

Kelsey Notch Trail Environmental Compliance Report 2017

Date Reviewed: October 11, 2017
August 10, 2017 (Clint and Maggie)

In attendance: Will Staats, Clint Savage, Conor Quinlan and Maggie Machinist

Overview- The Council on Resource and Development (CORD) granted the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) permission to provisionally re-open the Kelsey Notch Trail at Nash Stream Forest this season for a three year pilot period. This permission was conditional upon the submittal of a coarse and fine filter assessment of the trail, an inter-agency MOA between Fish and Game, DNCR Trails Bureau and the Division of Forest and Lands, an MOA between DNCR and the local trail club. In addition an environmental compliance report was to be submitted annually at the end of each season. The information in these reports will be assessed to make a determination if the Kelsey Notch Trail is consistent with the management guidelines under RSA 162-C:6.

The trail normally is opened on May 23rd, however, on May 19th Clint Savage, District Trails Supervisor, checked the status of the trail and it was deemed not suitable to open for the season due to the wet spring and late snow melt, so the trail opening was delayed until June due to conditions. A few weeks later the trail was re-assessed, conditions had improved to allow traffic on the trail and it was opened.

The Trails Bureau graveled a section of the trail from September 21st - October 2nd. Gravel was spread on the most eastern section of the trail as well as the hill near the kiosk heading toward Colebrook. 104 loads of gravel were spread by the Trails Bureau and were purchased by the Trails Bureau and the Metallak ATV Club jointly. The Trails Bureau spent 87 man hours during the gravel project working on the trail.

Findings-

August

Clint and Regional Forester, Maggie Machinist walked the trail on August 10, 2017 to check the trail for any issues. The first section of trail that goes toward the northwest to the boundary was walked first. There was some minor erosion but the trail looked good. The surface of the trail was very hard considering the amount of rain we had before our visit. There were a few broken and loose boards across the bridges. There was some discussion about the first hill on this leg of the trail. This is a very steep section that will continue to have some runoff and possible erosion. It was recommended in August that this section of the trail be graveled or perhaps rubber water diversion devices installed.

The review continued up the trail toward Kelsey Notch. The trail had minor washing and wear on the trail, which seemed to be within normal limits. There was a discussion that the Trails Bureau would be graveling this upper section in September. There was minor siltation around one culvert.

Overall, the trail shows some wear but appears to be holding up well.



Figure 1 and 2- Signs the club put out to deter riders from driving off trail.



Figure 3 and 4- Photos of the trail surface.

October

On October 11, 2017 the Kelsey Notch trail was reviewed by the Trails Bureau District Supervisor-Clint Savage, Regional Wildlife Biologist- Will Staats, Regional Forester- Maggie Machinist and Forest Technician-Conor Quinlan as the official environmental compliance monitoring trip.



Section 1- The section of the trail that was monitored first was the trail that heads northwest toward Colebrook. New gravel had been added to the first hill from the kiosk up to the first height of land. The trail was very hard and was in good condition for the most part. Minor erosion on the trail was noted. Some work had been done to the approaches of the bridge since our August visit to make the bridge safer, however, there were still a couple of loose boards at the beginning of the bridge. There was minor sedimentation at one of the bridge crossings. The stream seemed to be fairly dry at the time of the visit. It is unclear of when that sedimentation occurred, it does not appear to be very recent and may have not occurred in this season.



Figure 6 and 7- Sections of trail along the portion leading to Colebrook

There was discussion about the minor sedimentation that is occurring and how it can be prevented or minimized. It was determined that the sedimentation was not entering into the water courses for the most part and was just washing into the ditches. Unfortunately, due to the nature of ATV trails, some sedimentation will always occur and may not be preventable. Continued regular maintenance will be the best way to prevent erosion by re-establishing a crown and improve shedding of water off of the trail.



Figure 8 and 9- More pictures of the section of trail leading to Colebrook

Section 2- After review of the first portion of the trail, the team headed up the hill toward the boundary and toward Kelsey Notch. This section had been recently graveled and appeared very nice. There was less erosion on this part of trail than the previous section. Last fall, additional culverts were added to the steep hill portion of the trail, which has had a positive effect on the condition of the trail.



Figure 10 and 11- Depicts the newly graveled section of trail.

Fish and Game was pleased to hear that the trail is closed after Columbus Day. This not only minimizes hunter conflicts but also minimizes potential trail damage during a usually wet time of the year.

Recommendations-

There were a few recommendations that were made to minimize erosion:

-Additional culverts should be added to the trail leading to Colebrook to minimized scouring in the ditch line.

-During the summer of 2018 rubber water diversion devices will be added to the truck road, where the previous water bars were removed for graveled purposes.

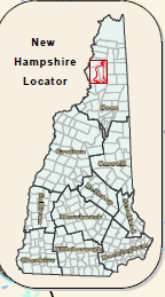
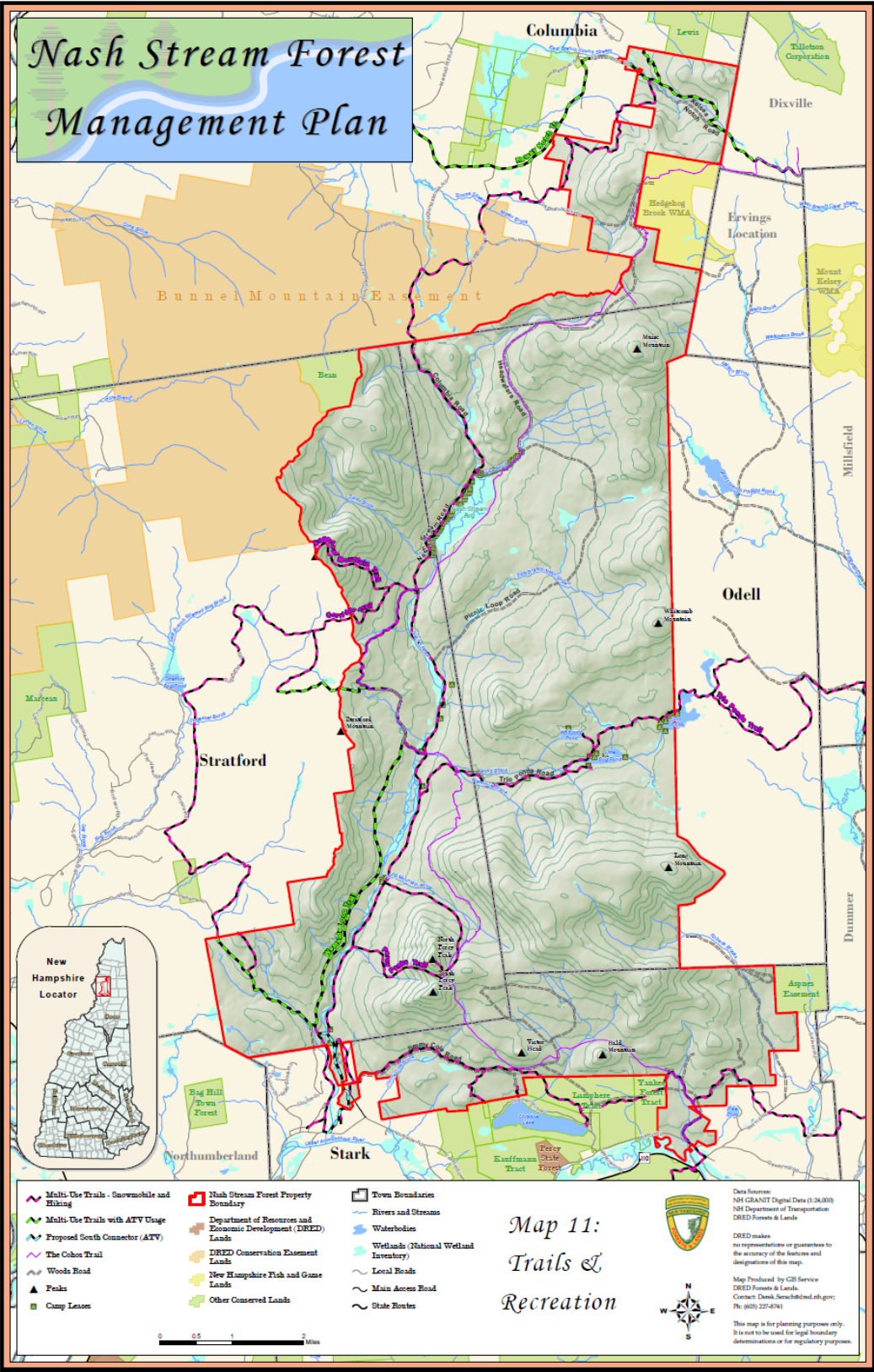
Conclusion- There was minimal damage on the trails that was evident. There will always be a level of wear on these trails due to the nature of ATVs and the amount of traffic that this trail sees. Though there was minor erosion occurring on the surface of the trails it did not appear to be going into any brooks. The trail appears to be in compliance with expectations, however, it will be continued to be monitored next season. The trail is closed for the season.

Margaret Machinist, Regional Forester

Clint Savage, Trails Bureau District Supervisor

Will Staats, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Nash Stream Forest Management Plan



- Multi-Use Trails - Snowmobile and Hiking
- Multi-Use Trails with ATV Usage
- Proposed South Connector (ATV)
- The Cobos Trail
- Woods Road
- Peaks
- Camp Leases
- Nash Stream Forest Property Boundary
- Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) Lands
- DRED Conservation Easement Lands
- New Hampshire Fish and Game Lands
- Other Conserved Lands
- Town Boundaries
- Rivers and Streams
- Waterbodies
- Wetlands (National Wetland Inventory)
- Local Roads
- Main Access Road
- State Routes

Map 11:
Trails &
Recreation



Data Sources:
 NH GRANIT Digital Data (3-24-00)
 NH Department of Transportation
 DRED Forests & Lands

DRED makes no representations or guarantees to the accuracy of the features and designations of this map.

Map Produced by GIS Service
 DRED Forests & Lands
 Contact: Dawn.Searched@nh.gov
 Ph: (603) 227-6741

This map is for planning purposes only. It is not to be used for legal boundary determinations or for regulatory purposes.

