

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 5, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 NASH STREAM ENFORCEMENT MEMO

OHRV enforcement actions in the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail and West Side Trails of the Nash Stream Forest during the 2020 OHRV riding season resulted in no summonses or warnings issued for OHRV infractions. There was one reported ATV crash on the West Side Trail on September 4, 2020, but a subsequent investigation revealed the crash actually occurred on the Bordeau Trail, which is located on private property.

I personally conducted a patrol of the West Side Trail and Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail in August. During my patrol I discovered illegal OHRV activity off of the West Side Trail where the operators accessed the Coos Trail, more specifically the Sugarloaf Arm hiking trail, where they rode by the Old Hermit Shelter and attempted to access Sugarloaf Mountain. The operators also attempted to get around a gate to access Nash Stream Road. In addition to muddy tracks and ruts left by the OHRVs, small empty liquor bottles were located as well. By following the tire tracks it appears the offenders accessed this area off of the Arm of Sugarloaf ATV trail going past NO OHRV signs.

The Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail was again extremely bumpy and eroded. I could find no obvious signs of off-trail use, but the trail itself appeared to be heavily traveled as one of the primary north-south corridors connecting upper and lower Coos County.

No other law enforcement activity was relayed to me by the conservation officers whose patrols include the Nash Stream Forest.



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

Interoffice Memo

Date: November 9, 2020

To: Director Hackley, Forests and Lands

From: Chief Steven Sherman, Forest Protection

RE: Nash Stream State Forest OHRV enforcement

Director,

Off Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) enforcement on the West Side Trail and Kelsey Notch has been limited due to staffing levels. No complaints have been received for OHRV activity in Nash Stream State Forest this year. The Forest Protection Bureau is currently down 3 rangers, which makes up 30% of our statewide staffing. Other high use areas of Coos County (Jericho Mtn. State Park and Gorham rail trail) receive more enforcement time due to the higher volume of users and complaints received.

Forest Rangers conducted vehicle (pick-up truck) patrols in Nash Stream State Forest and took no law enforcement action regarding OHRV activity this past year.

One concern in terms of enforcement for the future is staffing. As more OHRV trails are considered in the area, there will be limited enforcement from the Forest Protection Bureau due to the low staffing and the multiple duties required of the Forest Rangers. One Ranger is assigned to all of Coos County and the Captain position which supervises Coos and Grafton Counties is vacant.