



NH Council on Resources and Development
c/o NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
107 Pleasant St, Johnson Hall
Concord, NH 03301

Regarding: Kelsey Notch ATV Trail, Nash Stream Forest

Dear Members of CORD,

We understand that you are reviewing the status of the Kelsey Notch ATV trail at Nash Stream Forest and would like to provide the following comments.

It is our understanding that when the Kelsey Notch trail was originally created, the establishment of the trail did not follow the required procedures. Subsequently, there was a visit to the trail by the Nash Stream Technical Team that revealed a number of problems (including erosion into perennial streams) that needed to be addressed. Trout Unlimited has been informed that since then members of the Technical Team have not seen any reports or updates on the status of the trail and the issues that were to be addressed.

Is there a process in place to provide that when ATV trails on Nash Stream are established, there is appropriate, regular monitoring to ensure compliance with conditions and requirements for maintenance and prevention of erosion?

TU's concerns about ATV use on Nash Stream focus primarily on the potential impacts on stream habitat and water quality and the potential negative impact on non-motorized recreation (see the attached letter submitted during the Management Plan process). We feel that if the Kelsey Notch and West Side Road ATV trails are to be continued, there must be an established plan for monitoring and addressing problems as they arise. Further, before the Kelsey Notch trail authorization decision is made, the Technical Team should receive copies of any monitoring reports for the trail and should make an on-site visit to determine that the previous recommendations have been implemented.

TU requests that the Kelsey Notch trail not be authorized until the current condition of the trail is reviewed by the Technical Team, and policies and procedures are in place to ensure that trail use and conditions on this and the West Side Road will be monitored and supervised to ensure there are not detrimental impacts to perennial streams on the Forest.

Sincerely,

Michael Croteau, Chair

NH Trout Unlimited Council

Cc: NH TU Council members