

## Nash Stream Forest Facts

Nash Stream Forest was purchased with unrestricted public funds from the NH Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) program along with federal money for an easement that is administered by the White Mountain National Forest.

There are no restrictions on ATV use in the founding documents or in the federally held easement.

Existing ATV trails are located along the outer edges of the forest and do not impact the traditional uses of hiking, hunting, fishing, etc. that occur in the heart of the forest.

There are two Kelsey Notch ATV trails that run along the northern forest boundary and they are 2.56 miles long utilizing 9.3 acres of land.

There are two ATV trails (West Side trail and Bordeaux trail) that run along the western edge of the forest. The total length of these ATV trails is 8 miles and they occupy 29 acres of land.

In total, these four trails use 38.3 acres of the 40,013 acres in Nash Stream Forest. This is less than 1/10 of 1 percent of the land area in the forest. These trails are also used as logging roads and snowmobile trails so they would not go away if ATV's were banned from the forest.

The ATV trails meet one of the tenants of the enabling legislation of the LCIP program which stated "The purpose of making these investments is to strengthen the social and natural resource fabric of local communities and to enhance the local and regional economies in the State that depend on tourism."

ATV riders are purchasing second homes and retirement homes in COOS County, strengthening the economy and helping to replace the local revenue lost when the paper mills closed. Without access to ATV trails, these people will go to other states to pursue their hobby.

When Nash Stream Forest was purchased, it had three stated goals:

1. Ensure that the property continues to contribute to forest economy through the sale of wood products;
2. Provide continued public access for recreation; and
3. Protect the area's natural beauty and ecological values.

The ATV trails provide public access for many groups of people that may never be able to experience the forest including young children, older adults, families and people with physical handicaps.

Sincerely,



Larry Gomes

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