

Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2019

Date Reviewed: September 23, 2019

In attendance: Will Staats (NHFG) , Clint Savage (NH Trails Bureau), and Maggie Machinist (NH Forests and Lands)

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 2018

-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.

Worked completed in 2019

In mid-June, Chris Gamache, from the Trails Bureau, put out a trail counter on the Kelsey Notch Trail for the OHRV season. The information has not yet been gathered.

On August 8, Clint inspected the trail in Kelsey. The trail was in good shape. The bridges on the trail that heads towards Diamond Peaks need some work, including re-decking. The ATV Club did receive a GIA Grant from the Trail Bureau to rebuild 5 bridges. Unfortunately, due to the continuing resolution with the State budget the money for the project was unavailable. Once the budget passed, the materials for the bridges were ordered. However, at this point the bridges are planned to be installed in the spring.

On September 17, 2019, the Bureau of Trails began grading and rock raking the entire Kelsey Notch trail system.

On October 14, 2019, Clint checked the trail while the Trails Bureau was working on an abutting property. When the abutter's work was complete, the bulldozer dressed up the Kelsey Notch trail and addressed any issues now that the trail was closed for the season.

Findings

On September 23, 2019 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Will Staats and Regional Forester-Maggie Machinist as the official monitoring trip.

The entire trail had been graded just days before our visit, so the trail was in good condition and there was little evidence of wear on the trails.

Section 1- The section of the trail that was monitored first was the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook and Diamond Peaks. We walked out to the property line. Last year there was a recommendation to re-deck the bridges and add fascia boards to eliminate sedimentation. The Trails Bureau had plans to re-deck these bridges this past summer, however, due to the continued resolution and budget constraints they were unable to. The bridges are safety concerns and need to be addressed as soon as possible.

The first pitch on the trail right from the intersection is usually a trouble spot that has had erosion issues in the past, however, the trail was just recently graded and that section was repaired before our visit.

There was minor wear on the trail toward the end near the boundary line and some evidence of siltation in the ditches but overall this section of trail was in good condition following the maintenance.



Figure 1 and 2- Shows the broken boards on the bridges that need to be replaced.

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 last year. Due to the recent grading and trail maintenance, the trail was in good condition all the way to the boundary.

Recommendations-

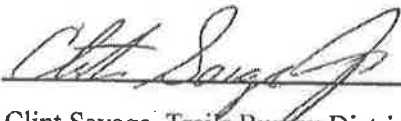
There were a couple of recommendations made from last year that did not occur that need to be completed this upcoming season in order to continue to approve the trail:

- 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.

Conclusion- The trail had just been re-shaped and graded from top to bottom, therefore the condition of the trail when we were there was very good. It is imperative that the bridges be re-decked as soon as possible once the trail is opened. It will be interesting, once the data comes in from the counters to see how much usage the trail has throughout the season. 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 and visit several times throughout the season. The trail is closed for the season.



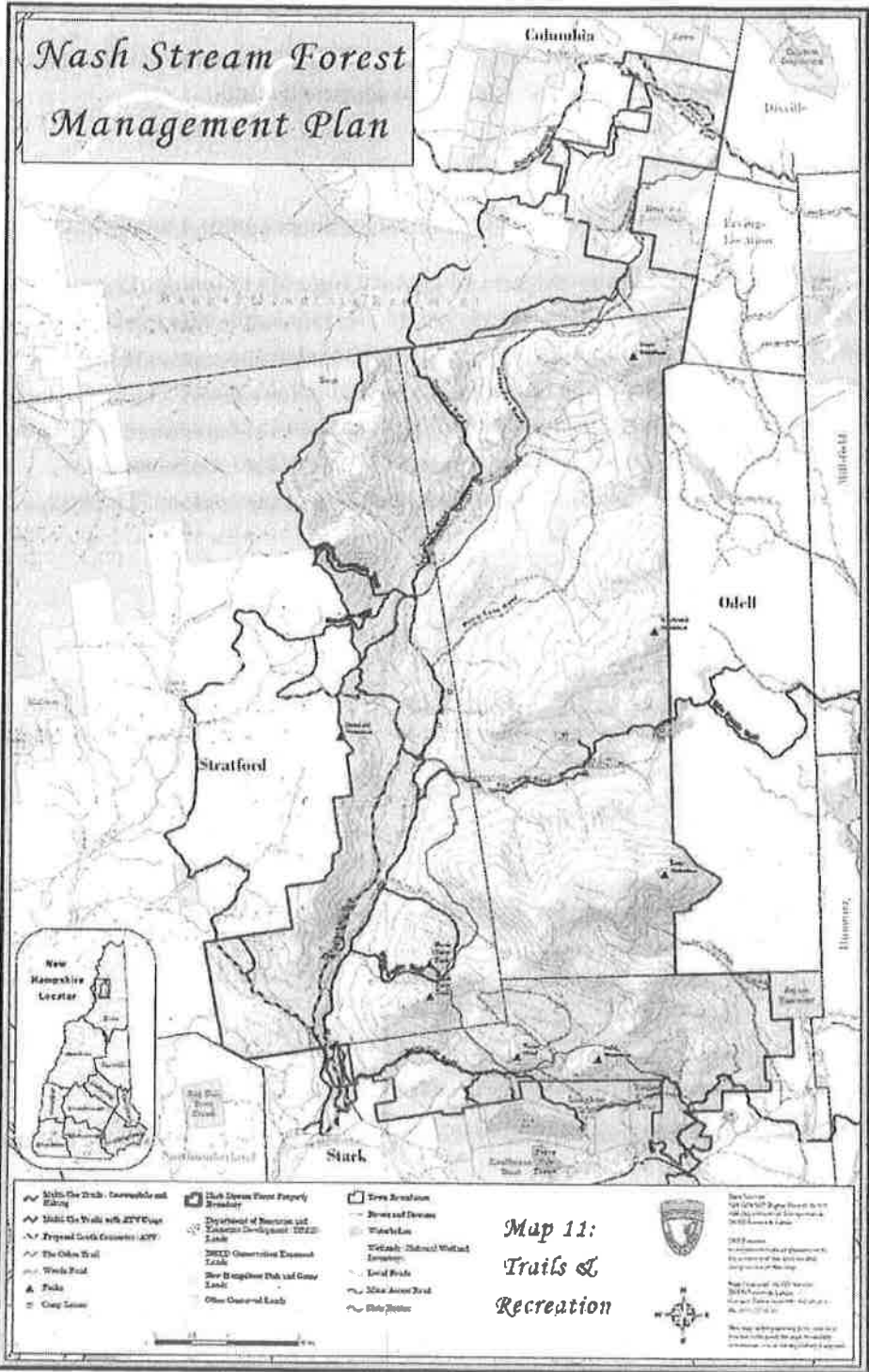
Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester



Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor

Will Staats, Regional Wildlife Biologist (retired before this report was completed)

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Intra-Department Communication

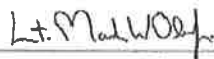
TO: Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee
Council on Resources and Development

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

DATE: October 14, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 NASH STREAM ENFORCEMENT MEMO

OHRV enforcement actions in the Kelsey Notch Pilot Trail and West Side Trails of the Nash Stream Forest was uneventful during the 2019 OHRV riding season. There was one documented warning to a rider who had operated from the Stratford Trail system to the West Side Trail when the trail was supposed to be closed. This violation occurred after the opening of the trail system, but Stratford delayed their opening and did not properly sign the trail closed. There were no reported accidents or crashes on these trails throughout the riding season.



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

