

Testimony Regarding ATV & Trailbike Usage on "Nash Stream" State Property
October 25, 2001 - Pemi-Baker High School

TO: Chairman of the public hearing on the "Nash Stream" management plan:
From: State Representative John Alger
CC: Members of State ATV Study Committee Chartered under HB 717

Mr. Chairman:

My name is John Alger, State Representative for Grafton County District #9 representing the towns of Dorchester, Groton, Rumney, and Wentworth. In the fall of last year I initiated legislation as House Bill # 717 establishing a study committee of ATV and Trailbikes which was required to respond to two objectives:

- 1) Should the State of New Hampshire continue to offer trails for recreational riding of ATV and Trailbikes?
- 2) If the answer to the first objective is "yes" what should the plans and procedures be to accomplish continuation of State trails?

That bill is now law and I was elected Chairman of the study committee with Representative Bob Odell's Vice Chair, Representative Bob McGuire as secretary, and Representative Charles Royce, Senators Burns, Flanders, Gordon, and O'Neil also on the Committee.

The Committee has held three public hearings in addition to two hearings held last spring in the process of approving the bill. From those hearings the following concerns and needs have been forcefully expressed by a multitude of witnesses:

- 1) New Hampshire registration of snowmobiles, ATVs' and trailbikes has grown and is continuing to grow with over 60,000 snowmobiles, over 23,000 ATV and trailbikes registered this year, mostly for recreational use. ATVs are forecast to grow next year again at 14 to 15% or another 3,000 units.
- 2) Through the years volunteer snowmobile clubs have come into existence that, supported by State money and personnel, successfully manage and maintain several thousand miles of snowmobile trails used only during the winter months on State land and, by permission, extensively on private lands.
- 3) The same cannot be said of ATV and Trailbike clubs which are just recently coming into existence with a new state-wide organization and a few dedicated clubs who seek trails substantially for year-around usage.
- 4) One of the dedicated clubs is North Country ATV that seeks, and has for four years, sought permission to develop, maintain and operate, under State guidance and support, an ATV trail on the State-owned "Nash Stream" property. They even have proposed a specific line of trails on the "Nash" property although permission has not been given by the State to survey and develop a plan for such a trail.
- 5) Illegal use of ATVs' is occurring on both State and private lands consisting of driving on trails without permission, driving off trails without permission, driving at early and late hours, loud noise, extensive trail erosion, and generally impolite and illegal behavior by a portion of owners of ATVs'.
- 6) The "Nash Stream" management plan, developed and approved in the late 1990's, includes permission for ATV use by the disabled because of the Federal "ADA" law requiring equal access for the disabled where

access is available to the public. Snowmobile trails are allowed but ATV trails are specifically excluded. The use of ATV in "Nash Stream" by the disabled has not been defined and apparently has not been sought by disabled persons. However, several inquiries by disabled people have been made to this Committee for hiking trail use by ATV, where feasible, and one of these people apparently persuaded the WMNF to allow that use by him on their gated roads. They gave him a key to the gates.

First, I believe consensus of this Committee will be that we should not and cannot prohibit trails on all State lands. While much of state lands may not be suitable for ATV trails, with proper evaluation, additional trails surely can be developed. Second, we need better coordination of planning and enforcement efforts by state agencies along with more resources. Third, trails should be developed strong volunteer club participation as a "model" for ATV and trailbike trails.

At "Nash Stream" a strong ATV club is apparently available with whom to work, the property has 39,000 acres of State-owned land on which to create and manage a trail, and we have a desperate need for new business in the North Country. Why can't ATV and trail bikers attracted to the area become one of those new business opportunities... not limited to one season? Realize the North Country is now actively courting a Federal prison, has a State prison, and will ask the legislature for the right to have a gambling casino! In that context, isn't a well organized ATV and trailbike trail system to attract tourist dollars and jobs a better idea? Properly thought through, isn't it likely that North Country people and their local governments, in combination with the State, can turn the growing craze for recreational driving of ATV and trail bikes into sound jobs for some of the people being unceremoniously driven from jobs in the forest products industry in the face of a slowing market and world-wide competition in the industry?

This committee is ready to assist by making legislative recommendations to enhance recreational ATV and trail bikes including new and better enforcement, enhanced control of trail operations, municipal ties through communication and resources applied at the local level where appropriate, and strengthening of state activities through better coordination and additional resources gained primarily through user fees and registration requirements.

I urge those responsible for management and development of the State-owned "Nash Stream" property to realign the management plan to include recreational ATV trails, establish a relationship with the North Country ATV club that is so frustrated by the inaction to-date; and, together construct a trails plan that will be implemented soon while addressing all the issues such as trail development, maintenance, operation, emergency needs, hours of operation, and assuring that abutting towns are financially made whole for their part in the plans.

Thank you. I look forward to the results of your deliberations.

(Laptop/Nash Stream Testimony)

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES - The current Nash Stream Forest Management Plan prohibits recreational use of ATVs. *Would you like to see the Nash Stream Forest opened to ATV use?*

Jan

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

PRIVATE RECREATION CAMP LOT POLICY - Under current department policy, private camp lot leases at Nash Stream shall not exceed 50 years in duration, no transfers of ownership will be allowed after 2004, and all leases terminate in 2039. *Would you like to see this policy changed?*

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

✓

NASH STREAM FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN - Currently the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan can be revised or amended based upon need not a specified schedule, such as every 10 years. *Would you like to see a specified schedule established to revise the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan?*

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		
<i>5 year review of plan - if needs needs in changes -</i>		

#14?
←
w/nding

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:
<i>Concern that ATVs may increase break-ins/vandalism - due to easier access</i>

✓

NAME _____ **ADDRESS** _____

THANK YOU

**Department of Resources and Economic Development
Division of Forests and Lands
Nash Stream Forest Public Listening Session
October, 2001
DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

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Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles has grown tremendously in popularity since the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan was prepared. This popularity suggests taking another look at the current prohibition, a look that is provided for in the Plan which states that the Management Plan is subject to change and that monitoring will "*...consider changing conditions and trends, and identify and document the need for changes in management practices*" (Nash Stream Forest Management Plan, page 134). The growth of ATV use is definitely a changing trend.

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Concord, NH 03304

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:		YES	NO
Comment:	Erosion Camp breaking Danger to vehicles & ATV. (safety)		

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:		YES	NO
Comment:	do away with both policy.		

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:		YES	NO
Comment:			

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:	

NAME Leslie Gausson ADDRESS [Redacted] Franklin N.H.
 03201
 THANK YOU [Redacted]

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gm

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		



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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		



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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment: <u>MORE OFTEN</u>		



Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:

NAME William Adair ADDRESS N. Stratford

THANK YOU

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✓

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES ✓	NO
Comment:		

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES ✓	NO
Comment:		

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✓

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES ✓	NO
Comment:		

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:

NAME *Snodgrass* ADDRESS *Wrentham NH 03253*

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:	NASH STREAM SHOULD BE OPEN TO EVERYONE OF ALL AGES. ALL DISABILITY	

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:	IF ATV'S ARE ALLOWED.	

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:	WHEN EVER NEEDED.	

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:

NAME William A. Roy ADDRESS [REDACTED] LACONIA, N.H. 03246

THANK YOU

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gm

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Comment:	Major disturbances associated w/ ATVs: Noise, ruins scenery, hinders peace & tranquility of camp life. Also opens camps up to MORE vandalism & trash.	
	Dangers of ATVs include: Children playing/cars on Nash Stream Rd & snowmobiles on trails (I have almost been hit).	

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Comment:	Nash Stream is a wonderful "family" place to have. I would like my family to have the opportunity to experience it's beauty for many generations to come. - Extend lease & change transfer policy DAST 2004.	

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:

NAME _____ **ADDRESS** _____

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		
<i>night time - time limit of 9:00 PM</i>		
<i>no winter riding</i>		

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		
<i>Would like another 100 year lease - Camps part</i>		
<i>of the history of Nash Stream also sale of property</i>		
<i>no-terminating w/ lease.</i>		

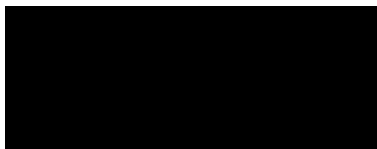
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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:
<i>Am very concern need a board out of State in travel</i>
<i>group (ex. Juma Club) having the same priv. as</i>
<i>camp owners - very unfair</i>

NAME Luis Blumal ADDRESS [Redacted] Belfair NH 03249



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ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES - The current Nash Stream Forest Management Plan prohibits recreational use of ATVs. *Would you like to see the Nash Stream Forest opened to ATV use?*

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:	<i>only if alternate route far away from Camps on Nash Stream</i>	

you
✓

PRIVATE RECREATION CAMP LOT POLICY - Under current department policy, private camp lot leases at Nash Stream shall not exceed 50 years in duration, no transfers of ownership will be allowed after 2004, and all leases terminate in 2039. *Would you like to see this policy changed?*

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:	<i>Extend leases indefinitely - Beautiful area - a part of New Hampshire that allows all Natural Habitat to exist - and we would like our kids to enjoy this as we have.</i>	

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

✓

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

THANK YOU

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

gn

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment: <i>Absolutely! - I would like my family to experience the same pleasures & enjoyment in camp. I would hope that our camp could be passed on for generations -</i>		

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		

✓

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment: <i>Would love to see the dam rebuilt - & water returned</i>		

✓

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

THANK YOU

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for

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment: <i>Would like to see N.S. opened to dispersed backcountry camping and elimination of the overnight parking ban. Need Dispersed camping should require camp stoves (no open fires) and carry-in/carry-out trash disposal. Also need some limited hardened backcountry site where open fires are allowed in permanent fire rings.</i>

NAME NATHAN MULHERIN ADDRESS Rumney NH 03266

THANK YOU

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Comment:	ATV'S are soil unfriendly and often ride were they are not suppose to.	

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	NO
Comment:	Like to see extension of leases, but no more camps built. Would like to be able to transfer lease to direct dissident until lease is over.	

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	YES	NO
Comment:		

Please let us know of any other issues you would like to comment on:

Comment:	Would like to see dam rebuilt.

NAME Scott Ferland ADDRESS [REDACTED]
N. Hartland, VT 05052
 THANK YOU

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gm

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		
RESPONSIBLE USE OF A TRAIL SYSTEM AND MAINTAINED		
AND POLICED BY A RESPONSIBLE CLUB WOULD NOT ONLY		
GIVE MUCH ENJOYMENT TO MANY FOLKS BUT ALSO GIVE ECONOMIC		
BOOST TO THE NORTHERN PART OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.		

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		
WHY HAVE A TERM LIMIT AT ALL		

✓

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PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO
Comment:		
MORE RESPONSIBLE FOREST HARVESTING		

✓

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