## DISPELLING THE MYTHS

#### **MYTH**

ATVs have always been allowed on the trails.

#### **FACT**

In 1999 DRED began allowing ATVs on the rail trails. Prior to that DRED prohibited ATVs on the trails.

#### **MYTH**

In New Hampshire an ATV is a snowmobile.

#### **FACT**

State statutes define an ATV as having wheels. DRED's administrative rules define a snowmobile as having tracks.

#### **MYTH**

Federal statutes allow "snow traveling vehicles" not just snowmobiles.

#### **FACT**

Federal statutes make no reference to "snow traveling vehicles."

#### **MYTH**

Passage of HB1264 and SB424 would significantly reduce the lands open to recreational ATV use.

#### **FACT**

Passage of these bills would reduce the winter trails available to ATVs by only 162 miles. There would still be 3,000 miles of trails open to ATVs in the winter.

In the effort to reduce our impact on climate change, New Hampshire has invested millions of dollars on energy conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Why would we negate that investment by promoting fossil fuel consuming and pollution emitting recreational ATV use on public lands?

New Hampshire should be limited to lands purchased specifically for that purpose and should be contained within those lands.



Please consider supporting HB1264 & SB424

Any discussion of ATV use on Public Lands is out of context without first noting that DRED receives dedicated funding from ATV registration fees.

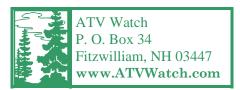
ATV registration fees, in large part, directly fund the salaries of the employees in the Bureau of Trails, a division of DRED.

### ATV USE ON PUBLIC LANDS

A Critical Decision: Connectivity or Dedicated Lands

New Hampshire Citizens Oppose ATV use on Rail Trails

> Public comments from NHDOT State Trail Plan 2005





# Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds (TE) Are Intended for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. Federal Law Prohibits all Motorized uses with the Exception of "Snowmobiles"



## WHY IS THIS IMMPORTANT

When it comes to ATV use on public lands there is no greater impact on the environment, animal habitats or the peace and quiet of New Hampshire than development of a linear network of ATV trails. The historic nature of the trails brings them into close proximity to residences, businesses and community centers.

Many rail trails pass through or are close to sensitive environmental areas with critical habitats for rare and endangered species. The rail trails will become a conduit to ATV use in other off-trail areas, including conservation lands that prohibit ATV use. This will impose a significant and costly burden on law enforcement officials, land managers and landowners.

If New Hampshire successfully circumvents the federal prohibition to ATVs on the rail trails it would set a nationwide precedent that would impact thousands of miles of trails and hundreds of thousands of acres of conservation land.

