



Coös County Commissioners' Office

P.O. Box 310
West Stewartstown, N.H. 03597
603-237-1920

January 11, 2023

NH Council on Resources and Development (CORD)
Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear CORD Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Coös County Commissioner. They met today and one of the items on the agenda was the Kelsey Notch Trail review by CORD. The Commissioners were unanimous in their support of keeping this trail open.

As we have been told by the local clubs, the connectivity between riding areas is a very important feature of the ATV trail system in New Hampshire vs. Vermont or Maine. Closing down the Kelsey Notch Trail would disconnect three of the four major trail systems in Coös County causing New Hampshire to lose its competitive advantage over these neighboring states.

With the closing of the Berlin paper mill in 2006, the closing of the Balsams in 2011 and the closing of the paper mill in Groveton in 2017, Coös County residents have been struggling to survive.

The influx of ATV riders in the summer and fall has been instrumental in helping our small businesses stay in business and that provides much needed jobs for our residents. We ask that you support our efforts to increase recreation as a replacement for the loss of the paper industry and help Coös County come back from over 20 years of devastating losses.

Nash Stream Forest was purchased with public funding, and it should be open to all types of recreation now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Fish
Coös County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

THOMAS M. BRADY, Jefferson • RAYMOND GORMAN, Colebrook • ROBERT THEBERGE, Berlin