

From: [Oehler, James](#)
To: [Rennie, Craig](#)
Subject: RE: Nash
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:28:02 AM
Attachments: [Trails for Wildlife and People_CORD2023.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Hi Craig,

Thanks for asking. Attached is what I put together for CORD. Some of it will look familiar to you from other Trails for People and Wildlife presentations you've seen. The major difference is I added in some slides that specifically addressed ATV impact research and a simple trail assessment for Nash and surrounding areas.

I could not find any ATV impact research papers for New England or the Northeast, which is unfortunate. What I did find is projects from other regions that showed impact and a few that didn't, at least for the specific wildlife resources their research focused on. It is reasonable to assume similar impacts in NH. For instance, the Louisiana study showed ATVs destroy turtle nests along river sandbars. Although that doesn't seem applicable to Nash, we know that turtles nest in gravel roads. If turtles attempt to nest in or along the edge of Kelsey Notch trail, they will likely get destroyed. Regardless, it would be helpful for more New England based research for sure.

My take homes are this:

- Regardless of what type of outdoor recreation a person is engaged in, regardless of where they're doing it, it's likely they are having some impact on wildlife. Maybe not the species who are used to our presence (and the ones people most relate to – moose, bear, turkey, etc.), but some of the 400+ species in NH are going to be impacted in some way.
- We have many many thousands of miles of different types of trails in NH (pedestrian, social/rogue/unofficial, snowmobile, mountain bike, ATV, etc.) that collectively disturb a significant amount of wildlife habitat in the state given their 400 foot corridor of influence. And the miles of trails keep growing, leading to more habitat fragmentation and disturbance. As an example, I recall Trails Bureau citing the existence of 5,000 miles of snowmobile trail when I started at NHFG 20 years ago. We're now up to 6,000 miles.
- If we want to maintain healthy populations of all NH wildlife, we need to provide some disturbance free areas. Nash provides some of that and I think there should be no net loss of those areas in Nash as we move forward.

That's my 2 cents. I appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Best,

Jim Oehler
Wildlife Habitat Program Supervisor

NH Fish & Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-0453

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From: Rennie, Craig <Craig.D.Rennie2@dn-cr.nh.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Oehler, James <James.D.Oehler@wildlife.nh.gov>
Subject: Nash

Hi Jim,
Thanks for your testimony yesterday at CORD – I think it was helpful. You mentioned the OHRV powerpoint you had for CORD members. Could you send me a copy so I can make sure I understand the wildlife concerns? Also, we will be redoing the DNCR website shortly and I would like to add a link on the Bureau of Trails page to the Trails for People and Wildlife program – okay with you?
Thanks,
Craig

Craig D. Rennie, CWS, CWB
Trails Bureau Chief
NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
Phone (603) 271-3990
Email craig.d.rennie2@dn-cr.nh.gov
Web [NH Trails](#)
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, NH 03301