

Submitted by Betsy McNaughten
at 3/09/2023 CORD
meeting



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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To: Council on Resources and Development

From: Scott R. Mason, Executive Director
NH Fish and Game Department

Date: March 9, 2023

Re: Kelsey Notch Trail – Nash Stream Forest

The NH Fish and Game Department concurs with DNCR in that the Department officially recognizes the Kelsey Notch Trail. Monitoring should continue to occur twice annually during the riding season and that year-end maintenance work, if needed, be done prior to seasonal trail closure.

If any significant erosion or other environmental impacts are observed at the annual monitoring visits, those conditions would be addressed as promptly as the state contracting process will allow. Should monitoring indicate persistent, unmitigated issues of soil erosion, water quality violations, or other significant environmental impacts, the status of the trail on Nash Stream Forest will be reassessed by CORD.

However, the Department continues to have concerns on the impact of ATV noise on the high volume trail use days during the nesting season, particularly during spring and early summer months as stated in the 2022 monitoring report. NHHG ask that these concerns remain in the annual monitoring reports until such time that there is an effective strategy or method to evaluate these impacts and determine if trail use should be reduced, restricted, or otherwise managed to reduce impacts if any are found. The Department recognizes the popularity of the trail, and that the increased use of ATVs in the North Country has an economic benefit.

In closing, the Department concurs with DNCR that the monitoring team would consist of North Region representatives from the Division of Forests & Lands, Fish & Game fisheries and wildlife biologist, and Bureau of Trails.

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