

Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2018

Date Reviewed: September 6, 2018 (Clint, Maggie and Chris Holt)
October 8, 2018

In attendance: Will Staats, Clint Savage, Conor Quinlan and Maggie Machinist

Overview- The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is required to complete and submit an environmental compliance report to CORD annually. This report is a requirement of the conditional approval to keep the Kelsey Notch Trail open.

Recommendations from 2017

There were a few recommendations that were made to minimize erosion in 2017:

- Additional culverts should be added to the trail leading to Colebrook to minimized scouring in the ditch line.
- During the summer of 2018 rubber water diversion devices will be added to the truck road, where the previous water bars were removed for graveling purposes.

Findings-

September

Clint, Chris Holt and Maggie walked the trail on September 9, 2018 to check the trail for any issues. We walked the first section that goes toward the northwest toward Diamond Peaks. There was some erosion on the trail, but just surface erosion. The water didn't seem to be getting into any of the water courses. We located places where there should be additional culverts added. The bridge decking was beginning to be a problem. The decking was broken in some spots on the two bridges and the approaches to the bridges were starting to erode.



Figure 1, 2 and 3- Shows the broken boards on the bridges and the eroding approaches.



Figure 4 and 5- Shows some of the wear on the trail heading toward Colebrook.

We continued up the trail toward Kelsey Notch. The steep section of this trail had some significant humps, which were caused by use. We had a discussion about installing water diversion flaps in this hill last fall and they had plans to install them this fall. There were waterbars in the hill previously but they were removed when the trail was graveled last fall.

There was a significant washout in the ditch that was caused by water overwhelming the culvert. This washout was found in the early summer, but was unable to be fixed. Additional culverts will help to divert water sooner, so that the ditches carry less water for a shorter distance.

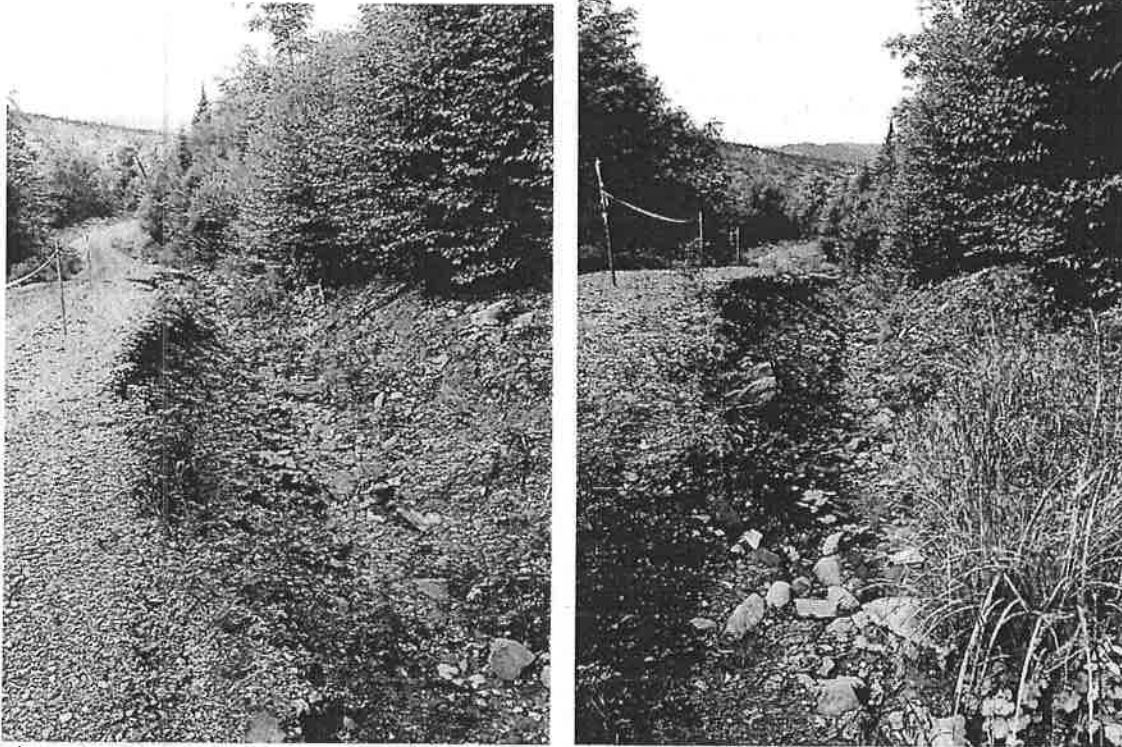


Figure 6 and 7- Depicts the washout along the trail.

The trail had seen a lot of wear and tear in the last few weeks, which had cause some damage to the trail and some erosion on the trail. None of the erosion appeared to be directly getting into the brooks. The Trails Bureau was planning on heading out in early October to fix these issues and continue with the graveling from last year.

October

On October 8, 2018 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Will Staats, Regional Forester- Maggie Machinist and Forest Technician-Conor Quinlan as the official monitoring trip.

Section 1- The section of the trail that was monitored first was the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook and Diamond Peaks. Five new culverts had been recently added as well as the trail shaped up. Installation of these new culverts was very good; they had good exits and headers. Most of the new culverts had already been seeded and mulched but there were 2 spots that needed additional mulch. The bridges still need to be re-decked and fascia boards should be added to eliminate silt from entering the brooks.

This section of the trail looked like it was in good condition following the repairs.

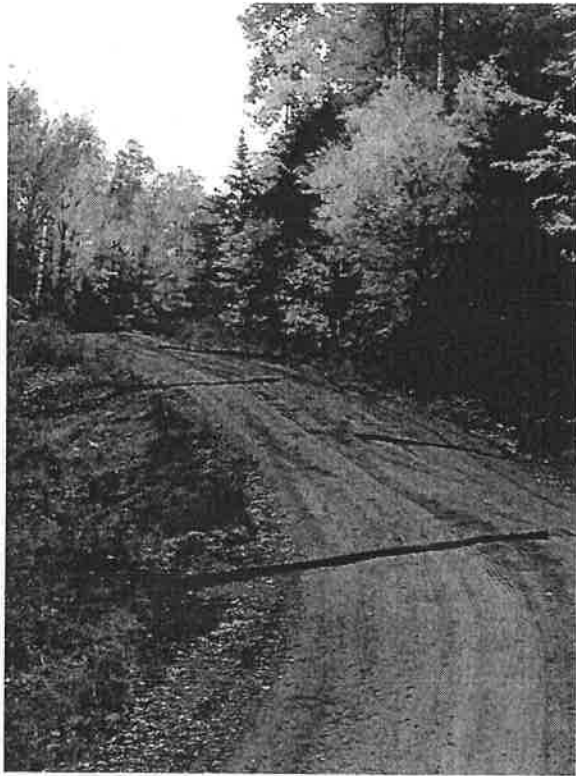


Figure 8 and 9- Picture on right shows the good exits of the newly installed culverts. Picture on left shows the rubber water diversion devices installed.



Figure 10- Depicts the repaired approach to the bridge, however, still shows the decking that needs replacing.

Section 2- Next we headed up toward Kelsey Notch and the boundary line. This main section had been re-shaped and water diversion devices (rubber flaps) had been installed on the main hill. The upper section of trail was currently being graveled while we were visiting. The significant washout that was previously noted from the last visit had been repaired and armored with rip-rap stone, which will help in the future. Four new culverts were added to this upper section above the washout.



Figure 11 and 12- Depicts the newly fixed and armored ditch where the washout was previously. Also shows a newly installed culvert.

All recommendations from last year were addressed this fall. There was a discussion about trying to get to some of the repairs before the end of the season; however, the Trails Bureau was concerned that funds wouldn't be available to complete repairs more than once a season.

Recommendations-

There were a couple of recommendations that were made to continue to approve the trail:

- The bridges need to be re-decked to alleviate safety concerns
- Fascia boards should be added to the bridges to eliminate sediment getting into the brooks.

-There was a recommendation to seed two section on the lower trail; however, these sections have already been seeded since our visit.

Conclusion- The trail had just been re-shaped and graded from top to bottom, as well as graveled some of the upper sections, therefore the condition of the trail when we were there was very good. Based upon the multiple times staff visited these trails throughout the summer, there was significant use of the trail. There will always be a level of wear on these trails due to the nature of ATVs and the amount of traffic that this trail sees. Though there was minor erosion occurring on the surface of the trails it did not appear to be going into any brooks. The trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, however, it will be continued to be monitored next season. It would be beneficial to visit the trail earlier in the summer before annual maintenance is completed to see the level of use as well as a follow up after. The trail is closed for the season.



Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester

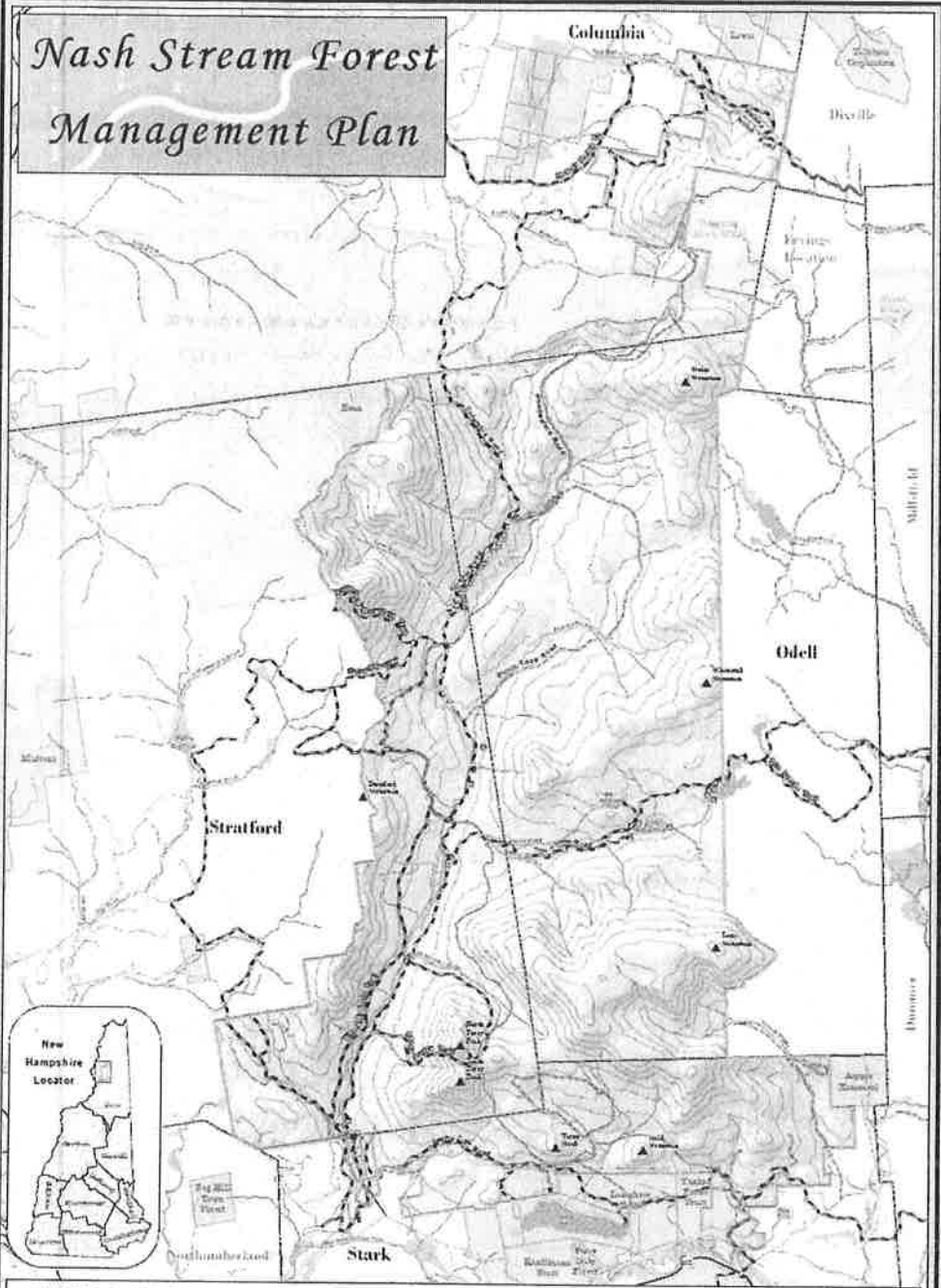




Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor



Will Staats, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Multi-Use Trails - Snowmobile and Hiking ▲▲ Multi-Use Trails with ATV Usage ▲▲▲ Proposed South Co. ATV ▲ The Cobles Trail ▲ The Falls Trail ▲ Trails ○ Camp Leases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ Nash Stream Forest Property Boundary ▭ Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) Lands ▭ DRED Conservation Element Lands ▭ New Hampshire Fish and Game Lands ▭ Other Conserved Lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ Erosion Boundaries ▭ Shores and Streams ▭ Wetlands ▭ Wetlands (Shaded Wetland Inventory) ▭ Local Roads ▭ Main Access Road ▭ Cross Streets 	<p>Map 11: <i>Trails & Recreation</i></p>  	<p>Map created by GIS Services © 2010 New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development 1000 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301</p>
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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of FORESTS and LANDS
172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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BRAD SIMPKINS
Director

October 26, 2018

To Whom it may Concern,

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau patrolled Nash Stream Forest minimally during this past riding season. There were no documented enforcement actions taken during this time period by NH Forest Rangers. There appears to be little evidence of illegal/off trail riding on Nash Stream Forest and few if any complaints relayed to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Accardi".

Captain John Accardi
Northern Regional Forest Ranger
(603)788-4157 ext. 301



TDD ACCESS RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964

CORD 11-8-18 66

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 9, 2018

SUBJECT: 2018 NASH STREAM ENFORCEMENT MEMO

OHRV enforcement actions in the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail and West Side Trails of the Nash Stream Forest was sparse with little to report on. There was only one documented warning issued to a rider who was riding on a closed trail in May and no reported accidents or crashes on these trails throughout the riding season.

I personally conducted a patrol of the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail in September and found it to be extremely bumpy and eroded. I could find no obvious signs of off-trail use and with the condition of the trail concluded that conducting speed enforcement would not be justified. No other law enforcement activity was relayed to me by the conservation officer whose assignment includes the Nash Stream Forest.



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