in specially prepared three-ring binders that go with your particular position on the Committee. If any new committee members were unable to obtain their binders from their predecessors, please let me know.

Below is a very brief and informal summary of the Tech Teams findings. I ask that you all read the attached document in its entirety so that we may have a well-informed discussion regarding this new proposal.

1. Only 13 of the 14 abutting property owners have signed an agreement granting the necessary permission to cross their lands.
2. There is a raptor nest within 330' feet of the proposed route which is not permissible under the Course and Fine filter for state lands.
3. The Tech Team is proposing the use of OHRV counters and existing studies of the impacts of OHRV traffic on wildlife to set two pre-determined thresholds on the longer West Side Road portion of the West Side Trail:
 - a. If increased OHRV traffic reaches the first threshold, a seasonal restriction on the use of this portion of the trail would go into effect, limiting use in the spring during sensitive species breeding seasons.
 - b. If OHRV traffic continued to increase to the second threshold, the West Side Road portion of the West Side Trail would be closed.
 - c. In both scenarios, the shorter Bordeau Trail section of the West Side Trail would remain open to allow passage from the Southern Connector Trail.
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Again, this summary only scratches the surface of the attached report. Please take the time to read it all. I will see everyone next Tuesday evening.

Thank you.

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William T. Guinn, Administrator

Forest Management Bureau
NH Division of Forests and Lands
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2645
nh.gov/nhdf

From: Guinn, William

Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:12 PM

To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
Jamie Sayen <[REDACTED]>; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
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From: Guinn, William

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
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[Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
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Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:22:54 PM
Attachments: [Public Comments.pdf](#)

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Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:16 PM
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[Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:05:24 AM
Attachments: [Public Comments 2.pdf](#)

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-Will

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Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:23 PM
To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; [Elizabeth Bell](#) [REDACTED];
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nh.gov/nhdf

From: Guinn, William

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell [REDACTED];
Jamie Sayen [REDACTED]; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
<kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu>; Mason, Scott <Scott.R.Mason@wildlife.nh.gov>;

[REDACTED]; Sally
Manikian <[REDACTED]>; Stewart, Sarah <Sarah.L.Stewart@dncr.nh.gov>; Tim Emperor
<[REDACTED]>

Cc: Hackley, Patrick <Patrick.D.Hackley@dncr.nh.gov>; Machinist, Margaret
<Margaret.O.Machinist@dncr.nh.gov>; Boisvert, Tracey <Tracey.L.Boisvert@dncr.nh.gov>;
Stanwood, Sabrina <Sabrina.m.stanwood@dncr.nh.gov>; Sherman, Steven
<Steven.L.Sherman@dncr.nh.gov>; Francher, Susan <susan.r.francher@dncr.nh.gov>; Rennie, Craig
<Craig.D.Rennie2@dncr.nh.gov>; Savage, Clinton <Clinton.J.Savage@dncr.nh.gov>; Bryce, Philip
<Philip.a.Bryce@dncr.nh.gov>

Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is the agenda for the November 16th Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting. I have also attached the *revised* Southern Connector OHRV Trail request and some maps of the new route for your review prior to the meeting. The Technical Team is scheduled to conduct a site review of the new route on Nash Stream Forest later this month. I will provide you with feedback from the group after the visit and prior to the meeting as well.

As it has been over two years since we last met, and there are several new members, I am providing a brief synopsis of what has transpired regarding the Southern Connector OHRV Trail proposal.

The Southern Connector Trail Proposal (discussed in the 2017 management plan, Pgs. 160-161) was put forth as a means to reach fuel and amenities south of Nash Stream via the existing Bordeaux and Westside OHRV Trails on the west side of the property (these two trails were established in the 2002 management plan amendment). The initial Southern Connector Trail proposal was over a mile long, and involved crossing Nash Stream over an existing snowmachine bridge on the property, as well as utilizing a portion of the Nash Stream Road that provides access for camp owners, public recreation, and forest management activities. There was no unified consensus from the Tech Team review when this trail proposal was presented to the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee in June of 2019, but rather a compilation of individual comments/concerns. This resulted in the Committee tabling the proposal and asking the Tech Team to provide additional information to make a decision. Due to the potential impacts of the initial proposal, the amount and depth of information the Tech Team identified for collection was extensive and costly, and as a result the project stalled. In the meantime, newly installed NH Snowmobile Club Representative for the Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee, Tim Emperor, secured permission from the individual landowners adjacent to the property that would allow for a much shorter route utilizing an existing woods road/corridor snowmachine trail, resulting in the revised proposal - see attachments.

I hope this summary helps to refresh everyone's memories for now, and this topic will be presented and discussed in much greater detail at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all next month.

-Will

William T. Guinn, Administrator

Forest Management Bureau
NH Division of Forests and Lands
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2645
nh.gov/nhdf

From: Guinn, William

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:35 PM

To: [REDACTED];
[REDACTED];
'david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov' <david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov>; Elizabeth Bell <[REDACTED]>;
Jamie Sayen <[REDACTED]>; 'kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu'
<kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu>; Mason, Scott <Scott.R.Mason@wildlife.nh.gov>;
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Stanwood, Sabrina <Sabrina.m.stanwood@dncr.nh.gov>; Sherman, Steven
<Steven.L.Sherman@dncr.nh.gov>; Francher, Susan <susan.r.francher@dncr.nh.gov>
Subject: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

Hello Committee Members,

Please save the date of Tuesday, November 16th for a long overdue, in-person meeting at the Lancaster office from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Agenda to follow in early October.

Thank you.

-Will

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From: [Guinn, William](#)
To: [REDACTED]; ["david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov"](mailto:david.scanlan@sos.nh.gov); [Elizabeth Bell](#); [Jamie Saven](#); ["kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu"](mailto:kevin.s.evans@dartmouth.edu); [Mason, Scott](#); [Sally Manikian](#); [Stewart, Sarah](#); [Tim Emperor](#)
Cc: [Hackley, Patrick](#); [Machinist, Margaret](#); [Boisvert, Tracey](#); [Stanwood, Sabrina](#); [Sherman, Steven](#); [Francher, Susan](#); [Rennie, Craig](#); [Savage, Clinton](#); [Bryce, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:52:38 PM
Attachments: [Nash Stream COMMITTEE AGENDA 11-16-21.pdf](#)
[Revised Southern Connector Request.pdf](#)
[nash_stream_southern_connector2021.jpg](#)
[Proposed New ATV Route USE.pdf](#)

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Subject: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee Meeting

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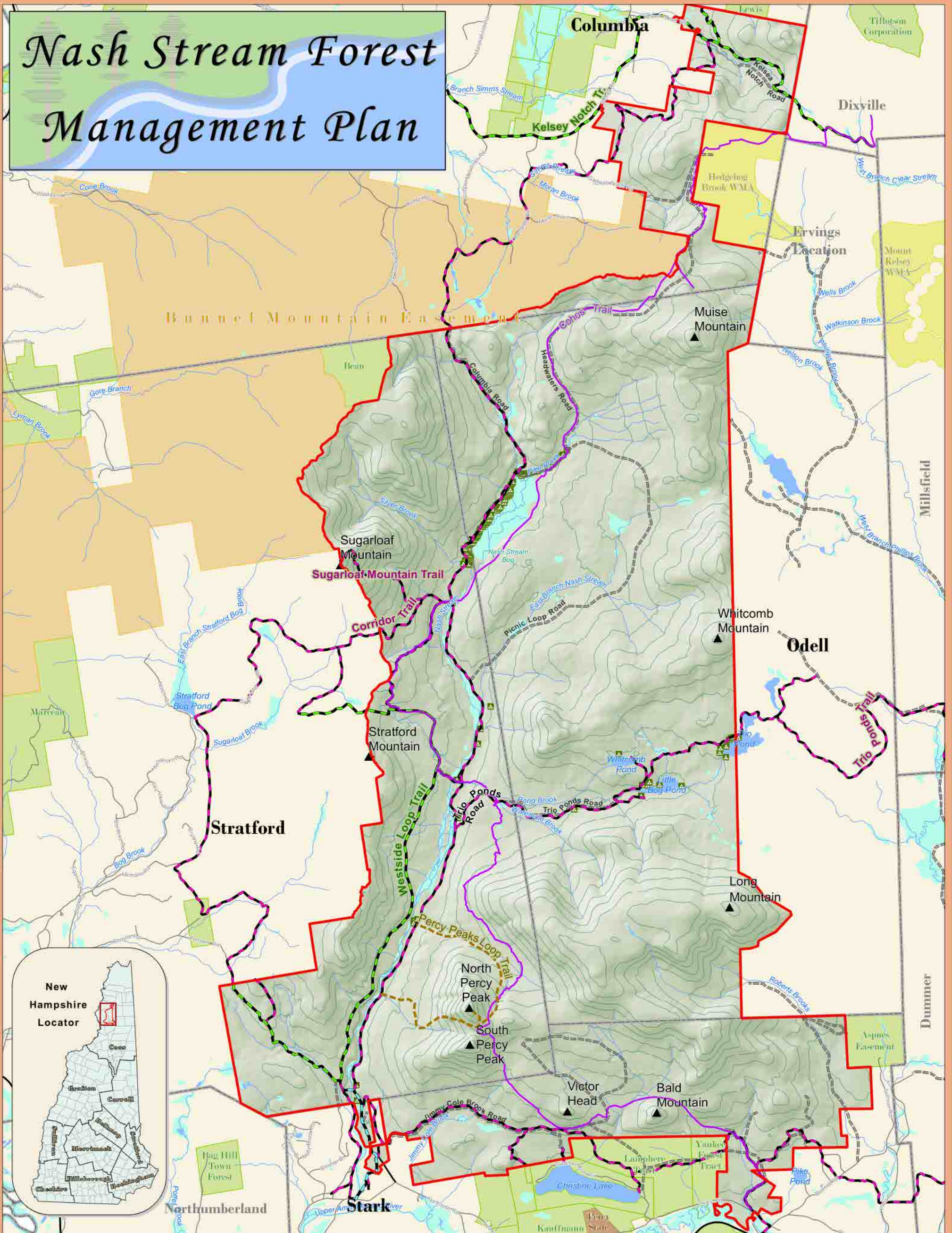
Thank you.

-Will

William T. Guinn, Administrator

Forest Management Bureau
NH Division of Forests and Lands
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2645
nh.gov/nhdf

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



- Multi-Use Trails with Snowmobile Usage
- Multi-Use Trails with ATV Usage
- Proposed South Connector (ATV)
- The Cohos Trail
- Percy Peaks Loop Trail
- Woods Road
- Peaks

- Camp Leases
- Nash Stream Forest Property Boundary
- DNCR Lands
- DNCR Conservation Easement Lands
- NH Fish and Game Lands
- Other Conserved Lands

- Town Boundaries
- Rivers and Streams
- Waterbodies
- Wetlands
- Local Roads
- Main Access Road
- State Routes

Map 11: Trails & Recreation



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Last updated: 8/25/2017

Data Sources:
NH GRANIT Digital Data (1:24,000)
NH Department of Transportation
DNCR Forests & Lands

DNCR makes no representations or guarantees to the accuracy of the features and designations of this map.

Map Produced by GIS Service
DNCR Forests & Lands.
Contact: Lisa.Scott@dnr.nh.gov;
Ph: (603) 271-2679

This map is for planning purposes only. It is not to be used for legal boundary determinations or for regulatory purposes.

Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2018

Date Reviewed: September 6, 2018 (Clint, Maggie and Chris Holt)
October 8, 2018

In attendance: Will Staats, Clint Savage, Conor Quinlan and Maggie Machinist

Overview- The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is required to complete and submit an environmental compliance report to CORD annually. This report is a requirement of the conditional approval to keep the Kelsey Notch Trail open.

Recommendations from 2017

There were a few recommendations that were made to minimize erosion in 2017:

-Additional culverts should be added to the trail leading to Colebrook to minimized scouring in the ditch line.

-During the summer of 2018 rubber water diversion devices will be added to the truck road, where the previous water bars were removed for graveling purposes.

Findings-

September

Clint, Chris Holt and Maggie walked the trail on September 9, 2018 to check the trail for any issues. We walked the first section that goes toward the northwest toward Diamond Peaks. There was some erosion on the trail, but just surface erosion. The water didn't seem to be getting into any of the water courses. We located places where there should be additional culverts added. The bridge decking was beginning to be a problem. The decking was broken in some spots on the two bridges and the approaches to the bridges were starting to erode.



Figure 1, 2 and 3- Shows the broken boards on the bridges and the eroding approaches.



Figure 4 and 5- Shows some of the wear on the trail heading toward Colebrook.

We continued up the trail toward Kelsey Notch. The steep section of this trail had some significant humps, which were caused by use. We had a discussion about installing water diversion flaps in this hill last fall and they had plans to install them this fall. There were waterbars in the hill previously but they were removed when the trail was graveled last fall.

There was a significant washout in the ditch that was caused by water overwhelming the culvert. This washout was found in the early summer, but was unable to be fixed. Additional culverts will help to divert water sooner, so that the ditches carry less water for a shorter distance.



Figure 6 and 7- Depicts the washout along the trail.

The trail had seen a lot of wear and tear in the last few weeks, which had cause some damage to the trail and some erosion on the trail. None of the erosion appeared to be directly getting into the brooks. The Trails Bureau was planning on heading out in early October to fix these issues and continue with the graveling from last year.

October

On October 8, 2018 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Will Staats, Regional Forester- Maggie Machinist and Forest Technician-Conor Quinlan as the official monitoring trip.

Section 1- The section of the trail that was monitored first was the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook and Diamond Peaks. Five new culverts had been recently added as well as the trail shaped up. Installation of these new culverts was very good; they had good exits and headers. Most of the new culverts had already been seeded and mulched but there were 2 spots that needed additional mulch. The bridges still need to be re-decked and fascia boards should be added to eliminate silt from entering the brooks.

This section of the trail looked like it was in good condition following the repairs.



Figure 8 and 9- Picture on right shows the good exits of the newly installed culverts. Picture on left shows the rubber water diversion devices installed.



Figure 10- Depicts the repaired approach to the bridge, however, still shows the decking that needs replacing.

Section 2- Next we headed up toward Kelsey Notch and the boundary line. This main section had been re-shaped and water diversion devices (rubber flaps) had been installed on the main hill. The upper section of trail was currently being graveled while we were visiting. The significant washout that was previously noted from the last visit had been repaired and armored with rip-rap stone, which will help in the future. Four new culverts were added to this upper section above the washout.



Figure 11 and 12- Depicts the newly fixed and armored ditch where the washout was previously. Also shows a newly installed culvert.

All recommendations from last year were addressed this fall. There was a discussion about trying to get to some of the repairs before the end of the season; however, the Trails Bureau was concerned that funds wouldn't be available to complete repairs more than once a season.

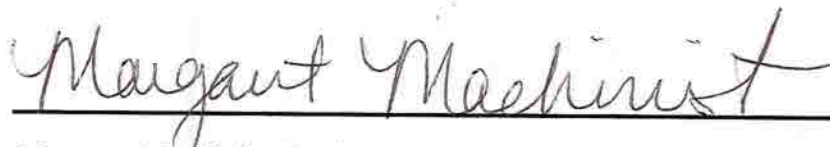
Recommendations-

There were a couple of recommendations that were made to continue to approve the trail:

- The bridges need to be re-decked to alleviate safety concerns
- Fascia boards should be added to the bridges to eliminate sediment getting into the brooks.

-There was a recommendation to seed two section on the lower trail; however, these sections have already been seeded since our visit.

Conclusion- The trail had just been re-shaped and graded from top to bottom, as well as graveled some of the upper sections, therefore the condition of the trail when we were there was very good. Based upon the multiple times staff visited these trails throughout the summer, there was significant use of the trail. There will always be a level of wear on these trails due to the nature of ATVs and the amount of traffic that this trail sees. Though there was minor erosion occurring on the surface of the trails it did not appear to be going into any brooks. The trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, however, it will be continued to be monitored next season. It would be beneficial to visit the trail earlier in the summer before annual maintenance is completed to see the level of use as well as a follow up after. The trail is closed for the season.



Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester

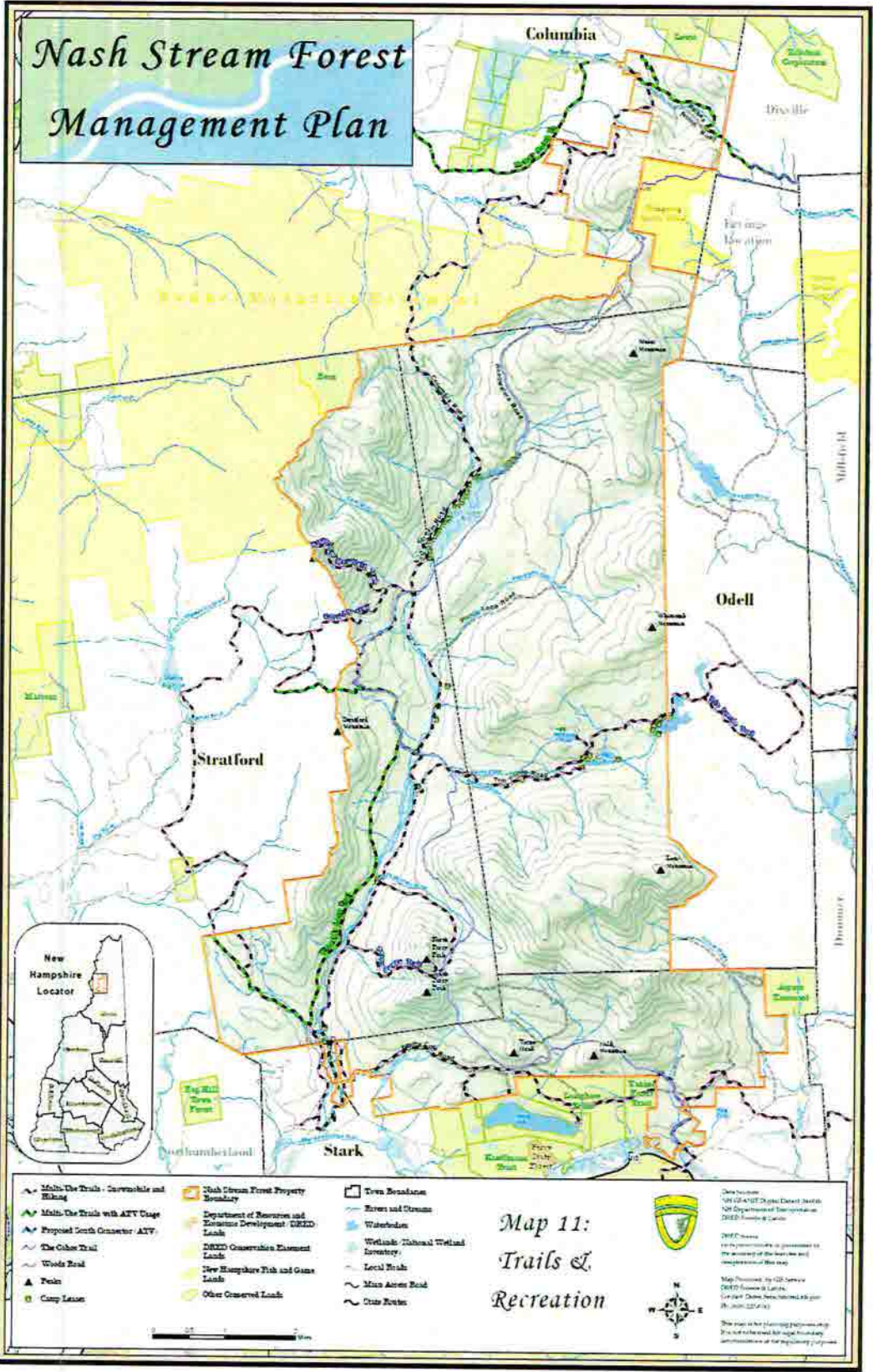


Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor



Will Staats, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



- Multi-Use Trails - Automobile and Biking
- Multi-Use Trails with ATV Usage
- Proposed South Connector - ATV
- The Coburn Trail
- Woods Road
- ▲ Peak
- Camp Location
- Nash Stream Forest Property Boundary
- Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) Land
- DRED Conservation Element Land
- New Hampshire Fish and Game Land
- Other Conserved Land
- Town Boundary
- Rivers and Streams
- Watershed
- Wetland / Natural Wetland Inventory
- Local Road
- Main Access Road
- Cross Route

Map 11:
Trails &
Recreation



Drawn by:
UNH & NH State Forest Service
NH Department of Resources and Economic Development
DRED Land Office

DRED is not responsible for the accuracy of the data used and interpretation of the map.

Map Produced by: GIS Service
DRED Land Office
Contact: Dana, 603.224.4300 ext. 224.4300

This map is for planning purposes only. It is not intended for legal boundary determination or for regulatory purposes.



Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2019

Date Reviewed: September 23, 2019

In attendance: Will Staats (NHFG), Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau), and Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands)

Overview- The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is required to complete and submit an environmental compliance report to CORD annually. This report is a requirement of the conditional approval to keep the Kelsey Notch Trail open.

Recommendations from 2018

-The bridges need to be re-decked to alleviate safety concerns

-Fascia boards should be added to the bridges to eliminate sediment getting into the brooks.

Worked completed in 2019

In mid-June, Chris Gamache, from the Trails Bureau, put out a trail counter on the Kelsey Notch Trail for the OHRV season. The information has not yet been gathered.

On August 8, Clint inspected the trail in Kelsey. The trail was in good shape. The bridges on the trail that heads towards Diamond Peaks need some work, including re-decking. The ATV Club did receive a GIA Grant from the Trail Bureau to rebuild 5 bridges. Unfortunately, due to the continuing resolution with the State budget the money for the project was unavailable. Once the budget passed, the materials for the bridges were ordered. However, at this point the bridges are planned to be installed in the spring.

On September 17, 2019, the Bureau of Trails began grading and rock raking the entire Kelsey Notch trail system.

On October 14, 2019, Clint checked the trail while the Trails Bureau was working on an abutting property. When the abutter's work was complete, the bulldozer dressed up the Kelsey Notch trail and addressed any issues now that the trail was closed for the season.

Findings

On September 23, 2019 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Will Staats and Regional Forester-Maggie Machinist as the official monitoring trip.

The entire trail had been graded just days before our visit, so the trail was in good condition and there was little evidence of wear on the trails.

Section 1- The section of the trail that was monitored first was the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook and Diamond Peaks. We walked out to the property line. Last year there was a recommendation to re-deck the bridges and add fascia boards to eliminate sedimentation. The Trails Bureau had plans to re-deck these bridges this past summer, however, due to the continued resolution and budget constraints they were unable to. The bridges are safety concerns and need to be addressed as soon as possible.

The first pitch on the trail right from the intersection is usually a trouble spot that has had erosion issues in the past, however, the trail was just recently graded and that section was repaired before our visit.

There was minor wear on the trail toward the end near the boundary line and some evidence of siltation in the ditches but overall this section of trail was in good condition following the maintenance.



Figure 1 and 2- Shows the broken boards on the bridges that need to be replaced.

Section 2- Next we headed up toward Kelsey Notch and the boundary line. This main section had been re-shaped and water diversion devices (rubber flaps) had been installed on the main hill last year. Due to the recent grading and trail maintenance, the trail was in good condition all the way to the boundary.

Recommendations-

There were a couple of recommendations made from last year that did not occur that need to be completed this upcoming season in order to continue to approve the trail:

- The bridges need to be re-decked to alleviate safety concerns
- Fascia boards should be added to the bridges to eliminate sediment getting into the brooks.

Conclusion- The trail had just been re-shaped and graded from top to bottom, therefore the condition of the trail when we were there was very good. It is imperative that the bridges be re-decked as soon as possible once the trail is opened. It will be interesting, once the data comes in from the counters to see how much usage the trail has throughout the season. The trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, however, it will be continued to be monitored next season. It would be beneficial to visit the trail earlier in the summer before annual maintenance is completed to see the level of use and visit several times throughout the season. The trail is closed for the season.



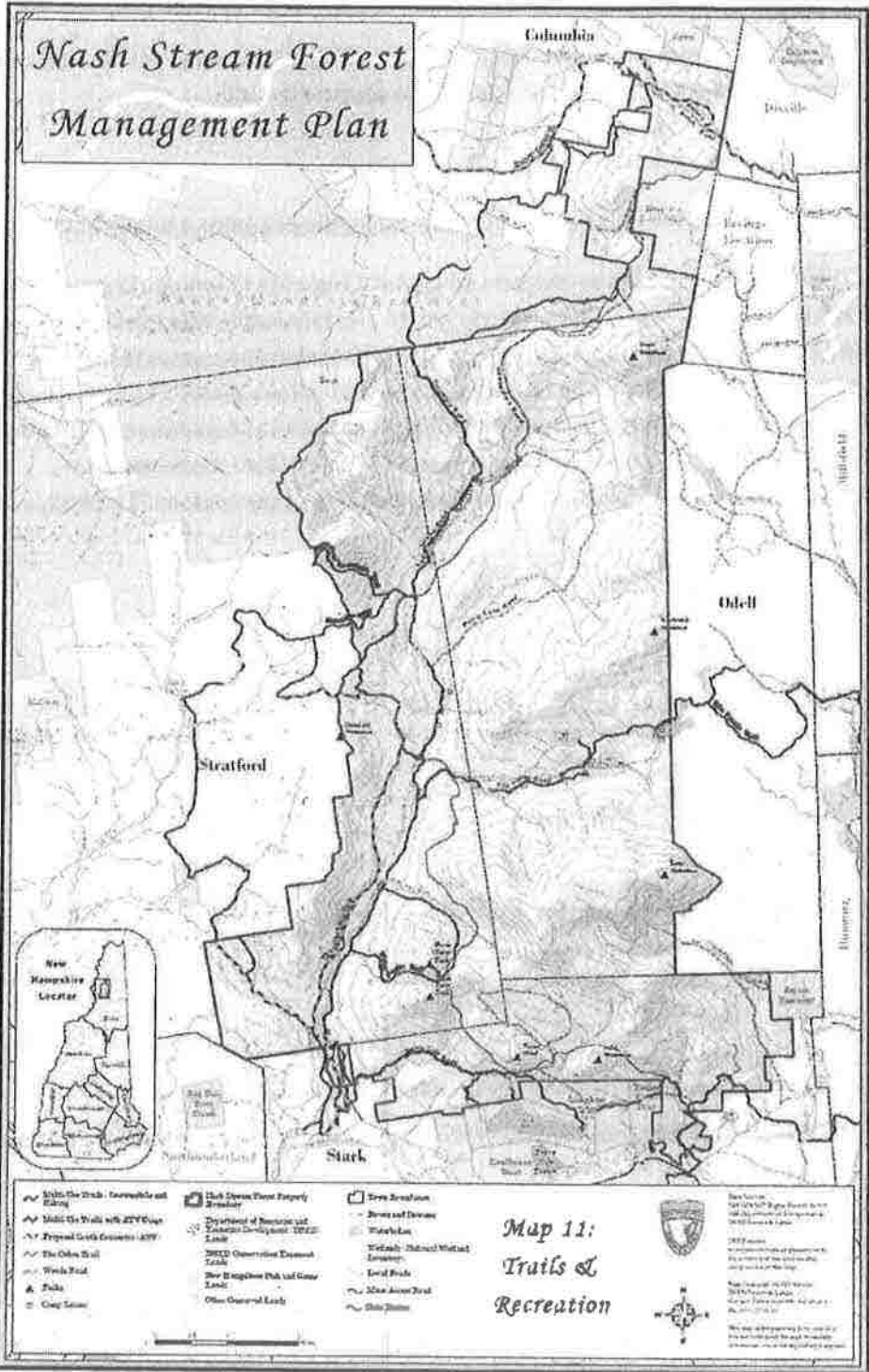
Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester



Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor

Will Staats, Regional Wildlife Biologist (retired before this report was completed)

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Intra-Department Communication

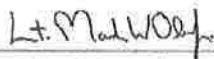
TO: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee
Council on Resources and Development

FROM: Lt. Mark W. Ober, Jr.
District One Chief

DATE: October 14, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 NASH STREAM ENFORCEMENT MEMO

OHRV enforcement actions in the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail and West Side Trails of the Nash Stream Forest was uneventful during the 2019 OHRV riding season. There was one documented warning to a rider who had operated from the Stratford Trail system to the West Side Trail when the trail was supposed to be closed. This violation occurred after the opening of the trail system, but Stratford delayed their opening and did not properly sign the trail closed. There were no reported accidents or crashes on these trails throughout the riding season.



Lt. Mark W. Ober, Jr.
District One Chief

Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2020

Date Reviewed: October 9, 2020

In attendance: Jake DeBow (NHFG) , Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau), and Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands)

Overview- The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is required to complete and submit an environmental compliance report to CORD annually. This report is a requirement of the conditional approval to keep the Kelsey Notch Trail open.

Recommendations from 2019

- The bridges needed to be re-decked to alleviate safety concerns
- Fascia boards should be added to the bridges to eliminate sediment getting into the brooks.

There were a couple of recommendations made from last year that were completed, including re-decking the bridges and adding fascia boards. Partial fascia boards were added to the bridges, but in some spots, there was a little erosion occurring at the edge of the bridge.

Worked completed in 2020

In 2019, Chris Gamache, from the Trails Bureau, put out a trail counter on the Kelsey Notch Trail for the OHRV season, but the information was not available for the last monitoring report. The counter total came in at 2508 trips, but approximately 100 trips were from maintenance vehicles. The counters were out on the trail from July to October.

In August, the Trails Bureau re-built 5 bridges within the Kelsey Notch trail system. These bridges were supposed to be have built in 2018, but due to state budgets the money was not allocated until 2020. Their crew also spent 2 weeks completing trail maintenance with an excavator including re-shaping the trail, cleaning out the water diversion bars, cleaning out ditches where necessary, and general maintenance where needed.

Findings

Regional Forester, Maggie Machinist and Forester, Todd Caron, visited the trail in early August. The trail had not had any maintenance done for the year yet. This trail sees quite a bit of traffic and there is wear and tear on the trail at most times. Some of the hills had some washing and it was very bumpy (washboard), but none of it seemed to be getting into the larger streams, but there was evidence of erosion into the intermittent brooks and drainage ditches. It was obvious that the bridges were overdue to be re-decked and appeared to be dangerous.

On October 9, 2020 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Jake DeBow and Regional Forester-Maggie Machinist as the official monitoring trip.

We stopped and looked at the two bridges nearest to the boundary and entrance, which were re-decked during the summer of 2020. These bridges were planned to be replaced in 2019, but the RTP funds were delayed and then there was a delay getting pressure treated wood. The bridges looked good and were built to standards to withhold a loaded log truck.



Figure 1- Newly built bridge

Then, we walked up the section of the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook and Diamond Peaks. We walked out to the property line. Last year there was a recommendation to re-deck the bridges and add fascia boards to eliminate sedimentation. This project was finally completed after unexpected delays. Three new bridges were installed in this section of the trail, and they looked good. These bridges were made with steel I-beams and should last for a while. There was a small amount of silt washing on the approach to the bridge, hopefully, this does not continue. Some fascia boards seemed to be missing during installation.



Figure 2- Minor sediment washing on edge of bridge

There was wear on the trail toward the end near the boundary line (southwest section of trail) and some evidence of siltation in the ditches but overall this section of trail was in good condition and was a very hard packed trail.



Figure 3- Shows condition of trail

Section 2- Next we headed up toward Kelsey Notch and the boundary line. This main section had been re-shaped, ditches cleaned out and water diversion devices (rubber flaps) had been cleaned out. Due to the recent grading and trail maintenance, the trail was in good condition all the way to the boundary, however the rubber flaps were already filled with sedimentation again.



Figure 4- Showing the water diversion device

Each year, the sharp corner leading up to Kelsey Notch gets a significant berm. This happens from the dirt and rocks getting kicked out as the OHRVs turn and head up the hill, exacerbated with speed.



Figure 5- Shows berm on corner of trail

This year, we observed phragmites growing next to the trail in the ditch. This was not observed last year, but it may have been overlooked. There were a few spots that had small populations of this invasive species. It should be treated so that it is not spread. While the source of the invasive is not exactly known, it is logical to conclude that it was brought in either on equipment working on the trail or by ATV's.



Figure 6- Shows invasive species, phragmites

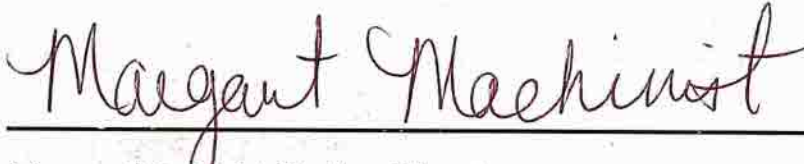
See additional attached comments from the Fish and Game Department.

Recommendations-

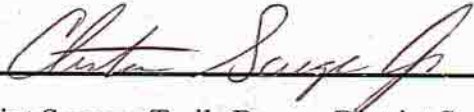
- Treat the invasive species with herbicide to minimize the spread. Flag those areas so that future road work and trail maintenance does not disturb those areas and spread the phragmites.
- Continue to monitor the amount of washing on the edge of the bridge
- Continue to monitor and clean out the rubber water diversion devices

Conclusion- The trail is in good shape though there is some minor erosion and sedimentation. The new bridges look great and will improve safety on the trail dramatically as well as reduce sedimentation. It was upsetting to find invasive species on the trail and it will be imperative to manage this with herbicide so that it does not get out of control. The trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, however, it will be continued to be monitored. It would be beneficial

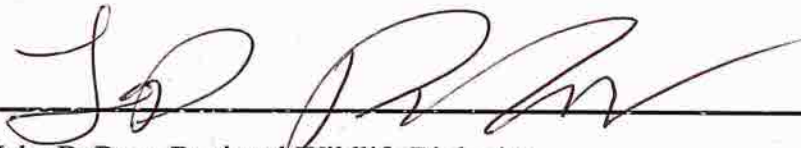
to visit the trail earlier several time throughout the season to see the level of use prior to maintenance. The trail is closed for the season.



Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester

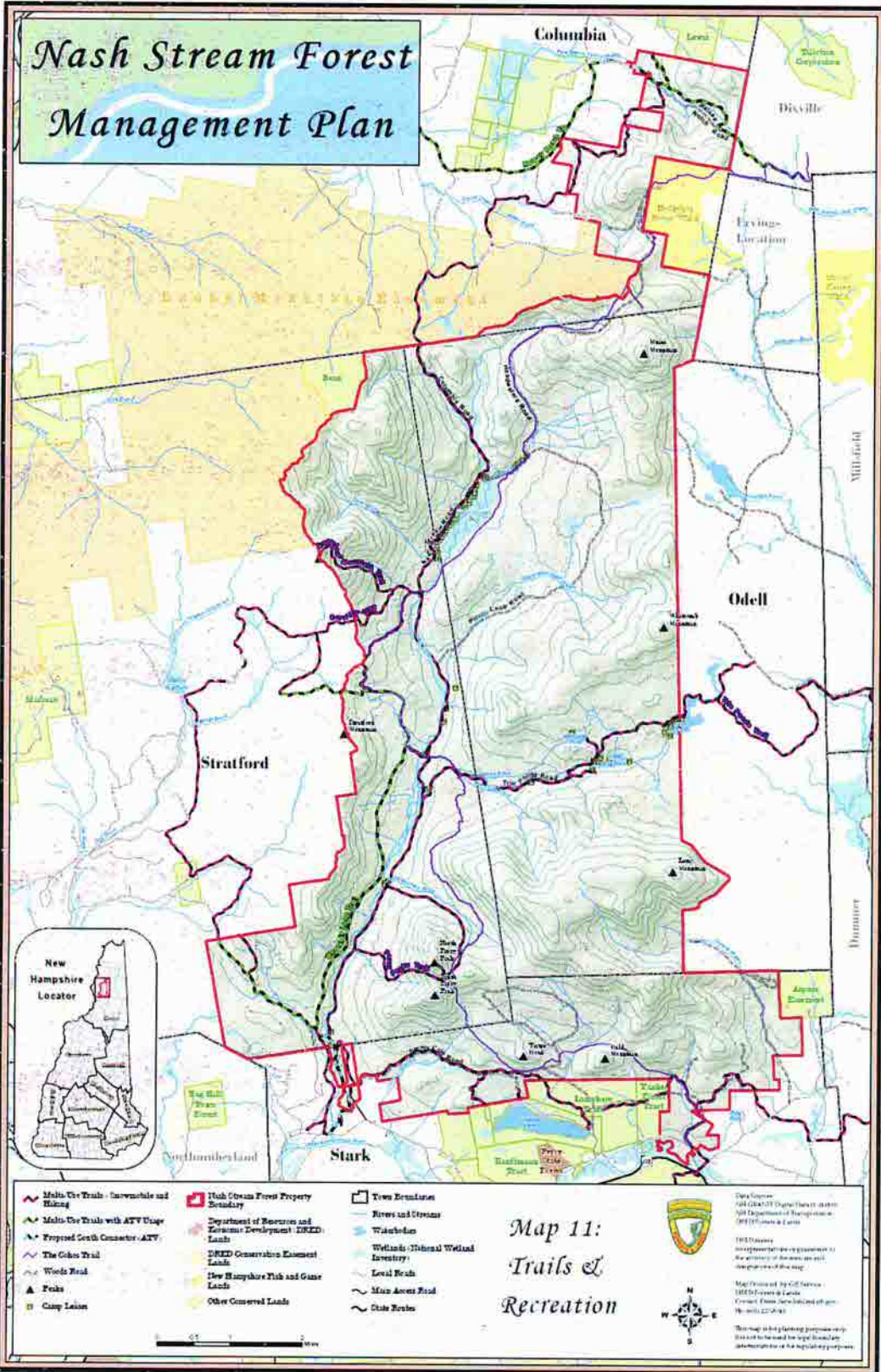


Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor



Jake DeBow, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan





New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

HEADQUARTERS: 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
(603) 271-3421
FAX (603) 271-1438

www.WildNH.com
e-mail: info@wildlife.nh.gov
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Attachment 1

New Hampshire Fish and Game **Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2020**

On Friday, October 9th, 2020 Regional Wildlife Biologist Jacob DeBow accompanied Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands) and Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau) to the portion of the Kelsey Notch Trail that crosses Nash Stream Forest for the annual monitoring visit. During this visit we viewed all of the approximate 3 miles of trail that occurs within the boundaries of the Nash Stream Forest.

On this section of trail we saw multiple steel beam bridges with wooden decking that were installed this previous summer. These bridges allow for the free flow of water within their natural channels and the movement of various reptile, amphibian, and small mammal species that may utilize the brooks. Some slight erosion is showing at the lip of two bridges. Sedimentation from runoff and settling dust from high trail use is of concern in these runoff streams for wildlife that require clean and clear water.

On the section of trail that we viewed minor erosion had occurred in no more than three sections of trail. Here minor erosion is defined as small grooves washed out of trail, into the ditch. The steepest section of trail that heads into Kelsey Notch proper showed signs of wash boarding. From what was witnessed the wear and tear on the trails is what would be expected of a high use ATV trail.

In summary, New Hampshire Fish and Game has continued concern surrounding the intensity of use on this section of trail and how increased use affects ecological integrity of Nash Stream Forest and the surrounding subwatersheds. The condition of the trail appeared adequate during the site review, but varied levels of use influences this ecosystem, as well as others, differently. In particular, sedimentation from OHRV's impacts terrestrial and aquatic habitat and increased noise pollution from higher traffic and loud machines is of concern as it displaces wildlife.

This section of trail crosses multiple first order streams, which form the headwaters of Simms Stream. The East Branch flows directly into Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge – Blueberry Swamp. Increased sedimentation in these upper waterbodies can be detrimental to lowland swamps and wetlands. Increased deposition can fill in high quality vernal pools and other important seasonal habitats. Sedimentation and turbidity within aquatic systems can alter food chains by depleting food sources at the highest trophic level, depress growth rates, and limit reproduction (Henley et al., 2000). Due to limited information on this section of trail we do not

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know the level of sedimentation that enters these streams but assume it to present based on observations of other ATV trails during the summer months. Localized research would have to be completed to better address this concern.

In regards to the influence of noise on local wildlife we have concern about potential increases in flight behavior around active trails (Stankowich, 2008). While little research is available from New England trails, impacts from ATV use has been documented on western wildlife like Rocky Mountain elk, showing impacts up to 3000 meters from a trail (Preisler et al., 2006). There are several steep sections of this trail which inadvertently causes ATV's to increase RPM's, creating louder noise. We have concern for how this may disrupt the normal cycles of wildlife within ear shot of the trail by interfering with breeding behavior, decreasing time spent foraging, and increasing time spent on alert and on edge as machines constantly pass by.

Sincerely,



Jacob DeBow
Regional Wildlife Biologist

Citations:

Henley, W. F., et al. "Effects of sedimentation and turbidity on lotic food webs: a concise review for natural resource managers." *Reviews in Fisheries Science* 8.2 (2000): 125-139.

Preisler, Haiganoush K., Alan A. Ager, and Michael J. Wisdom. "Statistical methods for analysing responses of wildlife to human disturbance." *Journal of Applied Ecology* 43.1 (2006): 164-172.

Stankowich, Theodore. "Ungulate flight responses to human disturbance: a review and meta-analysis." *Biological conservation* 141.9 (2008): 2159-2173.

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August 19, 2020

Via email (Michael.Klass@osi.nh.gov)
Micahel A. Klass
Principal Planner
New Hampshire Council On Resources and Development

Dear Mr. Klass and Members of CORD

I am a 75 year old retiree who enjoys recreational hiking. I have lived in Columbia NH for 20 years. This brief submission is in opposition to the continuance of the Kelsey Notch ATV Trail in the Nash Stream Forest.

On Sunday, August 16, 2020 I hiked the Kelsey Notch ATV Trail through the Nash Stream Forest. I was surprised to find no trail at all. Instead the ATV route is now a virtual two lane gravel highway constructed with untold thousands of tons of imported aggregate, gravel, and rip rap. Heavy ditching has been done on both sides of the road and the terrain has been substantially altered with what must have been very heavy road construction equipment. Evidence of recent activity by heavy tracked equipment and excavators on the roadway and shoulders was clearly visible in the Nash Stream Forest portion of the Kelsey Notch ATV "trail." Was this construction project actually supervised or managed by the State? Was an alteration of terrain permit for this construction project through the Nash Stream Forest required? I hope CORD has the answers to these questions.

Notwithstanding recent rains, fine dust was seen on the leaves of bushes and shrubs on either side of the road; and when ATV's passed us the fine dust particles thrown up were in such abundance that we had to turn away and cover our faces to avoid coughing and choking on it. When we finished the hike, I was covered with fine dust. This was not the Nash Stream Forest that we had all hoped to have preserved in perpetuity. I will not return for a hike through that portion of the Nash Stream Forest as long as its current ATV use is allowed.

On the east end of the ATV road through the Nash Stream Forest there is no gate at all. A road is currently being built on the Bayroot LLC property abutting the Nash Stream Forest on the east and that road directly joins the ATV road. Cars, trucks and other vehicles can easily enter the Nash Stream Forest on this roadway at will and there is no barrier gate or signage warning against use of the ATV road by other vehicles. The only sign is an upside down 35 mph road sign with a green ATV symbol stuck over it. On the steeper hills, a few flexible water bars have been installed but some are obviously ineffective to divert water--having been run over and become part of the road bed. There is also evidence of erosion of silt and aggregate in the ditches on either side of the road.

In my layman's view this provisional Kelsey Notch ATV highway should not be allowed to continue in existence under CORD's guidance and the plain meaning of its mandate from the NH General Court. In RSA 162-C:6, the General Court explicitly recognized that:

"the land conservation investment program was undertaken, in part, with significant donations of cash and land value by citizens of the state who intended that the conservation value of these lands be protected in perpetuity." RSA 162-C: 6.I (Emphasis added.)

In that vein, the General Court explicitly requires that:

"The council shall manage the lands acquired under the former RSA 221-A so as to preserve the natural beauty, landscape, rural character, natural resources, and high quality of life in New Hampshire." RSA 162-C: 6.III. (Emphasis added.)

To any layman, this northern portion of the Nash Stream Forest is no longer a State Forest in conservation. Its natural beauty, rural character, natural resources and high quality of life have not been maintained. It is now a dusty commercial highway and it is well on its way to becoming a corridor for the passage of all forms of commercial traffic—not just ATVs. The northern section of the Nash Stream Forest has now been divided and fragmented. It has become an unfriendly place for wildlife habitat--let alone hikers of any age. I am not an environmental expert in these matters. I can only describe what I saw, so I will let the pictures at the end of this document speak for themselves. They were all taken on Sunday, August 16, 2020.

Sincerely,

Bob Baker

The Kelsey Notch ATV Trail or Highway?



Drainage ditch with erosion and dust



Ineffective Water Bar



New Gravel covering Erosion



More erosion covered with new gravel spilling into ditch



Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2021

Date Reviewed: October 15, 2021

In attendance: Jake DeBow (NHFG-Regional Wildlife Biologist), John Magee (NHFG-Fisheries Habitat Biologist), Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau-Regional Supervisor), and Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands-Regional Forester)

Overview- The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is required to submit an environmental compliance report to CORP annually. This report is a requirement of the conditional approval, dated March 29, 2021, for the Kelsey Notch Trail.

Recommendations from the 2020 Report

- Treat the invasive species (*Phragmites australis*) with herbicide to minimize the spread. Flag those areas so that future road work and trail maintenance does not disturb those areas and spread the *Phragmites australis*.
- Continue to monitor the amount of washing on the edge of the bridge.
- Continue to monitor and clean out the rubber water diversion devices.

Worked completed in 2021

Trail Counters*

The trail was open from May 28, 2021 to October 11, 2021. There were 3 trail counters deployed from May 27, 2021 to October 15, 2021. Two of the counters had some malfunction during the season. The one on Corridor C (Figure 1) reported only 375 counts and clearly was not operating correctly. This was due to the counter being moved on August 13th after it was realized it had been tipped over and not working, and not reset properly. The other was on Corridor-C South, near the bridge over the East Branch of Simms Stream, but recorded counts (4,845) only from May 27 to September 11, 2021 at which time the battery failed. The counter on Corridor B worked properly the entire time and reported 12,293 counts. It is expected that this counter would have the most trips due to its location because it is where two trails intersect. As a reference, the trail counters were not deployed in 2020, and only one was deployed in 2019 on Corridor C-South (same location as 2021).

Kelsey Notch Trail – Corridor B: 12,293 trail counts
Date range: 5/28/21 to 10/15/21

Kelsey Notch Trail – Corridor C North: 375 trail counts
Date range: 5/28/21 to 5/29/21 (unit fell off mount and stop recording)

Kelsey Notch Trail – Corridor C South: 4,845 trail counts
Date range: 5/28/21 to 9/11/21 (battery died at end date)

*There was a previous report submitted that had different counter information. It was realized after submission that the reported values were the hours the counters had been functioning for the season, not the accurate trail count data. The amended report has the corrected values.

The trail was graded in July as part of annual maintenance. In the 2020 report, there was a note about sediment washing next to a corner of the bridge, this was repaired in 2021.

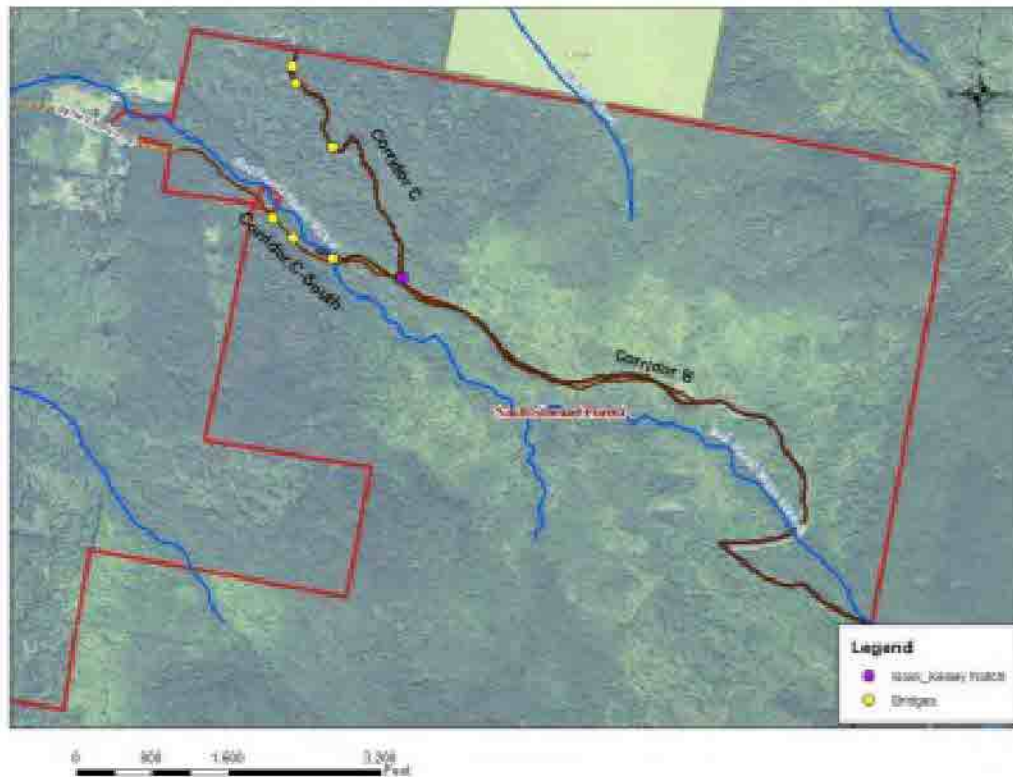


Figure 1- Map of the area showing the location of bridges, kiosk and trails labeled.

Findings

The trail was visited several times throughout the season both by Forests and Lands staff and by Trails Bureau staff. Forestry staff flagged the *Phragmites australis* on June 24, 2021 before the July trail maintenance grading and checked the condition of the trail on several dates during the OHRV season.

On October 15, 2021 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by Jake DeBow (NHFG-Regional Wildlife Biologist), John Magee (NHFG- Fisheries Habitat Biologist), Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau-Regional Supervisor), and Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands-Regional Forester) as the official monitoring trip.

We started by looking at the bridges coming onto the property, as well as the large bridge over the East Branch of Simms Stream (Corridor C-South). All three appeared to be in good condition, and the first two especially since being replaced last year. There was no apparent sediment getting into the brooks that flowed underneath the bridges.



Figure 2- Shows the condition of the bridges

Next, we moved up to the kiosk looking at the hill on the way up. Heading toward Diamond Peaks (Corridor C), we walked out toward the boundary line. This trail was very hard packed. There was minor sedimentation on the trail, meaning there was evidence of sediment that had been washed away from trail but the trail was in good condition. We did not observe evidence of sediment from the trail entering the brooks. All of the bridges had fascia boards added when they were re-decked last year, except one which was noted in the 2020 report. During 2021, the last of the fascia boards were added, and appear to be precluding any sediment from getting into the brooks.



Figure 3- Shows condition of trail and the newly added fascia boards.

Within Nash Stream Forest, near the boundary line on the trail heading toward diamond peaks (Corridor C) there was a mud hole on the trail and there was some ATV's driving in the ditch, but there was no mud getting into the stream (Figure 4).



Figure 4- Mud on trail and ATV tracks in ditch and minor sedimentation on trail from water.



Figure 5- Shows condition of trail

Section 2- Next, we headed up toward Kelsey Notch and the boundary line (Corridor B). This main section had been graded throughout the summer. The trail was in good condition. There

was one location where some sediment was running down the trail and getting into the brook next to the rock/culvert (Figure 6). There was discussion about re-grading the road on that section to grade it away from the stream and culvert.



Figure 6- Depicting the area where the water is eroding around the culvert.



Figure 7 -Shows some off trail riding

Each year, the sharp corner leading up to Kelsey Notch gets a significant berm. This happens from the dirt and rocks getting kicked out as the OHRVs turn and head up the hill, exacerbated with speed.



Figure 8- Shows berm on corner of trail

In 2020, we found a few patches of *Phragmites australis*. These were located and flagged throughout the year to identify their locations and so they could be avoided by the Metallik ATV club performing maintenance.. These areas were treated on September 3, 2021 with glyphosate by Fish and Game staff who are licensed pesticide applicators.



Figure 9- Shows invasive species, phragmites

Recommendations-

- Fix the mud hole near the property line toward Diamond Peaks (Figure 4).
- Place a culvert before the bridge at the end to address the sitting water near the mud hole (Figure 4).
- Fix culvert header where it is washing, and slope the road away from the outlet of the culvert (Figure 6).
- Continue to monitor and clean out the rubber water diversion devices that are in various locations on the trails.
- Continue to monitor and treat the invasive species. It will take many seasons to eradicate the phragmites australis, and should be treated each year during the growing season.

Conclusion- The trail is in good shape though there is some minor erosion and sedimentation. There was some sediment leaving the trail, but most of it was being contained, either naturally in vegetation or in constructed sediment basins, and not entering into the brooks. There were some minor issues that should be addressed in the upcoming year. Fish and Game continues to have concern regarding wildlife impact of ATV noise during high volume trail use days. Three of the four patches of the invasive species were treated in 2021 and all four will be treated in 2022. The trail is currently closed for the season until the spring of 2022, when conditions allow, after May 25.

Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester

Clint Savage Jr.

Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor

Jake DeBow, Regional Wildlife Biologist

John A. Magee

John Magee, Fisheries Habitat Biologist

Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2017

Date Reviewed: October 11, 2017
August 10, 2017 (Clint and Maggie)

In attendance: Will Staats, Clint Savage, Conor Quinlan and Maggie Machinist

Overview- The Council on Resource and Development (CORD) granted the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) permission to provisionally re-open the Kelsey Notch Trail at Nash Stream Forest this season for a three year pilot period. This permission was conditional upon the submittal of a coarse and fine filter assessment of the trail, an inter-agency MOA between Fish and Game, DNCR Trails Bureau and the Division of Forest and Lands, an MOA between DNCR and the local trail club. In addition an environmental compliance report was to be submitted annually at the end of each season. The information in these reports will be assessed to make a determination if the Kelsey Notch Trail is consistent with the management guidelines under RSA 162-C:6.

The trail normally is opened on May 23rd, however, on May 19th Clint Savage, District Trails Supervisor, checked the status of the trail and it was deemed not suitable to open for the season due to the wet spring and late snow melt, so the trail opening was delayed until June due to conditions. A few weeks later the trail was re-assessed, conditions had improved to allow traffic on the trail and it was opened.

The Trails Bureau graveled a section of the trail from September 21st - October 2nd. Gravel was spread on the most eastern section of the trail as well as the hill near the kiosk heading toward Colebrook. 104 loads of gravel were spread by the Trails Bureau and were purchased by the Trails Bureau and the Metallak ATV Club jointly. The Trails Bureau spent 87 man hours during the gravel project working on the trail.

Findings-

August

Clint and Regional Forester, Maggie Machinist walked the trail on August 10, 2017 to check the trail for any issues. The first section of trail that goes toward the northwest to the boundary was walked first. There was some minor erosion but the trail looked good. The surface of the trail was very hard considering the amount of rain we had before our visit. There were a few broken and loose boards across the bridges. There was some discussion about the first hill on this leg of the trail. This is a very steep section that will continue to have some runoff and possible erosion. It was recommended in August that this section of the trail be graveled or perhaps rubber water diversion devices installed.

The review continued up the trail toward Kelsey Notch. The trail had minor washing and wear on the trail, which seemed to be within normal limits. There was a discussion that the Trails Bureau would be graveling this upper section in September. There was minor siltation around one culvert.

Overall, the trail shows some wear but appears to be holding up well.



Figure 1 and 2- Signs the club put out to deter riders from driving off trail.



Figure 3 and 4- Photos of the trail surface.

October

On October 11, 2017 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Will Staats, Regional Forester- Maggie Machinist and Forest Technician-Conor Quinlan as the official environmental compliance monitoring trip.



Section 1- The section of the trail that was monitored first was the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook. New gravel had been added to the first hill from the kiosk up to the first height of land. The trail was very hard and was in good condition for the most part. Minor erosion on the trail was noted. Some work had been done to the approaches of the bridge since our August visit to make the bridge safer, however, there were still a couple of loose boards at the beginning of the bridge. There was minor sedimentation at one of the bridge crossings. The stream seemed to be fairly dry at the time of the visit. It is unclear of when that sedimentation occurred, it does not appear to be very recent and may have not occurred in this season.



Figure 6 and 7- Sections of trail along the portion leading to Colebrook

There was discussion about the minor sedimentation that is occurring and how it can be prevented or minimized. It was determined that the sedimentation was not entering into the water courses for the most part and was just washing into the ditches. Unfortunately, due to the nature of ATV trails, some sedimentation will always occur and may not be preventable. Continued regular maintenance will be the best way to prevent erosion by re-establishing a crown and improve shedding of water off of the trail.

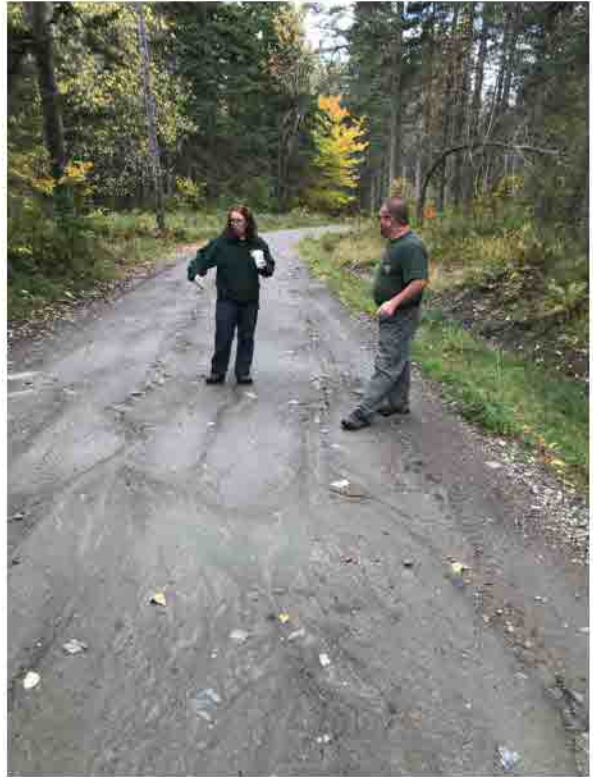
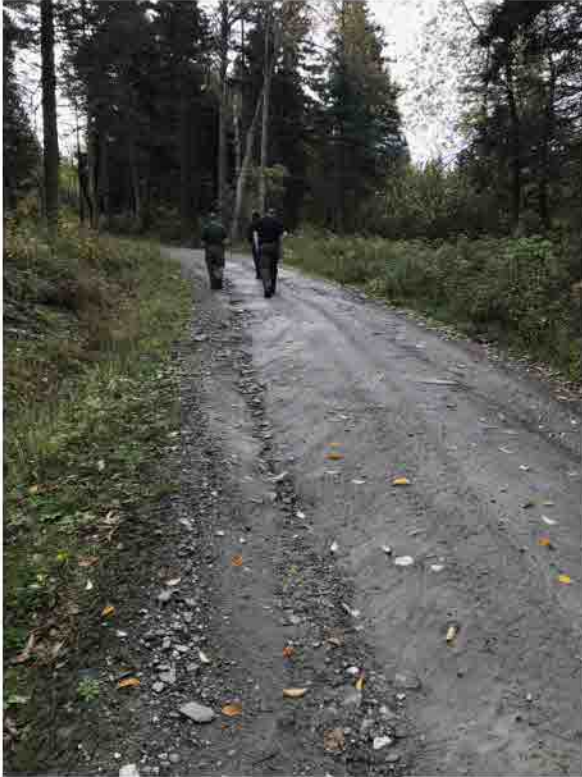


Figure 8 and 9- More pictures of the section of trail leading to Colebrook

Section 2- After review of the first portion of the trail, the team headed up the hill toward the boundary and toward Kelsey Notch. This section had been recently graveled and appeared very nice. There was less erosion on this part of trail than the previous section. Last fall, additional culverts were added to the steep hill portion of the trail, which has had a positive effect on the condition of the trail.



Figure 10 and 11- Depicts the newly graveled section of trail.

Fish and Game was pleased to hear that the trail is closed after Columbus Day. This not only minimizes hunter conflicts but also minimizes potential trail damage during a usually wet time of the year.

Recommendations-

There were a few recommendations that were made to minimize erosion:

-Additional culverts should be added to the trail leading to Colebrook to minimized scouring in the ditch line.

-During the summer of 2018 rubber water diversion devices will be added to the truck road, where the previous water bars were removed for graveling purposes.

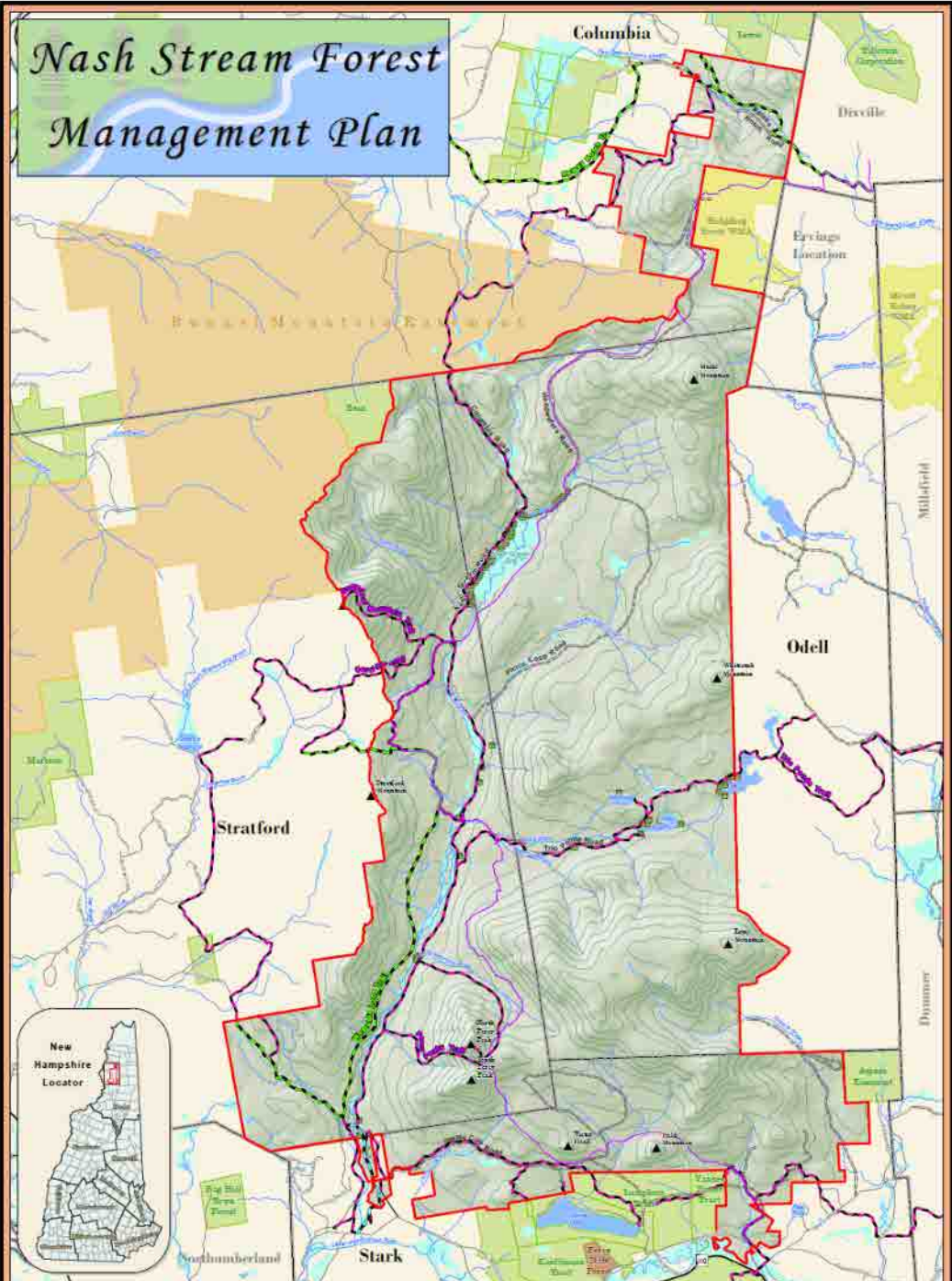
Conclusion- There was minimal damage on the trails that was evident. There will always be a level of wear on these trails due to the nature of ATVs and the amount of traffic that this trail sees. Though there was minor erosion occurring on the surface of the trails it did not appear to be going into any brooks. The trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, however, it will be continued to be monitored next season. The trail is closed for the season.

Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester

Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor

Will Staats, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



- Multi-Use Trails - Snowmobile and Biking
- Multi-Use Trails with ATV Usage
- Proposed South Connector (ATV)
- The Coburn Trail
- Woods Road
- Peaks
- Camp Leases
- Nash Stream Forest Property Boundary
- Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) Lands
- DRED Conservation Easement Lands
- New Hampshire Fish and Game Lands
- Other Conserved Lands
- Town Boundaries
- Rivers and Streams
- Waterholes
- Wetlands (Optional Wetland Inventory)
- Local Roads
- Main Access Road
- State Routes

Map 11: Trails & Recreation



Date Sources:
 101 (GRANT) Topog Data (11-2003)
 101 Department of Transportation
 DRED (Conserved Lands)
 DRED (Conserved Lands)
 Map Prepared by: CIP Practice
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DRED makes no representation or guarantee as to the accuracy of the data used in the preparation of this map.

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