

March 9, 2023

Dear Commissioner Caswell and Members of CORD:

Please honor your legislative mandate *“to preserve the natural beauty, landscape, rural character, natural resources and high quality of life in New Hampshire”* and vote to close the Kelsey Notch Off Highway Recreation Vehicle Trail in Nash Stream State Forest. This trail violates every one of these principles in addition to the NH OHRV siting statutes, thoroughly explained by others.

The New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development is tasked to speak for and protect the broad public interests spelled out above. In contrast, the Bureau of Trails represents only the much narrower interests of OHRV riders, whose registration fees directly pay BOT salaries. The people and landscapes of NH are dependent upon CORD members to take the deeper view. What legacy/landscape do we want to leave our children and grandchildren?

Please make clear to BOT that you can only support OHRV trails built following the letter and intent of the laws and management plans. If BOT doesn't have to follow the law - who does? OHRV riders represent the smallest category of outdoor recreationists in our beautiful state, but are by far the most damaging - from trail degradation, dust, runoff, habitat fragmentation, noise pollution, air pollution etc.

Not only are OHRVs damaging to water and air quality, wildlife and residents alike, they are limiting the growth of Coos County's economy by keeping away the verifiably larger numbers of people who enjoy our forests quietly - to fish, hunt, hike, camp and live.

I live a mile from the OHRV trail that connects to Jericho Mountain State Park. The soundtrack of my home has turned from the lovely songs of thrushes to OHRVs brapping up hills. In contrast, the popular mountain bike/walking/running trails that pass far closer to my house, create no such intrusion. The negative impact of OHRVs carry far beyond the rutted trails.

As the impacts of climate change become ever more real - we need to protect our intact forest ecosystems and reduce our gas consumption.

The Kelsey Notch OHRV Trail in Nash Stream State Forest violates both the intent and letter of NH Statutes and the principles you have vowed to uphold, therefore please vote to end OHRV use of the trail.

Sincerely,
Abby Evankow, Gorham