

Captain Eastman,
Below copied from recent letter to the Trails Bureau

DATE: December 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Snowmobile use on State-owned
Railroad lines – Winter 2020-2021

Railroad Line: Concord to Tilton

Begin-End: MP C0.58 in Concord to MP C21.91 (Silver Lake Road) in Tilton.

Anticipated Use Time: **Not available for winter use – Active Line**

Action Required: Remove snowmobile route from 2020-2021 maps and notify all affected parties.

Contact(s): Selden Houghton, President, Vermont Rail Systems, 802-658-2550, Email shoughton@vrs.us.com and RT Boucher, Chief Engineer MOW, Vermont Rail Systems, 802-734-2326, Email rtboucher@vrs.us.com.

From mile post C0.58 in Concord to mile post C21.91 (Silver Lake Road) in Tilton, Vermont Rail System's (VRS) New England Southern Railroad (NEGS) wishes to maintain the corridor for winter railroad operations. No snowmobiles will be allowed to utilize this section of the railroad corridor. Coordination by DNCR to all entities that use this section will be required to spread the word and help prevent trespassers and the associated safety concerns of utilizing an active track.

Railroad Line: Tilton to Lincoln

Begin-End: MP C21.91 (Silver Lake Road) in Tilton to MP P22.00 (old Mill Yard) Lincoln

Anticipated Use Time: 1/5/2021 – 3/15/2021

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red "open" dates signs.

Contact(s): Ben Clark, President, Plymouth & Lincoln Railroad, Email HoboRailroad@fastmail.net, 603-745-2135

The Plymouth & Lincoln RR has not shut down for the winter. We would like your assistance with Fish & Game to enforce the "trespassing" laws and keep the snowmobilers off before the opening date. Temporary bridge protection and repairs to the planking protection can be completed on the bridges now after coordinating with the Plymouth & Lincoln Railroad. The red "open" date signs need to have the correct dates placed on them, and this work can be done at any time. Note bridge C#22.05 Tilton/Belmont truss will have all the ties replaced in the summer 2021. Included in this work will be the permanent removal of the upstream sidewalk per an agreement with local enforcement, railroad operator and FRA to help discourage trespassers (swimmers jumping from the bridge).

Railroad Line: Conway Line (Mountain Division)

Begin-End: MP P51.1, Maine border Conway to MP P59.24 Red Jacket Inn, Conway

Anticipated Use Time: 1/9/2021 – 3/15/2021

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs.

Contact(s): Dave Swirk, President, Conway Scenic Railroad, 603-356-5251
Dave@ConwayScenic.com

The trail end on the railroad corridor at the Red Jacket inn shall be marked with signage and construction fencing indicating the end of trail. A concrete barrier or solid metal fence shall be placed on the railroad tracks at the south end of the retaining wall approaching the Artist’s Falls Road bridge. “No Snowmobiling” signs shall be placed at the concrete barrier and on the tracks east of Depot Street in North Conway. Fencing and signage will need to be installed where the trails end and depart from the railroad corridor. The red “open” date signs need to have the correct dates placed on them, and this work can be done at any time.

Railroad Line: Conway Line (Mountain Division)

Begin-End: MP 70.58, Albany Ave in Bartlett to MP 74.27 prior to Sawyer River Bridge, Harts Location

Anticipated Use Time: 1/9/2021 – 3/15/2021

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs.

Contacts: Dave Swirk, President, Conway Scenic Railroad, 603-356-5251
Dave@ConwayScenic.com

Temporary protection on the bridges from Bartlett to the Sawyers River Bridge must be installed before the lines can be opened, but CANNOT be installed on the bridges until after receiving approval from the Conway Scenic Railroad since they may have equipment to move over the line. Fencing and signage will need to be installed where the trails end and depart from the railroad corridor. The red “open” date signs need to have the correct dates placed on them, and this work can be done at any time.

Railroad Line: Conway Line (Mountain Division)

Begin-End: MP 89.03, Base Station Road at Fabyan Station to MP 97.21, Lennon Road in Carroll

Anticipated Use Time: 1/9/2021 – 3/15/2021

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs.

Contact(s): Dave Swirk, President, Conway Scenic Railroad, 603-356-5251
Dave@ConwayScenic.com

Fencing and signage will need to be installed where the trails end and depart from the railroad corridor. The red “open” date signs need to have the correct dates placed on them, and this work can be done at any time.

Railroad Line: Wilton to Bennington (Hillsborough Branch)

Begin-End: MP 19, Quinn's Pit to MP 34.53, Wilton to End of Track/Bennington Trestle

Anticipated Use Time: 12/01/2020 – 3/15/2021

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs.

Contact(s): Peter Leishman, President, Milford-Bennington Railroad, 365-0621,
prleishman@aol.com

The bridge protection on this section of the line can be installed after receiving permission from the Milford-Bennington Railroad. This section of the line from Quinn’s Pit to Mile Post 34.53 will be available when Quinn’s pit closes for the winter and the railroad stops running.

Railroad Line: Groveton to Whitefield (Groveton Branch)

Begin-End: MP G0.0, Groveton to MP G25.0, Whitefield

Anticipated Use Time: 11/20/2021 - 4-15-2021

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs.

Contact(s): Ed Jeffery, President, New Hampshire Central Railroad, 922-3400,
ewj@myfairpoint.net

New Hampshire Central Railroad will not be operating on the Groveton Branch all winter so the line will be open to snowmobile to 4-15-2020. The bridge protection on this section of the line can be installed after receiving permission from the New Hampshire Central Railroad.

Railroad Line: North Stratford to Columbia (North Stratford Line)

Begin-End: n/a

Anticipated Use Time: **Not available for winter use – Active Line**

Action Required: None

Contact(s): Ed Jeffery, President, New Hampshire Central Railroad, 922-3400,
ewj@myfairpoint.net

Railroad Line: Whitefield to Littleton (Berlin Branch)

Begin-End: MP G25.0, Whitefield to MP C120.38 west switch Wing Road Bethlehem

Anticipated Use Time: 11/20/2020 to end of season

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs

Contact(s): Ed Jeffery, President, New Hampshire Central Railroad, 922-3400, ewj@myfairpoint.net

This section of the railroad corridor is not currently in use and all of the bridges can be protected with temporary measures now. The line will be opened for snowmobile use as soon as the bridge protection measures are installed.

Railroad Line: Whitefield to Dalton (Mountain Division)

Begin-End: MP P103, Whitefield to MP P109, West Switch at Gilman VT.

Anticipated Use Time: Available for snowmobile use

Action Required: Install temp bridge protection measures and place dates on red “open” dates signs

Contact(s): Ed Jeffery, President, New Hampshire Central Railroad, 922-3400, ewj@myfairpoint.net

This section of the railroad corridor is not currently in use and all of the bridges can be protected with temporary measures now. The line will be opened for snowmobile use as soon as the bridge protection measures are installed.

Please contact me at 271-3465 if you have any questions.

Thanks for your help

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