

**Summary of Findings and Current Information regarding  
The Nash Stream Forest ATV Trail**  
NH Division of Forests and Lands  
January 25, 2007

**A. Background**

The Nash Stream Forest was purchased in 1988 by the state through the Land Conservation Investment Program and the US Forest Service who hold a conservation easement on the Forest. The forest was purchased to provide forest products through timber harvesting, public access for recreation, and to protect the beauty and ecological values of the area. The original management plan, completed in 1995, was developed in cooperation with a 20- member advisory committee appointed by the governor and representing a broad range of interests. The 1995 plan prohibited the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and trail bikes on the property.

In 2001 the Division of Forests and Lands and the Nash Stream Forest Citizen Advisory Committee initiated a process to revise the plan in response to emerging issues – including growing interest in lifting the prohibition of ATV use on Nash Stream. As a result of public input the Advisory Committee supported the creation of an 11-member ATV study site subcommittee to “...conduct an in depth analysis of the issues surrounding the establishment of ATV trails on state lands by evaluating a specific proposal.”

In February 2002 the Nash Stream Committee and Division of Forests and Lands recommended revising the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan to include creation of a pilot ATV trail on the West Side Road and connecting trails through agreement with an established ATV club for a period of 3 to 5 years. The ATV Study Site Committee was charged with reviewing the suitability and impact of the pilot trail project. The work of this committee was taken up by the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee established by the legislature in 2004.

In May 2002 the NH Legislature passed House Bill 1273 relative to planning and procedures for state-owned or leased trails for all-terrain vehicles that included language encouraging DRED to “move forward with the planning and approval process for an appropriate ATV connecting trail in the Nash Stream Forest, in cooperation with a local ATV club.”

The Nash Stream Forest Management Plan Updates and Revisions were approved in June, 2002 by Commissioner George Bald. Most recently, members of the Citizens Committee and public conducted a field tour of sections of the trail in June of 2006.

**B. Management Plan Revision**

Excerpt from the *Nash Stream Forest Management Plan Updates and Revisions, 2000* (P.9).

“ATV Use – West Side Connector – Working with a local, formalized club, a pilot all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail project will be established whereby the department (DRED)

2. Mammal study

Not conclusive. See letter from Peter Spear, Natural Resource Consulting Services dated January 6, 2006.

3. *Nash Stream ATV Trail Baseline Noise Testing Results* by Chris Gamache, DRED.  
To be presented at meeting

4. Macro Invertebrate. Study conducted by the NH Department of Environmental Services

To be presented at meeting

5. Stream Sedimentation. Study conducted by the NH Department of Environmental Services

To be presented at meeting

6. Road and Trail Maintenance and Logging Access (comments from DRED staff)

The trail covers the West Side Road, Bordeau Trail and Andritz Trail. The West side road, a gravel logging road, is open for motorized access only for ATV's and snowmobiles. The travel by ATV's does affect the quality of the road surface creating a need for periodic grading. Clearly defined responsibility for maintaining the water control structures on a regular basis needs to be ensured.

The road and trails being used for the ATV trail are historic logging roads. Access for timber harvests will be needed in the future requiring additional precautions and cooperation with the club and users.

D. Contents of the Memorandum of Agreement for ATV Use Pilot Program at Nash Stream Forest with the North Country ATV Club

Covers West Side Road, Bordeau Trail and Andritz Trail

Dated November 5, 2002 for a period not to exceed 5 years

Three year initial term through December 15, 2005 extended an additional year

Trail use permitted May 23<sup>rd</sup> after snow melt until December 15<sup>th</sup>

Topics covered in the Agreement:

Forestry activities, general impact on natural resources, disposal of litter and trash, assisting state in maintenance, use of BMP's for trail construction, Grant-In-Aid Program maintenance activities, non-ATV wear on roads, catastrophic events, reasons for trail closure, responsibility for permits, monitoring trail use, ATV use limited to trail, annual meetings, liability, compliance with laws and regulations including Department policies, non exclusive use, annual plan requirement, posting of trail, Volunteer Trail Patrol Program, amendments, and transferability.